

No definitive link found between New Orleans truck attack and Las Vegas Cybertruck explosion, FBI says



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Authorities have stated there is no definitive link between the deadly New Orleans truck attack on New Year's Day and the explosion of a Tesla Cybertruck outside a Trump hotel in Las Vegas.

Despite earlier reports suggesting a possible connection, the FBI clarified there was no confirmed link between the incidents. The New Orleans attack, which killed 14 people and injured 30 others when a truck flying an ISIS flag rammed into a crowd on Bourbon Street, occurred hours before the Las Vegas explosion.

The FBI is also investigating other possible connections, including the fact that both vehicles were rented from the same company. Though both attackers had military backgrounds, authorities have not established any clear relationship between them.

Investigations continue as officials search various locations, including a site in Texas.

## New gun laws take effect across multiple US states on January 1



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

New gun laws took effect in several US states on January 1, following a year marked by nearly 500 mass shootings. The new regulations aim to address gun violence and safety concerns. California's new laws, signed by Governor Gavin Newsom, require schools to implement safety programs and establish an Office of Gun Violence Prevention.

In Colorado, any handgun stored in an unoccupied vehicle must now be locked in a hard-sided container and kept out of sight. Additionally, starting in 2025, applicants for concealed carry permits will need to complete an eight-hour training course. New Hampshire expanded gun rights, prohibiting the use of merchant category codes for gun purchases and allowing employees to store guns in locked vehicles.

Minnesota enacted a ban on binary triggers, while Delaware extended its Safe School Zone laws to include university campuses, making it a felony to carry a firearm on such premises. These new laws reflect ongoing state-level efforts to address gun violence with both stricter regulations and expanded rights.



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## Bangladesh court denies bail to ISKCON priest Chinmoy Krishna Das in sedition case

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Bangladesh court has rejected the bail application of Chinmoy Krishna Das, a Hindu monk and spokesperson for the Bangladesh Sammilit Sanatan Jagran Jote, associated with the International Society for Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON). The court's decision follows a sedition case filed against Das and 18 others after they raised a saffron flag during a protest rally in Chattogram on October 25. The bail plea was denied by the Chattogram Metropolitan Sessions Judge after a hearing, with arguments presented by both sides. The defense, represented by a group of lawyers, plans to appeal the decision to the High Court.

Das, arrested on November 25, has been detained in jail since then, despite health concerns. His supporters argue that the case against him is fabricated, and they are seeking his release on medical grounds.

Das has been vocal about his opposition



to the country's political climate, which has led to increased scrutiny of his activities. His detention has sparked protests from his supporters, who claim that the charges against him are politically motivated. Some supporters have also expressed concerns about his health, with reports indicating that he suffers from diabetes and respiratory

issues, which require ongoing medical care. Meanwhile, India has called for a fair trial, urging Bangladesh to respect legal rights. The case has drawn attention due to the procedural irregularities and delays in legal proceedings. International human rights groups have also weighed in, calling for an impartial investigation into the matter.

## US court ruling brings Tahawwur Rana closer to extradition to India for 26/11 Mumbai attacks

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

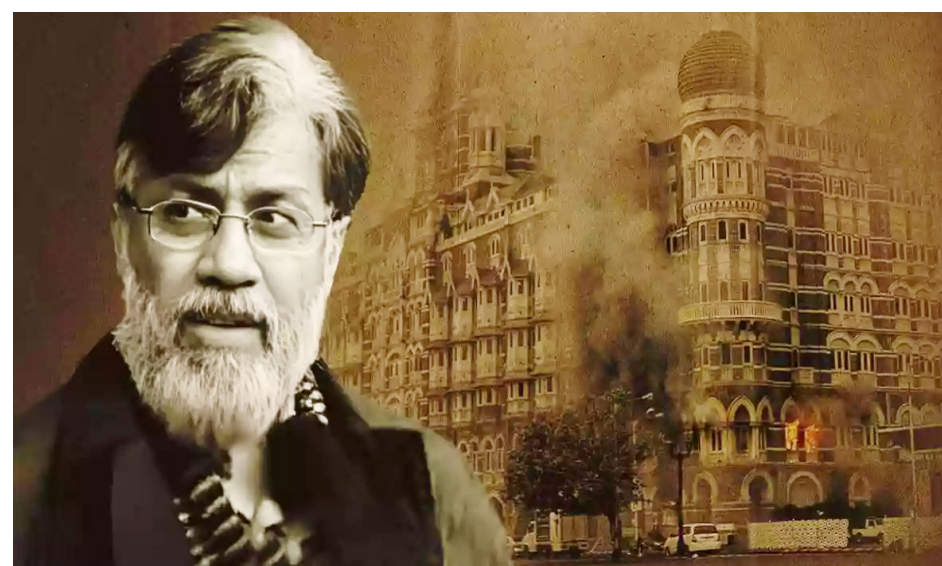
India has intensified the extradition process for Pakistani-Canadian Tahawwur Rana, a key figure in the 2008 Mumbai terror attacks that resulted in the deaths of around 175 people. Sources in India's National Investigation Agency and the Mumbai Police confirmed that Rana could soon be extradited for trial. This development follows a ruling by the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit in August 2024, which upheld a previous decision allowing Rana's extradition. The court found that the 1997 extradition treaty between India and the US applied to Rana's alleged offenses related to the Mumbai attacks.

Rana, a former Pakistan Army doctor and Canadian citizen, was arrested in the US in 2009 for his involvement in plotting a bombing of the Danish newspaper Jyllands-Posten. He was convicted in 2011 on charges related to supporting the terrorist group

Lashkar-e-Taiba and conspiracy to carry out the 26/11 attacks, although he was acquitted of direct involvement in the Mumbai attacks. He was sentenced to 14 years in prison for the other charges. Despite his acquittal for the Mumbai attacks, the appeals court ruled that the charges he faces in India, including conspiracy, murder, terrorism, and forgery, justified his extradition.

Rana's extradition would contribute to India's ongoing efforts to bring Lashkar-e-Taiba operatives, including Rana's accomplice David Headley, to trial. Headley, who cooperated with US authorities in exchange for immunity from extradition, played a key role in the Mumbai attacks by surveilling targets like the Taj Hotel.

Rana, who was released from prison on compassionate grounds during the COVID-19 pandemic, is now facing the prospect of facing trial in India for his involvement in the terror plot.



## Biden awards Presidential Citizens Medal to former Jan. 6 committee members



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

President Joe Biden awarded the Presidential Citizens Medal to Rep. Bennie Thompson (D-Miss.) and former Rep. Liz Cheney (R-Wyo.) for their roles on the House Jan. 6 committee.

The medal, the second-highest civilian honor, recognized their contributions to upholding the Constitution and defending democracy. The awards come amidst President-elect Donald Trump's criticisms of the committee, with Trump suggesting members, including Cheney, should face legal consequences for their actions.

Both honorees received standing ovations during the ceremony, held at the White House. In his remarks, Biden praised their unwavering commitment to ensuring democracy prevails.

Despite the ongoing partisan tensions surrounding the committee's work, Thompson and Cheney's recognition highlights their impact on the nation's political landscape.

Friday, 03 January 2025

Trump and GOP allies falsely link deadly New Orleans attack to immigration issues



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

President-elect Donald Trump and his allies in Congress have wrongly blamed President Joe Biden's border policies for the deadly truck attack in New Orleans, despite the attacker being a U.S. citizen. Trump initially shared incorrect reports that the suspect had crossed the border from Mexico, a claim later debunked. The suspect, identified as Shamsud-Din Jabbar, was a Texas-born U.S. citizen and Army veteran. Despite the correction, Trump and his supporters continued to criticize the Biden administration's border handling, using the attack to argue for stricter immigration policies. Other Republicans also pushed similar narratives, linking the attack to national security concerns. Some GOP lawmakers, like Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene and Rep. Mike Johnson, repeated false claims about the attacker's immigration status, while others used the incident to advocate for stronger border enforcement. This rhetoric continued despite reports showing that only a small fraction of migrants have been flagged as threats, highlighting a growing divide over immigration policy.

### Pakistan blocks passports of over 10,000 citizens deported from Iran



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Pakistan has blocked the passports of over 10,000 citizens deported from Iran for attempting illegal border crossings in hopes of reaching Europe. This move is part of Pakistan's efforts to combat human trafficking, especially after a recent tragedy in which over 40 Pakistanis died when their boat capsized in Greek waters.

The Interior Ministry is also blocking passports of individuals arrested in other countries, including the United Arab Emirates, Iraq, and Saudi Arabia, for criminal activities. Many of those involved in these illegal activities are young people, with trafficking networks operating across multiple borders. The ongoing issue of human trafficking remains a significant concern for Pakistan.

## Russia warns of military response to potential US missile threats

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Russia has warned that it will take a "decisive response," including military-technical countermeasures, if the United States and NATO make any new missile threats against the country, according to Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov. In an interview, Lavrov emphasized Russia's readiness for any situation, stating that new missile threats would provoke a forceful military response. However, he also noted that Russia is open to hypothetical steps that could create conditions for equitable dialogue. Lavrov highlighted that Russia seeks a comprehensive approach to reducing conflict, addressing the root causes of security disagreements. He also stressed that NATO's eastward expansion remains a key driver of the Ukrainian crisis, continuing to threaten Russia's security. On arms control, Lavrov stated that discussions could occur only within a broader framework.

Lavrov further pointed out that Russia's moratorium on deploying ground-based



intermediate- and shorter-range missiles is increasingly untenable, despite it still officially being in effect. He also mentioned the recent successful test of Russia's medium-range hypersonic missile system, Oreshnik, under combat conditions, showcasing Russia's capabilities and readiness to implement compensatory measures.

While Russia remains open to negotiations to resolve the Ukraine conflict, Lavrov stressed that talks must address the root causes and reflect the current realities on the ground, including ensuring Ukraine's neutral, non-aligned, and non-nuclear status. He also emphasized the need for Ukraine to protect the rights of Russian-speaking citizens.

## US braces for a prolonged cold blast with dangerously low temperatures



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

A major Arctic cold front has settled over the Eastern United States, sending temperatures plunging well below average for the season. The frigid conditions are expected to last for more than a week, with severe cold spreading across the country.

The cold has already impacted the northern Plains, where Minneapolis and Chicago are experiencing highs in the low 20s and overnight lows in the single digits.

Forecasters predict that the cold air will continue to move southward, reaching as far as the Gulf Coast and Florida, with some areas potentially seeing below-freezing temperatures. Snowfall is also expected across the southern Plains, the Southeast, and potentially heavy snow in

the Appalachian Mountains, Ohio Valley, and the Great Lakes. The cold front's reach extends to the interior Northeast, where the weather may cause significant disruptions.

Dangerous wind chills are a major concern, as they could reach dangerously low levels, putting vulnerable populations at risk. Those working outside and individuals experiencing homelessness are especially at risk of frostbite and hypothermia.

The National Weather Service has issued warnings for areas that could experience life-threatening wind chills. Shelters and warming centers are being activated in affected regions to protect the most vulnerable from the extreme cold, and authorities are urging residents to take precautions to stay warm. The cold spell is expected to continue into next week.

### Macron admits parliament dissolution led to more instability



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

French President Emmanuel Macron acknowledged that dissolving the National Assembly in June, after his alliance's poor performance in European elections, caused more instability than it resolved. The move led to a hung parliament and the resignation of Prime Minister Gabriel Attal. Macron took full responsibility for the political turmoil, while highlighting France's efforts to host the Olympic Games and restore Notre-Dame Cathedral. Looking to 2025, Macron emphasized the need for Europe to become more self-reliant in defense and security, with France playing a central role in ensuring the continent's sovereignty.

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Suspect in Las Vegas Cybertruck explosion was Army member on leave, probe finds

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The suspected driver of the Tesla Cybertruck that exploded Wednesday outside the Trump International Las Vegas Hotel sustained a self-inflicted gunshot wound to the head prior to the blast, officials confirmed in a press briefing Thursday.

The Clark County Coroner identified the driver of the vehicle in this incident as 37-year-old Matthew Livelsberger of Colorado Springs, Colorado, on Thursday. His cause of death was as a result of an intraoral gunshot wound by suicide. No one else suffered serious injuries.

Prior to his official identification, officials found overwhelming evidence—including credit cards in his name, similar tattoos, Livelsberger purchasing the weapons in the truck and an ID card pointing to him as the individual. The fire and explosion slowed the identification process because of the physical injuries sustained by the driver, officials said.

Police shared this photo of Matthew Livelsberger during a press conference. An active-duty Army soldier, Livelsberger shot himself in the head prior to the explosion and a gun was found at his feet, according to Sheriff Kevin McMahill of the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department.

The driver was the only fatality from the incident. Seven bystanders had minor injuries, authorities said.

Quad reaffirms commitment to humanitarian aid on 20th anniversary



The Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (Quad), consisting of Australia, India, Japan, and the United States, marked its 20th anniversary, reaffirming its dedication to humanitarian assistance and disaster relief. Initially formed in response to the 2004 Indian Ocean earthquake and tsunami, the Quad has evolved into a key platform promoting stability and prosperity in the Indo-Pacific.

A joint statement highlighted the Quad's ongoing commitment to disaster relief, emphasizing collaboration among the four nations in addressing regional challenges such as climate change, cybersecurity, and terrorism. The group also announced new initiatives, including the Maritime Initiative for Training in the Indo-Pacific (MAITRI) to improve regional maritime security and a logistics network to enhance disaster response.

The Quad continues to support regional organizations like ASEAN and the Pacific Islands Forum, ensuring a peaceful and stable Indo-Pacific.

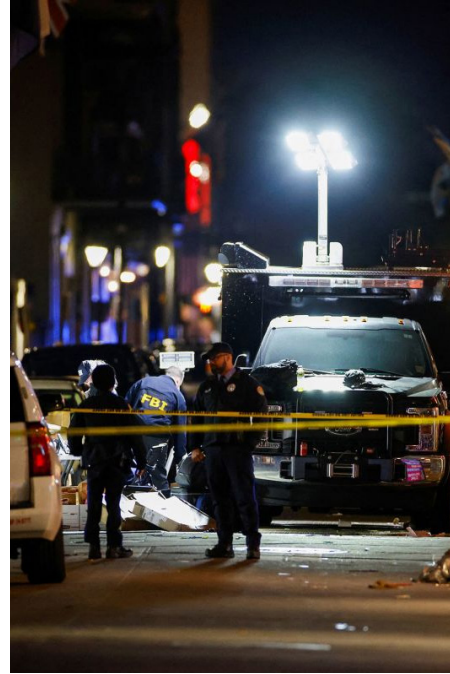
Texas man who pledged allegiance to ISIS kills 15 in New Orleans New Year's Day truck attack

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

A deadly attack in New Orleans on New Year's Day, carried out by 42-year-old Shamsud-Din Jabbar, left 15 people dead and dozens more injured after he deliberately drove a truck into a crowd on Bourbon Street. Jabbar, a U.S. Army veteran from Texas, pledged allegiance to the Islamic State and displayed an ISIS flag from his truck during the attack. The FBI has confirmed that Jabbar acted alone in this premeditated assault, which they are investigating as an act of terrorism.

Jabbar, who had served in Afghanistan, was killed in a shootout with police after the attack. Authorities also found that Jabbar had posted multiple videos on Facebook before the incident, expressing his support for ISIS and his radical views, including condemning music, drugs, and alcohol. He also shared his will and spoke of his commitment to the Islamic State.

Jabbar had recently struggled with personal issues, including a divorce and his father's illness, and had been helping with his father's care. His half-brother, Abdur Rahim Jabbar,



expressed confusion over his brother's transformation, stating that he had previously been a loving and kind person.

The FBI continues to investigate Jabbar's

radicalization process, searching for answers as to how he transitioned from a U.S. Army veteran and real estate agent to someone inspired by ISIS ideology. Surveillance footage revealed that he also placed improvised explosive devices around the area prior to the attack, though they were safely neutralized.

In addition to this tragic incident, the country has been shaken by other violent events, including a mass shooting in Las Vegas. U.S. authorities have pledged heightened security for public events following the New Year's Day tragedies.

President Joe Biden condemned the attack as "despicable," noting that Jabbar had posted videos hours before the incident expressing his admiration for ISIS and desires to kill. Biden also offered support to the victims' families.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi of India also condemned the attack, expressing his solidarity with the victims and their families. His statement called the act a cowardly attack on innocent civilians, and he extended his condolences to those affected by the violence.

Two killed, 18 injured after small plane crashes into commercial building in California

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

A tragic crash in Fullerton, California, claimed the lives of two people and injured 18 others when a small plane collided with a commercial building near Fullerton Municipal Airport. The crash occurred on the afternoon of January 2, when a Van's RV-10 aircraft, a four-seat single-engine plane, crashed into the building.

Local authorities confirmed that 10 people were taken to nearby hospitals, while another eight were treated at the scene. The identities of the deceased and whether they were inside the building or

aboard the plane remain unclear.

Witnesses described the crash as chaotic, with one employee recalling a loud noise followed by the sound of the explosion. Emergency crews quickly responded to the scene, extinguishing the fire and helping the injured.

The Federal Aviation Administration is investigating the cause of the crash, though it is still unknown. This crash marks the second aviation accident near Fullerton Municipal Airport in recent months, raising concerns about safety protocols at the location. Authorities continue to investigate the circumstances surrounding the incident.

US court upholds \$5 million verdict against Trump in sexual abuse case

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

A federal appeals court has upheld the \$5 million verdict against former President Donald Trump in a defamation and sexual abuse case filed by writer E. Jean Carroll. The jury had found Trump guilty of sexually abusing Carroll in a Manhattan department store in 1996, awarding her \$2 million for the assault and \$3 million for defamation after Trump publicly denied the allegations and called her claim a hoax.

Trump had appealed the verdict, arguing that the testimonies of two other women who had accused him of sexual assault should not have been admitted as evidence during the trial. However, the Second U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals rejected Trump's appeal, stating that he had failed to demonstrate any legal errors that affected his rights or the fairness of the trial.

This ruling follows a separate case where a

jury awarded Carroll \$83 million in damages, a decision that Trump is also appealing. Trump faces multiple legal challenges, including a conviction in New York related to falsifying business records concerning hush money payments to adult film star Stormy Daniels. Although Trump's spokesperson has criticized the case, calling it politically motivated, the court's decision to uphold the \$5 million judgment stands.



Impeached South Korean President Yoon faces failed arrest attempt over martial law decree



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

South Korean authorities failed to execute an arrest warrant for impeached President Yoon Suk Yeol after his security detail blocked investigators at his Seoul residence. The warrant, issued over his botched martial law declaration, was suspended for safety concerns. Yoon faces charges of insurrection, a crime South Korean presidents are not immune from.

The warrant, which Yoon's lawyers claim is illegal, remains valid until Monday, and officials may attempt another arrest. Meanwhile, Yoon's supporters have gathered outside his residence, some forming a "human shield" to protect him. This standoff follows his impeachment in December and comes a month after his short-lived martial law attempt. The ongoing political turmoil has deepened divisions in the country, with growing protests from both his supporters and critics. Yoon's approval ratings remain low, and his legal battles continue to draw attention both domestically and internationally.



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# Trump 2.0—A new chapter or a global gamble?



**Dr. (H) Avi Verma**

**D**onald Trump, now President-Elect and with his party poised to dominate both houses of Congress, is once again at the center of global discourse. His return to power promises a dramatic recalibration of U.S. domestic and foreign policies. However, this transition comes amidst a backdrop of unrest, with a shocking wave of violence shaking the nation—an attack in New Orleans and a Tesla explosion in front of the Trump Tower in Las Vegas. These incidents cast a shadow over what should have been a celebratory moment for Trump’s supporters, raising questions about the domestic stability of a Trump 2.0 presidency.

As the world speculates on how this chapter will unfold, Trump’s high-profile engagements with nations like Canada, China, Denmark, Panama, and Mexico suggest an ambitious foreign policy agenda. Would this recalibration strengthen America’s global position, or are we on the brink of an era of instability?

**The Global Perspective**

Trump’s unorthodox diplomacy has the potential to shake up stagnant alliances and reignite trade talks. His previous tenure saw renegotiated deals like the USMCA, and his willingness to engage unconventional partners may yet yield similar results. However, his combative rhetoric and unpredictable strategies risk alienating traditional allies. Recent tensions with Canada and Denmark, combined with sharp exchanges with China and Mexico, suggest that while Trump’s approach may pressure adversaries, it could also fracture key alliances.



Adding to the complexity is Elon Musk’s increasing role on the global stage. Musk’s outspoken criticism of social media platforms and commentary on international elections mirror Trump’s penchant for disrupting established norms. Together, these figures symbolize a shift in global leadership—a new era where influence is wielded by powerful personalities as much as by traditional institutions.

**The Domestic Front**

Domestically, Trump’s hardline policies—particularly on immigration—are poised to ignite significant debate. His plans to revive the “Remain in Mexico” program, tighten border controls, and curtail pathways to citizenship for undocumented migrants reflect a staunch stance. While supporters view these measures as necessary for national security, critics fear they will alienate immigrant communities and strain U.S. relations with neighbors like Mexico and Canada.

The recent attack in New Orleans

and the Tesla explosion in Las Vegas underscore the urgent need for a unifying domestic strategy. Trump’s rhetoric has often been accused of polarizing the nation, and these incidents suggest an undercurrent of volatility that demands careful attention.

**Global Reactions**

World leaders have responded to Trump’s return with caution. Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau has been measured, while European leaders like Germany’s Olaf Scholz have expressed concerns about potential disruptions to multilateral agreements. In Asia, Chinese officials remain wary of renewed clashes over trade and political matters. These reactions indicate that Trump’s presidency will face significant scrutiny from the international community, even as it opens new avenues for renegotiation and reform.

**Uncharted Waters**

A Trump 2.0 presidency represents both an opportunity and a gamble. While it may challenge entrenched systems and explore unorthodox solutions, it also risks destabilizing fragile relationships both at home and abroad. With 2025 on the horizon, the world must prepare for a period of uncertainty, where the stakes are higher, and the outcomes more unpredictable than ever.

As we bid farewell to 2024 and welcome 2025, IndoUS Tribune extends its best wishes to the incoming administration. We hope for a year that brings clarity, stability, and progress for all. At IndoUS Tribune, we remain steadfast in our mission to provide balanced and insightful analysis. We will continue to track these developments and assess their implications for U.S.-India relations and the broader global order.

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

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## US team to analyze Jeju Air crash flight data recorder after external damage

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The South Korean government has announced it will send the flight data recorder from the Jeju Air crash to the United States for analysis. The recorder, which was damaged during the crash, will be analyzed with the help of the National Transportation Safety Board. The exact timeline for the transfer will be determined in consultation with U.S. authorities. South Korean officials determined that extracting data locally was not possible due to the damage to the recorder. A cockpit voice recorder, however, was found in better condition and is being processed for data extraction.

Additionally, the U.S. team, which includes experts from Boeing, has expanded its presence at the crash site at Muan International Airport. Investigators are focusing on a localizer navigation system, which is believed to have contributed to the severity of the crash, as well as examining debris scattered across the runway. The crash occurred when the Jeju Air Boeing 737-800 belly-landed at the airport, causing an explosion that killed 179 of the 181 people on board.

## Suchir Balaji's parents allege murder, reject suicide ruling in his death

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The parents of Suchir Balaji, an Indian-American former OpenAI employee known for his whistleblowing on AI ethics, have rejected the official suicide ruling following his death on December 14, 2024. They allege that their son was murdered, citing findings from a second autopsy that revealed head injuries and signs of struggle.

Suchir, a University of California, Berkeley graduate, had been outspoken about the ethical issues surrounding generative AI. His parents claim that he was under pressure from OpenAI and had been working on research that exposed the unethical use of copyrighted materials in AI.

In an interview, Suchir's mother, Poornima Ramarao, pointed to the absence of a suicide note and the autopsy results, stating, "This is not a suicide; it's a murder."

His father, Balaji Ramamurthi, mentioned that Suchir had seemed happy during their last conversation just days



before his death.

The family is calling for an FBI investigation to determine the circumstances surrounding Suchir's death and whether foul play was involved. "There was a struggle; he did not take his life," said Poornima, urging support from the Indian government.

Suchir had worked for nearly four years at OpenAI before resigning over ethical concerns regarding AI practices. In a post on X, he criticized the misuse of copyrighted materials in generative AI products. OpenAI expressed condolences, offering support to his family during this difficult time.

## Hamas delegation visits Cairo for Gaza ceasefire talks

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

A delegation from Hamas has traveled to Cairo to continue discussions aimed at reaching a ceasefire agreement regarding the ongoing conflict in Gaza. The delegation's visit is part of broader efforts involving Egypt, Qatar, and Türkiye to address the conditions and obstacles imposed by Israel. Hamas spokesperson Jihad Taha expressed the group's willingness to negotiate and stop Israeli aggression in exchange for favorable terms for the Palestinian people. The Hamas delegation hopes Israel will reverse recent conditions that have hindered progress toward a ceasefire.

Israeli authorities rejected a Hamas proposal for a one-week ceasefire without a prisoner exchange, demanding instead a list of hostages before agreeing to a ceasefire.



Hamas is continuing talks in Cairo with the goal of finalizing an agreement by January 20. Additionally, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu confirmed that Israeli officials would travel to Doha, Qatar, to continue negotiations. Both sides have accused each other of hindering progress, with ongoing indirect talks aimed at bringing an end to the conflict that has lasted nearly 15 months.

## Energy crisis fears grow in Eastern and Central Europe after Ukraine halts Russian gas transit

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Concerns about rising energy prices and possible shortages are escalating across Eastern and Central Europe following Ukraine's decision to halt Russian gas transit to Europe. In Slovakia, cameraman Peter Lahky expressed worry about predicted household gas price increases of 15 to 34 percent in 2025, which could add an extra 300 euros to his family's energy costs. This move follows Ukraine's refusal to renew a gas transit agreement with Russia, leaving the TurkStream pipeline as the sole route for Russian gas to Europe.

The halt of Ukrainian gas transit is especially concerning for Moldova, which relied on Ukraine for 2 billion cubic meters

of gas annually. The Moldovan government has imposed a state of emergency, cut electricity consumption by 30 percent, and is seeking emergency gas supplies from Romania and Bulgaria. Moldova's energy company, Tirasteploenergo, announced the suspension of heating and hot water services, affecting most residents, and warned it could take up to two weeks to restore them.

In Austria, despite worries about price volatility, the government has assured citizens that it has sufficient gas reserves and alternative suppliers in place, alleviating some concerns about the immediate future. However, rising energy costs remain a significant issue, particularly for countries like Moldova, where they could negatively impact economic activity and investments.

## India raises concerns over Chinese hydropower project and new counties in disputed territory

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

India has expressed concern over China's approval of a hydropower project on the Yarlung Tsangpo River, which flows into Arunachal Pradesh and Assam, urging Beijing to ensure that the project does not harm the interests of downstream countries. The river is known as the Brahmaputra in India. India, a lower riparian state with established user rights to the river's waters, has consistently raised concerns about China's mega projects on trans-border rivers. India's Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) spokesperson, Randhir Jaiswal, emphasized the need for transparency and consultation with downstream countries, especially following the latest developments related to China's hydropower plans. He reiterated that India would continue to monitor the

situation and take necessary measures to protect its interests. China's earlier plans included several hydropower projects on the Brahmaputra's main stream in Tibet, with one project, Jiacha, already operational since 2020. India has consistently been engaged with China on this issue to safeguard its water rights, and China has assured India that the projects are run-of-the-river, meaning they would not involve water diversion.

In addition to the hydropower concerns, India has strongly protested China's creation of two new counties in Hotan Prefecture, an area that falls within India's Union Territory of Ladakh, which China illegally occupies. India stated that this action would not affect its sovereignty over the region and lodged a formal protest through diplomatic channels.



### Mega Millions player in California wins \$1.3 billion jackpot



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**A** California player has won the \$1.3 billion Mega Millions jackpot, the fifth largest in the game's history. The winning ticket, which matched the numbers 3, 7, 37, 49, 55, and the Mega Ball 6, was sold in Cottonwood, California. The jackpot had reached \$1.269 billion after 30 consecutive draws without a winner. The odds of winning the jackpot are 1 in 302.5 million. This is the latest in a series of massive lottery wins, following a \$2.04 billion Powerball jackpot win in 2022. The prize is expected to be one of the largest lottery wins ever recorded. The winner has the option to receive the payout in a lump sum or as an annuity over 30 years. As the excitement builds, lottery officials urge others to check their tickets, as many smaller prizes were also awarded in the drawing.

### Biden administration proposes new cybersecurity rules for healthcare data protection

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**T**he Biden administration has proposed new cybersecurity rules aimed at better protecting sensitive healthcare data from cyberattacks. The proposed regulations, following major breaches affecting millions of Americans in 2023, would require healthcare organizations to encrypt data to prevent access in the event of a leak and conduct regular compliance checks to ensure cybersecurity standards are met.

The rule would amend the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) and is expected to cost \$9 billion in its first year. Since 2019, hacking and ransomware incidents targeting healthcare institutions have increased significantly. Deputy National Security Advisor Anne Neuberger stressed the need for improved security to prevent further leaks of sensitive data, including mental health information, on the dark web.

### CDC reports mutations in bird flu virus from first severe human case in the US

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**T**he Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has identified mutations in the bird flu virus from the first severe human case in the United States. The Louisiana patient, over the age of 65, contracted the D1.1 strain of the virus, which was recently detected in wild birds and poultry. The mutations in the virus, seen in the hemagglutinin (HA) gene, have been associated with more severe infections, though no additional human cases have been reported.

The CDC reassured the public that the risk to the general population remains low, and no human-to-human transmission has been identified. The virus continues to affect both humans and poultry, though it has not led to widespread outbreaks.

### New York to fine fossil fuel companies \$75 billion under new climate law



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**N**ew York state will impose a \$75 billion fine on fossil fuel companies over the next 25 years to address climate change damages, under a new law signed by Governor Kathy Hochul. This legislation aims to shift some of the burden of climate change recovery from taxpayers to oil, gas, and coal companies deemed liable. The funds raised will be used for climate adaptation, including upgrades to infrastructure like roads, water systems, and buildings.

Senator Liz Krueger, a Democrat who co-sponsored the bill, emphasized that those

most responsible for the climate crisis would be held accountable. Fossil fuel companies will be fined based on their greenhouse gas emissions from 2000 to 2018. New York becomes the second state, after Vermont, to pass such a law, modeled after existing superfund laws. This fine will help offset the more than \$500 billion that New York is expected to spend on climate adaptation by 2050.

Energy companies are expected to challenge the law in court, arguing it is preempted by federal regulations. The move has drawn national attention, as it sets a precedent for other states to pursue similar legislation in an effort to curb the financial impact of climate change on local economies and infrastructure.

### Madoff victims receive final payout as US government fund completes \$4.3 billion distribution

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**T**he U.S. government's Madoff Victim Fund has completed its final distribution, paying out \$4.3 billion to 40,930 victims of Bernard Madoff's Ponzi scheme. This final payout of \$131.4 million will go to 23,408 claimants, and victims will have recovered an average of 93.7% of their proven losses when the fund closes in 2025.

The fund, created through settlements

with JPMorgan Chase and the estate of Madoff's investor Jeffrey Picower, distributed compensation to individuals and organizations across 127 countries. An additional \$14.7 billion was recovered by Irving Picard, the trustee liquidating Madoff's firm, bringing the total payout to victims to nearly \$19 billion.

Madoff's fraudulent activities, estimated to involve up to \$64.8 billion, remained undetected until he confessed in December 2008. He was sentenced to 150 years in prison and passed away in 2021.



### Jimmy Carter's funeral to take place at Washington National Cathedral on Jan. 9



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**T**he funeral for former U.S. President Jimmy Carter, who passed away at 100 years old, will be held at the Washington National Cathedral on January 9. President Joe Biden, who has been asked by Carter to deliver the eulogy, has declared the day a national day of mourning in honor of the former president.

Carter's state funeral will begin with a motorcade through his hometown of Plains, Georgia, on January 6. His remains will be brought to Washington, D.C., where he will lie in state at the U.S. Capitol before the National Cathedral service. A private funeral and burial will take place in Georgia, where he will be laid to rest next to his wife, Rosalynn Carter.

Carter's presidency, which began in 1977, was defined by his work on the Camp David Accords between Israel and Egypt. Following his presidency, Carter dedicated his life to humanitarian causes and was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for his efforts.

### Trump appoints ambassador to Panama after reasserting US interest in the canal

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**U**.S. President-elect Donald Trump has appointed Kevin Marino Cabrera, a Miami-Dade County Commissioner, as the U.S. ambassador to Panama.

The announcement follows Trump's controversial comments about the Panama Canal, which the U.S. handed over to Panama in 1999. Trump accused Panama of exploiting the canal and criticized Chinese influence in the region, despite Panama's President Jose Raul Mulino denying any Chinese military presence.

Trump has previously suggested the U.S. should regain control over the canal, which has been a point of tension. Cabrera is described by Trump as a staunch advocate of "America First" principles and someone who understands Latin American politics well.

Critics argue that Trump's rhetoric risks straining diplomatic relations with Panama, but his selection of Cabrera is seen as a move to strengthen U.S.-Panama ties. The controversy over the canal remains an ongoing issue in U.S. foreign policy discussions.

### US military appeals court allows plea deals for 9/11 suspects to proceed



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

A U.S. military appeals court has ruled that plea deals related to the suspects in the September 11, 2001, attacks, including mastermind Khalid Sheikh Mohammed, can proceed, despite earlier objections from Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin. In August, Austin had attempted to rescind the plea deals with the trio, but in November, a military judge ruled that Austin acted too late and upheld the agreements. The appeals court confirmed this decision. The plea deals could allow the three men, including Mohammed, to plead guilty to their involvement in the attacks in exchange for avoiding the death penalty. Mohammed, who is detained at Guantanamo Bay, is accused of masterminding the 9/11 plot, which killed nearly 3,000 people. In other news, the Pentagon confirmed the repatriation of Ridah Bin Saleh Al-Yazidi, one of the longest-held detainees at Guantanamo Bay, to his home country of Tunisia. He had been detained for over 20 years without charge. Currently, 26 detainees remain at the facility, with 14 eligible for transfer.

### US appeals court halts enforcement of anti-money laundering law

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

A U.S. appeals court has temporarily halted the enforcement of the Corporate Transparency Act, which requires companies to disclose the identities of their real beneficial owners to the U.S. Treasury Department. The 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals reinstated a nationwide injunction issued by a Texas federal judge, who found the law unconstitutional. This decision delays the January 13 deadline for companies to submit reports to the Treasury's Financial Crimes Enforcement Network (FinCEN).

The injunction, obtained by the National Federation of Independent Business, argues that the law infringes upon states' rights and imposes intrusive surveillance. The law, enacted in 2021, aims to combat money laundering by requiring corporations and LLCs to report their beneficial owners. Supporters of the law argue that it addresses the issue of the U.S. being a haven for money laundering through anonymous shell companies. The case will be heard in March 2025. While the legal challenge continues, the decision has left businesses uncertain about the law's future, and many are now waiting for a definitive ruling from the appeals court.

# Hundreds apply for restitution for abuse at Florida reform schools

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Hundreds of individuals who claim they suffered physical and sexual abuse at Florida's state-run reform schools are now eligible for restitution from the state, following an official apology from Florida lawmakers for the trauma endured more than five decades ago. The Dozier School for Boys, in Marianna, Florida, housed up to 500 boys at its peak during the Jim Crow era in the 1960s.

Many of the boys, including orphans and runaways, were sent there for minor offenses. In recent years, numerous men have come forward, detailing beatings, sexual assaults, and deaths at the school, including nearly 100 boys who died between 1900 and 1973 from gunshot



wounds and blunt force trauma.

Some victims' bodies were returned home, while others were buried in unmarked graves. As of the end of 2023, more than 800 applications for restitution were received, with the state committing to allocate \$20 million to survivors.

Bryant Middleton, one of the victims who spoke out in 2017, shared his harrowing memories of repeated beatings during his time at the school from 1959 to 1961.

The Dozier School was closed in 2011 following investigations into the abuse. These stories of pain and survival were further highlighted in the film adaptation of Colson Whitehead's *Nickel Boys*, which used Dozier as its inspiration.

## Puerto Rico faces widespread power outage as 1 million people lose electricity

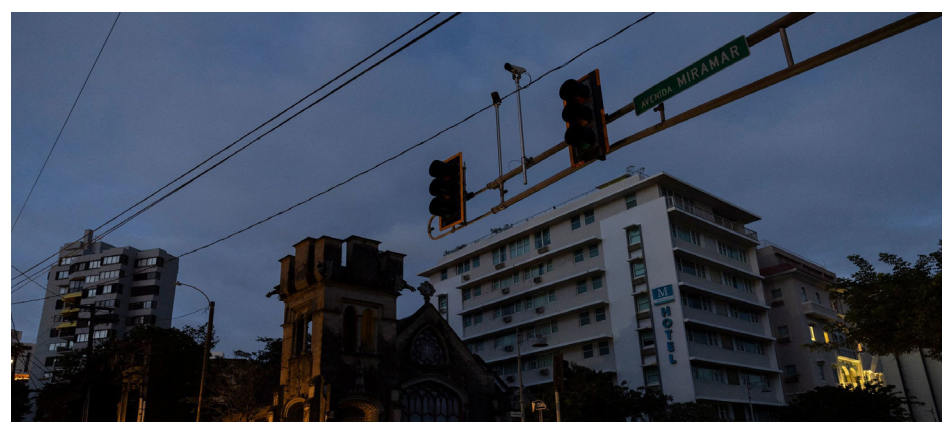
IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Puerto Rico faced yet another massive power outage, leaving nearly 1.3 million customers without electricity on New Year's Eve due to a fault at a power plant in the island's southern region. Luma Energy, the company responsible for the island's power grid, reported that the issue was caused by an underground cable failure, which led to a cascading effect that took down multiple power plants.

By evening, more than 700,000 customers had their power restored, but many were still waiting for a full recovery. The outage disrupted holiday traditions and added to

the frustrations of residents already critical of Luma's service. This marks another chapter in Puerto Rico's long struggle with a fragile electrical system that still has not fully recovered from the devastation caused by Hurricane Maria in 2017.

In response, both the current and incoming governors of Puerto Rico demanded answers from Luma, with Governor-elect Jenniffer González highlighting the need to stabilize the electrical grid as a top priority. Despite improvements in the grid in recent years, Puerto Ricans continue to experience frequent blackouts, leading to protests and concerns over the reliability of the island's energy infrastructure.



## Harry Chandler, Navy medic who survived the attack on Pearl Harbor, dies at 103

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Harry Chandler, a Navy medic who played a crucial role in rescuing sailors during the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor in 1941, has died at the age of 103. Chandler, who was a hospital corpsman 3rd class on December 7, 1941, helped retrieve wounded sailors from the oil-slicked waters after the attack that killed more than 2,300 U.S. servicemen.

He vividly recalled witnessing the attack from a hospital in Aiea Heights, just above the harbor. Chandler, who was not afraid during the chaos but focused on helping the wounded, later reflected on the attack's devastation and how it marked the U.S. entry into World War II.

After the war, Chandler worked as a painter and later in the upholstery business. He remained active in the Navy reserves, retiring as a senior chief in 1981. Chandler, a golf enthusiast, is survived by his two daughters, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. With his passing, the number of surviving Pearl Harbor veterans continues to dwindle, leaving only 15 living veterans from the fateful day of the attack.

## Severe weather disrupts holiday travel with flight delays, fatalities, and widespread damage

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Severe weather caused widespread disruption to holiday travel across the U.S. last week, leading to thousands of flight delays, cancellations, and deadly tornadoes in the Southeast, along with extreme weather in the West. More than 7,000 flights were delayed, and over 200 were canceled, with major airports like Atlanta's Hartsfield-Jackson and Dallas/Fort Worth experiencing significant disruptions.

The storm system spawned at least 10



tornadoes across Texas, Louisiana, and Mississippi, with one fatality reported in Brazoria County, Texas. In addition to the tornadoes, high winds reaching up to 150 mph

and heavy snowfall affected the West Coast, particularly in the Tahoe Basin, where up to 3 feet of snow was expected.

The severe weather also caused widespread power outages and infrastructure damage, leaving many regions in a state of emergency. The ongoing storm system affected travel across the country during the busy holiday season, prompting officials to issue travel advisories. Emergency responders worked around the clock to assist affected communities, but the storm's intensity left a lasting impact on many areas.

### Trump supports H-1B visas amid calls for immigration reform

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**D**onald Trump has expressed support for retaining the H-1B visa program, which allows foreign-born professionals such as engineers and computer scientists to work in the United States. At the same time, Trump advocates for reforming the country's immigration system, proposing a merit-based points system similar to those in Canada and Australia, which prioritizes qualifications like academic and professional skills.

The future of the H-1B visa program has become a hot topic in Silicon Valley, as tech leaders, including Elon Musk, have urged Trump to keep the program intact. However, this stance has sparked backlash from Trump's base, which generally opposes immigration. Despite this, business leaders argue that the H-1B program is essential for maintaining a competitive workforce, especially in California, which is the largest user of these visas.

In fiscal 2024, over 9,600 employers in California applied for H-1B workers, with nearly 79,000 visa applications approved. Many of the biggest beneficiaries are tech companies based in the Bay Area. Trump has personally supported the H-1B program, stating that he has used it numerous times for his properties. He has reiterated his belief that the visa system plays a crucial role in attracting global talent to the U.S.

## Where do most Indians live abroad? Top countries with the largest Indian diaspora

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**I**ndia is home to the largest number of international migrants in the world, with significant populations residing in countries such as the United States, the United Arab Emirates, and several other nations. According to the UN World Migration Report 2024, approximately 18 million people of Indian origin live abroad, contributing to India's position as the largest source of international migration.

The United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA) reports that there are 281 million international migrants globally, accounting for about 3.5% of the world's population, an increase from 2.8% in 2000. With India's population now surpassing China, reaching 1.4286 billion, the number of Indians living overseas continues to rise, with the total overseas Indian population estimated at 35.42 million by May 2024. This includes both non-resident Indians (NRIs), numbering 15.85 million, and persons of Indian origin (PIOs), with 19.57 million people in total.

Among the countries hosting the largest Indian populations, the United States



stands out with 5.4 million people of Indian descent, making up around 1.6% of the US population. Many Indian immigrants have contributed significantly to American industries, with over 20 CEOs of Indian origin currently leading Fortune 500 companies, such as Sundar Pichai of Alphabet and Satya Nadella of Microsoft. Other countries like the

UAE, Saudi Arabia, and Kuwait also attract large Indian communities due to favorable employment opportunities in various sectors, particularly in skilled labor. Additionally, countries in Southeast and Southwest Asia, including Malaysia, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, and Singapore, host large Indian populations driven by economic and educational opportunities.

### Indian-origin man jailed in Singapore for racist outburst at café



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**A**n Indian-origin man has been sentenced to four weeks in jail and fined SGD 4,000 after a violent and racially charged outburst at a café in Singapore. Rishi David Ramesh Nandwani, 27, pleaded guilty to insulting words and a rash act that endangered the safety of a cashier at a café in Holland Village. The incident occurred on October 31, when Nandwani mistook his place in the queue at the café and became agitated when the cashier asked him to go to the back.

In response, he launched into a two-minute tirade that included racial slurs directed at Chinese people. He also expressed frustration with the country, shouting vulgarities and holding up the queue. After refusing to leave the counter, he picked up a tip box and threw it at the cashier, hitting her in the back. He then returned to his seat, only to come back moments later to throw two serving trays, which missed the victim.

The cashier eventually turned away, letting a colleague handle the situation, and Nandwani left the café after continuing his verbal assault. He was arrested after the police were called. The court acknowledged the public disturbance caused by his actions, highlighting the importance of protecting service staff from such abuse.

### Indian-American community condemns racist attacks on Sriram Krishnan

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**I**ndian-American groups have strongly condemned the racist attacks targeting Sriram Krishnan, who was recently appointed by President-elect Donald Trump as Senior AI Advisor. In a statement issued by Indiaspora, the group expressed its support for Krishnan, emphasizing that there is no place for racism in the public discourse.

The advisory highlighted Krishnan's credentials and achievements, affirming his ability to excel in the newly appointed role and serve the country effectively. Congressman Ro Khanna also expressed his disapproval of the racist remarks targeting Krishnan, who was born in

India. He praised the United States for attracting global talent, noting that it is a reflection of "American exceptionalism," which distinguishes the country from others like China. Khanna's comments came in response to an offensive post on X, questioning whether Americans had voted for an Indian-born individual to run the country.

Sriram Krishnan, a former General Partner at Andreessen Horowitz, expressed his gratitude for the opportunity to serve in the U.S. administration, working alongside David Sacks to ensure the nation's continued leadership in the field of Artificial Intelligence. Krishnan has previously worked with companies like Meta, X, and Microsoft, and has invested in companies such as SpaceX and Figma.



### 27 people selected for the Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Award 2025

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**T**he Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) has announced the names of 27 individuals who have been selected for the Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Award (PBSA) 2025. The award, which recognizes the exceptional contributions of Non-Resident Indians (NRIs) and Persons of Indian Origin (PIOs), will be presented during the closing session of the Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD) event in Bhubaneswar, Odisha, from January 8-10.

The award is conferred by the President of India and acknowledges the significant achievements of the Indian diaspora in various sectors both in India and abroad. This year's awardees come from a wide range of fields, including community service, education, medical science, business, and politics. The selection process was carried out by a jury, chaired by the Vice President of India, with the External Affairs Minister serving as Vice-Chair.

Among the notable recipients are Ajay Rane (Australia) for community service, Marialena Joan Fernandes (Austria) for education, Philomena Ann Mohini Harris (Barbados) for medical science, and 'Tan Sri' Subramaniam K.V. Sathasivam (Malaysia) for politics. Other awardees represent countries such as Fiji, Guyana, Japan, Mauritius, and the USA, underscoring the widespread influence of the Indian diaspora across the globe.



Neera Tanden criticizes GOP's stance on Indian Americans in H1B visa debate



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Neera Tanden, an Indian-American political figure, criticized the Republican Party's stance on Indian Americans amid the ongoing H1B visa debate. In a post on X (formerly Twitter), she expressed frustration that while the Democratic Party recognizes her as American, a large portion of the GOP does not. Tanden warned, "They don't see you as one of them. And never will," urging Indian Americans to remember this when voting.

Elon Musk also joined the conversation, highlighting the contributions of immigrants to America's technological dominance. He posted, "We named 'Tesla' after Nikola Tesla, a penniless immigrant whose inventions led to American dominance in electricity generation."

The debate intensified following President-elect Donald Trump's appointment of Sriram Krishnan, who supports removing per-country caps on green cards, a stance that has received mixed reactions. Former South Carolina Governor Nikki Haley advocated for investing in the American workforce, emphasizing the need to focus on domestic workers before seeking foreign talent.

The controversy over the H1B visa program continues to raise questions about balancing skilled immigration and domestic workforce development, with Indian workers comprising 72% of H1B recipients in 2023.

Indian-origin individuals among honorees in King Charles' 2025 New Year Honours List

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

In a special recognition for their contributions, over 30 individuals of Indian origin were honored in the 2025 New Year Honours List. The list celebrates people who have made significant contributions in fields such as public service, healthcare, academia, and community leadership. Notable among the recipients is Ranil Malcolm Jayawardena, a Conservative MP of Sri Lankan and Indian descent, who was knighted for his political and public service.

Other distinguished honorees include Satwant Kaur Deol, recognized for her services to further education, and Charles Pritam Singh Dhanowa OBE, for his work in competition law. Surgeon Professor Sneh Khemka was also honored for his contributions to healthcare, science, and innovation.

The list also includes Leena Nair, the



Global CEO of Chanel, and Mayank Prakash, President of the British Computing Society, both of whom were awarded CBEs for their significant contributions to their respective industries. Other honorees include cardiologist Professor Sanjay Arya, researcher Nandini Das, and business leaders such as Tarsem Singh Dhaliwal, CEO of Iceland Foods.

This year's honorees also include several

individuals who have made a remarkable impact in their communities, such as Seema Misra, who campaigned on behalf of subpostmasters wronged by scandal, and mental health advocate Gian Singh Power. The Cabinet Office commended the efforts of these individuals, with 54% of the honorees having contributed selflessly to their communities, reflecting the diverse and inclusive nature of the awards.

Indian-origin doctor among two killed in UAE plane crash

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Sulaymaan Al Majid, a 26-year-old Indian-origin doctor, was among two victims of a tragic light aircraft crash near Ras Al Khaimah, UAE, on Sunday. Al Majid, who was co-piloting the plane with a 26-year-old Pakistani woman, both died in the crash shortly after takeoff near the Cove Rotana Hotel along the coast.

Reports indicate that the aircraft lost radio contact shortly after takeoff and attempted an emergency landing. Despite efforts to resuscitate the victims, both succumbed to their injuries.

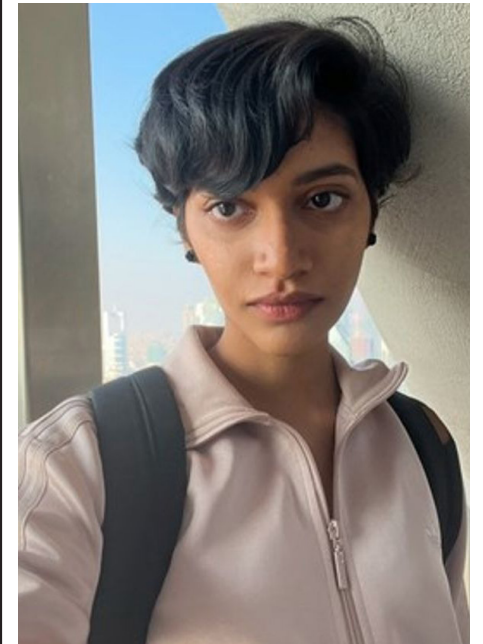
Sulaymaan, who was born and raised in the UAE, had rented the plane for a sightseeing trip with his family. His father, mother, and younger brother had been watching the flight from the aviation club. His younger brother



was scheduled for the next flight.

Sulaymaan, a clinical fellow at the County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust in the UK, was actively involved in advocating for fair pay for medical residents during his time with the British Medical Association. His tragic death has left his family devastated.

Missing Indian student's body found in river in Scotland



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The body of 22-year-old Santra Saju, an Indian student from Kerala, was discovered in a river near Newbridge, a village near Edinburgh, Scotland, after she had been missing for several weeks. Santra, who was enrolled at Heriot-Watt University in Edinburgh, was last seen on CCTV on December 6 at an Asda supermarket in Livingston.

Police Scotland confirmed that the body found in the water on December 27 had been reported to them, though formal identification is still pending. Santra's family has been informed, and the police have stated that her death is not believed to be suspicious.

Santra's disappearance had sparked concern among friends and family, as it was out of character for her. The police had launched an appeal, asking for information about her whereabouts. Enquiries had revealed that she was last seen leaving a location with a distinctive bag, which was later found to be missing when she entered the supermarket.

Indian-American Congressman Thanedar faces racist attacks after supporting H-1B visa program

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Indian-American Congressman Shri Thanedar, a Democrat from Michigan, has condemned the rise of "Hinduphobia" and racism in the US after he became the target of online hate following his vocal support for the H-1B visa program. Thanedar, who was born in Karnataka, India, voiced his position on expanding legal immigration to ensure America remains competitive in innovation. His support, however, sparked a wave of racist and xenophobic attacks from members of the MAGA (Make America Great Again) movement. Thanedar was subjected to a barrage of offensive comments on social media. Many individuals targeted him with hateful remarks, including calls for him to "go back to India," with one person writing, "Can



I buy you a ticket to Mumbai? One way, of course," while another comment said, "You need to be denaturalized and deported."

In response to the hateful rhetoric, Thanedar introduced a bipartisan resolution aimed at condemning Hinduphobia and

all forms of racism. He stated, "Racism in America is still alive and well, and we must stand up to it together. Just read the replies to any recent post that includes 'H-1B' to see the deplorable rhetoric targeting Indian Americans." Thanedar's remarks were made in the context of the ongoing debate about the H-1B visa program, which allows highly skilled foreign workers to temporarily live and work in the United States. The program has long been contentious, with critics from the far right claiming that it undercuts American wages by replacing domestic workers with foreign labor, despite safeguards in place to prevent this. Indian workers, who receive the majority of H-1B visas, have become the primary target of this criticism, which often overlooks factors such as India's large population and strong educational and professional ties to the US.



Friday, 03 January 2025

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## Do Kwon pleads not guilty to fraud charges in \$40 billion crypto collapse

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**D**o Kwon, co-founder of Terraform Labs, pleaded not guilty to U.S. criminal fraud charges related to the collapse of TerraUSD and Luna, which caused a \$40 billion loss. Kwon is accused of misleading investors about the stability of the stablecoin and manipulating the value of Luna.

He had previously settled with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission, agreeing to pay an \$80 million fine and be banned from crypto transactions. Kwon was extradited from Montenegro after being detained for forgery charges and remains in U.S. custody.

The indictment outlines a scheme in which Kwon allegedly used high-frequency trading firms to artificially prop up the price of TerraUSD. The crash of TerraUSD and Luna in 2022 triggered widespread chaos in the cryptocurrency market, resulting in the collapse of other firms. Kwon's trial is set for January 8, with prosecutors stating they are determined to hold him accountable for his actions.

## Norway introduces new environmental regulations to protect Svalbard's ecosystem



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**N**orway has introduced new environmental regulations for the Svalbard archipelago to safeguard its fragile ecosystem, wildlife, and cultural heritage. The remote Arctic region is facing mounting pressures due to climate change and growing tourism. The regulations include stricter distance requirements from polar bears, with visitors now required to stay at least 300 meters away year-round, increasing to 500 meters during their most sensitive period from March to June. Drones are banned near bird cliffs during breeding season, and passenger ships will be limited to 200 passengers in protected areas. Additionally, there will be tighter controls on motorized traffic, including a permanent ban on driving over sea ice in certain fjords after March 1. The measures aim to mitigate the environmental impact of tourism and protect the delicate Arctic ecosystem, which is warming at a rate five to seven times faster than the global average.

## Poland assumes rotating EU Council presidency with a focus on security

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**P**oland has officially taken over the rotating presidency of the Council of the European Union for the first half of 2025, marking its second time in the role since 2011. Under the theme "Security, Europe," Poland aims to focus on seven key areas of security: external, internal, informational, economic, energy, food, and health. This presidency coincides with the beginning of a new five-year EU institutional cycle, presenting Poland with an opportunity to shape strategic goals and set the tone for the next several years. Poland intends to focus on establishing new initiatives rather than finalizing ongoing matters.

Over the next six months, Poland will host over 300 meetings, including 22 informal



councils involving EU ministers. However, a key EU leaders' summit scheduled for February 3 will be held in Brussels, not Poland. Poland, alongside the Baltic states, has accused Russia of conducting hybrid attacks, including disinformation and

manipulation, targeting the region. Tensions between Poland and Russia escalated in December when Russia announced it would close Poland's consulate in St. Petersburg in response to Poland's closure of the Russian Consulate in Poznan.

## Peace agreement reached between rival Shia-Sunni tribes in Pakistan's Kurram district

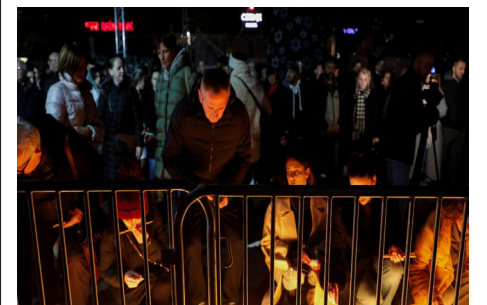
● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**A** historic peace agreement has been signed between rival Shia and Sunni tribes in Pakistan's Kurram district, following weeks of intense negotiations. The agreement, which was finalized during a tribal court meeting, includes 14 key points aimed at establishing lasting peace in the region. The tribes have agreed to hand over weapons to the government and dismantle bunkers, with those

refusing to comply facing government action. The agreement also ensures that passenger convoys will not be attacked and that the Frontier Corps will work with local tribes to maintain law and order. The Kurram district has faced violence for several weeks, which led to the blockade of routes and a severe shortage of food and medical supplies, causing the deaths of over 65 people. While local political parties are hopeful, there is skepticism about the long-term effectiveness of this peace deal, given previous failed agreements.



## Montenegro grapples with shock, dismay after deadly mass shooting



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**A** gunman killed 12 people in Cetinje, Montenegro, including his sister and two children, before taking his own life on Thursday. Police identified the attacker as 45-year-old Aco Martinovic, who had a violent past and had been under investigation for other charges. The attack began after a dispute at a restaurant and led to several injuries. The country has declared three days of national mourning, and Prime Minister Milojko Spajic called a National Security Council meeting to discuss tighter gun control measures, including stricter ownership criteria and an increase in police presence. Montenegro has faced significant gun violence in recent years, with previous mass shootings in Cetinje. Local residents have expressed grief and anger, with many blaming the government for failing to address the rising violence.

## Russia introduces new tourist tax and lifts coal export duties

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**R**ussia has implemented a new tourist tax starting January 1, 2025, replacing the previous resort fee. Travelers staying in hotels and other accommodations will now pay an additional 1 percent of their lodging costs. The tax will gradually increase to 3 percent by 2027. Regional authorities have the discretion to apply the tax, and it aims to bolster regional tourism infrastructure. Additionally, Russia has lifted export duties on anthracite, coking coal, and thermal coal, effective January 1, 2025. This change follows a temporary suspension of duties on coal from May to November 2024 and is aimed at supporting the coal industry. The new



tax and the suspension of export duties are part of Russia's efforts to stimulate

the local economy and address ongoing regional challenges.

Friday, 03 January 2025

New Zealand sends additional air force flights to support Vanuatu's earthquake recovery



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

New Zealand has dispatched additional Royal New Zealand Air Force flights to support Vanuatu's recovery efforts following a 7.3-magnitude earthquake that struck the Pacific nation two weeks ago. The flights have been crucial in transporting disaster relief teams and supplies. The quake resulted in at least 14 deaths and hundreds of injuries, and the relief effort has been ongoing. In addition to New Zealand's support, Indonesia has also provided emergency assistance, including a medical team and logistics supplies. The Asian Development Bank has contributed \$5 million in disaster relief funding to help Vanuatu manage the aftermath of the earthquake. The situation remains dire, and international aid continues to play a critical role in providing relief to the affected population.

## Denmark, Greece, Pakistan, Panama, and Somalia join UN Security Council

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Denmark, Greece, Pakistan, Panama, and Somalia officially began their two-year term as non-permanent members of the United Nations Security Council on January 1. These countries replace Ecuador, Japan, Malta, Mozambique, and Switzerland. A flag installation ceremony was held at the UN headquarters in New York to mark the occasion. The new members, who will serve until December 2025, are now responsible for addressing global challenges and maintaining international peace and security. The Security Council plays a crucial role in responding to conflicts, humanitarian crises, and violations of international law. As new members,



these countries will be expected to work collaboratively with the permanent members and other nations to address pressing global issues such as climate change, security threats, and international peacekeeping efforts.

## Israeli airstrikes target defense factories and research center in Aleppo, Syria



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Israeli airstrikes hit defense factories and a scientific research center in Aleppo, Syria, causing multiple explosions in the Al-Safira area. At least seven large explosions were reported by the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights. There were no immediate reports of casualties, but the attack is part of Israel's ongoing efforts to destroy remnants of Syria's previous regime. The Israeli strikes, which have been frequent since the fall of Bashar al-Assad's government in December 2023, continue to target key military infrastructure. Additionally, a recent explosion at a weapons depot near Damascus resulted in 11 deaths, mostly civilians. The explosions caused significant damage to the defense facilities, and there are fears that the situation may escalate further. Israel's airstrikes are part of broader regional tensions as Israel attempts to prevent the rearmament of Syrian forces and Iranian-backed militias. The international community remains concerned about the continued instability in Syria and its potential impact on regional security.

## Iran marks fifth anniversary of Soleimani's assassination

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Iranians have marked the fifth anniversary of the US killing of General Qassem Soleimani, former commander of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps, and Abu Mahdi al-Muhandis, an Iraqi militia leader, who were killed in a US drone strike in 2020. Commemorations took place across the country, including in Tehran and Soleimani's hometown of Kerman. Senior officials and military commanders attended the events, where images of Soleimani and other resistance figures were displayed. The event also served as a reminder of Iran's ongoing condemnation of the assassination as an act of "state terrorism." Soleimani was widely regarded as a key figure



in Iran's efforts to combat regional adversaries, and his death has been seen by many as a major blow to Iran's influence in the Middle East. Iran's government continues to vow to seek justice for his killing, while rallying support for the broader cause of resisting foreign intervention in the region.

## Israel to send delegation to Qatar for Gaza ceasefire talks



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Israel has confirmed it will send a delegation of senior security officials to Qatar to continue negotiations for a potential ceasefire in Gaza. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu announced the move after Hamas proposed a one-week ceasefire, during which it would provide a list of hostages to be released. The talks, mediated by Qatar, Egypt, and the United States, have been ongoing for over a year. While Hamas seeks to prolong the truce, Israel insists on military action if security threats persist. The delegation will include officials from the Mossad, Shin Bet, and the Israel Defense Forces. The situation in Gaza remains tense, with both sides continuing to hold firm on their respective demands. The ongoing conflict has led to significant civilian casualties, and the international community remains deeply divided on how to address the crisis. The delegation's visit to Qatar could offer an opportunity to bridge gaps, though achieving a lasting agreement may still be far from certain.

## Australia records second-hottest year on record in 2024



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Australia has experienced its second-hottest year on record in 2024, according to the Bureau of Meteorology. The national mean temperature for the year was 1.46 degrees Celsius above the historical average, making it the second warmest year since records began in 1910, after 2019. The year also saw record-high minimum temperatures. Experts warn of extreme fire conditions, with authorities preparing for the worst bushfire season since 2019-2020, which

is expected to cause significant damage across the country. The extreme heat has had widespread effects on agriculture, water supplies, and public health. Perth in Western Australia recorded its hottest year ever, with a mean temperature above 20 degrees Celsius for the first time. Australian officials continue to issue warnings for bushfire-prone regions, urging residents to stay alert as weather conditions worsen. Climate change experts have reiterated the need for urgent action to address the growing threat posed by rising global temperatures and extreme weather events.

## Sri Lankan President launches 'Clean Sri Lanka' initiative to address environmental and social challenges



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Sri Lankan President Anura Kumara Dissanayake has launched the "Clean Sri Lanka" initiative, a national program aimed at improving the country's environmental and social conditions. The initiative, introduced alongside the New Year, seeks to establish a new value system that prioritizes environmental and social responsibility. Dissanayake emphasized the importance of the program in healing the country's fractured society and addressing environmental degradation. The President outlined three key priorities: eradicating rural poverty, implementing the "Clean Sri Lanka" program, and fostering a digital economy. He urged the public to actively participate in the initiative, which aims to restore Sri Lanka's natural environment while promoting a morally sustainable society. Economic reforms and digital transformation are also part of the government's broader agenda to bring stability to the nation.

Rahul Gandhi highlights his 2024 activities in new newsletter to engage with the public



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi has published a newsletter summarizing his activities and efforts to connect with the people in 2024. The newsletter outlines his public outreach, political engagements, and accomplishments throughout the year. In the eight-page document, Rahul Gandhi reflects on his Bharat Jodo Yatra, which took him across 25 states and over 6,600 kilometers. The newsletter details his speeches in Parliament, including his inaugural address as the Leader of Opposition, where he criticized the government's "politics of hatred" and emphasized non-violence.

Additionally, the newsletter provides insights into his solidarity with people facing crises, his tribute to former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, and his participation in public rallies and interactions with citizens.

Tamil Nadu orders round-the-clock availability of rabies vaccine amid surge in cases



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The Tamil Nadu Health Department has issued a directive to ensure the round-the-clock availability of the Anti-Rabies Vaccine (ARV) in all districts following a surge in dog bite cases across the state. Authorities have been instructed to maintain a stock of at least 20 vials of ARV at all times, and there will be no hesitation in administering the vaccine, regardless of concerns about wastage.

The state has seen a significant increase in rabies-related deaths and dog bite cases in 2024, with 34 fatalities and 642,000 dog bite incidents reported by October, marking the highest number in five years. In comparison, 2023 saw 18 deaths and 441,000 bite cases. Rabies, with a 100% fatality rate, continues to be a major health concern in the state.

The health department also highlighted challenges in managing the rabies situation, such as the lack of reliable data on the dog population in many districts. However, districts like Nilgiris have remained rabies-free for 15 years due to successful vaccination campaigns.

## Andhra Pradesh approves major development projects with World Bank and HUDCO funding for Amaravati

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The Andhra Pradesh Cabinet has approved a series of developmental projects in Amaravati, the state capital, with financial backing from the World Bank, HUDCO, and other international institutions. The Cabinet decided to issue new tenders for the development works in compliance with the guidelines of these funding bodies.

Among the approved projects is an engineering initiative worth Rs 2,723 crore for infrastructure development in Amaravati. The Cabinet also approved a proposal to amend



the Andhra Pradesh Metropolitan Region and Urban Development Authorities Act, which will facilitate updates to the city's master plan and zoning regulations.

Other key initiatives include the establishment of a green ammonia plant in Kakinada, renewable energy projects in various districts, and upgrades to healthcare infrastructure such as the expansion of the ESI hospital in Tirupati. The Cabinet also cleared the proposal for new industrial projects and employment opportunities in the state, underscoring its commitment to sustainable growth and development.

## Union Minister Kiren Rijiju to offer Chadhar at Ajmer Sharif Dargah on behalf of Prime Minister Modi

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

On January 4, 2025, Union Minister Kiren Rijiju will offer the traditional Chadhar on behalf of Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the Ajmer Sharif Dargah in Rajasthan during the annual Urs of Khwaja Moinuddin Chishti. The Minister of Minority Affairs will represent the Prime Minister, continuing a longstanding tradition.

Rijiju is scheduled to arrive at Jaipur airport at 7:15 a.m. and will travel to Ajmer by road. The Chadhar offering ceremony will take place at 11 a.m. at the Dargah Sharif.

During his visit, Rijiju will also launch the new web portal for the Dargah Sharif and the 'Garib Nawaz' mobile app to enhance the experience for visitors. The



portal will provide information about the life of Khwaja Moinuddin Chishti, the Dargah services, and live telecasts of events. The Minister will also release the Urs Manual, which outlines the historical and logistical details for the event and aims to improve coordination among the government and Dargah authorities.

## Punjab CM says farmer issues are with the Union government, not the state

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann clarified that the state's government has no role in addressing the demands of farmers, which are directed at the Union government. He expressed strong opposition to any attempt to reinstate controversial anti-farmer laws and reiterated that the state has acted as a mediator in past negotiations. Mann criticized the Union government for neglecting farmers' concerns and claimed that it was attempting to reintroduce "black laws." He expressed the state's commitment to supporting farmers but



emphasized that solutions must come from the central government.

## Maharashtra to create unique ID system for infrastructure projects



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Maharashtra's Cabinet has approved a decision to assign unique IDs to all infrastructure projects in the state, similar to Aadhaar for individuals. The move aims to avoid duplication of development work and ensure efficient use of resources, as the state undertakes over Rs 3 lakh crore worth of infrastructure projects. The unique ID system will be integrated with various portals like PM Gati Shakti and Maharashtra Remote Sensing Application Centre, allowing for better coordination and planning. A committee has been set up to finalize the format for these IDs. Additionally, the state plans to integrate all social development schemes into a single IT platform and explore the implementation of an 'e-cabinet' for digital management of Cabinet agendas.

## Lalu Prasad's invitation to Nitish Kumar creates political stir in Bihar

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar remained silent but responded with folded hands to RJD leader Lalu Prasad's invitation for him to rejoin the Mahagathbandhan. Lalu had publicly welcomed Nitish back into the alliance, but Nitish's non-committal gesture raised questions about his political future. Despite this, the Bharatiya Janata Party has expressed confidence in the unity of the National Democratic Alliance in Bihar. Lalu's remarks come after a series of political developments, including his son Tejashwi Yadav's firm rejection of a potential alliance with Nitish, emphasizing that their door is closed to him.

## Government upgrades telecom infrastructure ahead of Maha Kumbh 2025 in Prayagraj

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Ahead of the Maha Kumbh 2025 in Prayagraj, the government has invested in significant telecom infrastructure upgrades to ensure seamless communication for millions of visitors. Over 126 km of optical fiber has been laid, and 328 new towers have been installed across the city. Additionally, 575 new base transceiver stations (BTS) will support the influx of attendees from January 13 to February 26. Special measures, including 78 transportable towers and 150 small-cell solutions, are being deployed in crowded zones to ensure reliable connectivity. Emergency services will be bolstered with help desks, alert systems, and disaster management centers.

## Punjab government dismisses Deputy Superintendent of Police for facilitating Lawrence Bishnoi's interview in custody

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The Punjab government has dismissed Gursher Singh Sandhu, the Deputy Superintendent of Police, for his involvement in arranging a video interview of gangster Lawrence Bishnoi while he was in police custody at the Central Investigation Agency in Kharar in March 2023. The dismissal followed approval from the Punjab Public Service Commission, the appointing authority for the Punjab Police Service.

The dismissal order invoked Article 311 of the Constitution of India, allowing for dismissal without a formal inquiry under specific circumstances. Sandhu, who had been suspended since October 2024, was found to have helped arrange the interview despite being under suspension. The Special Investigation Team's investigation concluded that Sandhu's actions harmed the reputation of the Punjab Police. He had also avoided receiving his chargesheet, which led to formal service being arranged by the Commandant of the 9th Battalion of the Punjab Armed Police.

Sandhu was among seven officers suspended in relation to this matter.



Additionally, the Punjab Vigilance Bureau has initiated an inquiry into allegations of disproportionate assets and controversial property dealings involving him.

## India secures release of 95 fishermen detained by Bangladesh as part of humanitarian exchange

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The Indian Ministry of External Affairs has successfully negotiated the release of 95 Indian fishermen who were detained by Bangladesh for inadvertently crossing the International Maritime Boundary Line. The fishermen, who were held in Bangladesh jails in Bagerhat and Patuakhali districts, will be handed over to the Indian Coast Guard on January 5.

In a reciprocal move, Bangladesh will also release 90 of its fishermen who had been apprehended by Indian authorities under similar circumstances. The repatriation operation, which is a humanitarian initiative, will be completed at sea, facilitated by joint efforts from both countries' ministries and coast guard authorities.

The Indian government emphasized the importance of safeguarding the welfare of fishermen on both sides of the border, recognizing the challenges faced by fishing communities and working towards ensuring their safe return.

## Uttar Pradesh government reshuffles 46 IAS officers, including key changes in Home and Education departments



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The Uttar Pradesh government has carried out a significant reshuffle, transferring 46 Indian Administrative Service officers to improve governance and administrative efficiency. The reshuffle includes high-level changes, with Sanjay Prasad, a 1995-batch IAS officer, returning as Principal Secretary for the Home Department, responsible for crucial areas like home affairs, visa, passport, and vigilance.

Several other officers were reassigned, including Deepak Kumar, who now heads the Basic Education Department, and L. Venkateswarlu, who assumes additional responsibilities in the Social Welfare and Sainik Welfare departments. Key changes also included the reorganization of officials in the Infrastructure Development, Handloom and Textile Industry, and Panchayati Raj departments.

This reshuffle aims to streamline administrative functions across various sectors, boosting governance efforts in the state.

## Dense fog causes widespread disruptions in train and flight schedules across Delhi-NCR

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Dense fog blanketed Delhi and surrounding areas on Friday morning, severely impacting transportation services. At least 24 trains departing from Delhi experienced delays, with significant disruptions to services like the Ayodhya Express and Gorakhdham Express.

Flight operations were also affected, although Delhi airport reported minor delays—arriving flights were delayed by an average of five minutes, and departing flights by 11 minutes. Airlines like SpiceJet and IndiGo issued advisories, particularly for flights to and from Amritsar, Guwahati, Lucknow, and Bengaluru, urging travelers to check schedules due to possible cancellations caused by poor visibility.

According to the India Meteorological



Department, fog is expected to persist in the region until January 8, with a chance of light rain on January 6. The minimum temperature dropped to 8 degrees Celsius, contributing to a "very poor" air quality

index. Authorities are taking safety measures as visibility worsened, particularly affecting aircraft without equipment for low-visibility landings.

## National Human Rights Commission urges action on poor conditions in Delhi's shelter homes

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has raised alarms about the substandard living conditions in several shelter homes across Delhi. In a letter to the Delhi Chief Secretary, NHRC member Priyanka Kanoongo highlighted serious concerns about hygiene, sanitation, overcrowding, and the lack of basic amenities at these shelters.

The NHRC's inspection revealed poor conditions at three specific shelters: one on



Roshanara Road, another at Urdu Park, and a third near Jama Masjid. For example,

the Roshanara Road shelter has only three bathrooms and four toilets for 40 inmates, while the Urdu Park shelter is plagued by a rat infestation and unhygienic conditions. At the Jama Masjid shelter, 250 inmates are crowded into a facility with only three bathrooms and eight toilets.

The NHRC has demanded immediate corrective actions and requested an action report within seven days. The Commission has also addressed encroachment issues near the Urdu Park shelter and called for swift enforcement against violators.

**Li Haslett Chen to resign from Warner Bros Discovery board**



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**L**i Haslett Chen has announced her resignation from the board of Warner Bros. Discovery, effective January 31, 2025. Chen, who joined the board in April 2022, cited the need to focus on her own company, Howl, a marketplace for social media creators and brands. As Howl enters a significant phase of growth in 2025, Chen will dedicate her full attention to the company.

Warner Bros. Discovery has yet to comment on the resignation and is expected to fill the vacancy on its board.

**Big Lots secures sales deal and preserves brand name amid bankruptcy**

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**B**ig Lots, the discount retail chain based in Ohio, has finalized a sales deal that allows it to keep its brand name intact after filing for Chapter 11 bankruptcy. The company had struggled with economic pressures, including inflation, which impacted consumer spending. Initially, Big Lots attempted to sell the business to Nexus Capital Management but failed. However, on December 27, it struck a deal with Gordon Brothers Retail Partners. Under the agreement, Variety Wholesalers, based in North Carolina, will acquire 200 to 400 Big Lots stores and operate them under the Big Lots name. This deal could also retain jobs for Big Lots employees at the acquired locations. The agreement is subject to bankruptcy court approval.

The move aims to preserve jobs, maintain the Big Lots brand, and maximize value for the company's estate. Big Lots operates more than 1,400 stores across 48 states, but inflation and changing spending habits have



hurt its core business. The company listed liabilities and assets between \$1 billion to

\$10 billion, and its stock has dropped by over 99% this year.

**Hyundai Motor India records highest-ever domestic sales in 2024**

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**H**yundai Motor India Limited (HMIL) reported its highest-ever domestic sales in 2024, reaching 605,433 units. The company's total sales, including exports, amounted to 764,119 units. In December, Hyundai recorded 55,078 units in total sales, with 42,208 units in the domestic market and 12,870 units exported.

HMIL's success is partly due to the popularity of its Hy-CNG Duo technology, which resulted in a 13.1% contribution from CNG models to domestic sales, up from 10.4% in 2023. The Hyundai Creta model also had a strong year, with 186,919 units sold, further solidifying Hyundai's position in the SUV market. The company looks forward to the launch of the upcoming Creta Electric to



continue expanding its appeal.

In comparison, Mahindra & Mahindra Ltd also reported growth, with a 16% increase in overall sales for December. The

company attributed part of its success to becoming the only Indian automaker to achieve a world leader status in the Dow Jones Sustainability Index for the automotive sector.

**BMW and Yamaha back US rare earths startup Phoenix Tailings**

**B**MW and Yamaha Motor have joined other investors in backing Phoenix Tailings, a U.S.-based startup focused on processing rare earth metals outside of China. Rare earths, essential for manufacturing electric vehicle components, are increasingly in demand as the West seeks to reduce reliance on China. Phoenix aims to refine these metals using a cleaner, more efficient process that minimizes emissions, unlike the solvent extraction method commonly used.

Phoenix Tailings raised \$43 million in its Series B funding round, which closed on December 20. The company plans to build a \$13 million facility in New Hampshire, set to produce 200 metric tons of rare earths annually starting in 2025. Phoenix has already signed supply contracts worth over \$100 million, although it did not disclose specific buyers. The company hopes to go public within three to five years and sees strong potential with increasing demand for domestic rare earth production.



**Russian gas exports to Europe end as Ukraine halts transit**

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**O**n New Year's Day, Ukraine ceased the transit of Russian gas through Soviet-era pipelines, marking the end of Russia's dominance in Europe's energy markets.

Despite nearly three years of war, Russian gas had continued to flow until Ukraine decided not to renew the transit agreement with Gazprom. The halt, however, is not expected to impact gas prices in the European Union, as alternative supplies have already been arranged, including via the TurkStream pipeline for Hungary.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy described the termination of gas transit as a significant defeat for Russia, urging increased U.S. gas supplies to Europe. Europe's energy infrastructure,



reinforced with new LNG import capacities, is prepared to handle the shift.

Ukraine will lose up to \$1 billion annually

in gas transit fees but plans to offset the impact by raising gas transmission tariffs domestically. Russia, on the other hand, is set to lose \$5 billion in gas sales.

Shareholder calls for ADM CEO to resign amid criminal probe



**IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk**

A shareholder in Archer-Daniels-Midland (ADM) has called for the company's CEO, Juan Luciano, to resign over a criminal investigation related to internal accounting issues. The company has faced scrutiny after it amended several years of financial reports, following issues with unrecorded sales in its nutrition business. In light of this, the shareholder, Hartwig Fuchs, criticized Luciano for failing to provide transparency and restore investor confidence.

Federal prosecutors have expanded their investigation into potential securities fraud and conspiracy at ADM. The company's stock has fallen nearly 30% this year, and shareholders are questioning leadership amid the ongoing probe. ADM's struggles also include external pressures such as low crop prices, uncertain biofuels regulations, and trade tensions between the U.S. and China.

Starbucks loses appeal over wrongful firing of two baristas



**IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk**

A federal appeals court has largely upheld a ruling by the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) that Starbucks unlawfully fired two baristas, Echo Nowakowska and Tristan Bussiere, for attempting to organize a union at a Philadelphia store. The 3rd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals confirmed that the firings violated labor laws, despite Starbucks' claims that the employees recorded meetings without consent.

The court also rejected Starbucks' argument against rehiring the baristas with back pay. However, it ruled in favor of the company on a partial issue, stating that the NLRB exceeded its authority by ordering Starbucks to reimburse the workers for job search and medical expenses.

This case is part of the broader movement by Starbucks employees to unionize nationwide, although the company denies any wrongdoing regarding labor practices.

Volocopter files for insolvency as funding struggles continue

**IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk**

Volocopter GmbH, the German air taxi start-up backed by Mercedes-Benz and Honeywell, has filed for insolvency proceedings, citing its inability to secure new funds to continue regular operations. Despite intensive efforts to raise capital, the company, based in Bruchsal, Germany, stated that it was unable to find a viable solution outside of insolvency. The company intends to maintain its business operations throughout the insolvency process while actively seeking additional funding. Volocopter is part of the electric vertical takeoff and landing (eVTOL) industry, which has been struggling with financial challenges, as companies in this sector face difficulties securing investments needed to support



their capital-intensive ventures. Volocopter was set to launch its VoloCity air taxi in 2025. Volocopter follows in the footsteps of

another eVTOL company, Lilium, which also announced plans to file for insolvency in November after facing similar financial issues.

US may reach new debt limit by mid-January, warns Yellen

**IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk**

Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen warned that the U.S. government could hit its debt limit as early as January 14, 2025, unless Congress takes action. In a letter to lawmakers, she stated that the Treasury would need to implement "extraordinary measures" to avoid defaulting on the country's debt. These measures may include adjustments to federal trust funds tied to Medicare payments, which are expected to decrease U.S. debt by around \$54 billion on January 2.



damage the country's creditworthiness and trigger market instability.

Since the debt ceiling was first introduced in 1939, it has been raised 103 times, as the government consistently spends more than it collects in tax revenue. As of October 2024, publicly held debt was 98% of the U.S. gross domestic product, up from 32% in 2001.

The debt ceiling, which was suspended in a 2023 budget deal, will allow the Treasury to continue paying its bills until early 2025. However, Yellen urged Congress to act soon to ensure the U.S. can meet its financial obligations, warning that failure to raise the debt limit could result in severe economic consequences. A U.S. debt default could

BioNTech reaches settlements over COVID vaccine royalties with NIH and UPenn

**IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk**

BioNTech has reached two separate settlements with the U.S. National Institutes of Health (NIH) and the University of Pennsylvania (UPenn) regarding royalty payments for its COVID-19 vaccine. The company will pay \$791.5 million to NIH to resolve a default notice and \$467 million to UPenn, which had sued BioNTech for underpaying royalties related to the use of mRNA technology developed by Penn professors.

As part of the agreements, Pfizer, BioNTech's vaccine partner, will reimburse BioNTech for up to \$170 million of the royalties owed to UPenn and \$364.5 million of the royalties owed to NIH for sales from 2020 to 2023. Both settlements include licensing frameworks for using NIH and Penn's patents in combination products. The agreements do not admit liability.

Drug prices increased on over 250 medications as of January 1

**IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk**

As of January 1, 2025, pharmaceutical companies have raised prices on more than 250 branded medications in the U.S., including Pfizer's COVID-19 treatment Paxlovid, Bristol Myers Squibb's cancer therapies, and Sanofi vaccines. The median price increase has been 4.5%, consistent with last year's trends, with most hikes remaining below 10%.

This increase marks a significant jump from the 140 drug price hikes announced in 2024. Among the companies involved, Pfizer raised prices on over 60 drugs, including treatments for migraines and cancer.

Bristol Myers Squibb also increased prices on its cancer therapies, while Leadiant Pharmaceuticals raised prices by up to 20% on some rare disease treatments.

Despite the price hikes, companies like Merck have made adjustments by lowering prices for certain medications to better align with net prices. This continues to fuel ongoing criticism regarding the high cost of U.S. medications, which remain the highest globally.

Judge allows lawsuit over Poland Spring water labeling to proceed

**IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk**

A federal judge in Connecticut has allowed a lawsuit to proceed, which accuses former Nestle Waters North America of misleading consumers by labeling Poland Spring bottled water as "spring water." U.S. District Judge Jeffrey Alker Meyer ruled that it is an open question whether Poland Spring qualifies as spring water under various state laws, including those in Connecticut, Maine, and New York.

The lawsuit, filed in 2017, claims that none of the 1 billion gallons of Poland Spring water sold annually comes from a natural spring, as the brand suggests. The plaintiffs argue that the actual Poland Spring in Maine "ran dry" before Nestle purchased the brand in 1992. While the judge dismissed some claims, he allowed the case to move forward, citing concerns raised by an expert hired by the plaintiffs who disputed the authenticity of the



water's sources. Primo Brands, the current owner, maintains that Poland Spring water complies with FDA regulations and remains confident in its product's labeling.

**Naomi Osaka reaches first WTA semifinal since 2022 at ASB Classic**



**N**aomi Osaka advanced to her first WTA semifinal in nearly three years after a 6-7(2), 6-1, 6-2 quarterfinal victory over Hailey Baptiste at the ASB Classic. Osaka faced two rain delays during the match, but still managed to come from behind and defeat Baptiste after 2 hours and 2 minutes of play.

This marks Osaka's first semifinal appearance since returning from maternity leave, having last reached the final four in 2022 at the Miami Open. Despite the loss of form over the past year, Osaka credited her belief and confidence in herself for the win.

She struggled in the first set against Baptiste, but made a strong recovery in the second, breaking Baptiste's serve three times. Baptiste also took a medical timeout on her foot during the second set, which seemed to impact her performance in the final set. Osaka's 10th ace of the match secured her spot in the semifinals.

**LIV Golf announces star-studded lineup for first International Series event in India**

**L**IV Golf revealed the impressive lineup for its inaugural International Series tournament in India, scheduled to take place at the prestigious DLF Golf and Country Club in Gurugram from January 30 to February 2. The event, part of the Asian Tour, offers a \$2 million prize pool and features a mix of global golf icons and rising stars. Bryson DeChambeau headlines the tournament, with other notable participants including Paul Casey, Anirban Lahiri, Joaquin Niemann, Carlos Ortiz, Harold Varner III, Mito Pereira, and Sebastian Munoz. This event marks a significant moment in India's golfing history, elevating the country's position on the global sports map. The International Series India 2025 also serves as the first event of a 10-tournament calendar for the year, which will help players qualify for the LIV Golf League.

**Notre Dame wins delayed Sugar Bowl after New Orleans attack**

**I**n a highly anticipated Sugar Bowl, Notre Dame defeated Georgia 23-10, but the victory came under unusual circumstances. The game, which was originally scheduled for Wednesday evening, was delayed nearly 20 hours due to a tragic terrorist attack in New Orleans that left more than a dozen dead. The game was moved to Thursday afternoon, but the Fighting Irish did not let the chaos off the field affect their performance.

With Georgia missing star quarterback Carson Beck, who was injured in the Southeastern Conference title game, Notre Dame's defense proved too strong. The Fighting Irish controlled the game throughout, shutting down Georgia's offense and securing the win.

Notre Dame coach Marcus Freeman praised his team for staying focused despite the emotional turmoil surrounding the event. "I'm proud of the way they prepared," Freeman said. "They had to be ready for this game with everything going on around them."

Despite the tragedy just blocks away, the fans were eager to witness the Col-



lege Football Playoff quarterfinal. The atmosphere inside the Superdome was charged with excitement, even though the game kicked off much later than planned. Fans appreciated the heavy police presence, which made them feel safe while still ensuring the event could go on.

While the Sugar Bowl's rescheduling was a result of the tragic attack, it didn't stop the excitement of College Football Playoff action. Looking ahead, New Orleans will host the Super Bowl in February, and despite recent events, both the NFL and local authorities are confident that the city will remain a safe venue for major events.

**Jalen Milroe declares for 2025 NFL Draft following standout season at Alabama**

**A**labama quarterback Jalen Milroe announced he is declaring for the 2025 NFL Draft after spending four years with the Crimson Tide. Milroe made his announcement on Instagram, expressing his passion for the game and his commitment to competing at the highest level.

Milroe had a standout season in 2024, completing 64.3% of his passes for 2,844 yards, 16 touchdowns, and 11 interceptions. He also rushed for 726 yards and 20 touchdowns, making history as one of

only four SEC quarterbacks to rush for 20 touchdowns in a single season, joining the ranks of Tim Tebow, Cam Newton, and Johnny Manziel.

Milroe's decision comes after a year where he helped lead Alabama, and while he had one year of eligibility remaining, he now sets his sights on the next step in his football career. Milroe joins linebacker Jihaad Campbell in declaring for the draft, with other Alabama players, including guard Tyler Booker, expected to follow suit.



**Debutant Lhingdeikim stars with four goals as India's women's football team thrashes Maldives**



**I**ndia's women's football team kicked off their 2025 international campaign with a resounding 11-1 win over the Maldives in the second FIFA Friendly match at the Padukone-Dravid Centre for Sports Excellence. Debutant forward Lhingdeikim scored four goals, while Nongmeikapam Sibani Devi also made a strong debut with a goal. India led 6-1 at the break, and the second half saw more debutants shining, including Simran Gurung, who scored two goals. The Indian team displayed their attacking prowess, with multiple goals coming from quick counter-attacks and strong ball control. The Maldives' lone goal came from a defensive lapse, but India's dominance throughout the match showcased their depth and skill ahead of upcoming international fixtures.



**Marcus Rashford dismisses rumors about Manchester United exit**

Marcus Rashford has rejected recent reports suggesting he is planning an exit from Manchester United. The 27-year-old forward, who has been at the club since the beginning of his career, has not played since December 1, fueling speculation about a possible rift with the new manager. Rashford clarified on social media that he has not met with any agencies and has no plans to leave. Coach Amorim, who has kept Rashford out due to training efforts, insists the decision is purely professional, with no personal issues.





### Novak Djokovic extends dominance over Gael Monfils, advances to Brisbane quarterfinals



Novak Djokovic continued his undefeated streak against Gael Monfils, defeating him 6-3, 6-3 in the second round of the Brisbane International. The victory extended Djokovic's head-to-head record against Monfils to an unblemished 20-0. Djokovic, who first faced Monfils as a junior, expressed deep respect for the Frenchman, praising his athleticism and unique style of play. The Serbian legend has dominated their rivalry since their first meeting in 2005, with this latest win further cementing his legacy.

Djokovic's performance in Brisbane has been strong, as he also defeated Rinky Hijikata in the opening round. In the match against Monfils, Djokovic broke Monfils' serve three times, maintaining a commanding presence throughout the 72-minute encounter. With this win, Djokovic has now won 27 consecutive matches against French players.

### Real Madrid and Valencia resume La Liga action in 2025 after postponed match

Real Madrid will face Valencia on Friday in a La Liga match that was originally postponed due to catastrophic floods in the Valencia region.

This match could propel Real Madrid to the top of the league standings, moving them five points ahead of Barcelona and Atletico Madrid. Valencia, currently in 19th place, have appointed Carlos Corberan as their new head coach after Ruben Baraja's departure.

Corberan will debut in a tense atmosphere, as some Valencia supporters are threatening to boycott the match in protest at the club's ownership.

Real Madrid, with a fully-fit squad and players like Kylian Mbappe and Jude Bellingham in strong form, aim to continue their impressive run in the new year, which includes Copa del Rey and Spanish Super Cup commitments.

## Indian shooting community celebrates as Deepali Deshpande receives Dronacharya award and Manu Bhaker is nominated for Khel Ratna

The Indian shooting community celebrated as coach Deepali Deshpande was honored with the prestigious Dronacharya Award for her outstanding contribution to the sport, and pistol shooter Manu Bhaker was nominated for the Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna, India's highest sports award. Bhaker's historic achievement at the Paris Olympics, where she became the first Indian athlete to win two medals in a single Olympics, earned her this recognition. Additionally, rifle shooter Swapnil Kusale and pistol shooter Sarabjot Singh were nominated for the Arjuna Award, a prestigious honor given to athletes for their achievements.

The Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports announced that the awards would be presented on January 17, recognizing 43 prominent athletes and coaches for their excellence in sports. Bhaker, along with other athletes such as world chess champion D. Gukesh, hockey captain Harmanpreet Singh, and para-athlete Praveen Kumar, will receive the Khel Ratna. Deshpande's achievement as a coach, alongside the success of Kusale and Singh, showcases the prominence of Indian shooting on the global stage.



Kalikesh Narayan Singh Deo, President of the National Rifle Association of India (NRAI), expressed immense pride, stating that this recognition for so many members of the shooting community highlights the sport's international success. K. Sultan Singh, Secretary General of the NRAI, also praised the honorees, emphasizing their consistent perfor-



mances and contributions to Indian shooting's global stature.

With these recognitions, the Indian shooting fraternity is motivated to continue to excel on the world stage. Shooting ranked second in the number of awards, just behind hockey, which won seven awards across various categories.

### LeBron James becomes first NBA player to compete as both a teenager and over 40

LeBron James made history as the first player in NBA history to compete both as a teenager and past the age of 40, despite the Los Angeles Lakers losing to the Cleveland Cavaliers 110-122 at the Crypto.com Arena. In his 22nd season, James contributed 23 points, continuing his exceptional performance. His longevity and consistent excellence have solidified his legacy as one of the greatest players in basketball history, with four NBA championships and as the league's all-time leading scorer.

While the Lakers celebrated James' milestone, the Cavaliers secured their eighth consecutive victory, with Jarrett Allen leading the way with 27 points. Cleveland is currently at the top of the Eastern Conference standings. Meanwhile, the Lakers are ranked seventh in the Western Conference and face pressure to perform as the playoff race heats up.

In other action, Giannis Antetokounmpo led the Milwaukee Bucks to a comeback win against the Indiana Pacers. The Oklahoma



City Thunder extended their dominance with a 12th consecutive win, powered by Shai Gilgeous-Alexander's 40 points. The Boston Celtics dominated the Toronto Raptors with a 125-71 victory, while the San Antonio Spurs defeated the Los Angeles Clippers, led by Victor Wembanyama.

### Olympic badminton champion Huang Yaqiong retires from Chinese national team



Badminton Olympic champion Huang Yaqiong has announced her retirement from the Chinese national team, ending her international career. Despite still being physically capable of competing, Huang cited injuries and age as reasons for her decision. She won mixed doubles gold at the Paris Olympics with Zheng Siwei and recently claimed a third consecutive title at the Badminton World Federation World Tour Finals. Huang stated that while she is retiring from the national team, badminton will remain her lifelong passion.

### Jasprit Bumrah becomes highest-ranked Indian bowler in Test rankings

Jasprit Bumrah has achieved a career milestone, surpassing Ravichandran Ashwin to become the highest-ranked Indian bowler in Test cricket history. Bumrah's rating of 907 points has moved him ahead of Ashwin's previous best of 904 points. The pacer now ranks joint-17th in the all-time list. Meanwhile, Australian Pat Cummins climbed to No. 3 after his Boxing Day heroics, and other players like Yashasvi Jaiswal and Aiden Markram made significant jumps in the batting rankings.

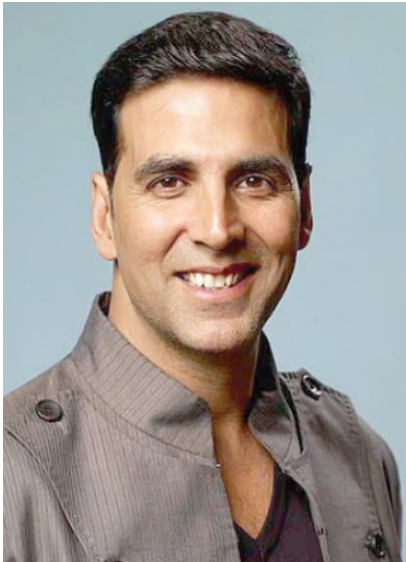


ASIAN FOOTBALL CONFEDERATION

### Asian Football Confederation unveils new brand identity for 2025

The Asian Football Confederation (AFC) introduced a new logo and corporate identity for 2025, marking the first change in over two decades. The updated logo symbolizes the AFC's vision of "Connecting Asia through the Power of Football," with a dynamic thread design. This rebranding reflects the AFC's commitment to modernizing its image as it continues to grow and engage with the Asian football community.

Akshay Kumar praises PM Modi's vision for the media and entertainment sector



**A**kshay Kumar has praised PM Narendra Modi's vision for the media and entertainment sector, reposting a tweet inviting the world to the WAVES 2025 summit. Kumar shared, "This is PM @narendramodiji's vision for promoting the media & entertainment sector. WAVES 2025 will be a great platform for the industry to come together."

Recently, Kumar also wished his wife Twinkle Khanna on her birthday, sharing a fun video of her and expressing how much he learns from her. He wrote, "Happy Birthday, Tina. You've taught me how to laugh and dance just because I feel like it." The couple also celebrated their son Aarav's birthday with a family safari outing.

Allu Arjun granted regular bail in theatre stampede case



**T**ollywood actor Allu Arjun has been granted regular bail in the Sandhya Theatre stampede case by the Nampally Criminal Court. The actor had previously been granted four weeks of interim bail by the Telangana High Court. The court ordered Allu Arjun to provide two sureties of Rs 50,000 each and appear at Chikkadpally Police Station every Sunday. He was also instructed to cooperate with the investigation and not influence witnesses. The stampede occurred during the premiere of Pushpa 2: The Rule, resulting in one death and serious injuries to another. The police charged the theatre management, Allu Arjun, and his team with culpable homicide not amounting to murder. Allu Arjun was arrested on December 13 and granted interim bail later that day. He was questioned by police on December 24 based on CCTV footage from the incident.

## The most eagerly awaited web series of 2025

'Panchayat 4' to 'Matka King': Most anticipated web series of 2025

**O**TT platforms continue to dominate entertainment, offering a vast range of stories to viewers worldwide. Among the most anticipated web series for 2025 are:

### 1. Panchayat 4



The heartwarming story of "Panchayat" returns for its fourth season in 2025. The series, which has already captured hearts in its previous seasons, stars Jitendra Kumar, Raghubir Yadav, Neena Gupta, and others, and will continue to be a favorite for viewers.

### 2. Paatal Lok 2



The highly anticipated season 2 of the crime thriller "Paatal Lok" will be released in January 2025. Jaideep Ahlawat and Ishwak Singh return, joined by new faces like Tillotama Shome and Nagesh Kukunoor.

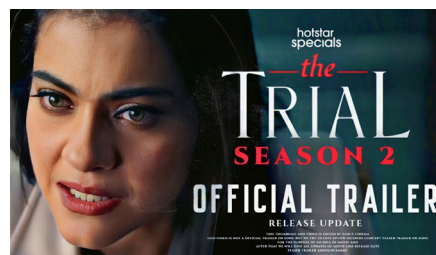
### 3. The Family Man 3

Manoj Bajpayee reprises his role in "The Family Man 3," continuing the action-packed journey of Srikant Tiwari. The



series is set to premiere on Amazon Prime Video.

### 4. The Trials Season 2



Kajol returns as the formidable lawyer Noyonika Sengupta in the courtroom drama "The Trials." The second season is expected to release in February 2025.

### 5. Matka King



Starring Vijay Varma, "Matka King" follows the rise of a Mumbai-based cotton trader who creates the gambling game Matka. The series is directed by Nagraj Manjule.

### 6. Black Warrant

Shashi Kapoor's grandson, Zahan Kapoor, makes his debut in the gripping



"Black Warrant," a cinematic adaptation of a real-life account from Tihar Jail. The series is set for release on January 10.

### 7. Dabba Cartel



This woman-centric series explores the lives of five housewives operating a secret high-stakes cartel in 1960s Mumbai. The series stars Shalini Pandey, Shabana Azmi, and others.

### 8. Rakht Bramhand: The Bloody Kingdom



A highly anticipated fantasy drama, "Rakht Bramhand" stars Aditya Roy Kapur, Samantha Ruth Prabhu, and others. Directed by Rahi Anil Barve, the series will likely premiere on Netflix in 2025.

## Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolie settle divorce after eight years

**B**rad Pitt and Angelina Jolie have reached a settlement in their divorce after an eight-year legal battle.

The couple finalized their divorce terms on December 30, according to a statement from Jolie's lawyer. "More than eight years ago, Angelina filed for divorce, and since then, she has focused on finding peace and healing for their family. This is just one part of an ongoing process, and while she is exhausted, she feels relieved that this chapter is over."

Despite their settlement, the pair has requested a jury trial, where they will likely address any unresolved disagreements. The couple's divorce has been public since 2016, after an alleged incident on a private plane, where Pitt reportedly became physical with one of their children.

In April, Jolie filed additional claims accusing Pitt of physical abuse dating back prior to the plane incident. Jolie

also alleged that Pitt prevented her from selling her share of their Chateau Miraval winery unless she signed a nondisclosure agreement about the alleged abuse.



## Jason Momoa returns to DC universe as Lobo in 'Supergirl: Woman Of Tomorrow'



**A**fter being ousted from the DC cinematic universe as Aquaman, Jason Momoa is set to make a return—this time as the antihero Lobo in Supergirl: Woman Of Tomorrow. The superhero film, starring House of the Dragon's Milly Alcock as Supergirl, is part of James Gunn and Peter Safran's new DC Universe. The movie will be the second in the rebooted universe, following Superman starring David Corenswet and Rachel Brosnahan. Directed by Craig Gillespie, the film also features Matthias Schoenaerts as villain Krem of the Yellow Hill and Eve Ridley as Ruthye Mary Knolle. Momoa confirmed the casting news on Instagram, sharing his long-time love for Lobo, stating, "I've always wanted to play Lobo, and if they call me, I'm there."



Friday, 03 January 2025

### Matt Reeves' 'Batman 2' release postponed to 2027



Fans of "The Batman" sequel will have to wait a little longer, as the release of Matt Reeves' highly anticipated film has been delayed to 2027. Originally set for October 2, 2026, the sequel will now open on October 1, 2027, in IMAX. This delay clears the way for Alejandro G. Inarritu's untitled film starring Tom Cruise, which will now premiere in 2026.

Warner Bros. also made some other changes to its release schedule. "Mickey 17," starring Robert Pattinson, has been moved to March 7, 2025, while Ryan Coogler's "Sinners" has been shifted to April 18, 2025.

Cruise's upcoming film, directed by Inarritu, follows "the most powerful man in the world" as he attempts to prove himself humanity's savior before a disaster he unleashed destroys everything. The film also stars Sandra Huller, John Goodman, and others.

## Post Malone expresses gratitude to Beyoncé after NFL performance



Post Malone took to social media to express his appreciation for Beyoncé after performing alongside her at the Texans-Ravens Christmas Day game in Houston.

The 29-year-old rapper and singer appeared during Beyoncé's halftime show, joining her to perform their collaborative hit "LEVI'S JEANS."

On X (formerly Twitter), Post Malone wrote, "Thank you @Beyonce so much for having me out in Houston, and on your beautiful record. Also, thank you for sharing your talent and art with the world. I love you."

Fans were quick to react, with some speculating about a possible new collaboration between the two artists.

The performance also marked the first time Beyoncé performed songs from her latest album before a live audience, and it included a special appearance from her daughter, Blue Ivy.

Beyoncé's performance in Houston, her hometown, included hits like "16 Carriages" and "Blackbird" and ended with a grand finale on a floating platform.

### Anupam Kher relishes fusion food on his Thailand vacation



Veteran actor Anupam Kher, known for Vijay 69, is enjoying his holiday in Thailand. On Sunday, he posted pictures and videos on Instagram, showcasing himself relishing fusion delicacies. He wrote, "This trip to #Thailand with my brother and childhood friends has been truly special. From my motivational lecture to a visit to the Ayutthaya temple and street shopping, everything has been remarkable. We had fantastic food at @jholbkk and @clarabangkok. Thank you and #Dhanyawad!" One dish that stood out was Malabar parota with mushrooms.

Earlier, Kher reflected on his 40-year career in cinema, sharing memories of his debut film Saaransh and his early days in Mumbai, recalling how acting classes were held on a beach.

### Diljit Dosanjh shares his thoughts on 'Mera Bharat Mahaan' during meeting with PM Modi



Punjabi singer Diljit Dosanjh recently met with Prime Minister Narendra Modi, and their conversation has garnered widespread attention. The two discussed various topics, including India's national pride. In a video from their meeting, Diljit shared his perspective, saying, "We used

to read about 'Mera Bharat Mahaan,' but when I traveled across the country, I truly understood why we say that." In response, PM Modi remarked, "India's grandeur lies in its power. India is a vibrant society."

The Prime Minister also praised Diljit for his success, noting how inspiring it is to see an Indian youth from the countryside rise to global fame. He added, "Your family named you Diljit, and you've gone on to win the hearts of people."

During their meeting, Diljit also sang a few lines in Punjabi, paying tribute to Guru Nanak Ji. PM Modi was seen enjoying the performance, tapping his hand to the rhythm. The two also discussed the benefits of Yoga, to which the Prime Minister remarked, "Those who have experienced Yoga understand its true power."

Both Diljit and PM Modi shared pictures from the meeting on social media. Diljit captioned his post, "A fantastic start to 2025. A very memorable meeting with PM @narendramodiji. We talked about a lot of things, including music of course."

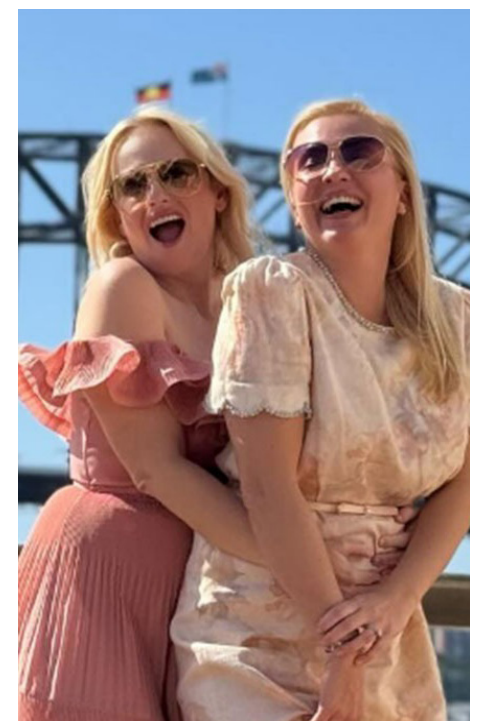
### Ed Sheeran teases new album release in 2025

Ed Sheeran has left fans buzzing with excitement after hinting at a new album in 2025. The popular English singer-songwriter spent much of 2024 on his "The Mathematics Tour," which celebrates his previous five albums, from "Plus" to "Subtract." His tour will continue until September 2025, but Sheeran teased something more—new music for the coming year. On New Year's Eve, Ed reflected on 2024 with a social media post, writing, "2024 was a year of touring, painting, traveling, fathering, recording and creating. Thank you for all the wonderful memories this year. 2025 is a year

of releasing, and I'm very excited about it. See you in the new year for a lot of fun stuff."



### Rebel Wilson ties the knot with Ramona Agruma for a second time



Rebel Wilson married her partner, Ramona Agruma, for the second time, after initially tying the knot in Sardinia in September. Wilson revealed they exchanged vows in her hometown of Sydney so her 94-year-old grandmother could attend.

In an Instagram post, she shared, "My sister Liberty officiated our legal wedding in Sydney, which meant so much to have my grandmother Gar present."

The couple had planned to marry in 2025 but decided to move up the date. Wilson announced their engagement in 2022, calling Ramona her "Disney Princess" and later sharing their joyous news with a post celebrating the matching pink rings.

# Alarming rise in religious conversions in Punjab: A matter of faith or economic distress?

By: Dr Avi Verma

**R**ecent reports indicate a significant increase in religious conversions in Punjab, particularly among marginalized communities such as Mazhabi Sikhs and Valmiki Hindus. While the 2011 Census recorded Christians as comprising just 1.26% of Punjab's population, recent estimates suggest this number has risen to over 10%, marking an alarming demographic shift.

This trend raises serious questions: Are people genuinely embracing Christianity for its spiritual tenets, or are economic hardships and caste-based discrimination driving these conversions?

### Root Causes of Conversions Economic Pressures

Marginalized communities in Punjab, including Dalits, often face severe economic challenges. Many converts report receiving financial aid, healthcare, education, and other resources from missionary organizations, which provide immediate relief from poverty.

### Caste-Based Discrimination

Despite constitutional protections, caste-based prejudices persist in Punjabi society. For some, converting to Christianity—which emphasizes equality—is seen as a way to escape societal discrimination and gain a sense of dignity and inclusion.

### Aggressive Proselytization

Missionaries in Punjab are known for their active campaigns, often portraying Christianity as a path to material and

spiritual salvation. Reports suggest that promises of miraculous healing and financial support are used to attract vulnerable individuals, especially in rural areas.

### Grave Concerns Over Cultural Erosion

The increasing conversion rates have sparked concerns among Sikh and Hindu organizations, who view this as a threat to Punjab's cultural and religious fabric. Historically rooted in Sikhism and Hinduism, Punjab is witnessing a shift that could alter its identity.

The Sikh faith, known for its principles of equality and justice, and Hinduism, with its rich traditions, are now being challenged by the growing Christian influence.

### Do Converts Truly Prefer Christianity?

It is debatable whether converts genuinely prefer Christianity over their original faiths or if economic desperation leaves them with little choice. Many conversion stories suggest that material benefits, rather than spiritual conviction, are the primary motivators. Once converted, individuals often find themselves alienated from their original communities, which may pressure them into maintaining their new religious identity.

### What Can Be Done?

**Address Economic Inequality**  
Governments and community leaders must implement targeted policies to alleviate poverty, ensuring vulnerable groups are not forced to choose between faith and survival.

### Promote Social Equality

Efforts to eliminate caste-based



discrimination within Hinduism and Sikhism are crucial. Promoting inclusivity and equality can strengthen the bonds within these communities.

### Cultural and Spiritual Engagement

Sikh and Hindu organizations should actively engage with their communities to reinforce cultural and spiritual values, providing a sense of belonging and support.

### Regulate Conversion Practices

There is a need for strict regulation of proselytization practices to prevent exploitation and coercion. Conversions should be based on genuine spiritual belief, not material inducements.

### Conclusion

The rising rate of religious conversions

in Punjab reflects deeper socio-economic and cultural issues that require urgent attention.

While faith is a personal choice, it should not be influenced by economic duress or societal discrimination. The alarming trend highlights the need for cohesive efforts to preserve Punjab's heritage and ensure its communities are supported without needing to seek solace elsewhere.

This issue demands a balanced approach—one that respects individual freedom of faith while addressing the underlying factors driving these conversions. The future of Punjab's identity depends on the collective actions of its leaders, organizations, and people.



Friday, 03 January 2025

# Chicagoland Indian community mourns the loss of community leader Sudarshan Kumar Soni

**T**he Indian community of Chicagoland is deeply saddened by the passing of Sudarshan Kumar Soni, a veteran community activist and respected leader, on Monday, December 30, 2024. Mr. Soni, son of the late Shri Amar Nath Soni and Shrimati Kundan Devi Soni, was a pillar of the community and a guiding force for countless individuals and families.

Beloved husband of the late Asha Soni, he was a devoted father to Sonia (Rakesh), Mona, and Rita (Chirag), and a cherished grandfather to Priya (Harman), Puja, Amar, and Arjun. Mr. Soni was also a revered brother-in-law, uncle, and friend to many.

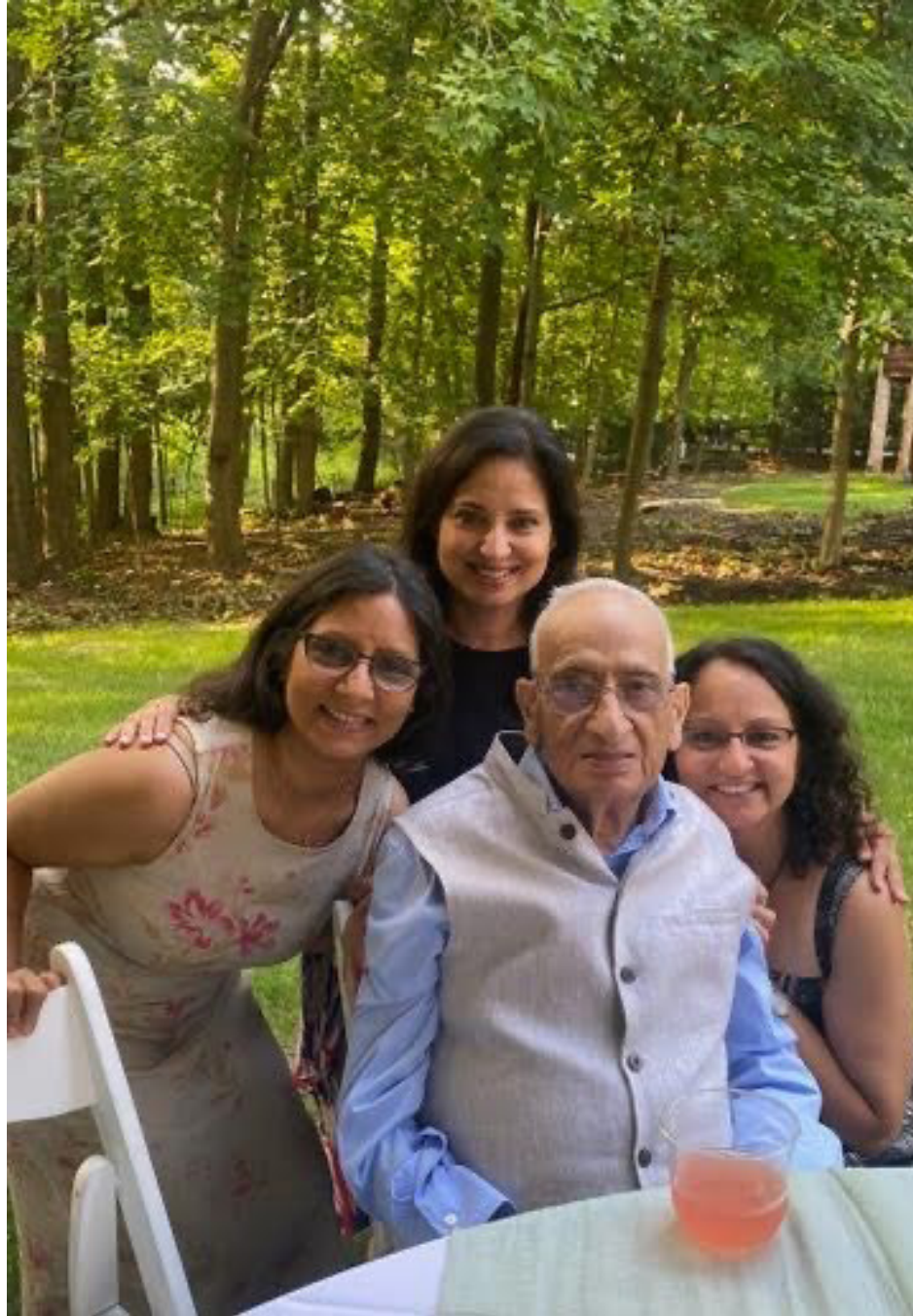
### A Journey Rooted in Heritage and Service

Born in India, Mr. Soni exemplified the virtues of humility, righteousness, and unconditional love. In 1967, he emigrated to North America, seeking opportunities for his family and future generations. His life revolved around family values, hard work, and the wisdom imparted by his own father.

Mr. Soni was a long-standing member of the Chinmaya Mission and dedicated his life to fostering community unity, promoting cultural heritage, and supporting spiritual growth. His involvement in charitable initiatives and his commitment to the Indian diaspora in Chicagoland left an indelible mark.

### A Legacy of Community Leadership

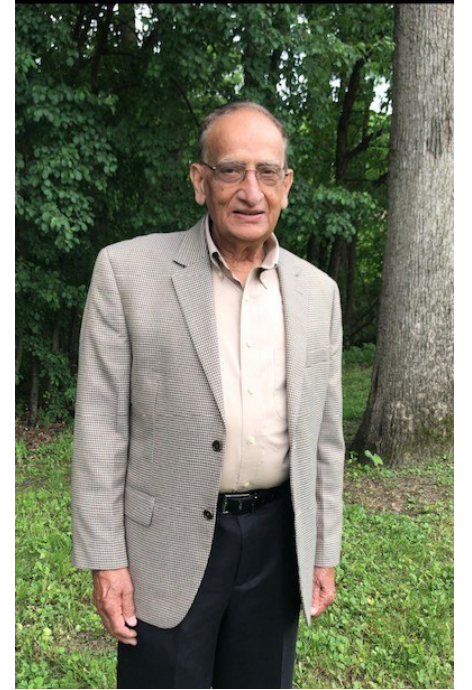
Known for his selflessness and vision, Mr. Soni bridged generations and cultures. He encouraged younger individuals to embrace their Indian heritage while pursuing their dreams. His wisdom, compassion, and tireless efforts to uplift the community earned him admiration from spiritual leaders, peers,



and the broader community.

From mentoring the youth to supporting charitable causes, Mr. Soni's

contributions extended far beyond his immediate circle. He was a trusted advisor and role model who inspired others with his integrity, perseverance,



and generosity.

### A Life Celebrated and Remembered

Mr. Soni's life was a testament to the power of kindness, service, and unity. He forged enduring relationships with individuals across Chicagoland and beyond, leaving a legacy of love and service that will be remembered for years to come.

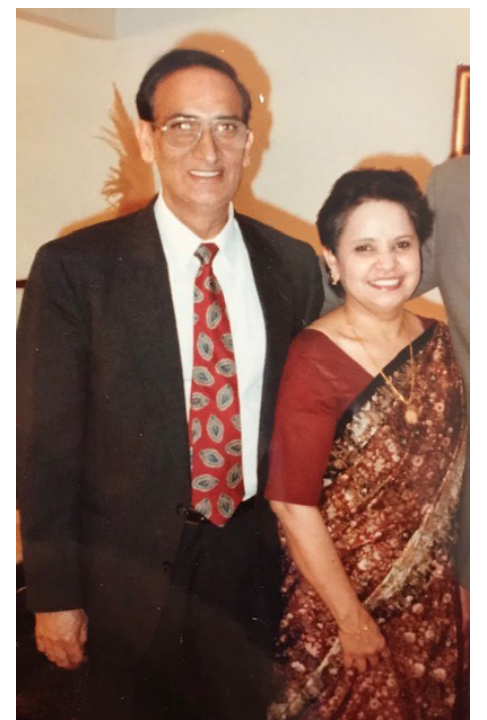
### Memorial Services

A Puja Funeral Service will be held on Friday, January 3, 2025, from 2:00 PM to 4:00 PM at Bucaro Funeral Home & Cremation Center, located at 485 W. Army Trail Road, Bloomingdale, IL 60108.

A Kirya Pooja will follow on Saturday, January 11, 2025, at 11:00 AM at Shree Radhey Shyam Temple in Bloomingdale, IL.

In lieu of flowers, the family has requested donations to the American Heart Association or the planting of a tree in Mr. Soni's memory.

The IndoUS Tribune joins the Chicagoland community in mourning the loss of Sudarshan Kumar Soni. His unwavering dedication to service and community will forever be remembered. May his noble soul rest in eternal peace.



# Indian communities across the US celebrate Christmas and welcome 2025 with cultural splendor

Indian communities across the United States embraced the holiday season with a unique blend of traditions, marking the end of 2024 and welcoming 2025 with enthusiasm and cultural pride. Festivities included Christmas celebrations, charity drives, and grand New Year's Eve parties, showcasing the vibrant spirit of the diaspora.

## Festive Highlights from Across the Nation

### Chicago, Illinois

Chicago's Indian community celebrated Christmas with interfaith events and cultural showcases. The Devon Avenue Indian Bazaar lit up with festive decorations, including twinkling lights and Christmas trees adorned with Indian ornaments. For New Year's Eve, the Federation of Indian Associations (FIA) hosted a gala dinner and dance, featuring Bollywood performances, a countdown to midnight, and fireworks over Lake Michigan.

### Edison, New Jersey

Edison saw one of the largest Indian New Year celebrations in the country. The Indian Business Association organized a grand party with live DJ performances, traditional Indian food, and cultural dances. At the stroke of midnight, a dazzling fireworks display illuminated the sky, marking the arrival of 2025.

### Atlanta, Georgia

The Gujarati Samaj of Atlanta hosted a New Year's Eve event with traditional garba and dandiya dances, drawing families from across the state. The event included prayers to bid farewell to 2024 and seek blessings for 2025, along with a festive dinner featuring



Gujarati delicacies.

### Houston, Texas

In Houston, the Telugu Association organized a special New Year's Eve celebration that combined traditional cultural performances with a modern Bollywood twist. Families gathered to enjoy classical dance recitals, live

music, and a spectacular midnight countdown. Sikh Gurudwaras in the area also offered langar meals to the community, emphasizing unity and service.

### San Francisco, California

The Bay Area Indian community welcomed 2025 with a tech-savvy

twist. Several organizations held hybrid events, allowing attendees to join in-person or virtually. A large-scale Bollywood-themed party took place in Silicon Valley, complete with celebrity DJs, dance-offs, and a New Year toast.

### New York City, New York

In the heart of New York City, Times Square saw a significant turnout of Indian Americans participating in the iconic ball drop. Many gathered at Indian restaurants and banquet halls for special New Year menus and cultural programs. The Indian Consulate hosted a reception earlier in the week, reflecting on the contributions of the diaspora in 2024 and hopes for 2025.

### Seattle, Washington

Seattle's Indian community combined Christmas cheer with New Year optimism through family-friendly events. The Kannada Koota hosted a cultural evening featuring traditional storytelling and modern performances, while children engaged in activities like crafting Christmas decorations and writing New Year resolutions.

### Charity and Service Initiatives

Throughout the holiday season, charity remained at the heart of celebrations. Indian organizations across the US held food drives, distributed winter clothing, and organized fundraising events to support local and international causes. These efforts exemplified the values of compassion and community service.

### Unity in Celebrations

From coast to coast, Indian communities bid farewell to 2024 with gratitude and ushered in 2025 with hope. Whether through traditional prayers, Bollywood-themed parties, or acts of service, the festivities highlighted the diaspora's ability to maintain cultural roots while embracing a multicultural identity.

As 2025 begins, the holiday celebrations serve as a testament to the resilience, generosity, and joy of Indian communities in the US, promising a year filled with new opportunities and shared prosperity.



## Bharatiya Senior Citizens of Chicago ring in 2025 with a vibrant celebration



By: Jayanti Oza

**O**n December 31, 2024, the Bharatiya Senior Citizens (BSC) of Chicago hosted a vibrant and joyous celebration to welcome the New Year at the Rana Regan Center in Carol Stream, just outside Chicago. Over 1,500 enthusiastic attendees came together to celebrate the occasion, creating an atmosphere of warmth and excitement.

The evening began with a heartfelt welcome from BSC President Haribhai Patel, who greeted all the seniors and invited guests with an open heart, wishing them a prosperous and joyous 2025. His words set the tone for the evening, which was filled with celebration, music, and camaraderie.

From 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm, guests enjoyed a delightful cocktail hour, featuring a variety of delectable snacks and beverages. The air was filled with the mouthwatering aromas of freshly made snacks and an assortment of light bites. The combination of flavors set the stage for the festivities that followed.

The dinner that followed was an indulgent affair, offering a beautifully curated selection of dishes designed to delight every palate. Rich, comforting flavors filled the air as guests savored the carefully prepared vegetarian dishes. The meal was a feast for both the senses and the soul, ensuring that everyone found something to savor.

At 8:30 pm, the energy shifted as the entertainment began with live music from the talented Kosha Pandya. Her

performances of timeless Bollywood hits, both old and new, had the crowd singing along and tapping their feet. The atmosphere was electric, and Kosha's captivating voice set the stage for an unforgettable night.

As the night went on, the entertainment grew even more dynamic. The crowd was mesmerized by performances from GO GO dancers, who brought an element of fun and flair to the celebration. The belly dancers added their own charm, delighting the seniors with graceful and engaging routines. The highlight of the evening was the stunning performance by a digital lighting robot, who danced among the guests and dazzled the crowd with its unique light displays and synchronized moves. The robot shared a special moment with senior Kala Oza, shaking hands with her as it captivated the audience



with its otherworldly glow.

The clock neared midnight, and excitement filled the air. At the stroke of 12, the entire room erupted into cheers as balloons dropped from above, signaling the arrival of the New Year. Seniors congratulated one another, exchanged warm hugs, and basked in the joy of a fresh start, united in their shared happiness.

As the evening drew to a close, President Haribhai Patel took a moment to thank all the executive members for their hard work and dedication in organizing such a successful event. He praised them for their commitment to making the evening a memorable one, saying that the event's success was a direct result of their efforts and teamwork.



# चार धाम यात्रा का अंतिम पड़ाव द्वारका, आस्था का अंतिम तीर्थ

चार धाम यात्रा के चौथे और अंतिम पड़ाव, द्वारका की यात्रा का समापन एक अद्वितीय आध्यात्मिक अनुभव के साथ होता है। यह पवित्र यात्रा, जो बद्रीनाथ, ज्योतिर्लिंगों के शहर केदारनाथ, और हिमालय की गोद में स्थित गंगोत्री-यमुनोत्री की पावन धरती से होकर गुजरती है, अपने समापन पर गुजरात के तट पर स्थित द्वारका में आकर विराम लेती है। इस यात्रा के माध्यम से भक्तगण भौगोलिक और धार्मिक विविधता का अनुभव करते हुए, भारत की आध्यात्मिक समृद्धि का साक्षी बनते हैं।

**द्वारका: भगवान श्रीकृष्ण का 12,000 वर्ष पुराना नगर**  
गुजरात के द्वारका जिले में स्थित द्वारका शहर ओखामंडल प्रायद्वीप के पश्चिमी तट पर और गोमती नदी के किनारे बसा हुआ है। द्वारका सबसे महत्वपूर्ण हिंदू तीर्थ स्थलों में से एक है और इसे भगवान श्रीकृष्ण के राज्य की प्राचीन और पौराणिक राजधानी माना जाता है। द्वारका चार धाम के बड़े चारधाम सर्किट में से एक है और यह पूजनीय सप्त पुरियों में से एक है; अर्थात् हिंदुओं के लिए 7 पवित्र तीर्थ स्थल। शहर की ऐतिहासिक, धार्मिक और पौराणिक पृष्ठभूमि के बारे में अधिक जानने के लिए, आगे पढ़ें-

## द्वारका: मिथक और किंवदंतियाँ

द्वारका शहर के इर्द-गिर्द कई पौराणिक कथाएँ बुनी गई हैं। सबसे प्रमुख मिथक द्वारक युग के नायक भगवान श्रीकृष्ण से जुड़ा हुआ है, जिनके बारे में माना जाता है कि उन्होंने यहां अपना राज्य स्थापित किया था। प्राचीन काल में द्वारका को अनंत के नाम से जाना जाता था जो भगवान श्रीकृष्ण का सांसारिक साम्राज्य था। द्वारका में अंतर्द्वीप, द्वारका द्वीप और द्वारका की मुख्य भूमि जैसे द्वीप शामिल थे। यह शहर यादव वंश की राजधानी शहर था जिसने कई वर्षों से इस स्थान पर शासन किया था। महाकाव्य महाभारत में द्वारका का उल्लेख यादवों की राजधानी शहर के रूप में किया गया है जिसमें वृष्णि, आंधक, भोज जैसे कई अन्य पड़ोसी राज्य शामिल हैं। द्वारका में निवास करने वाले यादव वंश के सबसे महत्वपूर्ण प्रमुखों में भगवान श्रीकृष्ण, जो द्वारका के राजा थे, फिर बलराम, कृतवर्मा, सत्यभामा, अक्रूर, कृतवर्मा, उद्धव और उग्रसेन शामिल हैं। सबसे लोकप्रिय पौराणिक कथा के अनुसार, भगवान श्रीकृष्ण ने कंस के ससुर जरासंध द्वारा मथुरा पर किए जा रहे लगातार उत्पीड़नकारी छापों से बचने के लिए कुशस्थली में प्रवास किया; कंस कृष्ण के दुष्ट क्रूर चाचा थे जिन्हें भगवान ने मार डाला था और इस प्रकार बार-बार मथुरा पर हमला कर रहा था।

पौराणिक कथा के अनुसार, कुशस्थली भगवान श्रीकृष्ण की मातृ पक्ष से पैतृक मूल निवासी थी। कहा जाता है कि इस शहर की स्थापना भगवान श्रीकृष्ण के एक यादव पूर्वज रैवत ने की थी, जब वह पुण्यजनों के साथ युद्ध में पराजित हो गए थे और अपना राज्य बाद वाले को हार गए थे। पराजय के बाद, रैवत ने खुद को और अपने कबीले के सदस्यों को सुरक्षित रखने के लिए मथुरा भाग गए। बाद में उन्होंने कुशस्थली या द्वारका शहर की स्थापना की।



यह कथा इंगित करती है कि मथुरा से द्वारका की ओर भगवान कृष्ण का स्थानांतरण उल्टे क्रम में हुआ।

जब वह यादवों के अपने कबीले के साथ द्वारका लौटे, तो उन्होंने भगवान विश्वकर्मा को अपने राज्य के लिए एक शहर बनाने का आदेश दिया। उनके आदेश का उत्तर देते हुए, भगवान विश्वकर्मा ने कहा कि शहर का निर्माण तभी किया जा सकता है जब भगवान समुद्रदेव उन्हें कुछ भूमि प्रदान करें। भगवान श्रीकृष्ण ने तब समुद्रदेव से प्रार्थना की, जिन्होंने प्रार्थना का उत्तर देते हुए उन्हें 12 योजन तक की भूमि प्रदान की और इसके तुरंत बाद दिव्य निर्माता विश्वकर्मा ने केवल 2 दिनों के अल्प समय में द्वारका शहर का निर्माण किया। इस शहर को सुवर्ण द्वारका कहा जाता था क्योंकि यह सभी सोने, पन्ना और जवाहरातों से ढका हुआ था जिनका उपयोग भगवान श्रीकृष्ण की सुवर्ण द्वारका में घरों के निर्माण के लिए किया गया था। ऐसा माना जाता है कि भगवान श्रीकृष्ण का मूल निवास स्थान बेट द्वारका में था जहाँ से उन्होंने पूरे द्वारका राज्य का प्रशासन किया था।

किंवदंती आगे कहती है कि भगवान श्रीकृष्ण के अपने नश्वर शरीर से विदा लेने के बाद, शहर समुद्र के नीचे चला गया और समुद्रदेव ने एक बार में जो दिया था उसे वापस ले लिया।



माना जाता है कि द्वारकाधीश मंदिर का निर्माण भगवान श्रीकृष्ण के पोते वज्रनाभ ने महान भगवान को श्रद्धांजलि देने के लिए किया था। द्वारका का धार्मिक महत्व अन्य मिथकों से भी जुड़ा हुआ है। ऐसा ही एक मिथक बताता है कि द्वारका वह स्थान है जहां भगवान विष्णु ने दैत्य शंखासुर का वध किया था।

## द्वारका: पुरातात्विक व्याख्याएं

द्वारका हमेशा महान महाकाव्य महाभारत और डूबे हुए शहर के बारे में पौराणिक दावों के साथ अपने घनिष्ठ संबंध के कारण पुरातत्वविदों के लिए प्रिय केंद्र रहा है। अरब सागर में अपतटीय और साथ ही साथ कई अन्वेषण और उत्खनन किए गए हैं। पहला उत्खनन लगभग वर्ष 1963 में किया गया था जो कई प्राचीन कलाकृतियों को सामने लाया। द्वारका के समुद्री किनारे पर दो स्थानों पर किए गए पुरातात्विक उत्खनन कई दिलचस्प चीजों को सामने लाया जैसे पत्थर की जेड्डी, कुछ जलमग्न बस्तियां, त्रिकोणीय तीन-छिद्र वाले पत्थर के लंगर आदि। खोजी गई बस्तियों में किले के गढ़ों, बाहरी और आंतरिक दीवारों आदि के समान आकार शामिल थे। खुदाई किए गए लंगरों के टाइपोग्राफिकल विश्लेषण बताते हैं कि द्वारका भारत के मध्य साम्राज्य युग के दौरान एक समृद्ध बंदरगाह शहर रहा है। पुरातत्वविदों का मत है कि तटीय कटाव के कारण इस व्यस्त, समृद्ध बंदरगाह का विनाश हो सकता है।

वराहदास के पुत्र सिम्हादित्य ने अपने ताम्र लेखों में

द्वारका का उल्लेख किया है जो 574 ईस्वी पूर्व का है। वराहदास एक समय में द्वारका के शासक थे। बेट द्वारका का निकटवर्ती द्वीप प्रसिद्ध हड़प्पा काल का एक महत्वपूर्ण पुरातात्विक उत्खनन क्षेत्र है और इसमें 1570 ईसा पूर्व का एक थर्मोप्ल्यूमिनेसेंस डेटिंग शामिल है। दूसरे शब्दों में, इस क्षेत्र में समय-समय पर किए गए विभिन्न उत्खनन और अन्वेषण भगवान श्रीकृष्ण की कथा और महाभारत के युद्ध के बारे में कहानियों को विश्वसनीयता प्रदान करते हैं। द्वारका में पुरातात्विक उत्खनन के दौरान खोजे गए तथ्य बताते हैं कि कृष्ण एक काल्पनिक व्यक्ति से कहीं अधिक हैं और उनकी किंवदंतियाँ एक मिथक से कहीं अधिक हैं।

## द्वारका: प्रारंभिक इतिहास

लगभग 200 ईस्वी में उस समय द्वारका के राजा वासुदेव द्वितीय ने अपना राज्य महाक्षत्रिय रुद्रदामन से खो दिया था। रुद्रदामन के निधन के बाद, रानी धीरेदेवी ने पुलुमावी को आमंत्रित किया, राज्य के शासन के संबंध में उनका मार्गदर्शन लेने की इच्छा थी। रुद्रदामन वैष्णव धर्म के अनुयायी थे और भगवान श्रीकृष्ण के उपासक थे। बाद में उनके उत्तराधिकारी वज्रनाभ ने एक छत्री का निर्माण किया और उसमें भगवान श्रीकृष्ण की मूर्ति की स्थापना की।

आदि गुरु शंकराचार्य ने हिंदू धर्म को पुनर्जीवित करने के लिए चार धाम की स्थापना की थी। जहां आज द्वारका मंदिर है, वहां एक हिंदू मठ का केंद्र स्थापित है





# Ramcharitmanas: A beautiful reservoir

The thought of a reservoir conjures an enchanting scene, where pristine water shimmers, a gentle breeze flows, and birds like cuckoos chirp melodiously.



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The lush greenery all around rejuvenates the heart and soul. At the beginning of Ramcharitmanas, Tulsidas likened this great epic to a reservoir, naming it Ramcharitmanas:

*“Ram Charit Manas is its name,  
Listening to it brings peace to the ears.*

*The fire of worldly desires  
burns the mind,  
But peace prevails upon diving  
into this lake.”*

Whoever takes a dip in this reservoir is cleansed of all sins arising from worldly life, becoming pure again. In praise of this great work, Tulsidas states that it is dear to sages and hermits and was composed through the grace and inspiration of Lord Shiva. The story of Ram first resided in Shiva’s heart, who then blessed Tulsidas by infusing it into his heart. For this, Tulsidas offers countless salutations to Lord Shiva:

*“Lord Mahesh crafted it in His mind,  
And spoke of it at the right time to  
Goddess Parvati.”*

Due to this immense grace, an ordinary being like Tulsidas became the poet of Ramcharitmanas:

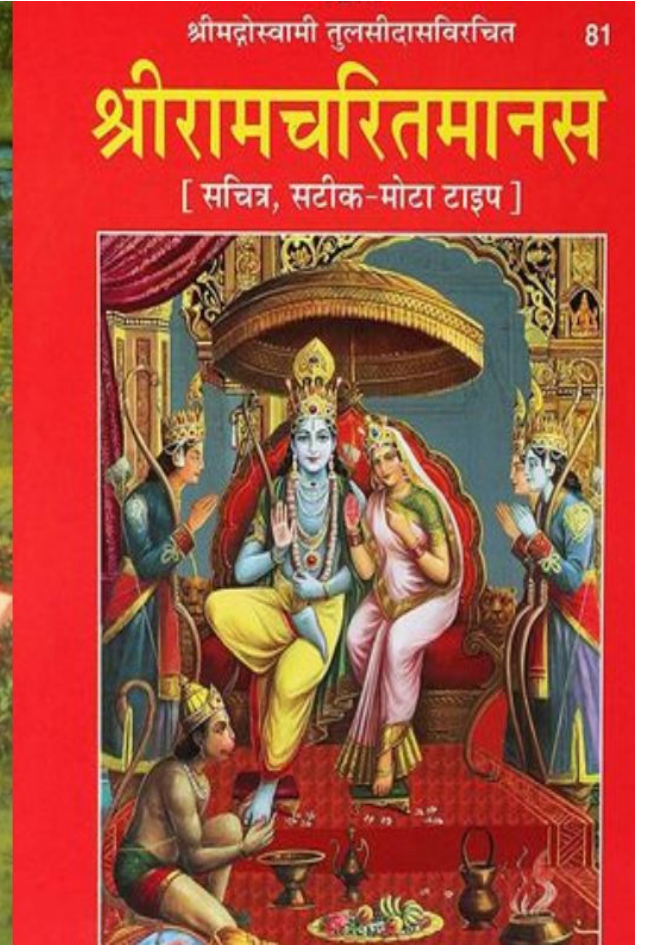
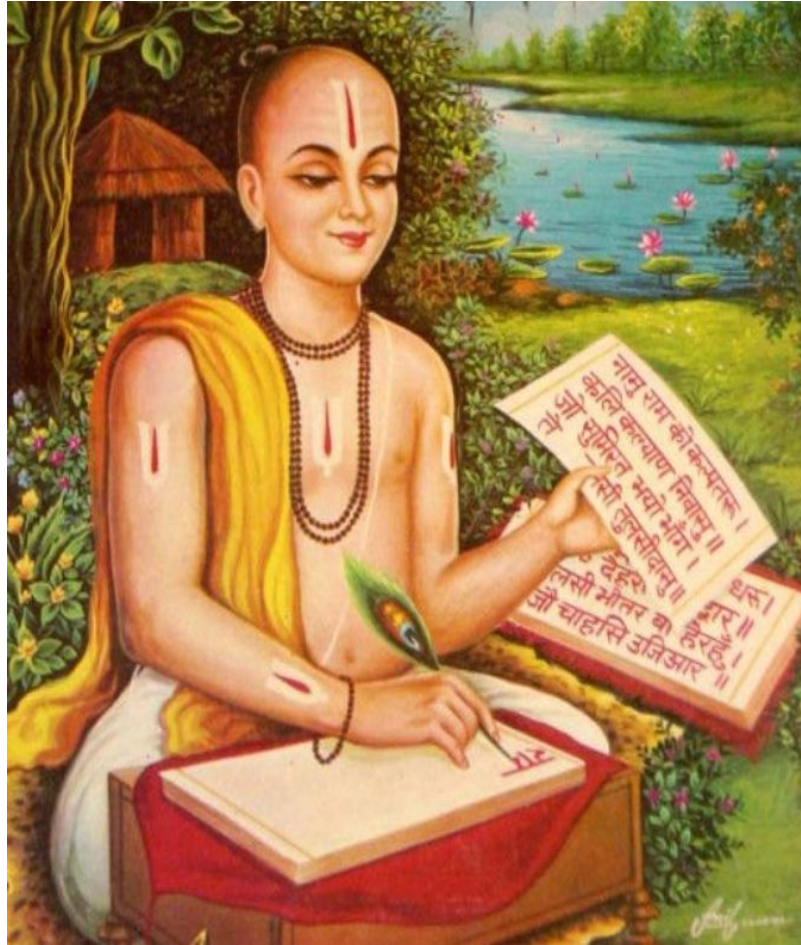
*“With Lord Shambhu’s blessings, my  
heart is full of wisdom,  
And I, Tulsidas, became the poet of  
Ramcharitmanas.”*

This reservoir has four ghats, or banks, symbolizing four parallel narratives within the epic, each offering one of life’s ultimate goals.

1. The first narrative is a dialogue between Shiva and Parvati.

1. The second takes place between sages Yajnavalkya and Bharadwaj.

1. The third, in the Uttarkand section, features Kakhbushundi and Garuda.



1. The fourth is Tulsidas narrating to devotees like us.

The concept of “four” holds great significance. Life’s four goals are Dharma (righteousness), Artha (wealth), Kama (desires), and Moksha (liberation). The opening verse of Hanuman Chalisa also invokes these four fruits of life:

*“With the dust of Guru’s feet,  
I cleanse the mirror of my mind.  
I recount the pure glory of Lord Ram,  
Which bestows the four fruits of life.”*

The essence of Ram’s story is its sublime fruits. Dharma teaches the art of living; Artha, the means to sustain life; Kama, life’s inherent desires, is guided by Dharma and Artha. Finally, Moksha is the ultimate goal of life. To fulfill these, sages divided life into four stages (ashrams): Brahmacharya, Grihastha, Vanaprastha, and Sannyasa. Even nature aligns with “four,” offering four seasons—Spring, Summer, Autumn, and Winter—and dividing the day and night into four watches.

In this reservoir, the most vital element is its refreshing water, which energizes anyone who dives in. Tulsidas explains that the water of Ramcharitmanas is the sweet glory of Lord Ram and Sita. The verses of the epic are the cool breezes surrounding the reservoir. Its numerous metaphors are like sweet waves, and the hidden meanings in the couplets (chaupais) are pearls hidden in shells. The couplets and stanzas are like lotus flowers, whose nectar is the profound and fragrant meaning within:

*“The nectar-like water is Ram  
and Sita’s glory,*

*Metaphors dance like  
delightful waves.*

*The stanzas, couplets, and verses,  
Resemble a myriad of beautiful  
lotuses.”*

Numerous subplots and stories within the epic are like colorful birds—cuckoos and parrots—hovering around this reservoir. The singers, storytellers, and devotees are its guardians, narrating the Ram story only to those who are worthy of hearing it:

*“Those who sing and cherish this tale,  
Are the skilled custodians of this  
reservoir.*

*Men and women who listen with  
respect,  
Are its true and noble recipients.”*

Only those who receive Lord Ram’s grace can approach this reservoir. Its sacred water washes away all obstacles and miseries, eradicating the threefold sins—spiritual, divine, and physical—forever.

However, evil and lazy individuals rarely reach this reservoir. Even if they accidentally stumble upon it, they fail to appreciate its beauty, dismissing the cuckoo’s melodious notes as the cawing of crows. Such unfortunate souls miss the blessings of this reservoir and return to spread falsehoods about it.

*“Wicked and sinful like  
herons and crows,*

*Such unfortunates never approach  
this reservoir.*

*Even if they somehow arrive,  
They find it hard to dive into its  
water.*

*Returning without a dip,*

*They mock and defame the reservoir.”*

Tulsidas also reveals deeper mysteries hidden within Ramcharitmanas. This reservoir emerged in the sacred city of Ayodhya, by the banks of the Sarayu River, in the year 1631 of the Vikram Samvat, on the auspicious Navami day of Chaitra month—the same day that the Vedas describe Lord Ram’s birth.

*“In the year sixteen-thirty-one,  
I bow to the Lord and begin this tale.*

*On Navami day in the month  
of Chaitra,  
This story emerged in Ayodhya.”*

Tulsidas then turns his attention to the grandeur of the Sarayu River, likening its flowing waters to the joyous events of Ram’s childhood and his divine leelas. Even when the river appears tainted with moss, symbolizing Kaikeyi’s cunning, it remains a sacred stream.

*“The moss of Kaikeyi’s malice,  
Gives rise to countless calamities.”*

For over 450 years, devotees worldwide have cherished the blissful waters of Ramcharitmanas. Those who dive deep into it discover pearls of wisdom, as aptly expressed:

*“Seekers find what they desire,  
Diving deep into the water’s expanse.  
Many pearls and gems they gather,  
Becoming wealthy and wise.”*

To such a divine creation and to Tulsidas, I offer my humble salutations. As we immerse ourselves in this sacred reservoir, let us exclaim:

**Jai Shri Ram!**



# World leaders and corporate giants recognize India's growth and PM Modi's transformative leadership in 2024, hope for a brighter 2025

India's remarkable ascent on the global stage over the past decade has garnered widespread recognition from world leaders, economists, and corporate giants alike. The year 2024 was particularly significant as India's growth trajectory, under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, continued to shine. The country has increasingly been hailed as a growth engine, a technological innovator, and a leader in sustainability.

This recognition from global voices is not new. India's rapid progress has been lauded for several years. For instance, in 2021, Mark Widmar, CEO of First Solar, remarked that every nation should follow India's proactive approach to tackling climate change. In 2017, Jamie Dimon, CEO of JP Morgan, praised Prime Minister Modi's leadership, calling him receptive, intelligent, and capable of shaping India's path. More recently, in 2023, Hassan Allam, CEO of Hassan Allam Holdings, expressed admiration for India's thriving private sector, particularly in infrastructure, engineering, and manufacturing under Modi's guidance.

Several high-profile corporate leaders have also recognized India's role as a global powerhouse. For example, Toshihiro Suzuki, President of Suzuki Motors, noted that the Indian automobile market has grown consistently, with India now standing as the third-largest market globally. Under Modi's leadership, Suzuki has benefitted from a positive manufacturing

environment, further cementing India's position as a critical player in the global automobile industry.

Borge Brende, President of the World Economic Forum, also expressed optimism about India's economic future, predicting the nation could become a \$10 trillion economy within two decades.

According to Brende, India's digital economy and export-driven service sector will be key contributors to this growth. Mastercard's Ling Hai, President of International Markets, added that India's demographics, inflation trends, and robust service sector make it an appealing destination for investment and business.

Marc Benioff, CEO of Salesforce, went even further by declaring that the world is entering what he called the "Indian era," presenting the nation with boundless opportunities. Meanwhile, Thomas Dohmke, CEO of GitHub, reflected on India's incredible transformation, particularly in urban development and infrastructure, including the development of metro systems and modern airports, which mirror the progress in the country's tech industry.

JP Morgan's Jamie Dimon also lauded India's achievements, emphasizing that the country has opened bank accounts for 700 million people, illustrating the vast progress in financial inclusion and digital infrastructure.

Moreover, other global figures such as George Kapsch, Chairman and CEO

of the Kapsch Group, underscored India's strong economic performance and expressed their readiness to enter the Indian market, citing a shift in attitude towards the country's increasing attractiveness for international business.

One of India's standout achievements has been its digital public infrastructure, which has had transformative effects on various sectors.

Christopher J. Elias, President of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, pointed out that countries worldwide could benefit from adopting India's successful digital infrastructure model, particularly in the realms of healthcare and financial services.

Dennis Francis, President of the United Nations General Assembly, went a step further, highlighting that 800 million people have been lifted out of poverty in India through smartphone access and the widespread use of mobile banking, a result of the country's strong digital ecosystem.

World leaders have also voiced their appreciation for India's strategic global influence. Pham Minh Chinh, Prime Minister of Vietnam, acknowledged India's position as the fifth-largest economy and commended Prime Minister Modi for his leadership.

Gita Gopinath, Deputy Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund, echoed similar sentiments, stating that India is on track to become the

third-largest economy globally by 2027.

Political leaders, including President Joe Biden of the United States, praised India's role in shaping the international landscape, with Biden emphasizing the unprecedented strength of the partnership between the United States and India.

He expressed his admiration for Modi's leadership and the ability to explore new areas of cooperation.

In addition, Bhutan's Prime Minister Dasho Tshering Tobgay described Modi as a guiding light for many developing countries, citing his leadership as a beacon of hope and progress for the global south. Even Russia's President Vladimir Putin recognized the potential for collaboration with India, noting that India's "Make in India" initiative aligns with Russia's objectives to expand its manufacturing base.

The consensus from global leaders and corporate giants is clear: under Prime Minister Modi's leadership, India has emerged as a key player in the global economy. His ability to shape the country's image, strengthen international partnerships, and drive innovation in key sectors has helped position India as an economic powerhouse.

As India continues to push forward with a focus on sustainability, technology, and inclusive growth, the world is watching closely and remains highly optimistic about the nation's future.



# Fashion trends to embrace in 2025: Sailor chic, cherry girl, and more

**A**s 2025 unfolds, the fashion scene is brimming with exciting new aesthetics and bold trends to explore. Get ready to say goodbye to quiet luxury and hello to vibrant, maximalist styles that will dominate wardrobes worldwide. From nautical influences to fruit-inspired hues, here's a look at the top fashion trends you'll be seeing everywhere this year.

## 1. Sailor Chic: Nautical vibes are in!

Fashion designers have cast their nets into the sea for inspiration, bringing nautical elements to the forefront. Think navy and white Breton stripes, thick cream cable-knit sweaters, and cheerful raincoats. To rock this trend, pair your tops with light-wash denim or throw on a cute bucket hat for a laid-back, fisherman-inspired look. Sailor chic will be your go-to style for effortless, nautical elegance.

## 2. Cherry Girl: Sweet, bold, and fruity

Move over, Strawberry Girl! The Cherry Girl aesthetic is taking over in 2025. Deep, rich reds will reign in your wardrobe—whether in the form of a statement coat, a flirty date-night dress, or even cherry-hued accessories. This color will make a statement in every corner of your closet, and it's the perfect hue to brighten up the gloomy months of winter.

## 3. Living Dolls: Embrace candy-colored pastels

The Barbiecore trend isn't gone—it's simply evolving. In 2025, we'll see more candy-colored outfits and surreal doll-inspired accessories. Think bright hues like pink and baby blue, paired with playful elements like platform Mary Janes and oversized gloves. The Living Doll aesthetic will have you channeling your inner doll with striking makeup, tiny handbags, and big, bold lashes.



## 4. Future Forward: Metallics and dystopian vibes

The Y3K aesthetic takes us to a futuristic world where metallics and silver accents dominate. From shiny bags to silver pants, this look is all about sleek, space-age glamour. Expect utilitarian elements like cargo pants mixed with edgy, dystopian silhouettes. The result? A trend straight out of the year 3000.

## 5. Boho with an Edge: Reviving the '00s

Boho-chic is making a strong comeback, and this time, it's got a little more edge. Think flowing chiffon dresses paired with leather jackets or tall boots. The key here is to mix soft, romantic pieces with tough accents, bringing a modern twist to the mid-2000s boho vibe. Light colors like cream and pale pink will dominate, with a touch of gold jewelry to complete the look.

## 6. '80s Maximalism: Bold, vibrant, and everything in between

Maximalism is back with a vengeance. In 2025, channel the bold and vibrant

'80s style with floral prints, oversized blazers, and rich, deep hues. Don't shy away from embellishments—statement earrings and brocade fabrics are making a comeback. Pair these pieces with white tights and heels for a ladylike vibe or go full-on extravagant with jewel-toned accessories.

## 7. Animal Print Everywhere: Go wild

Leopard print isn't going anywhere, but get ready for an expansion into other animal prints. Cow print, snakeskin, and tiger stripes will be all over the runways—and your wardrobe. Whether you're wearing it on boots, bags, or full-on outfits, animal print is a surefire way to add some drama and excitement to your look in 2025.

## 8. Denim on Denim on Denim: The Canadian Tuxedo is here to stay

Denim will continue to reign supreme in 2025, but with a twist. Wide-leg, baggy, and barrel-leg jeans will dominate, and denim skirts will make a comeback in midi and maxi lengths. Most importantly,

don't shy away from the Canadian Tuxedo—denim on denim is making its mark this year, and it's a great way to experiment with your favorite fabrics in a cohesive look.

## 9. Sporty Spice: Athletic gear with a retro twist

Say goodbye to leggings and zip-ups, and make way for tracksuits, windbreakers, and other '70s-'90s-inspired athletic gear. Whether you're hitting the gym or brunching with friends, this trend is about blending comfort with vintage sportswear. Think colorful track jackets, retro windbreakers, and bold accessories—perfect for a sporty, laid-back look.

Maximalism is undoubtedly the overarching theme for 2025, with vibrant colors, playful accessories, and bold patterns everywhere you turn. Whether you're embracing futuristic metallics or reimagining boho for the modern day, there's a trend for every fashion lover to experiment with. So, start planning your wardrobe—2025 is ready for you!

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

● Dr. K C Gupta, YBB Personal Finance

## SENTIMENTS

AAII Bull-Bear Spread +3.7% (below average)

\$NYA50R, NYSE %Above 50-dMA 29.06% (oversold)

\$SPXA50R, SP500 %Above 50-dMA 27.00% (oversold)

Delta MSI 34.6% (negative)

ICI Fund Allocations (Cumulative)

OEFS & ETFs: Stocks 61.41%, Hybrids 4.27%, Bonds 17.40%, M-Mkt 16.92%

## INTEREST RATES

CME FedWatch

Cycle peak 5.25-5.50%

Current 4.25-4.50%

FOMC 1/29/25+ hold

FOMC 3/19/25+ hold

## Treasury

T-Bills 3-mo yield 4.31%, 1-yr 4.20%; T-Notes 2-yr 4.31%, 5-yr 4.45%, 10-yr 4.62%; T-Bonds 30-yr 4.82%; (all 4.xx%; near flat yield-curve; upslope beyond 1-yr)

TIPS/Real yields 5-yr 2.07%, 10-yr 2.28%, 30-yr 2.49%; (normal upslope)

FRNs Index 4.286%

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

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

Stable-Value (SV) Rates, 1/1/25  
TIAA Traditional Annuity (Accumulation) Rates

Restricted RC 5.25%, RA 5.00%  
Flexible RCP 4.50%, SRA 4.25%,  
IRA-101110+ 4.50%

TSP G Fund pending (previous 4.250%).

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

## MARKETS

The US SP500 has stalled during the favorable seasonality period (11/1 - 4/30). It's just below its 50-dMA; the 200-dMA is about 6% below. The rising dollar is



surprising in view of the US budget deficit & total debt, & that's creating problems for most other countries.

US federal offices & the stock market will be closed on January 9 for the state funeral of the 39th President Jimmy CARTER (100).

INDIAN stocks remain in pullback mode (less than 10% decline from recent highs) near 200-dMA; they remain expensive at fwd P/E of 23.8. A further weakness may provide a good entry point.

There were record 317 IPOs in India in 2024 raising Rs 1.8 trillion (\$21 billion) far outpacing the prior record in 2021. The IPO money raised was 2.9% of the Indian market-cap (prior records were 3.7% in 2017, 3.4% in 2021).

Mega IPOs included Hyundai Motor (#2 automaker in India), Vodafone Idea (telecom), Swiggy (food delivery), NTPC Green (renewable energy), & Vishal Mega Mart (online retailer). SEBI has streamlined the IPO filing processes including for e-IPOs. Only 3% of Indian population owns stocks, so there is huge potential for growth of stocks. Consumer spending is only 33% of the GDP & that should continue to rise as the middle class grows.

In the auto news, Osamu Suzuki (94) passed away. He revived

Suzuki in Japan, & Maruti in India as Maruti-Suzuki that is now #1 automaker in India.

## IT/TECH

Reliance Industries Ltd (RIL) subsidiary Reliance Digital Health Ltd (RDHL) is buying 45% stake (\$10 million) in the US Health Alliance Group Inc (HAGI; 12/2023- ). HAGI is a small company that operates at the intersection of healthcare & IT in the US, India & elsewhere. But Ambani doesn't do anything small, so watch where this venture may go. It's not to be confused with the healthcare insurer Health Alliance/ Carle Health based in Illinois.

## ECONOMY

Dr Manmohan Singh (92) passed away. An economist, professor, reluctant politician (Finance Minister, 1991-96) & accidental Prime Minister (2004-14; there also was a 2019 movie with the same name), he started transformational changes in India. A state funeral was held on Saturday, 12/28/24.

Oil consumption growth in India is high & it's 25% of the total global growth in oil consumption. However, the picture is different for the total oil consumption.

Chinese companies are returning to India with local partnerships & joint-ventures. Online retailer Shein (HQ in Singapore) has partnered for distribution through Ambani's

Reliance Retail Ajio; Shein's direct operations were banned in 2020. TV manufacturer Hisense is buying 26% stake in EPACK Durable. Vivo & Dixon Technologies have a joint-venture to produce electronic devices.

To curb speculation, the SEBI has extended halts (2021- ) in futures trading of key agricultural commodities until 01/31/2025. Affected will be soybean & its derivatives, crude palm oil, wheat, paddy rice, chickpeas, green gram & rapeseed. As previous halt extensions were for 12 months, this short extension may be a precursor to the start of futures trading in these commodities in 2025. Futures are volatile & can be used for hedging &/or speculation; they also have a role in price discovery in normal times.

Poor sugarcane harvest due to adverse weather (droughts or excessive rains) or disease will significantly reduce Indian sugar exports. India is #2 global sugar producer but also has high domestic sugar consumption; some sugarcane is used for industrial ethanol production.

## RETIREMENT

Repeal of Social Security WEP & GPO offsets will increase monthly payments to about 3 million US retirees.

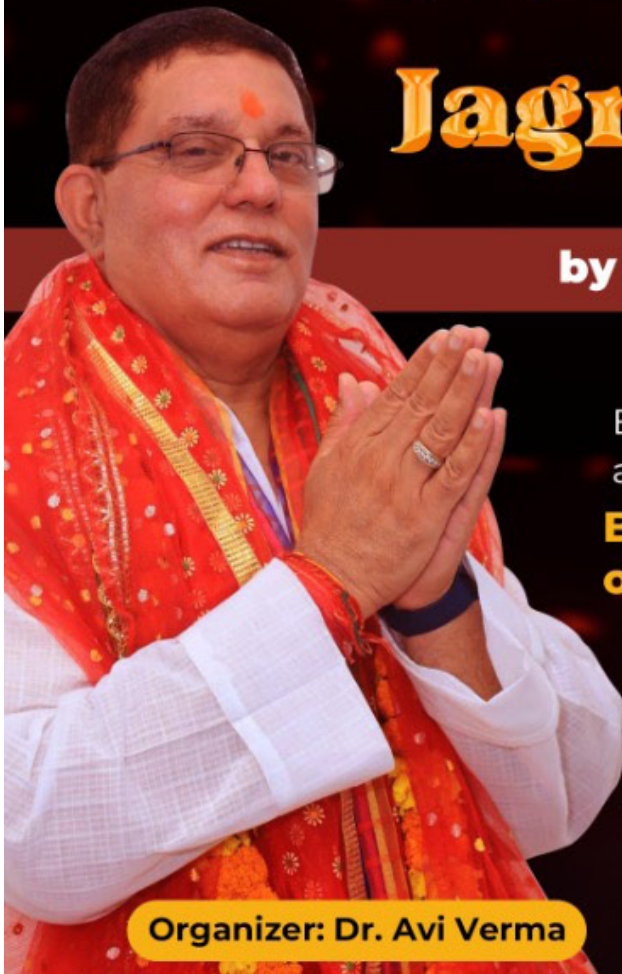
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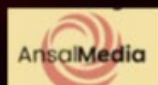
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**Aug, 2025**

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Lakhbir Singh Lakha

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

By: Dr Avi Verma

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

**Program Highlights**

**Hybrid Learning:** The first two

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

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

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

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

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

**Course Structure**

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

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

▶ **Block 0:** Introduction to Medicine



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

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

**Years 3 & 4 - Clinical Years**

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

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

**Additional Information**

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

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

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



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# Your brain's aging hotspots: How to stay sharp at 57 and beyond

By: Dr Avi Verma

**A**s we navigate through the stages of life, our brain undergoes various changes. Research suggests two critical milestones in brain aging: around the ages of 57 and 70. These phases are characterized by accelerated cognitive decline, affecting memory, decision-making, and processing speed. Understanding these changes and adopting preventive measures can help mitigate their impact, keeping your mind sharp and resilient.

## Why 57 and 70 Are Critical Ages

The brain's aging process is influenced by several factors, including genetics, lifestyle, and health conditions. At 57, many individuals experience the initial signs of age-related cognitive decline, as the brain's structure and function begin to shift. By 70, these changes can become more pronounced, with significant shrinkage in key areas such as the hippocampus, responsible for memory, and the prefrontal cortex, critical for decision-making.

These milestones coincide with common health challenges, such as hypertension, diabetes, and reduced physical activity, which exacerbate cognitive decline.

## How to Curb Mental Decline

### Stay Physically Active

Exercise increases blood flow to the brain, promoting the growth of new neurons and preserving existing ones. Activities like walking, swimming, and yoga are excellent for maintaining cognitive health. Aim for at least 150 minutes of moderate exercise weekly.

### Adopt a Brain-Healthy Diet

A Mediterranean or DASH diet rich in



fruits, vegetables, whole grains, nuts, and fatty fish provides essential nutrients for brain health. These diets are high in antioxidants and omega-3 fatty acids, which protect against oxidative stress and inflammation, key contributors to cognitive decline.

### Engage in Mental Stimulation

Keep your brain active through puzzles, reading, learning new skills, or playing musical instruments. Engaging in these activities strengthens neural connections and builds cognitive reserves that help counteract the effects of aging.

### Prioritize Sleep

Sleep is vital for memory consolidation

and toxin removal from the brain. Adults should aim for 7-9 hours of quality sleep per night. Addressing sleep disorders, such as sleep apnea, can also improve brain function.

### Maintain Social Connections

Regular social interaction reduces the risk of depression and cognitive decline. Join community groups, volunteer, or spend time with friends and family to keep your mind engaged and spirits high.

### Manage Stress

Chronic stress can shrink the hippocampus and impair memory. Incorporate stress-relief practices like

meditation, deep breathing, or tai chi to support mental well-being.

### Monitor Chronic Conditions

Conditions like hypertension and diabetes can accelerate brain aging. Regular check-ups and adhering to prescribed treatments can slow cognitive decline.

### Stay Curious and Open to New Experiences

Trying new activities and exploring unfamiliar topics keeps the brain adaptable and engaged, fostering neuroplasticity.

### Recognizing the Early Signs of Decline

Early indicators of cognitive decline include frequent forgetfulness, difficulty concentrating, and trouble making decisions. If you notice these signs, consult a healthcare professional to explore possible interventions.

### Conclusion

Aging is inevitable, but cognitive decline is not. By adopting a proactive approach and integrating healthy habits into your daily life, you can protect your brain and enjoy mental clarity well into your later years. Remember, it's never too early—or too late—to start caring for your mind.

*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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