

UN welcomes Trump-Putin phone call in efforts to resolve Ukraine conflict

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The United Nations has expressed support for any diplomatic efforts aimed at resolving the ongoing conflict between Russia and Ukraine, following a phone call between US President Donald Trump and Russian President Vladimir Putin. UN Deputy Spokesman Farhan Haq referred to the phone conversation as a “positive thing,” noting that the involvement of both Russia and Ukraine in peace talks would be crucial for any lasting resolution to the war. Haq emphasized that the UN is committed to facilitating discussions, should both parties agree to involve the international organization in negotiations.

Trump’s phone call with Putin marked a significant step in diplomatic efforts aimed at de-escalating tensions between the two countries. The conversation followed Trump’s earlier engagement with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky and discussions about a potential peace meeting at the Munich Security Conference. While the specifics of the call remain private, it was seen as a positive development amid the ongoing humanitarian crisis caused by the conflict.

The UN’s comments underscore the international community’s concerns over the prolonged nature of the war and the millions of lives affected by the conflict. As world powers continue to engage diplomatically, the UN hopes that open dialogue between Russia and Ukraine can lead to a peaceful resolution.

PM Modi meets US Intelligence chief Tulsi Gabbard to discuss India-US ties



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Prime Minister Narendra Modi held an important meeting with Tulsi Gabbard, the newly appointed Director of National Intelligence (DNI) in the United States, to discuss various aspects of India-US cooperation, particularly in the realms of intelligence sharing, counter-terrorism, and cybersecurity. Gabbard, who was recently confirmed in a closely watched Senate vote, has long been a supporter of stronger ties between the two nations, and during the meeting, she emphasized the need to enhance cooperation in response to emerging global threats.

In addition to intelligence-sharing on counter-terrorism and cybersecurity, the discussion also focused on broader geopolitical concerns, with both leaders emphasizing the importance of a continued partnership between the US and India in addressing global challenges. Modi and Gabbard both acknowledged the increasing importance of collaboration between their respective intelligence communities to address common security concerns.

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Trump praises Modi as a ‘great friend’ but cautions on potential U.S. tariffs on Indian goods

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

President Donald Trump welcomed Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi to the White House with a warm embrace, describing him as “a great friend,” but also delivering a strong message on U.S. trade policies. During their joint press conference, Trump raised concerns about India’s import tariffs, calling them “unfair and strong,” and criticized the country for being the “tariff king.” He stressed that the U.S. was focused on addressing its trade deficit with India, which stood at \$50 billion in 2023. Trump mentioned that increasing U.S. energy exports to India could help balance the trade relationship, but emphasized the importance of restoring “fairness and reciprocity” in the economic ties between the two nations. He also shared that both countries were working on a major trade deal expected to be finalized later in the year.

The U.S.-India trade totaled \$190.1 billion in 2023, with U.S. exports to India worth \$70 billion, while imports from India reached \$120 billion, according to India’s External Affairs



Ministry. Although Trump had previously imposed tariffs on several trading partners, including China, he signed an order to increase tariffs to match the import tax rates imposed by other countries, including India. The goal of these tariffs, according to Trump, was to

level the playing field for U.S. manufacturers, although they could potentially raise costs for American consumers.

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PM Modi and Macron’s unwavering friendship strengthens India-France relations

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

French President Emmanuel Macron’s personal gesture of seeing off Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the airport marked the end of a successful visit, underscoring the close personal friendship and strong ties between the two nations. As PM Modi boarded his flight to the United States, he expressed gratitude to President Macron and the people of France, highlighting the productive visit which covered key areas such as artificial intelligence (AI), commerce, energy, and cultural connections.

The bond between the two leaders was evident throughout Modi’s visit, starting with a warm hug upon his arrival in Paris, continuing with shared moments during the AI Action Summit that both leaders co-chaired, and culminating in a packed day in Marseille. The two leaders flew together from Paris to Marseille on the French Presidential Aircraft, symbolizing their strong personal rapport.

Their discussions focused on the full spectrum of bilateral relations, as well as global and regional issues, and the progress of the India-France strategic partnership. In

recognition of Modi’s leadership, Macron hosted a dinner in the coastal town of Cassis, near Marseille.

Over the years, the personal relationship between Modi and Macron has contributed significantly to the deepening of the India-France Strategic Partnership. Macron has repeatedly described India as a vital global partner, and the nations’ ties have been marked by collaborations in key areas like energy, defense, and innovation.

Earlier in the visit, Modi was awarded France’s highest distinction, the Grand Cross of the Legion of Honour, and both leaders emphasized the shared values and mutual trust that characterize their growing partnership.

In a significant move, PM Modi visited the International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor (ITER) in Cadarache, marking the first visit by any head of state to one of the world’s most ambitious fusion energy projects. This visit further demonstrates the growing collaboration between the two countries in areas like sustainable energy and technological advancements.



Google CEO Sundar Pichai highlights AI opportunities during meeting with PM Modi

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk



Google CEO Sundar Pichai expressed excitement about the potential for artificial intelligence (AI) to create “incredible opportunities” for India following his meeting with Prime Minister Narendra Modi during the AI Action Summit in Paris. Pichai noted that there is significant potential for closer collaboration between Google and India to advance the country’s digital transformation.

On social media, Pichai shared his enthusiasm about their meeting: “Delighted to meet with PM Narendra Modi today while in Paris for the AI Action Summit. We discussed the incredible opportunities AI will bring to India and ways we can work closely together on India’s digital transformation.”

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PM Modi meets US Intelligence chief Tulsi Gabbard to discuss India-US ties

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This meeting also served as a platform for further solidifying the India-US strategic relationship, as Modi and Gabbard discussed various ways in which the two nations could work together to tackle global security challenges. PM Modi, who arrived in Washington earlier in the day, is in the US for a brief visit to meet with President Donald Trump and other key figures, including business leaders and government officials. The focus of his visit is to deepen bilateral ties and explore opportunities for expanded cooperation in areas like defense, trade, and technology. In a statement following the meeting, Modi also expressed his satisfaction with the growing collaboration between India and the US, noting the shared commitment to peace, security, and prosperity in both countries.

Trump praises Modi as a 'great friend' but cautions on potential U.S. tariffs on Indian goods

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Modi, for his part, responded by praising Trump's leadership and expressing his commitment to "Make India Great Again" (MIGA), mirroring Trump's own "Make America Great Again" slogan. Modi also addressed the U.S.-India trade relationship by discussing the progress India had made in lowering tariffs on select U.S. products. For example, India reduced the tariff on Harley-Davidson motorcycles from 50% to 40%, and in 2023, lifted retaliatory tariffs on U.S. agricultural products such as almonds, apples, and walnuts.

In another move to deepen U.S.-India defense ties, Trump announced that the U.S. would increase military sales to India, including the eventual delivery of F-35 stealth fighter jets, which India has long sought.

While addressing global issues, Modi reiterated India's position on peace in the Russia-Ukraine conflict, stressing that India was not neutral but rather supported peaceful resolutions. This comment came after Modi had faced pressure for not condemning Russia's actions. Trump



also commended Modi's efforts to clarify India's stance on the matter.

On the immigration front, the two leaders discussed illegal immigration, with Modi affirming India's willingness to accept the return of Indian nationals

deported from the U.S.

The U.S. has seen an increase in the number of undocumented Indian migrants, with more than 725,000 Indian nationals currently living in the U.S. without authorization. Trump emphasized his goal of reducing immigration violations, while Modi expressed India's preparedness to repatriate any verified Indian nationals who are in the U.S. illegally.

Modi's visit to Washington marked the fourth meeting of a foreign leader with Trump since his second term began, signaling a significant focus on international diplomacy. Modi also met with national security adviser Mike Waltz and billionaire entrepreneur Elon Musk to discuss potential business and tech opportunities between the two countries.

While trade and immigration remain crucial topics in the U.S.-India relationship, the visit highlighted a strong bond between the two leaders, with both sides working toward strengthening their cooperation in areas like defense, trade, and global security.

Google CEO Sundar Pichai highlights AI opportunities during meeting with PM Modi

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Earlier in the visit, PM Modi spoke at the India-France CEOs Forum in Paris, where he emphasized the crucial role the forum plays in strengthening economic ties and fostering innovation. He highlighted the collaborative efforts of business leaders from both nations in creating new opportunities and driving future growth across sectors.

"This is more than just a business event," Modi said. "It's a convergence of the brightest minds from India and France, embracing innovation, collaboration, and progress with purpose." He further emphasized that India and France are not only connected by shared democratic values but are also working

together to address global challenges.

PM Modi also co-chaired the AI Action Summit alongside French President Emmanuel Macron, which concluded with a high-level segment attended by global leaders, policymakers, and industry experts, reinforcing the growing technological collaboration between India and France.

During his speech, Modi reflected on India's leadership in AI adoption, data privacy, and digital infrastructure, stating that the country has built a robust digital public infrastructure for over 1.4 billion people at a low cost. He emphasized that India is a global leader in AI adoption and has one of the largest AI talent pools.

He also highlighted the shared efforts between India and France in advancing sustainable technologies, like the International Solar Alliance, and stressed that AI must be developed sustainably.

"AI models must be efficient in terms of size, data needs, and resource requirements," he said, drawing parallels between the power efficiency of the human brain and the potential of AI systems.

Modi concluded by pointing to India's unique public-private partnership model, which supports startups and researchers with access to affordable resources, and reaffirmed India's commitment to ensuring that AI benefits humanity as a whole.

US set to deport second batch of illegal immigrants to India



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The United States is preparing to deport another 170-180 illegal immigrants to India, marking the second such deportation of its kind. These individuals entered the U.S. through illegal routes, including "donkey routes," and have been living there for the past one to three years.

Many of these immigrants spent large sums of money to illegally enter the country. While Indian officials have not yet confirmed the details, sources within the U.S. government suggest that the deportation could happen within the week.

This move follows the earlier deportation of the first batch, which arrived at Shri Guru Ramdas Ji International Airport in Amritsar. However, there is no official confirmation on the arrival point for the second group.

The deportations occur during a time when Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi is in Washington for talks with U.S. President Donald Trump. Earlier this month, 104 Indian migrants were sent back, with deportees coming from various states, including Punjab, Haryana, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, and Chandigarh. U.S. authorities used a military plane, C-17, to carry out the first deportation, and once back in India, the deportees will undergo background checks and verification to ensure none have a criminal record.

Trump approves extradition of 26/11 terror attack accused Tahawwur Rana to India

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

U.S. President Donald Trump announced that his administration has approved the extradition of Tahawwur Rana, a key accused in the 2008 Mumbai terror attacks, to India.

This decision followed a bilateral meeting with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, where Trump confirmed that Rana would face justice in India for his role in the deadly attacks that killed 166 people, including six Americans. In a joint press briefing with Modi, Trump stated, "I am pleased to announce that my administration has approved the extradition of one of the plotters... He is going back to India to face justice."

Prime Minister Modi thanked President Trump for the swift extradition process, emphasizing the significance of bringing



perpetrators to justice.

"A perpetrator of the Mumbai terror attack is being extradited for his

interrogation and trial in India," Modi remarked. This announcement follows a ruling by the U.S. Supreme Court that rejected Rana's review petition, allowing the extradition to proceed.

The U.S. State Department reaffirmed its long-standing support for India's efforts to ensure those responsible for the 2008 attacks are held accountable.

Rana, a Pakistani-origin businessman, has been linked to key conspirator David Coleman Headley and is accused of aiding the terrorist group Lashkar-e-Taiba in executing the attacks.

His ties to Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) have also been highlighted in the case, with evidence showing he visited India just days before the attacks. Rana will face trial and interrogation by Indian authorities upon arrival.

Federal judge clears way for tens of thousands of workers to accept Trump's buyout offer

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

A U.S. federal judge has cleared the path for tens of thousands of federal workers to accept a buyout offer from the Trump administration. The buyout plan, which has been approved by about 75,000 civil servants, allows employees to leave their positions while continuing to receive their salaries through October.

Although unions had initially filed a lawsuit to block the program, the judge ruled that they lacked legal standing, allowing the buyouts to proceed. This move is part of Trump's broader efforts to shrink the federal workforce, which has raised concerns about potential disruptions to government services.

Meanwhile, Trump has appointed Elon Musk to lead the newly created Department of Government Efficiency to reduce federal spending, with the buyout offering seen as one way to meet the administration's goal of cutting costs. The buyout program has sparked significant opposition from unions, which argue that it could undermine essential public services.

In addition, Trump's efforts to streamline the workforce align with his ongoing campaign to reduce government inefficiencies and eliminate perceived waste. With the buyouts now moving forward, there are concerns about how this reduction in workforce will affect critical functions of the federal government in the long run.

Jordan's King Abdullah speaks with Macron over Gaza situation



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Jordan's King Abdullah and French President Emmanuel Macron discussed the escalating situation in Gaza and the West Bank during a phone call. The conversation took place after King Abdullah's meeting with U.S. President Donald Trump, where he reiterated Jordan's opposition to Trump's controversial Gaza displacement plan. The discussion comes amid rising tensions in the region, with both leaders expressing concern over the fragile ceasefire and the potential for further conflict if hostilities resume.

The Jordanian monarchy remains firm in its stance against the U.S. plan, which has sparked protests and alarm throughout the Arab world. King Abdullah's call with Macron highlights the importance of continued diplomatic efforts to address the volatile situation in Gaza and ensure the protection of Palestinian rights and security in the region.

India rejects Trump's offer to mediate border issues with China

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

India has firmly turned down President Donald Trump's repeated offer to mediate the ongoing border tensions between India and China, reiterating its preference for a bilateral approach in resolving such disputes. Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri, speaking at a press briefing after Prime Minister Narendra Modi's two-day visit to Washington, highlighted that India has always chosen direct dialogue with neighboring countries to address border issues and that this policy remains unchanged. Misri's comments came in response to a remark made by President Trump during their joint press conference, where Trump expressed concern over the violent skirmishes along the India-China border and offered his assistance, stating, "If I could be of help, I'd love to help because that should be stopped."



This latest offer is not the first time Trump has suggested mediation. In fact, during his first term as president, Trump made a similar offer, as well as during his second

term, following the heightened tensions at the border. Despite the U.S. president's repeated offers, India has consistently declined, maintaining that the issue should be dealt with directly between the two countries, without third-party intervention.

India's stance on this issue is grounded in its long-standing diplomatic approach to managing border disputes, preferring direct talks and negotiations with China to resolve any issues that arise.

In addition to addressing the border issue, the joint press conference also focused on various aspects of the U.S.-India relationship. Despite the refusal of the mediation offer, the leaders emphasized their commitment to strengthening bilateral ties and exploring opportunities for deeper cooperation in the future.

NASA acting administrator says DOGE will review space agency's spending

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

NASA's acting administrator, Janet Petro, confirmed that the Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE), led by Elon Musk, will review the space agency's spending. Petro explained that DOGE would examine NASA's payments and expenditures, similar to what the department has done for other agencies.



She also mentioned that hundreds of NASA employees had accepted a government buyout proposal under the Trump administration. DOGE has caused disruption in federal bureaucracy as it targets excessive spending, and SpaceX, which holds \$15 billion in NASA contracts, is at the forefront of these efforts.

While addressing concerns about potential conflicts of interest with Musk's leadership of DOGE, Petro reassured that NASA follows strict conflict-of-interest policies. The review is expected to scrutinize NASA's \$24 billion

annual budget, with particular attention on high-cost programs like the Space Launch System, the agency's moon rocket, which may face cuts. The potential restructuring could affect the workforce in Republican-majority states, complicating any changes to the program. Furthermore, Musk's deep involvement in both NASA contracts and the budget review process raises questions about the broader impact on future space missions, including the Artemis program to land humans on the moon.

Bangladeshis protest near White House, demand end to Yunus rule

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

A group of about 150 Bangladeshi nationals gathered in front of the White House earlier this week to protest against the "unconstitutional" rule of interim leader Muhammad Yunus.

The protest, organized by the Awami League and its allied organizations, called for the reinstatement of constitutional rule in Bangladesh and highlighted the growing insecurity of minority groups, particularly the Hindu population.

The demonstrators raised slogans and carried placards demanding justice, fair treatment, and protection for religious minorities who they claim have been subjected to violence and discrimination.

A spokesperson for the protestors accused Yunus of seizing power with the

assistance of "terrorists," endangering national security. They argued that this "terrorist group" undermines secular democracy and is directly responsible for targeting minority communities. In addition, the spokesperson criticized Yunus for spreading false narratives internationally, aiming to mislead world leaders.

The protest was scheduled ahead of the meeting between US President Donald Trump and Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the White House, signaling the protesters' intent to draw attention to the political crisis in Bangladesh while US leaders were in discussions about international diplomacy.

The protests also reflected the ongoing unrest in Bangladesh, following the resignation of former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina amidst widespread student protests, which escalated into violent clashes.

Syrian foreign minister attends EU conference to discuss transition



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Syria's Foreign Minister, Asaad Hassan al-Shibani, is in Paris to attend an international conference focused on Syria's ongoing transition.

The meeting brings together regional and Western powers, aiming to provide the necessary support during Syria's fragile recovery amid instability in the region. This marks the first visit by a senior Syrian official to the European Union since the fall of Bashar al-Assad's government.

The conference seeks to create a protective environment for Syria, allowing for resolution and stability without external destabilizing efforts.

The event will discuss critical issues, including Syria's sovereignty, transitional justice, and the fight against impunity. While the EU has made strides in lifting some sanctions, discussions on broader issues, including the lifting of additional sanctions, are expected to take place.

Key neighboring nations like Saudi Arabia, Turkey, and Lebanon will join the talks, though the United States is only sending a minimal diplomatic delegation.

Officials are also concerned with the ongoing humanitarian crisis, particularly in northeastern Syria, and are looking for ways to support the country's recovery while ensuring its territorial integrity.

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The Modi-Trump meeting sets an ambitious roadmap for U.S.-India relations



Dr. Avi Verma

The recent historic meeting between Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and U.S. President Donald Trump has drawn global attention, signaling a crucial chapter in Indo-U.S. relations. The discussions encompassed trade, defense, energy, technology, international security, and people-to-people ties, leading to key agreements that could redefine the strategic partnership between the world's largest democracy and its most powerful one.

Key outcomes & agreements

Strengthening trade relations – a \$500 billion vision.

Both leaders agreed on enhancing trade cooperation by addressing existing imbalances. A framework was established to expand collaboration in space, international security, and energy trade.

► **Trade expansion goal:** Modi and Trump set a target to double bilateral trade to \$500 billion by 2030, demonstrating their commitment to strengthening economic ties.

► **Tariff discussions:** Given India's higher tariff rates on U.S. goods, talks focused on reducing trade barriers to facilitate smoother commerce.

Defense cooperation – India to acquire more U.S. military equipment

India has been one of the largest buyers of U.S. military hardware, and this meeting reaffirmed New Delhi's commitment to further defense acquisitions.

► A new framework for defense collaboration was introduced to enhance India's defense capabilities and bolster strategic alignment with the U.S.

► **Specific defense items:** The discussions highlighted the acquisition of advanced systems such as Javelin anti-tank missiles, Stryker vehicles, and six additional P-8I Maritime Patrol aircraft to enhance India's maritime security.

► **Defense technology sharing:** Both sides also discussed expanding the exchange of cutting-edge defense technologies, particularly in space, air defense, and missile systems.

Energy trade – India to boost U.S. LNG imports

Modi pledged to increase imports of American energy, including liquefied natural gas (LNG), aligning with India's rising energy demands. This move strengthens economic cooperation and diversifies India's energy sources, reducing reliance on other global suppliers.



► **Civil nuclear energy:** The leaders also committed to advancing the U.S.-India 123 Civil Nuclear Agreement, focusing on the development and localization of U.S.-designed nuclear reactors in India.

US-India COMPACT initiative

The meeting saw the launch of the US-India COMPACT (Catalysing Opportunities for Military Partnership, Accelerated Commerce & Technology) initiative. This ambitious program aims to drive transformative change across defense, trade, and technology sectors, with initial outcomes expected later this year.

Technology and innovation – a new era of AI cooperation

The leaders announced the launch of the US-India TRUST initiative, focused on promoting critical and emerging technologies such as AI, semiconductors, quantum computing, and biotechnology. Key milestones include:

► **AI infrastructure:** Both nations committed to building large-scale AI infrastructure in India, with a roadmap to accelerate AI innovations and foster industry partnerships.

► **Space collaboration:** The U.S. and India outlined plans for a pioneering space mission, including a NASA-ISRO effort to bring the first Indian astronaut to the International Space Station (ISS) and the joint "NISAR" satellite mission.

Strategic mineral recovery

Both countries launched the Strategic Mineral Recovery initiative, a new program aimed at recovering and processing critical minerals, essential for emerging technologies and advanced manufacturing.

International security – reaffirming counter-terrorism efforts

Both nations reaffirmed their commitment to regional stability, with discussions on counter-terrorism efforts and maintaining a rules-based international order. Key points include:

► **Terrorist extradition:** President Trump confirmed the U.S. administration's approval of the extradition of Tahawwur Rana, a key accused in the 2008 Mumbai terror attacks, to India for trial.

► **Continued security cooperation:** The U.S. pledged continued support for intelligence-sharing and defense cooperation in South Asia.

People-to-people ties

The meeting highlighted the significance of people-to-people exchanges between the two nations. Modi and Trump discussed

the substantial contributions of over 300,000 Indian students in the U.S., who generate over \$8 billion annually for the U.S. economy. The leaders stressed the importance of secure and mutually beneficial mobility frameworks for students, researchers, and professionals.

Global and multilateral cooperation

The U.S. and India reaffirmed their commitment to a free, open, and prosperous Indo-Pacific region. Notably, both countries emphasized their Quad partnership, aiming for enhanced security cooperation and disaster response.

► **Indian Ocean strategy:** A new Indian Ocean Strategic Venture was launched to advance economic connectivity and commerce in the region. India's role in securing maritime trade routes was highlighted, including its decision to lead the Combined Maritime Forces naval task force.

► **Meta investment:** Meta's multi-billion investment in undersea cable projects in the Indian Ocean region was welcomed, further strengthening digital connectivity.

Looking ahead

The decisions made today lay the foundation for a deeper, more expansive U.S.-India partnership. From doubling trade to advancing defense cooperation, the bilateral relationship between the two countries is poised for significant growth. As the details of these agreements unfold, IndoUS Tribune will continue to provide in-depth analysis on their implementation and long-term impact.

Media reaction

Following the announcement of these historic agreements, international media outlets have highlighted the importance of this partnership. Some of the major reactions include:

► **The New York Times** reported that the agreements mark "a critical pivot in global geopolitics, with India emerging as an even more important strategic partner for the U.S. in the Indo-Pacific."

► **BBC News** echoed similar sentiments, calling the summit "a turning point in strengthening the U.S.-India partnership, paving the way for more collaboration in defense, technology, and trade."

► **The Hindu**, an Indian newspaper, praised the leadership of Modi and Trump, noting that "the partnership between India and the U.S. will not only boost economic ties but also create stronger military, technological, and diplomatic alliances."

► **The Washington Post** acknowledged the success of the meeting, emphasizing that the "momentum generated by the agreements could drive significant long-term benefits for both countries in a rapidly changing global landscape."

Best Regards,
Dr. Avi Verma,
Publisher, IndoUS Tribune

Trump to impose reciprocal tariffs soon amid rising trade war concerns

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk



President Donald Trump announced plans to sign reciprocal tariffs on all countries that impose duties on U.S. imports, escalating fears of a global trade war and potential inflation.

Trump hinted that the tariffs could be signed soon, possibly as early as the evening. The announcement comes as Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi is set to visit the White House, amid tensions over India's high tariffs.

Economists have warned that such tariffs could contribute to rising inflation, and consumer prices saw their largest increase in nearly 1.5 years in January.

Additionally, Trump's recent decision to impose tariffs on steel and aluminum imports starting in March has sparked concerns from trade partners, including Mexico, Canada, and the EU.

While Trump's trade adviser downplayed the potential negative impact, experts note that implementing reciprocal tariffs will be complex, given the differing duty rates across countries.

The European Union is already considering countermeasures to address the potential effects of the new tariffs. Critics argue that the increased tariffs could disrupt global supply chains and raise prices for American consumers, while supporters believe they will benefit U.S. manufacturers in the long run.

With the announcement coinciding with a crucial trade visit from India's prime minister, the situation has intensified, leaving many to wonder how far Trump is willing to push this trade strategy.

PM Modi engages in 'insightful discussion' with rising US politician Vivek Ramaswamy

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Prime Minister Narendra Modi engaged in a productive and insightful discussion with Vivek Ramaswamy, a prominent US entrepreneur and political figure.

The two leaders focused on a variety of issues, including strengthening India-US relations, the role of innovation and biotechnology in shaping future collaborations, and how entrepreneurship can drive bilateral growth. Ramaswamy, known for his ventures in the biotechnology and pharmaceuticals sectors, is running for Governor of Ohio and previously campaigned for the Republican presidential primary.

Though he dropped out of the race, he remains influential in Republican circles, with close ties to President Donald Trump.

A central topic during the meeting was the H-1B visa system, which plays a crucial role for many Indian professionals working in the US. Ramaswamy argued that the program should not only be preserved but



reformed to allow for greater opportunities for skilled immigrants, especially those from India, who contribute significantly to the US economy.

He also criticized opponents of the program, pointing out that many Americans lack the same drive and commitment to education as the immigrants filling these critical positions.

Modi's meeting with Ramaswamy reflects a growing relationship between India and entrepreneurial figures in the US, and it highlights India's interest in fostering stronger business ties with the US. The Prime Minister's visit to Washington was also marked by meetings with other key figures, including SpaceX CEO Elon Musk, underscoring the emphasis on technology, mobility, and innovation.

Brazil seeks dialogue with US over steel tariffs and proposes quotas

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Brazil's Vice President, Geraldo Alckmin, called for caution and dialogue following President Donald Trump's decision to impose a 25% tariff on steel and aluminum imports. Speaking in Brasilia, Alckmin emphasized that Brazil is open to engaging with the United States and suggested that a quota system could be a viable alternative to the tariffs. As one of the largest sources of U.S. steel imports, Brazil has maintained a trade surplus with the U.S., which Alckmin pointed out as evidence that Brazil is not the cause of any trade imbalance.

Under Trump's previous administration, Brazil, along with other countries, had been granted exemptions and quota agreements, which Alckmin noted could provide a smart mechanism moving forward. Alckmin's statements come after Brazilian steelmakers



expressed surprise at the tariffs, set to take effect in March. Aco Brasil, the group representing steelmakers, is hopeful for a resolution through continued discussions with the U.S. They believe that the existing quota system, which has been in place for several years, has been mutually beneficial.

With Brazilian steel exports to the U.S. declining, industry leaders are particularly concerned about the impact of the new tariffs and are advocating for an extension of the quota agreement to preserve the stability of bilateral trade.

Israel prepares for potential escalation in Gaza conflict



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Israel has called up military reservists amid concerns that the fragile ceasefire in Gaza could collapse. The ceasefire, which took effect after intense negotiations led by Egypt and Qatar, has been under strain as Hamas has yet to fulfill its obligation to release more Israeli hostages.

Israeli officials have warned that failure to meet the deadline will result in the resumption of military action.

Israeli Defense Minister, Israel Katz, emphasized that the truce's purpose was to ensure the release of hostages under harsh conditions in Gaza, and any halt to the release would end the ceasefire.

The situation has been further complicated by President Donald Trump's plan for the future of Gaza, which has drawn widespread condemnation across the Arab world.

Trump's vision involves resettling Palestinians and creating an international beach resort, which has led to significant unrest in Gaza. As both sides prepare for potential escalation, Israel's Prime Minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, has ordered the military to bolster its forces near Gaza, while Trump has pressed for Hamas to fully comply with the terms of the ceasefire.

Negotiations continue as the fate of the hostages and the future of the region hang in the balance.

US senators call for more air traffic control funding after deadly crash

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk



In response to the January midair collision that killed 67 people near Washington Reagan National Airport, Senators Jeanne Shaheen and John Hoeven have called for increased funding and staffing for the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). The senators highlighted that FAA air traffic controllers are currently overworked, with a shortage of more than 3,500 controllers, and staffing levels are particularly low at high-traffic airports like Reagan National. They urged the FAA to modernize facilities, enhance equipment, and increase training capacity to ensure safety and prevent further tragedies.

The collision between an American Airlines regional jet and a U.S. Army helicopter underscored the ongoing issues with aviation safety staffing and technology. The senators expressed concern about the fatigue and stress that controllers endure due to the excessive workload. In light of the crash, U.S. Transportation Secretary Sean Duffy is considering changes to staffing policies and technology upgrades at FAA towers to prevent similar accidents in the future.

US sues New York officials over alleged failure to enforce immigration laws



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The U.S. Department of Justice has filed a lawsuit against New York state officials, including Governor Kathy Hochul, Attorney General Letitia James, and Department of Motor Vehicles head Mark Schroeder, over the state's "green light law."

This law prohibits the sharing of vehicle and address information with federal immigration authorities, which the Justice Department argues violates the U.S.

Constitution's Supremacy Clause, which gives federal law precedence over state and local regulations. The lawsuit seeks a court order to prevent New York from enforcing the law, citing its hindrance of federal immigration enforcement and a "tip-off

provision" requiring the state's DMV to alert individuals when their information is requested by federal immigration officials.

Attorney General Pam Bondi emphasized that the current administration is taking steps to protect Americans and criticized New York for prioritizing illegal immigrants over U.S. citizens.

In response, Attorney General James expressed readiness to defend the state's laws, asserting that the Green Light law protects the rights of all New Yorkers and ensures community safety.

This lawsuit comes shortly after a similar case was filed against Illinois regarding its sanctuary law, the TRUST Act, further highlighting the Trump administration's push for stricter immigration enforcement across states that resist federal policies.

Trump orders overhaul of US diplomatic corps to align with his agenda



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

President Donald Trump has issued an executive order directing Secretary of State Marco Rubio to reform the U.S. diplomatic corps to ensure its alignment with his "America First" foreign policy agenda. The order mandates that diplomats and foreign service staff adhere to the president's policy goals, and those who fail to do so could face professional discipline, including termination. The reform is aimed at cleaning out officials deemed disloyal or obstructive to Trump's agenda and ensuring that U.S. foreign policy is faithfully implemented.

Trump has made significant changes to the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), including a freeze on most foreign aid and a purge of senior staff. The executive order also calls for reforms in recruitment, performance evaluation, and retention standards for the Foreign Service, further consolidating the administration's control over U.S. foreign relations. Trump's administration has been pushing for a more streamlined and loyal foreign service that supports his nationalistic approach to global diplomacy.

Trump's nominee Tulsi Gabbard confirmed as US intelligence chief

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Tulsi Gabbard has been confirmed by the Senate as the new Director of National Intelligence (DNI), despite concerns over her limited intelligence experience and past controversial statements.

The confirmation vote passed 52-48, with most Republicans supporting Gabbard, while Democrats and independents opposed her nomination. Gabbard, a former U.S. representative and former Democrat, will now oversee the country's sprawling intelligence community, which includes 18 agencies and plays a critical role in national security.

Gabbard's nomination sparked debate due to her past defense of controversial figures like Russia's Vladimir Putin and former Syrian president Bashar al-Assad.

Additionally, her stance on U.S. National Security Agency whistleblower Edward Snowden drew scrutiny, as she refrained from labeling Snowden a traitor.

Despite bipartisan skepticism, Gabbard's confirmation marks a key win for Trump as he continues to reshape the U.S. government with loyal supporters in top positions, particularly in national security.

Family of Black woman killed by Illinois police to receive \$10 million settlement

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The family of Sonya Massey, a Black woman fatally shot by police in Illinois in July 2024, will receive a \$10 million settlement from Sangamon County. Massey, 36, was killed when white sheriff's deputy Sean Grayson fired three shots at her during a call for help at her Springfield home.

Massey was struck in the face, and Grayson was later dismissed from the Sheriff's office and charged with murder. Attorney Ben Crump, representing Massey's family, condemned Grayson's past history, stating that a law enforcement officer with such a background should not have been hired, let alone allowed

to take someone's life. Crump demanded further criminal and legislative actions to ensure accountability.

Grayson, who has pleaded not guilty to the murder charges, remains in jail awaiting trial. Massey had called police about a suspected intruder, but her death marked another tragic event in the ongoing issue of police use of excessive force against Black individuals.

This incident follows similar cases involving George Floyd and Trayvon Martin, for which Crump also provided legal representation. Massey's family has stated that the settlement is a step towards justice, but true accountability requires further action.



US sues Illinois and Chicago over sanctuary laws

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The U.S. Department of Justice has filed a lawsuit against Illinois and Chicago for enacting sanctuary laws that the federal government claims interfere with its crackdown on illegal immigration. The lawsuit targets laws such as Illinois' TRUST Act, which limits cooperation between local law enforcement and federal immigration authorities.

The Justice Department argues that these laws violate the U.S. Constitution's Supremacy Clause, which holds that federal law supersedes state and local laws. Governor JB Pritzker of Illinois has defended the state's position, stating that these laws prioritize local law enforcement resources for combating crime while ensuring that immigrant communities feel safe.

This legal action is part of the Trump administration's broader effort to enforce stricter immigration policies, which include deporting millions of undocumented immigrants. Chicago, along with other cities with significant immigrant populations, has been a focal point for sanctuary policies. The Justice Department's suit seeks to block the Illinois laws, and this legal battle may influence the ongoing debate around sanctuary cities and the extent of local law enforcement's role in immigration enforcement.

22 states file lawsuit against New York's climate superfund law

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

New York is facing a lawsuit from 22 U.S. states, led by West Virginia, over the state's new law requiring fossil fuel companies to contribute \$75 billion over 25 years to a fund aimed at addressing climate change damage. The states, all with Republican attorneys general, argue that the law unfairly penalizes energy companies for past emissions and violates constitutional principles by preempting federal environmental laws. They contend that the law could lead to job losses and harm the economy, particularly in states dependent on fossil fuels. New York's law, which mandates fossil fuel companies to contribute based on their historical greenhouse gas emissions, is the second such law in the U.S., following Vermont's similar legislation.

The lawsuit also criticizes the financial burden placed on coal, oil, and natural gas producers, especially in light of their compliance with earlier regulations. Governor Kathy Hochul's office defended the law, stating that it is corporate polluters, not ordinary New Yorkers, who should bear the costs of the climate crisis. The outcome of this legal challenge could set a significant precedent for how states address climate change and the responsibility of industries contributing to environmental damage.

US inflation rise signals Fed to maintain high interest rates

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

A recent surge in inflation, with consumer prices rising 3% annually in January, has prompted Federal Reserve officials to warn that relief from high interest rates may take longer than anticipated. This marks the fourth consecutive month of inflation increases, driven mainly by shelter, food, and gas prices, which influence consumer expectations.

Fed Chair Jerome Powell, during his testimony before Congress, indicated that the central bank's efforts to control inflation are not yet complete. He emphasized that any further rate cuts would have to wait until inflation is clearly on track to return to the Fed's 2% target.

Powell also reassured lawmakers that the economy remains strong, with a solid labor market, and that the Fed is strategically holding tight on monetary policy for now.

The impact of inflation and other factors, such as ongoing trade policies under the Trump administration, are complicating the Fed's decision-making.

There are also concerns about tariff implementations and their potential economic effects. As a result, traders have scaled back expectations for rate cuts, with most anticipating no action until September. In the meantime, key inflation measures, like the Personal Consumption Expenditures (PCE) index, will continue to provide important data for the Fed as it navigates the ongoing inflation challenge.

6 US lawmakers call for investigation into DoJ's actions against Adani Group officials

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Six U.S. lawmakers have sent a letter to Attorney General Pam Bondi, urging an investigation into the Department of Justice's (DoJ) actions regarding the indictment of Adani Group officials. The lawmakers, including Lance Gooden, Pat Fallon, Mike Haridopolos, Brandon Gill, William R. Timmons, and Brian Babin, described the DoJ's decision as a "misguided crusade" that jeopardized America's relationship with India, a key strategic partner.

They argued that the case, which involves allegations of bribery by the Adani Group in India, should have been handled by Indian authorities instead of the U.S. pushing forward with the indictment without any significant U.S. interests at stake. The lawmakers further expressed concern that the case could



harm diplomatic relations between the U.S. and India, especially with the potential return of President Donald

Trump to office. They questioned the need for the U.S. to intervene in a matter with no clear impact on American interests, suggesting that there may be external motivations influencing the decision. They also emphasized the importance of maintaining a strong economic partnership with India, noting that unnecessary legal actions against companies that contribute significantly to the U.S. economy could deter future investments.

In their letter, the lawmakers urged Bondi to investigate the conduct of the Biden administration's DoJ and to provide all related records. They cited a Forbes article that criticized the indictment as a "strategic blunder," suggesting it could damage U.S.-India relations at a time when Washington is seeking to strengthen its alliances to counter China's growing influence.

Unions challenge potential mass firings of federal workers

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Several unions have filed a lawsuit against the Trump administration, fearing the potential for mass firings of federal employees who refuse buyout offers. The complaint, filed in Washington, D.C., accuses the White House and other federal officials of undermining Congress's role in staffing the federal workforce, which they argue violates the separation of powers principles.

The unions, including the United Auto Workers, the National Treasury Employees Union, and others, have named several defendants, including President Trump and leaders from various agencies, such as the Department of Defense and the IRS.

The plaintiffs argue that such mass firings would not only disrupt government operations but also violate workers' rights, particularly if employees are pressured into taking buyouts under duress.

This lawsuit follows a similar legal action where some unions succeeded in blocking the buyout plan temporarily, with U.S. District Judge George O'Toole in Boston keeping the plan on hold while he considers a longer suspension. On top of this legal challenge,

Trump also directed U.S. agencies to collaborate with Elon Musk's newly-established Department of Government Efficiency to identify federal employees who could be laid off.

The ongoing legal battle aims to prevent the administration from following through with these plans, asserting that the proposed cuts threaten the stability of federal employment. The outcome of this case could have broad implications for how future administrations handle federal workforce reductions.



Maryland and Baltimore sue Glock over modified weapons

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The state of Maryland and the city of Baltimore have filed a lawsuit against Glock, seeking to prevent the company from selling firearms that can easily be converted into automatic weapons. The suit highlights the rising issue of modified Glock semiautomatic pistols being equipped with "auto sears" — small parts that can turn the guns into machine-like weapons capable of firing up to 1,200 rounds per minute. The plaintiffs argue that Glock's failure to implement safeguards against such modifications contributes to the growing gun violence, particularly in urban areas like Baltimore.

Baltimore's Mayor Brandon Scott emphasized the threat posed by these easily-converted firearms, pointing to the increase in modified Glocks recovered by police. The lawsuit is based on Maryland's Gun Industry Accountability Act, which was adopted last year, and aims to hold Glock accountable for selling guns that can be easily altered to increase their lethality. This case is one of several similar lawsuits filed against Glock, which argue that the company should bear responsibility for the illegal modifications of its products, potentially putting public safety at risk.

Trump calls for immediate closure of the Department of Education

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

President Donald Trump recently called for the immediate closure of the U.S. Department of Education, describing it as a "big con job." This move is part of Trump's broader agenda to downsize and restructure federal agencies, which also includes proposals to cut costs, eliminate certain programs, and push for federal workers to return to their offices or resign. Trump had previously suggested shutting down the Education Department through an executive order, though he acknowledged the challenge of getting congressional and union support to make this a reality.



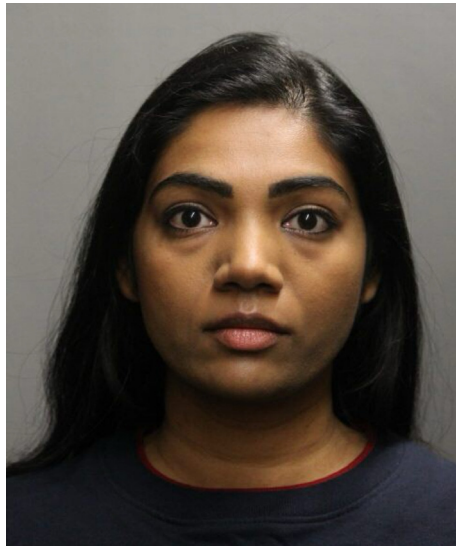
The closure would have significant consequences for education funding, disrupting billions of dollars in aid to K-12 schools and college tuition assistance

programs. With over 4,000 employees, the department plays a crucial role in overseeing educational grants, loans, and policies nationwide. Despite the major impact this would have on the educational system, Trump continues to target the agency, having proposed its shutdown earlier in his term without success. Conservative think tanks suggest that other agencies could take over the Department of Education's responsibilities, though such a transition would require significant adjustments to the country's educational infrastructure. This stance is likely to face considerable resistance in Congress, particularly from educators and lawmakers focused on maintaining federal support for education.

Indian-American physician arrested in Florida for animal cruelty

By: Dr. Avi Verma

Dr. Anita Damodaran, a 38-year-old Indian-American family physician, was arrested in Florida in December and faces aggravated animal cruelty charges after her dog was found in deplorable conditions in her Lincoln Park apartment last year. In March 2024, while being evicted from her residence in the 2200 block of North Lakewood Avenue, Damodaran's landlord hired cleaners who made a horrifying discovery. Inside the bathtub, they found Damodaran's dog, named Betty, trapped inside a plastic bin with only a small hole in the lid for air. Betty was severely malnourished, fully matted, and barely breathing.



the Hinsdale Humane Society stated in a previous release. "Betty has been resilient and is a survivor. Betty deserves better, and from now on, she will be treated like she should have been her entire life — with love and compassion." Thankfully, Betty has recovered and is

now thriving in her new home with a loving family, according to the Garrido Stray Rescue Foundation.

Following the incident, Chicago police issued an arrest warrant for Damodaran. She was finally apprehended on December 10th at her residence in Tampa, Florida, by the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office. Damodaran appeared in court on Thursday, where a Cook County judge denied the prosecutor's request to detain her until trial. However, the judge ordered her to remain in Illinois, seek medical treatment, and adhere to a 12-hour curfew.

Damodaran is scheduled to appear in court again on Friday to face the animal cruelty charges. This incident serves as a stark reminder of the importance of animal welfare and the severe consequences for those who inflict cruelty upon innocent creatures.

"We don't know why anyone would do this to another living being, but we are here now to give her a better life,"

Punjab government introduces WhatsApp number for NRIs to file complaints

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The Punjab government has launched a new initiative to assist Non-Resident Indians (NRIs) who may face issues or need assistance in the state. A dedicated WhatsApp number—90560 09884—has been set up to allow NRIs to file complaints easily. The complaints made through this number will be forwarded to the relevant government departments and the NRI wing of the Punjab Police for action. Kuldeep Dhaliwal, the Administrative Reforms and NRI Affairs Minister of Punjab, explained that the new service will streamline the process for NRIs in distress. In addition to addressing complaints, the department will facilitate the countersigning and attestation of various documents, which are often necessary for NRIs dealing with official matters back home. The move comes as part of the government's ongoing effort to better support the large NRI community, providing them with a direct line of communication to the state's authorities. This initiative will also ensure that complaints are swiftly addressed and that NRIs receive the assistance they need without unnecessary bureaucratic delays.

Aravind Srinivas challenges Elon Musk over USAID funding

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

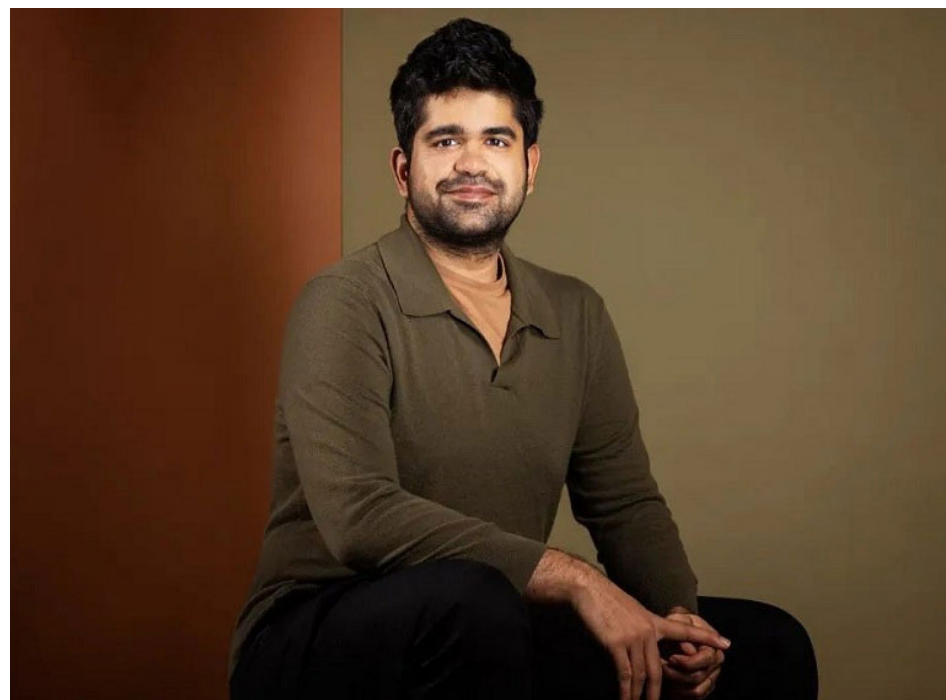
Aravind Srinivas, the Indian-origin CEO of the AI-powered search engine Perplexity AI, is no stranger to controversy. In a recent social media post, he boldly challenged Tesla CEO Elon Musk, daring him to "stop" him from raising \$500 billion from USAID (United States Agency for International Development). Srinivas, known for his bold personality, wrote on X, "Considering raising \$500B from USAID. Funding secured. Stop me if you can @elonmusk. What is USAID?"

This provocative post came just days after both former U.S. President Donald Trump and Musk called for the shutdown of the federal agency, sparking debate over its future. A federal judge had recently ruled to temporarily pause the administration's plan to place 2,200 USAID employees on paid leave, adding

further attention to the agency's current status.

Aravind Srinivas, a graduate of IIT-Madras and the University of California, Berkeley, has an impressive background. Prior to founding Perplexity AI in 2022, Srinivas held significant positions as a research intern at OpenAI and later worked at Google and DeepMind. He co-founded Perplexity AI alongside Andy Konwinski, Denis Yarats, and Johnny Ho. The search engine, which uses advanced AI to deliver accurate results, has gained attention and backing from prominent investors, including Jeff Bezos.

Srinivas' challenge to Musk highlights his confidence and audacity, suggesting a vision for AI development and its intersection with federal funding. His comments bring attention to USAID's role in global development funding and the ongoing conversation around the future of such federal programs.



Paul Kapur nominated as assistant secretary of state for South Asian affairs

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

S. Paul Kapur has been nominated by the Trump administration to lead the South Asia bureau at the U.S. State Department, overseeing diplomatic relations with India and the surrounding region. The announcement was made as part of a larger set of appointments sent to the Senate for confirmation. Kapur, a professor at the Naval Postgraduate School specializing in South Asian politics, security, and international relations, has a deep background in the region. If confirmed, he will become the second U.S. diplomat of Indian descent to hold a top position overseeing South Asian affairs. However, his role will focus on a smaller region compared to his predecessor, Nisha Biswal, who led the South and Central Asia bureau, which included several countries that are no longer

part of his new portfolio. Kapur's past experience includes serving on the State Department's policy planning staff from 2020 to 2021, where he worked on South and Central Asia, Indo-Pacific strategy, and U.S.-India relations. He has also taught at Claremont McKenna College and served as a visiting professor at Stanford University. Kapur is an accomplished author with books such as Jihad as Grand Strategy: Islamist Militancy, National Security, and the Pakistani State and Dangerous Deterrent: Nuclear Weapons Proliferation and Conflict in South Asia. His work has been published in top academic journals and major media outlets like the Wall Street Journal and The National Interest. Additionally, he directs a U.S.-India Track 1.5 strategic dialogue for the Department of Defense. Kapur earned his Ph.D. from the University of Chicago and his B.A. from Amherst College.

Singapore places convicted Indian-origin minister under home detention

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

S. Iswaran, Singapore's former transport minister of Indian origin, has been placed under home detention after serving part of his 12-month jail term for corruption. Iswaran, who was convicted in October 2024 for accepting valuables from business figures, is now allowed to serve the remainder of his sentence at home under strict conditions, including wearing an electronic monitoring tag and adhering to curfews.

The Singapore Prison Service (SPS) assessed Iswaran as a low-risk individual eligible for the Home Detention Scheme due to his good behavior in prison and strong family support. Iswaran's case, which involved accepting gifts worth SGD 403,300 (USD 300,000), also led to his resignation in January 2024. He voluntarily repaid SGD 380,305.95, the



equivalent of his illicit gains.

Iswaran's case remains under investigation, with his co-defendants, Ong Beng Seng and Lum Kok Seng, still involved in legal proceedings.

H-1B visa registration for fiscal year 2026 to begin on March 7



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) has announced that the initial registration period for the highly sought-after H-1B visa will begin on March 7 and end on March 24, 2025. This non-immigrant visa allows U.S. companies to hire foreign workers in specialty occupations that require theoretical or technical expertise. The H-1B visa is particularly popular among Indian IT professionals, who benefit from this visa to work in the U.S. tech industry.

To register, prospective petitioners and their representatives must create an online USCIS account, register each beneficiary electronically, and pay a \$215 registration fee. The fiscal year 2026 H-1B selection process will use the beneficiary-centric system that was introduced in fiscal year 2025. Indian nationals remain the primary beneficiaries of the H-1B visa program, which provides 65,000 visas each year, with an additional 20,000 for applicants holding U.S. higher education degrees.

Indian national arrested by U.S. immigration authorities on sexual assault charges

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk



An Indian national, Jaspal Singh, was among four individuals arrested by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) on charges related to sexual assault. Singh, 29, was detained in Tukwila, Washington, on January 29. He faces charges of "assault with sexual motivation," according to ICE. The other three individuals arrested in connection with the case are citizens from Mexico, Guatemala, and El Salvador. All four are currently in ICE custody pending removal proceedings. The arrests are part of ICE's ongoing efforts to combat criminal activity and protect communities, particularly in the Pacific Northwest region. ICE Enforcement and Removal Operations Seattle Field Office Director Drew Bostock emphasized that the agency will not tolerate illegal criminal behavior, underscoring the importance of maintaining community safety. This latest operation is in line with the broader crackdown on illegal immigration that has been a hallmark of U.S. immigration policy under both the Trump and Biden administrations.

Saikat Chakrabarti to challenge Nancy Pelosi for U.S. Congress seat

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Saikat Chakrabarti, a political activist of Indian origin, has announced his intention to run for U.S. Congress, challenging Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi for her San Francisco seat in the 2026 elections.

Chakrabarti, 39, is known for his previous work as the campaign manager for Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez's successful bid for Congress and his involvement in Vermont Senator Bernie Sanders' presidential campaign.

He has voiced his dissatisfaction with the current direction of the Democratic Party, particularly following the actions of political figures like Donald Trump and Elon Musk, who he believes have caused chaos in American politics.

Chakrabarti has criticized Pelosi's leadership, arguing that she represents an



older political era that no longer aligns with the challenges facing the country today. He stated that after witnessing the dysfunction under current leadership, it was clear the Democratic Party needed new, dynamic leadership. Chakrabarti, a tech entrepreneur turned political

activist, believes his background in both technology and progressive politics equips him to bring fresh ideas to the table. Pelosi, who is 84, has not yet confirmed her re-election plans but has filed a statement of candidacy for the upcoming election.

Indian-origin man sentenced to up to 25 years in prison for fatal crash in New York

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Amandeep Singh, a 36-year-old construction executive of Indian origin, has been sentenced to up to 25 years in prison for a fatal crash in Long Island, New York. In May 2023, Singh drove his pickup truck the wrong way at a high speed, colliding with a car carrying two teenagers, Ethan Falkowitz and Drew Hassenbein, who were both killed. Singh was under the influence of alcohol and cocaine at the time, with a blood alcohol level of 0.15—nearly double the legal limit. He also fled the scene and attempted to hide behind a dumpster

before being apprehended by police.

Singh's sentencing followed a courtroom hearing filled with emotional statements from the victims' families. The parents of the teenagers expressed their profound grief, with Drew's father describing the experience of identifying his son at the morgue as "inhuman torture." Singh, who appeared remorseful in court, admitted that his actions were "stupid and selfish," calling it "the greatest sin" and stating that he should have been the one to die instead of the victims. The crash has not only caused immense pain for the families involved but also highlighted the dangers of impaired driving.

Kshama Sawant claims denial of Indian visa over caste discrimination law



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Kshama Sawant, an Indian-origin Seattle City Council member, has claimed she was denied an Indian visa to visit her ailing mother due to her involvement in passing a landmark law in Washington state to end caste discrimination. Sawant, who has been a vocal advocate for marginalized communities, alleges that she is on a "visa reject" list due to her stance against caste-based oppression. This marks her third visa rejection in less than a year, and she believes the Indian government is retaliating against her progressive policies.

In protest, Sawant and members of her organization, 'Workers Strike Back,' staged a sit-in at the Indian Consulate in Seattle. The protest was framed as "peaceful civil disobedience," though it led to a police response after the protesters reportedly refused to leave the premises. Sawant tweeted that her husband was granted an emergency visa, but her own visa was denied without a clear explanation, with consulate staff allegedly saying her name appeared on a "reject list." The controversy stems from Sawant's past actions, including her role in passing a Seattle City Council resolution condemning India's Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) and National Register of Citizens (NRC), both of which have been controversial due to their impact on Muslim communities.

Bangladesh sees sharp rise in anti-Hindu violence, India urges action

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Bangladesh has seen a troubling surge in violence targeting its Hindu minority community, with 76 attacks reported in just two months. Between August and October 2024, 23 Hindus were killed, and 152 temples were attacked, according to data provided by India's Minister of State for External Affairs, Kirti Vardhan Singh.

The violence escalated following the political upheaval in Bangladesh, which led to the ousting of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina after mass student protests in August. Hasina subsequently sought refuge in India, raising concerns over the safety of minorities in Bangladesh.

India has called for the Bangladesh government to take swift action to address the escalating violence. In December 2024, India's Foreign Secretary visited Bangladesh and urged the government to ensure the protection of all



citizens, particularly religious minorities. In response, the Bangladesh government announced the arrest of 70 individuals linked to attacks on minorities, and police investigations have verified over 1,200 incidents of violence.

India has continued to monitor the situation closely, emphasizing that the primary responsibility for the safety and protection of minorities lies with the government of Bangladesh.



Germany extends strict border controls for another six months

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk



Germany has decided to extend its stringent border controls for an additional six months, beyond the initial expiration date in March, to address growing concerns over migration and security. Chancellor Olaf Scholz confirmed this decision, citing the ongoing challenges related to illegal immigration and terrorism risks.

These controls, which involve passport and identity checks at land border crossings, were first implemented in September 2023. They were originally intended to last for six months, primarily aimed at curbing unauthorized entry into the country. Since the implementation of these measures, Germany has reported over 80,000 cases of illegal border crossings, 47,000 individuals turned away due to issues such as fake documents or expired visas, and the arrest of around 1,900 human traffickers.

In the wake of violent attacks in the country, many of which involved migrants or asylum seekers, the pressure on Scholz's government has intensified. The most recent incident in Solingen, which led to multiple fatalities and injuries, has prompted the German government to expedite deportation processes and tighten gun control. Scholz emphasized that these extended controls demonstrate his government's unwavering commitment to combating irregular migration.

American teacher Marc Fogel returns to the US after wrongful detention in Russia

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Marc Fogel, a Pennsylvania native and history teacher, has been released from Russian detention after being wrongfully imprisoned for nearly three years. Fogel, who had been sentenced to 14 years for carrying medically prescribed marijuana in 2021, was escorted back to the US in a diplomatic breakthrough that is expected to have significant implications for US-Russia relations.

Fogel's return follows negotiations facilitated by US President Donald Trump's special envoy, Steve Witkoff. Upon his arrival in the US, Fogel expressed deep gratitude for his release, describing himself as "the luckiest man on Earth." Despite the many challenges faced by American detainees in Russia, Fogel's case received much attention due to his wrongful detention status.

Trump, who had made a promise to Fogel's 95-year-old mother at a rally, praised the fairness of the release deal, and hinted at further progress with other potential detainees. Although Fogel's release is a positive step, many other Americans remain imprisoned in Russia, with cases such as Ksenia Khavana, a US-Russian dual national, still pending.

Estonian president highlights India's role in global affairs during first meeting with PM Modi

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Estonian President Alar Karis recently met with Prime Minister Narendra Modi on the sidelines of the Artificial Intelligence Summit in Paris. This was their first meeting, where Karis emphasized India's key role in global affairs. The two leaders discussed bilateral cooperation in cybersecurity and other international conflicts, stressing the importance of their warm and friendly relations, grounded in shared values such as democracy, the rule of law, and freedom.

Both leaders expressed satisfaction with growing collaboration in trade, investment, information technology, digital sectors, culture,



tourism, and people-to-people exchanges. Modi invited the Estonian government and businesses to explore opportunities within India's growth story, including initiatives like Digital India.

They also discussed the India-Estonia

partnership within the broader context of India-EU relations and welcomed ministerial exchanges in the India-Nordic-Baltic framework. President Karis remarked on the momentum in India-Estonia relations, particularly in e-governance and digital services. He noted that there are opportunities to deepen these areas of collaboration, particularly with the Estonian ICT sector offering solutions to Indian partners.

Beyond digital collaboration, Karis addressed the ongoing Russia-Ukraine war and highlighted India's significant role in global matters. They also discussed the enforcement of sanctions against Russia and emerging security concerns related to North Korea's involvement in Ukraine.

UN report calls for urgent economic reforms to strengthen Africa's resilience

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) has released a 2024 report that calls for bold reforms to address the persistent economic challenges facing Africa. Presented in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, the report emphasizes the need for greater policy innovation, infrastructure investment, and deeper regional trade integration to mitigate Africa's vulnerability to global shocks.

UNCTAD's Secretary-General Rebeca Grynspan highlighted that over half of African nations rely heavily on oil, gas, or minerals for a large portion of their export earnings, making them highly susceptible

to fluctuations in global commodity prices. Additionally, trade costs across Africa are much higher than the global average due to inadequate infrastructure.

The report underscores the importance of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), which holds the potential to create a \$3.4 trillion market. Grynspan advocated for increased intra-Africa trade, support for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), and the introduction of early-warning systems to address trade risks.

The report also highlights Côte d'Ivoire's success as an example of how economic resilience can be achieved through public-private partnerships, infrastructure development, and targeted investments.



NASA accelerates return of astronauts Sunita Williams and Butch Wilmore from the ISS

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

NASA and SpaceX have announced plans to bring astronauts Sunita Williams and Butch Wilmore back from the International Space Station (ISS) ahead of schedule. The Crew-10 mission, now slated for a March 12 launch, will carry the astronauts back to Earth after they have completed their handover with the incoming Crew-10 team.

Williams and Wilmore, along with their fellow crew members, have been at the ISS since June 2023, initially planned to stay only a few months. Their extended stay was due to technical issues with the Boeing Starliner, which was originally meant to return them. SpaceX's adjustment to the mission now involves using a previously flown Dragon spacecraft, Endurance, after additional safety certifications were completed.

SpaceX CEO Elon Musk and President Donald Trump both expressed concern over the astronauts' prolonged stay, with Musk calling it "terrible" and expressing his desire to expedite their return. The Crew-10 mission will now include astronauts Anne McClain, Nichole Ayers, Takuya Onishi, and Roscosmos cosmonaut Kirill Peskov.

Afghan migrants in Pakistan call for a halt to deportations and harsh actions

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Afghan migrants in Pakistan are urgently calling for a stop to ongoing deportations and mistreatment by Pakistani authorities, who have been arresting and forcibly removing migrants from major cities like Islamabad and Rawalpindi. These actions have left thousands of refugees, including women and children, in vulnerable positions.

The Afghan government, alongside international organizations like the UNHCR, has raised concerns about the ongoing crackdown, urging Pakistan to reconsider its policy. Many Afghan



migrants fled their home country to escape the Taliban's return to power in 2021.

The situation worsened in 2023, as Pakistani authorities escalated deportations and arrests, even for individuals with valid visas and residency permits.

Reports from Afghanistan's embassy in Pakistan indicate that nearly 800 Afghan nationals have been detained, despite their legal documentation.

The UN and the International Organization for Migration have called on the Pakistani government to halt forced repatriations, warning of potential risks to those being sent back to Afghanistan.

Tropical cyclone Zelia intensifies as it approaches northwest Australia

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Authorities have issued severe warnings as Tropical Cyclone Zelia intensifies, expected to make landfall on the northwest coast of Australia. The Bureau of Meteorology has upgraded the storm to category four strength, with projections suggesting it could reach category five before hitting the coast. The Pilbara region, particularly Port Hedland, is in the storm's path, with winds of up to 290 km/h and heavy rainfall likely to cause significant damage.

A cyclone watch and act warning has been issued for a 700-kilometer stretch of coastline, and schools have been closed while flights and major roads have been canceled or blocked. Emergency services have been mobilized, including rescue helicopters and flood boats, to assist affected communities. The cyclone is expected to bring dangerous storm surges and widespread flooding, with authorities urging residents to take precautions and prepare for potentially catastrophic conditions.

Imran Khan writes third letter to Pakistan's army chief, raises concerns about electoral fraud



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Imran Khan, former Prime Minister of Pakistan and leader of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), has written a third letter to Army Chief General Asim Munir, addressing several key issues related to the February 2024 general elections. Khan's legal representative, Faisal Chaudhary, revealed that the letter raised concerns about alleged electoral fraud and called for the formation of a judicial commission to investigate the May 2023 riots and the deaths of PTI supporters. Khan also highlighted the impact of current government policies on democracy and the growing levels of terrorism in Pakistan due to a lack of rule of law.

Khan's letter emphasized the need for reforms and the suppression of PTI, alleging that the elections were manipulated in favor of corrupt political figures. He reiterated the party's demand for an open trial regarding the 9th May riots and expressed concern over the government's efforts to dismantle PTI. The military establishment, however, denied receiving any such letter, maintaining that political matters should be discussed with politicians, not the military.

Jordan agrees to admit 2,000 sick Gaza children, opposes displacement of Palestinians

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Jordan has announced its willingness to admit 2,000 sick children from Gaza for medical treatment, as Gaza's healthcare system remains overwhelmed by ongoing conflict. Prime Minister Jaafar Hassan confirmed during a parliamentary session that Jordan's position on the Palestinian issue remains firm: there will be no resettlement or displacement of Palestinians, particularly in neighboring Arab countries like Jordan and Egypt.

He emphasized that no solution should come at Jordan's expense, and that the country will work alongside Egypt, the Palestinian leadership, and other Arab nations to formulate a unified approach to Gaza's reconstruction.

Hassan reiterated that Jordan's support for Palestinians' resilience and rights remains a



core priority. He reaffirmed that the creation of an independent Palestinian state is essential for regional security, stability, and peace. Jordan will not act unilaterally on Palestinian issues but will continue to collaborate with Arab nations and the Palestinians to find a coordinated solution.

Jordan's Foreign Minister Ayman Safadi also

rejected any proposal that would suggest forced relocation of Palestinians to Jordan or Egypt, emphasizing that such actions would violate Palestinian sovereignty. Both Jordan and Egypt have consistently opposed such proposals, calling instead for a two-state solution.

Prime Minister Hassan's comments followed a rejection by Jordanian King Abdullah II of U.S. President Donald Trump's proposal to relocate Palestinians from Gaza to neighboring countries. The king reaffirmed Jordan's commitment to a just solution based on the creation of a Palestinian state alongside Israel.

In addition to these political stances, Jordan's decision to admit sick children from Gaza highlights its humanitarian efforts. With Gaza's healthcare system devastated, the 2,000 children will receive vital medical care in Jordanian hospitals, further underscoring Jordan's role as both a regional advocate for Palestinian rights and a key ally in Middle East peace efforts.

Kenya partners with telecoms to tackle rising cyber threats

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Kenya has pledged to collaborate with both local and international telecommunications companies to address the increasing risk of cyber threats within the country. William Kabogo Gitau, the Cabinet Secretary in the Ministry of Information, Communications, and the Digital Economy, called on businesses that engage with consumers online to educate their customers on how to protect themselves from digital fraud.

Gitau emphasized the need for concerted efforts from stakeholders to equip Kenyans with knowledge on identifying online scams and reporting suspicious activities. This initiative aligns with the country's recognition as a Tier 1 nation in the Global Cybersecurity Index, showcasing Kenya's commitment to addressing digital threats.

In the last financial year alone, Kenya's



National KE-CIRT/CC detected over 3.5 billion cyber threats, with 1.5 billion recorded just in the last six months. These threats include cyber-attacks such as data breaches, viruses, and Denial of Service (DoS) attacks, all of which jeopardize the nation's digital infrastructure and security.

China unveils names for moon-landing spacesuit and lunar rover



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The China Manned Space Agency (CMSA) has announced the official names for its moon-landing spacesuit and manned lunar rover, marking significant milestones in the country's lunar exploration program. The spacesuit is named "Wangyu," meaning "gazing into the cosmos," symbolizing China's ambitions to further explore the Moon and beyond. This name reflects the evolution of China's space program, following the successful establishment of its space station.

The lunar rover, named "Tansuo" (meaning "to explore the unknown"), will play a critical role in supporting astronauts on their mission to the Moon, assisting them in conducting scientific research. The CMSA revealed that these names were chosen from over 9,000 public submissions.

China's lunar exploration ambitions are set to intensify with plans to send astronauts to the Moon by 2030. To achieve this, China will launch two carrier rockets: one to transport a spacecraft and lunar lander into orbit, and another to carry astronauts to the Moon's surface. The rover will assist in navigation, communication, and exploration, further contributing to scientific discovery. Research and development for both Wangyu and Tansuo are progressing as planned.

US grocery chains implement egg purchase limits amid bird flu crisis

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

As bird flu outbreaks continue to disrupt egg supplies across the United States, many grocery chains have introduced purchase limits on eggs to manage dwindling stock. California shoppers, in particular, have faced long queues and restrictions at stores like Costco, which has limited egg purchases to three cartons per customer. Other retailers, including Trader Joe's and Whole Foods, have set similar limits, while some chains, such as Sprouts and Kroger, have implemented their own restrictions to ensure fair distribution.

The shortage is primarily due to the avian flu, which has led to the culling of millions of poultry birds. Egg prices have risen sharply, with the national average price for a dozen eggs reaching over \$7, while cage-free eggs in



California are priced even higher. The USDA expects egg prices to continue rising, driven by both supply constraints and increased demand as consumers anticipate higher prices. The situation is also affecting restaurants like Waffle House, which has imposed a surcharge on eggs. Despite efforts by retailers to stretch supplies, many consumers have expressed frustration over the limited availability.

President's Rule imposed in Manipur after political crisis

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

President's Rule was imposed in Manipur under Article 356 of the Constitution after the state's Chief Minister, N Biren Singh, resigned following instructions from central BJP leaders. A notification from the Ministry of Home Affairs confirmed that President Droupadi Murmu was satisfied that the situation in Manipur made it impossible for the state government to function according to the Constitution.

The President assumed control over the state, taking on the powers of the government, and declared that the state legislature's powers would now be exercised under Parliament's authority.

BJP's Northeast in-charge, Sambit Patra, confirmed that the 60-member state assembly was suspended. Following Singh's resignation, talks began to find a new leader for the ruling BJP legislature party, but no consensus was reached. As a result, the Governor recommended the imposition of President's Rule.

The issue gained attention after the Governor canceled the budget session of the Manipur assembly scheduled for February 10, a decision that followed Biren Singh's resignation.

India honors the sacrifice of Pulwama martyrs: Rahul Gandhi leads tributes



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

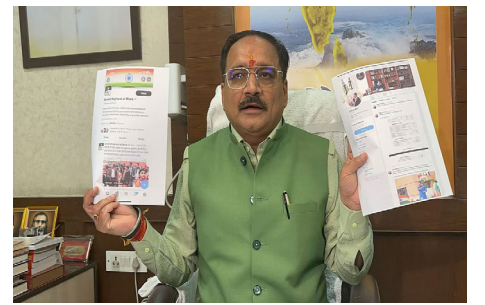
Rahul Gandhi, the Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha, recently paid tribute to the brave soldiers who lost their lives in the Pulwama terror attack in 2019. On the sixth anniversary of the attack, he expressed deep gratitude and stated that India would never forget their supreme sacrifice. He posted a heartfelt message on social media, honoring the 40 CRPF soldiers killed when a suicide bomber from the Jaish-e-Mohammad terrorist group rammed an explosive-laden vehicle

into their convoy in Pulwama.

Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge also praised the martyrs, acknowledging their courage and sacrifice, while Priyanka Gandhi Vadra echoed similar sentiments. The attack, which shocked the nation, led to retaliatory actions by India, including airstrikes on terrorist camps across the Line of Control in Pakistan. The Pulwama tragedy had brought India and Pakistan to the brink of conflict, but despite Pakistan's denials of damage from the Indian bombings, the action proved a significant moment of national resolve.

BJP accuses Kejriwal of digital theft over social media account

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

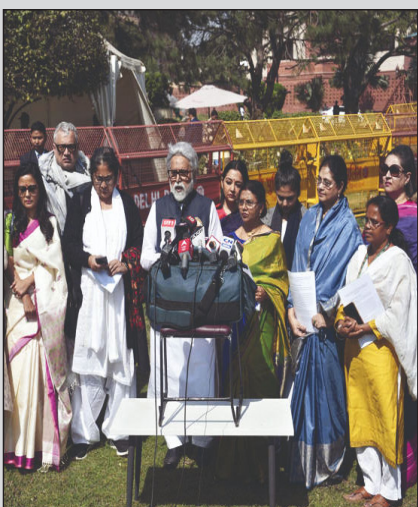


Delhi BJP President Virendra Sachdeva has criticized AAP leader and former Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal for taking over the official "CMO Delhi" X account, which was initially created and managed with public funds. The account has now been renamed to "Kejriwal at Work" and is being used for personal promotion rather than government purposes.

Sachdeva demanded that Lt Governor V.K. Saxena order an investigation into the misuse of this government property, which he called a digital theft. He also claimed that this act was a part of a larger pattern of misusing government resources, including employing party workers as government employees.

He referred to Kejriwal's actions as a "digital heist" and urged legal action. The account, which had millions of followers, was once used to update the public on government matters.

Trinamool MPs meet President Murmu to push for quick approval of 'Aparajita Bill'



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

A delegation of Trinamool Congress parliamentarians met President Droupadi Murmu, urging her to fast-track the approval of the Aparajita Women & Child (West Bengal Criminal Law) Bill, which calls for capital punishment for convicts in rape and murder cases.

The Bill was passed in the West Bengal Assembly last September, following protests over a tragic rape and murder incident at a Kolkata medical college. The delegation presented a letter to President Murmu highlighting provisions in the bill for quicker investigations, chargesheets, and trials in such cases.

However, BJP leaders in West Bengal criticized the visit, calling it a publicity stunt, claiming that the state administration had previously mishandled the evidence in the case.

Himachal initiates bio-engineering project to prevent landslides

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Himachal Pradesh is introducing a bio-engineering initiative to tackle the rising frequency of landslides in the region. Chief Minister Sukhvinder Sukhu announced the pilot project, which will involve planting Vetiver grass known for its ability to stabilize soil and prevent erosion.

The Vetiver Foundation-Climate Resilience and Sustainability Initiatives (CRSI) is collaborating with the state to develop this sustainable solution. Over 1,000 Vetiver saplings have already been planted in Solan district, and the project will expand before the 2025 monsoon season.



The grass has proven to be effective worldwide in landslide-prone areas by forming a natural barrier to slow water runoff and stabilize slopes, offering a low-cost and low-maintenance alternative to traditional engineering methods.

Income Tax Bill 2025 simplifies and reduces the volume of the 1961 Act

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

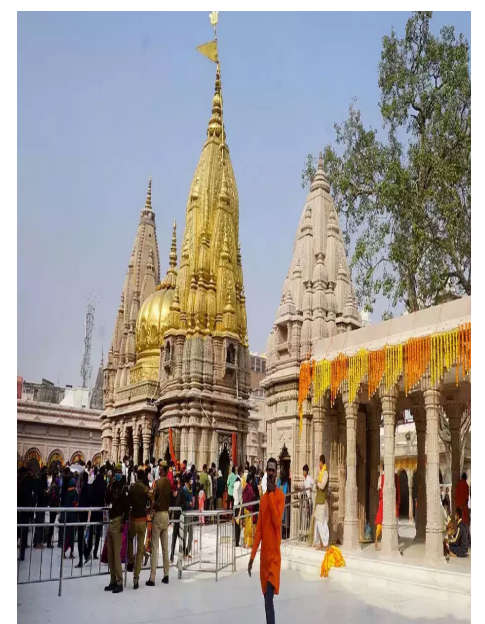
The Income-Tax Bill, 2025, recently introduced in Parliament, represents a major reform aimed at simplifying the Indian tax system. The new bill significantly reduces the complexity of the Income-tax Act of 1961, cutting its word count by nearly half—from 512,535 words to 259,676. This has been achieved by streamlining language, reducing redundant provisions, and restructuring the tax law for greater clarity and accessibility.

The number of chapters in the new bill has been halved from 47 to 23, and sections have been reduced from 819 to 536. While the bill maintains continuity in tax principles and policies, it consolidates amendments



and eliminates fragmented sections. The government's move comes after consultations with tax professionals and the study of international best practices, notably from Australia and the UK. The simplification aims to enhance the ease of doing business and make the tax system more user-friendly, without altering tax rates or policies.

Kashi Vishwanath Temple sees record donations of Rs 7 crore in just one month



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Varanasi's Shri Kashi Vishwanath Temple has set a new record, receiving over Rs 7 crore in cash donations in just one month. This amount does not yet include donations made through gold and silver Hundis, which are yet to be counted.

Despite halting ticket sales for popular darshan services in response to heavy crowds, donations have surged.

The temple has seen nearly 1.5 crore pilgrims visiting in the past month. The surge in donations comes after the Maha Kumbh and coincides with the completion of the temple corridor, which has made it a major pilgrimage site.

Temple officials anticipate the total donations to increase as more Hundis are counted.

Tensions rise in Rajya Sabha over Waqf Bill JPC report



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

A heated exchange between the government and opposition erupted in the Rajya Sabha when the Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) report on the Waqf (Amendment) Bill was presented. The opposition accused the government of deleting dissent notes from the report, creating an uproar that led to protests and calls for the report to be withdrawn. The opposition claimed that their views had been disregarded, calling the omission “anti-constitutional” and “anti-democratic.”

Leader of Opposition Mallikarjun Kharge demanded the inclusion of dissenting notes before the report could be accepted, while the government dismissed these allegations. Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju defended the report, stating that all dissent notes had been attached in the report’s appendix. Despite the government’s assurances, the opposition persisted in their protests, questioning the integrity of the report and its potential impact on the functioning of Waqf boards.

ED seeks President’s approval to prosecute Satyendar Jain



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The Union Ministry of Home Affairs has requested President Droupadi Murmu’s approval to prosecute former Delhi Health Minister Satyendar Kumar Jain in connection with a money laundering case. Jain, a member of the Aam Aadmi Party, was arrested in May 2022 for his alleged involvement in a Rs 4.8 crore money laundering scheme involving four companies linked to him.

The request for prosecution comes after the Enforcement Directorate’s (ED) investigation, which was initially based on a corruption case filed by the CBI in 2017. Jain, who was granted bail in October 2023, is also accused of threatening Tihar Jail staff during his imprisonment. In addition to the corruption charges, Jain faces allegations of pressuring jail officials, which has intensified the legal proceedings against him. His case remains a significant political issue, with his recent electoral loss to BJP candidate Karnail Singh adding another layer to the ongoing controversy.

Karnataka to close nine new universities in financial overhaul

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

In a significant move regarding the state’s higher education system, Karnataka’s Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar announced that the state would shut down nine of the ten new universities established during the previous BJP administration. These closures were prompted by financial inefficiencies, as only one of the new universities was found to be fully operational. Shivakumar emphasized that the decisions would be made in the best interests of students and the state, and the government would not make such choices based on personal agendas.

Shivakumar addressed concerns over staff reluctance to relocate and other logistical issues affecting universities in smaller districts. He explained that the new universities, which



had been allocated minimal funding and lacked adequate land for development, were unsustainable. While the government decided to continue with Bidar University, which is fully functional, the other universities faced closure due to a lack of resources. The decision follows a review of the performance and financial status of the universities, with an emphasis on maintaining quality education.

Shab-e-Barat in Kashmir marked by prayers despite differing views

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Thousands of Muslim devotees across Kashmir gathered in mosques and shrines for prayer and penance during the holy night of Shab-e-Barat, continuing a long tradition of devotion. The night, filled with praises of Allah, was dedicated to seeking divine mercy for both this life and the afterlife. While the Wahabi practice followed by the Ahle Hadis community in Kashmir discourages such gatherings, the majority of Muslims in the region participated

in prayers at various sites, including graveyards, offering prayers for the deceased.

The largest congregations took place at the Hazratbal shrine in Srinagar, a significant religious site. However, the Jamia Masjid in Nowhetta, traditionally a center of worship for Shab-e-Barat, was not allowed to hold the usual congregation due to security measures. The head priest, Mirwaiz Umar Farooq, was placed under house arrest during this time, as sources claimed, further restricting religious activities in the region.

Maha Kumbh workers break record with massive river cleaning effort

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

In a historic moment, 300 sanitation workers at the Maha Kumbh 2025 broke a Guinness World Record for the first-ever coordinated river cleaning operation. This groundbreaking event took place across multiple Ganga sectors during the festival. Akanksha Rana, CEO of the Maha Kumbh Mela, shared that the event marked the first Guinness record for a large-scale river cleaning initiative, with plans to increase the number of participants to 15,000 in the coming days.

The cleaning effort aimed to raise awareness about the importance of keeping rivers and water bodies clean, with over 500 million



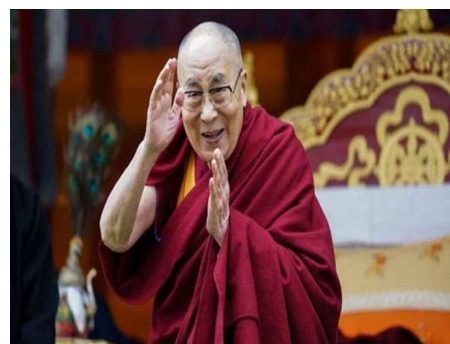
people expected to visit the festival. Workers and volunteers came together to clean the Ganga at several locations, including Ram Ghat. The initiative also highlighted the role of sanitation workers in maintaining the cleanliness of the event, inspiring others to adopt responsible waste management practices.

Dalai Lama receives Z-category security after intelligence threat

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

In light of a threat report from the Intelligence Bureau, the Indian government has granted Tibetan spiritual leader Dalai Lama Z-category security. The 89-year-old spiritual leader, currently in Karnataka, will be provided protection by the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), with a team of 30 commandos assigned to ensure his safety. This move follows an incident in 2018 when two individuals were apprehended for allegedly tracking his movements under instructions from a Chinese national.

Dalai Lama, who has been a subject of security concerns in the past due to his controversial stance on Tibet, is in India for



religious engagements. He will be attending a Long Life offering ceremony in Hunsur. The government has intensified his security following past incidents, including a bomb threat near the Mahabodhi temple in Bodhi Gaya in 2018.

SC extends protection for ex-IAS officer Puja Khedkar amid ongoing investigation



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The Supreme Court has extended the interim protection granted to former Maharashtra cadre IAS officer, Puja Khedkar, who is accused of submitting false OBC and PwBD certificates and exceeding the permissible attempts in the Civil Services Examination. The court decided to continue the order that no coercive action be taken against Khedkar after the Delhi Police requested additional time to file a counter affidavit. The court also instructed Khedkar to cooperate with the ongoing investigation and set a hearing for March 18.

Khedkar, who was dismissed from the Indian Administrative Service in September 2024 after being found guilty of faking her identity to gain multiple attempts, has been the subject of scrutiny following the cancellation of her selection. The Delhi Police report revealed that Khedkar had submitted fraudulent disability certificates and had availed of benefits meant for OBC and PwBD candidates despite not being eligible. The case has led to investigations into whether others had also wrongfully benefited from the quotas.

Calcutta HC directs state to form team for women’s workplace safety review



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The Calcutta High Court has instructed the West Bengal government to establish a review team to evaluate the safety of women, particularly those working night shifts, in response to the tragic rape and murder of a junior doctor at R.G. Kar Medical College and Hospital in Kolkata last year. The court’s directive came after public interest litigation highlighted concerns about women’s safety in workplaces, especially in sectors operating around the clock, like Information Technology.

The review team, formed under the state’s Home Department, will assess existing safety protocols and identify necessary improvements. The move follows criticism of the state’s initial notification, which suggested limiting night shifts for women. The tragic incident, which took place on August 9, 2024, has led to a broader discussion about workplace safety and prompted the government to reconsider its approach to ensuring the security of female employees in all sectors.

Musk's \$97.4 billion OpenAI acquisition bid contradicts his lawsuit, nonprofit says

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Elon Musk's bid to purchase OpenAI for \$97.4 billion has raised legal concerns, as the nonprofit organization argues that his actions contradict his previous lawsuit against the company. Musk has been in a legal battle with OpenAI since August, claiming that the organization's assets should remain within a charitable trust and not be transferred for private gain. However, his offer to acquire OpenAI's assets, which would involve transferring them to Musk and his private investors, directly conflicts with this position. In a letter to a federal court, OpenAI accused Musk of attempting to undermine a competitor through an improper bid, highlighting the contradiction between his legal actions and his acquisition proposal.

Musk co-founded OpenAI in 2015 with Sam Altman as a nonprofit, but he left the organization in 2018 before the viral success of ChatGPT. Since then, Musk has become an outspoken critic of OpenAI's transition to a for-profit entity. The legal dispute centers on whether OpenAI should remain a nonprofit or move toward a profit-driven model to attract capital for AI development. Musk's acquisition bid, along with his ongoing legal battle, underscores his growing involvement in the AI space, especially with his competing AI company, xAI, which he founded in 2023.

Trump Media applies for trademarks on Bitcoin and U.S. industry-focused investment products

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk



Trum Media and Technology Group (TMTG), the parent company behind the social media platform Truth Social, has filed trademark applications for six new investment products targeting Bitcoin and key U.S. industries. These products include the Truth.Fi Bitcoin Plus ETF, Truth.Fi Made in America ETF, and Truth.Fi U.S. Energy Independence ETF. The filing signals TMTG's ambitious move into financial services, seeking to expand its operations beyond social media. However, the trademarks are still pending approval, and TMTG has not yet submitted these products to the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) for regulatory review.

In addition to these exchange-traded funds (ETFs), TMTG plans to launch three separately managed accounts (SMAs) in partnership with financial services firm Charles Schwab. These SMAs will be professionally managed investment portfolios for individual investors or institutions, focusing on assets related to Bitcoin and U.S. manufacturing and energy sectors. Former President Donald Trump, the majority owner of TMTG, appears to be positioning his company to capitalize on the growing fintech market, with an estimated \$250 million set aside for these new products. This move marks TMTG's latest step to diversify its business and leverage its financial brand under the Truth.Fi umbrella.

Trump issues stark warning to BRICS over currency plans, threatens 100% tariffs

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

U.S. President Donald Trump has launched a scathing attack on the BRICS nations, warning that the group would be "dead" if it moved forward with plans to introduce a rival currency to challenge the dominance of the U.S. dollar. This warning came despite India, a founding member of BRICS, already dismissing the idea of a shared BRICS currency. During a meeting with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Trump told reporters, "If BRICS wants to play games with the dollar, then they're going to be hit with a 100% tariff the day they mention that they want to do it." Trump also described the formation of BRICS as having been for a "bad purpose," and he claimed that many of the group's members no longer wanted to discuss the currency issue.

The comments come amid growing concerns about the potential for BRICS to undermine the dollar's global dominance. While Trump has repeatedly voiced his opposition to a BRICS currency, other



key figures such as Prime Minister Modi and India's External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar have firmly ruled out the idea. Trump's aggressive stance, including his threat of tariffs, underscores the broader tension between the U.S. and the BRICS

bloc. BRICS, originally comprising Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa, has expanded to include several other countries, but it has faced internal trade rivalries, with no common free trade agreements among members.

South Korea fines JPMorgan, Morgan Stanley, Nomura, and UBS for short-selling violations

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

South Korea's Financial Supervisory Service (FSS) has imposed fines on JPMorgan, Morgan Stanley, Nomura, and UBS for breaching the country's short-selling regulations. The fines come after an investigation revealed that these financial institutions had engaged in "naked" short-selling, a practice where stocks are sold without borrowing them first, which is prohibited under South Korea's Capital Markets Act.

While the FSS has confirmed the decision to impose administrative sanctions, it has not yet disclosed the exact amount of the fines. The action follows an earlier decision by South Korea's Securities

and Futures Commission to address illegal trading practices in the country's stock market.

The fine is part of South Korea's ongoing efforts to strengthen its regulatory framework for short-selling, which has been a point of contention in the local market. In November 2023, South Korea introduced a temporary ban on short-selling in response to market volatility, with plans to lift the ban in March 2024. The government intends to implement a more robust system to detect illegal trades, aiming to prevent further violations. This decision highlights the increasing scrutiny of foreign financial firms in South Korea's stock market, as the country seeks to maintain fair and transparent trading practices.

Paramount channels to disappear from YouTube TV after contract impasse



Paramount Global's channels, including CBS, Nickelodeon, and several other popular networks, will no longer be available on YouTube TV starting Thursday due to a breakdown in contract negotiations between the two companies. Paramount accused YouTube TV of attempting to impose "one-sided terms" and "non-market demands" during the renewal process.

As a result, the media company decided to end its long-standing relationship with the streaming platform. In response, YouTube TV has assured subscribers that it is actively negotiating with Paramount to reach a new deal and avoid disruption, though it also warned that if an agreement cannot be reached, customers may lose access to the channels for an extended period.

YouTube TV has committed to offering affected subscribers an \$8 credit if the content remains unavailable for an extended period. The channels impacted by the dispute include BET, CBS, CBS Sports Network, Comedy Central, MTV, Nickelodeon, and Paramount Network. This dispute is part of a broader trend of increasing tensions between content providers and streaming platforms as both sides seek to adapt to changing business models in the highly competitive media landscape. YouTube TV is working to minimize the impact on its subscribers, but the situation underscores the complex negotiations that often take place behind the scenes in the media industry.

Chinese chipmakers gain an edge in AI race with DeepSeek's cost-effective models

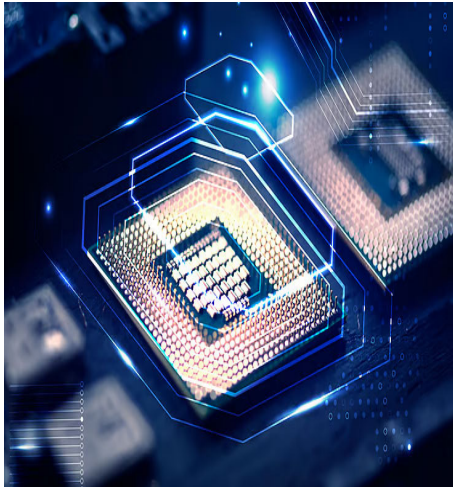
● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Chinese chipmakers, especially Huawei, are making significant strides in the global artificial intelligence (AI) market thanks to DeepSeek's models, which focus on inference rather than raw processing power. This approach enables Chinese-made processors to compete more effectively against powerful U.S. competitors like Nvidia. While U.S. chips have long dominated AI training tasks, Chinese processors have struggled to match their performance. DeepSeek's focus on inference, the phase where AI models generate conclusions or predictions, allows Chinese firms to optimize computational efficiency and reduce costs, which could give them an edge in the market for certain AI

applications like chatbots and other inference-heavy tasks.

DeepSeek's models, which are open-source and come with low fees, are expected to drive wider adoption in China, helping companies like Huawei and others to overcome the impact of U.S. export restrictions on advanced AI training chips. While Chinese chips are still behind Nvidia's in terms of raw power, their ability to handle less demanding inference tasks makes them more viable for specific uses. As more Chinese companies, including Huawei, Tencent-backed EnFlame, and Moore Threads, announce plans to integrate DeepSeek's models, analysts predict that these developments could strengthen China's position in the AI space and challenge the dominance of U.S. firms, despite ongoing trade restrictions.

Lam Research to invest Rs 10,000 crore in India to expand semiconductor presence



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

US-based semiconductor company Lam Research has announced plans to invest Rs 10,000 crore in India, as part of its efforts to expand its global chip fabrication equipment supply chain. This investment was confirmed by Ashwini Vaishnaw, Union Minister for Railways and Electronics and IT, who highlighted the significance of the move for India's semiconductor sector.

Lam Research had previously pledged Rs 241 crore for software licenses to help upskill 2,800 students in collaboration with the Indian Semiconductor Mission (ISM) and the Indian Institute of Science.

With India's growing semiconductor market, which is projected to reach \$103.4 billion by 2030, the investment is expected to play a crucial role in developing the nation's semiconductor capabilities.

The government has made significant strides with initiatives like the India Semiconductor Mission, and key investments in the sector are seen as vital for India's "Make in India" goals. Lam Research's commitment is seen as part of this broader effort to establish a robust semiconductor manufacturing base in the country.

Ford CEO meets with lawmakers to discuss potential impact of tariffs

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Ford Motor CEO Jim Farley met with U.S. lawmakers after raising concerns about the potential consequences of President Trump's proposed 25% tariffs on imports from Mexico and Canada. Farley emphasized that such tariffs could have a devastating effect on the U.S. auto industry, possibly benefiting foreign competitors instead. During his meetings with Senators Roger Marshall, Elissa Slotkin, Deb Fischer, and members of the House of Representatives, Farley warned that the tariffs could disrupt the industry and lead to significant economic harm.

Farley's comments were quickly picked up by Democratic lawmakers. The Michigan Democratic Party cited his remarks as proof that "Trump's tariffs aren't a risk Michigan can afford." Senate Democratic Leader Chuck Schumer also pointed to the potential for higher inflation due to the proposed tariffs. In response, Farley stated that while Ford shares the Trump administration's goal of a thriving U.S. auto industry, the company is concerned about how tariffs could undermine that vision. He acknowledged that if Trump's approach succeeds, it could be one of the president's most notable accomplishments. Farley also expressed concern about the potential impact of the tariffs on electric vehicle (EV) incentives,



warning that rescinding these could jeopardize jobs linked to Ford's significant investments in EV infrastructure across the U.S.

India's finance minister introduces new income tax bill aimed at simplification

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman introduced the new Income Tax Bill, 2025, in the Lok Sabha as part of ongoing tax reforms. The bill is designed to simplify and streamline the provisions of the tax system to make them more understandable and to reduce the potential for legal disputes. This proposed legislation will replace the existing Income Tax Act of 1961, which has become increasingly complex due to numerous modifications over the past six decades.



The new bill, which is expected to take effect on April 1, 2026, will be sent to the Select Committee of Parliament for further review before it is finalized. The bill aims to simplify tax laws, ensuring they are more transparent and taxpayer-friendly. By replacing complex provisions with clearer language, the legislation seeks to encourage voluntary compliance and reduce the number of legal disputes.

The new bill will be more concise, with 622 pages and 536 clauses, replacing the previous law that consisted of 823 pages and 819 sections. While the bill will not alter tax slabs or rebates, it will introduce clearer terminology, such as replacing "assessment year" with "tax year," and remove outdated clauses. According to experts, this reform is an important step in modernizing India's tax system, providing greater clarity and efficiency for both citizens and businesses.

Piyush Goyal invites Israeli companies to invest in India's growing market



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Union Minister of Commerce and Industry Piyush Goyal urged Israeli companies to invest in India, emphasizing the country's rapidly expanding demand potential. Speaking at the India-Israel Business Forum, Goyal highlighted the vast market opportunities, such as the potential to sell millions of appliances and devices in the coming years.

The Minister described India as a country with immense demand for products ranging from washing machines to smartphones. Goyal stressed that India offers a favorable business environment, bolstered by a population of 1.4 billion and strong economic fundamentals.

He outlined the "10 Ds" that define India's growth potential, including democracy, digitalization, decarbonization, and determination. Israeli Minister of Economy and Industry, Nir Barkat, echoed these sentiments, expressing interest in deepening cooperation with India, particularly in sectors like high-tech, agro-tech, and defense.

With an entrepreneurial landscape rich in innovation, Israel sees substantial opportunities for investment aligned with India's "Make in India" strategy.

Adani Green Energy withdraws from Sri Lanka's renewable energy projects

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Adani Green Energy has announced its decision to withdraw from its involvement in a renewable energy wind project and two transmission projects in Sri Lanka. The company made it clear, however, that it remains open to future development opportunities in the South Asian country. Despite the withdrawal, Adani Green emphasized its commitment to Sri Lanka and expressed willingness to collaborate with the government in the future should the opportunity arise.

The company had previously committed to setting up two wind farms in Sri Lanka's northern provinces, Mannar and Pooneryn, with an estimated total installed capacity of 484 megawatts. The planned investment was around Rs 6,177 crore, and Adani Green Energy had already spent approximately \$5 million on pre-development activities. In 2024, the company had entered into a 20-year power



purchase agreement with the Sri Lankan government for the wind farms. Although the withdrawal has been confirmed, Adani Green remains committed to its existing projects in Sri Lanka, including a \$700

million terminal project at the port in Colombo. The company continues to report strong financial results, with an 85% year-on-year increase in net profit for the third quarter of fiscal year 2025.

Pakistan trio fined for breaching ICC Code of Conduct against South Africa



Pakistan's Shaheen Shah Afridi, Saud Shakeel, and Kamran Ghulam have been fined for breaching Level 1 of the ICC Code of Conduct during their tri-nation series match against South Africa in Karachi. Shaheen was fined 25% of his match fee after inappropriate physical contact with South Africa's Matthew Breetzke during the 28th over of their innings. This caused an argument, leading to the fine under Article 2.12 of the ICC Code of Conduct. Saud and substitute fielder Kamran each received a 10% fine for celebrating too close to Temba Bavuma after his run-out.

In addition to the fines, all three players have received one demerit point on their records. They accepted the charges and the sanctions, with no formal hearings needed. The on-field umpires, assisted by third and fourth umpires, leveled the charges. Level 1 breaches carry a range of penalties, including fines and demerit points.

Bayern beat Celtic, Feyenoord edge Milan in Champions League play-off first leg

Bayern Munich won 2-1 against Celtic in the first leg of their Champions League play-off, taking a crucial lead back to Munich for the return leg. Michael Olise and Harry Kane scored for Bayern, with Kane's second-half volley making him the first English player to score 60 goals in UEFA competitions. Although Celtic reduced the deficit through Daizen Maeda, Bayern held onto their lead, securing a vital away victory. Coach Vincent Kompany praised his team's solid defense and resilience. In another match, Feyenoord triumphed 1-0 over Milan in the first leg, with Igor Paixao scoring early in the match. Despite Milan's best efforts, Feyenoord defended well, with Paixao also hitting the crossbar and testing Milan's goalkeeper. In other Champions League action, Benfica triumphed 1-0 over Monaco, with Vangelis Pavlidis scoring his sixth goal in five matches. Monaco played with 10 men after Al Musrati's red card but couldn't capitalize on their numerical advantage.

Kohli congratulates new RCB captain Rajat Patidar

At the head of the 2025 Indian Premier League season, Royal Challengers Bangalore (RCB) have appointed Rajat Patidar as their new captain. Former captain Virat Kohli has shared his admiration for Patidar's journey and offered his full support.



"Rajat, first, congratulations, and all the very best. The way you've grown within the franchise and the performances you've delivered have won the hearts of RCB fans across India," Kohli said in a video posted by the franchise. "You deserve this. The team and I will stand behind you, and you have all our support."

Patidar, who takes over from Faf du Plessis, had an exceptional rise within RCB following his breakout 2022 season, where he scored a memorable century in the playoffs.

Although this will be his first IPL leadership role, Patidar has captained Madhya Pradesh in the 2024-25 Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy and Vijay Hazare Trophy. Kohli, who led RCB for nearly

a decade before stepping down in 2021, expressed confidence in Patidar's ability to handle the responsibility.

"You've earned this role, and I'm sure you'll continue to grow and lead RCB to new heights," Kohli added.

Patidar's leadership skills have already been proven in domestic cricket, and his consistent performances in the IPL have made him the natural choice to lead RCB into a new era.

Kohli encouraged RCB fans to rally behind Patidar, emphasizing the importance of supporting the team as a whole.

Ed Joyce to step down as head coach of Ireland Women's cricket team



Ed Joyce has announced his decision to step down as the head coach of the Ireland Women's cricket team after the upcoming ICC Women's World Cup Qualifier. Joyce, who has led the team since 2019, has overseen significant development in Irish women's cricket, helping the team secure notable victories against top-ranked teams. Under his leadership, Ireland Women will now have one final chance to qualify for the Women's World Cup in India, an opportunity the team has long sought since their last appearance in 2005.

Joyce expressed his gratitude for the privilege of leading the team and highlighted the transformative journey over the past six years. Despite stepping down, he hopes to continue contributing to Irish cricket in some capacity. Graeme West, Cricket Ireland's Director of High Performance, commended Joyce for his lasting impact and transformative leadership. Joyce's departure marks the end of a significant era for Irish women's cricket.

Markelle Fultz signs with Sacramento Kings as backup point guard

Markelle Fultz is returning to the NBA, as the Sacramento Kings have signed the former No. 1 overall draft pick as a backup point guard. The Kings filled a crucial gap in their roster after De'Aaron Fox was traded, and Fultz, who had been out of the league for the season, offers solid playmaking ability and defensive strength. Fultz had struggled with health issues during his career, including an ACL tear in 2021, and his shooting has been a point of concern, particularly his 22.2% three-point

shooting last season.

Despite these challenges, Fultz proved himself to be a reliable backup during his time with Orlando, and he now joins a Kings team hoping to improve its bench depth. Sacramento is in need of a solid defender and playmaker, and Fultz provides those qualities, even if he is not a primary offensive threat. The Kings will be hoping Fultz can stay healthy and contribute meaningfully as a backup point guard for the remainder of the season.



Iga Swiatek extends streak with victory over Elena Rybakina in Qatar Open quarterfinals

Three-time defending champion Iga Swiatek advanced to the semifinals of the Qatar Open after defeating Elena Rybakina 6-2, 7-5 in the quarterfinals. Swiatek extended her winning streak in Doha to 15 matches, saving two break points and rallying from 4-2 down in the second set to clinch the win in 1 hour and 36 minutes. This victory also marked her 100th career win at WTA 1000 events, becoming the second-fastest player to reach this milestone after Serena Williams.

Swiatek will next face Jelena Ostapenko in the semifinals, looking for her first win in five attempts against the Latvian. Ostapenko, who reached the final in Doha in 2016, beat Ons Jabeur in straight sets in another quarterfinal.

The other semifinalists include Ekaterina Alexandrova, who stunned Jessica Pegula with a 4-6, 6-1, 6-1 win. Swiatek's path to further titles continues as she seeks to extend her dominance in Doha.



ICC announces \$6.9 million prize pool for Champions Trophy

The ICC has revealed that the total prize pool for the 2025 Champions Trophy will be \$6.9 million, a 53% increase from the 2017 edition. The winners will earn \$2.24 million, while the runners-up will receive \$1.12 million. Each losing semi-finalist will take home \$560,000, and every match win is worth over \$34,000. Teams finishing 5th and 6th will earn \$350,000, while 7th and 8th place will receive \$140,000. Additionally, all eight participating teams will get \$125,000 just for competing.



India eliminated from Badminton Asia Mixed Team Championships after quarterfinal loss to Japan



India was eliminated from the Badminton Asia Mixed Team Championships after a 3-0 defeat to Japan in the quarterfinals. Dhruv Kapila and Tanisha Crasto fought hard against Japan's World No. 12 duo Hiroki Midorikawa and Natsu Saito but fell short in a three-game contest. Malvika Bansod then faced World No. 8 Tomoka Miyazaki and lost in straight sets, 21-12, 21-19. India's hopes rested on HS Prannoy, who managed to take the match to a decider but ultimately lost to Kenta Nishimoto 14-21, 21-15, 12-21.

Japan will now face the winner of the tie between China and Hong Kong in the semifinals. India's exit marks the end of their run at the tournament, where they had previously achieved a historic bronze medal last edition. Despite this, the team showed promise, especially after defeating Macau 5-0 and putting up a tough fight against South Korea in the group stage.

Real Madrid's fixture congestion opens opportunity for Atletico and Barcelona in La Liga title race

Real Madrid's packed fixture schedule, including a tough Champions League match against Manchester City, has created a potential opening for Atletico Madrid and FC Barcelona to close the gap in the La Liga title race. While Real Madrid had to battle in midweek, Atletico and Barcelona had the week off, with Atletico looking to capitalize on Real's potential fatigue. Real Madrid faces a challenging league trip to Osasuna, where squad rotation is expected due to injury concerns. Atletico Madrid, coming off a draw at the Santiago Bernabeu, could move to the top with a win against Celta Vigo. Barcelona, who will play Rayo Vallecano on Monday, are also in contention, with Rayo enjoying an impressive unbeaten run. Meanwhile, teams like Villarreal and Athletic Club Bilbao are fighting for top-four positions as the title race intensifies with several crucial fixtures ahead.

Jets announce they're moving on from Aaron Rodgers

The New York Jets have confirmed they are parting ways with quarterback Aaron Rodgers. After meeting with Rodgers last week, the team's new head coach Aaron Glenn and general manager Darren Mougey issued a joint statement explaining their decision to move in a different direction at quarterback for the 2025 season. They expressed gratitude for Rodgers' leadership, passion, and dedication during his time with the team, despite his limited play due to injury. Team owner Woody Johnson also offered praise, acknowledging Rodgers' significant impact on the organization and wishing

him the best in his future endeavors.

Rodgers, who joined the Jets in 2023, played only four offensive snaps that season due to a torn Achilles injury suffered in Week 1. He returned in 2024, playing all 17 games and completing 63% of his passes for 3,897 yards, 28 touchdowns, and 11 interceptions, but the Jets finished with a disappointing 5-12 record. The team is likely to release Rodgers with a post-June 1 designation to help with their cap hit, and betting odds have Pittsburgh as the front-runner to land him, with other teams like Las Vegas, San Francisco, and Minnesota also in the mix.



Erin Jackson aims for third Olympics amid health struggles

Erin Jackson, the 2022 Winter Olympic gold medalist, is aiming to compete in her third Olympic Games despite ongoing health challenges. Jackson, who only started speed skating in 2016 after a successful career in inline skating, has become a powerhouse in the 500m event, where she made history as the first Black American woman to win gold. However, her journey has not been without struggles, as Jackson has faced persistent back issues, including herniated discs and a significant surgery in 2023 to remove fibroids.

Despite these health setbacks, including gastrointestinal issues and fatigue, Jackson has remained a top contender in the 500m, having won three World Cup medals this season. She has expressed confidence in her ability to compete at the highest level for the 2026 Olympics and aims to continue making a positive impact in the sport. Jackson,



who also holds a degree in engineering and is studying business and kinesiology, hopes to give back to the community by supporting initiatives that help minority women get involved in winter sports, reflecting on her own journey and the influence she has had as a role model.

Max Verstappen reveals helmet redesign for 2025 Formula 1 season



Max Verstappen has unveiled a new helmet design for the 2025 Formula 1 season, drawing inspiration from his early racing days. The four-time World Champion chose a simpler, more traditional look that mirrors the helmet of his father, Jos Verstappen, who also raced in Formula 1. The design is a tribute to Verstappen's karting days, with subtle personal touches like his signature lion emblem incorporated into the helmet.

The redesign marks a shift from Verstappen's more intricate and colorful helmet designs in recent years. Reflecting on the helmet's significance, Verstappen emphasized the importance of his father's design in his early career. As Verstappen enters another title defense season, the new helmet design symbolizes his roots and confidence in his racing journey, as he continues to establish himself as one of the sport's greatest drivers.

Jakob Ingebrigtsen breaks Yared Nuguse's indoor mile world record

Jakob Ingebrigtsen of Norway has broken the indoor mile world record, taking the title from Yared Nuguse, whose record had lasted just five days. Ingebrigtsen set the new mark of 3:45.14 at a meet in Lievin, France, surpassing Nuguse's 3:46.63 achieved at the Millrose Games. The race was part of an incredible night for Ingebrigtsen, who also broke his own indoor 1500m world record, reducing the previous record from 3:30.60 to 3:29.63. This achievement further cements Ingebrigtsen's place among the all-time greats in middle-distance running.

The previous mile world record had stood for nearly 30 years, held by Moroccan legend Hicham El Guerrouj. Ingebrigtsen now ranks among the fastest in history in both the indoor and outdoor mile and 1500m events. He also holds records in the outdoor 2000m, 3000m, and two-mile events. As he continues to dominate, Ingebrigtsen, who won Olympic gold in the 1500m in 2021 and 5000m in 2024, is on track to challenge even more historic records in the coming seasons.

MCA revives T20 Mumbai League and launches cricketer graduation program

The Mumbai Cricket Association (MCA) has announced the return of the T20 Mumbai League, which will resume on May 27 after a six-year hiatus. The MCA also introduced a graduation program in collaboration with Mumbai University, designed to support cricketers with both practical training and formal education. Additionally, the MCA will send top young talent on a tour to the UK for exposure to international competition. A new cricket academy will also be established in Thane to provide elite coaching for grassroots development.



Rizwan backs Babar Azam amid form struggles as Pakistan eye Tri-Series final

Pakistan's Mohammad Rizwan has expressed confidence in Babar Azam despite his recent form struggles. While Babar's numbers have dipped, Rizwan believes he is still contributing effectively to the team. Babar's promotion to opener in ODIs has also been a recent experiment, as the team seeks a solution after Saim Ayub's injury. Rizwan is hopeful Babar will return to form soon and is open to stepping up as an opener himself if needed.

Selena Gomez releases 'Scared of Loving You' with fiancé Benny Blanco



Selena Gomez has released a new song titled "Scared of Loving You," a heartfelt track featuring her fiancé Benny Blanco. The ballad, produced by Blanco, delves into themes of romantic vulnerability and the fear of losing someone important. In her Instagram post, Gomez shared a video of memorable moments with Blanco, captioning it with the lyrics: "How would they love you, as much as I love you..."

Gomez, who got engaged to Blanco in December, referenced her past relationships with Justin Bieber, Nick Jonas, and The Weeknd, hinting at how her experiences shaped her current feelings. Before the track's release, the couple teased their upcoming collaborative album, *I Said I Love You First*, set to drop on March 21, capturing their love story and the journey they envision together. Gomez recently opened up about how secure she feels in her relationship with Blanco and expressed that it's the safest she's ever felt, while maintaining the privacy of their love.

Karan Johar's note for singles on Valentine's Day



On Valentine's Day, Bollywood director Karan Johar posted a witty message on Instagram for single people. Sharing his humorous take on the day, Karan wrote: "Dear Single Person, Today is the day you feel victorious... you have zero baggage, no drama and multiple options. What's not to celebrate?? Happy Valentine's Day." The filmmaker, who often showcases his sharp humor, encouraged singles to embrace their independence.

Earlier this week, Karan Johar marked the 15th anniversary of his film *My Name Is Khan*, reflecting on its cultural impact. The film, which starred Shah Rukh Khan as a man with Asperger's Syndrome, resonated with audiences worldwide and is remembered for its message of love and resilience. Karan celebrated the film's legacy, emphasizing how its themes of acceptance and unity remain relevant even after 15 years.

JioCinema and Disney+ Hotstar announce JioHotstar platform

JioStar has officially announced the launch of JioHotstar, a new streaming platform formed from the merger of JioCinema and Disney+ Hotstar. The platform promises a vast library of over 3 lakh hours of content, including live sports, with a reach of more than 50 crore users across India.

JioHotstar aims to make premium entertainment accessible to all by offering content in over 19 languages and providing personalized recommendations powered by AI. The platform will feature



top Hollywood studios like Disney, NBCUniversal, Warner Bros. Discovery, and Paramount, along with exclusive digital content from India's biggest creators.

The platform also offers various subscription plans, starting at Rs. 149 per quarter, and ensures smooth transitions for existing JioCinema and Disney+ Hotstar subscribers. Sports fans can enjoy live events such as the ICC tournaments, IPL, Premier League, and more, alongside domestic leagues like Pro Kabaddi and ISL. JioHotstar aims to revolutionize the digital-first entertainment experience in India.

Drew Barrymore to celebrate her 50th birthday with sleepovers

Drew Barrymore is celebrating her 50th birthday on February 22 with a twist—by hosting sleepovers instead of a traditional party. Inspired by the intimate sleepovers she enjoys with her daughters, Olive and Frankie, Drew sees this celebration as a reflection of the warmth and fun that has defined her life.

Rather than a glamorous bash, she's opting for a cozy, laid-back event filled with close friends and loved ones. "Sleepovers have become a part of my journey," she shared, emphasizing how the simple gatherings bring joy and connection.

Barrymore feels healthier and happier than ever as she embraces her milestone, both personally and professionally. As a talk show host and actress, she continues to inspire with her authenticity and approach to life, proving that age is just a number when it comes to growth and positivity.



'The Lord of the Rings: The Rings of Power' season 3 confirmed

The makers of *The Lord of the Rings: The Rings of Power* confirmed that season 3 is in pre-production and will begin filming this spring.

The new season will feature returning directors Charlotte Brändström and Sanaa Hamri, along with the addition of Stefan Schwartz, marking his debut with the series.

Amazon Studios' Vernon Sanders expressed excitement for the new season, promising audiences more epic tales from Middle-earth. The series, created by J.D. Payne and Patrick McKay, continues to captivate global viewers with its rich storytelling.

Season 3 will deepen the legendary tales that have shaped the world of *The Lord of the Rings*.

Ranveer Allahbadia and Samay Raina served second summons in 'India's Got Latent' controversy



In the ongoing controversy surrounding *India's Got Latent*, Mumbai police have issued a second summons to podcaster Ranveer Allahbadia, requesting his appearance for questioning on Friday. This follows his failure to meet a previous deadline. Authorities are investigating Allahbadia's controversial remarks on the show, which sparked widespread backlash on social media.

Meanwhile, comedian Samay Raina, who was also part of the show, has been summoned by the Maharashtra Cyber Police. Raina's lawyer has requested additional time due to his ongoing US tour. Despite his public apology and removal of the episodes, the legal situation is escalating. The police are conducting investigations in both Mumbai and Guwahati, and Assam Police have also traveled to Mumbai to assist with the case.

Blake Lively seeks phone records in smear campaign case against Justin Baldoni

Blake Lively is taking legal action against *It Ends With Us* director Justin Baldoni, accusing him of orchestrating a smear campaign after she raised concerns about sexual harassment on set.

In the latest development, Lively's legal team has subpoenaed phone records from Baldoni and his associates, believing they'll provide key evidence of a coordinated effort to damage her reputation.

Lively claims that after making her

complaints known, Baldoni and his team spread false information about her, intending to retaliate.

The actress, an advocate for women's rights and the #MeToo movement, is seeking justice for the alleged misconduct.

Baldoni's legal team has denied the accusations, calling them unfounded. As the case progresses, it raises important questions about accountability in the entertainment industry and how harassment claims are handled.



Taapsee Pannu impresses with her stunts in Gandhari



In her upcoming action film Gandhari, actress Taapsee Pannu is performing her own stunts, leaving everyone on set in awe. Writer-producer Kanika Dhillon shared a thrilling moment when Taapsee flawlessly executed a wall climb without a body double or rehearsals. The action sequence earned a round of applause from the crew for her incredible agility and precision.

Kanika praised Taapsee for bringing a unique physicality to the role and teased that her character in Gandhari will surprise audiences. Directed by Devashish Makhija, the film also stars Ishwak Singh and is expected to offer a gripping mix of action, mystery, and emotional depth. Gandhari will stream on Netflix, and fans are eagerly awaiting the intense performance from Taapsee Pannu.

Anupam Kher to star alongside Prabhas in his 544th film



Veteran Bollywood actor Anupam Kher has announced that his 544th film will feature him alongside Prabhas, known for his iconic role in Baahubali. Kher shared the exciting news on Instagram, posting a picture with Prabhas. The film, which remains untitled, promises to be a significant milestone in Kher's illustrious career, with fans eagerly anticipating the collaboration between the two stars.

Jonas Brothers thank fans on 20th anniversary, share 2025 plans

The Jonas Brothers, consisting of siblings Kevin, Joe, and Nick Jonas, expressed their heartfelt gratitude to fans as they celebrated their 20th anniversary as a band. In a post on their official Instagram, the brothers reflected on their journey, which began when they were teenagers loading up their family minivan with guitars for local performances.



Looking back on their two decades of success, they fondly remembered their humble beginnings, playing in small venues and dreaming of connecting with audiences. "We were just teenagers, and Nick wasn't even old enough to watch a PG-13 movie," they wrote, emphasizing how far they've come. "We've made incredible memories together, and you've given us a lifetime of unforgettable moments."

The trio acknowledged the challenges they've faced as a group, but also celebrated the growth and the milestones they've achieved with the support of their fans. "We wake up every day filled with gratitude that you've been with us through thick and thin."

Looking ahead to 2025, the brothers

revealed exciting plans, including new music, solo projects, a live concert album, a soundtrack, and Nick's return to Broadway in The Last Five Years. Additionally, they shared that their upcoming holiday movie would be released in the fall. They concluded their message by saying, "The best is yet to come," promising even more surprises as they continue their journey with their devoted fans.

A.R. Rahman describes Chhaava as 'the roar of emotion'



Award-winning composer A.R. Rahman recently expressed his admiration for the upcoming film Chhaava, describing it as "more than just a story." Rahman, who worked on the film's score, background music, and songs, shared how the emotional depth of the film resonated with him. He praised the cast, including Vicky Kaushal and Rashmika Mandanna, and expressed excitement for audiences to experience the music. Vicky Kaushal, who plays the lead role of Chhatrapati Sambhaji Maharaj, also spoke about the honor of working with Rahman. The film, directed by Laxman Utekar, is set to release on February 14, 2025, and tells the story of love, sacrifice, and duty against a historical backdrop.

Ayushmann Khurrana to perform at Women's Premier League 2025 opening

Bollywood actor Ayushmann Khurrana will be the sole celebrity performer at the opening ceremony of the Women's Premier League (WPL) 2025. The tournament, a major milestone for women's cricket, will kick off on February 14 with a match between the defending champions, Royal Challengers Bengaluru, and Gujarat Giants. Khurrana's performance at the Kotambi Stadium in Vadodara is expected to set an electrifying tone for the event and engage fans from around the world.



A source close to the development shared that Ayushmann's performance will be an unforgettable spectacle, filled with energy and excitement, which will complement the opening match. His special song-and-dance act will be a highlight of the evening,

helping to further elevate the popularity of the WPL, a tournament that has gained a massive following since its inception.

The WPL 2025 will be held from February 14 to March 15, featuring five teams across four cities—Vadodara,

Bengaluru, Lucknow, and Mumbai. Fans are eagerly anticipating the competition, with the grand finale scheduled to take place at Mumbai's Brabourne Stadium.

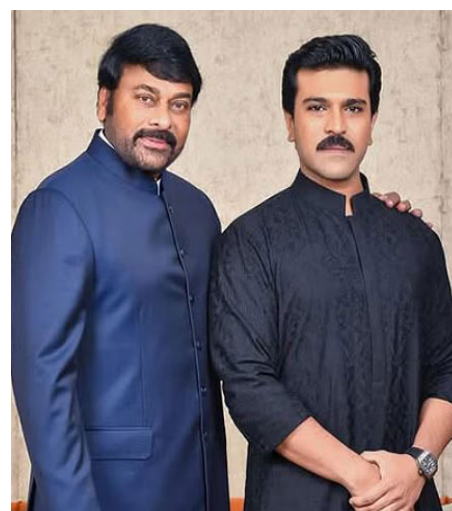
In addition to his performance at the WPL, Ayushmann recently joined UNICEF India for Safer Internet Day, where he participated in educating children on online safety. He interacted with children and played games designed to raise awareness about digital security, making the campaign both engaging and informative.

On the professional front, Ayushmann is set to star in the horror-comedy Thama, where he will play a vampire. The film, which also features Rashmika Mandanna, Paresh Rawal, and Nawazuddin Siddiqui, is slated for release on Diwali 2025.

Chiranjeevi faces backlash over comments on carrying forward legacy

Telugu megastar K. Chiranjeevi has sparked controversy after making comments about wanting a grandson to carry forward his family's legacy. Speaking at a pre-release event for the film Brahma Anandam, he expressed his hope that his son Ram Charan would have a male heir to continue the family name.

daughters, should not be dismissed based on their gender.



The actor's remarks, particularly his comment about feeling like a "warden of a ladies' hostel" when surrounded by his granddaughters, quickly garnered backlash on social media. Critics accused Chiranjeevi of perpetuating outdated and sexist views, claiming that daughters are just as capable of contributing to a family's legacy as sons. Many pointed out that his granddaughters, who are from his

In addition, political figures like YSR Congress Party spokesperson Syamala voiced their disapproval, questioning the outdated notion that only a son can carry on a family's legacy. She highlighted that women have made significant strides in every field and urged society to change its mindset. "Women, like Chiranjeevi's daughter-in-law Upasana, have achieved so much and made important contributions to society," she remarked.

Despite the criticism, Chiranjeevi's fans continue to support him, with some arguing that his comments were made in a lighthearted tone and shouldn't be taken too seriously. However, the controversy has sparked an important conversation about gender equality and legacy in modern times.



धर्म-करम: हरिद्वार के पावन धामों की यात्रा

हरिद्वार: जहां गंगा का पावन प्रवाह मानव जीवन को मोक्ष की ओर ले जाने का माध्यम बनता है। यह केवल एक तीर्थस्थल नहीं, बल्कि सनातन संस्कृति, आध्यात्मिक साधना और दिव्यता का केंद्र है। भारत की धार्मिक धरोहर में हरिद्वार का स्थान सबसे प्रमुख तीर्थस्थलों में है।

इंडो यूएस ट्रिब्यून अब धर्म-करम के माध्यम से हरिद्वार के धार्मिक स्थलों की एक विशेष श्रृंखला प्रस्तुत कर रहा है, जहां हम प्रत्येक सप्ताह एक या दो महत्वपूर्ण तीर्थस्थलों का दर्शन कराएंगे और उनके ऐतिहासिक, आध्यात्मिक और सांस्कृतिक महत्व को उजागर करेंगे।

हरिद्वार: धर्म और अध्यात्म की नगरी

हरिद्वार का नाम सुनते ही मन में गंगा की कल-कल ध्वनि, मंदिरों की घंटियों की गूंज, संत-महात्माओं का आशीर्वाद और आस्था की ज्योत जल उठती है। इसे गंगाद्वार भी कहा जाता है, क्योंकि यही वह स्थान है

जहां गंगा पहली बार पहाड़ों को छोड़कर मैदानी क्षेत्र में प्रवेश करती है। मान्यता है कि हरिद्वार का दर्शन और गंगा स्नान सभी पापों से मुक्ति दिलाता है और मोक्ष प्रदान करता है।

यहां स्थित धार्मिक स्थल न केवल भक्तों के लिए आस्था का केंद्र हैं, बल्कि भारतीय इतिहास और संस्कृति के अद्भुत प्रतीक भी हैं। आइए इस पवित्र भूमि के कुछ प्रमुख स्थलों का संक्षिप्त परिचय प्राप्त करें:

1. माँ मनसा देवी मंदिर: श्रद्धालुओं की मनोकामनाएं पूर्ण करने वाली देवी का मंदिर, जो नील पर्वत पर स्थित है।
2. श्री माँ चंडी देवी मंदिर: सिद्धपीठों में से एक, यह मंदिर भक्तों को शक्ति और आशीर्वाद प्रदान करता है।
3. हर की पौड़ी: गंगा आरती और स्नान के लिए सबसे प्रसिद्ध स्थान, जहां गंगा में डुबकी लगाना जीवन को पवित्र करता है।

4. माया देवी मंदिर: हरिद्वार की अधिष्ठात्री देवी का मंदिर, जहां माँ के दिव्य रूप की आराधना होती है।
5. गंगा आरती स्थल: जहां प्रत्येक संध्या को हजारों दीपों के प्रकाश में मां गंगा की भव्य आरती की जाती है।
6. पवन धाम: अनोखी कांच की नक्काशी और भव्य मंदिर संरचना के लिए प्रसिद्ध स्थल।
7. भारत माता मंदिर: जहां भारत को एक देवी के रूप में पूजित किया जाता है और देश की संस्कृति को श्रद्धांजलि दी जाती है।
8. दक्ष महादेव मंदिर: यह मंदिर भगवान शिव के ससुर राजा दक्ष के तपस्थली के रूप में प्रसिद्ध है।
9. पतंजलि योगपीठ: योग और प्राकृतिक चिकित्सा के लिए एक महत्वपूर्ण केंद्र।
10. सप्तऋषि आश्रम: जहां गंगा सात धाराओं में विभाजित होती है, यह ऋषियों की तपस्या स्थली है।
11. विष्णु घाट: एक पवित्र स्नान स्थल, जहां भगवान विष्णु ने गंगा में स्नान किया था।

12. बिड़ला घाट: ऐतिहासिक महत्व रखने वाला एक अन्य प्रमुख गंगा स्नान घाट।
13. श्री दूधाधारी बफानी अस्पताल और अनुसंधान संस्थान: जहां होम्योपैथी और एलोपैथी दोनों के माध्यम से रोगियों का उपचार किया जाता है।
14. गऊ घाट: जहां गंगा में पितरों का तर्पण और गौ माता को अर्पण करने की परंपरा है।
15. श्री बिल्वकेश्वर महादेव मंदिर निरंजनी अखाड़ा: सिद्ध शिवालय, जो हरिद्वार के सबसे पवित्र स्थानों में से एक है।
16. क्रिस्टल वर्ल्ड: हरिद्वार आने वाले पर्यटकों और बच्चों के लिए मनोरंजन स्थल।
17. पीरान कलियर शरीफ: सूफी संत अलाउद्दीन अली अहमद साबिर कलियरी की दरगाह, जो धार्मिक सौहार्द का प्रतीक है।
18. कमराज-की-काली मंदिर: माँ काली का पवित्र स्थान, जो भक्तों को शक्ति और सुरक्षा प्रदान करता है।
19. ऋषिकेश: योग नगरी, जहाँ अध्यात्म, ध्यान और साधना का अनोखा संगम देखने को मिलता है।
20. श्री चिंतामणि पार्श्वनाथ जैन मंदिर: जैन धर्म के अनुयायियों के लिए एक प्रमुख तीर्थस्थल।
21. वैष्णो देवी मंदिर: जम्मू स्थित वैष्णो देवी के समान प्रतिकृति मंदिर, जो भक्तों को माँ के दर्शन कराता है।
22. माँ आनंदमयी आश्रम: महान संत माँ आनंदमयी का पवित्र स्थान, जहाँ आध्यात्मिक शांति प्राप्त होती है।
23. बड़ा बाजार: हरिद्वार की धार्मिक और सांस्कृतिक पहचान से जुड़ा प्रमुख बाजार, जहां श्रद्धालु प्रसाद, धार्मिक पुस्तकें और स्मृति चिन्ह खरीद सकते हैं।

आइए, इस आध्यात्मिक यात्रा में हमारे साथ जुड़ें हरिद्वार की यह धार्मिक यात्रा आपको न केवल आध्यात्मिकता से जोड़ेगी, बल्कि सनातन संस्कृति की अद्भुत झलक भी प्रदान करेगी। प्रत्येक सप्ताह इंडो यूएस ट्रिब्यून के धर्म-करम खंड में हरिद्वार के इन पवित्र स्थलों की विस्तृत जानकारी पढ़ें और इस पावन नगरी के आध्यात्मिक अनुभव से जुड़ें।

हरिद्वार की यात्रा, धर्म की साधना!



Ram Raksha Stotra – A powerful shield of protection

In the Ram Raksha Stotra, Sage Budh Kaushik offers his devotion to Lord Ram in a unique manner. With complete surrender, he prays to Lord Ram for protection in every possible way.



Rajendra Kapil
Phone: 847-962-1291

This heartfelt prayer consists of approximately 38 verses, seeking divine safeguarding from Ram in various aspects. These verses are compiled in a small booklet known as Ram Raksha Stotra. The sage begins by meditating on the divine and beautiful image of Lord Ram and offering his salutations.

The Divine Form of Lord Ram

Dhyayedajaanubāhum
dhrītarasharadhanusham
baddhapadmāsānastham,
Pītam vāsovanam
navakamaladalaspardhinetram
prasannam

Vāmānkārūdhasitā
mukhakamalamilallochanam
nīradābham,
Nānālankāradeeptam
dadhatamurujatāmandalam
Rāmachandram

With a bow and arrow in hand, Lord Ram sits gracefully in a lotus posture, clad in yellow garments. His gentle smile, serene face, and eyes as radiant as freshly bloomed lotus petals enhance his divine beauty. Adorned with various ornaments, his yellow attire shines brilliantly, and his matted locks add to his majestic appearance. Seated beside him is Goddess Sita. Meditating upon this divine vision, Sage Kaushik begins the Ram Raksha Stotra.

Prayers for Protection of the Body

Following the invocation, Sage Kaushik prays to Lord Ram for the protection of different parts of the body by addressing him with various divine epithets:

Rāmarakām pahet prājñā pāpaghni
sarvakāmadām
Śīro me Rāghava pātu bhāla



Daśarathātmaja 4

Kaushalyeyo dśau pātu Viśvāmitrapriya
śrutī

Ghrāa pātu makhatrātā mukha
Saumitri vatsala 5

Jihvā vidyānidhi pātu kaha
Bharatavandita
Skandhau divyāyudha pātu bhujau
bhagneśakārmuka 6

Karau Sītāpati pātu hdaya
Jāmadagnyajit
Madhya pātu Kharadhvasī nābhi
Jāmbavadāśraya 7

The verses request Lord Ram to protect every part of the body. Lord Raghava guards the head, the son of King Dasharath shields the forehead, Kaushalya's beloved Ram watches over the eyes, and Vishvamitra's cherished disciple safeguards the ears. Every limb is entrusted to Ram's divine grace, ensuring complete protection.

The Blessings of Chanting the Stotra
Etām Rāmabalopetām rakām ya suktī
pahet
Sa cirāyu sukhī putrī vijayī vinayī
bhavet 10

Those who recite the Ram Raksha Stotra daily will always remain blessed with happiness, victory, humility, and a long life by Lord Ram's grace.

The Divine Revelation of the Stotra
Ādiavān yathā svapne Rāmarakāmimā
Hara
Tathā likhitavān prāta prabuddho
Budhakaushika 15

Sage Kaushik reveals that Lord Shiva appeared in his dream and commanded him to compose this stotra. Inspired by this divine vision, he wrote it down at dawn and dedicated it to Lord Ram.

Lord Ram as an Ascetic
Phalamūlāśīnau dāntau tāpasau

brahmacāriau

Putrau Daśarathasyaitau bhrātarau
RāmaLakmaau18

These verses depict the ascetic lifestyle of Lord Ram and Lakshman, who lived on fruits and roots, practiced restraint, and followed the path of righteousness. The sage prays that these noble sons of Dasharath forever protect devotees.

The Power of Devotion

Ityetāni japennitya madbhakta
śraddhayānvita
Aśvamedhādhika puya saprāpnoti na
saśaya24

Sage Kaushik assures devotees that sincere recitation of this stotra yields immense spiritual merit, comparable to performing the Ashwamedha Yagna, leaving no doubt about its potency.

Glorification of Lord Ram

Rājendra satyasandha Daśarathanaya
śyāmala śāntamūrtim
Vande lokābhirāma Raghukulatilaka
Rāghava Rāvaāri 26

This verse extols Lord Ram as the ultimate king, a beacon of truth, and the destroyer of evil. His dusky complexion radiates peace, and his presence captivates the world.

Complete Surrender to Lord Ram

Śrīrāmacandracaraau manasā smarāmi
Śrīrāmacandracaraau vacasā gāmi
Śrīrāmacandracaraau śirasā namāmi
Śrīrāmacandracaraau śaraa prapadye 29

The devotee wholeheartedly surrenders to Lord Ram's feet—remembering them in the mind, singing their glory, bowing in reverence, and seeking eternal refuge.

Lord Ram: The Supreme Guardian
Mātā Rāmo matpitā Rāmachandra
Swāmī Rāmo matsakhā Rāmachandra
Sarvasva me Rāmachandro dayālu

Nānya jāne naiva jāne na jāne 30

For the devotee, Lord Ram is everything—mother, father, master, and friend. No one else exists in their world apart from the compassionate Ram.

The Remover of Obstacles

Āpadāmapahartāra dātāra
sarvasampadām

Lokābhirāma Śrīrāma bhūyo bhūyo
namāmyaham 35

Lord Ram is the remover of all troubles and the bestower of prosperity. He always stands by his devotees in times of distress, filling their lives with abundance and joy.

Invocation of Hanuman

Manojava Mārutatulyavega jitendriya
buddhimatā varīham

Vātātmaja Vānarayūthamukhya
Śrīrāmadūta śaraa prapadye33

Sage Kaushik also acknowledges Hanuman, the most devoted servant of Ram. Hanuman is swift as the wind, self-disciplined, and the wisest among the intelligent. As the chief of the Vanara army and Ram's divine messenger, he too is invoked for blessings.

The Supremacy of Ram's Name

Rāmo rājamani sadā vijayate Rāma
Rameśa bhaje
Rāmeābhīhatā nīśācaracamū Rāmāya
tasmai nama

Rāmān nāsti parāyaa paratara Rāmasya
dāsośmyaham

Rāme cittalaya sadā bhavatu me bho
Rāma māmuddhara 37

Rāma Rāmeti Rāmeti rame Rāme
manorame

Sahasranāma tattulya Rāmanāma
varānane 38

The final verses proclaim Lord Ram as the supreme ruler, whose very name is equivalent to chanting a thousand divine names (Vishnu Sahasranama). Sage Kaushik entrusts this sacred hymn to devotees, ensuring that Ram's name remains an eternal legacy.

With deep gratitude, devotees acknowledge Sage Kaushik's contribution and bow in reverence to this powerful Ram Raksha Stotra, which continues to protect and bless all who recite it with devotion.

**Shat Shat Pranam to Sage
Budh Kaushik!**



Shreesanatan Sewa Foundation hosts 3rd annual summit in Delhi, reinforcing Hindu unity and advocacy

By: Dr. Avi Verma

The ShreeSanatan Sewa Foundation proudly held its third annual summit in Delhi, uniting influential Hindu leaders, business figures, legal experts, and community advocates to further its impactful initiatives. The event began with traditional Hindu rituals, including the lighting of diyas, Vedic chanting, and the ceremonial honoring of dignitaries, setting a sacred tone for the proceedings.

The summit attracted an esteemed lineup of distinguished attendees, including Suresh Chavhanke, the owner of Sudarshan TV; Swami Yati Narsinghananda, the priest of Dasna Mandir; Pushendra Kulshrestha, a well-known journalist and public speaker; Suraj Pal, the President of Karni Sena; Dr. Omendra Ratnu, the founder of the Dharmansh Foundation; and Ravi Ranjan Singh, the founder of Jhatka Authority. Also present were Awdhesh Sharma, a Supreme Court advocate and founder of Nyay Sewa Dal; Azad Vinod, the founder of Hindu Force; Khemchand Sharma, BJP spokesperson; and BrajGupt Arya, an advocate and global coordinator of the Sanatan Ecosystem. The gathering was further honored by the presence of Rahul Sur, a retired IPS officer and former UN official; Kanu Preeya, a producer; Pavaneshwer Dutt; and Pramod Pandey, a retired army officer.

The summit was also graced by numerous influential leaders and media personalities.

While some prominent figures, including Supreme Court advocates Ashwini Upadhyay and Vishnu Jain, Major GD Bakshi, Jaipur Dialogues Founder Sanjay Dixit, Global Sanatan Aid Founder Dr. Vivek Koul, filmmaker Vivek Agnihotri, activist Sushil Pandit, CyberSipahi Founder Shubham Mangla, and Hindu Force President Dipak Singh, could not attend in person, they sent their



blessings and support to the event.

Unveiling the Sanatan Ecosystem Project

A major highlight of the summit was the unveiling of the Sanatan

Ecosystem Project by Hemant Patel. This ambitious initiative seeks to provide tangible solutions for the Hindu community, including:

- ▶ Protecting women from online fraud and fake profiles

- ▶ Supporting Hindu-owned businesses and promoting economic self-reliance
- ▶ Launching a matrimonial platform (Vivaah) to preserve traditional family values
- ▶ Encouraging ethical food consumption and fostering community-driven commerce

The Sanatan Ecosystem Project is designed to protect community resources, address external challenges, and build a stronger, more independent Hindu society.

A Unified Call for Action

The summit concluded with a collective call to action, urging all Hindus to register and actively participate in the Sanatan Ecosystem Project. Leaders emphasized the critical need for unity in preserving Hindu identity, strengthening cultural heritage, and enhancing the community's overall well-being. Constructive feedback was shared to further refine the initiative.

A special acknowledgement was made to Asish Verma, owner of Sanatan-certified Hotel Downtown, for his generous sponsorship and exceptional hospitality in hosting the summit.

As the ShreeSanatan Sewa Foundation continues to expand its mission, the Delhi summit marked a significant milestone in bringing Hindus together under a shared vision of cultural preservation, economic empowerment, and community solidarity.





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CMAA's Lunar New Year celebration unites Chicago's Asian community

By: Dr. Avi Verma

Chicago, February 8, 2025 – The Chinese Mutual Aid Association (CMAA) hosted an exuberant Lunar New Year celebration at St. Augustine College in Chicago, commemorating the Year of the Snake with cultural performances, distinguished guests, and an uplifting atmosphere of unity. The event, which drew over 500 attendees, included community leaders, consulate representatives, and local residents, underscoring CMAA's commitment to preserving Asian traditions while fostering inclusivity.

Cultural Highlights and Speeches

The evening kicked off with a captivating lion dance performance by CMAA's youth team, symbolizing prosperity and good fortune for the new year.

CMAA Founder Yman Vien gave an inspiring speech, reflecting on her personal journey to the U.S. in 1978 and welcoming guests as part of the CMAA family. She shared the cultural significance of the Snake in Chinese tradition, symbolizing wisdom, agility, and creativity. Vien also expressed gratitude to the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office for their donation of two lion statues in 2018, which has greatly supported the training of young performers.

Rhea Yap, Co-Interim Executive Director & Director of Strategic Initiatives, also spoke, touching on the personal meaning of the Year of the Snake for her family. She highlighted her mother's commitment to nursing and emphasized the importance of cultural heritage in shaping future generations.

Distinguished Guests in Attendance

The event was honored by an impressive group of dignitaries, including U.S. Senator Dick Durbin, U.S. Congressman Raja Krishnamoorthi (of Indian descent), Illinois Lieutenant Governor Juliana



Stratton, Illinois Supreme Court Justice Joy Cunningham, Illinois State Comptroller Susana A. Mendoza, Illinois State Treasurer Michael W. Frerichs, Illinois State Senator Ram Villivalam (of Indian descent), Illinois State Representative Hoan Huynh, Chicago City Treasurer Melissa Conyears-Ervin, Chicago Clerk Anna Valencia, and Alderwoman Nicole Lee (Ward 11).

Congressman Raja Krishnamoorthi and State Senator Ram Villivalam, both of Indian descent, congratulated the Chinese community on the Lunar New Year and praised the event's success, emphasizing the importance of multicultural celebrations in fostering unity. Dr. Avi Verma, Publisher of IndoUS Tribune, also congratulated CMAA for its steadfast dedication to preserving and

promoting cultural heritage.

A Celebration of Culture and Community

Guests were treated to a variety of traditional folk dances, musical performances, and a raffle, while enjoying authentic Chinese New Year cuisine. The celebration embodied CMAA's mission of preserving cultural heritage and fostering community engagement.

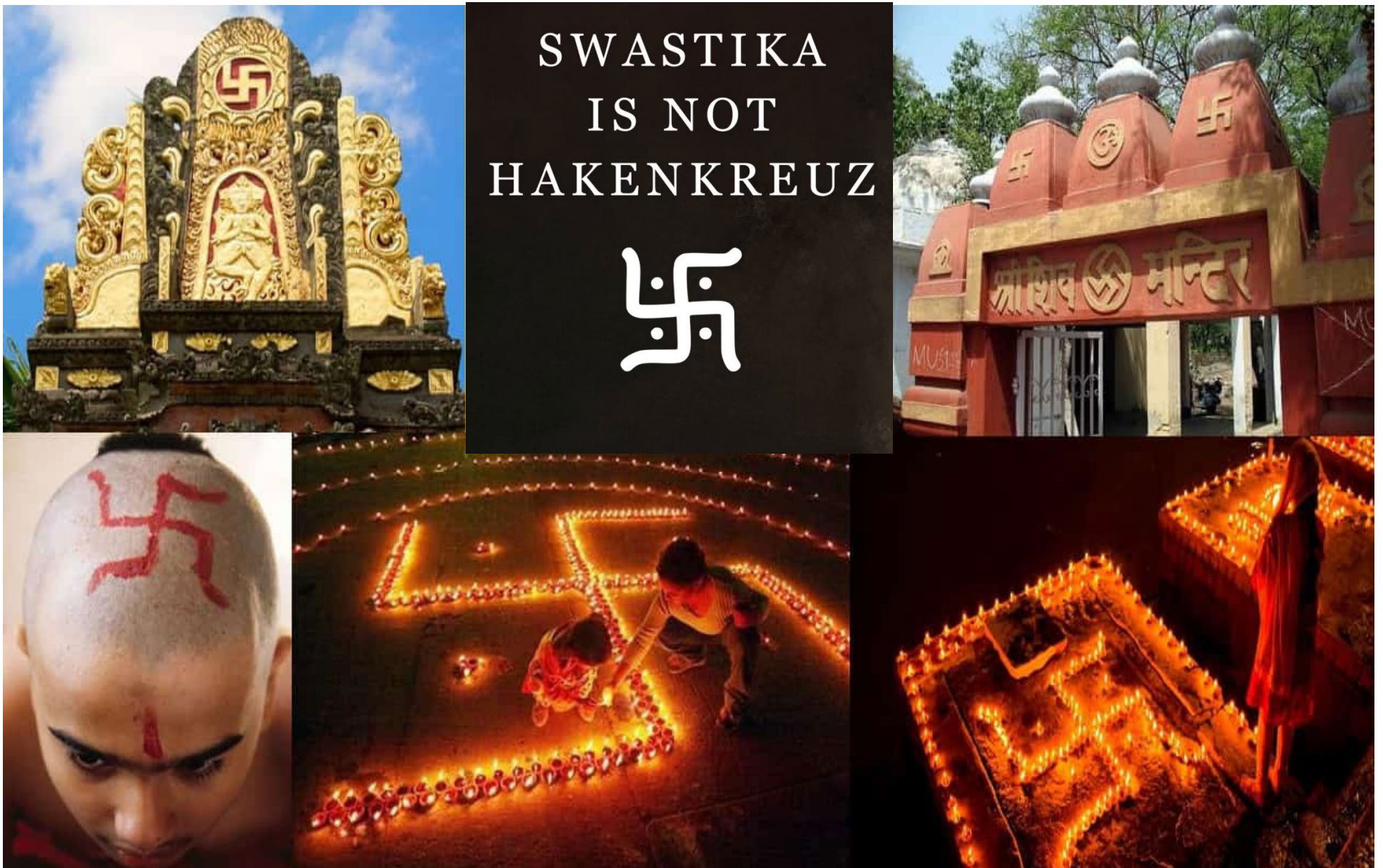
Additionally, CMAA participated in the Uptown Chicago Lunar New Year Parade, showcasing lion dances and cultural performances alongside local organizations, further contributing to the festive spirit.

CMAA's Legacy and Impact

Since its founding in 1981, CMAA has been a cornerstone of support for immigrants and refugees, offering educational programs, job training, and social services to over 5,000 clients annually. The 2025 Lunar New Year celebration not only honored Chinese traditions but also strengthened Chicago's multicultural fabric, fostering community connections through shared cultural exchange and heritage.

IndoUS Tribune congratulates CMAA on yet another successful Lunar New Year event and commends its unwavering commitment to empowering the community!





Hindu groups oppose Virginia bill over Swastika misrepresentation

By: Dr. Avi Verma

A coalition of Hindu organizations, including American Hindus Against Defamation (AHAD), HinduPACT, and the Hindu Mandir Empowerment Council (HMEC), is strongly opposing Virginia House Bill 2783 (HB2783), arguing that it could wrongfully criminalize the religious use of the sacred Hindu Swastika.

HB2783, introduced in the Virginia General Assembly, aims to ban the public display of certain symbols associated with intimidation and hate crimes.

However, Hindu groups argue that the bill fails to distinguish between the Swastika, a symbol of peace and auspiciousness in Hinduism, Buddhism, and Jainism, and the Nazi Hakenkreuz (hooked cross), which was appropriated as a symbol of hate by Adolf Hitler.

Concerns over religious freedom

Hindu, Buddhist, and Jain communities worry that HB2783's broad language could lead to legal action against people displaying the Swastika for religious or cultural purposes. The Swastika has been a sacred symbol for over 5,000 years, appearing in temples, homes, festivals, and religious texts across Asia.

In a letter to Virginia legislators, the Hindu groups outlined key distinctions between the Swastika and the Nazi Hakenkreuz:

- ▶ The Hindu/Buddhist/Jain Swastika is a symmetrical symbol representing peace, well-being, and good fortune. It is commonly found in temples and religious ceremonies.
- ▶ The Nazi Hakenkreuz is a rotated, tilted emblem used to promote anti-Semitic ideology and white supremacy.

Hindu leaders argue that equating the two symbols is historically inaccurate and culturally insensitive.

Legal and social implications

Opponents of the bill warn that HB2783 could lead to unintended consequences, including:

- ▶ **Criminalizing Religious Practices** – Hindus, Buddhists, and Jains may face legal scrutiny for displaying their sacred symbol in temples, homes, and community events.
- ▶ **Increased Hate Crimes** – Misrepresenting the Swastika could fuel anti-Hindu, anti-Buddhist, and anti-Jain sentiment, potentially leading to more discrimination.
- ▶ **Legal Ambiguities** – Devotees displaying the Swastika for religious purposes may be wrongly accused of promoting hate speech.

Ajay Shah, Founder of AHAD and HinduPACT, emphasized the need for clarity in legislation:

“For over two decades, we have worked to correct the misconception of the Swastika in the West. HB2783 does a great disservice by legislating ignorance instead of promoting education. Criminalizing our sacred symbol will marginalize our communities.”

Tejal Shah, President of the World Hindu Council of America (VHPA), representing over 1,000 Hindu temples in the U.S., added:

“This bill, as written, risks criminalizing our way of worship. Hindu, Buddhist, and Jain communities should not have to fight for their right to display a religious symbol that predates the Nazi era by thousands of years.”

Efforts to amend the bill

Hindu groups are urging Virginia lawmakers to revise the bill by:

- ▶ Explicitly distinguishing between the Hindu/Buddhist/Jain Swastika and the Nazi Hakenkreuz.
- ▶ Ensuring religious protections so that the Swastika is not misclassified as a hate symbol.
- ▶ Promoting education about the Swastika's sacred significance rather than enacting criminal penalties.

- ▶ Consulting religious communities before passing legislation that affects their practices.

Similar efforts in other states

The debate over the Swastika's misrepresentation has been a topic of discussion in multiple states:

- ▶ California (2022) passed a law explicitly recognizing the Hindu Swastika as distinct from the Nazi emblem.
- ▶ New York incorporated educational programs to teach students the historical differences between the two symbols.
- ▶ Jewish advocacy groups, including the American Jewish Committee (AJC) and the Anti-Defamation League (ADL), have supported education-based approaches rather than outright bans.

Next steps in Virginia

As HB2783 moves through the Virginia legislature, Hindu leaders are engaging with lawmakers to ensure that religious rights are protected. While HinduPACT, AHAD, and HMEC support efforts to combat hate speech, they believe that banning a sacred religious symbol without distinction is not the solution.

With growing concern among Virginia's Hindu, Buddhist, and Jain communities, the outcome of the bill could have broader implications for religious freedom nationwide.



Indian seniors of Chicago celebrate Valentine's Day and February birthdays



Jayanti Oza (News Media Photographer) gave a 'Jewels of India' books to ISC committee members.

● By: Jayanti Oza

On Saturday, February 8, 2025, the Indian Seniors of Chicago held a lively general meeting at Mahalaxmi Hall, Manav Seva Mandir, with around 360 members in attendance. The meeting, led by Navinbhai Patel, began with devotional recitations of Ganesh Stuti and Shri Hanuman Chalisa, performed by Bhupendra and Geeta Suthar, along with other members.

Hemant Modi then presented the income and expenditure report for January, acknowledging the generous donations that the organization had received. Following this, Bhupendra Suthar invited members celebrating February birthdays to come forward. Manjulaben Patel and Urmilaben Patel presented flowers to the celebrants, and everyone joyfully sang "Baar Baar Ye Din Aaye" to wish them a happy birthday.

Kantibhai Patel, Vice President of the organization, spoke about the importance of regular yoga, exercise, and maintaining a balanced lifestyle for seniors. He stressed the significance of proper nutrition, adequate sleep, hydration, and positive thinking.

Shri C.V. Desai shared insights about the ongoing Mahakumbh at Prayagraj, discussing the historical and spiritual importance of the Kumbh Mela, which is being attended by millions of Hindus from January 13 to February 26, 2025. He also described the various facilities provided for the attendees at the Mahakumbh.



The members whose birthday falls in the month of February Flowers were presented to the members.

The event then shifted to a special Valentine's Day celebration, where members performed love songs inspired by Sanatan Dharma. Performances included beautiful renditions by Hemantbhai Modi, Jayesh and Neelam Shah, Durgesh and Alpa Shah, Gopis and Malini Mehta, Kantibhai and Hasuben Patel, Purnima Baman, Bhupendra and Gita Suthar, Jashwant Sheth, Ashwin Thakkar, Pravin and Sudha Gandhi, and Dilip and Leena Patel. The program was met with enthusiastic applause, and a dance performance by Radhakrishna and Gopis added to the festive spirit.

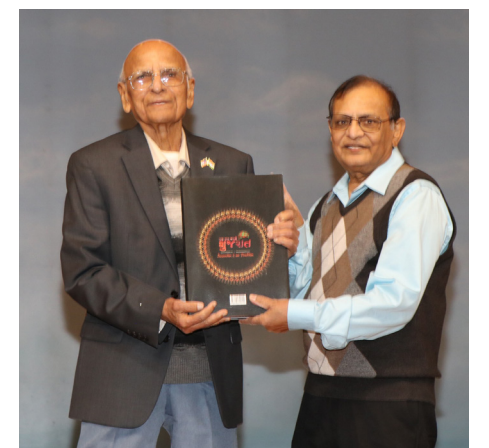
Chittaranjan and Mayura Desai, along with their family, generously sponsored the sweets and farsan for lunch, and Kantibhai Patel honored them for their contribution.

Nitinbhai Patel presented detailed

information about the proposed Mokshdham project in Bensonville and appealed for donations. The Indian Seniors of Chicago made a substantial donation of \$15,001 to support this noble initiative.

In a heartfelt gesture, Jayantibhai Oza, a member of Manish Media, presented copies of the book Jewels of Gujarat by Shri Chandmal Kumawat, which highlights the accomplishments of prominent Gujaratis worldwide. The executive committee members were gifted copies of this valuable work.

Dilip Patel, President of the organization, expressed gratitude to the volunteers, the Desai family, the performers, and press reporter and photographer Jayanti Oza for their support. After enjoying a delightful lunch, the members departed, leaving with fond memories of a memorable day.



Jayanti Oza (News Media Photographer) part of Manish Media presented copies of the book 'Jewels of Gujarat', whose author is Shri Chandmal Kumawat and which has been published by Manish Media India, given to the ISC's Dr. Narsinhbhai Patel.



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

● Dr. K C Gupta, YBB Personal Finance

SENTIMENTS

AAII Bull-Bear Spread -9.5% (below average)
 \$NYA50R, NYSE %Above 50-dMA 50.72% (positive, barely)
 \$SPXA50R, SP500 %Above 50-dMA 50.60% (positive, barely)
 Delta MSI 50.9% (positive, barely)

ICI Fund Allocations (Cumulative)
 OEFs & ETFs: Stocks 60.54%, Hybrids 4.24%, Bonds 17.58%, M-Mkt 17.64%

INTEREST RATES

CME FedWatch
 Cycle peak 5.25-5.50%
 Current 4.25-4.50%
 FOMC 3/19/25+ hold
 FOMC 5/7/25+ cut

Treasury

T-Bills 3-mo yield 4.35%, 1-yr 4.25%; T-Notes 2-yr 4.29%, 5-yr 4.34%, 10-yr 4.49%; T-Bonds 30-yr 4.69%;
 TIPS/Real yields 5-yr 1.75%, 10-yr 2.07%, 30-yr 2.35%
 FRNs Index 4.266%
 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/
 Stable-Value (SV) Rates, 2/1/25
 TIAA Traditional Annuity (Accumulation) Rates
 Restricted RC 5.50%, RA 5.25%

Flexible RCP 4.75%, SRA 4.50%, IRA-101110+ 4.75%

TSP G Fund 4.625 (previous 4.625%).

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

MARKETS

The chaotic news coming out of Washington DC has caused volatility in the US stock market, the dollar & the Indian stock market (the EMs in general). There are lot of things in flux - US budget, tariffs, dollar, immigration, etc. The technical picture of the Indian stock market is weak (below 50-dMA & 200-dMA; a death-cross).

IT/TECH

Indian IT R&D is low. Lot of Indian IT businesses are back-office services & support or derivatives of the foreign IT innovations - e.g. local language versions of AI ChatGPT, etc. Some are asking where is India's AI response to the US ChatGPT, Claude, Llama, Gemini, Perplexity (Cofounder & CEO Aravind Srinivas), or the Chinese DeepSeek?

There is BharatGPT with multi-language capabilities, & Volkaithat is culturally-correct for India, etc, but those are niche products & not competitive with major global generative AI products. Indian IT firms may also tweak DeepSeek, an opensource software with significantly lower computing resource requirements, for Indian needs, but a concern may be about hidden Chinese traps & backdoors.

ECONOMY

The new Indian BUDGET has lower income taxes for the middle class, reductions in high tariffs & pro-growth initiatives, i.e. fiscal easing overall.

The reductions in tariffs should provide good discussion points for PM MODI's meeting with President TRUMP in Washington, DC (expected on 2/13/25). Modi is coming to the US after attending the "AI Action Summit" in Paris.

Under the new Governor MALHOTRA, the RBI (central bank) has cut rate by 25 bps to 6.25% after a long hold since early-2023; 2-3 more cuts are expected. So, there is dual easing (fiscal & monetary) that should provide a boost the economy that had a slower growth recently.

These moves should also counter Government's efforts to reduce the budget deficit & possible adverse impacts of any new US tariffs.

Indian RUPEE continues to weaken. \$1 was Rs 83.29 in late-09/2024, & now it's Rs 87.79 for a large decline of -6.26% in just 4+ months.

The USAID operations in India are in education, health & social welfare, etc, often through the local NGOs (nongovernmental organizations). The FY 2024 budget was \$140 million. Reduction or discontinuation of this aid would have an impact in those areas, but not critically so, & may have to be covered domestically.

German VW imports almost all of the auto parts, pays very low tariffs on them, & assembles VW cars in India. The initial thought may have been that VW will gradually start producing some parts in India, but it never did. VW cites pre-Modi era deals with the Government.

But the Modi Government now looks at it as a tax dodge & has assessed VW high tariffs that apply to finished products.

The foreign investors are watching this VW drama in the Indian courts. VW has only a small market share in India, but there would be a lot of negative news if VW simply withdraws from the Indian auto market. It would have been better to settle this with negotiations & a new deal.

S Korean Kia has a similar tax issue on imported part classifications as VW, but at a much smaller scale. In other news, US Ford is re-evaluating return to India in view of potential new US tariffs.

SPECIAL TOPICS

US DEPORTATION flights to India have started. Large US military transport planes are being used for deportation of Indian nationals who are undocumented (but apparently verified by the Indian Embassy or Consulates) or overstayed their US visas. Almost 18,000+ people have been identified so far.

For more information, see ybbpersonalfinance.proboards.com/





Embracing lightness, color, and versatility this spring season

As winter begins to fade, spring emerges with its promise of renewal and transformation. The change in season not only marks a shift in nature but also in fashion. Spring presents the perfect opportunity to refresh your wardrobe, blending the versatility of layers with the vibrancy of the season. The key to mastering spring fashion lies in light layers, playful colors, and the freedom to mix and match styles that reflect the spirit of renewal.

Light layers: The art of transition

One of the most important aspects of spring fashion is layering. As temperatures fluctuate between the chill of early mornings and the warmth of afternoons, layers allow for flexibility and comfort. Think lightweight jackets, denim shirts, and breezy cardigans—pieces that can be easily added or removed depending on the weather. A classic trench coat, often a staple in spring wardrobes, is both practical and elegant, providing protection against light rain while offering a sleek, polished look. A denim jacket is another versatile piece that pairs well with almost anything, from casual dresses to skirts or trousers.

Additionally, knit sweaters in breathable fabrics like cotton or linen serve as excellent transitional pieces. They can keep you warm on cooler mornings and then be easily shed when the day heats up. A well-selected scarf or shawl can also be added for both warmth and style, offering a pop of color or texture to any outfit.



Soft, refreshing colors: Celebrating the season

Spring is synonymous with vibrant and fresh colors that mirror the beauty of blooming flowers and clear skies. While deep, muted tones are often favored in the colder months, spring ushers in a shift toward pastel hues and bright shades. Soft pinks, lavender, sky blue, and pale yellow create a sense of lightness and tranquility, perfectly embodying the rejuvenating spirit of the season. These colors are not only visually appealing but are also uplifting, making them ideal choices for wardrobes seeking to capture the essence of spring.

In addition to pastels, vibrant shades like coral, turquoise, and soft green can also brighten up your look. Spring is a time to play with color, mixing different shades that reflect the season's cheerful mood. Floral prints—whether in soft pastels or bold, lively colors—are another

timeless spring trend, perfect for dresses, blouses, and accessories. These prints, synonymous with spring, bring an air of femininity and joy, making them a must-have for any wardrobe.

Embracing comfort and versatility: Fabrics and styles

As the weather warms up, fabric choice becomes increasingly important. Lighter fabrics like cotton, linen, and jersey are breathable and comfortable, making them ideal for spring wear. These materials allow your skin to breathe while keeping you cool during sunny days. Dresses, skirts, and blouses in these fabrics are great options for embracing both comfort and style.

Maxi and midi dresses, in particular, are a popular spring trend, offering a perfect blend of elegance and ease. These dresses, whether floral or solid-colored, can be dressed up or down, making them a

versatile option for everything from casual day outings to more formal spring events. Pairing a flowy dress with sneakers creates a relaxed yet chic look, while adding a pair of sandals or ankle boots can elevate the outfit for a more refined style.

When it comes to pants, wide-leg trousers and tailored cropped pants are a great option for spring. These styles are comfortable and flattering, providing a laid-back yet polished look. Additionally, light-colored denim or high-waisted jeans can also be a staple, allowing you to create a balance between practicality and fashion-forward choices.

Accessories: The finishing touch

Spring accessories are the perfect way to tie an outfit together. Hats, like wide-brimmed straw hats or casual bucket hats, offer both style and sun protection. Sunglasses, from classic aviators to oversized frames, add a touch of glamour while keeping your eyes shielded from the sun's rays. Scarves in lightweight fabrics can be draped over your shoulders for an extra layer of warmth or used to add texture and color to a simple outfit.

Footwear in spring is also about versatility. Ankle boots, especially in light neutrals or soft leather, work well for both casual and dressy occasions. Comfortable sneakers continue to be a popular choice, easily paired with dresses, skirts, or trousers for a laid-back vibe. Sandals, whether flat or heeled, are essential as the days get warmer, adding a relaxed yet stylish element to any outfit, complementing your look, enhancing your overall date-ready vibe.

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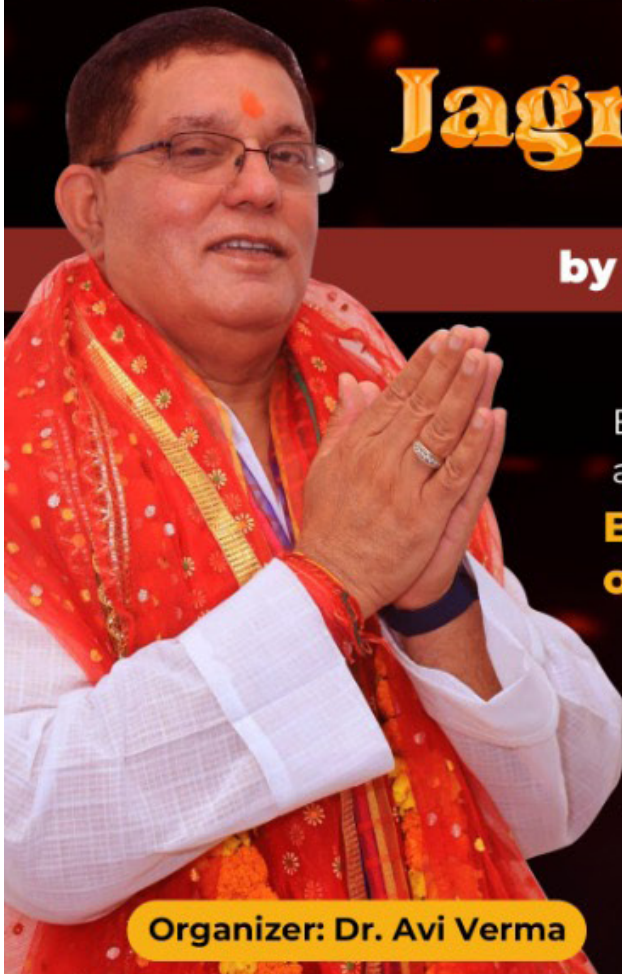
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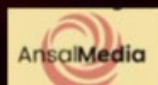
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Organizer: **Dr. Avi Verma**



Lakhbir Singh Lakha

Harvard study links gut bacteria to depression: New insights into mental health and inflammation

By: Dr. Avi Verma

IUHS: Advancing Medical Education

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Harvard Scientists Uncover How Gut Bacteria Fuel Inflammation and Depression

Scientists are uncovering how gut bacteria might influence mental health, and a recent study suggests that *Morganella morganii* could be a key player in major depressive disorder.

Key Findings:

- ▶ Harvard researchers have identified that *M. morganii* may contribute to depression by producing an



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inflammatory molecule.

- ▶ The bacterium incorporates an environmental contaminant into one of its molecules, triggering inflammation—a known factor in disease development.
- ▶ These findings suggest the contaminant could serve as a biomarker and further support the idea that major depressive disorder may have autoimmune connections.

Unraveling the Gut-Brain Connection

Researchers are uncovering more evidence that the gut microbiome plays a crucial role in overall health, including mental well-being.

However, identifying which

bacteria contribute to disease and understanding their exact mechanisms is still in its early stages.

One bacterium of interest is *Morganella morganii*, which has been linked to major depressive disorder in several studies. Until now, it was unclear whether this bacterium contributes to the disorder, whether depression alters the microbiome, or if another factor is involved.

A Breakthrough in Brain Health Research

A team from Harvard Medical School has now identified a biological mechanism that strengthens the case for *M. morganii*'s role in brain health. Their findings, published in the *Journal of the American Chemical Society*, point to an inflammation-triggering molecule that could serve as a potential biomarker for diagnosing or treating some cases of depression.

“There is a story out there linking the gut microbiome with depression, and this study takes it one step further, toward a real understanding of the molecular mechanisms behind the link,” said senior author Jon Clardy, Professor of Biological Chemistry and Molecular Pharmacology at Harvard Medical School.

An Inflammatory Discovery

The study reveals that an environmental contaminant known as diethanolamine (DEA), commonly used in industrial and consumer products, sometimes replaces a sugar alcohol in a molecule that *M. morganii* produces in the gut.

This abnormal molecule then activates an immune response, stimulating the release of inflammatory proteins called cytokines, particularly interleukin-6 (IL-6). Chronic inflammation contributes to the development of many diseases and has been linked with depression.

Reframing Depression as an Immune Disorder

The study supports the growing argument that major depressive disorder—or at least a subset of cases—could be considered an autoinflammatory or autoimmune disease. This could lead to new treatments using immune modulator drugs.

“Now that we know what we’re looking for, I think we can start surveying other bacteria to see whether they do similar chemistry and begin to find other examples of how metabolites can affect us,” Clardy said.

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Breast cancer: What you need to know

By: Dr. Avi Verma

Breast cancer is one of the most common cancers among women worldwide, though it can also affect men. Early detection, advancements in treatment, and awareness have significantly improved survival rates. Here's what you need to know about breast cancer, its causes, recommended treatments, and success rates.

Understanding Breast Cancer

Breast cancer occurs when cells in the breast grow uncontrollably. These abnormal cells form a tumor, which may be benign (non-cancerous) or malignant (cancerous).

If left untreated, malignant tumors can spread to other parts of the body.

Types of Breast Cancer

- ▶ **Ductal Carcinoma In Situ (DCIS):** A non-invasive cancer where abnormal cells are found in the lining of the breast ducts.
- ▶ **Invasive Ductal Carcinoma (IDC):** The most common type, where cancer cells spread beyond the ducts into breast tissue.
- ▶ **Invasive Lobular Carcinoma (ILC):** Begins in the milk-producing lobules and can spread to other parts of the body.
- ▶ **Triple-Negative Breast Cancer (TNBC):** A more aggressive form that lacks estrogen, progesterone, and HER2 receptors, making it harder to treat.
- ▶ **HER2-Positive Breast Cancer:** A type of cancer where HER2 protein promotes cell growth, often requiring targeted therapy.

Causes and Risk Factors

While the exact cause of breast cancer remains unknown, several risk factors increase the likelihood of developing it:

Genetic Factors

- ▶ Family history of breast or ovarian cancer
- ▶ Mutations in the BRCA1 and BRCA2 genes
- ▶ Personal history of breast cancer

Hormonal & Lifestyle Factors

- ▶ Prolonged exposure to estrogen (early menstruation, late menopause)
- ▶ Hormone replacement therapy (HRT)
- ▶ Obesity and lack of physical activity
- ▶ Alcohol consumption
- ▶ Smoking

Environmental & Other Factors

- ▶ Radiation exposure
- ▶ Certain workplace exposures to chemicals
- ▶ Dense breast tissue, which makes



detection harder

Symptoms to Watch For

- ▶ A new lump or thickening in the breast or underarm
- ▶ Change in breast size, shape, or appearance
- ▶ Nipple discharge, especially blood
- ▶ Redness, dimpling, or irritation of the skin
- ▶ Pain in any area of the breast

Early detection is key to successful treatment. Regular self-exams, clinical check-ups, and mammograms help in early diagnosis.

Recommended Treatments

The choice of treatment depends on the cancer's stage, type, and the patient's overall health.

1. Surgery

- ▶ **Lumpectomy:** Removes only the tumor and a small margin of surrounding tissue.
- ▶ **Mastectomy:** Removal of one or both breasts, sometimes including nearby lymph nodes.
- ▶ **Reconstructive Surgery:** Often performed post-mastectomy to restore breast appearance.

2. Radiation Therapy

Uses high-energy rays to destroy cancer cells and prevent recurrence, often after surgery.

3. Chemotherapy

Drugs are used to kill cancer cells, shrink tumors before surgery (neoadjuvant therapy), or prevent recurrence after surgery (adjuvant therapy).

4. Hormonal Therapy

For hormone-sensitive cancers, medications like Tamoxifen or aromatase inhibitors block estrogen and progesterone to slow or stop cancer growth.

5. Targeted Therapy

For HER2-positive breast cancer, targeted drugs like Trastuzumab (Herceptin) and Pertuzumab (Perjeta) attack specific cancer cells while sparing normal cells.

6. Immunotherapy

Emerging treatments, such as checkpoint inhibitors, help the immune system recognize and destroy cancer cells, particularly effective in triple-negative breast cancer.

Success Rates and Prognosis

The survival rate for breast cancer has improved dramatically due to better treatments and early detection. According to studies published by the American Cancer Society (ACS) and National Cancer Institute (NCI):

- ▶ **Localized (no spread):** 5-year survival rate is 99%
- ▶ **Regional (spread to nearby lymph nodes):** 5-year survival rate is 86%
- ▶ **Distant (spread to other organs):** 5-year survival rate drops to 30%

The overall 5-year survival rate for all stages combined is 91%, emphasizing the importance of early detection and timely treatment.

Prevention and Lifestyle Changes

While breast cancer cannot always be prevented, certain lifestyle choices can

lower the risk:

- ▶ Regular exercise (150 minutes of moderate activity per week)
- ▶ Maintaining a healthy weight
- ▶ Limiting alcohol intake
- ▶ Avoiding smoking
- ▶ Eating a balanced diet rich in vegetables, fruits, and whole grains
- ▶ Regular screenings based on age and risk factors

Conclusion

Breast cancer is a serious but treatable disease, especially when caught early. Advances in treatment continue to improve survival rates, making awareness, screening, and lifestyle modifications crucial. If you or a loved one notices any unusual changes, consult a healthcare provider immediately. Early detection saves lives.

Disclaimer: This article is for informational purposes only and should not be taken as medical advice. The treatment options and success rates mentioned are based on research from institutions such as the American Cancer Society (ACS), Mayo Clinic, National Cancer Institute (NCI), and the World Health Organization (WHO). Always consult a healthcare professional for personalized medical guidance.

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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