

Envoys hail India's leadership in fostering peace and economic ties with the Muslim world



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The Indian Minorities Federation (IMF) hosted the 'Sadbhavana Iftar' in New Delhi this week, bringing together ambassadors from 19 Muslim-majority nations. Held at the residence of Rajya Sabha MP and IMF Convener Satnam Singh Sandhu, the event celebrated India's longstanding diplomatic and cultural ties with the Islamic world.

Envoys praised Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership in strengthening India's engagement with Muslim-majority countries, particularly in trade, security, and energy. They highlighted India's robust economic ties with Gulf nations, which supply over 60 percent of its crude oil, and its \$200 billion trade with Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) nations.

India's humanitarian efforts were also recognized, including aid to Gaza and investments in Afghanistan's infrastructure, healthcare, and education. Diplomats from Africa and the Middle East lauded India's role in global peacebuilding, while Zimbabwe's Minister Edson Moyo praised India's technological advancements, particularly its pioneering work in digital payments.

The event underscored India's commitment to inclusive growth and global stability, with ambassadors affirming the nation's role as a bridge between cultures and economies.

Putin to visit India soon, praises India as a 'great power of our time,' says Lavrov

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Russian President Vladimir Putin is set to visit India as part of ongoing efforts to strengthen the long-standing partnership between the two nations, Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov confirmed.

"Russia and India share a history of deep cooperation built on mutual respect. Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited Russia after his re-election, and now it's our turn," Lavrov said at the Russia-India bilateral conference.

The visit aligns with the annual summit commitments between the two leaders. Putin last visited India in 2021, while Modi traveled to Russia twice in 2024. Bilateral trade exceeded \$60 billion in 2024, with both countries targeting \$100 billion by 2030 despite geopolitical challenges.

Lavrov praised India's independent foreign policy and its balanced stance on the Ukraine crisis. "We value India's commitment to multipolarity and its growing role as a global power," he added.

Trump cites India's voter ID system in push for stricter US election rules

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President Donald Trump has compared India's voter ID system to what he calls the United States' lax election laws, arguing for stricter voter verification in federal elections. In a new executive order, Trump mandates proof of citizenship, such as a passport, before voting, contrasting it with India's practice of linking Aadhaar identification with voter registration.

He criticized the decentralized US election system, where states set their own voting rules, noting that some, like California, prohibit officials from asking for voter ID. Trump also pointed to countries like Germany and Canada, which use paper ballots, and Sweden and Denmark, which restrict mail-in voting.

The order is expected to face legal challenges, as election oversight falls under state jurisdiction. Democrats



argue it could disenfranchise voters, while Republicans claim it is necessary to prevent fraud. Election experts caution that such a policy shift could spark

widespread legal battles and disrupt upcoming elections, intensifying partisan tensions in an already polarized political landscape.

Immigration Bill passed in Lok Sabha

Amit Shah says India is not a 'Dharamshala,' security is top priority

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The Lok Sabha passed the Immigration and Foreigners Bill, 2025, on Thursday, with Union Home Minister Amit Shah emphasizing that while India welcomes visitors for tourism, education, healthcare, and business, national security remains the top priority.

"India is not a 'Dharamshala' (shelter home). Those who contribute to the country's development are welcome, but those posing a threat will face strict action," Shah stated.

The bill aims to strengthen border security, enhance economic growth, and improve tracking of foreign visitors. Addressing illegal infiltration concerns, particularly regarding Rohingyas and Bangladeshis, Shah warned of firm measures against those exploiting India as a refuge.

He also accused the West Bengal government of delaying border fencing along the India-Bangladesh border, citing political interference and inaction. He assured that once the government gains full control in the state, fencing will be completed to curb illegal immigration and fraudulent identity documents.



Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney calls for snap election amid escalating U.S. trade war

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Carney says he needs a stronger mandate to counter U.S. tariffs and protect Canada's economy. Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney has called for a snap election on April 28, citing an escalating trade war with the United States as a threat to Canada's economy and sovereignty.

Carney, who recently replaced Justin Trudeau as leader of the Liberal Party, said he needs a decisive mandate to respond to President Donald Trump's tariffs, which have already disrupted key industries. The election was originally scheduled for October.

Trump has imposed sweeping tariffs on Canadian goods, including steel, aluminum, dairy, and lumber, prompting Canada to retaliate with \$21 billion in countermeasures. The European Union has also introduced retaliatory tariffs in response to similar U.S. trade restrictions. Beyond economic disputes, Trump has repeatedly suggested that Canada should become the 51st U.S. state, a notion Carney has firmly rejected as "crazy."

As Canada's major political parties launch their campaigns, Carney is expected to face off against Conservative leader Pierre Poilievre, Bloc Québécois leader Yves-François Blanchet, and New Democratic Party leader Jagmeet Singh. The election outcome will determine how Canada navigates its growing tensions with the United States.

India rejects USCIRF report, calls it biased and politically motivated

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

India has strongly condemned the latest report by the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF), calling it misleading and agenda-driven. The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) dismissed the report's findings as a misrepresentation of facts, asserting that the USCIRF continues to issue biased assessments of India's religious freedom.

The 2025 USCIRF report has once again recommended that the U.S. government designate India as a "Country of Particular Concern" (CPC) over alleged violations of religious freedom. The report cites incidents of violence against religious minorities, restrictions on conversions, and the implementation of laws such as the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) as reasons for its recommendation. It also criticizes India's handling of communal tensions and claims that the government has failed to protect religious minorities from discrimination.

In response, MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal reiterated India's rejection of the report,



stating, "The USCIRF continues to peddle a motivated narrative that ignores India's pluralistic and democratic framework. These reports are based on distorted facts and serve a political agenda rather than an objective assessment of the ground realities."

Jaiswal also called for the USCIRF itself to be designated as an "entity of concern" for repeatedly misrepresenting India's religious landscape. He emphasized that India is home to 1.4 billion people from diverse religious backgrounds who coexist harmoniously, and

that external interference in India's internal affairs is unwarranted.

India has consistently criticized the USCIRF's reports over the years, accusing the commission of failing to acknowledge the country's commitment to religious diversity and human rights. The government has previously urged the U.S. to focus on addressing domestic religious issues rather than interfering in the internal matters of the world's largest democracy.

India, US reaffirm commitment to stronger trade and investment ties

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Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman met US Chamber of Commerce President and CEO Suzanne Clark on Thursday to discuss deepening economic cooperation between India and the United States. The meeting, attended by US-India Business Council (USIBC) President Atul Keshap, emphasized strengthening trade, investment, and cross-border entrepreneurship.

Sitharaman highlighted India's pro-business reforms and the growing role of American companies in India's economic landscape. Clark praised India's foreign direct investment policies, noting increased US business interest in expanding operations within the country.

Both sides acknowledged the need to foster innovation-driven growth and capitalize on the complementarities between the two economies. Last month, Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal reiterated India's ambition to double bilateral trade with the US to \$500 billion by 2030, describing the partnership as one of trust and shared economic vision.

Trump signs executive order requiring proof of citizenship to vote

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President Donald Trump has signed an executive order mandating that Americans provide proof of citizenship to vote in federal elections, a move critics argue is an attempt to suppress millions of voters.

Signed on Tuesday, the order directs the Election Assistance Commission to require prospective voters to present a valid U.S. passport or government-issued ID when registering. It also mandates that all votes be received by election day, barring mail-in ballots from being counted if they arrive after polls close. Trump claimed the measure would help eliminate election fraud, reiterating his baseless assertion that he won



the 2020 election in a "landslide."

"This country is so sick because of the

election, the fake elections, and the bad elections," Trump said at the signing. "And we're going to straighten it out, one way or the other."

The order aligns with Trump's long-standing, unsubstantiated claims of widespread voter fraud, including allegations of illegal voting by non-citizens—an issue that studies have shown to be exceedingly rare.

Democrats and voting rights advocates have condemned the order, warning it could disenfranchise millions, particularly low-income and elderly voters who may lack easy access to the required documents. Lisa Gilbert, co-president of Public Citizen, called it a "blatant attack on democracy" and an "authoritarian power grab."

Pakistan dismisses US bill proposing sanctions on Army Chief as 'isolated act'



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Pakistan rejected a bipartisan bill introduced in the US House of Representatives seeking sanctions against its state officials, including Army Chief General Syed Asim Munir, over alleged human rights violations.

The Pakistan Foreign Office (PFO) dismissed the 'Pakistan Democracy Act' as an "isolated act" that does not reflect US-Pakistan relations. "We are aware of the bill—it represents individual opinions, not broader bilateral ties," said PFO Spokesperson Shafqat Ali Khan.

Introduced by Republican Congressman Joe Wilson and Democrat Jimmy Panetta, the bill calls for sanctions if Pakistan fails to improve its human rights record within 180 days. It also seeks to invoke the US Global Magnitsky Act, which restricts visas and financial access for alleged human rights violators.

While experts believe the bill is unlikely to pass, it puts pressure on Pakistan's government and military to allow more political space for jailed former Prime Minister Imran Khan, who has denied all charges against him.

India and China advance talks to resume Kailash Manasarovar Yatra in 2025

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

India and China have made significant progress in negotiations to restart the Kailash Manasarovar Yatra in 2025, according to the Ministry of External Affairs. This follows a high-level diplomatic meeting in Beijing between Indian and Chinese officials, where both sides reviewed agreements made earlier this year to stabilize bilateral relations.

Indian Joint Secretary Gourangalal Das met with Chinese counterpart Liu Jinsong to discuss the resumption of pilgrimage routes and broader people-to-people exchanges. The talks also addressed steps to resume direct flights and enhance media and cultural cooperation as part of the 75th anniversary of diplomatic relations.

Officials acknowledged improvements in diplomatic engagement, including recent meetings between top leaders and boundary representatives. Both sides also reviewed border management strategies



and agreed to continue discussions to rebuild trust. The next round of high-level talks will be held in India later this year to finalize the pilgrimage arrangements.

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U.S. revokes visas of foreign student protesters in immigration crackdown

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk



The Trump administration has intensified its crackdown on foreign students involved in protests against the war in Gaza, with Secretary of State Marco Rubio confirming that over 300 student visas have been revoked.

“We gave you a visa to study, not to become a social activist tearing up university campuses,” Rubio said Thursday, vowing further action.

The policy has drawn sharp criticism following the recent arrest of Tufts University PhD student Rumeysa Öztürk. Surveillance footage showed federal agents in plainclothes detaining the Turkish-born student near her Massachusetts apartment as she was on her way to an Iftar dinner. Öztürk, who previously co-authored an op-ed critical of Israel, is now being held in a federal facility in Louisiana.

Tufts University President Sunil Kumar expressed concern over her arrest, calling it “disturbing” and assuring the community the university had no prior knowledge of the action. Meanwhile, protests erupted in Somerville demanding her release, with critics likening the detainment of student activists to “state-sanctioned kidnapping.”

Rubio defended the administration’s stance, labeling protesters as threats to national security and pledging continued visa revocations.

Canadian MP Chandra Arya claims re-election block due to stance against Khalistani extremism

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Canadian Liberal MP Chandra Arya, barred from contesting the upcoming elections under his party’s banner, claims he was denied nomination for his strong opposition to Khalistani extremism. Arya, a vocal critic of former Prime Minister Justin Trudeau’s handling of pro-Khalistani elements, stated, “My exclusion is not about foreign interference but about my advocacy for Hindu Canadians and my firm stance against extremism.”

The Globe and Mail reported that the Canadian Security Intelligence Service (CSIS) flagged Arya’s alleged ties with India’s government, including a meeting with Prime Minister Narendra Modi last year. However, Arya maintains that his engagement with foreign leaders was no different from standard diplomatic interactions by other MPs.

His allegations follow a December 2023 incident where he reported being threatened by fellow Liberal MP Sukh Dhaliwal for refusing to support a motion labeling the 1984 anti-Sikh riots as “genocide.” The Liberal Party has yet to officially comment on the reasons for Arya’s disqualification.

Trump officials deny security breach after journalist was mistakenly added to classified group chat

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Top Trump administration intelligence officials denied sharing classified information in a group chat that inadvertently included journalist Jeffrey Goldberg. The Atlantic editor-in-chief reported that he had been added to a Signal messaging thread discussing U.S. military plans, prompting scrutiny at a tense Senate Intelligence Committee hearing.

National Intelligence Director Tulsi Gabbard and Central Intelligence Agency Director John Ratcliffe insisted no sensitive details were disclosed. The chat, reportedly involving Vice President J.D. Vance, Secretary of State Marco Rubio, Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth, and National Security Adviser Michael Waltz, allegedly contained operational details about planned U.S. strikes on Houthi militias in



Yemen, including weaponry, targets, and attack sequencing. While Ratcliffe defended the discussion as lawful, Gabbard maintained that no classified intelligence was shared.

Waltz later accepted responsibility for creating the chat and acknowledged the

mistake in Goldberg’s inclusion. The National Security Council is reviewing how an unauthorized number was added, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation has been briefed on the incident.

The hearing became heated as Democratic senators accused the Trump administration of mishandling classified information. Senator Mark Warner called it part of a broader pattern of security failures, while Senator Michael Bennet condemned the lapse as reckless. President Trump, however, dismissed concerns, stating that no classified material was compromised and suggesting that officials would likely discontinue using Signal for sensitive discussions. Intelligence officials have agreed to cooperate with an internal review into the use of encrypted messaging platforms for national security communications.

Hungary leads largest EU military exercise to bolster defense capabilities

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Hungary is hosting the European Union’s largest-ever military exercise, MILEX 2025, with more than 900 troops from 11 member states taking part in the operation. The exercise, running from March 25 to April 10, is designed to test the EU Battlegroups’ land-based operational readiness under real-world conditions. Training is underway at Hungary’s Papa Air Base and Central Shooting and Training Range, where soldiers are conducting live-fire drills and tactical exercises using advanced military technology.

The operation, overseen by the multinational EUROCORPS command, aligns with the EU’s Strategic Compass initiative, which aims to strengthen the bloc’s military capabilities. Hungarian Deputy Chief of Defense Staff Lieutenant General Ferenc Kajari emphasized the importance of rapid response and



international cooperation in addressing emerging security challenges. The first phase of MILEX 2025 focused on command and control operations, while the current phase involves live operational scenarios. The exercise highlights Hungary’s role in enhancing the EU’s collective defense strategy.

Trump’s promise of swift Ukraine peace stalls as ceasefire talks yield no deal

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Russia and Ukraine have agreed in principle to a limited 30-day ceasefire, but Russian President Vladimir Putin’s demands amount to a Ukrainian surrender, and airstrikes continue.

President Donald Trump’s assurances of a quick resolution to the war in Ukraine faced a stark reality check as the latest ceasefire negotiations ended without a written agreement, and Russian forces continued their attacks.

After hours of talks in Saudi Arabia, no formal statement was issued, with Russian officials blaming Ukraine for the impasse.

Vladimir Chizhov, a senior Russian defense official, stated that while both sides had agreed in theory to a ceasefire, Ukraine refused to finalize it.

Despite the tentative truce, Russia launched 139 Shahed drones on Ukrainian cities overnight, with dozens hitting civilian areas. The attack followed a devastating strike on Sumy, which left 101 people injured, including 23 children.

Moscow has set stringent conditions that Ukraine says are tantamount to surrender, leading Kyiv to question Russia’s commitment to peace.

Ukrainian Foreign Minister Andrii Sybiha condemned Russia’s ongoing strikes, stating that diplomacy must be backed by military strength, sanctions, and pressure.

The White House has not commented on the outcome of the talks. Meanwhile, Putin has not scheduled another call with Trump, and the war continues despite the tentative ceasefire agreement.

PM Modi, King Philippe discuss strengthening India-Belgium ties and economic collaboration



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Prime Minister Narendra Modi spoke with King Philippe of Belgium on Thursday, reaffirming the deepening ties between India and Belgium. Their discussion focused on expanding trade, investment, and collaboration in key areas such as innovation and sustainability.

PM Modi praised the recent Belgian Economic Mission to India, led by Princess Astrid, which brought over 325 delegates, including top business leaders and officials, for high-level discussions. The mission resulted in 35 agreements spanning green technology, healthcare, defense, and education, further strengthening economic cooperation.

Belgium remains one of India’s key European partners, with bilateral trade exceeding \$15 billion in 2023-24. More than 175 Belgian companies operate in India, with investments totaling \$4 billion. The mission is expected to boost two-way trade and open new avenues for investment.

Princess Astrid, accompanied by senior Belgian ministers, also met with Indian leaders, including External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar, Defense Minister Rajnath Singh, and Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal. Discussions covered areas such as semiconductors, clean energy, and workforce mobility, underscoring the evolving strategic partnership between the two nations.



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Global warning: The rising impact of enhanced immigration policies on students' visas and permanent resident status



Dr. Avi Verma

In recent years, nations worldwide have implemented more stringent immigration policies, significantly affecting international students and visa holders. These measures include heightened scrutiny of social media activities, stricter visa regulations, and reduced quotas for study permits, reflecting a global trend towards tighter immigration controls.

United States: Intensified monitoring, visa revocations, and permanent residency scrutiny

In the United States, the Department of State has initiated programs employing artificial intelligence to monitor the social media accounts of foreign students. This initiative aims to identify and potentially revoke visas of individuals perceived as engaging in activities contrary to U.S. interests. Critics argue that this approach may infringe upon First Amendment rights, as it potentially penalizes individuals for their political beliefs and expressions.

The ramifications of these policies have been profound. There have been reports of international students experiencing abrupt visa revocations without clear explanations, leading to self-deportation or detention. These incidents highlight the administration's aggressive stance on perceived dissent.

Moreover, the U.S. government has

intensified scrutiny of permanent residency applications. Providing false information or committing fraud during the green card application process can lead to revocation of permanent resident status and potential deportation. For instance, marriage fraud—entering into a marriage solely for the purpose of obtaining a green card—is grounds for deportation. Additionally, certain criminal convictions, such as aggravated felonies or crimes involving moral turpitude, can result in the loss of permanent residency.

Stricter visa regulations and reduced study permits

Canada has also tightened its immigration policies concerning international students. In 2024, Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) implemented new regulations to ensure the sustainability of the International Student Program and protect students from potential abuse within the system. These measures include verifying letters of acceptance (LOAs) directly with designated learning institutions (DLIs) to root out fraud.

Additionally, Canada has reduced the number of study permits issued. In 2024, the number of new international student permits was decreased to approximately 360,000. For 2025, the government plans to further limit the number of international student permits to 437,000, a 10% reduction from 2024, continuing efforts to alleviate strain on housing, healthcare, and other services.

Moreover, Canada has introduced a cap on study permit applications and now requires a provincial attestation letter for applicants. This measure ensures that the number of international students aligns with the capacity of provinces and territories to accommodate them.

Europe: Stricter immigration controls and policy reforms

This heightened scrutiny is not confined

to the United States. European countries are adopting similar measures, reflecting a global trend towards more rigorous enforcement of immigration laws. In Germany, for example, the Bundestag passed a “five-point migration plan” that entails a dramatic tightening of the country’s migration and asylum laws, signaling a significant shift in the country’s approach to migration.

Global implications: A call for vigilance and compliance

These developments underscore the critical importance for international students and visa holders to adhere strictly to the terms and conditions of their visas. Engaging in unauthorized work, participating in activities perceived as politically sensitive, or posting content on social media that could be interpreted as dissenting against government policies may result in severe consequences, including visa revocation and deportation.

As nations worldwide adopt more stringent immigration controls, it is imperative for individuals to remain vigilant and compliant.

Misrepresentations or omissions on visa or permanent residency applications can lead to serious legal repercussions. In this evolving landscape, awareness and adherence to immigration regulations are paramount to ensure one’s ability to study, work, and reside abroad without jeopardy.

At IndoUS Tribune, we are committed to providing our readers with accurate and timely information on these critical issues, helping our community navigate the complexities of international education and immigration policies.

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



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Millions under red flag warnings as wildfires rage in the Carolinas

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk



Over 8 million residents across the Carolinas, Virginia, West Virginia, Maryland, and northern Georgia are under red flag warnings as wildfires continue to spread. Major cities at risk include Atlanta, Asheville, Charlottesville, and Hagerstown. The critical fire conditions are driven by warm temperatures, strong winds exceeding 15 mph, and low relative humidity between 25% to 30%. The east side of the Appalachians faces the highest threat due to westerly downsloping winds further drying the landscape.

Complicating firefighting efforts are downed trees and dry vegetation left by Hurricane Helene six months ago, providing ample fuel for the fires. In North Carolina, at least five active wildfires have been reported in Polk, Caldwell, and Swain counties, prompting a statewide burn ban. South Carolina has also declared a state of emergency and issued a burn ban as firefighters battle the Table Rock Fire in Pickens County. Residents are advised to remain vigilant, adhere to emergency alerts and evacuation orders, and avoid any activities that could ignite new fires during these hazardous conditions.

UN calls Taliban's ban on girls' education a 'grave injustice' with lasting impact

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The United Nations has condemned the Taliban's continued ban on girls' education, warning that it will have long-term consequences for Afghanistan's future. As schools reopened for the third consecutive year without female students, UN Women called for immediate action, stating, "Denying them education is a grave injustice that will haunt generations."

Since seizing power in 2021, the Taliban have systematically restricted education for women, barring them from secondary schools, universities, and entrance exams. A UN report estimates that 1.1 million Afghan girls of school age are now out of school, and the economic cost of excluding women from higher education could reach \$9.6 billion by 2066.

Amid growing international criticism, Afghan women activists launched the "Let's Study" campaign, demanding global support against the Taliban's education ban. Advocates warn that unless urgent action is taken, Afghanistan risks losing an entire generation of educated women, further deepening the country's economic and social instability.

Mass protests erupt in Turkey as Istanbul mayor jailed on corruption charges

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Over 1,100 demonstrators have been arrested as opposition leader Ekrem Imamoglu's imprisonment sparks Turkey's largest protests in over a decade. A Turkish court has jailed Istanbul Mayor Ekrem Imamoglu on corruption charges, igniting widespread protests against what critics call a politically motivated crackdown. Imamoglu, a key rival of President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, was arrested at his home and taken to prison on the outskirts of Istanbul. His arrest has triggered five consecutive nights of protests, with 1,133 people detained and over 120 police officers injured in clashes. The opposition Republican People's Party (CHP) claims the charges are a pretext to remove Imamoglu from office ahead of the next election.

As protests intensified, Turkey extended a nationwide ban on street gatherings. Despite the crackdown, the CHP held a symbolic



vote in which over 14 million people cast "solidarity ballots" in support of Imamoglu, demonstrating his widespread backing.

Financial markets reacted sharply, with the Turkish lira, stocks, and bonds plunging. The central bank has since taken emergency measures to stabilize the economy. Critics say Imamoglu's arrest is part of a broader effort to suppress opposition ahead of the next election. While Turkey's government denies political interference, opposition leaders are calling for early elections, claiming Erdogan's legitimacy is now in question.

U.S. removes bounties on Taliban leaders in latest diplomatic shift

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The removal of rewards on senior Taliban figures, including Sirajuddin Haqqani, signals a step toward normalization, Kabul says. The U.S. government has lifted bounties on three senior Taliban officials, including Interior Minister Sirajuddin Haqqani, a key figure in the Haqqani network, known for its deadly attacks against Western and Afghan targets. Haqqani, who was previously wanted for orchestrating bombings and kidnappings, no longer appears on the State Department's Rewards for Justice website, though he remains listed as a wanted individual by the FBI.

Afghan officials hailed the move as a sign of improving U.S.-Taliban relations. The removal of the bounties follows the Taliban's release of an American hostage and their recent diplomatic outreach to countries such as Norway, Qatar, and



the United Arab Emirates. Analysts say the decision reflects Washington's willingness to engage pragmatically with the Taliban, despite international criticism over their treatment of women and harsh governance. While full diplomatic recognition remains unlikely, the removal of sanctions is seen as a significant step toward reintegrating Afghanistan into the global community.

The move has sparked debate in the U.S., where lawmakers are questioning whether the Biden administration is conceding too much without securing meaningful reforms from the Taliban.

China criticizes US for Cold War mentality in latest security report

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

China has strongly criticized the United States for what it calls an outdated Cold War mentality, urging Washington to stop projecting its "hegemonic logic" onto Beijing. The remarks by Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Guo Jiakun came in response to a US security report labeling China as the top military and cyber threat.

Guo dismissed the report as an annual exercise in exaggeration designed to justify US containment policies against China. He reaffirmed that China's development is driven by domestic priorities, not competition with the United States, and called on Washington to stop fueling hostility through misleading narratives.

He also reiterated Beijing's firm stance on Taiwan, warning against US



interference and support for "Taiwan independence" forces. China urged the US to take concrete steps toward stable and cooperative bilateral relations rather than resorting to strategic confrontation.

Bangladesh's Yunus visits China ahead of BIMSTEC chairmanship transition

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk



Bangladesh's interim Chief Advisor, Muhammad Yunus, has embarked on a four-day official visit to China, where he will meet President Xi Jinping in Beijing on March 28. The visit comes just days before Bangladesh assumes the chairmanship of the Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) at the upcoming summit in Bangkok. Yunus is accompanied by top officials, including advisors on foreign affairs, energy, and economic development. His visit is expected to focus on strengthening bilateral cooperation, with several agreements likely to be signed in areas such as economic and technical assistance, cultural exchange, and infrastructure development.

China's engagement with Bangladesh has intensified following the political transition in Dhaka last year. With growing economic ties and large-scale Chinese investments in Bangladesh, the visit is expected to reinforce strategic partnerships and address concerns over regional stability.

Hezbollah rules out ties with Israel, condemns ongoing violations in Lebanon

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk



Hezbollah Secretary-General Sheikh Naim Qassem has reaffirmed that Lebanon will never normalize relations with Israel, condemning ongoing Israeli military actions in southern Lebanon. Speaking at the Jerusalem Forum, he stated that Hezbollah and the Lebanese resistance have successfully thwarted Israel's objectives and remain steadfast in defending Lebanon's sovereignty.

Qassem urged the Lebanese government to pressure international bodies to enforce ceasefire agreements and ensure Lebanon's territorial rights. He emphasized that Hezbollah will continue its resistance, citing Israel's occupation of Lebanese land, including the Shebaa Farms and Kfarchouba hills, as justification for their stance.

He also praised Palestinian resilience in Gaza and the West Bank, condemning what he described as a US-Israeli agenda to undermine Palestinian rights and expand Israeli control. Warning of further regional destabilization, Qassem asserted that Hezbollah and its allies remain committed to countering these strategies.

FAA receives 10,000 applications for air traffic controller jobs amid hiring push



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The Federal Aviation Administration has received 10,000 applications for air traffic controller positions in less than three weeks as it works to address a longstanding staffing shortage.

The hiring push follows a series of aviation incidents that raised concerns over safety. The FAA needs 3,600 additional controllers to meet demand, with only 10,800 currently employed. In response, the agency has streamlined its hiring process, cut training time, and raised salaries for trainees by 30 percent.

Transportation Secretary Sean Duffy, appointed by President Trump, has also pushed for technological and organizational overhauls to modernize the FAA. The FAA has already identified over 8,320 qualified candidates for aptitude exams, and nearly 200 have advanced to the next hiring phase.

Electric vehicle chargers now outnumber gas pumps in California



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

California now has nearly 50 percent more public and shared private electric vehicle (EV) chargers than gasoline pumps, Governor Gavin Newsom announced.

According to the California Energy Commission, the state has 178,549 EV chargers compared to 120,000 gas nozzles. Of these, more than 162,000 are Level 2 chargers, while 17,000 are fast chargers capable of powering a vehicle in under an hour.

Newsom highlighted the state's investment in expanding EV infrastructure, including a \$1.4 billion plan approved in December 2024 to develop its charging and hydrogen network. The state offers various incentives to encourage EV adoption, with zero-emission vehicles accounting for one-fourth of all new car sales in the fourth quarter of 2024.

However, concerns persist over reliability, with some estimates suggesting that 20 percent of chargers are nonfunctional. Experts also point out that charging takes significantly longer than refueling with gasoline, and with California's gas tax revenues projected to decline, further taxation changes may be on the horizon.

Trump administration ends taxpayer-funded housing for undocumented immigrants

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The Trump administration has announced it will end taxpayer-funded housing benefits for undocumented immigrants, citing concerns over misuse of public resources. Housing and Urban Development Secretary Scott Turner and Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem signed a memorandum of understanding, titled "American Housing Programs for American Citizens," to ensure federal housing aid is directed exclusively to U.S. citizens.

"We're ensuring that taxpayer dollars go to Americans, not those who entered the country illegally," Turner said in a video statement. The move follows an executive order by President Donald Trump in February, directing federal agencies to eliminate benefits for undocumented immigrants. Citing data from the Center for Immigration Studies, HUD noted that 59 percent of undocumented



households use at least one welfare program, contributing to an estimated \$42 billion in costs. The department argues that this demand drives up housing costs, impacting American citizens in need.

Under the new directive, HUD will station staff at the Incident Command Center to prevent misuse of housing programs. Noem criticized the Biden administration for failing to prioritize American citizens and vowed stricter enforcement.

FBI launches task force to investigate Tesla attacks, calls acts 'domestic terrorism'

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The FBI has launched a task force to investigate a series of violent attacks targeting Tesla facilities, charging stations, and vehicles—acts the agency now classifies as "domestic terrorism." FBI Director Kash Patel confirmed the initiative on social media, warning that perpetrators will be prosecuted. "These are acts of domestic terrorism, and we will bring those responsible to justice," he stated.

The task force includes specialists from the FBI's Counterterrorism Division, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, and other federal agencies. The crackdown follows multiple attacks across at least nine states, including arson, gunfire, and vandalism. A recent Las Vegas attack saw a gunman spray bullets into Tesla vehicles, set others on fire, and paint "RESIST" on a service center.

Attorney General Pam Bondi announced charges against three individuals accused of firebombing Tesla locations and warned of



severe consequences for future offenders. Elon Musk, Tesla CEO and head of the Trump administration's cost-cutting initiative, the Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE), called the attacks "insane and deeply wrong."

President Trump condemned the perpetrators as "sick terrorist thugs" and proposed harsh sentences, suggesting they be incarcerated at a U.S.-leased prison facility in El Salvador.

Trump imposes 25 percent tariff on imported automobiles and parts

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

President Donald Trump announced on March 26, that the United States will implement a 25 percent tariff on all imported automobiles and auto parts, effective April 2. The administration asserts that this measure aims to bolster domestic auto manufacturing and generate approximately \$100 billion in annual revenue. The tariffs will apply to finished vehicles and key components, including engines and transmissions. While the White House indicates that vehicles qualifying under the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA) may receive exemptions, the specifics remain uncertain.

Industry analysts warn that these tariffs could lead to significant price increases for consumers, with new vehicle costs potentially rising by \$5,000 to \$10,000. Automakers such as Ford, General Motors, and Tesla are expected to face higher production expenses, which may impact their profit margins and overall sales.



The announcement has elicited concern from international trading partners and industry stakeholders, who fear retaliatory measures and disruptions to the global automotive supply chain. The European Union and Japan, both major exporters of vehicles to the U.S., are evaluating potential responses to the tariffs.

Trump pulls Stefanik's UN nomination to keep GOP House majority



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

President Donald Trump has withdrawn Representative Elise Stefanik's nomination for U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, citing the need to protect the GOP's narrow House majority.

Trump announced the decision on March 27, praising Stefanik as a key ally and stating she will join his administration in the future. She had stepped down as House GOP conference chair after her nomination, but both Trump and Speaker Mike Johnson confirmed she will return to a leadership role.

Stefanik's nomination had advanced in the Senate, and during her hearing, she condemned the U.N.'s stance on Israel. With Trump's reversal, she will remain in Congress to help push his agenda.

Maine defies Trump administration's transgender athlete ban, risks federal sanctions



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Maine education officials are refusing to comply with a Trump administration directive banning transgender athletes from girls' sports, setting up a potential legal battle. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services recently found that the state's policies violate federal law and warned of funding cuts if Maine does not enforce the ban. However, local school leaders and Governor Janet Mills argue that state anti-discrimination laws take precedence.

Maine's defiance underscores the widening national divide over transgender rights in sports. While federal officials insist Title IX protections apply only to biological females, state leaders maintain that excluding transgender athletes is discriminatory. With legal challenges looming, Maine's stance could have broader implications for how states navigate conflicting federal and state policies on LGBTQ+ rights.

New Jersey police chief accused of extreme misconduct and workplace harassment

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk



North Bergen Police Chief Robert Farley is facing explosive allegations from current and former officers who accuse him of creating a hostile work environment filled with crude pranks, harassment, and abuse of power. Complaints claim Farley engaged in misconduct such as spiking the office coffee pot with prescription drugs and mailing inappropriate packages to officers' homes. One officer alleges he was physically assaulted by Farley. The lawsuit, which names both Farley and the township, has sparked calls for an independent probe. While local officials have referred the case to prosecutors, they have also defended Farley, suggesting the accusations stem from department reforms that cut overtime pay. As the case unfolds, the North Bergen Police Department faces increasing scrutiny over its workplace culture.

Appeals court halts order for Musk to release federal records



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Afederal appeals court has blocked a judge's order requiring Elon Musk and the Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE) to turn over records related to government cost-cutting.

The U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit issued an emergency stay on March 26, siding with Musk's argument that his motion to dismiss should be decided first. The case, brought by 13 Democratic-led states, challenges DOGE's mass terminations and canceled federal grants, alleging Musk is wielding executive power without Senate confirmation.

Musk, tasked by President Trump with reducing waste, says DOGE has saved \$130 billion, but critics warn of oversight concerns.

U.S. Education Department investigates California law on gender identity disclosure

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The U.S. Department of Education has opened an investigation into a new California law that prohibits school staff from disclosing a student's gender identity or sexual orientation without their consent. The federal government argues that Assembly Bill 1955 may violate the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), which grants parents the right to access their child's educational records, including those related to gender identity. If found in violation of federal law, California could face the loss of up to \$7.9 billion in federal education funding. The Trump administration has made gender identity policies in schools a focal point of its education agenda, with Secretary of Education Linda McMahon stating that schools should not interfere with parental rights on such matters.



in unsafe situations. California Superintendent of Public Instruction Tony Thurmond has defended the measure, emphasizing that student safety and privacy are critical to learning. The California Teachers Association also condemned the federal probe, calling it an attempt to intimidate schools into rolling back protections for LGBTQ+ students.

The investigation comes amid a broader push by the Trump administration to redefine gender policies. In January, President Trump signed an executive order recognizing only two sexes, male and female, under federal law.

Supporters of the law, including Assemblymember Chris Ward, argue that forced disclosure could put LGBTQ+ students

HHS to cut 10,000 jobs, restructure CDC and other health agencies

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) announced plans Thursday to eliminate 10,000 full-time jobs across multiple agencies as part of the Trump administration's broader effort to restructure the federal government.

The cuts will downsize or eliminate several departments within the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and other health agencies, raising concerns about the impact on public health programs. In total, the CDC will lose 2,400 employees, while the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) will cut 3,500 jobs, the National Institutes of Health (NIH) will reduce its workforce by 1,200, and the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) will lay off 300 workers.

HHS Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr. said the plan would consolidate 28 divisions into 15 under a new entity called the Administration for Healthy America (AHA). The reorganization will absorb agencies like the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration and the Health Resources and Services Administration, which oversees HIV treatment programs.

Some divisions within the CDC, including those focused on global health, domestic HIV prevention, and injury prevention, will be downsized or eliminated. The FDA has assured that drug and medical device approvals will remain on schedule despite the cuts. Critics, including health policy experts, warn that the job reductions could slow government services and create delays in health care access and research. Employees affected by the layoffs will be notified as early as Friday.

Academic groups sue Trump administration over arrests of noncitizen students in pro-Palestinian protests

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Two academic organizations have sued the Trump administration, alleging that the arrests of noncitizen students and faculty members involved in pro-Palestinian protests violate their constitutional rights.

The lawsuit, filed by the American Association of University Professors and the Middle East Studies Association, claims that Trump's immigration policies suppress free speech and due process. The suit names President Trump, Secretary of State Marco Rubio, and other officials as defendants.

The complaint argues that recent executive orders, initially framed as measures against antisemitism and support for foreign terrorist groups, have instead been used to target individuals advocating

for Palestinian rights.

Several university-affiliated individuals, including Columbia University student Mahmoud Khalil, have been detained under the policies. Others, like Indian doctoral student Ranjani Srinivasan, fled to Canada after their visas were revoked.

The lawsuit alleges that immigration authorities are surveilling students and faculty and that universities have been provided lists of individuals the administration intends to target. The Department of Homeland Security defended its actions, stating that those who advocate for violence or terrorism should not retain U.S. visas.

Academic leaders warn that the policies create a climate of fear and repression on campuses, while legal experts argue that the detentions and deportations violate First Amendment protections.

FDA approves first new antibiotic for UTIs in nearly 30 years

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has approved Blujepa, the first antibiotic in nearly three decades to treat urinary tract infections (UTIs), as concerns over antibiotic resistance grow.

Blujepa, developed by pharmaceutical company GSK, is designed for women and girls aged 12 and older with uncomplicated UTIs. The drug belongs to a new class of antibiotics called triazaacenaphthylenes, which work by blocking key bacterial enzymes necessary for replication.

UTIs, commonly caused by E. coli, are usually treated with standard antibiotics, but resistance to existing treatments has been rising. A 2019 study found that over 92% of UTI-causing bacteria were resistant to at least one antibiotic, while 80% showed resistance to two or more.

Clinical trials involving 3,000 patients found Blujepa successfully treated 50% to 58% of infections, compared to 43% to 47% for nitrofurantoin, a widely used UTI antibiotic.

While GSK has not disclosed the price, the drug is expected to be available in the second half of the year. Experts caution that physicians may still prioritize generic antibiotics for cost-effectiveness but acknowledge the need for new treatment options to combat resistance.

Former U.S. Attorney Jessica Aber found dead at 43; natural causes suspected

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk



Former U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia, Jessica Aber, was found deceased at her Alexandria home on Saturday morning at the age of 43. Police responded to a call regarding an unresponsive woman around 9:20 a.m. and discovered Aber's body. Initial investigations suggest she likely died of natural causes, possibly related to a longstanding medical condition, though the official cause awaits determination by the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner.

Aber was appointed by President Joe Biden in 2021 and served until her resignation on January 20, 2025, coinciding with President Donald Trump's inauguration. During her tenure, she was recognized for her leadership and significant contributions to the legal community. Current U.S. Attorney Erik Siebert expressed profound sorrow, describing her as an irreplaceable leader and mentor.

Indian national sentenced to hard labor in Sri Lanka for cricket match-fixing

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

A Sri Lankan court has sentenced an Indian national to four years of rigorous imprisonment for attempting to fix matches in the Legends League T20 cricket tournament held in Kandy in 2024. Yogi Patel was convicted based on a complaint filed by Sri Lanka's chief selector, Upul Tharanga. Patel had fled the country despite a court-imposed travel ban but was arrested in March 2024 before being released on bail in May. He was later tried in absentia.

In addition to the prison sentence, Patel was fined 85 million Sri Lankan rupees and ordered to pay 2 million rupees in defamation damages to Tharanga.

Sri Lanka enacted the Prevention of Sports-Related Corruption Act in 2019, which carries penalties of up to 10 years in prison and fines exceeding \$550,000 for match-fixing offenses.

Indian-origin woman assaulted at Calgary train station, suspect arrested within minutes

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

A shocking attack on an Indian-origin woman at a Calgary train station has gone viral, sparking public outrage. The incident occurred at the Third Street S.E. CTrain station, where a man grabbed the woman's jacket, shook her violently, and threw water in her face. He then slammed her against a transit shelter wall and demanded her phone before fleeing the scene.

Fortunately, the woman managed to call the police despite the traumatic encounter. Thanks to swift action from law enforcement and witness cooperation, the suspect, identified as Braydon Joseph James French, was arrested within 25 minutes.

The disturbing footage has triggered heated discussions about safety concerns in public spaces, particularly for women and minorities. While some speculate the attack was racially motivated, Calgary Police have stated that there is no evidence supporting this claim at this time. However, the department's Diversity



Resource Team is engaging with the affected community to address concerns.

The incident underscores a growing concern over rising violent crimes in Canadian cities. Advocacy groups and community leaders are urging authorities to implement stricter safety measures on public transit.

Many are calling for increased surveillance and faster emergency response mechanisms to prevent such incidents from occurring in the future. As the video continues to circulate online, it has reignited conversations about the safety of vulnerable groups in public spaces.

Indian student enrolment in New Zealand surges by 49%, expected to double by 2030

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Indian student enrolments in New Zealand have surged by nearly 49 percent since 2021 and are projected to double by 2030, according to a report by University Living. The country's international education sector contributed NZD 4.4 billion to the economy in 2023-24, with Indian enrolments expected to rise from 22,225 to 42,594. Australia remains a top competitor, with Indian student enrolments increasing by 9.2 percent since 2021. Both countries are attracting students through streamlined visa policies, scholarships, and strong post-study work opportunities. Experts credit the growth to policies that enhance career pathways and industry-aligned education, particularly in STEM and business fields. As demand for international education rises, Australia and New Zealand are positioning themselves as strong alternatives to the U.S., U.K., and Canada.

US cancels 2,000 Indian visa appointments over fraudulent bookings

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The US Embassy in India identified bot-driven violations in its appointment system and suspended the associated accounts.

The United States has canceled over 2,000 visa appointments from India after detecting fraudulent activities in its booking system. The US Embassy in India stated that "bad actors" and bots had exploited the appointment system, prompting the immediate suspension of their accounts.

"We have zero tolerance for agents and fixers that violate our scheduling policies," the embassy announced on social media. Effective immediately, all compromised appointments have been canceled, and the associated accounts have lost their

scheduling privileges.

This move comes amid significant delays in visa processing. Business and tourist visa wait times have reached up to 1,000 days in recent years, leading the US to open visa slots for Indian applicants in Frankfurt and Bangkok. Additionally, student visa rejections have risen sharply, with nearly 41 percent of F-1 visa applications denied in the 2023-24 fiscal year.

The crackdown on fraudulent bookings aims to ensure fair access to visa appointments for genuine applicants. The US Embassy has urged applicants to book appointments directly through official channels and avoid third-party agents or unauthorized services. It also reaffirmed its commitment to increasing appointment availability and reducing wait times for Indian travelers.

Indian-American student accuses university course of 'Hinduphobia,' sparks academic bias debate

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

An Indian-American student at the University of Houston has accused the institution of promoting "Hinduphobia" through its Hinduism course. Vasant Bhatt, a political science major, filed a formal complaint with the Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences, alleging that Professor Aaron Michael Ullrey's online course, Lived Hindu Religion, distorts Hinduism and portrays it as a political tool rather than an ancient spiritual tradition.

Bhatt cited excerpts from the syllabus, claiming it misrepresents "Hindutva" as an exclusionary ideology while dismissing Hinduism's historical and cultural depth.

The university has acknowledged the complaint and stated it is reviewing

the concerns. However, Bhatt remains dissatisfied with the administration's response, claiming they attempted to discredit his concerns rather than investigate the course content. The controversy has sparked broader discussions on religious representation in academia, with Hindu advocacy groups supporting Bhatt's stance.

This debate comes amid growing concerns over the portrayal of Hinduism in Western institutions. It follows India's recent rejection of a report by the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF), which New Delhi dismissed as "biased and politically motivated." Organizations such as Hindu on Campus argue that Hinduphobia has persisted in the U.S. for decades and needs urgent redress. As the discourse intensifies, the case at the University of Houston is expected to reignite conversations about ideological bias and academic freedom.



Indian Green Card and H-1B holders advised to exercise caution amid stricter U.S. immigration rules

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Immigration attorneys are warning Indian Green Card, H-1B, and F-1 visa holders to exercise caution when traveling abroad, as recent U.S. policy changes have increased scrutiny at entry points. Vice President JD Vance recently stated that a Green Card does not guarantee indefinite residency, fueling concerns among millions of immigrants. Under the Biden administration's tightened immigration policies, agencies such as U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS), Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), and Customs and Border Protection (CBP) have intensified document checks and screenings. While Indians are not on any travel ban lists, stricter protocols have led to processing delays, extended questioning, and an increase in secondary inspections.

Legal experts recommend that travelers

ensure their passports, visas, and supporting documents—including proof of employment, tax filings, and university enrollment for students—are in order. Those who have been abroad for over six months or are renewing visas may face additional scrutiny. With growing backlogs at embassies and consulates, attorneys advise early renewal of documentation and patience when re-entering the U.S.

In addition to stricter border screenings, applicants for visa renewals or extensions are experiencing prolonged processing times, with some cases facing unexpected denials. Experts suggest seeking legal guidance before making international travel plans to avoid disruptions. As immigration policies continue to evolve, affected individuals are urged to stay updated on regulatory changes to ensure compliance and smooth re-entry.

Indian-origin father and daughter shot dead at Virginia convenience store

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

A 56-year-old Indian-origin man and his 24-year-old daughter were shot and killed at a convenience store in Accomack County, Virginia, on March 20.

Pradipkumar Patel and his daughter were working at the store on Lankford Highway when the attack occurred. Authorities responded to a call at 5:30 a.m. and found Patel dead at the scene, while his daughter was rushed to Sentara Norfolk General Hospital, where she succumbed to her injuries.

The suspect, 44-year-old George Frazier Devon Wharton of Onancock, has been arrested and is being held without bond. He faces charges including first-degree murder, attempted murder, and firearm-related offenses.

The motive for the attack has not been disclosed, but the killings have sent shockwaves through the local Indian community. Relatives described the victims as well-liked members of the neighborhood, known for their kindness and hospitality.

Indian-origin man found dead in Texas after being reported missing, community raises funds for funeral

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

A 30-year-old Indian-origin man, Abhishek Kolli, was found dead in Princeton, Texas, just a day after being reported missing. Authorities suspect suicide, though investigations are ongoing. Originally from Andhra Pradesh, Kolli had been struggling with unemployment for the past six months, which his family believes may have contributed to his distress.

Kolli, who had recently relocated from Phoenix to Princeton with his wife, had been married for only a year. His twin brother, Aravind Kolli, expressed the family's devastation, revealing that Abhishek had been under financial strain. "His sudden passing is an unbearable loss for us," Aravind said, emphasizing the emotional and financial toll the tragedy has placed on the family.

In response, Aravind launched a GoFundMe campaign to cover funeral costs and transport his brother's body back to India. The fundraiser has received an overwhelming response, raising over \$59,000 in less than 24 hours.

The outpouring of support reflects the strong solidarity within the Indian-



American and Telugu communities, who have stepped in to assist with financial and logistical arrangements.

Abhishek's tragic passing has reignited conversations about mental health struggles among immigrants, particularly those facing financial insecurity and career challenges.

Advocacy groups are urging greater awareness and access to mental health resources for South Asian immigrants, emphasizing the importance of community support in navigating hardships abroad. As the family prepares to say their final goodbyes, the case serves as a stark reminder of the silent battles many individuals face in new and unfamiliar environments.

Indian-origin woman charged with killing son after Disneyland trip

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk



A 48-year-old Indian-origin woman has been charged with murdering her 11-year-old son after a three-day Disneyland vacation during a court-mandated custody visit in Santa Ana, California. Saritha Ramaraju faces charges of first-degree murder and a weapons enhancement after allegedly slitting her son's throat in a motel room on March 19. Authorities said she called 911 to report the crime and admitted to taking pills in an apparent suicide attempt.

Santa Ana police found the boy's body on a bed surrounded by Disneyland souvenirs. Investigators believe he had been dead for several hours before the call. A large kitchen knife, purchased a day earlier, was recovered from the room.

Ramaraju had been involved in a custody dispute with her ex-husband, Prakash Raju, who was awarded full custody of their son in 2018. Court documents show she had accused him of substance abuse and controlling behavior, while he denied the claims. If convicted, Ramaraju faces a maximum sentence of 26 years to life in prison.

Three Indian nationals face death penalty in Indonesia for drug smuggling

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Three Indian nationals arrested in Indonesia on drug trafficking charges are facing the death penalty, according to reports. The men—Raju Muthukumaran, 38; Selvadurai Dinakaran, 34; and Govindhasamy Vimalkandhan, 45—were detained in July 2024 for allegedly smuggling 106 kg of crystal meth aboard the Legend Aquarius, a Singapore-flagged cargo vessel.

Indonesian authorities intercepted the vessel in the Pongkar waters of Karimun district following a tip-off. The case has taken a significant turn as the vessel's captain, who was supposed to testify in person, failed to appear in court on March 14.

The defense argues that the captain's testimony is crucial to proving the innocence of the three accused.

The prosecution is seeking the death penalty, the maximum sentence under Indonesian law. The defendants, represented by Indian and Indonesian legal teams, claim they have been falsely accused. The trial is ongoing, with a verdict expected on April 15.

Indian-origin officer Shohini Sinha appointed assistant director at FBI



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Sinha, who previously led the Salt Lake City Field Office, will now head the bureau's Victim Services Division. Shohini Sinha, an Indian-origin law enforcement officer, has been appointed assistant director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation's (FBI) Victim Services Division. She previously served as the special agent in charge of the Salt Lake City Field Office.

Sinha joined the FBI in 2001 as a special agent and has worked on counterterrorism investigations, cyber intrusions, and international intelligence operations. She has held key roles, including assistant legal attaché in Ottawa, Canada, and a field supervisor in Detroit.

Throughout her career, Sinha has worked on high-profile national security cases and has been recognized for her leadership in counterterrorism and cybercrime investigations. Before joining the FBI, she worked as a therapist and administrator for a nonprofit mental health clinic. She holds a bachelor's degree in psychology and a master's degree in mental health counseling from Purdue University.

India urges Qatar to release detained Tech Mahindra executive

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

India is assisting Amit Gupta, a Vadodara-based professional who has been detained in Qatar for three months on charges of data theft.

India is advocating for the release of Amit Gupta, a citizen from Vadodara, Gujarat, who has been wrongfully detained in Qatar for allegedly stealing data. Gupta, the former country head of Tech Mahindra in Doha, has been in custody under Qatar's State Security since December, according to his family.

The Indian Embassy in Qatar has been actively involved in the case, maintaining contact with Gupta's family, legal representatives, and Qatari authorities. The embassy has assured that all possible assistance is being provided.

Gupta's family insists he is innocent and has been falsely accused. They have called for



urgent intervention from the Prime Minister's Office to secure his release.

Indian national arrested in Nepal with 15 kg of narcotics

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Nepalese authorities have arrested a 34-year-old Indian national for attempting to smuggle 15 kg of hemp into the country. The suspect, Ritesh Kumar, was apprehended at Gautam Buddha International Airport in Bhairahawa after arriving from Bangkok, Thailand, on a Thai AirAsia flight.

Police discovered the narcotics hidden in his suitcase during a routine security check at the airport's arrival gate. Kumar was immediately taken into custody, and an investigation is underway to determine further details of the smuggling operation.



Authorities have not yet disclosed whether Kumar was acting alone or as part of a larger network.



Prince Harry steps down as patron of African charity amid governance dispute

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk



Prince Harry has resigned as patron of Sentebale, the African charity he co-founded in 2006 to support vulnerable children and young people in Lesotho and Botswana. His decision follows a breakdown in relations between the charity's trustees and its chairperson. Prince Seeiso of Lesotho, who co-founded the organization with Harry, has also stepped down from his role as patron, ending their direct involvement with the charity.

In a joint statement, the two founders said the internal governance issues had created an "untenable situation." They alleged that Sentebale's trustees had requested the chairperson step down, but she refused and later sued the organization to retain her position. The dispute has sparked accusations of poor governance and workplace misconduct, with the chairperson defending her stance by claiming she was exposing deeper issues within the organization. Harry and Seeiso have vowed to raise their concerns with Britain's Charity Commission but reaffirmed their ongoing commitment to Sentebale's mission.

China raises security concerns over its workers in Pakistan amid rising attacks



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

China has expressed serious concerns about the safety of its nationals working on projects linked to the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) as security conditions worsen in Pakistan's Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan provinces. Speaking at the Boao Forum for Asia in China, Pakistani Ambassador Khalil Hashmi reassured Beijing that Islamabad is taking all necessary steps to protect Chinese workers.

China's unease follows a series of deadly attacks targeting its nationals, including an October 2024 bombing in Karachi that killed two Chinese engineers. The Baloch Liberation Army (BLA), which opposes Chinese-led development projects in the region, has claimed responsibility for multiple attacks. The Pakistani government maintains that militant groups are attempting to destabilize the country and block economic progress. Despite reassurances from Islamabad, China remains cautious, emphasizing security as a top priority for its investments in the region.

Denmark rejects US claims on Greenland, reaffirms sovereignty

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Denish Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen has rejected former US President Donald Trump's renewed comments about acquiring Greenland, reaffirming that the island remains an integral part of Denmark. Trump's claim that the US "would go as far as necessary" to control Greenland has drawn sharp criticism from Danish officials.

Foreign Minister Lars Løkke Rasmussen dismissed suggestions that Greenlanders want American rule, calling them misleading. Defense Minister Troels Lund Poulsen warned that such rhetoric amounted to a veiled threat. Meanwhile,



protests are planned in Copenhagen against what organizers call "unwanted pressure" from Washington. The controversy coincides with US Vice President J.D. Vance's ongoing visit to the Pituffik Space Base in Greenland.

Greenland's strategic location and vast rare earth mineral reserves have drawn global interest, especially amid US-China competition. While Greenland has expanded autonomy since gaining home rule in 1979, leaders in Nuuk insist that any future sovereignty decisions must be made on their own terms—not under external pressure.

Denmark has reinforced its commitment to Greenland since Trump's initial 2019 proposal to buy the island, increasing investments to counter foreign influence. With Washington maintaining a military presence and China eyeing mining projects, Greenland remains a focal point of international diplomacy.

Israel intensifies airstrikes in Gaza, expands attacks to Syria and Lebanon

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The Israeli military has ramped up its offensive in Gaza, conducting more than 430 air and ground strikes since March 18, following the collapse of a two-month ceasefire.

The renewed attacks have killed approximately 830 people, according to Gaza's health authorities. Since the war began on October 7, 2023, in response to a Hamas-led attack that left 1,200 Israelis dead, the death toll in Gaza has now surpassed 50,000. No Israeli casualties have been reported since the latest round

of strikes began.

Beyond Gaza, Israel has also escalated military actions in Syria and Lebanon. Over the past week, the Israeli Air Force targeted 18 locations in Syria, including strategic military bases in Homs province. In Lebanon, Israeli forces struck more than 40 Hezbollah targets, citing the strikes as a response to rocket fire into northern Israel. Meanwhile, Israel's aerial defense systems have intercepted 14 missiles from Yemen, Lebanon, and Gaza since the truce ended. Despite a fragile ceasefire with Hezbollah that was brokered last November, hostilities along Israel's northern borders appear to be intensifying.



Japanese court orders dissolution of Unification Church over financial misconduct



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

A Tokyo court has ordered the dissolution of the Unification Church in Japan following a government request linked to the 2022 assassination of former Prime Minister Shinzo Abe. The ruling revokes the church's legal status, stripping it of tax exemptions and requiring the liquidation of its assets. The decision follows allegations that the church engaged in manipulative fundraising tactics that caused financial and emotional harm to its followers. The court found that the church's misconduct was extensive and ongoing, making voluntary reform unlikely. The Japanese government has cited more than 1,500 cases where members were coerced into excessive donations, with settlements exceeding \$132 million. While the church has condemned the ruling as a violation of religious freedom, critics argue that it exploited vulnerable followers for decades. The case marks the first dissolution order under Japan's civil code, highlighting the government's efforts to curb predatory religious practices.

UN chief hails Black Sea navigation agreement as boost to global food security

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres has welcomed an agreement between the United States, Russia, and Ukraine ensuring the safe passage of vessels in the Black Sea. The accord, reached during talks in Saudi Arabia, aims to prevent the use of force and prohibit military operations involving commercial ships. The White House confirmed that the negotiations, held from March 23 to 25 in Riyadh, led to a breakthrough that is expected to ease tensions in the region. Guterres called the agreement a critical step toward securing global food supply chains, given the vital role of Black Sea



trade routes in transporting grain and agricultural goods. He emphasized that the UN remains committed to ensuring Russian food and fertilizer exports continue reaching international markets to help stabilize food

security. While the agreement is a positive development, Guterres also expressed hope that ongoing diplomatic efforts will lead to a lasting ceasefire and a broader resolution to the Ukraine conflict.

Powerful earthquake strikes Myanmar and Thailand, leaving devastation and rising death toll

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk



A powerful 7.7-magnitude earthquake struck Myanmar on Friday, sending tremors across Southeast Asia and causing widespread devastation. The quake, centered near Mandalay at a depth of six miles, was followed by a 6.4-magnitude aftershock minutes later. Myanmar's ruling military general, Min Aung Hlaing, confirmed at least 140 deaths and hundreds of injuries, with casualties expected to rise. The military government has appealed for international aid, accepting assistance from India and ASEAN nations. The U.S. Geological Survey warned of potentially thousands of fatalities and severe economic losses.

In neighboring Thailand, several people were confirmed dead, and at least 80 remain trapped under the rubble of a collapsed 33-story high-rise in Bangkok. The city, located over 600 miles from the epicenter, was declared a disaster zone as buildings swayed and thousands evacuated. Video footage captured the moment the structure crumbled near the bustling Chatuchak market, where many Cambodian migrant workers were inside. Rescue efforts are ongoing as officials assess the full extent of the damage.

Russian tourists among six dead in Red Sea submarine accident off Egypt's coast



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Six Russian tourists, including two minors, were killed when a tourist submarine sank in the Red Sea near Hurghada, Egypt, on Thursday. The vessel, which was conducting an underwater tour near a coral reef, suffered a fatal malfunction that led to its rapid descent, according to reports from Russian and Egyptian media.

The Russian Consulate in Hurghada confirmed that the submarine was carrying 45 Russian nationals at the time of the accident. Rescue efforts managed to save 38 people, while six lost their lives, and one remains missing. Egyptian authorities are investigating the incident, with initial findings suggesting a pilot error caused the vessel to crash into a reef, leading to a catastrophic loss of cabin pressure. The accident has raised concerns about the safety of underwater tourism in the region, as the submarine involved had reportedly been in operation for over a decade.

Chilean President Gabriel Boric to embark on first state visit to India

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Chilean President Gabriel Boric Font will visit India from April 1 to 5 at the invitation of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, marking his first trip to the country as head of state.

Boric will be accompanied by a high-level delegation, including government ministers, business leaders, and cultural representatives. His itinerary includes stops in Agra, Mumbai, and Bengaluru.

During his visit, Boric will hold talks with Prime Minister Modi on April 1, covering a range of bilateral, regional, and global issues. He is also scheduled to meet President Droupadi Murmu, who will host a state banquet in his honor.

India and Chile share longstanding diplomatic ties, with cooperation spanning



trade, climate action, and United Nations reforms. In Mumbai and Bengaluru, Boric will engage with Indian business leaders, innovators, and technology firms to strengthen economic partnerships. His visit is expected to reinforce India-Chile relations and open new avenues for collaboration in key sectors.

Deadly bombing in Quetta kills three, injures 21 in Balochistan's latest attack

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

A bomb blast in Quetta, the capital of Pakistan's Balochistan province, killed three people and critically injured at least 21 others on Thursday. Police sources confirmed that an improvised explosive device (IED) was planted on a motorcycle near the bustling Barech Market, which is known for Iranian goods and is located near key government offices.

Security forces have sealed off the area as investigations continue. Hospital sources reported that many of the injured remain in critical condition, and the death toll may rise.

While no group has claimed responsibility, initial reports suggest the explosion occurred near a parked police vehicle, raising suspicions that security personnel may have been the target.



Balochistan has been plagued by frequent militant attacks, with separatist groups such as the Baloch Liberation Army often carrying out bombings against security forces. Provincial Chief Minister Sarfaraz Bugti condemned the attack, vowing that those responsible would face justice.

Russia honors North Korea's Kim Jong-un with World War II Victory Medal

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

North Korean leader Kim Jong-un has been awarded a commemorative medal by the Russian government ahead of the 80th anniversary of Victory Day, which marks the Soviet Union's triumph over Nazi Germany. Russia's embassy in Pyongyang announced the honor on Thursday, stating that President Vladimir Putin personally approved the award.

During a ceremony at Mansudae Assembly Hall, Russian Ambassador Alexandr Matsegora presented the medal and certificate to Kang Yun-sok, Vice Chairman of North Korea's Supreme People's Assembly. According to Russian media, Kim received the medal in recognition of his efforts to preserve the memory of Soviet soldiers who died in North Korea. This marks the third time Russia has bestowed such an honor on Kim, following



similar awards in 2015 and 2020. The latest recognition comes amid growing ties between Moscow and Pyongyang, with speculation mounting that Kim may visit Russia later this year for further high-level talks.

Australian PM calls May 3 election, setting stage for tight race

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk



Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese has officially called a general election for May 3, dissolving Parliament after a visit to Governor-General Sam Mostyn on Friday. The election sets up a five-week contest between Albanese's Labor Party and Opposition leader Peter Dutton's Coalition. Speaking at Parliament House, Albanese framed the vote as a choice about the country's future, urging Australians to decide "how we respond" to challenges ahead.

Opinion polls suggest a tight race, with economic concerns and housing affordability dominating the debate. Dutton has attacked Albanese's leadership, blaming government spending for inflation, while Labor has sought to win over voters with tax cuts and cost-of-living relief. The election could also see a surge in independent candidates, potentially leading to a rare minority government. With Australia's major parties aligned on defense policy but divided over China, foreign relations remain another key issue.

Macron announces new Ukraine support plans amid US uncertainty



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

French President Emmanuel Macron has unveiled fresh initiatives to support Ukraine, including a joint Franco-British plan to help shape Kyiv's military structure. Speaking after a Paris summit of the "coalition of the willing," Macron proposed deploying European "reassurance forces" in Ukraine if a peace agreement with Russia is reached, though he acknowledged a lack of consensus on the idea. He also warned that Europe must prepare for a scenario in which US support diminishes.

British Prime Minister Keir Starmer pledged continued backing for Ukraine, announcing that UK Defence Secretary John Healey will lead an international meeting on military aid in April. Moscow strongly opposes any Western troop presence, warning of potential conflict between Russia and NATO. The summit underscored growing European efforts to bolster Ukraine's defenses as uncertainty over American assistance lingers.



Maharashtra, South Australia strengthen tech ties



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Maharashtra IT Minister Ashish Shelar met with South Australia Premier Peter Malinauskas, Australian Ambassador Philip Green, and Consul General Paul Murphy to boost collaboration in AI, future technologies, and drone manufacturing. Shelar highlighted plans for an AI & Future Technologies Centre of Excellence in Mumbai and sought support for partnerships with the University of Adelaide. He also discussed Maharashtra's drone policy and a proposed Drone Manufacturing Centre of Excellence in Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar.

Malinauskas pledged support and encouraged collaboration between South Australian universities and Maharashtra. The meeting concluded with both sides reaffirming their commitment to innovation and cooperation.

Bihar Legislative Council concludes session, passes four key bills



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The 209th session of the Bihar Legislative Council concluded on Thursday, with Chairman Avadhesh Narayan Singh adjourning proceedings indefinitely.

The session saw the passage of four major bills: the Bihar Appropriation Bill, 2025; Bihar Appropriation (No. 2) Bill, 2025; Bihar Wood-Based (Establishment and Regulation) Bill, 2025; and Bihar Cooperative Society (Amendment) Bill, 2025.

During the Budget session, the House handled 1,485 questions, with 1,300 accepted and 377 addressed on the floor. Additionally, 1069 questions were submitted through the National e-Vidhan Application (NeVA), with 925 accepted.

The Chairman recommended that unresolved questions from this session be addressed in the next. The session also saw active participation from members, with various departments responding to concerns raised during the debates.

Indian doctors perform groundbreaking remote heart surgery over 2,000 km

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

In a major medical breakthrough, doctors in Gurugram successfully performed a complex heart surgery on a patient in Bengaluru—over 2,000 km away—using India's first indigenous robotic surgical system.

The procedure lasted nearly three hours and involved closing a congenital heart defect known as an Atrial Septal Defect (ASD). The surgery, conducted via telesurgery, was executed with high precision and minimal latency, demonstrating the potential of robotic-assisted remote operations.

Dr. Sudhir Srivastava, founder of SS Innovations—the company behind the robotic system—called the achievement a “defining moment” for Indian healthcare, emphasizing its potential to make advanced surgical procedures accessible to remote regions. The system, SSI Mantra 3, is the only robotic surgery platform globally approved for telesurgery and tele-proctoring.



Cardiac surgeon Dr. Arul Furtado, who led the operation in Bengaluru, praised the system's ease of use, stating that it allowed the surgical team to perform the procedure with confidence and precision.

This milestone is expected to revolutionize healthcare accessibility, bridging gaps between top medical professionals and patients in underserved areas.

Delhi Police register FIR against Arvind Kejriwal over illegal posters case

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The Delhi Police have filed an FIR against Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) national convenor and former Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, along with other party leaders, for allegedly defacing public property by putting up unauthorized posters and banners.

The case was registered following a directive from Additional Chief Judicial Magistrate Neha Mittal, who acted on a complaint by Shiv Kumar Saxena. Saxena submitted photographic evidence showing large-scale poster installations across Dwarka, allegedly in violation of the Delhi Prevention of Defacement of Property Act, 2007.

The court took serious note of the unauthorized hoardings, citing concerns over

their impact on the city's aesthetics and public safety. Previous incidents of fatal accidents caused by falling billboards have heightened the urgency for enforcement.

Besides Kejriwal, former AAP MLA Gulab Singh and ex-councillor Nitika Sharma have also been named in the FIR. The case is now being heard at Rouse Avenue Court, with the next session scheduled for April 18.

The development has sparked a political row, with opposition parties using the case to attack AAP over alleged misuse of public funds. AAP has yet to issue an official response.

Nadda emphasized that efforts are ongoing to strengthen India's healthcare infrastructure, ensuring that AIIMS remains a leader in medical excellence.

Seven killed as gunbattle erupts in Kashmir's Kathua district

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

A deadly encounter between security forces and suspected militants in Jammu and Kashmir's Kathua district has left at least four police officers and three insurgents dead, with several others injured.

The gunbattle began after counterinsurgency forces launched an operation in a forested area following intelligence reports of militant activity. The heavily armed combatants engaged security forces using rifles, grenades, and rockets, leading to prolonged fighting. Officials reported that at least six police officers and two soldiers sustained injuries, and reinforcements have been deployed to the area.

Authorities suspect that the group involved had evaded capture earlier in the week after a brief exchange of gunfire in a nearby district. Security forces are continuing combing operations in the region to prevent further



attacks. Kashmir has seen an increase in militant activity in recent years, particularly in areas bordering Pakistan. Since 2019, when India revoked the region's special status, security operations have intensified, leading to frequent clashes between militants and Indian forces.

The latest encounter highlights the ongoing security challenges in the region, as authorities remain on high alert for further insurgent activities.

Delhi Assembly uproar as Speaker condemns AAP's disruption over women's stipend

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

New Delhi witnessed chaos in the Delhi Assembly on Friday as Speaker Vijender Gupta accused Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) legislators of orchestrating a deliberate disruption to evade discussions on crucial issues. The commotion led to the suspension and expulsion of nearly all AAP MLAs from the House.

Gupta's remarks came during the Question Hour, just before a scheduled discussion on the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) report on Delhi Transport Corporation (DTC). He alleged that AAP was intentionally violating parliamentary decorum to derail proceedings.

Meanwhile, former Delhi Chief Minister Atishi, who was among those expelled, countered the claim, asserting that AAP was merely demanding answers on the stalled Rs. 2,500 monthly financial assistance for women. She accused the ruling party of failing to fulfill its promise and suppressing opposition voices.

Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leaders defended the Speaker's actions, arguing that the disruptions were an attempt to divert attention from corruption allegations against the previous AAP-led government. BJP MLA Abhay Verma insisted that the opposition was trying to avoid discussions on alleged financial irregularities in DTC, while Manjinder Singh Sirsa criticized AAP legislators for what he called an “unruly and undignified display.”

The heated exchanges highlight the deepening tensions between the ruling BJP and opposition AAP in Delhi's political landscape.

Punjab releases detained farmer leaders after eight days

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Punjab Police on Friday released several detained farmer leaders, including Kisan Mazdoor Morcha (KMM) convenor Sarwan Singh Pandher and Abhimanyu Kohar, after eight days in custody.

Following his release from Muktsar jail, Pandher announced plans to meet fellow farmers in Patiala to discuss the next course of action, criticizing the government's removal of protests from the Khanauri and Shambhu borders.

Farmer leader Kohar expressed concern over the deteriorating health of Jagjit Singh Dallewal, a leader of the Samyukta Kisan Morcha (Non-Political), who has been on a fast-unto-death since March 19.

The Punjab government had earlier announced the release of 450 farmers, with officials later confirming that around 800 had been freed. Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann had ordered priority releases for elderly, medically vulnerable, and female detainees.

The government also clarified to the Punjab and Haryana High Court that Dallewal had been voluntarily admitted to a hospital, where his family was granted visitation rights.

PM Modi to unveil development projects worth over Rs. 33,700 crore in Chhattisgarh

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk



Prime Minister Narendra Modi is set to launch multiple infrastructure and energy projects worth over Rs.33,700 crore in Bilaspur, Chhattisgarh this week. His visit will include the inauguration of NTPC's Sipat Super Thermal Power Project Stage-III and the commencement of work on Chhattisgarh's first Super Critical Thermal Power Project under the state power generation company. Additionally, he will unveil power transmission projects and lay the foundation stone for Bharat Petroleum's City Gas Distribution network across several districts.

The Prime Minister will also inaugurate new road and rail projects, including seven railway initiatives and the electrification of Chhattisgarh's entire rail network. He will launch 130 PM SHRI Schools and oversee Griha Pravesh ceremonies for three lakh rural housing beneficiaries under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana. These projects are expected to drive regional economic growth and enhance connectivity.

Calcutta High Court seeks report on communal unrest in Mothabari

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk



The Calcutta High Court has directed the Malda district administration to submit a report on alleged communal violence in Mothabari, West Bengal. The order came in response to a petition filed by the state's Bharatiya Janata Party unit, which claimed that members of one religious community had targeted another. The court has asked for detailed findings from the district magistrate and superintendent of police by April 3.

Leader of Opposition Suwendu Adhikari has accused the ruling Trinamool Congress of appeasement politics and called for the deployment of Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF) to maintain order. While the situation is currently under control, the court seeks a factual account of the events before considering further legal action.

Mamata Banerjee heckled by protesters during Oxford University event

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee faced protests during her speech at Oxford University's Kellogg College on Thursday, as a group of students disrupted the event, raising concerns about post-election violence in West Bengal and the RG Kar Medical College rape case.

Despite the interruptions, Banerjee maintained composure, addressing the protesters directly while continuing her speech on women's empowerment and social welfare initiatives in her state. "Do not do politics here. If you want to fight, come to Bengal and strengthen your party," she told them.

The protesters, reportedly affiliated with the Students' Federation of India (SFI-UK), accused Banerjee's government of corruption and suppressing democratic rights. Holding placards, they also criticized her handling of communal tensions in the state.

At one point, Banerjee held up an old photograph of herself with a bandaged head, referencing an attack on her in the 1990s



when she was in the opposition. "I have fought before, and I will continue to fight," she said.

Despite the disruptions, Banerjee completed her speech, earning applause from the audience. The event's organizers later apologized for the interruption, while the Trinamool Congress dismissed the protests as politically motivated. Following the incident, SFI-UK issued a statement claiming responsibility for the demonstration, asserting that it was a protest against Banerjee's "undemocratic governance" in West Bengal.

Rajya Sabha adjourned amid backlash over Ramji Lal Suman's comments on Rana Sanga

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

A heated debate erupted in the Rajya Sabha on Friday following controversial remarks made by Samajwadi Party MP Ramji Lal Suman about 16th-century Rajput ruler Rana Sanga. The comments, made earlier in the parliamentary session, sparked protests from the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), leading to disruptions and a temporary adjournment.

Rajya Sabha Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar condemned the remarks, calling Rana Sanga a revered historical figure and urging lawmakers to maintain decorum when discussing national icons. While Suman's comments were officially expunged from records, their circulation on social media has

continued to fuel tensions.

Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju challenged the Congress and its allies to take a clear stance, stating that any insult to a national hero was unacceptable. Opposition Leader Mallikarjun Kharge affirmed his respect for Rana Sanga but also condemned acts of vandalism against Suman's property, warning against retaliatory violence. BJP MP Radha Mohan Das Agrawal accused Kharge of unnecessarily bringing caste politics into the issue, while Rijiju reiterated that the controversy was about respecting historical figures, not identity politics.

The uproar underscores the increasing politicization of historical narratives in Indian parliamentary debates.

BJP MLA accuses Uttar Pradesh government of corruption, claims officials mislead CM

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

BJP MLA Nand Kishore Gurjar has accused the Uttar Pradesh government—led by his own party—of being deeply corrupt, alleging that senior officials are deceiving Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath and misappropriating public funds. Speaking at a press conference, Gurjar claimed that top bureaucrats were involved in large-scale financial irregularities, including illegal land dealings in Ayodhya. He further alleged that unauthorized cow slaughter and extrajudicial killings were rampant in the state.

His remarks came after police intervened in a religious procession, the 'Ram Kalash Yatra,' organized by members of the Gurjar community in Loni. While police officials stated that the procession lacked proper authorization, Gurjar insisted that prior permission had been granted. Gurjar also



made controversial claims about alleged occult influence over government decisions, calling for stricter oversight of bureaucratic actions. Despite being a BJP legislator, his accusations against his own party's administration have sparked political turmoil, with opposition parties seizing upon his statements to criticize the state government.

The controversy adds to growing scrutiny over governance and law enforcement practices in Uttar Pradesh.

Kerala High Court dismisses plea for vigilance probe into Veena Vijayan payoff case



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The Kerala High Court has dismissed petitions seeking a Vigilance and Anti-Corruption Bureau probe into allegations that Veena Vijayan's IT firm, Exalogic, received payments from Cochin Minerals and Rutile Ltd in exchange for mining sanctions. The petitions were filed by Congress legislator Mathew Kuzhalsadan and late activist Gireesh Babu, whose case was later pursued by an amicus curiae. Although the court ruled that there was insufficient evidence for a vigilance probe, investigations by the Enforcement Directorate and Serious Fraud Investigation Office are ongoing. The verdict provides temporary relief for Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan and his daughter, but the case remains under scrutiny by central agencies.

Health Minister affirms commitment to quality as AIIMS expands



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Union Health Minister J.P. Nadda reaffirmed the government's commitment to maintaining high healthcare standards despite challenges in India's expanding All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) network. Speaking in the Lok Sabha, Nadda acknowledged infrastructure and staffing issues raised by opposition leaders but emphasized the remarkable growth of AIIMS, which has increased from one institute during Jawaharlal Nehru's tenure to 22 under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership. He attributed some shortcomings to the rapid expansion but assured that the government is actively addressing them.

"There is no compromise on the quality of healthcare in AIIMS. It is a brand that must be maintained," Nadda stated.

To improve medical services, AIIMS doctors and staff undergo regular training under the National Training Mission. Nurses and support staff also receive biannual skill enhancement programs. Additionally, the Ayushman Bharat health insurance scheme now covers over 620 million citizens, providing families with an annual coverage of Rs.5 lakh (\$6,000). The scheme continues to expand, with recent additions including bone marrow transplants.

Microsoft's Satya Nadella emphasizes AI skill development in South Korea



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Microsoft Chief Executive Officer Satya Nadella underscored the importance of widespread artificial intelligence skill development during his keynote address at the 'Microsoft AI Tour 2025' in Seoul. He highlighted South Korea's strong human capital and AI capabilities, which he believes will play a key role in shaping the country's economic future. Microsoft has been expanding its partnerships with South Korean companies, integrating AI-powered solutions such as Copilot to enhance productivity across various industries, including gaming, retail, and manufacturing.

Nadella referenced Microsoft's \$1.65 billion partnership with South Korean telecommunications giant KT Corporation, emphasizing their shared vision for AI-driven transformation. He also stressed the need for ensuring broad AI skill diffusion to maximize economic benefits. During his visit, Nadella met with KT's Chief Executive Officer Kim Young-shub to discuss the development of new AI models tailored to the Korean language and culture, as well as cloud services for local businesses. He expressed confidence that the collaboration would further strengthen South Korea's AI ecosystem and contribute to its economic growth.

GAIL and Coal India launch joint venture to boost synthetic gas production



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

State-owned enterprises GAIL (India) Limited and Coal India Limited have formed a joint venture, Coal Gas India Limited, to enhance synthetic natural gas production. The new company, established with an authorized share capital of Rs.11 crore, aims to develop infrastructure for coal-to-gas conversion, including captive coal mining, coal beneficiation, imports, equipment procurement, and facility development. Coal India holds a 51 percent stake in the venture, with GAIL owning the remaining 49 percent. The initiative aligns with India's push for energy security and sustainability. Last year, the two companies signed an agreement to establish a synthetic natural gas plant in West Bengal's Raniganj area under Eastern Coalfields Limited. Meanwhile, Coal India recently reported a second-quarter net profit of Rs. 8,491.22 crore, marking a 17.5 percent decline from the previous year. The company also announced an interim dividend of Rs.5.6 per equity share for the 2024-25 financial year.

China reassures global CEOs on market access as economic concerns mount

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

As global business leaders convened in Beijing for the China Development Forum, Chinese Vice Premier He Lifeng reaffirmed the country's commitment to expanding market access and attracting foreign investment. Addressing executives from major corporations such as Apple, Pfizer, Mastercard, and Eli Lilly, He emphasized that China remains dedicated to creating a favorable business environment for multinational companies. His remarks come as Beijing faces mounting economic challenges, including weak domestic consumption and a prolonged real estate downturn.

During the two-day forum, U.S. Senator Steve Daines of Montana met with Chinese Premier Li Qiang, where discussions focused on deepening economic ties between the two nations. Li underscored the importance of resisting trade protectionism and encouraged business leaders to champion globalization. Amid ongoing U.S.-China tensions, Beijing has been actively engaging foreign investors, rolling out new policies to ease restrictions on overseas investments in manufacturing and streamline mergers and



acquisitions for foreign firms.

China's outreach comes as U.S. tariffs threaten its export sector, one of the few bright spots in an otherwise struggling economy. The Chinese government recently unveiled an action plan to attract more foreign capital, outlining measures to enhance regulatory transparency and remove investment barriers. However, despite these assurances, foreign investors remain cautious, citing concerns over regulatory unpredictability, geopolitical tensions, and China's shifting economic landscape. The forum serves as a crucial platform for Beijing to rebuild investor confidence and signal its openness to global business, even as economic uncertainties persist.

LG Electronics prepared to expand US production amid tariff concerns

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

LG Electronics is ready to expand its production facilities in the United States in response to potential tariff policies, Chief Executive Officer Cho Joo-wan announced after a general shareholders meeting in Seoul. The company has secured land at its Tennessee plant for refrigerator and oven manufacturing, ensuring flexibility if Washington imposes tariffs on Mexican imports. While LG currently produces washers and dryers at its Tennessee facility, it has been considering shifting more of its home appliance production from Mexico to the United States to mitigate tariff risks.

Cho also addressed the possibility of resuming operations at LG's production plant in Moscow, stating that the company is closely monitoring the ongoing Russia-Ukraine conflict. Additionally, he confirmed upcoming discussions with Microsoft Chief Executive Officer Satya Nadella regarding their AI partnership. LG plans to integrate its Chiller cooling technology into Microsoft's data centers, though the exact scale of the collaboration is yet to be determined.

India least impacted by US tariffs due to strong domestic demand, says Morgan Stanley

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

India and Japan are the least affected economies in the wake of new United States trade tariffs due to their strong domestic demand, according to a Morgan Stanley report. The firm highlighted that the ratio of goods exports to Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is a crucial factor in determining an economy's exposure to trade disruptions. With lower export dependency, both India and Japan are better positioned to withstand the impact of global trade restrictions.

The report noted that the United States has implemented a 25 percent tariff on automobile and auto parts imports, which is expected to hit Japan and South Korea the hardest, as auto exports to the United States account for 7 percent of their total exports. Additionally, Washington is set to propose new trade policies on April 2, including potential tariffs on sectors such as energy, pharmaceuticals, semiconductors, agriculture, copper, and lumber. The US runs a substantial trade deficit in passenger vehicles and auto parts, with Asia accounting for nearly half of this deficit. Morgan Stanley warned that prolonged tariffs



on auto exports could reduce Japan's GDP growth by 0.2 to 0.3 percentage points if exports fall by 15 to 30 percent.

Despite the looming trade restrictions, Morgan Stanley emphasized that India's robust domestic demand provides a buffer against external shocks. With a growing middle class, strong consumption patterns, and a government focus on self-reliance through initiatives like "Make in India," the country is less vulnerable to trade-related slowdowns. Furthermore, India's increasing role in global supply chains, particularly in sectors such as information technology, pharmaceuticals, and renewable energy, positions it well to offset any adverse effects from US tariff policies.

Virgin Australia and Qatar Airways secure approval for five-year flight partnership



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Virgin Australia and Qatar Airways have received approval from the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) for a five-year alliance that will significantly expand flight connectivity between Australia and Doha.

Under this agreement, the two airlines will introduce 28 new weekly return flights, covering routes from Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane, and Perth. Virgin will operate these flights using Qatar Airways aircraft and crew, but they will fly under a Virgin Australia flight number.

The partnership, set to commence in June from Sydney, Melbourne, and Brisbane and in November from Perth, is expected to benefit travelers with increased flight availability and competitive fares. ACCC Commissioner Anna Brakey stated that the collaboration will enhance customer choice, improve connectivity, and strengthen loyalty program benefits for both airlines.

The ACCC also noted that the agreement is unlikely to impact the domestic aviation workforce. Virgin Australia's existing partnerships with South African Airways and Virgin Atlantic will remain unaffected.

Intel board shake-up continues as three directors step down amid restructuring

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Intel Corporation has announced that three of its board members will step down at its upcoming 2025 annual meeting, marking another shift in the company's ongoing efforts to refocus its leadership on semiconductor industry expertise. The departing members include former Medtronic CEO Omar Ishrak, University of California, Berkeley professor Tsu-Jae King Liu, and former University of Pennsylvania professor Risa Lavizzo-Mourey. The board will now shrink to 11 members.

This latest development follows the appointment of Eric Meurice, former CEO of ASML, and Steve Sanghi, interim CEO of Microchip Technology, as part of Intel's strategy to strengthen its leadership team with industry veterans. New CEO Lip-Bu Tan, who previously left Intel's board due to disagreements over the company's revival strategy, has since returned to lead the turnaround. As part of this transition, Intel remains committed to cutting costs, streamlining operations, and advancing its contract chip manufacturing business.

Coca-Cola to invest \$1.4 billion in Argentina to expand operations



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Coca-Cola Argentina, in collaboration with its bottling partners, has announced a substantial investment exceeding \$1.4 billion aimed at enhancing production capabilities, streamlining logistics, and optimizing infrastructure within the country.

This initiative underscores Coca-Cola's ongoing commitment to the Argentine market, building upon previous investments. In December 2024, the company allocated \$40 million to launch a new returnable packaging production line in Mendoza, which created approximately 200 direct and indirect jobs. Furthermore, in January 2016, Coca-Cola pledged a \$1 billion investment over four years to develop bottling facilities and distribution centers across Argentina.

Walgreens to pay \$2.8 million to settle claims of Medicaid overbilling



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Walgreens has agreed to pay more than \$2.8 million to resolve allegations that it overbilled Medicaid programs in Massachusetts and Georgia by submitting inflated prices for certain generic medications. The settlement follows an investigation by federal and state authorities, which found that Walgreens' pharmacies reported higher-than-actual "usual and customary" prices for some medications between 2008 and 2023, leading to overpayments by state Medicaid programs.

The case, brought under the False Claims Act, included whistleblower allegations that Walgreens misrepresented its pricing to secure higher reimbursements. While the pharmacy chain has not admitted wrongdoing, it agreed to the settlement to resolve the claims. The news comes as Walgreens Boots Alliance is undergoing major structural changes, including its recent \$10 billion acquisition deal with private equity firm Sycamore Partners and plans to close 1,200 U.S. store locations as part of a broader restructuring effort.

IMF evaluates Trump's tariff plans but sees no U.S. recession

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Fund (IMF) is assessing the potential economic impact of President Donald Trump's latest tariff proposals, including a 25% tax on auto imports. While the IMF acknowledges that sustained tariffs on Canada and Mexico could significantly affect their economies, it does not predict a U.S. recession.

Julie Kozack, an IMF spokesperson, noted that the global lender is incorporating Trump's tariff announcements into its next World Economic Outlook report, set for release in April. Although some tariffs, including those on auto parts, may be delayed until May, the IMF is closely monitoring how



trade restrictions might impact global economic stability.

The IMF had previously raised its U.S. growth forecast for 2025 to 2.7%, citing a strong labor market and rising investment.

However, Kozack emphasized that inflation remains a concern, with higher-than-expected persistence in price increases. As a result, she highlighted the importance of proactive monetary policy to ensure stability and maintain investor confidence.

Beyond the U.S., the IMF is also watching economic conditions in Russia, where inflation remains above the central bank's 4% target. With major policy shifts and ongoing geopolitical tensions, the global economic outlook remains uncertain, but for now, the IMF does not anticipate a U.S. downturn.

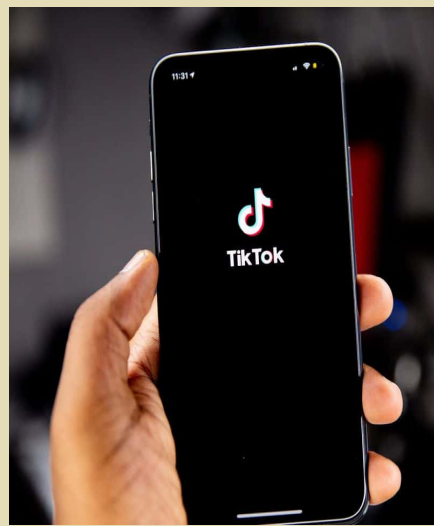
TikTok Shop expands in Europe amid U.S. uncertainty

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

TikTok Shop is set to expand its presence in Europe by launching in France, Germany, and Italy on Monday. The e-commerce arm of TikTok, which debuted in the UK in 2021 and entered the U.S. market in 2023, has grown rapidly, particularly after a strong holiday season.

However, TikTok's future in the U.S. remains uncertain as its Chinese parent company, ByteDance, faces pressure to sell its American operations or risk a ban. Despite this, TikTok Shop is actively onboarding European merchants, with major retailers like Carrefour in France and AboutYou and Cosnova in Germany joining the platform.

Known for its live shopping model, TikTok Shop allows users to sell a variety



of products, often at discounted prices. The platform now aims to diversify its offerings, with luxury retailers in the UK even selling second-hand Birkin bags.

NASA and Boeing move toward Starliner certification for crewed missions

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

NASA is working with Boeing to certify the CST-100 Starliner for crewed missions by late 2025 or early 2026. The initiative comes after the spacecraft's first crewed mission to the International Space Station encountered a propulsion system failure, forcing astronauts Butch Wilmore and Suni Williams to remain in orbit for nine months instead of eight days.

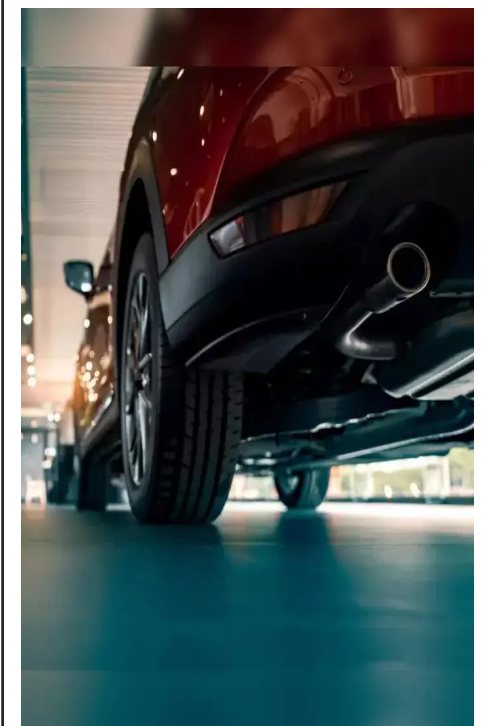
The two astronauts returned earlier this month aboard SpaceX's Dragon capsule. NASA and Boeing are now conducting extensive testing and analysis on the Starliner's propulsion system, with evaluations scheduled throughout spring and summer.

Despite ongoing challenges, officials remain optimistic about the timeline for the next crewed flight, pending successful test results.



Hertz and Avis shares surge as tariffs may drive up new car prices

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk



Shares of rental car companies Hertz and Avis Budget Group soared on Thursday following the announcement of a proposed 25 percent tariff on imported vehicles by the Biden administration.

The tariffs, aimed at protecting the domestic auto industry, are expected to raise the cost of new vehicles, prompting some consumers to opt for rentals instead of purchasing cars.

Hertz saw a 23.8 percent increase in its stock price, while Avis Budget Group gained 23 percent, reversing some of their losses over the past year.

Analysts suggest that rental companies stand to benefit as higher vehicle costs could lead to increased demand for short-term car use.

Additionally, auto parts retailers such as O'Reilly Automotive and AutoZone also experienced gains, as consumers are likely to maintain and repair their existing vehicles rather than buy new ones.

Meanwhile, major automakers like General Motors saw their stock decline, reflecting concerns over supply chain disruptions and rising production costs.

Punjab Chief Minister honors 1975 World Cup-winning hockey team, pledges sports revival

Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann honored India's 1975 hockey World Cup-winning squad and reaffirmed his government's commitment to promoting sports in the state. At a ceremony celebrating Punjab's rich sporting heritage, Mann announced plans to host national and international tournaments, including four upcoming hockey leagues.

To counter youth drug abuse, Mann unveiled a plan to develop playgrounds and gyms in every village while expanding training programs for athletes. He emphasized Punjab's deep connection with hockey, noting that eight players from India's victorious 1975 squad, as well as the team's coach and manager, hailed from the state.

During the event, the Chief Minister distributed nearly \$480,000 in cash prizes to 107 athletes who competed in national games and over \$1.1 million to nearly 14,000 winners from local sports competitions. Mann reiterated his administration's dedication to ensuring that Punjabi athletes receive world-class training facilities and opportunities to excel internationally.

Novak Djokovic becomes oldest ATP Masters 1000 semifinalist, surpasses Federer

Novak Djokovic made history at the Miami Open, becoming the oldest ATP Masters 1000 semifinalist after defeating Sebastian Korda 6-3, 7-6(4) in a rescheduled quarterfinal match. At 37 years and 10 months, he surpassed Roger Federer's previous record of 37 years and seven months, set in 2019.

The Serbian star, competing in his eighth Miami Open semifinal and a record-extending 79th at the Masters 1000 level, will face 14th seed Grigor Dimitrov, whom he leads 12-1 in their head-to-head series. Djokovic is chasing his seventh Miami Open title and a 100th career ATP trophy, aiming to surpass Andre Agassi for the most titles at this event.

Korda had a strong start, racing to a 3-0 lead in the second set and later serving for it at 5-3, but Djokovic responded with his trademark resilience. He extended rallies at key moments, forced errors from the American, and sealed the match in a



tiebreak. Meanwhile, third seed Taylor Fritz outlasted Matteo Berrettini 7-5, 6-7(7), 7-5 in a dramatic quarterfinal to reach his first Miami Open semifinal, where he will take on rising Czech star Jakub Mensik.

With this latest milestone, Djokovic continues to defy age and expectations, proving that his dominance in men's

tennis remains intact. His physical endurance, tactical precision, and mental toughness have allowed him to stay competitive at the highest level, reinforcing his status as one of the greatest players in the sport's history. As he pursues yet another championship, the Serbian star remains focused on adding to his already remarkable legacy.

Jessica Pegula stops Alexandra Eala's fairytale run, sets Miami Open final clash with Sabalenka



Jessica Pegula ended Alexandra Eala's historic Miami Open run with a hard-fought 7-6(3), 5-7, 6-3 semifinal victory, setting up a championship showdown against world No. 1 Aryna Sabalenka. The 19-year-old wildcard from the Philippines made history as the first player from her country to reach a tour-level semifinal, stunning top opponents along the way. Eala battled fiercely, erasing a 5-2 deficit in the opening set and pushing Pegula to a deciding third set, but the American held firm to close out the match in two hours and 26 minutes. Pegula now faces a daunting task against Sabalenka, who leads their head-to-head record 6-2. Sabalenka booked her place in the final with a dominant 6-2, 6-2 victory over sixth seed Jasmina Paolini, marking her first Miami Open final appearance. The three-time Grand Slam champion has now reached consecutive WTA 1000 finals, having also finished as runner-up in Indian Wells earlier this month.

Sepp Blatter and Michel Platini fully acquitted in long-running corruption case



Former FIFA President Sepp Blatter and French soccer legend Michel Platini have been fully acquitted of corruption charges by a Swiss court, more than two years after their initial exoneration. The Extraordinary Appeals Chamber of the Swiss Criminal Court rejected an appeal by federal prosecutors, ending a legal battle that has spanned nearly a decade.

The case revolved around a \$2.26 million payment Blatter authorized for Platini in 2011 for consultancy work dating back to

1998. Platini maintained that FIFA had deferred the payment due to financial constraints, while Swiss prosecutors alleged fraud. The scandal, which surfaced in 2015, derailed Platini's ambitions to succeed Blatter as FIFA president and forced both men out of the sport's governing bodies.

Platini's lawyer, Dominic Nellen, criticized the prolonged legal battle, stating that it had caused significant professional and personal damage to his client. He asserted that after two acquittals, Swiss prosecutors must now accept that the case has failed.

India to face Thailand, Mongolia, Timor-Leste, and Iraq in AFC Women's Asian Cup qualifiers

India's senior women's national football team has been drawn into Group B of the AFC Women's Asian Cup 2026 qualifiers, where they will compete against Thailand, Mongolia, Timor-Leste, and Iraq.

The qualifiers will be played in Thailand from June 23 to July 5 in a single round-robin format.

Only the group winners will advance to the final tournament, scheduled to take place across three cities in Australia from March 1 to 26, 2026.

A total of 34 teams are competing for eight qualification spots. The tournament hosts, Australia, along with defending champions China, runners-up South Korea, and third-place Japan, have already secured their places.

The top six teams in the final competition will earn direct qualification for the FIFA Women's World Cup 2027 in Brazil. Other qualification groups feature teams like Iran, Jordan, Vietnam, and the Philippines, among others, all vying for a place in Asia's premier women's football event.



Former England pacer Peter Lever dies at 84

Former England fast bowler Peter Lever has passed away at 84. He played 17 Tests and 10 ODIs from 1970 to 1975, taking 796 first-class wickets for Lancashire. Lever was instrumental in England's Ashes win, notably with a 6-38 performance in Melbourne. He also made an impact with the bat, forming a crucial 168-run stand with Ray Illingworth against India in 1971. After retiring, Lever coached at Lancashire and worked with England's national team. His contributions to the sport extended to grassroots coaching.



FIFA announces \$1 billion prize pool for expanded 2025 Club World Cup

FIFA has unveiled the prize money structure for the revamped 2025 Club World Cup, with a record-breaking \$1 billion allocated to participating clubs. The champion of the competition, set to take place in the United States, could earn as much as \$125 million. Each win in the group stage will bring teams \$2 million, while draws will earn \$1 million. As clubs advance, financial rewards increase significantly—\$7.5 million for the Round of 16, \$13.125 million for the quarterfinals, \$21 million for the semifinals, and \$30 million for the runner-up. The winner will receive a grand total of \$40 million.

FIFA President Gianni Infantino highlighted the scale of the tournament, emphasizing that it is the most lucrative club competition ever. He also announced an unprecedented \$250 million global solidarity program aimed at developing club football worldwide. The 2025 Club World Cup will feature 32 teams from six continental confederations and will run in June and July. FIFA confirmed that all revenues from the tournament will be distributed to clubs, ensuring further investment in global football development.

Hansi Flick frustrated by Barcelona's schedule ahead of Osasuna clash

FC Barcelona head coach Hansi Flick has voiced frustration over the scheduling of the team's upcoming La Liga match against Osasuna, which takes place just one day after South American World Cup qualifiers. The timing has left key players unavailable for selection.

"I am not happy with this situation," Flick stated in a pre-match press conference. "Almost all of our players have been away on international duty, and now we have to play immediately. Other leagues handle it differently, and I think more consideration should be given to protecting teams competing in the Champions League."

Brazil's Raphinha and Uruguay's Ronald Araújo, who both played qualifiers on Wednesday, will miss the game due to travel fatigue. Meanwhile, young defender Pau Cubarsí, who returned from the Spanish national team with a minor injury, will be rested.

Despite the scheduling challenges, Barcelona remains determined to stay competitive. The club currently sits atop the La Liga table alongside Real Madrid, both on 60 points, though Barcelona has played one fewer match.

Russian Paralympian stripped of medals for doping at Sochi 2014

A decade after the Sochi 2014 Paralympic Winter Games, Russian para cross-country skier and biathlete Nikolay Polukhin has been found guilty of an anti-doping violation, resulting in the disqualification of his results, including one gold and two silver medals. The Independent Anti-Doping Tribunal of the International Paralympic Committee (IPC) determined that Polukhin participated in a sample-swapping scheme as part of Russia's state-sponsored doping program.

The investigation, based on findings from the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA), revealed that during the Sochi Paralympics, Russian authorities concealed positive doping tests by replacing tainted urine samples with clean ones. Forensic analysis of Polukhin's sample bottle confirmed evidence of tampering, including DNA mismatches and signs of forced reopening and resealing. The tribunal concluded that the athlete had actively cooperated in providing clean urine for the cover-up.

As a consequence, Polukhin forfeits his gold medal in the men's para biathlon 15-kilometer visually impaired event, along with two silver medals in the 7.5-kilometer and 12.5-kilometer races. While the IPC's ruling impacts only his results at the



Sochi Games, further penalties, including potential suspension, will be decided by the International Ski and Snowboard Federation (FIS) and the International Biathlon Union (IBU).

Polukhin initially appealed the decision to the Court of Arbitration for Sport but withdrew in March 2025 after failing to cover the required costs. The IPC stated that this ruling marks the conclusion of a long-running investigation into Russian doping violations from the 2014 Games, reinforcing its commitment to protecting the integrity of Paralympic competition.

Yuki Tsunoda replaces Liam Lawson at Red Bull ahead of Japanese Grand Prix

Red Bull Racing has confirmed that Japanese driver Yuki Tsunoda will replace Liam Lawson as Max Verstappen's teammate starting with the Japanese Grand Prix, following Lawson's underwhelming performance in the opening two races of the 2025 Formula 1 season. Lawson struggled in both Melbourne and Shanghai, retiring from the season opener and finishing 12th in China. His disappointing results raised concerns about Red Bull's ability to maximize their points haul in the Constructors' Championship, leading the team to make an early-season change. Tsunoda, who had previously been passed over for the Red Bull seat in favor of Lawson, will now have the opportunity to race alongside Verstappen.

Tsunoda made his Formula 1 debut with AlphaTauri in 2021 and has steadily improved, outperforming teammates such as Nyck de Vries and Daniel Ricciardo. After an impressive 2024 season, where he contributed 30 of his team's 46 points, he was seen as a



strong contender for promotion. Although initially overlooked for the Red Bull seat in 2025, Tsunoda maintained a positive outlook and now finds himself with a chance to prove his worth at the championship-winning team. Racing Bulls Team Principal Laurent Mekies praised Tsunoda's growth, calling his progress "sensational" and affirming that the team is "proud of his well-deserved move to Oracle Red Bull Racing." Meanwhile, Lawson will return to Racing Bulls to race alongside rookie Isack Hadjar. As Tsunoda prepares for his Red Bull debut at his home race in Suzuka, all eyes will be on whether he can rise to the challenge and deliver for the team.

Google CEO Sundar Pichai questions Gujarat Titans' decision to bench Washington Sundar in IPL 2025



Google CEO Sundar Pichai sparked a social media buzz after questioning Gujarat Titans' decision to bench Washington Sundar in their IPL 2025 match against Punjab Kings.

Fans were left surprised when Sundar, a key player in India's national squad, was not included in the playing XI, instead being placed on the Impact substitutes list. One fan took to social media to express their confusion, asking how Sundar makes India's best 15 but struggles to get into an IPL XI. Pichai replied, "I have been wondering this too."

His comment quickly went viral, drawing a mix of amused and baffled reactions from fans, with some jokingly questioning why the Google CEO was engaging with random cricket discussions online. On the field, Punjab Kings put up a strong performance, posting 243/5, led by Shreyas Iyer's unbeaten 97. Gujarat Titans fell just short in their chase, losing by 11 runs despite half-centuries from Sai Sudharsan and Jos Buttler. Gujarat will now look to bounce back in their next match against Mumbai Indians on Saturday.

Argentina qualifies for FIFA World Cup 2026 after Bolivia's draw with Uruguay

Defending champions Argentina has secured its place in the FIFA World Cup 2026 without playing, thanks to Bolivia's goalless draw against Uruguay in the qualifiers. With this result, Bolivia can no longer overtake Argentina in the standings, confirming the Albiceleste's qualification alongside co-hosts Canada, Mexico, and the United States, as well as Iran, Japan, and New Zealand.

This will be Argentina's 19th World Cup appearance, a tally surpassed only by Germany (20) and Brazil (22). Despite already qualifying, Argentina dominated Brazil 4-1 in their latest match. Julián Álvarez, Enzo Fernández, Alexis Mac Allister, and Giuliano Simeone (scoring his first international goal) found the net, while Brazil's Matheus Cunha pulled one back. Argentina now remains unbeaten against Brazil in World Cup qualifiers for six years.

Zimbabwe to host South Africa, New Zealand for Tests and T20 tri-series

Zimbabwe will host South Africa and New Zealand for two-Test series and a T20 tri-series from June to August. South Africa plays Tests in Bulawayo from June 28, followed by the T20 series in Harare starting July 14. New Zealand then plays Tests from July 30. Zimbabwe Cricket hailed it as a major opportunity to compete against top teams. The tri-series final is set for July 26, with the top two teams advancing.



India drawn in AFC Women's Asian Cup qualifiers

India will face Thailand, Mongolia, Timor-Leste, and Iraq in the AFC Women's Asian Cup 2026 qualifiers, held in Thailand from June 23 to July 5. Only the group winners will qualify for the tournament in Australia, joining hosts and top-ranked teams. The top six teams in 2026 will also earn spots in the 2027 FIFA Women's World Cup. India aims to make a strong run in the tournament, looking to improve on its past performances on the continental stage.

NTR Jr celebrates global appeal of Indian cinema with enthusiastic Japanese fans



Telugu superstar NTR Jr, currently in Japan for the promotional tour of *Devara: Part 1*, expressed his gratitude for the growing popularity of Indian cinema in the country. On Thursday, the actor shared a heartfelt video on Instagram, showing him surrounded by a massive crowd of Japanese fans. In the post, he wrote, "Japan always gives me beautiful memories, but this visit was special. A fan told me she learned Telugu after watching RRR, and that truly moved me."

NTR Jr emphasized the unifying power of cinema, stating, "As someone who loves films and languages, witnessing how cinema bridges cultures and inspires people to embrace new languages is unforgettable. It is another reason to celebrate the global reach of Indian cinema."

His 2022 blockbuster RRR, directed by S.S. Rajamouli, became a cultural sensation in Japan, with audiences embracing its action-packed storytelling. NTR Jr's fan base in the country dates back to the success of *Student No. 1*, which cemented his popularity in the region.

Samantha Ruth Prabhu on success: 'It's about breaking free from limits'



Actress Samantha Ruth Prabhu believes success is about freedom, not just achievements. Speaking at the Indian Film Festival of Sydney's curtain-raiser, she shared, "Success means waking up and doing what you love, without being put in a box. Women should be free from outdated notions."

During a session at Sydney's Powerhouse Museum, she reflected on her journey and the challenges she has overcome. She also spoke about her transition into production, calling it an empowering move that allows her to champion diverse stories. Festival Director Mitu Bhowmick Lange praised Samantha's career, stating she embodies resilience and authentic storytelling.

Shreyas Talpade among 15 accused in multi-crore chit fund fraud case

Bollywood actor Shreyas Talpade is among 15 individuals named in a fraud case involving a multi-crore chit fund scam that allegedly deceived hundreds of investors.

According to reports, the accused operated a company called The Loni Urban Multistate Credit and Thrift Cooperative Society Limited, which lured villagers with promises of doubling their investments in a short period. Agents reportedly convinced people to invest substantial sums, but after collecting crores, the company abruptly shut down operations and disappeared. The scheme had been running in Mahoba for the past decade before coming under investigation.

Authorities have registered a case at



Srinagar police station, and an active probe is underway to determine the extent of the fraud. Legal action will follow based on the investigation's findings.

This is not the first fraud allegation against Talpade. Last month, he and veteran actor Alok Nath were named in an FIR in Uttar Pradesh, where they were accused of defrauding investors of over Rs. 9 crore through a credit cooperative society. They were also linked to a multi-level marketing fraud case in Sonapat, Haryana, involving misleading investment schemes.

Despite these legal troubles, Talpade is set to appear in the upcoming comedy *Housefull 5*, starring Akshay Kumar, Riteish Deshmukh, Abhishek Bachchan, Sanjay Dutt, Bobby Deol, and several other Bollywood stars.

Daniel Craig opens up about James Bond fame making him feel disconnected

Hollywood star Daniel Craig has revealed that his time as James Bond left him feeling disconnected from the world, struggling to navigate the pressures of fame. Craig, who first took on the role of 007 in *Casino Royale* (2006), continued as the iconic spy in *Quantum of Solace* (2008), *Skyfall* (2012), and *Spectre* (2015) before concluding his run with *No Time to Die* (2021). Reflecting on the overwhelming nature of celebrity, he admitted that fame initially left him feeling lost.

"Fame is disembodiment. And no one teaches you how to be famous," Craig shared in an interview with Italy's *Il Corriere della Sera*. "At the beginning, I hid away, I didn't want to be around people, I no longer knew how to exist in the world. You do lose a part of your life." Beyond Bond, Craig has demonstrated his versatility with roles such as detective Benoit Blanc in *Knives Out* (2019) and its 2022 sequel *Glass Onion*. He recently took on a bold new role in Luca Guadagnino's *Queer*, playing a hedonistic character in the



adaptation of William S. Burroughs' novel.

Discussing the modern fame culture, Craig also addressed the impact of social media, stating, "In this world, where social media can make you famous overnight, people lose their minds." However, he emphasized the importance of staying grounded, describing acting as "a way to stay connected to yourself and to the people around you." The actor, who received a BAFTA nomination for *Casino Royale*, has had a complex relationship with the Bond franchise. He famously once said he would "rather slash his wrists" than return for another 007 film—only to go on and make one more.

Patralekhaa opens up about the emotional depth of playing Savitribai Phule in 'Phule'

Actress Patralekhaa is set to portray the pioneering social reformer Savitribai Phule in the upcoming biopic *Phule*, a role she describes as both challenging and deeply inspiring.

Recalling her journey with the film, Patralekhaa shared, "When I first spoke to Anand sir, he sent me the script, and I was overwhelmed by its depth. After a year and a half of refining, I received the final version, and it was beautifully written. It was a human drama that I could not turn down. From that moment, I knew I had to be part of this story."

She admitted that while stepping into Savitribai's shoes was daunting, the experience was profoundly rewarding. "It was not just about playing a historical figure—it was about honoring her legacy. At first, I was anxious, but my

director, Anant sir, reassured me. He encouraged me to trust the process, and once I stepped onto the set, all my nerves disappeared. The most important part was to stay present and immerse myself in the character."

Directed by Ananth Mahadevan, the film also stars Pratik Gandhi as Jyotirao Phule. *Phule* is slated for release on April 11, coinciding with the 197th birth anniversary of Mahatma Phule.



Kunal Kamra challenges T-Series over copyright claim on comedy video



Stand-up comedian Kunal Kamra has found himself at the center of a copyright dispute after music giant T-Series issued an infringement notice over a parody song he performed in a recent comedy special.

Kamra took to X (formerly Twitter) to respond to the notice, sharing a screenshot of the claim and writing, "Hello @TSeries, stop being a stooge. Parody and satire fall under fair use legally. I did not use the original lyrics or instrumental. If this video is taken down, every cover song or dance video could be removed too."

Kamra's show, performed at Mumbai's Habitat Studio, featured a parody song in which he referred to Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Eknath Shinde as a "traitor." The controversy escalated when he posted the clip online, prompting backlash from Shinde's supporters.

Shiv Sena (UBT) and Congress leaders defended Kamra's right to free expression, while members of Shinde's faction retaliated by vandalizing Habitat Studio. Mumbai Police have since summoned Kamra for questioning, with officials confirming that the notice was delivered to his residence.

As the debate over artistic freedom and copyright intensifies, Kamra urged creators to take note of the legal implications of such takedown requests.

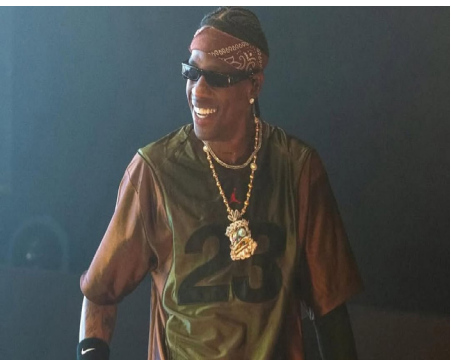
Saif Ali Khan on 'Jewel Thief': Working with Jaideep Ahlawat was thrilling



Saif Ali Khan is set to star in the Netflix thriller Jewel Thief, portraying a suave con man opposite Jaideep Ahlawat, who plays a formidable mafia boss. Saif expressed excitement about reuniting with producer Siddharth Anand and praised Jaideep's depth as an actor. "Sharing the screen with Jaideep brought unpredictability and intensity. This film is a thrilling ride," he said.

Jaideep, eager to explore the heist genre, called the film a fresh challenge. "It was an experience of stepping into a new universe with passionate co-stars like Saif," he shared. Netflix India's Ruchika Kapoor Sheikh called Jewel Thief an "adrenaline-fueled heist film" with Siddharth Anand's signature style. Directed by Kookie Gulati and Robbie Grewal, the film, also starring Kunal Kapoor and Nikita Dutta, will premiere on Netflix on April 25.

Travis Scott set to perform in India for the first time with New Delhi concert



Global hip-hop sensation Travis Scott will make his debut in India with a live performance at New Delhi's Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium on October 18, 2025. The show is part of his Circus Maximus World Tour and marks a major milestone for Indian fans of the rapper. Scott, one of the best-selling rappers of all time, has five number-one hits on the U.S. Billboard Hot 100 and over one hundred charting songs. His signature sound, blending traditional hip-hop with lo-fi and psychedelic elements, has been influenced by artists like Kanye West and Kid Cudi. His stage name pays homage to the latter, whose real name is Scott Mescudi.

With chart-topping tracks like SICKO MODE, Goosebumps, Highest in the Room, and FE!N, Scott has redefined modern rap. His latest album, Utopia, shattered streaming records and further cemented his influence in the music industry. Beyond music, Scott has also made an impact through philanthropy. In 2022, he launched Project HEAL, a \$5 million initiative through his Cactus Jack Foundation, funding community-focused programs in his home state of Texas.

Scott's India concert is being organized by BookMyShow Live, in collaboration with global concert promoters Live Nation.

Ali Fazal champions women's storytelling with Rule Breakers

Actor Ali Fazal is continuing his push for women-led storytelling with Rule Breakers, a drama about a woman's fight for girls' education in a society resistant to change. Ali, who co-founded Undercurrent Lab with his wife, actress Richa Chadha, emphasized the importance of inclusive filmmaking. "For too long, narratives have been controlled by one perspective. I want to ensure more women

have the resources and platform to tell their own stories," he said.

Rule Breakers stars Phoebe Waller-Bridge and is directed by Academy Award winner Bill Guttentag. Ali also has upcoming projects including Metro... In Dino, Mirzapur: The Movie, and Thug Life with Mani Ratnam. On the streaming front, he will appear in Raj & DK's historical drama Rakhtbrahmand.



Prime Minister Modi to attend special screening of Chhava at Parliament

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will attend a special screening of the historical drama Chhava at the Balayogi Auditorium in Parliament, joined by Cabinet ministers and Members of Parliament. The film, which portrays the life and legacy of Maratha warrior Chhatrapati Sambhaji Maharaj, has been widely praised for its historical accuracy and compelling storytelling. The screening will feature the presence of the film's cast and crew, including lead actor Vicky Kaushal, who plays Sambhaji Maharaj. Prime Minister Modi has previously commended the film, emphasizing its importance in preserving India's historical narratives. Speaking at the Akhil Bharatiya Marathi Sahitya Sammelan, he highlighted how Chhava, inspired by Shivaji Sawant's Marathi novel, resonates with audiences nationwide.



"Maharashtra and Mumbai have played a crucial role in shaping both Marathi and Hindi cinema. Chhava is now sparking conversations across the country with its powerful portrayal of Sambhaji Maharaj's courage," he remarked.

Since its release, Chhava has received international recognition for its gripping narrative and strong performances. The film continues to perform well at the box office, drawing audiences even in its sixth week.

Sonu Nigam clarifies reports of stone pelting at university concert

Playback singer Sonu Nigam has addressed reports of stone pelting at his recent concert at Delhi Technological University, clarifying that no such incident took place. The singer took to Instagram to deny the claims, explaining that a vape device and a headgear called a "Pookie band" were thrown onstage, but no stones or bottles were hurled. "I paused the show and reminded the audience that such behavior could end it abruptly. After that, only the Pookie band was thrown, which was actually quite funny," he shared.

The concert, attended by over 100,000 people, had earlier been reported as having turned chaotic. Sonu also recently criticized the IIFA Awards for not nominating his viral song Mere Dholna 3.0 despite its massive success.

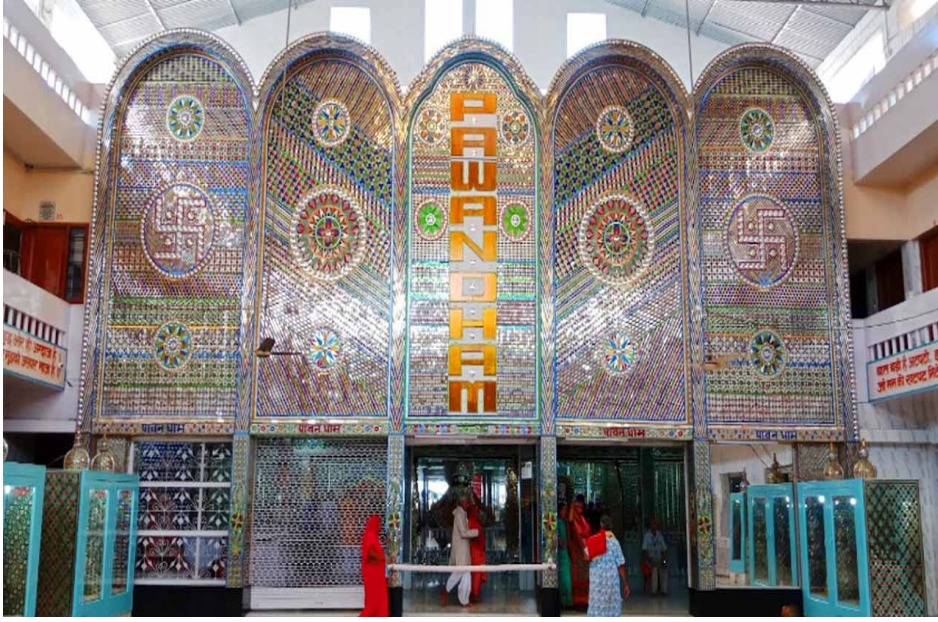


Ben Affleck reflects on struggles during Justice League: 'I was bringing unhappiness to work'

Ben Affleck has opened up about his challenges while filming Justice League, admitting that personal struggles affected his performance and overall experience. In a new interview with GQ, the Oscar-winning actor revealed, "I certainly would not want to replicate an experience like that. There were misaligned expectations, and I was not in a great place myself." Affleck acknowledged that his drinking increased during that period, particularly as his marriage was falling apart. Reflecting on his time as Batman, he admitted, "I was not bringing a lot of positive energy to the set. I did my job, but you have to do better than that." The realization led him to step away from reprising the role in The Batman.

Now five years sober, Affleck says his personal journey has influenced his acting, particularly in The Way Back, a film about addiction and redemption.

IndoUS Tribune की हरिद्वार के मंदिरों की यात्रा का छठा पड़ाव: पावन धाम-एक आध्यात्मिक और वास्तुशिल्पिक रत्न



हरिद्वार, जिसे धर्म द्वार कहा जाता है, हिंदू धर्म में एक अत्यंत पवित्र स्थल है। यहाँ के हर मंदिर और घाट अपनी एक विशेषता रखते हैं, जो उन्हें श्रद्धालुओं के लिए आकर्षण का केंद्र बनाता है। IndoUS Tribune की हरिद्वार के मंदिरों और पवित्र स्थलों की आध्यात्मिक यात्रा के छठे पड़ाव पर हम आपको लेकर आए हैं पावन धाम मंदिर - वह अद्भुत स्थान, जहाँ आस्था और कला का अद्भुत मिलाजुला रूप देखने को मिलता है। यह मंदिर अपनी भव्य काँच की कारीगरी और शांत वातावरण के लिए प्रसिद्ध है, जो हर भक्त को अपनी ओर आकर्षित करता है। इस विशेष आलेख में हम पावन धाम मंदिर के ऐतिहासिक महत्व, वास्तुकला और यहाँ की भक्ति की सुंदरता के बारे में विस्तृत रूप से जानेंगे।

पावन धाम-हरिद्वार में एक आध्यात्मिक और वास्तुशिल्पिक रत्न

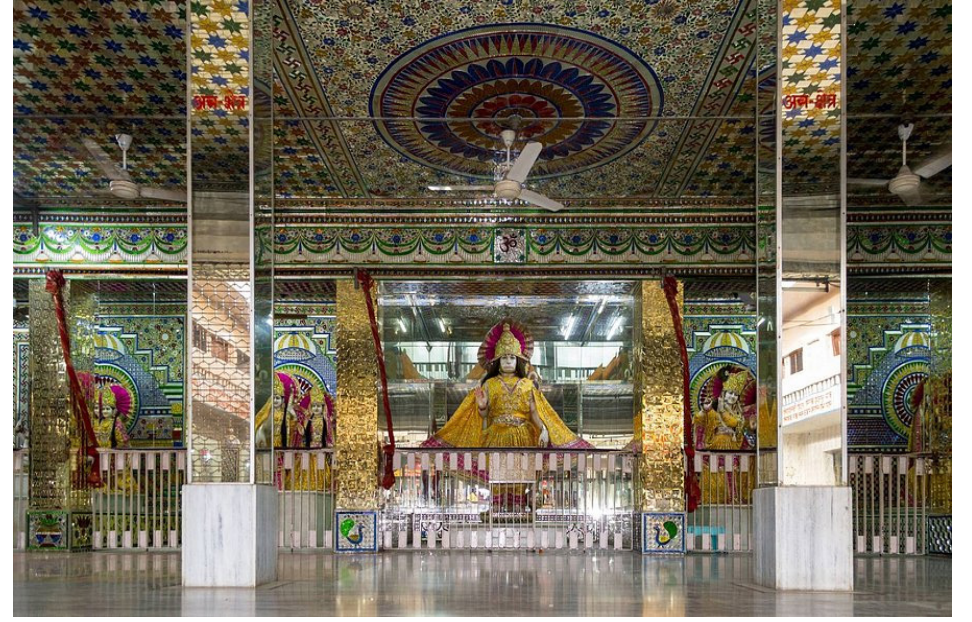
पावन धाम, जो हरिद्वार के पवित्र शहर में स्थित है, एक प्रसिद्ध मंदिर है जो अपनी अद्भुत काँच की कारीगरी और

आध्यात्मिक महत्व के लिए जाना जाता है। यह स्थल अपने शांत वातावरण और जटिल कारीगरी के लिए अनगिनत भक्तों और आगंतुकों को आकर्षित करता है।

इस मंदिर की अद्भुत कला और शांति की अनुभूति हर यात्री के लिए एक बेहतरीन अनुभव प्रदान करती है, जो भक्ति और वास्तुशिल्प की सुंदरता का संगम देखना चाहते हैं।

ऐतिहासिक महत्व

पावन धाम की स्थापना स्वामी वेदांतानंद जी महाराज ने 1970 में की थी, और इसका उद्देश्य समाज की सेवा करना और आध्यात्मिक शिक्षा फैलाना था। यह मंदिर गीता भवन ट्रस्ट सोसाइटी द्वारा प्रबंधित किया जाता है, जिसने इसके विकास और पहचान में महत्वपूर्ण योगदान दिया है। स्वामी वेदांतानंद जी महाराज का दर्शन और उनके द्वारा किए गए कार्य इस मंदिर को एक पवित्र स्थल बनाते हैं। पावन धाम, हरिद्वार में आने वाले तीर्थयात्रियों के लिए एक श्रद्धेय स्थल है।



मुख्य आकर्षण

पावन धाम अपनी सुंदर काँच की कारीगरी और जटिल नक्काशी के लिए प्रसिद्ध है, जो मंदिर की दीवारों और छतों को सजाती है। मंदिर के अंदर के रंग-बिरंगे दृश्य एक अद्भुत अनुभव प्रस्तुत करते हैं।

इसके शांतिपूर्ण वातावरण और कला की आकर्षक छवि इसे भक्ति और कला प्रेमियों दोनों के लिए एक आदर्श स्थल बनाती है।

स्वामी वेदांतानंद जी महाराज का योगदान

स्वामी वेदांतानंद जी महाराज का जीवन दूसरों की मदद और सेवा में समर्पित था। पावन धाम उनकी सेवा भावना का अद्भुत उदाहरण है।

यह मंदिर न केवल भक्तों के लिए एक पवित्र स्थल है, बल्कि यह समाज के प्रत्येक वर्ग की मदद के लिए भी समर्पित है।

स्वामी जी का यह उद्देश्य था कि इस मंदिर के माध्यम से समाज के प्रत्येक व्यक्ति और पशु की सेवा की जाए। यह सेवा कार्य जैसे संत सेवा, गौ सेवा और जरूरतमंदों को मुफ्त भोजन देना मंदिर की प्राथमिक गतिविधियाँ हैं।

वास्तुकला

पावन धाम मंदिर अपनी सुंदर और जटिल वास्तुकला के लिए विशेष रूप से प्रसिद्ध है। यहाँ की दीवारों, स्तंभों और छतों पर किए गए नक्काशी कार्य और काँच की कारीगरी एक वास्तुशिल्पिक का सपना साकार करती है।

यह मंदिर पारंपरिक भारतीय वास्तुकला का आदर्श उदाहरण प्रस्तुत करता है, जहाँ पर काँच के काम और शीशे की सुंदरता का सम्मिलन किया गया है, जो इसे और भी आकर्षक बनाता है।

मंदिर के समय

पावन धाम मंदिर हर दिन सुबह 6 बजे से रात 8 बजे तक खुला रहता है।

यात्रा का सर्वोत्तम समय

पावन धाम मंदिर और हरिद्वार यात्रा के लिए अक्टूबर से फरवरी तक का समय सर्वोत्तम है। इस दौरान मौसम सुहावना रहता है, और मंदिरों में दर्शन के लिए यह समय आदर्श है। गर्मी के महीने में भी यात्रा की जा सकती है, लेकिन तापमान बहुत अधिक हो सकता है।

बरसात के महीनों में यात्रा से बचना चाहिए, क्योंकि यह समय भू-स्खलन और अन्य मौसमीय समस्याओं का होता है।

कैसे पहुंचें

पावन धाम हरिद्वार के भगीरथी नगर, भूपतवाला में स्थित है। यह हरिद्वार बस अड्डे से लगभग 3 किलोमीटर की दूरी पर है।

दिल्ली से बस द्वारा हरिद्वार के लिए नियमित सेवाएं उपलब्ध हैं। सबसे नजदीकी रेलवे स्टेशन हरिद्वार रेलवे स्टेशन है, जो पावन धाम से लगभग 5 किलोमीटर दूर है।

यात्रा टिप्स

- ▶ मौसम का पूर्वानुमान चेक करें और सुरक्षित यात्रा का समय चुनें।
- ▶ पावन धाम मंदिर से बस अड्डे तक 3 किलोमीटर का पैदल मार्ग है।
- ▶ यात्रा के दौरान पानी और कैप साथ रखें, क्योंकि मंदिर के आसपास खुले क्षेत्र हैं।
- ▶ धार्मिक स्थल होने के कारण उचित वस्त्र पहनें, ताकि स्थानीय धार्मिक भावनाओं को आहत न हो।

यह पावन धाम हरिद्वार के एक अद्वितीय और आध्यात्मिक यात्रा स्थल के रूप में अपनी पहचान बनाता है, जहाँ हर व्यक्ति को शांति और आंतरिक संतुलन प्राप्त हो सकता है।

हर हर गंगे! जय मां गंगे!



Devotional Praise of Shiva in the Ramcharitmanas

Whenever there is a discussion about devotion to Lord Rama, the remembrance of Lord Shiva naturally follows.



Rajendra Kapil
Phone: 847-962-1291

It is said that Lord Shiva is always engrossed in the meditation of his beloved Lord Rama. Tulsidas has clearly stated that an enemy of Shiva can never be a devotee of Rama.

When Goswami Tulsidas composed the Ramcharitmanas, he was asked about the source of his inspiration. His answer was simple—Lord Shiva. He narrated that one night, Shiva appeared in his dream and inspired him to write the story of Lord Rama in the common language (Awadhi). After this divine inspiration, Tulsidas began composing the Ramcharitmanas. However, the scholars of Banaras, who adhered strictly to Sanskrit scriptures, refused to accept it and demanded proof of its authenticity.

Tulsidas placed the manuscript of Ramcharitmanas inside the temple of Kashi Vishwanath, and the scholars locked the temple doors. The next morning, when the temple was opened, the manuscript was found with “Om Namah Shivaya” inscribed on it in divine handwriting. After this miraculous event, everyone accepted the authenticity of Ramcharitmanas.

Bhavāni Śakarau Vande Śraddhā
Viśvāsa Rūpiau
Yābhyā Vinā Na Paśyanti Siddhā
Svāntasthamiśvaram

The Ramcharitmanas itself begins with prayers to Lord Shiva. “I bow to Shiva and Parvati, embodiments of faith and devotion, without whom even the accomplished sages cannot perceive the divine Lord within.”

Tulsidas has mentioned the benevolent and gracious nature of Lord Shiva in several places throughout the epic.

Nāma Prasāda Sambhu Abināsi, Sāju
Amangala Mangala Rāsi



However, the particular invocation discussed in this article appears in the Uttarakā. In this section, there is a conversation between Garuda and Kakabhushundi, where Kakabhushundi recalls a time when he was in a pitiful state and traveled to Ujjain.

Gayaū Ujenī Sunu Uragāri, Dīn Malin
Daridra Dukhāri
Gaye Kāla Kachu Sampatti Pāi, Taha Puni
Karaū Sambhu Sevakāi

During his visit to Ujjain, he encountered a Brahmin devoted entirely to the worship of Lord Shiva. This Brahmin was highly selfless and kind-hearted. He accepted Kakabhushundi as his disciple and began teaching him the method of Shiva worship. However, Kakabhushundi was arrogant and only pretended to respect the teachings externally while secretly holding contempt in his heart.

Guru Nit Moi Prabodh, Dukhit Dekhi
Ācharan Mam
Moi Upajai Ati Krodh, Dabhihi Niti Ki
Bhāvai

The Guru would patiently explain things to him daily, but Kakabhushundi ignored his words. Instead, he grew angry, as arrogant people often dislike moral teachings. One day, while meditating in the Shiva temple, he deliberately ignored his Guru when he entered the shrine, refusing even to stand up in respect.

Eka Bāra Har Mandir Japat Rahau Siv
Nāma
Guru Āyau Abhimān Te Uhi Nahī Kin
Pranāma

Seeing this disrespect, the Guru did not react angrily, but Lord Shiva could not

tolerate the insult. A divine voice echoed through the temple:

Mandir Mānjha Bhayī Nabhavāni, Re
Hatabhāgya Agya Abhimāni
Jadyapi Tava Guru Ke Nahī Krodha, Ati
Kpāla Chit Samyak Bodha

Hearing this celestial voice, the Guru panicked and immediately started prostrating before Lord Shiva, repeatedly begging for forgiveness on Kakabhushundi's behalf.

Kari Daavat Suprem Dvij, Siv Sammukh
Kar Jori
Binay Karat Gadgad Swar, Samujhi Ghor
Gati Mori

Following this, the Guru, in a deeply emotional tone, sang a Sanskrit hymn in praise of Lord Shiva. This hymn, consisting of eight verses, is known as the Rudrāakam and remains a cherished prayer among Shiva devotees today.

The Rudrāakam

Namāmiśamīśāna Nirvāarūpa
Vibhu Vyāpaka Brahmaveda Swarūpam
Nija Nirgua Nirvikalpa Nirīha
Chidākāśamākāśavāsa Bhaje'ham 1

Nirākāramokāramūla Turīya
Girā Jñānagotitamiśa Girīśam
Karāla Mahākālakāla Kpāla
Guāgāra Sansāra Pāra Nato'ham 2

Tuārātri Sakāśa Gauram Gambhīra
Manobhūta Koi Prabhā Śrīśarīram
Sphuran Mouli Kallolini Chāru Gagā
Lasadbālaba Lendu Kahe Bhujangā 3

Chalatkuala Bhrūsunetra Viśāla
Prasannānana Nilakaha Dayālam

Mgādheśa Charmāambar Muamāla
Priya Śakara Sarvanātha Bhajāmi 4

Prachana Praka Pragalbha Pareśa
Akhaa Aja Bhānukoi Prakāśam
Tryaśūla Nirmūlana Śūlapāi
Bhaje'ha Bhavānīpati Bhāvagamyam 5

Kalātīta Kalyāa Kalpāntakāri
Sadā Sajjanānanda Dātā Purāri
Chidānanda Sadoha Mohāpahāri
Prasīda Prasīda Prabho Manmathāri 6

Na Yāvad Umānātha Pādāravinda
Bhāntiha Loke Pare Vā Narāam
Na Tāvat Sukha Śānti Santāpa Nāśa
Prasīda Prabho Sarvabhūtādhivāsam 7

Na Jānāmi Yoga Japa Naiva Pūjā
Nato'ha Sadā Sarvadā Śambhutubhyam
Jarājanma Dukhaugha Tāpāyāmāna
Prabho Pāhi Āpannamāmiśa Śambho 8

Meaning of the Rudrāakam

This hymn praises Lord Shiva, addressing him as the supreme divine entity beyond all worldly attributes. He is the embodiment of boundless grace, free from attachment, and resplendent like a million suns. Adorned with a crescent moon on his forehead and serpents around his neck, he radiates divine brilliance.

Lord Shiva is the destroyer of suffering, the savior of devotees, and the supreme protector of the universe. The hymn humbly requests his mercy, acknowledging human limitations in understanding the divine through rituals alone. The prayer seeks liberation from the endless cycle of birth and death through Shiva's grace.



Illinois veterans and Congressman Krishnamoorthi demand Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth's resignation over classified information leak

By: IndoUS Tribune News Desk

Illinois veterans, lawmakers, and community leaders gathered at Daley Plaza on Thursday, calling for the immediate resignation of Secretary of Defense Pete Hegseth following allegations that he shared classified military strike plans over an unsecured messaging app. Leading the charge was Congressman Raja Krishnamoorthi, a senior member of the House Intelligence Committee, who condemned the alleged security breach as a serious threat to national defense.

"When a Secretary of Defense exposes classified strike plans in a war zone, he does not just break protocol—he breaks trust with every American who wears the uniform," Krishnamoorthi told the crowd. "Pete Hegseth endangered our troops and then lied about it. For that, he must resign."

Veterans and officials demand accountability

The rally drew strong support from military families, veterans' organizations, and elected officials, all demanding stricter accountability in handling classified information. Among those in attendance were Rep. Danny Davis, Alderman Gil Villegas, Illinois Veterans for Change Chair Jesse Rojo, and veterans from across the state.

Mykela Collins, whose cousin is currently deployed aboard the USS Carl Vinson, voiced frustration over the alleged mishandling of classified materials.

"Our loved ones put their lives on the line every day," Collins said. "If an enlisted soldier mishandled classified documents like this, they would be court-martialed. There should not be one set of rules for troops and another for top officials."

Jesse Rojo, speaking on behalf of Illinois Veterans for Change, echoed these concerns, emphasizing that military leadership must be held to the same standards as service members.

"We teach discipline and responsibility in the military. Leaders must lead by example," Rojo said. "Hegseth's actions are not just reckless; they are dangerous."

Calls for investigation grow

Krishnamoorthi and his colleagues are now demanding a formal investigation into Hegseth's actions. He stressed that beyond resignation, the Defense Secretary must be held accountable through legal and congressional review.

"This is not just about politics—it is about national security," Krishnamoorthi



Congressman Krishnamoorthi calls for Secretary of Defense Pete Hegseth's resignation at the rally

stated. "The Department of Defense must ensure that classified information is never mishandled again."

Hegseth has denied any wrongdoing, claiming that the messages were misrepresented. However, bipartisan concern is growing, with intelligence officials and lawmakers calling for immediate hearings to assess the severity of the breach.

As pressure mounts, the controversy surrounding Hegseth's handling of classified information is expected to escalate, raising critical questions about security protocols within the Department of Defense.

IndoUS Tribune will continue to provide updates as the situation develops.

Raja Krishnamoorthi slams Trump administration over leaked military plans, calls for accountability

By: IndoUS Tribune Staff

Congressman Raja Krishnamoorthi (D-IL), a senior member of the House Intelligence Committee, has criticized the Trump administration's mishandling of sensitive military information. In a recent interview on MSNBC's "All In with Chris Hayes," Krishnamoorthi condemned the accidental inclusion of journalist Jeffrey Goldberg in a Signal group chat where top officials discussed military operations.

The controversy began when Jeffrey Goldberg, editor-in-chief of The Atlantic, reported that he had been mistakenly added to a Signal chat involving senior officials such as Vice President JD Vance, Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth, and National Security Adviser Mike Waltz. The chat reportedly contained discussions about planned airstrikes against the Houthi group in Yemen. Goldberg's inclusion in this chat has raised significant concerns about the administration's handling of classified information.



In his interview, Krishnamoorthi emphasized the dangers of using unsecured platforms for critical national security communications. He stated, "This is dangerous and unconscionable."

The failure of the officials involved to take responsibility means this could happen again—either at senior levels or with younger personnel who might follow the bad example set by

their superiors." He further warned that such negligence could jeopardize American national security and endanger U.S. servicemembers.

The incident has led to bipartisan calls for accountability. Senators Roger Wicker and Jack Reed have urged the Pentagon to investigate how Goldberg was added to the Signal chat. They expressed concerns about the potential discussion

of classified information over unclassified networks and involving individuals without the necessary clearance.

Defense Secretary Hegseth has denied that any sensitive "war plans" were discussed in the chat, stating, "Nobody was texting war plans." However, this assertion has been met with skepticism, as reports indicate that the chat included detailed information about planned military operations.

The White House maintains that no classified information was shared, despite detailed attack plans being discussed. Democrats, including Senator Mark Warner, contest this, arguing that the shared details should have been classified.

As the investigation continues, Krishnamoorthi's calls for accountability are expected to influence the discourse around national security practices in the coming weeks.

Seattle hosts first-ever Festival of Indian Cinema at MOPOP



Audience viewing excerpts of PM's podcast with Lex Fridman

By: Vandana Jhingan

CEO Michele Y. Smith.

Seattle marked a cultural milestone with the first-ever Festival of Indian Cinema, held from March 21 to 23, 2025, at the Museum of Pop Culture (MOPOP). Organized by the Consulate General of India, Seattle, in partnership with MOPOP, the event celebrated India's rich cinematic heritage with film screenings, discussions, and a special exhibit on the history of Indian cinema.

Audiences were treated to screenings of three acclaimed Indian films: "English Vinglish", a poignant drama on self-empowerment, "Zindagi Na Milegi Dobara", a vibrant tale of friendship and adventure, and "Raksha Bandhan", a heartfelt story about familial bonds. The festival also featured a photo exhibit chronicling the evolution of Indian cinema, which remained on display at MOPOP until March 23, 2025.

The festival's inaugural ceremony featured a documentary on the Mahakumbh at Prayagraj and highlights from Prime Minister Narendra Modi's podcast with Lex Fridman, which explored India's foundational philosophy of Unity in Diversity. Distinguished guests in attendance included US Congresswoman Pramila Jayapal, King County Council Vice Chair Sarah Perry, Port of Seattle Commissioner Sam Cho, and MOPOP

In a significant recognition of Indian cinema's influence, King County officially proclaimed March 21-23 as "Indian Cinema Festival Days" across all 39 cities in the region. The festival received an enthusiastic response from Seattle's diverse community, strengthening cultural ties between India and the Pacific Northwest while setting the stage for future editions of this cinematic celebration.



Audience viewing the Inaugural Ceremony of the 1st Festival of Indian Cinema at MOPOP



Viewing of documentary on recently concluded Mahakumbh



Viewing of documentary on recently concluded Mahakumbh



Inaugural Ceremony of 1st Festival of Indian Cinema in Seattle



Consul General felicitating the artists at Inaugural Ceremony



Photo exhibit on "History of Indian Cinema" at MOPOP

IUHS to host webinar on affordable U.S.-accredited medical degrees for international students

On April 1, 2025, IUHS School of Medicine, in collaboration with Study Abroad, will host an exclusive webinar for prospective students interested in pursuing a medical degree. Led by Wendy Kolanovic, Director of Marketing & Alumni Relations, the session will also feature a current student and a graduate, providing firsthand insights into the IUHS experience.

Attendees will gain valuable information about the curriculum, affordability, and career pathways available through IUHS.

Prospective students can register for the event through the link below: thestudyabroadportal.com

This is a unique opportunity for aspiring medical professionals to explore an affordable, high-quality pathway to their dream career.

This webinar will highlight how students can earn a four-year Medical Doctor (MD) degree from a U.S.-accredited, WDOMS-listed institution at just one-third the cost

For more details, visit the IUHS School of Medicine website: www.iuhs.edu



Chicago community gathers for special viewing of PM Modi's podcast with Lex Fridman



Consul General of India, Chicago, Somnath Ghosh with women group of Chicago

By: Jayanti Oza

On March 22, 2025, the Consulate General of India in Chicago and the Bharatiya Seniors of Chicago hosted a special community screening of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's podcast interview with Lex Fridman. The event took place at the Rana Reagan Community Center in Carol Stream, IL, drawing over 200 attendees from the Chicago Indian community.

The program was covered by TV Asia Midwest Bureau Chief Vandana Jhingan and journalist Jayanti Oza, with support from Nirav Patel (VHPA), Haribhai Patel (BSC), Somnath Ghosh (Consul General of India, Chicago), Chanchal Jhingan, and Amar Upadhyay (OFBJP).

Insights from PM Modi's interview

Welcoming the audience, Somnath Ghosh provided an introduction to the podcast and its significance. During the conversation with Fridman, PM Modi emphasized his deep-rooted belief in public service, stating, "I believe and consider 'Janta Janardan' as God." He expressed gratitude to activists and supporters, reaffirming his commitment



(From L to R) Gordhan Patel (American Circuit), Mafat Patel (Patel Brothers), Hari Patel (BSC), and Somnath Ghosh (Consul General of India, Chicago)

to fulfilling promises made to the people of India.

Modi also highlighted how advancements in technology have played a critical role in governance, ensuring that financial benefits reach the intended beneficiaries

directly from Delhi. He credited technology for reducing corruption, increasing efficiency, and serving as a transformative tool for the nation. Reflecting on past challenges, he acknowledged the unfortunate history of riots in Gujarat while emphasizing India's progress.

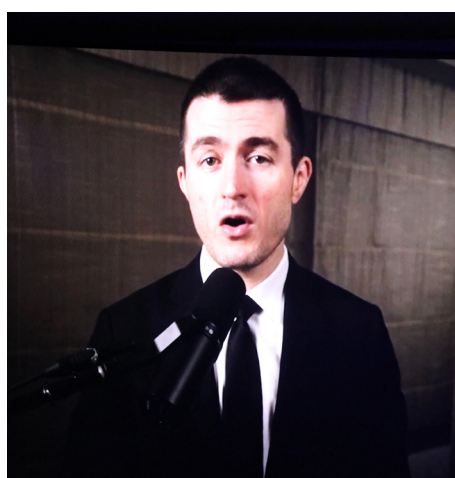
Event highlights

The evening featured prominent community leaders and guests, including:

► **Key speakers:** Gordhan Patel (American Circuit), Mafat Patel (Patel Brothers), Hari Patel (BSC), and Somnath Ghosh (Consul General of India, Chicago).

► **Podcast coverage:** Led by TV Asia Midwest Bureau Chief Vandana Jhingan and journalist Jayanti Oza.

► **Community engagement:** Women's groups and various Chicago-based organizations participated in discussions about Modi's vision for India.



Interviewer Lex Fridman



India's PM Narendra Modi



Podcast news covered by TV Asia Midwest Bureau Chief & reporter of 'Hindi Khabar' Vandana Jhingan

The event served as an opportunity for the community to engage with Modi's insights on governance, technology, and national development while fostering dialogue on India's future.

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

● **Dr. K C Gupta, YBB Personal Finance**

SENTIMENTS

AAII Bull-Bear Spread -36.5% (very low). (Thursday-Wednesday)
\$NYA50R, NYSE %Above 50-dMA 37.28% (negative)
\$SPXA50R, SP500 %Above 50-dMA 34.60% (negative)
Delta MSI 33.0% (negative)

ICI Fund Allocations (Cumulative)
OEFs & ETFs: Stocks 61.10%, Hybrids 4.23%, Bonds 17.38%, M-Mkt 17.30%

INTEREST RATES

CME FedWatch
Cycle peak 5.25-5.50%
Current 4.25-4.50%
FOMC 5/7/25+ hold
FOMC 6/18/25+ cut

Treasury

T-Bills 3-mo yield 4.33%, 1-yr 4.04%; T-Notes 2-yr 3.94%, 5-yr 4.00%, 10-yr 4.25%; T-Bonds 30-yr 4.59%;
TIPS/Real yields 5-yr 1.49%, 10-yr 1.92%, 30-yr 2.35%
FRNs Index 4.251%
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, 3/1/25
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 4.250% (previous 4.625%).

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

MARKETS

According to Barron's International column, the INDIAN stock market may be ready to rebound from its recent correction. This may be a good entry point for the historically expensive market. The economic slowdown was temporary & the RBI has cut rates (2-3 more cuts ahead). Weakening rupee is a concern. The US tariffs will be headwinds but won't affect the outsourced services. The median age of the population is only 28. Attractive sectors include financials, power, telecom, & healthcare. The US ETFs are INDA, EPI, NIFTY; hedged INDH (tiny).

IT/TECH

The #1 Indian telecom Reliance Jio (AMBANI) & #2 Airtel (MITTAL) have agreements with US SpaceX (MUSK) to bring Starlink satellite services to India. Starlink uses a large number of low-earth-orbit (LEO) satellites for faster communications. Airtel previously partnered with Eutelsat OneWeb for satellite services (LEO). Reliance Jio also partnered with Luxembourg's SES to offer JioSpaceFiber that will be based on fewer medium-earth orbit (MEO) satellites that provide slower communications. Among the sticky points are that Starlink wants a 20-yr license, while the Indian Government may issue

only a 5-yr renewable license, & the Indian Government's demand for a local Starlink control center (or, a local ON/OFF switch) in India. Its unclear whether all these overlapping partnerships will continue for the long-term.

ECONOMY

US reciprocal TARIFFS will hit India-shoring projects hard. India typically requires some technology transfer & local production from firms wanting to expand business in India. When this local production is beyond the domestic needs, or is exclusively for exports, that is India-shoring. But those Indian exports would face the US reciprocal tariffs. The new US policies only support the US onshoring, not near-shoring (in Canada, Mexico) or friend-shoring or regional-shoring (away from China).

SPECIAL TOPICS

US CRYPTO firm Coinbase/ COIN is making a 2nd attempt to enter the Indian market. COIN is unique in that it's a combination crypto exchange, broker-dealer & custodian. For regular financials, these 3 businesses are either separate companies, or distinct subsidiaries of the same companies. India hasn't been crypto-friendly, but now that the US has done a major flip on cryptos, expectations are that other countries, including India, would become more favorable to cryptos. Dubai/UAE is already a major crypto hub.

India's largest drug maker SUN PHARMA is buying the US specialty drug company CHECKPOINT Therapeutics (immunotherapy,

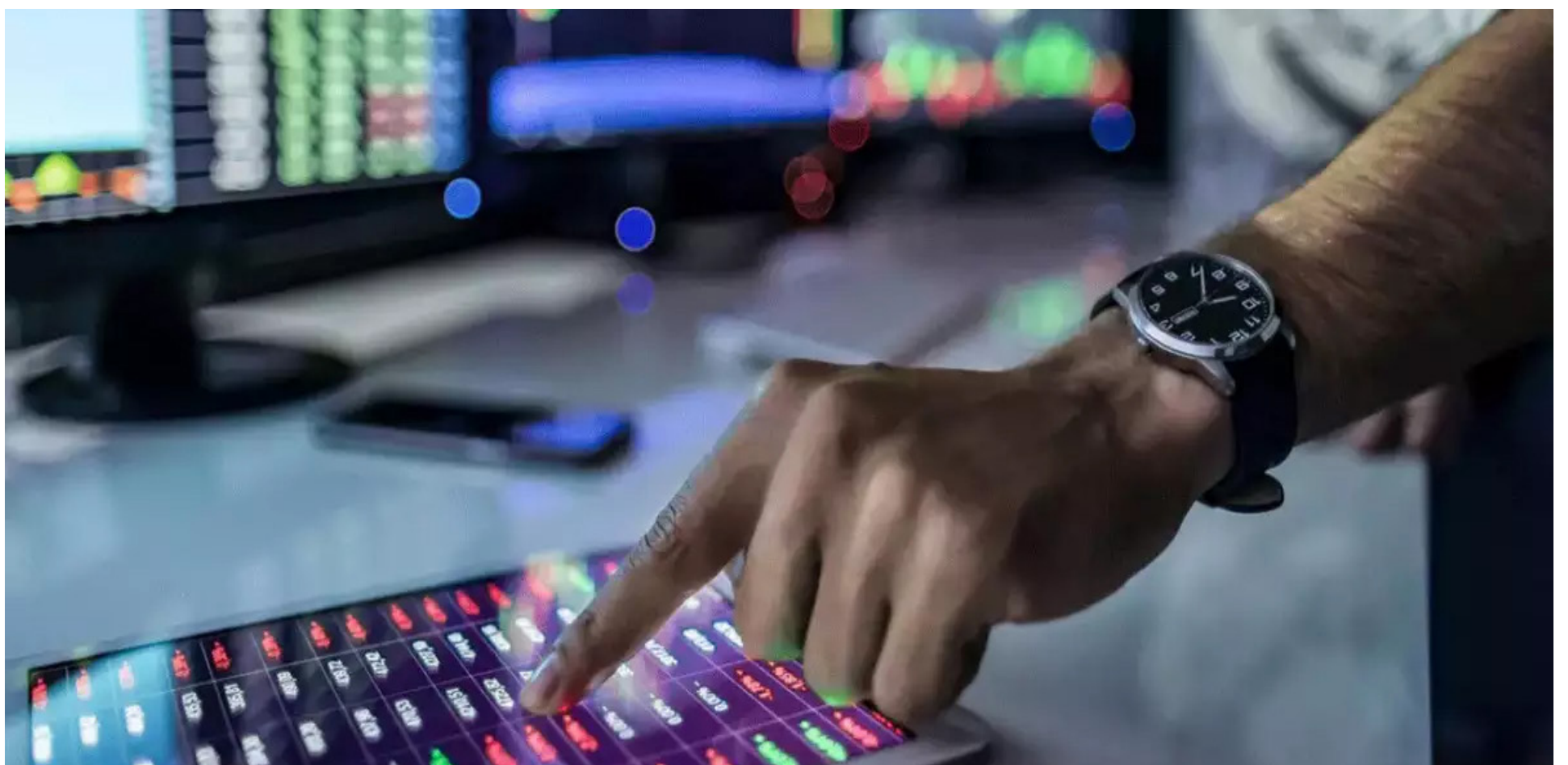
oncology). Sun Pharma already gets 33.3% of its revenues from the US, mostly from generics.

Blackstone/BX is buying 40% stake in Indian real estate developer KOLTE-PATIL that can be increased substantially later. Kolte-Patil builds residential & commercial properties in Mumbai, Pune & Bengaluru.

German multinational financial giant ALLIANZ is exiting its life & general insurance joint ventures with BAJAJ. These units will be consolidated under Bajaj Finserv. Allianz will use the proceeds to explore new opportunities under the new rules that allow 100% (vs previous 74%) foreign direct investments (FDI) in insurance with the requirements for local deployment of insurance premiums.

MEDICAL TOURISM is growing rapidly in India. Foreigners can access high-quality medical services & facilities in India at much lower costs. This business dropped sharply during the pandemic but has recovered to the pre-Covid levels. The largest number of patients are from the neighboring countries followed by those from the Middle East, Africa, etc. Ancient Ayurvedic medicines & yogic practices complement the treatment. Major surgical costs in India may be only 5-15% of those in the US or UK. The total costs in India including surgery, recovery, rehabilitation, airfares & local hotels & tours are still cheaper.

For more information, see ybbpersonalfinance.proboards.com/





Timeless elegance: 4 exquisite saris from Deepika Padukone's wardrobe every bride should own

Deepika Padukone has long been a muse for bridal fashion, and her wedding trousseau remains a masterclass in elegance. From rich Kanjivarams to intricately woven Gharcholas, her sari collection embodies heritage, craftsmanship, and timeless appeal. Whether you are a bride-to-be or simply looking to invest in heirloom-worthy pieces, these four stunning drapes from Deepika's wardrobe deserve a place in your collection.

The regal Gharchola by Rimple and Harpreet

A staple in Gujarati weddings, the Gharchola sari is gifted to brides as a symbol of love and blessings. Deepika's sindoori red Gharchola, crafted from gajji silk, featured a mesmerizing blend of Benarasi zari and bandhej patterns. Embellished with intricate dabka, marodi, nakshi, and dori work, the drape exuded vintage charm.

The opulent 'Hukum Ki Rani' by Torani

A true labor of love, Karan Torani's jewel-toned purple sari took over 3,400 hours to create. Inspired by the grandeur of Hyderabad's Chowmahallah Palace and Karachi's Chaukhandi Tombs, the sari featured delicate

architectural motifs. Deepika elevated the look with a polki and pearl choker, adding old-world charm to the ensemble.

Sabyasachi's signature sequin sari

Few saris have achieved cult status like Sabyasachi's monotone sequined drape. A favorite among celebrities, including Alia Bhatt and Kareena Kapoor, Deepika's version in champagne gold epitomized effortless glamour. The understated sparkle made it perfect for cocktail parties, wedding receptions, and festive soirées.

The heirloom-worthy Kanjivaram by The House of Angadi

For her post-wedding celebrations, Deepika embraced South Indian heritage in a burnt-orange Kanjivaram from Advaya by The House of Angadi. Woven with pure zari and featuring the mythical Gandaberunda motif, the sari was a statement in tradition. She styled it with temple jewelry, stacking kadas, rings, and a mathapatti for a truly regal look.

From opulent embellishments to timeless weaves, Deepika Padukone's sari collection is the ultimate inspiration for brides who want to blend tradition with contemporary allure. Which one would you pick for your trousseau?



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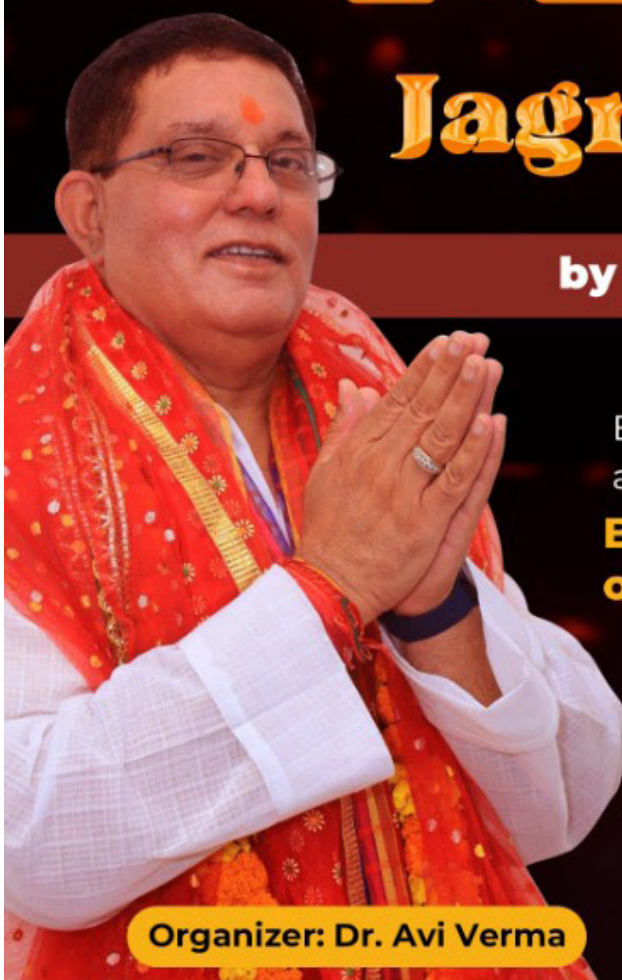
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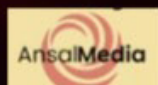
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Everything you need to know about IUHS School of Medicine

By: Dr. Avi Verma

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

2. Program Structure & Exams:

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

3. Assessments:

- ▶ End-of-block graded exams
- ▶ DxR Clinician virtual patient simulation graded assignments • Non-graded DAR exams (at the end of Blocks 3, 6, 9) to identify knowledge gaps
- ▶ Lectorio self-assessments which are



IUHS School of Medicine

mandatory but not graded

4. Teaching methods:

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

5. Clinical rotations:

- ▶ U.S. students can complete all rotations at the main affiliated hospital in

Chicago, Illinois with additional sites in Texas, West Virginia, California, Nevada, Missouri and Arizona (subject to availability). Clinical rotation preparation starts around Block 8.

- ▶ Australian students have a dedicated clinical director assisting them with the arrangements for clinical placements.

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

Key Features:

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

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

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

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

Key Features:

- ▶ Comprehensive Medical Curriculum Support – Covers preclinical and clinical subjects aligned with USMLE, NBME, and other global medical exams.
- ▶ High-Quality Video Lectures – Taught by expert professors from leading medical institutions.
- ▶ AI-Powered Adaptive Learning – Personalized study recommendations based on student performance.
- ▶ Question Banks & Clinical Case Scenarios – USMLE-style questions, explanations, and performance tracking.
- ▶ Spaced Repetition & Smart Recall – Helps reinforce learning and improve long term retention.

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

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

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

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

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The 10-minute rule: A scientifically proven way to learn faster, improve recall, and strengthen memory

By: Dr. Avi Verma

When preparing for an important presentation, exam, or learning a new skill, the instinct is often to cram as much information as possible into every available minute. However, cognitive science suggests that taking short breaks—specifically 10-minute intervals of quiet rest—can significantly improve memory retention and learning efficiency.

Recent studies indicate that rest periods allow the brain to consolidate information, making it easier to retrieve and apply knowledge later. This approach is not just an alternative to traditional studying methods—it may be one of the most effective learning strategies available.

The science behind memory and rest

A growing body of research supports the role of short rest periods in memory consolidation and recall enhancement.

A 2022 study published in *Nature Reviews Psychology* found that brief periods of offline rest—just sitting quietly with eyes closed—can improve memory as much as a full night of sleep.

A 2016 study in *Psychological Science* discovered that students who studied before bedtime, then slept, and did a short review the next morning spent less total time studying but retained 50% more information than those who studied continuously without breaks.

Research from the University of Edinburgh (2021) confirmed that resting immediately after learning improves recall by nearly 20%, supporting the theory that quiet, unoccupied time strengthens neural connections.

How does it work?

Memory consolidation occurs in different stages.

- ▶ **Encoding** – The process of absorbing and storing new information.
- ▶ **Consolidation** – Strengthening the newly acquired memory, making it more resistant to forgetting.
- ▶ **Retrieval** – The ability to access stored information when needed.



Periods of offline waking rest (no distractions, just quiet time) enhance the consolidation stage, allowing the brain to replay and reinforce what was learned. This process is known as memory reactivation, a mechanism critical for long-term retention.

How to apply the 10-minute rule for better learning

To take full advantage of this method, follow these steps:

- ▶ **Study or practice for 25-30 minutes.** Avoid distractions and focus deeply.
- ▶ **Take a 10-minute break, but make sure it's a quiet, restful break.** Avoid screens, conversations, or multitasking.
- ▶ **Repeat the cycle.** Aim for 3-4 study-rest cycles for best results.

For the break to be effective, it must mimic sleep-like conditions—no digital distractions, no cognitive load. Simply closing your eyes and sitting quietly is enough.

The role of exercise in memory enhancement

If you prefer an active break, physical activity can also boost cognitive function.

A 2023 study published in the *Journal*

of Epidemiology and Community Health found that just six to 10 minutes of moderate to vigorous exercise can significantly improve memory, concentration, and higher-level cognitive skills like problem-solving and decision-making.

A 2021 study from the University of California, Irvine revealed that mild exercise, such as a 10-minute walk, increases the connectivity between the hippocampus (the brain's memory center) and other regions responsible for learning and retention.

A study in the *Psychology of Sport and Exercise* found that exercising immediately after studying enhances memory retention by 25% compared to passive rest.

What kind of exercise works best?

- ▶ **Walking** – A 10-minute brisk walk improves blood flow to the brain, boosting alertness and retention.
- ▶ **Stretching or yoga** – Helps reduce stress, which can interfere with learning.
- ▶ **Jumping jacks or light aerobics** – Stimulates brain activity and enhances focus.

Debunking the myth of “more is better”

Many believe that the more time spent studying, the better the results. However, research disproves this idea.

A meta-analysis conducted by the University of California, Los Angeles (2020) found that:

- ▶ Students who took structured breaks retained 30% more information than those who studied for longer periods without breaks.
- ▶ Cramming increases short-term retention but leads to rapid forgetting.
- ▶ The most effective learning schedules involve frequent breaks, even if total

study time is reduced.

What experts say

Dr. Michaela Dewar, a cognitive neuroscientist at Heriot-Watt University, explains:

“Just 10 minutes of unoccupied rest allows the brain to retain more information by preventing interference from new stimuli.”

Similarly, the authors of the *Nature Reviews Psychology* study concluded:

“Moments of unoccupied rest should be recognized as a critical contributor to cognitive function rather than a waste of time.”

The takeaway: Smart breaks lead to smarter learning

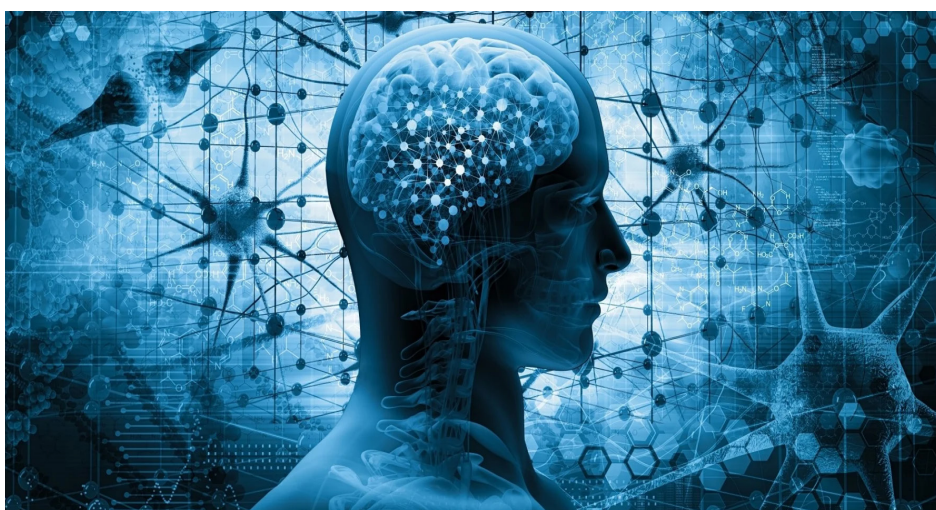
Instead of pushing yourself to study or work continuously, adopt a structured rest approach:

- ▶ **Rehearse, then rest** – Allow the brain to consolidate new information.
- ▶ **Use silent breaks** – No screens, conversations, or distractions.
- ▶ **Incorporate short exercise** – A quick walk or stretch can enhance memory.
- ▶ **Follow the sleep-learning cycle** – Study, sleep, then review briefly the next day for a 50% retention boost.

The 10-minute rule isn't just a productivity hack—it's a proven, neuroscience-backed strategy to learn faster, retain more, and improve cognitive function. So, the next time you're preparing for an important task, embrace the power of a well-timed break—your brain will thank you.

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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