

India and European Union review progress as Jaishankar meets Sefcovic



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar met European Commissioner for Trade and Economic Security Maros Sefcovic in New Delhi on Monday, expressing confidence that the visiting delegation would have productive engagements. Their meeting followed last month's India European Union consultations in Brussels, where both sides assessed progress under the Roadmap to 2025 and reaffirmed momentum in bilateral ties. They also reiterated their ambition to conclude negotiations on the Free Trade Agreement and advance talks on the Investment Protection Agreement and Geographical Indications. India and the European Union discussed supply chain resilience, multilateral cooperation, and upcoming work under the Trade and Technology Council. Officials from India's Ministry of External Affairs were present during both interactions.

UC Berkeley becomes first American university to recognize Hindu Heritage Month



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

UC Berkeley's student government approved a Hindu Heritage Month proclamation on Thursday after months of debate, marking what Hindu student groups called the first such recognition by a United States university. The measure passed nine months after the Senate initially rejected it, following extended discussions with the Executive Vice President's office. CYAN Hindus at Berkeley and Hindu YUVA said the new version improves Hindu representation, although they noted it is still not perfect. The proclamation recognises Hinduphobia and recent attacks on Hindu temples in the Bay Area, acknowledges Sanatana Dharma as a decolonial understanding of Hinduism and highlights the absence of a Hindu caucus on campus. The groups said earlier objections about Hindu nationalism were unfounded, as neither version referenced it. They welcomed the decision and urged continued good-faith dialogue between Hindu students and campus leaders.

India celebrates as Deepawali earns UNESCO heritage honor

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

India marked a historic cultural milestone on Wednesday as Deepawali was formally added to UNESCO's Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity, prompting widespread celebrations across the country and at diplomatic missions worldwide. Prime Minister Narendra Modi said people in India and abroad were "thrilled," calling Deepawali the soul of India's civilizational ethos and expressing hope that the ideals of Lord Ram would continue to guide humanity.

The recognition was announced during UNESCO's Intergovernmental Committee session that began on Monday at Delhi's Red Fort, the first time India is hosting the global meeting. A total of sixty seven nominations from nearly eighty countries were reviewed during the week. India now has sixteen elements on the heritage list, adding to entries such as the Kumbh Mela, Garba, Durga Puja and Vedic chanting.

Union Minister for Culture and Tourism Gajendra Singh Shekhawat described the inscription as a landmark moment



that underscores the universal message of the festival. The Ministry of External Affairs also called it a joyous development, noting Deepawali's significance as a global celebration of light over darkness.

Indian missions from Kingston to Santiago, Budapest, Ottawa and Bali marked the occasion with diya lighting, community gatherings and cultural performances. In Ottawa, High Commissioner Dinesh K. Patnaik joined

members of the diaspora despite heavy snow, symbolizing the festival's growing reach. In Bali, the Consulate General highlighted the shared cultural heritage between India and Indonesia through a programme titled Deepawali Goes Global.

The Delhi government has been asked to illuminate major landmarks through the week, turning the capital into a glowing showcase of India's newly recognized cultural treasure.

Democrats warn Trump tariffs could undermine key partnership with India

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

During a Congressional hearing on Wednesday, Democrats sharply criticized President Donald Trump's tariff policies toward India, warning that they could harm one of America's most important strategic partnerships. Ranking Member Sydney Kamlager-Dove said the Biden administration had handed Trump a relationship at its strongest point, citing progress on the Quad, defense technology and supply chain cooperation. She argued that Trump's tariffs, including

a cumulative 50 percent levy on Indian imports of Russian oil, were self defeating.

Democrats also challenged the administration's one hundred thousand dollar fee on H-1B visas, noting that most are issued to Indians. Witnesses at the hearing, including Dhruva Jaishankar of ORF America, cautioned that tariff disputes risk overshadowing cooperation on China and regional security. Trump said on Wednesday that he believes he can resolve the disagreements, though lawmakers remain concerned about long term damage.



Modi and Netanyahu discuss West Asia crisis and pledge zero tolerance on terror



Indous Tribune Newsdesk

Prime Minister Narendra Modi spoke with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Wednesday to review the situation in West Asia and reaffirm cooperation between the two countries. According to the Prime Minister's Office, both leaders agreed that India and Israel would continue their zero tolerance approach to terrorism in all forms. Modi reiterated India's support for efforts to achieve a just and lasting peace in the region, including early steps toward the Gaza Peace Plan. The leaders expressed satisfaction with the momentum in the India Israel Strategic Partnership. Netanyahu, who postponed his planned visit to India last month due to security concerns after the November attack in New Delhi, agreed to remain in touch. His last visit to India was in 2018, while Modi visited Israel in 2017. The call underscored the continued importance of security cooperation amid heightened regional tensions.



Lahore tops global pollution charts as smog intensifies across Pakistan



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Lahore was named the world's most polluted city on Wednesday after the Swiss air-quality tracker IQAir recorded an Air Quality Index above 300. Lahore registered an AQI of 353, while Quetta briefly touched 517, making it the most polluted city in Pakistan during the morning. Air quality was also marked unhealthy in Rahim Yar Khan, Gujranwala, and Faisalabad, as dense fog reduced visibility across Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and southern Punjab. Several motorway sections were closed. Lahore has faced prolonged smog due to diesel emissions, crop burning, and dropping temperatures. Environmental experts warn that Pakistan's low Human Development Index ranking, rising temperatures, water stress, and declining forest cover continue to worsen pollution, climate vulnerability, and public health risks.

Senators press US trade chief as China tensions shape tariff and tech policy



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

US Trade Representative Jamieson Greer faced sharp questions on Wednesday as senators pressed him on tariffs, export controls, and rare-earth dependencies involving China. Greer said the administration was using tariffs to maintain leverage while negotiating stable supplies of strategic materials. Senators raised concerns about delays in the "affiliate rule" and the withdrawal of restrictions on artificial intelligence diffusion and high-end chip exports. Lawmakers also questioned approvals allowing Nvidia to ship advanced processors to China. Greer said Beijing's recent claim of control over global rare-earth materials threatened industrial supply chains. He added that China had resumed purchases of soybeans and sorghum and said the administration's high-tariff approach was driving progress in trade talks.

Border tensions escalate as Thailand and Cambodia trade airstrikes

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Heavy clashes erupted along the Thailand Cambodia border on Thursday as both countries accused each other of violating sovereignty in the long contested frontier region. The renewed conflict began on Sunday after a skirmish wounded two Thai soldiers and derailed a ceasefire pushed earlier this year by President Donald Trump. Officials reported that about two dozen people have been killed this week and hundreds of

thousands displaced on both sides.

Cambodia said a Thai fighter jet dropped three bombs near the border, while Thailand accused Cambodia of launching artillery and mortar fire on Wednesday night. Thailand's military said it responded with similar weapons and destroyed enemy trucks. The fighting has raised international concern, including from Pope Leo XIV, who said he was saddened by civilian casualties. Thailand and Cambodia have vowed to defend their sovereignty as tensions continue to rise.



India reaffirms support for Afghanistan's sovereignty amid regional uncertainty



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

India has reiterated its support for Afghanistan's sovereignty and territorial integrity during ongoing regional discussions about security and stability. Officials said India remains committed to an inclusive and peaceful Afghanistan and emphasized that any long-term solution must respect the country's unity and independence. New Delhi also underlined the importance of preventing Afghan soil from being used for terrorism, noting that the safety of the broader region hinges on a stable Afghan state. Diplomatic channels between India and key regional partners continue to stay active as countries explore ways to support humanitarian needs and revive stalled development initiatives inside Afghanistan.

Time honors the 'Architects of AI' as its person of the year

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Time magazine named the "Architects of AI" as its person of the year on Thursday, recognizing eight leaders who have shaped the rapid rise of artificial intelligence in 2025. The list includes Sam Altman, Jensen Huang, Elon Musk, Mark Zuckerberg, Lisa Su, Demis Hassabis, Dario Amodei and Fei-Fei Li. Time said the group symbolizes a turning point when AI moved from an emerging innovation to a mainstream force influencing daily life and global industry.

Two covers portray the honorees, one inspired by the iconic skyscraper



image from the 1930s. The magazine acknowledged the enormous wealth many have accumulated during the AI boom. Analysts said the choice reflects AI's sweeping influence, though some experts warned that unchecked development could pose societal risks. Time said the year marked a moment when AI's reach became impossible to ignore.

Trump unveils \$12 billion farm aid package, calls it a new era for agriculture

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

President Donald Trump announced on Monday a twelve billion dollar assistance package for American farmers, saying the funding was made possible through tariff revenue. At a White House roundtable with senior officials and producers, he said eleven billion dollars would be released immediately and one billion kept in reserve.

Trump argued that farmers faced hardships due to past policies and said his administration had restored affordability and economic stability. Officials said China had committed to major soybean purchases and that Japan planned eight billion dollars in agricultural imports.



Farmers at the event welcomed the support, with some calling it crucial for their next planting season. Trump said producers wanted fair markets, not permanent subsidies, and vowed to ease machinery regulations.

New Japan earthquake triggers brief tsunami alert as officials monitor aftershocks



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Japan experienced another strong earthquake on Friday morning when a magnitude 6.9 tremor struck off Aomori prefecture, affecting the same Pacific coast region hit by a 7.5-magnitude quake on Monday night. The Japan Meteorological Agency issued a tsunami advisory warning of waves up to one meter across coastal areas of Hokkaido, Aomori, Iwate and Miyagi.

The alert was lifted about two hours later, though several coastal communities were evacuated as a precaution.

Officials said the extent of new damage or injuries was not yet known. Japan had already warned of continued aftershocks after Monday's quake, which injured at least fifty-one people.

On Tuesday, the weather agency issued its highest-level warning for a possible megaquake, noting that the alert will remain in place until mid-December.

Guterres urges nations to boost emergency fund as humanitarian needs surge



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres urged member states on Wednesday to increase contributions to the Central Emergency Response Fund, saying it was essential to “keep hope alive” for millions relying on humanitarian aid. Speaking at the high-level pledging event for 2026, he said global crises were multiplying while the system was “running on empty.”

The fund has provided nearly ten billion dollars in relief since 2006, supporting more than twenty UN agencies in over one hundred countries. This year alone, it allocated about one hundred and ten million dollars to underfunded emergencies, including Gaza and Sudan. Guterres said donor contributions in 2025 had fallen sharply and urged nations to help the fund meet its one billion dollar target.

Reddit challenges Australia's under-16 social media ban in High Court

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Reddit filed a High Court challenge on Friday against Australia's new rule that blocks users younger than 16 from creating or accessing social media accounts. The company argued that the restrictions are being wrongly applied because Reddit mainly functions as an adult discussion forum and does not use the social features that the government targeted. Reddit said it will continue complying with the rule but warned that the law forces intrusive age-verification steps on adults and minors. It also said the ban is ineffective and that younger users are safer when monitored through platform settings. Ten platforms, including Reddit, came under the ban when it took effect on Wednesday.

Trump signs national AI order, warns U.S. lead over China is at stake

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

President Donald Trump signed an executive order on Thursday to place all regulation of artificial intelligence under a unified national framework. He said fragmented state rules could slow innovation and weaken America's edge over China in a global technology race. Trump said the order will prevent companies from facing dozens of different approvals across states. David Sacks, introduced as the administration's AI and crypto czar, said more than a thousand state bills on AI are already in progress. Officials said the plan will work with Congress to establish a federal structure while preserving safeguards for issues such as child safety.

United States seizes Venezuelan oil tanker in escalating standoff, Trump says

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

President Donald Trump said on Wednesday that the United States seized a large oil tanker off the coast of Venezuela as tensions deepened with President Nicolás Maduro's government. The operation, carried out by the Coast Guard with Navy support, involved personnel fast-roping from helicopters launched from the USS Gerald R. Ford. Officials identified the tanker as the Skipper, previously known as the Adisa, which has long been sanctioned for reportedly helping move crude for Iran's Revolutionary Guard and Hezbollah.

Documents show it left Venezuela earlier in the month with two million barrels of heavy crude, half of which belonged to a Cuban state-run importer. Venezuela condemned the seizure as piracy and accused Washington of targeting its natural resources.



Lawmakers in the United States said the move raises questions about the administration's widening military campaign, which has included multiple deadly maritime strikes since early September.

Iran says attacks will not stop its peaceful nuclear program

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Iran's Foreign Minister Seyed Abbas Araghchi said on Monday that Tehran remains committed to continuing its peaceful nuclear energy program despite recent US and Israeli strikes that heavily damaged several nuclear sites. Speaking to Japan's Kyodo News, he stressed that Iran is a member of the Nuclear Non Proliferation Treaty and has the right to use nuclear technology for peaceful purposes, just like Japan.

Araghchi called the June attacks a clear violation of international law because the affected facilities were under International Atomic Energy Agency supervision. He also urged Japan to share its expertise on nuclear safety, citing concerns about environmental and technical risks at the bombed sites. On



talks with the United States, Araghchi said Iran is open to negotiations only if Washington adopts a fair approach. His remarks followed comments by Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei rejecting claims that Iran had secretly sent messages to the United States.

United States warns it may cut aid to South Sudan over treatment of aid groups

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The United States this week warned that it may reduce foreign assistance to South Sudan, accusing the government of imposing high fees on humanitarian groups and restricting their work.

The State Department's Bureau for African Affairs said the actions violate South Sudan's international obligations and hinder lifesaving operations. The United States is one of South Sudan's largest donors, providing over nine billion dollars since 2011, yet the country still struggles with

nutrition, healthcare and education, with more than seventy percent of its population depending on humanitarian support.

Washington said the crisis is worsened by poor governance, insecurity created by political leaders and predatory practices targeting aid efforts. The South Sudanese government has not responded.

The warning comes months after the United States suspended new visas for South Sudanese citizens following a diplomatic dispute and as concerns grow about worsening humanitarian access across the country.



India applauds United Kingdom's action against Khalistani networks



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

India has welcomed the United Kingdom's decision to impose new sanctions on individuals linked to Khalistani extremist activities. Officials in New Delhi said the move represents a positive step in addressing concerns over separatist groups that target Indian diplomatic missions and threaten bilateral security cooperation.

India has repeatedly raised the issue with British authorities, urging stronger action against networks operating overseas. The new sanctions are expected to enhance accountability and reinforce efforts to curb extremist financing and propaganda.

Both countries continue to work closely on counterterrorism initiatives and strengthening their broader strategic partnership.

World Cup ticket prices spark outrage as fans accuse FIFA of betrayal



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

FIFA faced strong criticism this week after new 2026 World Cup ticket prices circulated, with supporters calling the costs a “monumental betrayal.” A list released by the German soccer federation showed group-stage tickets ranging from \$180 to \$700, with final tickets priced between \$4,185 and \$8,680. Fan group Football Supporters Europe condemned the prices as “extortionate,” noting they sharply conflict with earlier FIFA claims of \$60 group-stage seats. United States officials had also hoped to offer thousands of \$21 tickets during the bid phase. The English Football Association told members that attending every England match through the final would exceed \$7,000. FIFA's dynamic pricing system allows costs to fluctuate, and the organization has not yet commented on the backlash.



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BOOK

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India’s cultural rise on the global stage as

Diwali shines brighter than ever



Dr. Avi Verma

IndoUS Tribune celebrates a moment of immense pride and global acknowledgment as India’s cultural heritage accelerates its impact on the world stage. Following widespread global observance of Hindu Heritage Month, where communities across continents embraced and honored Hindu culture, India has achieved another remarkable milestone: Diwali — the Festival of Lights — has been officially inscribed on UNESCO’s Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity. This recognition is historic and symbolizes not just India’s soft cultural power but also the universal appeal of values that transcend borders — hope, renewal, and the victory of good over evil.

Diwali’s inclusion during the 20th session of the Intergovernmental Committee held at the Red Fort in New Delhi reflects the festival’s global resonance and enduring significance. UNESCO describes the festival as a living tradition that fosters social cohesion, cultural continuity, and shared human values that bind communities worldwide.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, in response to the UNESCO announcement, remarked,

“Diwali is very closely linked to our culture and ethos. It is the soul of our

civilisation. It personifies illumination and righteousness.”

He noted that this recognition would further strengthen Diwali’s global reach and its power to bring people together across cultures and nations.

This monumental achievement is also a tribute to the tireless work of Hindu-oriented organizations around the world whose efforts have significantly uplifted Hindu spirit and helped elevate Indian mythology and scriptures on the global platform.

Global Hindu organizations leading the cultural charge

Across continents, Hindu-oriented organizations have played a critical role in promoting awareness of Hindu heritage, scriptures, and traditions — ensuring they are understood, appreciated, and honored globally:

- ▶ **The Hindu American Foundation (HAF)** has worked extensively to promote Hindu culture, engage with educational institutions, and advocate for the inclusion of Hindu traditions in multicultural celebrations internationally.
- ▶ **Sadhu Vaswani Mission** and other spiritual organizations have long organized global events, discourses, and intercultural exchanges that introduce core Hindu philosophical concepts to diverse audiences.
- ▶ **International Society for Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON)** continues to bring Bhagavad Gita teachings to millions worldwide through festivals, book distribution, and outreach programs.
- ▶ **Global Hindu Heritage Foundation** has been instrumental in educational initiatives, cultural exhibitions, and interfaith dialogues that present Hindu scriptures and mythology in accessible forms to global audiences.
- ▶ **Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP)** and allied institutions have organized international seminars, youth camps,

and cultural showcases that celebrate Hindu traditions and shared values.

These organizations with their unwavering commitment to preserving and sharing Hindu wisdom have helped create fertile ground for recognition like UNESCO’s listing, bridging cultural understanding and showcasing Hindu thought as a vital contributor to global heritage. Their contributions have shaped narratives that present Hindu mythology and scriptures not as ancient curiosities but as living, vibrant traditions that continue to inspire and inform humanity.

A shared moment of pride and global cultural harmony

Diwali now stands united with other globally recognized traditions such as Yoga, Durga Puja, and Kumbh Mela marking India’s rich cultural tapestry on the world heritage stage. This distinction reaffirms that Indian festivals are not just regional observances but global phenomena rooted in shared human values.

For IndoUS Tribune readers, this recognition is not only a national honor but a celebration of India’s civilizational heritage and the collective efforts of diaspora communities and global Hindu organizations that have diligently nurtured awareness of Hindu culture worldwide. It underscores the power of ancient wisdom made relevant in a modern, interconnected world.

Diwali’s global ascent is more than a celebration of light; it is a testament to India’s spiritual legacy, the universal appeal of its philosophical traditions, and the deep cultural connections that bind humanity across borders.

Best Regards,

Dr. Avi Verma.

Publisher,

IndoUS Tribune



White House says Gaza entering phase two of Trump peace plan after hostage returns



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The White House said on Thursday that Gaza is moving toward phase two of President Donald Trump's peace plan after all hostages except one deceased individual were returned. Press Secretary Karoline Leavitt called the development a success and credited Trump's leadership. She said the next stage includes forming a Board of Peace, coordinating with the ISF and supporting the creation of a Palestinian technocratic government. Negotiations are intentionally quiet to ensure stability. Leavitt also said Trump remains frustrated with both sides in the Russia-Ukraine war and has not finalized decisions on upcoming diplomatic meetings.

Amnesty says Hamas committed crimes against humanity in October attack

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Amnesty International said on Thursday that Hamas and other militants committed crimes against humanity during the October 2023 attack on southern Israel. In a detailed report, Amnesty cited widespread killing of civilians, torture, hostage-taking and sexual abuse. The attack killed about 1,200 people and led to around 250 hostages. Israel's military response has since killed more than 70,300 Palestinians, according to Gaza's Health Ministry. Amnesty said the assault was directed at civilians and met legal standards for crimes against humanity. Hamas rejected the findings, while Israel said the report still understated the scale of the atrocities.

Yemen's government urges separatists to withdraw from newly seized areas

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Yemen's internationally recognized government urged separatist forces on Thursday to pull back from areas they recently captured in the country's southeast. The Southern Transitional Council, backed by the United Arab Emirates, took control of most of Hadramout and Mahra, including key oil sites. Government leader Rashad al-Alimi warned of renewed conflict and said authority must return to local administrations. He said the priority must remain the fight against the Houthi rebels who control the north and Sanaa. Saudi Arabia sent a delegation to Hadramout to reduce tensions, while officials warned of economic fallout if the standoff continues.

China blames global tariffs for economic strain as surplus surpasses one trillion dollars

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

China's Premier Li Qiang said on Tuesday that rising global tariffs have caused serious harm to the world economy, even as China's trade surplus for 2025 has exceeded one trillion dollars.

Speaking at a forum in Beijing attended by leaders from the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank and the World Trade Organization, he said the growing use of tariffs has hurt global trade and fueled calls to defend free trade.

China's exports to the United States



continued to fall sharply, dropping twenty nine percent in November, although shipments to other markets have increased.

Trade tensions eased slightly after President Donald Trump and President Xi Jinping met in late October in South Korea and agreed to extend a truce on retaliatory measures.

Li also urged greater cooperation in technology investment. China's economy grew at a four point eight percent annual rate last quarter and is on track to meet its five percent growth target.

Sao Paulo struggles with widespread outages as storms leave 1.3 million without power

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

More than 1.3 million people in Sao Paulo were still without electricity on Thursday after powerful winds toppled hundreds of trees onto the city's electrical grid. Utility provider Enel said it restored service to about 1.2 million customers but warned that repairs in some neighborhoods require full reconstruction of damaged infrastructure.

Nearly 400 flights were canceled, with the worst disruptions at Congonhas Airport, as wind speeds reached about sixty two miles per hour from Wednesday onward. City officials said more than 230 trees had fallen due to an extratropical cyclone affecting southern Brazil. Mayor Ricardo Nunes criticized Enel, calling the



company irresponsible for slow repairs.

Residents packed malls and cafes to work or seek power, while water supplier Sabesp reported service interruptions because pumps lacked electricity. The outages marked the third major disruption this year, fueling growing frustration among residents.

Winter storm batters Gaza camps, highlighting severe aid shortages

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

A winter storm swept through Gaza on Thursday, flooding tent camps and exposing the lack of adequate aid despite two months of a ceasefire. Families found food and belongings soaked, while children waded through deep muddy water. Aid agencies said Israel has not met the ceasefire requirement of allowing 600 aid trucks per day, a claim Israel disputes. UNRWA warned that cold and overcrowded conditions heighten serious health risks. Several damaged buildings in Gaza City partly collapsed in the rain and civil defense teams received more than 2,500 distress calls. Aid groups said only a fraction of the required tents and supplies has entered the territory.

El Salvador partners with Elon Musk's xAI to bring artificial intelligence to schools

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

El Salvador President Nayib Bukele said on Thursday that his government is partnering with Elon Musk's xAI to introduce artificial intelligence tools into more than five thousand public schools. In a statement, xAI said its Grok chatbot will deliver personalized learning to over one million students by adapting to each learner's pace and skill level. Bukele said the country aims to pioneer an AI focused education model. The move

follows his recent partnership with Google to launch a mobile app that provides free virtual medical consultations supported by artificial intelligence. Earlier this year, xAI acknowledged removing inappropriate posts generated by Grok, including antisemitic content, which Musk said would improve over time. Educators worldwide are increasingly using artificial intelligence to design lessons and reduce administrative workloads, though concerns persist about overreliance on the technology and its impact on critical thinking skills.

Nepal indicts ex ministers and officials in China funded Pokhara airport corruption case

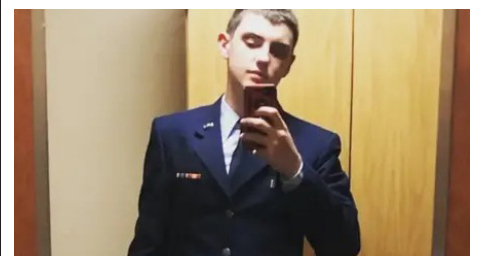
IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Nepal's anti graft body filed corruption cases on Sunday against 55 people, including five former ministers, senior bureaucrats, and Chinese contractor China CAMC Engineering, over alleged irregularities in building the China funded Pokhara International Airport. The case cites losses estimated at about 74 million dollars. Those charged include former finance minister

Ram Sharan Mahat and four former tourism ministers. Prosecutors say officials inflated procurement costs and mismanaged tax exemptions.

The airport, inaugurated in January 2023, has struggled to attract international airlines, and a government study found design flaws limiting medium haul flights. The project was funded through a loan from China's Export Import Bank, which Nepal must repay despite low revenue generation.

Canadian military intelligence officer charged with leaking classified information



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Canadian Armed Forces intelligence officer was arrested on Thursday and charged with passing safeguarded information to a foreign entity. The military said Master Warrant Officer Matthew Robar, who served with the Canadian Forces Intelligence Command, is facing multiple charges under the National Defense Act and will face a court martial. Authorities did not disclose which foreign entity received the information. The investigation, led by the Canadian Forces Military Police and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, began in 2024 and focused on unauthorized disclosures of protected material. Officials have released no further details about the nature of the information or the extent of the breach. A lawyer for Robar could not be reached for comment.

India and Brazil explore defence collaboration and capacity building



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Chief of Naval Staff Admiral Dinesh K. Tripathi met Brazil’s Chief Advisor to the President Celso Amorim and Defence Minister Jose Mucio Monteiro on Thursday to discuss defence industry collaboration and capacity building initiatives.

The discussions focused on strengthening strategic cooperation, joint operational frameworks, training exchanges, maritime security, and maritime domain awareness. Regional and global developments, including the South Atlantic, Indo-Pacific, and the role of the Global South, were also discussed.

Admiral Tripathi previously met Brazilian Navy Commander Admiral Marcos Sampaio Olsen to enhance operational engagement, hydrographic collaboration, and information sharing. The visit from December 9 to 12 aims to consolidate the maritime partnership and broader India-Brazil strategic ties, including visits to naval bases and shipyards.

Indian envoy engages US lawmakers on energy, technology and trade



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

India’s Ambassador to the United States, Vinay Mohan Kwatra, met Senator Brian Schatz and Representative Dina Titus to discuss deepening engagement in energy, technology, innovation, trade, and tourism. Kwatra highlighted ongoing defence cooperation and shared perspectives on key regional developments. The visit coincides with meetings between US Deputy Trade Representative Rick Switzer and Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri, covering the India-US economic and technology partnership, trade negotiations, and resilient supply chains.

During December 9 Foreign Office Consultations, both nations reviewed trade, defence cooperation, civil nuclear collaboration, critical minerals, and trusted supply chains. The discussions emphasized the COMPACT initiative to enhance transformative cooperation across the partnership.

Italy and India pledge closer ties across culture, trade and technology

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Italian Deputy Prime Minister Antonio Tajani said on Thursday that he discussed strategic and future actions to strengthen India-Italy cooperation during a meeting with External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar. Tajani expressed optimism about deepening connections, saying both nations should work to have more Italy in India and more India in Italy.

The meeting reviewed progress under the Joint Strategic Action Plan 2025-29 in political, defence, technology, innovation, maritime, mobility, space, trade, and investment sectors. The two leaders also discussed regional, global, and multilateral developments, as well as joint efforts to counter terror financing.

Tajani also met Isha Foundation founder Jaggi Vasudev, known as Sadhguru, in Mumbai, who highlighted the long-standing friendship between India and Italy and praised efforts to



keep the bond alive. Tajani visited the National Stock Exchange in Mumbai and is scheduled to meet Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal before concluding his visit.

Earlier, Tajani met Prime Minister Narendra Modi in New Delhi, emphasizing the strategic partnership and shared commitment to peace in Ukraine and the Middle East. This marks Tajani’s second visit to India this year, aimed at further deepening the India-Italy Strategic Partnership.

Indian envoy to Canada discusses parliamentary cooperation with House Speaker

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Indian High Commissioner to Canada Dinesh K. Patnaik met Speaker of the House of Commons Francis Scarpaleggia on Thursday to discuss strengthening India-Canada parliamentary ties. The meeting emphasized shared democratic values and plans for future cooperation.

India will host a delegation led by Scarpaleggia at the 28th Conference of Speakers and Presiding Officers of Commonwealth Parliaments in January 2026. Earlier, Patnaik met Canadian Ministers Lena Metlege Diab and Gary Anandasangaree to discuss immigration,



security, law enforcement, trade, and people-to-people ties.

Patnaik also visited British Columbia’s Legislative Assembly to meet key leaders, focusing on jobs, economic development, mining, and critical minerals.

India and Egypt discuss strategic partnership and economic opportunities

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

India and Egypt discussed strengthening their strategic partnership during a meeting between MEA Secretary Neena Malhotra and Assyut Governor Hisham Aboulnasr on Monday. The talks focused on economic opportunities in pharmaceuticals, healthcare, education, textiles, IT, and

vocational training. The meeting followed Egypt’s Foreign Minister Badr Abdelatty’s visit to India and the first India-Egypt Strategic Dialogue, emphasizing cooperation in trade, defence, technology, civil nuclear energy, fintech, startups, and cultural exchanges. Both nations reaffirmed their commitment to the progress of the Global South and deepening bilateral ties.

US and India enhance counterterrorism cooperation amid Pakistan concerns

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Senior experts at a House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee hearing said the United States and India are deepening counterterrorism and intelligence-sharing ties, citing Pakistan’s use of militant proxies and China’s regional influence.

Sameer Lalwani of the German Marshall Fund highlighted cooperation in law enforcement, intelligence, and

counterterror financing. Experts noted India’s growing capabilities, including space-based intelligence and AI tools, enhancing threat response.

Committee Chairman Bill Huizenga emphasized the 21st Joint Working Group on Counterterrorism and opportunities to expand operational coordination. Witnesses warned that Pakistan has a long history of supporting terrorism, underscoring the need for closer Indo-US collaboration.

Indian Army establishes field hospital in flood-hit Sri Lanka

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Indian Army personnel deployed under Operation Sagar Bandhu in Sri Lanka have set up a fully operational field hospital in flood-affected areas, providing medical relief to thousands.

The team overcame washed-out roads, collapsed infrastructure, and disrupted communications. Using portable power generators, HVAC-equipped medical tents, and drones for aerial mapping, the Army established surgical units, laboratories, and multiple outpatient services.

Within days, the facility became a multi-specialty hub treating over 5,000 patients. The 85-member Medical Task Force also restored communications, supplied potable water, and delivered humanitarian aid. The operation reflects India’s commitment to regional disaster relief and strengthening ties with Sri Lanka.

India and Kenya explore collaboration in healthcare and digital technologies

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

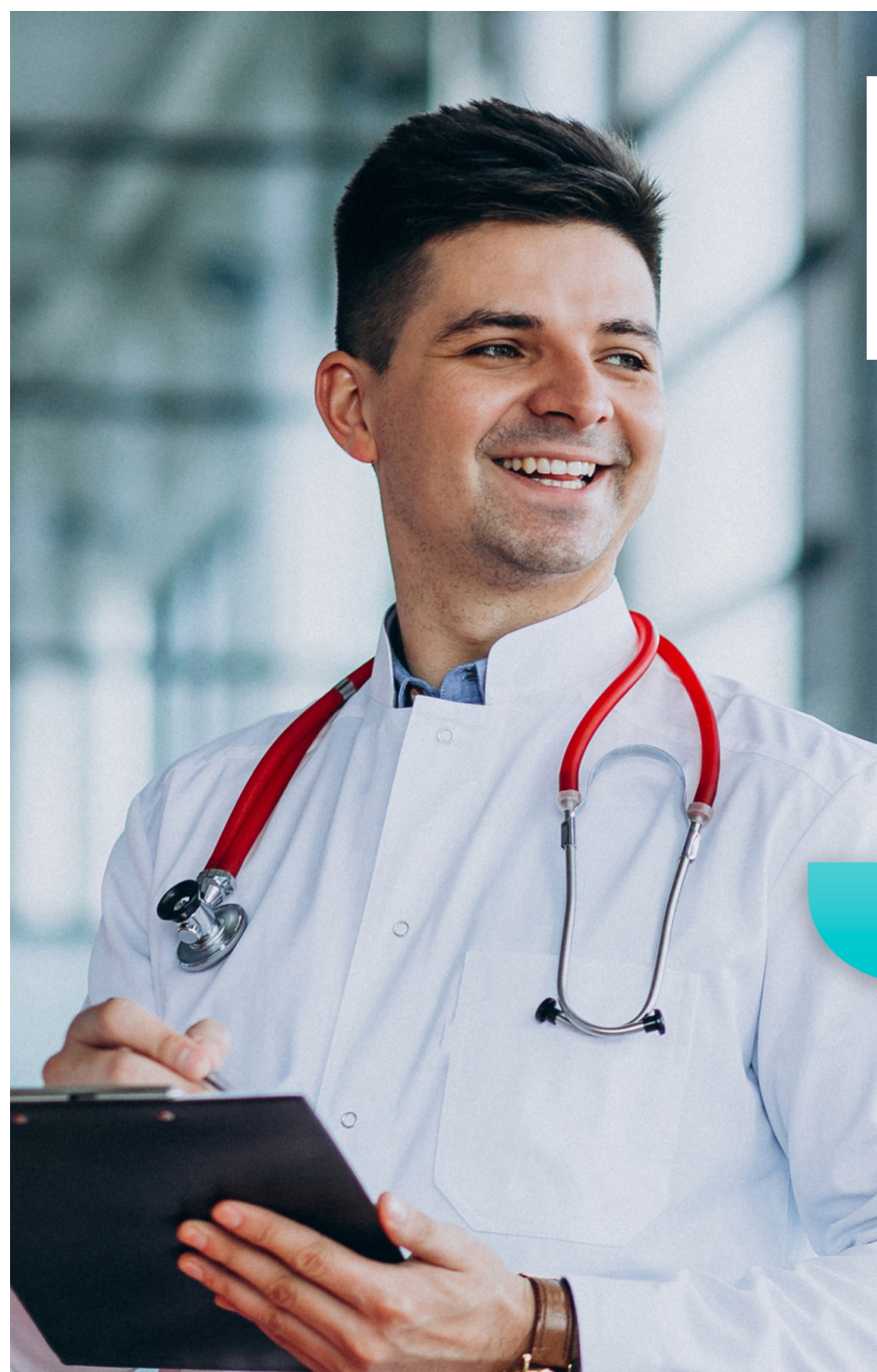
Indian High Commissioner to Kenya Adarsh Swaika met Cabinet Secretary of Health Aden Duale on Tuesday to strengthen cooperation in healthcare, pharmaceuticals, medical devices, and capacity building.

The discussions highlighted India as a trusted partner and a preferred destination for Kenyan medical tourism. Earlier, Swaika met Cabinet Secretary for ICT William Kabogo to discuss digital transformation, emerging technologies, digital skilling, innovation, and startup collaboration. Both sides underscored the importance of ICT infrastructure and revamping Kenya’s national broadcaster.

India and Japan strengthen regional ties with focus on Yamaguchi

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

India’s Ambassador to Japan Nagma Mohamad Mallick met Yamaguchi Governor Tsugimasa Muraoka and Prefectural Assembly Speaker Shungaku Yanai on Wednesday to explore ways to strengthen bilateral ties with a focus on the region. A business seminar in Yamaguchi highlighted India’s growth trajectory and opportunities for investment and collaboration. Presentations covered India’s business environment and trends among Japanese companies. Mallick also addressed the India-Japan Forum in New Delhi, promoting dialogue and cooperation for future strategic partnerships.



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Trump claims pardon for Colorado clerk convicted of election tampering



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

President Donald Trump announced on Thursday that he is pardoning Tina Peters, a Colorado county clerk convicted in 2024 of tampering with election machines after the 2020 presidential election, even though he lacks legal authority to grant a state pardon. Peters was sentenced to nine years in prison for opening Mesa County election computers to Trump allies, leading to passwords being posted online.

Trump posted on Truth Social that Peters was imprisoned for “demanding Honest Elections” and described her actions as exposing voter fraud in a “Rigged 2020 Presidential Election.” Peters had denied wrongdoing, asserting her actions were intended to serve her county.

Lawsuit challenges Trump image on national parks annual pass



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

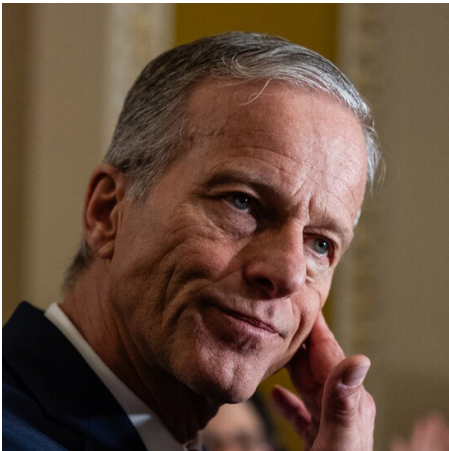
An environmental group filed suit Wednesday to stop the U.S. Interior Department from placing President Donald Trump’s face on the 2026 “America the Beautiful” annual park pass. Federal law requires the \$80 pass to feature the winning photo from the National Parks Foundation contest, which this year depicted Glacier National Park. The Interior Department instead replaced it with Trump’s portrait alongside George Washington, the lawsuit said, violating the 2004 Federal Lands Recreational Enhancement Act. Kieran Suckling, executive director of the Center for Biological Diversity, criticized the move as turning national parks into a personal branding opportunity. The Trump administration also introduced higher fees for foreign visitors and reshuffled free-entry holidays.

Senate deadlock leaves Obamacare subsidies at risk for millions of Americans

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The U.S. Senate on Thursday rejected competing health care proposals, nearly ensuring that Affordable Care Act subsidies used by more than 20 million Americans will lapse at the end of the year. Senators voted 51-48 against advancing a Republican plan to expand health savings accounts and an alternative Democratic plan to extend enhanced Covid-era subsidies for three years. Both fell short of the 60 votes required to move forward.

Most votes followed party lines, though a few senators crossed the aisle. Republican Senators Susan Collins, Josh Hawley, Lisa Murkowski, and Dan Sullivan supported the Democratic proposal, while Sen. Rand Paul opposed the GOP plan. Senate leaders



acknowledged the votes were largely symbolic, part of a broader agreement to end last month’s government shutdown. Congress faces limited time to reach a compromise before the Senate adjourns next week, leaving many families at risk of higher premiums if the subsidies revert to pre-pandemic levels.

Georgia receives \$1 billion in FEMA funding for hurricane and pandemic recovery

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security announced on Thursday that FEMA is providing more than \$1 billion in funding to support Georgia’s recovery from Hurricane Helene, Tropical Storm Debby, and COVID-19-related health care costs. The funds, distributed through FEMA’s Public Assistance and Hazard Mitigation programs, aim to repair and restore critical public infrastructure across the state.

At least \$350 million will fund more than 140 recovery projects for storm damage, while approximately \$671 million is allocated for emergency protective measures in healthcare facilities. This includes staffing, sanitization, personal protective equipment, and testing supplies for the pandemic.



Karen Evans, performing FEMA administrator duties, said the funding will rebuild schools, public safety facilities, utilities, and community services. She emphasized that the investment demonstrates the administration’s commitment to streamlining assistance, ensuring accountability, and helping Georgia communities recover stronger from recent disasters.

Trump’s gold card program goes live, offering \$1 million visas to attract global talent

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

President Donald Trump officially launched his long-promised “gold card” program on Wednesday, offering legal status and a pathway to U.S. citizenship for individuals paying \$1 million and corporations paying \$2 million per foreign-born employee. The program, announced in the White House Roosevelt Room, is designed to replace the EB-5 investor visa and attract top global talent while generating revenue for the federal government. Trump said all funds would go to the Treasury and predicted billions would benefit national projects.

The program effectively grants permanent residency with citizenship potential, though the administration has not detailed job creation requirements or limits on



participation. Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick said a \$15,000 vetting fee ensures applicants meet eligibility standards. Trump highlighted opportunities for U.S. companies to hire top graduates from abroad, particularly from China, India, and France. The gold card joins similar investor visa programs offered internationally by countries such as the United Kingdom, Spain, and Canada.

Trump’s city troop deployments cost over \$340 million, senator says

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Senator Tammy Duckworth said Thursday that President Donald Trump’s deployment of National Guard troops to cities including Washington, Los Angeles, Chicago, Oregon, and Memphis has cost \$341.3 million. The figure excludes thousands of troops at the U.S.-Mexico border. The deployments followed protests, violent incidents, and immigration enforcement operations. More than 2,000 troops have been stationed in Washington, with 500 additional troops deployed after two National Guard members were shot. Democratic city leaders have sued to block the deployments, calling them politically motivated. Courts in California, Oregon, and Chicago have ruled against Trump’s actions, and the Supreme Court is expected to consider the legality of National Guard use in domestic cities.

Federal judge orders Trump to end National Guard deployment in Los Angeles

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

A federal judge on Wednesday ruled that the Trump administration must end the deployment of California National Guard troops in Los Angeles and return control to the state. The injunction, requested by California officials, follows Trump’s June call-up of over 4,000 troops without Governor Gavin Newsom’s approval for immigration enforcement. Judge Charles Breyer criticized the administration for creating a “national police force” using state troops. Remaining troops are guarding federal buildings or bases but are not on streets with immigration officers. The White House plans to appeal, while California officials hailed the ruling as a victory for democracy and the rule of law.

White House warns of surge in attacks on ICE agents after NYC mayor-elect video

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The White House warned Thursday that a video by New York City Mayor-elect Zohran Mamdani encouraging immigrants to resist Immigration and Customs Enforcement has contributed to a surge in threats and violence against federal officers. Press Secretary Karoline Leavitt said attacks on ICE agents and their families have risen more than 1,000 percent, with agents harassed, doxed, and physically assaulted. She said the administration will continue enforcement nationwide to remove illegal immigrants and protect public safety. Leavitt highlighted Trump’s record-low border encounters and described current conditions as “the most secure” in U.S. history, claiming the administration has swiftly restored national sovereignty.

Indiana Republicans reject Trump-backed congressional redistricting plan

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Indiana’s Republican-led Senate decisively rejected a redistricting plan Thursday that would have increased GOP control from seven to nine congressional seats, defying President Donald Trump. The vote was 31-19 against the proposal, with more Republicans opposing than supporting it. Trump had personally lobbied senators and threatened primary challenges. The plan would have split Democratic districts in Indianapolis and northwest Indiana, effectively eliminating Democratic representation. Protesters chanted “Vote no!” outside the chamber. Republican figures praised senators for principled leadership, while critics called the administration’s pressure campaign excessive. The vote underscores the limits of Trump’s influence even in conservative strongholds.

Trump administration designates new militarized zone along California-Mexico border

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The Trump administration announced Wednesday a new militarized zone along California’s border with Mexico, extending from the Arizona state line to Otay Mountain. The Department of Interior transferred jurisdiction to the Navy to bolster border security. The zone will allow troops to apprehend immigrants and prosecute trespassers on military lands, joining prior zones in New Mexico, Texas, and Arizona. Interior Secretary Doug Burgum said the move strengthens national defense and protects public lands. Critics argue the strategy violates laws limiting domestic military enforcement. The announcement came as a federal judge ordered the administration to end the California National Guard deployment in Los Angeles.

Kilmar Abrego Garcia released from immigration detention by judge’s order

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Kilmar Abrego Garcia was freed Thursday from federal immigration detention after a U.S. District Judge in Maryland ruled he had been held illegally. Abrego Garcia, a Salvadoran national, was previously deported to El Salvador despite facing danger from gangs targeting his family. He returned to Maryland, where he has an American wife and child. The judge found federal authorities misled the court about efforts to deport him to other countries. Abrego Garcia now seeks asylum in the United States and faces human smuggling charges in Tennessee, which he argues are vindictive. The Department of Homeland Security criticized the ruling and plans to appeal.

FDA reviews safety of infant RSV drugs as Health Secretary Kennedy challenges immunization practices

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The Food and Drug Administration announced a safety review on Thursday of two respiratory syncytial virus drugs for infants, Beyfortus and Enflonsia, amid heightened scrutiny from Health Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr. Both monoclonal antibody therapies deliver antibodies directly and are included in the CDC’s childhood immunization schedule.

Drugmakers say no safety concerns have emerged. Sanofi and AstraZeneca

reported over six million infants immunized globally, while Merck highlighted the rigorous safety standards for preventive therapies like Enflonsia. FDA spokesperson Andrew Nixon emphasized that the review is routine and evidence-based, with labeling updates if necessary. Pediatric infectious disease experts warn that undermining RSV immunizations could increase hospitalizations, particularly as RSV cases rise in parts of the U.S., and stress that both drugs have demonstrated safety and effectiveness in clinical and real-world studies.



Trump hosts Kennedy Center Honors, breaking tradition amid political and cultural debates

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Donald Trump will host the Kennedy Center Honors Sunday, marking the first time a sitting president commands the stage instead of watching from a box. Honorees include Sylvester Stallone, rock band Kiss, Gloria Gaynor, George Strait, and actor Michael Crawford.



The ceremony will honor cultural influence, with Stallone celebrated for his “Rocky” and “Rambo” films, Gaynor for “I Will Survive,” and Kiss for their theatrical performances. The event comes amid mixed political views among honorees, with some previously critical of Trump, highlighting the intersection of politics and the arts at the prestigious annual event.

DoT waives Southwest Airlines’ remaining winter storm fine after operational improvements

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The U.S. Department of Transportation announced Friday it is waiving the final \$11 million of a \$140 million civil penalty against Southwest Airlines for canceling 17,000 flights during a 2022 winter storm. The original fine was the largest ever imposed on an airline for consumer protection violations. Most of the penalty had already compensated affected travelers, with \$35 million owed to the Treasury. Southwest had made \$24 million in prior payments. The department cited improvements in the airline’s operations, including on-time performance and network resilience, as justification for the waiver.



Southwest said it appreciates the recognition of its investments to modernize operations. The airline had previously absorbed over \$1.1 billion in costs due to refunds, reimbursements, and lost ticket sales following the storm that stranded more than two million passengers.

U.S. lawmakers raise alarm over Chinese vehicles as national security threat



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

During a Congressional hearing Thursday, U.S. lawmakers warned that Chinese-made vehicles could spy on Americans, disrupt transportation networks, and undermine the U.S. auto industry. Lawmakers described modern vehicles with cameras, sensors, and connectivity systems as potential “spy platforms” for Beijing. China’s rapid growth in electric vehicle exports, often below production costs, and forced technology transfers were cited as economic and security threats. Experts warned that malware in vehicle systems could disable fleets or critical infrastructure. Lawmakers discussed restricting Chinese automakers and suppliers to protect U.S. national security, highlighting parallels with earlier Huawei-related concerns. Electric vehicles are projected to constitute 60 percent of global car sales by 2040.

US Catholic bishops officially ban gender-affirming care at Catholic hospitals



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

U.S. Catholic bishops have officially banned gender-affirming care for transgender patients at Catholic hospitals, finalizing a multi-year process. During their plenary assembly in Baltimore on Tuesday, the bishops revised their ethical and religious directives, which guide the nation’s Catholic health institutions. While major medical groups support gender-affirming care, most Catholic hospitals have historically not offered such services. The new directives formalize this stance and give bishops authority to enforce it in their dioceses. The decision reflects Vatican guidance from 2024 and a 2023 U.S. bishops’ note prohibiting interventions to alter sexual characteristics. Advocates for transgender Catholics criticized the move, calling gender-affirming care a “spiritual imperative” for some. On immigration, the bishops also issued a statement opposing mass deportations and calling for pastoral care for detained immigrants.

Indian-origin man sentenced to 25 years for murder of Queensland woman



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

A court in Cairns on Monday sentenced Rajwinder Singh, a former nurse of Indian origin, to 25 years in prison for the murder of 24-year-old Toyah Cordingley in Queensland. The Supreme Court found Singh guilty after a jury concluded he killed Cordingley while she was walking her dog at Wangetti Beach north of Cairns on a Sunday in 2018. Justice Lincoln Crowley told the court that Singh's motive remained unknown and described the murder as an opportunistic act.

Cordingley worked at a health food and pharmacy store in Port Douglas and volunteered at an animal refuge. Singh left for India soon after the killing, abandoning his wife, children and parents in Australia. He was extradited two years ago after Queensland police announced a reward of one million Australian dollars for information leading to his arrest. His sentence carries a non-parole period of 25 years.

Hong Kong resident donates USD 3,600 to Punjab college



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Hong Kong based donor Gurdev Singh Ghalib has contributed USD 3,600 to Guru Gobind Singh Khalsa College in Sarhali. The donation was marked during a campus event on Tuesday, presided over by Principal Jasbir Singh Gill. Ghalib praised the institution for expanding quality education in remote regions and acknowledged the work of Baba Sukha Singh, who heads the Kar Seva section at Sarhali and oversees student support services.

In his remarks, Principal Gill highlighted challenges in higher education and sports infrastructure in rural Punjab, including the need for modern equipment and better opportunities for young people. Ghalib pledged continued support to help the college strengthen its facilities. Harjinder Singh Billianwala, honorary secretary of the management committee, thanked him for the contribution.

H-1B visa delays grow as new social media checks cause widespread rescheduling

Staff Writer, IndoUS Tribune

Confusion intensified this week for H-1B visa applicants in India as the United States introduced expanded social media vetting, leading to mass postponements of interviews originally scheduled for December. Many applicants reported receiving sudden rescheduling notices shifting appointments to next year, prompting flight cancellations and urgent itinerary changes.

On Tuesday night, the United States Embassy in India issued an advisory stating that applicants who received rescheduling emails must only attend their new appointment day. It warned that arriving on the previously booked



day would result in denial of entry to the embassy or consulate.

The disruption follows the Trump administration's announcement on Wednesday of an expanded security screening protocol. Applicants must now make their social media accounts public and disclose usernames from the past five years. An internal State Department cable also instructed consular officers to review resumes and LinkedIn profiles of applicants and their family members for ties to fields involving misinformation, content moderation or online safety.

Applicants took to Reddit to discuss ruined travel plans and uncertainty. Some questioned whether the issue was limited to India, while others cancelled trips entirely. The United States Mission has not yet said whether further rescheduling is expected.

International Gita Mahotsav brings musical retelling of the Bhagavad Gita to Canada

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The Indian High Commission in Ottawa marked International Gita Mahotsav in Canada on Monday by presenting "Uttar - Answer," a thematic musical dance ballet inspired by the Bhagavad Gita. The production, hosted in partnership with Jeevan Jyoti Performing Arts, took place at the Kailash Mital Theatre at Carleton University and portrayed the Gita's central dialogue through expressive choreography, rhythm and emotion.

The Indian High Commission noted that the ballet recreated the battlefield setting where the Gita's teachings on truth, duty, detachment and human purpose were first delivered. High Commissioner Dinesh K. Patnaik told the audience that the Gita remains a living cultural and philosophical guide, offering lessons in harmony, responsibility and resilience.

Worldwide Indian missions continue to celebrate International Gita Mahotsav,



commemorating the day Lord Krishna shared the Gita's message with Arjun on the battlefield of Kurukshetra.

On Thursday, Divya Jyoti Jagrati Sansthan in Canada also celebrated the festival in Toronto with devotional music, plays and spiritual discourses. Indian Consul Kuljeet Singh Arora highlighted how the Gita's philosophy aligns with values of diplomacy, balance and service.

Korean woman's Punjabi fluency goes viral, earning praise from Punjab chief minister

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

A video shared on Monday by Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann on his official Instagram account has gone viral after a Korean woman impressed him by speaking fluent Punjabi during his visit to South Korea. The clip shows the woman conversing confidently as Mann praises her ability to speak the language like a native.

Mann captioned the video by calling Punjabi an identity for the community and said it was heartwarming to hear the mother tongue spoken by a Korean-born daughter. Social media users celebrated the moment, with many describing it as a proud reflection of Punjabi culture's global reach.

Comments highlighted the cultural connection on display, with viewers noting how Punjabi continues to resonate across nationalities and backgrounds. The video has since been widely circulated, adding



to ongoing conversations about language, identity and global cultural exchange.

Indians among delivery riders held in United Kingdom crackdown on illegal work



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Indian nationals are among 171 delivery riders detained for working illegally during a nationwide enforcement drive in the United Kingdom, the British government said on Thursday. The Home Office carried out the checks under an operation called Operation Equalise, conducted over seven days last month in towns, villages and cities across the country.

Officials said those found working without legal status, including riders from Bangladesh and China, were arrested on the spot and detained for deportation. On a Friday in Newham in east London, four riders from Bangladesh and India were arrested and all were detained for removal. On a Tuesday in Norwich, three Indian delivery riders were arrested, with two detained and one placed on strict immigration bail.

The crackdown is part of Home Secretary Shabana Mahmood's reforms aimed at reducing illegal migration and increasing deportations. According to official data, the United Kingdom carried out more than 11,000 checks and 8,000 arrests last year, marking significant rises from the previous year.

The government said nearly 50,000 people with no right to remain have been removed since July 2024. New legislation, which became law this week, expands the right to work checks to the gig economy and introduces stricter penalties for employers who fail to comply.

Two Indian-origin players selected for Australia's Under-19 World Cup squad



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Two Indian-origin cricketers, Aryan Sharma and John James, have been named in Australia's 15-member squad for the men's Under-19 World Cup beginning on Thursday, January 15, in Namibia and Zimbabwe. Both players were part of the squad that faced India during youth Tests and one-day matches in September.

The team also includes two players of Sri Lankan heritage, Naden Cooray and Nitesh Samuel, and one of Chinese origin, Alex Lee Young. Australia enters the tournament as defending champions, led by captain Oliver Peake.

Head coach Tim Nielsen said the squad was selected for its balanced skills and strong performances during the Under-19 series against India and the national championship in Perth. Australia will arrive in Namibia in early January and begin warm-up matches on Friday, January 9.

British Sikh with Jalandhar roots receives OBE from Princess Anne



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Captain Jay, also known as Jagjett Singh-Sohal, a British Sikh with family roots in Jalandhar, was honored with an OBE by Princess Anne at St James's Palace on Wednesday.

The award recognizes his significant work in commemorating Commonwealth soldiers who served Great Britain, especially his efforts in founding the United Kingdom's first memorial to Sikh soldiers of World War One.

Unveiled in 2015 at the National Memorial Arboretum in Staffordshire, the memorial stands as a tribute to the contributions and sacrifices of Sikh soldiers. Born in Birmingham, Captain Singh-Sohal's paternal grandparents migrated from Sang Dhesian in Phillaur, while his maternal grandparents came from Kapurthala.

The forty-two-year-old, who has served as an Army Reservist for sixteen years, said he was humbled by the recognition. The honor marks a proud moment for the Sikh community and underscores Punjab's long-standing ties to British military history.

New York woman charged with smuggling Indian nationals across United States-Canada border

● Staff Writer, IndoUS Tribune

A forty two year old woman from Plattsburgh, New York, has been charged for her role in an international smuggling conspiracy that brought individuals, primarily from India, into the United States across the Canadian border. Stacey Taylor appeared for arraignment this week after a federal grand jury indictment filed in October.

According to court records, United States Border Patrol agents stopped Taylor's vehicle near Churubusco, New York, early on a January morning and found four foreign nationals inside. Three were Indian citizens and one was a Canadian citizen, all of whom had crossed the border illegally without inspection.

Messages recovered from Taylor's cellphone indicated her involvement in multiple smuggling attempts in the days leading up to her arrest, and investigators



linked her to additional activity as recently as September.

Taylor faces charges of conspiracy to commit alien smuggling and four counts of alien smuggling for profit, three of which are second or subsequent offences. If convicted, she faces a mandatory minimum of five years in prison for each count involving smuggling for profit, along with additional penalties.

British Sikh businessman sanctioned over suspected pro-Khalistan links

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The United Kingdom government on Thursday imposed sanctions on British Sikh businessman Gurpreet Singh Rehal and the group Babbar Akali Lehar under its Domestic Counter-Terrorism Regime. Rehal, linked with the Panjab Warriors sports investment firm, faces an asset freeze and a ban on serving as a company director. The Treasury said he is suspected of involvement with Babbar Khalsa and Babbar Akali Lehar, including recruitment and financial support activities.

The sanctions also freeze all assets of Babbar Akali Lehar, which the government says is associated with Babbar Khalsa, a proscribed terrorist organisation. His Majesty's Treasury stated that the measures



block all United Kingdom entities from providing funds or financial services to Rehal or the group without a licence.

Morecambe Football Club and Panjab Warriors said Rehal previously held a consultancy role but is no longer affiliated with either organisation. Violations of these sanctions carry penalties of up to seven years in prison or heavy civil fines.

Indian national in United States sentenced for multimillion-dollar imposter scam

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

A federal court on Wednesday sentenced Indian national Ligneshkumar H. Patel, 38, to 90 months in prison for his role in an imposter scam that targeted elderly victims across five states. Patel pleaded guilty to conspiracy to commit wire fraud and financial institution fraud, along with two counts of wire fraud. He was ordered to pay more than USD 2 million in restitution, according to the Department of Justice.

Court documents show Patel drove to the homes of at least 11 elderly victims in Illinois, Missouri, Iowa, Michigan and Wisconsin to collect money and gold worth USD 2,231,216.99. He was part of



a larger conspiracy that involved at least 85 additional victims with an intended loss exceeding USD 6.9 million.

Investigators described Patel as a courier who helped move stolen funds. Homeland Security Investigations and the Edwardsville Police Department led the investigation.

Indian student dies from injuries after house fire in New York



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

A 24-year-old Indian student, Sahaja Reddy Udumala, died on Thursday after suffering severe burn injuries in a house fire in Albany, New York. The Consulate General of India in New York said it was deeply saddened by her death and confirmed that officials were assisting her family.

Police and firefighters responded to the blaze on Wednesday morning and found the residence engulfed in flames. Four adults were rescued and taken to a hospital with serious injuries, and two were later transferred to a burn center. Udumala, who was pursuing a Master's degree in Albany, sustained burns across most of her body and later died of organ failure, according to her family.

A fundraiser launched by her cousin has raised more than USD 109,000 for funeral arrangements, repatriation and family support.

Goraya man's search for missing brother in Russia enters third month



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

A man from Goraya, Jagdeep Kumar, has now spent nearly three months in Russia searching for his missing brother, Mandeep Kumar. Speaking on Wednesday, Jagdeep said this was his second trip to the country after he last spoke to Mandeep on a Sunday in March 2023. Since then, he has had no information about his brother's whereabouts.

Jagdeep said he took loans to send Mandeep abroad, and later learned that Mandeep had been forcibly recruited into the Russian army to fight in the Ukraine war. To continue the search, Jagdeep borrowed more money and now carries a debt of more than USD 18,000, which he fears he may never be able to repay.

He said several Indians injured in the conflict were not receiving proper medical care and were being sent back to India without support. He urged the Indian government to intervene and said he and others had been looking for 13 Indian nationals who remain missing in Russia.



Kim Jong-un emphasizes North Korea's defense priorities at key party meeting



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

North Korean leader Kim Jong-un praised his country's defense policies as following the "exact direction" to protect national security during a key Workers' Party meeting held from Tuesday through Thursday. The plenary session reviewed 2025 policy implementation and prepared for the ninth party congress expected in January or February. Kim highlighted the modernization of the armed forces and cited North Korea's troop support for Russia in Ukraine as a demonstration of its military prestige. State media did not provide details on North Korea's stance toward the United States or South Korea. The congress will likely unveil external policy directions and amendments to party rules, potentially codifying Pyongyang's "two hostile states" position toward Seoul.

Sindhi activist urges India to highlight concerns over Pakistan's nuclear command



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Sindhi leader Shafi Burfat, Chairman of the Jeay Sindh Muttahida Mahaz, issued a detailed appeal on Wednesday urging Prime Minister Narendra Modi to raise global alarm over what he described as Pakistan's extremist-influenced military and its control of nuclear weapons. Speaking from Berlin, Burfat said Sindh faces an existential threat under Pakistan's militarized and radicalized state structure, which he argued has enabled decades of state-sponsored terrorism and jihadist networks. He warned that Pakistan's nuclear arsenal is controlled through opaque systems dominated by military leaders who, he claimed, are ideologically driven rather than professionally accountable. Burfat alleged that Army Chief Asim Munir embodies a deeply rigid and jihadist-influenced worldview, making nuclear oversight increasingly unstable. He said Pakistan has long used religious extremism as a strategic tool, supporting militant groups active in Kashmir and beyond. Burfat urged world leaders to confront Pakistan's security posture, asserting that regional stability is impossible unless this system is dismantled.

Zelenskyy refuses to cede Ukrainian territory as he seeks stronger European backing

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy has firmly rejected U.S. pressure to cede land to Russia, insisting that Ukraine will not give up any territory. Speaking late Monday, Zelenskyy said Ukraine's constitution, international law, and moral principles leave no room for concessions, adding that the nation is fighting to defend its sovereignty.

On Tuesday, Zelenskyy met Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni in Rome to discuss the peace process and emphasize the need for strong U.S. and European security guarantees to deter future Russian

aggression. He also met Pope Leo XIV, who called for continued dialogue and a just, lasting peace.

Zelenskyy's diplomatic push follows U.S. President Donald Trump's repeated urging for Ukraine to accept a peace proposal involving territorial concessions. Meanwhile, Ukraine and European allies continue to resist such demands.

Russian drone strikes have targeted energy infrastructure across Ukraine, causing blackouts, while Ukraine's forces continued retaliatory strikes into Russian territory. Humanitarian aid remains underfunded, leaving many vulnerable to freezing conditions.



Indian agencies warn of ISI-directed terror plot emerging from Bangladesh

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Indian intelligence agencies have raised alarms over a developing terror plot after learning on Thursday that a group of explosives experts from Pakistan-occupied Kashmir is preparing to enter Bangladesh under Lashkar-e-Taiba directives. Officials said the team is expected to train local operatives as part of a joint plan involving Lashkar-e-Taiba and Jaish-e-Mohammed, both of which are attempting to revive their modules in West Bengal and the northeastern states. Agencies say Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence is using support from a friendly regime in Bangladesh to plan a major strike in India. A nine-member unit has reportedly been assembled to train militants for potential serial blasts, with sleeper cells already

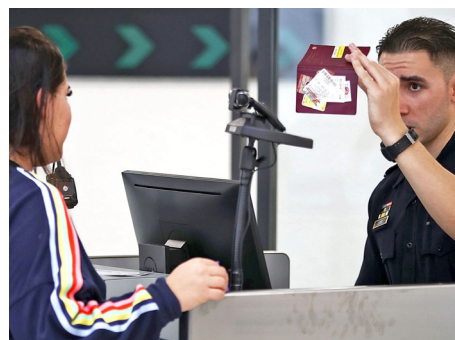


activated in border states. Indian officials also noted increased visits by senior operatives, including a close aide of Hafiz Saeed, to coordinate with Bangladesh-based groups. They believe the attack may be executed after Saeed's expected visit to Dhaka this month. Several madrasas linked to these networks have been temporarily shut as the ISI attempts to cover its tracks.

U.S. plans to require foreign travelers to share five years of social media history

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The Trump administration proposed requiring visitors from 42 countries under the visa waiver program to provide five years of social media histories to enter the United States. The measure, outlined Tuesday, would also collect email addresses, phone numbers, and family information. British and German citizens, normally exempt from visas, would need to submit these details through the Electronic System for Travel Authorization. The proposal is part of broader immigration and national security measures, with the public allowed 60 days to comment. Officials said World



Cup ticket holders may be fast-tracked but remain subject to the same rules. Critics, including the Electronic Frontier Foundation, warned the plan could surveil and suppress foreign travelers' online activity.

Papua New Guinea aims for a green economy, says PM Marape



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Papua New Guinea's Prime Minister James Marape outlined his vision for a green economy during the PNG Investment Leaders Summit in Sydney on Tuesday. He emphasized renewable energy, forestry, fisheries, and agriculture as key growth sectors, aiming to position PNG as a nation with a negative carbon footprint. Marape said the government would continue mining and petroleum activities but would shift focus to non-extractive sectors like tourism, manufacturing, and construction. He highlighted legal and justice sector reforms to boost investor confidence. Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese reaffirmed Australia's role as a strong economic partner, emphasizing bilateral projects supporting local jobs, infrastructure, and trade. The summit runs through Thursday under the theme "Strong Together — Investing for the Future."

U.S. sanctions Maduro's nephews in renewed pressure on Venezuela



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The U.S. imposed sanctions Thursday on three nephews of Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro—Franqui Flores, Carlos Flores, and Efrain Campo—along with a Panamanian businessman, six companies, and six Venezuela-flagged oil ships. The sanctions prevent them from accessing U.S. property and conducting business with American entities. The move follows the seizure of a Venezuelan oil tanker and is part of President Donald Trump's ongoing campaign to pressure Maduro's government over alleged drug trafficking. Carlos Flores had been previously sanctioned but was removed in 2022 during the Biden administration. Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent said the sanctions hold Maduro's network accountable for "flooding the United States with drugs." The actions come amid a series of U.S. strikes on drug-smuggling operations.

First climate migrants from Tuvalu arrive in Australia



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The first climate migrants from the South Pacific island nation of Tuvalu have arrived in Australia, officials said Thursday, under a climate visa program established two years ago. More than one-third of Tuvalu's 11,000 residents applied, but intake is capped at 280 visas annually. Among the initial migrants are a dentist, a pastor, and the country's first female forklift driver. Australia is establishing support services to help families settle in Melbourne, Darwin, and Queensland. Rising sea levels threaten Tuvalu's low-lying atolls, with projections indicating that up to half of Funafuti could be submerged by 2050. Australian Foreign Minister Penny Wong said the program provides "mobility with dignity" for Tuvaluans while maintaining cultural and community ties.

U.S. backs Japan amid China radar dispute



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The United States criticized China Thursday for aiming military radars at Japanese aircraft during a training exercise near Okinawa, marking the first direct U.S. condemnation. The incident escalates tensions following Japanese Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi's comments on a potential response to a Chinese attack on Taiwan. A State Department spokesperson called China's actions "not conducive to regional peace and stability" and reaffirmed the U.S.-Japan alliance. Japanese officials welcomed Washington's support. China defended its maneuvers as lawful and safe, while Taiwan's president condemned them as inappropriate. The spat has intensified regional military activity, including Japanese jet scrambles and joint Russian-Chinese patrols near Japan. The U.S. emphasized ongoing close coordination with Japan on security issues.

Bulgarian court blocks Lebanon's extradition of shipowner linked to Beirut blast

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

A Bulgarian court has rejected Lebanon's request to extradite Russian-Cypriot shipowner Igor Grechushkin, wanted in connection with the 2020 Beirut port explosion that killed at least 218 people and injured over 6,500. Grechushkin, former owner of the Rhosus that carried ammonium nitrate, has been held in Bulgaria since September under an Interpol notice. His lawyer said the court ruled Lebanon had not provided sufficient assurances that the death penalty would not be imposed. Lebanon has claimed the explosion was caused by a fire in a warehouse storing ammonium nitrate unsafely, and political leaders have been



accused of obstructing the investigation. The ruling can be appealed within seven days, and Grechushkin remains in custody pending the process. The blast caused \$15 billion in property damage and displaced roughly 300,000 people.

Khashoggi's widow joins Democrats in demanding release of Trump-Saudi call transcript

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Hanan Elatr Khashoggi, widow of slain journalist Jamal Khashoggi, joined House Democrats on Friday in calling for the release of a 2019 phone call between President Donald Trump and Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman. The call, conducted after Khashoggi's murder in October 2018, is believed to reveal whether Trump personally benefited from his relationship with the prince. Elatr Khashoggi condemned the journalist's killing as "a terrorist act" during a news conference. Rep. Eugene Vindman, a former National Security Council legal adviser, said the classified transcript contains concerning



language suggesting potential quid pro quo. The Democrats highlighted Trump's family business dealings in Saudi Arabia. The White House dismissed Vindman's remarks, while Elatr Khashoggi framed the request as a continuation of her late husband's human rights advocacy.

Netanyahu says Israel and Hamas to soon enter second phase of ceasefire

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said Sunday that Israel and Hamas are expected to move into the second phase of the ceasefire after Hamas returns the remains of the last hostage held in Gaza.

The phase will address disarming Hamas, withdrawing Israeli troops, deploying an international force, and establishing a temporary Palestinian government under U.S. supervision. Netanyahu made the remarks during a

news conference with German Chancellor Friedrich Merz, who confirmed Germany is assisting with humanitarian aid and the coordination of the next phase.

Hamas has said some remains are still buried under rubble from Israel's two-year offensive. The ceasefire's first stage involved returning hostages and bodies, and Netanyahu acknowledged the second phase will be challenging. Israel's military continues to maintain control over key Gaza areas along the so-called Yellow Line.

Pakistan's former ISI chief Faiz Hameed sentenced to 14 years in military prison

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Pakistan's retired three-star General and former Inter-Services Intelligence chief Faiz Hameed has been sentenced to 14 years of rigorous imprisonment by a military court, the Inter-Services Public Relations announced on Thursday. The Field General Court Martial found Hameed guilty on four charges, including involvement in political activities, breaching the Official Secrets

Act, misuse of authority and government resources, and causing loss to individuals. Proceedings began in August 2024 under the Pakistan Army Act and lasted 15 months. ISPR said Hameed was provided full legal rights, including a defense team of his choice, and he can appeal the verdict. The court also noted separate investigations into Hameed's alleged political agitation and state-threatening activities are ongoing. Hameed commanded several army corps and led ISI from 2019 to 2021.

India's PM to visit Jordan, Ethiopia, and Oman next week

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi will begin a three-nation tour next week, visiting Jordan, Ethiopia, and Oman. He will arrive in Jordan on Monday to meet King Abdullah II and review bilateral relations on the 75th anniversary of diplomatic ties. On Tuesday, Modi travels to Ethiopia for his first visit, holding discussions with Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed Ali to strengthen Global South partnerships and bilateral cooperation. From Wednesday to Thursday, Modi will visit Oman, marking 70 years of diplomatic relations and reviewing trade, defense, energy, technology, and cultural ties. The visit follows the Sultan of Oman's state visit to India in 2023 and highlights the strategic partnerships and long-standing people-to-people connections with all three nations.

Iran welcomes rare rainfall as drought strains dams and daily life

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Iran's capital saw its first rainfall in months on Wednesday after the country endured what meteorologists call its driest autumn in more than 50 years. The prolonged drought has drained major reservoirs, reduced snowpack in the Alborz Mountains, and forced periodic water cuts in Tehran. President Masoud Pezeshkian recently warned that the government may need to relocate from the capital by the end of December if dam levels do not recover. Officials say rainfall is only a fraction of seasonal norms, and even a normal winter will not offset the deficit. The worsening crisis has fueled public concern and renewed calls for water conservation.

Israel advances 764 new settlement homes in occupied West Bank



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Israel approved the construction of 764 new housing units across three settlements in the occupied West Bank on Wednesday, drawing criticism from Palestinians and rights groups. Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich said the Higher Planning Council cleared 478 units in Hashmonaim, 230 in Beitar Illit, and 56 in Givat Ze'ev as part of what he described as a strategic effort to strengthen settlement growth. Palestinian officials condemned the move and urged the Trump administration to intervene. Watchdog group Peace Now warned that the approvals push the territory closer to de facto annexation. Most of the international community considers the settlements illegal under international law.

Ajay Gupta sent to police custody as probe into Goa nightclub inferno widens

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Businessman Ajay Gupta, a sleeping partner in the fire-hit nightclub Birch by Romeo Lane in Goa, was sent to seven days of police custody on Wednesday as investigators expand the probe into the blaze that killed 25 people. His lawyer said Gupta is cooperating, though police had sought 10 days of custody. Gupta is the sixth person arrested. Earlier on Wednesday, co-owners Saurabh and Gaurav Luthra were detained in Thailand after leaving India hours after the fire. Their passports were suspended as Indian officials move to secure deportation. The fire erupted on Saturday night during a music event and spread rapidly due to flammable decor and missing safety systems, trapping visitors and staff.

Army balloon expedition sets Asian record after completing long-distance flight



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The Indian Army's Hot Air Ballooning Expedition, flagged off on Wednesday in Pune, set a new Asian record for the longest hot air balloon flight in India. The team traveled more than 750 kilometers from Bhopal across Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra, including stops in Mhow, Sambhajinagar and Ahilyanagar. A non-stop flight of 8 hours and 44 minutes earned recognition from the Asian Book of Records. The expedition, conducted under the Army Adventure Wing, also promoted adventure sports and engaged with local youth across multiple locations.

Centre releases funds to strengthen rural bodies in Maharashtra

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The Central government released about 717 million dollars for rural local bodies in Maharashtra on Friday as part of the first untied grant for the 2025 to 2026 financial year under the 15th Finance Commission. The funds cover two district panchayats, 15 block panchayats and more than 26,500 gram panchayats. Untied grants can be used for local development across 29 subjects in the Eleventh Schedule, while tied grants support sanitation, waste management and drinking water. The Ministry of Panchayati Raj has also expanded digital tools such as SabhaSaar for Gram Sabha records, SVAMITVA for land mapping and eGramSwaraj for planning and monitoring. Similar grants were released for Assam and Odisha earlier this year.

Government rejects global air quality rankings, says India will set its own pollution benchmarks

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The Union government told Parliament on Friday that global air pollution rankings will not determine India's policy direction, asserting that the country will rely on its own scientific standards and monitoring systems as concerns over worsening air quality continue to dominate national debate. Speaking in the Rajya Sabha during a discussion on pollution indices, Minister of State Kirti Vardhan Singh said the World Health Organisation's guidelines are advisory and not binding, adding that domestic rules must reflect India's geography, climate, and public health needs. He stressed that the National Ambient Air Quality Standards for twelve pollutants remain the country's primary regulatory framework.

The minister's clarification came in



response to questions about India's position in international assessments, including IQAir's review from March last year that ranked India as the fifth most polluted country and placed thirteen Indian cities among the world's twenty most polluted. Singh said such rankings do not carry official status and pointed to the government's own performance evaluation exercise, the Swachh Vayu Survekshan, which annually measures progress in one hundred and thirty cities under the National Clean Air Programme.

His remarks followed weeks of severe smog in Delhi, where air quality frequently slipped into the hazardous category, underscoring the growing urgency of India's pollution challenge even as the government defends its reliance on domestic benchmarks.

Prada partners with Maharashtra bodies to take Kolhapuri chappals global

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Prada signed a landmark agreement this week with Maharashtra undertakings LIDCOM and LIDCAR to globally promote Kolhapuri chappals. The pact was formalised at the Italian Consulate in Mumbai during the Italy India Business Council meeting. The collaboration will merge traditional craftsmanship from artisans in Maharashtra and Karnataka with Prada's contemporary design. The collection, titled Prada Made in India Inspired by Kolhapuri Chappals, will be produced in India and launched in February 2026 across 40 Prada stores worldwide. Maharashtra ministers said the project will support employment and training for artisans. Prada's CSR head Lorenzo Bertelli called the partnership a cultural exchange that elevates Indian heritage on the global luxury stage.



DGCA dismisses inspectors as IndiGo crisis deepens

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

India's aviation regulator dismissed four inspectors on Tuesday for negligence in monitoring IndiGo as the airline continues to face major operational disruptions. Thousands of flights were cancelled this month due to crew shortages and schedule mismanagement, leaving travellers stranded across the country. IndiGo CEO Pieter Elbers has again been summoned by the DGCA and will appear on Friday.

Two special oversight teams have been stationed at IndiGo's Gurugram office to track fleet deployment, pilot rosters, passenger refunds, compensation and on-time performance.

The airline has been ordered to reduce operations by 10 percent to stabilise services.



Civil Aviation Minister Ram Mohan Naidu said passengers experienced severe inconvenience because of poor planning.

Rahul Gandhi urges city-wise plan to combat worsening air pollution



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi raised the issue of hazardous air quality in the Lok Sabha this week and urged the government to present a city-wise strategy to address long-term pollution. He said millions of children and elderly residents were struggling with respiratory illnesses due to toxic air. Gandhi called for a joint effort between the government and the opposition and requested a detailed plan outlining improvements over the next five to ten years. Delhi recorded an Air Quality Index reading of 331 at 7 a.m., with Jahangirpuri at 405. Earlier in the day, Gandhi chaired a Congress meeting ahead of the party's rally at Ramlila Maidan on Sunday and paid tribute to former Union Home Minister Shivraj Patil.

Delhi reorganizes districts to improve governance and service delivery

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta announced this week that the capital will now have 13 revenue districts instead of 11 to improve administrative efficiency. The decision was approved during a Cabinet meeting and aims to streamline coordination with the Municipal Corporation, the NDMC and the Delhi Cantonment Board by aligning all district boundaries. The number of sub-divisions will rise from 33 to 39. Gupta said Delhi's growing population and complex civic needs required a more balanced structure for quicker grievance redressal and better oversight. The government will also set up modern Mini Secretariats in all districts, offering key services from revenue to registration under one roof.

Madhya Pradesh declares itself free of Maoist presence after new surrenders

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Mohan Yadav announced on Thursday that the state is now free of Maoist presence after the last two militants, Deepak and Rohit, surrendered in Balaghat. He said 42 Maoists had surrendered across Balaghat, Dindori and Mandla districts over the past 42 days. The Chief Minister noted that seven attacks took place in the last two years and security forces killed 10 high-value militants carrying a combined reward of 71 million rupees. A rehabilitation plan will begin in January, offering a 15-year package for those returning to mainstream society. Yadav credited the accelerated campaign to effective coordination and said the state's growth would now progress without the threat of Naxal violence.

Himachal CM outlines economic strain and disaster management efforts



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu told residents on Wednesday that the government had been grappling with severe financial and natural challenges over the past three years. He said the previous administration left a debt of 75,000 crore rupees and 10,000 crore rupees in pending arrears. Sukhu highlighted reforms to protect state resources, including winning the Wildflower Hall case that will add 20 crore rupees annually and raising royalty from the Karchham Wangtoo project to 18 percent. He said the government expanded relief measures during recent disasters and restored the Old Pension Scheme to safeguard employees. He added that under the Sukh-Ashray program, orphaned children have been legally recognised as Children of the State.

Railways accelerates shift to solar and wind energy for traction

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Railways Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw informed Parliament this week that Indian Railways is rapidly increasing its use of renewable energy for traction. Until November 2025, about 812 megawatts of solar power and 93 megawatts of wind power have been commissioned, along with 100 megawatts supplied under a round-the-clock arrangement with the Solar Energy Corporation of India. Another 1,500 megawatts of hybrid renewable capacity, including storage, has been tied up. The minister said electrification has sharply reduced reliance on coal and diesel engines. During 2023 to 2024, traction expenses reached 29,614 crore rupees. Electrification of the rail network is nearing completion as part of a mission-mode transition to cleaner and more efficient operations.

DP leader questions limited interim bail granted to Umar Khalid

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Peoples Democratic Party leader Iltija Mufti on Thursday questioned a Delhi court's decision to grant only 13 days of interim bail to student activist Umar Khalid for his sister's wedding. The court allowed bail from Sunday to the following Sunday, requiring a personal bond of 20,000 rupees and two sureties. Khalid has been in jail for more than five years under the Unlawful Activities Prevention Act for his alleged speeches before the visit of President Donald Trump, which police claim contributed to the 2020 Delhi riots. He has been barred from using social media and is permitted to meet only family and close associates. The Supreme Court reserved its verdict on his regular bail plea earlier this week.

Nadda cites Nehru's concerns over Vande Mataram during Upper House debate

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Leader of the House J. P. Nadda on Thursday cited archival correspondence from Jawaharlal Nehru as he revisited the Constituent Assembly's discussions on the national anthem during a debate on Vande Mataram in the Rajya Sabha. Nadda said that while the Assembly held dedicated deliberations before selecting Jana Gana Mana as the anthem, requests to grant similar consideration to Vande Mataram were turned down. He argued that Nehru had expressed reservations about adopting Vande Mataram, noting in his letters that the composition, though powerful, was difficult to adapt for orchestral performance, especially at official events abroad. His remarks prompted Opposition Leader Mallikarjun Kharge to question whether the debate



centered on the song or on Nehru himself. Nadda responded that cultural expressions such as invoking Bharat Mata transcended party affiliations and reflected India's civilisational heritage. His comments triggered energetic exchanges, with both sides debating the interpretation of national symbols.

Army intensifies search after truck plunges into deep gorge in Arunachal Pradesh

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The Indian Army on Thursday mounted a large rescue operation in Arunachal Pradesh's Chaglagam region after a truck carrying 22 workers from Tinsukia fell nearly 200 meters into a forested gorge along the remote Hayuliang–Chaglagam road. The accident is believed to have taken place late on Sunday and came to light on Tuesday when the only survivor reached a Border Roads camp. Army teams, NDRF personnel, GREF staff and local authorities located the vehicle after hours of rope-assisted descent and have sighted 18 bodies so far. Difficult terrain



and dense foliage had prevented earlier detection. Officials are verifying the workers' identities and investigating the contractor linked to the project as search efforts continue.

ISRO prepares to launch United States' BlueBird 6 satellite this week

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The Indian Space Research Organisation is preparing to launch the United States' 6.5-tonne BlueBird 6 satellite on Saturday using its LVM3 heavy-lift rocket. BlueBird 6, developed by AST SpaceMobile, is among the heaviest commercial satellites to be placed in low Earth orbit by India. The company says the satellite carries the largest commercial phased array in low Earth orbit, spanning nearly 2,400 square feet, which is more than three times the size of earlier BlueBird models and supports ten times their data capacity. The satellite arrived in India in October for integration. This



launch follows the major India–United States collaboration earlier this year, when ISRO placed the NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar mission in orbit. That mission, weighing 2,392 kilograms, is designed to scan land and ice surfaces every twelve days. BlueBird 6 is being launched by New Space India Limited, ISRO's commercial arm.

Shah defends election reforms and targets opposition over illegal immigrant issue

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Home Minister Amit Shah told the Lok Sabha on Wednesday that the government's election reform policy is centered on detecting, deleting and deporting illegal immigrants. He accused the opposition of obstructing Parliament to avoid debate on

voter roll integrity and walked out during his speech. Shah warned that demographic manipulation would not be allowed and highlighted infiltration concerns along the Bangladesh border. He also criticized the Trinamool Congress for allegedly protecting illegal immigrants and said the issue is central to national security and future electoral fairness.

India launches first indigenous hydrogen fuel cell passenger vessel in Varanasi

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The government has launched India's first fully indigenous hydrogen fuel cell passenger vessel at Namo Ghat in Varanasi. Built by Cochin Shipyard for the Inland Waterways Authority of India, the 24-meter catamaran uses a Low Temperature Proton Exchange Membrane system that converts hydrogen into electricity, producing only water as emissions. The vessel can carry 50 passengers in an air-conditioned cabin and operate for up to eight hours on one fill. Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal said the launch represents a major step toward clean and self-reliant transportation and supports the broader mission of preserving the Ganga. The project is expected to boost local tourism and position Varanasi among early adopters of hydrogen-powered transit.

Gujarat unveils new AI and digital governance systems

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel inaugurated the Regional AI Impact Conference in Gandhinagar this week and announced major digital governance initiatives. He launched the Gujarat Unified Digital Stack, aimed at providing citizens a single platform for government services supported by real-time data sharing. The Chief Minister also introduced the Gujarat AI Stack, which includes six tools such as Agriculture AI, grievance classification and procurement chatbot services. The state released Cloud Adoption Guidelines for 2025 and signed agreements with Google and Bhashini to strengthen multilingual AI and public digital services. Officials highlighted successful AI deployments in agriculture, policing and public transport as Gujarat positions itself as a leader in India's AI transformation.

Punjab Congress MP urges federal action to curb gang violence and extortion

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Congress Member of Parliament Amrinder Singh Raja Warring on Thursday urged Home Minister Amit Shah to intervene as Punjab faces rising extortion, gang violence and threats against local officials.

Speaking in the lower house, he said businessmen are receiving ransom calls from abroad and from prisons, and those who refuse payment have been targeted. He cited a recent daylight shooting during a wedding in Ludhiana involving rival gangs.

Warring also criticized political parties for enabling criminal influence and warned that even bureaucrats and legislators are facing threats. He referenced the activities of syndicates linked to Lawrence Bishnoi and Anmol Bishnoi, whose cases have highlighted the growing nexus between gang networks and cross-border crime.

Connecticut family sues OpenAI and Microsoft over ChatGPT-linked murder



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The heirs of 83-year-old Suzanne Adams filed a wrongful death lawsuit against OpenAI and Microsoft on Thursday, claiming ChatGPT intensified her son's paranoid delusions, contributing to her death. Police said 56-year-old Stein-Erik Soelberg fatally beat and strangled his mother in Greenwich, Connecticut, before killing himself in August. The lawsuit alleges ChatGPT validated Soelberg's beliefs that his mother and others were conspiring against him and encouraged emotional dependence on the AI. It also accuses OpenAI CEO Sam Altman of overriding safety objections and Microsoft of approving a riskier ChatGPT release. OpenAI stated it continues improving safeguards, crisis resources, and mental health guidance. The case is the first wrongful death lawsuit linking a chatbot to a homicide and seeks unspecified damages and a court order to strengthen ChatGPT's safety features.

Federal Reserve cuts key rate to 3.6% while signaling pause



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The Federal Reserve reduced its key interest rate by a quarter-point on Wednesday, lowering it to 3.6%, the lowest in nearly three years, while signaling that rates may remain steady in the coming months. Chair Jerome Powell said the Fed will monitor hiring and inflation before deciding on future cuts, noting the rate is now near a neutral level. Fed projections indicate possibly only one more reduction next year. The decision was not unanimous, with three officials dissenting. Powell expressed optimism about economic growth, resilient consumer spending, and investments in artificial intelligence, but acknowledged downside risks in the labor market, with slower job growth since April. President Donald Trump criticized the cut as too small and may appoint a new Fed chair in May, likely favoring sharper rate reductions. Stocks rose, with the S&P 500 closing near an all-time high.

Paramount launches hostile \$77.9 billion bid for Warner Bros.

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Paramount launched a hostile takeover offer on Monday for Warner Bros. Discovery, challenging Netflix's \$72 billion bid for the company behind HBO, CNN, and DC Studios. Paramount's \$77.9 billion cash-and-stock proposal targets all of Warner's assets, including cable networks that Netflix does not want. The bid comes after Warner managers agreed to Netflix's deal, with Paramount appealing directly to shareholders. CEO David Ellison emphasized that the offer

would strengthen Hollywood, boost competition, and expand theatrical releases. The deal also involves investment from Jared Kushner's firm and funds from Saudi Arabia, Abu Dhabi, and Qatar. The fight has drawn attention in Washington, with President Donald Trump publicly scrutinizing the deals and questioning media control. Paramount's offer expires on January 8 unless extended. Shares of Paramount surged 9%, Warner rose 4.4%, and Netflix fell 3.4% on Monday. Regulatory review and Trump's intervention remain key uncertainties in the battle.



PepsiCo to cut prices and trim product line under activist investor plan

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

PepsiCo announced on Monday that it will cut prices and eliminate nearly 20% of its products by early next year as part of a plan developed with activist investor Elliott Investment Management, which took a \$4 billion stake in September. The company said savings from the reduction will be reinvested in marketing and improving value for consumers, though it did not disclose which products or price cuts are planned. PepsiCo also intends to accelerate new offerings with simpler, functional ingredients, such as Doritos Protein and Simply NKD Cheetos and Doritos, alongside a prebiotic version of its cola. Elliott cited concerns over slowing growth, declining profitability, and a lack of strategic



clarity in North America. PepsiCo expects organic revenue to grow 2-4% in 2026. Chairman and CEO Ramon Laguarta said the company is focused on improving marketplace and financial performance while reviewing its supply chain and board to drive long-term growth.

Elon Musk hints at potential SpaceX IPO, fueling investor speculation

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Elon Musk reignited discussions about a SpaceX initial public offering after endorsing a journalist's analysis on X. Reports suggest the company may pursue a 2026 IPO, potentially raising over \$25 billion and valuing SpaceX above \$1 trillion. If realized, it would become the second-largest IPO in history, after Saudi Aramco. SpaceX has held preliminary talks with major banks on timing, targeting mid-year, as the company expands Starlink operations and human spaceflight initiatives. Musk's acknowledgment, though not an official confirmation, has intensified market interest,



highlighting investor appetite for stakes in a leading aerospace and satellite technology company. A public listing would provide capital to accelerate long-term exploration and commercial projects.

Apple CEO raises privacy concerns over U.S. child online safety bill

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Apple CEO Tim Cook met U.S. House members to express concerns over the proposed App Store Accountability Act, which could require app stores to verify minors' ages and collect sensitive data. Cook and Apple lobbyists argued that enforcing age checks at the app level could compromise user privacy and suggested that parental consent remain the primary safeguard. The legislation, intended to protect children from harmful online content, has gained traction following similar laws in Texas, Utah, and Australia. Apple emphasized that broad age-verification requirements could necessitate collecting personal documents from millions of users, affecting even apps unrelated to social media. The debate highlights tensions between digital safety and consumer privacy in the tech industry.

Oil prices ease as focus returns to Russia-Ukraine talks and Venezuelan tensions

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Oil prices fell as investors shifted attention to ongoing Russia-Ukraine peace negotiations and a U.S. seizure of a sanctioned tanker off Venezuela. Brent crude dropped 1.3% to \$61.40 per barrel, while U.S. West Texas Intermediate fell 1.3% to \$57.68. Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said discussions with U.S. envoy Steve Witkoff resolved prior misunderstandings and included Russia's collective security proposals. Analysts warned that further escalation around Venezuelan oil could drive volatility, while Ukrainian drone attacks on Caspian Sea oil infrastructure added regional risk. The International Energy Agency forecast slightly slower supply growth in 2026, reinforcing cautious market sentiment as geopolitical developments continue to shape global oil trade.

China and EU resume talks to resolve electric vehicle tariff dispute



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

China and the European Union have restarted negotiations over a potential minimum pricing framework for Chinese electric vehicles, aiming to prevent a full-blown trade conflict. The EU previously imposed duties up to 45.3% on Chinese EVs to counter alleged government subsidies, while China argued that its competitiveness stems from efficiency, not unfair support. Both sides hope discussions can balance fair market rules with consumer access to affordable EVs. The talks are critical for Europe's domestic EV industry and China's growing export market, as policymakers seek solutions that protect local jobs without triggering a broader trade war. Negotiations are expected to continue into next week.

SK On and Ford restructure U.S. battery joint venture



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

South Korea's SK On and Ford Motor announced plans to dissolve their three-year U.S. joint venture, BlueOval SK, restructuring ownership of their battery production facilities. Ford will fully own plants in Kentucky, while SK On will control the Tennessee facility within Ford's BlueOval City campus. The move aims to optimize operational efficiency, align production with market demand, and enhance SK On's battery innovation and manufacturing leadership. The company plans to supply EV batteries and energy storage systems to Ford and other customers from Tennessee. The agreement remains subject to regulatory approvals and is expected to close by the first quarter of next year, reflecting evolving strategies in the competitive U.S. EV supply chain.

Coca-Cola names Henrique Braun as CEO amid shifting consumer preferences

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Coca-Cola has appointed insider Henrique Braun as its new Chief Executive Officer, replacing James Quincey, who will transition to executive chairman. Braun, 57, joined Coca-Cola in 1996 and has held leadership roles in supply chain, bottling operations, and new business development. He became the company's chief operating officer in January and will assume the CEO role on March 31. Braun aims to build on Coca-Cola's momentum, leveraging its portfolio of zero-sugar beverages and premium products such as Fairlife milk to navigate a consumer landscape increasingly favoring healthier and affordable options. The leadership change reflects the company's strategic focus on growth and operational excellence amid evolving global demand.

Bitcoin dips below \$90,000 amid AI and tech sector concerns

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Bitcoin fell below \$90,000, signaling renewed market jitters as concerns about artificial intelligence-related profits weighed on tech stocks. Oracle's disappointing profit and revenue guidance highlighted slower returns on AI infrastructure, while the Federal Reserve's recent interest rate cut failed to boost sentiment. Bitcoin dropped 2.5% to \$90,056, and ether fell 4.3% to \$3,196, reversing gains from the prior two days. Analysts warned that cryptocurrencies need clearer recovery signals, noting that market forecasts have been sharply reduced, with Standard Chartered lowering its year-end bitcoin projection from \$200,000 to \$100,000. Investors remain cautious as global equities and crypto markets react to uneven technology sector performance.

Waymo recalls 3,067 self-driving vehicles after software glitch

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Waymo, Alphabet's autonomous driving unit, recalled 3,067 vehicles in the United States due to a software issue in its fifth-generation automated driving systems. The glitch caused some vehicles to pass stopped school buses, increasing crash risk, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety

Administration. The software was updated and all affected vehicles repaired by November 17. The recall followed reports from Texas authorities that Waymo vehicles illegally passed school buses at least 19 times since the start of the school year. The NHTSA, which began investigating in October, has requested further information from Waymo by January 20, highlighting the regulatory scrutiny facing autonomous vehicle operations in critical safety scenarios.



Microsoft partners with leading IT firms to scale agentic AI adoption

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Microsoft announced strategic partnerships with Cognizant, Infosys, TCS, and Wipro to accelerate the deployment of agentic AI through Microsoft 365 Copilot. Each company will deploy over 50,000 licenses, totaling more than 200,000, enabling intelligent systems capable of autonomous decision-making and insight generation. The collaboration aims to transform global enterprises by embedding AI into workflows to drive innovation, operational efficiency, and business growth. The announcement follows Microsoft's \$17.5 billion investment in AI and cloud infrastructure in India over four years. Executives from the IT firms emphasized that large-scale Copilot adoption represents a shift from experimentation to strategic integration,



positioning India's top IT companies at the forefront of the AI-driven economy.

India's GCC sector set to reach \$105 billion by 2030

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

India's Global Capability Centres (GCCs) are projected to reach \$105 billion by 2030, driven by higher-value research, development, and government policy initiatives. The country hosts over 1,700 GCCs employing more than 1.9 million professionals, up from 9.8 lakh in 2019. GCCs are increasingly handling AI, cybersecurity, semiconductor, and engineering research functions. Government initiatives such as GENESIS, SEZ reforms, Skill India, Digital India, and Future Skills Prime have strengthened infrastructure, talent development, and innovation. The number of GCCs could rise to 2,400 by 2030, employing over 2.8 million professionals. Officials noted that GCCs are transitioning from back-office



support to strategic hubs, establishing India as a preferred global destination for enterprise operations and next-generation technology services.

DGCA audit finds no major lapses at India's key airports



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) reported no significant lapses during recent surveillance audits of major Indian airports, with all observations classified as Level II and addressed by aerodrome operators. Minister of State for Civil Aviation Murlidhar Mohol told Parliament that Level II lapses are procedural oversights that do not pose immediate safety threats. DGCA maintains regular inspections, spot checks, and special audits to ensure compliance with Civil Aviation Requirements. The agency has strengthened its workforce, adding dozens of technical and operational officers and creating 441 posts over three years as part of its restructuring. DGCA emphasizes ongoing safety oversight to maintain global aviation standards and monitor corrective actions at licensed airports.

IndiGo offers Rs 10,000 travel vouchers to severely affected passengers

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

IndiGo offered travel vouchers worth Rs 10,000 to passengers severely impacted by widespread flight disruptions earlier this month, affecting thousands of travelers between December 3 and 5. The compensation complements existing government-mandated refunds of Rs 5,000 to Rs 10,000 depending on flight block times. IndiGo confirmed that all cancellations have been refunded and operations stabilized since December 9, with daily flights exceeding 1,800 and minimal cancellations. The airline's board plans to engage external technical experts to investigate the root causes of the operational failures to prevent future disruptions. IndiGo's spokesperson reaffirmed the commitment to restoring safe, reliable, and smooth travel experiences for its customers across its domestic and international network.

Gold delivers 15 percent long-term returns, outperforming equities and real estate

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Gold has delivered compounded annual returns of 15 percent over the past 20 years in rupee terms, outperforming Indian equities at 13.5 percent and real estate at 7.8 percent, according to a FundsIndia report. Over five years, gold returned 23.2 percent CAGR versus 16.5 percent for Indian equities and 19.6 percent for U.S. equities. Mid- and small-cap stocks outperformed large caps, with the Nifty Midcap 150 index posting 16.5 percent CAGR. Analysts attribute gold's performance to central bank purchases, safe-haven demand, rupee depreciation, and high equity valuations. Debt markets provided steady 7-8 percent returns, offering stability during market volatility. Historical corrections show markets recover within one to three years, reinforcing long-term growth potential.

Michigan coach Sherrone Moore jailed after firing for misconduct



Former Michigan football coach Sherrone Moore was taken into custody on Wednesday, only hours after the university dismissed him for what it described as an inappropriate relationship with a staff member. Washtenaw County Jail confirmed that the 39-year-old was booked on Wednesday evening, although the reason for his detention was not listed. Earlier that day, Pittsfield Township Police had responded to an alleged assault a short distance from Michigan Stadium and detained one person. Police said the incident was not random and that the individual was held pending a prosecutor's review. Michigan fired Moore for cause after an internal inquiry, ending a two-year tenure in which he posted a 9-3 season this year and an 8-5 record in his debut.

Haaland leads Manchester City to comeback win that adds pressure on Xabi Alonso



Erling Haaland scored the decisive penalty on Wednesday as Manchester City beat Real Madrid 2-1 at the Santiago Bernabeu, a result that may deepen uncertainty around Xabi Alonso's position. Rodrygo ended a long goal drought to give Madrid the lead in the twenty-eighth minute, but City equalized seven minutes later through Nico O'Reilly after Thibaut Courtois failed to control a header. Haaland put City ahead in the forty-third minute after being pulled down by Antonio Rudiger. The victory moved City to fourth in the Champions League table with thirteen points, while Madrid remain seventh with twelve. Alonso, whose side is second in La Liga, now faces mounting scrutiny after a recent run of mixed domestic results.

Kohli closes in on Rohit for top ODI ranking after dominant South Africa series

Virat Kohli moved closer to reclaiming the number one spot in the ICC Men's ODI batting rankings after a standout performance in India's home series against South Africa, according to the latest update issued on Wednesday. The former captain scored two centuries and an unbeaten half-century across three matches, earning him the Player of the Series award with a total of 302 runs.

His rise of two positions places him second, only eight rating points behind Rohit Sharma. Rohit kept his position at the top after scoring 146 runs during the series, but all focus now shifts to India's upcoming home series against



New Zealand beginning on Friday in early January. The Kohli-Rohit rivalry is expected to be a major storyline in the coming weeks.

Other Indian players also recorded gains. KL Rahul climbed to twelfth among ODI batters, while left-arm spinner Kuldeep Yadav moved to third among ODI bowlers.

South Africans Quinton de Kock, Aiden Markram and Temba Bavuma also improved their batting rankings. Updates from T20 rankings and Test rankings showed similar movement, with Dewald Brevis, Axar Patel and Mitchell Starc among the biggest movers.

India and Italy sign new sports partnership to expand training and high-performance exchange

The Indian Olympic Association and the Italian National Olympic Committee signed a cooperation agreement on Wednesday in New Delhi to strengthen collaboration across sports development, training and high-performance programs.

The signing was attended by Italy's Deputy Prime Minister Antonio Tajani and India's Sports Minister Mansukh Mandaviya, highlighting the strategic commitment both governments are placing on international sporting cooperation.

The memorandum outlines a structured plan for joint training camps, coaching exchanges, shared sports science initiatives and long-term development pathways

for emerging athletes. Officials said the agreement will give Indian athletes access to world-class European facilities and technical expertise during key Olympic cycles.

Mandaviya said the initiative arrives at an important moment for India's sporting ambitions and will help raise competitive standards across disciplines.

IOA president P. T. Usha called the partnership a milestone for Indian sport and emphasized the value of Italy's high-performance systems. Luciano Buonfiglio, president of the Italian committee, said both nations share a deep passion for sport and that the collaboration will help athletes from both countries elevate their performance.

Barcelona, Liverpool and Atletico secure key Champions League victories

Barcelona earned an important Champions League win on Wednesday after two second-half headers from Jules Kounde sealed a 2-1 comeback against Eintracht Frankfurt. Barcelona had dominated possession in the first half but trailed after Ansgar Knauff finished a counter-attack in the twenty-first minute. Substitute Marcus Rashford delivered the cross for Kounde's equalizer in the fiftieth minute, and Lamine Yamal set up his second three minutes later.

Elsewhere, Chelsea lost 2-1 to Atalanta in Bergamo after Joao Pedro opened the scoring for the visitors, only for Gianluca Scamacca and Charles De Ketelaere to turn the match around. Atletico Madrid defeated PSV 3-2 after falling behind early, with Julian Alvarez, David Hancko and Alexander Sorloth



scoring for the Spanish side.

Liverpool earned a late 1-0 win over Inter Milan through a penalty converted by Dominik Szoboszlai after a lengthy VAR review had earlier ruled out a goal. Tottenham cruised to a 3-0 win over Slavia Prague, while Marseille, Bayern Munich, Monaco and Olympiakos also claimed victories in a busy round of fixtures.

MLB confirms Mexico City series between Diamondbacks and Padres for April

Major League Baseball confirmed on Wednesday that the Arizona Diamondbacks and San Diego Padres will meet in a two-game regular season series at Mexico City's Estadio Alfredo Harp Helu on Friday and Saturday in April. Arizona will serve as the home team for both games. It will be the third regular season series played in Mexico City, following Padres wins over San Francisco in 2023 and Houston's sweep of Colorado in 2024. MLB has staged other international games in Monterrey and had planned additional events in Paris and San Juan in 2025, but those were canceled due to financial or scheduling challenges. The league still intends to stage future international fixtures under existing collective bargaining commitments.

Germany clinch record eighth Junior World Cup title after shoot-out win over Spain

Germany won their eighth FIH Men's Junior World Cup title on Wednesday after defeating Spain 3-2 in a shoot-out in Chennai. The defending champions were appearing in their tenth final and held their composure after the match ended 1-1 in regulation time at Mayor Radhakrishnan Stadium. The result extends Germany's dominance in the tournament, which ran for thirteen days beginning on Thursday in late November. Both teams created opportunities in a tightly contested match, but Germany prevailed with clinical finishing in the shoot-out. Their victory reinforces their standing as the most successful team in the history of the Junior World Cup.



Praggnanandhaa wins FIDE Circuit 2025 to secure Candidates spot

India's Rameshbabu Praggnanandhaa was declared the FIDE Circuit 2025 winner on Monday, earning the only Indian men's berth in next year's Candidates tournament. FIDE said the Chennai Grandmaster dominated the circuit by winning the Tata Steel Masters, Superbet Chess Classic Romania, UzChess Cup Masters and London Chess Classic Open. He also finished runner-up at the Stepan Avagyan Memorial and placed twelfth in the Sinquefield Cup. Praggnanandhaa ended with 115.17 points, ahead of Anish Giri and Nodirbek Abdusattorov.



ART Grand Prix signs Kush Maini for 2026 Formula Two season



ART Grand Prix announced on Monday that Indian driver Kush Maini will join the team for the 2026 Formula Two season. Maini, who earned two wins and seven podiums this year, is set for his fourth season in the series. He previously finished second in the 2020 BRDC British F3 Championship and scored one podium in the 2022 FIA Formula Three season. Maini said he is excited to work with ART and praised the team's strong environment. Team Principal Sébastien Philippe said Maini's Monaco victory showed his speed and maturity. Earlier this month, Alpine selected Maini for its post-season Young Driver Test and confirmed him as a Test and Reserve Driver.

Helmut Marko to step down from Red Bull advisor role at end of 2025



Red Bull confirmed on Monday that longtime motorsport advisor Helmut Marko will leave the team at the end of 2025, closing a 20-year chapter marked by six team titles and eight driver titles. Marko played a central role in the Red Bull Junior Program and guided the rise of Sebastian Vettel and Max Verstappen. Team Principal Laurent Mekies said Marko's departure will leave a major void across the organization. Marko said narrowly missing the world title this season convinced him that this was the right moment to step away. His exit comes six months after Christian Horner's departure.

Blues sign Dillon Dube to AHL tryout after acquittal in 2018 sexual assault case

The St. Louis Blues announced on Wednesday that forward Dillon Dube has signed an American Hockey League professional tryout, making him the latest member of Canada's 2018 world junior team to return to professional hockey after being acquitted in a high-profile sexual assault case earlier this year. Dube, who is twenty-seven, will report to the Springfield Thunderbirds once he receives his work visa.

Dube, Michael McLeod, Alex Formenton, Cal Foote and Carter Hart were all found not guilty by a judge in London, Ontario, after being charged in connection with an incident from 2018. Hart, now with the Vegas Golden Knights, is the only player to have appeared in the National Hockey League since the verdict. Foote recently signed with the Chicago Wolves in the AHL, while Formenton is playing in Switzerland



and McLeod in the Russia-based KHL.

Dube played forty-two games last season with Dinamo Minsk and previously spent six years with the Calgary Flames. St. Louis also re-signed forward Robby Fabbri on Wednesday while placing Jordan Kyrrou on injured reserve with a lower-body injury.

Orioles reach five-year deal worth \$155 million with Pete Alonso

The Baltimore Orioles agreed on Wednesday to a five-year, 155 million dollar contract with power hitter Pete Alonso, according to a person familiar with the negotiations. The deal is pending a physical. Alonso, who hit two hundred sixty-four home runs over seven seasons with the New York Mets, posted a .272 average, thirty-eight home runs and one hundred twenty-six runs batted in this year. The thirty-one-year-old first baseman has been selected as an All-Star five times. Alfonso won National League Rookie of the Year in 2019 with a record fifty-three

home runs. Baltimore, coming off a last-place finish, has vowed to be aggressive in rebuilding its roster, making Alonso its most significant addition so far.



BCCI to consider revised pay structure for women's domestic cricket

The Board of Control for Cricket in India will review payments for women's domestic cricket during its Apex Council meeting this week. Revising compensation is among the key items on a six-point agenda, following concerns over disparities in the current structure. Senior women currently earn twenty thousand rupees per one-day match, while under twenty-three, under nineteen and under fifteen players receive ten thousand. Reserve players earn half the match fee. With the senior women's zonal red-ball tournament revived, its pay framework also needs updating. The meeting will additionally address central contracts, including those of senior players Rohit Sharma, Virat Kohli and newly



appointed Test and ODI captain Shubman Gill. Revisions to umpire and referee fees are also expected.

Mark Wood ruled out of Ashes with recurring knee injury



England fast bowler Mark Wood has been ruled out of the ongoing Ashes after a recurrence of the knee injury he suffered during the opening Test in Perth. The England and Wales Cricket Board said on Tuesday that Wood will return home this week to begin rehabilitation. The 35-year-old bowler had returned after knee surgery but felt discomfort again after bowling in Perth and was later withdrawn from the second Test in Brisbane. England have called up Matthew Fisher, who has been training in Australia with the Lions. Fisher has one Test appearance, recorded in the West Indies in 2022.

Jiang Yiting wins women's skeet gold with perfect score at World Cup Final



China's Jiang Yiting delivered a flawless 36 hits on Monday to win women's skeet gold at the ISSF World Cup Final in Doha. Jiang, an Olympic bronze medalist, topped qualifying with 123 hits, matching her junior world record. She then defeated reigning champion Samantha Simonton of the United States, who hit 34 targets for silver. Greece's Emmanouela Katzouraki took bronze. In men's skeet, Americans Christian Elliott, Vincent Hancock and Dustan Taylor swept the podium. Italy's Silvana Maria Stanco won women's trap, and William Hinton of the United States claimed men's trap gold. China topped the medal table overall.

Bettman expresses concern over delays at Milan Cortina Olympic rink

NHL Commissioner Gary Bettman on Wednesday voiced concern about construction delays at the main hockey rink for the Milan Cortina Olympics. Speaking in Winnipeg, he said the slow progress is disappointing and unprecedented. The NHL will send specialists to Italy to review ice safety, a longstanding concern. Deputy Commissioner Bill Daly said the rink is expected to be completed by February 2, ahead of the women's event starting February 5 and the men's tournament beginning on February 11. The facility will use rinks smaller than NHL dimensions but within IIHF rules.



China claims third straight ITTF Mixed Team World Cup title

China defeated Japan 8-1 on Sunday to win its third consecutive Mixed Team World Cup in Chengdu. In the best-of-15 final, Wang Chuqin and Sun Yingsha opened with a straight-games win in mixed doubles, followed by Wang Manyu's dominant performance in women's singles. Lin Shidong then rallied past Tomokazu Harimoto to seal the title. Earlier in the day, China and Japan advanced by beating South Korea and Germany in the semifinals. Germany later edged South Korea 8-7 for bronze, earning its first podium in the event's three editions.

Alia Bhatt shines at Red Sea Film Festival, wins Golden Globes Horizon Award

Bollywood actress Alia Bhatt and Tunisian star Hend Sabry were honoured by the Golden Globes at a gala dinner during the fifth Red Sea Film Festival in Saudi Arabia on Wednesday. Bhatt received the Golden Globes Horizon Award for her work in films including ‘Highway’, ‘Raazi’, ‘Uda Punjab’, ‘Dear Zindagi’ and ‘Gangubai Kathiawadi’. Sabry was presented with the Omar Sharif Award, recognising her performances in films like ‘The Yacoubian Building’, ‘Scheherazade’ and ‘Asmaa’. Guests included Idris Elba, Salman Khan, Henry Golding, Sigourney Weaver and Naomie Harris. Bhatt will next star in Sanjay Leela Bhansali’s ‘Love and War’ alongside Ranbir Kapoor and Vicky Kaushal, set to release on Thursday, March 20, 2026.

Priyanka Chopra wraps up 12-hour Mumbai visit, teases 2026 return



Priyanka Chopra completed a whirlwind 12-hour trip to Mumbai on Wednesday, appearing on ‘The Great Indian Kapil Show Season 4’. She shared behind-the-scenes moments on Instagram, meeting Kapil Sharma, fans, and the paparazzi, and wished everyone a Happy New Year. Chopra, who called Mumbai “raising the bar,” promised a return in 2026. She is currently filming a project with South star Mahesh Babu, directed by SS Rajamouli, tentatively titled ‘SSMB29’. The actress will also feature in ‘Krrish 4’ and play a 19th-century Caribbean pirate in ‘The Bluff’. Chopra was last seen in ‘Heads Of State’ with Idris Elba and John Cena.

John Cena reveals his superpower to tackle Hollywood hustle

Hollywood actor John Cena shared on the ‘Insight with Chris Van Vliet’ podcast that he can operate without sleep for up to 40 hours. Cena explained how he balances global travel, wrestling, and film commitments while ensuring recovery, often sleeping in blocks of 10 to 12 hours. He emphasized coordination with his wife, Shay Shariatzadeh, calling it “asking for grace” to maintain well-being and family time. Cena described the challenges of fatigue during long schedules and highlighted the discipline required to manage work and personal life. The actor credited planning and strategic rest as essential to sustaining his demanding routine.

Oscars add casting category, giving spotlight to behind-the-scenes talent

The Academy Awards will recognize casting for the first time at the 98th Oscars, airing live on ABC on Sunday, March 15, 2026. The new award acknowledges the critical role casting directors play in shaping films and television, a profession long overlooked despite its impact.

Bernard Telsey and Tiffany Little Canfield, who cast the two-part “Wicked” movies, say the process involves extensive scouting, auditions, and collaboration with directors, writers, and producers. “Our job is to know the actors out there or find the ones we don’t know,” Telsey explained. The profession often goes unnoticed because successful casting feels invisible, according to Destiny Lilly, president of the Casting Society.

Telsey’s team has cast across film, TV, and theater, including “Mary Poppins



Returns,” “Only Murders in the Building,” and Broadway hits. He emphasizes that good acting translates across mediums. The Oscars’ new category is seen as a major step in celebrating the creative art of casting and its crucial role in bringing stories to life.

Katy Perry goes Instagram official with Justin Trudeau during Japan tour

Singer Katy Perry has gone Instagram official with former Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, sharing glimpses of their relationship while on her Japan tour. The carousel post included candid photos and videos, from trying local delicacies together to sweet, intimate moments that highlighted their growing bond. Perry paused her ‘The Lifetimes’ world tour to join Trudeau for a mid-day sit-down with Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida, prompting Trudeau to post on X about the meeting, praising the dialogue and international collaboration.

The couple first sparked public interest in October when they were photographed holding hands in Paris during Perry’s birthday celebrations, followed by a romantic yacht outing off Santa Barbara where they were seen hugging, kissing, and enjoying private moments. Perry



has been seen donning sleek, stylish outfits, complementing Trudeau’s casual ensembles. Fans and media alike have embraced the revelation, turning speculation into global fascination with this high-profile romance.

Golden Globes introduces best podcast category, avoiding controversial nominees

The Golden Globes added a best podcast category for the first time, announcing six nominees on Monday. The shortlist includes “Armchair Expert with Dax Shepard,” “Call Her Daddy,” “Good Hang with Amy Poehler,” “The Mel Robbins Podcast,” “SmartLess,” and NPR’s “Up First.”

The Globes intentionally avoided political or controversial podcasts, excluding popular shows such as “The Joe Rogan Experience,” “Pod Save America,” and conservative programs hosted by Ben Shapiro, Candace Owen, and others. Experts suggest the decision reflects a desire to keep the awards nonpartisan and appealing to a broad audience after past controversies.

Eligible podcasts must feature original content, have at least six episodes released between January 1 and September 30, 2025, and each episode must be at least 30 minutes long. The award, presented at the Nikki Glaser-hosted ceremony on



Saturday, January 11, recognizes creativity, audience engagement, and impact within the medium.

Pamela Anderson finds peace in her ‘neutral zone’



Pamela Anderson revealed to ‘Vogue’ that her garden, nicknamed Arkady, is a “neutral zone” where she and her mother avoid arguments. The actress enjoys tending roses, vegetables, and pumpkins, sharing much of her harvest with neighbors, schools, and First Nations communities. Anderson said gardening reflects her approach to life, with crop rotation and replanting symbolizing personal growth. Her favorite plants are Yves Piaget roses, prized for their fragrance. The garden allows Anderson to connect with nature, cultivate sustainability, and maintain family harmony, combining beauty, utility, and personal reflection in a serene space that nurtures both plants and relationships.

Akshay Kumar backs ‘Dhurandhar’ amid heated controversy

Actor Akshay Kumar praised Aditya Dhar’s film ‘Dhurandhar’ on Wednesday, calling it a “gripping tale” and applauding the audience response. The Ranveer Singh-starrer, also featuring Sanjay Dutt, Arjun Rampal, and R. Madhavan, has faced criticism from the family of Pakistani officer SP Chaudhary Aslam, whose life is depicted in the film. Kumar highlighted the importance of telling such stories in a hard-hitting way. Actress-politician Smriti Irani also supported the film, praising the performances of Singh, Khanna, and Rampal. Set in Pakistan, the film follows an Indian spy undercover in Lyari gangs, blending action with espionage while sparking debate on representation and creative storytelling.

Kartik Aaryan sparks buzz with Darren Aronofsky meet, hints at collaboration

Bollywood actor Kartik Aaryan met filmmaker Darren Aronofsky at the Red Sea Film Festival on Wednesday. Sharing a playful video, the duo discussed bringing Aronofsky to India and potentially working on a commercial movie with song and dance. Aronofsky, known for films like ‘Requiem for a Dream’, ‘Black Swan’, and ‘The Wrestler’, praised Aaryan as a rising star. Earlier, Kartik shared a selfie with Hollywood actor Johnny Depp. The meeting fueled speculation of a future Indo-Hollywood collaboration, blending Aaryan’s commercial appeal with Aronofsky’s intense, stylized storytelling, generating excitement among fans of both industries.

Malayalam actor Dileep acquitted in 2017 abduction case

Kerala actor Dileep was acquitted by the Ernakulam Principal Sessions Court on Monday in the 2017 actress abduction and sexual assault case. Of the 10 accused, six received sentences, while Dileep and four others were cleared. The prosecution failed to establish criminal conspiracy beyond reasonable doubt, with key witnesses turning hostile. The verdict concludes nearly eight years of legal proceedings that drew national attention and debates on justice and women's safety. Dileep consistently denied involvement, and the court cited insufficient evidence linking him to the crime. Activists and women's rights groups expressed disappointment over the acquittal.

Vikram Bhatt taken to Udaipur over alleged Rs 30 crore fraud



Filmmaker Vikram Bhatt and his wife, Shwetambari Bhatt, were taken into custody by Rajasthan police and brought to Udaipur on Sunday following a complaint by Dr. Ajay Murdia. The complaint alleges that Bhatt and six others defrauded Murdia of Rs 30 crore, promising profits from a film project commemorating his late wife, Indira, and another historical war-based film. Bhatt had allegedly assured Murdia of managing all production aspects. The police had previously issued notices to the accused. Investigation is ongoing, and authorities are examining the financial irregularities and alleged false promises surrounding the film projects.

Julia Roberts and Sean Penn discuss friendship, work, and cancel culture

Hollywood veterans Julia Roberts and Sean Penn opened up about their longtime friendship and professional experiences while promoting 'After the Hunt' and 'One Battle After Another'. Roberts, playing philosophy professor Alma Imhoff in Luca Guadagnino's 'After the Hunt', and Penn, portraying Col. Steven J. Lockjaw in Paul Thomas Anderson's political thriller, reflected on creative collaborations and engaging conversations with co-stars like Andrew Garfield and Ayo Edebiri. Penn noted that shame is underrated today, adding, "Not everything is supposed to make you comfortable." The actors, who have been friends for decades, emphasized listening and humility in both art and life.

Diljit Dosanjh shares day-to-day routine while filming second project with Imtiaz Ali



Punjabi superstar Diljit Dosanjh is filming his second collaboration with director Imtiaz Ali in Punjab, sharing glimpses of his daily routine on Thursday via Instagram. He starts his day at 4:30 a.m., exercises, and enjoys a healthy breakfast before heading to the set.

The untitled project follows their previous film, "Amar Singh Chamkila," which depicted the life of the 1980s Punjabi singer-songwriter. Chamkila, often called the "Elvis of Punjab," and his

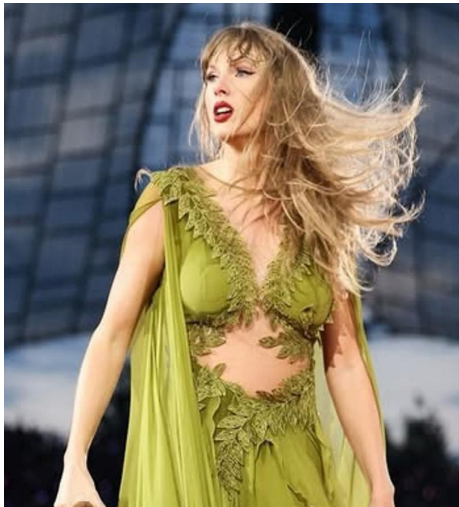
wife Amarjot were assassinated in 1988, and the film highlighted his controversial yet culturally significant legacy.

"Amar Singh Chamkila" received two International Emmy nominations for Diljit's performance and as Best TV Movie or Mini-Series. Although it did not win, the recognition marked a milestone for Indian and Punjabi storytelling internationally. Diljit's current project continues to explore regional narratives while demonstrating his commitment to authenticity and cultural representation in cinema.

Taylor Swift reveals two favorite songs from her catalog

Pop star Taylor Swift shared two of her favorite songs from her catalog during an appearance on "The Late Show With Stephen Colbert" on Wednesday. Swift cited the 10-minute version of "All Too Well" and "The Life of a Showgirl" album as personal favorites. She also mentioned "Mirrorball" from her album "Folklore" as likely making her top five list.

The singer-songwriter noted that her rankings are constantly changing and promised to provide a full update after further reflection. Swift's latest album, "The Life of a Showgirl," recently spent four consecutive weeks at number one on the Billboard 200, while her song "The Fate of Ophelia" spent four weeks on the Hot 100. These achievements make her the only artist to simultaneously debut at



number one on both charts and maintain the positions for a month.

Gaten Matarazzo shares which 'Stranger Things' co-stars he keeps texting

'Stranger Things' star Gaten Matarazzo revealed his close bond with co-stars Finn Wolfhard and Caleb McLaughlin, saying he frequently texts them memes, laughs, and voice notes. The actors, part of the series since 2015, even lived together while filming season 5, which Matarazzo described as "like a college experience," joking about struggling to keep their apartment clean. He shared that their dynamic matched each other's energy, often leaving chores for later. The actor also reflected on the final season table read in December 2023, describing it as an "unreal" and exciting experience. 'Stranger Things' season 5 premiered on Netflix on November 26.



Milind Soman shares tips on modeling and disciplined lifestyle



Actor and fitness advocate Milind Soman, known for the 1990s music video 'Made In India', shared that success in modeling requires confidence, adaptability, and ego management. He praised naturally gifted talents like Madhu Sapre and Arjun Rampal. In a throwback video, he also discussed his disciplined diet, avoiding tea, coffee, eggs, and minimizing fried food, focusing on fruit juices and fresh produce. Born on November 4, 1965, in Scotland and raised in Mumbai, Soman gained fame through modeling and music videos before acting. He is also an accomplished athlete, completing Ironman and Ultraman endurance events, while promoting running and fitness culture in India.

Al Pacino sparks wedding rumors, but confirms he is not married

Hollywood icon Al Pacino, 85, was spotted wearing a wedding ring at an event for Leonardo DiCaprio's 'One Battle After Another', sparking marriage rumors. A representative confirmed to 'People' that Pacino is not married. The actor, father of four including son Roman with Noor Alfallah, has had high-profile relationships with Beverly D'Angelo, Tuesday Weld, Jill Clayburgh, and Diane Keaton. Pacino rarely discusses relationships publicly and has described himself as "shy". The ring appearance at the Los Angeles event on Thursday led fans to speculate, but sources confirmed it was not indicative of a new marriage.

Anil Kapoor marks 14 years of 'Mission Impossible: Ghost Protocol' with heartfelt tribute

Hollywood actor Anil Kapoor celebrated 14 years of his Hollywood action drama 'Mission Impossible: Ghost Protocol' with a nostalgic Instagram post.

Playing Brij Nath, an Indian media tycoon crucial to Ethan Hunt's mission, Kapoor expressed gratitude for the bonds formed during filming. He wrote, "14 years of 'Mission Impossible: Ghost Protocol', a journey filled with laughter, trust, unforgettable memories, and friendships that still mean the world." Directed by Brad Bird, the fourth installment in the franchise stars Tom Cruise, Jeremy Renner, Simon Pegg, Paula Patton, and Anil Kapoor, and follows the IMF team as they attempt to clear their names after a Kremlin bombing.

आंध्र प्रदेश की आराधना यात्रा

अमर लिंगेश्वर मंदिर (अमरावती)



IndoUS Tribune की 'यात्रा और दर्शन' श्रृंखला में आपका पुनः स्वागत है! आंध्र प्रदेश के मंदिरों की हमारी आध्यात्मिक यात्रा अब सातवें पवित्र पड़ाव पर पहुँच चुकी है। पहले पड़ाव में हमने तिरुमला वेंकटेश्वर मंदिर (तिरुपति) के दिव्य दर्शन किए, और अब हम आपको ले चलेंगे अमर लिंगेश्वर मंदिर, जो की भगवान शिव को समर्पित एक अत्यंत पवित्र तीर्थस्थान है।

अमर लिंगेश्वर मंदिर का पौराणिक और ऐतिहासिक महत्व

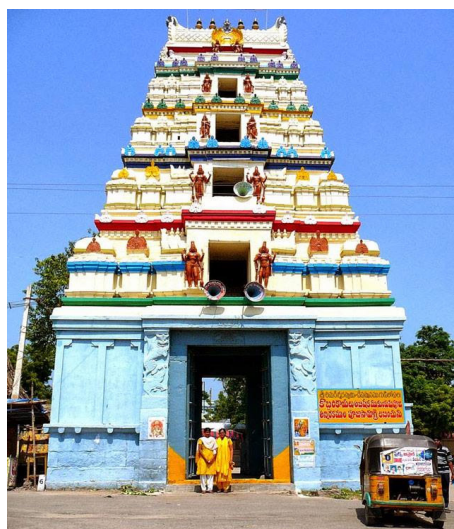
अमर लिंगेश्वर मंदिर आंध्र प्रदेश के गुंटूर जिले के अमरावती में स्थित है और यह पंचरामा क्षेत्रों में से एक है — पाँच प्राचीन शिव मंदिरों का समूह जो देश भर के शिवभक्तों के लिए अत्यंत श्रद्धा का केंद्र है। यहाँ भगवान शिव को अमरेश्वर / अमर लिंगेश्वर स्वामी के रूप में पूजा जाता है, और उनकी शक्ति के समान रूप से देवी बाला चामुंडिका उनकी आराध्य संगिनी हैं।

पंचरामा कथानुसार, भगवान शिव का लिंग काले असुर तारकासुर के शरीर पर था, जिसे शिव के पुत्र कार्तिकेय ने विघटित किया। उस लिंग के पांच विखंडित टुकड़े अलग-अलग स्थानों पर गिरे और उन्हें पंचरामा क्षेत्रों में प्रतिष्ठित किया गया —

अमरावती में गिरा टुकड़ा यहाँ स्थापित हुआ।

विशेषताएँ और दर्शन

अमर लिंगेश्वर मंदिर अपने 15 फुट ऊँचे सफेद शिवलिंग के लिए प्रसिद्ध है, जिसे अमरेश्वर / अमर लिंगेश्वर कहा जाता है। यह शिवलिंग पंचरामा में सबसे बड़ा माना जाता है और इसका नाप लगभग तीन फुट परिधि का है।



सभ्य कथा के अनुसार, यह लिंग बढ़ता जा रहा था और इसलिए उसके शीर्ष पर एक कील ठोंकी गई, जिससे खून जैसा लाल धब्बा बना — जो आज भी भक्तों को देखने को मिलता है। इसी वजह से इसकी अनोखी पहचान है।

मंदिर द्विड़ शैली की संरचना में बना है और इसके चारों दिशाओं में ऊँचे गोपुरम हैं जो दर्शनीय हैं। कृष्णा नदी के तट पर स्थित होने के कारण इसका वातावरण अत्यंत शांत और आध्यात्मिक है।

सामाजिक और सांस्कृतिक आयाम

मंदिर में हर साल हजारों की संख्या में भक्त आते हैं, विशेष रूप से कार्तिक मास जैसे पवित्र महीनों में, जब विशेष पूजा विधियाँ और तेप्पोत्सव (नौका उत्सव) का आयोजन होता है। मंदिर प्रशासन तीर्थयात्रियों के लिए सुविधाएँ भी प्रदान करता है, जैसे जल, आवास, अन्नदान और उत्तरदायित्वपूर्ण व्यवस्था।

इतिहास के पन्नों में भी इस मंदिर का योगदान उल्लेखनीय है — यहाँ वसीरेड्डी वेंकटाद्री नायडू, कोटा शासक और विजयनगर साम्राज्य जैसे राजाओं ने मंदिर के संरक्षण और विस्तार में महत्वपूर्ण योगदान दिया है।

आध्यात्मिकता और दर्शन लाभ

अमर लिंगेश्वर मंदिर न केवल एक स्थापत्य चमत्कार है, बल्कि यह भक्ति और शांति का एक केंद्र भी है। पंचरामा क्षेत्रों की तरह, यह स्थल शिवभक्तों के लिए मोक्ष और आंतरिक शांति की खोज का प्रतीक है — जहाँ श्रद्धालु पूजा-अर्चना के लिए दूर-दूर से आते हैं।

IndoUS Tribune की 'यात्रा और दर्शन' श्रृंखला में अमर लिंगेश्वर मंदिर के दर्शन हमें एक बार फिर भारतीय संस्कृति की प्राचीन आध्यात्मिकता, मंदिर स्थापत्य और पौराणिक परंपराओं से जोड़ते हैं।

हमारे अगले पड़ाव पर हम पहुँचेंगे द्राक्षारामम मंदिर (कोनासेमा) — एक ऐसा स्थान जहाँ भगवान शिव को भीमेश्वर स्वामी के रूप में पूजा जाता है, और जो पञ्चरामा में अपनी विशिष्ट पहचान रखता है।

तब तक, भगवान अमर लिंगेश्वर की कृपा आपके जीवन में सुख, शांति और समृद्धि लेकर आए — यही हमारी शुभकामना।

लेख श्रृंखला संकलन:
डॉ. अवि वर्मा
संपादक एवं प्रकाशक,
IndoUS Tribune

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इस अध्याय का आरम्भ अर्जुन के एक प्रश्न से होता है।

ये शास्त्रविधिमुत्सृज्य यजन्ते श्रद्धयान्विताः ।
तेषां निष्ठा तु का कृष्ण सत्त्वमाहो रजस्तमः ॥ (१)

भावार्थ: अर्जुन ने कहा - हे कृष्ण! जो मनुष्य शास्त्रों के विधान को त्यागकर पूर्ण श्रद्धा से युक्त होकर पूजा करते हैं, उनकी श्रद्धा सतोगुणी, रजोगुणी, तमोगुणी या अन्य किस प्रकार की होती है ?

हे प्रभु, जो लोग शास्त्र विधि को जानते हुए या फिर जान कर भी उस पर ध्यान न देते हुए, केवल श्रद्धा से प्रेरित हो यज्ञ आदि शुभ कार्य करते हैं, उनकी मनःस्थिति कैसी होती है ? ऐसी परिस्थिति में किया गया शुभ कार्य किस श्रेणी में आता है, सात्त्विक, राजसिक अथवा तामसिक ?

प्रभु श्री कृष्ण, अर्जुन की इस उत्सुकता के निवारण के लिए बताते हैं कि, जिस प्रकार हर योगी में तीन प्रकार के गुण सात्त्विक, राजसिक और तामसिक होते हैं, ठीक उसी प्रकार प्राणियों में श्रद्धा भी तीन प्रकार की होती है। योगी की भावना, नीयत और उद्देश्य के अनुसार श्रद्धा की पवित्रता और गुणवत्ता को परखा जाता है।

त्रिविधा भवति श्रद्धा देहिनां सा स्वभावजा ।
सात्त्विकी राजसी चैव तामसी चेति तां शृणु ॥ (२)

भावार्थ: श्री भगवान ने कहा - शरीर धारण करने वाले सभी मनुष्यों की श्रद्धा प्रकृति गुणों के अनुसार सात्त्विक, राजसी और तामसी तीन प्रकार की ही होती है, अब इसके विषय में मुझसे सुन।

श्रद्धा के साथ साथ प्रभु आहार अर्थात भोजन के प्रकारों पर भी चर्चा करने लगते हैं। आहार भी तीन प्रकार का होता है, सात्त्विक, राजसिक तथा तामसिक। एक शुद्ध योगी को ताजा, रसमय, पौष्टिक एवं शाकाहारी भोजन प्रिय लगता है। ऐसा भोजन जो बल बुद्धि की वृद्धि करता है। सुख और प्रीति को बढ़ाता है। सात्त्विक भोजन स्वभाव को निर्मल एवं शान्त बनाये रखता है। ऐसे आहार को सात्त्विक आहार कहा जाता है। राजसिक योगी थोड़ा चटोरा होता है। उसे गरम, तीखा, और मसालेदार खाना अच्छा लगता है। ऐसे योगी को जीभ का स्वाद, पौष्टिकता से अधिक प्रिय लगता है। तामसिक योगी, अक्सर रस रहित, बासी एवं मांसाहारी खाने का शौकीन होता है। ऐसा खाना शरीर में आलस्य उत्पन्न करता है। कभी कभी तो ऐसा भोजन पाकर योगी बीमार भी पड़ जाता है। लेकिन तामसिक प्रकृति के प्राणी को आलस्य या बीमारी परेशान नहीं करती। वह उसे एक सुखद जीवन शैली मान, उसी में रम जाता है।

आगे प्रभु कृष्ण श्रद्धा त्रय के तीन भागों की विस्तार से व्याख्या करने लगते हैं।

सात्त्विक श्रद्धा- वह भावस्थिति, जिसमें योगी यज्ञ और पूजा अर्चना आदि विधियाँ, शास्त्र विधि के अनुसार, शुद्ध भाव से करते हैं। जिस पूजा अर्चना का उद्देश्य प्रभु प्राप्ति या समाज कल्याण होता है, सात्त्विक श्रद्धा



कहलाती है। ऐसी विधि में योगी, ज्ञानी जनों को बिठा कर, उनका मान सम्मान करते हैं। उन्हें पूजा आदि के बाद भोजन कराया जाता है। भोजन के बाद उचित दान दक्षिणा देकर उचित, आशीर्वाद लिया जाता है। यह पूजा अर्चना एवं श्रद्धा, सात्त्विक कही जाती है। इसमें अगर शास्त्र विधि का पूरा पालन न भी किया जाये, तो भी उसका फल सात्त्विक ही होता है। और यह सात्त्विकता योगी को प्रभु प्राप्ति की ओर ले जाती है। ऐसे योगी फल की कामना नहीं करते, सभी कुछ निस्वार्थ भाव से करते हैं, इसलिए उन्हें शुभ कार्य का शुभ फल अवश्य मिलता है।

श्रद्धया परया तप्तं तपस्तत्त्रिविधं नरैः ।
अफलाकाङ्क्षिभिर्युक्तैः सात्त्विकं परिचक्षते ॥ (१७)

भावार्थ: पूर्ण श्रद्धा से युक्त होकर मनुष्यों द्वारा बिना किसी फल की इच्छा से उपर्युक्त तीनों प्रकार से जो तप किया जाता है उसे सात्त्विक (सतोगुणी) तप कहा जाता है।

राजसिक श्रद्धा- राजसिक श्रद्धा वाला योगी बड़ा स्वार्थी होता है। ऐसा योगी हर पूजा अर्चना किसी उद्देश्य विशेष के लिए करता है। कभी कभी उस के कार्य कलाप में दिखावे का भी अंश होता है। वह अपने परिवार और समाज को यह दिखाने के लिए पूजा पाठ करता है कि वह कितना बड़ा भक्त है। वह अगर किसी मंदिर या संस्था में दान देगा, तो चाहेगा कि, उसके नाम की बहुत बड़ी प्लेट साथ लगे, ताकि उसका नाम हो और लोग उसकी निरन्तर प्रशंसा करें। वह संसार में इस प्रकार की थोथी प्रशंसा कमाना चाहता है। उसमें मन की शुद्धता कम, और सांसारिक सुखों की कामना अधिक होती है।

यनु प्रत्युपकारार्थं फलमुद्दिश्य वा पुनः ।
दीयते च परिक्लिष्टं तद्दानं राजसं स्मृतम् ॥ (२१)

भावार्थ: किन्तु जो दान बदले में कुछ पाने की भावना

से अथवा किसी प्रकार के फल की कामना से और बिना इच्छा के दिया जाता है, उसे राजसी (रजोगुणी) दान कहा जाता है।

तामसिक श्रद्धा- जो तप यज्ञ आदि मूढ़ता पूर्वक हठ से तथा अशुद्ध मन एवं वाणी से किया जाए उसे तामसिक श्रद्धा कहा जाता है। इसका प्रमुख उद्देश्य दूसरों की बुराई की कामना करना या उनके शारीरिक कष्ट की प्रार्थना करना होता है। ऐसे तामसिक योगी दान आदि शुभ कर्म भी बड़ी तिरस्कृत सारथी भावना से करते हैं। जैसे एक गरीब साधु किसी के द्वार पर गया, जो थोड़ा मैला कुचैला है और खाने को माँग रहा है। ऐसे में यह तामसिक योगी, उसे खाना तो खिला देगा लेकिन दूर दूर से। ऐसे गरीब साधु को नजदीक नहीं आने देंगे। बाहर एक कोने में बिठा कर किसी नौकर के हाथ से उसे खाना दे देंगे। ऐसे प्राणियों के मन में घृणा और तिरस्कार की भावना कूट कूट कर भरी होती है। मंदिर में जाकर कर प्रार्थना करेंगे कि, फलों आदमी का व्यापार डूब जाए या फिर उसपर कोई भारी शारीरिक कष्ट आन पड़े। और अगर कभी दुर्भाग्य से ऐसा ही जाए तो इस प्रकार के तामसिक प्राणी बड़े प्रसन्न होते हैं। ऐसी श्रद्धा को तामसिक श्रद्धा कहा जाता है।

अदेशकाले यद्दानमपात्रेभ्यश्च दीयते ।
असत्कृतमवज्ञातं तत्तामसमुदाहृतम् ॥ (२२)

भावार्थ: जो दान अनुचित स्थान में, अनुचित समय पर, अज्ञानता के साथ, अपमान करके अयोग्य व्यक्तियों को दिया जाता है, उसे तामसी (तमोगुणी) दान कहा जाता है।

तामसिक श्रद्धा का एक सुंदर उदाहरण रामायण में आता है। राम रावण युद्ध के समय जब रावण लक्ष्मण के बाण से मूर्छित हो अपने रथ में गिर जाता है, तो उसका सारथि उसे असहाय देख, महल में सुरक्षित ले आता है। वहाँ होश में आने के बाद, वह जीतने

का उपाय सोचने लगता है। उसे एक ऐसे यज्ञ का उपाय सूझता है, जिसके करने से, उसे अमरता का आशीर्वाद प्राप्त हो सकता था। बस यह विचार आते ही, वह उस यज्ञ के तैयारी में लग जाता है, जिसके पीछे लोगों के विनाश की भावना थी। यह यज्ञ एक तामसिक श्रद्धा से प्रेरित था। किसी तरह विभीषण को रावण के इस योजना की सूचना मिल जाती है। वह रामजी के साथ मिल कर, अंगद आदि योद्धाओं को भेज कर, रावण का यह तामसिक यज्ञ विध्वंस करवा देता है।

जग्य बिधँसी कुसल कपि, आए रघुपति पास
चलेउ निसाचर कुट्ट होइ, त्यागी जीवन की आस

इस प्रकार तीनों तरह की श्रद्धा की व्याख्या के बाद, प्रभु कृष्ण अर्जुन को स्पष्ट रूप से कहते हैं कि, इन तीनों तरह की श्रद्धा में से सबसे श्रेष्ठ है, सात्त्विक श्रद्धा। एक शुद्ध योगी को केवल उसी के लिए प्रयत्नशील होना चाहिए। जिसमें वेद मन्त्रों के उच्चार से पूजा अर्चना हो तथा ओंकार की ध्वनि से तप आदि विधियाँ हो। प्रभु का सिमरन और कीर्तन हो। बड़ों और गुरुजनों का उचित आदर सम्मान हो। हमेशा सत मार्ग का पालन हो। दीन दुखियों की निस्वार्थ भाव से, सेवा हो। सुपात्रों को दान दक्षिणा आदि से सम्मानित किया जाए। दैनिक जीवन में दिखावा या आडम्बर न हो। हर काम को निष्काम भाव से कर, प्रभु को अर्पित कर दिया जाए। ऐसे सच्चे सरल हृदयी, भक्त प्रभु को भी अत्यन्त प्रिय लगते हैं।

इस अध्याय का यह श्रद्धा त्रय योग हम सबके जीवन को सात्त्विक और शुद्ध बनाए। हृदय की निर्मलता, प्रभु चरणों की कृपा की, सदा हमेशा कामना करते रहे। और हम सब समाज की सेवा में, अपना यह जीवन सहज भाव से अर्पित कर दें। प्रभु के इस दिव्य ज्ञान के लिए उन्हें हमारा कोटि कोटि नमन।

इसी आशा के साथ,
जय श्री कृष्ण। !!!!!

Hindu Canadians celebrate historic parliamentary victory as Swastika removed from Bill C-9 hate symbols list



By: Dr. Avi Verma

In a landmark decision applauded across Canada's Hindu, Buddhist, Jain, and other Dharmic communities, Members of Parliament have unanimously voted to amend Bill C-9, removing the sacred Swastika from the bill's list of prohibited hate symbols. The legislation will now refer specifically to the "Nazi Hakenkreuz", clearly distinguishing it from the ancient symbol of peace and auspiciousness revered by millions.

The amendment marks a historic victory for the Hindu Canadian Foundation (HCF), which led a months-long national advocacy effort to correct what community leaders described as a painful and harmful conflation of a sacred symbol with one of the darkest ideologies in modern history.

A sacred symbol, misunderstood for generations

For centuries, the swastika has held deep spiritual significance in Dharmic traditions—representing prosperity, well-being, and the cyclical nature of life. Yet its appropriation and distortion by the Nazi regime resulted in decades of confusion and stigma in the West.

The amendment to Bill C-9 acknowledges this distinction with precision. By referring solely to the Nazi Hakenkreuz, Parliament has affirmed both Canada's commitment to fighting hate and its obligation to protect cultural and religious heritage.

HCF's organized advocacy proves decisive

HCF's campaign—supported by more than 100 allied organizations—played a central role in reshaping the legislation. The Foundation coordinated petitions, engaged scholars, organized educational events, and facilitated tens of thousands of letters and calls from community members to their elected representatives.

HCF President Arunesh Giri submitted detailed testimony to the Justice Committee, outlining the symbol's sacred origins and warning that banning it would deepen misinformation rather than combat hatred.

"This is about dignity," Giri argued in his submission. "The swastika is a symbol of peace. Confusing it with the Nazi Hakenkreuz perpetuates misunderstanding and marginalizes millions of Canadians."

The committee also heard from experts, academics, interfaith partners, and everyday Canadians who urged lawmakers to differentiate between the two symbols with cultural sensitivity and historical accuracy.

All-party collaboration leads to a rare unanimous vote

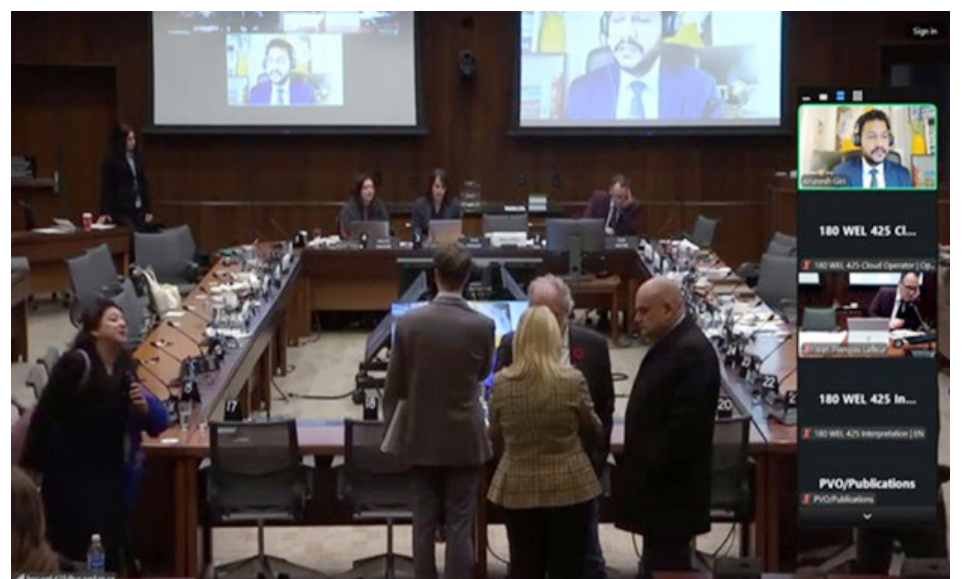
The amendment passed with full cross-party support, an outcome community leaders called "a shining example of Canadian democracy."

- Liberal MPs helped advance the amendment and engaged closely with community advocates.
- Conservative Party and Bloc Québécois MPs supported the correction, acknowledging the importance of protecting cultural symbols while combating hate.
- The unanimous vote stood out in an era of increasing political polarization.

"This is Canada at its best," HCF said in a statement, "where leaders put justice before partisanship."

Broad interfaith support strengthened the outcome

The Hindu Canadian community was joined by several Jewish organizations—including the Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs (CIJA) and B'nai Brith Canada—which voiced strong support. Their involvement underscored the shared commitment to fighting antisemitism while respecting the sacred symbols of other



HCF President Arunesh Giri stood before the Justice Committee to present testimony, marking a powerful moment in the advocacy journey.

communities.

Other faith groups, academics, and historians contributed research and testimony underscoring the need to distinguish the Nazi emblem from the swastika's original meaning.

Why this decision matters

Community leaders say the amendment has far-reaching implications:

- **Protecting Heritage:** The swastika can now be displayed in homes, temples, festivals, and ceremonies without fear of legal misinterpretation.
- **Strengthening Hate-Crime Laws:** By precisely targeting the Nazi Hakenkreuz, the legislation avoids misidentifying cultural symbols and enhances Canada's ability to fight genuine hate.
- **Affirming Democratic Engagement:** The outcome is being hailed as proof that when citizens speak, Parliament listens.

A turning point—and the beginning of more work ahead

HCF emphasized that the victory is part of a larger movement to promote cultural literacy and combat misinformation. The Foundation plans to expand education initiatives, deepen interfaith partnerships, and advocate whenever cultural symbols are misunderstood.

"This amendment is not just a legislative win—it is a moral victory," HCF said. "It restores the swastika to its rightful place and ensures future generations can take pride in their heritage without stigma."

The Foundation encouraged Canadians to continue engaging in dialogue and join the movement to safeguard cultural dignity and Canadian values.

As one HCF spokesperson noted:

"Canada has shown that it is possible to fight hate without erasing heritage. This decision will be remembered for generations."



Spiritual storytellers play a vital role in guiding youth toward values and dharma, say Aman Jain and Anuj Madan

By: Dr. Avi Verma

Spiritual storytellers, or katha vachaks, play an essential role in shaping the character of today's youth and guiding them toward a life rooted in Dharma, said Aman Jain, President of the Siddh Peeth Mahabali Sankatmochan Shri Hanuman Mandir, and Anuj Madan, the temple's Vice President.

Speaking after a special meeting with renowned storyteller Rajan Ji Maharaj, Jain and Madan emphasized that katha vachaks hold a unique place in society. Through their narrations of sacred texts, they convey teachings in a simple, engaging, and emotionally compelling manner, making religious learning accessible and inspiring.

"They help instill moral values, preserve our cultural heritage, and encourage spiritual growth," Jain noted. "A true katha vachak lifts people out of worldly attachments and directs them toward God, strengthening harmony and cultural values within society."

Rajan Ji Maharaj is currently delivering a Shri Ram Katha at the Tapovan Ashram



of Dandi Swami Maharaj in Civil Lines. Jain said they felt blessed to meet him at the residence of Ashok Kumar Gupta, where the revered storyteller was staying. Acharya Deepak Shastri, Chandermohan Dawar, and Prince Chhabra were also present for the meeting.

During the visit, Jain and Madan honored Rajan Ji Maharaj with a temple memento and a ceremonial shawl.

Jain expressed that it is through enlightened storytellers like Rajan Ji Maharaj that devotees gain deeper understanding of the Shrimad Bhagavad Katha, the Puranas, and other ancient scriptures — learning about life's purpose and the true nature of the Divine.

Vice President Anuj Madan added that revered saints and storytellers are "priceless treasures of our culture," preserving the vast history of Sanatan Dharma and presenting glimpses of India's ancient epics and traditions. "Their wisdom strengthens our cultural identity," he said. "For generations, their teachings have helped us understand our rich spiritual heritage. Honoring such divine personalities is not only our duty but our privilege—one we will always uphold."

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Bruce Leon expands multi-ethnic coalition in bid for Democratic nomination in Illinois' 9th Congressional District



By: Dr. Avi Verma

Democratic congressional candidate Bruce Leon is rapidly gaining momentum in Illinois' 9th District, building one of the broadest and most diverse coalitions seen in the district in years. As the race intensifies, Leon's campaign is presenting him as a unifying figure capable of bridging cultures, faiths, and communities across the North Side and northern suburbs.

Leon, a longtime entrepreneur and civic leader, has centered his campaign on economic opportunity, community safety, and practical governance. But it is his multi-ethnic outreach strategy that has increasingly distinguished him from the rest of the field.

A broad coalition across communities

In recent months, Leon has hosted a series of public community roundtables, cultural gatherings, and service-oriented events aimed at amplifying voices traditionally overlooked in districtwide political conversations. His message of inclusion, accountability, and grassroots empowerment has resonated with voters from immigrant, minority, and faith-based communities.



Leon's coalition-building efforts have already yielded significant endorsements.

Support from Hindu leaders and new coalitions

Leon recently secured the endorsement of a leading Hindu American political action committee, reflecting months of sustained engagement with local Hindu leaders. He has appeared at multiple mandir-based community forums,

participated in cultural dialogues, and publicly supported a recent goodwill trip to Israel spearheaded by Hindu and Jewish leaders.

Assyrian coalition launches with strong turnout

Expanding his outreach further, Leon launched an Assyrian Coalition this month—an organized effort to bring Assyrian-American voters deeper into the political process. The coalition hosted its first policy forum this week, drawing grassroots leaders and small-business owners from across the Assyrian diaspora.

Attendees highlighted Leon's willingness to listen and his commitment to addressing issues such as refugee resettlement, small-business development, and cultural preservation.

Backed by prominent Orthodox Jewish leaders

In a major development for the campaign, Leon also received public support from ten prominent Orthodox Jewish rabbis and community leaders. Their endorsement signals growing enthusiasm for Leon among a constituency that has become increasingly engaged in district politics.

"This district deserves a representative who understands our diversity and brings people together instead of dividing them," one Orthodox leader said. "Bruce Leon is that candidate."

Positioning as the unifying candidate

Leon's campaign says the breadth of support—from Hindu, Assyrian, and Jewish communities to a range of multicultural civic organizations—reflects a hunger for practical leadership and genuine, consistent engagement.

"Our campaign isn't about political labels," Leon said at a recent community forum. "It's about bringing every community into the conversation and building a future where everyone in the 9th District feels represented."

With the primary approaching, analysts say Leon's expanding coalition could reshape the dynamics of a race long dominated by entrenched political figures.

As his outreach strategy continues to draw new supporters, Leon is increasingly positioning himself as the consensus-builder in one of Illinois' most diverse districts.



Phil Andrew steps up community engagement as 2025
nears its close in Illinois' 9th District

By: Dr. Avi Verma

As the holiday season approaches and the year winds down, Democratic congressional candidate Phil Andrew, running to represent Illinois' 9th Congressional District, has accelerated his outreach efforts across the area. Over the past two weeks, Andrew has made a series of community-focused appearances aimed at listening, connecting, and elevating the

priorities of the people he hopes to serve in Congress.

Last weekend, Andrew attended Pit & Tap's Annual Christmas Show, where festive music and conversation filled the venue. The event, he noted, highlighted the energy and togetherness that define communities throughout the district.

On Sunday, Andrew met with NBA legend and gun violence prevention



advocate Steve Kerr. Both men have experienced the trauma of gun violence in their personal lives, and their conversation underscored the urgency of addressing the nation's gun violence crisis as the country enters 2026.

Even a winter storm couldn't slow the campaign. Braving heavy snow, Andrew and his team visited neighborhood shops during Small Business Saturday in Evanston, recognizing the vital economic and cultural role that local entrepreneurs play. He expressed appreciation for the small business owners "who work tirelessly to keep our communities strong."

On Tuesday, he met with voters, activists, and community leaders at Reba Place Church's Congressional Meet and Greet, also in Evanston. Andrew outlined his top priorities, shared his personal story of public service, and listened to residents' perspectives on how he can best represent them in Washington.

Looking ahead, Andrew is inviting supporters to a special conversation with NBC correspondent Mike Leonard this Saturday at American Legion Post 42. The discussion will focus on the national crisis of gun violence, Andrew's campaign for Congress, and the common ground that unites communities across the 9th District.



Bushra Amiwala ramps up campaign visibility with community forum appearance and record-breaking volunteer rally

By: Dr. Avi Verma

As the 2026 election cycle intensifies, congressional candidate Bushra Amiwala, running to represent Illinois' 9th District, is expanding her presence across the community with a series of public forums and grassroots organizing events aimed at energizing voters and highlighting her campaign's people-powered momentum.

Amiwala to join United Civic Engagement Forum in Vernon Hills

Amiwala will participate in the United Civic Engagement Forum (UCEF) on Sunday, December 14th, at the Sullivan Community Center in Vernon Hills. The non-partisan town hall, hosted by UCEF—an unregistered civic organization committed to fairness, justice, and community engagement—will feature leading candidates for Congress in IL-09.

Beginning at 5:00 p.m., candidates will introduce themselves to attendees, outline their priorities, address issues affecting residents across the district, and connect with community members following the program.

Amiwala, currently an elected member of the Skokie District 73.5 School Board, will also be available to speak with the media before and after the event. The Vernon Hills forum is one in a growing lineup of constituent-focused events she is attending, including an upcoming appearance at the West Ridge Action Network Candidate Forum on January 15th, 2026.

Event Details:

- **What:** United Civic Engagement Candidate Forum
- **Who:** Candidates for Congress in IL-09
- **Where:** Sullivan Community Center, 635 North Aspen Drive, Vernon Hills, IL 60061
- **When:** Sunday, December 14th, 2025, at 5:00 p.m. CST

Amiwala draws District's largest volunteer crowd of the cycle

Just days earlier, Amiwala's campaign headquarters in Skokie was filled with energy and celebration as she welcomed nearly 100 volunteers—the largest volunteer gathering held by any IL-09



candidate to date. The event served both as a thank-you to supporters and a launchpad for the next phase of voter outreach, including major phonebanking, textbanking, and canvassing drives.

Addressing the diverse crowd, Amiwala emphasized the community-driven nature of her campaign.

"Look around this room. Every age, race, gender, ethnic background and geographic part of the district is represented," she said. "Everyone here has a direct tie to our district and to our movement... I cannot do this alone, and I'm so grateful that all of you are with me."

Amiwala was joined by Miracle Jenkins, former IL-09 congressional candidate and lead organizer for Bernie Sanders, who recently endorsed her.

"Bushra understands that the core issue of our day is affordability," Jenkins said. "We're not here to pursue half measures. We're here to pass aggressive policies that move America forward."

Volunteers enjoyed dinner from Pita Inn and cupcakes from Kinza's Cakes, while campaign staff helped attendees sign up for upcoming organizing shifts.

To many volunteers, the evening signaled renewed hope in a challenging political climate.

"Bushra understands the challenges of our generation like no other candidate does," said Evan Arvizu, citing the housing crisis, climate concerns, and health care instability.

"There's not much to be optimistic about in this news cycle. But I feel optimistic today," added volunteer Zayd Islam. "Bushra has a vision to make life better in our home. She's reminding us that the authoritarian dystopia of this administration does not have to be our future."

As Amiwala continues her district-wide outreach—from civic forums to grassroots mobilization—her campaign is positioning itself as a broad coalition of residents seeking practical solutions, generational change, and a more equitable future for Illinois' 9th District.







जय माता दी

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JAGRAN
OR CHOWKI

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Mata Bhagat: Avi Verma



A fond farewell to Sh. Om Prakash Asija

(June 1, 1936 – December 2, 2025)

The Indoustribune family mourns the passing of Om Prakash Asija jee, a pillar of our Hindu community and a familiar presence in local temples for the last twenty years. He passed away on December 2, surrounded by his loving family, at the age of 89. He lived a life defined by generosity, offering kindness to everyone he met, especially within the temple community.

He was born on June 1, 1936, in Dera Ismail Khan in British India, now located in Pakistan, to a Multani Hindu family. When he was eleven years old, his family moved to Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh, following the partition of India in 1947. They reopened their lives by starting a general merchandise shop. Young Om jee continued his education during the day and helped his father in the evenings. After completing his tenth grade, he opened his own bicycle repair shop to support his family. While working at the shop, he often listened to popular film music on the radio, sparking a dream of working in the film industry and, secretly, becoming an actor.

One day he told his father he was going to Bombay. With his father's blessings and his beloved motorcycle, he set out alone on that long journey, determined and full of dreams. After reaching Bombay, he found his first job as a movie projector operator. Watching films through the tiny viewing window, he would imagine himself playing different roles on the big screen. Soon, he secured a permanent government job at the Bhabha Atomic Research Center. His passion for films, however, never faded, and he eventually landed several "extra" roles in movies. He portrayed a groom in one film and a Pandit in another. A director also cast him as a dacoit seeking revenge on behalf of villagers, a role he performed impressively.

In 1963, his parents arranged his marriage to Padmavati, a young woman from Lucknow. He happily returned home and brought his bride to Bombay. He embraced family life wholeheartedly, and together they were blessed with three sons, Sanjay, Ajay, and Sunil, and a daughter, Sunita. Although he had limited formal education, he deeply valued learning and encouraged his children to study as much as they wished. He worked tirelessly to support their education, which led all of them to achieve great success and eventually move from Bombay to Chicago, where they have built fulfilling lives.

Following his children, Om Prakash jee migrated to Chicago in 1995 at the age of 59. Although he could have retired, he chose to continue working and remain financially independent. After work, he devoted most of his time to community service. With his own transportation, he frequently visited local temples. His love for filmmaking returned, and he began recording temple events and special occasions.

He became a regular attendee of Devi Chowkis led by Avi Verma, now the Publisher of Indoustribune.



Om jee filmed the Chowkis, created multiple copies at home, and distributed them to devotees free of cost. He invested substantial personal resources into this service, often going beyond his means, and also donated generously to various temple projects. He sponsored many Sunday meals on special occasions. When asked what kind of person Om jee was, Mr. Avi Verma simply said, "He was a blessed soul," a reflection of his true nature. His warm smile, pure heart, gentle manner, and countless good deeds touched everyone around him.

Om jee also loved traveling. Exploring new places excited him like a child. His children often joined him on trips, and in later years, they took him to Mexico, Europe, and Alaska, experiences he fondly reminisced about. He adored his grandchildren and frequently surprised them with thoughtful gifts.

He was also an active member of Share-a-Smile, an organization run by Sushma Bhanot that supports senior citizens. The association met at least once a month, bringing joy and companionship into the lives of its members. Om jee volunteered as the group's photographer, capturing their happy moments and generously making copies to share with everyone. He sometimes provided transportation to seniors so they could participate in the activities and enjoy social time.

In his final years, he faced health challenges that weakened him and confined him to his home, where his loving wife cared for him. Even then, he continued sharing valuable lessons and cultural values with his grandchildren through humorous stories, becoming their closest companion.

Om jee will be deeply missed by his wife, Padma jee, of sixty-two years, and by his family. He will also be remembered with great affection by the many temple congregations whose lives he touched through his selfless service. He always said, "Khao Piyo aur Khush Raho," and we at Indoustribune offer our humble tribute to this great soul, wishing him the same "Khushi and Masti" in the Supreme Abode, Vaikuntha Dham.

"Jai Mata Di, Om jee."

There will be a Prayer Meet in his remembrance at:

Radhey Shyam Temple

245 S. Bloomindale Road, Bloomindale, IL, 60108 - Ph- 630-307-1200

On December 13th at 12:00 to 2:00 pm

Prasad (lunch) will be served after the Prayer meet.

Contributed by: Asija Family and Friends
Compiled by: Rajendra Kapail

Personal finance insights: News & Features

● Dr. K C Gupta, YBB Personal Finance

CONTRARIAN INDICATORS

AAll Bull-Bear Spread +13.5% (above average; big change)
CNN Fear & Greed Index 40 (fear)
NYSE %Above 50-dMA 54.99% (positive)
SP500 %Above 50-dMA 55.00% (positive)

ICI Fund Allocations (Cumulative), 10/31/25

OEFs & ETFs: Stocks 61.75% (new high), Hybrids 4.05%, Bonds 17.29%, M-Mkt 16.90%

INTEREST RATES

CME FedWatch
Cycle peak 5.25-5.50%
Current 3.75-4.00%
FOMC 12/10/25+ cut
FOMC 1/28/26+ hold

Treasury

T-Bills 3-mo yield 3.71%, 1-yr 3.61%; T-Notes 2-yr 3.56%, 5-yr 3.72%, 10-yr 4.14%; T-Bonds 30-yr 4.79%;
TIPS/Real yields 5-yr 1.38%, 10-yr 1.88%, 30-yr 2.57%
FRNs Index 3.760%

Bank Rates www.depositaccounts.com/

Stable-Value (SV) Rates, 12/1/25
TIAA Traditional Annuity (Accumulation) Rates
Restricted RC 5.00%, RA 4.75%
Flexible RCP 4.25%, SRA 4.00%, IRA-101110+ 3.75%
TSP G Fund 4.125% (previous 4.125%)

India Fear & Greed MMI 62.15 (greed)

Weekly ETFs: INDA -1.35%, INDY -1.19%, EPI -1.46%, INDH -0.77%, SPY +0.34%



The data above are as of Sunday preceding the publication date.

FINANCIAL SECTOR

RBI cut rates to 5.25%. Rupee fell through 90 vs dollar.

Indian securities regulator SEBI made it easy to gift mutual funds to family & friends. There may be tax advantages as some gifts to family members may not be taxed, or taxed at lower rate.

Recent Barron's "International Trader" column cautioned about INDIAN IPO FRENZY. Huge 1st day runups are common. Some IPOs have been at deep discounts from their most recent private-market valuations, but private investors seem anxious to get out at any price. Previous IPO rush from 2020-21 ended badly by 2023-24.

GLOBAL ETFs in India trade at huge premiums because of regulatory cap on ETF creation units (\$7 billion since 2022). Those premiums may

vanish overnight with a regulatory stroke of pen. With the creation process suspended, those ETFs have effectively become CEFs (closed-end funds). Buy similar mutual funds instead.

Indian rupee-backed private ARC STABLECOIN will serve as a consumer interface with the background settlement through RBI Rupee CBDC. The backing collateral will consist of T-Bills (Indian), government securities & fixed deposits. Companies involved are blockchain company Polygon & fintech Anq. The rollout is expected in 2026/Q1. ARC = Asset Reserve Certificate.

SPECIAL TOPIC - UPI REAL-TIME PAYMENTS

India is going global with its UPI (United Payments Interface) payment system.

UPI is a direct, real-time interface among participating banks & nonbank financials (credit card, ATM, app & fintech companies) using customers' UPI IDs & linked mobile phone numbers. Interoperability among participating institutions & users is the key. In some ways, the experience is similar to Zelle payments in US but internal mechanisms are quite different - Zelle uses the US ACH network, while UPI uses the NPCI (National Payments Corporation of India) infrastructure.

Notably, (i) UPI doesn't hold funds (as Venmo, PayPal, Google Pay, etc do) or transaction information (except for scheduled future payments), (ii) entering bank & account information are not required for transactions - those remains hidden in the background for users, (iii) there are real-time verifications of payor & payee information & the transactions are processed in real-time when all verifications are OK; both payor &

payee get confirmations, (iv) the end-users don't see any fees (merchants may be charged small transaction fees; benefits to participating institutions are also indirect - more transactions & information about client behaviors). Multilingual voice recognition is also available. There are stringent fraud controls.

UPI-push is a payment transaction initiated by a payor to a payee; beyond the 2FA code, there shouldn't be any further request for "approval". UPI-pull is a payment request & the recipient of the request must login to "approve" the payment. To eliminate spammers & user confusion, UPI-pull was suspended for P2P (person-to-person) transactions on 10/1/25, but it's still available for B2P (business-to-person) & B2B. Beware that fraudsters may hide UPI pull-approval button under some other pretexts, so don't click on any unexpected "approval" requests to pay or receive money.

There are many UPI-enabled apps; NPCI UPI app is BHIM. Several apps available in US are UPI-enabled (Google Pay, Wise, etc) to link eligible accounts; in UK, Revolut Visa. Also check with the Indian bank with your NRO/NRE account about using its app for UPI (ICICI iMobile, SBI YONO & YFEI, etc).

Several countries that have their own real-time payment systems can sign up for UPI linkups through their central banks (e.g. European TIPS, BRICS Pay). Other countries must have national & institutional level agreements for using UPI. BIS, IMF, Kansas City Fed, etc have published reports on the success of Indian UPI. US is still experimenting with its real-time FedNOW.

For more information, see www.ybbpersonalfinance.proboards.com





Krishnamoorthi issues series of sharp warnings on public safety, national security, and constitutional rights

● By: Staff Writer, IndoUS Tribune

Congressman Raja Krishnamoorthi issued a trio of forceful statements this week on matters ranging from a dangerous ICE operation in his district to national security concerns over AI chip exports and the future of birthright citizenship in the United States.

ICE operation in Elgin sparks outrage after chemical exposure sends residents for medical treatment

In Elgin, Illinois — part of Krishnamoorthi's congressional district — an Immigration and Customs Enforcement operation resulted in a vehicle crash and the release of chemical irritants that drifted into a residential area. Several residents, including a young child, reportedly required medical treatment for chemical exposure.

Krishnamoorthi condemned the incident in unequivocal terms.

"I am outraged that a brazen ICE operation in Elgin resulted in a car crash and the deployment of chemical irritants that left multiple people needing medical treatment," he said. "Spraying tear gas in a residential neighborhood is an unacceptable danger to the community, no matter the circumstances."

He demanded immediate answers from ICE and the Department of Homeland Security on why chemical agents were used and what accountability measures will follow.

Congressman warns of "profound national security mistake" as Trump administration considers H200 AI chip exports to China

In Washington, Krishnamoorthi raised alarms over President Trump's plan to permit NVIDIA's H200 advanced AI chips to be exported to the Chinese Communist Party. As the Ranking Member of the House Select Committee on the Strategic Competition Between the United States and the CCP, Krishnamoorthi framed the potential approval as a critical threat.

"Allowing the export of advanced U.S. AI chips to the Chinese Communist Party would be a profound national security mistake and a gift to our top strategic competitor," he wrote.

Krishnamoorthi emphasized that high-end GPUs remain central to the United States' technological edge in AI development, defense modernization,



and economic competitiveness. Weakening export controls, he argued, would help Beijing narrow the technological gap. "Instead of opening the spigot for H200 sales to China, we should strengthen guardrails, build cutting-edge capacity here in the United States, and ensure that American workers and our national security — not the CCP — benefit from the future of AI," he said.

Krishnamoorthi urges Supreme Court to uphold birthright citizenship

The congressman also weighed in on the Supreme Court's decision to

hear President Trump's challenge to the 14th Amendment's guarantee of birthright citizenship — a bedrock constitutional protection since 1868.

Calling the challenge "unconstitutional" and "an attack on American values," Krishnamoorthi urged the Court to uphold more than a century and a half of legal precedent.

"For more than 150 years, our courts have read the 14th Amendment's command plainly: every child born on American soil arrives with an equal claim to the rights of citizenship," he said.

He warned that dismantling birthright citizenship would destabilize the futures of millions of American children whose rights should not depend on "shifting politics or prejudice."

"No president can override that constitutional promise or dim the welcoming light it has cast across our history," Krishnamoorthi said. "The Supreme Court must reaffirm what the Constitution makes unmistakably clear: citizenship belongs to every child born in the United States."

Understanding the latest Hepatitis B vaccine guidance: **What you need to know**

● By: Dr. Avi Verma

Hepatitis B vaccination has recently come under renewed discussion following updated guidance from a CDC advisory panel. The panel voted to no longer recommend the hepatitis B shot universally for all newborns, prompting medical experts to emphasize the continued importance of early protection and evidence-based guidance for parents and caregivers.

Hepatitis B is a viral liver infection that can lead to serious long-term health issues, including cirrhosis, liver failure, and liver cancer. Infection within the first year of life is especially risky, with a high chance of chronic infection and long-term complications. Because the virus can be transmitted at birth and remain symptom-free for years, vaccination within 24 hours of delivery has traditionally been a highly effective preventive measure.

While the current debate focuses on the birth dose, experts stress that hepatitis B protection is important for people of all ages. Here are key points to keep in mind:

1. Can newborns still receive the hepatitis B vaccine at birth?

Yes. Parents are encouraged

to discuss the risks and benefits with their pediatrician. According to the CDC's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP), if not given at birth, the first dose should be administered no earlier than two months of age. Leading medical organizations, including the American Academy of Pediatrics and the American Medical Association, continue to recommend the first dose at birth for all infants.

2. Why timing matters for hepatitis B vaccination

Protection from birth is crucial because even babies born to mothers who test negative for hepatitis B can be exposed in their first months:

- ▶ Through caregivers who

may unknowingly carry the virus, since it can remain asymptomatic for years.

- ▶ By touching surfaces or objects contaminated with the virus, which can survive up to seven days outside the body.
- ▶ Because maternal screening has a small false-negative rate.

"Delaying the first dose until two months leaves infants vulnerable," says Brenna Hughes, MD, MSc, maternal-fetal medicine specialist. "The birth dose has been safely administered for decades and is highly effective."

Some infants with unique medical conditions may have a medically justified delay. Joseph Lim, MD, Yale University professor and co-author of the 2025 AASLD hepatitis B guidelines, notes that parents can discuss deferring the first dose if there are specific health considerations, but most children should complete the three-dose series as early as possible.

3. Checking your hepatitis B protection

The conversation around newborn vaccination is also a reminder that adults should verify their own immunity. Blood tests such as HBsAg, HBcAb, and HBsAb can determine protection or susceptibility.

Repeat testing may be needed if you have:

- ▶ Used intravenous or intranasal drugs

- ▶ Received tattoos or piercings
- ▶ Experienced accidental needlestick injuries
- ▶ Had risky sexual exposure

Those born before 1991 should confirm their vaccination history, as universal birth-dose recommendations started that year. The CDC and the American Academy of Family Physicians recommend vaccination for all adults up to age 59, and for older adults with risk factors such as diabetes, liver or kidney disease, healthcare work, or travel to regions with higher hepatitis B prevalence.

"Vaccination remains the most effective way to protect yourself and your family from hepatitis B," says Jennifer Hamilton, MD, PhD, family physician in Philadelphia. "Even for adults, knowing your status and getting vaccinated if needed is a key public health measure."

Bottom line: While guidance on the newborn dose may be evolving, hepatitis B vaccination continues to be a critical tool for lifelong liver health. Parents and adults alike are encouraged to consult healthcare providers to ensure timely protection.

Disclaimer

This article is for general educational purposes only. It is not a substitute for professional medical advice. Please consult your healthcare provider regarding vaccination decisions or personal health concerns.



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.

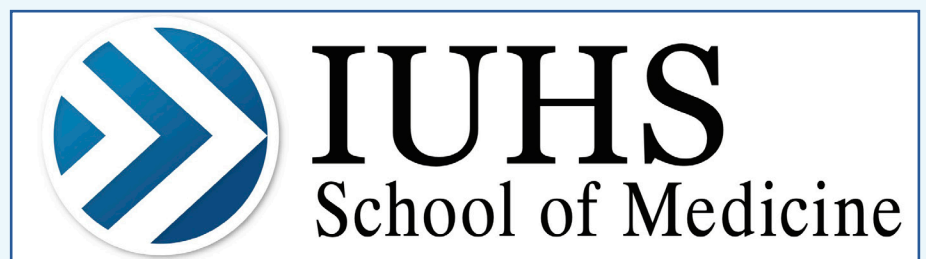
- ▶ Lectorio self-assessments which are mandatory but not graded.

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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For more information and to apply, visit www.iuhs.edu



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Winter beauty secrets

for radiant skin and hair

As the winter chill sets in, your skin and hair face a unique set of challenges. Dryness, flakiness, and dullness threaten to steal your glow. Both men and women can benefit from a thoughtful, indulgent approach to winter self-care, blending hydration, protection, and pampering rituals that elevate everyday routines into moments of luxury. Here's how you can begin your winter skincare journey:

Hydration is non-negotiable

Cold winds and indoor heating strip moisture from the skin. Opt for rich,

emollient creams for your face and body, infused with hyaluronic acid, ceramides, or natural oils like argan or jojoba. Men should not overlook their shaving routine. Using a soothing pre-shave oil followed by a hydrating balm prevents irritation and keeps the skin supple. Drinking ample water and herbal teas also helps maintain internal hydration, leaving your complexion soft and plump.

Cleansing with care

Switch to gentle, non-stripping cleansers to protect the skin's natural barrier. Avoid hot water, which can worsen dryness,



and instead cleanse with lukewarm water, gently patting your skin dry. Weekly exfoliation with a mild scrub or enzyme-based peel ensures your skin remains radiant while preventing flaky patches that betray the season's harshness.

Nourish your hair

Winter can leave hair brittle and frizzy. Deep-conditioning masks enriched with keratin, coconut oil, or shea butter are essential once or twice a week. Men with short hair can still benefit from hydrating serums or scalp oils to prevent dryness and itchiness. Minimize heat styling and protect strands from biting winds with scarves or stylish hats.

Add luxurious finishing touches

Consider facial oils for evening rituals, focusing on rosehip, squalane, or marula for a soft, luminous finish. For hair, a lightweight leave-in oil keeps flyaways at bay while imparting a silky sheen. Men and women alike can indulge in weekly spa-style routines. Warm oil massages, rich hand creams, and nourishing overnight masks restore vitality and radiance. Winter is the perfect season to elevate your self-care. With the right blend of hydration, protection, and indulgence, you can emerge from the colder months with skin that glows, hair that shines, and a sense of refined wellness that feels effortless.

Ashwani Chadha's

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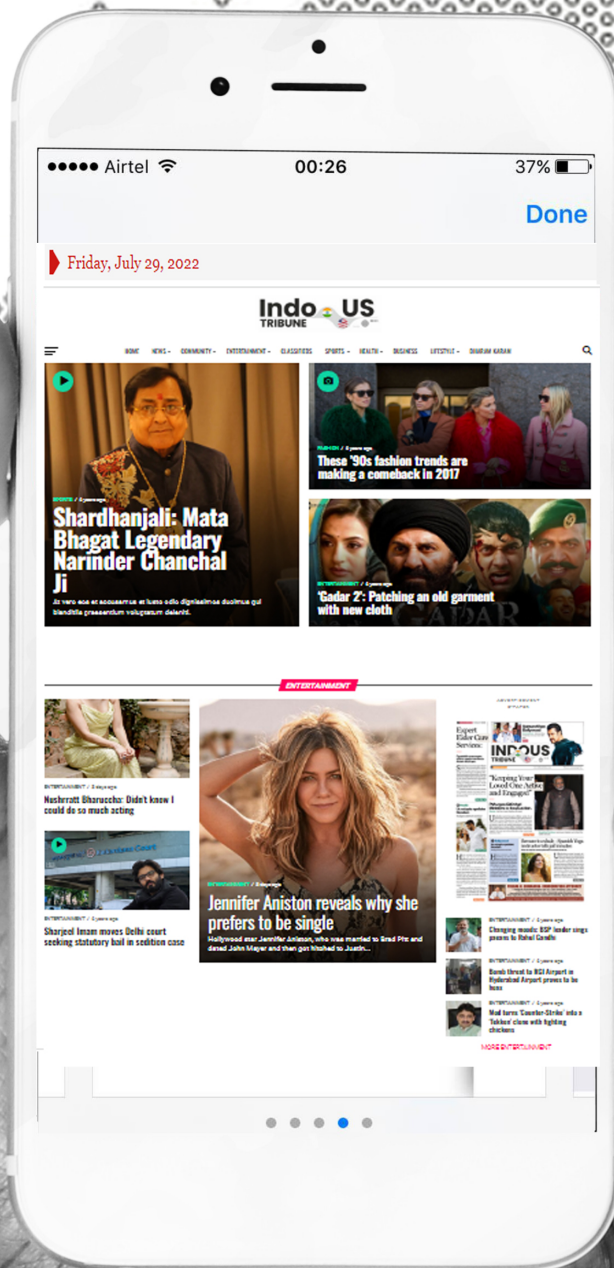


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