

Indian Coast Guard ship Sarthak makes first-ever visit to Iran's Chabahar port



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The Indian Coast Guard ship Sarthak on Tuesday arrived at Iran's strategic Chabahar port, marking the first visit by an Indian Coast Guard vessel to the harbor. Officials said the offshore patrol vessel is on an overseas deployment to Gulf countries and will remain in port through Thursday. Located on the Gulf of Oman, Chabahar provides India direct maritime access to Iran, Afghanistan, and Central Asia, bypassing routes through Pakistan. During the port call, Sarthak will conduct joint training with Iranian maritime agencies, including search and rescue, maritime law enforcement, and marine pollution response drills. The visit follows an earlier stop in Kuwait and reflects India's expanding regional maritime engagement.

TikTok secures US future through joint venture with American investors



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

TikTok confirmed on Thursday that it has signed binding agreements to create a United States based joint venture majority-owned by American investors, allowing the popular video platform to continue operating nationwide. The new entity will be owned fifty percent by a consortium that includes Oracle, Silver Lake, and Abu Dhabi backed investment fund MGX, while ByteDance will retain just under twenty percent ownership.

The deal, expected to close in January, ends years of uncertainty surrounding TikTok's future amid concerns in Washington over data security and Chinese influence. President Donald Trump previously issued executive orders permitting the app to remain online while negotiations continued.

TikTok said the joint venture will oversee data protection, content moderation, and algorithm security under a seven-member board dominated by American representatives. Oracle will serve as the security partner responsible for auditing compliance with national security requirements.

The agreement has been welcomed by creators and businesses who rely on the platform for income and outreach. Analysts say the arrangement could ease tensions between Washington and Beijing, though questions remain about long-term regulatory oversight and the transfer of technology.

Modi receives Order of Oman, honors centuries-old India-Oman maritime legacy

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday dedicated the Order of Oman to the deep-rooted maritime ties that have connected India and Oman for centuries, calling the honor a recognition of shared history, trust, and people-to-people bonds. Speaking after being conferred the Order of Oman First Class in Muscat, Modi said the award symbolized the enduring friendship between the two nations and their peoples.

Established in 1970 by Sultan Qaboos bin Said, the Order of Oman is one of the country's highest civilian honors and has been awarded to global leaders such as Queen Elizabeth, Nelson Mandela, Emperor Akihito, and King Abdullah of Jordan. This marked the twenty-ninth international honor received by Modi.

In a message posted on X, Modi expressed gratitude to Sultan Haitham bin Tarik and described the award as a tribute to ancestors who traveled ancient sea routes from Mandvi to Muscat, laying the foundations of bilateral ties. He also honored generations of seafarers whose trade across the Arabian Sea strengthened cultural and economic connections.



The Prime Minister's Office said the conferment coincided with seventy years of diplomatic relations, underscoring

the strength of the India-Oman strategic partnership in energy, maritime cooperation, and regional stability.

Indian American leaders urge stronger civic engagement and US-India ties at Detroit dialogue

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Indian American leaders called for deeper political participation, unity, and stronger India-United States ties during the inaugural India Abroad Dialogue in Detroit on Saturday. Congressman Shri Thanedar praised the community's contributions in technology, entrepreneurship, and STEM, linking their achievements to America's economic competitiveness. He highlighted India and the US as natural partners in defense, technology, education, and supply-chain resilience.

Eminent Indian American physician and community leader Dr. Bharat Barai joined the discussion, emphasizing immigration reform

and the importance of translating professional and economic success into civic influence.

Other panelists, including Sunny Reddy and Ashok Baddi, urged the community to engage in advocacy, volunteerism, and ethical civic participation, citing challenges like green card backlogs and H-1B visa uncertainties.

The dialogue also spotlighted Michigan's economic resurgence, driven by immigrants, advanced manufacturing, and investments in India by companies such as Ford and Apple. Organizers said the 10-city series would continue in Chicago and other major US cities, fostering stronger connections between policymakers, diaspora leaders, and the broader community.



Iconic Kennedy Center to be renamed Trump-Kennedy Center after board vote



Indous Tribune Newsdesk

The board of trustees of the Kennedy Center voted unanimously to rename the performing arts venue the Trump-Kennedy Center, White House Press Secretary Karoline Leavitt announced on Thursday. She said the decision reflected President Donald Trump's role in stabilizing the institution over the past year, including improvements to its finances, public standing, and infrastructure. Leavitt described the board as highly respected and praised the decision as honoring both Trump and former President John F. Kennedy. The announcement did not specify when the name change would formally take effect or whether additional approvals are required. The Kennedy Center, which opened in 1971, serves as a national cultural landmark hosting music, theater, dance, and opera performances.

Former Iraqi president Barham Salih elected UN refugee chief



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Former Iraqi president Barham Salih was unanimously elected on Thursday as the new United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, following a recommendation by Secretary-General Antonio Guterres. Salih, who was once a refugee himself, will succeed Italy's Filippo Grandi, whose second term ends later this year. Speaking after the vote in the General Assembly, Salih said his personal experience would shape a leadership approach grounded in empathy, pragmatism, and international law. Grandi welcomed the appointment, citing Salih's background as well suited for a period of large-scale global displacement. Salih previously served as Iraq's president from 2018 to 2022 and as prime minister of the Kurdistan region earlier in his career.

US envoy to meet Qatar, Egypt, and Turkey officials on Gaza talks



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The United States will hold new diplomatic consultations on Friday as Special Envoy Steve Witkoff meets senior officials from Qatar, Egypt, and Turkey in Miami to discuss the next phase of the Gaza situation. A senior State Department official said the talks will focus on developments beyond immediate hostilities, including humanitarian access, security arrangements, and longer-term political considerations. Qatar and Egypt have played key mediation roles since the Gaza conflict began, while Turkey has sought a more active diplomatic presence. President Donald Trump has repeatedly highlighted Gaza in recent remarks, claiming progress toward peace and hostage releases. The conflict began after the October 2023 Hamas attack on Israel and has triggered sustained regional and international concern.

US-Venezuela tensions spike as Maduro deploys navy to challenge Trump oil blockade

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Tensions between the United States and Venezuela escalated sharply on Wednesday after President Nicolas Maduro ordered the Venezuelan navy to escort oil tankers leaving the country, directly challenging an oil blockade announced by President Donald Trump. The move heightened fears of a possible naval confrontation in the Caribbean and surrounding waters.

The escalation followed Trump's declaration on Tuesday that the United States had assembled what he described as the largest naval force ever deployed in South America to enforce restrictions on Venezuelan oil shipments. Trump also labeled Maduro's government a terrorist organization and said he no longer recognized it as a legitimate authority.

International efforts to ease the standoff intensified as concerns grew. Two resolutions aimed at limiting further escalation narrowly failed in the United States House of Representatives on Wednesday. Venezuela also



approached the United Nations, prompting consultations within the Security Council.

United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres urged restraint and respect for international law, while Mexico's President Claudia Sheinbaum called for dialogue to prevent bloodshed. China criticized the

blockade, accusing Washington of intimidation and supporting Venezuela's right to defend its interests.

Although the blockade is officially limited to sanctioned vessels, analysts warned that naval deployments increase the risk of miscalculation and wider regional instability

NIA charge sheet strengthens India's case against Pakistan over Pahalgam attack

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

India's National Investigation Agency on Wednesday filed a 1,597-page charge sheet in the Pahalgam terror attack case, eight months after the assault, detailing operational planning, identities of the attackers, and evidence directly linking the plot to Pakistan. Officials said the document strengthens India's position to challenge Pakistan's repeated denials before the international community.

The charge sheet identifies three Pakistani nationals as the attackers and names Sajjad Jutt, a Lashkar-e-Taiba operative and head of its proxy group The Resistance Front, as the mastermind. Investigators cited recovered mobile phones purchased in Pakistan, forensic data, M4 assault rifles, and personal items tracing the terrorists' origins. The attackers were killed during Operation Mahadev at Dachigam.



Officials said the investigation prioritized establishing state-backed involvement over swift prosecution. They added that the attack aimed to divert attention from Pakistan's internal issues and disrupt tourism in Jammu and Kashmir, which has since rebounded. The findings also counter Pakistan's claims following India's military response under Operation Sindoor.

Brown University shooting suspect found dead as investigation nears conclusion

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Authorities said on Thursday that the man suspected of killing two people and wounding nine others in a mass shooting at Brown University was found dead in a storage facility in New Hampshire. Claudio Neves Valente, a forty-eight-year-old Brown student and Portuguese national, died from a self-inflicted gunshot wound, Providence Police Chief Oscar Perez confirmed at a news conference. Investigators believe Valente was responsible for the Saturday shooting on Brown's campus and are examining a possible connection to the fatal shooting of Massachusetts Institute of Technology professor Nuno Loureiro at his

home near Boston earlier in the week. Officials have not formally confirmed the link and said the investigation remains ongoing.

The search intensified after authorities received new information on Wednesday that led them to Valente's vehicle and identity. The shooting occurred in an older engineering building with limited camera coverage, complicating early efforts to identify the suspect. Brown University officials expressed relief that the search had ended while acknowledging the deep trauma felt across campus. Massachusetts Institute of Technology also mourned the loss of Loureiro, a respected physicist and academic leader.

Trump signs executive order outlining assertive US space strategy



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

President Donald Trump on Thursday signed an executive order setting out an "America First" vision for space, reaffirming a United States return to the Moon by 2028 and the creation of a permanent lunar outpost by 2030.

The order directs federal agencies to align spending, regulation, and policy toward strengthening national security, commercial growth, and technological leadership in space.

It emphasizes support for NASA's Artemis program, expanded commercial launch services, and next-generation missile defense systems. The plan also calls for replacing the International Space Station by 2030 and promoting private investment of at least \$50 billion in space markets by 2028.

The White House said the strategy positions space leadership as central to national strength and economic prosperity.

US arms approval for Taiwan deepens regional tensions with China



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The United States approved a weapons package worth more than \$10 billion for Taiwan on Thursday, drawing sharp criticism from China and heightening regional tensions. Beijing accused Washington of undermining its sovereignty and demanded an immediate halt to arms sales.

A recent United States security strategy document emphasized deterring conflict over Taiwan and maintaining military advantages across key Pacific island chains. China has intensified diplomatic pressure on Japan and the Philippines, while expanding its military capabilities under President Xi Jinping.

Taiwan has responded by boosting defense readiness, extending mandatory military service, and investing in advanced systems. Analysts warn that growing rivalry between the region's major powers continues to fuel instability across East Asia.

Trump urges Xi Jinping to release jailed Hong Kong media tycoon Jimmy Lai

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

President Donald Trump said on Monday that he had personally urged Chinese President Xi Jinping to release Hong Kong media tycoon Jimmy Lai, citing humanitarian concerns following Lai's conviction under national security laws. Trump told reporters he felt deeply saddened by the verdict and had asked Xi to consider Lai's release.

Lai, founder of the pro-democracy newspaper Apple Daily, was convicted on Monday and could spend the rest of his life in prison. He has been detained for more than 1,800 days and reportedly suffers from serious health issues, including diabetes.

Secretary of State Marco Rubio said the conviction demonstrated China's intent to silence free expression, noting that Beijing had pledged to protect Hong Kong's autonomy. Governments and rights groups worldwide have condemned the ruling. Lai's daughter appealed for his release, saying he wishes to reunite with his family and live peacefully if freed.

EU agrees on joint borrowing to fund Ukraine after frozen assets plan stalls

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

European Union leaders agreed early Friday to raise funds for Ukraine through joint borrowing rather than immediately using frozen Russian assets, following hours of negotiations in Brussels. European Council President Antonio Costa confirmed that ninety billion euros in support for Ukraine over the next two years had been approved, with financing to come from borrowing secured against the European Union budget.

Under the agreement, Hungary, Slovakia, and the Czech Republic will not be required to participate in the guarantees for the debt, addressing objections raised by those governments. Officials said discussions would continue on a separate



loan mechanism backed by frozen Russian central bank assets, which would remain immobilized for now.

The decision came after concerns, particularly from Belgium, over potential legal and financial risks tied to releasing Russian funds held within its jurisdiction.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskiy urged leaders to fully use Russian assets to support Kyiv's defense, warning that Ukraine could face severe financial strain next year without continued assistance.

European officials said the compromise ensures Ukraine's funding while preserving unity within the bloc amid growing geopolitical pressure.

Awami League warns of growing violence ahead of Bangladesh elections

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Bangladesh's Awami League on Thursday raised alarm over escalating violence following the announcement of the February parliamentary election schedule. The party said incidents erupted nationwide within a day of the announcement, including arson attacks, the shooting of a prospective candidate, and damage to election offices. It warned that the violence may be coordinated to intimidate voters and undermine democracy. The interim government led by Muhammad Yunus said security forces remain on high alert and vowed firm action against sabotage attempts. Earlier this week, the United States Embassy in Dhaka advised its citizens to avoid demonstrations and exercise caution. The warning followed the shooting



of independent candidate Sharif Osman Hadi, who remains in critical condition after being flown abroad for treatment.

Australia announces largest gun buyback in decades after Bondi terror attack

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Australia's federal government on Friday announced the country's largest gun buyback program in nearly three decades following the deadly terror attack at Bondi Beach. Prime Minister Anthony Albanese said the buyback would be the most significant since the Port Arthur massacre and would involve the destruction of hundreds of thousands of firearms.

Costs will be shared between the federal and state governments, with states and territories collecting surrendered weapons

and federal police overseeing their destruction. Albanese also declared Sunday a national day of reflection to honor the fifteen victims killed in the attack.

He said intelligence agencies had found no evidence that information sharing failures could have prevented the attack, though one attacker legally held multiple firearms. National cabinet is expected to tighten gun laws, including stricter licensing, ownership limits, and expanded background checks. A long-delayed national firearms register is being accelerated but is not expected to be operational until 2027.



United States sanctions Iran oil network, names India-linked shipping firms

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The Trump administration on Thursday imposed sanctions on 29 vessels linked to a covert Iranian oil shipping network, including companies connected to India. The Treasury Department said the action targets revenue streams used by Iran to fund terrorism and military programs.

Among the named entities are India-based shipping firms linked to vessels that transported millions of barrels of Iranian petroleum products in 2025. Officials said the vessels are part of Iran's so-called shadow fleet, using deceptive practices to evade sanctions.

Treasury added that the measures were imposed under Executive Order 13902 and are intended to increase costs for Iranian exporters and reduce earnings from oil sales.

Seoul says latest United States talks on North Korea differ from past working group

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

South Korea said on Wednesday that its latest policy discussions with the United States on North Korea are fundamentally different from the former working group that operated between 2017 and 2019. A foreign ministry official said the talks focus on implementing existing alliance agreements rather than screening inter-Korean cooperation.

The remarks followed criticism from former unification ministers and a decision by the unification ministry not to attend Tuesday's meeting. Officials said the dialogue allowed both sides to exchange views on reopening channels with Pyongyang amid stalled diplomacy and rising regional tensions. Seoul stressed that the goal remains denuclearization and a return to dialogue, while maintaining close coordination across government ministries.



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Standing against hatred, standing with our Jewish brothers and sisters



and terror, and we recognize the emotional and spiritual toll such acts inflict. This shared experience compels us to stand firmly in solidarity with the Jewish community.

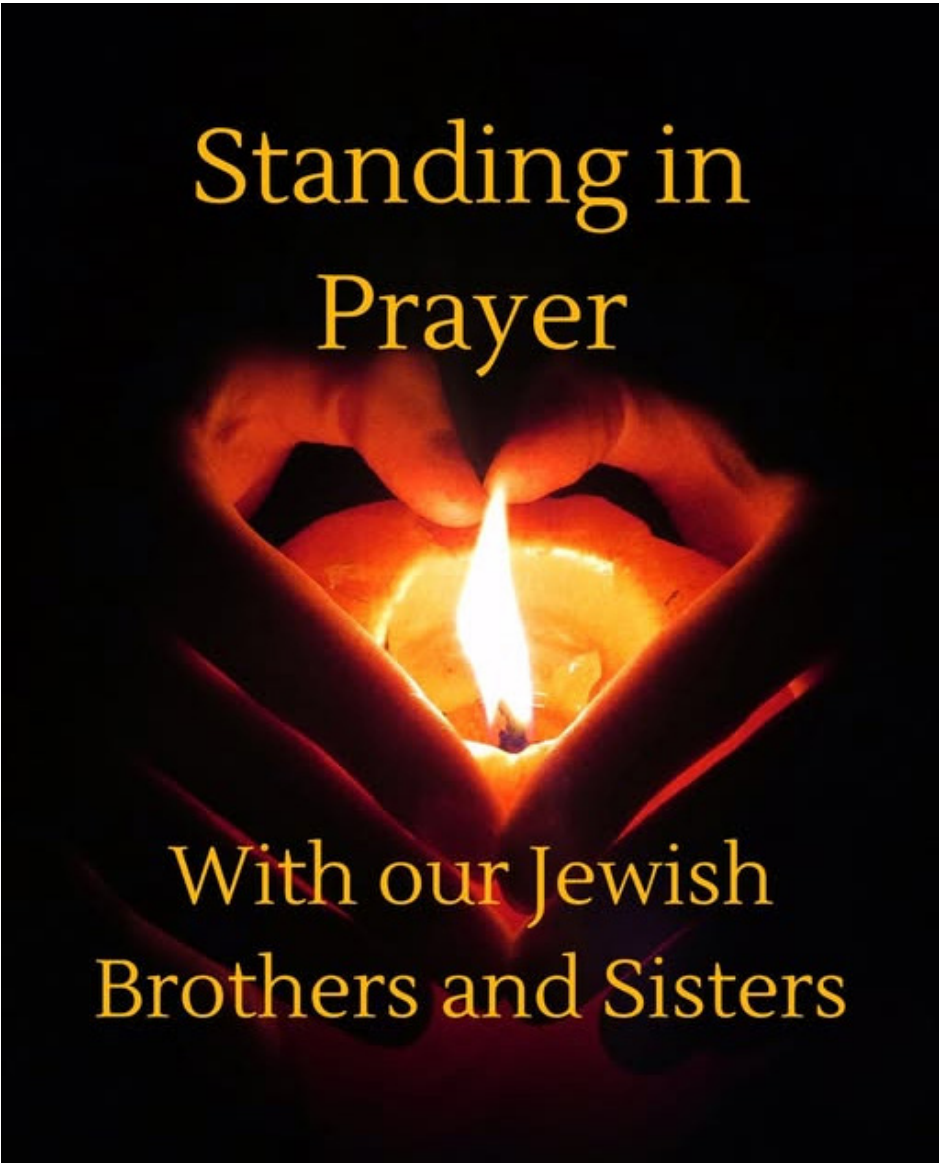
India’s civilizational tradition has long upheld peaceful coexistence and respect for all faiths. Antisemitism is alien to these values and must be rejected unequivocally. Those responsible for attacks on Jewish institutions, whether motivated by white supremacist hatred, Islamist extremism, or politicized rage,

must be brought to justice swiftly and decisively. The IndoUS Tribune stands with our Jewish friends today not out of convenience but out of conviction. Silence in the face of hate is complicity. This is not a Jewish issue alone; it is a moral test for all of us. When one faith is targeted, every faith is at risk.

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

The IndoUS Tribune strongly condemns the recent attacks, threats, and acts of intimidation targeting Jewish places of worship and community institutions in the United States and around the world. An attack on a synagogue or any place of worship is an attack on the very foundations of a civilized society. From the deadly terrorist assault on a Hanukkah celebration in Bondi Beach, Australia, to antisemitic disruptions outside Los Angeles’ Wilshire Boulevard Temple, and the alarming rise in vandalism, bomb threats, and harassment across American synagogues, these incidents are not isolated. They reflect a dangerous global surge in hatred and antisemitism, intensified since the October 7, 2023 attacks, and fueled by extremist ideologies and online radicalization.

Hatred has no religion, and antisemitism has no place in the modern world. No community should have to turn prayer into a high-security exercise guarded by metal detectors and armed personnel. Every individual and every faith community must be able to practice beliefs without fear, intimidation, or violence. As Indians, and particularly as Hindus in India and the United States, we deeply understand the pain, frustration, and anguish caused by attacks on sacred spaces. Our temples and communities have faced vandalism



Bangladesh envoy urges renewed trust and cooperation with India on Victory Day

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Marking Bangladesh's Victory Day on Tuesday, Bangladesh High Commissioner to India Riaz Hamidullah called for closer and more meaningful cooperation between India and Bangladesh, emphasizing trust as the cornerstone of bilateral relations. Describing the relationship as organic and deeply interdependent, Hamidullah said ties between the two neighbors go well beyond statistics and are rooted in shared history, culture, and geography. He urged both countries to give practical expression to common values and ideals while working toward a sustainable future. Stressing people-to-people connections, Hamidullah said peace, stability, and prosperity for citizens on both sides of the border remain a shared interest, adding that bilateral engagement must be guided by mutual understanding and long-term collaboration.

US and Europe begin planning Ukraine reconstruction with BlackRock and World Bank

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The United States and European partners have initiated planning for Ukraine's post-war reconstruction, with BlackRock and the World Bank leading the effort, officials said. Meetings in Berlin with Ukrainian officials, including President Volodymyr Zelensky, focused on rebuilding infrastructure, compensating civilians, supporting military families, and ensuring economic stability. BlackRock CEO Larry Fink and World Bank President Ajay Banga are coordinating with Ukrainian counterparts on governance reforms and fundraising mechanisms. European leaders emphasized that Ukraine's recovery is vital for regional security. Discussions also considered how frozen Russian funds could contribute to reconstruction while maintaining transparency and reducing corruption risks.

Quad conducts first field exercise to strengthen Indo-Pacific disaster response

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The Quad nations—Australia, India, Japan, and the United States—completed their first Field Training Exercise in Guam from December 8 to 12 to enhance disaster response capabilities in the Indo-Pacific. Conducted alongside Operation Christmas Drop, the exercise tested coordination, interoperability, and logistics integration among the four countries under the Quad Indo-Pacific Logistics Network. Activities included boarding a Japan Air Self-Defense Force C-130H transport aircraft and hands-on disaster response simulations. The exercise builds on prior tabletop planning and aims to reduce response times, improve coordination during humanitarian emergencies, and strengthen civilian disaster relief in the region.

Lula vows to veto bill that would shorten Bolsonaro's prison sentence

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Brazilian President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva said on Thursday that he will veto legislation passed by Congress that would reduce the prison sentence of former president Jair Bolsonaro, who was convicted for plotting an attempted coup after the 2022 election.

Bolsonaro was sentenced to more than twenty-seven years in prison. Lula acknowledged that Congress could override his veto but said crimes against democracy must carry consequences.



The bill would reduce prison time by combining convictions and applying sentence reduction mechanisms, potentially cutting Bolsonaro's closed-regime sentence to just over two years.

The legislation would also benefit Bolsonaro's aides and others convicted over the January 2023 attack on Brazil's capital. Legal experts and analysts warned the bill could undermine accountability.

Opinion polls show most Brazilians oppose reducing the sentences, with critics calling the move a return to Brazil's historic pattern of political impunity.

Saudi-backed forces mass near Yemen border as separatist tensions escalate

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Up to 20,000 Saudi-backed troops have gathered near Yemen's border as pressure mounts on the Southern Transitional Council to withdraw from recently seized territory in the oil-rich Hadramaut region. The separatist group, backed by the United Arab Emirates, has expanded rapidly over the past month and is pushing for Yemen's division into two states.

Saudi Arabia has warned the group it could face airstrikes if it refuses to pull back, raising fears of clashes between Saudi- and Emirati-backed forces. United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres warned on Wednesday that renewed fighting could destabilize the Red Sea and Horn of Africa.



The Southern Transitional Council has rejected calls to withdraw, tightening control across multiple governorates. Analysts said the advance has humiliated Saudi Arabia and risks further fragmentation of Yemen, where nearly five million people have already been displaced by years of conflict.

China to impose tax on condoms as part of effort to raise birth rate

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

China will impose a 13 percent value-added tax on condoms and other contraceptives starting Wednesday, ending a three-decade exemption as part of efforts to address falling birth rates. The move is included in a broader tax reform law aimed at modernizing the system. The policy has drawn criticism online, with many questioning its effectiveness. The government has also introduced childcare subsidies, expanded insurance coverage for childbirth, and incentives for marriage. Experts said the tax is largely symbolic and unlikely to significantly affect fertility decisions. China's population has declined for three consecutive years due to low birth rates and an aging population.

Canada records rare population decline amid sharp drop in international students

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Canada recorded one of its rare population declines on Wednesday as new government data showed the population fell by 0.2 percent in the most recent quarter. Statistics Canada said the drop was driven primarily by a sharp decline in international students following tighter federal controls on study permits.

The decline marked only the second quarterly population decrease on record, the first occurring during pandemic-

related border closures. Non-permanent residents now account for 6.8 percent of the population, down from 7.3 percent in the previous quarter.

Prime Minister Mark Carney has pledged to reduce the share of non-permanent residents to 5 percent by 2027. The government plans to cut new student permits nearly in half while modestly increasing permanent residency admissions. Economists said the slowdown may ease pressure on housing, services, and inflation, though long-term growth concerns remain.

Rights groups accuse Morocco of abuse as Gen Z protest crackdown continues

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Human rights groups on Thursday accused Moroccan authorities of arbitrary detentions and police brutality against hundreds of young protesters arrested during nationwide demonstrations over healthcare and education.

The protests, known as Gen Z 212, erupted in September and October

and were the largest since 2011. Rights organizations reported beatings, harassment, and procedural violations, including long detentions without lawyers. At least three protesters were killed in clashes near Agadir, according to activists. Moroccan authorities said security forces acted lawfully and that trials were fair. As Morocco prepares to host the Africa Cup of Nations on Sunday, families and groups continue to demand accountability and the release of detainees.

Denmark accuses Russia of cyber-attacks targeting water utility and elections



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Denmark on Thursday accused Russia of orchestrating two cyber-attacks, calling them clear examples of hybrid warfare. The Danish Defence Intelligence Service said a pro-Russian group targeted a water utility in 2024, while another group linked to Russia launched attacks on websites ahead of November's local elections.

In the water utility incident, hackers altered pump pressure, causing damage to infrastructure. Danish officials said the attacks aimed to create insecurity and punish countries supporting Ukraine. The foreign ministry said it would summon the Russian ambassador. Ministers warned that the incidents exposed gaps in Denmark's cyber defenses and highlighted growing threats across Europe.

Trump signs defense law mandating deeper United States military engagement with India

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

President Donald Trump on Friday signed into law the National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2026, a sweeping defense measure that explicitly calls for expanded United States military engagement with India as part of Washington’s Indo-Pacific strategy. The law authorizes nearly \$890 billion in national security spending. The legislation directs deeper cooperation with India through bilateral and multilateral military exercises, defense trade, humanitarian assistance, disaster response, and maritime security. It also emphasizes collaboration under the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue framework.

The Act mandates a joint United States-India assessment of nuclear liability rules and establishes a recurring consultative mechanism under the Strategic Security Dialogue to review implementation of the 2008 civil nuclear agreement. The State Department must report to Congress within six months and annually for five years. The law also requires assessments of Russia’s military cooperation with India and creates an Ambassador-at-Large for the Indian Ocean Region to coordinate diplomacy and counter Chinese influence.

Prime Minister Modi assures Ethiopia of deeper trade and investment ties

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Prime Minister Narendra Modi met Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed on Wednesday and conveyed India’s willingness to expand cooperation in digital public infrastructure, mining, critical minerals, clean energy, agriculture, and food security. The two leaders reviewed progress in trade, investment, education, technology, and capacity building.

Prime Minister Modi noted that Indian companies have invested more than \$5 billion in Ethiopia, particularly in manufacturing and pharmaceuticals, creating over 75,000 local jobs. In 2024 alone, eleven Indian firms invested in sectors including agriculture, automobiles, iron and steel, and information technology.

Bilateral trade between India and Ethiopia stood at \$550.19 million in fiscal year 2024–25, with Indian exports accounting for the bulk of the total. Ethiopia also benefits from India’s duty-free tariff preference scheme for least developed countries.

The two sides signed eight agreements, including upgrading ties to a strategic partnership, customs cooperation, peacekeeping training, debt restructuring under the Group of Twenty framework, and expanded scholarships. Both leaders reaffirmed coordination on Global South issues, climate action, renewable energy, and multilateral cooperation.

Indian envoy and Kuwait deputy foreign minister review strategic partnership

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

India’s Ambassador to Kuwait, Paramita Tripathi, met Kuwait’s Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Jarrah Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah on Thursday to discuss strengthening the India–Kuwait Strategic Partnership. The talks focused on deepening cooperation across key areas of mutual interest, including diplomacy, security, and economic engagement, according to the Indian Embassy in Kuwait.

The meeting comes amid expanding bilateral engagement between the two countries. Earlier in the week, Ambassador Tripathi met representatives of Indian community associations in Kuwait, acknowledging their role in community welfare and cultural outreach while discussing ways to enhance coordination and well-being for Indian nationals.

Maritime cooperation has also seen recent momentum. Last week, Indian Coast Guard Ship Sarthak concluded a five-day goodwill visit to Kuwait,



including a Passage Exercise with Kuwait Navy Ship Al Garoh. The exercise enhanced interoperability and operational understanding between the two navies.

During the port visit, a reception aboard the Indian vessel brought together Kuwaiti officials, diplomats, and members of the Indian diaspora. Ambassador Tripathi highlighted the growing breadth of bilateral ties and emphasized shared priorities of regional peace, stability, and prosperity under the strategic partnership framework.

India and Fiji deepen health cooperation and people-to-people engagement

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Minister of State for External Affairs Pabitra Margherita met Fiji’s Minister of Health and Medical Services Ratu Atonio Rabici Lalabalavu in New Delhi on Thursday, with discussions focusing on strengthening ongoing health and medical cooperation. Margherita described healthcare as a key pillar of the India–Fiji bilateral partnership.

India’s engagement with Fiji has extended beyond health cooperation. On Sunday, India’s High Commissioner to Fiji, Suneet Mehta, met Fiji’s Minister for Immigration Viliame B. Naupoto to discuss skilled mobility, people-to-people ties, and broader bilateral cooperation.

Earlier this month, Mehta also met Fiji’s Minister for Policing and Communications Ioane Naivalurua, where the two sides discussed collaboration in digital governance, cybersecurity, and innovative public



service delivery. India reiterated its readiness to share expertise in large-scale digital identity platforms and technology-driven governance.

Last month, India delivered a consignment of antiretroviral drugs to Fiji to support its public health program. The Ministry of External Affairs said India remains committed to assisting Fiji’s healthcare needs and strengthening long-term cooperation across multiple sectors.

India and Argentina sign new plan for agricultural research and technology exchange

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

India and Argentina on Wednesday reaffirmed cooperation in sustainable agriculture, digital farming, and biotechnology with the signing of a new Work Plan for 2025–2027. The agreement between the Indian Council of Agricultural Research and Argentina’s National Institute of Agricultural Technology strengthens collaboration in research, capacity building, and technology exchange.

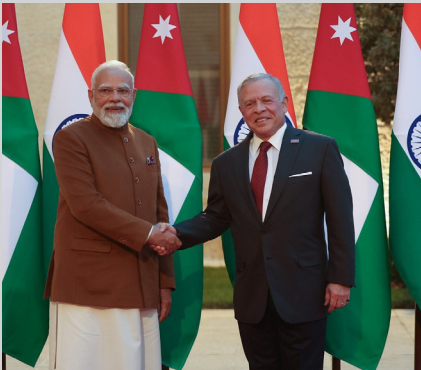
The plan covers sustainable agronomy, mechanization, zero tillage, micro-irrigation, crop and animal biotechnology, livestock improvement, digital agriculture, biosafety, and value chain development.

Implementation will involve joint research projects, germplasm exchange, expert visits, and structured training programs.

Planned exchanges include soybean, maize, sunflower, citrus, blueberry, guava, and select vegetable crops. Cooperation will also expand in oilseeds, pulses, horticulture infrastructure, and agricultural drones.

In plant and animal health, the plan outlines collaboration on Foot-and-Mouth Disease control and locust surveillance through shared expertise and best practices. The signed work plan was exchanged by senior agricultural officials from both countries, marking a significant step toward deepening long-term agricultural cooperation.

PM Modi calls on Jordanian firms to strengthen economic ties with India



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

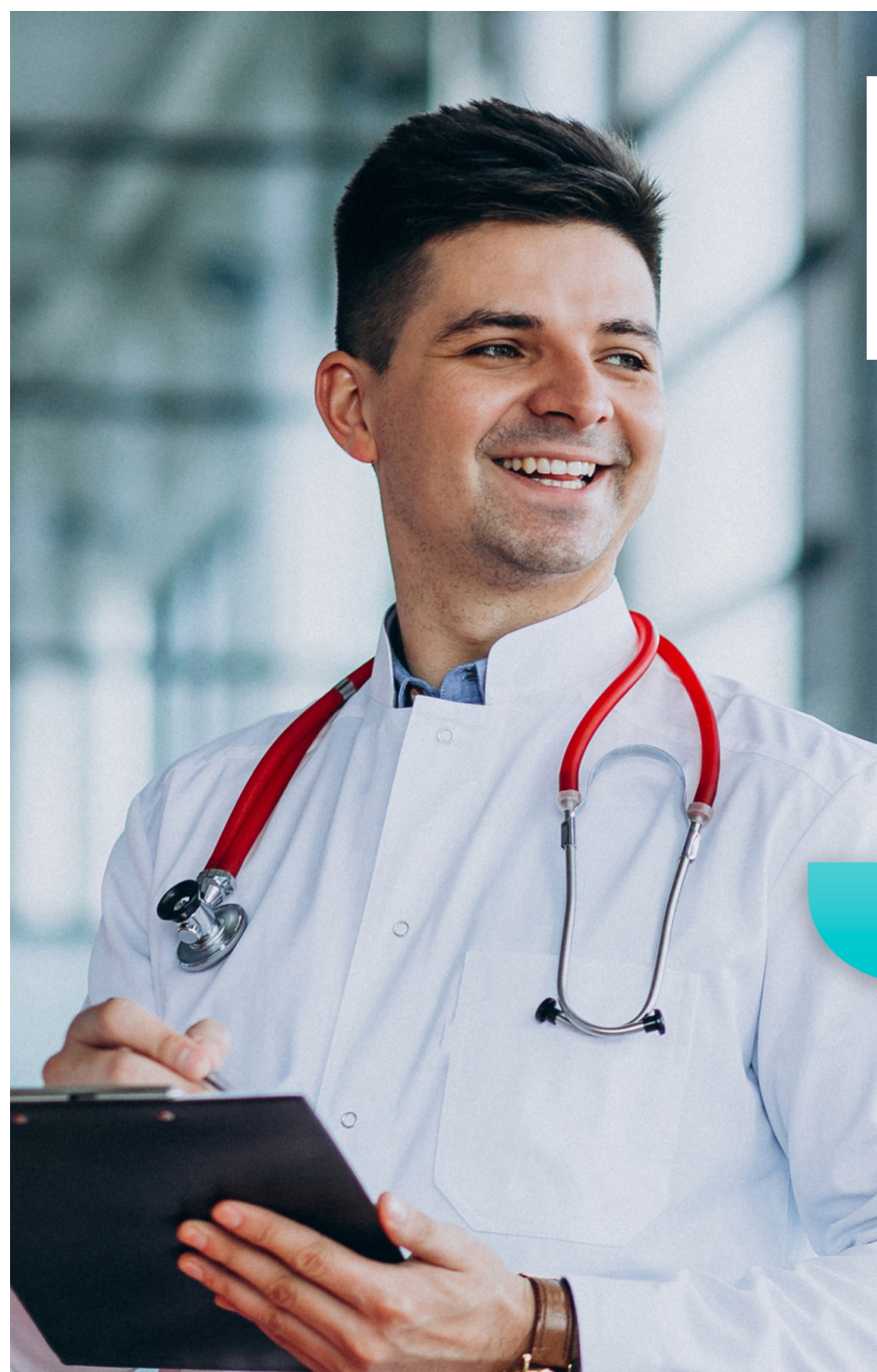
Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday invited Jordanian companies to partner with India to tap into its 1.4 billion-strong consumer market, robust manufacturing base, and stable policy environment. Speaking alongside King Abdullah II at the India-Jordan Business Forum, Modi highlighted the potential for a strategic economic corridor linking South and West Asia. He proposed doubling bilateral trade to \$5 billion over five years and encouraged collaboration in sectors including digital infrastructure, IT, fintech, health-tech, agri-tech, pharmaceuticals, renewable energy, and green financing. Modi also emphasized opportunities in agriculture, cold chain, heritage tourism, and manufacturing, urging businesses to convert shared potential into sustained growth and prosperity.

India and Afghanistan discuss expanding healthcare cooperation and medical support

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Minister of State for External Affairs Kirti Vardhan Singh met Afghanistan’s Minister of Public Health Mawlawi Noor Jalal Jalali in New Delhi on Thursday to discuss healthcare cooperation, long-term pharmaceutical supplies, and development support in the health sector. Singh reaffirmed India’s commitment to strengthening health security for the Afghan people. Earlier, Jalali met Union Health Minister Jagat Prakash Nadda on Wednesday, where discussions covered capacity building for Afghan health workers, medical visas, cancer treatment, and the supply of quality medicines. Nadda confirmed that medicines, vaccines, and a CT scan machine would soon be sent to a children’s hospital in Kabul.

India has supplied 327 tonnes of medicines and vaccines to Afghanistan over the past four years, and additional consignments, including a 128-slice CT scanner, are being dispatched. Proposals for a radiotherapy machine and further medical support are under review. Jalali also met Minister for AYUSH Prataprao Jadhav to explore cooperation in traditional medicine, including establishing a research institute in Kabul, practitioner training, and curriculum development. Both sides emphasized India’s expertise as valuable for regulating and strengthening traditional healthcare systems in Afghanistan.



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Trump uses White House Hanukkah event to deliver political defense of Israel



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

President Donald Trump turned a White House Hanukkah reception on Tuesday into a wide ranging political speech defending Israel and condemning antisemitism. Addressing an enthusiastic audience, Trump mixed holiday remarks with campaign style rhetoric and policy claims. He opened by condemning an antisemitic attack in Australia and warned that antisemitism is rising in the United States, including on college campuses and within political circles. Trump also referenced military actions against Iran and renewed warnings to Hamas. Audience members repeatedly chanted supportive slogans as Trump criticized media coverage and political opponents. The event blended religious observance with political messaging, continuing a long standing White House tradition of hosting Hanukkah celebrations while underscoring Trump’s emphasis on Israel, nationalism, and security.

Mamdani appointee resigns after her decade-old antisemitic social media posts resurface



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

One of New York City Mayor elect Zohran Mamdani’s appointees resigned on Thursday after antisemitic social media posts she made more than a decade ago resurfaced online. The appointee had been selected to oversee appointments and recruitment for the incoming administration.

In a statement, she expressed regret and said the posts did not reflect her current values. Mamdani accepted the resignation, saying accountability was necessary despite the passage of time.

The posts were highlighted by a Jewish advocacy organization, prompting public scrutiny. Mamdani’s office said the appointee previously worked in city government and the private sector. The resignation comes as the mayor elect prepares to take office amid heightened sensitivity around antisemitism and public trust.

Lawmakers release Epstein estate images as deadline nears for federal disclosure

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Democrats on the House Oversight Committee released a new set of photographs from the estate of convicted sex offender Jeffrey Epstein on Thursday, increasing pressure on the Justice Department ahead of a fast approaching disclosure deadline. The undated images include photographs of passages from Vladimir Nabokov’s novel ‘Lolita’ written on a woman’s body, along with images showing Epstein in the presence of several well known public figures.

The release comes as the Justice Department has less than two days to comply with the Epstein Files Transparency Act, which mandates the public release of federal records related to Epstein, with limited exceptions. President Donald Trump signed the legislation into law in November following bipartisan support.



The images include photographs of Bill Gates with a woman whose face is redacted, Epstein seated on a plane with linguist Noam Chomsky, and appearances by Woody Allen, Steve Bannon, and New York Times columnist David Brooks. No wrongdoing has been alleged based on the images. Committee Democrats said additional material would be released as the deadline approaches.

Wisconsin judge convicted for interfering in immigration arrest inside courthouse

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

A Wisconsin jury on Thursday convicted Milwaukee County Circuit Court Judge Hannah Dugan of obstruction for helping an undocumented immigrant avoid immediate arrest by federal agents inside her courtroom. She was acquitted of a second charge related to concealing an individual from arrest.

Prosecutors said Dugan directed Eduardo Flores Ruiz, a Mexican national facing misdemeanor battery charges, out of a private courtroom exit after learning immigration agents were waiting to arrest him. Flores Ruiz was later apprehended outside the courthouse and has since been deported.

Courtroom audio played at trial captured Dugan acknowledging she



could face consequences for her actions. Prosecutors argued her conduct interfered with law enforcement during heightened immigration enforcement.

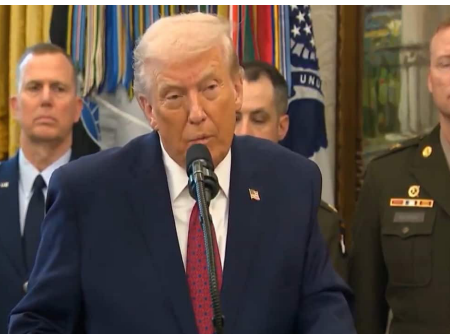
Dugan’s defense said she acted in good faith while following courthouse guidance on handling immigration matters. She faces up to five years in prison, with sentencing yet to be scheduled.

Trump orders suspension of diversity visa lottery amid investigation into university shootings

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

President Donald Trump ordered the suspension of the diversity visa lottery program on Thursday after investigators confirmed that the suspect in deadly shootings at Brown University and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology entered the United States through the program. Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem announced the decision, citing concerns over immigration screening.

Authorities identified the suspect as Portuguese national Claudio Manuel Neves Valente, who obtained permanent resident status through the lottery in 2017. Investigators said he killed two students at Brown University, wounded nine others, and fatally shot an MIT professor before dying from a self inflicted gunshot wound.



The diversity visa lottery, established by Congress, grants up to fifty thousand green cards each year to applicants from countries with lower rates of immigration to the United States. The program requires background checks and interviews before approval.

The suspension is expected to face legal challenges, as the program is mandated by federal law.

Trump announces one time ‘Warrior Dividend’ payments for US troops

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

President Donald Trump announced on Wednesday that more than one point four million United States military personnel will receive a one time payment of one thousand seven hundred seventy six dollars before Christmas. Speaking during a national address, Trump said the payments recognize military service and honor the country’s founding year. The president said the funds were made possible through tariff revenue and recent legislation, framing the move as part of a broader economic and national security strategy. He also claimed military recruitment has rebounded sharply under his administration. Trump described the payments as symbolic ahead of the upcoming two hundred fiftieth anniversary of American independence. While modest in size, the initiative reinforces his emphasis on military strength, nationalism, and economic self sufficiency as central themes of his presidency.

Senators introduce bipartisan bill targeting buyers of Russian oil

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

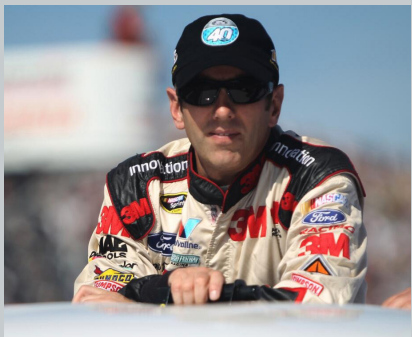
A bipartisan group of United States senators introduced legislation on Tuesday that would impose financial sanctions on foreign entities purchasing Russian oil. The proposed measure aims to cut off revenue supporting Russia’s war in Ukraine by targeting buyers rather than producers. Under the bill, foreign individuals or companies involved in Russian oil purchases could lose access to the United States financial system. Limited exemptions would apply to countries that significantly support Ukraine or reduce their reliance on Russian energy. Lawmakers said continued oil purchases undermine international pressure on Moscow, even as many nations publicly condemn the war. Supporters argued the bill strengthens economic leverage while encouraging allies to shift toward alternative energy sources, including American oil exports.

Implosion planned for historic Mississippi River bridge

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

A nearly century old bridge spanning the Mississippi River between Iowa and Wisconsin is set to be demolished on Friday to make way for a modern replacement. The Black Hawk Bridge, completed in 1931, has been closed since October due to safety concerns. Local officials said the structure holds deep sentimental value for residents but has become increasingly unsafe and narrow for modern traffic. The bridge carried more than two thousand vehicles daily and was the only crossing for miles in either direction. A ferry service now transports vehicles across the river while construction continues on a new one hundred forty million dollar bridge, expected to open in 2027. Officials expect large crowds to gather for the implosion, with a live stream planned.

North Carolina plane crash kills seven, including retired NASCAR driver Greg Biffle



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Federal investigators are examining the wreckage of a Cessna C550 that crashed in North Carolina on Thursday, killing all seven aboard, including former NASCAR driver Greg Biffle, his wife Cristina, and children Ryder, 5, and Emma, 14. The jet caught fire after departing Statesville Regional Airport and attempting to return amid drizzle and cloudy conditions. Others killed include Dennis Dutton, his son Jack, and Craig Wadsworth. Biffle, 55, won over 50 NASCAR races and was known for humanitarian work. The National Transportation Safety Board and FAA are investigating the cause.

Weekend storm brings heavy snow to Northeast, arctic air grips Midwest

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

A winter storm blanketed parts of the Northeast with heavy snow on Sunday, creating flight delays and icy roads, while the Midwest experienced record-low temperatures. The New York-New Jersey area received several inches of snow, its first major snowfall of the season, while New England saw lighter accumulation. Over 1,000 flights were delayed, and states including New Jersey and Pennsylvania issued travel advisories. Arctic air brought temperatures below zero in parts of Minnesota, reaching -22 degrees in some communities. Meanwhile, the Pacific Northwest braced for more rain and flooding after recent storms.

Missouri appeals court orders new ballot wording for abortion rights measure

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Missouri appeals court on Thursday directed new wording for a 2026 ballot measure that would restrict abortion, requiring voters be told it repeals “reproductive healthcare rights” approved in 2024. The amendment would limit abortion to medical emergencies, fetal anomalies, or cases of rape or incest up to 12 weeks, and prohibit gender transition treatments for minors. The ruling responds to a legal challenge from the ACLU, which argued the previous language was misleading. Missouri Attorney General Catherine Hanaway supported keeping the measure on the ballot, while abortion-rights advocates stressed voters must understand the impact.

Justice Department takes legal action against states over voter records

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The U.S. Justice Department filed lawsuits Thursday against Wisconsin, Illinois, Georgia, and the District of Columbia for refusing to provide voter registration information requested by the Trump administration. The action marks the 22nd such lawsuit as the department seeks detailed voting data nationwide. Wisconsin officials cited state law prohibiting the release of sensitive

voter details, while Georgia noted it shared information in line with privacy protections. Illinois declined to comment. Critics, including Wisconsin Attorney General Josh Kaul, said the lawsuits pursue conspiracy theories, while Assistant Attorney General Harmeet K. Dhillon emphasized the department’s commitment to election integrity. The Justice Department contends states violating federal law by withholding lists containing names, dates of birth, addresses, and partial Social Security numbers.



Kansas tribe ends nearly \$30 million deal with ICE

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

A Kansas based Native American tribe announced on Wednesday that it has withdrawn from a nearly thirty million dollar federal contract related to designing immigration detention centers. The decision followed intense public criticism and internal leadership changes. Members of the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation said the deal conflicted with tribal values, particularly given historical experiences with forced relocation and confinement. Tribal leaders acknowledged the symbolism of detention facilities and said the agreement had caused distress within Indigenous communities.



The tribe said it has fully divested from affiliated entities connected to the contract and plans to review internal processes to prevent similar conflicts in the future. The Department of Homeland Security has not publicly commented on the withdrawal, and questions remain about how the contract was initially awarded.

Pope Leo XIV names Bishop Ronald Hicks as archbishop of New York

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Pope Leo XIV appointed Bishop Ronald Hicks, currently of Joliet, Illinois, as the next archbishop of New York, replacing retiring Cardinal Timothy Dolan. Hicks, a Chicago native, brings decades of experience, including running an orphanage program across nine Latin American and Caribbean countries and overseeing Joliet’s diocese since 2020. His first major task will be managing a \$300 million fund to compensate victims of sexual abuse. Hicks has advocated for immigrant rights and is considered aligned with Pope Leo’s vision for the U.S. church. The New



York archdiocese serves 2.5 million Catholics across Manhattan, the Bronx, Staten Island, and surrounding counties. Clergy and community members praised Hicks as thoughtful, attentive, and prepared to lead one of the nation’s largest dioceses.

Federal judge denies request to close Florida’s Alligator Alcatraz detention center

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

A federal judge in Orlando on Thursday rejected a request to shut down an immigration detention facility in the Florida Everglades known as “Alligator Alcatraz.” The detainee seeking closure, identified as M.A., failed to show irreparable harm, U.S. District Judge Kyle Dudek said. The facility, opened this summer under Governor Ron DeSantis, has faced multiple lawsuits over federal authority and detainee access to legal counsel. Dudek noted that although there may be deficiencies, closing the facility immediately is not justified. Separate lawsuits continue to examine detainees’ rights and environmental concerns.

California school district faces clash over transgender athlete policies



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The Tahoe-Truckee Unified School District near Lake Tahoe is caught between California and Nevada rules on transgender athletes. Traditionally competing in Nevada’s NIAA, the district now must follow California law, which allows students to compete according to gender identity, while Nevada requires participation based on sex assigned at birth. California’s Department of Education is requiring the district to join the California Interscholastic Federation. Officials say the move could increase travel risks for students in snow-prone areas. No transgender students currently compete in district schools, but state and federal conflicts over transgender sports rights complicate compliance.

Four-term North Carolina governor Jim Hunt dies at 88, leaving legacy in education reform

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Four-term North Carolina Governor Jim Hunt, a major figure in state politics and a national leader in education reform, died Thursday at 88, his daughter, Lt. Gov. Rachel Hunt, announced. Serving an unprecedented 16 years in office, Hunt guided North Carolina through its shift from textiles and tobacco to a high-tech economy. Known as a business-oriented progressive, he championed public education and shaped the modern model of the “education governor.” Rachel Hunt said her father devoted his life to expanding opportunity, strengthening communities, and putting people first.



Chicago teenager wins junior title at International Indian Icon Season Nine



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Twelve year old Chicago based Rubik's Cube mosaic artist Sai Khusheel Krishna Bayya won the Junior I Got Talent category at International Indian Icon Season Nine, held from Thursday through Saturday in Naperville, Illinois. Sai Khusheel impressed judges by creating detailed mosaic portraits using 555 Rubik's Cubes, showcasing speed, precision, and artistic skill. Recognized internationally, he has set multiple world records, including completing more than 100 cube mosaic portraits within one hour each, acknowledged by global record organizations. His work includes human portraits, devotional images, and national flags, and has been featured at over 25 events within a year. The junior title marks a major milestone in his artistic journey and strengthens his reputation as one of the most promising young creative talents emerging from the United States with global recognition.

Houston celebrates Diwali's recognition as UNESCO cultural heritage



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Houston hosted a special Diwali celebration last week to mark the festival's inclusion on UNESCO's Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity. The event was organized by the Consulate General of India in collaboration with BAPS Shri Swaminarayan Mandir and several Indo American organizations. The program included ceremonial lamp lighting, cultural performances, and a light display, drawing members of the Indian diaspora and local elected officials. Consul General D C Manjunath highlighted Diwali's universal message of light, harmony, and goodwill, calling the recognition a moment of pride for Indians worldwide. UNESCO inscribed Diwali earlier this month following a week long session of its intergovernmental committee in New Delhi. Indian diplomatic missions across several countries also marked the occasion with cultural events and illuminations.

Rising costs and immigration fears shape Neil Khot's Congressional campaign in Illinois

Staff Writer, IndoUS Tribune

Indian American entrepreneur Neil Khot has launched a grassroots Democratic campaign for the United States House of Representatives from Illinois' Eighth Congressional District, placing affordability and immigration anxiety at the center of his bid. Speaking on Monday, Khot said conversations with voters across the district point to mounting financial pressure, driven by higher insurance premiums, elevated interest rates, rising housing costs, and the growing price of everyday necessities.

Khot said small business owners are also feeling the strain, citing uncertainty around trade and tariff policies that has complicated long term planning and hiring decisions. Immigration enforcement has emerged as another defining concern, with Khot noting that fear and confusion among immigrant families and employers have disrupted livelihoods and local economies. As a first generation immigrant, Khot



said the country must uphold orderly and humane immigration policies while remaining welcoming to newcomers. His platform also emphasizes protecting Medicare and Social Security, safeguarding food assistance programs, and ensuring access to affordable health care.

The Democratic primary is scheduled for Monday in March. The seat is open following Congressman Raja Krishnamoorthi's decision to run for the United States Senate.

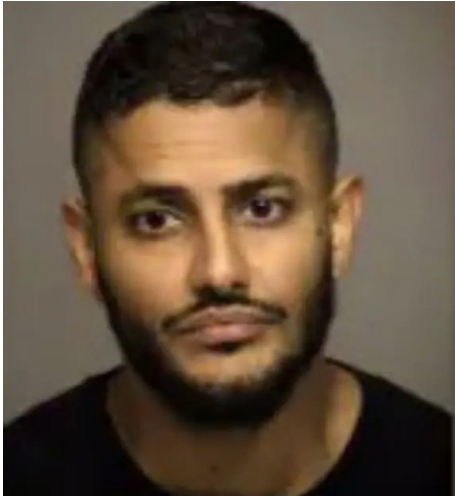
Indian origin cab driver accused of raping unconscious passenger in California

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

An Indian origin cab driver has been charged with raping an unconscious passenger in California, authorities said. Simranjit Singh Sekhon, thirty five, was arrested on Monday following an investigation into a sexual assault reported in Camarillo.

Detectives said Sekhon picked up a twenty one year old woman from a bar in Thousand Oaks early Wednesday morning in November. Investigators allege the victim was intoxicated and fell asleep during the ride. Even after the trip ended, Sekhon allegedly continued driving and sexually assaulted her while she was unconscious.

Sekhon pleaded not guilty during his court appearance. Bail was set at five



hundred thousand dollars, and his next hearing is scheduled for Monday. Authorities said they are investigating whether there may be additional victims and urged anyone with information to come forward.

Three Indian students injured in Bondi Beach terror attack in Australia

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Three Indian students were among those injured in a terrorist attack at Bondi Beach in Sydney, Australian media reported on Tuesday. The shooting occurred during a gathering celebrating the Jewish festival of Hanukkah on Sunday. Authorities said at least fifteen people were killed, including a child, while dozens were injured.

Two of the injured Indian students are believed to be receiving hospital treatment, though their identities have not been disclosed. Police identified the attackers as a twenty four year old man and his father, who opened fire on the crowd.



Five victims remain in critical condition, while two injured police officers are listed as serious but stable. New South Wales Police said the investigation is expanding, including examination of extremist material and international travel links connected to the suspects.

Indian-origin sleep specialist in California faces multiple sexual misconduct allegations

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Milpitas police say multiple sexual misconduct allegations have been made against Indian-origin pulmonologist and sleep specialist Dr. Sanjay Kumar Agarwal, as more alleged victims come forward in an ongoing investigation. Authorities confirmed on Wednesday that two additional individuals have reported alleged misconduct, adding to a case first disclosed earlier this year.

Police initially announced Dr. Agarwal's arrest in September after a patient accused him of inappropriate touching during a consultation. Investigators said the alleged incident took place on a Friday in April at his private practice in Milpitas. Following the announcement, employees and a job applicant also contacted police with similar claims. Dr. Agarwal has received referrals from major South Bay healthcare systems, including Good Samaritan Hospital, El Camino Health, and Regional Medical Center. Police said the investigation remains active and all allegations are being examined.

Indian origin entrepreneur arrested after alleged arson attempt at California winery



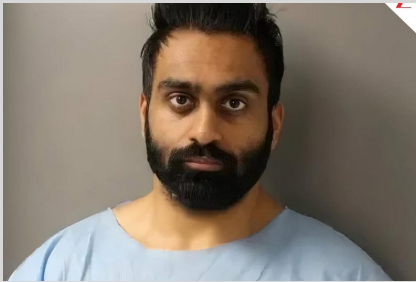
IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

An Indian origin entrepreneur from Menlo Park was arrested on Sunday after allegedly attempting to set fire to a winery in California, authorities said.

Vikram Beri, forty two, was taken into custody at Garrod Farms Estate Winery and Stables in Saratoga after reportedly throwing a wine bottle at staff and attempting to ignite a fire. Officials said Beri later drove his Tesla off an embankment and refused to surrender despite de escalation attempts, prompting officers to use pepperball and spray.

He was booked on charges including assault with a deadly weapon and resisting arrest, and was taken to a hospital for evaluation. Beri is the founder of an online mental health platform and holds a senior business development role at a global agricultural equipment company. The investigation remains ongoing.

Indian origin man charged with killing father in Illinois home



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

A twenty eight year old Indian origin man has been charged with first degree murder after allegedly killing his father with a sledgehammer at their home in Schaumburg, Illinois, authorities said. The incident occurred over the Thanksgiving weekend. Prosecutors said the victim, sixty seven year old Anupam Patel, was found unresponsive by his wife on Friday morning. Abhijit Patel surrendered to police and admitted to striking his father multiple times, court records show. He told investigators he believed he had a religious obligation to commit the act, claims doctors later described as delusional. Patel has been diagnosed with schizophrenia and was previously hospitalized. An active protection order prohibited him from contacting his father. He is being held without bail and is barred from contacting his mother. His next court hearing is scheduled for Friday.

Families suspect mistaken identity in fatal shooting of two Punjabi students in Canada



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Families of two Punjabi students shot dead in Edmonton, Canada, believe the killings may have been a case of mistaken identity, relatives said on Monday. Gurdeep Singh, twenty seven, and Ranvir Singh, nineteen, were shot early Friday local time while sitting inside a car after leaving a friend's birthday party. According to family members, attackers arrived in another vehicle, opened fire, and fled immediately. Ranvir was seated in the driver's seat, while Gurdeep sat beside him. The families said neither victim had known disputes and believe the car may have been mistaken for another target. Gurdeep had been in Canada for over two years awaiting work authorization, while Ranvir had moved to pursue higher education. Canadian police continue to investigate the incident.

Indian origin professional's UK court battle highlights fight for workplace equity

Staff Writer, IndoUS Tribune

A landmark workplace rights case brought by an Indian origin professional has drawn attention to the challenges faced by diaspora women navigating corporate systems in the United Kingdom. Sanju Pal, a non resident Indian from West Bengal, is pursuing a high court appeal in London over what she describes as unfair dismissal and disability discrimination linked to endometriosis, a chronic condition affecting millions of women.

The appeal hearing, held last week, centers on whether endometriosis should be recognized as a disability under the United Kingdom Equality Act of 2010. Pal was dismissed from her role at Accenture United Kingdom Limited in 2019 after failing to secure promotion under a progression based "up or out" model. She argues that the system unfairly penalizes employees for not advancing quickly enough, rather than assessing performance in their existing roles.



Her case has wider significance for immigrant professionals, particularly women of color, who often face additional barriers in competitive work environments. A ruling is expected in the coming weeks and could influence how chronic illness and career progression are treated across the consulting sector.

Indian origin man recalls helping restrain attacker during Sydney beach shooting

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

A n Indian origin man who helped restrain one of the attackers during the deadly shooting at Bondi Beach in Sydney has said he acted instinctively to stop the violence and assist those in danger. Amandeep Singh Bola, 34, born in New Zealand to Indian and Kiwi parents, intervened during the attack on Sunday while a Jewish festival was being celebrated at the beach.



Fifteen people were killed and about 40 others were injured when a father and son opened fire on the crowd. One of the attackers, Sajid Akram, was shot dead at the scene, while his son, Naveed Akram, was injured and taken into custody.

Singh Bola said he ran toward the bridge

where the gunman was firing and pinned him down with the help of a police officer. He recalled initially mistaking the gunshots for fireworks before realizing the seriousness of the situation. Australian authorities have described the incident as a terrorist attack inspired by the Islamic State group.

Canadian police dismantle major auto theft ring, eight Indian-origin suspects among those arrested

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

C anadian authorities have arrested 20 people, including eight individuals of apparent Indian origin, after dismantling a large organized automobile theft network that operated across provinces and international borders. The arrests were announced on Friday following a long-running investigation that led to the recovery of 306 stolen vehicles valued at about 25 million Canadian dollars.

The operation, known as Project Chickadee, was launched in August 2023 after investigators recovered four stolen vehicles in the Greater Toronto Area. The probe uncovered a sophisticated network involved

in vehicle theft, altering vehicle identification numbers, fraud, money laundering, and violations of customs laws. Investigators allege the group used freight-forwarding companies and falsified documents to export luxury cars and high-end sport utility vehicles to markets in the Middle East and West Africa.

Searches carried out in October and November across Ontario and Quebec led to the seizure of cash, firearms, shipping records, vehicle reprogramming equipment, and heavy machinery. Stolen vehicles were intercepted at ports in Montreal, Halifax, and Vancouver. The investigation was led by the Ontario Provincial Police with support from the Canadian Border Services Agency and other partners.

Indian origin man among four killed in South Africa temple collapse



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

A n Indian origin man was among four people killed after a four story Hindu temple under construction collapsed in South Africa's KwaZulu Natal province, officials said. The structure, known as the New Ahobilam Temple of Protection, partially collapsed on Friday while workers were on site. The death toll rose on Saturday as rescue teams recovered additional bodies. One of the victims was identified as Vicky Jairaj Panday, an executive member of the temple trust who managed the construction project. Authorities said the number of people trapped under the rubble remains unclear. Rescue operations were suspended due to bad weather. Municipal officials said no approved building plans were on record, raising questions about the legality of the construction. An investigation into the cause of the collapse is underway.

Indian team wins NASA's 2025 Space Apps Challenge for satellite internet project



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

A Chennai-based team, Photonics Odyssey, won NASA's 2025 International Space Apps Challenge for a sovereign, phased-array satellite internet project to expand broadband access across India's remote regions. The team received the Most Inspirational Award for designing satellite internet as a national public infrastructure, potentially connecting over 700 million underserved people. NASA's global hackathon involved 114,000 participants across 551 events in 167 countries. Winners were chosen from over 11,500 submissions. Indian-origin participants also contributed to winning projects such as Resonant Exoplanets, an AI-based system for detecting exoplanets, and Astro Sweepers, an orbital debris risk intelligence platform. NASA highlighted the challenge's role in promoting global STEM innovation and open data utilization.

EAM Jaishankar meets Israeli leaders to strengthen strategic and economic ties



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar met Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and President Isaac Herzog in Jerusalem on Tuesday and Wednesday, conveying warm greetings from Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President Droupadi Murmu. The discussions focused on deepening India-Israel cooperation across technology, economy, skills, connectivity, and security. Jaishankar also met Israel’s Minister of Economy and Industry Nir Barkat to explore investment and innovation opportunities, expressing confidence in the early conclusion of a Free Trade Agreement. Israeli leaders welcomed the talks, highlighting prospects for regional cooperation, including through the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor. The meetings reaffirmed the strategic partnership between the two countries and emphasized shared goals for regional stability.

Nepal plans climber limits to protect Himalayan environment



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The Nepal government unveiled a five-year plan to reduce waste accumulation on its high mountains, including Mount Everest, by regulating the number and timing of climbers. The Action Plan to Keep Mountains Clean (2025–2029) also mandates trained mountaineering teams to monitor and remove waste and human remains. Climbers must register equipment and return non-biodegradable items, while prayer flags and banners must be biodegradable or removed. The plan includes exploring ropeways and drones for waste collection and conducting feasibility studies for relocating base camps. The measures respond to a Supreme Court directive and aim to prevent environmental degradation while ensuring safer, more sustainable mountaineering activities.

UK court halts refugee evictions, preventing thousands from facing homelessness before Christmas

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

A United Kingdom High Court order on Wednesday halted the eviction of thousands of newly recognized refugees who were at risk of becoming homeless in the lead-up to Christmas. The ruling requires the Home Office to instruct caseworkers to extend the move-on period from government asylum accommodation from 28 days to 56 days when individuals face an imminent risk of sleeping rough. The decision followed legal action and sustained pressure from lawyers and humanitarian organizations after the

government ended a pilot scheme in August that had allowed the longer transition period. Charities, including the British Red Cross, said the extended timeframe significantly reduced street homelessness by giving refugees more time to secure housing, employment, benefits, or education.

The court order is expected to prevent around 3,000 refugees from becoming homeless in the coming weeks, though it does not apply to those already evicted. Campaigners welcomed the ruling but urged the government to make the 56-day move-on period permanent.



Indonesia flood death toll surpasses 1,000 as recovery continues

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Floods and landslides on Sumatra Island have killed more than 1,000 people, with 218 missing, according to Indonesia’s National Disaster Management Agency. The disaster damaged over 1,200 public facilities, 581 schools, 219 health centers, 434 houses of worship, and 145 bridges.

President Prabowo Subianto visited affected areas, promising government support and urging citizens to remain resilient. Military, police, and local agencies are accelerating aid delivery, restoring connectivity, and ensuring security. Experts

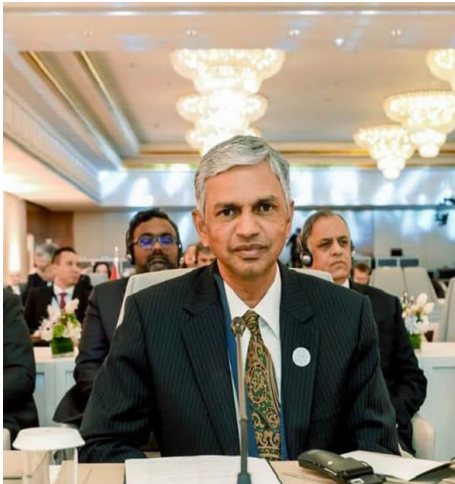


warn climate change is intensifying extreme weather in Asia, and improved early warning systems, spatial planning, and environmental rehabilitation are needed to prevent future casualties.

India highlights global harmony at 11th UNAOC meeting

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

MEA Secretary (East) P Kumaran led India’s delegation at the 11th United Nations Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC) in Riyadh, emphasizing Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam and Sarva Dharma Samabhav, principles of global unity and religious harmony. Speaking at the High-Level Meeting of the Group of Friends of UNAOC, Kumaran underscored the forum’s role in promoting dialogue among nations and cultures. Hosted from December 14–15 under the theme “Two Decades of Dialogue for Humanity,” the event brought together political leaders, faith actors, and civil society representatives to reinforce commitments to mutual respect,



understanding, and peace. UNAOC was established in 2005 by former UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan.

Trump expands US travel ban to 20 additional countries



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

US President Donald Trump signed a proclamation expanding US travel restrictions to 20 more countries and the Palestinian Authority. Five countries now face a full travel ban, while 15 others face partial restrictions. The move affects both visitors and immigrants, though exemptions apply for valid visa holders, permanent residents, diplomats, and certain other travelers. The administration cited security concerns, instability, high visa overstay rates, and challenges in vetting travelers as reasons for the expansion. Recent incidents, including the arrest of an Afghan national accused of shooting National Guard troops near the White House, were also highlighted. The new measures follow earlier travel restrictions announced in June and extend previous limitations.

UN expert condemns Imran Khan’s detention conditions in Pakistan



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The UN Special Rapporteur on torture, Alice Jill Edwards, called on Pakistan to address “inhumane and undignified” detention conditions of former Prime Minister Imran Khan, warning they could amount to torture. Khan has been imprisoned since August 2023 and has reportedly endured prolonged solitary confinement, restricted outdoor access, constant surveillance, and poor ventilation. Edwards highlighted risks to his physical and mental health and urged immediate medical access and compliance with international detention standards. She stressed that indefinite solitary confinement is unlawful under human rights law and must be lifted to prevent further harm to Khan’s wellbeing.

Baloch leader urges Bollywood to expose Pakistan's actions in Balochistan



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Tara Chand, President of the Baloch American Congress, called on the Indian film industry to produce a film revealing Pakistan's "forced occupation" of Balochistan since 1948. He alleged decades of exploitation of the region's natural resources, including gas, minerals, and coastal assets, while its people face oppression. Chand highlighted ongoing resistance and mass human rights abuses, including enforced disappearances, killings, and imprisonment of political activists, students, and professionals. He emphasized the need to bring global attention to these violations and showcase the enduring struggle of Baloch people for freedom.

Migrant boat sinks near Greek island, 28 rescued

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

A boat carrying irregular migrants from Turkey sank near the Greek island of Samos on Tuesday, leaving 28 rescued and three missing. The migrants were found after the vessel hit rocks and were taken to local hospitals, while a seriously injured baby was airlifted to Athens. Strong winds affected rescue operations. Greece remains a key entry point for migrants into the EU, with over one million arrivals since 2015. Recent reports show irregular migration along the Eastern Mediterranean declined by 30 percent in the first 11 months of 2025 compared to 2024, though risks remain high on this dangerous sea route.

Sri Lanka reopens most schools after Cyclone Ditwah

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Sri Lanka reopened 9,929 of 10,076 schools on Tuesday following closures due to Cyclone Ditwah, with 147 schools in Uva, Central, and North Western provinces remaining closed. The Ministry of Education provided free transport for students in affected areas and canceled third-term exams for Classes 6 to 10. Authorities also began reopening tourist sites and implementing recovery measures for the tourism sector, including a long-delayed visa-free entry facility for 40 countries set to begin in January 2026. These efforts aim to resume normal education and restore the economy following the cyclone's disruption.

U.S. soldiers and civilian interpreter killed in ISIS attack in Syria, Trump vows retaliation

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Two U.S. soldiers and a civilian interpreter were killed in an attack by the Islamic State near Palmyra, Syria, on Saturday, prompting President Donald Trump to vow a serious response. The fallen soldiers were Sgt. Edgar Brian Torres Tovar, 25, of Des Moines, Iowa, and Sgt. William Nathaniel Howard, 29, of Marshalltown, Iowa, members of the Iowa National Guard. The civilian interpreter, Ayad Mansoor Sakat, 54, of Macomb, Michigan, was also killed. Three U.S. service members and two Syrian troops were wounded in the ambush, which occurred during a counter-ISIS operation in a region not fully under Syrian government control. Reports indicated that the attacker, affiliated with ISIS, was neutralized by partner forces. President Trump described the



victims as "great patriots" and promised strong retaliation. The incident highlights ongoing security challenges in Syria despite years of U.S.-led operations against ISIS. Syrian authorities have detained suspects linked to the attack and are investigating possible extremist affiliations. The attack underscores the persistent threat from extremist groups and the fragile security situation in the region.

Cambodia-Thailand border conflict displaces hundreds of thousands as fighting continues

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The ongoing border conflict between Cambodia and Thailand has displaced nearly 400,000 civilians, with no ceasefire in sight. Fighting resumed over the weekend, involving artillery strikes, rocket fire, and air raids along contested border areas. Thai officials reported that Cambodian forces fired rockets into civilian neighborhoods in Si Sa Ket Province, killing one civilian and damaging homes. Cambodia has accused Thailand of retaliatory attacks in other border regions. Women and children make up a large portion of those displaced, creating urgent humanitarian needs. Thailand has imposed curfews in affected border provinces, including Trat and Sa Kaeo, to protect residents from ongoing attacks. Both governments blame each other for initiating



hostilities, and diplomatic efforts have yet to yield a resolution. The renewed violence follows clashes earlier in the year, which killed dozens and forced thousands to flee. Humanitarian agencies are working to provide shelter, food, and medical aid to the displaced population, while regional partners continue to urge restraint and mediation to prevent further escalation.

Belarus signals potential thaw in U.S. relations if 2020 election dispute is acknowledged

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko has indicated that relations with the United States could improve if Washington recognizes that efforts to overturn his 2020 re-election were unsuccessful. Lukashenko, who has ruled Belarus since 1994, faced widespread protests following the contested election, which critics described as fraudulent, while Russia continued to support him. In remarks to U.S. media, Lukashenko emphasized pragmatism, saying the two nations could find common ground if the U.S. acknowledged the

outcome without publicly framing it as a loss. He cited recent diplomatic efforts, including the release of 123 political prisoners facilitated by U.S. envoys, as a step toward constructive engagement.

Lukashenko also proposed potential collaboration on international issues such as Venezuela and questioned why Belarus should remain under suspicion. He stressed that improving ties could prevent current tensions from affecting future generations, signaling a possible shift toward more cooperative relations with the United States on regional and global matters.

Pakistan's underground economy thrives amid weak formal systems

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Pakistan's underground economy is expanding rapidly through hawala networks, crypto transactions, fake invoices, and unreported real estate investments, according to a report in the Daily Times. Financial expert Jawad Saleem notes that bureaucratic delays, excessive taxation, and compliance hurdles drive businesses and freelancers to informal

channels. Offshore crypto wallets, encrypted chats, and cross-border settlements in Dubai, Malaysia, Bangladesh, and Turkey allow rapid, untraceable transactions. The shadow economy undermines macroeconomic stability, slowing bank deposits, limiting private-sector lending, and forcing government borrowing. The IMF estimates Pakistan loses over 6 percent of GDP annually to unrecorded financial flows, larger than its defense budget.

Trump says Gaza stabilization force is operational and expanding

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

U.S. President Donald Trump said Monday that an international stabilization force is already operating in Gaza and is expanding, with contributions from more than 59 countries, including those outside the Middle East. He claimed the initiative is part of a broader effort to maintain peace, deter armed groups, and support post-conflict stabilization. Trump linked the relative calm in the region to US military action against Iran and diplomatic engagement. He said additional countries are joining the force to help ensure stability and prevent renewed violence in Gaza, signaling broad international support for maintaining regional security.

Czech president appoints new cabinet led by Andrej Babis

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Czech President Petr Pavel appointed a new cabinet on Monday, headed by Prime Minister Andrej Babis, following the October parliamentary elections. Babis, leader of the ANO party, previously served as Prime Minister from 2017 to 2021. The coalition cabinet includes 15 ministers from ANO, the Freedom and Direct Democracy party, and Motorists for Themselves, holding 108 of 200 seats in the Chamber of Deputies. Pavel urged the government to act responsibly amid security and economic pressures and emphasized its role in the EU and NATO. Four cabinet members also serve as deputy prime ministers, including Karel Havlicek and Alena Schillerova from ANO.

North Korea opens second modern regional hospital



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

North Korea inaugurated its second modern regional hospital in Kusong City as part of leader Kim Jong-un's push to strengthen public health services nationwide. Kim toured the facility, describing it as a model for modernizing healthcare in regional areas. The hospital follows the recent opening of Kangdong County Hospital near Pyongyang. The Workers' Party plans to build modern hospitals simultaneously in 20 cities and counties next year, aiming to improve medical education, workforce quality, and facility management. Kim called 2025 the "first year of the public health revolution" and reaffirmed his commitment to advancing health services across North Korea.

Ruling alliance and opposition clash over proposed rural jobs law

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The ruling alliance and the opposition locked horns on Thursday over the introduction of the Viksit Bharat Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission Bill, which seeks to replace the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act. Opposition parties staged protests outside Parliament, accusing the government of removing Mahatma Gandhi's name and weakening the right to work. The government defended the Bill, saying it expands employment coverage and raises guaranteed workdays to 125 by integrating livelihood programs. Opposition leaders argued the demand driven nature of the earlier law was being diluted and called for wider scrutiny, with several parties demanding the Bill be sent to a joint parliamentary committee.

Special team charges former Karnataka lawmaker in voter deletion case



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

A Special Investigation Team on Friday filed chargesheets in the alleged electoral roll manipulation case linked to the Karnataka Assembly elections, naming former Bharatiya Janata Party legislator Subhash Guttadar and his son among the accused. Investigators allege nearly six thousand voters were illegally removed from the rolls in Aland using cyber centers. The probe began after complaints from election officials and public allegations raised by a Congress legislator. The chargesheet claims money was paid to facilitate the deletions. Officials said the investigation uncovered coordinated efforts to influence voter lists and undermine the electoral process. The case is now before a trial court.

Goa nightclub owners brought back after Thailand deportation

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Police brought nightclub owners Saurabh and Gaurav Luthra to Goa on Wednesday, a day after their deportation from Thailand, in connection with the deadly fire at a North Goa nightclub that killed 25 people. The brothers had left India hours after the blaze and were detained by Thai authorities before being sent back.

Investigators allege the club violated fire safety and building regulations, including the use of flammable materials and inadequate exits. A case of culpable homicide not amounting to murder has been registered. Police said the brothers will face custodial questioning as the investigation into negligence and safety lapses continues.

Delhi court declines to take up Enforcement Directorate case against Sonia and Rahul Gandhi

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

A Delhi court on Tuesday refused to take cognizance of the Enforcement Directorate's prosecution complaint against Congress leaders Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi in the National Herald money laundering case, providing significant relief to the two senior politicians. Special Judge Vishal Gogne of the Rouse Avenue Court ruled that the complaint filed under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act was not maintainable at this stage.

The Enforcement Directorate had named several proposed accused, including Sam

Pitroda, Suman Dubey, Sunil Bhandari, Young Indian, and Dotex Merchandise Private Limited. The court clarified that the agency remains free to continue its investigation in accordance with the law.

The case relates to allegations that Congress leaders conspired to gain control of assets worth more than \$240 million belonging to Associated Journals Limited, the publisher of the National Herald newspaper, through Young Indian by paying about \$60,000. The Congress leadership has consistently denied the charges, calling the case politically motivated. The controversy originated from a complaint filed in 2012 by Subramanian Swamy.



Congress left unsettled after being rejected by voters, says Haryana chief minister in Assembly

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini told the Assembly on Friday that the Opposition Congress has been left unsettled after being decisively rejected by voters. Responding during Question Hour in the Winter Session, Saini said the party's loss of public confidence has pushed its leaders to make what he described as baseless allegations, including claims of vote theft. He stressed that the people's mandate was clear and reflected a rejection of the Congress's past policies and governance.

Addressing a question on below poverty line cards, the chief minister said the government introduced a transparent self declaration process, with verification planned after elections to remove ineligible names. He noted



that the income limit was raised to make benefits more inclusive and rejected claims of irregularities as misleading.

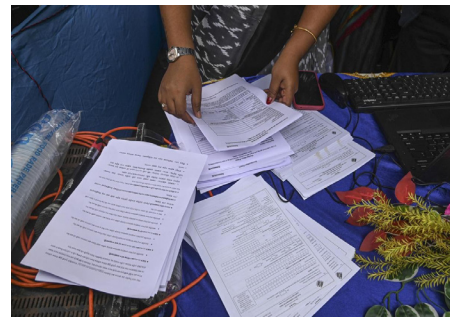
Replying to a separate query, Saini said the steady strengthening of Haryana's road network over the past eleven years has unsettled the Opposition. He emphasized that the government remains focused on delivery, citing ongoing infrastructure projects and improved connectivity across the state.

Election Commission releases draft voter rolls after intensive revision drive

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The Election Commission on Tuesday published draft electoral rolls for West Bengal, Rajasthan, Goa, Puducherry, and Lakshadweep following a special intensive revision exercise. Officials said nearly five point eight million voters were removed from the rolls in West Bengal, accounting for over seven percent of the electorate, due to reasons such as death, migration, duplication, and failure to submit enumeration forms.

Rajasthan recorded more than four million deletions, while smaller numbers were reported in Goa, Puducherry, and Lakshadweep. In West Bengal, the highest deletions were seen in Kolkata North and Kolkata South, where large migrant



populations were identified.

The claims and objections process began on Tuesday, allowing eligible voters to seek corrections or re inclusion. The Election Commission said the final electoral rolls will be published after completion of the review process.

Mumbai reports sharp rise in missing children cases



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Mumbai police reported a troubling rise in missing children cases on Friday, with 145 minors reported missing over seven months, including 93 girls. Officials said 82 cases were recorded within just over a month, with teenagers accounting for the majority.

Police also confirmed cases involving very young children, including girls below five years of age. The reports span multiple police jurisdictions across the city, indicating a widespread problem. Authorities suspect human trafficking may be a key factor and said detailed investigations are underway. Child rights groups have renewed calls for a dedicated citywide child safety alert system.

BJP secures historic win in Thiruvananthapuram local elections

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The Bharatiya Janata Party-led NDA claimed a historic 50-seat victory in the 101-member Thiruvananthapuram municipal corporation, marking a major political shift in Kerala's capital on Saturday. The result was seen as a setback for the ruling Left Democratic Front, while the Congress-led United Democratic Front retained control in four out of six municipal bodies and 14 district panchayats.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi hailed the result as a "watershed moment," while Kerala BJP leaders highlighted the mandate as a sign of growing public support. Congress MP Shashi Tharoor also acknowledged the BJP's performance, noting it reflected changing voter sentiment in the city.

Mumbai civic polls set for January with results next day

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Elections for Maharashtra's civic bodies, including Mumbai's Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation, will be held on January 15, with results announced the following day. Voting will take place across 29 municipal corporations, 32 district councils, and 336 panchayat samitis.

The BMC, Asia's richest municipal body, is a key political battleground, with the BJP aiming to unseat the Shiv Sena faction of Eknath Shinde. Opposition parties, including the Maha Vikas Aghadi, are also mobilizing strongly. The elections, long delayed due to ward delimitation and legal disputes, are expected to set the tone for Maharashtra's political landscape ahead of upcoming state polls.

West Bengal to rename Karmashree scheme after Mahatma Gandhi amid NREGA row



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Kolkata Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee announced on Thursday that West Bengal's rural job guarantee programme, Karmashree, will be renamed in honor of Mahatma Gandhi. The decision came amid criticism of the BJP-led government's move to replace the 20-year-old Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act with the VB-G RAM G scheme. Speaking at a business conclave in Kolkata, Banerjee said the state will continue providing up to 75 workdays under Karmashree, aiming to increase it to 100, even if central funds are withheld. She criticized the Centre for reducing MGNREGA allocations, calling it a burden on grassroots workers.

Enforcement Directorate authorized to probe Sabarimala gold theft case

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The Kerala vigilance court on Friday allowed the Enforcement Directorate to investigate the Sabarimala gold theft, dismissing objections from the Special Investigation Team. The court ordered that all related documents, including the FIR and remand reports, be handed over to the ED to examine alleged money laundering linked to the theft. While the SIT opposed a parallel investigation, the court held that sharing records would not impede the case. In a related development, the Kerala High Court denied bail to former Travancore Devaswom Board officials N. Vasu and Murari Babu, accused of falsifying records that facilitated the theft. Seven arrests have been made in connection with the case.

Supreme Court upholds land acquisition near Takiya Masjid in Ujjain

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The Supreme Court on Thursday refused to interfere with the Madhya Pradesh High Court's decision approving land acquisition near Takiya Masjid in Ujjain for the Mahakal Lok Phase-II project. The land is intended for expanding parking facilities for Mahakaleshwar Temple devotees. Justices Vikram Nath and Sandeep Mehta dismissed the special leave petition, noting that statutory remedies under Section 64 of the Land Acquisition Act remain available. Out of nearly 250 affected families, over 230 accepted compensation and vacated the land. Senior advocate Huzefa Ahmadi argued that a social impact assessment was missing, but the apex court upheld the acquisition, confirming alternative remedies for the remaining occupants.

Delhi rolls out 'No pollution certificate, no fuel' rule amid severe smog

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Delhi enforced strict anti pollution measures on Thursday as the city brought the 'No pollution certificate, no fuel' rule into effect, denying fuel to vehicles without a valid Pollution Under Control certificate. The government also barred entry of non Bharat Stage VI vehicles registered outside Delhi, while continuing the ban on trucks carrying construction material and ongoing construction activity under the Graded Response Action Plan.

Environment Minister Manjinder Singh Sirsa said the measures were necessary as residents remained exposed to hazardous air quality. He confirmed that Wednesday was the final day to obtain valid pollution certificates and warned that enforcement would be strict. Authorities have set up 126 checkpoints across



the city, deployed police personnel at borders and petrol pumps, and activated automated number plate recognition cameras and voice alerts to ensure compliance.

The government also mandated fifty percent work from home across public and private offices to reduce traffic. Additional steps include mechanized road cleaning, traffic management reforms, and plans to use real time data from digital mapping platforms to identify and address pollution hotspots across the capital.

Enforcement agency uncovers 2,300-crore cryptocurrency scam

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The Enforcement Directorate conducted raids across Himachal Pradesh and Punjab on Saturday, exposing a cryptocurrency and multi-level marketing scam worth approximately Rs 2,300 crore. Investigators allege that the group, led by Subhash Sharma who fled India in 2023, ran fraudulent platforms promising high returns while functioning as Ponzi schemes.

Searches revealed manipulation of token prices, repeated rebranding of platforms, and extensive laundering of investor funds through shell companies, personal accounts, and property deals. Investigators



also froze bank deposits and seized critical documents. The case is being pursued under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act, the Indian Penal Code, and other statutes, with further investigation ongoing.

Bihar minister Nitin Nabin appointed BJP national working president

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Bihar Minister Nitin Nabin was appointed the Bharatiya Janata Party's National Working President on Sunday, a move approved by the party's Parliamentary Board. Nabin, currently the minister for Road Construction in Bihar, has served as a four-term MLA and comes from a family with a long political legacy.

Party leaders, including Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, congratulated Nabin, describing him as young, energetic, and



deeply committed to organizational work. The appointment comes as BJP transitions its top leadership structure following JP Nadda's completed term. Nabin is expected to strengthen the party's presence nationally and oversee organizational activities.

PM SVANidhi scheme empowers street vendors and small businesses

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The Prime Minister Street Vendor's AtmaNirbhar Nidhi (PM SVANidhi) Scheme has transformed lives of street vendors by offering affordable credit and reducing dependence on moneylenders. In Sheikhpura, Bihar, beneficiaries like Bipin Kumar, Shobha Devi, and Usha Devi have used loans to expand shops, start businesses,

and achieve financial independence. Sheikhpura Municipal Council confirmed 1,092 loans have been sanctioned under the program. Initially providing \$120 loans, PM SVANidhi 2.0 allows eligible vendors up to \$300, with future loans reaching \$2,400. The scheme has enhanced livelihoods, promoted dignity, and enabled differently-abled and vulnerable families to become self-reliant while securing a sustainable income.

8th International Ramayan Conference begins at IIT Roorkee

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The eighth International Ramayan Conference started on Thursday at IIT Roorkee, bringing together scholars, saints, and researchers from India and abroad to explore the Ramayana's relevance to education, sustainability, and ethical leadership. Around 150 research papers will be presented in hybrid mode, with proceedings published as an e-book. IIT Roorkee director Prof. K.K. Pant highlighted that the institute's "Kul geet" draws inspiration from the Ramcharit Manas, emphasizing service to society. The three-day conference, jointly organized with Shri Ramcharit Bhavan, USA, included an inaugural address by Mahamandaleshwar Swami Hari Chetnanand Ji, who praised the Ramayana as a guide for character building, devotion, and social harmony in modern life.

GOBARDHAN scheme drives Gujarat's clean and self-reliant villages

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Gujarat is promoting clean, self-reliant villages through the GOBARDHAN scheme, integrating waste management, renewable energy, and rural livelihoods. By Thursday, over 12,000 biogas plants were constructed, providing clean fuel, organic manure, and employment opportunities. Phase I and II benefited 12,243 households, with 7,423 and 4,820 plants installed, respectively. The state government has allocated \$3.1 million to install 10,000 more plants, fully funded by the state. Farmers report improved crop yields and reduced fuel costs. Beneficiaries from general, SC, and ST communities owning two or more cattle can avail the scheme, which advances rural sanitation, health, organic farming, and women's self-help initiatives.

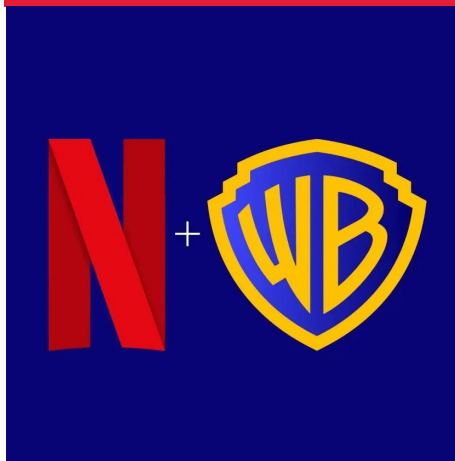
Bihar police probe threatening video targeting CM Nitish Kumar



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Bihar police launched an investigation on Wednesday after a threatening video targeting Chief Minister Nitish Kumar went viral. The video, allegedly linked to a Pakistani gangster, is under technical scrutiny to trace its origin. Director General of Police Vinay Kumar confirmed the case is being handled by Inspector General Patna, citing its sensitivity and potential security implications. The controversy follows a December 15 incident where Nitish Kumar removed a female doctor's hijab during an appointment ceremony. The Rashtriya Janata Dal criticized the act and demanded a public apology, claiming it hurt women and minority sentiments. The police continue collecting information and monitoring social media activity.

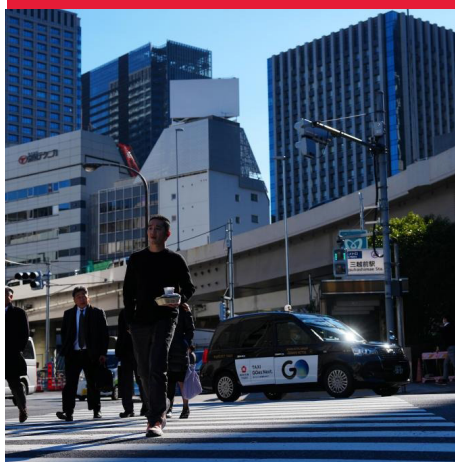
Netflix strengthens Warner Bros. deal as Paramount's \$108 billion bid rejected



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Warner Bros. has rejected Paramount's \$108 billion offer, siding with Netflix's \$82 billion acquisition proposal. The studio's board cited Paramount's reliance on borrowed funds and potential risks tied to the Ellison family backing as key reasons. Netflix co-CEOs Ted Sarandos and Greg Peters visited Warner Bros. studios in Burbank to reassure shareholders about maintaining theatrical windows for films and preserving the studio's legacy. The deal would see Netflix acquire Warner Bros.' movies, HBO, DC, and its content library, while Paramount's offer included all assets, including CBS and CNN, raising editorial concerns. The Warner Bros. board recommended Netflix, highlighting the company's \$400 billion valuation and stable financial backing as safer for shareholders.

BOJ raises interest rates to 30-year high at 0.75 percent



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The Bank of Japan raised its key policy rate to 0.75 percent, the highest since September 1995. The decision, announced on Friday, marks the fourth hike under Governor Kazuo Ueda, reflecting a shift from decades of near-zero rates. Rising inflation and improving business confidence prompted the move, despite Japan's economy contracting at an annualized rate of 2.3 percent last quarter. The central bank said real rates will remain negative and accommodative financial conditions will continue supporting growth. The yen weakened against the dollar to around 156.02, while the Nikkei 225 jumped 1.42 percent as investors welcomed clarity on policy direction. BOJ officials left the door open for further tightening if wage and price growth remain strong.

United States signals India's business role in Pax Silica as supply chain and AI strategy widens

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The United States on Wednesday said India remains a key business and strategic partner in global supply chain security and advanced technologies, even though New Delhi was not part of the initial Pax Silica framework. Washington dismissed speculation that India's absence reflected trade or political friction.

Speaking at a briefing hosted by the Foreign Press Centre, Under Secretary of State for Economic Affairs Jacob Helberg said trade negotiations and supply chain cooperation are separate processes and confirmed that engagement with India is ongoing. He said United States officials are in near-daily contact with Indian counterparts and are working

to deepen collaboration on technology and manufacturing.

Launched last week, Pax Silica brings together countries central to semiconductor production and advanced technology supply chains, including Japan, South Korea, Singapore, Israel, Australia, and the United Kingdom. The initiative marks a shift from a narrow focus on chips to securing the full artificial intelligence value chain, including data centers, energy, critical minerals, and logistics.

Helberg said the framework aims to reduce single points of failure and encourage co-investment across allied economies. He added that India's expanding semiconductor incentives and artificial intelligence ambitions position it as a natural future participant.



Canada expects tariff talks to merge into CUSMA review amid new U.S. demands

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Prime Minister Mark Carney said on Thursday that sector specific tariff negotiations with the United States are unlikely to proceed independently and are expected to merge into the broader Canada United States Mexico Agreement review scheduled to begin in 2026. Carney said Canada remains willing to engage in immediate discussions if Washington reopens talks, but acknowledged that short term relief for tariffs on steel, aluminum, and lumber appears unlikely. Trade discussions were paused earlier this year after the province of Ontario aired an anti tariff advertisement in the United States, which U.S. officials viewed as provocative.

Since then, Washington has outlined a series of demands expected to shape the upcoming review, including expanded access to Canada's



dairy market, changes to digital streaming regulations, federal procurement rules, and provincial alcohol sales restrictions. Carney emphasized that any revised trade framework must safeguard Canadian workers, domestic industries, and economic sovereignty, adding that Canada would not accept concessions that undermine long term national interests.

France urges delay as EU moves to finalize Mercosur trade deal

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

France has called on the European Union to postpone plans to sign a long-awaited free-trade agreement with the Mercosur bloc, citing unresolved concerns over protections for European farmers. French officials emphasized that safeguard measures, equal production standards, and tighter import controls must be secured before any approval.

The European Commission, however, is pushing to finalize the deal by the end of the year, with President Ursula von der

Leyen scheduled to meet Mercosur leaders in Brazil later this week. Supporters, including Germany, Spain, and several Nordic countries, argue the agreement will boost exports of cars, machinery, wines, and spirits, while opening the EU market to South American goods such as beef, sugar, and soybeans.

Tensions are rising as up to 10,000 farmers plan protests during the EU leaders' summit, and the European Parliament will vote on safeguard measures to address agricultural concerns before final approval in early 2026.

Australian court fines ANZ \$165 million over misconduct in bond deal

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Australia's Federal Court fined ANZ Group A\$250 million (\$165.3 million) for misconduct in a A\$14 billion government bond deal and other actions affecting taxpayers and retail customers. The penalties stem from four separate cases across institutional and retail banking divisions. A\$135 million of the total relates to institutional misconduct, including A\$80 million for unconscionable conduct and A\$50 million for inaccurate secondary bond market reporting. ASIC Chair Joe Longo emphasized the fines highlight the seriousness of the misconduct and called for overhauling non-financial risk management. Justice Jonathan Beach increased the reporting penalty by A\$10 million. ANZ did not immediately comment on the ruling.

Toyota to sell three U.S.-made models in Japan from 2026

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Toyota plans to sell U.S.-made Camry, Highlander, and Tundra vehicles in Japan starting next year to boost U.S.-Japan trade relations. The move is part of Toyota's broader investment in U.S. production, including a \$13.9 billion North Carolina battery plant and a \$10 billion five-year investment in U.S. manufacturing. The automaker has also increased hybrid vehicle production. The reverse imports initiative comes as Tokyo seeks to address trade balance concerns with the United States. Toyota aims to leverage its U.S.-made vehicles to strengthen bilateral relations while meeting growing demand for hybrid and electric models.

Ben & Jerry's board faces further shakeup under Magnum ownership



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Ben & Jerry's independent board announced that three additional directors must complete training, sign a new code of conduct, and meet term limits by December 23 or face removal. Magnum, the new corporate parent, already removed the board chair Anuradha Mittal and imposed term limits on two other directors. The board, responsible for overseeing social mission and product integrity, argues these actions violate the 2000 merger agreement with Unilever, Magnum's previous owner. The company plans to add Magnum as a defendant in its ongoing lawsuit alleging interference in social advocacy. Magnum said the actions were part of compliance with its code of business integrity, denying any "allegiance pledge."

Acer, Asus, and Hisense win UK ruling in Nokia patent dispute



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Acer, Asus, and Hisense won a ruling from London’s High Court in a global video streaming patent dispute with Nokia. The court granted an interim license requiring the companies to pay \$0.365 per device, bridging the gap between Acer and Asus’s \$0.03 proposal and Nokia’s \$0.69 request. The ruling allows operations while the court decides fair, reasonable, and non-discriminatory (FRAND) licensing terms. Judge James Mellor cited prior interim licensing precedents, including Amazon and Samsung cases. Nokia has signaled intent to appeal. Separate U.S. and European lawsuits on patent infringement by the same companies remain ongoing.

Bharti Airtel names Shashwat Sharma as Airtel India managing director and chief executive

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Bharti Airtel announced on Thursday that its board has approved the appointment of Shashwat Sharma as Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of Airtel India, effective from January 1, 2026, subject to shareholder approval. Sharma, currently Chief Executive Officer designate, will serve a five year term and will be designated as a key managerial personnel. The board also approved the elevation of Gopal Vittal to Executive Vice Chairman as a whole time director for five years starting January 2026. In addition, Somen Ray was appointed Group Chief Financial Officer, while Akhil Garg will take charge as Chief Financial Officer for Airtel India. Rohit Krishan Puri was named Company Secretary and Compliance Officer, with Pankaj Tewari continuing as Group Company Secretary.

India ranks third globally in tech startup funding despite slower investment flows

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

India’s technology startups raised \$10.5 billion in 2025, ranking the country third globally behind the United States and the United Kingdom, according to a report released on Thursday by market research firm Tracxn. Funding declined 17 percent from 2024 and was slightly lower than 2023 levels, reflecting tighter capital deployment. India recorded 14 funding rounds exceeding \$100 million, compared with 19 the previous year. Transportation and logistics technology, environment technology, and auto technology led large deals. Early stage funding rose 7 percent to \$3.9 billion, while late stage funding fell 26 percent to \$5.5 billion. Five unicorns were created during the year, and Bengaluru remained the top startup hub, accounting for 32 percent of total funding.

IBM commits to training five million Indians in AI and emerging technologies by 2030

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

IBM announced on Friday that it will train five million learners in India by 2030, focusing on artificial intelligence, cybersecurity, and quantum computing. The initiative will be delivered through IBM SkillsBuild and aims to expand access to job ready digital skills for students and adult learners nationwide. IBM said it will work with institutions such as the All

India Council for Technical Education to support curriculum integration, faculty training, internships, and hackathons. Chairman and Chief Executive Officer Arvind Krishna said India has the talent to become a global leader in advanced technologies if access to skills is democratized. The program also includes school level initiatives, with new AI curricula, teaching resources, and responsible AI modules to strengthen early exposure to emerging technologies.



India leads global markets with strongest shareholder returns over the past decade

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

India’s capital markets delivered the highest total shareholder returns globally over the past ten years, averaging 15.2 percent annually between 2015 and 2025, according to a report released on Thursday by Boston Consulting Group. The performance outpaced the S and P 500, which delivered 13.6 percent, the European Union 350 index at 7 percent, and major Asia Pacific markets including Japan, China, and Singapore. The report said India’s gains were driven not only by revenue growth but also by margin improvement and valuation expansion. Strong performance came from sectors such as industrials, green energy, metals and mining, and technology. Family owned businesses stood out, delivering an average 20.7 percent shareholder return due to long term investment strategies.



United States investment manager charged in alleged Anduril pre public offering fraud

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

A New York investment manager has been charged with securities fraud, wire fraud, and aggravated identity theft for allegedly defrauding investors through a fake pre public offering scheme linked to defense technology company Anduril Industries, United States prosecutors said on Sunday. Giovanni Pennetta, manager of Sestante Capital, was arrested at John F Kennedy International Airport and accused of falsely claiming he could provide access to non public Anduril shares. Prosecutors said he raised millions of dollars without having any connection to the company. Anduril, valued at \$30 billion following a funding round in June, warned investors that any offer not made



directly by the company is likely a scam. The case highlights growing risks as high value private technology firms remain closed to public investment.

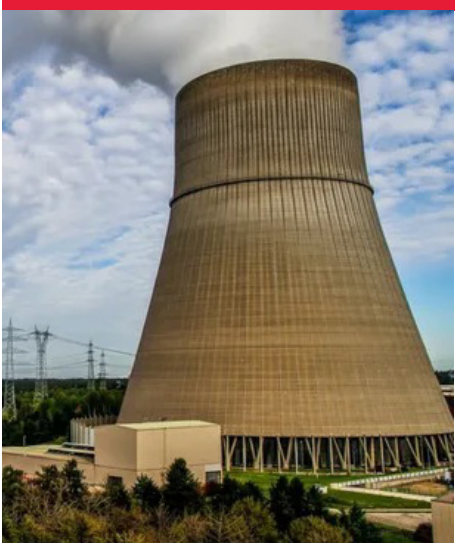
China imposes reduced anti dumping tariffs on European Union pork imports



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

China will impose anti dumping tariffs of up to 19.8 percent on pork imports from the European Union, its Commerce Ministry announced on Tuesday, sharply lower than the preliminary duties that had reached as high as 62.4 percent. The decision follows an investigation launched after the European Union imposed provisional tariffs on electric vehicles made in China. The ministry concluded that European pork and pig by products were sold in China at prices below production or domestic market levels, causing harm to China’s pork industry. The final tariffs, ranging from 4.9 percent to 19.8 percent, will take effect from Wednesday and remain in place for five years. Spain, the Netherlands, and Denmark are expected to be the most affected. The tariffs apply to all pork products, including fresh, frozen, dried, smoked, and salted items.

India clears legislation to allow private firms into civil nuclear power sector



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

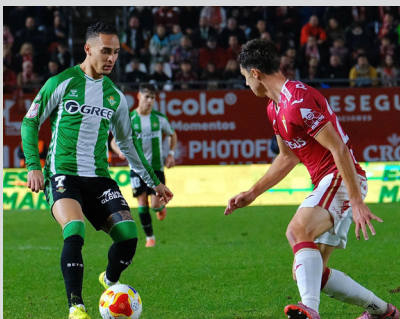
India’s Parliament approved legislation on Thursday to open the country’s civil nuclear power sector to private companies, marking a major shift in energy policy. The bill passed both houses of Parliament and now awaits presidential assent, which is expected as a formality. The government says the move will accelerate clean energy expansion and help India meet climate goals, including plans to install 100 gigawatts of nuclear capacity by 2047. Supporters argue the reform breaks decades of state dominance and encourages investment, including in emerging technologies such as small modular reactors. Opposition parties warned that the legislation weakens safety and liability protections and sought further parliamentary review. Officials said the framework retains core safety and regulatory safeguards. India currently relies heavily on coal for electricity and remains one of the world’s largest emitters of greenhouse gases, making nuclear power a key part of its long term energy strategy.

Head and Carey put Australia firmly in control on day three of third Ashes Test



Travis Head produced a commanding unbeaten 142 as Australia reached 271 for four at stumps on Friday, extending their lead over England to 356 runs on day three of the third Ashes Test in Adelaide. Alex Carey supported him with an unbeaten 52 in a decisive fifth-wicket stand. Earlier, England were bowled out for 286 after captain Ben Stokes scored 83 and shared a spirited ninth-wicket partnership with Jofra Archer. England made early inroads in Australia's second innings but failed to apply sustained pressure. Head, dropped on 99, registered his second century of the series and fourth against England.

Athletic Bilbao and Betis advance to Copa del Rey last 16 after tough away wins



Athletic Bilbao and Real Betis booked their places in the Copa del Rey last 16 on Thursday after hard-fought away victories, while Getafe suffered a surprise exit. Athletic Bilbao needed extra time to overcome third-tier Ourense, with Mikel Jauregizar scoring the decisive goal in the 107th minute on a rain-soaked pitch. Betis defeated Real Murcia 2-0, taking the lead through a Cucho Hernandez penalty before an own goal sealed the result late on. Getafe were eliminated after losing 3-1 to Burgos despite taking an early lead. Several top-flight teams have already exited the competition, underlining the unpredictability of this round.

Messi's India tour marred by chaos as Kolkata unrest eclipses star visit

Lionel Messi's much-celebrated 'GOAT India Tour' ended on a controversial note after scenes of chaos at Kolkata's Yuba Bharati Krirangan overshadowed the football icon's visit. While Messi later shared a commemorative video highlighting moments from Mumbai, Delhi, and Hyderabad, the Kolkata stadium event was notably absent, fueling further debate around the troubled leg of the tour.



The Kolkata appearance drew tens of thousands of fans on December 13, with the stadium filling hours before the scheduled program. As Messi arrived, security arrangements collapsed under

the pressure of the crowd, leaving many ticket holders unable to see him. The Argentine star remained on the field for barely 20 minutes before leaving amid mounting disorder.

Following his exit, unrest spread through the venue, with reports of vandalism, damaged seating, and spectators forcing entry onto the field. The fallout quickly turned political. Event organizer Satadru Dutta was arrested, the West Bengal government ordered a judicial probe, and Sports Minister Aroop Biswas resigned, taking moral responsibility for the lapses.

Despite the turmoil, Messi thanked Indian fans for their warmth and expressed hope for football's future in the country. However, the Kolkata unrest has become the defining narrative of a tour that was meant to celebrate the global game.

NASCAR community mourns Greg Biffle after fatal North Carolina plane crash

NASCAR is mourning the loss of former champion Greg Biffle, who was killed Thursday in a small plane crash at Statesville airport in North Carolina. Biffle, 55, was believed to be among seven victims, including his wife Cristina and two children, according to authorities and a family statement.



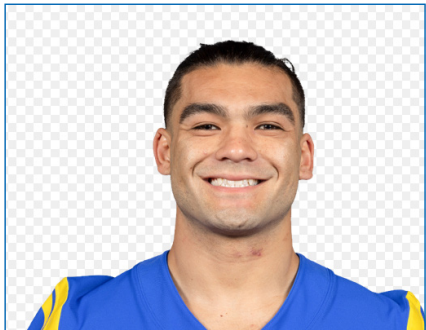
Biffle was a former Truck Series and Xfinity Series champion and spent most of his career driving for Roush Fenway Racing. Across NASCAR's three national series, he made more than 800 starts and won 54 races, including 19 at the Cup Series level.

Beyond racing, Biffle earned widespread respect for his humanitarian work,

particularly his helicopter rescue missions following Hurricane Helene. NASCAR, fellow drivers, and state leaders praised his compassion and courage. The tragedy has sent shockwaves through the tight knit racing community, which remembered Biffle as both a fierce competitor and a generous leader.

NFL condemns antisemitism following controversy without naming Rams receiver

The National Football League issued a strong statement Thursday condemning antisemitism after a video surfaced showing Los Angeles Rams receiver Puka Nacua performing a touchdown celebration that included an antisemitic gesture. The league's statement did not mention Nacua by name or reference the specific incident.



The NFL said hatred and discrimination have no place in sports or society and emphasized its commitment to addressing the rise of antisemitism worldwide. There has been no indication from the league that disciplinary action will be taken against Nacua. Nacua separately apologized, stating he was unaware that the gesture carried antisemitic meaning.

The Rams also released a statement condemning antisemitism but did not directly reference the player or announce any punishment. Team officials declined further comment, and the statement was not posted on official team platforms. The matter is expected to be addressed internally, consistent with past league practices.

Shruti Vora wins three silver medals for India in Asian dressage championships

Indian equestrian Shruti Vora delivered a standout performance at the Asian Continental Championships in Pattaya, Thailand, winning three silver medals in dressage on Thursday. Riding Magnanimous, she finished second in the freestyle to music individual event with a score of 73.800 percent. Vora also claimed silver in the intermediate individual category and helped India secure second place in the team dressage competition alongside Gaurav Pundir and Divyakriti Singh. China topped both individual events, while Thailand won team gold. Vora, who trained at Mumbai's Amateur Riders' Club before moving to Germany, said the achievement reflected years of dedication and strengthened India's presence in international equestrian sport.



India claim 56 medals at Asian Youth Para Games in Dubai

India finished the Dubai Asian Youth Para Games with an impressive haul of 56 medals, including 19 gold, as the event concluded on Saturday. The Games featured about 1,500 athletes from 35 nations and saw 25 records broken, including nine world records. Bangladesh and the Maldives won their first ever medals at the competition. Uzbekistan topped the medals table, followed by Iran and Japan. India's standout performances included gold for Baby Sahana Ravi in para table tennis and a silver by Vishwa Vijay Tambe, underlining the country's growing strength in youth para sports.



Luis Enrique hails historic year after PSG win FIFA Intercontinental Cup



Paris Saint-Germain coach Luis Enrique praised his team's mentality after they won the FIFA Intercontinental Cup on Thursday, defeating Flamengo on penalties following a 1-1 draw in Qatar. Goalkeeper Matvei Safonov starred in the shootout by saving four spot-kicks. The victory capped an extraordinary year for PSG, who also secured a treble and their first UEFA Champions League title. Enrique said the team showed the same commitment throughout the season and credited the blend of experience and youth in the squad. Midfielder Vitinha was named player of the match. PSG will next turn their focus to domestic commitments before a brief holiday break.

World Athletics to introduce half marathon and marathon race walks in 2026



World Athletics will introduce half marathon and marathon distances to race walk events beginning in 2026, president Sebastian Coe confirmed on Tuesday. The changes will debut at the World Athletics Race Walking Team Championships, where the traditional 20 kilometer race will be replaced by a half marathon, and the 35 kilometer event will shift to a full marathon. Coe said the move would make the sport more accessible for fans by using familiar distances. The update aligns with the Los Angeles 2028 Olympic program, which will feature only the half marathon walk for men and women. Officials expect the revised format to remain long term.

WNBA players authorize potential strike as contract talks stall

The Women's National Basketball Association Players Association announced on Thursday that its members have voted overwhelmingly to authorize a strike if negotiations on a new collective bargaining agreement fail to progress. The current agreement was extended through Thursday in January after months of stalled discussions between the league and players.

According to the union, 98 percent of participating members supported the strike authorization, signaling strong unity but not an immediate work stoppage. Players are pushing for a pay structure tied to league revenue, along with improvements to facilities, roster sizes, retirement benefits, child care support, and permanent charter flight access.



League officials have proposed revenue sharing and a maximum salary exceeding \$1 million for multiple players per team, but gaps remain. Several league events could be affected if talks collapse, including the expansion draft and the college draft scheduled for April. Players have described the negotiations as a defining moment for the league's future.

Betting interest cools as College Football Playoff opens with uneven matchups

Sportsbooks are seeing muted betting activity ahead of the first round of the College Football Playoff, with several matchups viewed as lopsided. Aside from Friday's highly anticipated Oklahoma versus Alabama game, oddsmakers report limited excitement from bettors.

Tulane and James Madison, the two Group of Five representatives, enter their games as heavy underdogs. Mississippi opened as a double digit favorite over Tulane, while Oregon is heavily favored against James Madison. Sportsbook officials said many bettors are waiting for more competitive games in later rounds.

Oklahoma's home matchup against Alabama has drawn the most attention, with

the betting line fluctuating throughout the week. Despite losing the conference title game, Ohio State remains the championship favorite, followed closely by Indiana. Analysts expect betting volume to increase during the quarterfinals, particularly on New Year's Eve and New Year's Day.



Judge dismisses Enhanced Games lawsuit after organizers decline to refile

A federal judge has dismissed an \$800 million lawsuit filed by the Enhanced Games after organizers declined to refile the case within the required time window. The lawsuit alleged that World Aquatics, the World Anti Doping Agency, and USA Swimming worked together to discourage athletes from competing in the new series.

United States District Judge Jesse Furman dismissed the case in November, giving Enhanced Games 30 days to address legal deficiencies.

On Thursday, the World Anti Doping Agency confirmed that the deadline had passed. The judge ruled that the lawsuit failed to show World Aquatics held monopoly power in elite sports markets.

Enhanced Games officials said privately they chose not to refile because of recent success signing swimmers and concerns about complicating a planned public offering. The series plans to debut in May, offering \$250,000 prizes while allowing performance enhancing substances under medical supervision.

Carlos Alcaraz and coach Juan Carlos Ferrero end seven year partnership



World number one Carlos Alcaraz announced on Wednesday that he has parted ways with longtime coach Juan Carlos Ferrero, ending a seven-year collaboration. Ferrero guided Alcaraz from his teenage years to six Grand Slam titles, including multiple French Open and United States Open victories. Both described the decision as emotional but mutual, emphasizing pride in what they achieved together. Alcaraz credited Ferrero for shaping him both as a player and a person, while Ferrero said the partnership had been one of the most meaningful chapters of his career. Alcaraz has not yet announced a new coaching arrangement as he prepares for the next phase of his career.

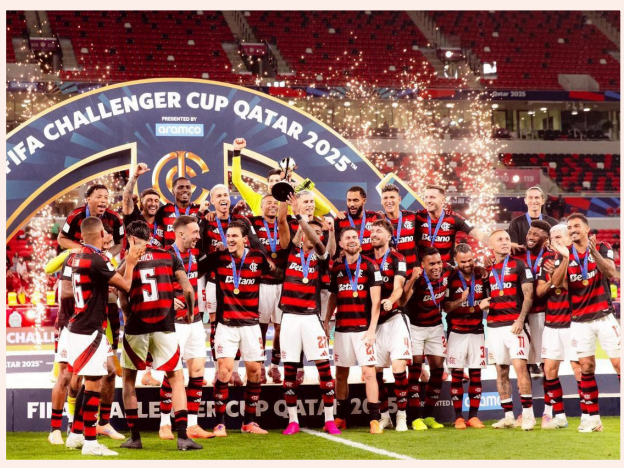
Formula One confirms return to Portugal for 2027 and 2028 seasons



Formula One announced on Tuesday that it will return to Portugal in 2027 and 2028 under a new agreement with the Portuguese government and race promoters. The Algarve International Circuit in Portimao will host the races, having previously staged events during the pandemic seasons of 2020 and 2021. The circuit is known for its elevation changes and technical challenges, making it popular with drivers and fans. Formula One chief executive Stefano Domenicali welcomed the return, citing strong local support and growing global demand to host races. Portugal has a long history in the sport, including Ayrton Senna's first career victory in Estoril.

Mbappe and Rodrygo secure key La Liga win for Real Madrid

Kylian Mbappe and Rodrygo scored as Real Madrid earned a 2-1 away victory over Alaves on Sunday, cutting the gap to league leaders Barcelona to four points. Mbappe opened the scoring midway through the first half, while Rodrygo netted the winner after Alaves equalized through Carlos Vicente. Barcelona stayed top with a home win over Osasuna, while Sevilla thrashed Oviedo and Celta Vigo claimed their first home victory of the season. A scheduled match between Levante and Villarreal was postponed due to severe weather conditions.



De Arrascaeta inspires Flamengo win to reach Intercontinental Cup final

Giorgian de Arrascaeta delivered two assists as Flamengo defeated Pyramids 2-0 on Saturday to win the FIFA Challenger Cup and advance to the Intercontinental Cup final. Leo Pereira and Danilo scored from set pieces as Flamengo dominated possession and controlled the match. The Brazilian club, which had beaten Cruz Azul earlier in the week, will now face Paris Saint Germain in the final on Wednesday. The victory highlighted Flamengo's tactical discipline and De Arrascaeta's creative influence in midfield during a composed performance in Doha.

Tom Cruise to play world's most powerful man in new film 'Digger'



Tom Cruise will star as the world's most powerful man in Alejandro González Iñárritu's upcoming film "Digger," set to release on October 2, 2026. Warner Bros. and Legendary Entertainment released the first poster and teaser, describing the movie as "a comedy of catastrophic proportions." Cruise plays Digger Rockwell, who embarks on a frantic mission to prove he is humanity's savior before a disaster he triggered destroys everything. The ensemble cast includes Sandra Hüller, John Goodman, Michael Stuhlbarg, Jesse Plemons, Sophie Wilde, Riz Ahmed, and Emma D'Arcy. Shot in the U.K., "Digger" marks Iñárritu's first English-language film since "The Revenant." Cruise also produces the film, co-writing the script with Iñárritu and previous "Birdman" collaborators Nicolas Giacobone and Alexander Dinclaris.

Nick Jonas turns to Bollywood track for pre-show hype



Hollywood singer Nick Jonas shared Friday that he has adopted the Bollywood song "Shararat" from Aditya Dhar's "Dhurandhar" as his new pre-show hype track. In an Instagram video, Jonas and his team energetically danced to the number sung by Madhubanti Bagchi and Jasmine Sandlas, with music by Shashwat Sachdev. The track features sizzling choreography by actresses Ayesha Khan and Krystle D'Souza. Jonas previously enjoyed Hrithik Roshan and Kiara Advani's "Aavan Jaavan" from "War 2" as his pre-show song. His wife, Priyanka Chopra, reshared his post on Instagram, praising his choice. The clip highlights how the couple embraces each other's culture and supports one another, with Chopra recently celebrating the Jonas Brothers leaving their handprints at TCL Chinese Theatre in Los Angeles.

Eurovision announces 35 participating countries amid boycotts

Organizers of the Eurovision Song Contest confirmed on Monday that 35 countries will compete in next year's Vienna finale, after five nations — Iceland, Ireland, the Netherlands, Slovenia, and Spain — announced a boycott over Israel's inclusion. The 2026 contest marks the event's 70th anniversary. Three countries, Bulgaria, Moldova, and Romania, return

after recent absences. Political tensions surrounding Israel's participation, including protests over the Israel-Hamas war and alleged vote manipulation, have overshadowed the music competition. Eurovision draws over 100 million viewers annually, and organizers emphasized that most European Broadcasting Union members supported Israel's right to compete despite the controversy.



Fans worldwide celebrate Jane Austen's 250th birthday

Fans of Jane Austen marked the author's 250th birthday on Tuesday with church services, museum visits, and a virtual celebration connecting enthusiasts worldwide. Austen, born in 1775, lived her last years in Chawton, England, where she wrote six beloved novels including 'Pride and Prejudice' and 'Sense and Sensibility.'

Jane Austen's House hosted talks, tours, and performances for dozens of visitors, culminating in a Zoom party attended by more than 500 participants from countries including Chile, Kazakhstan, and Belarus. Regency attire was encouraged, adding to the festive atmosphere. A church service in Austen's birthplace of Steventon included music and readings.



Fans, known as "Janeites," have celebrated throughout 2025 with balls, festivals, and special events in the U.K., U.S., and beyond. Lizzie Dunford, director of Jane Austen's House, described the yearlong celebration as filled with "laughter, love, community, and inspiration."

Haruki Murakami honored with awards and jazzy tribute in New York

Japanese novelist Haruki Murakami received two major honors in Manhattan last week celebrating his literary career. On Tuesday, the Center for Fiction awarded him its Lifetime of Excellence in Fiction Award, joining past recipients such as Toni Morrison and Kazuo Ishiguro. Two days later, the Japan Society hosted a jazzy tribute titled "Murakami Mixtape" at The Town Hall, presenting him with its annual award for fostering U.S.-Japan cultural connections.

Fans enjoyed music, readings, and reflections on Murakami's works, including "Kafka on the Shore" and "The Wind-Up Bird Chronicle," alongside rare short stories and essays. The event featured live jazz led by Jason Moran and bassist Reggie



Workman, blending literature with music. Murakami, 76, reflected on his enduring love for jazz and shared philosophical musings on New York City. The celebrations highlighted both his global literary impact and personal passions.

Rapper Kay Flock sentenced to 30 years for Bronx shootings



Rapper Kay Flock, born Kevin Perez, was sentenced Tuesday to 30 years in prison for multiple shootings in the Bronx, ending a music career that was just gaining momentum. U.S. District Judge Lewis J. Liman criticized Perez for glorifying violence on social media and leading a gang known as Sev Side/DOA between 2020 and 2021, during which several people were injured or killed. Perez was convicted of racketeering conspiracy and attempted murder, and the sentence reflects his role in four separate shootings. The judge noted Perez's potential but stressed the need to protect the community. Perez told the court he had changed since his teenage years, saying, "What I was at 18 is not what I am today." The case underscores ongoing concerns about youth involvement in gang-related violence in urban areas.

Rob and Michele Reiner's deaths ruled homicide, son charged with murder

The Los Angeles County Medical Examiner confirmed that film director Rob Reiner and his wife, photographer Michele Singer Reiner, died from multiple sharp force injuries, ruling their deaths a homicide. Their bodies were found at their Brentwood home on Sunday. Their son, Nick Reiner, was arrested the same day and charged with two counts of first-degree murder and use of a deadly weapon. He appeared in court on Wednesday wearing a protective vest and did not enter a plea. Tributes poured in from peers and family, and the release of Reiner's final film has been delayed.

Peter Greene, known for 'Pulp Fiction' and 'The Mask,' dies at 60



Actor Peter Greene, recognized for villainous roles in 'Pulp Fiction' and 'The Mask,' died at his New York City home on Friday at age 60. Greene's manager confirmed he was found unconscious in his Lower East Side apartment, though the cause of death was not disclosed. Known for roles in 'The Usual Suspects' and 'Training Day,' Greene also earned acclaim for 'Clean, Shaven.' His manager described him as a talented actor with a gentle, kind-hearted side. He is survived by his son Ryder and siblings.

Friday, 19 December 2025

Leonardo DiCaprio admits he has never watched 'Titanic'

Hollywood actor Leonardo DiCaprio revealed Wednesday that he has never watched his blockbuster film "Titanic."

Speaking with Jennifer Lawrence, DiCaprio admitted he rarely views his own movies, citing "The Aviator" as the only exception due to his personal connection with the role of Howard Hughes. The actor noted that experiencing a film as a collaborator rather than only an actor made "The Aviator" a formative project. DiCaprio previously shared with director Paul Thomas Anderson that he avoids rewatching his performances. The revelation comes decades after "Titanic" became a global phenomenon and earned multiple Oscars, underscoring the actor's unique approach to his career and detachment from reliving his iconic roles.

Amy Schumer and husband Chris Fischer announce separation



Comedian and actress Amy Schumer revealed on Friday that she and chef Chris Fischer have decided to end their seven-year marriage. Married in February 2018 in Malibu, California, the couple share a son born in May 2019. Schumer asked for privacy, saying the split is amicable and that they will continue focusing on raising their child. The duo collaborated on the Food Network show "Amy Schumer Learns to Cook" and the HBO mini-series "Expecting Amy," which documented her pregnancy. Schumer's Hulu dramedy "Life & Beth" is also partially inspired by her marriage to Fischer.

Merriam-Webster names 'slop' as 2025 word of the year

Merriam-Webster announced on Monday that "slop" is its 2025 word of the year, reflecting the rise of low-quality digital content fueled by AI. Originally referring to soft mud in the 1700s, the term now describes absurd videos, fake news, and poorly generated AI content. Greg Barlow, the dictionary's president, noted the word's spike in searches shows growing public awareness of misinformation and desire for genuine content. Other top words include "performative," "gerrymander," "touch grass," "conclave," "tariffs," and the 45-letter Massachusetts lake name, highlighting the mix of cultural, political, and viral influences shaping language this year.

Wiz Khalifa sentenced to nine months in Romania for drug possession



American rapper Wiz Khalifa was sentenced Thursday by a Romanian court to nine months in prison for drug possession following a 2024 music festival incident. Police said Khalifa, whose real name is Cameron Jibril Thomaz, smoked cannabis on stage at the Beach, Please! Festival in Costinesti, Constanta County, and was found with over 18 grams of cannabis.

A lower court had previously fined him

3,600 lei (\$830), but prosecutors appealed seeking a stricter sentence. Romanian law criminalizes cannabis possession for personal use, with penalties ranging from three months to two years in prison or fines.

It remains unclear if authorities will pursue extradition, as Khalifa is a U.S. citizen. The 38-year-old rapper gained fame with his mixtape 'Kush + Orange Juice' and performed his hit 'Young, Wild & Free' during the festival.

Shilpa Shetty denies involvement in Best Deal TV case

Actress Shilpa Shetty on Thursday issued a statement strongly rejecting attempts to link her to the ongoing Best Deal TV legal case, calling the allegations baseless and legally untenable. She clarified that her role with the company was strictly non-executive, with no involvement in operations, finances, decision-making, or signing authority.

Shilpa noted her family had loaned nearly Rs. 20 crore to the company, which remains unpaid, and that she endorsed products for the channel purely in a professional capacity. She described attempts to assign her criminal liability as "mischievous" and legally unsustainable. With a quashing petition filed in the Bombay High Court, Shilpa said she has



full faith in the judicial process and urged the media to verify facts before reporting.

James Cameron confirms Schwarzenegger will not return to next 'Terminator'

Director James Cameron revealed Thursday that Arnold Schwarzenegger will not appear in the next "Terminator" film, saying it is time for a new generation of characters. Schwarzenegger, 78, first portrayed the T-800 in 1984 and had returned for "Terminator: Dark Fate." Cameron, 71, emphasized the need to explore broader interpretations of the franchise, including time war and superintelligence themes. The filmmaker is currently finishing work on the latest "Avatar" film and confirmed he will then focus on developing the new "Terminator" installment. While Schwarzenegger's absence is notable, it is not unprecedented, as he also skipped 2009's "Terminator: Salvation" while serving as California governor. Cameron



said he is still refining the film's premise and narrative.

Subhash Ghai calls for global reform to combat greed



Veteran filmmaker Subhash Ghai spoke Friday about the urgent need to reduce greed and promote collective well-being for a brighter future. On Instagram, he shared a video emphasizing reforms in the educational system, highlighting how pseudo-knowledge and exploitation in professions hinder global progress. An elderly woman in the clip stressed that true education should cultivate better human beings, not selfish individuals. Ghai added that while creativity cannot be directly taught, education must be undone to allow independent thinking. Professionally, the filmmaker announced his upcoming film starring Riteish Deshmukh, sharing a throwback picture of the actor from "Apna Sapna Money Money" and hinting at the identity of the female lead.

CBFC clears Kichcha Sudeep's 'Mark' for U/A release

The Central Board of Film Certification has cleared Vijay Kartikeya's action film "Mark," starring Kichcha Sudeep, for release with a U/A certificate. Produced by Sathya Jyothi Films and Kichcha Creations, the movie is set for worldwide release on Thursday, December 25. Sudeep praised his team's dedication, noting comedian Yogi Babu's unique work style kept the shoot lively and unpredictable. The film also stars Roshini Prakash, Deepshika, Naveen Chandra, Guru Somasundaram, Vikranth, and Yogi Babu. Cinematography is by Shekar Chandra, with music by Ajaneesh B Loknath. Stunts are choreographed by Stunt Silva, Supreme Sundar, Vikram Mor, and Kevin Kumar, while Shobhi Paulraj handled the dance sequences. Sudeep described "Mark" as a collaborative effort, highlighting the cast and crew's hard work.

Amitabh Bachchan explains delay of 'Ikki's' to January 1 release

Megastar Amitabh Bachchan shared Thursday that late actor Dharmendra's final film, "Ikki," has been postponed to January 1 after the strong second weekend of "Dhurandhar." Originally slated for October 2 and then December 25, the war drama directed by Sriram Raghavan follows Second Lieutenant Arun Khetarpal during the 1971 India-Pakistan War. Bachchan noted astrologers consider the new release date a good omen. The film also marks the debut of his grandson, Agastya Nanda, alongside Jaideep Ahlawat and Simar Bhatia. Bachchan, currently hosting the new season of "Kaun Banega Crorepati," called the shift "shagun" and encouraged audiences to look forward to the film's release.

आंध्र प्रदेश की आराधना यात्रा

श्री अन्नावरम सत्यानारायण स्वामी मंदिर (पूर्वी गोदावरी)



IndoUS Tribune की 'यात्रा और दर्शन' श्रृंखला में आपका एक बार फिर स्वागत है। भारत की आध्यात्मिक और सांस्कृतिक धरोहर को पाठकों तक पहुँचाने की इस विशेष यात्रा में हम आंध्र प्रदेश के प्रसिद्ध मंदिरों के दर्शन कर रहे हैं। इस यात्रा के नौवें पड़ाव पर हम पहुँचे हैं पूर्वी गोदावरी जिले में स्थित अन्नावरम सत्यानारायण स्वामी मंदिर, जो श्रद्धा, विश्वास और सत्य का अद्भुत केंद्र है। यह मंदिर केवल पूजा का स्थान नहीं है, बल्कि यह हमें सिखाता है कि सत्य, धर्म और भक्ति से जीवन कैसे आगे बढ़ता है। यही कारण है कि यहाँ देश-विदेश से लाखों श्रद्धालु आते हैं।

मंदिर का नाम 'अन्नावरम' कैसे पड़ा ?

'अन्नावरम' शब्द अन्न (भोजन) से जुड़ा है। मान्यता है कि इस क्षेत्र में पहले हमेशा अन्नदान होता था, यानी किसी को भूखा नहीं लौटाया जाता था।

एक और मान्यता के अनुसार, भगवान यहाँ अपने भक्तों को उनके इच्छित वरदान (अनिवारम) देते हैं, इसलिए इस स्थान का नाम अन्नावरम पड़ा।

मंदिर की स्थापना और दैवीय कथा

कहा जाता है कि गाँव के एक ब्राह्मण एरंकी प्रकाशम और उस समय के जमींदार राजा इनुगंती वेंकट रामारायणम को भगवान विष्णु ने स्वप्न में दर्शन दिए।

भगवान ने उन्हें बताया कि उनकी मूर्ति रत्नगिरि पहाड़ी पर बिना पूजा के पड़ी है और उसे खोजकर स्थापित किया जाए। सन 1891 में मूर्ति की खोज हुई और वहीं मंदिर की नींव रखी गई। समय के साथ यह मंदिर पूरे भारत में प्रसिद्ध हो गया।

भगवान सत्यदेव का अनोखा स्वरूप

अन्नावरम मंदिर की सबसे बड़ी विशेषता है — भगवान

सत्यदेव का त्रिमूर्ति स्वरूप।

यहाँ एक ही मूर्ति में तीनों देव विराजमान हैं:

- नीचे का भाग – भगवान ब्रह्मा
- मध्य भाग – भगवान शिव
- ऊपरी भाग – भगवान विष्णु

यह भारत के गिने-चुने मंदिरों में से एक है जहाँ ब्रह्मा, विष्णु और महेश एक साथ पूजे जाते हैं। इसी कारण यह मंदिर वैष्णव और शैव, दोनों भक्तों के लिए समान रूप से पवित्र है।

रत्नगिरि पहाड़ी और पंपा नदी

मंदिर रत्नगिरि पहाड़ी पर स्थित है, जो लगभग 300 फीट ऊँची है। इस पहाड़ी के पास बहने वाली पंपा नदी को भी बहुत पवित्र माना जाता है। मान्यता है कि यह नदी भक्तों के पाप धोकर उन्हें शांति देती है।

मंदिर की बनावट और उसका अर्थ

मंदिर द्रविड़ शैली में बना है और इसका आकार रथ (चैरियट) जैसा है।

- रथ के पहिए सूर्य और चंद्रमा का प्रतीक हैं
- यह बताता है कि समय निरंतर चलता रहता है
- गर्भगृह ब्रह्मांड के केंद्र का प्रतीक माना जाता है

इस बनावट से यह संदेश मिलता है कि ईश्वर पूरे ब्रह्मांड में व्याप्त हैं।

सत्यानारायण व्रत का विशेष महत्व

अन्नावरम पूरे भारत में सत्यानारायण व्रत के लिए प्रसिद्ध है। यह व्रत लोग करते हैं:

- विवाह के लिए
- गृह प्रवेश के लिए
- संतान, शिक्षा और नौकरी के लिए
- व्यापार, स्वास्थ्य और सुख-समृद्धि के लिए



पुराणों के अनुसार, स्वयं भगवान विष्णु ने यह व्रत देवर्षि नारद को मानव कल्याण के लिए बताया था। आज भी यहाँ रोजाना हजारों श्रद्धालु यह व्रत करते हैं।

मंदिर परिसर के अन्य दर्शनीय स्थल

मंदिर परिसर में और भी कई पवित्र स्थान हैं:

- श्री सीता राम मंदिर (क्षेत्रपाल)
- वना दुर्गा और कनक दुर्गा मंदिर
- ग्राम देवी नेरेलम्मा मंदिर
- आसपास के कई प्राचीन मंदिर, जिनका संरक्षण अन्नावरम ट्रस्ट करता है

तिरुपति के बाद दूसरा सबसे बड़ा तीर्थ

आंध्र प्रदेश में श्रद्धालुओं की संख्या के लिहाज से अन्नावरम को तिरुपति के बाद दूसरा स्थान प्राप्त है।

यहाँ प्रतिदिन लगभग 5,000 से अधिक भक्त दर्शन के लिए आते हैं।

निष्कर्ष

अन्नावरम सत्यानारायण स्वामी मंदिर IndoUS Tribune की आंध्र प्रदेश मंदिर यात्रा का एक अत्यंत महत्वपूर्ण पड़ाव है। यह स्थान हमें सिखाता है कि सत्य, श्रद्धा और सेवा से जीवन में शांति और समृद्धि आती है।

IndoUS Tribune की यह यात्रा आगे भी आपको भारत की आध्यात्मिक धरोहर से जोड़ती रहेगी।

हमारा अगला पड़ाव होगा: श्री क्षेत्र द्वारका तिरुमला, जिसे 'आंध्र का छोटा तिरुपति' कहा जाता है। तब तक के लिए, भगवान सत्यदेव की कृपा आप सभी पर बनी रहे।

Shreemad Bhagwat Gita - As I understand

Chapter Seventeen: Shraddha Traya Yoga (The Yoga of Threefold Faith)



Rajendra Kapil
Phone: 847-962-1291

This chapter begins with a question asked by Arjuna.

**Ye shastra-vidhim utsrija yajante shraddhayanvitah |
Tesham nishtha tu ka Krishna sattvam aho rajastamah || (1)**

Meaning:

Arjuna said: O Krishna! Those who abandon the injunctions of the scriptures and worship with full faith—what is the nature of their faith? Is it sattvic, rajasic, tamasic, or of some other kind?

O Lord, those who, knowing the scriptural rules—or even knowing them yet neglecting them—perform sacrifices and other auspicious acts driven only by faith, what is the state of their mind? In such circumstances, to which category do these acts belong—sattvic, rajasic, or tamasic?

To remove Arjuna's curiosity, Lord Krishna explains that just as every being possesses three qualities—sattva, rajas, and tamas—so too faith among living beings is of three kinds. The purity and quality of faith are judged according to the yogi's intention, attitude, and objective.

**Trividha bhavati shraddha dehinam sa svabhavaja |
Sattviki rajasi chaiva tamasi cheti tam shrinu || (2)**

Meaning:

The Blessed Lord said: The faith of embodied beings, born of their own nature, is of three kinds—sattvic, rajasic, and tamasic. Hear about this from Me.

Along with faith, the Lord also discusses ahara—food. Food too is of three kinds: sattvic, rajasic, and tamasic.

A pure yogi prefers fresh, juicy, nourishing, and vegetarian food—food that increases strength and intellect, enhances happiness and harmony, and keeps the mind pure and calm. Such food is called sattvic food.

A rajasic yogi is inclined toward hot, spicy, and strongly flavored food. For such a person, the taste of the tongue is more important than nourishment.

A tamasic yogi often prefers tasteless, stale, or meat-based food. Such food produces lethargy in the body and sometimes even illness. Yet a tamasic person is not disturbed by laziness or sickness; instead, they accept it as a way of life and remain



absorbed in it. Thereafter, Lord Krishna explains the three types of faith in detail.

Sattvic Faith

Sattvic faith is the state in which a yogi performs yajna, worship, and rituals according to scriptural injunctions with pure intent. Worship performed for the realization of God or for the welfare of society is called sattvic faith.

In such worship, learned and wise people are respectfully invited and honored. After the rituals, they are served food and given appropriate donations, and blessings are received. Such worship and faith are considered sattvic.

Even if every rule of scripture is not perfectly followed, the result remains sattvic. This faith leads the yogi toward God-realization. Such yogis do not desire the fruits of their actions; they act selflessly, and therefore they surely receive auspicious results.

**Shraddhaya paraya taptam tapas tat trividham naraih |
Aphalakankshibhir yuktaih sattvikam parichakshate || (17)**

Meaning:

Austerity performed with supreme faith by those who desire no reward and are devoted to discipline is called sattvic austerity.

Rajasic Faith

A yogi with rajasic faith is highly self-centered. Such a person performs worship for specific personal gains. Often, there is an element of show in their actions.

They perform rituals to demonstrate to family and society how great a devotee they are. If they donate to a temple or institution, they want a large plaque displaying their name so that people continuously praise them. Their aim is to earn worldly admiration. Purity of heart is

less, while desire for material pleasures is greater.

**Yattu pratyupakartham phalam uddishya va punah |
Diyate cha pariklishtam tad danam rajasam smritam || (21)**

Meaning:

That charity which is given with the expectation of something in return, or with a desire for reward, and given reluctantly, is considered rajasic charity.

Tamasic Faith

Austerities and sacrifices performed stubbornly, with ignorance, impure thoughts, and impure speech are called tamasic faith. The main intention here is to wish harm to others or pray for their suffering.

Such tamasic yogis even perform charity with a feeling of contempt. For example, if a poor and unclean sadhu comes asking for food, the tamasic person may feed him but will not allow him to come close. The sadhu is seated far away, and food is sent through a servant. Their hearts are filled with disgust and disdain.

They may go to a temple and pray that someone's business should fail or that another person should suffer severe physical pain. If such misfortune actually occurs, these tamasic individuals feel pleasure. Such faith is called tamasic faith.

**Adeshakale yaddanam apatrebhyashcha diyate |
Asatkritam avajnatam tat tamasam udahritam || (22)**

Meaning:

Charity given at an improper place, at an improper time, to unworthy persons, and without respect or with contempt is called tamasic charity.

A beautiful example of tamasic faith is found in the Ramayana. During the war between Rama and Ravana, when Ravana is rendered unconscious by Lakshmana's arrow and falls in his chariot, his charioteer brings him safely to the palace. After regaining consciousness, Ravana begins to think of a way to win the war. He conceives of a yajna that could grant him immortality. He immediately begins preparations for this sacrifice, driven by the intention of destruction of others. This yajna was inspired by tamasic faith.

Vibhishana learns of Ravana's plan and informs Lord Rama. Rama sends Angada and other warriors, who destroy this tamasic yajna:

"The auspicious monkeys destroyed the ritual and returned safely to Lord Rama. The demon, enraged, marched forth, having abandoned all hope of life."

After explaining all three types of faith, Lord Krishna clearly tells Arjuna that among them, sattvic faith is the highest. A pure yogi should strive only for this. Worship should be performed with Vedic mantras, austerities with the sound of Om, remembrance and kirtan of the Lord, and proper respect for elders and gurus.

One should always follow the righteous path, serve the poor and distressed selflessly, and honor deserving recipients through charity. There should be no show or pretence in daily life. Every action should be performed without attachment to results and offered to the Lord. Such simple, pure-hearted devotees are extremely dear to Him.

May this Shraddha Traya Yoga make all our lives sattvic and pure. May we always seek purity of heart and the grace of the Lord's feet, and dedicate our lives naturally and selflessly to the service of society.

For this divine knowledge of the Lord, we offer our countless salutations.

Rethinking youth culture

Saving values, confronting addiction

By: Ashwani Mahajan

It is deeply concerning to see a growing number of Indian youth drifting away from their Sanskar, the moral values, discipline, and cultural grounding that have shaped generations, and becoming entangled in drug abuse and destructive lifestyles. What was once a society rooted in strong family bonds, respect for elders, and shared traditions now faces a serious challenge as addiction and moral confusion rise among young people.

Drug abuse has become a steadily growing problem in India. While multiple factors contribute, the rapid spread of mobile phones, social media, and the internet has dramatically altered the social landscape. Technology itself is not the enemy. It brings progress and opportunity, but unchecked and excessive use has created serious setbacks, especially for impressionable minds.

Traditionally, Sanskars were passed down through daily interaction with parents and grandparents, through conversations, stories, shared meals, and lived examples. Today, these moments are disappearing. Families may live under the same roof, yet emotionally and mentally, many are worlds apart. Young people are absorbed in screens, disconnected from meaningful dialogue, while exposure to vulgar, violent, or addictive online content distorts values and character.



Alongside this moral drift, drug addiction and criminalization among youth are rising alarmingly. Academic pressure, job uncertainty, mental health challenges, and constant social media comparison drive

many toward substance abuse. Drugs often become a form of self-medication when mental health support is lacking.

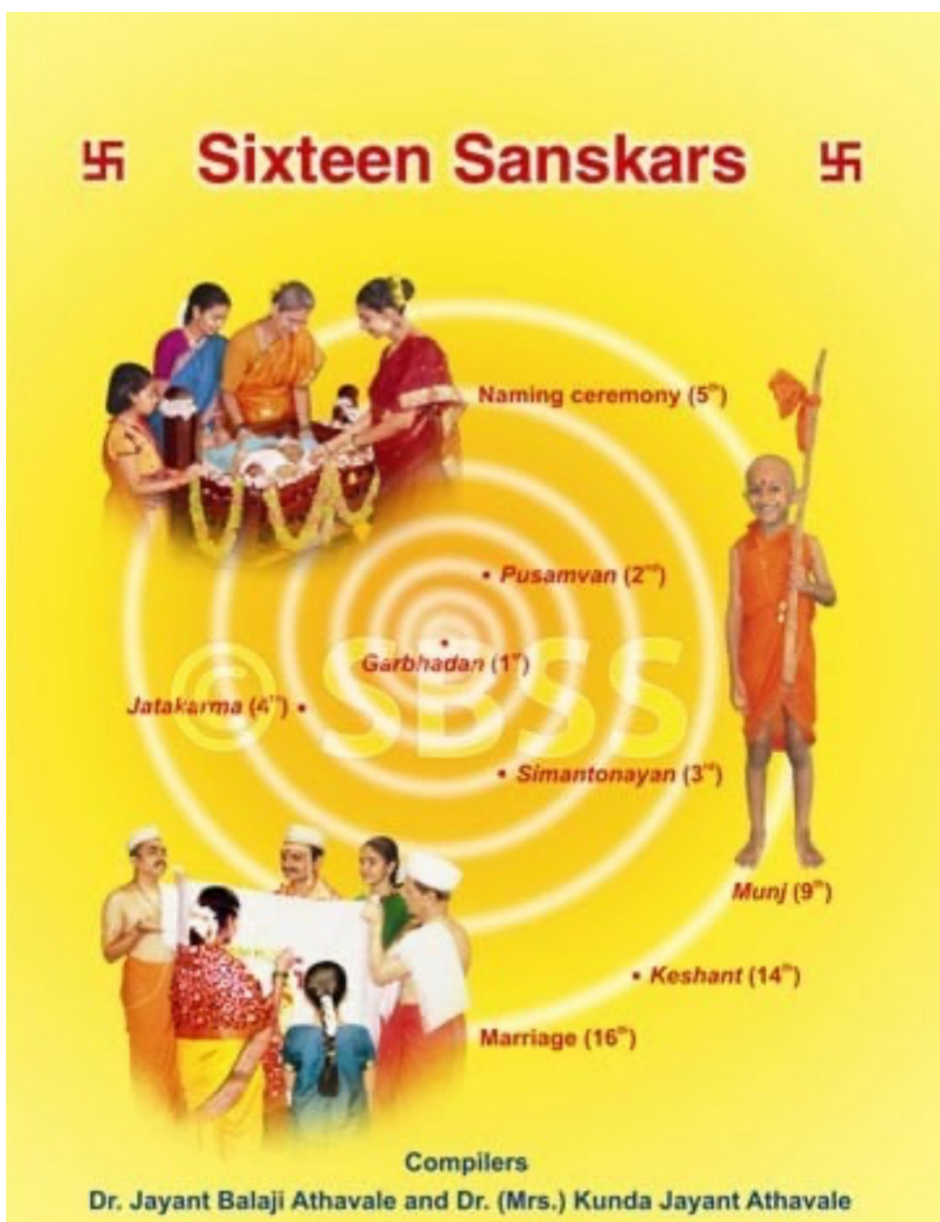
The weakening transmission of Sanskars compounds the problem. Values cannot remain abstract; they must be demonstrated in daily life. When honesty, discipline, compassion, and restraint are absent at home or in society, youth struggle to internalize them. Identity conflicts in a fast-paced world often push young people toward reckless escapes rather than embracing tradition.

The solution is not to reject modernity but to blend tradition with contemporary life. Parents play a crucial role by integrating cultural teachings into modern activities and sharing relatable stories from grandparents, community leaders, and

real-life role models. Mentors who navigate modern challenges while remaining grounded in values can inspire meaningful change.

Communities must support youth by encouraging service, empathy, and responsibility. When young people experience the joy of giving and belonging, they are less likely to fall into addiction and isolation.

Addressing drug abuse and the erosion of Sanskars requires a collective effort from parents, educators, community leaders, policymakers, and youth themselves. With conscious guidance, wise use of technology, and serious attention to mental health, India can lead its youth back to a path of purpose, dignity, and strength while keeping them connected to the modern world.



Indian seniors of Chicago spread festive cheer with Christmas gift distribution

By: Jayanti Oza

The Indian Seniors of Chicago (ISC) celebrated the holiday season with warmth and community spirit by distributing Christmas gifts to its members during a special gathering. Over 400 stainless steel plate sets, each containing four plates, were distributed as tokens of appreciation and goodwill, reflecting ISC's commitment to service and togetherness.

The program opened on a devotional note with a recitation of the Hanuman



Chalisa, setting a positive and spiritual tone. Members celebrating birthdays in December were honored with flower bouquets, personally presented by Pallavi Darji, adding a heartfelt touch to the festivities. In observance of Geeta Jayanti, a special path (recitation) was conducted by Bhupendra Suthar, Jayesh Shah, and Hemant Modi, highlighting ISC's dedication to preserving India's spiritual and cultural heritage.

Hemant Modi, Treasurer of ISC, presented the organization's financial report for the previous month, ensuring transparency and keeping members informed about ongoing activities. A moment of gratitude followed as Navin Patel presented flower bouquets to the event's sweet sponsors, Kirankumar and Malti Shah, in recognition of their

generous support. ISC President Dilip Patel shared updates on the printing of member ID cards with photographs, aimed at improving organizational efficiency. Volunteers including Jayesh Shah, Naishad, and Yogendra were acknowledged for their dedicated support, which ensured smooth coordination throughout the program.

The event concluded with heartfelt thanks from Navinbhai Patel and President Dilip Patel, followed by a collective prayer and lunch, reinforcing the values of unity, gratitude, and togetherness that define ISC.

The gathering underscored ISC's ongoing commitment to fostering community bonds, celebrating cultural and religious occasions, and supporting senior members with care and respect.



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The assault on faith that threatens civilization itself

● By: Dr. Avi Verma

The IndoUS Tribune unequivocally condemns the recent spate of attacks, threats, and intimidation targeting Jewish places of worship and community institutions across the United States and around the world. These assaults are not isolated incidents. They reflect a disturbing global surge in hatred, antisemitism, and religious intolerance that has no place in any civilized society.

A synagogue, temple, mosque, church, or gurdwara is not merely a building. It is a sanctuary of faith, identity, and community. An attack on any place of worship, regardless of ethnicity, geography, or religious belief, is an attack on the fundamental right to live and worship without fear.

A disturbing pattern of violence

The past few months have witnessed alarming incidents that demand collective outrage and immediate action. In December 2025, a deadly terrorist attack at a Hanukkah celebration in Bondi Beach, Australia, claimed innocent lives and left a community shattered. Around the same time, a violent antisemitic disruption outside Los Angeles' historic Wilshire Boulevard Temple resulted in arrests and sent shockwaves through American Jewish communities.

Across the United States, Jewish institutions are facing an unprecedented wave of vandalism, bomb threats, disruptions, harassment, and intimidation. Many synagogues now resemble fortified zones with metal detectors, armed guards, and security checkpoints, turning prayer into an act of courage rather than a moment of peace.

FBI data shows that Jews account for nearly 69 percent of all religiously motivated hate crimes in the United States. This horrifying figure has worsened dramatically since the October 7, 2023 Hamas attacks, triggering a



global spike in antisemitic incidents. This is not a coincidence. It is cause and effect.

Hatred has many masks

Antisemitism today wears multiple disguises. It emerges from white supremacist ideologies, Islamist extremism, and radicalized political movements where criticism of Israeli policies mutates into hatred of Jews as a people. Chants like "Globalize the intifada" have translated into real-world violence against Jewish men, women, and children far removed from any battlefield.

Conspiracy theories such as the so-called "Great Replacement," long discredited yet endlessly recycled online, cast Jews as orchestrators of global decline. Digital echo chambers radicalize individuals, turning online hate into swatting attacks, coordinated harassment, bomb threats, and physical

violence. History shows repeatedly that when antisemitism is normalized, violence follows.

Indians understand this pain

As Indians, and particularly as Hindus in India and the United States, we understand this pain all too well. Our temples have been vandalized. Our communities have faced terrorist attacks. Our faith has been mocked, misrepresented, and targeted by extremists. We know the frustration, the fear, and the lingering agony that follows such assaults.

That is why the IndoUS Tribune stands in unwavering solidarity with the Jewish community.

India's civilizational ethos has long been one of peaceful coexistence. Jews have lived in India for centuries without facing systemic antisemitism, a rarity in world history. India's

official stance has consistently condemned terrorism and expressed solidarity with Israel, recognizing it as a fellow civilization confronting extremism. Antisemitism is rightly viewed by most Indians as an unwelcome import, alien to our traditions and values. At the same time, rising intolerance anywhere should concern everyone. An attack on one faith creates a precedent that endangers all others.

No moral equivocation

Let us be absolutely clear. Hatred is not resistance. Terror is not protest. Antisemitism is not free speech.

Those responsible for attacks on Jewish institutions, whether lone actors, organized groups, or foreign-coordinated networks, must be identified, prosecuted, and brought to justice without delay. Governments must move beyond statements of concern and provide tangible support, enhanced security funding, and federal-level investigations where necessary.

Organizations such as the ADL, Jewish Federations, and community alliances are right to demand action. Silence, hesitation, or moral equivocation only embolden extremists.

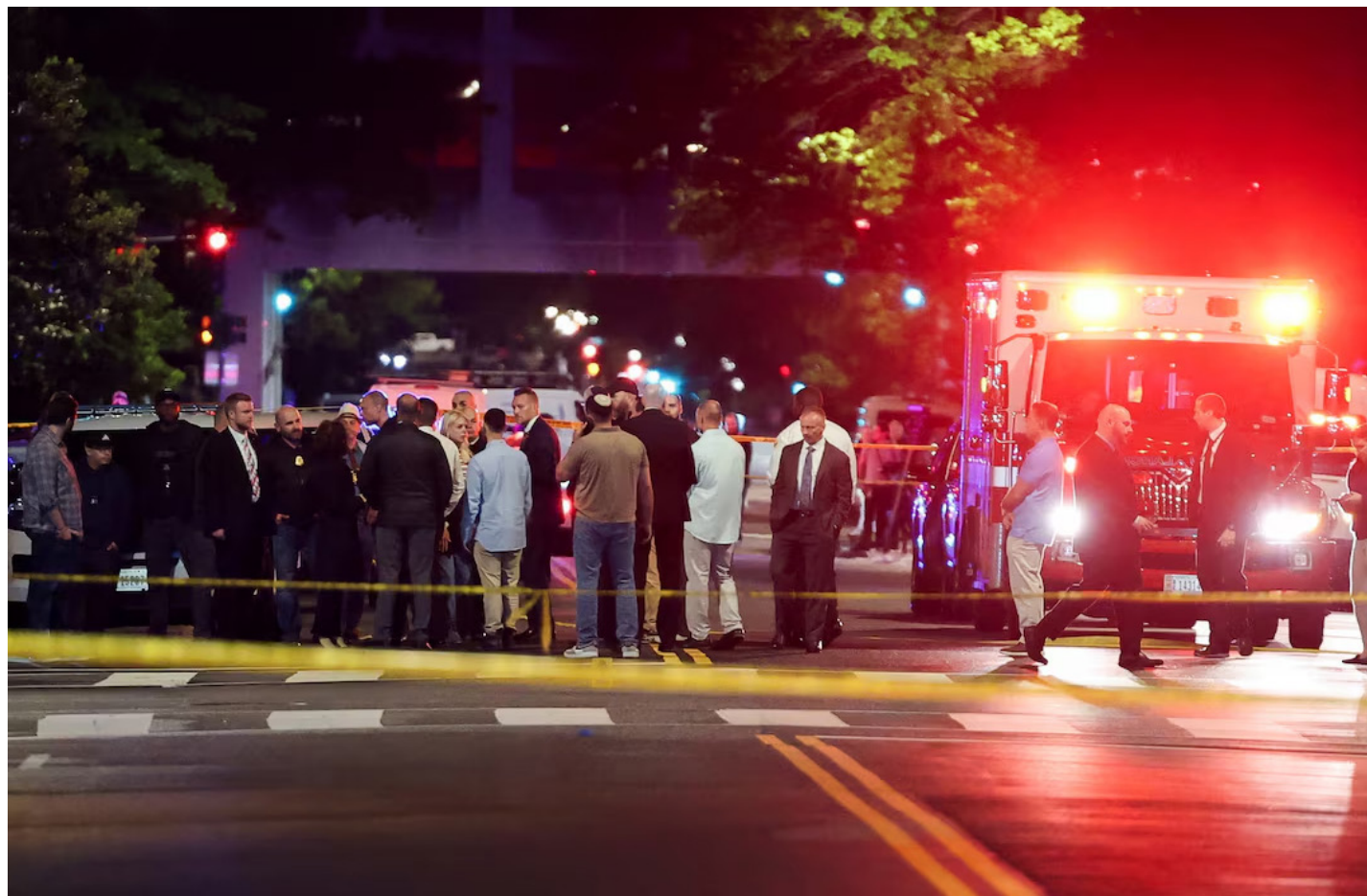
A call to conscience

Every individual and every community is entitled to practice their faith without fear, intimidation, or threat. This is not a Jewish issue. It is not a Hindu issue. It is not a Christian, Muslim, or Sikh issue.

It is a human issue.

History will judge societies not by how loudly they proclaimed tolerance, but by how firmly they stood when hatred knocked at the doors of their neighbors' places of worship.

The IndoUS Tribune reaffirms its commitment to religious freedom, pluralism, and human dignity. We stand shoulder to shoulder with our Jewish friends today, not as an act of charity, but as a matter of principle. Because when hatred targets one faith, it threatens us all.





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CONTRARIAN INDICATORS

AAIL Bull-Bear Spread +14% (above average)
CNN Fear & Greed Index 42 (fear-low)
NYSE %Above 50-dMA 60.25% (positive)
SP500 %Above 50-dMA 59.60% (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 3.50-3.75%
FOMC 1/28/26+ hold
FOMC 3/18/26+ hold

Treasury

T-Bills 3-mo yield 3.63%, 1-yr 3.54%; T-Notes 2-yr 3.52%, 5-yr 3.75%, 10-yr 4.19%; T-Bonds 30-yr 4.85%;
TIPS/Real yields 5-yr 1.43%, 10-yr 1.93%, 30-yr 2.61%
FRNs Index 3.684%

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 42.25 (fear)
Weekly ETFs: INDIA -1.54%, INDY -1.54%, EPI -1.64%, INDH -0.87%, SPY -0.57%

The data above are as of Sunday



preceding the publication date.

IT/TECH

Indian AI LLM/chatbot Atomesus is locally developed by former ISRO scientists & it runs entirely on servers based in India (AWS-India). It has multilingual capabilities.

Elon MUSK in India explained why Starlink low-orbit system is more suitable for vast rural areas, not dense urban areas that have cell towers & fiber/cable connectivity. Subscription rates are high. He also noted that his partner, Neuralink executive Shivon ZILIS, is half-Indian & one of their kid's middle name is SEKHAR.

Byju's default judgement of \$1.07 billion by the US Delaware bankruptcy court has no force in India. There is no automatic legal reciprocity between US & India. In a new trial in India, the US judgement can only be entered as evidence among many others. Moreover, Byju plans to appeal what it claims was a rush default judgment by Delaware court in higher US courts.

As previously reported (1/31/25), Byju's IT education startup Think & Learn raised lot of capital in US to expand rapidly & got over-extended. Its creditors forced it into bankruptcy, but then they found that money was missing or transferred out secretly to unknown accounts.

SPECIAL TOPIC - SHOULD YOU BUY ANNUITIES?

It depends. If you need annuities, buy basic low-cost annuities. Those with lots of bells & whistles have high expenses & pay high commissions to selling agents. If your workplace 401k/403b plan provider is an insurer, your plan may include qualified annuities & watch their expenses.

Annuities are complex products sold by insurers through prospectuses (100-250 pages). Request a copy of prospectus early & verify talking points by your agent. Guarantees are from insurers, so check their credit ratings. There may be surrender periods (5-7 years) with penalties.

Fixed accumulation annuities can offer higher rates because your money is tied up until the age of 59.5 although changes in vendors are possible through 1035 exchanges. Both fixed & variable annuities have tax-deferred growth, but RMDs aren't required for nonqualified (after-tax) annuities.

Payout annuities can offer higher payouts due to risk pooling & because a portion of the payout is your initial principal. You have to give up your principal but there may be survivor benefits or beneficiary options. For investors without pensions, these can provide guaranteed lifetime income to cover basic expenses. Some annuities have guaranteed income riders that would keep paying even if the account is exhausted. Participating annuity payouts include base plus bonus payouts (e.g. TIAA Traditional). Taxes

depend on whether pre-tax (qualified) or after-tax (nonqualified) money were used to buy annuity.

Survivor benefits may be 100%, 75% or 50% to survivor (either annuitant) or 2nd annuitant (if there is one). Beneficiaries only get death benefits (optional) or residual benefits under guaranteed periods (10, 15 or 20 years; must be less than the life-expectancy of single or joint annuitants).

Guaranteed lifetime income (or, annuitization) options at retirement have been available for 403b for many years but only recently for 401k. Spouses are treated as 2nd annuitant with 50-100% lifetime benefits in QJSA or ERISA plans unless spousal waiver is obtained.

Variable-annuities (VA) are portfolios of stocks, bonds & alternatives within the annuity wrapper. VA payouts are in units with prices determined by total returns (TRs) relative to threshold AIRs (assumed interest rates; 2-5%).

There is a huge variety of annuities: SPIAs (immediate-income; most basic & cheapest), DIAs (deferred-income; note news on Bonilla Day, July 1), FIAs (fixed-indexed), MYGAs (multiyear-fixed; alternatives to CDs), VAs, VAs with income-riders (GMWB), RILAs (index-linked with caps & buffers; most popular now), etc.

Qualified longevity annuity contracts (QLACs) are allowed for limited amounts from IRA/401k/403b; these are deferred-income annuities & the amounts used are exempt from RMDs.

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



Illinois' 9th Congressional District

An open seat, a crowded field, and a primary that will decide the future

● By: Dr. Avi Verma

For the first time in nearly three decades, Illinois' 9th Congressional District is preparing to elect a new representative without an incumbent on the ballot. Representative Jan Schakowsky's retirement after 14 terms marks the end of an era and opens the door to one of the most competitive Democratic primaries in the state.

According to the nonpartisan Cook Political Report, IL-09 is rated "Solid Democratic." In practical political terms, this makes the March 17, 2026 Democratic primary the decisive election, with the general election outcome all but predetermined.

As of early November 2025, 17 Democrats have filed for the primary. In such a fragmented field, the winner is likely to emerge with a plurality rather than a majority, elevating the importance of base mobilization, organizational discipline, and turnout strategy.

IL-09 is a complex district — spanning progressive Chicago neighborhoods, affluent North Shore suburbs, immigrant communities, Jewish constituencies, younger activists, and older professionals. No single ideological bloc dominates, and the eventual nominee will reflect which coalition shows up to vote.

The leading contenders: Backgrounds, strengths, and challenges

(Note: IndoUS Tribune has met with and interviewed Bruce Leon, Phil Andrew, and Bushra Amiwala as part of its community outreach and election coverage. Requests for interviews were also extended to other leading candidates but did not receive a response as of publication.)



Daniel Biss
The seasoned public servant
Daniel Biss brings a long résumé in Illinois public life. A former state legislator and now Mayor of Evanston, Biss is well known across the North Shore and among politically engaged Democrats. His career reflects a blend of policy depth, executive governance,

and institutional experience.

Strengths

- ▶ High name recognition
- ▶ Established donor networks
- ▶ Seen as capable and steady by many older and moderate voters
- ▶ Polling places him near the top tier of the race

Challenges

- ▶ Must energize younger voters in a shifting electorate
- ▶ Competes with multiple candidates occupying similar experience-based lanes
- ▶ Faces skepticism from progressives seeking generational change

Overall
Biss represents continuity, experience, and managerial competence — assets in a crowded field, but not without generational risk.



Kat Abughazaleh
The digital-era progressive
Abughazaleh entered the race early and built momentum through grassroots organizing and online fundraising. Her campaign reflects a new generation of progressive politics that prioritizes small donors, activism, and rejection of corporate influence.

Strengths

- ▶ Strong engagement among younger and progressive voters
- ▶ Largest fundraising totals to date, driven by small donors
- ▶ Clear ideological message and activist credibility

Challenges

- ▶ Youth turnout is unpredictable
- ▶ Less access to traditional political institutions
- ▶ Must scale operations beyond digital enthusiasm

Overall
Abughazaleh embodies insurgent energy and generational change — powerful in a plurality race if her base turns out.



Bruce Leon
The pragmatic centrist
Bruce Leon is a longtime Chicago businessman and Democratic committeeperson who presents himself as a results-oriented centrist. He emphasizes economic stability, practical governance, and bipartisan sensibility.

Strengths

- ▶ Significant personal financial resources
- ▶ Clear appeal to moderate and business-minded Democrats
- ▶ Emphasizes pragmatism over ideology

Challenges

- ▶ Centristism can struggle to inspire turnout
- ▶ Must build visibility across diverse communities
- ▶ Risks dilution in a field with multiple establishment candidates

Overall
Leon offers financial strength and moderation — assets in a fractured race if ideological voters split.



Phil Andrew
The public safety professional
A former FBI special agent and hostage negotiator, Phil Andrew brings a nontraditional background to the race. He positions himself as a problem-solver shaped by real-world crisis response rather than political institutions.

Strengths

- ▶ Unique professional credentials
- ▶ Resonates with voters concerned about public safety and stability
- ▶ Growing fundraising capacity

Challenges

- ▶ Limited name recognition
- ▶ Must broaden policy agenda beyond public safety
- ▶ Needs rapid organizational growth

Overall
Andrew represents a credible outsider alternative, appealing to voters seeking competence over ideology.



Bushra Amiwala
The civic engagement and generational voice
Bushra Amiwala is known for youth organizing and advocacy centered on inclusion, education, housing, and democratic participation. Her campaign emphasizes representation for younger voters, women, and immigrant communities.

Strengths

- ▶ Authentic connection with younger and first-time voters
- ▶ Strong emphasis on civic participation and equity
- ▶ Brings generational contrast to the field

Challenges

- ▶ Lower fundraising compared to top-tier candidates
- ▶ Limited district-wide name recognition
- ▶ Structural barriers common to grassroots campaigns

Overall
Amiwala adds an important generational and civic perspective and could influence turnout dynamics even beyond vote totals.

What will decide this race
Several forces will shape the outcome:

- ▶ **Turnout over persuasion:** This race will be won by mobilization.
- ▶ **Vote fragmentation:** A candidate could win with just over 20%.
- ▶ **Generational divide:** Younger vs. older Democratic voters.
- ▶ **Organization and endorsements:** Ground game matters more than ads.
- ▶ **Coalition-building:** Geography, ideology, and identity must intersect.

Why this primary matters — especially for immigrant and community voters
For IndoUS Tribune readers and community stakeholders, this election is a rare opportunity. With no incumbent and a crowded field, every organized community vote matters more than usual.

Waiting until November will be too late. The decision will already be made in March. This race is not just about ideology — it is about representation, lived experience, leadership style, and who reflects the future of IL-09.

Pay attention now. Ask questions. Engage early. Because in this race, participation is power.



Krishnamoorthi advances bipartisan Taiwan deterrence, defends workers' rights, veterans' care, and civil liberties

● By: Staff Writer, IndoUS Tribune

Congressman Raja Krishnamoorthi (D-IL) has released a series of high-profile actions spanning national security, labor rights, veterans' health care, trade policy, civil rights, and human rights, underscoring a broad legislative and oversight agenda during a pivotal period for U.S. domestic and foreign policy.

Bipartisan push to deter CCP aggression toward Taiwan

As Ranking Member of the House Select Committee on the Strategic Competition Between the United States and the Chinese Communist Party, Krishnamoorthi joined Chairman John Moolenaar in releasing "Ten More for Taiwan," a bipartisan report outlining urgent steps to strengthen deterrence against Chinese Communist Party (CCP) aggression toward Taiwan.

The report builds on the Committee's earlier Ten for Taiwan framework and calls for a whole-of-government approach—combining defense readiness, economic integration, political clarity, and alliance coordination—to prevent conflict in the Taiwan Strait. Recommendations include accelerating security assistance, expanding defense industrial cooperation, deepening U.S.–Taiwan trade and technology ties, strengthening allied military integration along the First Island Chain, and imposing costs on Beijing for its "no-limits" partnership with Russia.

"Taiwan is not—and will not be—a bargaining chip with the Chinese Communist Party," Krishnamoorthi said, emphasizing that effective deterrence requires clear political messaging, economic resilience, and a firm commitment to democratic values. Chairman Moolenaar warned that Beijing's timeline makes near-term action urgent, citing the need to build deterrence before it is too late.

Demanding accountability for alleged intimidation of striking workers

Krishnamoorthi also pressed DHS Secretary Kristi Noem and Labor Secretary Lori M. Chavez-DeRemer for answers regarding federal law enforcement conduct toward striking workers in Chicago. Citing video footage that appears to show intimidation of workers engaged in lawful strike activity, the Congressman warned that any use—or perceived use—of immigration enforcement during labor disputes undermines constitutional and federal labor protections.



He called for a prompt review by the Department of Labor, coordination with the National Labor Relations Board where appropriate, and a clear accounting of whether any coordination occurred between employers and immigration authorities.

Alarm over proposed VA health care staffing cuts

Raising concerns for veterans nationwide—particularly in Illinois—Krishnamoorthi sent a letter to VA Secretary Douglas A. Collins regarding reports that the Department of Veterans Affairs plans to eliminate up to 35,000 health care positions across the Veterans Health Administration.

He warned that cutting even vacant positions could worsen wait times, disrupt continuity of care, and strain facilities already facing staffing challenges, including Chicago-area VA centers.

"The fact that a position is vacant does not mean it is unnecessary," he wrote, urging the VA to prioritize veterans'

health, safety, and dignity as eligibility expands under the PACT Act.

Resolution to end Trump-era tariffs on India

Alongside Representatives Deborah Ross (D-NC) and Marc Veasey (D-TX), Krishnamoorthi introduced a resolution to terminate President Donald Trump's national emergency used to impose tariffs of up to 50 percent on Indian imports. The lawmakers argue the tariffs disrupted supply chains, raised consumer costs, and weakened a critical U.S.–India partnership.

Ending the tariffs, Krishnamoorthi said, would help restore congressional authority over trade and allow the two democracies to advance shared economic and security interests.

Condemning hate and defending human rights

In Illinois, Krishnamoorthi condemned antisemitic, anti-Indian, and racist graffiti discovered at NYU's Bern Dibner Library, calling the incident "deeply disturbing" and urging unity

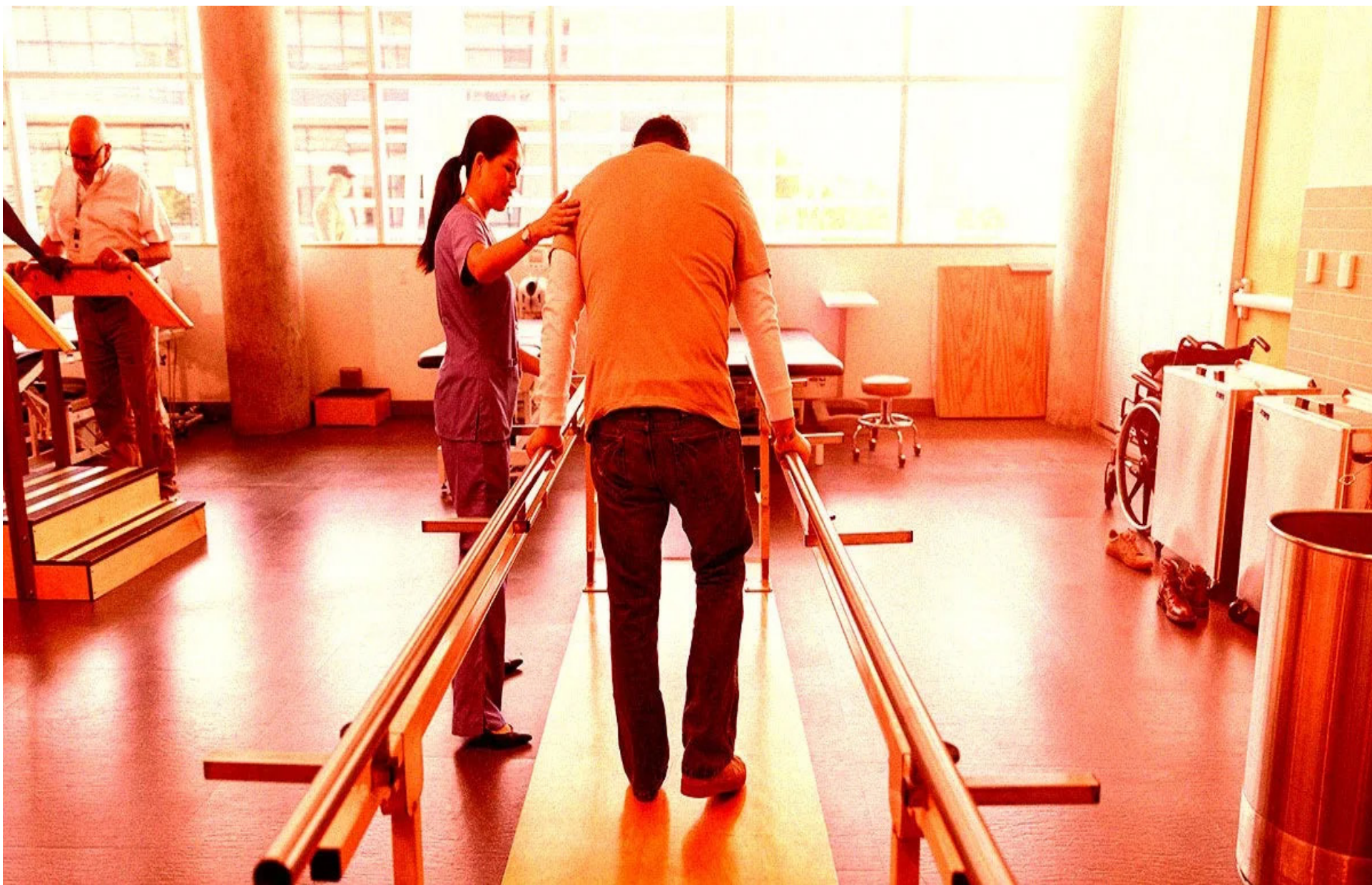
against all forms of bigotry.

Internationally, he pressed DHS to grant asylum to Guan Heng, a Chinese whistleblower who documented CCP detention camps targeting Uyghurs in Xinjiang. Warning that deportation could amount to complicity in human rights abuses, Krishnamoorthi urged immediate release and asylum relief, along with transparency on how many China-related human rights cases are currently detained or deported.

Responding to immigration raids and global antisemitism

Krishnamoorthi also criticized renewed deployments of masked federal agents conducting surprise immigration raids in Chicago-area neighborhoods during the holidays, calling the tactics fear-driven rather than safety-oriented. Separately, he condemned a deadly antisemitic terrorist attack at a Hanukkah celebration in Sydney, Australia, expressing solidarity with Jewish communities worldwide and denouncing the global rise in antisemitic violence.

Breakthrough stem cell treatment helps paralyzed man walk again



● By: Dr. Avi Verma

In a landmark achievement for regenerative medicine, a paralyzed man has regained the ability to walk after undergoing what scientists are calling the world's first successful stem cell treatment for a severe spinal cord injury. This achievement challenges decades-old assumptions in neuroscience, where major spinal trauma was long thought to result in permanent paralysis.

A new hope for spinal cord injury

For many years, spinal cord injuries that sever nerve connections were believed to be irreversible. The spinal cord acts as the central information highway between the brain and the body—if the communication lines are broken, the signals can no longer reach muscles below the injury site. As a result, patients with severe damage lose both sensation and voluntary movement.

But recent advances in stem cell biology have opened the door to a new frontier. In this breakthrough procedure, researchers used reprogrammed stem cells designed to repair damaged nerve pathways. These cells were transplanted into the patient's injured spinal cord with the

goal of rebuilding lost connections—something once thought impossible.

How stem cells restore neural pathways

Stem cells are extraordinary because they can transform into the specific cell types the body needs. In this treatment:

- ▶ Scientists converted them into neural progenitor cells, capable of becoming neurons and supportive glial cells.
- ▶ The transplanted cells began integrating into the spinal injury site.
- ▶ Over time, they started forming new neural bridges, reconnecting disrupted nerve fibers.

As these reconnections formed, electrical signals from the patient's brain—previously blocked by the injury—began to travel through the spinal cord again. When those signals reached the legs, voluntary movement slowly returned.

What this means for patients

The restoration of movement in a patient who was once considered permanently paralyzed represents a dramatic leap forward. While this single case does not yet symbolize



a universal cure, it provides the strongest evidence yet that spinal cord regeneration is scientifically possible.

This achievement builds on decades of research into stem cell behavior, neural growth, and spinal cord repair technologies. The result is a treatment that not only regenerates tissue, but also restores functional communication

between the brain and limbs.

Cautious optimism and future research

Medical experts emphasize that this therapy is still in the very early phases. Before it can become a standard treatment, researchers must:

- ▶ Conduct extensive clinical trials with larger patient groups
- ▶ Confirm long-term safety and effectiveness
- ▶ Optimize delivery methods and cell types
- ▶ Understand how the treatment performs across different kinds of spinal injuries

Even so, this pioneering case has ignited excitement around the world. It signals a future where paralysis may no longer be a permanent condition, but a reversible one—given the right medical advances.

Disclaimer

This article is for informational and educational purposes only. It is not intended to provide medical advice, diagnosis, or treatment. Readers should consult qualified healthcare professionals before making decisions related to any medical condition or therapy, including emerging or experimental stem cell treatments.

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!.

Join IUHS to transform your dream of becoming a medical doctor into reality.

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

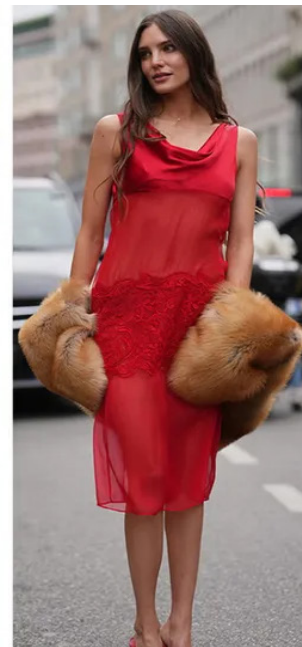
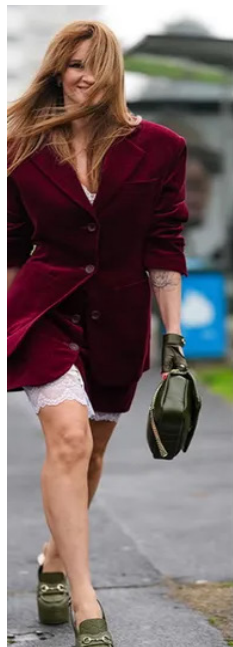


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How fashion insiders are rethinking New Year's Eve dressing for 2026



The little black dress will always be a reliable classic, but New Year's Eve 2025 signals a clear shift in how fashion insiders are approaching celebration dressing. Rather than relying on familiar silhouettes and predictable sparkle, this season is about thoughtful styling, elevated textures, and color stories that feel quietly confident. The result is partywear that looks intentional, modern, and refreshingly personal, setting the tone for a more refined 2026. Color plays a starring role, with deep wine and burgundy shades emerging as the new neutral. These rich tones feel dramatic without being loud, especially when worn in structured bustiers, sculptural mini skirts, or sleek two-piece sets. Paired with sheer tights, sharp heels, and a touch of faux fur or tailored outerwear, the look feels luxurious yet controlled. It is a sophisticated way to stand out while

maintaining a sense of polish.

Tailoring is another defining element of this New Year's Eve aesthetic. Borrowed-from-the-boys tuxedo shirts are being reimagined with fluid skirts, draped silhouettes, and statement accessories. Crisp poplin shirts styled with high-waisted maxi skirts or wide-leg trousers create a striking contrast that feels confident and fashion-forward. This approach offers an elegant alternative to traditional gowns, proving that strong tailoring can be just as impactful as a dress.

Metallics remain essential, but this year they arrive in a more restrained form. Gold tones, in particular, are dominating eveningwear, reflecting a return to high-gloss minimalism and a subtle nod to vintage glamour. When paired with warm chocolate browns or creamy neutrals, gold accessories and dresses feel rich rather than

overpowering. Chunky bangles, sculptural earrings, and refined heels elevate even the simplest silhouettes.

Texture completes the story. Paillettes, velvet, and delicate lace bring depth and movement to New Year's Eve looks, catching the light in understated ways. A lace-trimmed slip dress, once reserved for intimate settings, now feels entirely appropriate for a midnight toast when styled with sharp pumps and elegant jewelry. Velvet accessories and softly shimmering fabrics add a tactile element that feels indulgent without excess.

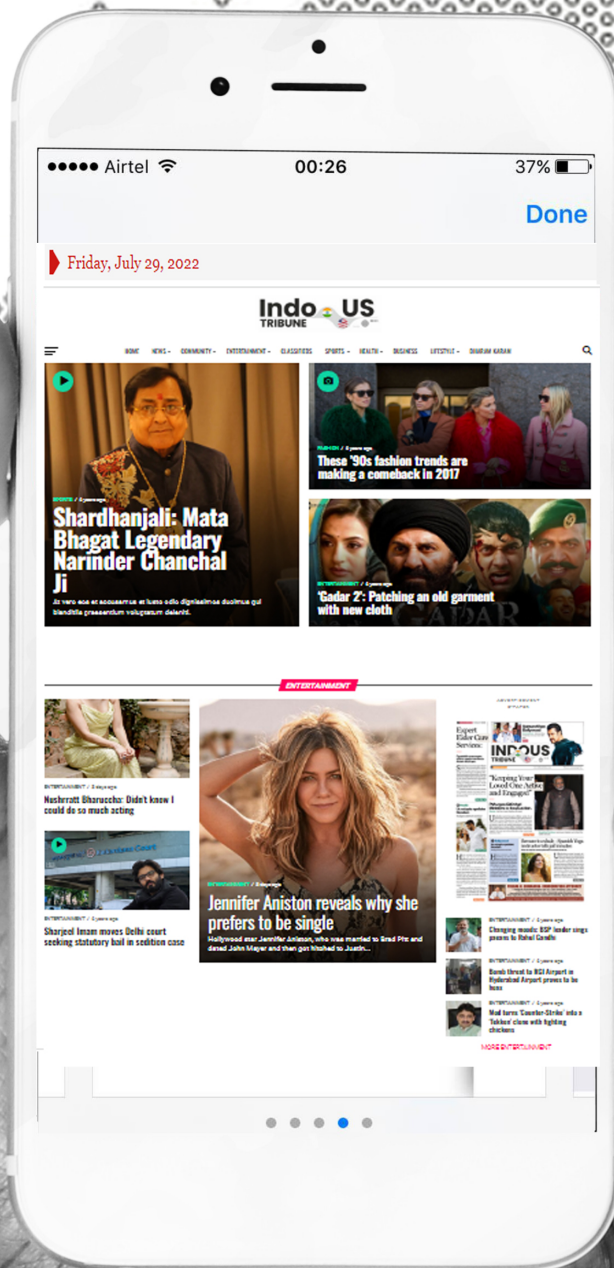
Whether the night calls for a black-tie affair or an intimate dinner, these thoughtfully styled pieces move beyond trends and embrace timeless elegance. This is celebration dressing that feels modern, expressive, and perfectly aligned with the confident mood of the year ahead.

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