

India unveils vision and branding for landmark BRICS Presidency in 2026



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

India on Tuesday launched the official website, theme, and logo for its BRICS Presidency in 2026, with External Affairs Minister Subrahmanyam Jaishankar unveiling the framework in New Delhi. The event was attended by Ministers of State for External Affairs Pabitra Margherita and Kirti Vardhan Singh. Jaishankar said India would approach its chairship with a people centric and humanity first vision aimed at advancing global welfare.

The theme, 'Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability,' reflects India's development focused outlook. The logo blends tradition and modernity, featuring a central 'Namaste' gesture and colors representing all eleven BRICS members. The website will serve as a hub for updates and initiatives during India's chairship. BRICS, which completes twenty years in 2026, now includes emerging economies across Asia, Africa, the Middle East, and Latin America.

Jaishankar and Rubio hold talks as trade tensions and tariffs strain India United States ties



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar held a phone conversation with United States Secretary of State Marco Rubio on Tuesday, focusing on cooperation in trade, defense, energy, nuclear collaboration, and critical minerals. Jaishankar described the exchange as productive and said both sides agreed to stay in close contact. The call came amid renewed trade tensions after President Donald Trump imposed steep tariffs on Indian goods, including penalties linked to India's Russian oil purchases.

Talks on a proposed India United States trade agreement remain unresolved, largely due to differences over market access in agriculture and dairy. United States Ambassador Sergio Gor said both countries continue active engagement and emphasized India's importance as a strategic partner. Officials in New Delhi said recent United States tariffs on countries trading with Iran are expected to have minimal impact on India due to limited bilateral trade.

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Symbolic Nobel gesture marks Machado's White House push on Venezuela's future

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Venezuelan opposition leader and Nobel Peace Prize laureate María Corina Machado presented her Nobel Peace Prize medal to President Donald Trump during a meeting at the White House on Thursday, calling it a tribute to his commitment to Venezuela's freedom. Speaking after the meeting, Machado described the moment as historic for Venezuelans, coming weeks after United States forces seized President Nicolás Maduro in Caracas and charged him in a drug trafficking case.

President Trump called the gesture a sign of mutual respect but noted that the Nobel committee has made clear the prize itself cannot be transferred. The committee reiterated this position earlier in the week, stating that laureate status remains unchanged.

Machado, who also met lawmakers on Capitol Hill, said Venezuelans could rely on President Trump, even as the administration continues formal engagement with acting head of state Delcy Rodríguez amid ongoing diplomatic and energy negotiations.



IMF calls India a key engine of world growth after strong quarter

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The International Monetary Fund said on Thursday that India continues to be a key engine of global growth, citing stronger than expected performance in the third quarter. IMF Communications Director Julie Kozack said India's growth outlook remains robust, supported largely by strong domestic consumption.

Kozack said the IMF's most recent assessment projected growth of 6.6 percent for the current fiscal year, but recent data suggests the forecast may be

revised upward. She said the stronger third quarter performance increases the likelihood of an upgrade in the upcoming World Economic Outlook update.

The IMF is scheduled to release revised global growth projections next week. Kozack said India has played a central role in supporting global economic expansion amid uncertainty in other regions.

She added that the fund's overall assessment of India remains positive, emphasizing its importance as a stabilizing force for the world economy during a period of uneven recovery.



India's Chabahar port faces uncertainty amid US trade warnings



● Indous Tribune Newsdesk

India's Chabahar port development in Iran faces uncertainty following U.S. warnings that countries trading with Iran could face additional 25 percent tariffs. The port, crucial for Indian access to Afghanistan and Central Asia, operates under a ten-year agreement with Iran, expiring in 2026. A temporary waiver allows continued development, but potential secondary sanctions could affect financing, insurance, and trade routes. India, a key partner alongside China, Turkey, and the UAE, aims to strengthen regional ties while navigating U.S. trade and sanctions pressure. Chabahar serves as a strategic alternative to Pakistan's Gwadar Port for access to Central Asia.



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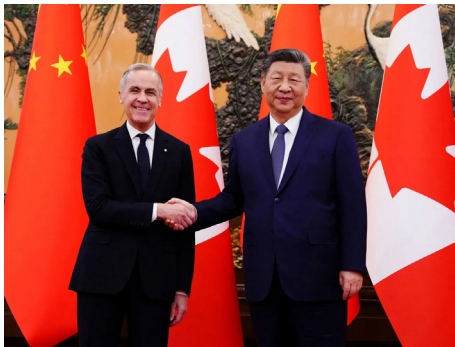
US designates Muslim Brotherhood branches as terrorist organizations



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The United States on Wednesday designated the Egyptian, Lebanese, and Jordanian branches of the Muslim Brotherhood as terrorist organizations, citing their support for Hamas. The designation triggers asset freezes, travel restrictions, and sanctions under U.S. law. The Treasury Department accused the groups of coordinating attacks against Israel and U.S. partners in the region. Egypt welcomed the move, calling it crucial for regional security. The Brotherhood, founded in Egypt in 1928, previously held political power through Mohamed Morsi's presidency but faced crackdowns. U.S. officials highlighted the Lebanese branch's alignment with Hezbollah and Hamas, while Jordan banned the organization last year.

Ottawa and Beijing revive dialogue as Carney emphasizes cooperation over conflict



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney on Thursday welcomed improving ties with China, portraying renewed engagement as a way to promote stability during a period of global uncertainty. His four-day visit marked the first by a Canadian prime minister since 2017 and followed a positive meeting with Chinese President Xi Jinping in South Korea last year. Speaking in Beijing, Carney praised Xi's leadership during meetings with China's top legislator Zhao Leji and Premier Li Qiang.

He said both countries were working to restore trust and expand cooperation across energy, agriculture, security, and people-to-people exchanges. Canada and China signed a trade and economic roadmap committing to open communication and new investment opportunities, including collaboration in oil, gas, and natural uranium. Discussions also addressed tensions stemming from Canada's electric vehicle tariffs imposed under the previous government, which had triggered Chinese retaliatory tariffs on Canadian agricultural products.

Denmark and Greenland reject Trump claims on United States takeover plans

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Denmark and Greenland pushed back strongly on Wednesday against renewed claims by President Donald Trump that the United States should take control of Greenland for security reasons. Danish Foreign Minister Lars Lokke Rasmussen said talks in Washington were frank but confirmed that sovereignty and self determination are non negotiable. Rasmussen said Denmark is willing to strengthen its security role in Greenland but rejected any suggestion of a takeover. He also dismissed claims of an urgent Chinese or Russian military threat in the region.

Greenland's Foreign Minister Vivian Motzfeldt said cooperation with the United States does not mean surrendering independence. She called for a reset in relations based on mutual respect and alliance norms.



The comments followed Trump's statement that United States control of Greenland would strengthen national security and NATO. Denmark said it has already increased its military presence in the Arctic through training and sustained operations.

Iceland pushes back after United States envoy nominee jokes about statehood

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Iceland's government sought clarification on Wednesday after United States ambassador nominee Billy Long reportedly joked that Iceland should become the fifty second United States state. The comments sparked public anger, with thousands signing a petition urging Iceland's foreign minister to reject the nomination.

The petition said the remarks were disrespectful to Iceland's sovereignty, especially amid heightened regional tensions. Long later apologized, saying the comments were made in jest and not intended seriously.

Icelandic lawmakers warned that such



remarks reflect growing disregard for smaller nations. Officials emphasized that while Iceland values its relationship with the United States, its independence and security concerns must be respected.

India issues exit advisory after Jaishankar speaks with Iran amid escalating unrest

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Iranian Foreign Minister Seyed Abbas Araghchi spoke with India's External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Wednesday as unrest continued to intensify across Iran. Jaishankar said the call focused on the evolving security situation and its impact on foreign nationals.

Soon after, the Indian Embassy in Tehran urged Indian citizens, including students, pilgrims, business travelers, and tourists, to leave Iran using available

commercial travel options. The embassy also advised Indians to avoid protest areas, keep travel documents ready, and remain in close contact with officials.

The Jammu and Kashmir Students Association appealed to the Indian government to arrange evacuations for stranded students. Protests, driven by inflation and currency decline, have entered their third week, with reports of violence across multiple cities. Regional tensions have also risen following warnings from Iran and statements from US President Donald Trump supporting protesters.



US freezes immigrant visas for 75 countries citing welfare concerns



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Washington authorities announced an indefinite pause on immigrant visa processing for nationals of 75 countries, effective Wednesday. The State Department cited concerns that applicants could become a "public charge" and draw on American welfare. Consular officers worldwide have been directed to halt processing while screening procedures are reassessed. The policy affects family-based green cards, employment visas, and humanitarian categories, with exceptions allowed only after public charge concerns are cleared. Countries impacted include Somalia, Russia, Iran, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nigeria, Egypt, Thailand, and Brazil. The White House reinforced the decision as a measure to prevent abuse of the U.S. immigration system.

Australia deactivates over 4.7 million child social media accounts under new ban



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Australia deactivated more than 4.7 million social media accounts belonging to children under 16 in the first days after its world first social media ban took effect, government data released on Friday showed. The removals followed enforcement measures introduced earlier this week across 10 major platforms.

Prime Minister Anthony Albanese said the early results were encouraging and showed companies were making a meaningful effort to comply. eSafety Commissioner Julie Inman Grant welcomed the outcome but acknowledged that some underage accounts remain active, noting that success should be measured by reduced harm and cultural change.

Meta said on Monday it had removed more than 544,000 accounts across Facebook, Instagram, and Threads. The government has not disclosed platform specific figures.

Kremlin presses for faster United States talks as Ukraine peace efforts stall



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The Kremlin said on Thursday that continued dialogue with the United States on Ukraine is essential, stressing the urgency of diplomatic engagement as the conflict drags on. Kremlin spokesperson Dmitry Peskov said Moscow expects a possible visit by United States presidential special envoy Steve Witkoff and entrepreneur Jared Kushner once schedules are finalized.

Peskov echoed President Donald Trump’s remarks that Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky is slowing the peace process, adding that Ukraine’s strategic options are narrowing by the day. Trump said on Wednesday that Russian President Vladimir Putin is ready to make a deal, while Ukraine is less willing.

Peskov also said Washington has not yet responded to Russia’s proposal to extend the New Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty for another year.

SpaceX conducts first-ever medical evacuation from space station



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

SpaceX safely returned four astronauts to Earth on Thursday in the first medical evacuation from the International Space Station. The crew included United States astronauts Zena Cardman and Mike Fincke, Japanese astronaut Kimiya Yui, and Russian cosmonaut Oleg Platonov.

NASA confirmed the SpaceX Dragon capsule splashed down off the coast of California early Thursday morning. The astronauts concluded a mission lasting more than five months, leaving three crew members aboard the station until a new team arrives next month.

NASA said all four astronauts were transported to a local hospital for medical evaluation. The agency cited privacy rules for not disclosing details but confirmed the situation remains stable.

Gulf states and Turkey urge Trump to delay strikes on Iran amid fears of wider conflict

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Turkey, and Oman urged President Donald Trump on Wednesday not to launch airstrikes against Iran, warning that military action could trigger a wider regional conflict across the Middle East. Diplomatic pressure from these United States allies appeared to influence Trump’s decision to pause plans for immediate action.

Saudi Arabia went further by denying the United States access to its airspace for any potential operation. On Thursday, Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Faisal bin Farhan held phone discussions with counterparts from Iran, Oman, and Turkey as regional diplomacy intensified. Iran has recently sought to ease tensions



with Gulf states through renewed diplomatic outreach, including high-level visits to Arab capitals.

Concerns remain over Iran’s influence through regional proxy groups and its

ability to disrupt maritime traffic in the Gulf. Qatar’s foreign ministry emphasized the need for negotiations, while Turkey’s foreign minister called for dialogue between Washington and Tehran to prevent escalation.

NATO reinforces Greenland defense as Denmark warns Trump ambitions remain unchanged

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Denmark’s Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen said on Thursday that the defense of Greenland is a shared responsibility for the entire North Atlantic Treaty Organization, as European troops began arriving for joint military exercises. Forces from France, Germany, the United Kingdom, Norway, Sweden, and other allies traveled to Greenland amid renewed concerns over President Donald Trump’s repeated statements about acquiring the territory.

Frederiksen said Denmark would increase

its military presence while allies assess options for a more sustained deployment in the Arctic. The move follows a tense meeting in Washington on Wednesday between Danish and Greenlandic officials and senior United States leaders. Afterward, Trump reiterated that the United States “needs” Greenland for national security.

Greenland’s Prime Minister Jens Frederik Nielsen rejected the idea, stating that Greenland is not for sale and remains a self-governing democratic society within the Kingdom of Denmark. NATO allies also discussed expanding Arctic air policing as tensions continue to rise.



Trump threatens use of Insurrection Act as immigration protests escalate in Minnesota

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

President Donald Trump warned on Thursday that he may invoke the Insurrection Act in Minnesota as protests continued in Minneapolis against federal immigration enforcement operations. The warning followed a week of unrest after a federal immigration officer fatally shot Renee Nicole Good, intensifying tensions across the state.

Minnesota Governor Tim Walz urged demonstrators overnight to remain peaceful, accusing Trump of inflaming the situation. Trump responded on Truth

Social, saying he would act if state leaders failed to restore order. On Wednesday evening, protests flared again after a federal officer shot a man in the leg during an enforcement operation, an incident that remains under investigation.

Homeland Security officials said the officer fired in self-defense during a traffic stop. Walz criticized the federal deployment, claiming thousands of armed agents were operating across Minnesota. Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem defended the presence and said Trump has constitutional authority to use the Insurrection Act if conditions worsen.

United States moves to block Pakistan aid unless bin Laden informant is freed

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

United States funding bill for fiscal year 2026 proposes withholding a portion of American assistance to Pakistan unless Dr. Shakil Afridi is released from prison. The legislation, introduced in the House of Representatives on Sunday, would block thirty three million dollars until the Secretary of State certifies Afridi’s release and clearance of all charges. Afridi helped United States intelligence locate Osama bin Laden ahead of the 2011 operation that killed him. The bill also prohibits assistance to the Taliban and links foreign aid to broader human rights conditions. Lawmakers said the measure reflects ongoing concerns about counterterrorism cooperation and accountability in South Asia.

Ethics outcry halts United States backed hepatitis B trial in Africa



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

A controversial United States funded study on hepatitis B vaccines involving newborns in Guinea-Bissau has been halted following widespread ethical criticism. Africa Centers for Disease Control and Prevention official Yap Boum confirmed on Thursday that the trial was canceled due to concerns about withholding proven vaccines from some infants. The study, overseen by the United States Department of Health and Human Services, faced backlash for potentially denying life-saving protection to thousands of children in a country with high infection rates. Officials said the trial could only proceed if redesigned to meet ethical standards. Public health experts welcomed the decision, calling it a victory for ethical research and child welfare.



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Celebrating new beginnings on the auspicious occasion of **Lohri, Makar Sankranti & Pongal**



Dr. Avi Verma

As the calendar turns toward mid-January, the IndoUS Tribune team extends its heartfelt congratulations and warm wishes to the Indian community across the globe on the joyous occasions of Lohri, Makar Sankranti, and Pongal. These vibrant harvest festivals, celebrated across different regions of India and by the Indian diaspora worldwide, beautifully reflect India's cultural diversity while sharing a common spiritual and agricultural essence—gratitude to nature, reverence for the Sun, and celebration of new beginnings. Lohri, primarily celebrated in North India especially Punjab, Haryana, Delhi, and parts of Himachal Pradesh marks the end of winter and the arrival of

longer, warmer days. Observed on the eve of Makar Sankranti, Lohri is deeply rooted in agrarian life, celebrating the harvest of rabi crops such as wheat and sugarcane. Bonfires light up neighborhoods as families and communities gather to offer sesame seeds, peanuts, popcorn, jaggery, and sugarcane to the sacred fire, symbolizing purification, prosperity, and gratitude to Agni (Fire God) and Surya (Sun God). Traditional folk songs honoring Dulla Bhatti, energetic Bhangra and Gidda, and the sharing of festive foods create an atmosphere of joy and renewal. Lohri also holds special significance for newborns and newlyweds, marking auspicious beginnings and the continuity of life.

Makar Sankranti, celebrated across India under different names, is a pan-Indian festival with deep astronomical, mythological, and spiritual significance. It marks the Sun's transition into Makara (Capricorn) and the beginning of Uttarayana, the Sun's northward journey—considered a highly auspicious period in Hindu belief. Ancient scriptures describe this phase as the “day of the gods,” symbolizing enlightenment, positivity, and spiritual awakening. Mythologically, the day is associated with Bhishma Pitamah's departure in the Mahabharata, the descent of the holy Ganga by King Bhagiratha, and the reconciliation between Surya and his son Shani, emphasizing forgiveness and harmony. Celebrations vary regionally: kite flying fills the skies in Gujarat; holy river dips are performed in Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, and West Bengal; sesame- and jaggery-based sweets like tilgul are exchanged in Maharashtra; and community feasts bring people together across the country. In 2026, Makar Sankranti falls on January 14, coinciding with Shattila Ekadashi, further enhancing its spiritual importance.

Pongal, the grand harvest festival of Tamil Nadu, is a four-day celebration dedicated to expressing gratitude to nature, the Sun God, the earth, and farm animals. The festival begins with Bhogi Pongal,

symbolizing renewal and letting go of the old; Thai Pongal, where freshly harvested rice is cooked with milk and jaggery until it overflows—signifying abundance; Mattu Pongal, honoring cattle for their role in agriculture; and Kaanum Pongal, a day for family bonding and social gatherings. Mythological stories involving Lord Krishna and Indra and Lord Shiva and Nandi reinforce values of humility, gratitude, and harmony with nature.

What makes Lohri, Makar Sankranti, and Pongal especially meaningful today is their global celebration. From the United States, Canada, and the United Kingdom to Australia, the Middle East, Southeast Asia, and Africa, Indian communities recreate the warmth of these festivals through cultural programs, temple celebrations, community bonfires, kite-flying events, and traditional feasts. These celebrations not only preserve cultural roots but also serve as bridges of understanding, introducing global audiences to India's rich heritage, agricultural wisdom, and spiritual philosophy. At their core, all three festivals celebrate the harvest, the Sun's life-giving energy, and the spirit of thanksgiving. They remind us of humanity's deep connection with nature, the dignity of farmers' labor, and the importance of community, compassion, and renewal. In a fast-paced modern world, these age-old traditions continue to inspire balance, gratitude, and hope.

On behalf of the IndoUS Tribune team, we extend our warmest wishes to Indians and friends of India worldwide. May Lohri's fire burn away negativity, may Makar Sankranti's sun illuminate our paths with wisdom and harmony, and may Pongal's abundance bring prosperity, health, and happiness to every home.

Happy Lohri, Happy Makar Sankranti, and Iniya Pongal Vazhthukkal!

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



Political interference blamed as Pakistan sells state firms at throwaway prices

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Pakistan's state-owned enterprises are being pushed into distress sales after years of political interference and weak governance, according to an analysis published on Thursday by Pakistan's Express Tribune. The report said successive governments delayed reforms until losses and debt became unmanageable, turning privatization into a last-resort fire sale.

Pakistan International Airlines was cited as a prime example, weakened by overstaffing and political appointments despite heavy public funding. The article also pointed to unresolved pension disputes following the privatization of Pakistan Telecommunication Company Limited.

It warned that without strong regulation, privatization often replaces public monopolies with private ones, driving up prices and reducing accountability.

Trump administration ends deportation protection for Somali migrants

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The Trump administration announced on Tuesday that it is ending temporary protected status for Somali nationals living in the United States, giving beneficiaries two months to leave the country or face deportation. Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem said conditions in Somalia have improved enough to end the designation. President Donald Trump also said his administration would revoke citizenship from naturalized immigrants convicted of fraud. Civil rights groups condemned the decision, warning that Somalia remains affected by conflict, drought, and humanitarian crises. About seven hundred Somali nationals currently hold protected status, according to official data. The protection was first granted in 1991 and last extended under President Joe Biden.

World Bank warns many developing nations are poorer than before Covid

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

A quarter of developing countries are poorer today than they were before the Covid pandemic, according to a World Bank report released on Tuesday. The bank said global growth has slowed and remains too weak to reduce poverty or create sufficient jobs, particularly in sub-Saharan Africa. Countries including Botswana, Chad, and Mozambique have seen income levels fall since 2019. South Africa and Nigeria also failed to raise average incomes despite recent growth. The World Bank projected global growth of about two point six percent next year and warned that rising debt and weak investment threaten long-term recovery. Chief economist Indermit Gill said policy failures are worsening the slowdown.

Iran issues threatening message toward Trump as tensions escalate

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Iran aired a provocative image of President Donald Trump on state television this week, accompanied by a warning translated as "this time it will not miss the target," escalating tensions between Tehran and Washington. The image referenced the attempted assassination of Trump during a campaign rally in Pennsylvania last summer.

The broadcast followed repeated warnings by Trump that the United States could take military action if Iran continues violent crackdowns on protesters. In a Truth Social post earlier this week, Trump accused Iran of killing peaceful demonstrators and warned that the United States was prepared to respond.

The incident referenced a rally where a gunman fired shots that grazed Trump's



ear, briefly halting his campaign.

Amid rising tensions, the United Kingdom temporarily closed its embassy in Tehran and withdrew diplomatic staff. The United States has also reduced personnel at its major air base in Qatar due to security concerns.

Trump border chief defends ICE raids and rejects abuse allegations

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Trump border czar Tom Homan defended federal immigration enforcement actions on Wednesday, rejecting comparisons to authoritarian policing and blaming sanctuary policies for forcing arrests into neighborhoods. Speaking at the White House, Homan said Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents are operating in communities because local jurisdictions refuse to cooperate. Homan said a majority of arrests involve individuals with criminal

records, estimating that 65 to 70 percent of those detained fall into that category. He declined to confirm President Donald Trump's claim that hundreds of thousands of murderers are being pursued, saying he did not have specific data. He said about 650,000 deportations have occurred since Trump returned to office. Homan warned that community based arrests increase risks to officers and residents, arguing that jail based transfers are safer. He also said threats against immigration agents have surged sharply, describing the current enforcement environment as hostile and dangerous.

Rights group alleges killings of 15 Hindu minorities in Bangladesh over 45 days

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

A New Delhi based rights organization alleged on Thursday that at least 15 members of Bangladesh's Hindu minority were killed over a 45 day period, accusing the interim government of downplaying the religious nature of the violence. The Rights and Risks Analysis Group said the killings were premeditated and often linked to theft of victims' property.

Group director Suhas Chakma said the victims included elderly women and young adults, with several murders carried out in a brutal manner. He alleged that authorities

have dismissed attacks on Hindu minorities as political or misinformation related incidents without proper investigation.

The group warned that violence could intensify once election campaigning begins, claiming minorities face increased vulnerability during political transitions. It urged international election observers, including the European Union, to intervene and ensure inclusive participation of religious minorities.

The group said failure to acknowledge religious targeting risks further marginalizing Hindu communities during the upcoming election process.

Trump says United States enters next phase of Gaza plan with technocratic leadership

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

President Donald Trump said on Thursday that the United States has entered the next phase of its Gaza peace plan, backing a new Palestinian technocratic administration and calling for the full demilitarization of Hamas. In a post on Truth Social, Trump said the move followed what he described as record humanitarian aid delivery since the ceasefire. Trump said Gaza would be governed during its transition by the National Committee for

the Administration of Gaza, a Palestinian technocratic body supported by the United States led Board of Peace, which he chairs. He said the next phase would focus on governance, reconstruction, and securing a comprehensive demilitarization agreement with Hamas. Trump said Egypt, Turkey, and Qatar would support efforts to ensure Hamas surrenders all weapons and dismantles its tunnel network. He warned Hamas to comply immediately, including returning the final body to Israel, saying it could do so "the easy way or the hard way."

United Kingdom urges NATO allies to boost Arctic security presence



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

British Foreign Secretary Yvette Cooper on Wednesday called on NATO to strengthen its military and security presence in the Arctic, warning that the region is emerging as a frontline of geopolitical competition. Speaking during visits to Finland and Norway, Cooper stressed the need to deter Russian activity and protect critical infrastructure such as undersea cables and shipping routes. She visited Camp Viking in northern Norway, where British Royal Marines are conducting cold-weather training, and met Finnish border officials guarding NATO's eastern flank. Cooper highlighted Britain's leadership role in the Joint Expeditionary Force, which recently held its largest military exercise focused on High North security and regional defense readiness.

Seoul to act after probe into North Korea drone incursions

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

South Korea announced on Wednesday that it will take action following an ongoing investigation into alleged drone incursions by North Korea. Unification Minister Chung Dong-young said the military-police fact-finding team is working swiftly and results will determine a corresponding response. The statement followed North Korean accusations that drones carrying surveillance equipment crossed the border in September and on January 4. Chung also criticized North Korea for sending messages via media instead of official channels and called for restored dialogue. Seoul may issue an apology for 2024 drone operations pending a court ruling against former President Yoon Suk Yeol.

China criticizes US sanctions on Russia at UN Security Council

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

At a UN Security Council meeting on Monday, China criticized U.S. sanctions on trade with Russia, calling them illegal unilateral actions using the Ukraine conflict as a pretext. Deputy Permanent Representative Sun Lei warned that such sanctions harm the global economy and urged the international community to adopt a balanced approach to resolve the crisis. While China has largely avoided punitive measures, U.S. legislative proposals could impose tariffs on Russian oil purchases. Sun emphasized support for a sustainable European security architecture and the need for dialogue to achieve peace, while other countries highlighted Russia's use of shadow fleet tankers to fund its war.



India and Chile near completion of comprehensive economic partnership agreement



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

India and Chile are close to finalizing a bilateral Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement after four rounds of negotiations, Chile’s Ambassador Juan Angulo said. The agreement is expected to enhance trade, investment, and services, building on an existing preferential trade pact. Angulo highlighted Chile’s initiatives to deepen cooperation in agriculture, science and technology, startups, and Antarctic research. The CEPA discussions follow a meeting between President Gabriel Boric and Prime Minister Narendra Modi in New Delhi in April 2025 and subsequent terms of reference signed in May. Both countries aim to increase business presence, facilitate technology exchange, and expand collaboration in strategic sectors. Ambassador Angulo also noted India’s strengthening ties with the European Union, with potential progress on a free trade agreement aligning with broader economic engagement goals.

Ashwini Vaishnaw joins US-led ministerial to secure critical minerals supply chains



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

India’s Minister for Railways, Information and Broadcasting, and Electronics and IT, Ashwini Vaishnaw, attended a high-level Finance Ministerial in Washington hosted by US Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent. The meeting focused on diversifying and strengthening global critical minerals supply chains, including rare-earth elements essential for electronics, advanced manufacturing, and clean energy. Vaishnaw emphasized India’s priority to enhance resilience in its rapidly growing manufacturing and electronics sectors. The ministerial gathered leaders from major economies, including Australia, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Mexico, South Korea, the United Kingdom, and the European Union. Participants discussed supply chain vulnerabilities and coordinated action to avoid fragmentation. The session underscored international collaboration to ensure reliable, secure, and diversified critical mineral sources, reflecting India’s increasing role in global supply security and technology-driven economic growth.

Modi and Merz advance India-Germany ties with strategic deals in defense, energy, and skills

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and German Chancellor Friedrich Merz met on Monday in Gandhinagar, Gujarat, to strengthen economic and security ties between India and Germany. The two leaders signed multiple agreements to enhance cooperation in defense, skill development, health, and education, while pursuing joint projects in climate action, energy, and rare earth mining. Germany’s Thyssenkrupp will partner with Indian firms to build six advanced conventional submarines, supporting India’s naval modernization. Modi emphasized Germany as India’s most important European trading partner and highlighted a roadmap for greater collaboration in defense industries, joint development, and production.

Chancellor Merz described India as a “partner of choice” and noted the potential for deeper economic engagement once India-EU free trade



negotiations conclude. The visit also included cultural engagements, with Merz touring Sabarmati Ashram and attending the International Kite Festival, flying kites with Modi. Merz’s delegation later planned to visit Bengaluru to meet Indian and German business and technology leaders, reflecting the growing focus on practical, people-centric economic and security cooperation.

Positive signals in India-China relations as both sides seek normalization and cooperation

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

India and China explored ways to strengthen bilateral ties during a three-day visit of Sun Haiyan, Vice Minister of the International Department of the Communist Party of China, from January 12 to 14. Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri highlighted the need to create a positive environment for business and people-centric engagement. Both sides reviewed progress in stabilizing relations and reaffirmed their commitment to advancing normalization, with a focus on people-to-people exchanges and addressing sensitive issues.

Sun Haiyan shared her impressions from meetings with Indian media, think tanks, and political leaders, while expressing China’s support for India’s BRICS chairship and the upcoming summit. Chinese Ambassador Xu Feihong also met External Affairs



Minister S. Jaishankar during the BRICS India 2026 launch, emphasizing China’s interest in advancing high-quality cooperation within the grouping. India’s BRICS chairship aims to adopt a “humanity-first” and “people-centric” approach, fostering resilience, innovation, and sustainable collaboration across member states.

India, Russia strengthen business ties at Moscow dialogue

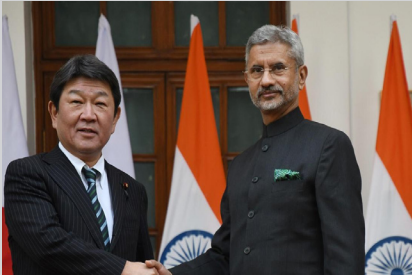
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India and Russia reinforced economic cooperation during the XVI Russia–India Business Dialogue in Moscow, attended by over 1,250 participants. Organised by the Indian Business Alliance, the Business Council for Cooperation with India, the Moscow government, and the Roscongress Foundation, the conference focused on advancing joint projects across energy, industry, pharmaceuticals, technology, and the digital economy. Participants discussed trade resolution, logistics and financial resilience, import substitution, and investment growth. Moscow government Minister Sergey Cheremin highlighted expanding business activity and regional collaboration, while Indian Business Alliance President Sammy Kotwani underscored practical, project-focused partnerships.



Roscongress Deputy Director Alexey Valkov emphasized the St. Petersburg International Economic Forum as a platform to sustain Russia–India dialogue. The event demonstrated growing confidence in bilateral economic ties, localization of Indian businesses in Russia, and long-term strategic collaboration between the two nations.

India and Japan reaffirm shared strategic goals amid global uncertainty



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

India and Japan on Friday reaffirmed their commitment to closer strategic cooperation during the eighteenth India-Japan Strategic Dialogue held in New Delhi. External Affairs Minister Subrahmanyam Jaishankar and Japanese Foreign Minister Toshimitsu Motegi co-chaired the talks, which focused on economic cooperation, maritime security, supply chains, critical minerals, technology, people to people exchanges, and multilateral engagement. Jaishankar said the India-Japan Special Strategic and Global Partnership is on an upward trajectory and has growing relevance in shaping the global order while reducing risks to the international economy. He emphasized that India places high priority on working with Japan in international forums such as the Quad, the United Nations, the Group of Four, and the Group of Twenty. Both sides also exchanged views on Indo-Pacific developments and agreed that closer coordination is essential amid ongoing global uncertainty.





India and Cuba reaffirm commitment to strengthen bilateral ties




IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Marking the 66th anniversary of diplomatic relations, India and Cuba reaffirmed their commitment to deepen cooperation based on respect, collaboration, and solidarity. Established in 1960, ties have been reinforced through high-level engagements, including visits by Che Guevara, Fidel Castro, and India’s first Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru. Last year, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Cuban President Miguel Díaz-Canel met during the BRICS Summit in Brazil, while Cuban Deputy Prime Minister Eduardo Martínez Díaz visited India. Bilateral cooperation spans pharmaceuticals, biotechnology, IT, tourism, agriculture, energy, and mining. Humanitarian aid following Hurricane Melissa included 20 tonnes of medical supplies, generators, tents, and solar lanterns. Both countries also enhanced academic, cultural, and disaster response collaboration. Cuban Foreign Minister Bruno Eduardo Rodríguez Parrilla expressed gratitude for India’s support, highlighting the enduring partnership guided by shared values and opportunities under India’s BRICS Chairship in 2026.







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Trump reverses school nutrition policy with return of whole milk

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

President Donald Trump signed the Whole Milk for Healthy Kids Act into law on Wednesday, restoring whole milk options in school cafeterias across the United States. The move overturns long-standing nutrition rules that limited schools to low-fat or fat-free milk under the National School Lunch Program.

Trump said the change gives parents more choice and supports dairy farmers. Agriculture Secretary Brooke Rollins said implementation would begin within weeks. Health Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr. said earlier restrictions reduced milk consumption and pushed children toward sugary drinks. The law also removes the requirement for a doctor’s note to request milk substitutes. Schools may now offer a full range of milk options.

Louisiana seeks extradition of California doctor in cross-state abortion pill case

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Louisiana officials on Tuesday sought the extradition of a California doctor accused of mailing abortion medication into the state, setting up a legal test of shield laws protecting out-of-state providers. Attorney General Liz Murrill said the physician faces charges for allegedly sending mifepristone and misoprostol to a Louisiana resident through an online service. If convicted, the doctor could face decades in prison.

California has enacted laws shielding providers from prosecution tied to abortion care delivered across state lines. Governor Jeff Landry said Louisiana would enforce its abortion laws aggressively. Advocacy groups stressed the charge remains an allegation and warned the case could escalate conflicts between states with abortion bans and those protecting telehealth providers.

Pacific island veterans face delays in promised US healthcare benefits

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The Trump administration is facing criticism for delaying expanded healthcare benefits promised to veterans from Pacific island nations, according to testimony on Wednesday. Ambassadors from Palau, the Marshall Islands, and the Federated States of Micronesia told a congressional hearing that the Department of Veterans Affairs has not yet implemented benefits approved by Congress. Democratic lawmakers accused the administration of slow-walking commitments made under strategic agreements that grant the United States access to key Pacific regions. The delays come as China intensifies efforts to strengthen ties with the island nations, raising concerns about regional influence.

Immigration shooting intensifies unrest as Minneapolis reels from federal crackdown

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

A U.S. immigration agent shot a Venezuelan man in the leg on Wednesday during a traffic stop in Minneapolis, triggering renewed protests and clashes with law enforcement as tensions over federal immigration enforcement escalated. The Department of Homeland Security said the man fled after crashing his vehicle and resisted arrest, prompting a struggle during which two bystanders allegedly attacked the agent with a snow shovel and a broom handle. Officials said the agent fired after fearing for his safety.

The shooting came one week after a separate incident in which a U.S. immigration officer fatally shot Renee Good, a U.S. citizen, during an encounter linked to immigration enforcement activity. Following Wednesday’s shooting, protesters hurled rocks, ice, and fireworks at officers, who responded with tear gas and crowd



control measures late into the night.

Minneapolis Police Chief Brian O’Hara and Mayor Jacob Frey urged calm, warning against further escalation. Federal officials accused local leaders of encouraging resistance, a claim city officials rejected, as President Donald Trump’s administration said it would deploy additional immigration agents to the city.

Trump unveils sweeping healthcare overhaul aimed at slashing drug prices

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

President Donald Trump on Thursday unveiled what he called the ‘Great Healthcare Plan’, promising sharp reductions in prescription drug prices, lower insurance premiums, and greater transparency across the healthcare system. Speaking in Washington, Trump said the proposal would shift federal healthcare funding directly to individuals rather than insurers or pharmaceutical companies.

He argued this approach would give Americans more control over their care and reduce corporate influence. A central element involves locking in lower drug prices using a most favored nation pricing model, which Trump claimed could cut costs dramatically.



The plan also targets insurance premiums by ending payments to large insurers and funding cost-sharing reductions. Trump criticized the Affordable Care Act, saying his proposal would replace it with a more affordable system.

Lawmakers push \$2.5 billion minerals reserve to cut China’s grip on U.S. supply chains

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

A bipartisan group of United States lawmakers on Thursday introduced legislation to create a \$2.5 billion strategic stockpile of critical minerals, aiming to reduce reliance on China and stabilize domestic supply chains. The bill would establish a Strategic Resilience Reserve overseen by a seven-member board modeled after the Federal Reserve. Lawmakers said China has manipulated prices of minerals vital to electric vehicles, defense systems, and advanced technology. The reserve would prioritize recycled materials but also include newly mined minerals, with



allied nations allowed to participate by contributing funding. Minerals could be released for commercial or defense needs, with profits reinvested. Supporters said the initiative would protect national security and strengthen domestic mining and refining capacity.

Washington state moves to rein in license plate cameras after privacy alarms



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Washington state lawmakers are advancing legislation to restrict the use of automated license plate reader cameras after court rulings made most images public records. Law enforcement agencies say the cameras help solve crimes and reduce auto theft, but privacy advocates warn the data could be misused by stalkers or abusive individuals. The proposed bill would sharply limit public access, restrict camera placement near sensitive locations, and ban use for immigration enforcement or protest tracking. Only academic researchers would be allowed to request records. Some cities have already shut down their programs over safety concerns. Supporters say the bill balances transparency and privacy, while critics fear reduced oversight could enable government abuse.

Whitmer warns Trump tariffs are hurting United States auto industry



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Michigan Governor Gretchen Whitmer on Thursday warned that President Donald Trump’s tariff strategy is damaging the United States auto industry and strengthening Chinese competitors. Speaking at the Detroit Auto Show, Whitmer said months of manufacturing contraction have led to job losses and production cuts. Her comments came days after Trump defended his trade policies during a visit to Detroit.

Whitmer stressed that Michigan’s auto sector depends heavily on cross-border trade with Canada and warned that strained relations only benefit China. She defended the United States Mexico Canada Agreement and urged policy shifts to stabilize the industry. The White House did not immediately respond. Whitmer has maintained a cautious working relationship with Trump during his second term.

Justice Department scrutiny of Fed chair sparks pushback over central bank independence

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The Trump administration's criminal investigation of Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell drew sharp reactions on Monday from economists, former Fed leaders, and some Republican senators who warned it threatens the central bank's independence. Powell said the Justice Department issued subpoenas tied to his congressional testimony about Federal Reserve building renovations and suggested the action was meant to pressure interest rate decisions. The White House said President Donald Trump did not direct the probe, though he has repeatedly criticized Powell over rates. Supporters of the Fed argued that political interference could worsen inflation or job losses, while the Justice Department said the legal process was necessary to address concerns about renovation costs.

Defense challenges prosecutors ahead of hearing in Charlie Kirk killing case

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

A 22-year-old Utah man charged with killing conservative activist Charlie Kirk is scheduled to return to court on Friday as his lawyers seek to disqualify the prosecutors handling the case. Tyler Robinson faces an aggravated murder charge in the campus shooting at Utah Valley University and has not yet entered a plea. Prosecutors have said they intend to seek the death penalty. The defense argues there is a conflict of interest because an 18-year-old child of a deputy county attorney attended the rally where Kirk was shot and later texted with their parent about the chaos. Prosecutors said the child was not a witness or victim and urged the judge to deny the request.

Nevada snow drought deepens as warm winter erodes mountain reserves

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Much of Nevada is facing a snow drought as an unusually warm winter limits snow buildup across the state, raising concerns about water supplies later this year. Meteorologists said much of the precipitation this winter has fallen as rain rather than snow, reducing mountain snowpack that normally acts as a natural reservoir. Statewide snowpack remains below typical levels, with central and eastern Nevada among the hardest hit. Hydrologists warned that while recent rainfall has kept much of the state officially drought-free, soil can hold only limited moisture. Low snowpack threatens ski tourism, spring irrigation, stream flows, wildlife habitats, and long-term water planning across the West.

Trump threatens to cut federal funding to states backing sanctuary cities

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

President Donald Trump said on Tuesday that his administration will move next month to deny federal funding not only to sanctuary cities but also to states that include jurisdictions resisting federal immigration enforcement, sharply expanding earlier threats that focused only on local governments.

Speaking late Tuesday at the Detroit Economic Club, Trump said states that support sanctuary cities would no longer receive federal payments, accusing those jurisdictions of protecting criminals at the expense of public safety. He did not provide details on which programs would be affected. Asked later in Washington about the scope of the funding cuts, Trump said the impact would be significant.

There is no formal legal definition of sanctuary cities, but the term generally refers to local policies that limit cooperation with Immigration and Customs Enforcement.



Courts have previously blocked similar efforts. During Trump's first term, judges struck down attempts to withhold federal funds from sanctuary cities.

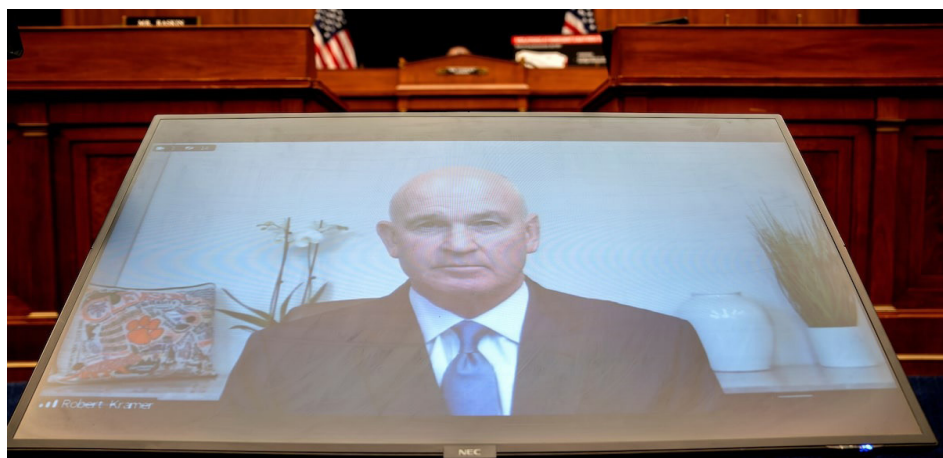
Last year, a federal judge in California also rejected an executive order directing agencies to deny funding to such jurisdictions. The Justice Department has identified several dozen states, cities, and counties as sanctuary jurisdictions, most of them led by Democrats. The administration is already facing legal challenges over separate funding threats involving nutrition assistance, child care subsidies, agriculture programs, and Medicaid funding, including ongoing disputes with Minnesota.

New York sues former vaccine executive over alleged \$10 million insider trading scheme

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

New York Attorney General Letitia James on Thursday sued former Emergent BioSolutions chief executive Robert Kramer, accusing him of insider trading linked to AstraZeneca vaccine manufacturing problems. The lawsuit alleges Kramer sold company shares and earned more than \$10 million while aware of contamination issues that had not been

disclosed publicly. At the same time, Emergent reached a settlement agreeing to pay \$900,000 in penalties for approving the trading plan and to strengthen internal policies. Investigators said Kramer acted after learning multiple vaccine batches were unusable. The case invokes New York's Martin Act, which bars insiders from trading on material nonpublic information. James said the lawsuit seeks damages, disgorgement, and accountability for violations of state securities law.



Federal judge shuts down Trump effort to obtain California voter records

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

A federal judge on Thursday dismissed a lawsuit by the Trump administration seeking detailed voter information from California, ruling the request unlawful and unprecedented. The Justice Department had demanded extensive personal data on millions of registered voters, arguing states failed to properly maintain voter rolls. United States District Judge David Carter said the federal government could not seize control of election oversight without congressional authorization. He warned that centralizing such data would chill



voter participation and undermine democratic rights. California officials welcomed the ruling, saying the state would continue defending voter privacy. The Justice Department had filed similar lawsuits against multiple states, many of which raised concerns over how voter information could be shared or misused.

Senate deadlock leaves millions facing higher Affordable Care Act premiums



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Senate negotiations to revive expired Affordable Care Act subsidies stalled on Thursday, leaving millions facing higher insurance premiums for 2026. Lawmakers left Washington for recess with no agreement in sight as enrollment closed. Democrats backed a House-passed three-year extension, but President Donald Trump has threatened a veto and criticized the subsidies. Most Republicans oppose restoring the funds, while talks with moderates faltered over abortion restrictions and proposed shifts toward health savings accounts. Senate leaders acknowledged momentum had faded.

Democratic leaders blamed Republican resistance for rising costs, while Republicans argued the subsidies were prone to waste and fraud. With talks stalled, consumers are already seeing higher monthly premiums take effect nationwide.

Health department reverses \$2 billion mental health cuts after political uproar



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The Department of Health and Human Services on Wednesday reversed \$2 billion in cuts to mental health and substance abuse programs following intense pushback from lawmakers and advocacy groups. The funding supports services under the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, including crisis hotlines, opioid treatment, and disaster response. Critics said the sudden cuts would have disrupted life-saving care nationwide. House Appropriations Committee leader Rosa DeLauro said the reversal came after public pressure and criticized the initial decision as reckless.

Medical organizations warned the reductions would have endangered patients and strained providers. The department confirmed the funds were restored, but advocates said the episode created uncertainty for families and healthcare systems relying on stable federal support.

Indian-origin Caltech professor Shrinivas Kulkarni receives astronomy’s highest UK honor



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Indian-origin astrophysicist Shrinivas Kulkarni has been awarded the Gold Medal of the Royal Astronomical Society, the United Kingdom’s highest honor in astronomy. Kulkarni, a professor at the California Institute of Technology, is widely recognized for his pioneering contributions to time-domain astronomy, a field that studies rapidly changing cosmic phenomena. His work has played a central role in advancing the understanding of gamma-ray bursts, supernovae, neutron stars, and transient astronomical events.

Kulkarni has also been instrumental in developing large-scale sky surveys that allow scientists to observe the universe in real time, transforming how astronomers detect and analyze cosmic explosions. The Royal Astronomical Society cited his decades-long impact on observational astronomy and his role in mentoring generations of researchers. The Gold Medal, previously awarded to figures such as Albert Einstein and Stephen Hawking, recognizes exceptional lifetime achievement in astronomy and geophysics.

Punjabi businessman shot dead outside his farm in Surrey

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

A Punjabi businessman was shot and killed in broad daylight near his farm in Surrey, British Columbia, on Tuesday, prompting renewed concerns over targeted violence in the region. The victim, identified as 48-year-old Binder Garcha, was attacked near the gate of his property at the intersection of 176 Street and 35 Avenue. Police said the Integrated Homicide Investigation Team has taken over the case. Investigators later discovered a burned vehicle in South Surrey that they believe may be linked to the suspects, who fled the scene immediately after the shooting. No arrests have been made, and authorities have not disclosed a motive. However, members of the local Punjabi community have expressed alarm over a pattern of violence targeting established entrepreneurs, with reports pointing to extortion attempts and organized crime activity. Police have urged anyone with information related to the shooting or the burned vehicle to come forward as the investigation continues.

Singapore removes Pritam Singh as opposition leader after lying conviction

Staff Writer, IndoUS Tribune

Singapore Prime Minister Lawrence Wong removed Pritam Singh from his role as Leader of the Opposition on Thursday, citing that the position had become untenable following Singh’s conviction for lying to Parliament. The decision followed a parliamentary vote on Wednesday that declared Singh’s conduct “dishonorable and unbecoming,” making him unsuitable to continue in the role.

In a statement, Wong said the move was necessary to uphold the rule of law and protect the dignity and integrity of Parliament. While the Leader of the Opposition role is not constitutionally mandated and is designated at the prime



minister’s discretion, it carries privileges such as staff support, additional allowances, and access to confidential government briefings during national crises.

Wong invited the Workers’ Party to nominate another lawmaker not linked to the scandal to serve as the next opposition leader. Singh will remain a Member of Parliament and continue as leader of the Workers’ Party.

Singh was convicted in February for giving false testimony to a parliamentary committee in 2021 related to a former party member’s false sexual assault claim. He was Singapore’s first Leader of the Opposition, appointed after the 2020 election and reappointed following the ruling party’s landslide victory in 2025.

Akali Dal seeks diplomatic intervention after Sikh religious procession disrupted in New Zealand

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The Shiromani Akali Dal has called for diplomatic intervention following the disruption of a Sikh religious procession, or nagar kirtan, in New Zealand, raising concerns about the safety of Sikh religious events abroad. Party president Sukhbir Singh Badal urged the Indian government to take up the matter with New Zealand authorities to ensure protection for religious freedoms and community gatherings. According to reports, the procession was disrupted by a group of individuals, prompting concern within the Sikh diaspora over repeated incidents targeting religious events. Akali Dal leaders said this was not an isolated case and highlighted the need for stronger assurances from host countries to safeguard minority religious practices.



The party emphasized that Sikh processions are peaceful and central to community life, particularly for diaspora populations. It called on Indian diplomatic missions to engage proactively with local authorities to prevent future disruptions and uphold the right to religious expression.

Indian national faces murder trial over wife’s killing in Canada

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

A Canadian court has begun the murder trial of an Indian national accused of killing his wife in British Columbia. Jagpreet Singh, 52, appeared in an Abbotsford courtroom on Monday, where prosecutors outlined the events leading to the death of his wife, Balwinder Kaur.

The court heard that Singh arrived in Canada on a visitor visa to see his wife and daughter, and six days later, Kaur was found fatally stabbed. Despite receiving treatment at Abbotsford Regional Hospital, she was pronounced dead early Saturday morning. Singh was taken into police custody shortly after the incident.

Prosecutors have charged Singh with second-degree murder and said the trial will focus primarily on his mental state at the time of the killing rather than disputing responsibility. Singh pleaded



not guilty during a court appearance in July 2025.

The couple married in India in 2000 and had two children. Kaur later moved to Canada to care for their daughter, who developed serious medical issues, while Singh remained in India. The trial is scheduled to continue until late February.

Indian envoy rejects Canada’s allegations over Nijjar killing



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

India’s High Commissioner to Canada, Dinesh K Patnaik, has dismissed Canada’s long-standing allegations linking New Delhi to the killing of Sikh separatist leader Hardeep Singh Nijjar, stating that the case is against individuals and not the Indian government. Speaking to CBC News on Tuesday, Patnaik said repeated claims had not been supported by evidence.

His remarks came as British Columbia Premier David Eby visited India on a trade mission, reflecting improving ties between the two countries. Relations had deteriorated after former prime minister Justin Trudeau alleged possible Indian involvement in Nijjar’s killing outside a gurdwara in Surrey on Sunday in June 2023. India has consistently rejected the allegations as baseless.

Patnaik said India would act if Canada provided concrete evidence and emphasized that ongoing legal proceedings in Surrey name four individuals, not the Indian state. He also criticized Canada’s record on prosecuting terrorism-related cases, referencing the unresolved Air India bombing investigation.

The two countries have recently taken steps to restore diplomatic engagement and revive bilateral cooperation mechanisms.

Punjab-origin youth killed in targeted shooting amid Canada gang conflict



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

A Canada-born Punjabi youth from Ludhiana district was shot dead in Abbotsford, British Columbia, on Friday in what police described as a targeted killing linked to ongoing gang violence. The victim was identified as 28-year-old Navpreet Singh Dhaliwal.

Police said the shooting occurred at a residence in West Abbotsford shortly after midnight, when intruders forced entry and opened fire. Dhaliwal was found critically injured and later died at the scene. The case was transferred to the Integrated Homicide Investigation Team, which confirmed the killing was gang-related.

Individuals linked to previous high-profile murders in the Punjabi community have reportedly claimed responsibility through social media posts, alleging preemptive action amid ongoing rivalries. Authorities said Dhaliwal had been known to law enforcement and had previously been arrested in connection with a large drug trafficking investigation, later released under strict conditions.

Family members said Dhaliwal had been preparing for an examination at the time of the attack. Police continue to investigate the killing as part of a broader probe into organized crime activity in British Columbia.

Arrest made in Canada's largest gold heist as key suspect remains in India

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Canadian police arrested a suspect on Monday in connection with the country's largest gold heist, involving more than \$20 million worth of gold stolen from Toronto Pearson International Airport. Peel Regional Police said Arsalan Chaudhary, 43, was arrested at the airport after arriving from Dubai and charged with theft, possession of stolen property, and conspiracy. The theft occurred when a shipment of gold arriving from Switzerland disappeared hours after landing. Investigators said former airline employee Simran Preet Panesar remains at large and is believed to be in India, last traced to the outskirts of Chandigarh. An extradition request has been submitted.

Indian-origin New Jersey woman charged with killing her two young sons

Staff Writer, IndoUS Tribune

United States authorities have arrested and charged an Indian-origin woman from New Jersey in connection with the deaths of her two young children. Somerset County Prosecutor John McDonald said on Wednesday that Priyatharsini Natarajan, 35, of Hillsborough, was charged with two counts of first-degree murder and one count of third-degree possession of a weapon for an unlawful purpose. The investigation revealed that the incident occurred on Tuesday evening when the children's father called emergency services after returning home from work and finding his two sons, aged five and seven, unconscious. Police officers arrived at the residence and found both children deceased in a bedroom despite attempts by first responders to administer life-saving measures.

The identities of the children have not yet been released pending confirmation by the medical examiner. Natarajan was taken into custody and transported to the Somerset



County Jail, where she is awaiting a detention hearing. The case is being investigated jointly by the Hillsborough Township Police Department, the Somerset County Prosecutor's Office Major Crimes Unit, the Crime Scene Investigation Unit, and medical investigators from the Northern Regional Medical Examiner's Office. A postmortem examination is scheduled to determine the cause and manner of death.

Sikh diaspora seeks accountability over missing Guru Granth Sahib saroops

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The Sikh diaspora has expressed deep concern after the disclosure that hundreds of saroops of Sri Guru Granth Sahib were unaccounted for at the Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee complex in Amritsar. North American Punjabi Association executive director Satnam Singh Chahal said the revelation that 328 saroops had gone missing, with only about 100 traced so far, has shaken Sikh communities worldwide.

Chahal emphasized that for Sikhs, the Guru Granth Sahib is not a book but the living Guru, making any negligence or mismanagement a serious moral and religious failure. He said it was alarming that the saroops remained unaccounted for over six years without transparent disclosure or corrective action.

The association questioned how the organization responsible for managing Sikh religious institutions failed to maintain a



verifiable inventory and whether regular audits were ignored or deliberately suppressed. Chahal said the partial recovery of some saroops does not resolve the issue and instead highlights administrative failure.

He called on the committee to provide a detailed written explanation addressing where the remaining saroops went, who authorized their movement, and whether proper religious procedures were followed. The Sikh Panth, he said, deserves clear and accountable answers rather than delayed assurances.

Indian Sikh woman sent to shelter home after marrying Pakistani man

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

A 48-year-old Indian Sikh woman who married a Pakistani man during a pilgrimage visit was arrested and sent to a government-run shelter home in Lahore on Wednesday, according to Punjab government sources. Sarabjeet Kaur entered Pakistan in November as part of a group of Sikh pilgrims attending celebrations marking Guru Nanak's birth anniversary.

While the other pilgrims returned to India, Kaur stayed back and later married Nasir Hussain of Sheikhpura district. The couple approached the Lahore High Court after alleging police

harassment and pressure to annul their marriage. A court order instructed police to stop interfering.

Despite the ruling, authorities detained the couple and placed Kaur in Darul Aman, a government shelter, while Hussain remains in police custody. Officials said efforts were underway to deport Kaur, but earlier attempts failed due to the closure of the Wagah-Attari border.

Kaur has said she willingly married Hussain and applied for a visa extension and Pakistani nationality. A petition filed by a former legislator has alleged national security concerns, claims that remain under legal review.

Singapore jails Indian-origin man for online "sugar daddy" sexual fraud



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

A Singapore court on Tuesday sentenced Indian-origin Malaysian national Rajwant Singh Gill Narajan Singh, 38, to 12 years in prison and 15 strokes of the cane for posing as a wealthy "sugar daddy" and sexually exploiting three women. Court records showed Singh used fake online identities, often presenting himself as a rich Caucasian man, to lure victims with promises of financial support. He coerced the women into sexual acts and extorted money by threatening to release explicit videos. Prosecutors described his actions as malicious and sadistic. Singh has additional pending charges involving 13 other alleged victims, which will be heard later. One victim was later diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder.

Bihari tea seller wins hearts in Los Angeles with chai and poha stall

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

A tea and poha stall run by a man from Bihar has gone viral in Los Angeles, drawing attention for both its prices and cultural pride. The vendor sells chai for about eight dollars and poha for nearly seventeen dollars, reflecting the high cost of living in the city. Social media users reacted with humor and admiration, praising him for confidently embracing his roots while running a small business abroad. Many commenters said his story highlighted resilience and hard work rather than extravagance. The stall has become a symbol of Indian comfort food thriving in a global city, with customers celebrating its authentic flavors and spirit.

Malaysian Punjabi leader Jagdeep Singh Deo pays obeisance at Tarn Taran shrine

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Malaysian politician and lawyer Jagdeep Singh Deo visited Darbar Sahib in Tarn Taran on Sunday to pay obeisance and participate in religious prayers. During his visit, he listened to kirtan and was honored by shrine authorities. Deo, who is of Punjabi heritage, previously served as Deputy Chief Minister of Penang and has held senior roles in the Penang state government for over a decade. He is a member of Malaysia's Democratic Action Party. Deo is the eldest son of former parliamentarian Kirpal Singh and the brother of Malaysian Digital Minister Gobind Singh Deo, both prominent figures in Malaysian politics.



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Critical bridge destroyed in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, local communities cut off

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Unidentified attackers blew up a key bridge over the Kurram River in North Waziristan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, on Wednesday, severing a vital link for civilians, students, and traders. Authorities said the blast, heard miles away, disrupted access to healthcare, commerce, and daily travel. Police and security forces cordoned off the area and launched an investigation. The destruction follows a spate of infrastructure attacks in the region, including government schools and another bridge in Bannu last December. Human rights observers warned the escalation of militant attacks poses serious security risks for local communities and continues to hamper recovery in previously conflict-affected districts.

Trump imposes 25 percent tariff on certain semiconductor imports

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

U.S. President Donald Trump signed trade actions on Friday targeting critical minerals and semiconductor imports under Section 232. Imported semiconductors not used in domestic AI or computing systems will face a 25 percent tariff, including those transiting through the U.S. White House Staff Secretary Will Scharf said the measures aim to secure U.S. supply chains and generate revenue. Trump claimed the tariffs strengthened national security, reduced trade imbalances, and attracted investment. He cited manufacturing expansions and major auto investments as evidence. The move comes amid ongoing legal challenges over the president's tariff authority, with a Supreme Court case currently under review.

Israel strikes Hezbollah targets in Lebanon after ceasefire violations



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Israeli forces struck Hezbollah positions in several Lebanese areas on Thursday, citing repeated violations of the 2024 U.S.-brokered ceasefire. The military warned residents in Sohmar village to evacuate certain buildings before conducting strikes. The 2024 ceasefire ended over a year of conflict that severely weakened Hezbollah. Lebanon faces international pressure to disarm the Iran-backed group, while officials fear further escalation. Israeli and Lebanese leaders continue to trade accusations over violations, raising concerns of renewed hostilities. The strikes come amid efforts by the international community to consolidate the ceasefire and prevent another outbreak of large-scale violence along the Israel-Lebanon border.

Putin warns global tensions rising but avoids mention of Venezuela and Iran

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Russian President Vladimir Putin said on Thursday that the world is becoming more dangerous as long running conflicts intensify and new flashpoints emerge, but he was notably silent on major recent crises in Venezuela and Iran. Speaking at a Kremlin ceremony where new foreign ambassadors presented their credentials, Putin described the international situation as deteriorating and criticized powerful states that "dictate their will" rather than seek dialogue.

He reaffirmed Russia's commitment to a multipolar world and urged renewed discussion of Moscow's proposals for a new European security architecture, arguing current arrangements no longer reflect global realities. Despite widespread attention on the United States' ousting of Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro and ongoing protests in Iran, Putin did not



address either issue. His comments, his first public remarks on foreign policy this year, came amid continued confrontation with the West over the war in Ukraine, which remains a central factor in Moscow's relations with European nations.

U.S. warns Iran as UN emergency meeting addresses crackdown on protests

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The U.S. warned Iran that "all options are on the table" during an emergency UN Security Council meeting on Thursday, amid a violent crackdown on nationwide protests that activists say have killed at least 2,677 people. U.S. ambassador Mike Waltz condemned Tehran's actions and called for accountability, while Iranian deputy ambassador Hossein Darzi accused the U.S. of fomenting unrest.

Two Iranian dissidents, Masih Alinejad and Ahmad Batebi, testified at the meeting about personal attacks and human rights abuses. The U.S., the Group of Seven, and the European Union announced new sanctions on senior Iranian officials responsible for the suppression and warned of further penalties if violence continues.

Despite the clampdown, protests have



largely subsided under heavy security and communication blackouts. The U.N. and independent activists continue monitoring the situation, while the Iranian government has not released casualty figures. The international focus remains on preventing further escalation and ensuring protection for civilians.

Netanyahu calls Gaza ceasefire phase symbolic amid ongoing strikes

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Israeli strikes in Gaza on Thursday killed nine people, including three women, even after the U.S. announced the ceasefire would advance to its second phase. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu called the move largely symbolic, noting the new governing committee of Palestinian experts was a "declarative" step rather than substantive progress. Key questions remain over disarming Hamas, deploying international forces, reopening Rafah border crossings, and rebuilding Gaza.

Former Palestinian official Ali Shaath, slated to head the committee, said reconstruction could take roughly three years, beginning with immediate shelter needs. Over 450 people have died since the October ceasefire, part of 71,441 casualties since the war began in October 2023. Residents in Gaza remain in tents during harsh winter



conditions, facing shortages of food, fuel, and medical care. While Hamas welcomed the announcement as a step toward an independent state, many Palestinians expressed skepticism, warning that promises must translate into tangible relief.

Prince Harry to give evidence in High Court Daily Mail case



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Britain's Prince Harry is scheduled to give evidence next Thursday in London's High Court in his privacy lawsuit against the Daily Mail, his lawyers said. The case involves Harry, singer Elton John, John's husband David Furnish, and actors Liz Hurley and Sadie Frost, alleging unlawful information gathering over 30 years. The nine-week trial begins Monday, with Associated Newspapers denying wrongdoing. Harry previously testified in 2023, becoming the first British royal to do so in 130 years. The case is the final ongoing lawsuit by Harry and Meghan against media organizations since 2019, focusing on alleged abuse of power by senior editors and executives.

UK watchdog probes Elon Musk's X over AI deepfakes



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The U.K.'s Ofcom launched an investigation into Elon Musk's social media platform X on Monday after reports that its AI chatbot, Grok, produced sexualized deepfakes of women and children. The probe will determine if X has complied with the Online Safety Act to prevent illegal content. Technology Secretary Liz Kendall backed swift action and warned X could be blocked if it fails to comply. Amnesty groups and opposition parties have urged faster enforcement, citing abuse risks. Critics argue the investigation risks suppressing free speech, while regulators stress the urgency of protecting minors and preventing intimate image abuse on the platform.

Britain expands army reserve call-up age amid WW3 fears

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Britain plans to raise the strategic reserve call-up age from 55 to 65, allowing retired soldiers to be mobilized during "warlike preparations," Defense Ministry sources said on Thursday. The move is part of a new Armed Forces bill aimed at strengthening national readiness amid concerns over potential conflict with Russia. Currently, over 32,000 reservists are active across the armed forces, with full-time troops at a 200-year low of just 70,000. Security experts warn the next year will be critical as Europe braces for military escalation. The government also confirmed it will deploy troops to Ukraine if a peace deal is reached.

Friday, 16 January 2026

French intelligence now provides two-thirds of Ukraine's support



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

French President Emmanuel Macron said on Friday that France now provides two-thirds of intelligence to Ukraine, effectively replacing the U.S. in offensive planning after Washington curtailed support in March 2025. Macron told the French military that France coordinates strike operations and defense planning while leading a coalition of over 30 countries providing financial and technical aid. Ukraine will receive advanced French SAMP/T air defense systems and 100 Rafale fighter jets. Macron emphasized that Europe is ready to deter aggression, support Ukraine's resistance, and maintain peace. French officials confirmed intelligence shared is largely technical and sufficient to sustain operational needs without U.S. involvement.

Senior Hamas and Islamic Jihad figures killed in Gaza airstrikes

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Israeli airstrikes on Thursday killed at least ten people in Gaza, including a Hamas commander, a Hamas policeman, and senior Islamic Jihad operative Ashraf Al-Khatib. The strikes targeted Deir al-Balah, Nuseirat, and Gaza City amid concerns over ceasefire violations. Hamas condemned attacks on the Al-Holy family and welcomed the formation of a 15-member technocratic committee, led by a U.S.-appointed Board of Peace, to consolidate governance and prevent renewed fighting. Over 400 Palestinians and three Israeli soldiers have died since the ceasefire began in October. The committee is expected to coordinate reconstruction and humanitarian efforts while Israel and Hamas negotiate demilitarization and troop withdrawals.

Power outage halts Tokyo commuter trains, thousands stranded

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

A railway power outage disrupted Tokyo's morning commute on Friday, halting the Yamanote and Keihin-Tohoku lines after a fire near Tamachi Station. Flames from a trackside transformer were nearly extinguished within 30 minutes, but trains remained suspended indefinitely. Passengers were evacuated from stranded trains, walking along tracks to reach stations with firefighter assistance. The Yamanote Line serves heavily trafficked hubs like Shinjuku, which handles 3.5 million passengers daily, while the Keihin-Tohoku Line links Tokyo and Yokohama. Authorities continue investigating the cause of the transformer fire and the extent of the disruption. Commuters were urged to seek alternative transportation as delays persisted throughout the morning.

At least 32 killed as crane collapses on train in Thailand

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

At least 32 people were killed and 64 injured, seven critically, when a crane collapsed onto a passenger train in Nakhon Ratchasima province, northeast of Bangkok, on Wednesday. The train, traveling from Bangkok to Ubon Ratchathani, derailed after the crane struck the second carriage, splitting it in half. Rescuers worked to extract passengers from the wreckage amid smoke and overturned carriages.

Authorities briefly paused operations

due to a chemical leak at the site, part of a \$5.4 billion high-speed rail project backed by Beijing connecting Bangkok to Kunming via Laos by 2028. Thai Prime Minister Anutin Charnvirakul called for accountability and proposed stricter regulations for repeat-offending construction companies. Transport Minister Phiphat Ratchakitprakarn confirmed 195 passengers were onboard. Industrial and construction accidents are common in Thailand due to lax safety enforcement, and authorities are investigating the cause. Rescue teams continue efforts amid ongoing safety concerns at the site.

Wildfires rage across Western Cape, thousands evacuated

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Massive wildfires swept through South Africa's Western and Eastern Cape provinces on Saturday, scorching over 100,000 hectares and prompting large-scale evacuations. Western Cape Premier Alan Winde said helicopters, including a military helicopter, are being deployed to battle the blazes affecting Mossel Bay, Du Noon, Cape Town, and Pearly Beach. No deaths have been reported, though a young girl was hospitalized and several firefighters treated for smoke inhalation. Overstrand Municipal Manager Dean O'Neill said



residents in Pearly Beach were moved to a community hall while others remain on alert. Eastern Cape Premier Lubabalo Oscar Mabuyane expressed concern over impacts on key tourist areas during peak season, urging residents and visitors to follow evacuation orders.

Afghan women face severe hardship amid forced returns from Pakistan, Iran

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Thousands of Afghan women and families face extreme poverty and lack of shelter after deportation from Pakistan and Iran, local media reported on Tuesday. Many returned households, previously working abroad, struggle to survive during harsh winter conditions. The International Organization for Migration warned over two million returnees face livelihood challenges, while UN reports indicate only 11 percent are employed and one in four lack adequate housing. Amnesty International urged Pakistan to halt deportations and protect



refugees from harassment and unlawful detention. Women-headed households, journalists, and human rights activists remain especially vulnerable amid ongoing gender-based violence, early marriages, and restricted freedoms in Afghanistan.

Taiwan accuses China of running massive fake news and cognitive warfare campaign

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Taiwan's top intelligence agency has accused China of using information technology and marketing companies to create fake news websites and social media accounts to spread large-scale misinformation against the self-ruled island. The National Security Bureau released its findings on Sunday, detailing what it described as China's cognitive warfare tactics during 2025. The agency said investigators identified more than 45,000 fake accounts and over 2.3 million pieces of disinformation.

According to the bureau, Chinese firms built automated systems under the direction of the People's Republic of China's Central Publicity Department and Ministry of Public Security. These networks first attracted audiences with non-political clickbait before shifting to content aligned with Beijing's positions. The bureau said the effort aimed to divide Taiwanese society, weaken public confidence, and reduce international support. It added that cyberattacks and coordinated online messaging intensified during Chinese military drills earlier last week.

Ex-president Yoon faces first ruling over failed martial law attempt

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Former South Korean president Yoon Suk Yeol faces his first court ruling on Friday over criminal charges linked to his failed martial law attempt in December 2024. He is accused of obstructing officials, falsifying documents, and barricading himself to block an arrest. Yoon's arrest involved over 3,000 police officers and marked the first time a sitting president was detained. If convicted, he could face up to 10 years in prison. The case comes amid other trials, including one seeking the death penalty for alleged insurrection. Yoon was removed from office in April 2025 after the Constitutional Court ruled he violated official duties during the crisis.

Floods force Kruger National Park evacuation and claim 19 lives in northern South Africa

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Severe flooding in northern South Africa forced Kruger National Park to suspend visits and evacuate staff and guests by helicopter on Thursday. Torrential rains have killed at least 19 people in Mpumalanga and Limpopo provinces since last month. The South African Weather Service issued a red-level 10 alert, warning of 4 to 8 inches of rain over the next two days, with overflowing rivers causing widespread flooding. President Cyril Ramaphosa is set to visit affected areas. Authorities continue rescue operations, and several park entrances remain closed as heavy rains persist.

Yemen's prime minister resigns, foreign minister named successor amid political tensions



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Yemen's Saudi-backed Presidential Leadership Council accepted Prime Minister Salem bin Breik's resignation on Thursday, amid ongoing political and security challenges. Foreign Minister Shaya Mohsen Zindani was appointed as the new prime minister to form the next government, though details on the cabinet remain unclear. The move comes as UAE-backed separatists advanced across southern and eastern Yemen in December, briefly threatening the Saudi border before being largely repelled by Saudi-supported forces. The political reshuffle signals ongoing tensions in the war-torn country and the continued influence of external powers in Yemen's governance.

Delhi night shelters fall far short of official bed capacity claims

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Delhi's night shelter system is facing a serious gap between official records and on-ground reality, particularly during winter. Government data lists 322 shelters with nearly 20,000 beds, but inspections show many operate at a fraction of that number. A shelter in Motia Khan meant to house over 500 people reportedly had only about 15 usable beds, while facilities at Chabi Ganj, Yamuna Bazar, and Mori Gate showed similar shortages. Activists estimate the actual available capacity at only 6,500 to 7,000 beds. Shelter monitors have accused authorities of inflated reporting and neglect of basic infrastructure. Officials have promised audits and corrective steps, but have not explained the discrepancy, leaving thousands of homeless residents vulnerable on cold nights.

Fish diversity in the Ganga rises sharply after years of restoration efforts



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Fish diversity in the Ganga River has increased by nearly 61 percent over the past eleven years, reaching 230 species, according to a study released on Thursday by the Central Inland Fisheries Research Institute. Scientists attributed the recovery to sustained river rejuvenation programs, including Namami Gange, which improved water quality and habitat conditions. The river had seen a long decline in species due to pollution and overexploitation, dropping to just 110 species in the late 1990s. Researchers said improved dissolved oxygen levels, stock enhancement programs, and the release of fish fingerlings helped reverse the trend. Uttar Pradesh recorded the highest species counts, while restoration efforts also supported the gradual return of migratory species such as Hilsa.

Bharatiya Janata Party sets timeline for choosing next national president

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The Bharatiya Janata Party on Friday announced the schedule for electing its next national president under the ongoing Sangathan Parv organizational exercise. Party election in charge K Laxman said the electoral roll would be released the same day. Nomination filing is scheduled for Monday afternoon at the party headquarters in New Delhi, followed by scrutiny and withdrawals later that evening. A formal statement will be issued Monday night. The name of the new president will be announced on Tuesday. Working president Nitin Nabin, a five-time Bihar legislator and former state minister, is expected to take over the post.

BJP targets Rahul Gandhi after IMF calls India a global growth engine

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The Bharatiya Janata Party stepped up its attack on Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Friday after the International Monetary Fund praised India's economic performance and described the country as a major driver of global growth. Party spokesperson C R Kesavan contrasted the Fund's assessment with Gandhi's earlier remarks calling India a "dead economy," accusing him of spreading pessimism and misleading the public. Referring to Gandhi as the "Leader of Pessimism," Kesavan demanded an apology for what he called irresponsible statements about the economy.

The criticism followed the International



Monetary Fund's statement that India's third quarter growth was stronger than expected, with growth in earlier quarters remaining above seven percent. The Fund also indicated it may upgrade its outlook in an upcoming global report, further strengthening the government's position.

ED and Trinamool Congress spar in court over alleged interference during I PAC raids

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The Enforcement Directorate told the Calcutta High Court this week that West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee interfered with lawful money laundering searches and removed digital devices and documents during raids linked to a coal pilferage probe. The agency alleged that Banerjee entered the search locations with state police support and took custody of electronic evidence, calling it a serious obstruction of justice.

The searches were conducted at the residence of political strategist Pratik Jain and at the Indian Political Action Committee office in Kolkata. The Enforcement Directorate warned that digital evidence may have been compromised and



sought court intervention to ensure an unhindered investigation.

Meanwhile, the Trinamool Congress moved the court, alleging the raids were politically motivated and aimed at seizing confidential election strategy material unrelated to any offense.

Makar Sankranti celebrations bring villages to life across Andhra Pradesh and Telangana

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Andhra Pradesh and Telangana celebrated Makar Sankranti on Thursday with vibrant rural traditions, family reunions, and colorful festivities. Villages were decorated with flowers, rangoli patterns, and harvest offerings, while families gathered to offer prayers and prepare traditional dishes such as chakkara pongal. Kite flying filled

the skies in towns and cities, and farmers worshipped their cattle in gratitude for the harvest. Lakhs of people traveled from Hyderabad to their native villages, prompting authorities to run special buses and trains. Despite court restrictions, cockfights were held at several locations, drawing large crowds. Chief ministers of both states marked the festival with family celebrations and messages highlighting cultural heritage and farmer welfare.

Army chief says Operation Sindoor ongoing, vigilance remains high

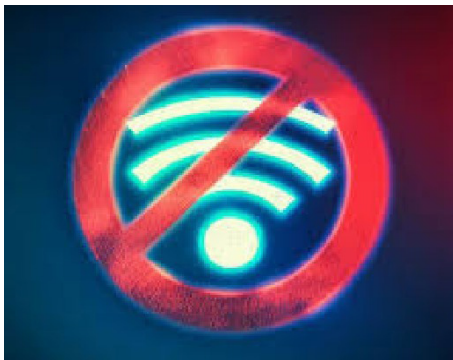
IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Army Chief General Upendra Dwivedi said on Wednesday that Operation Sindoor remains active and enemy movements are under close watch. Addressing a ceremony in Jaipur, he said India responded decisively after the Pahalgam terror attack by striking multiple terror camps with joint forces. He added that the operation set a new security benchmark and forced a ceasefire within days. General Dwivedi said



deployments along the Line of Actual Control remain strong and development efforts have reduced militant recruitment in Jammu and Kashmir to historic lows.

Internet suspended and schools closed after communal violence in Odisha's Sundargarh



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Tension gripped Odisha's Sundargarh district on Thursday following communal violence triggered by rumors over the alleged sale of beef at a local market. Clashes involving stone pelting led to injuries, vehicle damage, and shops being set on fire. Police deployed ten platoons to restore order and imposed prohibitory measures to prevent gatherings. Authorities temporarily suspended internet services to curb the spread of misinformation. The district administration also ordered the closure of schools and colleges on Friday as a precaution. Officials said the situation was brought under control, with security tightened in sensitive areas.

Cold wave and dense fog push Delhi air quality into very poor range

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Delhi experienced a sharp drop in air quality this week as pollution levels entered the very poor category amid cold wave conditions and dense fog. Several locations, including Anand Vihar, Ashok Vihar, and RK Puram, recorded dangerously high Air Quality Index readings above 350. Weather officials said minimum temperatures dipped well below seasonal averages, with some areas nearing three degrees Celsius. Dense fog reduced visibility and disrupted flight operations at the city's IGI airport, prompting advisories for possible delays. Health experts urged residents, especially vulnerable groups, to limit outdoor exposure until conditions improve.

Bharatiya Janata Party alliance leads early as Maharashtra civic vote counting begins

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The Bharatiya Janata Party led alliance took an early lead on Friday as counting began for civic body elections across Maharashtra after a gap of nearly nine years. Initial trends showed the alliance ahead in 34 wards of the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation, with the Bharatiya Janata Party leading in 25 and the Eknath Shinde led Shiv Sena faction in nine. The Uddhav Thackeray faction of Shiv Sena led in 23 wards, while the Maharashtra Navnirman Sena was ahead in three. The contest is closely watched due to the civic body's financial and political influence.

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Delhi High Court seeks federal probe response on Rabri Devi plea in rail case



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The Delhi High Court on Friday issued notice to the Central Bureau of Investigation on a plea by former Bihar Chief Minister Rabri Devi challenging charges framed against her in the alleged rail catering scam. The court scheduled the matter for hearing on Monday. Trial courts have accused Rabri Devi, Lalu Prasad Yadav, and Tejashwi Yadav of conspiracy and cheating, alleging land was received in exchange for awarding hotel contracts during Yadav's tenure as railway minister. The family has denied wrongdoing and described the case as politically motivated, claiming there is no evidence to support the allegations.

Security forces respond after drones spotted near Line of Control in Jammu region

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Indian security forces opened counter fire on Tuesday evening after five drones were spotted near the Line of Control in the Rajouri district of Jammu and Kashmir. Officials said the first drone crossed into Indian territory around early evening, followed by four more sightings shortly afterward. The incident occurred days after a satellite phone was detected near the International Border, triggering a joint search operation. Authorities have not confirmed whether any drone was intercepted or recovered. Security agencies remain on high alert, citing concerns over drones being used for surveillance and potential infiltration activities along the border.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi to shift office to Seva Teerth complex soon



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is expected to begin working from his new office complex, Seva Teerth, near Raisina Hill later this month as construction nears completion. The facility is part of the Central Vista redevelopment project and includes offices for the Prime Minister's Office, Cabinet Secretariat, and National Security Council Secretariat. Officials said the complex features advanced meeting spaces and an open floor design to encourage collaboration. Once operational, the Prime Minister will move out of the historic South Block, which will be converted into a national museum showcasing India's civilizational history.

Bonfires, beats and belonging mark Lohri celebrations across Punjab, Haryana and the capital

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Lohri was celebrated with traditional warmth and community spirit across Punjab and Haryana on Tuesday, as families and institutions marked the harvest festival that signals the end of winter and the approach of longer days, a day ahead of Makar Sankranti. Cities and villages alike came alive with bonfires, around which people offered sesame seeds, jaggery, peanuts, and popcorn

while singing folk songs and performing bhangra and giddha late into the evening.

Official and cultural gatherings added to the festive mood. At Haryana Lok Bhavan in Chandigarh, Governor Ashim Kumar Ghosh extended greetings, describing Lohri as a celebration of gratitude, renewal, and social harmony. Similar scenes unfolded in New Delhi, where cultural centers hosted Lohri events featuring folk and Sufi music, traditional rituals, and festive cuisine.



Delhi government clears carbon credit plan to fund green projects

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta approved a Carbon Credit Monetisation Framework on Tuesday, marking a major step toward sustainable urban development. The plan allows the city to generate tradable carbon credits from verified reductions in carbon emissions across transport, power, water, forestry, and waste management projects. Officials said these credits can be sold in global carbon markets, generating funds for pollution control without creating financial liability for the government. Environment Minister Manjinder Singh Sirsa said the framework would help monetize existing green initiatives such as



electric transport, solar energy, and landfill biomining. The revenue will be reinvested into climate action and environmental protection programs.

Al Qaeda expands India focused operations using artificial intelligence tools

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Indian intelligence agencies have flagged an increase in technology driven operations by Al Qaeda, with investigators warning of a growing pan India digital footprint. Officials said on Tuesday that the group is using servers hosted across multiple countries to spread propaganda and radicalize audiences in India. Investigations revealed the use

of artificial intelligence tools, including deepfake videos featuring digitally recreated images of deceased extremist leaders. Experts said this strategy has revived recruitment and ideological influence. Unlike other extremist groups with regional focus, Al Qaeda is adopting a slow and calculated approach nationwide. Security agencies described the trend as dangerous and said monitoring such operations has become increasingly complex.

Vijayvargiya defends Indore clean city status amid criticism

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Madhya Pradesh Urban Development Minister Kailash Vijayvargiya on Wednesday defended Indore's clean city ranking amid opposition criticism following a water contamination incident. Speaking at a government program, he said challenges cannot be solved through blame and urged collective

responsibility. Vijayvargiya accused the Congress of politicizing a tragedy and insulting sanitation workers who helped Indore achieve national recognition.

Mayor Pushyamitra Bhargava acknowledged the incident's impact and said corrective measures are underway. The opposition has questioned the city's cleanliness record after recent health related deaths.

India's stitched heritage vessel completes symbolic Oman voyage

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

India's recreated fifth century stitched sail vessel, Indian Naval Sailing Vessel Kaundinya, completed its maiden voyage on Wednesday, sailing from Porbandar in Gujarat to Muscat in Oman after a 17 day journey across the Arabian Sea. Inspired by ships depicted in the Ajanta cave paintings, the vessel was built without metal fastenings, using coir rope, coconut fiber, and natural resin. Officials said the voyage retraced ancient trade routes and highlighted India's historic maritime ties with Oman. The project, envisioned by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, blends naval capability with cultural diplomacy and heritage revival.

Doctors urge calm after suspected Nipah cases surface in West Bengal

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Health authorities were placed on alert on Wednesday after two suspected Nipah virus cases were detected in West Bengal, prompting the central government to deploy a joint outbreak response team. Medical experts stressed that the virus is rare but potentially deadly and requires early detection. Doctors explained that Nipah spreads from animals to humans, mainly through fruit bats, and can also pass between people through close contact. While it does not spread as easily as respiratory viruses, past outbreaks recorded high fatality rates. There is currently no approved vaccine or antiviral treatment. Experts emphasized vigilance, early isolation, and public awareness to prevent further spread.

Kerala communists face rare defections as election season approaches



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The Communist Party of India Marxist is facing an unusual wave of senior exits in Kerala ahead of the Assembly elections, with veteran leaders switching to rival parties. Reji Lukose, a familiar television debater aligned with the party for over a decade, joined the Bharatiya Janata Party last week, citing dissatisfaction with the Left's policies and governance. On Tuesday, three time legislator Aisha Potty joined the Congress, accusing party leaders of neglect and confirming her readiness to contest again. Former legislator S Rajendran has also announced plans to join the Bharatiya Janata Party. Party leaders admitted the exits were painful but downplayed electoral impact.

Indian passport climbs five spots in global mobility rankings

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

India's passport rose five places in the 2026 Henley Passport Index, offering visa free, visa on arrival, or electronic travel authorization access to 55 destinations, according to a report released on Wednesday. India ranked 80th globally, alongside Algeria and Niger. Singapore topped the index with access to 192 destinations, followed by Japan and South Korea. Indian travelers enjoy easier entry across parts of Southeast Asia, Africa, and the Caribbean, though advance visas remain mandatory for most of Europe, the United Kingdom, the United States, and Canada. The report noted widening global disparities in travel freedom.

India becomes first market outside United States to build Mercedes-Maybach GLS

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Mercedes-Benz India said on Tuesday it has become the first market outside the United States to begin local production of the Mercedes-Maybach GLS, marking a global milestone for the luxury automaker. The move reflects rising demand for ultra-luxury vehicles in India and strengthens the company's top-end portfolio. Mercedes-Benz India sold 19,007 vehicles in 2025, slightly below the previous year, but recorded its highest-ever revenue. Top-end models grew strongly, accounting for one-quarter of sales, while high-performance AMG cars and electric vehicles continued to post double-digit growth.

Wikipedia expands paid AI training deals with major tech firms



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Wikipedia said on Thursday it has expanded paid partnerships with major technology companies including Microsoft, Meta, and Amazon, as it seeks to monetize the use of its content for artificial intelligence training. The Wikimedia Foundation has also signed agreements over the past year with Perplexity and France-based Mistral AI, while continuing an existing deal with Google announced in 2022. Wikipedia's 65 million articles in more than 300 languages are widely used to train generative AI systems, increasing server demand and costs. Through its Wikimedia Enterprise service, companies pay for structured access to content. The foundation also announced that Bernadette Meehan will assume the role of chief executive next Monday.

European Parliament delays tariff vote amid Greenland tensions with Washington

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

European Parliament trade leaders on Wednesday postponed a decision on whether to move ahead with a vote on a transatlantic tariff agreement after renewed tensions triggered by President Donald Trump's threats regarding Greenland. Lawmakers are scheduled to vote later this month on lifting tariffs on United States industrial goods and lobsters, a central element of a trade deal reached between Brussels and Washington last summer. Some members, angered by the Greenland remarks, are pushing to freeze the vote altogether.

At a closed meeting, leading lawmakers agreed to delay any decision until high-level talks between the United States, Greenland, and Denmark conclude later on Wednesday. Karin Karlsbro, the Parliament's lead trade negotiator, said clarity from Washington was necessary before proceeding. Discussions are expected to resume next Wednesday, according to international trade



committee chair Bernd Lange.

Political groups remain divided. Social Democrats and Greens favor freezing the vote to signal firmness, while conservatives warn delays could destabilize transatlantic trade. Under the agreement, the European Union pledged to lift tariffs in exchange for reduced United States duties on European cars. While Washington has already lowered car tariffs, European approval remains pending, increasing pressure on Parliament to act.

India-EU trade talks gain momentum amid ministerial outreach and German support

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

India's push to finalize a free trade agreement with the European Union has gained fresh momentum following high-level diplomatic engagement and policy initiatives aimed at boosting exports. Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal said this week that discussions with European Union Trade and Economic Security Commissioner Maros Sefcovic in Brussels focused on advancing a fair and balanced trade agreement aligned with shared economic priorities.

Goyal also reviewed the India European Free Trade Association Trade and Economic Partnership Agreement during a visit to Liechtenstein, encouraging stronger participation by European companies in Indian trade and investment initiatives. At home, he highlighted the rollout of the Export Promotion Mission, including Niryat Protsahan measures designed to lower export credit costs and improve access to finance for micro, small, and medium enterprises.

The momentum has been reinforced



by German Chancellor Friedrich Merz's recent visit to India, widely seen as a signal of Europe's intent to fast track the agreement. Negotiations, resumed in 2022 after a long pause, aim to cut tariffs, expand market access, and deepen investment ties. While sectors such as textiles, pharmaceuticals, and technology could benefit, concerns remain around agriculture, regulatory standards, and intellectual property protections.

Asian markets slip as oil prices drop after Trump comments on Iran

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Asian stock markets were mostly lower on Thursday as oil prices fell sharply following comments by President Donald Trump about Iran. Trump said he had been told that plans for executions in Iran had stopped, prompting oil prices to drop by more than \$2 a barrel. United States benchmark crude fell to about \$59.75 a barrel, while Brent crude declined to roughly \$64.21. Japan's Nikkei index slipped as

technology stocks weakened, though retailer Muji surged after reporting stronger-than-expected earnings. Toyota Industries jumped after reports that Toyota Motor raised its buyout offer. Markets in Hong Kong and Shanghai edged lower, weighed down by regulatory concerns, while South Korea and Australia posted gains.

On Wall Street, stock futures were mixed after losses on Wednesday driven by Big Tech declines. Investors continued to seek safer assets amid geopolitical uncertainty, pushing bond yields lower.

Gates Foundation announces record spending plan and staff reductions



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The Gates Foundation said on Wednesday it will spend a record \$9 billion in 2026 while beginning plans to reduce its workforce by up to 500 positions over the next five years. The announcement follows last year's decision to close the foundation in 2045 after distributing most of its endowment. Foundation leaders approved increased funding for global health, vaccines, women's health, education, and artificial intelligence. At the same time, operating costs will be capped at about 14 percent of the total budget to ensure more funds reach programs.

Chief Executive Mark Suzman said staff reductions will be gradual and reviewed annually. The foundation is also shifting more work to offices in Africa and India.

Big banks post strong profits despite tensions with Trump administration



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Major United States banks reported rising profits on Wednesday, even as tensions grow with President Donald Trump over proposed limits on credit interest rates. Bank of America, Citigroup, and Wells Fargo all posted higher earnings, citing strong consumer spending and steady dealmaking activity.

Bank executives said consumers and businesses remain resilient despite economic and geopolitical risks. Bank of America reported profit growth and increased card spending, while Wells Fargo posted higher earnings with stable credit quality. Citigroup echoed similar trends.

The positive results come as Trump pushes for a ten percent cap on credit card interest rates, a proposal banks strongly oppose, warning it could restrict access to credit. Executives also expressed concern about political pressure on the Federal Reserve. Despite the policy disputes, banks said consumer finances remain stable and economic conditions supportive going into 2026.

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TSMC posts record profit and signals expanded United States manufacturing plans



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Company reported on Thursday a 35 percent jump in fourth-quarter profit to a record high, driven by strong demand linked to artificial intelligence. The company forecast nearly 30 percent revenue growth in 2026 and said it plans to expand manufacturing capacity in the United States. TSMC is already investing \$165 billion in Arizona facilities and is seeking permits for additional factories and advanced packaging plants. Executives cautioned about spending carefully amid concerns of an artificial intelligence bubble. The chipmaker, a key supplier to Nvidia and Apple, continues to benefit from surging demand for advanced processors.

Amazon outlines initial services for European sovereign cloud launch

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Amazon Web Services said this week that its European Sovereign Cloud will begin operations later this year, offering public sector and regulated industry customers greater control over data residency and governance. The cloud will operate independently within the European Union, with its first region located in Germany. Amazon confirmed that core services across computing, storage, databases, security, and artificial intelligence will be available at launch. Customer data and system metadata will remain entirely within the European Union. The project is backed by an investment of about \$8.5 billion and is aimed at meeting growing regulatory and digital sovereignty requirements.

Ericsson plans to cut 1,600 jobs in Sweden to reduce costs

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Ericsson said on Thursday that it plans to lay off about 1,600 employees in Sweden as part of broader efforts to improve its cost structure and remain competitive. The telecom equipment maker said the reductions are intended to support long-term investments in network technology and programmable infrastructure. Ericsson has notified Sweden's employment authorities and begun negotiations with labor unions. The company said additional efficiency initiatives will continue across its global operations, though not all measures will be announced publicly. The layoffs come amid pressure on telecom companies to control costs while maintaining technology leadership.

Boeing advances 737 MAX case resolutions with Canadian family settlement

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Boeing reached tentative settlement agreements late Tuesday with a Canadian man who lost six family members in the Ethiopian Airlines Flight 302 crash, moving closer to resolving lawsuits tied to the 737 MAX disasters. The agreements were finalized shortly after a jury was selected in federal court in Chicago, where the cases had been consolidated for trial. Settlement terms were not disclosed.

The lawsuits were filed by Manant Vaidya, whose parents and sister were among the 157 people killed when the aircraft crashed shortly after takeoff from Addis Ababa. His brother-in-law and two young nieces also died in the crash, although Boeing settled claims related to their deaths last year. All six victims were Canadian residents.



The Ethiopian Airlines crash occurred five months after a similar 737 MAX crash involving Lion Air in Indonesia. Investigations found that a faulty automated flight control system played a role in both accidents, which together killed 346 people. The crises led to a 20-month global grounding of the aircraft and have cost Boeing more than \$20 billion in settlements and penalties.

Saks Global seeks bankruptcy protection amid heavy debt burden

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Saks Global, the owner of Saks Fifth Avenue, filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection on Wednesday as it struggles under heavy debt following its acquisition of Neiman Marcus last year. The company said it has secured about \$1.75 billion in financing and will keep stores open while restructuring its obligations. Employee wages, suppliers, and customer programs will continue as normal. The company operates dozens of Saks and Neiman

Marcus locations, along with Bergdorf Goodman and Saks Off 5th stores. The Neiman Marcus acquisition was intended to strengthen Saks' position in the luxury market, but weakening demand and intense online competition worsened financial pressures.

Saks Global leadership said the restructuring is meant to stabilize the business and position it for long-term success. The filing reflects broader challenges facing department stores as luxury spending slows and costs rise.

Nvidia cleared to sell advanced AI chips to China under new restrictions

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The Trump administration on Wednesday approved the export of Nvidia's H200 artificial intelligence chips to China, while imposing new security conditions. Under updated Commerce Department rules, Nvidia must ensure adequate chip supply in the United States and submit exports for third-party review. China is barred from using the chips for military purposes and cannot import more than half the volume sold domestically. Nvidia welcomed the decision, calling it a balanced

approach that supports United States jobs and manufacturing. The H200 chip is less advanced than Nvidia's latest Blackwell and upcoming Rubin platforms, which remain restricted.

Some Democratic lawmakers criticized the move, warning the chips could strengthen China's military and cyber capabilities. The approval follows President Donald Trump's earlier comments allowing sales to approved Chinese customers and reflects ongoing debate over balancing national security with economic competitiveness.

Paramount escalates hostile bid for Warner Bros Discovery with lawsuit and proxy fight

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Paramount Skydance has intensified its hostile takeover effort for Warner Bros Discovery by launching a proxy fight and filing a lawsuit aimed at derailing the company's planned merger with Netflix. On Monday, Paramount sued Warner Bros Discovery seeking financial details related to its cash and stock agreement with Netflix, arguing that its own all cash offer, valued at about \$108.7 billion, delivers greater certainty and value. Paramount also said it plans to nominate directors to the Warner Bros Discovery board ahead of an upcoming

shareholder vote, urging investors to reject the Netflix deal. The Warner Bros Discovery board has repeatedly advised shareholders to support the Netflix transaction and has rejected Paramount's bids.

Warner Bros Discovery, which has faced declining ratings and revenue, plans to split into two businesses, separating the Warner Bros film and television operations from its global networks. Netflix has agreed to acquire only the Warner Bros business, while Paramount is seeking to buy the entire company. The escalating battle sets the stage for one of the largest media deal showdowns in recent history.

Visa expands stablecoin settlements as digital payments gain traction



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

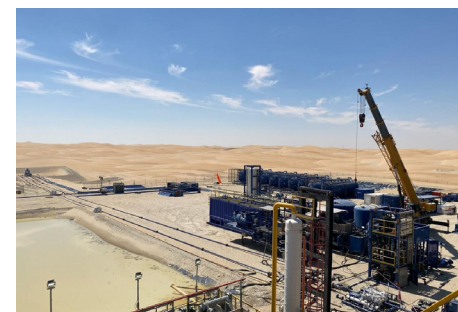
Visa said it is now settling stablecoin transactions at an annualized rate of about \$4.5 billion, reflecting growing interest from companies offering crypto-linked payment cards. Visa executive Cuy Sheffield said the company is positioning itself as a bridge between stablecoins and traditional payment systems. On Thursday, Visa confirmed it is testing settlements using the USDC stablecoin with select banks in the United States. While stablecoin use for everyday purchases remains limited, Visa sees demand rising as banks and fintech firms explore digital currencies. Stablecoins remain a small share of Visa's overall payment volume but continue to grow steadily.

Oracle faces lawsuit from bondholders over undisclosed AI debt needs

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Oracle was sued on Wednesday by bondholders who claim they suffered losses after the company failed to disclose plans to take on significant additional debt to fund its artificial intelligence infrastructure. The proposed class action was filed in a New York state court on behalf of investors who purchased about \$18 billion in notes and bonds issued by Oracle in September. The lawsuit names Oracle, co-founder Larry Ellison, and the banks involved in the bond sale. Plaintiffs allege the lack of disclosure misled investors and affected bond values.

Indian Oil joint venture discovers light crude in Abu Dhabi block



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

India's oil companies have discovered light crude oil in an onshore hydrocarbon block in Abu Dhabi, Petroleum Minister Hardeep Singh Puri announced on Wednesday. The discovery was made by Urja Bharat PTE Ltd, a joint venture between Indian Oil Corporation and Bharat PetroResources Limited. Oil was found in both the Shilaif play and the Habshan reservoir, marking a milestone in Indian Oil's overseas exploration efforts. The minister said the find strengthens India's energy security and reflects growing technical capability through global partnerships, while domestic exploration activity is also expanding across multiple sedimentary basins.

Bangladesh players boycott BPL match after board director's remarks

The toss for the Bangladesh Premier League match between Chattogram Royals and Noakhali Express was delayed on Thursday after players refused to appear at the Sher-e-Bangla National Cricket Stadium. The boycott follows controversial remarks by Bangladesh Cricket Board Finance Committee chairman M. Nazmul Islam, who said the board would not lose financially if Bangladesh skipped the T20 World Cup and refused to compensate players for potential losses. Earlier, Islam called former captain Tamim Iqbal an "Indian agent" for suggesting dialogue with the ICC and BCCI. The Cricketers Welfare Association of Bangladesh had demanded his resignation, warning players would not participate otherwise. The BCB condemned Islam's comments, clarifying they do not reflect board policy and promising disciplinary action while affirming respect for players' dignity and welfare.

Arsenal edge Chelsea in Carabao Cup semi-final thriller



Arsenal took a 3-2 advantage into the second leg of the Carabao Cup semi-finals after a dramatic win over Chelsea at Stamford Bridge on Thursday. Ben White opened the scoring with a header from Declan Rice's corner before Viktor Gyokeres doubled the lead early in the second half. Chelsea fought back through Alejandro Garnacho, but Martin Zubimendi restored Arsenal's two-goal cushion. Garnacho struck again late to set up a tense finish, though Arsenal held on to secure the narrow advantage ahead of the return leg at Emirates Stadium on February 3. Despite missing several key players, both teams delivered a high-intensity match, with Arsenal demonstrating composure in crucial moments to maintain an unbeaten streak of 10 games.

Virat Kohli moves past Sangakkara, edges closer to Tendulkar's historic international run record

Virat Kohli moved past Sri Lankan great Kumar Sangakkara on Sunday to become the second-highest run-scorer in the history of international cricket, trailing only Sachin Tendulkar. The landmark came during India's first one-day international against New Zealand at the BCA International Stadium in Vadodara.

Kohli crossed Sangakkara's career tally of 28,016 international runs while building his innings at number three, after Rohit Sharma was dismissed early. In the process, he also completed 28,000



international runs, becoming the fastest batter to reach the milestone, achieving

it in significantly fewer innings than Tendulkar. Sangakkara finished his international career with 28,016 runs across all formats, while Tendulkar remains the all-time leader with more than 34,000 international runs. Kohli entered the match needing only a handful of runs to surpass Sangakkara and did so with a trademark boundary against New Zealand's spin attack.

The achievement further cements Kohli's status as one of the most prolific batters in the history of the game, as he continues his pursuit of Tendulkar's long-standing record.

SoFi Stadium transforms from NFL battlefield to World Cup and Olympic arena

SoFi Stadium in Inglewood, California, is set to become a global sports hub over the next three years, transitioning from NFL home to World Cup venue and Olympic stage. Built by billionaire Stan Kroenke for \$5 billion, the stadium opened in 2020 and hosts the Los Angeles Rams and Chargers. It has already held the 2022 Super Bowl and six nights of Taylor Swift's 2023 Eras Tour. This summer, SoFi will host eight World Cup matches, including the U.S. opener and a quarterfinal.

Transformations include replacing artificial turf with hybrid grass, raising the pitch, and removing seats to meet FIFA specifications. In 2028, the venue will host the Olympic opening ceremony and swimming events, using innovative



natatorium designs inspired by U.S. trials. The stadium's 70,000-square-foot Infinity Screen and advanced production facilities will accommodate multiple major events, aiming to demonstrate world-class versatility and flawless execution.

India-born Dilpreet Bajwa to captain Canada at T20 World Cup

India-born Dilpreet Bajwa will lead Canada in the Twenty20 World Cup, co-hosted by India and Sri Lanka from February 7 to March 8. The 22-year-old, making his captaincy debut, has played nine ODIs and 17 T20Is, scoring four half-centuries with a T20I strike rate of 133.22. Canada, making their second appearance in the tournament, is in Group D with South Africa, New Zealand, Afghanistan, and the United Arab Emirates. Their campaign begins against South Africa in Ahmedabad on February 9, with all group matches in India. The 15-member squad includes power-hitter Yuvraj Samra,



former captain Saad Bin Zafar, Dillon Heyliger, Nicholas Kirton, and Navneet Dhaliwal. Canada qualified by winning all six matches in the Americas Regional Final. In their previous World Cup appearance, the team finished fourth in the group with a single win over Ireland.

Mitchell's 131 powers New Zealand to seven-wicket win over India

Daryl Mitchell's unbeaten 131 overshadowed KL Rahul's 112 not out as New Zealand leveled the ODI series with a seven-wicket victory over India on Wednesday at the Niranjan Shah Stadium. India posted 284/7, with Rahul anchoring the innings. Chasing 285, New Zealand stumbled to 46/2 before Mitchell and Will Young shared a 162-run partnership to stabilize the chase. Young fell for 87, but Mitchell guided the team to victory with support from Glenn Phillips, who remained unbeaten on 32. Mitchell's assault on Kuldeep Yadav proved decisive, ensuring New Zealand reached the target with 15 balls to spare. The series now moves to Indore for a thrilling decider on Sunday.

Sinner and Alcaraz rivalry set to shape Australian Open men's title race

Defending champion Jannik Sinner and world number one Carlos Alcaraz are expected to dominate the Australian Open men's draw when the tournament begins on Sunday in Melbourne. The pair swept all four Grand Slam titles last season and enter as clear favorites. A third straight Australian Open title would give Sinner his fifth major crown, while Alcaraz is chasing his first win in Melbourne and a chance to become the youngest man to complete a career Grand Slam. Novak Djokovic remains a potential threat, but the gap between the top two and the rest of the field appears significant heading into the opening rounds.



US official clarifies India visa delay for Pakistani-origin players

A US cricket official denied claims that four Pakistani-origin players, including Ali Khan, Shayan Jahangir, Mohammad Mohsin, and Ehsan Adil, were refused visas to play in India for the 2026 T20 World Cup, calling the issue a delay, not a denial. The players, now US citizens, must apply on Pakistan-issued passports per India's rules. The International Cricket Council has issued directives to Indian embassies to process visas as special cases. The US cricket association is coordinating, and officials confirmed visas are in progress.



Tiger Woods marks 30 years of TGR Foundation with \$20 million Atlanta learning lab grant



Tiger Woods celebrated the 30th anniversary of the TGR Foundation on Wednesday with news of a major expansion to its education mission. Woods said the foundation raised \$50 million last year, capped by a surprise \$20 million grant from the Arthur M. Blank Family Foundation to build a new TGR Learning Lab in Atlanta. The celebration, held at The Breakers in Florida, featured a performance by Jon Bon Jovi and honored three decades of outreach to underserved students. Woods said the legacy he values most is the foundation's impact on education, which has reached more than three million children through learning centers and programs across the United States.

Raphinha stars as Barcelona edge Madrid to retain Spanish Super Cup



Raphinha was the hero as Barcelona retained the Spanish Super Cup with a thrilling 3-2 victory over Real Madrid on Sunday. The Brazilian opened the scoring and netted the decisive goal in the 73rd minute, which took a slight deflection to wrong-foot Courtois. Madrid had equalized twice through Vinicius and Garcia, while Lewandowski also scored for Barcelona. Frenkie de Jong was sent off late, leaving Barca with ten men as Madrid pushed for an equalizer. Despite late chances for Tchouameni and Carreras, Barcelona held on to celebrate a hard-fought title, with Garcia producing key saves in the second half.

Griezmann's free kick sends Atletico Madrid into Copa del Rey quarter-finals

Antoine Griezmann's second-half free kick secured a 1-0 victory for Atletico Madrid over second-tier Deportivo La Coruna on Tuesday, sending them into the Copa del Rey quarter-finals. After a disappointing start to 2026, including a 1-1 LaLiga draw with Real Sociedad and a 2-1 Spanish Super Cup loss to Real Madrid, coach Diego Simeone fielded a near full-strength squad. Atletico dominated early, with Julian Alvarez and Matteo Ruggeri creating chances, while La Coruna's Cristian Herrera was denied by backup goalkeeper Juan Musso.



Griezmann's decisive strike came in the 61st minute, curling into the top corner from a free kick. Atletico controlled the remainder of the match despite several

missed opportunities. They became the first team to advance to the quarter-finals, while Real Madrid faces Albacete and last year's champions Barcelona play Racing Club Santander in the upcoming round.

Katie Ledecky clocks second fastest 1500 meter freestyle as Pro Swim Series kicks off

Katie Ledecky delivered another dominant performance on Wednesday, posting the second fastest women's 1500 meter freestyle time in history at the United States Pro Swim Series event in Texas. The nine time Olympic gold medalist won comfortably in 15 minutes 23.21 seconds, improving her own second best mark. While she did not break her world record, Ledecky surged late to finish more than a minute ahead of the field. Now 28, she continues to show elite form as she builds toward the Los Angeles Olympics, owning the top dozen times ever recorded in the event.



All Blacks part ways with coach Scott Robertson ahead of 2026 season

New Zealand Rugby confirmed on Thursday that Scott Robertson has stepped down as head coach of the All Blacks, ending his tenure midway through a four year contract. The decision followed a difficult season marked by unexpected losses and internal concerns over strategy and communication. Officials said the timing allows the team to reset ahead of a demanding international schedule and the 2027 World Cup. Robertson said he was deeply disappointed but agreed the move was in the best interests of the team. New Zealand Rugby will begin an immediate search for a new head coach.



Real Madrid part ways with Xabi Alonso, appoint Alvaro Arbeloa



Real Madrid announced on Monday that Xabi Alonso has left his role as first team coach by mutual agreement, ending his brief tenure at Santiago Bernabeu. Alonso, who took charge in June 2025, struggled in the second half of his spell despite an early strong run, including 13 wins in 14 matches. Following the 3-2 Spanish Super Cup defeat to Barcelona, the club appointed Alvaro Arbeloa as his successor. Arbeloa, formerly managing Castilla and Real Madrid's youth teams, enjoyed a decorated playing career, winning two Champions League titles, La Liga, and representing Spain in their 2010 World Cup and two European Championship triumphs.

Sabalenka leads top trio in bid for Australian Open glory



Aryna Sabalenka heads into the Australian Open as the favorite to claim a third title when the tournament opens on Sunday. She is joined by Iga Swiatek and Coco Gauff as the leading contenders after the trio captured nine of the last twelve Grand Slam titles. Sabalenka arrives with strong form following her title win in Brisbane earlier this week and is aiming to rebound from her loss in last year's Melbourne final. The Belarusian said she is focused on staying healthy and competing each day, noting that Grand Slam tournaments remain unpredictable despite momentum and rankings.

Jordan Smith stuns pros to win inaugural '1 Point Slam'

Amateur Jordan Smith pulled off a sensational run at Melbourne Park on Tuesday, defeating top professionals, including reigning Australian Open champion Jannik Sinner, to win the inaugural '1 Point Slam' exhibition event. Held inside Rod Laver Arena, the mixed-gender tournament awards the winner AUD 1 million and features matches decided by a single point. Smith's victory came in the final over Chinese Taipei's Joanna Garland, after earlier wins against Amanda Anisimova and Pedro Martinez. The Australian Open main draw begins Sunday, with Sinner among the favorites.



Former ECB chief executive David Collier dies aged 70

Former England and Wales Cricket Board chief executive David Collier passed away on Tuesday at 70. Serving from 2004 to 2014, Collier oversaw England men's four Ashes wins and women's five Ashes victories. During his tenure, England women lifted both the ICC Women's World Cup and T20 World Cup in 2009, while the men claimed the ICC T20 World Cup in 2010. ECB chief Richard Gould praised Collier for his leadership and contributions to the growth of English cricket, including advances in women's and disability cricket.

Sonam Bajwa says working with Diljit Dosanjh on 'Border 2' brought back early career memories



Actress Sonam Bajwa said collaborating with Diljit Dosanjh on the song 'Ishq Da Chehra' from 'Border 2' revived memories of their first film together, 'Punjab 1984'. Speaking on Thursday, Bajwa said the project reminded her of their early days and added that fan excitement made the collaboration even more special. She praised Dosanjh's positive energy and professionalism, calling their fifth collaboration enjoyable and effortless. 'Ishq Da Chehra', sung by Diljit Dosanjh along with Sachet Tandon and Parampara Tandon, was unveiled by T-Series Films earlier this week. The song features multiple lead pairs from the film, including Sunny Deol and Mona Singh, Varun Dhawan and Medha Rana, and others. Directed by Anurag Singh, 'Border 2' is based on the 1971 war and is scheduled for release later this month.

Anil Kapoor praises Rani Mukerji as she marks 30 years in Hindi cinema



Actor Anil Kapoor congratulated Rani Mukerji on completing 30 years in Hindi cinema, calling her "sellable, watchable, and truly brilliant." Kapoor shared a tribute on social media on Sunday, praising Mukerji's consistency, accessibility, and talent, while also wishing her success for 'Mardaani 3'. The two actors previously worked together in 'Nayak: The Real Hero' and have shared a long friendship. Mukerji also marked the milestone by sharing a reflective note through Yash Raj Films, saying she entered cinema without a master plan and discovered her love for acting along the way. She recalled feeling nervous during her early days and spoke about her continued passion for storytelling. Mukerji said it was meaningful to celebrate the milestone with 'Mardaani 3', a franchise she said honors women and the police force.

Mark Ruffalo condemns President Donald Trump during emotional Golden Globes appearance

Actor Mark Ruffalo delivered a sharp political message while attending the Golden Globes on Sunday, saying it felt impossible to celebrate amid what he described as a deeply troubling national moment. Ruffalo, who was nominated for his performance in HBO's 'Task', appeared on the red carpet wearing a 'Be Good' pin in memory of Renee Nicole Good, who was killed by an Immigration and Customs Enforcement agent in Minneapolis earlier in the week. Speaking to reporters, Ruffalo said the violence and the political response to it made

the awards ceremony feel "not normal." Ruffalo criticized President Donald Trump and Vice President JD Vance, accusing political leaders of misrepresenting the circumstances surrounding the shooting and dismissing international law. He referenced Trump's past remarks about relying on his "own morality" when exercising power, calling the president a convicted felon and expressing concern about unchecked authority. Ruffalo said staying silent no longer felt possible, adding that many Americans feel frightened and unsettled by the current climate.



Bollywood stars step out in style to cast votes in BMC election

Mumbai's BMC municipal election on Sunday saw a host of Bollywood stars turning out to cast their votes, showcasing a mix of style and comfort at the polling booths. Superstar Salman Khan arrived in an olive-green T-shirt and dark trousers, completing his look with tinted sunglasses and an inked finger. Saif Ali Khan kept it casual in a black T-shirt and denim jeans, while Kareena Kapoor Khan paired a cream high-neck top with blue jeans, looking effortlessly elegant. Ranbir Kapoor sported a chequered shirt with white pants and posed for selfies with fans. New father Vicky Kaushal opted for a light blue denim jacket and pants, complemented by a cap and sunglasses. Sonali Bendre, Shraddha Kapoor, Janhvi Kapoor, Hema Malini, Shabana Azmi, Soha Ali Khan, and legendary poet Gulzar were also spotted,



each showcasing graceful and chic outfits, urging citizens to exercise their voting rights.

Salman Khan and MS Dhoni join AP Dhillon for muddy off-road adventure

Salman Khan and former Indian cricket captain MS Dhoni joined singer AP Dhillon for a muddy off-road adventure at Khan's Panvel farmhouse, Dhillon revealed on Tuesday. The singer shared photos on social media showing the trio riding all-terrain vehicles through thick slush, smiling and covered in mud. One image showed Dhoni and Dhillon posing beside a crashed vehicle, while another featured all three posing together. Dhillon humorously asked followers who they thought caused the crash. The post followed the recent viral video from Dhillon's concert featuring Tara Sutaria. Khan was last seen in 'Sikandar' and is set to appear next in 'Battle of Galwan', directed by Apoorva Lakhia. The film is



based on the 2020 Galwan Valley clash between Indian and Chinese troops and is scheduled for release in April.

Sean Combs sells private jet months after federal conviction



Sean "Diddy" Combs has sold his matte black Gulfstream G550 private jet months after being convicted on two federal prostitution-related charges. According to reports confirmed on Monday, the aircraft was sold in October following a change in ownership. The jet, previously registered under Combs' company LoveAir LLC, is no longer associated with its former tail number and is now registered in San Marino. While the sale price was not disclosed, similar models are valued between \$15 million and \$30 million. The jet was frequently used by Combs and was photographed during several high-profile trips, including travel during federal raids on his Los Angeles and Miami homes last year. Combs had shared footage of boarding the jet as recently as Sunday in July, shortly before his arrest.

Adam Sandler jokes about making 50 more films at career honor event



Adam Sandler said he plans to make at least 50 more films during a humorous acceptance speech at the AARP Movies for Grownups Awards on Sunday. Accepting the Career Achievement honor, Sandler joked that at least half of the films would be good and thanked his wife, Jackie Sandler, for supporting him over the years. Introduced by longtime friend Henry Winkler, Sandler poked fun at aging and dismissed suggestions that the award meant he was old. He delivered a comedic list of signs of aging, drawing laughter from the audience. Sandler also thanked his daughters and family for supporting his career and sense of humor. The ceremony celebrates creatives over the age of 50 and aims to challenge ageism in the entertainment industry.

Allu Arjun announces new film with Lokesh Kanagaraj and Anirudh



Actor Allu Arjun has announced his 23rd film, which will be directed by Lokesh Kanagaraj, with music by Anirudh Ravichander. The project, tentatively titled 'AA23', was unveiled by Mythri Movie Makers on Wednesday through an announcement video shared on social media. The makers said filming will begin in 2026. Allu Arjun, Lokesh Kanagaraj, and Anirudh also shared posts expressing excitement about the collaboration.

This marks Allu Arjun's third major upcoming project, alongside the third installment of the 'Pushpa' franchise directed by Sukumar and another film with director Atlee, tentatively titled 'AA22 X A6'. That project, produced by Sun Pictures, also stars Deepika Padukone and is among the most anticipated films currently in development.

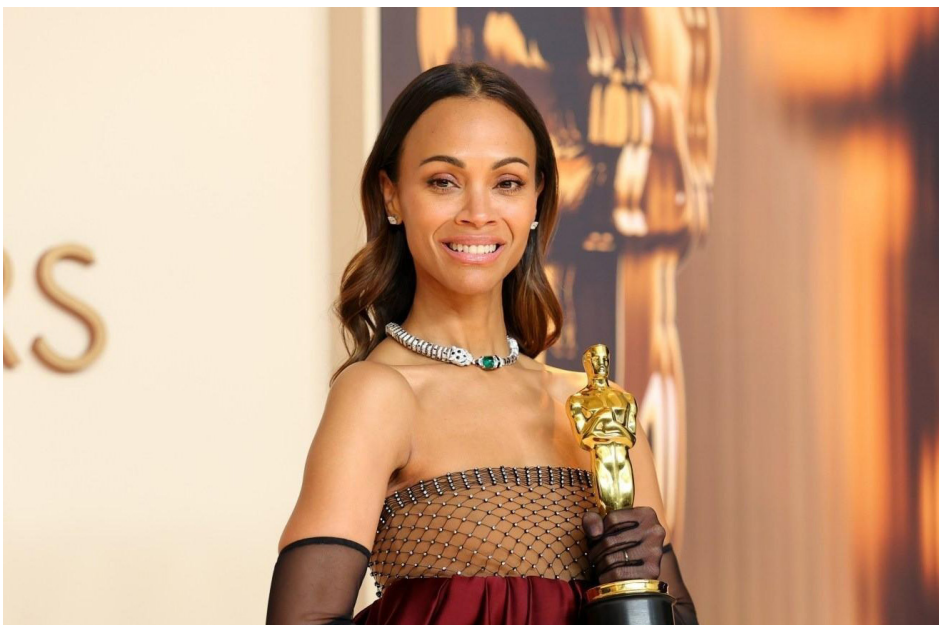
Kiefer Sutherland arrested after alleged ride-hail assault in Los Angeles

Actor Kiefer Sutherland was arrested early Monday after Los Angeles police said he assaulted a ride-hail driver and made criminal threats. Officers responded just after midnight to a report near the Hollywood Hills and determined that Sutherland entered the vehicle, became physical with the driver, and threatened him. Police said the driver did not need medical treatment. Sutherland was taken into custody and later released on a \$50,000 bond. His first court appearance is scheduled for Monday, February 2. Representatives for the actor did not respond to requests for comment. Sutherland is best known for starring as Jack Bauer in the television series '24' and for films including 'The Lost Boys' and 'Stand by Me'.

Timothy Busfield held without bond in New Mexico child abuse case

Actor Timothy Busfield was ordered held without bond during his first court appearance on Wednesday in New Mexico following child sex abuse charges. Busfield turned himself in on Tuesday and appeared remotely from jail. Prosecutors charged him with two counts of criminal sexual contact of a minor and one count of child abuse, alleging the incidents occurred on the set of 'The Cleaning Lady' while he was directing the series. Prosecutors are seeking to keep him detained, citing concerns about victim safety. Busfield has denied the allegations and called them false. A detention hearing is expected within five business days.

Zoe Saldña becomes highest grossing actor in film history



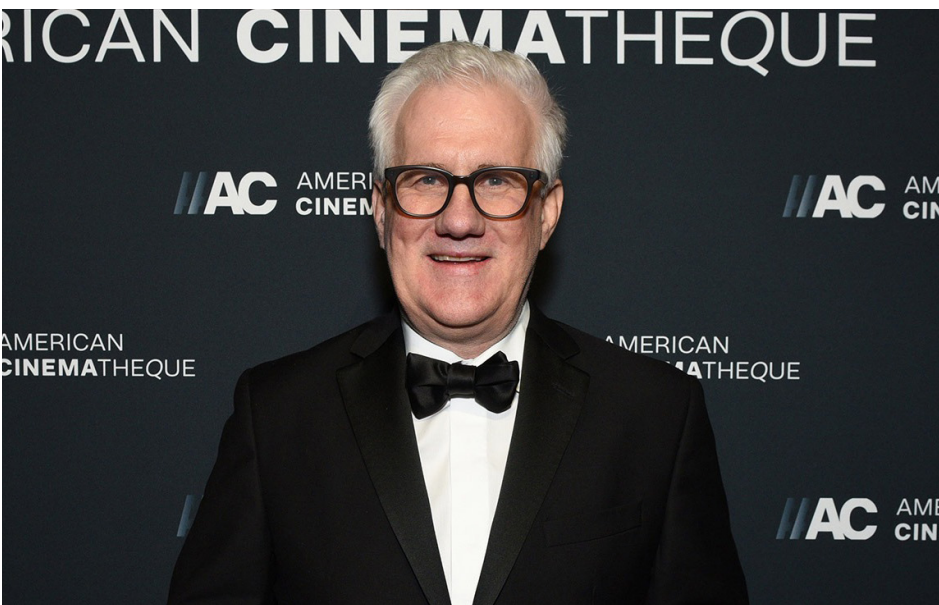
Zoe Saldña has become the highest grossing actor of all time following the success of 'Avatar: Fire and Ash'. According to industry figures, films featuring Saldña have now earned more at the global box office than those of any other actor. She has appeared in three of the highest grossing

movies ever made, including 'Avatar', 'Avatar: The Way of Water', and 'Avengers: Endgame'. Saldña shared a message of gratitude on social media, thanking directors including James Cameron, JJ Abrams, and the Russo brothers. She credited her collaborators and major franchises for the historic milestone.

David Linde named new chief executive of Sundance Institute

David Linde has been appointed chief executive officer of the Sundance Institute, the organization announced on Thursday. Linde will assume the role after this year's Sundance Film Festival concludes. A veteran film executive, Linde previously led Universal Pictures and Participant Media, where he

oversaw Oscar winning films including 'Spotlight' and 'Green Book'. As CEO, he will guide the Sundance Film Festival's planned move to Boulder, Colorado, in 2027 and oversee year-round artist programs. Sundance has operated under interim leadership since early 2024. The upcoming festival will be its final edition in Park City, Utah.



Harry Styles announces first album in four years

Harry Styles has announced his fourth solo album, 'Kiss All the Time. Disco, Occasionally.', marking his first new release in four years. The album will arrive on Thursday, March 6, via Columbia Records and includes 12 tracks produced by Kid Harpoon. Styles revealed the album artwork but has not yet shared any music from the project. His previous album, 'Harry's House', produced the global hit 'As It Was' and won album of the year at the Grammys. Following an extensive tour and film work including 'Don't Worry Darling', Styles largely stepped away from public view before returning with the announcement.



Golden Globes ratings dip as football dominates Sunday night



The Golden Globes drew an audience of 8.7 million viewers on Sunday, marking a nearly seven percent decline from last year, according to Nielsen. The ceremony aired on CBS and was hosted by Nikki Glaser for the second straight year. Viewership also fell short of the show's first two years on CBS, following its move from NBC. Ratings were likely impacted by competition from a Chargers Patriots playoff game, which drew nearly 29 million viewers. CBS highlighted strong online engagement, reporting 42 million social media interactions. Films 'One Battle After Another' and 'Hamnet' emerged as major winners during the broadcast.

Trevor Noah set for final run as Grammy host



Trevor Noah will host the Grammy Awards for the sixth and final time, the Recording Academy announced on Tuesday. The ceremony is scheduled for Sunday, February 1, at the Crypto.com Arena in Los Angeles, with Noah also serving as an executive producer. Only Andy Williams has hosted the Grammys more frequently. Noah is a four-time Grammy nominee and is nominated this year for best audio book, narration, and storytelling recording for 'Into The Uncut Grass'. Leading nominees for the upcoming ceremony include Kendrick Lamar, Lady Gaga, and Jack Antonoff. The awards will air live on CBS and stream on Paramount Plus.

Grammy nominated musician John Forté found dead at 50

John Forté, the Grammy nominated musician known for his work with the Fugees and the Refugee Camp All Stars, was found dead on Monday at his home in Massachusetts. He was 50. Police said there were no signs of foul play, and the state medical examiner is investigating the cause of death. Forté contributed to the Fugees' landmark album 'The Score' and Wyclef Jean's 'The Carnival', and released solo projects including 'Poly Sci' and 'I John'. His life included a highly publicized prison sentence that was later commuted. He is survived by his wife and two children.

आंध्र प्रदेश की आराधना यात्रा

वोंटिमिट्टा कोदंदरमा मंदिर (कडपा)



IndoUS Tribune की 'यात्रा और दर्शन' श्रृंखला में आपका पुनः स्वागत है! आंध्र प्रदेश के मंदिरों की आध्यात्मिक यात्रा में, तिरुमला वेंकटेश्वर मंदिर (तिरुपति) के दर्शन के बाद अब हम पहुँचते हैं कडपा जिले के प्रसिद्ध वोंटिमिट्टा कोदंदरमा मंदिर। यह मंदिर 16वीं सदी के विजयनगर युग का अद्वितीय उदाहरण है और अपनी भव्य वास्तुकला तथा अनोखी मूर्तियों के लिए प्रसिद्ध है। यहाँ भगवान श्री राम, सीता और लक्ष्मण की एकल-शिला मूर्तियाँ हैं, और रोचक बात यह है कि हनुमान की प्रतिमा यहाँ नहीं है, ऐसा

माना जाता है कि इस समय तक हनुमान ने राम से भेंट नहीं की थी।

इतिहास और वास्तुकला:

वोंटिमिट्टा कोदंदरमा मंदिर का निर्माण चोल और विजयनगर शासकों के काल में हुआ था, और इसमें विजयनगर शैली की झलक मिलती है। यह मंदिर द्रविड़िय वास्तुकला का शानदार उदाहरण है, जिसमें intricately carved मंडप (हॉल) और स्तंभ हैं। केंद्रीय मंडप, जिसे मद्ध्यांगमंडपम भी कहा जाता है,

32 स्तंभों पर आधारित है और प्रत्येक स्तंभ पर देवी-देवताओं और अप्सराओं की मूर्तियाँ अंकित हैं। केंद्र स्तंभ पर श्री राम और लक्ष्मण की मूर्तियाँ त्रिभंग मुद्रा में अंकित हैं।

कथाएँ और महत्ता:

स्थानीय मान्यता है कि दो डाकू, वोंटुडु और मितुडु, ने राम के दर्शन के पश्चात भक्ति अपनाई, इसी मंदिर का निर्माण किया। कहा जाता है कि निर्माण के पश्चात ये दोनों पत्थर में बदल गए। मंदिर कोदंदरमा (धनुषधारी राम) के रूप में पूजा जाता है। प्रसिद्ध कवि बम्मरा पोथना, जिन्होंने तेलुगु में श्रीमद्भागवतम लिखा, यहीं निवास करते थे। संत-श्री अन्नामाचार्य भी यहाँ आए और राम की स्तुति में कीर्तन किए।

पूजा और त्यौहार:

मुख्य उत्सव श्री राम नवमी है। यह एक प्रमुख तीर्थ स्थल है और वर्तमान में तिरुमला तिरुपति देवस्थानम (TTD) के प्रशासन में है। मंदिर परिसर में राम थीर्थम और लक्ष्मण थीर्थम नामक दो पवित्र जलाशय स्थित हैं।

आध्यात्मिक महत्व:

कोदंदरमा मंदिर की अद्वितीय मूर्तियाँ, भव्य मंडप और

ऐतिहासिक महत्व इसे आंध्र प्रदेश के प्रमुख धार्मिक स्थलों में स्थान दिलाते हैं। यहाँ आने वाले भक्तों को न केवल भक्ति का अनुभव मिलता है, बल्कि विजयनगर युग की वास्तुकला और सांस्कृतिक विरासत का भी सजीव दर्शन होता है।

समापन:

वोंटिमिट्टा कोदंदरमा मंदिर के दर्शन आंध्र प्रदेश यात्रा का 13वाँ पड़ाव है – एक ऐसा स्थल जो हमें भारतीय संस्कृति, भक्ति परंपरा और प्राचीन मंदिर स्थापत्य से जोड़ता है। IndoUS Tribune की ओर से हम आशा करते हैं कि इस श्रृंखला के माध्यम से आप भी इस दिव्य यात्रा का हिस्सा बनेंगे और आध्यात्मिक अनुभव का आनंद लेंगे।

हमारे अगले पड़ाव में हम पहुँचेंगे पेनुगोंडा वासवी कन्यका परमेश्वरी मंदिर (वेस्ट गोदावरी) – जहाँ माँ वासवी कन्यका की भक्ति और चमत्कारिक कथाएँ भक्तों के हृदय को भक्ति और श्रद्धा से भर देंगी। तब तक के लिए, वोंटिमिट्टा कोदंदरमा मंदिर की कृपा और आशीर्वाद आपके जीवन में सुख-समृद्धि और शांति लेकर आए।

यही शुभकामना।



Shreemad Bhagwat Gita - As I understand

Chapter Eighteen: The Yoga of Liberation and Renunciation (Part 2)



Rajendra Kapil
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The second part of the eighteenth chapter begins with a discussion on the knowledge of caste and duty prevalent in society. In common Indian society, there is a belief that caste is hereditary. That is, a person's caste is determined by the family into which they are born. The son of a Brahmin is automatically a Brahmin, and the son of a Shudra is considered ineligible for higher duties.

Lord Krishna challenges this notion, stating that caste and duty arise not from birth, but from nature and inherent qualities. The Bhagavad Gita extensively discusses the three fundamental qualities (Gunas) present in all beings: Sattva (goodness), Rajas (passion), and Tamas (ignorance). These qualities influence a person's character, and it is based on them that an individual's disposition and tendencies are formed. In the following verses, the Lord clarifies the characteristics of different castes, indicating the natural tendencies that define a Brahmin, Kshatriya, Vaishya, or Shudra.

ब्राह्मणक्षत्रियविशां शूद्राणां च परन्तप ।
कर्माणि प्रविभक्तानि स्वभावप्रभवैर्गुणैः ॥4.1॥

Meaning: O Parantapa! The duties of Brahmins, Kshatriyas, Vaishyas, and Shudras are divided according to the qualities born of their nature.

Now, Lord Krishna elaborates on the natural tendencies of each caste: what a Brahmin's nature should be, the qualities of a Kshatriya, the conduct expected of a Vaishya, and why Shudras are assigned primarily to service.

• **Brahmin:** A Brahmin's natural tendency is to acquire knowledge. They exhibit simplicity in behavior, humility, and forgiveness. The knowledge gained in youth is later shared with others as a teacher. Study of the Vedas, adherence to scriptures, disciplined daily routines, purity of heart, full control over the senses, and compassion toward others are hallmarks of a Brahmin. Meditation, devotion, and leading a straightforward, simple life are the natural duties of a Brahmin.

• **Kshatriya:** The highest virtue of a Kshatriya is courage and valor. They possess strength, perseverance, and strategic intelligence. Mastery in warfare is their adornment. They stand against injustice, defend the helpless and poor, and uphold righteousness—these are the natural duties of a Kshatriya.



• **Vaishya:** A Vaishya's duties include agriculture, cattle rearing, and honest trade. They should be competent in commerce. While modern times may see exploitation in business, Krishna emphasizes that a true Vaishya is honest and fair. Whether dealing with a child or an adult, their conduct should be free of deceit. Purity in trade enhances mental clarity and spiritual purity, making the path to the Lord's abode easier for a Vaishya Yogi.

• **Shudra:** Shudras are those who lack interest in spiritual knowledge or meditation. By nature, they tend to be timid and disinclined toward learning warfare or managing complex commerce. Such individuals are entrusted with the service of society. Through humble service, they gain satisfaction, which purifies them internally. The purity of action and humility in service leads them toward the supreme abode of the Lord.

शमो दमस्तपः शौचं क्षान्तिरार्जवमेव च ।
ज्ञानं विज्ञानमास्तिक्यं ब्रह्मकर्म स्वभावजम् ॥
शौर्यं तेजो धृतिर्दाक्ष्यं युद्धे चाप्यपलायनम् ।
दानमीश्वरभावश्च क्षात्रं कर्म स्वभावजम् ॥
कृषिगौरक्ष्यवाणिज्यं वैश्यकर्म स्वभावजम् ।
परिचर्यात्मकं कर्म शूद्रस्यापि स्वभावजम् ॥

By diligently performing their natural duties, a Karma Yogi attains the Lord naturally. This forms the foundation of Karma Yoga. No action is entirely free from fault, but what matters is the intention. Every act performed with pure intention yields pure results. Action is physical, while the purity of intent is mental. Lord Krishna asserts that every act done with a pure heart is

dear to Him, and the Yogi performing it reaches the Supreme Abode. Tulsi Baba also emphasizes in Ramcharitmanas that:

"A pure-hearted person pleases Me, and deceit or duplicity does not affect Me."

Krishna also warns Arjuna that if he refuses to fight out of attachment, he will be destroyed. He must abandon attachment, recognize his natural Kshatriya duty, and be ready for battle. All actions should be offered to the Lord, and He will take care of the results. The body is like a machine, and the divine energy within keeps it functioning. This sacred knowledge is given privately to Arjuna because of his devotion and love for Krishna. Krishna instructs him to reflect seriously, follow the guidance, and dedicate all actions to Him for ultimate welfare.

सर्वधर्मान्परित्यज्य मामेकं शरणं व्रज ।
अहं त्वा सर्वपापेभ्यो मोक्षयिष्यामि मा शुचः ॥

Meaning: Abandon all duties and take refuge solely in Me, the Supreme Being. I will free you from all sins; do not grieve.

This verse conveys a powerful message to all devotees: after performing one's duties and social responsibilities, surrender all actions to the Lord with confidence. He will liberate all from sin and guide them toward moksha (liberation). No grief or anxiety is necessary. Such assurance directly from the Lord is the greatest blessing a devotee can receive. Towards the end of the Bhagavad

Gita, Krishna explains that this sacred knowledge is not for everyone—it is meant only for devoted and loving followers seeking the Lord. It should never be imparted to the unworthy or those who do not believe in God. Whoever reads, understands, and shares this knowledge with sincere devotion will be dear to Krishna, and its hearing will inspire devotion in the listener.

Finally, Krishna asks Arjuna whether he has benefited from their dialogue. Arjuna falls at Krishna's feet, overwhelmed with love, and says:

नष्टो मोहः स्मृतिर्लब्धा त्वप्रसादान्मयाच्युत ।
स्थितोऽस्मि गतसंदेहः करिष्ये वचनं तव ॥

Meaning: O Keshava! By Your grace, my delusion is destroyed, I have regained clarity, and I am now firm and without doubt. I will follow Your instructions.

Since Sanjaya was narrating this dialogue to King Dhritarashtra through divine vision, he concludes by reflecting: O King, I have witnessed and heard Krishna's supremely benevolent form. Whenever Krishna and the mighty archer Arjuna are present, victory will follow their side.

Through the divine teachings of these eighteen chapters, Rajendra Kapil feels fortunate to have read and understood the hidden, sacred knowledge and has shared it for others. If this effort inspires even a small spark of devotion in any devotee, he considers his mission fulfilled. He offers his heartfelt obeisances to the Supreme Lord Krishna and all devotees.

Illinois Congressman Raja Krishnamoorthi takes strong stance against Trump administration over military threats, funding cuts, and global issues

● By: Staff Writer, IndoUS Tribune

Congressman Raja Krishnamoorthi (D-IL), a candidate for reelection in Illinois, has been actively speaking out on multiple fronts, challenging the Trump administration's recent threats and policy actions both domestically and internationally. His office released a series of statements highlighting his legislative efforts, policy positions, and advocacy for constitutional accountability. Blocking misuse of the Insurrection Act.

In response to President Trump's threat to invoke the Insurrection Act to deploy federal forces against anti-ICE protesters in Minnesota, Krishnamoorthi announced he is offering an amendment to the defense funding bill. The amendment seeks to block any such deployment unless explicitly requested and supported by the governor of the state in question. "The National Guard can support local law enforcement in a lawful, limited role, but it must never be used for intimidation or political stunts," said Krishnamoorthi, emphasizing the need to protect constitutional balance.



Opposing reckless military spending abroad

Krishnamoorthi voted against the fiscal year 2026 State Department funding bill, citing the absence of safeguards to prevent unilateral military escalation abroad. Highlighting his No Occupation of Venezuela Act, he stressed that "Congress cannot allow end-runs around the Constitution," signaling his commitment to prevent unauthorized military actions.

Protecting health and addiction services

The congressman condemned the Trump

administration's sudden termination of federal grants for addiction treatment, overdose prevention, and mental health services. "At the height of a national overdose and mental-health crisis, this administration is knowingly ripping away lifesaving care—and I will fight to reverse these cuts," Krishnamoorthi said, underscoring the human cost of the proposed funding reductions.

Standing with global protest movements

Krishnamoorthi also voiced support for Iranian protesters, denouncing the regime's brutal suppression. He called for U.S. diplomatic and economic support rather than military intervention, emphasizing that "supporting the brave people of Iran is better served through forceful diplomacy and coordinated international pressure rather than direct military involvement."

Fighting illegal threats to Chicago and upholding federal law

Addressing Trump's threats to withhold Congressionally approved funding from Chicago and other sanctuary cities, Krishnamoorthi declared, "In the United States of America, the president is bound

by the law; he is not above it." He pledged to fight all efforts to illegally penalize cities for enforcing local laws that protect residents.

In a joint statement with Representative Ritchie Torres (D-NY), Krishnamoorthi criticized Trump's targeting of Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell, warning that political interference undermines U.S. economic credibility and bolsters China's global influence. "Economic credibility is strategic power, and authoritarian regimes benefit when faith in American governance erodes," the congressman said, highlighting the long-term stakes of protecting institutional independence.

Demanding accountability for federal enforcement shootings

Krishnamoorthi also responded to federal shootings in Portland and South Minneapolis, calling for full accountability and transparency from the Trump administration. He warned that militarized immigration enforcement "escalates risk and erodes trust in our communities," and vowed to use his Oversight Committee position to investigate these actions.

Illinois Governor's Race 2026: Incumbency, identity, and the battle for relevance

● By: Dr. Avi Verma

As Illinois moves steadily toward the March 17, 2026 primaries and the November 3 general election, the contest for governor is emerging as a study in political asymmetry. On one side stands a deeply entrenched Democratic incumbent seeking a rare third term; on the other, a Republican Party still wrestling with its identity, message, and electability in a state that has trended decisively blue over the last decade. Governor JB Pritzker's decision to seek re-election was never seriously in doubt. Since first winning office in 2018, Pritzker has consolidated power within the Democratic Party while presiding over a period marked by improved state finances, progressive legislative victories, and firm alignment with national Democratic priorities. His re-election campaigns have been built not only on policy outcomes but on a broader ideological positioning of Illinois as a counterweight to conservative governance elsewhere in the country. For many Democratic voters, Pritzker has become both administrator and symbol—of stability, predictability, and resistance to national Republican politics.

The Democratic primary, in this context, functions largely as a formality. Pritzker's challenger, Patricia Tillman, brings limited name recognition and minimal statewide infrastructure. Her candidacy reflects pockets of grassroots dissatisfaction rather than a serious electoral threat. With former Deputy Governor Christian Mitchell returning as the lieutenant governor nominee, Pritzker has



reinforced continuity while strengthening ties to key Democratic constituencies, particularly in Chicago and its suburbs. Barring an unforeseen political shock, the Democratic ticket for November appears effectively settled. The Republican primary, by contrast, is unsettled, crowded, and revealing. Seven candidates are vying for the nomination, each representing a different vision of how—and whether—the GOP can compete statewide. The sheer size of the field speaks to Republican ambition but also to fragmentation, with no clear consensus on strategy or ideology.

Darren Bailey, the party's 2022 nominee, enters the race with the most recognizable name and a loyal base of support, particularly in downstate and rural Illinois. Bailey's appeal lies in authenticity and ideological clarity. He is a cultural conservative unafraid of sharp contrasts with Democratic governance, and his selection of Cook County Republican Chair Aaron Del Mar as his running mate reflects an effort to broaden geographic appeal. Yet Bailey's previous decisive loss to



Pritzker still looms large. For many donors and suburban voters, Bailey symbolizes a ceiling rather than a path to victory. Other Republican contenders are attempting to chart alternative routes. Ted Dabrowski, president of Wirepoints, offers a data-driven critique of Illinois' fiscal health and population trends, positioning himself as a reform-minded technocrat.

James Mendrick, the DuPage County Sheriff, emphasizes public safety and executive experience in hopes of appealing to suburban moderates. Their challenge is not necessarily ideological but structural: neither has yet demonstrated the grassroots reach needed to overtake Bailey's base in a low-turnout primary. The remaining candidates—Rick Heidner, Joseph Severino, Max Solomon, and Gregg Moore—add texture to the race but, at present, lack the resources or momentum to emerge as dominant contenders. Ironically, their presence may strengthen Bailey's position by fragmenting opposition support.

Looking ahead to the general election, the most likely matchup remains a rematch between Pritzker and Bailey. In such a scenario, the underlying fundamentals favor the incumbent. Illinois' Democratic coalition—anchored in Chicago, the suburbs, and increasingly diverse metropolitan regions—has proven durable. Pritzker's ability to self-fund, define opponents early, and nationalize key issues such as abortion rights and gun policy further strengthens his position. Bailey's path to victory, while not impossible, would require a convergence of favorable conditions: diminished Democratic turnout, a sharply deteriorating economic or political climate, and significant suburban erosion for Democrats. Without these factors, the Republican nominee faces a steep uphill climb.

Ultimately, the 2026 Illinois governor's race is less about uncertainty at the top of the ballot than about the future direction of the state's opposition party. For Democrats, the challenge is managing incumbency fatigue without alienating a broad coalition. For Republicans, the task is more existential—deciding whether to double down on base politics or recalibrate for a changing electorate. As the primaries approach, the question is not simply who will win, but what kind of contest Illinois voters will ultimately be offered in November. At present, the advantage rests firmly with the incumbent—but politics, as ever, remains a dynamic and evolving arena.

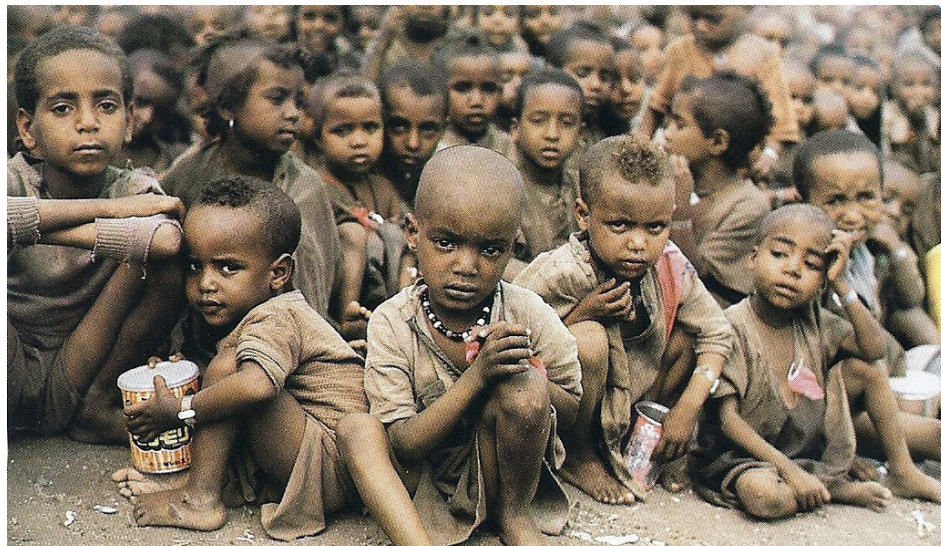
Feed My Starving Children: A historic mission to combat childhood hunger

● By: Ashwani Mahajan

Feed My Starving Children (FMSC) stands as one of the most enduring and impactful global efforts to fight childhood hunger, a crisis that continues to claim millions of young lives each year. Founded in 1987 by the late Minnesota businessman Richard Proudfit, FMSC was inspired by his life-changing mission trip to Honduras, where he witnessed firsthand the devastating effects of hunger and malnutrition on children. That experience sparked a movement that has since grown into a worldwide humanitarian mission rooted in compassion, faith, and action. Despite global progress, hunger remains one of the leading contributors to child mortality. Each year,

millions of children die from preventable causes such as pneumonia, diarrhea, malaria, and undernutrition. Nearly half of all child deaths worldwide are linked to malnutrition, with an estimated 6,200 children dying every day from hunger-related causes. These stark realities underscore the urgency of FMSC's work. The organization partners with trusted local food distribution groups that remain committed to communities for the long term, helping them transition from emergency relief to sustainable development.

FMSC's meals are carefully designed by food science and nutrition professionals to address critical nutritional deficiencies and reduce the long-term effects of malnutrition. Proper nutrition enables children not only to survive, but to grow, learn, and reach their full



potential. Guided by its mission—"Feeding God's starving children hungry in body and spirit until all are fed, believing hope starts with food"—FMSC is an American-based, Christian, non-profit charity that delivers both nourishment and hope. With permanent packing sites in Arizona, Illinois, Minnesota, and Texas, and mobile packing events nationwide, FMSC serves children in more than 50 countries across Africa, Asia, the Caribbean, Europe, and South America. The organization's impact is powered almost entirely by the generosity of donors and the dedication of volunteers. Donations fund meal ingredients, while volunteers from all walks of life come together to hand-pack nutritious meals that are boxed and shipped worldwide. Notably, 88 percent of all

donations go directly toward meal production, with each meal costing less than 30 cents. While shipment volumes vary depending on donations and packing events, FMSC typically ships hundreds of millions of meals annually, reaching children in over 100 countries. Through this collective effort, Feed My Starving Children continues to demonstrate that with compassion, commitment, and community, hope truly can begin with food.





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Arya Samaj of Chicagoland blends Vedic wisdom and cultural unity in Lohri and Sankranti celebration



By: Ashwani Mahajan

Arya Samaj of Chicagoland celebrated Lohri and Makar Sankranti on Sunday with a culturally rich and spiritually grounded program that emphasized seasonal transition, harvest traditions, and the Vedic values of education and social harmony. The event drew more than 125 members and guests from across the community.

The program opened with a Sankranti havan performed by students of the Vedic Sanskriti School under the guidance of Shamita Chugh, who explained the meaning and purpose of the Vedic mantras to help children and attendees better understand knowledge-based worship. Kamayani Narang, president of Arya Samaj of Chicagoland, welcomed the gathering and expressed gratitude to participants, volunteers, and families for their continued engagement.

Manju Kalra delivered a short discourse on the Vedic and cultural significance of Lohri and Makar Sankranti, highlighting their deeper meaning beyond ritual practices. A special highlight was the “South meets North” theme, presented



through a skit and dance by Vedic Sanskriti School students choreographed by Sudha Garg. The student performers included Shreshta, Gia, Riya, Raina, Roshan, Raj, Kiara, Veronica, Athrav, Veer, Viraj, Navya, Anish, Viaan, Kanish, and Sonal Goyal.

The theme continued with an

adult dance performance symbolizing India’s cultural unity, collaboratively choreographed by Sudha Garg representing the South and Ranjana Gulati representing the North.

Performers included Sudha Garg, Kamayani Narang, Asmita Gharia, Rekha Singh, Perna Arya, Mala Iyer, Ranjana

Gulati, Sushmita Malhotra, Shamita Chugh, Sulakshna Bhagwat, Seema Futela, Kaanan Dhingra, Sunita Singhal, Savita Bhatia, and Vimmi Bajaj.

The celebration concluded with a preeti bhoj featuring traditional festival dishes, reinforcing warmth, togetherness, and community spirit.



Seattle University hosts pre-summit briefing on India AI Impact Summit 2026



Panelists at the India AI Impact Summit pre-summit briefing hosted by the Consulate General of India at Seattle University.

By: Vandana Jhingan

In partnership with Seattle University (SU), the Consulate General of India (CGI) in Seattle co-hosted a pre-summit briefing on the forthcoming India AI Impact Summit 2026 at the Casey Commons Conference Hall on January 12, 2026. Centered on the theme “People, Planet, and Progress,” the session highlighted India’s AI vision focused on social good, sustainable development, and inclusive economic growth. The well-attended program drew a large number of Seattle University students and senior faculty, offering a comprehensive overview of India’s rapidly evolving AI ecosystem.

The keynote address was delivered by Matt Oppenheimer, CEO of the global remittance platform Remitly, who shared

the company’s experience investing in India’s AI-driven growth and emphasized how reforms in Ease of Doing Business have strengthened Remitly’s Bengaluru operations. Prof. Onur Bakiner, Professor of Political Science and Director of the Technology Ethics Initiative at Seattle University, addressed the ethical challenges and opportunities shaping the AI era. Delivering the inaugural remarks, the Consul General of India in Seattle outlined preparations for the India AI Impact Summit 2026 and briefed participants on the high-level delegation expected from the Greater Seattle region.

This briefing marked the second event in a series across the Greater Seattle Area ahead of the Summit. Earlier, CGI Seattle hosted a pre-event briefing on November 7, 2025, at the Consulate, featuring

U.S. Representatives Adam Smith and Michael Baumgartner, along with senior leaders from Microsoft, Salesforce, and Anicca Data Science Solutions. Together,

these engagements underscore growing collaboration between India’s AI ecosystem and U.S. policymakers, academia, and industry leaders.



Consul General of India in Seattle providing an overview of preparations and objectives for the India AI Impact Summit 2026.



Remitly CEO Matt Oppenheimer presenting on Remitly’s investments and experience within India’s AI ecosystem at the pre-summit briefing.



Dr. Onur Bakiner, Professor of Political Science and Director of the Technology Ethics Initiative, Seattle University, addressing participants on ethics and governance in the AI age.

सियाटल में विश्व हिंदी दिवस समारोह 2026 का आयोजन



By: Vandana Jhingan

विश्व हिंदी दिवस के शुभ अवसर पर, भारत का प्रधान कौमुलावास, सियाटल द्वारा 10 जनवरी 2026 को सियाटल स्थित कौंसुलेट परिसर के बहुउद्देशीय हॉल में एक विशेष 'काव्य सम्मेलन' का आयोजन किया गया। इस कार्यक्रम का आयोजन महिला काव्य मंच (एम.के.एम.), सियाटल के सहयोग से किया गया, जिसका उद्देश्य प्रशांत उत्तर-पश्चिम क्षेत्र में हिंदी भाषा और भारतीय सांस्कृतिक विरासत के प्रति जागरूकता एवं प्रेम को और सुदृढ़ करना था।

कार्यक्रम का शुभारंभ माननीय कौंसुल जनरल द्वारा दीप प्रज्वलन से किया गया, जिसके पश्चात सरस्वती चंदना की मनमोहक प्रस्तुति दी गई। इसके उपरांत, समुदाय के प्रतिष्ठित कवियों ने हिंदी कविता पाठ में उत्साहपूर्वक भाग लिया और विभिन्न विषयों पर अपनी रचनाओं के माध्यम से श्रोताओं को अभिभूत किया।

सम्मेलन में कुल पंद्रह कवियों ने अपनी कविताओं का सस्वर पाठ किया, जिनमें हिंदी साहित्य, समाज, संस्कृति, भारत-अमेरिका

संबंध तथा समसामयिक प्रेरक प्रसंगों पर आधारित रचनाएँ शामिल रहीं।

इस अवसर पर, कौमुलावास परिसर में एक सांस्कृतिक प्रदर्शनी भी आयोजित की गई, जिसमें एक जिला, एक उत्पाद (ODOP) पहल के अंतर्गत भारतीय राज्यों की समृद्ध कला एवं हस्तशिल्प की झलक देखने को मिली। कार्यक्रम के दौरान बड़ी संख्या में प्रवासी भारतीय समुदाय के हिंदी प्रेमी, स्थानीय गणमान्य व्यक्ति तथा भारतीय-मूल के सदस्य उपस्थित रहे।

कार्यक्रम के समापन सत्र में कौंसुल जनरल ने हिंदी भाषा के वैश्विक महत्व पर अपने विचार साझा किए और सभी प्रतिभागी कवियों के योगदान की सराहना की। माननीय कौंसुल जनरल द्वारा कवियों को सम्मानित भी किया गया।

भारत का प्रधान कौमुलावास, सियाटल, हिंदी भाषा को प्रोत्साहन देने तथा भारतीय-अमेरिकी समुदाय के साथ सांस्कृतिक एवं भाषाई संबंधों को सशक्त बनाने हेतु निरंतर प्रतिबद्ध है।





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Mata Bhagat: Avi Verma

Winners honored at 10th Vishwa Hindi Video Bhashan Pratiyogitaa on World Hindi Day



By: Dr. Avi Verma

Balodyan proudly announced that all winners of the 10th Annual Vishwa Hindi Video Bhashan Pratiyogitaa, the world's first and only global Hindi video speech competition, were formally awarded their cash prizes and certificates on the occasion of World Hindi Day (Vishwa Hindi Diwas), January 10. The milestone edition of the competition once again reaffirmed Balodyan's commitment to promoting the use of Hindi among young speakers worldwide.

The online contest was organized to

mark Hindi Diwas on September 14, 2025, inviting Hindi-speaking children from across the globe to submit video speeches on the theme "Meri Yaadgaar Yaatraa" (My Memorable Journey). A total of 16 participants from different parts of the world enthusiastically took part, reflecting the growing global reach and relevance of the Hindi language among the younger generation.

The prizes were generously sponsored by Balodyan (www.balodyan.com) and awarded as follows: First Prize – \$100 (Rs.8,500), Second Prize – \$75 (Rs.6,500), Third Prize – \$50 (Rs.4,500), and an Audience Vote Prize – \$25 (Rs.2,100). In

the Vaachaa Group (ages 7–10), the winners were Ananya Mahaveer Sagaonkar (First Prize), Vedant Ambrish Mishra (Second Prize), Arham Ravi Achaliya (Third Prize), and Jheel Manoj Kumat (Audience Vote Prize), who is also a prior first-prize winner in this category. In the VaaNii Group (ages 11–14), Manasvi Mahaveer Sagaonkar secured the First Prize as well as the Audience Vote Prize, followed by Laxmi Ajay Keshiya (Second Prize) and Anushka Madan Gupta (Third Prize).

Balodyan expressed sincere gratitude to the esteemed panel of judges from the Chicagoland area—Ashish Kathuria, Ratish Varshney, Ratnangi Malpekar,

and Shridhar Joshi—for their thoughtful evaluation and support in finalizing the results. All contest rules and submitted entries are publicly accessible on Balodyan's website, ensuring transparency and wider engagement.

Founded with the vision of nurturing Hindi language skills among children, Balodyan continues to encourage young Hindi speakers worldwide to use the language confidently in daily communication. Information for the 2026 edition of the contest will be published in April on Balodyan's website, and parents and educators are encouraged to motivate children everywhere to participate.



Friday, 16 January 2026

A gentle life, a lasting legacy

A son's tribute to Madan Lal Malhotra through the values he lived

By: Rakesh Malhotra, President
Global Indian Diaspora Foundation

Some lives do not seek attention, yet they leave a lasting imprint. My father, Madan Lal Malhotra, who passed away recently, lived such a life—quiet, principled, and deeply rooted in values. He did not measure success by visibility or recognition, but by the integrity with which one lives each day. As his son, I have come to understand that his greatest legacy lies not in what he achieved outwardly, but in how he lived inwardly. The foundation of his life was simplicity. He believed that clarity, restraint, and humility were strengths, not limitations. His simple living was not accidental, it was intentional. It reflected a deep understanding that peace comes from contentment, not accumulation.

Remembering this quality, Prof. Jagdish Mukhi, former Hon'ble Governor of Assam, and Nagaland who knew my father since 1977, shared the following during the prayers meeting held on 12th January at the Sanatan Dharam Mandir in Janakpuri.

"I have known Madan Lal Malhotra for nearly five decades. His simplicity was not just a habit; it was a philosophy. In an age where people seek recognition, he sought righteousness. His life is a reminder that simplicity, when lived with integrity, becomes an inspiring value." My father was also profoundly authentic. There was no gap between who he was and how he behaved. Whether at home, in society, or in moments of challenge, he remained the same, honest, grounded, and sincere. From him, I learned that authenticity is not about being outspoken, but about being unwavering.

Discipline shaped his daily life. He respected time, commitments, and routines. He believed discipline was a form of self-respect and responsibility toward others. His commitment was



Shri Madan Lal Malhotra: 1938-2026.

absolute. Once he took responsibility, he followed through regardless of personal inconvenience. This sense of duty extended naturally into a deep understanding of responsibility toward family, work, and society. He carried responsibilities quietly, never seeking praise. He was deeply authentic, the same person in private as in public. There was no distance between his words and actions. From him, I learned that authenticity is not about asserting oneself, but about being truthful and consistent in all circumstances.

His sense of commitment and responsibility was unwavering. Whether toward family, work, or social obligations,

he fulfilled his duties without complaint or expectation of recognition. His children, Jyoti Wadhawan, Vikas Malhotra, and I grew up witnessing responsibility carried with quiet grace.

Reflecting on these qualities, Shyam Sharma, Hon'ble MLA in the Delhi Legislative Assembly, remarked, "Madan Lal Malhotra ji embodied the values that strengthen families and society, discipline, responsibility, and loyalty. He showed that one can live a meaningful life without seeking the spotlight." One of his most defining traits was loyalty to people, principles, and relationships. His loyalty was thoughtful and rooted in trust, not convenience. He

The IndoUS Tribune family mourns the passing of Shri Madan Lal Malhotra, a respected elder whose life was defined by integrity, humility, and strong moral values. His passing is a deep personal loss to his family and to all who were touched by his wisdom and grace.

A devoted father and guiding force, Shri Madan Lal Malhotra believed in hard work, ethical living, and responsibility toward family and society. His enduring values and quiet strength are reflected in the life and leadership of his son, Mr. Rakesh Malhotra, a valued member of the IndoUS Tribune Board.

We extend our heartfelt condolences to the Malhotra family and pray that the departed soul attains eternal peace. May his legacy continue to inspire, and may the family find strength and comfort in his cherished memories.

Om Shanti.

stood by those he cared for, especially when it truly mattered. He retired from the same company he joined at the age of twenty. Expressing condolences on his passing, Ashish Sood, Cabinet Minister in the Delhi Government, said:

"The passing of Madan Lal Malhotra ji is a loss to all who believe in simplicity, integrity, and quiet strength. My heartfelt condolences to the Malhotra family. His values will continue to inspire."

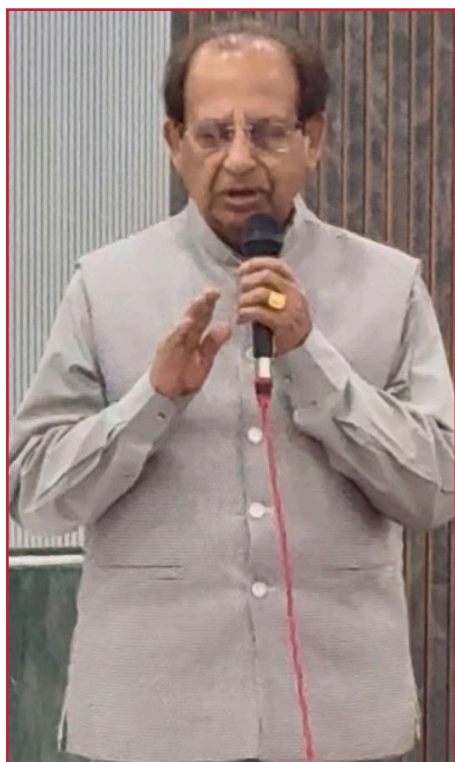
Echoing similar sentiments, Narender Chawla, former Mayor of South Delhi, shared, "Madan Lal Malhotra ji lived with dignity and moral clarity. He earned respect through humility. Such lives leave behind not just memories, but enduring standards."

At the heart of his life philosophy was karma, action performed with sincerity, without attachment to outcomes. Remembering this, my mother Kamla Malhotra, former Chairperson of Health Committee, Municipal Corporation of Delhi, reflected on the spiritual essence that guided him, drawing from Chapter 3 of the Bhagavad Gita (Karma Yoga):-

"He truly lived what the Gita teaches—that one must perform one's duty with honesty and devotion, without craving reward. His belief was simple: right action is its own fulfillment." Today, his absence is deeply felt, yet his memories are a blessing. They do not weigh us down; they steady us. In moments of uncertainty, his life becomes a quiet compass.

The love and values he lived by have become our guiding philosophy. They shape how we think, decide, and act. Through them, Madan Lal Malhotra continues to live on, not merely in remembrance, but in daily conduct.

His life stands as a gentle yet powerful lesson: that true greatness lies not in noise or recognition, but in simplicity, authenticity, disciplined action, and unwavering values.



Tribute by Prof Jagdish Mukhi, former Governor of Assam and Nagaland to Shri Madan Lal Malhotra



Narendra Chawla former mayor of South Delhi Municipal Corporation paying tribute.



Shri Shyam Sharam, Member of Delhi Legislative Assembly giving Shrdhanjali at the Prayer Meeting.



Breakthrough in nerve repair offers new hope, but caution still needed

By: Dr. Avi Verma

Scientists and engineers are making remarkable strides in the field of nerve regeneration—one of medicine's most stubborn challenges. Traditional nerve injury treatments often fall short, leaving patients with long term loss of sensation, chronic pain, or impaired motor function. But recent research in neural scaffolding and bioengineered materials is bringing new possibilities into focus for how damaged nerves might be encouraged to heal more effectively.

What are neural scaffolds and why they matter

At the forefront of this work are biocompatible scaffolds—three dimensional structures made from natural or synthetic polymers that act like a temporary support framework for injured nerve tissue. These scaffolds aim to guide regenerating nerve fibers (axons) toward their original pathways instead of allowing random or disorganized regrowth, which often limits functional recovery.

The idea isn't just to stimulate nerve growth, but to support the body's own healing processes. When a scaffold is placed at the site of injury, it can serve as a physical bridge that cells attach to and grow along. In many experimental models, these structures have been shown to promote alignment and directional growth of nerve cells, a critical factor in restoring communication between the nervous system and muscles or sensory organs.

Advances in bioactive materials and scaffolds

Recent scientific advances have demonstrated that incorporating



bioactive polymers or conductive materials into scaffold designs can further enhance nerve repair. These materials can release molecules that encourage nerve cell growth and even mimic electrical cues naturally present in neural tissue, helping regenerating fibers reconnect more effectively.

A promising development from ongoing research is the emergence of fully biodegradable and electrically conductive scaffolds. These are designed to gradually dissolve as the nerve heals, eliminating the need for removal surgery and reducing long term complications. Studies in animal models show that such scaffolds can promote nerve regrowth

and improve functional outcomes after peripheral nerve injuries.

Another related innovation from research institutions, including work stemming from Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) engineering labs, involves strategies to improve the interface between bioelectronic devices and nerve tissue. Although not a complete cure, enhanced bioadhesive approaches may enable next generation implants to function reliably without triggering fibrotic scar tissue that otherwise blocks healing.

What this means for patients

These breakthroughs signal a paradigm

shift from managing nerve injury symptoms to actively promoting structural and functional repair. In the future, therapies combining scaffolds with biochemical signaling, electrical guidance, and even stem cell technologies could potentially help people recover sensation and movement once thought permanently lost.

However, it is important to note that most of this research is still at preclinical or early clinical stages. While animal experiments are encouraging, effective and FDA approved human therapies are not yet widely available. Translation from laboratory findings to safe, practical clinical treatments involves rigorous testing, including controlled clinical trials and long term safety evaluations.

Conclusion

Engineering nerve repair is no longer science fiction—biomaterials and scaffold technologies are rapidly advancing the field. As researchers continue to refine these tools, the possibility of helping patients with severe nerve injuries regain meaningful function is becoming increasingly real. But patients and caregivers should temper excitement with caution, recognizing that rigorous clinical validation is necessary before these innovations become standard care.

Disclaimer

This article is for informational purposes only and does not constitute medical advice. Always consult qualified healthcare professionals before considering any treatment.



Personal finance insights: News & Features

●

Dr. K C Gupta, YBB Personal Finance

CONTRARIAN INDICATORS

AAII Bull-Bear Spread +12.5% (above average)
CNN Fear & Greed Index 51 (neutral)
NYSE %Above 50-dMA 71.65% (overbought)
SP500 %Above 50-dMA 72.20% (overbought)

ICI Fund Allocations (Cumulative), 11/30/25
OEFs & ETFs: Stocks 61.55%, Hybrids 4.05%, Bonds 17.36%, M-Mkt 17.04%

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 3.62%, 1-yr 3.52%;
T-Notes 2-yr 3.54%, 5-yr 3.75%, 10-yr 4.18%; T-Bonds 30-yr 4.82%;
TIPS/Real yields 5-yr 1.43%, 10-yr 1.90%, 30-yr 2.58%
FRNs Index 3.572%

Bank Rates www.depositaccounts.com/

Stable-Value (SV) Rates, 1/1/26
TIAA Traditional Annuity (Accumulation) Rates
Restricted RC 5.00%, RA 4.75%
Flexible RCP 4.25%, SRA 4.00%, IRA-101110+ 3.50%
TSP G Fund 4.250% (previous 4.125%)

India Fear & Greed MMI 29.26 (extreme fear, barely)
Weekly ETFs: INDIA -2.54%, INDY -2.28%, EPI -2.82%, INDH -2.32%, SPY +1.60%

The data above are as of Sunday preceding



the publication date.

GEOPOLITICAL

Indian oil companies have exposure to Venezuelan oil - ONG Videsh, IOC, Oil India. Crude oil imports from Venezuela are only about 0.35% of Indian oil imports, but they were much higher before; Venezuelan oil importers include Reliance Industries, Nayara Energy. Besides oil, there are minor exposures by companies in pharma - Sun Pharma, Glenmark Pharma, Cipla, Dr Reddy's Labs. Indian investments of about \$1 billion in Venezuela have been stuck due to sanctions on Venezuela. US involvement in Venezuela may help India in recovering its investments.

Venezuela has the highest proven oil reserves, but its production level is small. Its oil is heavy/sour grade. Many refineries need a mix of sour & sweet (light) crude oil. In proven oil reserves, #1-Venezuela, #2-Saudi Arabia, #3-Iran, #4-Iraq, #5-UAE. For oil production, #1-US,

#2-Saudi Arabia, #3-Russia, #4-Canada, #5-China.

Chinese investments & loans to Venezuela are \$100+ billion, most of them before Venezuela joined China's Belt & Road Initiative (BRI) in 09/2018.

Notably, Venezuela's Russian & Chinese defensive systems were totally ineffective during the US raid on 1/3/26. They were neutralized early by US missiles/drones, or there was secret cooperation by high-level Venezuelan defense officers. The hardliner VP Delcey Rodriguez, now the President, seems more acceptable to US than the opposition leader & Nobel Laureate Maria Machado.

Russia only protested about the seizure of a Russian-flagged oil tanker near Iceland by US Coast Guard Cutter (USCGC).

SPECIAL TOPIC - INDIAN RUPEE

Indian rupee keeps falling year after year. It was the worst Asian currency in 2025.

Economically, weak currency benefits exports but makes imports expensive. This is good for international trade in general, but becomes a problem when some bilateral trades have large deficits (i.e. more imports than exports). Higher import costs make related products more expensive & lead to higher inflation.

Bilateral trade in local currencies is touted a lot, but that only works if the trade is in balance. For example, if India has a large trade deficit (imports >> exports) in a bilateral trade, then the trading country ends up with lot of excess rupees that it cannot repatriate or use globally. Then, the trading country may demand payments in dollar, euro, dirham, etc.

India has huge trade deficits related to oil, advanced technology, defense, gold, etc. To meet high domestic demand, Indian gold imports are much more than those

need to support the jewelry exports. Weak rupee hurts Indian consumers as steady rupee devaluation eats into their purchasing power & savings. It's a silent factor that shows up as inflation.

It also hurts foreign investors because rupee devaluation cuts into their returns from investments in India when those returns are translated into their own currencies. This is why when Indian stock market rallies to new highs, the global reaction is often lukewarm. There are several India ETFs available in the US - INDIA, INDY, EPI, INDH, & only the tiny INDH is rupee-hedged.

A chart of rupees in dollars (\$\$RUP at StockCharts) from 12/31/10 - 12/31/25 is shown in a nearby picture; the bottom panel shows rolling monthly changes. The chart link is, schrts.co/QZtvjvc

Sample values for rupees for \$1 at yearends are as shown:

2010 44.70,
2011 53.01, 2012 54.99, 2013 61.80,
2014 63.16, 2015 66.23,
2016 67.96, 2017 63.83, 2018 69.49,
2019 71.21, 2020 73.05,
2021 74.49, 2022 82.74, 2023 83.25,
2024 85.55, 2025 89.99.

Some say that 92 level may be breached soon in this move.

The annualized devaluation rate for rupee vs US dollar over 15 years is -4.775%, quite high for a national currency.

A steady rupee would require balanced budgets, higher productivity, higher per capita GDP, trade surpluses - none of these are quick fixes.

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



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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Oversized sweaters, perfected!

Seven chic formulas fashion insiders swear by

Oversized sweaters have long secured their place as a winter wardrobe staple, but in 2026, they are no longer reserved for off-duty comfort alone. Fashion insiders are redefining how voluminous knits are worn, transforming cozy silhouettes into statements of effortless sophistication. The key lies in intentional styling, thoughtful proportions, and an elevated approach to layering.

One of the most enduring formulas this season is the art of the reveal. A



crisp shirt collar peeking out from beneath a generous knit, paired with structured denim and pointed-toe shoes, ensures the look feels styled rather than slouchy. Small details, such as cuffed hems or tonal layering, create visual interest while maintaining a refined finish.

Texture plays a starring role as well. Oversized sweaters layered over lace or sheer skirts introduce contrast that feels both modern and romantic. The weight of a chunky knit balanced against delicate fabrics softens the overall silhouette, making the look feel light despite its cozy foundation. Neutral palettes keep the effect polished, while subtle pattern play adds depth.

Matching sweater sets continue to

dominate for their ease and elegance. A coordinating cardigan and skirt or a sweater-and-pant pairing offers instant cohesion, making them ideal for workdays, travel, or understated evening plans. Elevated accessories, such as statement earrings or a structured leather bag, ensure the ensemble never veers into loungewear territory.

For those drawn to a relaxed yet directional aesthetic, head-to-toe oversized dressing delivers maximum impact. Voluminous trousers paired with an equally roomy knit feel modern when grounded with chunky loafers or lug-sole boots.

A slim belt or mini bag introduces contrast, sharpening the proportions without sacrificing comfort. Oversized sweaters also lend themselves beautifully to dressier moments. Layered over slip dresses or mini skirts, they create an unexpected juxtaposition that feels fresh and fashion-forward. Heels or sleek boots add polish, while minimalist accessories keep the focus on the silhouette. Finally, subtle neckline choices make all the difference. Boatneck or wide-neck knits reveal just enough skin to offset volume, while the bold may opt for a pants-free approach styled with over-the-knee boots and sheer tights.

The result is cozy, confident, and undeniably chic—proof that oversized sweaters, when styled with intention, are anything but casual.

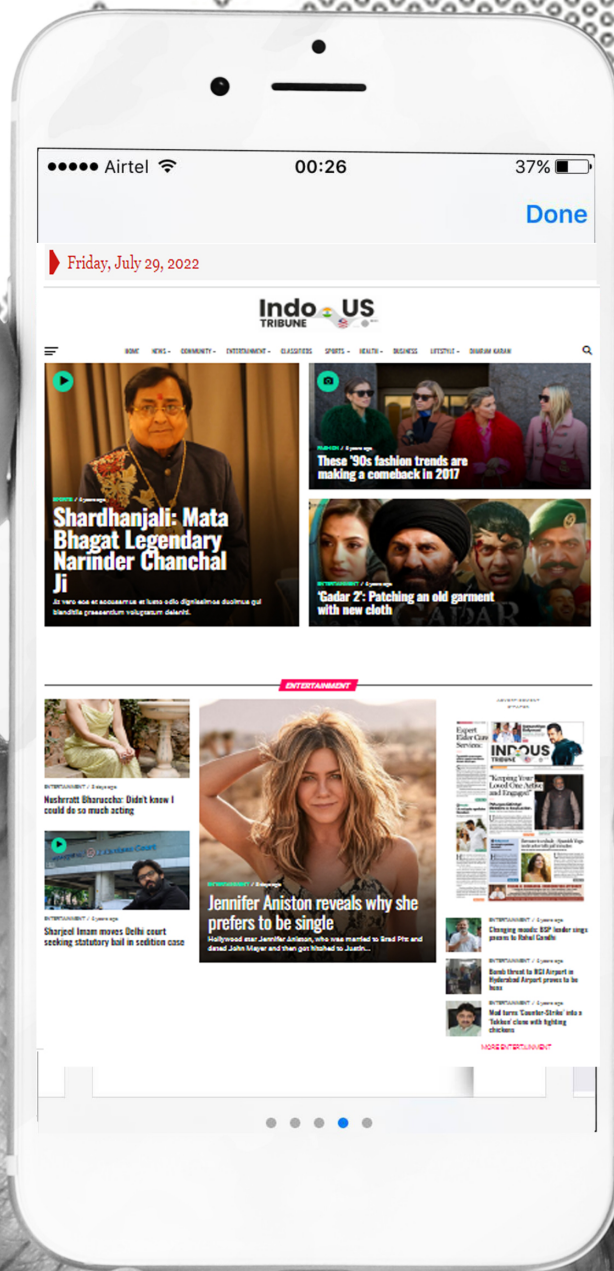


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