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## TikTok seals US restructuring deal to avert nationwide ban



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**T**ikTok on Thursday finalized a deal to create a new American entity, ending years of uncertainty over the future of the video-sharing platform in the United States. The agreement brings together major investors including Oracle, Silver Lake, and MGX to form a joint venture that will oversee TikTok's US operations. The company said the new structure includes strict safeguards on data protection, algorithm security, and content moderation, with US user data stored locally through systems run by Oracle. Adam Presser has been appointed chief executive of the new entity and will work with a seven-member board that has a majority of American directors. President Donald Trump praised the agreement and said it had received approval from China. ByteDance will retain a minority stake under the deal.

## Carney pushes back against Trump remarks on sovereignty



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**C**anadian Prime Minister Mark Carney on Thursday firmly rejected comments by President Donald Trump suggesting that Canada depends on the United States for its survival. Speaking in Quebec City, Carney emphasized Canada's sovereignty and independence after returning from Switzerland, where he attended events linked to the World Economic Forum but did not meet the American president. Trump had said on Wednesday in Davos that Canada "lives because of the United States." Carney responded that while both countries share strong economic, security, and cultural ties, Canada thrives because of its own identity and institutions. His remarks come amid broader tensions sparked by Trump's comments on Europe and Greenland.

## Bangladesh court begins murder trial of Hindu monk Chinmoy Krishna Das

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**A** Bangladesh court on Sunday formally opened the murder trial of Hindu monk Chinmoy Krishna Das, a case that has drawn nationwide attention and renewed debate over law, justice, and minority security in the country. Das, a senior figure associated with the International Society for Krishna Consciousness, is accused of involvement in the killing of a Muslim lawyer during a violent confrontation outside a courthouse last year.

Prosecutors argue the killing followed a dispute that escalated into fatal violence, while the defense maintains the case is being interpreted through a communal lens despite being a criminal matter. The trial has sparked discussion across Bangladesh, with legal experts, civil society groups, and minority



organizations closely watching the proceedings for their broader implications. Authorities said security was tightened around the court complex as hearings began, underscoring the sensitivity of a case seen as a test of Bangladesh's commitment to impartial justice.

## Zelensky says territory issue unresolved after talks with Trump at Davos

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**U**krainian President Volodymyr Zelensky said on Thursday that while progress has been made on security guarantees, the issue of territory remains unresolved following talks with President Donald Trump at the World Economic Forum in Davos. Zelensky confirmed that trilateral talks involving Ukraine, Russia, and the United States will take place on Friday and Saturday in Abu Dhabi, marking a new phase in negotiations to end the war. Trump described the discussions as positive and reiterated his call for the conflict to end. Zelensky also said an economic recovery framework



was close to completion. The talks come as Ukraine continues to face Russian air strikes and severe energy shortages.

## Appeals court lifts restrictions on immigration agents during Minnesota protests

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**A** United States appeals court on Wednesday lifted a lower court order that had restricted federal immigration agents from arresting or using crowd control measures against peaceful protesters in Minneapolis and Saint Paul. The decision temporarily blocks a preliminary injunction issued last Friday by United States District Judge Kate Menendez, who had ruled that activists' constitutional rights were being violated.

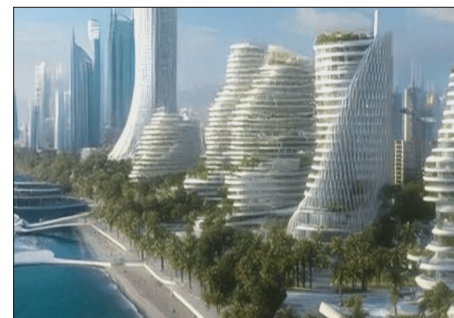
The lawsuit was filed in December by protesters opposing deportation operations ordered by President Donald Trump. They

argued that immigration agents retaliated against individuals engaged in nonviolent demonstrations and those observing or recording enforcement actions. Judge Menendez had barred Immigration and Customs Enforcement and Border Patrol agents from detaining peaceful demonstrators or using pepper spray, tear gas, or similar tactics. The Department of Homeland Security appealed the ruling.

The Eighth United States Circuit Court of Appeals sided with the department on Wednesday, allowing enforcement operations to continue while judges consider whether to reinstate the restrictions. Nearly 3,000 federal immigration officers remain deployed



## US unveils ambitious plan to rebuild Gaza with skyscrapers and new infrastructure



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**T**he United States on Thursday unveiled a sweeping reconstruction plan for Gaza, presenting a vision of a rebuilt territory featuring skyscrapers, coastal tourism zones, and modern infrastructure. The proposal was introduced at the World Economic Forum in Davos during the launch of President Donald Trump's new Board of Peace, which is tasked with overseeing the postwar recovery. The plan outlines phased redevelopment beginning in Rafah and moving north, with new residential areas, industrial zones, data centers, ports, and an airport near the Egyptian border. Jared Kushner said demilitarization would begin immediately to enable investment, while Trump warned Hamas must disarm. The announcement comes amid a fragile ceasefire and continuing humanitarian crisis in Gaza.

## President Donald Trump sues JPMorgan Chase over alleged political debanking



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**P**resident Donald Trump on Thursday filed a lawsuit against JPMorgan Chase and its chief executive Jamie Dimon, accusing the bank of politically motivated account closures. The suit, filed in Florida state court, seeks at least \$5 billion in damages and claims Trump and affiliated business entities were debanked in early 2021 following the Capitol unrest.

Trump said the decision amounted to political discrimination and accused the bank of unfair practices. JPMorgan rejected the allegations, stating that account closures are based on legal and regulatory risk, not political views. The bank said it respects Trump's right to sue and will defend itself in court. The case could have wider implications for banking regulation debates.



## Baloch activists brief Dutch lawmakers on rights abuses in Pakistan



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

A delegation from the Baloch National Movement met members of the Dutch parliament on Wednesday to raise concerns over what it described as systematic human rights violations in Pakistan's Balochistan province.

The activists discussed enforced disappearances, military operations, and attacks on civilians, while also highlighting Pakistan's preferential trade status under the European Union's trade scheme. The delegation submitted a formal petition detailing alleged abuses, including cases involving women and activists.

Separately, Baloch rights groups reported the killing of a civilian and a new enforced disappearance in Quetta, underscoring what they called a continuing pattern of extrajudicial actions and impunity in the region.

## Australia marks national day of mourning after Bondi Beach attack



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Australians observed a national day of mourning on Thursday for the 15 people killed in the Bondi Beach attack, which targeted members of the Jewish community during Hanukkah celebrations. Prime Minister Anthony Albanese called on citizens to light candles and observe a minute of silence as flags flew at half mast nationwide.

A national memorial service was held at the Sydney Opera House, marking Australia's first day of mourning since 2022. Albanese said the day was about honoring victims and standing with Jewish Australians.

Earlier, he said new hate speech laws passed this week would strengthen national unity and public safety.

# European Parliament sends Mercosur trade deal to top court, risking long delay

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

European Union lawmakers voted on Wednesday to refer the bloc's proposed trade agreement with South American nations to the European Union Court of Justice, a move that could delay the deal by up to two years or derail it entirely. The agreement with Mercosur members Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay, and Uruguay was signed on Saturday after 25 years of negotiations but still requires approval to take effect.

Supporters such as Germany and Spain argue the deal is strategically vital as President Donald Trump disrupts global trade through tariffs, warning that continued delays could strain relations with South American partners. German Chancellor Friedrich Merz called the



court referral regrettable and urged provisional application. Opponents led by France say the agreement would increase imports of low cost beef, sugar, and poultry, harming European farmers and limiting environmental and consumer

health protections.

The motion passed narrowly, with 334 votes in favor and 324 against. The court typically takes around two years to issue such opinions.

## United States begins transfer of Islamic State detainees from Syria to Iraq

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The United States military said on Wednesday it transferred 150 Islamic State detainees from northeast Syria to Iraq, beginning an operation that could move as many as 7,000 fighters. The transfer followed the collapse of the Kurdish led Syrian Democratic Forces, which had guarded prisons and camps holding thousands of detainees.

The military said the detainees were

moved from a facility in Hasakah to a secure location in Iraq. United States Central Command said it is coordinating closely with the Iraqi government to prevent escapes and ensure lasting defeat of the group. Later on Monday, its commander briefed Syrian President Ahmed al Sharaa and urged all forces to avoid interference.

Syrian authorities announced a ceasefire with Kurdish forces on Tuesday and gave them days to integrate into the central state. More than 10,000 Islamic State members remain detained across Syria.



## France dismisses Trump drug price claims as misinformation

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

France rejected President Donald Trump's claim on Wednesday that he pressured Paris into raising medicine prices, calling the assertion false and misleading. The French presidency said drug prices are regulated by the national social security system and have remained stable, contradicting Trump's remarks at the World Economic Forum in Davos.

Trump told business leaders he threatened tariffs on French goods to force price

increases, including steep levies on wine and champagne. French officials responded on social media, noting the president does not set medicine prices and dismissing the comments as misinformation.

The dispute comes amid rising tensions between the allies over Greenland and trade policy. President Emmanuel Macron has taken a hard line against coercive tactics, urging Europe to defend its sovereignty. France has also expanded efforts to publicly counter inaccurate narratives, as transatlantic relations face strain from tariff threats.

## Lula criticizes Trump's social media style and urges return to humanism

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva criticized President Donald Trump on Tuesday, accusing him of trying to "rule the world" through social media rather than diplomacy. Speaking at a public housing ceremony in southern Brazil, Lula said global leaders must engage directly and treat people with respect instead of issuing daily messages online. He linked his remarks to a broader call for restoring humanism in social relations and urged citizens to reduce cellphone use. Lula also defended Brazil's policy restricting mobile phones in elementary and middle schools. He has not commented publicly on Trump's invitation to join the proposed Board of Peace for Gaza. Earlier, Lula also condemned recent United States military action in Venezuela, warning it undermines international law and global stability.

## Bangladesh sees sharp rise in crime as theft and kidnapping surge



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Bangladesh recorded a sharp rise in crime during 2025, according to police data reported on Tuesday. Robbery cases increased by thirty seven percent, while theft rose twelve percent and kidnapping jumped more than seventy percent compared with the previous year. Police also reported a rise in murder cases, partly linked to earlier unrest. Human rights groups documented a growing problem of mob violence, with nearly two hundred deaths reported last year. Criminology experts said weak law enforcement has created more opportunities for criminals. A recent survey found a majority of respondents believe the interim government has failed to maintain law and order, as protests and instability continue across the country.





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BOOK

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# India at No. 4: A moment of pride, purpose, and global promise



Dr. Avi Verma

India’s emergence as the world’s fourth-largest economy marks a defining inflection point in the nation’s post-independence journey. With a nominal GDP now exceeding \$4 trillion, India has moved decisively into the top tier of global economic powers—behind only the United States, China, and Germany. This milestone is not simply about overtaking another economy or climbing a statistical ladder. It represents a profound shift in how India is positioned, perceived, and respected in the global order.

For decades, India’s potential was widely acknowledged but rarely realized at scale. Growth came in fits and starts, often constrained by structural bottlenecks, policy uncertainty, and underinvestment in infrastructure. Today’s ranking signals that India has crossed a psychological and economic threshold. It has moved from being an “emerging” economy in perpetual transition to a systemically important global player whose performance influences markets, supply chains, and strategic calculations worldwide.

For the Indian diaspora, this moment carries special resonance. Across the United States, Europe, the Middle East, Africa, and Asia-Pacific, Indians abroad have long balanced pride in their heritage with the reality of global stereotypes that often underestimated India’s capabilities. India’s rise to No. 4 reshapes that narrative. It strengthens the sense of belonging to a nation that is not merely participating in global conversations—but actively shaping them. Economic strength reinforces cultural confidence, diplomatic credibility, and collective self-esteem.

This achievement is the product of sustained leadership and policy continuity over the past decade. Under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, India has pursued a coherent vision centered on structural reform, infrastructure expansion, and national self-confidence. The emphasis has been on long-term capacity building rather than short-term optics—an approach that has gradually altered the country’s economic trajectory.

The stewardship of Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has been particularly consequential. Navigating global shocks ranging from the pandemic to geopolitical conflict and inflationary pressures, India maintained fiscal discipline while continuing capital investment. Tax reforms, rationalized subsidies, improved compliance, and



a renewed focus on public balance sheets helped stabilize macroeconomic fundamentals even during periods of global volatility.

Equally important has been the role of India’s economic institutions and policy thinkers. Chief Economic Adviser Dr. V. Anantha Nageswaran’s focus on balancing growth with inflation control, financial stability, and domestic demand has reinforced a pragmatic, evidence-driven approach to policymaking. This steady hand has reassured investors and markets alike that India’s growth is not accidental, but deliberate and sustainable.

Transformational reforms have strengthened India’s economic architecture. The Goods and Services Tax (GST) unified a fragmented domestic market. Digital public infrastructure, including Aadhaar, UPI, and the digital payments ecosystem, has expanded financial inclusion while lowering transaction costs.

Production-linked incentive (PLI) schemes have catalyzed manufacturing in sectors ranging from electronics to pharmaceuticals, while massive investments in roads, railways, ports, and airports have improved logistics and connectivity.

India’s rise, however, is not driven by policy alone. It is powered by its people. With one of the world’s youngest populations, an expanding middle class, and a vibrant entrepreneurial ecosystem, India possesses a demographic and human capital advantage few nations can match. Domestic consumption provides a stable growth engine, while innovation—from fintech to space technology—has positioned India as a laboratory for scalable solutions.

As multinational companies diversify supply chains and reduce overdependence on single markets, India is increasingly seen as indispensable. Foreign direct investment, strategic partnerships, and technology collaborations are deepening. India’s voice in global economic forums

such as the G20, World Bank, and IMF now carries greater weight—not just because of population size, but because of economic scale and credibility.

Yet this moment of celebration must also be one of reflection and responsibility. Economic size alone does not guarantee widespread prosperity. The true measure of India’s success will be how effectively growth translates into jobs, rising incomes, quality education, accessible healthcare, and social mobility.

Bridging regional disparities, improving urban governance, investing in skills, and addressing environmental sustainability will be essential as India moves forward.

The ambition of becoming a developed nation by 2047, the centenary of independence, is bold but not unrealistic. Achieving it will require continuous reform, productivity gains, deeper global integration, and unwavering investment in human capital. It will also demand political maturity—an ability to prioritize national interest, institutional strength, and long-term outcomes over short-term gains.

Still, moments like this deserve recognition. India’s position as the world’s fourth-largest economy signals a decisive rebalancing of global economic power. It reflects a nation that has found confidence in its capabilities and clarity in its direction.

For Indians everywhere, this milestone is a reminder that the country we call home is rising—not noisily, not impulsively, but steadily and with purpose. The journey ahead is long, but the promise is real. India’s ascent to No. 4 is not the destination. It is a powerful statement that the future is firmly within reach.

Best Regards,

Dr. Avi Verma.

Publisher,

IndoUS Tribune



## Delhi Police file case against Gurpatwant Singh Pannun over Republic Day threats

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Delhi Police on Friday registered a case against Sikh for Justice leader Gurpatwant Singh Pannun over alleged threats to disrupt Republic Day celebrations in the national capital on Sunday. The Special Cell invoked provisions of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita linked to criminal conspiracy and acts threatening India's sovereignty and security. The action followed a video circulated online in which Pannun claimed pro Khalistan posters had been placed in parts of Delhi by sleeper cells. Police said no such posters were found after verification and searches. The case also comes amid India's condemnation of the vandalism of the Indian Embassy in Croatia earlier in the week.

## At least 67 feared dead in Karachi shopping plaza blaze

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

At least 67 people have been confirmed dead after a devastating fire at Gul Plaza in Pakistan's port city of Karachi, officials said on Thursday, as rescue operations continued. Police surgeon Dr. Summaiya Syed said additional human remains were recovered from the site, where the fire broke out on Saturday, with many found in fragments, complicating identification. Senior police official Asad Raza confirmed the revised toll, up from 34 earlier deaths. Families of those still missing remained outside the plaza and nearby hospitals after providing deoxyribonucleic acid samples, accusing authorities of slow rescue efforts. Officials have restricted access due to safety concerns, while investigators examine a possible electrical fault as the cause.

## Former South Korean president Yoon sentenced to five years for obstruction



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

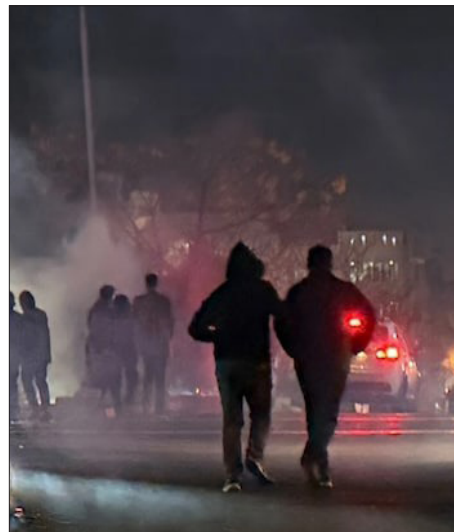
Former South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol was sentenced to five years in prison on Friday after being found guilty of obstructing his arrest and other charges related to his brief martial law declaration in December 2024. The court ruled that Yoon violated due process, falsified official documents, destroyed potential evidence by wiping phone data, and hindered authorities. Judge Baek Dae-hyun described Yoon's actions as a serious breach of the Constitution. Yoon's lawyers said they would appeal. Separate trials will examine additional charges, including alleged insurrection, for which prosecutors have sought the death penalty. His martial law move, lasting only six hours, ended after parliamentary intervention and led to his removal from office.

## Iran releases first official protest death toll, disputed by activists

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Iran on Wednesday issued its first government death toll following a violent crackdown on nationwide protests, reporting 3,117 people killed, a figure sharply lower than estimates from human rights groups. State television cited the Interior Ministry and the Foundation of Martyrs and Veterans Affairs, saying 2,427 of the dead were civilians and security forces, without explaining the remaining deaths. Protests began in late December and marked one of the deadliest periods of unrest in decades.

The United States based Human Rights Activists News Agency said on Thursday that at least 4,902 people had been killed, warning the number could rise as information emerges from an internet shutdown. Independent verification remains difficult due to restricted access



for journalists. Meanwhile, Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi warned the United States that Iran would respond forcefully if attacked, as regional military tensions continued to escalate.

## Spain pushes joint European army as Greenland tensions mount

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Spain urged the European Union on Wednesday to move toward creating a joint military force, arguing that collective defense is more effective than relying on 27 separate national armies. Foreign Minister Jose Manuel Albares said Europe must integrate its defense industry and build a coalition of willing states to deter military and economic coercion.

His comments came ahead of an emergency

meeting of European Union leaders on Thursday to coordinate a response to President Donald Trump's threats to buy or annex Greenland. Albares stressed that a joint force would complement, not replace, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, while signaling Europe's readiness to defend itself. Spanish officials said their position remained unchanged even after Trump said he would pursue dialogue with NATO leaders. The proposal revives an idea from Europe's early integration debates, reflects growing concern about Europe's strategic independence today.

## New York ordered to redraw congressional map over minority vote concerns

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

A state judge ruled on Wednesday that New York must redraw its congressional map by early February, finding that the current 11th District dilutes the votes of Black and Latino residents. The district, covering parts of New York City including all of Staten Island, is represented by Republican Rep. Nicole Malliotakis.

Judge Jeffrey Pearlman said the current boundaries undermine fair representation and ordered the redistricting commission to submit a new map by Feb. 6 to allow the state to prepare for primaries in June. The decision could impact neighboring districts and potentially favor Democrats if upheld.



Malliotakis signaled she may appeal, calling the ruling a partisan attempt to influence the seat. House Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries welcomed the decision as a step toward protecting communities of interest.

## House panel advances contempt charges against Bill and Hillary Clinton over Epstein probe

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

A Republican-led House committee voted on Wednesday to advance contempt of Congress charges against former President Bill Clinton and former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton for defying a subpoena linked to the Jeffrey Epstein investigation. The rare measure allows the House to potentially impose fines or jail time,

although passage by the full chamber is not guaranteed. In a bipartisan move, several Democrats supported the action, citing the need for full transparency in the probe of Epstein, who sexually abused minors for years before dying in 2019. The Clintons have denied wrongdoing and offered written statements and limited interviews. Committee Chairman James Comer emphasized that no former official is above the law.

## Killer of former Japanese prime minister Shinzo Abe sentenced to life

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

A Japanese court sentenced the killer of former Prime Minister Shinzo Abe to life in prison on Wednesday, calling the 2022 shooting "extremely vicious." The Nara District Court convicted Tetsuya Yamagami of murder and firearms violations for using a homemade gun to kill Abe during a campaign speech. Prosecutors sought life imprisonment, while the defense argued for a shorter sentence, citing Yamagami's resentment toward the church and reforms targeting abusive fundraising practices. Abe, Japan's longest serving leader, was sixty seven when he was killed.

## UAE accepts United States invitation to join Gaza Board of Peace

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The United Arab Emirates announced on Tuesday that President Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan has accepted an invitation from President Donald Trump to join the Board of Peace for Gaza. Foreign Minister Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed said the decision reflects support for Trump's twenty point peace plan and the goal of advancing Palestinian rights. The UAE pledged to actively contribute to stability, reconstruction, and political progress in Gaza. Officials also welcomed the launch of the second phase of the peace plan and the creation of a temporary administrative body for Gaza under a United Nations Security Council resolution. The board was announced as the Gaza ceasefire entered its second phase, focusing on demilitarization and rebuilding.

## Prince Harry tells court tabloids made Meghan's life miserable

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Prince Harry told London's High Court on Wednesday that reporting by the Daily Mail made his wife Meghan's life "an absolute misery," as he gave emotional testimony in a privacy lawsuit against publisher Associated Newspapers. Harry and six other claimants, including Elton John, allege unlawful intrusion spanning the 1990s through the 2010s.

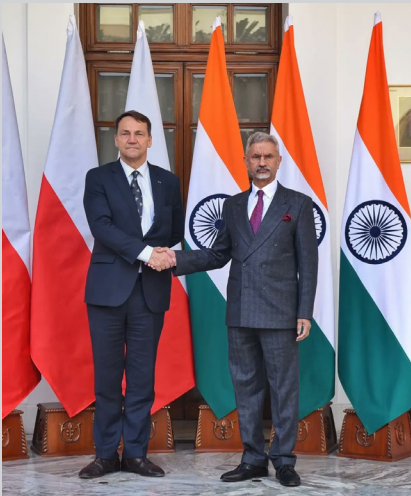
The Duke of Sussex said the case has caused deep personal distress and criticized the publisher for refusing to apologize or take responsibility. He rejected claims that journalists relied on friendly sources, insisting his social circle was not "leaky." Harry accused the paper of illegally gathering information through voicemail hacking, surveillance, and deception.

Associated Newspapers has denied wrongdoing, saying all information was obtained lawfully. The trial is continuing.





## India and Poland advance strategic economic and defence cooperation



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar met Polish Deputy Prime Minister Radosław Sikorski on Monday in New Delhi to discuss strengthening economic, technology, defence, mining, people-to-people, and multilateral cooperation. Jaishankar emphasized the need for Poland to show zero tolerance for terrorism and highlighted India’s stance on the Ukraine conflict, calling selective targeting of New Delhi unfair.

Both leaders acknowledged the steady progress of India-Poland ties, elevated to a strategic partnership during Prime Minister Modi’s visit in August 2024. Sikorski’s engagements in New Delhi focused on deepening the India-Poland Strategic Partnership and expanding bilateral collaboration across key sectors.

## India and US reinforce cooperation against illicit drugs and precursors



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

India and the United States concluded the inaugural Drug Policy Executive Working Group meeting in Washington DC on Thursday, reaffirming commitments to counter synthetic opioids, precursor chemicals, and digital platform misuse. Ambassador Vinay Mohan Kwatra and US officials reviewed progress in bilateral efforts to tackle illicit drug trafficking and diversion of precursors.

The meeting emphasized focused enforcement while facilitating legitimate trade. Last year, Indian agencies dismantled a transnational drug cartel operating across four continents and ten countries, using encrypted platforms and cryptocurrencies, underscoring India’s active role in global counter-narcotics cooperation and protecting youth worldwide.

## India strengthens partnerships with Global South as foreign policy priority

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

India is increasingly shaping the future of the Global South through strategic diplomacy, economic cooperation, and development assistance, according to Ambassador Ashok Sajjanhar. Over decades, India has evolved from a Non-Aligned Movement leader to a key player in South-South cooperation. Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s Voice of the Global South Summits in 2023 and 2024 have highlighted developing nations’ priorities and strengthened India’s role as a partner in global governance. India

extends technical assistance through the ITEC program, supporting more than 160 countries, and played a decisive role in including the African Union as a full G20 member. With its economy growing from the tenth-largest in 2014 to the fourth-largest in 2025 and projected to reach over USD 10 trillion by 2035, India leverages its economic, democratic, and strategic capacities to ensure equitable representation for the Global South. The country’s proactive engagement underscores its commitment to a multipolar world where developing nations have a meaningful voice in global affairs.



## India leads global clean energy movement and mentors developing nations

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

India has emerged as a global leader in renewable energy, achieving its 2030 targets five years ahead of schedule, Union Minister Pralhad Joshi highlighted in a Newsweek article this week. In 2025, India became the only G20 nation to fully meet its Nationally Determined Contributions, with non-fossil fuels accounting for 50 percent of its 484-gigawatt installed power capacity. Solar capacity reached 135 GW, wind nearly 54 GW, and domestic solar module production rose to 144 GW. The shift has saved over

USD 46 billion in pollution-related costs, avoided 410.9 million tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, and delivered USD 31.7 billion in health benefits. Programs like PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana and PM Kusum are expanding rooftop solar access and empowering farmers. India’s National Green Hydrogen Mission is creating one of the lowest-cost green hydrogen ecosystems globally. As President of the International Solar Alliance, India is sharing its blueprint with 125 countries, especially in Africa and Small Island Developing States, positioning itself as a mentor for the Global South.



## India and Myanmar aim for \$5 billion trade by 2030



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

India and Myanmar set a \$5 billion bilateral trade target by 2030 during talks in Nay Pyi Taw on Wednesday. Officials discussed enhancing the Rupee–Kyat settlement system, reopening border trade posts, improving connectivity, and leveraging the ASEAN–India Trade in Goods Agreement. Bilateral trade reached \$2.15 billion in 2024–25. The meeting focused on market access, border infrastructure, financial transactions, and sectors including textiles, ICT, MSMEs, health, and agriculture.

Both sides emphasized the strategic Tamu–Moreh and Rhi–Zokhawthar border posts and discussed an Integrated Check Post at Tamu. They reaffirmed commitment to reviewing AITIGA for mutual benefit and agreed to strengthen cooperation across all discussed areas, maintaining regular communication to ensure effective follow-up. The next Joint Trade Committee meeting will be in New Delhi.

## India becomes key partner in UK’s \$48 billion education strategy



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

India is one of five focus countries in the UK’s International Education Strategy aiming to expand Britain’s educational exports to 40 billion pounds annually by 2030. Announced by the British High Commission in New Delhi, the strategy is led by International Education Champion Professor Sir Steve Smith. It targets growth markets including Indonesia, Saudi Arabia, Vietnam, Nigeria, Brazil, Mexico, and Pakistan.

The approach shifts from student recruitment numbers to trade facilitation, skills development, and international campuses. Nine new British university campuses, including the University of Southampton in Gurugram, will provide research, innovation, and teaching opportunities. Officials highlighted the strategy’s potential to diversify income, strengthen global partnerships, and expand access to UK education through digital learning, AI-driven innovation, and future skills programs.



## India and Japan discuss expanding cooperation in agriculture and AI



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

India's Ambassador-designate to Japan, Nagma Mallick, met Agriculture Minister Norikazu Suzuki on Thursday to explore bilateral cooperation in agriculture, food processing, and sharing best practices. Earlier, Mallick also met Minister of Economic Security Onoda Kimi to discuss economic security, artificial intelligence, and cultural ties. These meetings follow the 18th India-Japan Strategic Dialogue in New Delhi, co-chaired by EAM S. Jaishankar and Japanese Foreign Minister Toshimitsu Motegi, which focused on economic, maritime, supply chain, critical mineral, technology, and multilateral cooperation. Both sides emphasized people-to-people exchanges and agreed to strengthen ties during the 75th anniversary of diplomatic relations in 2027. Discussions reaffirmed the potential to elevate India-Japan relations and advance a free and open Indo-Pacific through collaboration.

## India and Kenya strengthen defence cooperation and industrial ties



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

India and Kenya held extensive talks this week to enhance defence cooperation, focusing on industrial collaboration, capacity building, training, sustainment, exports, and maintenance support. The discussions took place during a visit to Nairobi by a four-member Indian Ministry of Defence delegation led by Defence Production Secretary Sanjeev Kumar from January 19-21. The delegation represented India at the 3rd India-Kenya Defence Exhibition and Seminar on January 19, inaugurated by Kenya's Defence Cabinet Secretary Soipan Tuyu, which showcased 21 Indian defence companies. The delegation engaged with senior Kenyan defence leadership and visited Kenya Shipyard Limited to explore cooperation under a 2023 MoU with Goa Shipyard Limited. They also paid homage at the Joint India-Africa Commemorative Pillar, honoring Indian and Kenyan soldiers from World War One.

## India and UAE aim to double trade to \$200 billion by 2032

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and UAE President Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan on Monday agreed to double bilateral trade to \$200 billion by 2032. Bilateral trade reached \$100 billion in 2024-25 following the 2022 Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement. They endorsed outcomes from the High-Level Task Force on Investments and Joint Commission Meetings and

called for linking MSMEs on both sides. Initiatives include Bharat Mart, Virtual Trade Corridor, and Bharat-Africa Setu to promote trade across the Middle East, Africa, and Eurasia. Discussions also covered Dholera infrastructure development, investment funds, GIFT City, food security, energy cooperation, nuclear technology, space sector collaboration, supercomputing, data centers, and AI innovation. Both leaders reaffirmed their commitment to strengthening economic, technological, and energy partnerships.



## Australia explores Olympic and renewable energy partnership with Gujarat

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Australian High Commissioner Philip Green visited Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel in Gandhinagar on Wednesday to discuss sports infrastructure, Olympic readiness, higher education, and renewable energy collaboration. The Chief Minister highlighted Gujarat's interest in learning from Australia's sustainable Olympic facility use, including housing and sports venues. Green detailed Brisbane's post-2032 Olympic plans to repurpose venues for

public housing, student accommodation, and community use, and invited a Gujarat delegation to review preparations.

He also proposed collaboration on high-performance sports training, including swimming and para-athletics. The Chief Minister welcomed the initiative. Discussions included establishing a comprehensive sports ecosystem at GIFT City through Deakin University. Green also praised Gujarat's renewable energy progress and solar rooftop training programs promoting women's participation.



## Jaishankar and Spanish counterpart discuss cooperation and global challenges



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

AM S. Jaishankar met Spanish Foreign Minister Jose Manuel Albares on Wednesday to discuss bilateral and multilateral cooperation in trade, investment, defence, technology, education, and people-to-people ties. Jaishankar welcomed Spain's support for deeper India-EU engagement and participation in the Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative. Both officials emphasized collaboration against terrorism and reaffirmed shared democratic values. Discussions included India's upcoming AI Impact Summit, focusing on human-centric and ethical AI aligned with Europe's approach. Albares highlighted finalizing the India-EU Free Trade Agreement and confirmed Spanish President Pedro Sanchez's planned visit to India. Both sides agreed to continue bilateral and EU-level cooperation, strengthening strategic partnership and advancing mutual economic, technological, and security interests.

## India sends 30 tonnes of humanitarian aid to Philippines



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

India delivered 30 tonnes of humanitarian aid to the Philippines on Tuesday, including 6.5 tonnes of essential medicines, medical equipment, dignity kits, sleeping mats, heavy-duty tarpaulins, and shelters. Ambassador Harsh Kumar Jain handed over the aid to Under Secretary Diana Rose S. Cajipe at Clark Air Base. The shipment included the BHISHM Cube, a Make in India portable hospital system for rapid disaster response. Transported by an Indian Air Force C-17 Globemaster III, the aid supports communities affected by Super Typhoon Fung-wong in November 2025, which killed at least 18 people. The embassy noted the assistance highlights India's commitment to humanitarian support and disaster relief for partner countries in emergencies, providing immediate relief and comfort to affected populations.



Friday, 23 January 2026

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## US medical groups challenge CDC move to scale back routine childhood vaccines

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Several leading medical organizations have asked a federal judge to block a recent decision by the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to narrow routine childhood vaccine recommendations. On Monday, the American Academy of Pediatrics and allied groups sought to expand an ongoing lawsuit, arguing the move is unlawful and endangers public health. The policy, backed by Health and Human Services Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr., reduced recommended childhood vaccines from 17 to 11, shifting several shots to shared decision making with doctors. Plaintiffs say the change could lower vaccination rates and increase preventable illness.

## TSA to charge \$45 for noncompliant air travelers starting February 1

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The Transportation Security Administration announced on Wednesday that about 6 percent of U.S. air travelers do not have identification that meets federal REAL ID standards. Starting February 1, passengers without compliant IDs will face a \$45 fee to access flights, covering travel for 10 days. TSA Deputy Administrator Ha Nguyen McNeil told Congress that compliance has improved slightly from 93 percent last year to 94 percent today. The fee, increased from \$18, addresses costs of processing travelers without acceptable ID and ensures air safety. Children under 18 are exempt, and acceptable IDs include state-issued REAL IDs, passports, permanent resident cards, Department of Defense IDs, and DHS trusted traveler cards. Noncompliant passengers may face up to 30-minute delays at checkpoints.

## FCC says political interviews on talk shows must follow equal time rules

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The Federal Communications Commission clarified on Wednesday that late-night and daytime talk shows featuring political candidates must comply with equal time rules, giving opposing candidates equal opportunities to appear. The guidance overturns a 2006 exemption used by programs like Jay Leno's "Tonight Show" and recent candidate interviews. Democratic Commissioner Anna Gomez said the decision conflicts with prior views that talk shows can exercise editorial discretion based on newsworthiness and criticized the FCC for pressuring broadcasters. Networks must now seek declaratory rulings if they believe they qualify for an exemption. The move has drawn attention to ABC shows including "The View" and "Jimmy Kimmel Live," and comes amid ongoing criticism from President Trump, who has repeatedly urged FCC Chair Brendan Carr to act against perceived broadcaster bias.

## Congress forms ethanol task force after E15 deal stalls

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Republican lawmakers in the U.S. Congress plan to create a task force to explore year-round sales of E15 gasoline after an effort to pass legislation in a funding bill fell through this week. Farm groups criticized the move, saying it increases uncertainty for American farmers already facing low prices, global trade challenges, and unclear biofuel policies. E15, with higher ethanol content than the standard E10, could boost demand for corn, ethanol's primary ingredient, but sales are currently restricted in summer months due to air quality rules.

The new "E-15 Rural Domestic Energy Council" will examine sales, refining capacity, blending credits, and other factors, with recommendations expected by mid-



February. Critics, including Democratic Representative Nikki Budzinski, said the council falls short of a bipartisan legislative solution, leaving farmers and ethanol producers frustrated. Oil refiners have resisted higher ethanol mandates, citing cost concerns, and the task force represents a compromise to study the issue rather than implement immediate changes.

## Retired Navy admiral enters South Carolina congressional race

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Retired Vice Adm. Nancy Lacore, a Navy helicopter pilot and three-star admiral, announced on Tuesday her candidacy for South Carolina's 1st Congressional District. Lacore, removed from her post last August by Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth, said in an X post that she still has more to give and fight for. The district, which includes Charleston, is currently represented by Republican Rep. Nancy Mace, who is running for governor. Lacore has earned endorsements from EMILY's List and The Bench and joins a crowded Democratic



primary field. Republicans in the June primary include Sam McCown, Mark Smith, and Alex Pelbath, a retired Air Force officer.

## Millions brace for freezing temperatures and heavy snow across central and eastern U.S.

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

A massive winter storm is set to hit the Central Plains and East Coast this weekend, affecting nearly 150 million Americans with heavy snow, ice, and frigid temperatures. The National Weather Service warned that the Appalachians and West Virginia mountains could see up to 20 inches of snow, while cities including New York, Boston, Baltimore, and Washington, D.C., may receive 4 to 10 inches of wet snow

starting Saturday. Dangerous ice on roads and falling branches could trigger power outages. Chicago faces lows of 2 degrees below zero Fahrenheit and wind chills of 30 below zero. Texas Governor Greg Abbott declared a state of emergency, deploying personnel to manage traffic and power issues. Agricultural experts said heavy snow may benefit drought-stricken winter wheat in Oklahoma, but exposed fields risk cold damage. The storm is expected to clear by late Sunday or early Monday, leaving an Arctic chill in its wake.

## DHS launches immigration crackdown in Maine with 'Operation Catch of the Day'

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The Department of Homeland Security launched "Operation Catch of the Day" in Maine on Wednesday, targeting criminal illegal migrants. Assistant Secretary Tricia McLaughlin said the operation aimed at individuals convicted of aggravated assault, false imprisonment, and child

endangerment. Maine Governor Janet Mills, a Democrat, has coordinated with state police and local officials to ensure the safety and rights of residents while preparing for federal enforcement. City leaders, including Lewiston Mayor Carl Sheline, criticized ICE tactics as terrorizing and inhumane. Mills emphasized that peaceful protest is allowed, but federal law violations will be prosecuted to the fullest extent.

## Former Uvalde officer cleared on all counts after school shooting trial

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

A jury acquitted former Uvalde, Texas, school police officer Adrian Gonzales on all 29 counts of child endangerment on Wednesday evening. Gonzales faced charges for his response to the Robb Elementary shooting in May 2022, which left 19 students and two teachers dead. Prosecutors alleged he failed to act when armed with critical information, but his defense argued he followed protocol and faced danger himself. Families of victims expressed frustration and grief over the verdict. Gonzales said he would focus on "picking up the pieces and moving forward." This marks the second U.S. trial seeking criminal accountability for a law enforcement response to a mass shooting.

## California Republicans ask Supreme Court to block new congressional map



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

California Republicans filed an emergency request with the U.S. Supreme Court on Tuesday to block the state's new congressional map, approved by voters last November. The map could give Democrats five additional House seats, countering a Texas redistricting effort favoring Republicans. Plaintiffs argue the map illegally prioritizes Latino voters, violating the Constitution and Voting Rights Act. A federal court rejected the challenge earlier this month, noting weak evidence of racial motivation. The Supreme Court's conservative majority could decide whether the map can be used ahead of the November elections.

## Four Minnesota students detained by ICE, including 5-year-old

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Four students in the Minneapolis area, including a 5-year-old, were detained by ICE this week, prompting outrage from school officials and parents. Liam Conejo Ramos and his father were taken from their driveway on Tuesday. Officials said ICE attempted to transfer the child to a responsible adult but parents refused. Two other minors were also taken recently, including a 17-year-old and a 10-year-old. ICE said its actions targeted undocumented individuals, not children. School administrators reported fear among students and staff, with attendance affected and recess moved indoors for safety. Legal representatives said the children posed no flight risk and were following immigration protocols.



## Newsom blames Trump administration for being blocked at Davos summit

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

California Governor Gavin Newsom said he was blocked from speaking at the World Economic Forum at Davos on Wednesday, blaming the Trump administration for interference. Fortune, which invited Newsom for a fireside chat, confirmed the event was canceled after the USA House, the U.S. pavilion, refused to accommodate him. Newsom criticized the decision as politically motivated, while Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent mocked him during the forum. Trump, who addressed the summit, noted his past cordial relations with Newsom. The governor, considering a potential 2028 presidential run, dismissed the summit as insignificant and reaffirmed his commitment to raising California's issues on a global stage.

## House fails to limit Trump's military powers in Venezuela after partisan deadlock

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The U.S. House of Representatives narrowly blocked a resolution on Thursday that would have barred President Donald Trump from further military action in Venezuela without congressional approval. The 215-215 tie reflected partisan divisions, with most Republicans opposing the measure and Democrats supporting it. The resolution aimed to prevent unilateral U.S. military engagement following Trump's capture of Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro. Critics called the bill politically motivated, while supporters argued it would prevent another "forever war." Vice President JD Vance broke a similar Senate tie last week. The vote underscores ongoing congressional debate over war powers and the constitutional authority to authorize U.S. troop deployment abroad.

## Jack Smith tells House panel Trump caused January 6 Capitol attack

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Former special counsel Jack Smith testified Thursday before the House Judiciary Committee that President Donald Trump was responsible for the January 6 attack on the United States Capitol. Smith said his investigation found that Trump foresaw the violence, sought to exploit it, and pursued an illegal effort to block the peaceful transfer of power. He said evidence supported charges related to election interference and mishandling of classified documents. Smith stressed that politics played no role in his decisions and said Trump rejected facts that challenged his efforts to remain in power.

## DOJ backs Pentagon inquiry into Sen. Mark Kelly

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The Justice Department asked a federal judge on Thursday to allow the Pentagon to continue its inquiry into Democratic Senator Mark Kelly, arguing that retired military officers do not have the same free speech protections as civilians. Kelly sued Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth to block a potential demotion over a video urging service members to refuse illegal orders. The administration said Kelly's remarks risked undermining military discipline. Kelly, a



retired Navy captain and former astronaut, maintains the censure is political retaliation. A hearing is scheduled for January 28, with a judge aiming to rule by February 11.

## VP Vance urges Minneapolis officials to lower tensions amid ICE protests

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Vice President JD Vance, visiting Minneapolis on Thursday, called on local and state officials to "lower the temperature" after weeks of clashes between ICE agents and protesters. Vance said President Trump directed him to work with city leaders to make immigration operations safer for federal officers. He urged peaceful protest and said assaults on law enforcement would be prosecuted. Vance noted that state and local cooperation is essential to enforcing



immigration laws effectively and to reduce chaos, while also acknowledging mistakes made by federal agents during operations in the city.

## Airlines roll out waivers as winter storm threatens major travel disruptions

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

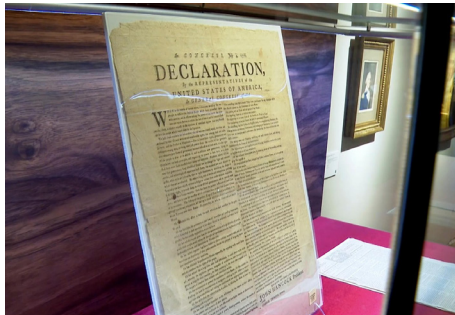
Airlines across the United States issued widespread travel waivers on Thursday as a powerful winter storm threatened to disrupt air travel across more than two dozen states ahead of the weekend. Forecasters warned the system would bring a dangerous mix of snow, sleet, and freezing rain, raising the risk of power outages, fallen trees, and hazardous road conditions. Heavier snowfall was expected in northern regions, while parts of the Southeast faced ice accumulation and strong winds. Delta

Air Lines canceled flights at select airports in several states on Thursday, citing concerns over airport operations and crew availability. AccuWeather warned that the storm could trigger thousands of flight cancellations from Saturday through Monday, with travel app Hopper estimating that more than 15,000 flights could face delays. Major carriers including Southwest Airlines, American Airlines, United Airlines, JetBlue, Frontier Airlines, and Spirit Airlines offered flexible rebooking options or fee waivers. Airlines urged travelers to closely monitor flight updates as disruptions spread nationwide.

## Historic American documents headline auction marking U.S. 250th birthday

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Christie's in New York will hold an auction on Friday featuring rare items to mark the United States' 250th birthday. Highlights include a 1776 New Hampshire broadside of the Declaration of Independence, Rufus King's edited draft of the Constitution, a signed Emancipation Proclamation, and Gilbert Stuart's portrait of George Washington. Prices for key items range from \$70,000 for Grant Wood sketches to up to \$5 million for founding documents. Historians say such auctions



highlight private collectors' role in preserving American history, allowing the public to connect directly with the nation's founding artifacts and cultural legacy.

## Elizabeth Holmes requests early release from prison from President Trump

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Theranos founder Elizabeth Holmes has asked President Donald Trump to commute her prison sentence, which she is serving in Texas for defrauding investors. Convicted in 2022, Holmes began her 11-year sentence in

2023, scheduled to end in 2031. If granted, the request could see her freed nearly six years early. A U.S. appeals court last year upheld her conviction and the \$452 million restitution ordered to victims. Holmes, 41, gained fame for Theranos' blood-testing technology before investigations exposed fraud. The White House did not comment on the request.

## Judge slams Trump's plan to privatize White House ballroom renovations



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

A federal judge signaled deep skepticism Thursday over President Donald Trump's plan to rebuild the White House East Wing and fund a new 90,000-square-foot ballroom with private donations. U.S. District Court Judge Richard Leon questioned whether the president has authority to alter a national icon and criticized the funding scheme as a "Rube Goldberg contraption" that avoids congressional oversight. The National Trust for Historic Preservation sued to halt the project until standard federal review and public comment are completed. Construction began in October, and costs have doubled to \$400 million. A decision is expected in February.

## Trump downplays fresh bruises, blames table and aspirin

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Photographs showing fresh bruising on President Donald Trump's left hand sparked renewed speculation about his health Thursday. The 79-year-old dismissed concerns, saying he had "clipped it on the table," and noted that aspirin he takes for heart health makes his hands prone to bruising. Trump has often concealed marks on his right hand with bandages or makeup since returning to the White House. The latest images emerged during an inaugural ceremony for his global "Board of Peace" initiative in Davos, Switzerland, and circulated quickly on social media, prompting questions about whether his frequent handshakes and medications contributed to the new marks.

## Strong spending and AI fuel fastest U.S. growth in two years

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The U.S. economy grew at a 4.4% annual pace from July through September, the fastest in two years, driven by robust consumer spending and business investment, the Commerce Department reported Thursday. Spending on services rose 3.6%, while durable goods climbed 1.6%. Business investment, excluding homebuilding, increased 3.2%, boosted by artificial intelligence projects. Exports surged and imports fell, further lifting growth. Despite the strong numbers, job growth remains weak, with employers adding only 28,000 jobs per month since March. The unemployment rate is low at 4.4%, highlighting a "jobless boom" where middle-class households see limited benefit amid rising costs.



Sikh volunteer honored for sacrificing life in Ukraine conflict



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Mandeep Singh, a 30 year old Indian origin Canadian Sikh who volunteered in Ukraine, was posthumously awarded the Ukrainian Canadian Sacrifice Medal during a ceremony held in Toronto in December, organizers confirmed. Singh, who lived in Brampton, Ontario, was killed on Sunday in October 2024 after suffering a critical gunshot injury.

Driven by the Sikh principle of ‘Sewa’, or selfless service, Singh traveled to Ukraine in early 2024 after transiting through Poland. He had previously served part time in the Canadian Army and undertook humanitarian duties in conflict zones.

Ukrainian officials described his actions as a profound act of courage and compassion. Singh is the only Sikh Canadian among the medal’s recipients. His remains were repatriated to Canada after months of administrative procedures, and final rites were performed on Sunday in April 2025, coinciding with Vaisakhi.

London school discrimination claim forces Hindu child to change schools

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

An eight year old Hindu student was withdrawn from a London primary school after allegedly facing religious discrimination for wearing a ‘Tilak Chandlo’, a sacred Hindu forehead marking, advocacy groups said on Monday. According to a report citing Insight UK, staff at Vicar’s Green Primary School questioned the child about his faith and monitored him during breaks, causing distress.

The group alleged the child was removed from leadership roles because of his religious practice, which may constitute direct discrimination under the Equality Act 2010. Parents reportedly attempted multiple times to explain the religious significance of the symbol to school authorities but said their concerns were dismissed. The advocacy group claimed at least four Hindu children have left the school due to similar issues. Calls have been made for an independent investigation, with community leaders urging schools to adopt more inclusive approaches to religious expression.

Sunita Williams retires after historic career spanning 27 years and record spaceflight

Staff Writer, IndoUS Tribune

Sunita Williams has retired from the National Aeronautics and Space Administration after a 27 year career marked by endurance, leadership, and record setting achievements in human spaceflight. The agency confirmed on Friday that her retirement took effect in late December 2025, following an unexpected nine month mission aboard the International Space Station. Born in Euclid, Ohio, and raised in Massachusetts, Williams is the daughter of an Indian American father from Gujarat and a mother of Slovenian heritage. She joined the astronaut corps in 1998 and first flew to space on a Saturday in December 2006 aboard Space Shuttle Discovery. During her



early missions, she completed four spacewalks and helped set new endurance benchmarks. In 2012, Williams led Expedition 33 as commander, becoming one of the few women to head the space station. Her final mission began in June 2024, when she launched aboard Boeing’s Starliner spacecraft with astronaut Butch Wilmore. Originally planned as a short test flight, the mission extended to nine months before the crew returned safely on a Tuesday in March 2025.

Across three missions, Williams spent 608 days in space and completed nine spacewalks totaling more than 62 hours, the most by any woman. She also contributed to astronaut training, lunar mission preparation, and operations in Russia, leaving a lasting legacy for future exploration.

NRI woman wins landmark UK appeal over workplace disability rights

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

A non resident Indian professional won a High Court appeal in London on Monday after a six year legal battle over workplace discrimination linked to chronic illness. Sanju Pal, originally from West Bengal, challenged her dismissal by a global consulting firm after suffering from endometriosis.

The Employment Appeal Tribunal ruled that earlier findings dismissing her disability claim were inadequate and must be reconsidered. Judges said medical evidence supported her condition and that the impact of treatment had not been properly assessed.

Pal was dismissed in 2019 under a progression based employment model after



failing to secure promotion. The tribunal will now rehear the case, including compensation. Legal experts say the ruling could set a precedent for disability protections under the Equality Act. Pal said the decision would help ensure fair treatment for employees with chronic health conditions.

Canadian police probe Punjabis in widening extortion crackdown

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Canadian authorities are investigating the possible involvement of several Punjabi individuals among 111 foreign nationals linked to extortion cases across British Columbia’s Lower Mainland, police said on Wednesday. The British Columbia Extortion Task Force confirmed it is reviewing hundreds of hours of surveillance footage as part of a coordinated probe targeting organized extortion networks.

In a statement, officials warned that refugee or asylum status would not shield suspects from criminal or immigration action. The task force, launched four months ago, has taken over more than 30 cases from multiple jurisdictions and is examining physical, digital, and forensic evidence to dismantle extortion groups.

Nearly 100 judicial authorizations have been secured, with multiple



search warrants executed across the Lower Mainland, southeastern districts, and Alberta. Seven people have been criminally charged so far. The Canada Border Services Agency said it is reviewing possible immigration violations, with nine individuals removed from Canada as of Monday.

Ludhiana native wins Liberal Party ticket for South Australia election

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Baldev Sunny Singh, originally from Ludhiana’s Moti Nagar, has been nominated by Australia’s Liberal Party to contest the South Australian state seat of Giles in elections scheduled for Saturday in March. Speaking from Australia on Tuesday, Singh said his journey began when he migrated on a study visa with his wife in 2008. After initially working as a taxi driver, Singh rose to manage and later own the transport business. He currently serves as an elected councilor in Port Augusta, where he has completed two terms focused on multicultural engagement and community development. Singh has also spoken publicly about overcoming racism during local campaigns while promoting social cohesion. With a strong Indian community presence in the region, he expressed confidence in receiving broad support. His family in Ludhiana said they are proud of his achievements and public service journey.

Indian origin man admits causing wife’s death in Australian court

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

An Indian origin man appeared before an Australian court on Monday and admitted responsibility for causing his wife’s death but denied a murder charge, instead pleading guilty to manslaughter. Vikrant Thakur, 42, appeared via video link before the Adelaide Magistrates Court from custody. The incident occurred in December at the couple’s home in Northfield, Adelaide, where police responded to reports of a disturbance. Officers found Supriya Thakur unconscious, and despite resuscitation efforts, she was declared dead at the scene. Prosecutors said forensic results, including DNA analysis and a post mortem report, are still pending. Another individual present at the home was not injured. The case is scheduled to return to court in April before being transferred to South Australia’s Supreme Court. Community members have described Supriya as compassionate and devoted to helping others.



Punjab families seek help as domestic workers stranded in Oman miss family funerals



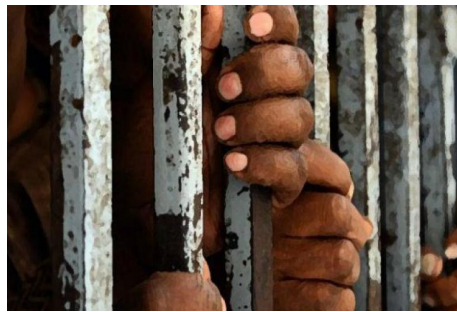
IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Two families in Punjab have sought urgent government assistance after women working as domestic helpers in Oman were unable to return home for immediate family funerals, officials said on Sunday. In one case, a woman from Jalandhar missed her husband's cremation after being prevented from leaving Muscat, forcing the family to conduct last rites in her absence.

In another case, a woman from Hoshiarpur was unable to return to India after her eight year old son died of blood cancer. The child's cremation has been delayed as the family continues to wait for her return. Relatives said the woman's employer allegedly demanded a large payment before allowing her to leave.

Rajya Sabha member Sant Balbir Singh Seechewal said both cases have been taken up with the Ministry of External Affairs. He urged families to verify overseas employment arrangements before migration, warning of risks faced by domestic workers abroad.

Indian man jailed 30 months for illegally exporting aviation parts to Russia



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

A 58-year-old Indian national, Sanjay Kaushik, was sentenced to 30 months in US federal prison for conspiring to illegally export controlled aviation components from Oregon to Russia. Kaushik and co-conspirators purchased an Attitude and Heading Reference System under false pretenses, claiming it was for civilian use in India. The components, which require export licenses, were intended for sanctioned Russian entities. Arrested in Miami in October 2024, Kaushik had pleaded guilty to conspiracy in October. Authorities said his profit-driven scheme endangered US national security, and he will also serve 36 months of supervised release.

Indian American attorney Rakhi Israni enters California congressional race

Staff Writer, IndoUS Tribune

Indian American attorney and educator Rakhi Israni announced on Tuesday that she is running for California's 14th Congressional District, launching her campaign with a call for reform focused leadership amid rising costs and political division.

In a campaign video released on social media, Israni highlighted her background as an attorney, educator, and mother of four, saying the current political moment demands service rooted in truth and responsibility. She said her candidacy is guided by the same values she and her husband are passing on to their children.

Israni criticized what she described as a political climate dominated by division and extreme rhetoric, arguing that communities need leaders committed to problem solving and lowering tensions. She said her priority would be addressing the financial pressures facing families in the Bay Area.

If elected, Israni would become the second Indian American woman in the US House of Representatives and the first from



California. Her campaign notes that she has lived in Fremont for more than two decades, founded a national test preparation company, represented underserved clients in family court, and remained active in local schools and community organizations.

The district covers parts of the eastern Bay Area and has been central to recent debates over cost of living, education, and governance.

Singapore's 'Tree Lady' Kirtida Mekani dies at 66, leaving a lasting green legacy

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Kirtida Mekani, an Indian-origin environmentalist widely known as Singapore's "Tree Lady," died on Monday after suffering a massive heart attack at her home. She was 66. Born in Karnataka, Mekani moved to Singapore in 1990 and went on to become one of the city-state's most influential advocates for sustainability, community service, and cultural preservation.

Her work earned her the President's Award for environmental efforts and induction into the Singapore Women's Hall of Fame in 2024. In 1993, she became the founding executive director of the Singapore Environment Council, where she led more than 50 education



and conservation programs. Her most enduring legacy is the Plant-A-Tree Programme, launched in 2007 with the National Parks Board, which has resulted in the planting of over 76,000 trees. Mekani also served on multiple civic boards and mentored young environmental leaders, shaping Singapore's green movement for over three decades.

Indian American motel owners charged in Virginia crime probe

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Federal authorities in the United States charged an Indian American couple on Monday for allegedly profiting from drug trafficking and prostitution at a motel they operated in northern Virginia. Kosha Sharma, 52, and her husband Tarun Sharma, 55, appeared in federal court following their arrest.

Prosecutors allege the couple knowingly allowed illegal activity at the Red Carpet Inn in Dumfries, primarily on the third floor, while taking a share of profits. Investigators conducted undercover operations between late May and mid December, including controlled

purchases involving fentanyl and cocaine.

The Sharmas face charges of conspiracy to distribute controlled substances, which carry mandatory minimum prison sentences if convicted. Several other individuals were also arrested. The investigation involved federal and state law enforcement agencies.



Indian Americans host free MLK Day health camp in Boston



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Indian Americans in Boston honored Martin Luther King Jr. Day by organizing a free healthcare camp for over 300 residents on January 19. The Foundation of Indian Americans–New England, with partner organizations, provided medical, dental, and vision services, including free reading glasses. Doctors of Indian origin offered care in specialties such as cardiology, psychiatry, nutrition, and physical therapy. FIA president Abhishek Singh said the initiative reflected Dr. King's vision of equality and service. Community leaders attended to support the effort, which highlighted the Indian-American community's commitment to service and social harmony during the MLK Day weekend.

Indian-origin businesses clash as US Congress debates stone slab lawsuits

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Indian-origin entrepreneurs were at the center of a heated US congressional debate over worker safety and liability in the stone slab industry. Lawmakers heard that silicosis, caused by silica dust, has sickened hundreds of workers, with dozens dying in California alone. Advocates urged protections for lawsuits to enforce safety standards, citing Australia's ban on high-silica stone. Indian-American businessman Gary Talwar opposed broad liability, arguing distributors are unfairly targeted for workplace safety failures. Trade groups and manufacturers emphasized protecting jobs while ensuring safety. The debate highlights tensions between workplace protection, corporate responsibility, and immigrant-owned businesses.

Teacher shines with vibrant Puliattam performance at New Jersey Tamil School

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

A teacher at Thiruvalluvar Tamil School in Edison, New Jersey, captured hearts during the school's Pongal celebrations with a lively Puliattam performance. Dressed in a bright pink saree, she energetically led children through the traditional tiger dance, ensuring every step matched the rhythm. The video, shared on Instagram, went viral, with viewers praising her dedication to preserving Tamil cultural heritage abroad. Puliattam, a folk dance mimicking tiger movements, was performed alongside six students wearing tiger costumes, accompanied by drums and traditional music. Social media users called her guidance "priceless" and applauded the children's enthusiasm.



## Major bushfires force evacuations and road closures in southwestern Australia

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**M**ajor bushfires in Western Australia's southwest prompted evacuation orders and road closures Friday as flames threatened lives and homes. A fire sparked by lightning on January 16 in Fitzgerald River National Park, 420 kilometers southeast of Perth, has burned over 60,000 hectares. Residents of towns including Ravensthorpe, with around 2,000 people, were urged to evacuate if possible or shelter indoors.

Authorities closed a major highway west of Ravensthorpe and opened an evacuation center in Newdegate. Three other fires, including in Dunn Rock Nature Reserve and near Green Range, prompted lower-level warnings, with officials advising residents to monitor conditions and leave if needed.

## Iran warns U.S. of full retaliation amid deadly protests

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**I**ran's foreign minister, Abbas Araghchi, issued the Islamic Republic's most direct threat to the United States on Wednesday, warning that Iran's armed forces will "fire back with everything we have" if attacked. His statement follows a bloody crackdown on protests that erupted in late December over economic hardship, leaving at least 4,519 dead and over 26,300 arrested.

Araghchi made the comments in The Wall Street Journal as a U.S. aircraft carrier group moves toward the Middle East. He stressed any confrontation would be prolonged, involve the wider region, and affect ordinary people globally. Iran's short- and medium-range missiles are expected to be central to any potential response.

## Japan pauses restart of world's largest nuclear power plant one day after it went online



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**J**apan's Kashiwazaki-Kariwa nuclear plant suspended operations on Thursday just one day after restarting, the first restart since the 2011 Fukushima disaster. Tokyo Electric Power cited a monitoring alarm triggered during startup and said the cause is still under investigation. Officials confirmed the reactor is stable and poses no radioactive threat. The facility, Japan's largest nuclear station, is central to the government's plan to reduce reliance on fossil fuels and meet rising energy demands. Public opinion remains divided, with safety concerns heightened by the plant's location on an active seismic fault and the 2007 earthquake that struck the region.

## Trump's peace board sparks global divisions after Davos clash with Canada

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**U**.S. President Donald Trump's newly unveiled Board of Peace is stirring divisions across Europe and the Middle East after its expanded diplomatic ambitions and a high profile clash with Canada at the World Economic Forum in Davos. The board, initially conceived to help oversee a Gaza ceasefire, has grown into a broader initiative that Trump suggests could mediate other global conflicts. Norway, Sweden, and France declined to join, expressing concerns the board could undermine established international institutions. Meanwhile a bloc of Muslim majority nations including Egypt, Indonesia, Jordan, Pakistan, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates agreed to participate. Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu also said his country will join after previously criticizing board plans.

Trump then withdrew Canada's invitation for Prime Minister Mark Carney following Carney's Davos speech on the rules based



international order, underscoring tensions over the board's direction. About 30 of roughly 50 invited countries are expected to participate, but key Western allies remain uncommitted, raising questions about the board's long term global role. Trump defended including controversial leaders, saying he seeks influence and results rather than strict alignment with traditional institutions.

## Sheinbaum affirms Mexico's authority after sending cartel leaders to U.S. at Washington's request

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**M**exico's President Claudia Sheinbaum said Wednesday that the country sent 37 alleged cartel members to the United States at the request of the U.S. Justice Department, but emphasized the decision was a "sovereign choice" made by Mexico's National Security Council. The transfers, carried out Tuesday, included individuals linked to the Jalisco New Generation and Sinaloa cartels, which Washington classifies as terrorist organizations.

Sheinbaum rejected claims that the move was forced by U.S. pressure, asserting it was made in Mexico's national interest and for security reasons. Observers say the transfers also act as a pressure valve, demonstrating Mexican authorities are cracking down on criminal groups amid heightened regional



tensions following the U.S. military operation in Venezuela. The Justice Department described the cooperation as mutually beneficial. This is the third such transfer in the past year, bringing the total number of cartel members sent to the U.S. to 92.

## US seizes seventh Venezuelan oil tanker in Trump's control push

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**U**.S. forces boarded and seized a seventh oil tanker linked to Venezuela on Tuesday as part of President Donald Trump's broader effort to control the South American nation's oil industry. The Motor Vessel Sagitta, a Liberian-flagged ship owned by a Hong Kong company, was taken "without incident" for defying Trump's Caribbean quarantine of sanctioned vessels, the U.S. Southern Command said. The tanker had taken oil from Venezuela and last transmitted its location over two months ago.

Since ousting Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro in a Jan. 3 raid, the Trump administration has aimed to control production, refining, and global distribution of the country's oil, with plans to invest \$100 billion to rebuild its industry. Trump said the U.S. has already secured 50 million barrels of Venezuelan



oil for sale on the open market, helping lower global oil prices.

## Peru's interim president faces scandal over secret meetings with Chinese businessmen

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**P**eru's interim president, José Jerí, denied wrongdoing Wednesday amid a political scandal over secret meetings with Chinese businessmen in Lima's Chinatown. Videos emerged showing Jerí meeting Yang Zhihua, a prominent Chinese entrepreneur, and Ji Wu Xiaodong, linked to illegal timber trafficking. Jerí called the meetings part of a cultural event but apologized for causing suspicion. Opposition lawmakers have signaled plans to impeach him, though Jerí maintains his popularity at 44 percent. The controversy highlights growing Chinese influence in Latin America, including the operation of a deepwater port near Lima. The U.S. has offered \$1.5 billion in military support to counterbalance China's regional presence.

## Colombia halts electricity exports to Ecuador amid escalating trade dispute



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**C**olombia announced on Thursday it would suspend electricity exports to Ecuador and impose a 30 percent tariff on selected Colombian goods, escalating a growing trade and security dispute. Ecuador responded with a 30 percent "security charge" on Colombian imports beginning February 1, citing trade deficits and insufficient cooperation in fighting drug trafficking. Colombia described its tariff as "proportional, transitory, and reversible" and emphasized willingness to continue dialogue. The dispute now involves energy exports, oil logistics, and reciprocal measures, as both governments harden their positions. Colombia is a major electricity supplier to Ecuador, and the energy suspension aims to ensure domestic supply amid climate variability, with exports set to resume once conditions are met.

## UN signals more troops for Haiti as political crisis deepens

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**T**he United Nations announced on Thursday that its security force in Haiti, currently about 1,000 mostly Kenyan police, will receive additional troops in April and reach full strength of 5,500 by summer or autumn. The U.N. deployment supports local police in combating armed gangs that control large parts of the country. The announcement comes amid political turmoil, with Haiti's transitional government mandate set to end on February 7 without a clear succession plan. U.N. envoy Carlos Ruiz warned that authorities must act to stabilize the country, while the United States and Canada cautioned against any disruptive moves by transitional council members that could benefit gangs. The crisis has displaced 1.4 million people.



Friday, 23 January 2026

### 73 South Koreans repatriated from Cambodia for alleged online scams



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Seventy-three South Koreans were returned from Cambodia on Friday to face investigation for alleged involvement in online scam operations that defrauded 869 victims of \$33.1 million. The suspects, aged mostly in their 20s and 30s, were immediately placed under custody after landing at Incheon International Airport. Seventy are accused of online fraud, including romance scams, while three face robbery and gambling charges. A couple allegedly used deepfake technology to swindle \$8.2 million and evaded authorities through plastic surgery. The joint South Korean-Cambodian operation raided seven criminal compounds, rescuing several young men who had been detained and tortured.

### Landslides in New Zealand leave two dead and dozens missing

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Two landslides struck northern New Zealand on Thursday, killing two and leaving multiple people missing. The first hit a house in Welcome Bay at 4:50 a.m., trapping two residents who were later recovered dead. Hours later, a second slide struck Beachside Holiday Park at the base of Mount Maunganui, crushing vehicles and structures. Emergency crews used dogs to search for survivors, with several still unaccounted for by late Thursday. Authorities warned residents to stay alert amid extreme weather. Officials said missing persons were in single digits, and the campground was closed for safety.

### Hong Kong begins national security trial of Tiananmen vigil leaders

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Hong Kong's High Court on Thursday started a national security trial against three former leaders of the disbanded Hong Kong Alliance, who organized annual Tiananmen Square vigils. The trio faces charges of inciting subversion, punishable by up to 10 years in prison. Court proceedings are tightly secured, with dozens of supporters lining up outside despite cold weather. The case marks one of the last high-profile trials under Beijing's national security law, which has restricted public commemoration of the 1989 crackdown. Activists say the trial aims to punish remembrance of the massacre, while authorities claim it protects state security.

## Syria-Kurd tensions threaten ceasefire after deadly strike

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Syria accused the Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces of a drone strike that killed seven soldiers on Wednesday, threatening a ceasefire aimed at integrating the SDF into the state. The SDF denied responsibility, claiming the deaths occurred while Syrian troops moved explosives and accused the government of violating the truce.

The ceasefire was part of a four-day agreement intended to preserve Kurdish autonomy in the northeast. Syrian troops reinforced positions near the last main Kurdish-held cities, Hasakah and Qamishli. The incident also affects Syria's relations with the United States and



Turkey, both closely monitoring the fate of detained Islamic State militants and broader regional stability.

## Rights group denounces police crackdown on protesting employees in Pakistan's Quetta

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Baloch rights organization on Thursday condemned a police crackdown on protesting government employees in Quetta, calling it an attack on democratic freedoms. The Baloch Yakjehti Committee said dozens of workers were arrested after police blocked a planned sit-in near the city's Red Zone on Tuesday. The employees were demanding implementation of the Disparity Reduction Allowance. The group accused authorities of using force instead of dialogue, citing baton charges, arrests, and



intimidation. It said peaceful demands for wages and benefits are a fundamental right and urged the immediate release of detained protesters. Human rights groups say similar crackdowns have intensified across Balochistan in recent weeks.

## Israeli forces move against United Nations refugee facilities in east Jerusalem

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Israeli forces on Tuesday moved against United Nations facilities for Palestinian refugees in east Jerusalem, escalating action against the relief agency UNRWA. Bulldozers began demolishing offices in the Sheikh Jarrah area, while tear gas was fired near a vocational school in Qalandia that serves hundreds of young refugees. United Nations officials condemned the actions, saying they violate international obligations and endanger humanitarian services. Israel said the demolition



followed a law banning UNRWA operations and cited security concerns. The agency warned the move could disrupt education and health care services for refugees across east Jerusalem.

## U.S. Catholic cardinals warn Trump foreign policy risks global instability

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Senior Catholic leaders in the United States on Monday warned that President Donald Trump's foreign policy could deepen global suffering and instability. Cardinals from Chicago, Washington, and Newark cited recent military action in Venezuela, threats toward Greenland, and cuts to humanitarian aid as undermining peace and human dignity. In a joint statement, they urged diplomacy, dialogue, and economic assistance over force. The remarks followed earlier criticism of mass



deportations and growing militarization. The White House defended Trump's approach, saying it strengthens security. Church leaders said war should remain a last resort, not a routine policy tool.

### Spanish train drivers call nationwide strike after deadly derailments

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Spain's largest train drivers' union called for a nationwide strike on Wednesday following a series of deadly train accidents, demanding stronger safety measures. The move comes after a commuter train derailed near Barcelona on Tuesday when a retaining wall collapsed during heavy rains, killing the driver and seriously injuring four passengers. A separate derailment on the regional network, caused by a rock fall, left no injuries. The strike follows Sunday's high-speed train crash near Adamuz in Cordoba province, which killed 42, including the driver of the oncoming train. Union SEMAF warned authorities last year about track damage, citing potholes, bumps, and power line imbalances. Regional trains in Catalonia were suspended for safety inspections after the storms.

### House votes to overturn Minnesota mining ban, Senate to review

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

On Wednesday, the U.S. House voted 214 to 208 to overturn former President Joe Biden's 20-year mining ban in Minnesota's Superior National Forest, opening the door for Antofagasta's Twin Metals copper, cobalt, and nickel project. Sponsored by Rep. Pete Stauber, the measure now heads to the Senate, where approval could hinge on whether the Senate Parliamentarian allows a simple majority under the Congressional Review Act. Conservationists oppose the move, citing decades of protections. If lifted, the Trump administration could reissue mining leases, though environmental reviews and permits would still be required.

### Supreme Court to hear Trump's attempt to fire Fed governor Lisa Cook



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The U.S. Supreme Court will hear arguments Wednesday over President Trump's effort to fire Federal Reserve Governor Lisa Cook. Trump announced the removal via social media last August, citing alleged mortgage fraud, which Cook denies. Lower courts blocked the move, ruling it likely violated her Fifth Amendment due process rights and that the allegations were insufficient grounds under the Federal Reserve Act. The case raises questions about presidential power, the independence of the central bank, and whether firing procedures must include formal notice and a hearing. Cook remains in her post while the legal fight continues.



## Rural connectivity push expands as PMGSY phase four clears projects across hill and border states

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The central government said on Thursday that more than 10,000 kilometers of rural road projects have been approved under the fourth phase of the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana, with a focus on difficult terrain and border regions. The Ministry of Rural Development said the projects span Jammu and Kashmir, Chhattisgarh, Uttarakhand, Rajasthan, Himachal Pradesh, and Sikkim, and will connect around 3,270 habitations that currently lack all weather road access. Phase four of the scheme targets construction of 62,500 kilometers of roads and bridges nationwide. The Union Cabinet cleared the phase in 2024 with an overall allocation of about 70,125 crore rupees.

## Delhi High Court rejects plea to pause Kuldeep Sengar sentence in Unnao custodial death case



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The Delhi High Court on Monday refused to suspend the 10 year prison sentence of former lawmaker Kuldeep Singh Sengar in the custodial death of the Unnao rape survivor's father. Justice Ravinder Dudeja said the court found no exceptional grounds for granting relief at this stage and noted that repeated applications had contributed to delays in hearing the appeal. The court directed that the appeal be taken up expeditiously and scheduled the next hearing for Tuesday. Sengar was convicted in 2020 for culpable homicide not amounting to murder. His separate life sentence in the rape case remains under challenge before the Supreme Court.

## New rules define how penalties under environmental laws can be spent by Centre and states

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has notified the Environmental Protection Fund Rules, 2026, setting out a framework for the use of penalties collected under environmental laws. The rules allow funds to be used for pollution monitoring systems, laboratory upgrades, environmental restoration, and court directed studies. Administrative costs are capped at five percent annually. The penalties will first be credited to the Consolidated Fund of India and later transferred to the Public Account. The rules also state that 75 percent of the collected amount will be allocated to states and union territories, with spending subject to audit by the national auditor.

## Basant Panchami celebrated across India as millions take holy dip at Magh Mela

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Basant Panchami was celebrated with devotion and color across India on Friday, with Saraswati Puja, community events, and the sacred Magh Mela bathing ritual in Prayagraj drawing large crowds. Devotees offered prayers to Goddess Saraswati, the deity of knowledge and arts, at temples, schools, and homes. Many worshippers dressed in yellow, a symbol of spring and learning, and sought blessings for education, creativity, and new beginnings. Special rituals and traditional bhog were offered in places like Pune's housing societies and Bhopal, where children performed "hatey khodi," marking the start of learning. Celebrations across West Bengal, Punjab, Haryana, Bihar, Rajasthan, and southern states featured music, cultural programs, and community pujas that reflected regional customs.

In Uttar Pradesh's Prayagraj, authorities reported more than three crore pilgrims taking a holy dip at the Triveni Sangam during the Magh Mela, part of a series of auspicious snans. Crowd control and safety measures were put in place along the



ghat stretch as devotees bathed during the auspicious time window in the morning. Political leaders also extended greetings, emphasizing the festival's message of wisdom, peace, and prosperity. Arunachal Pradesh's chief minister wished citizens clarity of thought and hope on the occasion, underscoring the spiritual importance of Saraswati's blessings in daily life.

Basant Panchami, observed on the Panchami tithi of the Hindu month of Magha, marks the beginning of spring and is considered highly auspicious for worship, educational rites, and cultural celebrations nationwide.

## Delhi court clears Kejriwal in ED summons cases linked to excise policy probe

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Delhi court on Thursday acquitted former Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal in two cases filed by the Enforcement Directorate over alleged non-compliance with summons linked to the Delhi excise policy investigation. Additional Chief Judicial Magistrate Paras Dalal of the Rouse Avenue Courts delivered the ruling, with the detailed order awaited.

The ED had accused Kejriwal of deliberately ignoring five summons issued under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act, arguing that his conduct set a poor precedent for public officials. The agency initiated prosecution after he failed to appear before investigators.

Kejriwal challenged the proceedings,



questioning the maintainability of the complaints under criminal procedure law. The money laundering probe originates from a Central Bureau of Investigation case registered in August 2022 over alleged irregularities in the 2021-22 excise policy. In a related ruling, the court also acquitted AAP leader Amanatullah Khan in a separate summons case.

## Enforcement Directorate alleges sham medical facilities at Al Falah University in money laundering case

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The Enforcement Directorate has alleged that Al Falah University created temporary clinics, hired doctors briefly, and arranged patients to mislead inspection teams during medical course approvals. The claims were detailed in a prosecution complaint filed on Friday against the university's founder Jawad Ahmed Siddiqui and the Al Falah Charitable Trust. The agency said approvals were secured through fraudulent means and attached properties worth nearly 140 crore rupees. Siddiqui



was arrested in November on money laundering charges. The investigation drew wider attention after three doctors linked to the university were named suspects in last year's explosion near the Red Fort.

## Republic Day parade to reflect modern combat doctrine after Operation Sindoor



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

India's Republic Day parade on Monday will showcase a new phased battle formation, marking the first parade since Operation Sindoor. Officials said the presentation will mirror real battlefield sequencing, beginning with surveillance and logistics elements and moving to frontline combat platforms. The newly raised Bhairav light commando battalion will participate publicly for the first time. The flypast will include fighter aircraft, surveillance planes, and helicopters. The event will also mark 150 years of 'Vande Mataram'. European Union leaders will attend as chief guests, and spectator enclosures have been renamed after Indian rivers as part of the theme.

## AAP rolls out healthcare scheme in Punjab covering up to 10 lakh rupees per family

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The Aam Aadmi Party government in Punjab on Thursday launched the Mukh Mantri Sehat Yojna, promising free medical treatment of up to 10 lakh rupees per family with no income restrictions. Party leader Arvind Kejriwal and Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann said the scheme is expected to benefit nearly 65 lakh families and will cover treatment at both government and private hospitals. Mann said the initiative completes the state's push to guarantee essential services, including healthcare, education, electricity, and free bus travel for women. Health cards were distributed to beneficiaries during the launch event.

## Know Your Army outreach in Agartala aims to strengthen civilian military ties before Republic Day

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The Indian Army's Albert Ekka Brigade held a Know Your Army outreach program in Agartala on Thursday as part of Republic Day preparations. The event featured a display of modern weapons and equipment at the Albert Ekka War Memorial, drawing students and local residents. Army personnel explained the role, training, and operational use of various systems and spoke about career opportunities in the armed forces. Officials said the initiative was designed to promote awareness and patriotism. The brigade, known for its role in the 1971 war from the Tripura sector, recently relocated to Agartala.



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## Congress flags voter roll discrepancies in Madhya Pradesh, seeks EC intervention

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Madhya Pradesh Leader of the Opposition and Congress legislator Umang Singhar wrote to the state Chief Electoral Officer on Wednesday, raising concerns over alleged discrepancies and lack of transparency in the Special Intensive Revision of electoral rolls. Singhar said that after the release of the draft rolls, large numbers of voters across districts were flagged for data-based discrepancies, including age gaps between parents and voters and inconsistencies in names. He stressed these indicators were meant only for verification, not deletion, yet had created fear among voters. Singhar alleged that Booth Level Officers were unclear about procedures and that verification was slow and uneven. He urged immediate administrative instructions, warning that voting rights were being affected.

## West Bengal interim budget to be presented on February 2 during brief Assembly session

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The West Bengal government will present its interim budget for the 2026–27 financial year in the state Assembly on Sunday, with Minister of State for Finance Chandrima Bhattacharya delivering the speech. The budget session will begin on January 31, and the interim budget will be presented on February 2, making it one of the shortest sessions in recent years. Political circles are closely watching whether allocations for welfare schemes, including the Lakshmir Bhandar program, will be enhanced. A special cabinet meeting is expected ahead of the presentation. The session is likely to be stormy amid tensions between the ruling Trinamool Congress and the BJP, particularly over the ongoing electoral roll revision exercise in the state.

## Intelligence flags ISI plan to target tourist hubs in Kashmir despite KP operations



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Indian intelligence agencies have assessed that Pakistan's intelligence agency is using operations in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa as a cover while planning coordinated attacks on tourist locations in Jammu and Kashmir. Officials said Lashkar and Islamic State Khorasan cadres deployed in Pakistan could attempt infiltration into Kashmir. Intelligence inputs warn of plans targeting nearly 20 tourist hubs, raising concerns for the region's recovering tourism sector. Security forces have intensified search and combing operations following actionable intelligence. Officials said such attacks aim to disrupt economic stability and push youth toward radicalization. The operation is reportedly being overseen by senior Pakistan military officials, reinforcing concerns about state-backed coordination against Indian interests.

## Sikkim Police earn President's Police Colours in rare national recognition

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The Sikkim Police were conferred the prestigious President's Police Colours on Thursday, becoming the 15th state police force in the country to receive the honor. Director General of Police Akshay Sachdeva said the Union Ministry of Home Affairs conveyed the approval after clearance from the President earlier this month. Calling it a collective achievement, Sachdeva said the recognition belonged to serving and

retired personnel alike. The award is granted selectively to forces demonstrating sustained excellence, integrity, and public service.

Sikkim is only the third northeastern state, after Assam and Tripura, to receive the distinction since Independence. The Colours, also known as the Nishaan, symbolize bravery and discipline and are worn on the uniform. A ceremonial parade will be held in Sikkim, attended by senior national leaders, following weeks of preparation by the force.



## Opposition demands resignations over Sabarimala gold theft, rejects Assembly debate

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The Kerala Assembly remained disrupted on Thursday as the Opposition intensified its attack on the CPI(M)-led government over the Sabarimala gold theft case. Leader of the Opposition V.D. Satheesan said the issue required ministerial resignations, not another legislative discussion.

Satheesan cited High Court observations from November, which noted that despite awareness of a 2019 gold theft involving 475 grams, the Devaswom Board reassigned gold-plating work to the prime accused, Unnikrishnan Porti. He alleged continued violations of court directives and political pressure on the Special Investigation Team.

The Opposition demanded the



resignation of Devaswom Minister V.N. Vasavan and alleged interference from the Chief Minister's Office. Satheesan also accused ruling party ministers of attempting to deflect attention by introducing unrelated political references, insisting accountability must follow the court's findings.

## Families of 1984 riot victims break down after Sajjan Kumar acquittal

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Emotions ran high outside Delhi's Rouse Avenue Courts on Thursday after a special court acquitted former Congress Member of Parliament Sajjan Kumar in a case linked to the 1984 anti-Sikh riots. The court cleared the 78-year-old in connection with the killings of two Sikhs in Janakpuri and a separate incident in Vikaspuri.

Family members of the victims wept and raised slogans demanding justice, with one elderly woman collapsing during the protest. Survivors expressed anguish, saying decades of legal struggle had ended in despair.



The case was reopened by a Special Investigation Team following recommendations of the Justice G.P. Mathur Committee. Although charges were framed in 2023, the murder charge was later dropped. Sajjan Kumar, who denies all allegations, is already serving a life sentence in another riot-related case, with his appeal pending before the Supreme Court.

## Shiv Sena pressure tactics strain Mahayuti alliance as BJP watches cautiously

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Political tensions within Maharashtra's ruling Mahayuti alliance intensified on Tuesday as the Shiv Sena led by Eknath Shinde pursued independent strategies in local civic bodies. In Kalyan-Dombivli, the Shinde faction secured support from the Maharashtra Navnirman Sena, sidelining the Bharatiya Janata Party. Similar efforts are underway in Ulhasnagar, where Shiv Sena is courting independents to secure the mayor's post. Analysts see this as retaliation for earlier Bharatiya Janata Party moves in Ambernath. Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis has adopted a wait-and-watch approach, while party leaders issued warnings against political maneuvering. The developments highlight growing friction ahead of crucial local elections.

## Security on high alert after Red Fort blast, agencies hunt new terror module

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Security agencies have been placed on high alert ahead of Republic Day following intelligence inputs about planned attacks by Jaish-e-Mohammad and Al Qaeda-linked groups. Officials said the blast near the Red Fort earlier was intended for Republic Day but was triggered prematurely. Investigators are now tracking a new module believed to have origins in Jammu and Kashmir, with logistical support from networks in Punjab. Authorities have increased surveillance following heightened online propaganda activity. Additional alerts have been issued for Delhi, Ayodhya, northeastern states, and West Bengal amid concerns of cross-border coordination. Search operations are underway to trace explosives and prevent infiltration ahead of national celebrations.

## Delhi BJP accuses Atishi of disrespecting Sikh Gurus, cites forensic report



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Delhi Bharatiya Janata Party president Virendra Sachdeva on Tuesday accused Leader of the Opposition Atishi of insulting Sikh Gurus during an Assembly discussion. He claimed a forensic examination ordered by the Speaker confirmed the remarks were inappropriate. Sachdeva questioned Atishi's conduct following the controversy and said she failed to promptly address the issue or appear before the Assembly. He alleged similar incidents involving other Aam Aadmi Party leaders and accused the party of repeated religious insensitivity. The remarks sparked widespread political backlash after a video circulated online. The Speaker had issued a notice seeking clarification, intensifying the confrontation between the ruling party and the opposition.



## Ben and Jerry's board battle deepens after Magnum alleges misconduct

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**B**en and Jerry's long running dispute with its parent escalated on Thursday after Magnum Ice Cream Company accused former board chair Anuradha Mittal of serious misconduct and said the brand's board had been reduced to two directors.

Magnum said Mittal was removed in mid December following concerns raised by an audit of the Ben and Jerry's Foundation, citing potential conflicts of interest. The filing said remaining independent directors exited the board on Wednesday after declining compliance requirements. Mittal rejected the claims, accusing Magnum of undermining board independence and the company's social mission.

## IndiGo profit plunges after December flight chaos and labor costs

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**I**ndiGo reported a steep drop in quarterly profit on Thursday after major flight disruptions and higher labor-related costs weighed on earnings. Parent company InterGlobe Aviation posted a net profit of about sixty-six million dollars for the October to December quarter, down nearly seventy-eight percent year over year. The airline cited costs linked to new labor laws, operational disruptions, and a regulatory penalty imposed after widespread cancellations and delays from Wednesday through Friday in early December. Aviation authorities said more than three hundred thousand passengers were affected. Despite the setback, IndiGo reported revenue growth and said demand fundamentals remain strong.

## Gold and silver ease as Trump backs away from Europe tariff threats



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**G**old and silver prices edged lower on Thursday as geopolitical tensions eased after President Donald Trump softened his stance on tariffs against Europe. Gold futures fell nearly one percent following profit booking after recent record highs, while silver also declined modestly.

International gold prices stabilized near forty-eight hundred dollars an ounce after touching historic peaks earlier in the week. Analysts said the pullback reflects consolidation rather than a trend reversal, supported by expectations that the Federal Reserve will hold interest rates steady later this month. A firmer US dollar also made precious metals slightly more expensive for overseas buyers.

## Netflix defends \$83 billion Warner Bros bid as banks emerge as big winners

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**N**etflix executives are pushing back against investor concerns over the company's nearly \$83 billion all cash bid for Warner Bros Discovery assets, even as Wall Street advisers are set to reap major rewards from the deal. Netflix shares fell nearly four percent on Wednesday, extending losses of more than 15 percent since the company made its first offer earlier this month.

Co chief executives Ted Sarandos and Greg Peters said on Tuesday that acquiring Warner Bros would accelerate Netflix's expansion into theatrical releases and strengthen its streaming business through HBO's brand and a vast film and television library. The company has paused share buybacks to fund the acquisition and secured expanded bridge loan commitments totaling about \$67 billion.

While investors remain cautious about



costs and regulatory scrutiny, some clear winners have already emerged. JPMorgan and Allen and Company, advisers to Warner Bros, stand to earn about \$90 million each in merger fees regardless of which bidder succeeds. JPMorgan has also collected roughly \$189 million in financing and related fees tied to restructuring Warner Bros ahead of the sale.

## New global trade map takes shape as Trump tariffs reshape alliances

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**S**hifts in global trade alliances dominated discussions at the World Economic Forum in Davos on Thursday as countries responded to President Donald Trump's renewed use of tariffs as a foreign policy tool. Tensions escalated over the weekend after Trump threatened tariffs on European allies over Greenland, before easing his stance on Wednesday following talks with NATO.

Canadian Finance Minister François-Philippe Champagne said the speed and scale of policy changes are pushing countries to diversify trade relationships and strengthen regional cooperation. The forum marked the first Davos meeting since the United States raised tariffs to levels not seen in nearly a century.

Recent moves include a major free trade agreement between the European Union and Mercosur and a deal between Canada



and China to reduce tariffs. World Trade Organization Director-General Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala said diversification helps spread growth and jobs. Analysts forecast the United States will account for a smaller share of global trade in the coming decade.

## Strategy steps up Bitcoin purchases despite market swings

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**B**itcoin focused firm Strategy said on Tuesday it bought about 2.13 billion dollars worth of Bitcoin over the past eight days, pressing ahead with purchases despite sharp market volatility. The company acquired roughly 22,305 Bitcoin between last week, using proceeds from its at the market share offering program, according to a regulatory filing.

Strategy's shares fell more than seven percent on Tuesday, while Bitcoin prices also declined. Founder Michael Saylor said the firm now holds 709,715 Bitcoin. Earlier this month, the company reported a large unrealized loss on its digital assets, reflecting recent price declines, but reiterated its long term focus on growing bitcoin per share



rather than short term results.

## Maharashtra leads Asia in decentralized solar push, says Fadnavis



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**M**aharashtra has rolled out Asia's largest decentralized solar power program, Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis said on Wednesday at the World Economic Forum in Davos. The state expects to generate sixteen gigawatts of solar power by year-end, with agriculture at the center of the transition. Fadnavis said shifting farm electricity demand to solar has sharply reduced supply costs, easing pressure on state finances and consumers. Maharashtra also leads India in rooftop solar and solar pump installations and expects renewable energy to account for more than half of its total power capacity by 2030.

## India firmly on track for five trillion dollar economy, says Lulu Group chairman

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**L**ulu Group chairman M. A. Yusuff Ali said on Wednesday that India's economic strength ensures no external power can impose unfair conditions, adding that the country remains firmly on track toward a five trillion dollar economy. Speaking at the World Economic Forum in Davos, Yusuff Ali credited political stability and reforms for boosting global investor confidence. He said Indian states are actively competing to attract investment through improved policies and job creation initiatives. Highlighting India's young and skilled workforce, he said employment generation remains a top priority for both central and state governments.



## OnePlus India rejects shutdown rumors, confirms normal operations

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**O**nePlus India denied reports on Wednesday that it is shutting down operations, calling the claims online misinformation. Chief executive Robin Liu said the company continues to operate normally and urged the public to verify information through official sources. The clarification comes amid heightened competition in India's smartphone market, where consolidation has fueled speculation. OnePlus operates in the mid-premium segment, which recorded strong growth during the festive quarter last year. Industry data shows India's smartphone market reached a five-year high during that period, supported by rising domestic manufacturing and exports.



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## Ryanair chief dismisses Musk takeover talk amid Starlink spat



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Ryanair chief executive Michael O'Leary on Wednesday rejected Elon Musk's suggestion of buying the airline, as a public war of words escalated over Starlink internet systems. O'Leary said Ryanair ruled out installing Starlink after concluding the antennas would increase fuel costs due to added drag. Musk accused O'Leary of being misinformed and floated the idea of acquiring the airline in a social media post. O'Leary responded that non European citizens cannot hold a majority stake in European airlines, adding Musk would be better off investing elsewhere. Ryanair later leaned into the feud, using it for promotional publicity while reiterating that Starlink would be too costly for short haul flights.

## Japan posts fifth straight annual trade deficit despite export growth

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Japan recorded its fifth consecutive annual trade deficit in 2025, government data released on Thursday showed, as exports were pressured by United States tariffs and strained ties with China. The full year deficit narrowed sharply to about seventeen billion dollars, helped by modest export growth and flat imports. Japan posted a trade surplus in December, though it was smaller than a year earlier. Exports to the United States fell, while shipments to Britain, Africa, and parts of Asia rose. The data comes as Japan faces uncertainty over manufacturing supply chains and rare earth exports from China, even as domestic markets remain resilient.

## Court allows TikTok to continue operating in Canada for now

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Canadian federal court on Wednesday overturned a government order that sought to shut down TikTok's Canadian operations, allowing the platform to continue operating temporarily. The judge sent the matter back to Industry Minister Mélanie Joly for review, without providing reasons. The government said a fresh national security review would now take place. TikTok welcomed the decision, saying it supports millions of users, local jobs, and investment in Canada. The shutdown order had been issued in November 2024 over security concerns, though user access was never restricted. The case highlights growing scrutiny of Chinese owned technology firms across Western countries.

## Goa signs Starlink deal to strengthen connectivity and disaster response

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The Goa government announced on Thursday that it has signed an agreement with Starlink Satellite Communications to improve digital connectivity and disaster preparedness across the state. The partnership will explore satellite broadband solutions for remote areas, schools, healthcare facilities, and emergency centers.

Chief Minister Pramod Sawant said the initiative supports Goa's digital transformation goals, while Information Technology Minister Rohan Khaunte highlighted its role in improving governance and public services. Starlink has yet to launch commercial services in



India but plans to offer satellite internet once regulatory approvals are secured.

## European Union to extend suspension of retaliatory trade measures against United States

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The European Commission said on Friday it would propose extending the suspension of a retaliatory trade package worth about 109 billion dollars against the United States for another six months. The measures had been due to take effect in early February if reactivated.

The package was prepared last year during negotiations over a broader trade understanding between Brussels and Washington and was initially frozen

after both sides agreed on a joint trade statement in August.

Recent comments by President Donald Trump threatening new tariffs on several European countries had raised the possibility of the measures being revived.

However, commission spokesperson Olof Gill said the tariff threat had been withdrawn, allowing both sides to refocus on implementing the joint agreement. He said the countermeasures would remain suspended but could be reactivated quickly if trade tensions return.

## India pitches massive clean energy opportunity to global investors at Davos

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

India used the World Economic Forum in Davos on Thursday to position itself as one of the world's most attractive clean energy investment destinations, highlighting an estimated capital requirement of up to 350 billion dollars by 2030. Union Minister for New and Renewable Energy Pralhad Joshi told investors that India's energy transition offers scale, speed, and long term stability. Joshi said India has already built 267 gigawatts of

non fossil fuel capacity and remains on track to meet its clean energy targets. He pointed to falling renewable tariffs, expanding grid infrastructure, and competitive green hydrogen pricing as key strengths.

During meetings with global investors and energy firms, India promoted opportunities in renewable generation, battery storage, grid modernization, and green hydrogen. Officials also highlighted the role of states such as Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh in delivering globally competitive projects.

## Nvidia chief plans China visit as chip sales outlook remains uncertain

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Nvidia Chief Executive Officer Jensen Huang plans to travel to China in late January, aiming to reopen access to a critical market for the company's artificial intelligence chips, according to a Bloomberg report published on Tuesday. Huang is expected to attend company events ahead of the Lunar New Year in February and may also visit Beijing, though meetings with senior Chinese officials have not been confirmed. Nvidia declined to comment on the report.

The planned visit comes after the Trump administration last week approved sales of Nvidia's H200 artificial intelligence chips to China, a move seen as easing export



restrictions. However, Chinese customs authorities said the following day that the H200 chips were not permitted to enter the country, creating fresh uncertainty. Analysts say Huang's visit could help clarify regulatory signals and determine whether shipments to Chinese customers can resume in the near term.

## US regulator seeks court nod to email summons to Adani executives



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The United States Securities and Exchange Commission has asked a New York court for permission to directly email summons to Gautam Adani and Sagar Adani after India declined to serve them twice. The regulator said it does not expect service through official diplomatic channels to succeed. The summons relate to allegations of fraud and a bribery scheme involving Adani Green Energy, claims the group has denied as baseless. The Adani Group said it will pursue all legal options. The filing marks a rare escalation in a high profile case involving an Indian conglomerate and reflects growing legal friction amid broader trade tensions.

## Toyota affiliates agree to major settlement over forklift emissions claims

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Three Toyota affiliated companies have reached a settlement valued at about four hundred thirty six million dollars in a United States class action lawsuit over alleged emissions cheating in forklift engines. Court filings on Tuesday showed the agreement covers more than two hundred seventy thousand forklifts sold between 2007 and 2021. The deal includes cash payments to owners and maintenance services for remaining vehicles, subject to court approval. Toyota Motor Corporation was dismissed from the case, saying it was not involved. The lawsuit followed an internal probe that found software changes allowed forklifts to perform better in emissions tests than in real world use.

## Walmart backed PhonePe clears regulatory hurdle for public listing



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Digital payments firm PhonePe has received approval from India's markets regulator to proceed with its initial public offering, sources said on Tuesday. The company had filed confidential draft papers last year and is expected to launch a mix of fresh shares and an offer for sale. Walmart remains PhonePe's largest shareholder following its separation from the Flipkart group. PhonePe shifted its domicile to India ahead of the listing and has focused on improving efficiency and reducing losses. Revenue rose sharply in the last fiscal year while losses narrowed. The approval marks a key step toward one of India's most anticipated fintech listings.



## Kawhi Leonard returns as Clippers extend winning momentum

Los Angeles Clippers star Kawhi Leonard returned to action on Thursday after missing three games with a knee contusion and immediately made his presence felt against the Los Angeles Lakers. Leonard scored 24 points on efficient shooting as the Clippers secured a 112 to 104 victory.

The six-time All-Star had been sidelined since last week, when he scored 33 points against Washington. He is averaging a career-high 28.2 points per game this season, along with 6.3 rebounds and 3.5 assists, and has been a key driver of the Clippers' recent 13 and 3 surge. Leonard has now appeared in 30 games this season and remains central to the team's playoff ambitions.

## Trinity Rodman signs record deal to stay with Washington Spirit



United States forward Trinity Rodman signed a record three-year contract on Thursday to remain with the Washington Spirit through the 2028 season, ending months of uncertainty over her future. Multiple reports said the deal is worth more than \$2 million annually with bonuses, making her the highest-paid player in league history.

The agreement follows the introduction of the National Women's Soccer League High Impact Player rule, which allows limited spending above the salary cap. Rodman's previous contract expired at the end of last year, prompting speculation about a move to Europe. Spirit owner Michele Kang praised Rodman's decision to stay, calling it vital for the club and the league.

# ICC rejects Bangladesh request, confirms T20 World Cup matches in India

The International Cricket Council confirmed on Wednesday that Bangladesh's fixtures in the 2026 Men's T20 World Cup will be played in India as originally scheduled, rejecting a request from the Bangladesh Cricket Board to relocate the matches. The decision followed an ICC Board meeting held via video conference.

The ICC said independent security assessments found no credible threat to the safety of Bangladesh players, officials, media, or supporters at any Indian venue. Officials added that extensive discussions



were held with the Bangladesh board, including the sharing of detailed security plans and formal assurances from host authorities.

Bangladesh is scheduled to face West Indies, Italy, and England at Eden Gardens in Kolkata before playing Nepal in Mumbai. The ICC noted that altering fixtures so close to the tournament could disrupt logistics and undermine neutrality in future events.

The governing body also confirmed that Scotland would replace Bangladesh if the team withdraws from the tournament.

## Barcelona win in Prague to keep top-eight Champions League hopes alive

Barcelona strengthened their push for a top-eight finish in the Champions League with a 4-2 away win over Slavia Prague on Wednesday, setting up a tense final round of group matches next week. Slavia struck first through Vasil Kusej in the tenth minute, but Fermin Lopez responded with two well-taken goals in the thirty-fourth and forty-second minutes to put Barcelona ahead.

The hosts were level again before halftime when Robert Lewandowski inadvertently headed into his own net. Barcelona regained control after the break as Dani Olmo scored soon after the restart, before Lewandowski redeemed himself with a late goal to seal the victory.



The win lifted Barcelona to thirteen points, placing them among a tightly packed group of teams fighting for the top eight. The result was slightly overshadowed by a hamstring injury to Pedri, who was forced off in the second half.

## Major League Soccer extends transfer window to align with global calendar

Major League Soccer has extended its summer transfer window into September for the 2026 season as part of its effort to align more closely with major European leagues. The league confirmed the change on Thursday, stating that the secondary transfer window will now run from Sunday in mid-July through Tuesday in early September. The primary window will open on Sunday in late January and close on Wednesday in late March.

MLS said the extended window will give clubs greater access to international talent during the push toward the Audi



MLS Cup Playoffs. The announcement follows last November's decision to move the league to a summer-to-spring schedule beginning in 2027, a change that still awaits approval from the players association.

## Carlos Alcaraz powers into Australian Open last 16

Carlos Alcaraz continued his dominant run at the Australian Open on Friday, defeating France's Corentin Moutet in straight sets to reach the last 16. The top seed closed out the match in just over two hours at Rod Laver Arena, showing little sign of trouble throughout. The win marked Alcaraz's 100th Grand Slam match and improved his record to 87 wins and 13 losses, matching Bjorn Borg at the same career stage. He will next face American Tommy Paul, who advanced after Alejandro Davidovich Fokina retired with a knee injury. Alcaraz is seeking to complete his Grand Slam collection with a maiden Australian Open title.

## Rangers acquire MacKenzie Gore in major trade with Nationals

The Texas Rangers acquired left-handed starter MacKenzie Gore from the Washington Nationals on Thursday in exchange for five prospects, marking the largest roster move under new Nationals leadership. Gore, a National League All-Star last season, is under team control through the 2027 World Series and is set to earn \$5.6 million this season.

The 26-year-old went 5 and 15 last year with a 4.17 earned run average while striking out a career-high 185 batters in 30 starts. Texas expects Gore to bolster a rotation led by Jacob deGrom and Nathan Eovaldi. Washington received five of Texas' top twenty prospects as part of its long-term rebuild.



## Babar Azam exits Big Bash League early for Pakistan duty

Babar Azam will miss the remainder of the Big Bash League finals after leaving Sydney Sixers to join Pakistan's national training camp, the club confirmed on Thursday. The Sixers said Daniel Hughes will replace Babar as opener for the knockout stage. Babar thanked teammates, coaches, and fans for their support during his short stint with the club. His season proved challenging, with 202 runs from 11 matches and a strike rate of just over 103. Pakistan will begin preparations for upcoming international fixtures following his return home.





## Luke Wright to step down as England men's selector after T20 World Cup



Luke Wright will step down from his role as England men's selector after the upcoming T20 World Cup, the England and Wales Cricket Board announced on Thursday. Wright, who took up the position in November 2022, said the decision was driven by the demands of travel and a desire to spend more time with his young family. During his tenure, England handed debuts to several players across formats, including Jacob Bethell, Jamie Smith, Gus Atkinson, and Shoaib Bashir. ECB managing director Rob Key praised Wright's contribution, calling his impact far greater than selection alone. Wright was part of England's T20 World Cup-winning squad in 2010.

## Anna Muzychuk returns to defend Norway Chess Women title



Reigning champion Anna Muzychuk will return to defend her Norway Chess Women title at the 2026 edition of the tournament, organizers confirmed on Thursday. Muzychuk has competed in every edition since the event began in 2024 and won the title last year after finishing runner-up in its inaugural season. A three-time world champion in fast chess, Muzychuk has consistently highlighted the importance of Norway Chess Women for the growth of the women's game. Tournament officials said her return adds continuity and competitive quality. Norway Chess Women was introduced as the first fully inclusive elite tournament for women and is now a permanent fixture on the international calendar.

## Praggnanandhaa confirmed for Norway Chess 2026 in Oslo

Indian grandmaster Praggnanandhaa Rameshbabu has been confirmed for the 2026 edition of Norway Chess, scheduled to be held in Oslo next year. Organizers announced the news on Monday, praising his consistent rise in elite chess. Praggnanandhaa qualified for the 2026 Candidates Tournament after winning the 2025 FIDE Circuit. He previously impressed at Norway Chess with strong performances, including a landmark classical victory over Magnus Carlsen in 2024. Tournament officials said his ambition and consistency make him a major attraction for fans.



## Barcelona's Pedri faces extended absence with hamstring injury

Barcelona midfielder Pedri Gonzalez is expected to miss several matches after suffering a hamstring injury during the club's midweek victory over Slavia Prague. The Spanish international was forced off shortly after the hour mark and will undergo further medical assessment on Friday.

Early reports suggest a minor tear that could sideline Pedri for up to five weeks, potentially ruling him out of six or seven matches across competitions. Barcelona face a packed schedule that includes league, European, and domestic cup fixtures. The absence adds to midfield concerns, with Frenkie de Jong also unavailable for an upcoming European match due to suspension.



## National champion Alberto Mendoza transfers from Indiana to Georgia Tech

Indiana quarterback Alberto Mendoza announced his transfer to Georgia Tech on Tuesday, less than a day after helping the Hoosiers win the College Football Playoff national championship. Mendoza, a redshirt freshman, served as Indiana's primary backup in 2025 and appeared in nine games, throwing five touchdown passes and adding a rushing score.

Mendoza joins a Georgia Tech program coming off its first eight and zero start since 1966, though the Yellow Jackets faded late and missed the conference title game. The transfer follows the departure of longtime starter Haynes King, who



exhausted his eligibility last season. Mendoza had previously indicated interest in staying at Indiana before entering the portal.

## NFL divisional playoffs draw second-largest audience on record

Last weekend's NFL divisional round averaged 39.2 million viewers, making it the second-most watched since tracking began in 1988, according to Nielsen figures released Thursday. The four-game slate was up five percent from last season and trailed only the record set two years ago.

Sunday night's overtime win by the Los Angeles Rams over the Chicago Bears led all games, averaging 45.4 million viewers and peaking above 52 million. Saturday's overtime thriller between Denver and Buffalo set a record for the most-watched Saturday playoff game. Nielsen credited



part of the growth to expanded out-of-home viewing and updated measurement methods introduced this season.

## Scheffler opens year strong to stay in contention at The American Express



Scottie Scheffler made a sharp start to his 2026 season on Thursday, carding a nine-under 63 to sit one shot off the lead after the opening round of The American Express in California. Playing the La Quinta course, Scheffler made birdies on half his holes and did not miss a green until the seventeenth, where he chipped in for birdie.

Min Woo Lee and Pierceson Coody led the field with ten-under 62 rounds on the Nicklaus Tournament Course, the easiest of the three-course rotation. Jason Day also impressed with a 63 on the tougher Stadium Course. Ideal desert conditions helped produce low scores across the 156-player field.

## Naomi Osaka blends fashion and focus in Australian Open opener



Naomi Osaka delivered both style and substance on Tuesday night, winning her Australian Open first-round match after making a bold fashion statement at Rod Laver Arena. Wearing a wide-brim hat, veil, and butterfly-themed accessories, Osaka defeated Antonia Ruzic 6-3, 3-6, 6-4 to close Day Three of the tournament. The four-time Grand Slam champion said the outfit reflected confidence rather than pressure and paid tribute to moments from her 2021 Melbourne title run. Osaka, who reached the United States Open semifinals last season, will next face Sorana Cirstea. She credited months of planning with her sponsor and said the design symbolized renewal and momentum.

## Srishti Kiran wins ITF junior title in Mexico

India's Srishti Kiran claimed the Girls' Singles title at the ITF World Tennis Tour Juniors J30 event in Mexico on Sunday. The 13-year-old defeated local favorite Tamara Herman in straight sets to secure her third ITF junior singles title. Srishti also won the doubles title, continuing her impressive run on the international junior circuit. Trained at the Karnataka State Lawn Tennis Association, she has emerged as one of India's most promising young tennis talents after remaining unbeaten at the Asian Under-12 team championships in 2023.





## Thousands honor Grateful Dead guitarist Bob Weir in San Francisco



Thousands of fans gathered Saturday at San Francisco's Civic Center to celebrate the life of Bob Weir, the legendary guitarist and founding member of the Grateful Dead, who died last week at 78. The public memorial opened with Tibetan prayers from four Buddhist monks, followed by performances and speeches from musicians including Joan Baez and John Mayer. Fans carried roses and wrote notes at an altar honoring Weir, while many recalled fellow band members Jerry Garcia and Phil Lesh. Born in the Bay Area, Weir joined the Dead at 17 and co-wrote classics like "Sugar Magnolia" and "Mexicali Blues," leaving a lasting legacy celebrated by fans of all ages.

## Taylor Swift, Kiss, Kenny Loggins, Alanis Morissette inducted into Songwriters Hall of Fame



The 2026 Songwriters Hall of Fame class features Taylor Swift, Kiss founders Gene Simmons and Paul Stanley, Kenny Loggins, Alanis Morissette, and R&B producer Christopher "Tricky" Stewart. The annual ceremony, set for June 11 in New York City, honors performers and nonperformers who have shaped popular music. Swift is recognized for her impact on contemporary pop, while Simmons and Stanley are celebrated for glam rock classics like "Rock and Roll All Nite." Loggins, Morissette, and Stewart bring soft rock, alt-rock, and R&B influences, highlighting diverse genres. Songwriters Hall of Fame chairman Nile Rodgers said the induction celebrates the creators behind the songs that define music and concert experiences.

## Valentino, legendary Italian designer, dies at 93 leaving a fashion legacy

Italian fashion icon Valentino Garavani, founder of the eponymous luxury brand, has died at 93, his foundation announced Monday. Known simply as Valentino, he revolutionized haute couture with his signature "Valentino Red" and elegant, timeless designs. Valentino passed away at his Roman residence surrounded by loved ones. He lay in state on Wednesday and Thursday, with his funeral held in Rome on Friday.

Valentino's career spanned nearly five decades, dressing royals, first ladies, and Hollywood stars, including Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis, Diana, Princess of Wales, Julia Roberts, and Cate Blanchett. He

famously designed Kennedy's long-sleeved lace wedding gown for her marriage to Aristotle Onassis and became the red carpet favorite for Oscar nights. His creations often featured bows, ruffles, lace, and embroidery, celebrating femininity and glamour.

Born in Voghera in 1932, Valentino studied fashion in Milan and Paris before opening his Rome atelier in 1959 with longtime partner Giancarlo Giammetti managing the business side. Over the years, he expanded into ready-to-wear, menswear, accessories, and perfumes, building a \$300 million empire. Valentino retired in 2008, leaving behind a legacy of beauty, sophistication, and unmatched influence on the fashion world.



## Karan Aujla extends India tour amid cheating allegations

Singer-songwriter Karan Aujla has announced an extension of his India tour, now spanning 12 cities, including Ahmedabad, Kolkata, Jaipur, Lucknow, and Ludhiana, featuring debut stadium performances. The announcement came amid a viral cheating-allegation controversy involving Canada-based artist Ms. Gori, who claimed she was in a secret relationship with Aujla without knowing he was married to Palak Aujla.

Gori alleged that Aujla failed to disclose his marital status and that his team tried to suppress her story online, sparking intense debate on social media. The singer recently celebrated his birthday and described expanding the tour as a way to celebrate with fans. Actress Parul Gulati defended Aujla, calling the allegations baseless and affirming his devotion to his



wife, while Gori criticized public dismissals of her account. The P-Pop Culture India Tour 2026 builds on the momentum of his 2024 'It Was All A Dream' India Tour and is produced and promoted by Team Innovation.

## Bishnoi gang threatens B. Praak with Rs 10 crore extortion

Chandigarh police are investigating a death threat and extortion demand made against Punjabi singer B. Praak by a member of the Lawrence Bishnoi gang. The caller, identifying himself as Arju Bishnoi, demanded Rs 10 crore and warned that the singer would be "buried in the ground" if the money was not paid. The threat was relayed through another Punjabi singer, Dilnoor, who received multiple suspicious calls from foreign numbers and was instructed to pass the message to Praak within a week. Authorities have heightened security for the singer and are working to trace the calls and confirm the caller's identity.



B. Praak, a prominent music director and composer in Punjabi and Hindi music, is known for hits including 'Mann Bharryaa', 'Ranjha' from 'Shershaah', and 'Saari Duniya Jalaa Denge' from 'Animal'. Police continue to investigate the case.

## Harry Styles announces first album in four years



Harry Styles has announced his fourth studio album, "Kiss All the Time. Disco, Occasionally," set for release March 6. The album, executive produced by long-time collaborator Kid Harpoon, will feature 12 tracks. It is Styles' first full-length project since 2022's critically acclaimed "Harry's House," which won album of the year at the 2023 Grammy Awards. Styles shared the cover on Instagram, showing him under a shimmering disco ball at night. The album follows the death of his former One Direction bandmate Liam Payne in 2024 and is highly anticipated by fans worldwide, marking the next chapter in the singer's solo career.

## AP Dhillon meets Linkin Park, thanks band for inspiration



Punjabi music sensation AP Dhillon shared a memorable meeting with rock band Linkin Park, posting pictures and expressing gratitude for their influence on his career. The band, formed in 1996, achieved global success with albums such as "Hybrid Theory" and "Metemora," selling over 100 million records and winning multiple Grammy, MTV, and Billboard awards. Dhillon, who debuted in 2019, rose to fame with tracks like "Brown Munde" and "Excuses" and became the first Punjabi artist to perform at the 2023 Juno Awards. His encounter with Linkin Park highlights the cross-cultural impact of music and its inspiration for emerging artists worldwide.

## A\$AP Rocky clarifies relationship with Drake, calls feud "not real smoke"

Rapper A\$AP Rocky addressed speculation about a feud with fellow artist Drake in a chat with Apple Music's Ebro Darden. Rocky, 37, said their fallout stems from past personal issues, including their relationships with Rihanna, and described the situation as "like wrestling," adding it is "not real smoke." He acknowledged that their friendship has cooled over the years but denied ongoing hostility. Rocky explained that hip-hop beefs can often involve public trolling or promotional tactics rather than genuine animosity, emphasizing that the recent track "Stole Ya Flow" was not aimed at Drake.



Friday, 23 January 2026

## Rihanna struck by closing hotel door during New York outing



Singer Rihanna was hit by a closing door while leaving the Four Seasons Hotel in New York City, but took the mishap in stride, joking, “Such a gentleman you are,” before getting into a car. The video went viral on social media. The incident coincided with partner A\$AP Rocky’s release of his fourth album, “Don’t Be Dumb,” and his appearance on “Saturday Night Live.” Rihanna and Rocky share three young children, and he recently described her as a “very special woman,” noting his mother encouraged the relationship. The singer continues to balance family life with her public appearances and musical career.

## Akshay Kumar’s security car crashes into auto-rickshaw in Mumbai



A vehicle used for Bollywood actor Akshay Kumar’s private security was involved in an accident Monday morning in Mumbai’s Juhu area. No one from Kumar’s family was in the car at the time, though his security personnel were on board. Two people were injured in the collision with a truck and taken to a nearby hospital. The actor, known for his high-profile roles and occasional political visibility, regularly travels with armed security. Authorities noted the incident was a precautionary situation rather than a direct threat, underscoring the ongoing measures taken to ensure the safety of prominent public figures in India.

## Mithun Chakraborty breaks down as sons toast his 50 years in Bollywood

Mumbai’s ‘Indian Idol’ stage turned emotional as Mithun Chakraborty received a heartfelt surprise from his sons, Mahaakshay and Ushmey, celebrating 50 glorious years in cinema. Ushmey shared rare childhood memories, recalling the 90s when his father often worked four shifts a day, leaving little time for family. Overcome with emotion, Mithun embraced his sons on stage, bringing many to tears, including judge Shreya Ghoshal. The tribute culminated in a joyous dance to the iconic song ‘Julie Julie,’ with Mithun, his sons, and Ghoshal leading the celebration. Fans and viewers alike will witness a deeply personal homage to a superstar whose dedication and charm have left an indelible mark on Indian cinema.

## AR Rahman addresses backlash over communal remark



Oscar-winning composer AR Rahman has responded to criticism over his recent comment on “communal” bias in the Hindi film industry, saying he never intended to hurt anyone. Posting a video on Instagram, Rahman described India as his home, teacher, and inspiration, emphasizing that his music aims to celebrate and honor culture. He said, “I have never wished to cause pain and I hope my sincerity is felt,” and reflected on projects like mentoring the Sunshine Orchestra, collaborating with

Naga musicians to create a string orchestra, building ‘Secret Mountain,’ India’s first multicultural virtual band, and scoring ‘Ramayana’ alongside Hans Zimmer. Rahman also addressed limited Bollywood opportunities, suggesting that systemic biases and creative gatekeeping may play a role, though not directly. He expressed gratitude for working in a space that allows freedom of expression and reiterated his commitment to music that “honors the past, celebrates the present, and inspires the future.”

## Ben Affleck recalls food poisoning during emotional ‘Armageddon’ scene

Hollywood actor Ben Affleck revealed he suffered food poisoning while filming his emotional goodbye scene with Bruce Willis in the 1998 disaster blockbuster ‘Armageddon.’ Speaking to Fox 32 Chicago, Affleck said, “I wasn’t experienced enough to call in sick. I went in and vomited between takes,” adding that his distressed state may have improved the scene. The sequence shows Affleck’s character, A.J. Frost, saying farewell to oil driller Harry Stamper, played by Willis,

before Stamper sacrifices himself to destroy a Texas-sized asteroid threatening Earth. Directed by Michael Bay, the film also starred Billy Bob Thornton, Liv Tyler, Steve Buscemi, and Owen Wilson. Despite mixed reviews, ‘Armageddon’ became the highest-grossing film of 1998 and the most successful release for Touchstone Pictures. Affleck recently reunited with Buscemi at the premiere of his Netflix film ‘The Rip,’ reminiscing about the intense, otherworldly experience of filming the iconic sci-fi disaster movie.



## Kristen Bell returns to host Actor Awards for a third time

Kristen Bell is set to return as host of the 32nd annual Actor Awards, formerly known as the ‘Screen Actors Guild Awards,’ marking her third time as emcee. The Los Angeles ceremony will air Sunday, March 1, and will feature Bell singing, celebrating nominees, and presenting the SAG-AFTRA Life Achievement Award to Harrison Ford. Leading the nominations are ‘One Battle After Another’ and ‘Sinners,’ with top stars including Leonardo DiCaprio, Michael B. Jordan, and Emma Stone competing for leading actor honors. Bell called her return “an easy decision” and promised a night packed with entertainment, laughter, and heart.



## Punjabi actress Mandy Takhar splits from husband after brief marriage



Punjabi actress Mandy Takhar has been granted a mutual divorce from husband Shekhar Kaushal. Married in 2024, the couple had been living apart for months due to personal differences. Represented by advocate Ishaan Mukherjee, Takhar did not comment further. The UK-born actress, with roots in Phagwara, Punjab, moved to Mumbai in 2009 to pursue acting. She rose to fame in Punjabi cinema with films such as ‘Ekam - Son of Soil,’ ‘Mirza - The Untold Story,’ ‘Tu Mera 22 Main Tera 22,’ ‘Biriyani,’ and ‘Rabb Da Radio.’ Her most recent film was ‘Enna Nu Rehna Sehma Ni Aaunda.’ Takhar has also appeared in music videos with Ammy Virk, Jubin Nautiyal, and Yo Yo Honey Singh, making her one of Punjabi cinema’s versatile stars.

## Sharon Stone brings a little pawsome magic to the red carpet

Hollywood icon Sharon Stone has welcomed a new puppy into her family, sharing the moment during the 9th Annual Astra Film Awards in Mumbai. The 67-year-old posed with the spotted puppy, which has a distinctive brown patch over one eye, and also held two other puppies, delighting photographers. Stone wore a gold sleeveless turtleneck, fringed skirt, and cheetah-print stockings for the event. She stars in the 2025 action thriller ‘Nobody 2,’ directed by Timo Tjahjanto, alongside Bob Odenkirk, Connie Nielsen, RZA, and others. Known for her iconic roles in ‘Basic Instinct’ and ‘Total Recall,’ Stone has earned a Primetime Emmy, a Golden Globe, and an Academy Award nomination, continuing to prove she remains a legendary Hollywood presence.

## Taylor Swift unloads on Justin Baldoni in Blake Lively lawsuit texts

Court filings from the ongoing legal dispute between Blake Lively and Justin Baldoni have revealed explosive texts allegedly exchanged between Lively and Taylor Swift. In the messages, Swift reportedly called Baldoni an expletive while discussing his conduct during the filming of ‘It Ends With Us.’ The newly released texts have reignited media interest in the behind-the-scenes drama of the movie, shining a spotlight on the interactions and tensions between the Hollywood stars. Fans and industry watchers are now closely analyzing the revelations as the case continues to unfold.



# आंध्र प्रदेश की आराधना यात्रा

## श्री वासवी कन्यका परमेश्वरी मंदिर, पेनुगोंडा ( पश्चिम गोदावरी )

**IndoUS Tribune** की 'यात्रा और दर्शन' श्रृंखला में आपका पुनः स्वागत है! अब जबकि हमारी यह आध्यात्मिक यात्रा अपने अंतिम चरण की ओर अग्रसर है, आज हम आपको ले चल रहे हैं आंध्र प्रदेश के एक ऐसे पवित्र तीर्थ स्थल पर, जिसे आर्य वैश्य समाज के लिए वही स्थान प्राप्त है जो बौद्धों के लिए बोधगया, जैनों के लिए श्रवणबेलगोला, मुसलमानों के लिए मक्का-मदीना और ईसाइयों के लिए यरुशलम।

इस श्रृंखला के चौदहवें पड़ाव में हम दर्शन कर रहे हैं — श्री वासवी कन्यका परमेश्वरी मंदिर, पेनुगोंडा ( पश्चिम गोदावरी ), जहाँ देवी वासवी माताजी की कथा त्याग, अहिंसा, नारी गरिमा और धर्मरक्षा का अनुपम उदाहरण प्रस्तुत करती है।

### पेनुगोंडा : वासवी माता की पावन धरा

गोदावरी की पवित्र सहायक धारा गौतमी नदी के तट पर स्थित पेनुगोंडा प्राचीन काल से ही तप, यज्ञ और साधना की भूमि रही है। मान्यता है कि यहीं महर्षि पुलस्त्य ने ब्रह्मा, विष्णु और महेश के एक साथ दर्शन किए थे। भगवान कुमारस्वामी ( स्कंद ) ने भी इसी भूमि पर तपस्या की थी।

कालांतर में यह स्थान कोनाकोमल जनार्दन ( लक्ष्मीनारायण ) और गौरी नागेश्वर ( पार्वती-

परमेश्वर ) की भी आराधना स्थली बना।

### देवी वासवी की उत्पत्ति और जीवन कथा

श्री वासवी कन्यका परमेश्वरी देवी का जन्म पेनुगोंडा के शासक कुसुम श्रेष्ठी ( पेड्डा सेठी ) और उनकी पत्नी कुसुमांबा के यहाँ हुआ। उन्होंने संतान प्राप्ति हेतु पुत्रकामेष्टि यज्ञ किया था। देवी का जन्म वैशाख शुक्ल दशमी, पुनर्वसु नक्षत्र में हुआ—उनके साथ उनके भ्राता वीरूपाक्ष भी जन्मे।

बाल्यकाल से ही वासवी देवी में विलक्षण तेज, कला, दर्शन और आत्मिक चेतना के गुण विद्यमान थे। वे सांसारिक वैभव से परे, धर्म और आत्मबल में आस्था रखने वाली थीं।

### आत्मबलिदान ( आत्मा-बलि ) : अहिंसा का सर्वोच्च उदाहरण

जब वंगी देश के शासक विष्णुवर्धन ( विमलादित्य ) ने देवी वासवी से विवाह का आग्रह किया, तब उन्होंने स्पष्ट रूप से इन्कार कर दिया। यह इन्कार केवल व्यक्तिगत नहीं, बल्कि नारी सम्मान, सामाजिक मर्यादा और धर्म की रक्षा का प्रतीक था।

राजा के आक्रमण की आशंका के बीच, देवी वासवी ने युद्ध के स्थान पर अहिंसा और आत्म-त्याग का मार्ग चुना। उन्होंने 102 गोत्रों के दंपतियों



के साथ आत्म-बलिदान ( अग्नि प्रवेश ) का निर्णय लिया।

- मुसलमानों के लिए मक्का
- ईसाइयों के लिए यरुशलम

अग्निकुंड में प्रवेश से पूर्व देवी ने अपना विश्वरूप दर्शन दिया और स्वयं को आदि पराशक्ति का अवतार घोषित किया। उनका यह त्याग इतिहास में नारी शक्ति, नैतिक साहस और अहिंसा की अमर गाथा बन गया। इस दिव्य घटना के पश्चात राजा विष्णुवर्धन का अंत हो गया और समाज ने वासवी देवी को कुलदेवी के रूप में स्वीकार किया।

हर वर्ष वासवी जयंती और आत्मार्पण दिवस पर यहाँ हजारों श्रद्धालु देश-विदेश से दर्शन हेतु आते हैं।

### देवी वासवी की अमर विरासत

देवी वासवी का जीवन नारी गरिमा, अहिंसा, सामाजिक उत्तरदायित्व और धर्मपालन का शाश्वत संदेश देता है। उन्होंने यह सिद्ध किया कि शक्ति केवल शस्त्र में नहीं, बल्कि आत्मबल, त्याग और सत्य में निहित होती है।

### मंदिर का महत्व और स्थापत्य

श्री वासवी कन्यका परमेश्वरी मंदिर का निर्माण वास्तु शास्त्र के अनुसार किया गया है।

### मुख्य आकर्षण हैं:

- सात मंजिला, बहुसंगी गली गोपुरम
- पूर्वाभिमुख भव्य महाद्वार
- श्री नागेश्वर स्वामी, वासवी माता और महिषासुरमर्दिनी के त्रिदेवालय
- विशाल प्राकार, मंडप, गरभगृह और दर्पण मंडप

यहाँ स्थापित शिवलिंग और देवी प्रतिमाएँ पंचधातु से निर्मित मानी जाती हैं और भक्तों के मन में अद्भुत श्रद्धा उत्पन्न करती हैं।

### आर्य वैश्य समाज की काशी

पेनुगोंडा को 'वैश्य काशी' कहा जाता है।

### यह स्थान आर्य वैश्य समाज के लिए उतना ही पवित्र है जितना:

- बौद्धों के लिए बोधगया
- जैनों के लिए श्रवणबेलगोला

### समापन

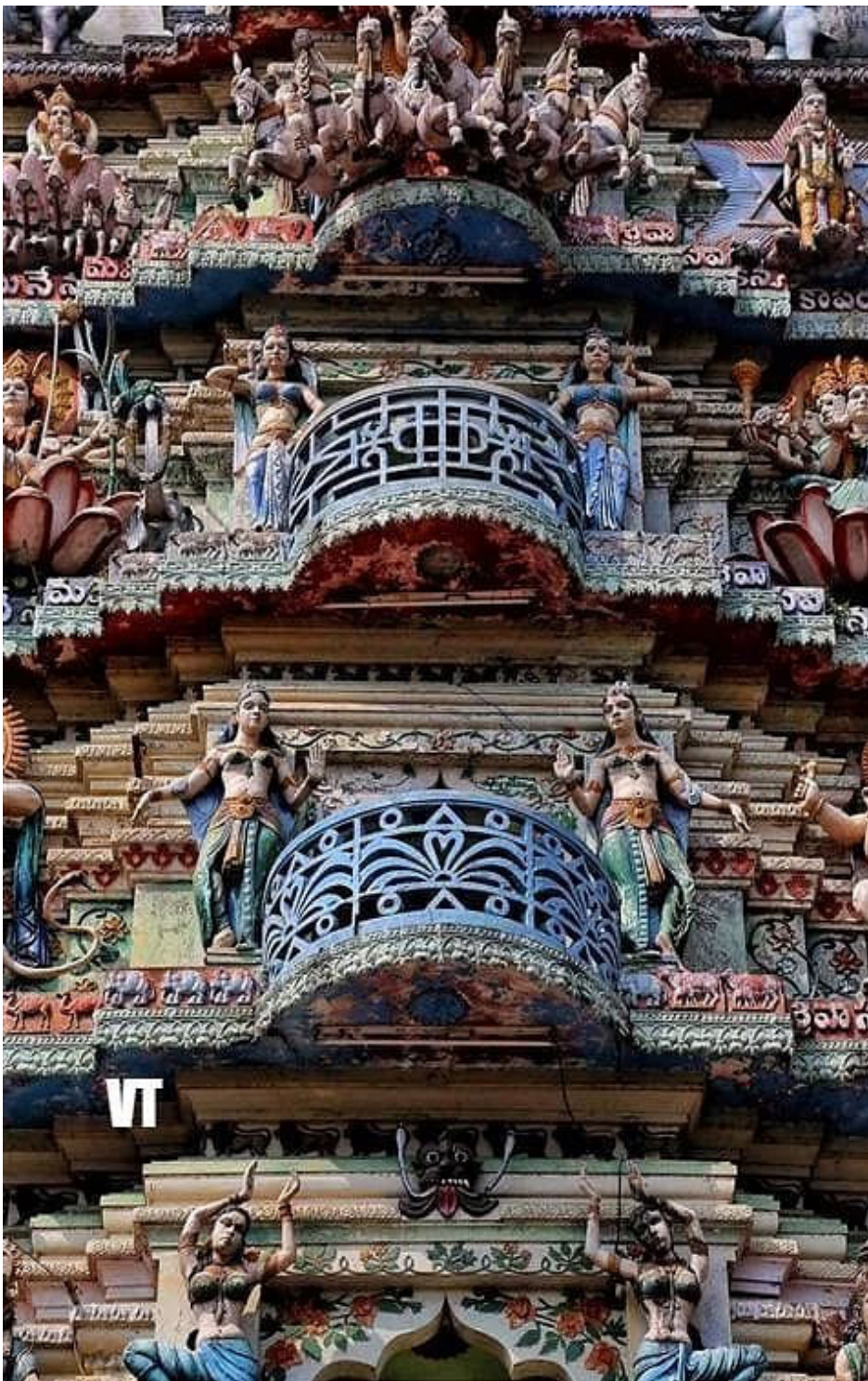
श्री वासवी कन्यका परमेश्वरी मंदिर, पेनुगोंडा के दर्शन के साथ **IndoUS Tribune** की आंध्र प्रदेश की आराधना यात्रा अपने अंतिम चरण में प्रवेश करती है। यह पड़ाव हमें स्मरण कराता है कि भारत की मंदिर परंपरा केवल आस्था की नहीं, बल्कि मूल्यों, बलिदान और मानवता की भी धरोहर है।

अब हमारी इस पावन यात्रा का अंतिम और 15वाँ पड़ाव होगा — सोमाराम मंदिर, भीमावरम, जहाँ भगवान शिव पंचराम क्षेत्रों में से एक के रूप में पूजित हैं।

तब तक के लिए, माता वासवी का त्याग, शक्ति और करुणा आपके जीवन में धर्म, शांति और सद्बुद्धि का प्रकाश फैलाए —

यही **IndoUS Tribune** की ओर से मंगलकामना।

यही शुभकामना।





# अतिथिदेवो भवः

## भारतीय संस्कृति में अतिथि धर्म का सरल अर्थ

उपनिषद् का प्रसिद्ध वाक्य 'अतिथिदेवो भवः' हमें यह सिखाता है कि अतिथि देवता के समान होता है। अतिथि की सेवा करना ईश्वर की पूजा के बराबर माना गया है। सूतजी के अनुसार अतिथि सत्कार से बड़ा कोई धर्म नहीं है और अतिथि से बड़ा कोई देवता नहीं। हमारे घर के द्वार पर जो भी अतिथि आए, उसका यथाशक्ति और यथायोग्य स्वागत करना केवल सामाजिक कर्तव्य नहीं, बल्कि धार्मिक कर्तव्य है।

भारतीय संस्कृति में अतिथि सेवा को 'अतिथि यज्ञ' कहा गया है। यह गृहस्थ के दैनिक जीवन का आवश्यक अंग माना गया है और इसे पंचमहायज्ञों में स्थान दिया गया है। अतिथि का सत्कार करते समय उसके वर्ण, आश्रम, आयु या योग्यता पर विचार नहीं करना चाहिए। अतिथि को तो भगवान के स्वरूप के रूप में देखना चाहिए। संसार की बहुत कम संस्कृतियों में अतिथि के प्रति ऐसा उच्च भाव और सम्मान देखने को मिलता है।

महर्षि शातातप ( लघुशातातप 55 ) के अनुसार जो व्यक्ति बिना बुलाए, बिना किसी स्वार्थ के, किसी भी समय और किसी भी स्थान से घर आ जाए, वही सच्चा अतिथि है। जिसके आने की पहले से सूचना हो, वह अतिथि नहीं कहलाता।

महाभारत में महात्मा विदुर धृतराष्ट्र से कहते हैं कि जब कोई सज्जन अतिथि घर आए तो पहले उसे आसन दें, जल लाकर उसके चरण धोएं, उसकी कुशल-क्षेम पूछें और फिर आवश्यकता के अनुसार भोजन कराएं।

वेदों में कहा गया है कि जो व्यक्ति अतिथि का सत्कार करता है, उसके पाप नष्ट हो जाते हैं ( अथर्ववेद 9/7/8 )। द्वार पर आए अतिथि का स्वागत करना देवताओं को आहुति देने के समान माना गया है। महाभारत के अनुसार



जो लोग अतिथि को जल, तेल, दीपक, भोजन और निवास स्थान देते हैं, वे कभी यमलोक नहीं जाते।

शास्त्रों में बताया गया है कि अतिथि को आसन देने से ब्रह्मा, हाथ धुलाने से शिव, पैर धुलाने से इंद्र आदि देवता और भोजन कराने से भगवान विष्णु प्रसन्न होते हैं। अर्थात् अतिथि सभी देवताओं का संयुक्त स्वरूप हैं। मनुस्मृति कहती है कि गृहस्थ को जैसा भोजन स्वयं करता है, वैसा ही अतिथि को भी देना चाहिए। अतिथि सत्कार से सौभाग्य, यश, आयु और सुख की

वृद्धि होती है।

महाभारत और रामायण में अतिथि धर्म के अनेक प्रेरक उदाहरण मिलते हैं—राजा शिवि द्वारा कबूतर की रक्षा के लिए अपना मांस देना, मोरध्वज का त्याग, माता कुंती का भीम को ब्राह्मण की रक्षा हेतु भेजना, और अकाल में भूखे चांडाल को अपनी थाली का भोजन देना। तैत्तिरीय उपनिषद् ने अतिथि सत्कार को व्रत कहा है।

महाभारत के शांति पर्व में चेतावनी दी गई है कि जिस

घर से अतिथि भूखा और निराश लौट जाता है, वहां का पुण्य नष्ट हो जाता है और गृहस्थ दुखी होता है। अतिथि अपना पुण्य साथ ले जाता है और अपने पाप उस घर को दे जाता है।

अथर्ववेद में स्पष्ट कहा गया है कि अतिथि से पहले भोजन नहीं करना चाहिए, क्योंकि अतिथि वेदज्ञ और पूजनीय होता है। अतः हम सभी का कर्तव्य है कि अतिथि धर्म का पालन करें और अपनी संस्कृति की इस महान परंपरा को जीवित रखें।





# Shri Ram Rath Yatra unites Hindu Canadians across Ontario in faith, heritage, and global solidarity

By: Dr. Avi Verma

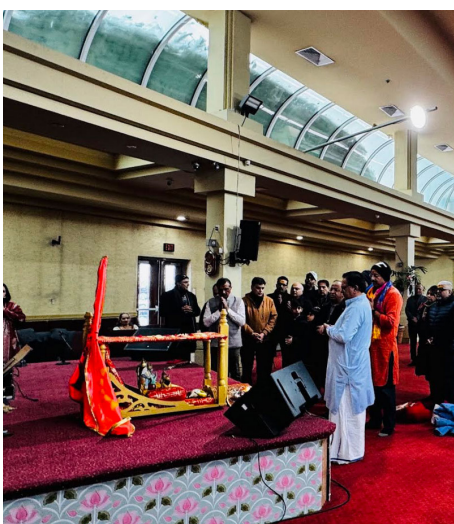
The Hindu Canadian Foundation marked its 3rd Annual Shri Ram Rath Yatra in 2026 with a day-long spiritual procession across Brampton, Mississauga, and Hamilton, bringing together devotees to commemorate the restoration of the Shri Ram Mandir in Ayodhya, inaugurated on Monday, January 22, 2024.

Organizers said the Yatra was intended to celebrate a landmark moment in Hindu history while strengthening cultural and spiritual connections among Hindu Canadians. This year's procession was also dedicated to Hindus in Bangladesh, with HCF highlighting concerns related to violence, displacement, and human rights issues affecting minority communities, and urging Canadian authorities to take note.

The Rath Yatra began at Hindu Sabha Mandir in Brampton amid harsh winter conditions, with devotees participating in bhajans, the Hanuman Chalisa, and aarti before proceeding to Triveni Mandir. A major highlight came at the Canadian Sanatan Mission Mandir in Mississauga, where youth-led devotional singing underscored intergenerational participation.

The journey continued to Hamilton Hindu Samaj Temple and concluded at Yugal Kunj Temple in downtown Hamilton, where the Yatra ended with collective prayers and a community meal.

HCF said the annual Yatra is meant to serve not only as a religious observance but also as an educational and unifying initiative for future generations of Hindu Canadians.







जय माता दी

**JAI JAGDAMBE FOUNDATION**  
Serving the Hindu Community over 2 Decades

**FOR MATA KA  
JAGRAN  
OR CHOWKI**

Contact us at  
[Jagrantv@gmail.com](mailto:Jagrantv@gmail.com)

**Mata Bhagat: Avi Verma**



# India's global and cultural heritage

● By: Ambassador Bhaswati Mukherjee

India's cultural and civilizational heritage is her gift to the world. An understanding of what is our culture and civilisation would take us into a historical journey into our past.

**Any serious discussion must begin with E.H. Carr. In 'What is History' Carr concludes:**

*"History is a continuous process of interaction between the historian and his facts, an unending dialogue between the present and past, a dynamic, dialectical process, which cannot be limited by mere empiricism or love of facts alone".*

**Another aspect is the inter-linkage between culture and imperialism in the 19th century. Dr. Edward W. Said noted in his seminal work on 'Culture and Imperialism':**

*"Partly because of empire, all cultures are involved in one another; none is single and pure, all are hybrid, heterogeneous, differentiated and un-monolithic".*

This is an excellent definition of our own culture. Efforts were made to belittle or downgrade our heritage after the arrival of the Dutch, Portuguese, French and British to India. This was the age of colonialism and imperialism. Dr. Said noted the notion of inferior races helped fuel the imperial acquisition of territory during this period. The culture of imperialism entailed venerating the colonialist's culture to the exclusion of other cultures, a notion completely antithetical to the Indian approach.

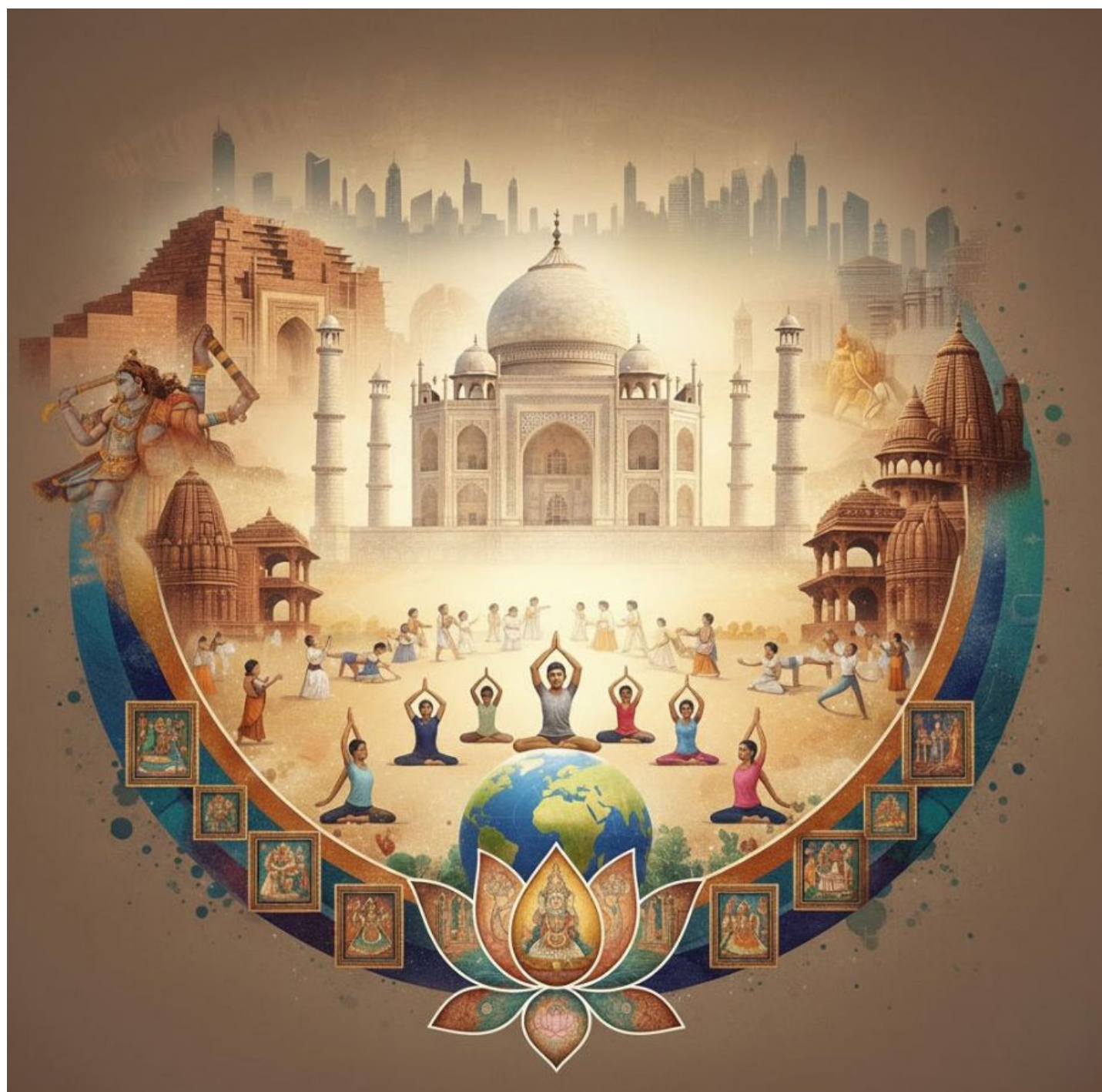
One of the most authoritative works of A.L. Basham 'The Wonder that was India' rejects the earlier Western interpretation that Indian civilisation is un-political, spiritual and unchanging i.e. Indian civilisation itself is static and non-dynamic. Basham demonstrates that India has a dynamic civilisation and cultural heritage. India's oral traditions also had an important contribution.

The civilisation that developed in the Valleys of the two great river systems, the Indus and the Ganges, although in a sharply demarcated geographical region due to the Himalayas, was never an isolated civilisation. Settlers and traders came to India from the land and sea routes from East and West. As a great maritime power, Indians also travelled East and West.

This resulted in the development of a complex pattern of multi-dimensional culture, demonstrated in art and cultural traditions from Ancient to Modern India, whether the dancing Buddha's of the Gandharva school of art which was strongly influenced by the Greeks to the great temples of North and South India.

The Aryan period saw the development of Vedic literature as well as the Puranas. The earliest literary source was the Rig Veda and the two epics, the Ramayana and the Mahabharata.

Ancient Indian architecture and sculpture was dynamic, not static. Due to cross fertilisation of culture, India's ancient



culture did not perish with the coming of Muslim invaders.

Ancient Indian culture was severely impacted by invasions from Muslim invaders from 10th century onwards. These invasions destroyed many elements of our ancient culture. They resulted in barbaric acts such as attacks on temples, including multiple attacks and destruction of the famous Somnath temple.

Later the Indo Islamic Mughal architecture and miniature paintings evolved as an example of India's syncretic culture. The most fascinating aspect of medieval history is the development of the Indo-Islamic style in art and architecture, through adaptation of Indian resources, expertise, designs and motifs. What developed in Mughal times was an eclectic pattern of culture of which the Taj Mahal remains the finest example.

It is important to recognise that India's culture and civilisation is a gift to its Diaspora. India is a multi-cultural state. With the contribution and partnership with its huge Diaspora, Indian culture has emerged as the force to connect, to build relations and to heal the ruptures created by history and politics.

It is internationally recognised that one of India's significant global contributions has been its ancient cultural and civilisational partnerships. 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam' from the Maha Upanishads was among the

first precursors of global citizenship as it is understood today.

*'Udara charitanama tu,  
Vasudaiva kutumbakam'.*

It means that it is only for the generous hearted that the world is one family. It forms the basis of UNESCO's ongoing dialogue between cultures, religions and civilisations.

India's vibrant cultural and civilisational heritage, through her Diaspora has spread worldwide. It serves as a powerful reminder that India's values of tolerance, inclusiveness and cross fertilisation of cultures which are an intrinsic part of our civilisation, are more relevant than ever before in the emerging, chaotic global disorder.

Cultural diplomacy now plays an important role in the dissemination of these values. Indian arts, culture and spiritualism have attracted people from all around the world for centuries.

Indian spirituality has had a global presence for centuries. One of its important manifestations in today's world is the large number of Yoga centres spread across the world. At the personal initiative of PM Modi soon after his first election in 2014, the UN General Assembly recognised 21st June as International Day of Yoga. It has been

Culture and cultural diplomacy have

emerged as the force to connect, to build bilateral relations and to heal the ruptures created by history and politics.

Most challenging is how do we preserve that culture? It is a living culture and can only survive if nurtured and strengthened by successive generations including our Diaspora. Indeed, unless we present our civilisation and cultural heritage in a manner which is both comprehensible and attractive to young India, this heritage cannot survive.

Our composite culture is our gift to the world. It reflects the evolution of our own history, the manner in which India seamlessly absorbed other cultures but never lost her own.

I had recently visited Vishwa Bharati University, Shantiniketan and read Gurudev's inspirational message at the entrance which still resonates today.

**Gurudev said:**

*"India represents the wealth of mind which is for all.  
We acknowledge India's obligation to offer to others the hospitality of her best culture  
And India's right to accept from others their best."*

We have done so and will continue to do so for generations to come. That is why we are Bharat that is India.



# As India takes the BRICS helm, a new multipolar balance begins to take shape

By: Ambassador Anil Trigunayat

Recently the French Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs Jean Noel Barrot, while meeting the Indian External Affairs Minister Dr. S Jaishankar, made an interesting observation that France was heading the G7 (in which India has been a permanent invitee for over a decade) and India was the chair of BRICS in 2026 and both strategic partners had great possibility of cooperation for enhancing multilateralism. Both countries believe and subscribe to it. President Macron further underscored, "India is going to be President of BRICS. I want to work with India to build bridges. BRICS countries must not become anti-G7 and G7 must not become anti-BRICS."

This is a recognition of the growing heft of the BRICS and emerging multipolarity and the need for collaborative rather than conflictual approaches. There is indeed a real convergence possibility in an idealistic scenario, as the G7 dominates in global finance, technology, and high value-added services and controls major global institutions and currencies, while BRICS could be the new pivot for economic growth with commodities, consumption, and huge markets with manufacturing and manpower, and are key partners in global value supply chains. India and EU strategic partnership will be further strengthened with the signing of the Trade Agreement and the visit of EU leadership as Chief Guest on this Republic Day 2026, a distinct honour and affirmation of special partnership.

## Unilateralism and the search for new alignments

This statement is significant since unilateralism has become the major currency in international discourse, with the most recent example being the regime change in Venezuela and President Trump walking out of 66 international agreements or organisations. The transatlantic alliance is also going through unprecedented stress. Hence, the desire for cross-regional connections between and among the mini and plurilaterals is not surprising.

In any case, India, being the founding member of the BRICS and QUAD, supposedly on two opposing ends of the spectrum, believes that BRICS is not anti-West but a non-Western alternative representing cross-continental aspirations of major economies and countries from the Global South, with China and Russia as the P-5 members. India can easily become a credible bridge and bridge builder between the divergent groupings across the East-West and North-South divide, given its inclusive and universalistic approaches enshrined in the foreign policy ambit of 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam', the world is one family.

## Evolution and expansion of BRICS

Since the US investment banker Jim O'Neil expounded about the promising and emerging economies as the BRIC Group with Brazil, Russia, India, and



China, it has grown to ten members with several middle powers including South Africa, Ethiopia, Egypt, Iran, Indonesia, and the UAE. Saudi Arabia remains interested and continues to participate in the meetings, while Argentina, under its new pro-US political dispensation, decided to opt out of it.

At the Kazan Summit, it was also decided to have associate members as partner countries since over two dozen nations have expressed a deep desire to join the BRICS, which has acquired a new heft in a disrupted world order.

## Economic weight and strategic relevance

BRICS represents nearly half of the world population, with India as the most populous country with exceptional human resources, and nearly 40 percent of the global GDP, comparing rather well with the G7, with China and India leading the economic pack and India being the fastest growing major economy in the world, having recently surpassed Japan to become the fourth largest. It comprises a group with the biggest producers and consumers of energy, as well as enviable heft in critical minerals and technologies.

The group believes in mutual respect and mutual interests. Even with politically and economically divergent systems and approaches, it enjoys high diplomatic weight and sheer scale.

## India's chairmanship and institutional reform agenda

India, as the Chair in 2026, will be hosting the BRICS Summit and a large number of sectoral meetings ranging from commerce, connectivity, currency, and counter-terrorism, and culture to technology and fintech, education, R&D, traditional medicine, and youth and sports exchanges. A key quest for BRICS and India is the urgency and imperative for global institutional reforms, especially that of the UN and UNSC, which is threatening to become irrelevant, having been consigned to a post-World War II mindset of victor and the vanquished of the P-5 veto powers.

Moreover, for President Trump, driven by his MAGA constituency, the weaponisation of financial instruments should be a one-way street and their prerogative, with de-dollarisation being the big red line. Already, the five original BRICS countries are in the cross hairs of the USA, including Russia, China, India, Brazil, and South Africa, compressing them in his high and unreasonable game of tariffs.

## Multipolarity, currency debates, and security dynamics

BRICS is trying to provide a viable alternative bereft of dominance and dictation, especially in the context of South-South cooperation, despite members ranging from the largest democracy to totalitarian states. Its internal diversity reinforces multipolarity and options. It challenges western dominance by providing a more beneficial cooperative and consensual landscape, along with certain institutions like the New Development Bank.

There is an effort to create a new BRICS currency, on which countries like India are still not convinced, even though this trend has been initiated due to unilateral and abrasive sanctions and the weaponisation of financial instruments, forcing the rest of the world to secure themselves through transactions in national currencies. This trend could become a major force multiplier for multipolarity in times to come.

Instead of a single global security architecture, multipolarity promotes regionalised security systems. The original five of BRICS have varying roles in the regional security dynamic: Russia shapes Eurasian security dynamics; China dominates East Asian strategic calculations; India asserts influence in the Indian Ocean, South Asia, and the Global South in general; Brazil and South Africa act as regional stabilisers.

This decentralisation reduces global uniformity but increases regional power competition, sometimes heightening local instability. This also has an internal challenge, as competing powers within an

organisation, including BRICS, may slow down the integration process and block hegemonistic projects.

## Bridging rival groupings and the road ahead

Interestingly, India is also slated to host the QUAD Summit in 2026 with the US, Japan, and Australia, despite some uncertainty.

This provides a unique opportunity to India to iron out certain misperceptions while bridging the gaps seeped in zero-sum games through better understanding and cooperation between the perceived rival groups and camps. Global challenges require global solidarity.

BRICS is not aiming to replace the existing world order but is hoping to reshape the multipolar collaborative matrix. This is a process in motion but a potent force which will continue to strengthen as long as powerful countries resort to hypocrisy and undermine the very institutions they themselves had created through unilateral and unifocal approaches. India is a voice of reason and believes in bridging divides through dialogue and diplomacy and reforms of existing institutions, and not necessarily their replacement.

2026 will witness the continuation of this policy even during India's BRICS presidency, while working for multipolarity and multilateralism which are under serious threat.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has so aptly redefined BRICS to mean Building Resilience and Innovation for Cooperation and Sustainability. He further added that "condemning terrorism should be our principle, not just a convenience."

*Anil Trigunayat is a former Indian Ambassador to Jordan, Libya, and Malta and currently a distinguished fellow with prestigious Thinks Tanks like Vivekananda International Foundation and United Services Institute of India.*



# Leon bows out, backs Phil Andrew, and redraws the Democratic battle lines in Illinois' 9th Congressional District

By: Dr. Avi Verma

The Democratic primary for Illinois' 9th Congressional District has entered a decisive new phase following the withdrawal of 50th Ward Committeeman Bruce Leon and his endorsement of former FBI agent, hostage negotiator, and gun violence survivor Phil Andrew. What began as a crowded, ideologically diverse contest is now rapidly consolidating around questions of leadership, credibility, and electability, particularly among moderate and pragmatic voters seeking experience over rhetoric. Leon's exit is not merely a subtraction from the ballot; it is a strategic realignment that may fundamentally reshape the race.

## A turning point in a crowded field

Illinois' 9th District stretching across Chicago's North Side and inner-ring suburbs such as Skokie, Evanston, and Glenview has long been defined by high civic engagement, a strong Jewish community, and voters who value competence, ethics, and public safety alongside progressive social values.

This cycle, the Democratic primary has drawn a large and ideologically varied field, including experienced elected officials, progressive activists, and first-time candidates. While such diversity reflects the district's political energy, it has also risked fragmenting the vote—particularly among moderates and voters concerned about governance, security, and institutional stability.

Bruce Leon's withdrawal, formally filed on January 13, 2026, represents the clearest effort yet to consolidate that lane.

## Why Bruce Leon's endorsement matters

Leon was not a marginal candidate. As a long-serving ward committeeman and respected community leader in Chicago's Orthodox Jewish community, he brought organizational credibility, donor networks, and deep local relationships to the race. His campaign emphasized public safety, antisemitism, and frustration with what he described as excessive outside political pressure and ideological rigidity. His decision to endorse Phil Andrew was framed not as a concession, but as a value based alignment.

"Is there a better time than now to send a hostage negotiator to Congress?" Leon asked, underscoring Andrew's real-world experience in de-escalation, public safety, and crisis management.

Leon cited Andrew's work as the FBI's lead hostage negotiator during the 2008 Mumbai terror attack on the Chabad House, as well as his collaboration with the Illinois Holocaust Museum on hate-crime training for law enforcement—credentials that resonate deeply in a district increasingly concerned about antisemitism and political violence.

Importantly, Leon has described the endorsement as a "merger" of campaigns, committing himself actively to Andrew's outreach and events rather than stepping aside quietly. That level of engagement signals to voters that this is a genuine coalition, not a transactional endorsement.

## Phil Andrew's profile: Experience over ambition

Phil Andrew enters this new phase of the race with a profile that is increasingly



distinctive in a field dominated by career politicians and media-driven candidates.

A survivor of gun violence, Andrew has grounded his advocacy in lived experience rather than abstract ideology. His career as an FBI agent, counterterrorism expert, and hostage negotiator positions him uniquely at a moment when voters express anxiety about political extremism, rising hate crimes, and institutional breakdown.

Following his federal service, Andrew founded Pax Group, LLC, a global conflict-management consultancy, further reinforcing his image as a problem-solver rather than a partisan brand-builder.

Leon captured this distinction pointedly saying, "Phil is about public service, not self-service... We don't need lifetime politicians fighting for us at a time when our institutions are under attack."

That message may find traction with voters fatigued by performative politics and constant ideological escalation.

## How the Andrew-Leon team compares to the rest of the field

With Bruce Leon's exit and endorsement of Phil Andrew, the Democratic primary in Illinois' 9th Congressional District is increasingly sorting itself into distinct strategic and ideological lanes—each appealing to different segments of the electorate.

First is the Progressive Activist Wing, represented by candidates such as Mayor Daniel Biss and digital media figure Kat Abughazaleh. Their campaigns are energized by grassroots enthusiasm, strong social media engagement, and sharp critiques of national and international policy, particularly on immigration and foreign affairs. This lane reflects a growing activist base within the district.

Second is the Traditional Legislative Lane, anchored by candidates such as State Senator Laura Fine and local elected officials including

Bushra Amiwala. This group emphasizes experience in government, familiarity with legislative processes, and long-standing relationships within the Democratic Party. Their appeal lies in continuity and institutional knowledge.

However, in a crowded primary with multiple officeholders, former and current officials, there is a risk of fragmentation, with candidates competing for similar voters and differentiating themselves only at the margins.

Third is the Security-and-Solutions Coalition, now most clearly embodied by Phil Andrew and reinforced by Bruce Leon's endorsement. This lane is less ideological and more experience-driven, focused on public safety, community security, and restoring trust in institutions under strain. Andrew's background as a former FBI agent, counterterrorism expert, and hostage negotiator—combined with Leon's deep community roots and political organizing experience—creates a ticket that is both nationally informed and locally grounded.

What distinguishes the Andrew-Leon team is breadth rather than intensity. Leon himself has acknowledged that Andrew is able to connect with progressive-leaning voters through his advocacy on gun violence prevention and civil rights, while Leon brings established trust among moderate voters, Orthodox Jewish communities, and residents focused on combating antisemitism and hate crimes. Together, they bridge constituencies that are often addressed separately by other campaigns.

## As a coalition, they offer:

- ▶ Cross-faction appeal without ideological rigidity, reaching voters tired of constant political escalation
- ▶ Rare, real-world national security and crisis-management experience, uncommon in congressional primaries
- ▶ A unifying, listening-first tone, contrasting with more confrontational or media-driven campaign styles
- ▶ Deep credibility on antisemitism, hate

crimes, and community safety, issues of heightened concern across the district

In a multi-candidate primary where victory may hinge on assembling a strong plurality rather than a majority, consolidation is decisive. Leon's endorsement significantly reduces vote-splitting among moderates and pragmatists, while also signaling to undecided voters that Andrew represents a credible consensus choice. At this stage of the race, no other campaign has achieved a comparable level of alignment across ideological, geographic, and community lines.

## The broader political implications

Leon's highly publicized criticism of outside influence, including pressure from national lobbying organizations, has also reframed the race around transparency and local accountability. His joint statement with Andrew and other candidates calling for disclosure of outside spending resonated with voters wary of national groups shaping local outcomes.

By choosing Andrew after resisting pressure to withdraw, Leon reinforced Andrew's image as an independent candidate—not beholden to Washington interests or ideological litmus tests.

## Conclusion: Momentum with meaning

Bruce Leon's exit from the Illinois 9th Congressional District race is not a retreat—it is a recalibration. His endorsement of Phil Andrew strengthens a campaign already built on seriousness, service, and security, while signaling a path forward for voters seeking competence over conflict.

As the primary approaches, the Andrew-Leon alliance stands out not just for its combined strength, but for what it represents: a coalition rooted in experience, listening, and solutions at a time when many voters feel exhausted by division.

In a district that values both conscience and competence, that combination may prove decisive.









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by **Legendary Lakhbir Singh Lakha**

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# Hope for Paralysis

## How stem cell therapy is redefining recovery for India–US communities

By: Dr. Avi Verma

For millions of families worldwide, spinal cord injury has long meant a life defined by limits. Whether the injury occurs on an American highway or an Indian road, the prognosis has often been the same: paralysis is permanent. Modern medicine has focused on stabilizing patients and helping them adapt, but restoring lost movement has remained beyond reach.

That assumption is now being questioned by a landmark study from Japan. In a closely monitored clinical trial, a patient with complete paralysis was able to stand and take steps after receiving stem cell therapy. Though still experimental, the findings have sparked global attention—particularly among Indian and Indian-American communities, where neurological injuries remain a significant public health concern and families often navigate healthcare systems across borders.

### The Japanese study: A new scientific milestone

The study was conducted by researchers at Keio University in Tokyo, a global leader in regenerative medicine. Four adult men with severe spinal cord injuries participated in the trial.

Scientists used induced pluripotent stem (iPS) cells, created by reprogramming adult cells such as skin or blood cells into a highly flexible, embryonic-like state. From these, researchers developed neural stem cells, capable of forming nerve and support cells essential to spinal cord function. Millions of these cells were carefully implanted into the injured areas of the patients' spinal cords.

### Observed results

- ▶ One patient regained the ability to stand and practice walking independently
- ▶ Another showed improved movement in arms and legs
- ▶ Two experienced limited improvement
- ▶ No serious treatment-related complications were reported

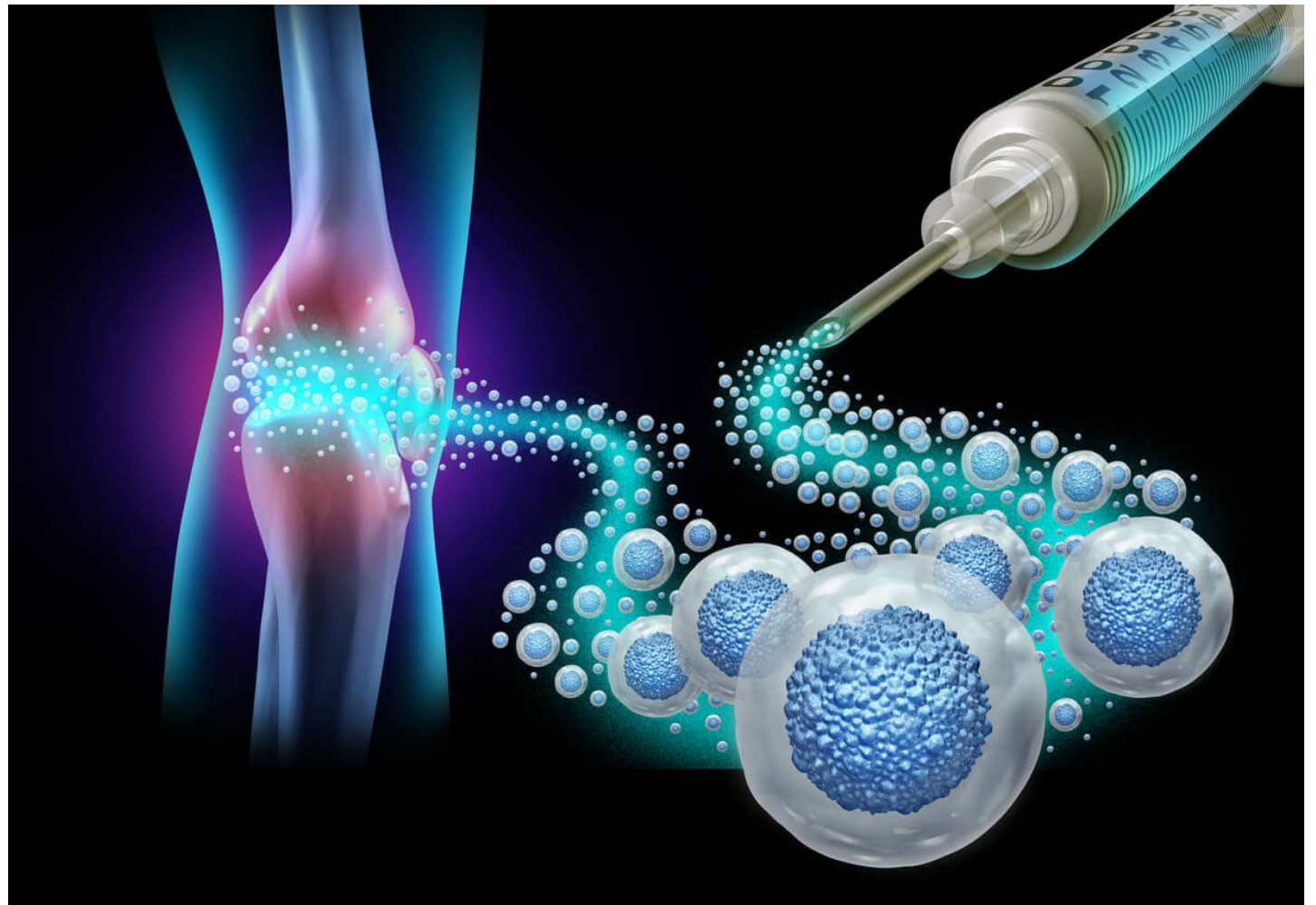
The primary aim of the trial was safety, and on that front, the results were encouraging.

### How stem cell therapy works

When the spinal cord is damaged, communication between the brain and body is disrupted. Nerve pathways are severed, scar tissue forms, and signals that control movement and sensation cannot pass through.

### Stem cell therapy seeks to address this at a biological level. In this approach:

- ▶ iPS cells are converted into early-stage neural cells
- ▶ These cells are placed at the injury site
- ▶ They may help by replacing damaged nerve cells, supporting surviving neurons, and encouraging reconnection



of nerve pathways

Unlike traditional treatments that focus on managing disability, stem cell therapy aims to repair the damage itself.

### Why this matters for India–US communities

Spinal cord injuries often strike people in their most productive years. In both India and the United States, common causes include road accidents, workplace injuries, sports trauma, and falls among the elderly.

For Indian and Indian-American families, the burden is often shared across continents—financially, emotionally, and medically. Long-term caregiving, loss of income, and limited mobility affect entire households.

### Even partial recovery can:

- ▶ Reduce dependence on caregivers
- ▶ Improve mental and emotional well-being
- ▶ Lower the risk of complications such as infections and bone loss
- ▶ Restore dignity and independence

For families long told recovery is impossible, this research introduces something new: credible hope grounded in science.

### Is this treatment available in the United States?

In the U.S., stem cell therapy for spinal cord injury remains experimental.

- ▶ Research is ongoing at institutions such as the Mayo Clinic, Stanford, and UCLA
- ▶ Treatments are available only through

FDA-regulated clinical trials

- ▶ No stem cell therapy for paralysis is approved for general clinical use

Experts warn patients to be cautious of private clinics advertising “miracle cures,” many of which operate without FDA approval or scientific validation.

### Is this treatment available in India?

India has a strong foundation in biomedical and regenerative research, but similar safeguards apply.

- ▶ The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) permits stem cell use only within approved clinical trials
- ▶ Stem cell therapy for spinal cord injuries is not standard medical practice
- ▶ Some academic hospitals are conducting early-stage research, but outcomes vary

While India offers advanced care at lower cost, unregulated clinics have also emerged, making patient awareness essential.

### A shared warning against false hope

For diaspora families, the emotional pull of experimental therapies can be strong—especially when treatment options differ between countries. Medical experts stress:

- ▶ Avoid clinics promising guaranteed recovery
- ▶ Verify regulatory approvals
- ▶ Seek multiple expert opinions
- ▶ Rely on peer-reviewed research, not testimonials

Hope must always be paired with evidence.

### Japan's role and global collaboration

Japan's leadership in regenerative medicine stems from Nobel Prize-winning research

by Dr. Shinya Yamanaka, who pioneered iPS cell technology. His work made it possible to explore nerve regeneration without ethical concerns tied to embryonic stem cells.

For India and the United States, this breakthrough opens doors to future collaboration—shared trials, data exchange, and global standards that could accelerate safe progress.

### Conclusion: A future reimaged

The steps taken by a paralyzed patient in Japan represent more than a medical achievement—they signal a shift in how humanity views the nervous system's capacity to heal.

For Indian and Indian American families, this research offers cautious optimism. While stem cell therapy is not yet a cure, it suggests that paralysis may one day be treated not only through adaptation, but through repair.

As science advances, the challenge will be ensuring access, regulation, and integrity—across borders and communities. The future of paralysis treatment may still be unfolding, but for the first time in decades, it is unfolding with hope.

### Disclaimer

*The medical treatment discussed in this article is part of an early-stage clinical study. While initial results are promising, stem cell therapy for spinal cord injuries is not yet an approved or standard treatment. Large-scale clinical trials are still required to confirm its safety, effectiveness, and long-term outcomes. This article is for informational purposes only and should not be considered medical advice.*



# Personal finance insights: News & Features

● Dr. K C Gupta, YBB Personal Finance

## CONTRARIAN INDICATORS

AAII Bull-Bear Spread +21.3% (above average)  
CNN Fear & Greed Index 62 (greed)  
NYSE %Above 50-dMA 76.08% (overbought)  
SP500 %Above 50-dMA 72.00% (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 3.67%, 1-yr 3.55%;  
T-Notes 2-yr 3.59%, 5-yr 3.82%, 10-yr 4.24%; T-Bonds 30-yr 4.83%;  
TIPS/Real yields 5-yr 1.43%, 10-yr 1.91%, 30-yr 2.58%  
FRNs Index 3.602%

**Bank Rates** [www.depositaccounts.com/](http://www.depositaccounts.com/)

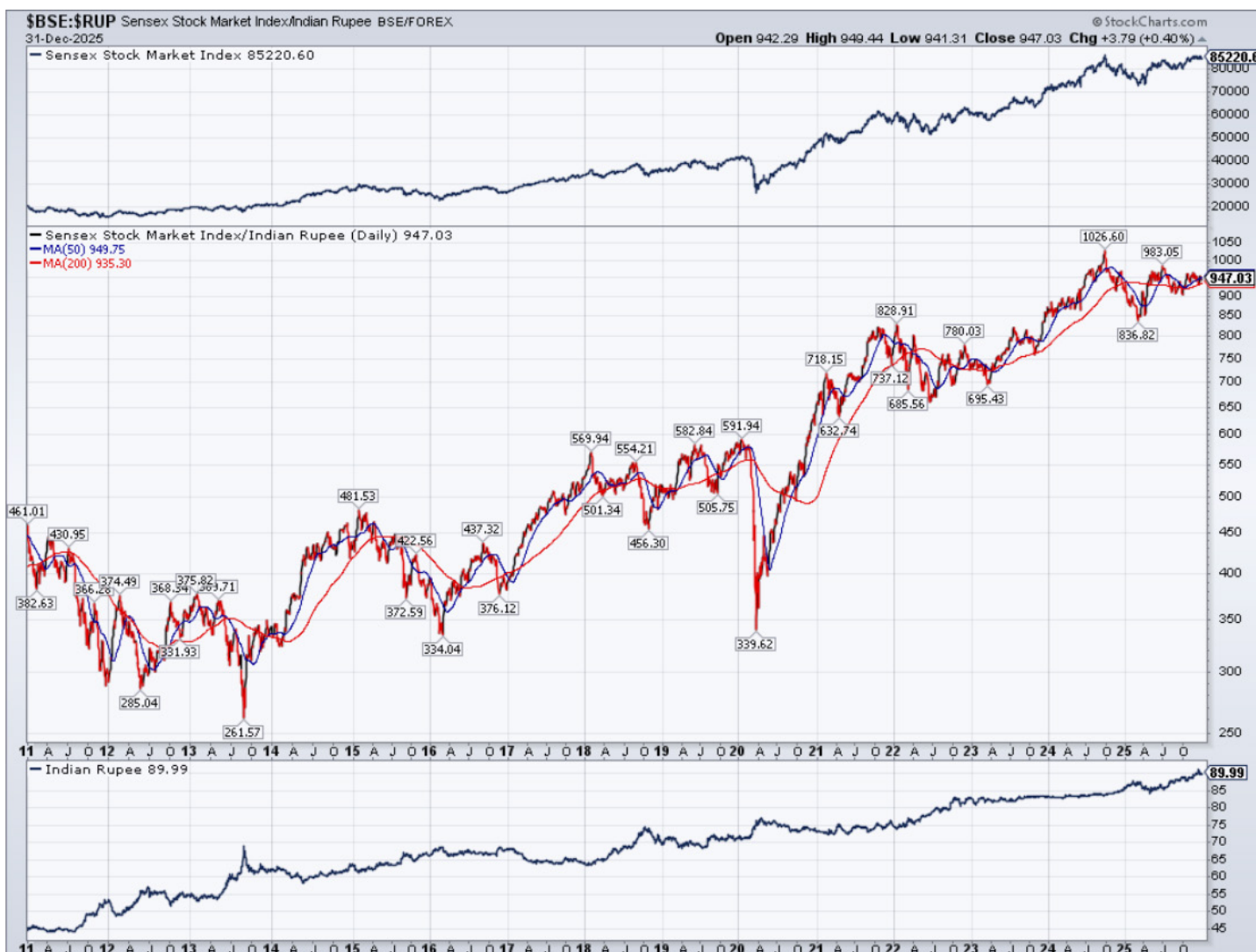
Stable-Value (SV) Rates, 1/1/26  
TIAA Traditional Annuity (Accumulation) Rates  
Restricted RC 5.00%, RA 4.75%  
Flexible RCP 4.25%, SRA 4.00%, IRA-101110+ 3.50%  
TSP G Fund 4.250% (previous 4.125%)

India Fear & Greed MMI 22.89 (extreme fear)  
Weekly ETFs: INDA -0.61%, INDY -0.71%, EPI -0.29%, INDH -0.26%, SPY -0.35%

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

## ECONOMY

Indian economy is growing rapidly at 6-8% (real) annually & is #4 by GDP now: #1-US, #2-China, #3-Germany,



#4-India, #5-Japan. But India has low GDP per capita.

US remittance tax of 1% for "physical" money transfers via cash, cashier's checks or money orders by noncitizens is effective in 2026. It won't apply to "electronic/online" transfers via bank accounts, credit/debit cards, Apple Pay, Google Pay, etc. The remittance services are responsible for collecting this tax, if applicable, so ask them if in doubt.

Nonbank financials are growing in India, as elsewhere globally. The nonbank financial credit was 33% of the total credit in 2025. This global development has been in response to tighter regulations of banking post-GFC. But as banks have withdrawn from lending in certain risky areas, nonbank financials have filled in the vacuum.

## FUNDS

Indian ETFs are growing rapidly. Their

AUM doubled in 3 years, 10/2022 - 10/2025 & their trading volumes have risen faster. Most of the ETF AUM is in equities, some in fixed-income & 15% in gold & silver. Be careful with foreign ETFs that trade at premiums because of national restrictions on how much foreign stocks Indians can own; this premium would disappear on the day that limit is increased.

## SPECIAL TOPICS INDIAN STOCKS - DOMESTIC & FOREIGN VIEWS

How is the Indian stock market doing?

It depends on who you ask.

From the US charting software StockCharts, a chart with 3 panels is shown above for 12/31/10 - 12/31/25.

Link: <https://schrts.co/CHPVPjhQ>

The top panel is the BSE Sensex Index in rupees as seen by investors in India (\$BSE in StockCharts). This is the nominal or default view.

In the middle panel is the BSE index as seen by US investors (\$BSE:\$RUP in StockCharts). It's the BSE index in rupees divided by the conversion rate for \$1 to rupees; 50-dMA & 200-dMA are also shown. By changing the conversion to other currencies, e.g. euro, UK pound, Japanese yen, etc, similar charts as seen by investors in other countries can be obtained - limited space here doesn't permit presentation of those.

The bottom panel is the rupee exchange rate for \$1. A rising chart means falling rupee - as there are more rupees for \$1.

Because Indian rupee is depreciating rapidly, the Indian (nominal) and US views of the Indian stock market are quite different. The nominal market reached new all-time highs in 12/2025 & that made Indian investors very happy, but for the US investors, the all-time high was in 09/2024. The experience has been similar for investors from other countries. While 2024 was a good year for both Indian & foreign investors, the rally in 2025 was only for the Indian investors, not the foreign investors.

A conundrum expressed in Indian media is why the rallying Indian stock market doesn't attract large foreign fund flows? Falling rupee is the answer. Nonetheless, many US (& global) financial firms have entered the Indian market to serve its growing investing class. These firms' businesses are asset-fee-based, so, good fund performance will attract more AUM (assets under management). They also hope that soon, more Indian investment funds will shift from bank accounts, gold & real estate into stocks & bonds - as has been the trend elsewhere. Indian Government has also relaxed the rules on foreign ownerships of Indian financials.

There are several India ETFs in the US, but only the newer & tiny INDH (05/2024- ; ER 0.63%) hedges rupee. It has large-cap-growth orientation with 49% in top 10 holdings & is nondiversified. Top sectors are financials, consumer cyclicals, energy, technology. The other India ETFs in US include INDA, INDY, EPI, etc.

For more information,  
see [www.ybbpersonalfinance.proboards.com](http://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!

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# Winter workwear you'll actually want to wear 8 trends to rock your 9-to-5

**C**old-weather office dressing does not have to mean bland neutrals and bulky layers. This winter, the 9-to-5 wardrobe is all about smart layering, bold silhouettes, and statement details that make even the frostiest commute look runway-ready. From tailored classics to playful textures, here is how to work the season's hottest trends into your everyday office style.

## Tailored trousers with a twist

Forget stiff pants that cling. Opt for draped wool blends and pleated wide-leg silhouettes. Layer a crisp button-down under a V-neck sweater to show off the collar and cuffs. Pair with loafers or kitten heels to stay polished and commuter-friendly.



## Collarless and longline blazers

Blazers ditch the boxy vibe for modern, collarless cuts or elongated shapes. Worn over slim turtlenecks with wide-leg trousers, they create an elongated silhouette. Pointed-toe flats or ankle boots keep the look sharp and practical.

are perfect for running late days. Pair with tonal boots and a soft coat and add a suede or leather bag for texture. Fair Isle patterns, ribbed knits, and cable details are all trending.

in winter whites or greys creates a polished modern look.

## Textured trousers and corduroy

Corduroy, pleated pants, or subtle patterns add tactile interest. Layer with a drapey vest or structured top and balance with heeled mules or ladylike bags.

confidence, versatility, and a touch of drama. Mix textures, play with proportions, and embrace color or pattern to make winter dressing bold, stylish, and Instagram-worthy.



## Statement pantsuits

Bright colors, pastels, checks, and herringbone patterns are your shortcut to winter-ready power dressing. Keep styling simple with a tee or fine-knit top underneath. Kitten heels provide comfort without sacrificing authority.

## Midi and A-line skirts

Winterize flowy silhouettes with wool or leather blends. Pair with oversized printed sweaters, bowler bags, and tall boots for warmth and movement. Pleated skirts in muted shades bring subtle drama without being over-the-top.

## Outerwear with edge

Oversized bombers, soft hoodie coats, and leather jackets update classic winter staples. Mix materials like suede, leather, or wool and finish with boots or statement bags to keep the look dynamic.

## Sweater dresses and knit ensembles

Cozy and versatile, sweater dresses

## Layered basics

White shirts over thin turtlenecks or bodysuits offer warmth and sophistication. Monochrome styling

This season's office style is about

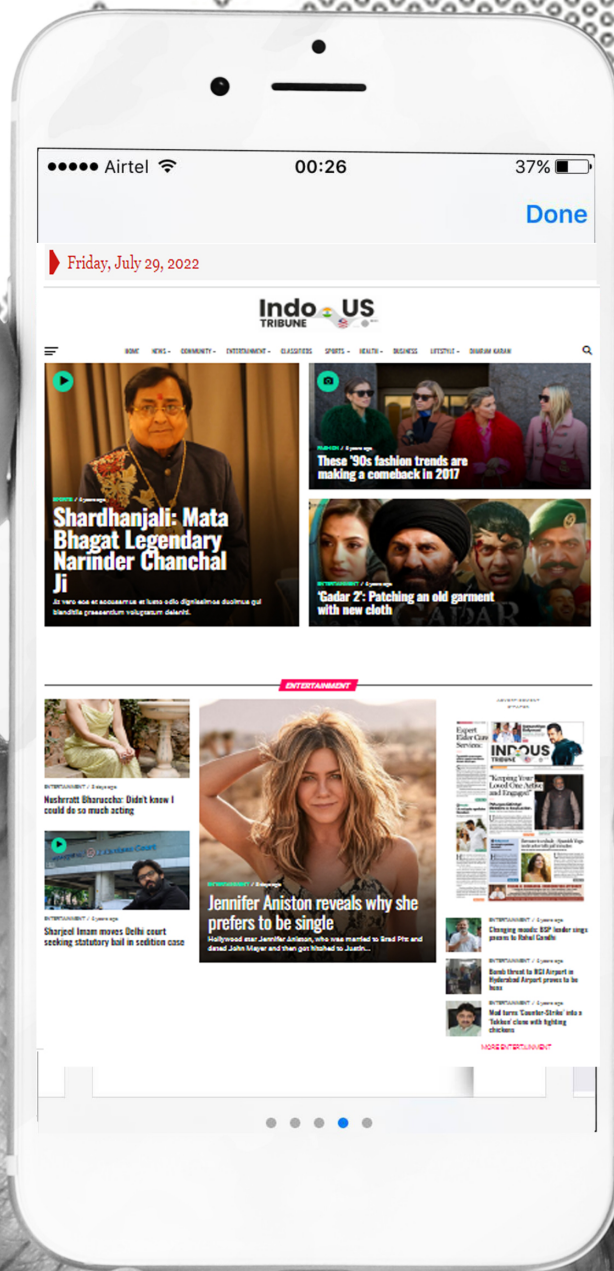
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