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H A P P Y New Year. 2026

As we turn the page on a new year, may we learn from the past, grow from our experiences, and strive to become the best versions of ourselves. I pray that God blesses each of you with strength, wisdom, and the grace to face whatever challenges lie ahead. Happy New Year!

Dr. Avi Verma



Indian agencies warn of ISKP expansion as Pakistan seeks deniable leverage



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Indian intelligence agencies have warned that Pakistan's intelligence establishment is backing the Islamic State Khorasan Province as a deniable proxy against India, particularly in Jammu and Kashmir. Officials say Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence has facilitated coordination between ISKP and Lashkar-e-Taiba to counter militant groups such as the Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan and the Balochistan Nationalist Army. While current operations focus on Balochistan, agencies fear spillover into India. ISKP's Afghanistan-based structure offers Pakistan plausible deniability, officials said, even as propaganda publications openly outline plans to expand operations into Indian territory.

Hindu businessman critically injured in brutal mob attack in Bangladesh



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Hindu businessman was critically injured after being attacked and set on fire by a mob in Bangladesh's Shariatpur district on Wednesday night, according to local media reports. The victim, 50-year-old Khokon Chandra Das, was ambushed while returning home from his shop in Damudya and sustained severe burn and knife injuries.

Police said the attackers stopped his vehicle, assaulted him, poured petrol on him, and set him ablaze. Das escaped by jumping into a nearby pond and was rescued by local residents before being taken to hospital and later transferred to Dhaka for advanced treatment.

Authorities have identified two suspects and said efforts are underway to make arrests. The attack follows several recent violent incidents against Hindu men, raising growing concerns over minority safety under Bangladesh's interim administration.

New Year 2026 welcomed worldwide with spectacle, spirituality, and community spirit

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

As the world turned the page to 2026, celebrations erupted across continents, blending spectacular displays, cultural diversity, and spiritual reflection. From glittering fireworks in global metropolises to quiet prayers in sacred spaces, the start of the new year was marked with joy, hope, and togetherness.

Sydney, London, Paris, and New York dazzled with massive fireworks and lively street parties. In Sydney, the Harbour Bridge and Opera House became the centerpiece of a brilliant pyrotechnic show. London's Big Ben drew cheering crowds, while Paris's Champs-Élysées thronged with revelers. Times Square in New York witnessed its classic ball drop, attracting thousands eager to witness the historic moment.

Across the globe, local traditions added unique cultural flavors. In Japan, temple bells rang to usher in the new year, while in Australia, rhythmic drum performances accompanied festivities. Germany's skylines glimmered with laser shows, demonstrating how diverse cultures joined in a collective celebration of life, hope, and renewal. Even amid revelry, global concerns were present. In Russia, citizens expressed wishes for peace and the safe return of loved ones, highlighting a universal yearning for stability alongside the celebrations, according to ABC News.

In India, New Year 2026 was a vibrant mix of devotion and public spectacle. Millions flocked to temples such as Shri Harmandir Sahib in Amritsar and



numerous churches, offering prayers for prosperity, health, and well-being. Cities including Mumbai, Hyderabad, and Bengaluru saw landmark celebrations with music, fireworks, and enthusiastic crowds. Heightened security measures ensured safe enjoyment of the festivities.

Beyond urban centers, India's cultural tapestry was on full display. Tribal communities observed traditional rituals, including Gudi Padwa, symbolizing prosperity, and the Medaram Jatara festival celebrated by the Koya tribe, fostering deep community bonds.

Indian communities abroad mirrored these celebrations, blending local customs with traditional Indian festivities. Cultural programs in London and Toronto, as well as temple gatherings in Singapore and Dubai, reflected the global Indian community's spirit of joy and reflection, reports Rediff and ABP Live.

The dawn of 2026 saw the world united in celebration, balancing jubilant festivities with spiritual reflection and renewed optimism. For India and its diaspora, the new year was not only a moment of joy but also a reaffirmation of faith, culture, and community, signaling a hopeful start to a promising year.


UN chief issues New Year message in Hindi for first time, urges shift from military spending to development

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres warned that the world is surrounded by chaos and uncertainty in his New Year message released on Monday, calling on global leaders to prioritize development over military spending. The message was issued in Hindi text for the first time, with a separate video version also carrying Hindi subtitles, marking a milestone in efforts to promote the language at the United Nations.

Guterres said a safer world begins by investing more in fighting poverty and less in fighting wars, stressing that peace must prevail. He described a global landscape marked by division, violence, climate breakdown, and systemic violations of international law, while people increasingly question whether leaders are listening or ready to act.

Highlighting the imbalance in global priorities, Guterres said global military spending has surged to \$2.7 trillion, nearly thirteen times higher than total development aid and comparable to Africa's entire gross domestic product. As he prepares to conclude his term next year, he urged leaders worldwide to choose people and the planet over conflict.



Trump announces withdrawal of National Guard from Chicago, Los Angeles, and Portland

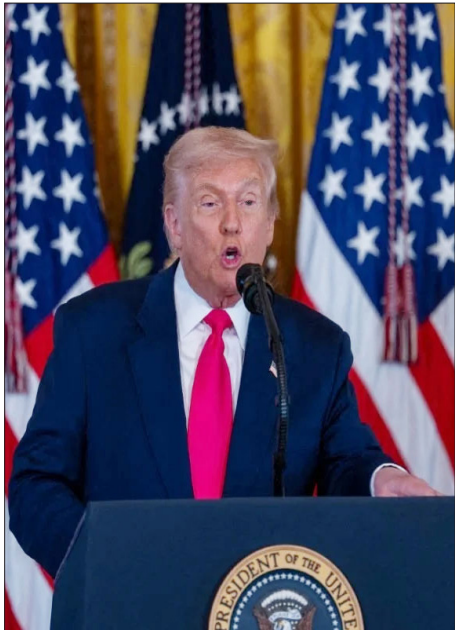
IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

President Donald Trump said on Wednesday that the National Guard would be withdrawn from Chicago, Los Angeles, and Portland, days after the United States Supreme Court ruled against his administration's deployment plans. Trump said crime had decreased during the Guard's presence but warned forces could return if violence rises again.

The decision followed a Supreme Court ruling that blocked the administration's attempt to deploy National Guard units in Illinois, citing a lack of legal authority. The dispute began in October when Guard members from Illinois and Texas were federalized for deployment in Chicago, prompting legal challenges from state officials.

Trump criticized Democratic leaders in the affected cities, accusing them of incompetence, while Democrats questioned the political motives behind the deployments. The administration had argued the move was necessary to protect federal immigration enforcement operations.

United States sanctions entities over alleged Iran Venezuela arms dealings



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The United States announced sanctions on Wednesday against ten individuals and entities based in Iran and Venezuela, accusing Tehran of supplying conventional weapons to Caracas. The State Department and Treasury said a Venezuelan firm was involved in selling Iranian-designed combat drones worth millions of dollars. President Donald Trump warned earlier in the week that Iran would face severe consequences if it resumed prohibited military activity, while also expressing openness to renewed diplomacy. Trump said intelligence indicated Iran may be seeking alternative locations after earlier United States strikes, calling any such move a serious mistake.

Yemen separatists warn of existential fight after Saudi air strikes in Hadramawt



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

UAE-backed separatists in Yemen on Friday warned they are fighting a decisive and existential war after Saudi air strikes hit their positions in Hadramawt province. The Southern Transitional Council said the attacks targeted a military camp in Al-Khasah, where several air strikes caused casualties, though exact figures were not confirmed. The warning came after the Saudi-backed governor of Hadramawt announced a so called peaceful operation to retake areas seized by the separatists last month. The governor said the move was not intended to escalate tensions. The developments highlight growing rifts within the Saudi-led coalition, as Riyadh and Abu Dhabi support rival factions in Yemen following years of civil war.

Jaishankar meets Pakistan's National Assembly Speaker on sidelines of Khaleda Zia funeral

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

India's External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar briefly met Pakistan's National Assembly Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq in Dhaka on Wednesday, on the sidelines of the funeral of former Bangladesh Prime Minister Khaleda Zia.

The meeting was confirmed through a photograph shared by Bangladesh Chief Adviser Muhammad Yunus, showing the two leaders exchanging greetings ahead of the funeral proceedings. Jaishankar arrived in Dhaka earlier on Wednesday to represent India at the state funeral of Khaleda Zia, Bangladesh's first woman prime minister. During his visit, he met her son, Tarique Rahman, and conveyed condolences on behalf of the Indian government and people.



He also handed over a personal letter from Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Jaishankar acknowledged Khaleda Zia's contribution to democracy and expressed optimism about strengthening India-Bangladesh ties

following the country's upcoming democratic transition. Khaleda Zia, a three-time prime minister and long-time leader of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party, died on Tuesday after a prolonged illness.

Zohran Mamdani sworn in as New York mayor pledging bold democratic socialist agenda

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Zohran Kwame Mamdani assumed office as New York City mayor on Thursday, promising to govern boldly as a democratic socialist focused on affordability and expanded public services. Senator Bernie Sanders administered the oath during a public ceremony at City Hall, praising Mamdani's victory over entrenched political interests.

Mamdani pledged free public buses, expanded childcare, government-run

stores, and rent freezes for regulated housing, vowing not to retreat from his principles. Earlier, he was formally sworn in at midnight during a private ceremony attended by family and close allies.

The city's first Muslim and South Asian mayor, Mamdani is the son of filmmaker Mira Nair and academic Mahmood Mamdani. He took the oath on two Korans and later attended a public celebration on Broadway, as tens of thousands braved subzero temperatures to mark the occasion.



Denmark and Faroe Islands begin joint presidency of Nordic Council of Ministers

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Denmark and the Faroe Islands formally assumed the presidency of the Nordic Council of Ministers on Thursday, outlining priorities centered on security, competitiveness, and reforming the Helsinki Treaty. Officials said the presidency aims to modernize Nordic cooperation to reflect participation by eight countries and territories.

Key focus areas include societal security, cross-border crime, supply chain resilience, digital safety for children, and economic competitiveness. Denmark's government reiterated support for greater inclusion of the Faroe Islands and Greenland as equal partners, while also recognizing the



autonomous status of Aland under Finland.

Faroese officials said the presidency would pursue a commission to update the Helsinki Treaty, which governs Nordic cooperation and was last revised in the 1990s. Leaders from Denmark and the Faroe Islands emphasized unity, describing Nordic cooperation as essential amid growing global uncertainty.

Kim Jong Un praises troops in Russia for strengthening alliance with Moscow

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un praised troops deployed to support Russia's war against Ukraine, saying their service has strengthened what he called an invincible alliance between Pyongyang and Moscow. In a New Year letter released on Thursday, Kim lauded the soldiers for defending North Korea's honor and urged them to prioritize safety. State media reported that more than ten thousand North Korean troops have been sent to Russia. Kim said their sacrifices had deepened military fraternity with Russia and expressed hope for their safe return home after completing their mission.

Merz urges Europe to defend interests amid global power shifts



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

German Chancellor Friedrich Merz said on Wednesday that Europe must assert its own interests more forcefully as global politics undergo a profound shift. In his New Year address, Merz cited changing relations with the United States, rising protectionism, and growing geopolitical instability. He called for stronger European defense capabilities and pledged economic reforms to boost Germany's competitiveness. Merz said Europe should not see itself as dependent on major powers and stressed that greater independence in security policy is necessary. He described the coming year as decisive for Europe's future strength and stability.



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BOOK

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Navigating a harder world

Entering 2026 with eyes open



Dr. Avi Verma

As we step into 2026, we do so without illusions. The past year made one thing unmistakably clear: the global order many assumed was permanent is no longer intact. What replaced it in 2025 was not chaos, but something more demanding—a world governed by leverage, transactions, and national interest, often pursued bluntly.

We thank our readers across continents for their trust during a year when clarity was scarce and narratives were contested. At this publication, our responsibility is not to comfort or alarm, but to explain—to separate momentum from noise, and policy from posture.

America first, reapplied
Donald J. Trump’s return to the White House in January 2025 marked not a sequel, but a consolidation. “America First” in its second iteration moved faster, deeper, and with fewer institutional hesitations. The administration wasted little time asserting control over trade, regulation, and the federal apparatus itself.

The introduction of a universal 10 percent import tariff signaled a structural shift rather than a negotiating tactic. Combined with the extension of the 2017 tax framework, the message was unambiguous: domestic production, capital retention, and revenue protection would take precedence over global price efficiency.

Perhaps more consequential was the creation of the Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE). Framed as a modernization drive, it triggered sweeping workforce reductions and aggressive digitization across federal agencies. Supporters saw overdue reform; critics warned of hollowed institutions. Either way, the administrative state was fundamentally altered.

Regulatory rollbacks followed, particularly in energy, finance, and manufacturing. Legal challenges mounted, but the direction of travel was clear: the federal government would act as an accelerator, not a referee.

A more transactional world
Globally, 2025 confirmed the erosion of a rules-based order in favor of selective engagement. Alliances became conditional, and commitments increasingly measured against immediate returns.

In Ukraine, Washington’s pivot toward strategic ambiguity—coupled with pressure on Europe to shoulder greater responsibility—left the conflict unresolved and the future of NATO deterrence under renewed scrutiny.



In the Middle East, U.S. policy narrowed its focus to containment and stability. Iran remained the central concern, maritime security took precedence, and energy flows were protected—even as the humanitarian catastrophe in Gaza deepened, testing America’s moral and diplomatic balancing act.

With China, rivalry hardened but stopped short of rupture. Technology controls tightened, trade disputes intensified, yet both sides acknowledged the cost of total decoupling. What emerged was an uneasy equilibrium: adversarial, interdependent, and managed.

Closer to home, Venezuela re-entered Washington’s strategic map. Expanded sanctions, coupled with visible naval signaling, reflected a revived doctrine of hemispheric assertiveness.

India–U.S.: From sentiment to strategy
No bilateral relationship better illustrates the contradictions of 2025 than that between India and the United States. Strategic alignment in the Indo-Pacific remained intact, yet economic friction reached levels unseen in decades.

By late summer, cumulative U.S. tariffs on Indian exports climbed to 50 percent—an outcome driven by reciprocal trade logic and punitive measures tied to India’s continued purchase of Russian oil. The impact was immediate. Labor-intensive sectors such as textiles, gems, and jewelry absorbed the shock, with exports dipping sharply through the second half of the year.

And yet, the partnership did not fracture.
Defense cooperation deepened. Intelligence sharing continued. Technology collaboration under initiatives like iCET remained a priority. Critical sectors—pharmaceuticals, semiconductors, and strategic manufacturing—were largely shielded, reflecting Washington’s own supply-chain dependencies.

What we are witnessing as 2026 begins is not a reconciliation, but a reset. The era of rhetorical alignment has given way to transactional realism. Mutual respect is now measured less by declarations and more by deliverables.

The trade question that defines 2026
The most pressing variable for India’s economic outlook this year is the prospect

of a bilateral trade agreement with the United States. After a year of tariff shock, negotiations have shifted from symbolism to arithmetic.

For many exporters, the burden of layered duties proved unsustainable. While diversification into Africa, the Middle East, and Europe offered partial relief, the U.S. remains India’s largest single-country export market.

Talks now center on concessions that reflect strategic necessity on both sides. India is leveraging its role as a counterweight to China. Washington is pressing for access in dairy, agriculture, medical devices, and digital services.

Energy has emerged as a key bargaining chip. Long-term Indian commitments to U.S. LNG and LPG imports are being positioned as evidence of good faith, while New Delhi seeks rollback of oil-related penalties. At the same time, protecting India’s dominant role in the U.S. generic drug market—essential for American healthcare affordability—has become non-negotiable.

A limited “first tranche” agreement by mid-2026 could stabilize markets, revive capital inflows, and arrest currency volatility that plagued late 2025.

Our role in an unsettled year
This is not a moment for complacency or cheerleading. It is a moment for serious analysis, disciplined reporting, and intellectual honesty.

In a world where narratives are weaponized and complexity is flattened for convenience, our commitment remains unchanged: to provide context, challenge assumptions, and foreground facts. We will continue to examine policy outcomes—not just intentions—and global shifts—not just headlines.

Thank you for reading, questioning, and engaging with us. We enter 2026 clear-eyed, realistic, and committed to serving an informed global readership.

Happy New Year.

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

Xi says China ready to work with nations to promote peace and development



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Chinese President Xi Jinping said on Wednesday that China is ready to work with all countries to advance global peace and development. In his New Year message, Xi highlighted China's climate commitments, global governance initiatives, and technological progress.

He said national reunification remains inevitable and reaffirmed support for the one country, two systems policy in Hong Kong and Macao. Xi pointed to advances in space exploration, renewable energy, and artificial intelligence as drivers of innovation. He said China's inventions and reforms have strengthened economic growth and improved quality of life.

Israel enforces new rules barring dozens of aid groups from Gaza and West Bank



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Israel said Thursday that new regulations restricting the operations of dozens of humanitarian organizations in Gaza and the West Bank have taken effect, despite strong objections from United Nations agencies and international aid groups. Officials said organizations were given ten months to submit staff details, with licenses revoked for those that failed to comply. An Israeli official said 37 groups were found noncompliant during a review by the Ministry for Diaspora Affairs. Israel maintains the measures are necessary to prevent support for militant activity.

A coalition of United Nations agencies warned the decision could severely disrupt humanitarian assistance, particularly in Gaza, where food insecurity and winter conditions remain critical. International organizations deliver nearly one billion dollars in aid annually, as Gaza continues to face widespread devastation and mounting civilian casualties.

US lawmakers introduce bill to establish annual Anti-Communism Week

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Legislation was introduced in the United States Congress on Thursday seeking to designate the first week of November as Anti-Communism Week and calling for an annual presidential proclamation honoring victims of communist regimes.

The bill was introduced in the Senate by Senator Rick Scott, with companion legislation in the House led by Representative María Elvira Salazar. Supporters said the measure aims to educate Americans about the historical impact of communism and honor more than 100 million people who died under such regimes. Senator Marsha Blackburn, a co-sponsor, said the initiative reinforces American values of liberty and individual freedom.

The bill would amend federal law to



formally recognize the observance but does not create new programs or funding. Backers

say it builds on a proclamation issued earlier this year by President Donald Trump.

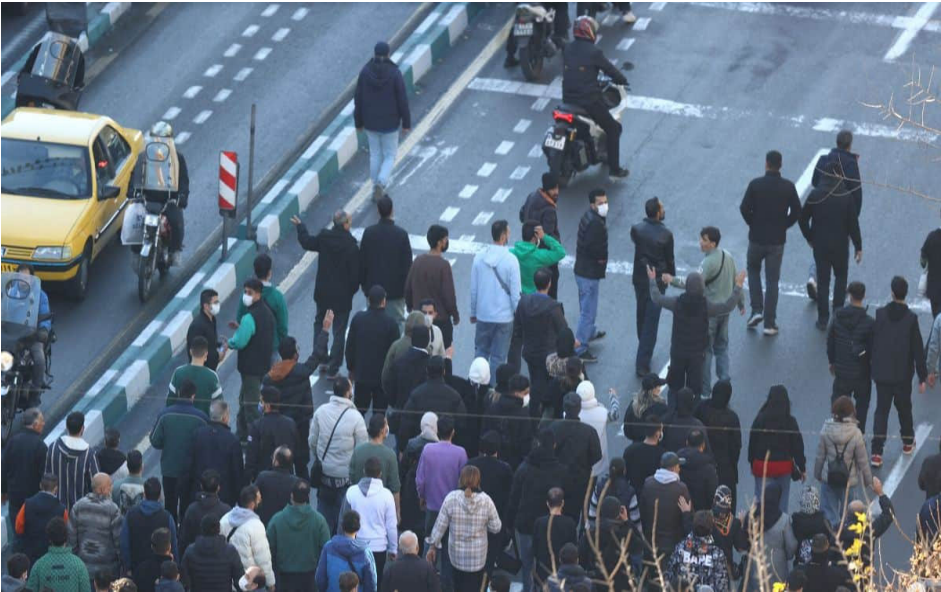
At least seven killed as economic protests spread across Iran

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Widening protests triggered by Iran's deepening economic crisis spread into rural provinces on Thursday, leaving at least seven people dead, according to authorities and rights groups. The fatalities, reported on Wednesday and Thursday, occurred in several cities largely populated by Iran's Lur ethnic community. Officials said both demonstrators and

security personnel were among the dead.

The unrest marks the most serious protests since 2022, though it has not reached nationwide levels. Violence was reported in cities including Azna, Lordegan, and Fuladshahr, where footage showed fires, gunfire, and crowds chanting slogans. Iranian officials blamed economic pressures such as inflation and currency decline, while warning against what they called unrest fueled by opportunistic groups.



Trump sets short deadline for Hamas to disarm, warns of severe consequences

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

President Donald Trump said on Monday that Hamas has been given a very short period to disarm, warning that failure to comply would lead to serious consequences. Speaking alongside Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in Florida, Trump said Hamas had already agreed to disarm under the broader peace framework.

Trump said United States officials,

including special envoy Steve Witkoff and adviser Jared Kushner, would oversee the process. He rejected suggestions that Israel was delaying its commitments, saying Israel had fully complied with the plan.

Trump warned that if Hamas fails to disarm, action could come from multiple countries involved in the agreement, not only Israel. Netanyahu praised Trump as Israel's strongest ally. Trump said regional peace efforts were made possible by actions taken against Iran and warned against renewed Iranian escalation.

Canada announces new \$1.83 billion support package for Ukraine

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney announced new financial support for Ukraine during a meeting with President Volodymyr Zelensky on Saturday, reaffirming Canada's commitment to Kyiv. The package totals \$1.83 billion and includes financing to support International Monetary Fund lending, debt service suspension, and loan guarantees. The leaders met in Halifax to discuss peace talks and Ukraine's security needs. Carney said the support aims to help Ukraine defend itself while also preparing for long term recovery and rebuilding. Both leaders also joined a call with European partners to coordinate security efforts. Zelensky later traveled to the United States for talks with President Donald Trump, where he is expected to discuss a proposed peace framework. He said Russia continues to delay negotiations and stressed the need for sustained international pressure.

South Park writer buys 'Trump Kennedy Center' domain to satirize name change

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

South Park writer Toby Morton purchased trumpkennedycenter.org to satirize former President Donald Trump's controversial renaming of the Kennedy Center. The site advertises performances by the "Epstein dancers," highlighting Morton's intent to use the domain for political commentary. Morton said he acquires domains tied to politicians to create "blunt, uncomfortable reflections" of power.

The Kennedy Center name change, challenged in court, has led to performer withdrawals and public debate over Trump's influence on cultural institutions. British satirists acquired a similar domain, further amplifying the parody.

Israel to award highest civilian honor to Trump for support and leadership



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu announced on Monday that President Donald Trump will receive Israel's highest civilian honor, the Israel Prize, citing his contributions to Israel and the Jewish people. Netanyahu said the award will be formally presented on Israel's Independence Day, marking the first time it has been given to a non Israeli.

Speaking at a joint appearance in Florida, Netanyahu said the decision reflects broad public appreciation in Israel for Trump's leadership and close cooperation during periods of conflict. Trump called the recognition a great honor and thanked Netanyahu, describing their relationship as a strong personal and strategic partnership.

Netanyahu praised Trump's willingness to break diplomatic conventions, crediting him with advancing regional agreements and strengthening security coordination. Trump, in turn, described Netanyahu as a wartime leader whose decisions helped preserve Israel during recent conflicts.

Hamas confirms killing of military wing spokesman in Israeli strike

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Hamas confirmed on Monday that its military wing spokesperson Abu Obeida was killed during Israeli military operations in Gaza. The announcement was made by a newly appointed spokesperson using the same nom de guerre during a televised statement.

Hamas said Abu Obeida, whose real name was Hudhaifa Samir Al Kahlout, was killed in an Israeli airstrike late in August. He had served as the group's military spokesperson since 2005 and became widely known after announcing the capture of Israeli soldier Gilad Shalit in 2006.

Israeli officials had earlier confirmed his death. Hamas also acknowledged the killing of several senior leaders, including Mohammed Sinwar. Meanwhile, Israel announced on Sunday that it has received its first operational high power laser air defense system, marking a new phase in its missile defense capabilities.

Maduro signals willingness for US drug talks but deflects on reported strike

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro on Thursday said his government is open to negotiating with the United States on combating drug trafficking, but he declined to comment on a reported US strike targeting a Venezuelan docking area allegedly used by cartels. In a pre-recorded interview with Spanish journalist Ignacio Ramonet, Maduro reiterated his belief that the US seeks to force regime change in Venezuela and gain control of its vast oil reserves through threats, intimidation, and months-long pressure, including a massive naval deployment in the Caribbean last August.

Maduro said Venezuela is ready for serious



talks with data in hand and welcomes US investment in its oil sector, including Chevron, which is currently the only major US company exporting Venezuelan crude. Asked about the alleged strike, he offered no confirmation, saying it might be discussed

in the coming days. The remarks come amid ongoing US operations targeting suspected drug-smuggling boats off Venezuela's Caribbean and Pacific coasts, which the Trump administration says are part of an "armed conflict" against cartels.

India sends six advanced ambulances to Afghanistan as health cooperation expands

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

India delivered a consignment of six ambulances equipped with modern medical equipment to Afghanistan on Sunday, strengthening ongoing health cooperation between the two sides. Afghanistan's Health Ministry spokesperson Sharafat Zaman Amarkhel said the ambulances will support emergency patient transport and improve urgent medical services across the country.

The delivery follows commitments made during talks in New Delhi on a Wednesday



in October between External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and Afghan Foreign Minister Mawlawi Amir Khan Muttaqi. Jaishankar had announced India would donate 20 ambulances along with medical imaging equipment, vaccines, and cancer medicines.

Earlier this month, Afghan Health Minister Mawlawi Noor Jalal Jalali met Indian Health Minister Jagat Prakash Nadda in New Delhi to discuss expanded cooperation. India has supplied more than 327 tons of medicines and vaccines to Afghanistan over the past four years.

European and Canadian leaders discuss US-led peace push on Ukraine war

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

European and Canadian leaders held talks on Tuesday to assess United States-led efforts aimed at ending the nearly four-year war between Russia and Ukraine. The virtual meeting followed recent discussions between President Donald Trump and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy in Florida, which Trump described as bringing the sides closer to peace.

Polish Prime Minister Donald Tusk said progress was possible but warned that a settlement was not guaranteed. German Chancellor Friedrich Merz emphasized the need for transparency, particularly from Moscow, amid renewed accusations between Russia and Ukraine over alleged



drone attacks. Zelenskyy announced plans for further meetings involving about 30 countries supporting Ukraine, known as the Coalition of the Willing. Russian officials denied Ukrainian claims and accused Kyiv of trying to sabotage negotiations. Analysts said competing narratives and unverified allegations continue to complicate diplomatic efforts.

Trump warns Iran against rearming, signals openness to renewed talks

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

President Donald Trump warned on Monday that Iran would face stronger consequences if it resumes prohibited military activity, while also signaling readiness for renewed diplomatic engagement. Speaking alongside Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in Florida, Trump said intelligence indicated Iran may be seeking new locations after earlier United States strikes.

Trump said renewed Iranian military buildup would threaten peace in the Middle East, adding that he remains open to direct talks if Tehran chooses diplomacy. He stressed that Iran's regional influence has been significantly reduced, contributing to broader stability. Netanyahu echoed Trump's assessment, saying Iran's weakened position has helped regional security.

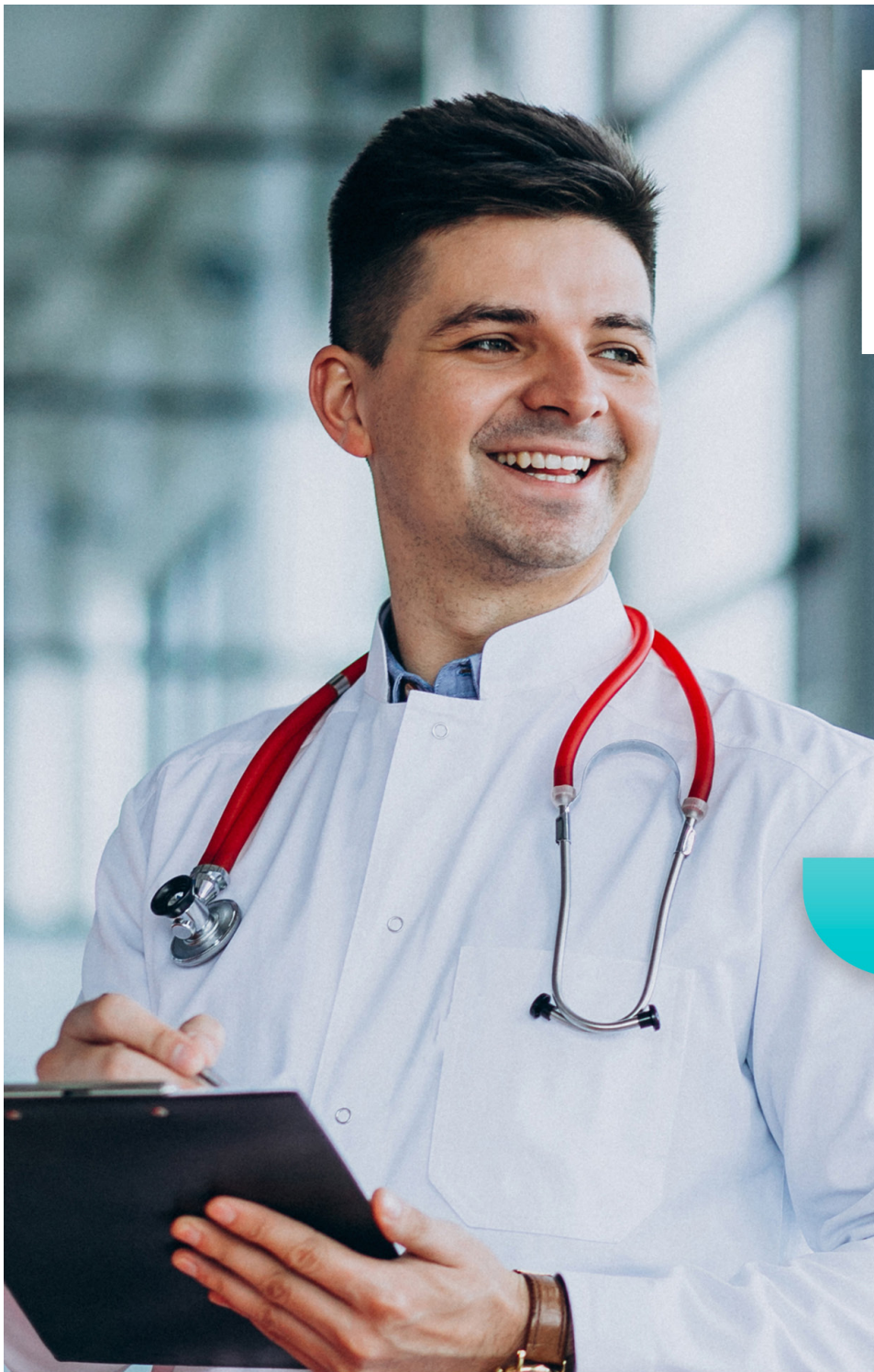
Trump also addressed Syria, praising its new leadership, and credited Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan for recent developments. On Lebanon, Trump said Hezbollah remains a concern and warned against further escalation.

Russia reiterates support for one China policy, rejects Taiwan independence

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Russia reaffirmed on Wednesday that it considers Taiwan an inalienable part of China and opposes any form of Taiwan independence. The Russian Foreign Ministry said the Taiwan issue is an internal matter for China and criticized countries it accused of using the issue to contain Beijing strategically and militarily.

Moscow said its position has remained unchanged and has been repeatedly affirmed at the highest level. The statement came as a United States Defense Department report warned that China is accelerating military preparations and applying sustained pressure on Taiwan to force reunification on Beijing's terms.



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Trump delays higher furniture tariffs amid ongoing trade negotiations

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

President Donald Trump signed a proclamation on Wednesday delaying planned tariff increases on upholstered furniture, kitchen cabinets, and vanities for one year, citing continued trade talks. The order keeps an existing twenty-five percent tariff in place but postpones steeper rates of thirty percent on furniture and fifty percent on cabinets and vanities. The higher duties were scheduled to take effect on Thursday. Trump has argued the tariffs are necessary to protect domestic manufacturing and national security. The decision reflects the administration's shifting trade strategy, marked by sudden tariff announcements followed by reversals. The move also came as the administration signaled it may scale back proposed duties on Italian pasta after industry objections and further review by the Commerce Department.

Trump defends health, clarifies CT scan in recent interview

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

President Donald Trump defended his health and energy in an interview published on Thursday, clarifying that he underwent a CT scan, not an MRI, during an October visit to Walter Reed National Military Medical Center. Trump said the preventive imaging of his heart and abdomen was routine but later regretted it because it fueled speculation about his condition. His physician said the scan showed no abnormalities and was recommended while Trump was already at the hospital. The White House said it had consistently described the test as advanced imaging. Trump also addressed visible bruising on his hand and ankle swelling, which doctors attributed to frequent handshaking and chronic venous insufficiency, a common condition in older adults.

Expired health subsidies trigger sharp insurance cost hikes for millions

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Millions of Americans entered 2026 facing sharply higher health insurance costs after enhanced Affordable Care Act subsidies expired overnight on Thursday. The tax credits had lowered premiums for more than twenty million enrollees, including many middle-class families and self-employed workers. Analysts estimate average premiums are rising by more than one hundred percent this year, with some households seeing costs double or triple. Efforts to extend the subsidies failed after months of political stalemate, including a lengthy government shutdown. Lawmakers may revisit the issue later this month, but no solution is guaranteed.

Severe winter storm batters U.S., soaks Rose Parade and snarls travel nationwide

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

A powerful winter storm swept across large parts of the United States on Wednesday and Thursday, disrupting New Year celebrations, soaking Southern California's iconic Rose Parade, and creating dangerous travel conditions from the West Coast to the Midwest.

In Pasadena, steady rain fell throughout Wednesday morning, dampening floats and crowds at the Rose Parade, a rare weather setback for the traditionally sunny New Year's Day event. Organizers said the parade went ahead as scheduled, though conditions were closely monitored for safety concerns.

The same storm system brought heavy snow and strong winds to higher elevations in California, Nevada, and Utah, prompting road closures and chain controls. Airlines reported hundreds of delays and cancellations on Thursday as snow, ice, and poor visibility affected major airports.

Further east, the storm spread across the Plains and Midwest, where forecasters warned of accumulating snow, freezing



rain, and hazardous driving conditions through Thursday night. Some school districts and government offices announced closures as a precaution.

Meteorologists said the system is expected to weaken as it moves east later Friday, but lingering snow and icy conditions could continue to affect travel. Authorities urged travelers to check forecasts, allow extra time, and avoid unnecessary trips in hard-hit areas.

Appeals court clears way for Medicaid funding block on Planned Parenthood

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

A federal appeals court on Monday allowed the Trump administration to withhold Medicaid funding from Planned Parenthood clinics in 22 states that challenged the policy. The ruling pauses a lower court order that had blocked enforcement of a one-year funding restriction included in a law signed by President Donald Trump in July. The provision bars Medicaid payments to large nonprofit providers that perform abortions, even though Planned Parenthood also offers services such as birth control and cancer screenings. States including California and New York argued the law was



unconstitutional and unfairly targeted the organization.

The appeals court said the federal government showed it was likely to succeed in defending the law. Planned Parenthood says the policy has already forced clinic closures.

Trump issues first vetoes of second term, blocking bipartisan bills

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

President Donald Trump issued the first vetoes of his second term on Tuesday, rejecting two bills that had passed Congress unanimously. One measure would have funded a long-delayed drinking water project for rural communities in eastern Colorado, where groundwater contamination has been a longstanding issue. Trump said the bill would have burdened taxpayers with costly and unreliable spending. Colorado Democrats criticized the move, calling it a blow to public health. The second veto blocked funding for a project protecting land used



by the Miccosukee Tribe in the Everglades.

It remains unclear whether lawmakers will attempt to override the vetoes, which would require two-thirds support in both chambers of Congress.

Judge blocks Trump move to end protections for South Sudan immigrants

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

A federal judge on Tuesday temporarily blocked the Trump administration from ending temporary protected status for immigrants from South Sudan, allowing hundreds to remain and work legally in the United States for now. The protections were set to expire next week, exposing about three hundred people to possible deportation. U.S. District Judge Angel Kelley ruled that the policy change warranted careful judicial review due to its far-reaching consequences. Civil rights groups argued the decision violated federal procedures and disproportionately harmed non-European immigrants. The Department of Homeland Security criticized the ruling, claiming conditions in South Sudan had improved. United Nations experts, however, say the country remains unstable, with widespread conflict, food shortages, and weak state institutions.

Five states to restrict soda and candy purchases under SNAP program

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

New restrictions on food purchases under the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program took effect on Thursday in five states, marking a major shift in federal food aid policy. Indiana, Iowa, Nebraska, Utah, and West Virginia are banning the use of benefits for soda, candy, and certain other items considered unhealthy. The changes were approved through federal waivers under the Trump administration's Make America Healthy Again initiative. About 1.4 million participants are affected. Officials say the goal is to address obesity and diet-related disease linked to sugary foods. Critics argue the limits reduce consumer choice and may be hard to enforce. Supporters say states should have flexibility to promote healthier eating habits among recipients.

Respiratory illness activity reaches high levels nationwide, CDC says

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Respiratory illness levels in the United States reached high levels for the first time this virus season, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said on Tuesday. Influenza activity is increasing across the country, while respiratory syncytial virus cases are rising, particularly among young children. Emergency department visits for flu are now classified as high, while visits linked to respiratory syncytial virus are moderate and increasing. COVID-19 activity remains lower but is also trending upward. Health officials urged people to consider vaccination and preventive measures such as frequent handwashing and avoiding close contact with sick individuals. The virus season typically intensifies during winter as more people spend time indoors.

Washington Monument lighting launches yearlong U.S. 250th anniversary celebrations



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

A large-scale lighting display at the Washington Monument on Wednesday marked the start of a yearlong national celebration of America's 250th anniversary. The projections, organized by Freedom 250, feature scenes from United States history and will continue nightly through early January.

President Donald Trump has pledged an expansive slate of events throughout 2026, including a major state fair on the National Mall, military ceremonies, and large fireworks displays. Organizers described the monument lighting as the opening moment of the anniversary year.

Additional celebrations will take place on Independence Day and other milestones leading up to July, commemorating the nation's founding and its historical legacy.

JFK granddaughter Tatiana Schlossberg dies at 35 after leukemia battle



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Tatiana Schlossberg, an environmental journalist and granddaughter of President John F. Kennedy, died on Tuesday at the age of 35, her family said. Her death came weeks after she revealed she was battling terminal acute myeloid leukemia. Schlossberg disclosed in a November essay that the cancer was discovered shortly after the birth of her second child, following abnormal blood tests. Her treatment included chemotherapy, a bone marrow transplant, and clinical trials. She wrote for major publications and authored a book on environmental impact. She is survived by her husband and two children.

Kamala Harris launches new political action committee ahead of 2026 races

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Former Vice President Kamala Harris announced on Monday the launch of a new political action committee called Fight for the People to support Democratic candidates in the 2026 elections. The group is a restructured version of her

2024 presidential campaign and will fund her travel and campaigning nationwide. Harris told supporters donations would be critical as she works to help elect Democrats. The committee is subject to contribution limits and disclosure rules. The move keeps Harris politically active amid speculation about a possible 2028 presidential bid.



Bondi vows investigations into alleged government abuse will continue

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Attorney General Pam Bondi said on Sunday that the Justice Department will continue investigating former officials over what she described as government weaponization under past administrations. She said prosecutors are examining cases nationwide and accused earlier leadership

of misusing legal authority against political opponents. Bondi pointed to investigations involving President Donald Trump as examples of excessive actions. Several cases brought under her tenure against former officials have been dismissed in court, drawing criticism from Democrats, who argue the investigations are politically motivated. Bondi said no one should be above the law.



Trump signals broader crackdown after Minnesota social services fraud probe

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

President Donald Trump said on Wednesday that a federal investigation into alleged social services fraud in Minnesota is only the beginning, suggesting similar probes could expand to other states. Speaking during New Year's Eve remarks, Trump cited claims of billions of dollars in fraud tied to state programs.

Earlier this week, federal officials

froze certain child care payments to Minnesota following allegations of widespread misuse of funds. Health and Human Services officials said new documentation requirements will apply before payments are released. Minnesota officials pushed back, warning that the funding freeze could disrupt child care services. The state has previously been linked to large-scale fraud cases, including pandemic-era food aid schemes that resulted in dozens of convictions.

Judge blocks White House effort to cut funding for consumer watchdog



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

A federal judge ruled on Tuesday that the White House cannot allow funding for the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau to lapse, rejecting the Trump administration's argument that the agency lacks a legal funding source. Judge Amy Berman Jackson said the administration improperly attempted to starve the bureau of funds despite clear statutory authority. The ruling blocks efforts to furlough staff and dismantle the agency, which oversees financial institutions. Democratic-led states argued defunding would harm consumers. Republicans have long criticized the bureau, accusing it of politicized enforcement against banks and lenders.

Iowa special election could restore Republican Senate supermajority



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Voters in Iowa State Senate District 16 cast ballots on Tuesday in a special election that could restore the Republican supermajority in the chamber. The race follows the death of Democratic Senator Claire Celsi and features Democrat Renee Hardman against Republican Lucas Loftin. Republicans currently hold 33 seats to Democrats' 17 and lost their supermajority after a surprise Democratic win in August. Hardman has emphasized child care, housing, and health care affordability, while Loftin has focused on lowering taxes and cost-of-living concerns. The district had previously leaned Democratic.

California delays revocation of 17,000 commercial licences after Sikh truckers' lawsuit



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

California has postponed revoking 17,000 commercial driver's licences until March following a class-action lawsuit by Sikh and immigrant truckers. The action comes after the US Transportation Secretary warned of a potential \$160 million federal funding loss if a January 5 deadline to revoke licences was missed.

The state had issued notices after pressure to ensure that undocumented immigrants were not granted commercial licences. The Sikh Coalition and Asian Law Caucus argued that many drivers were legally qualified and being unfairly targeted. Immigrants account for about 20 percent of US truck drivers, with roughly 200,000 holding non-domiciled commercial licences. Legal representatives hailed the delay as a critical step to protect drivers' livelihoods while authorities review compliance.

India flags US visa delays amid expanded H-1B and H-4 scrutiny



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

India has raised concerns with the United States over delays and disruptions in scheduling visa appointments for Indian nationals, following expanded US scrutiny of H-1B and H-4 visas. MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said the delays have caused hardship to families, children's education, and personal lives.

The US has expanded review processes for specialty occupation visas and dependents, including online presence checks. Applicants are advised to expect longer processing times. India emphasized engagement with US authorities to mitigate the impact on citizens, noting that recent changes, including a new weighted selection process for H-1B visas, affect a significant portion of Indian professionals seeking employment in the United States.

India launches One Stop Centre for Women in Canada to assist distressed nationals

● Staff Writer, IndoUS Tribune

The Indian Consulate General in Toronto has inaugurated a One Stop Centre for Women (OSCW) to support Indian women in distress in Canada. The centre will address issues including domestic violence, abuse, family conflicts, abandonment, exploitation, and legal challenges. Operating from the Indian mission in Toronto, the OSCW will provide coordinated, beneficiary-focused assistance, including immediate counseling, psycho-social support, legal guidance, and access to relevant community resources, all within the framework of Canadian law. A woman Centre Administrator will oversee 24-hour helpline services, working with empanelled NGOs and offering financial assistance on a means-tested basis under Government of India rules.

The initiative follows the murder



of 30-year-old Indian-origin woman Himanshi Khurana in Toronto. The Consulate expressed deep condolences and confirmed that officials are working closely with Canadian authorities to support her family and ensure justice.

Indian national challenges US immigration detention in California court

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

A federal judge in California has directed US immigration officials to justify the detention of Indian national Naveen Naveen, allowing his legal challenge to move forward. The order, issued on December 24, follows a habeas corpus petition filed by Naveen contesting the legal basis of his continued detention.

Naveen, who entered the United States from Mexico in April 2023 without inspection, disputes the government's claim that he is subject to mandatory detention under section 1225(b)(2)(A) of the Immigration and Nationality Act. He argues that his case should fall under section 1226(a), which allows release on bond while proceedings are pending.

Judge Andrew G. Schopler noted that the



petition has sufficient potential merit and cited similar federal court decisions across the US favoring detainees or questioning government interpretation. The ruling prevents summary dismissal and allows the case to proceed for further review.

Indian-origin billionaire Jayshree Ullal tops Hurun Rich List 2025

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Jayshree Ullal, president and CEO of Arista Networks, has become the world's richest Indian-origin woman entrepreneur, topping the Hurun Rich List 2025 with a net worth of \$5.7 billion. Her fortune surpasses tech giants including Satya Nadella and Sundar Pichai, whose net worth is \$1.1 billion.

Born in London and raised in New Delhi, Ullal earned degrees in Electrical Engineering and Engineering Management in the United States. Her career spans AMD, Fairchild Semiconductor, and Cisco Systems, before joining Arista Networks in 2008. Under her leadership, Arista's revenue rose to \$7 billion in 2024. Ullal has earned numerous accolades, including Ernst & Young's Entrepreneur of the Year



award and Fortune's Top 20 Business Persons list. Her success is hailed as an inspiration for women entrepreneurs in male-dominated tech industries.

North American Punjabi Association opposes 'Bal Veer' term for Sikh martyrs



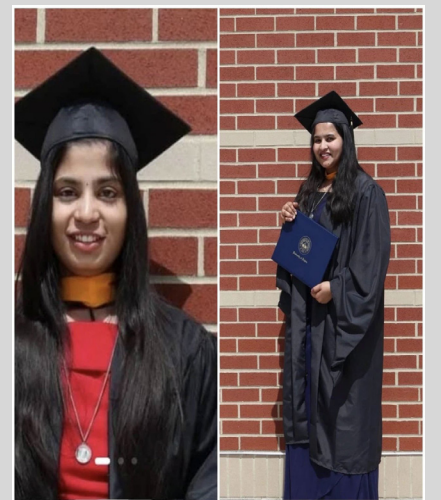
● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The North American Punjabi Association (NAPA) has opposed the use of the term "Bal Veer" for the Sahibzade, sons of Guru Gobind Singh, stating it misrepresents their spiritual and historical significance.

NAPA Executive Director Satnam Singh Chahal said the Sahibzade were spiritually aware martyrs who sacrificed their lives to uphold Sikh values, and the term "Bal Veer" oversimplifies their legacy.

The association urged organizations to use historically accurate terms such as Sahibzade, Shaheedi Sahibzade, or Chhote Sahibzade, emphasizing the importance of correct terminology for preserving Sikh history, particularly for younger generations.

Two Telangana women pursuing US careers killed in California car crash



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

A car accident in California claimed the lives of Pullakhandam Meghana Rani and Kadiyala Bhavana, both 24, from Telangana, who had recently completed their Master's degrees and were seeking employment in the United States. The accident occurred while they were returning from a trip with friends.

Authorities are investigating the crash, and efforts are underway to repatriate the women's remains. Meghana's father runs a Mee-Seva centre in Garla, while Bhavana's father is Deputy Sarpanch of Mulkanoor village. A GoFundMe page has been set up to support repatriation expenses, with the families expressing gratitude for any contributions to ensure a dignified farewell.

Indian-origin student arrested in US for arson and terroristic threat



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Manojh Sai Lella, a 22-year-old Indian-origin student at the University of Texas at Dallas, has been arrested on charges of arson and terroristic threat against family members. Authorities responded after family members reported a mental health episode and alleged threats, and said Lella had allegedly attempted to set the home on fire days earlier.

Lella faces first-degree felony arson with intent to damage a habitat or place of worship and a Class A misdemeanor for terroristic threats. Police noted there was no evidence of a threat to any place of worship. Bond was set at \$100,000 for arson and \$3,500 for the terroristic threat charge.

Indian-American lawmaker condemns lynching of Hindu factory worker in Bangladesh



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Indian-American Congressman Ro Khanna has condemned the killing of 27-year-old Hindu garment factory worker Dipu Chandra Das in Bangladesh, calling it a “horrific” act of hatred and bigotry. Das was lynched by a mob and his body set on fire in Baluka, Mymensingh district, over alleged blasphemy. Twelve arrests have been made in connection with the case.

Khanna urged the global community to speak out against such violence. The United Nations also expressed concern, with spokesperson Stephane Dujarric emphasizing that minorities must feel safe in Bangladesh. The incident has drawn international attention to attacks on religious minorities in the country.

Zohran Mamdani’s New York inauguration celebrates South Asian roots with Punjabi music

Staff Writer, IndoUS Tribune

Zohran Mamdani’s inauguration as New York City’s first Muslim mayor concluded with a lively performance by Punjabi artist Babbulicious, highlighting the mayor’s South Asian heritage.

Mamdani, 34, born to an Indian mother and a Ugandan father of Indian origin, has consistently engaged with the desi diaspora, including posting campaign videos in Hindi and playing the Bollywood hit “Dhoom Machale” during his victory speech.

His inauguration featured a diverse musical lineup: DJ mOma’s welcome set, Grammy-winning singer Lucy Dacus performing “Bread and Roses,” Mandy Patinkin with the PS22 Chorus of Staten Island performing “Somewhere Over the Rainbow,” and finally Babbulicious, a Toronto-based singer, performing the Punjabi song “Gaddi Red Challenger.”

Mamdani, his wife Rama Duwaji, and



hundreds of attendees were seen enjoying the performance.

The inclusion of Punjabi music sparked mixed reactions online. Some users objected to the non-English performance, while others clarified that Babbulicious is a Sikh, not Muslim, and defended the celebration as a reflection of cultural diversity.

Ten Indians confirmed dead in Russian army, four still missing, says man searching for brother

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Ten Indian youths who went abroad to earn a livelihood and later joined the Russian army have been confirmed dead, with four others still missing. Three of the deceased were from Punjab, while the remaining seven hailed from Uttar Pradesh and Jammu.

Jagdeep Singh, who traveled to Russia twice in search of the missing youths, returned to India after failing to locate them and presented documentation to Rajya Sabha member Sant Balbir Singh Seechewal, who confirmed the deaths with Russian authorities. Among the deceased are Tejpal Singh from Amritsar, Arvind Kumar from Lucknow, Dharendra Kumar from Uttar Pradesh, Vinod Yadav, Yogendra Yadav, and five others. The missing include Deepak, Yogeshwar Prashad, Azharuddin Khan, and Ram Chandra.



Singh first approached Seechewal in June 2024 to petition for the safe return of his brother Mandeep and others. Seechewal has appealed to the Indian government to halt recruitment of Indian youths in the Russian army and requested that the bodies of those who died be returned for final rites. He also called for strict action against travel agents deceiving youths into enlisting.

Indian worker wins race discrimination and wrongful dismissal case against UK KFC manager

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Madhesh Ravichandran, an Indian national from Tamil Nadu, has won nearly 67,000 pounds in compensation after an employment tribunal in south-east London ruled in his favor against Nexus Foods Limited. Ravichandran testified that his Sri Lankan Tamil manager repeatedly made racially abusive remarks, including calling him a “slave” and saying “Indians are fraudsters.” The tribunal found the claims of race discrimination and wrongful dismissal to be valid, noting that Ravichandran’s holiday requests were denied in favor of Sri Lankan Tamil colleagues and that he was forced to work excessive hours.

Judge Paul Abbott confirmed that the dismissal violated Ravichandran’s statutory



rights, awarding him 62,690 pounds in compensation, with additional payments for holiday pay and employment-related entitlements totaling approximately 66,800 pounds. The tribunal also mandated that Nexus Foods implement a workplace discrimination training program for all employees, including managers.

Indian student dies in Germany after jumping from apartment during New Year fire



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

A 25-year-old Telangana student, Thokala Hrushik Reddy, died in Germany after jumping from his apartment building to escape a fire caused by illegal fireworks during New Year celebrations.

Hrushik, from Malkapur village in Jangaon district, had been studying for an MS degree at the University of Europe for Applied Sciences in Magdeburg since June 2023. Reports say the fire produced heavy smoke and spread rapidly. Hrushik suffered severe head injuries and was pronounced dead at a nearby hospital.

His family has requested the Telangana government, the Ministry of External Affairs, and the Indian Embassy in Germany to expedite the repatriation of his body. German authorities are investigating the incident amid widespread misuse of fireworks in Berlin.

Air India pilot offloaded after Canada flags alleged alcohol use before Vancouver flight



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

A pilot with Air India was removed from a Vancouver-Delhi flight on December 23 after Canadian authorities flagged concerns that he was under the influence of alcohol.

Transport Canada stated that the pilot, Captain Saurabh Kumar, reported for duty on Flight AI186 but was prevented from operating the aircraft following intervention by local authorities.

Two breathalyzer tests conducted by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police confirmed the pilot’s unfitness for duty. The incident, which delayed the flight, may result in enforcement action under Canadian Aviation Regulations and Air India’s Foreign Air Operator Certificate. Air India confirmed the cockpit crew member was offloaded prior to departure.

Bulgaria begins euro era with brief dual currency transition



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Bulgaria officially adopted the euro as its national currency on Thursday, becoming the twenty-first member of the eurozone. During January, the Bulgarian lev will continue to circulate alongside the euro, with the euro becoming the sole legal tender from Saturday. From Thursday through the end of June, banks and post offices will exchange levs for euros free of charge, after which fees may apply. The Bulgarian National Bank said it will continue currency exchanges indefinitely. Mandatory dual pricing of goods will remain in place until August 2026. Officials expressed confidence that reduced transaction costs will help stabilize markets during the transition.

Grenade attack injures dozens during New Year celebration in southern Philippines

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

At least twenty-two people were injured after a grenade exploded during New Year celebrations in Cotabato province in the southern Philippines shortly after midnight on Thursday, police said. Witnesses reported that two men riding a motorcycle threw a fragmentation grenade into a crowd gathered along a national highway in Matalam town before fleeing the scene. The blast sent shrapnel into nearby revelers, mainly injuring their legs. Victims were taken to local hospitals for treatment. Police launched a manhunt and tightened security in the area. Authorities said investigations are ongoing to identify those responsible.

Saudi Arabia executions reach record high amid intensified war on drugs

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Saudi Arabia executed 356 people in 2025, setting a new record, with 243 of those in drug-related cases. Analysts attribute the rise to the kingdom's intensified "war on drugs," which resumed executions for narcotics offenses in late 2022 after a three-year pause.

Most executed were foreigners, while authorities maintained that all appeals were exhausted before carrying out sentences. Rights groups criticized the use of capital punishment, saying it clashes with Saudi Arabia's attempts to present a modern image under Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman's Vision 2030, despite the government citing public order concerns as justification.

About 40 people dead and 115 injured in fire at Swiss Alpine bar during New Year's celebration

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Dozens of people were feared dead and more than 100 injured after a powerful explosion followed by a major fire tore through the 'Le Constellation' bar at the Crans-Montana ski resort in Switzerland's Valais canton on New Year's Eve, authorities said on Thursday. The blast caused widespread destruction and left many victims with serious injuries, prompting a large-scale emergency response.

Valais canton police said the injured were taken to hospitals in Sion and other cities as intensive care units and operating rooms reached capacity. Helicopters and ambulances, including support from neighboring countries, were deployed to evacuate casualties and assist overwhelmed medical services.

The cantonal government declared a special emergency situation to allow rapid



mobilization of police, fire, and medical resources over several days. Officials urged the public to avoid the affected area and said a helpline had been set up for families seeking information.

Authorities said an investigation into the cause of the explosion is underway, but ruled out a deliberate attack. Swiss President Guy Parmelin postponed his New Year address and expressed condolences to the victims and their families.

United Nations adopts reduced 2026 budget amid cash crisis and job cuts

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The United Nations began 2026 with a sharply reduced regular budget of \$3.45 billion as it grappled with a severe cash shortage and planned job cuts, officials said on Wednesday. The General Assembly approved a budget broadly aligned with Secretary-General Antonio Guterres' proposal, though slightly higher than his original request of \$3.238 billion.

The budget is about \$270 million lower than the previous year and applies only to core United Nations operations, excluding peacekeeping missions and specialized agencies such as the World Health Organization and UNESCO. As part of cost-cutting measures, about 2,900 positions were abolished on Friday, while



roughly 1,000 staff members agreed to leave voluntarily.

United Nations officials said unpaid dues stood at \$1.586 billion as of early December, worsening liquidity pressures. The United States remains the largest contributor, followed by China, while India's assessed share is just over one percent.

United States Indo-Pacific commander urges stronger alliance message to deter aggression

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The commander of the United States Indo-Pacific Command on Friday called on South Korea and the United States to further strengthen their combined defense posture in the new year, stressing the need to send a clear warning to adversaries about the cost of aggression. Admiral Samuel Paparo Jr. made the remarks in a New Year's message released through the Korea United States Alliance Foundation and the Korea Defense Veterans Association. His comments came as Washington encourages regional allies to help safeguard the First Island Chain, a key strategic perimeter in the Indo-Pacific. Paparo's message followed recent Chinese military mobilizations involving ground, naval, air, and missile forces around Taiwan earlier this week. Beijing described the drills as a warning against separatism and external interference, while the United States



State Department urged China to halt military pressure and pursue meaningful dialogue.

Paparo said Seoul and Washington reaffirmed their ironclad alliance through high-level meetings in 2025 and called for shared innovation to maintain peace and security across the Korean Peninsula and the wider Indo-Pacific region. United States Forces Korea Commander General Xavier Brunson also highlighted the alliance's enduring strength and readiness.

Sindhi leader appeals to United Nations over enforced disappearances in Pakistan



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Sindhi nationalist leader Shafi Burfat on Thursday urged the United Nations to intervene in what he described as the enforced disappearance of Sindhi political activists in Pakistan. Speaking from Germany, Burfat accused Pakistan's military and intelligence agencies of arbitrarily detaining activists involved in peaceful political movements. He said hundreds remain held without charges or legal process, leaving families unaware of their fate. Burfat named several activists he said remain in custody and called the detentions violations of international human rights law. He also criticized the international community for prioritizing strategic interests over accountability and justice for Sindh.

France records over 1,100 vehicle fires and hundreds of arrests on New Year's Eve



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

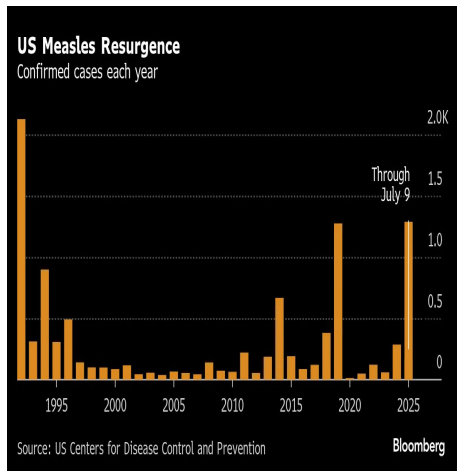
French authorities said on New Year's Eve more than 1,100 vehicles were set on fire across the country as millions gathered to welcome 2026. The Interior Ministry reported that police arrested 505 people, with 403 placed in custody, following incidents of vandalism and violence.

Law enforcement intervened rapidly under heightened security measures ordered nationwide. Officials said 1,173 vehicles were burned, up from last year, though most large public gatherings took place peacefully, including crowds of more than one million along the Champs Elysées in Paris.

Regional officials described a generally calmer night than the previous year, with fewer attacks on police, despite localized disturbances in parts of Strasbourg and Mulhouse.

Friday, 02 January 2026

United States records highest measles cases in more than three decades



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The United States reported more than two thousand measles cases in 2025, the highest annual total since 1992, according to data released on Friday by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. A total of 2,065 cases were confirmed across forty-four jurisdictions, with about eleven percent requiring hospitalization. Health officials reported forty-nine outbreaks, accounting for most infections, and confirmed three deaths. Measles was declared eliminated in the country in 2000, but rising outbreaks have raised concerns about losing that status. Public health officials continue to urge vaccination as the most effective means of prevention.

Kim Jong-un's daughter makes first public visit to family mausoleum

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

North Korean leader Kim Jong-un's teenage daughter, Ju-ae, made her first known public visit to the family mausoleum on Thursday, joining her parents at the Kumsusan Palace of the Sun, state media images showed on Friday.

The mausoleum houses the embalmed remains of Kim Il-sung and Kim Jong-il. Although state media did not mention her by name, photographs placed Ju-ae prominently beside her parents. South Korea's unification ministry confirmed it was the first publicly revealed visit involving Kim and his daughter. The appearance has fueled ongoing speculation about her future role in North Korea's leadership succession.

Life-threatening bushfire near Perth prompts emergency evacuation order

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Authorities in Western Australia issued an emergency warning on Thursday morning as a fast-moving bushfire burned near Perth Airport, prompting residents in several suburbs to evacuate immediately. The Department of Fire and Emergency Services said the uncontrolled fire posed a direct threat to lives and homes in the Kalamunda region, east of central Perth. Residents were urged to leave without delay and travel west if it was safe to do so, with officials warning that waiting could prove fatal. Those unable to evacuate were advised to shelter indoors in rooms with access to water and a clear exit path.

Russia and Ukraine trade accusations over civilian deaths on New Year's Day

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Russia and Ukraine accused each other of targeting civilians during New Year's Day attacks as fighting continued despite renewed diplomatic efforts. Russian-installed officials in southern Ukraine said a Ukrainian drone strike hit a hotel and café in the Kherson region, killing at least 24 people, including a child, and injuring dozens. Ukraine denied deliberately attacking civilians, saying its forces targeted only military and energy infrastructure. President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said Russia launched more than 200 drones overnight, striking energy facilities across multiple regions and killing at least one civilian in Ukrainian-held Kherson.

Moscow condemned the reported hotel



strike as a war crime, while Ukraine accused Russia of using the allegations to distract from battlefield setbacks. Independent verification of the claims was not possible. Both sides continued to report drone interceptions and damage as international pressure mounted to curb civilian casualties.

Australian PM orders independent review of Bondi Beach attack

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese announced on Monday the terms of an independent review into the deadly Bondi Beach attack, while rejecting calls for a royal commission. The review will be led by former intelligence chief Dennis Richardson and will examine whether security agencies acted effectively before the attack and if it could have been prevented.

The review is expected to be completed by April, according to public broadcaster ABC. Sixteen people, including the alleged gunman, were killed in the shooting earlier this month. Families of victims and opposition leaders have demanded a higher level inquiry. Albanese said an independent review would allow faster



action on urgent national security issues. New South Wales lawmakers have already passed tougher gun and protest laws in response to the attack.

After 17 years in exile, Tarique Rahman emerges as key Bangladesh election contender

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Tarique Rahman, the son of former Bangladesh prime minister Khaleda Zia, has returned to the country after 17 years in exile and is now seen as a leading contender ahead of elections expected early next year. Rahman, who has lived in London since 2008, has served as acting chairman of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party since 2018. With Sheikh Hasina's party barred from contesting and Khaleda Zia in poor health, analysts say Rahman has moved into a political vacuum. His return has drawn criticism over past corruption cases, though he was later exonerated. Supporters view his



homecoming as state facilitated and strategic. Rahman has sought to position himself as a moderate leader, promoting a "Bangladesh First" message and calling for a safe and inclusive nation.

Myanmar begins phased general election after years of civil conflict

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Myanmar launched the first phase of its 2025 general election on Sunday, marking the country's first nationwide vote since the outbreak of civil war five years ago. The election will be held in three phases, covering 692 constituencies and involving about 5,000 candidates from 57 political parties. Voters are electing members of the Union

Parliament and regional assemblies, with the new legislature later choosing a president. Authorities have set up more than 21,000 polling stations nationwide. The election introduces a mixed member proportional system and electronic voting machines for the first time. Overseas citizens have already cast advance ballots, and international observers are present. Officials also reported a rise in female candidates, attributing it to the proportional representation system.

Historic Amsterdam church gutted by overnight fire, residents evacuated

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

A major fire early Thursday morning nearly destroyed the Vondelkerk, a historic church in Amsterdam's Vondelpark, forcing the evacuation of nearby residents, Dutch authorities said. Flames broke out shortly before early morning hours in the church tower, sending burning debris into surrounding streets due to strong winds.

Firefighters worked through the night to control the blaze and prevent it from spreading to neighboring residential buildings. No injuries were reported, though dozens of people were temporarily displaced and sheltered nearby.

UK Home Office calls 41,000 Channel crossings 'shameful' as irregular arrivals rise

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

More than 41,000 people crossed the English Channel in small boats in 2025, the Home Office said, marking the second-highest annual total on record. The government described the crossings as "shameful" and emphasized steps to remove illegal migrants and disrupt people-smuggling gangs. While arrivals slowed in the final months, the total represented a 13% rise from 2024. Refugee groups warned that harsh measures, including longer waits for permanent settlement, could punish vulnerable people fleeing conflict. Political debates over migration policy and the effectiveness of deterrents remain deeply polarized.

Long neglect leaves Gilgit Baltistan struggling with basic services



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Pakistan occupied Gilgit Baltistan continues to suffer from decades of administrative neglect, with residents lacking basic services such as healthcare, electricity, clean water, and sanitation, according to a report cited on Saturday. The region has not had local bodies for nearly two decades, worsening governance challenges. Analysts say inadequate hospitals, a shortage of doctors, and limited medical equipment force many residents to seek treatment elsewhere at high cost. The report also criticized the creation of new districts despite budget constraints, noting that spending on salaries now outweighs development funding. Recent years have seen protests over wheat subsidies, taxes, and land reforms. Floods earlier this year further damaged livelihoods, intensifying public anger toward regional authorities.

Vande Bharat sleeper service to link Northeast with eastern India for the first time

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Railways Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said on Thursday that India's first Vande Bharat sleeper train will begin operations between Guwahati in Assam and Howrah in West Bengal later this month. He said trials, testing, and certification have been completed, and Prime Minister Narendra Modi will flag off the service. The semi high speed train will have sixteen coaches with a capacity of about eight hundred twenty three passengers and a design speed of one hundred eighty kilometers per hour. It will operate overnight and serve districts across Assam and West Bengal, offering region specific cuisine and advanced safety systems.

India rebukes Pakistan's minority claims, urges focus on its own human rights record



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

India's Ministry of External Affairs on Monday rejected Pakistan's remarks on violence against minorities in India, calling them hypocritical and unfounded. The ministry said Pakistan has a well documented record of systemic persecution of religious minorities and no moral authority to lecture others. Spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said Islamabad should focus on its own human rights record instead of issuing statements on internal Indian matters. The response followed earlier criticism from Pakistan over events at the Ram Janmabhoomi Temple in Ayodhya. India also cited recent independent reports highlighting forced conversions and blasphemy cases involving minorities in Pakistan.

Delhi rolls out Pink Saheli Smart Card to replace paper tickets and widen free bus access for women

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta on Sunday urged women, girls above twelve years of age, and transgender persons to enroll for the Pink Saheli Smart Card to enable free travel on city buses. The personalized card will carry the holder's name and photograph and allow free rides on Delhi Transport Corporation and cluster buses. Issued under the National Common Mobility Card framework, it will also support recharge features for other transport systems. Officials said the digital card aims to replace paper tickets, reduce misuse, and ensure benefits reach genuine Delhi residents. Online registration is now open on the Delhi government portal.

India's bullet train project achieves major milestone with 1.5 km tunnel breakthrough in Palghar

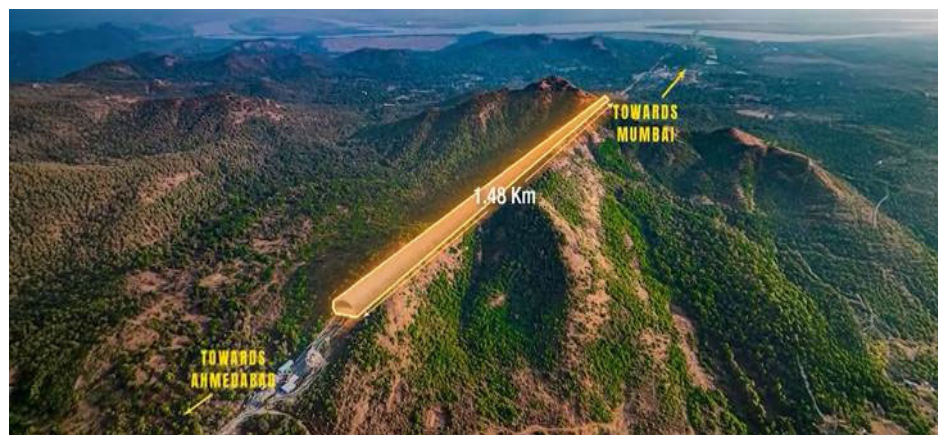
● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw on Friday virtually oversaw the breakthrough of a 1.5-kilometer mountain tunnel on the Mumbai-Ahmedabad bullet train corridor in Maharashtra's Palghar district. The tunnel, located between Virar and Boisar stations, is among the longest in the district and marks the second tunnel breakthrough in Maharashtra, following the 5-kilometer underground tunnel between Thane and BKC completed in September 2025.

Vaishnaw highlighted the environmental and economic advantages of high-speed rail, noting that bullet trains reduce

carbon dioxide emissions by nearly 95 percent compared to highways and directly connect city centers, reducing traffic disruption. India is expected to receive its first bullet train on August 15, 2027.

The 508-kilometer corridor spans Gujarat, Dadra and Nagar Haveli, and Maharashtra, connecting major cities including Ahmedabad, Vadodara, Surat, Thane, and Mumbai, and is expected to cut travel time between the metros to about two hours. Over 85 percent of the route will be on elevated viaducts, with 326 kilometers already completed. Steel bridges spanning 40 to 130 meters are being used to ensure strength and speed while minimizing disruption to traffic.



Parliamentary panel charts six-month transition from MGNREGA to VB-G RAM G Act

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Aparliamentary panel on Monday reviewed the transition from the UPA-era MGNREGA rural employment scheme to the Narendra Modi government's Viksit Bharat-Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gramin) Act, or VB-G RAM G. Lawmakers focused on ensuring a smooth six-month shift, addressing beneficiary payment mechanisms and additional budgetary support.

Committee Chairperson and Congress leader Saptagiri Ulaka said the panel discussed MGNREGA in detail and strategies for implementing the new law once rules are framed. "All states will need to come on board, and the transition must be seamless," he noted, adding that member suggestions will be included in a formal report.



Officials from the Ministry of Rural Development briefed members on operational aspects, and the panel indicated that MGNREGA-related matters will also be revisited during the upcoming Budget session to ensure clarity on policy and financial frameworks during the transition.

Lalit Modi apologizes to Indian government after viral "fugitives" remark

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Former Indian Premier League chairman Lalit Modi issued an apology on Monday to the Indian government after a viral video showed him referring to himself and liquor baron Vijay Mallya as India's "two biggest fugitives." Modi wrote on social media that his statement was misconstrued and never intended to offend, expressing regret if it hurt anyone's feelings.

The video, filmed at Mallya's birthday party in London, sparked widespread criticism online, with users accusing the

duo of mocking India's legal system. Modi later deleted the post.

The Ministry of External Affairs reiterated India's commitment to ensuring that individuals wanted by law return to face trial. Both Modi and Mallya have been residing in the United Kingdom for several years while facing serious financial and legal charges. Modi left India in 2010 amid allegations of money laundering and manipulation of IPL broadcast rights, while Mallya, declared a fugitive economic offender, fled India in 2016 after defaulting on loans totaling approximately \$1.1 billion.

Indore water contamination crisis deepens as state confirms deaths, dozens remain critical



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The Madhya Pradesh government on Friday submitted a status report to the Indore bench of the High Court confirming four deaths linked to contaminated drinking water in the Bhagirathpura area. The report said about two hundred people remain hospitalized, including thirty five in intensive care. The crisis was caused by sewage mixing with the water supply due to a pipeline leak near a poorly constructed toilet. While official figures stand at four deaths, unverified reports suggest a higher toll. The court has scheduled further hearings, and authorities continue to supply clean water and medical support amid the public health emergency.

Rajnath Singh to honor Vajpayee and Malaviya with portrait unveiling at Delhi Assembly



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Defense Minister Rajnath Singh will unveil portraits of Atal Bihari Vajpayee and Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya at the Delhi Legislative Assembly on Friday, Speaker Vijender Gupta said on Thursday. The ceremony will honor the contributions of the two Bharat Ratna awardees to India's democracy, education, and public life.

A coffee table book titled Bharat Mata will also be released, highlighting Indian nationalism through art and literature. Around one thousand guests are expected, including Chief Minister Rekha Gupta and senior officials. Cultural performances will accompany the event, with security and crowd arrangements finalized by multiple departments.

BJP seizes on Abhishek Banerjee remarks to portray Congress as Opposition weak link



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The Bharatiya Janata Party on Wednesday called the Congress a political liability after Trinamool Congress leader Abhishek Banerjee said the Opposition must fight elections on the ground rather than rely on media campaigns. Banerjee linked recent Opposition defeats in several states to what he described as vote theft and weak grassroots engagement. BJP leaders seized on his remarks to claim growing divisions within the Opposition alliance. Party spokespersons said multiple regional allies are distancing themselves from Congress due to repeated electoral failures. The comments have intensified debate over leadership and cohesion within the Opposition ahead of upcoming elections.

Political temperature rises in Kerala as Sabarimala gold theft probe draws rival claims

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The office of Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan on Thursday rejected allegations that it fabricated reports about possible summons in the Sabarimala gold theft case. The office said the Special Investigation Team was appointed by the High Court and operates under court supervision, with strict orders against public disclosure. Opposition leaders questioned selective leaks, while Congress Member of Parliament Adoor Prakash said he would cooperate if summoned. The case involves theft of gold from temple structures and continues to generate political tension. Officials reiterated that the government has no role in the investigation, which remains ongoing under judicial oversight.

ECI bars post-2010 OBC certificates from voter list hearings in West Bengal

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The Election Commission of India clarified on Thursday that Other Backward Class certificates issued by the West Bengal government after 2010 will not be accepted as valid identity documents during hearings under the Special Intensive Revision of the electoral rolls. The clarification came in response to a directive from the Calcutta High Court, which asked the commission to state its position on the issue. The court had earlier struck down all such certificates issued after 2010, ruling they should not be used for any purpose. Election officials have been instructed to ensure strict compliance during the claims and objections process.

ISI-backed Khalistan network extends reach to Milan, links Bangladesh in propaganda

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Indian intelligence officials have flagged a growing presence of pro-Khalistan elements in Milan, Italy, signaling an expansion of the movement beyond its traditional bases in Canada, the United Kingdom, Germany, and Australia. A poster circulating in Milan calls for a lockdown organized by Sikhs for Justice, a proscribed outfit led by Gurbatwant Singh Pannun, which has been promoting separatist activities abroad.

Intercepts suggest the network is increasingly projecting a transnational narrative, now linking the Khalistan agenda with Bangladesh, ahead of elections there. Intelligence agencies say these developments are orchestrated by Pakistan's ISI, which is using the Khalistanis to spread misinformation and defame India internationally. The



poster associates the killing of anti-India student leader Osman Hadi with that of terrorist Hardeep Singh Nijjar in Canada, promoting a narrative that India was responsible.

Authorities are on high alert in Milan, warning that the event is intended to garner global attention. Officials say this reflects an evolving strategy by ISI-backed groups to extend influence, exploit international networks, and wage a coordinated narrative war against India.

Zomato and Swiggy raise payouts for delivery partners as New Year's Eve strike unfolds

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Food delivery platforms Zomato and Swiggy raised incentives for their delivery partners on Wednesday as calls for a nationwide gig workers' strike coincided with heavy demand on New Year's Eve. Zomato offered payouts of Rs 120 to Rs 150 per order during peak evening hours between 6 pm and 12 am and promised delivery partners could earn up to Rs 3,000 over the course of the day, depending on order volumes and availability. Penalties on order denials and cancellations were temporarily waived to encourage participation.

Swiggy also boosted incentives, advertising peak-hour earnings of up to Rs 2,000 for the same evening window and potential earnings of up to Rs 10,000 across New Year's Eve and New Year's Day.



Unions representing gig and platform workers had announced strike actions to demand better pay and improved working conditions. Industry sources said higher payouts are intended to help ensure continuity of delivery services during one of the busiest ordering periods of the year.

India successfully tests Pralay missile in salvo launch off Odisha coast

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

India carried out a successful salvo launch of two Pralay missiles off the Odisha coast on Wednesday as part of user evaluation trials, the Ministry of Defence said. The missiles were fired in quick succession from the same launcher and followed their intended trajectories, meeting all mission

objectives. Developed indigenously, Pralay is a short-range, surface-to-surface missile capable of carrying different warheads with high precision. Senior defense officials witnessed the test, which demonstrated the system's operational reliability. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh praised the teams involved, saying the successful trials indicate readiness for induction into the armed forces.



BSNL rolls out nationwide Wi-Fi calling to improve connectivity in weak signal areas

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

State-owned telecom operator Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited launched Voice over WiFi services across India on Thursday, enabling customers to make calls using Wi-Fi networks where mobile signals are weak. The service is available across all telecom circles and is particularly useful in rural, indoor, and remote locations with broadband access. Calls are placed using existing mobile numbers and do not require third-party applications. The service is offered at no additional cost and supports seamless switching between Wi-Fi and mobile networks. Officials said the rollout is part of BSNL's broader effort to modernize its network and expand digital access.

Faith and festive fervor bring massive temple rush and traffic snarls across Rajasthan on New Year

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Heavy crowds and traffic congestion marked New Year celebrations across Rajasthan on Thursday as thousands of devotees visited major temples. In Jaipur, long queues formed outside Govind Devji and Motidungri Ganesh temples from early morning, causing traffic jams in the walled city. Khatushyamji Temple in Sikar remained open through the night, with special crowd control measures in place. Salasar Balaji Temple in Churu recorded nearly seventy thousand visitors by morning. Similar scenes were reported in Dausa, Sawai Madhopur, Kota, and Chittorgarh, reflecting strong religious devotion on the first day of the New Year.

Snow delights tourists in Kashmir hills as plains miss New Year snowfall



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Light snowfall in higher reaches of Kashmir brought cheer to tourists celebrating the New Year, while plains including Srinagar received only rain on Thursday. Popular destinations such as Gulmarg, Sonamarg, and Pahalgam saw visitors welcoming the year with music and celebrations amid fresh snow. Hotels across the valley reported full occupancy, signaling a revival of tourism after last year's setbacks. Residents of lower areas, however, missed the traditional snowfall. The cold winter phase known as Chillai Kalan is underway, and experts warn that insufficient snowfall could affect water availability and agriculture in the coming months.



Samsung leaders pledge aggressive push to boost artificial intelligence strength

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Samsung Electronics co chief executives said on Friday that the company will intensify efforts to strengthen its artificial intelligence capabilities amid rising global competition. Vice Chairman Jun Young hyun highlighted growing demand for artificial intelligence chips and said Samsung’s integrated strength across logic chips, memory, foundry services, and advanced packaging gives it a competitive edge. He stressed applying artificial intelligence to chip design, research, production, and quality management, while noting strong momentum in the company’s HBM4 business. Co chief executive Roh Tae moon said Samsung will embed artificial intelligence across mobile devices, televisions, and appliances to deliver better customer experiences and respond faster to market challenges.

South Korean researchers develop artificial intelligence model for personalized cancer vaccines

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

A joint team from the Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology and biotechnology firm Neogenlogic said on Friday it has developed an artificial intelligence model to help design personalized cancer vaccines. The platform identifies patient specific neoantigens that can trigger strong B cell immune responses, improving long term cancer protection. Researchers said the model is the first to predict both B cell and T cell responses. The findings were published earlier this month in the journal Science Advances. Neogenlogic said the technology has been validated using large genomic and clinical datasets. The team plans to seek United States regulatory approval and begin clinical trials in 2027.

Adani Group accelerates renewable energy expansion as India’s power demand rises



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The Adani Group is expanding its renewable energy investments as India’s electricity demand continues to surge. During a visit in December to the Great Rann of Kutch, Chairman Gautam Adani highlighted plans for a large scale wind and solar park with capacity of about 20 gigawatts. India’s peak power demand is projected to rise sharply over the next decade, increasing the need for clean energy. The Adani Group has committed up to seventy five billion dollars over five years for renewable projects. Through Adani Green Energy, operational capacity has crossed seventeen gigawatts, with major battery storage and pumped hydro projects also underway.

Tarun Garg becomes first Indian to lead Hyundai Motor India

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Hyundai Motor India Limited on Thursday announced Tarun Garg as its new Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer, making him the first Indian national to lead the company since its establishment 29 years ago.

The automaker said the appointment reflects Hyundai Motor Group’s confidence in Indian leadership and the country’s growing strategic importance in the global automotive industry. Garg succeeds Unsoo Kim, who has returned to a strategic role at

Hyundai Motor Company in South Korea.

With over three decades of experience in the automotive sector, Garg previously served as Chief Operating Officer at Hyundai Motor India, where the company recorded three consecutive years of record sales, achieved record profits, and completed India’s largest initial public offering in 2024.

Earlier, Hyundai Motor Company President Jose Munoz described the appointment as a defining moment in the company’s history. Garg said he aims to strengthen sustainable growth, innovation, and India’s role as a global export hub.



India to advance trade talks with Israel and Russia in early 2026

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

India is set to intensify trade negotiations with Israel and Russia over the next two months, senior government sources said. Commerce Ministry officials are expected to meet their Israeli counterparts in January to hold pre-round discussions on a proposed free trade agreement.

The talks will focus on finalizing the framework and gateway issues following the signing of the terms of reference in November by Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal and Israel’s Economy Minister Nir Barkat in Tel Aviv. The agreement aims to expand trade, investment, and cooperation in technology, defense, and agriculture.

Separately, India’s trade negotiating team is expected to visit Russia for the second round of talks on a free trade agreement with the Eurasian Economic Union after the Union



Budget is presented on Saturday. Discussions will focus on reducing non-tariff barriers and easing regulatory overlaps, as India and Russia work toward a \$100 billion trade target by 2030.

European stocks open 2026 at record highs as metals rally continues

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

European equities began 2026 on a strong note on Friday, with major indexes hitting fresh record levels as investors looked ahead to a year shaped by artificial intelligence optimism, shifting central bank leadership, and rising geopolitical uncertainty. London’s FTSE 100 crossed the 10,000 mark for the first time, while the pan-European STOXX 600 climbed to another peak, extending its third straight weekly gain. Asian markets were also buoyant, with stocks

in Hong Kong rising to a six-week high and benchmarks in Taiwan, South Korea, and Singapore touching record levels. Markets in Japan and China were closed.

Precious metals extended last year’s sharp rally, with gold rising 1.6 percent to \$4,384 an ounce and silver gaining more than 4 percent. Analysts cited interest rate cuts, central bank buying, and geopolitical risks as key drivers. U.S. stock futures were higher, while investors closely watched upcoming Federal Reserve signals following delayed economic data releases.

Vodafone Idea to challenge goods and services tax penalty order



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Vodafone Idea said on Thursday it has received a goods and services tax penalty order worth about seven hundred seventy million dollars from tax authorities in Ahmedabad. The order alleges short payment of tax and excess input tax credit claims. The telecom operator said it disagrees with the ruling and will pursue legal remedies. The company clarified earlier reports about a government approved relief package were speculative and said it has not received any official communication. Vodafone Idea added that it will disclose developments when required. The statement came amid heightened market activity, after reports triggered sharp movements in the company’s share price during Thursday’s trading session.

Bitcoin heads for first annual decline since 2022 as risk sentiment weakens

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Bitcoin is set to post its first yearly loss since 2022, pressured by global macroeconomic trends and fading investor momentum. On Tuesday, the world’s largest cryptocurrency was trading near \$87,474, down more than 6 percent for the year despite hitting a record high above \$126,000 in early October. Prices surged earlier in the year following the election of crypto-friendly President Donald Trump, but slid sharply after tariff announcements unsettled broader markets. A major sell-off followed on Thursday in October after new tariffs on Chinese imports were announced, triggering record crypto liquidations. Analysts say bitcoin increasingly trades like a risk asset, closely tracking equity market sentiment amid growing institutional participation.

Oil prices edge higher after steepest yearly loss since 2020

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Oil prices inched higher on Friday, the first trading day of 2026, following their largest annual decline since 2020. Brent crude rose to about \$60.99 a barrel, while United States benchmark crude climbed to roughly \$57.56. Gains came amid heightened geopolitical tensions after Ukrainian drone strikes targeted Russian energy facilities and new United States sanctions disrupted Venezuelan oil exports. Still, crude ended 2025 down nearly 20 percent, weighed by oversupply concerns and trade uncertainty. Brent posted its third consecutive yearly decline, the longest losing streak on record. In the United States, oil production hit a record high in October, adding further pressure to prices.

Friday, 02 January 2026

United States scales back proposed tariffs on Italian pasta imports



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The United States sharply reduced proposed tariffs on Italian-made pasta on Thursday, easing trade tensions with Italy and the European Union. The Commerce Department cut proposed antidumping duties on thirteen Italian producers from as high as 92 percent to rates as low as 2.26 percent, according to Italy's foreign ministry. The levies would have been added to existing tariffs on European Union imports. Officials said the revision followed additional industry feedback during the review process. Had the higher duties taken effect, prices for Italian pasta in the United States could have risen sharply. Final tariff decisions are expected in March, after the review concludes.

Boeing secures \$2.7 billion Pentagon contract for Apache helicopter support

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Boeing won a \$2.7 billion contract from the United States military on Friday to provide post-production support for Apache helicopters, the Pentagon said. The deal follows a separate \$4.7 billion Army contract awarded last month for new Apache AH-64E helicopters, crew training systems, and related equipment. The latest contract covers maintenance, logistics, and sustainment services for the attack helicopter fleet. Defense officials said the agreement supports long-term readiness and operational capabilities. The award underscores continued Pentagon investment in rotary-wing aircraft programs and strengthens Boeing's defense portfolio amid heightened global security demands and increased military modernization efforts.

Global markets rally as Britain and South Korea hit record highs

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

World stock markets opened 2026 on a positive note on Friday, with benchmark indexes in Britain and South Korea reaching record levels. London's FTSE 100 crossed the 10,000 mark for the first time, driven by gains in mining stocks as gold and silver prices climbed. South Korea's Kospi surged more than 2 percent, led by strong advances in major technology companies tied to artificial intelligence. European markets also moved higher, while United States stock futures pointed upward. Investors remained optimistic about artificial intelligence-driven growth, even as they monitored trade policy risks and expectations that the Federal Reserve will keep interest rates steady at its next meeting.

Warner Bros. signals renewed rejection of Paramount takeover bid

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Warner Bros. Discovery is expected to reject a revised takeover proposal from Paramount Skydance, according to people familiar with the matter. The company's board is scheduled to meet next week to review the offer, which was amended earlier this week to include a large equity financing guarantee.

Despite the changes, the board remains concerned that the proposal does not improve valuation terms and carries higher debt risk compared to a competing deal with Netflix. Paramount has publicly campaigned for shareholder support while revising its bid multiple times.



If approved, the acquisition would combine two major Hollywood studios and expand Paramount's footprint in streaming and broadcast media. However, sources said Warner Bros. continues to favor the Netflix agreement, citing clearer financial terms and fewer regulatory complications. No final decision has yet been announced.

Disney to pay \$10 million penalty over alleged children's privacy violations on YouTube

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

A federal court on Tuesday approved a settlement requiring Disney to pay a \$10 million civil penalty over alleged violations of U.S. children's privacy laws linked to its YouTube content. The case centered on claims that Disney failed to properly label certain videos as being directed at children, leading to the collection of personal information from viewers under the age of thirteen without parental notice or consent.

Authorities said the conduct violated the Children's Online Privacy Protection Act, which limits how companies can collect and use children's data online. The disputed content, which generated billions of views in the United States, was allegedly



used to deliver targeted advertising to young audiences.

Along with the financial penalty, the court order bars Disney from operating on YouTube in ways that violate the law and requires the company to establish a compliance program to ensure proper handling of children's data going forward.

Berkshire Hathaway shares dip as Warren Buffett ends CEO tenure

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Berkshire Hathaway shares edged lower on Wednesday as Warren Buffett marked his final day as chief executive of the company he has led for six decades. Class A and Class B shares both closed slightly down, tracking broader market declines. Buffett, who took control of Berkshire in 1965, delivered a cumulative shareholder return of roughly 6,100,000 percent during his tenure, far

surpassing the long-term performance of the Standard and Poor's 500 index. Leadership of the conglomerate now passes to Greg Abel, who has overseen Berkshire's non-insurance businesses for several years. Buffett will remain chairman and continue working from the company's Omaha headquarters. Berkshire's operations span insurance, railroads, energy, manufacturing, and consumer brands. The company reported more than \$380 billion in cash and equivalents at the end of September.

Tesla sales slide across Europe even as Norway delivers record growth

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Tesla registrations declined across several major European markets during December, extending a broader slowdown seen through 2025, even as the electric vehicle maker posted record annual sales in Norway.

Data released on Thursday showed registrations falling sharply in France, Sweden, Spain, and Portugal, reflecting rising competition and weakening market share across the region.

In France, Tesla registrations dropped significantly last month, while Sweden recorded one of its steepest annual declines. Overall, Tesla's share of the European electric vehicle market fell through November despite growth in total battery-powered car sales.

By contrast, Norway emerged as a bright spot. Registrations there surged in December, helping Tesla secure more than one-fifth of the national market over the year. Nearly all new car sales in Norway are electric, cushioning Tesla from pressures seen elsewhere in Europe.

China imposes sanctions on U.S. defense firms over Taiwan arms sales



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

China imposed sanctions on Friday against twenty United States defense-related companies and ten senior executives in response to a major American arms-sale package for Taiwan valued at more than \$10 billion. Beijing said the measures include freezing assets held in China and banning business dealings with the sanctioned firms and individuals. Companies named include Northrop Grumman Systems Corporation, L3Harris Maritime Services, and Boeing, while Anduril Industries founder Palmer Luckey was among the executives targeted. China's foreign ministry warned that arms sales to Taiwan cross a core red line in bilateral relations. The move follows heightened military activity near Taiwan and ongoing tensions between Washington and Beijing over security, trade, and technology.

U.S. Virgin Islands sues Meta over alleged scam ads and child safety failures

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The government of the U.S. Virgin Islands has filed a lawsuit accusing Meta Platforms of allowing scam-related advertisements and failing to adequately protect children on its social media platforms. Filed earlier this week in the territory's Superior Court, the complaint alleges Meta knowingly permitted fraudulent and harmful ads on Facebook and Instagram to boost advertising revenue. It also claims the company misled users about the effectiveness of its safety measures, including protections for minors. Meta denied the allegations, saying it invests heavily in fraud prevention and child safety tools and has seen a decline in reported scam activity in recent months.

U.S. investment in Pakistan's Reko Diq project draws human rights scrutiny

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

A \$1.25 billion United States-backed investment in Pakistan's Reko Diq copper and gold mining project has sparked renewed scrutiny over human rights conditions in Balochistan. Critics point to allegations of enforced disappearances, security operations, and limited local consent in the region, questioning whether international standards on community rights are being met. Supporters argue the project could bring economic development and foreign investment to Pakistan. The announcement followed high-level visits by Pakistani leaders to Washington earlier this week. Analysts say the deal has revived debate over balancing strategic economic engagement with accountability on human rights concerns in conflict-affected areas.

Norwich City begin 2026 with Championship win over Queens Park Rangers

Norwich City opened the new year with a 2–1 away victory over Queens Park Rangers on Thursday in the Championship. Josh Sargent broke the deadlock shortly after halftime before Jovon Makama sealed the result in added time. Amadou Mbengue scored a late consolation for the hosts moments later.

The first half saw limited chances, though Queens Park Rangers came close through Steve Cook and Rumarn Burrell. Norwich gained control after the restart, with Matej Jurasek playing a key role in the opener.

The win gave Norwich momentum heading into their next fixture on Sunday, when they host Stoke City at Carrow Road in their first home match of 2026.

Five Indian officials added to FIFA international list for 2026



Five Indian match officials have been included in the FIFA International List for 2026, the All India Football Federation confirmed on Wednesday. Rachana Kamani joined the women referees list, while Ashwin Kumar and Aditya Purkayastha were added among men referees. Muralitharan Pandurangan and Peter Christopher were named assistant referees.

With the new inclusions, India now has 19 officials on the FIFA list for the year. Ashwin Kumar and Purkayastha have completed the Asian Football Confederation Referee Academy program, while Kamani is currently enrolled. The announcement comes as preparations continue for the expanded 2026 World Cup, which will be held across Canada, Mexico, and the United States.

Premier League New Year matches end in goal drought as City fall behind Arsenal

Manchester City’s New Year’s Day match at Sunderland ended in a 0-0 draw, leaving them four points behind leaders Arsenal. City’s eight-match winning streak was halted as home goalkeeper Robin Roefs made crucial saves, and Josko Gvardiol’s header grazed the post. Rodri returned as a substitute after a three-month hamstring injury, providing a boost for Pep Guardiola. Liverpool also drew 0-0 at home to Leeds United on Thursday,



leaving them 12 points behind in fourth place. Hugo Ekitike missed their clearest chance, and Dominic Calvert-Lewin had a goal disallowed for offside. Brentford and Tottenham Hotspur played out another goalless draw on Thursday. The only goals of the day came at Selhurst Park, where Fulham’s Tom Cairney scored a late equalizer in a 1-1 draw. Sunderland remain unbeaten in their first 10 home games, a feat last achieved by Ipswich Town in 1992-93.

Venus Williams receives Australian Open wild card for historic return

Seven-time Grand Slam champion Venus Williams has been granted a wild card entry for the 2026 Australian Open, organizers confirmed on Friday. The tournament will mark her first appearance at Melbourne Park since 2021 and her first competition outside the United States since 2023.

The 45-year-old will become the oldest woman to compete in the Australian Open main draw, surpassing Japan’s Kimiko Date. Williams reached the Melbourne final twice, in 2003 and 2017, both times losing to sister Serena Williams.

Williams returned from a 16-month break last July and played three events in 2025. She will tune up at the Hobart International before the Australian Open begins on Sunday.



Ayush Mhatre named India's Under-19 captain, Sooryavanshi to lead South Africa tour



Ayush Mhatre has been appointed captain of India’s Under-19 team for the World Cup to be held in Zimbabwe and Namibia, starting next week. However, Mhatre and vice-captain Vihaan Malhotra will miss the pre-tournament tour of South Africa due to wrist injuries. Vaibhav Sooryavanshi will captain the side on the South Africa tour, which begins Friday in Benoni. The Board of Control for Cricket in India said both injured players will report to the Center of Excellence for treatment before joining the World Cup squad. Five-time champions India will open their tournament campaign against the United States in Bulawayo.

Indian Olympic Association to host first National Athletes’ Forum

The Indian Olympic Association will convene its first National Athletes’ Forum on Saturday in Ahmedabad, marking a major step toward athlete-led governance in Indian sport. The forum will bring together current and former athletes to discuss rights, safety, mental health, ethical governance, anti-doping education, and career transition pathways.

Indian Olympic Association President PT Usha said the initiative reflects a shift toward shared decision-making and accountability. Athletes’ Commission Chair MC Mary Kom described the forum as a platform for honest dialogue, while Vice Chairman Sharath Kamal emphasized timely athlete input before policies are finalized.



The forum is expected to strengthen athlete representation and influence reforms across Indian sport.

Brett Lee inducted into Australian Cricket Hall of Fame

Former fast bowler Brett Lee was inducted into the Australian Cricket Hall of Fame on Sunday, honoring a career defined by pace, longevity, and sportsmanship. Lee represented Australia from 1999 to 2012, taking 718 international wickets across formats. He played key roles in Australia’s World Cup triumphs in 1999, 2003, and 2007 and was named Australian Test Player of the Year in 2008. Lee was also an early pioneer of Twenty20 cricket and later became a popular figure in global leagues and broadcasting. Hall of Fame Chair Peter King said Lee’s impact extended beyond statistics, praising his influence on fans and the game worldwide.



Sjoerd Marijne returns to lead Indian women’s hockey team

Hockey India announced on Friday that Sjoerd Marijne has been reappointed as chief coach of the Indian women’s hockey team, marking his return after guiding the side to a historic fourth-place finish at the Tokyo Olympics. Marijne will be supported by analytical coach Matias Vila, with Wayne Lombard returning as scientific advisor and head of athletic performance. Marijne is set to arrive in India on Tuesday, with the national camp beginning on Sunday in Bengaluru. His first major assignment will be the World Cup qualifiers in Hyderabad in March.



Jaylen Brown leads Celtics past Kings with late fourth-quarter surge



Jaylen Brown scored 29 points and grabbed 10 rebounds as the Boston Celtics pulled away late to defeat the Sacramento Kings 120–106 on Thursday night. Brown added four assists before fouling out, extending his strong scoring stretch in recent weeks. Derrick White contributed 16 points and seven assists, including a key three-pointer that put Boston ahead for good midway through the fourth quarter. Payton Pritchard and Sam Hauser provided scoring depth, while the Celtics closed the game with an 11–2 run. DeMar DeRozan led Sacramento with 25 points as the Kings dropped their fourth game in five outings. Boston improved to 21–12 and moved to 3–1 on its road trip.

Indiana dominates Alabama to make College Football Playoff history



Top-ranked Indiana became the first team to win a College Football Playoff game after receiving a first-round bye, routing Alabama 38–3 on Thursday at the Rose Bowl. The Hoosiers built a 17–0 halftime lead and never looked threatened, snapping a six-game losing streak for teams coming off extended layoffs. Quarterback Fernando Mendoza threw two touchdown passes, while Indiana's defense overwhelmed Alabama throughout the night. The Hoosiers focused heavily on conditioning during their 26-day break, a preparation that paid off against the Southeastern Conference opponent. Indiana improved to 14–0 and advanced to the playoff semifinals, continuing a historic season that has seen the program emerge as a national title contender.

Mississippi edges Georgia in Sugar Bowl thriller to reach playoff semifinals

Mississippi advanced to the College Football Playoff semifinals with a dramatic 39–34 victory over Georgia in the Sugar Bowl on Thursday night in New Orleans. Quarterback Trinidad Chambliss passed for 362 yards and two touchdowns, while Lucas Carneiro sealed the win with a 47-yard field goal with six seconds remaining.

Georgia rallied late to tie the game with under a minute left, but Chambliss responded with a decisive third-down completion that set up the winning kick. Mississippi finished with 473 total yards and improved to 13–1 despite playing without former coach Lane Kiffin, who left in November. The Rebels will face Miami next in the Fiesta Bowl semifinal.



Teen star Macklin Celebrini named to Canada's Olympic hockey team

San Jose Sharks forward Macklin Celebrini was named to Canada's men's hockey roster for the Winter Olympics on Wednesday, becoming one of the youngest players selected. The 19-year-old joins stars Connor McDavid, Nathan MacKinnon, and Sidney Crosby as the National Hockey League returns to Olympic competition for the first time since 2014.

Celebrini entered Wednesday among the league's top scorers and celebrated his selection by recording a goal and an assist later that night. Canada named 19 players to its 25-man roster, keeping much of its championship core intact from last season's



international tournament.

The Olympic tournament will begin in February in Milan, with Canada opening group play against Czechia on a Wednesday.

Enzo Maresca departs Chelsea amid strained ties with club ownership

Chelsea parted ways with manager Enzo Maresca on Thursday following a breakdown in his relationship with the club's ownership. The Italian coach leaves midway through his second season despite winning the Conference League and Club World Cup during his first year in charge. Chelsea has struggled in recent months, winning just one of its last seven Premier League matches to slip to fifth place. Maresca had publicly voiced frustration with internal issues during a December news conference.

The club said a change was needed

to revive its season across multiple competitions. Reports in England indicate Strasbourg coach Liam Rosenior is a leading candidate to replace Maresca as Chelsea searches for stability under its American-led ownership.



Barcelona derby headlines La Liga's New Year return as Real Madrid miss Mbappe



La Liga resumes this weekend after a brief Christmas break, with a full round of matches leading into next week's Spanish Super Cup in Saudi Arabia. Action begins on Friday with a Madrid derby as Rayo Vallecano host Getafe, both sides seeking momentum after inconsistent recent form. Saturday's standout fixture is the Barcelona derby, where league leaders Barcelona visit Espanyol, who sit fifth after five straight wins and ended the year with victory in Bilbao. Barcelona coach Hansi Flick has Pedri available again, though Gavi, Andreas Christensen, and Dani Olmo remain sidelined. Elsewhere on Saturday, Valencia face a must-win trip to Celta Vigo, while Osasuna host injury-hit Athletic Club Bilbao. Sunday features coaching debuts for Levante and Real Sociedad. Real Madrid close the round at home to Real Betis without injured Kylian Mbappe, along with several other key absentees.

Domen Prevc claims second straight Four Hills ski jumping victory

Slovenia's Domen Prevc continued his dominant form on Thursday by securing his second consecutive win at the Four Hills Tournament, strengthening his status as a leading contender for Olympic gold. Competing on the famed Garmisch-Partenkirchen hill, Prevc jumped 143 meters in the opening round to establish a clear lead before sealing victory with a 141-meter effort in the final round. His combined score of 303.1 points comfortably secured first place. Austria's Jan Hoerl finished second, maintaining his position from the first round, while compatriot Stephan Embacher climbed into third for his first Four Hills podium finish. Japan's Ren Nikaido placed fourth, with Olympic champion Ryoyu Kobayashi recovering from eleventh to finish fifth. The tournament now moves to Austria, with events scheduled in Innsbruck on Sunday and Bischofshofen on Tuesday, where the overall winner will receive the Golden Eagle trophy.

Usman Khawaja to retire after Sydney Ashes Test

Australia batter Usman Khawaja announced on Friday that he will retire from international cricket after the fifth Ashes Test against England at the Sydney Cricket Ground. The 38-year-old made the decision known ahead of the team's training session, with his family present. Khawaja ends a 15-year international career with more than 8,000 runs across formats, including 16 Test centuries. He will bow out at the same venue where he made his Test debut in 2011 and plans to continue playing domestic cricket.



Starc closes in on left-arm Test wicket record as Ashes finale looms

Mitchell Starc will enter the final Ashes Test later this week at the Sydney Cricket Ground just six wickets away from becoming the highest wicket-taking left-arm bowler in Test cricket. The Australian fast bowler has dominated the series with 26 wickets in four matches at an average of 17.42, earning player of the match honors in Perth and Brisbane. Starc has 428 Test wickets from 104 matches, trailing Rangana Herath's record of 433. The series-ending Test begins on Saturday, with Starc poised to cap a standout Ashes campaign.

NBA Christmas Day games draw highest viewership in 15 years

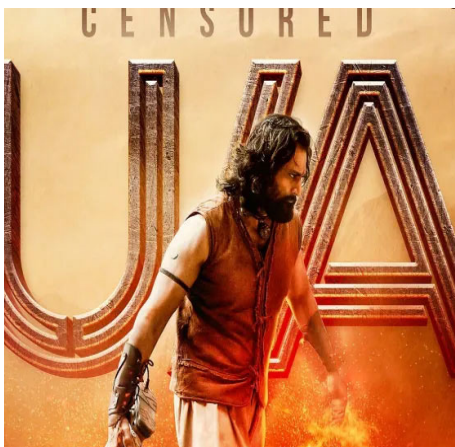


The NBA recorded its strongest Christmas Day television audience in 15 years, the league announced on Wednesday. More than 47 million viewers in the United States watched at least part of the five-game slate on ABC and ESPN, a 45 percent increase from last year. Average viewership across the games reached 5.5 million.

The Cleveland versus New York matchup became the most-watched Christmas noon game on record, averaging 6.4 million viewers. Games featuring San Antonio and Oklahoma City, and Dallas and Golden State, also set highs for their respective time slots.

Beyond television, the league said it was the most-viewed sports brand on social media on Christmas Day. NBA content generated 1.6 billion views across platforms, according to Videocites, representing a significant increase from the previous year. Nielsen provided the television ratings data.

CBFC clears Mohan G's historical epic 'Draupathi 2' for theatrical release



The Central Board of Film Certification has cleared director Mohan G Kshatriyan's Tamil-Telugu historical drama 'Draupathi 2' with a U/A certificate, paving the way for its theatrical release later this month.

The director shared the update on Thursday, describing the film as an untold story from South Indian history set in the 14th century. Produced by Chola Chakravarthy of Netaji Productions, the film explores the era of Hoysala ruler Veera Vallalar III, the resistance of the Kadavarayas, and upheavals following Mughal invasions. The cast includes Richard Rishi, Rakshana Induchoodan, and Natti Natraj.

George Clooney responds after President Donald Trump mocks his French citizenship

Actor George Clooney pushed back this week after President Donald Trump criticized France for granting citizenship to Clooney and his family. Clooney, his wife Amal Clooney, and their two children became French citizens earlier this month after living for years in southern France. Clooney has said France offers his family stronger privacy protections and a better quality of life away from Hollywood.

On Thursday, President Trump wrote on Truth Social that France was welcome to the actor, calling Clooney and Amal

Clooney "two of the worst political prognosticators of all time" and linking the decision to what he described as France's immigration problems. Clooney responded in an interview with The Hollywood Reporter, referencing the United States midterm elections on Tuesday and saying, "We will start in November."

French officials defended the naturalization decision, noting Clooney's cultural contributions and Amal Clooney's international legal work. New language requirements for citizenship took effect on Wednesday.



'Avatar: Fire and Ash' and 'Marty Supreme' lift box office at end of turbulent year

Hollywood closed a difficult year on a strong note as 'Avatar: Fire and Ash' and 'Marty Supreme' drove robust ticket sales over the Christmas holiday weekend. James Cameron's 'Avatar: Fire and Ash' earned \$88 million over the four-day period ending Sunday and \$64 million over the weekend, holding far better than its 2022 predecessor in its second frame.

The film has now grossed \$217.7 million in North America and \$542.7 million internationally, with momentum expected to continue through New Year's week. Meanwhile, A24 scored a major win with Josh Safdie's 'Marty Supreme,' which collected \$27.1 million over the four-day weekend, outperforming expectations for an original film.



Industry analysts said the strong finish marked Hollywood's best Christmas box office since before the pandemic. Total domestic ticket sales for the year ended near \$8.76 billion, still well below pre-pandemic levels.

Justin Bieber calls for safer, more honest music industry

Justin Bieber has spoken candidly about the changes he hopes to see in the music industry, calling for greater honesty and safety for young artists. In a series of social media posts shared on Monday, the singer reflected on growing up in the spotlight and feeling unprotected during his formative years. Bieber credited his Christian faith with helping him heal and forgive past experiences.

He emphasized that he does not seek revenge but transformation, stating that the industry should become more human and supportive. The artist said his goal is to protect future generations from similar pressures.



Rajinikanth unveils first look of Gautham Ram Karthik's sci-fi thriller 'ROOT'



Superstar Rajinikanth released the first look poster of the upcoming sci-fi thriller 'ROOT', starring Gautham Ram Karthik, on New Year's Day, generating strong buzz among fans. The film marks the Tamil debut of Bollywood actor Aparshakti Khurana, who has also dubbed his lines in Tamil. Directed by Sooriyaparthap S, the film wrapped shooting earlier this year and is currently in post-production. Produced by Verus Productions, 'ROOT' also stars Bhavya Trikha and Y G Mahendran. The makers describe the project as a fast-paced, edge-of-the-seat science fiction thriller.

Sunny and Bobby Deol call 'Ikki's' Dharmendra's lasting legacy

Sunny Deol and Bobby Deol shared an emotional tribute after watching their father Dharmendra's final film 'Ikki's', calling it a gift to audiences and a treasure for their family. In a joint social media post on Tuesday, the brothers praised the film for capturing Dharmendra's spirit, courage, and love for the land. 'Ikki's', based on the life of Param Vir Chakra awardee Arun Khetarpal, features Dharmendra as the soldier's father. The film stars Agastya Nanda, Jaideep Ahlawat, and Sikander Kher, and released in theaters on Thursday.

Hrithik Roshan jokes about his double thumb in New Year post



Hrithik Roshan shared a lighthearted New Year message on Tuesday, humorously revealing that his double thumb prevents him from forming a perfect heart shape with his hands. Posting a series of silhouette images, the actor reflected on ending the year on a happy note and expressed gratitude toward fans. In recent weeks, Roshan also drew attention for his appearances at a family wedding, where he was seen dancing with his sons to popular Punjabi music. Videos from the celebration were widely shared online, with Roshan and his children receiving praise for their energetic performances and warm family moments.

Shilpa Shetty reflects on 2025, manifests positivity for the year ahead

Shilpa Shetty marked the end of 2025 by sharing a heartfelt video montage on social media, capturing personal and family moments from the year. Posted on Monday, the compilation featured vacations, yoga sessions, and time spent with her husband Raj Kundra, children Viaan and Samisha, and extended family. The actress expressed gratitude for the lessons and experiences of the past year while manifesting positivity for 2026. Earlier, Shetty had also shared glimpses of her Christmas celebrations at home, highlighting moments of togetherness, festive décor, and quality family time during the holiday season.

Gwyneth Paltrow explains why she declined intimate scene in ‘Great Expectations’



Gwyneth Paltrow has explained why she refused to film an intimate scene with co-star Ethan Hawke in the 1998 film ‘Great Expectations’. Speaking in a Vanity Fair video, Paltrow recalled that director Alfonso Cuarón suggested a graphic scene involving her character, which made her uncomfortable. She said on Saturday that she worried about her father and grandfather seeing such imagery early in her career. Hawke described the proposed scene in detail and recalled Paltrow firmly declining without being confrontational. Paltrow admitted she felt self-conscious at the time but said she would likely feel differently today. Hawke praised her awareness of how such scenes could be perceived and manipulated. Both actors reflected on the moment nearly three decades later, agreeing that her decision was thoughtful rather than prudish and handled with confidence.

Miley Cyrus turned awards season networking into movie music deals

Singer and songwriter Miley Cyrus revealed that she attended the 2025 Academy Awards with a clear goal of pitching her songwriting skills to filmmakers. Speaking to People magazine, Cyrus said she openly offered to write music to anyone she met. That same approach earlier helped her land writing credits for ‘Dream As One’ in ‘Avatar: Fire and Ash’. She recalled meeting director James Cameron at the 2024 D23 Expo, where both were honored as Disney Legends, and casually offering her music. The timing aligned with development on the third ‘Avatar’ film. Cyrus said she used a similar method to write the Golden Globe nominated song ‘Beautiful That Way’ for ‘The Last Showgirl’. She added that she even made the same pitch to creators of Netflix series ‘Baby Reindeer’, calling it her straightforward creative strategy.

Tyler Perry sued by actor seeking \$77 million over sexual assault claims



Filmmaker Tyler Perry was sued on Thursday in California by actor Mario Rodriguez, who alleges sexual assault, sexual battery, and emotional distress. Rodriguez, who appeared in ‘Boo! A Madea Halloween,’ is seeking at least \$77 million in damages and also named Lionsgate as a defendant, accusing the studio of ignoring alleged misconduct.

The lawsuit claims Perry made repeated unwanted advances over several years, including incidents at his Los Angeles home. Rodriguez alleges Perry touched him

inappropriately and later attempted further sexual contact. The suit also claims Perry gave him money after some encounters.

Perry’s lawyer denied all allegations in a statement. Lionsgate did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

The lawsuit follows a separate case filed in June by another actor, Derek Dixon, who accused Perry of misconduct while working on Perry’s television productions. That case was later moved to federal court in Georgia.

Will Smith sued by tour violinist over harassment and wrongful termination claims

Actor and musician Will Smith has been sued by tour violinist Brian King Joseph, who alleges sexual harassment, retaliation, and wrongful termination during Smith’s ‘Based on a True Story’ tour back in 2025. The lawsuit was filed this week and names Smith and Treyball Studios Management as defendants.

Joseph claims Smith hired him in late 2024 and later invited him to join the tour. According to the lawsuit, during a tour stop in Las Vegas, Joseph found his hotel room had been unlawfully entered, with items left behind that caused him concern. He reported the incident to hotel security and police.



Joseph alleges that days later, management accused him of fabricating the incident and terminated his employment. The lawsuit claims he suffered emotional trauma and financial losses as a result. Smith has not yet publicly responded to the allegations.

Tara Sutaria rejects ‘false narratives’ amid A. P. Dhillon concert row

Actress Tara Sutaria has addressed the controversy surrounding her onstage appearance with singer A. P. Dhillon, rejecting what she described as “false narratives” circulating online. On Monday, Sutaria shared a photograph from Dhillon’s recent Mumbai concert on Instagram, along with a strong message defending the moment and dismissing claims driven by misleading edits and paid publicity campaigns.

In her post, the actress described the evening as celebratory, thanked fans for their support of their song, and said that distorted narratives and online bullying would not affect her. She added that love and truth ultimately prevail. Her statement was widely seen as a direct response to a short concert clip that went viral over the weekend.

The clip allegedly showed Dhillon kissing Sutaria on stage, followed by shots suggesting that her boyfriend, Veer Pahariya, appeared uncomfortable. The video sparked widespread debate, with some social media



users criticizing the actress while others called the moment harmless stage interaction.

Pahariya later clarified that the reaction clip attributed to him was taken during a different song. The episode has largely been fueled by online speculation rather than any confirmed personal dispute.

Madhuri Dixit says high ticket prices are reshaping theater audiences



Actress Madhuri Dixit has spoken about how rising cinema ticket prices are affecting theater footfalls, especially for families. In an interview, she said audiences now carefully budget before choosing which films to watch on the big screen. Dixit noted that while good films still perform well, the high cost of tickets makes moviegoing a selective experience.

She added that streaming platforms have made watching films at home far more convenient, particularly for working professionals who return late in the evening. According to her, weekends have become the primary time for theater visits. Dixit also pointed out that home viewing is often cheaper and more comfortable for families. Despite these challenges, she said she does not see a bleak future for cinemas and believes improvements can be made to enhance the theatrical experience.

Katy Perry and Orlando Bloom prioritize co-parenting after ending engagement



Katy Perry and Orlando Bloom are focused on building a stable co-parenting relationship following their split, according to sources close to the former couple.

The singer and actor were seen together with their daughter Daisy Dove in London earlier this week, reinforcing their commitment to family. Sources said on Wednesday that the separation remains amicable, with both prioritizing their five-year-old daughter despite demanding work schedules.

Representatives previously confirmed that the pair had shifted their relationship over several months to focus on co-parenting. Perry and Bloom, who were together for nine years, continue to be seen together as a family.

आंध्र प्रदेश की आराधना यात्रा

श्रीकूर्मम मंदिर (Srikakulam)



IndoUS Tribune की 'यात्रा और दर्शन' श्रृंखला में आपका पुनः स्वागत है! हमारे पिछले पड़ावों में तिरुमला वेङ्कटेश्वर और श्रीकालहस्ती मंदिरों के दिव्य दर्शन कर आप आध्यात्मिक अनुभव से भर चुके हैं। अब हम आगे बढ़ रहे हैं आंध्र प्रदेश के श्रीकूर्मम मंदिर की ओर, जो भगवान विष्णु के कूर्मावतार को समर्पित एक प्राचीन और अद्वितीय मंदिर है। यह मंदिर अपने स्थापत्य, धार्मिक महत्व और अनोखी परंपराओं के कारण विश्वभर में प्रसिद्ध है।

पौराणिक कथा और इतिहास

श्रीकूर्मम मंदिर का इतिहास बहुत प्राचीन है। पुराणों के अनुसार, यह वही स्थान है जहां देवताओं और राक्षसों ने क्षीरसागर मंथन के समय अमृत प्राप्त करने के लिए भगवान विष्णु की सहायता पाई। इस घटना में विष्णु

का कूर्मावतार प्रकट हुआ, जो समय पर प्रयासरत भक्तों की सहायता का संदेश देता है।

कहानी के अनुसार, सतयुग में स्वेता महाराज नामक एक धर्मात्मा राजा ने वर्षों तक कठोर तपस्या की। उनकी श्रद्धा पूर्ण हुई और भगवान विष्णु ने यहाँ स्वयंभू रूप में कूर्मावतार धारण किया। ब्रह्मा जी ने स्वयं पूजा-अर्चना कर मंदिर की स्थापना की और गोपाल यंत्र से इसे पवित्र किया। चूंकि कूर्मनाथा शनि ग्रह के नियंत्रण देवता माने जाते हैं, इसलिए भक्त यहाँ दर्शन करके अपने शनि दोष से मुक्ति पाते हैं।

माना जाता है कि मंदिर श्रीराम के स्वर्ण युग से पहले का है। हजारों वर्षों से यह श्रद्धालुओं की यात्रा सूची में शामिल है।

मंदिर की विशेषताएँ

- सदियों पुराना मंदिर-** वर्तमान संरचना 700 से अधिक वर्षों पुरानी है, जबकि बाहरी ढांचे कई बार पुनर्निर्मित किए गए।
- पुराणों में संदर्भ-** कूर्म, विष्णु, पद्म, ब्रह्मांड पुराणों में उल्लेख।
- एकमात्र स्वयंभू कूर्मावतार मंदिर-** विश्व में विष्णु के दूसरे अवतार के रूप में पूजा जाता है।
- दो ध्वजस्तंभ-** मुख्य देवता पश्चिम की ओर मुख किए होने के कारण, मंदिर में पूर्व और पश्चिम दिशा में दो ध्वजस्तंभ हैं।
- दैनिक अभिषेक-** अन्य विष्णु मंदिरों में ऐसा नहीं होता, यहाँ नियमित रूप से किया जाता है।
- दीर्घकालीन भित्ति चित्र-** अजंता-एलोरा की गुफाओं जैसी पेंटिंग्स।
- दुर्गा माता की विशेष प्रतिमा-** वैष्णो देवी के रूप में।
- गांधर्व शिल्प कला-** 108 अनोखी पत्थर की स्तंभें।
- मोक्ष स्थान-** मृतकों के अंतिम संस्कार के लिए प्रसिद्ध, जैसे वाराणसी और पुरी।
- इतिहास में प्रमुख व्यक्तियों के दर्शन-** जैसे लव-कुश, बलराम, संत दुर्वासा आदि।

विशिष्ट स्थल और पूजन परंपरा

मंदिर में स्वेत पुष्करिणी नामक पवित्र सरोवर है, जिसमें से श्री महालक्ष्मी (कूर्मनायकी) प्रकट हुईं। यहाँ मृतकों के अंतिम संस्कार और उनकी अस्थियों का विसर्जन होता है, जिससे ये सालग्राम में परिवर्तित हो जाती हैं।

मंदिर के संरक्षण का प्रयास भी अद्वितीय है। यहाँ वयस्क और युवा स्टार कछुओं के लिए पार्क स्थापित

किया गया है। भक्त उन्हें अर्पण और आहार देकर सम्मानित करते हैं। मंदिर में चार दैनिक अनुष्ठान और चार वार्षिक उत्सव आयोजित होते हैं। तीन दिवसीय डोलोत्सवम प्रमुख है। अन्य उत्सवों में कामदहनम, कल्याणोत्सवम और कूर्म जयंती शामिल हैं।

स्थापत्य और वास्तुकला

श्रीकूर्मम मंदिर की वास्तुकला अद्वितीय है- 108 एकसिला स्तंभ, गुप्त मार्ग, स्वेत पुष्करिणी, और गोपुरम संरचना अन्य विष्णु मंदिरों से भिन्न हैं। मुख्य देवता पश्चिम की ओर मुख किए हैं, इसलिए भक्त गर्भ गृह में सीधे प्रवेश कर देवता के निकट दर्शन कर सकते हैं।

मंदिर में कूर्मावतार के रूप में विष्णु और कूर्मनायकी लक्ष्मी की मूर्तियाँ हैं। उनके साथ उत्सव देवता राम, सीता, लक्ष्मण और गोविंदराज स्वामी हैं।

यात्रा का सार

श्रीकूर्मम मंदिर के दर्शन हमारे आंध्र प्रदेश यात्रा का आध्यात्मिक महत्वपूर्ण पड़ाव हैं। यहाँ की कथाएँ, स्थापत्य और पूजा परंपरा हमें भारतीय संस्कृति, पुरातन विश्वास और मंदिर स्थापत्य कला से जोड़ती हैं।

IndoUS Tribune आशा करते हैं कि इस यात्रा के माध्यम से आप भी इस दिव्य अनुभव का हिस्सा बनेंगे और भारतीय आध्यात्मिक विरासत का गहन अनुभव करेंगे।

अगला पड़ाव: लेपाक्षी मंदिर (अनंतपुर)- जहाँ वीर रामभक्त हनुमान की अद्भुत प्रतिमा और मंदिर की भव्य वास्तुकला आपका स्वागत करेगी।



Shreemad Bhagwat Gita - As I understand

Chapter Eighteen: Moksha Sannyasa Yoga (Part 1)



Rajendra Kapil
Phone: 847-962-1291

Dear Readers,

We have now reached the final chapter of the Bhagavad Gita, known as the Moksha Sannyasa Yoga. This chapter encapsulates the essence of the entire Gita, providing the fullest possibility of liberation (moksha). To aid comprehension, this chapter has been divided into two parts. Listening to its wisdom removes delusion, just as it did for Arjuna.

Arjuna's Clarity

**Nasto moha smtir-labdhā
tvatprasādān mayācyuta |
Sthito'smi gata-sandeha kariye
vacana tava ||**

Translation:

Arjuna said – O Achyuta! By Your grace, my delusion is destroyed and I have regained my memory. I am now firm and free from doubt, and will act according to Your command.

Commentary:

At the end of this chapter, Sanjaya declares that wherever Yogeshwar Krishna is present, victory and glory naturally follow. Arjuna's attachment and confusion have been completely dispelled.

Understanding Renunciation and Abandonment

**Sannyāsasya mahābāho tattvam
icchāmi veditum |
Tyāgasya ca hīkṣā pthak
keśiniūdana ||**

Translation:

O mighty-armed Krishna, I wish to understand clearly the essence of renunciation (sannyasa) and the difference between renunciation and abandonment of desire (tyaga).

Commentary:

Krishna explains that giving up worldly desires such as wealth, family, or sensual pleasures can be called sannyasa. Meanwhile, some scholars define tyaga as abandoning attachment to the results of actions. Krishna emphasizes that both complement each other, but the importance of tyaga is greater.

The Essence of Karma Yoga

**Karmayevādhikāras te mā phaleu
kadācana |
Mā karma-phala-hetur bhūr mā te
sago'stvakarmai ||**

Translation:



You have the right to perform your prescribed duty, but you are not entitled to the fruits of action. Never let the fruit of action be your motive, nor let your attachment be to inaction.

Commentary:

Karma is indispensable for life. Duties performed selflessly, without attachment to results, purify the mind and benefit society. Actions performed with desire for fruits fall under rajasik, while inactivity or ignorance is tamasic.

The Threefold Classification of Action

**Aniam ia miśra ca trividha karmaa
phalam |
Bhavaty atyāginā pretya na tu
sannyāsinākvacit ||**

Translation:

The results of actions—good, bad, or mixed—follow the renunciates (those who renounce selfish desire), but not the sannyasis (those who renounce action completely).

Commentary:

Krishna explains that karma yields fruits—good or bad. Some are enjoyed in this life, others carry over to the next. A yogi performing duty without attachment and offering results to the Divine attains freedom from outcomes.

The Three Types of Renunciation

**Mukta-sago'nahavādi dhty-utsāha-
samanvita |
Siddhy-asiddhyor nirvikāra kartā
sāttvika ucyate ||**

Translation:

The doer who is free from attachment, without ego, endowed with patience and enthusiasm, and unmoved by success or failure, is called sattvic.

**Rāgī karma-phala-prepsur lubdho
hisātmako'suci |**

**Hara-śokānvita kartā rājasa
parikīrtita ||**

Translation:

The person attached to the fruits of action, greedy, violent, impure, and swayed by joy and sorrow is called rajasik.

**Ayukta prākta stabdha śaho
naiktiko'lasa |**

**Viādi dīrgha-sūtrī ca kartā
tāmāsa ucyate ||**

Translation:

The one who is unbalanced, ignorant, stubborn, deceitful, lazy, destructive, and melancholic is called tamasic.

The Threefold Classification of Intellect

**Pravtti ca nivtti ca kāryakārye
bhayābhaye |**

**Bandha moka ca yā vetti buddhi sā
pārtha sāttviki ||**

Translation:

O Partha! The intellect that correctly understands what is to be done or not done, what is to be feared or not feared, and what binds or liberates, is considered sattvic.

**Yayā dharmam adharma ca kārya
cākāryam eva ca |**

**Ayathāvat prajānāti buddhi sā
pārtha rājasi ||**

Translation:

O Partha! The intellect that cannot properly discern dharma from adharma, or what should be done and what should not, is called rajasik.

**Adharma dharmam iti yā manyate
tamasāvtā |**

**Sarvārthān viparītās ca buddhi sā
pārtha tāmāsi ||**

Translation:

O Arjuna! The intellect veiled by tamas perceives unrighteousness as righteousness and interprets all things in reverse—such intellect is called tamasic.

Commentary:

Krishna reiterates the importance of performing duty selflessly, understanding the types of renunciation, and recognizing the threefold nature of action, desire, and intellect. Arjuna, the great warrior, sheds all delusions and gains clarity, demonstrating the transformative power of knowledge.

Conclusion of Part 1:

This first part of Chapter 18 has already shown the core of karma yoga, renunciation, and intellect, helping a reader to distinguish purity from attachment, and action performed for the Divine from selfish motivation. Arjuna's confusion is removed, setting the stage for the complete understanding of moksha.

Grand Shri Ram Katha celebrates the spiritual legacy of Lord Ram

By: Satya Prakash Dwivedi

A grand musical Shri Ram Katha was organized at Shrimad Bhagwat Park in Rohini, New Delhi, to mark the auspicious occasion of the construction of the Shri Ram Temple in Ayodhya. The seven-day spiritual discourse brought together devotees, cultural leaders, and community members in a celebration of Lord Ram's enduring legacy.

The event featured renowned storyteller Pujya Acharya Shraavan Kumar Ji Maharaj, who arrived from Chitrakoot Dham, the sacred land associated with Lord Ram's penance. Through his evocative and spiritually uplifting narration, he held the audience spellbound, weaving devotion, music, and philosophy into each session.

The Shri Ram Katha was held from



December 12 to December 18 and was organized under the leadership of Thakur



Narendra Singh Ji, President of the Shri Narhari Thakur Ji Seva Samiti.

Several distinguished guests attended the event, including Dr. Pawan Arya, National In-Charge of Sudarshan Rashtranirman; Shri Satyaprakash Dwivedi, National Vice President of Vishva Manav Kalyan Sangh and senior journalist with the U.S.-based newspaper Indo US Tribune; internationally acclaimed magician and Senior Citizen Award recipient Dr. Ashok Kharbanda, Chairman of IBM and Jadoo Kala Trust; Shri Gajendra Singh Chauhan, Chief Executive Officer of the world's first high-definition-ready spiritual satellite television channel; Shri Praveer Dutta, Editor of Navdeep Kesari; Bharatiya Janata Party Member of Legislative Assembly Kulwant Rana from the

Rohini-Rithala constituency; North-West Rohini District Vice President and social worker Vikas Singh Bobby; and Thakur Virendra Pratap Singh, a prominent social worker and businessman from Chitrakoot, among others.

During his discourse, Pujya Acharya Shraavan Kumar Ji Maharaj emphasized that there is no figure comparable to Lord Ram, who embodied ideal conduct, discipline, sacrifice, unwavering devotion to his father's command, deep respect for his wife, and exceptional valor as a warrior. These qualities, he said, are why Lord Ram is revered as Maryada Purushottam, the supreme embodiment of righteousness. He added that every phase of Lord Ram's life offers lessons that remain relevant and worthy of emulation in the modern world.

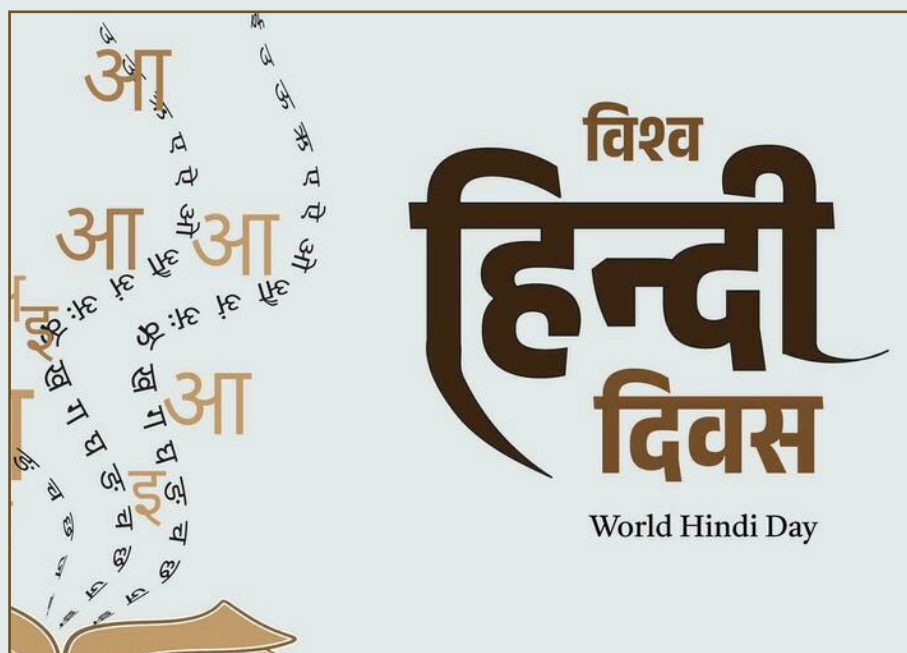


Consulate General of India in Chicago to host World Hindi Day 2026 celebration

By: Dr. Avi Verma

The Consulate General of India in Chicago will host an invitation-only World Hindi Day 2026 celebration on Saturday, January 10, 2026, from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., at its premises in the NBC Tower, 455 N. Cityfront Plaza Drive, Suite 850, Chicago. Organized under the aegis of the Consul General of India, the event aims to reaffirm Hindi's enduring cultural, literary, and global significance while exploring practical pathways to strengthen its presence among the Indian diaspora and international audiences.

According to the Consulate, the program will focus on strategies to popularize Hindi, expand access to Hindi education resources, and encourage children of the Indian diaspora to reconnect with their linguistic and cultural roots. Special emphasis will be placed on addressing the challenges faced by second- and third-generation Indian



Americans in sustaining fluency and cultural familiarity with Hindi. The discussions will also highlight Hindi's broader civilizational importance, underscoring its role in preserving and celebrating India's rich history,

literature, philosophy, and traditions. Speakers are expected to reflect on how language serves not merely as a tool of communication, but as a living repository of cultural memory and shared identity.

In a global context, the event will examine how Hindi can act as a bridge between India and the world, particularly at a time when interest in Indian culture, cinema, literature, yoga, and spirituality is rising internationally. Participants will explore ways in which Hindi can complement India's growing cultural diplomacy and people-to-people engagement worldwide.

World Hindi Day is observed annually to promote the use of Hindi at the international level and to reaffirm India's commitment to linguistic diversity and cultural heritage. The Chicago event reflects the Consulate's ongoing efforts to engage the Indian American community, educators, and cultural leaders in meaningful dialogue around language preservation.

The program will conclude with a networking lunch, providing attendees an opportunity for informal interaction and continued discussion.

Attendance is by invitation only.

Orlando Health Sciences University renamed Drs. Kiran and Pallavi Patel Global University

A landmark moment of pride for India and the global Indian community

By: Dr. Avi Verma

In a historic recognition of Indian excellence and global impact, Orlando Health Sciences University in Florida has officially been renamed Drs. Kiran and Pallavi Patel Global University (KPGU). The decision honors the extraordinary philanthropic leadership and lifelong service of Indian-American physicians Dr. Kiran C. Patel and Dr. Pallavi Patel, making them the first individuals of Indian origin to have a medical university in the United States bear their names. The renaming marks far more than an institutional change. It represents a moment of deep pride for India and the global Indian diaspora, reflecting how Indian values of seva, education, and social responsibility continue to shape global institutions. The Patels' journey from India to international leadership in medicine stands as a powerful example of Indian contribution on the world stage.

Dr. Kiran C. Patel, a renowned cardiologist, began his medical career in Gujarat before moving to the United States in 1976. Over the decades, he has emerged as a visionary healthcare entrepreneur and philanthropist, influencing medical education and healthcare delivery across continents. His wife, Dr. Pallavi Patel, a respected pediatrician, has been equally dedicated to advancing child health,



education, and community welfare.

University leaders described the renaming as a tribute to the Patels' transformational support of osteopathic medical education and their shared vision of building a truly global health sciences institution. As Drs. Kiran and Pallavi Patel Global University, the institution aims to expand its international reach, encourage cross-border academic collaboration, and train future physicians committed to compassionate, community-centered care.

The Patels' philanthropic legacy is already well established. Their historic \$200 million contribution to Nova Southeastern University in 2017 remains one of the largest educational donations in Florida's history. Beyond the United States, the couple has invested significantly in strengthening healthcare access and medical education in India, reinforcing a lasting academic and humanitarian bridge between the two nations. Dr. Kiran Patel's contributions have been recognized by both countries he calls home. He has received the

Pravasi Bharatiya Samman, India's highest honor for overseas Indians, as well as the Outstanding American by Choice Award in the United States.

For India and Indians worldwide, the establishment of KPGU stands as a powerful symbol of what Indian talent, values, and philanthropy can achieve on a global scale. It affirms that Indian roots continue to shape the future of medicine, education, and humanity far beyond national borders.



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CONTRARIAN INDICATORS

AAIL Bull-Bear Spread +2.6% (below average)
CNN Fear & Greed Index 56 (greed-low)
NYSE %Above 50-dMA 58.49% (positive)
SP500 %Above 50-dMA 62.60% (positive)

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

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

INTEREST RATES

CME FedWatch
Cycle peak 5.25-5.50%
Current 3.50-3.75%
FOMC 1/28/26+ hold
FOMC 3/18/26+ cut

Treasury

T-Bills 3-mo yield 3.64%, 1-yr 3.49%;
T-Notes 2-yr 3.46%, 5-yr 3.68%, 10-yr 4.14%; T-Bonds 30-yr 4.81%;
TIPS/Real yields 5-yr 1.46%, 10-yr 1.91%, 30-yr 2.60%
FRNs Index 3.592%

Bank Rates www.depositaccounts.com/

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

India Fear & Greed MMI 56.81 (greed)
Weekly ETFs: INDA -0.57%, INDY



-0.34%, EPI -0.26%, INDH -0.22%, SPY +1.43%

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

ECONOMY

Trump \$1 million GOLD CARD with \$15,000 processing fee for special US visa has launched. Using the current EB-1 & EB-2 program eligibility & quotas (with program & country caps) for wealthy individuals is also raising eyebrows. Program legality & several details are unclear including (i) whether applicants can jump their places in EB-1 or EB-2 queues (if not, the Indian applicants will face long waits), (ii) whether fees are paid upfront, on approval or at Card issuance, (iii) needed documentation for proof & sources of funds.

Corporate Gold Card requires \$2 million,

but the covered employee can be changed after DHS review & payment of transfer fee.

These programs may eventually replace EB-5 program. Reports on the acceptance of these programs are mixed.

Meanwhile, tougher vetting rules for H-1B visas are being applied to new visas, renewals & passport-stampings (required for re-entry after overseas travel). Several H-1B visa holders who were in India & expected "routine" passport-stampings are now stranded as their appointments have been deferred by months. Their US employers are also scrambling & several have issued H-1B travel advisories.

SPECIAL TOPIC - LONG-TERM CARE INSURANCE (LTCI)

LTCI covers physical assistance at-home & assisted-living facilities or nursing homes. Coverage kicks-in after a period of wait (30-90 days) when criteria for disability can be documented & certified based on the number of ADLs (activities of daily living).

Medicare covers only short post-surgical rehabilitation periods. Medicaid has very strict financial eligibility rules; there is 5-year lookback period for asset gifts & transfers. Medicaid eligible special trusts may be used with advance planning. Several states have Medicaid benefit recovery from the estates of deceased Medicaid patients. Recent cuts in Medicaid will hurt potential LTCI beneficiaries.

Life insurance & LTC hybrids or LTC riders for accelerated death benefits are available. LTC benefits used will reduce the face amount of life policy.

Rich can self-insure & poor can qualify for Medicaid, but people in the middle are stuck. They must reserve dedicated \$300K-500K liquid assets to be tapped when their health is declining or buy LTCI when they are in their 50s or early-

60s. Later, premiums will be higher, or one can become uninsurable for health reasons. About 3 years of coverage should be enough; benefit durations & amounts are cumulative if there are multiple episodes. There is no point in buying very expensive LTCI plans with many years of coverage (over-insurance). Almost 60% of LTC spending now is through Medicaid & only 40% by private insurers (LCTI).

HSAs can cover LTCI premiums & expenses. SECURE 2.0 allows some LTCI premium payments from retirement plans.

Inflation-adjustments may be offered at much higher incremental rates & may be offered every 3-5 years. If inflation-adjustments are refused in succession, further adjustments may not be offered. So, a strategy may be to accept inflation-adjustments at alternating times until one is sure that higher LTCI coverage isn't desired.

Some employers offer LTCI as part of their benefit menu at attractive group rates & without conventional medical checkups. After retirement, payroll deductions for LTCI may switch to personal billing.

Few years ago when LTCI were new, many insurers offered them but later found that their underwriting was poor. Healthcare costs are rising at rates much higher than inflation & many new treatments have also become available. State regulators have been reluctant to increase LTCI rates (as well as other insurance rates). So, many insurers withdrew from LTCI - Genworth, MetLife, TIAA, etc (they continue to service existing LTCI). Only a limited number of insurers now offer LTCI - MassMutual, Mutual of Omaha, Nationwide, Northwestern Mutual, NY Life (also via AARP), Thrivent, etc.

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





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Mata Bhagat: Avi Verma



Legendary devotional singer **Lakhbir Singh Lakha** to enchant US & Canada in spiritual tour, June-July 2026

By: Dr. Avi Verma

After the success of an amazing 'Mela Maiya Maiya Da' tour across the United States in 2025, Jagran TV Chicago, under the leadership of Dr. Avi Verma, is bringing back the beloved devotional singer Lakhbir Singh Lakha and his troupe for another mesmerizing spiritual tour in June-July 2026. Devotees across the US and Canada can look forward to an immersive musical experience filled with devotion, joy, and divine energy.

Lakhbir Singh Lakha is a household name in devotional and spiritual music in India and among the global Indian diaspora. His soul-stirring performances of Mata Ki Chowki, Bala Ji, Bhole Nath, and Shyam Baba bhajans have earned him worldwide acclaim. A frequent performer for the leading Indian news channel Aaj Tak, Lakha is also a preferred artist for major patriotic, cultural, and spiritual occasions, where his music inspires deep devotion and emotional connection to the divine.

Achievements and recognition

Over his illustrious career, Lakhbir Singh Lakha has been honored with numerous awards for his contribution to devotional music. He is recognized for:

- ▶ Bringing traditional devotional music to modern audiences, blending classical rigor with accessible melodies.
- ▶ Being a cultural ambassador, spreading India's spiritual heritage across continents.
- ▶ Performing at high-profile national and international events, including religious festivals, Independence Day celebrations, and community gatherings.
- ▶ Creating albums and live recordings that have become staples in Indian households and diaspora communities.

Lakha's music is more than entertainment; it is an experience of spiritual upliftment. Audiences often describe his performances as transformative, leaving hearts full of devotion and minds in peaceful reflection.

What to expect from the 2026 tour

The upcoming US & Canada tour in June-July 2026 promises to recreate the magic of his 2025 tour. Devotees will experience:

- ▶ Live bhajan performances steeped in tradition and devotion.
- ▶ Opportunities for Mata Ki Chowki, Bala Ji, Bhole Nath, and Shyam Baba events at local temples and community halls.
- ▶ Spiritual engagement that connects music, prayer, and community, creating a truly immersive experience.

Bookings for temples and communities

Temples and cultural organizations interested in hosting Lakhbir Singh Lakha's performance can reserve their events now. Due to overwhelming demand, early booking is recommended.

This tour is not just a musical event—it is a celebration of faith, culture, and the enduring power of devotional music. Lakhbir Singh Lakha's performances are a rare opportunity for the Indian diaspora in North America to experience the divine through sound, rhythm, and

heartfelt devotion.

With each song, he revives centuries of spiritual tradition, connecting communities with India's rich religious and cultural heritage. The 2026 tour is set to be a landmark celebration of

devotion, music, and faith, and promises to leave an indelible impression on all who attend.

Contact for bookings:
Dr. Avi Verma: 773-866-1222
Email: jagrantv@gmail.com

Jagran TV CHICAGO

Mela Maiya Da Jagran Chowkis

by Legendary Lakhbir Singh Lakha

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June & July 2026

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Organizer: Dr. Avi Verma **Lakhbir Singh Lakha**

Satellite-enabled robotic surgery

A new frontier in global healthcare

By: Dr. Avi Verma

In a development that once belonged to the realm of science fiction, Chinese surgeons have recently demonstrated the feasibility of performing highly complex robotic liver surgeries over thousands of miles using satellite communication. This achievement marks a significant milestone in telemedicine and raises important possibilities for the future of advanced surgical care in remote and underserved regions.

The breakthrough

The procedures were conducted using a robotic surgical system controlled remotely via the Apstar-6D geostationary communication satellite. Surgeons operating from Lhasa successfully performed liver procedures on patients located in Beijing, a distance exceeding 5,000 kilometers (over 3,100 miles). According to reports, the surgeries were completed with minimal blood loss and without major complications, highlighting both technical feasibility and clinical safety.

The surgical team was led by Professor Rong Liu, a senior surgeon associated with China's leading medical institutions. The cases involved complex hepatobiliary interventions—among the most technically demanding procedures in modern surgery—making the success particularly noteworthy.

Overcoming the latency challenge

One of the greatest barriers to satellite-based surgery is signal latency. Unlike fiber-optic or 5G networks, satellite links—especially those using geostationary satellites—introduce noticeable delays due to the vast distances signals must travel.

To address this, the surgical system reportedly employed:

- ▶ Adaptive latency compensation algorithms
- ▶ Intelligent bandwidth management
- ▶ Dual-link backup communication systems

Despite delays measured in hundreds of milliseconds, the robotic platform maintained stable control and high precision, demonstrating that latency—while still a concern—may no longer be an insurmountable obstacle for remote surgery.

Why this matters

The implications of this achievement extend far beyond technological novelty:

- ▶ **Access to expertise:** Highly specialized surgeons could potentially operate on patients in

remote or disaster-affected areas without physical travel.

- ▶ **Emergency care:** In military, space, maritime, or rural settings, life-saving surgical intervention could be delivered where no specialist is available on site.
- ▶ **Global health equity:** Countries and regions with limited access to advanced surgical care may one day benefit from real-time expertise across borders.

While remote robotic surgery has previously been demonstrated using terrestrial networks, the successful use of satellite communication significantly expands the geographic reach of such interventions.

Proceeding with caution

Despite the excitement, experts caution against overstating the immediate

impact. Satellite-enabled robotic surgery remains highly experimental and resource-intensive. Issues such as cost, cybersecurity, regulatory approval, liability, and patient safety standards will need rigorous evaluation before widespread adoption.

Furthermore, while current demonstrations span thousands of miles, claims about routine global or interplanetary surgery remain speculative. Large-scale clinical trials, standardized protocols, and independent validation will be essential before this technology becomes mainstream.

Looking ahead

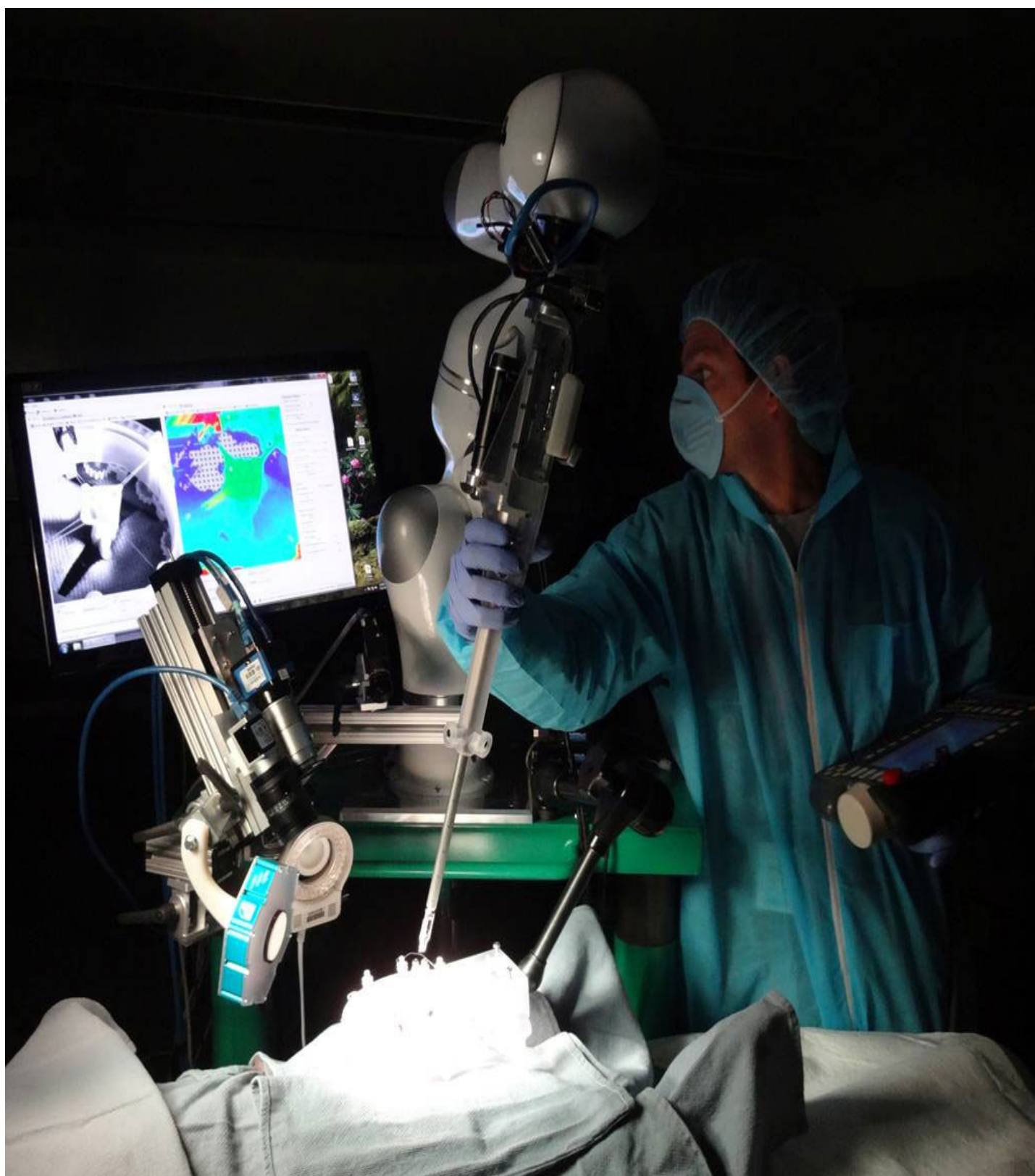
This milestone represents a meaningful step toward a future where geography may no longer dictate access to advanced medical care. As robotic systems, artificial intelligence, and communication technologies continue

to converge, satellite-assisted surgery could one day become an important tool in the global healthcare ecosystem.

For now, the achievement stands as a powerful reminder of how innovation—when guided by clinical rigor—can redefine the boundaries of medicine.

Disclaimer

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Everything you need to know about IUHS School of Medicine

● By: Dr. Avi Verma

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

2. Program Structure & Exams:

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

3. Assessments:

- ▶ End-of-block graded exams
- ▶ DxR Clinician virtual patient simulation graded assignments
- ▶ Non-graded DAR exams (at the end of Blocks 3, 6, 9) to identify

knowledge gaps.

- ▶ Lectorio self-assessments which are 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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Fashion choices to look forward to in 2026



Fashion in 2026 is shedding restraint and embracing emotion, artistry, and intention. After seasons dominated by pared-back luxury, the new year signals a confident return to expressive dressing, where personal style takes center stage and clothing once again tells a story.

One of the defining shifts is the rise of romantic maximalism. Lace, satin, sheer overlays, and soft tailoring are reimagined through a modern lens, blending old-world elegance with contemporary ease. This movement favors layered textures, poetic silhouettes, and a sense of nostalgia



that feels thoughtful rather than costume-driven. Flowing skirts paired with structured knits, delicate blouses styled with relaxed trousers, and vintage-inspired details bring depth to everyday dressing.

Denim also enters a new chapter. Classic blue gives way to charcoal, graphite, washed black, and unexpected hues like muted lavender and moss green. Relaxed cuts, elongated proportions, and subtle surface treatments allow denim to feel elevated while remaining wearable. These refreshed staples reflect a broader desire for clothes that adapt effortlessly from day to night.

Comfort continues to shape fashion, but with a sharper aesthetic. Leggings evolve beyond athleisure into polished silhouettes, appearing in bootcut forms,

leather-effect finishes, and refined fabrics that pair seamlessly with blazers, oversized shirts, and statement outerwear. The result is a wardrobe that prioritizes movement without sacrificing style.

Sustainability is no longer a trend but an expectation. In 2026, conscious fashion feels integrated rather than performative, with designers focusing on longevity, responsible materials, and craftsmanship. Consumers are drawn to pieces that feel personal and enduring, favoring quality over excess.

Ultimately, 2026 fashion is about confidence and individuality. It invites experimentation while honoring comfort, blending romance with practicality and creativity with purpose. As wardrobes evolve, the year ahead

promises style that feels expressive, intentional, and deeply human.



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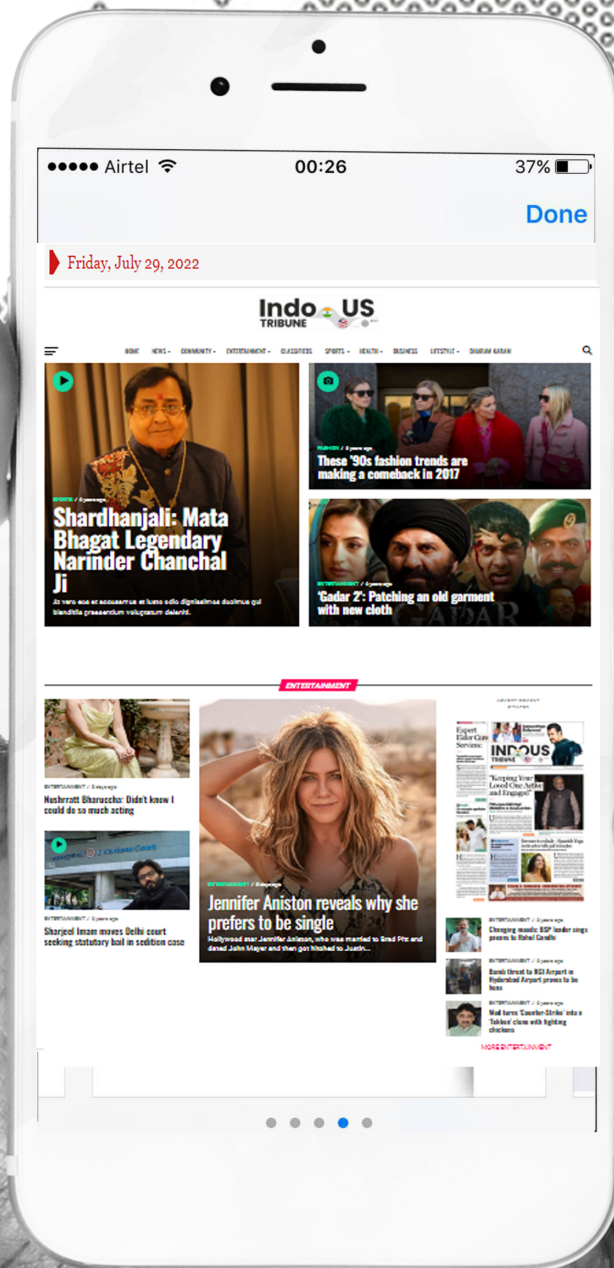
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