

India-U.S. trade deal could reshape ties, says business council chief



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**T**he India-United States trade deal announced by President Donald Trump could significantly transform bilateral economic ties, US India Business Council President Atul Keshap said Tuesday. He confirmed that the agreement includes a substantial reduction in United States tariffs on Indian goods, with India expected to lower tariffs in return.

Keshap said business sentiment has been strongly positive since the announcement, adding that negotiations began after Prime Minister Narendra Modi's White House visit last year and took nearly a year to conclude. He said the deal sends a powerful signal of closer economic and strategic cooperation and could accelerate investment on both sides.

Keshap noted that bilateral trade currently stands near \$200 billion and could eventually reach \$500 billion, benefiting sectors such as agriculture, defense, aerospace, and capital machinery.

## Russia says India's energy choices remain independent despite US trade deal



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**M**oscow on Thursday dismissed US President Donald Trump's claim that Prime Minister Narendra Modi agreed to halt Russian oil imports as part of the India-US trade deal.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov emphasized that India has historically sourced crude from multiple countries and Russia is not its sole supplier. Russia's Foreign Ministry highlighted the mutual benefits of ongoing energy trade and its role in global market stability.

Experts noted that Indian refiners cannot easily replace Russian crude due to differences in grades and blending requirements. Despite recent declines, Russian oil still accounted for about one-third of India's total imports in 2025, and Moscow reaffirmed that energy decisions remain India's independent choice.

# IndoUS TRIBUNE

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## India-U.S. trade deal advances with tariff cuts, farm safeguards and major export boost

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**I**ndia and the United States advanced toward finalizing a sweeping trade agreement this week, with officials confirming that India's dairy and sensitive agriculture products will remain protected while more than \$40 billion worth of Indian exports gain zero-duty or reduced-tariff access to the U.S. market.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi said Monday that U.S. tariffs on Indian goods will drop to 18 percent, easing pressure on labor-intensive sectors such as textiles, apparel, leather, marine products, chemicals, plastics, and processed foods. Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal said Tuesday that the deal safeguards millions of farmers while opening large opportunities for exporters, calling it an agreement "every Indian can be proud of."

Officials said punitive U.S. tariffs linked to India's Russian oil purchases will be removed within days, while reciprocal tariffs on roughly \$30 billion in goods will also fall to 18 percent once a joint statement is issued. The United States Trade Representative Jamieson Greer confirmed India will lower



tariffs on American industrial goods, while maintaining protections for key farm items.

On Wednesday, Hinduja Group Chairman Ashok Hinduja said the agreement sends a strong signal of confidence to global markets by providing greater predictability for cross-border trade. External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar said

detailed negotiations are still underway as both sides finalize legal language.

The deal also includes a five-year commitment by India to purchase more than \$500 billion in U.S. goods, including aircraft, energy, and technology products, strengthening economic ties between the two democracies.

## Trump policies are accelerating democratic decline in United States, warns Human Rights Watch

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**H**uman Rights Watch warned Wednesday that President Donald Trump has undermined key democratic institutions through immigration crackdowns, threats to voting rights, and harsh enforcement measures. In its annual global report, the group said Washington is also retreating from international human rights leadership.

Executive Director Philippe Bolopion

said the United States is experiencing a rapid decline in democratic standards, with consequences worldwide. He criticized migrant deportations, treatment of asylum seekers, and the growing presence of masked immigration officers in American cities.

The White House dismissed the report, calling the organization politically biased. Spokesperson Anna Kelly said Trump has strengthened human rights by ending wars and protecting religious freedom. The report also criticized China, Russia, and Israel over rights abuses.



## India joins BRICS industrial center to strengthen MSMEs and advanced manufacturing



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**I**ndia formally joined the BRICS Centre for Industrial Competencies on Wednesday at an event organized by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade in New Delhi. The center, launched with support from the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, provides integrated services to manufacturing companies and micro, small, and medium enterprises across BRICS nations, with a focus on Industry 4.0 skills.

A trust fund agreement was signed between DPIIT and UNIDO, confirming India's participation. The National Productivity Council will act as India's nodal center, leading capacity building and productivity efforts. Officials said the move will help Indian MSMEs adopt advanced manufacturing practices and strengthen cooperation among BRICS members, which together represent over 40 percent of the global population.



Melania Trump secures Russia agreement to return Ukrainian youths taken during war



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

First Lady Melania Trump said Thursday that Russia has agreed to return Ukrainian children who were taken during the war and have since turned 18. Speaking in a rare White House address, she said eight children were reunited with their families in the past 24 hours.

Trump said she has maintained direct communication with President Vladimir Putin for three months after sending him a letter delivered by President Donald Trump during their Alaska summit. She also coordinated with Ukraine's first lady, Olena Zelenska, and met her at the United Nations last month.

Ukraine says tens of thousands of children were forcibly transferred to Russia. Trump said her goal is to ensure regular reunifications until every displaced child returns home safely.

**World Food Programme halts aid in South Sudan county after armed convoy attack**



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The United Nations World Food Programme said Wednesday it has suspended operations in Bariet County, South Sudan, after armed youth attacked and looted a river convoy carrying more than 1,500 metric tons of food.

The agency said the boats were targeted repeatedly between Thursday and Saturday, despite security assurances from local authorities. Aid supplies and partner materials were stolen overnight without intervention. The organization warned the violence threatens assistance for more than 4.2 million vulnerable people, as clashes between government and opposition forces continue to damage warehouses and health facilities across Jonglei State.

## Bangladesh Hindus fear rising violence ahead of national election

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**B**angladesh's Hindu minority is reporting growing fear after a surge in attacks, including the killing of garment worker Dipu Chandra Das, as the country prepares for national elections on Wednesday. Rights groups say more than 2,000 incidents of communal violence have been recorded since August 2024, including dozens of deaths and attacks on temples.

Hindus make up about eight percent of Bangladesh's population. Activists blame rising polarization, Islamist resurgence, and weak enforcement of law. The interim government led by Muhammad Yunus denies failing minorities, but critics accuse authorities of downplaying abuses.

The violence has strained relations with India, which has criticized Dhaka for not protecting Hindus. Families of victims are demanding justice, warning that impunity is emboldening attackers. Analysts say fear



could suppress minority voter turnout, deepening concerns about democratic participation and religious safety.

## Pakistan launches nationwide security sweep after coordinated Balochistan attacks kill dozens

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**P**akistan intensified security operations across Balochistan on Sunday after coordinated separatist attacks killed at least 31 civilians and 17 security personnel a day earlier. Chief Minister Sarfraz Bugti said authorities had killed 145 militants within 40 hours following assaults in more than 10 cities, including suicide bombings in Quetta.

Attackers struck military sites, police stations, banks, railways, and major roads, while a car bomb exploded inside Quetta's government zone. The banned Balochistan Liberation Army claimed responsibility.

Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi traveled to Quetta on Saturday as mobile internet services were suspended in several districts. Defense Minister Khawaja Asif said calm had been restored and cleanup operations were



underway. Pakistan accused India of backing militants, a charge New Delhi denied.

## Russia says New START limits no longer binding as nuclear pact expires

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**R**ussia said Wednesday it considers all obligations under the New Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty effectively ended after receiving no United States response to Moscow's proposal for continued restraint following the pact's expiration Thursday.

The treaty, signed in 2010, capped deployed nuclear warheads and delivery systems and was the last remaining arms control agreement between the two countries. Russia said it is now free to choose its next steps but remains open to diplomacy if conditions allow.

President Vladimir Putin had pledged last year to observe core limits for one year

after expiry, provided Washington avoided actions that upset strategic balance. President Donald Trump said in January he was unconcerned about the treaty ending and hoped for a new agreement. The pact is due to expire after being extended once to 2026.



United States lawmakers push tougher oversight of workplace artificial intelligence



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**U**nited States lawmakers warned Tuesday that artificial intelligence is already shaping wages, schedules, and worker monitoring, calling for stronger transparency and human oversight. At a House hearing, lawmakers raised concerns about surveillance tools tracking bathroom breaks and screen activity.

Experts said existing data fails to capture how artificial intelligence changes job tasks. Worker advocates urged disclosure rules, bias testing, and human review of key decisions. Business representatives cautioned against rushed legislation that could harm innovation. Both parties agreed better federal data is urgently needed to guide policy as artificial intelligence spreads across hiring and performance systems.

## Japan team to begin human trials of Nipah vaccine in April



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**J**apanese researchers announced Wednesday they will begin Phase 1 human trials of a Nipah virus vaccine in Belgium in April. Developed at the University of Tokyo, the vaccine uses modified measles virus technology and showed safety and effectiveness in animal studies.

The trial will involve 60 volunteers. The update comes after India reported Nipah cases in January. There is currently no licensed Nipah vaccine, and fatality rates range from 40 to 75 percent. Separately, Oxford University launched Phase 2 trials in Bangladesh in December with about 300 participants.

## Hong Kong firm launches arbitration after Panama court voids canal port contract

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**H**ong Kong based CK Hutchison Holdings said on Wednesday that its subsidiary has begun arbitration proceedings against Panama after the country's Supreme Court ruled its Panama Canal port concession unconstitutional. Panama Ports Company filed the case on Tuesday under International Chamber of Commerce rules, seeking compensation and relief.

The ruling affects two strategic ports at either end of the canal, a vital global trade route. Panama's government said operations would continue uninterrupted. CK Hutchison strongly rejected the decision, while China warned Panama of political and economic consequences.

The dispute also complicates a planned \$23 billion sale of CK Hutchison's global port network, including the Panama terminals, to a consortium led by BlackRock and Terminal Investment Limited. Analysts expect arbitration could take years. Panama's president said the judiciary acted independently, stressing national sovereignty amid rising United States-China tensions.

## Nepali Congress member urges return to Hindu state and monarchy

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**A** Nepali Congress leader called Tuesday for restoring Nepal as a Hindu state and reviving constitutional monarchy ahead of parliamentary elections on Wednesday. Lokesh Dhakal submitted a proposal urging party leaders to reverse secularism, arguing it weakened national identity. Nepal abolished its monarchy in 2008 and adopted secularism in 2007. Dhakal said more than 81 percent of citizens are Hindu and deserve cultural recognition. Party president Gagan Thapa supports republicanism, but Dhakal and allies continue pressing for change, claiming public sentiment favors a neutral monarch and traditional values.

## Pakistan court issues arrest warrant for Imran Khan's sister

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**A** Pakistani anti-terrorism court in Rawalpindi issued a non-bailable arrest warrant Monday for Aleema Khan, sister of former Prime Minister Imran Khan, over her absence in a protest case. She faces charges tied to clashes during demonstrations in November, when supporters defied gathering bans and confronted police. The court ordered her arrest and kept her bank accounts frozen. Separately, Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf challenged the detention of more than 180 party workers in Sindh, alleging unlawful raids. Provincial authorities denied wrongdoing as political tensions continue to rise.

## Iran unveils underground missile base as tensions rise with Washington

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**I**ran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps revealed a new underground missile base on Wednesday during a visit by senior military leaders, according to Iranian media. Armed Forces Chief Abdolrahim Mousavi said Iran has strengthened its deterrence by upgrading ballistic missiles across all technical areas.

Mousavi said Iran has shifted from a defensive to an offensive doctrine following last year's conflict with Israel, emphasizing rapid and large scale operations. His remarks come amid heightened tensions with the United States, which has increased its regional military presence.

Earlier Sunday, Mousavi warned that any United States miscalculation could



trigger a wider regional war. Iranian officials said the base demonstrates readiness against external threats as Washington continues to pressure Tehran over security and nuclear concerns.

## Israeli strikes kill at least 24 in Gaza as fragile ceasefire comes under strain

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**I**sraeli airstrikes across Gaza killed at least 24 Palestinians on Wednesday, including two infants, according to local health officials, as a fragile ceasefire showed further signs of collapse. Israel said the attacks targeted militant leaders and followed gunfire that seriously wounded one of its soldiers.

Hospitals reported that the dead included children, women, and an on-duty

paramedic. In northern Gaza, 11 members of one family were killed when a building was hit. Gaza officials said more than 500 Palestinians have died since the truce began in October.

Israel says its strikes respond to Hamas violations, while Arab mediators Egypt and Qatar have condemned repeated breaches. Limited progress continues on aid deliveries and prisoner exchanges, but key ceasefire elements, including reconstruction and security arrangements, remain stalled.



## Russia and Ukraine hold United States brokered peace talks in Abu Dhabi

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**U**kraine and Russia began the second day of US-brokered peace talks in Abu Dhabi on Thursday, aiming to resolve Europe's most destructive conflict since World War II. Ukrainian negotiator Rustem Umerov described Wednesday's discussions as "meaningful and productive," focusing on concrete steps and practical solutions. Russian President Vladimir Putin's envoy Kirill Dmitriev said there was "positive movement forward" and highlighted ongoing efforts to restore Russia-US economic relations.

Despite progress in talks, the two sides remain far apart on major issues, including Moscow's demand that Kyiv cede territory



in eastern Donetsk and control of the Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant. Ukraine insists the conflict should freeze along current front lines and seeks full authority over the power plant. Meanwhile, Russia launched a massive drone strike on northern Sumy's railway and energy infrastructure on Thursday, which Kyiv called "another act of terrorism" against its logistics.

## Man who killed Shinzo Abe appeals life sentence in Japan

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**T**etsuya Yamagami filed an appeal Wednesday against his life sentence for killing former Prime Minister Shinzo Abe during a campaign speech in 2022. Japan's Nara District Court sentenced Yamagami in January, rejecting claims that his troubled upbringing justified leniency. Yamagami said he targeted Abe over anger toward the Unification Church, blaming it for his family's financial ruin. Prosecutors sought life imprisonment, while defense lawyers argued for a shorter term. The court ruled that personal hardship did not excuse the daylight assassination that shocked Japan and the international community.

## Protesters rally in Caracas seeking release of Maduro and his wife

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**T**housands marched through Caracas on Tuesday demanding the release of President Nicolas Maduro and First Lady Cilia Flores, one month after they were seized in a United States military operation. Demonstrators backed acting President Delcy Rodriguez and called for national unity. Venezuela's armed forces also pledged support for Rodriguez's leadership, saying efforts were underway to secure Maduro's return. Protesters moved from Plaza Venezuela toward central avenues, continuing rallies held since Friday. Defense officials accused Washington of carrying out a disproportionate attack, while emphasizing the military's loyalty to Venezuela's constitution.

## South Korea foreign minister heads to Washington amid tariff concerns



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**S**outh Korean Foreign Minister Cho Hyun said Tuesday he will explain Seoul's parliamentary process to United States officials after President Donald Trump warned of higher tariffs over delays in approving a trade deal. Speaking before departing for Washington, Cho said agreements are moving through South Korea's legislature and urged patience. Trump has threatened to raise tariffs on South Korean goods to 25 percent. Cho is scheduled to meet Secretary of State Marco Rubio and attend a Wednesday ministerial on critical minerals, as Seoul seeks reassurance over its \$350 billion investment pledge to the United States.

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## BOOK CLASSIFIED ADS



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# India on the rise — skies open wider, trade barriers come down



**Dr. Avi Verma**

In the opening week of February 2026, the world witnessed a masterclass in strategic governance as India reached a decisive inflection point in its journey toward becoming a global economic superpower. Under the resolute leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, two monumental developments—the historic India-US trade and tariff reset and a transformative aviation infrastructure breakthrough in Punjab—have converged. Together, they signal a "New India" that is no longer just seeking a seat at the table but is actively rewriting the rules of global engagement.

#### A global masterstroke: The Indo-US trade and tariff reset

On February 2, 2026, the Modi Government secured what many industry experts are calling the "Grandmother of all deals." Following high-stakes negotiations between Prime Minister Modi and President Donald Trump, a significant de-escalation of trade friction was announced, effectively dismantling the "tariff wall" that had threatened Indian exports.

#### The economic triumph:

► **Tariff normalization:** In a major diplomatic win, the United States reduced reciprocal tariffs on Indian goods to 18%, down from punitive levels that had spiraled toward 50% in August 2025. This move effectively removes the 25% penalty previously tied to India's energy sourcing.

► **Sectoral revival:** The impact was immediate. Labor-intensive sectors—textiles, apparel, and gems & jewelry—regained their competitive edge. With an 18% rate, India now enjoys a 2–12% advantage over regional competitors like Vietnam (20%), Bangladesh (20%), and China (30–35%).

► **Market confidence:** The news sent ripples through the financial world; the Nifty Pharma Index jumped over 4.5%, and the Nifty IT Index surged by 5.5%, while the Rupee recorded sharp gains.

**Strategic autonomy in action:** The deal reflects India's sophisticated "multi-vector" foreign policy. While the US framed the deal as a pivot for India toward American energy (including a massive \$500 billion purchase commitment), the Modi Government has maintained its signature strategic pragmatism. By recalibrating its energy basket to include US and Venezuelan crude, India is safeguarding its energy security without compromising its long-standing partnership with Russia. This is not a surrender to pressure, but a calculated expansion of options.



#### Unlocking the skies: Punjab's aviation revolution

Domestically, the administration's focus on "Gati Shakti" (the power of speed) took flight in Punjab on February 1, 2026. The simultaneous operationalization of two key aviation hubs represents the fulfillment of decades-long demands and a leap forward for regional connectivity.

#### 1. Sri Guru Ravidas Ji Airport, Adampur:

Renamed in a powerful tribute to the revered saint and social reformer, this airport is more than a transit point. It is a symbol of cultural dignity and social inclusion. Serving the Doaba region—the heartland of the NRI community and local MSMEs—the airport bridges the gap for global travelers and exporters alike.

#### 2. The new gateway at Halwara

**(Ludhiana):** For 30 years, the industrial titan of Ludhiana was stifled by the lack of a modern civil terminal. The inauguration of the Halwara Civil Terminal, built at a cost of Rs.54.67 crore, changes the game:

► **Infrastructure leap:** Unlike the restricted Sahnewal Airport, Halwara's longer runway can handle A320-type aircraft, allowing for year-round, all-weather commercial operations.

► **Economic multiplier:** This terminal serves as a direct pipeline for Punjab's bicycle, hosiery, textile, and engineering sectors, slashing logistics costs and ensuring that local MSMEs can deliver time-sensitive goods to global markets faster than ever before.

#### The Ludhiana-Jalandhar nexus: From local hubs to global markets

The synergy between these achievements is best seen through the lens of Punjab's industrial clusters. Before the February 2026 trade deal, Ludhiana's hosiery and textile units were struggling under the weight of a 50% US tariff, with some experts warning of widespread closures.

**The "Double Dhamaka" for Punjab:** The combination of the 18% tariff reset and the opening of Halwara Airport creates a powerful "export corridor."

► **Cost competitiveness:** Exporters who were previously forced to offer 20-30% discounts to US buyers to absorb the high tariffs can now restore their margins.

► **Logistics speed:** Time-sensitive apparel and high-end hosiery from Ludhiana can now fly directly out of Halwara, bypassing the

congested 6-hour road journey to Delhi.

► **Investment surge:** With the tariff burden lifted and infrastructure in place, sectors like technical textiles and man-made fibers (MMF) are expected to see a surge in fresh investment, attracting supply chains moving out of China under the "China+1" strategy.

#### The strategic question: Pragmatism over ideology

The simultaneous nature of these victories raises a fundamental question: Is this a shift in alignment? The answer lies in the Modi Government's unique brand of Economic Pragmatism. By opening runways in Punjab, the government is building the capacity to export. By negotiating the tariff reset with the US, it is ensuring the opportunity to export.

Politically, the Prime Minister's presence in Punjab, an opposition-ruled state, underscores a "Nation First" philosophy. It sends a clear message that the administration's vision for a \$5 trillion economy is inclusive of every geography and every community.

#### The path ahead: A confident titan

The events of February 2026 mark a paradigm shift. India is no longer navigating the world with a defensive posture. It is:

► **Shaping terms:** Negotiating from a position of strength to lower barriers in the world's largest market.

► **Building resilience:** Diversifying energy sources to insulate the domestic economy from geopolitical shocks.

► **Connecting the heartland:** Ensuring that a factory in Ludhiana has a direct, frictionless path to the storefronts of New York and London.

Whether it is the roar of an A320 taking off from Halwara or the sharp rally of the Sensex following the trade reset, the signal is unmistakable. Under the Modi Government, India has found its stride.

The "Skies are Opening Wider" and the "Trade Barriers are Coming Down," paving the way for a century defined by Indian enterprise and leadership. The message to the world is clear: India's trajectory is upward, and the momentum is unstoppable.

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

Prince Andrew relocates to Sandringham as Epstein files to revive scrutiny



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**A**ndrew Mountbatten-Windsor moved out of Royal Lodge near Windsor Castle on Monday, earlier than planned, following renewed attention on his ties to Jeffrey Epstein after fresh United States court documents were released. British media reported he is now staying at Wood Farm Cottage on King Charles III's Sandringham estate while a permanent residence is prepared. The move was announced in October after the king stripped him of royal titles. Police are investigating claims Epstein brought another woman to Britain in 2010. Mountbatten-Windsor denies wrongdoing and has not commented on the latest allegations.

**Bangladesh court sentences Sheikh Hasina to ten years in corruption case**

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**A**DHAKA court sentenced former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to ten years in prison Monday over corruption tied to the Purbachal housing project. Her niece, British lawmaker Tulip Siddiq, received four years, while other relatives were also jailed. Twelve additional defendants were sentenced to ten years. The court imposed fines on most accused. Hasina and her family rejected the verdict, calling it politically motivated under the interim government led by Muhammad Yunus. The ruling adds to earlier convictions, including a separate five-year sentence, deepening Bangladesh's ongoing political crisis.

**Gunmen kill more than 160 in coordinated attacks on Nigerian villages**

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**A**rmed militants killed at least 162 people Tuesday in attacks on Woro and Nuku villages in western Nigeria, lawmakers said Wednesday. Witnesses reported residents were tied up and shot, with homes and shops burned. Amnesty International put the toll above 170. Officials blamed the Lakurawa group, linked to Islamic State. Survivors fled into nearby bushland, while some villagers remain missing. Nigeria faces overlapping security crises, including jihadist violence and banditry. Authorities imposed curfews as the military intensified operations, though residents say protection remains inadequate.

## Iran and United States to hold nuclear talks in Oman amid rising regional tension

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**I**ran and the United States agreed Wednesday to resume nuclear talks Friday in Oman, as President Donald Trump issued a blunt warning to Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei. Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi confirmed the meeting after earlier uncertainty over the format of negotiations.

The White House said it remains skeptical but agreed to proceed following appeals from regional allies. Iran's president has instructed negotiators to pursue fair talks, signaling approval from Khamenei. Washington hopes discussions will extend beyond nuclear issues to include missiles, regional proxies, and human rights.

Tensions remain high after nationwide protests in Iran and recent military incidents in the Persian Gulf. Vice President JD Vance



said Trump's bottom line is preventing Iran from obtaining nuclear weapons, warning that military options remain on the table if diplomacy fails.

## Xi and Putin reaffirm strategic partnership amid global tensions and United States talks

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**C**hinese President Xi Jinping and Russian President Vladimir Putin held a video call on Wednesday, pledging deeper cooperation as global instability grows. Putin called the relationship a stabilizing force and confirmed plans to visit China twice this year, including for the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation summit. The leaders discussed energy, nuclear cooperation, technology, and space research, while reaffirming mutual

support on sovereignty and security. Xi urged closer strategic coordination, describing current ties as entering a new phase. They also exchanged views on relations with the United States, Iran, and Ukraine. Putin backed Beijing's position on Taiwan and said Russia remains open to nuclear arms talks as the New START treaty expires Thursday. The call came shortly before Xi's separate conversation with President Donald Trump, highlighting China's central role in shifting global alliances amid trade disputes and diplomatic realignments.

## Argentina seeks extradition of Venezuela's Maduro from United States over crimes against humanity

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**A**n Argentine federal judge on Wednesday formally requested the extradition of Nicolás Maduro from the United States, accusing the former Venezuelan leader of crimes against humanity. Maduro was captured by United States forces last month and now faces narcotics related charges in New York.

The Argentine case, filed in Buenos Aires in 2023, alleges torture, arbitrary detention, and enforced disappearances carried out under Maduro's rule. It relies on universal jurisdiction laws that allow Argentina to prosecute grave international crimes committed abroad.



Judge Sebastián Ramos issued the warrant following Maduro's capture earlier this month. While Washington is unlikely to comply as Maduro awaits trial, human rights groups welcomed the move as a milestone for accountability. Argentina's President Javier Milei praised the United States operation, calling it a major step toward justice for Venezuelan victims.

## United States and United Nations unveil \$700 million relief fund as Sudan war deepens humanitarian crisis

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**T**he United States and the United Nations launched a new \$700 million humanitarian fund for Sudan on Tuesday, backed by \$500 million from the United Arab Emirates and \$200 million from Washington. The initiative aims to address the world's largest humanitarian crisis caused by Sudan's civil war. United Nations aid chief Tom Fletcher

said the goal is to make visible progress by the start of Ramadan, while United States adviser Massad Boulos said a humanitarian truce proposal could be agreed within weeks.

Sudan's war, ongoing since 2023, has killed more than 40,000 people and displaced over 14 million. On Tuesday, a drone strike hit a medical center in Kadugli, killing 15 people, including seven children, according to Sudan Doctors Network.

United States confirms multiple Islamic State strikes in Syria

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

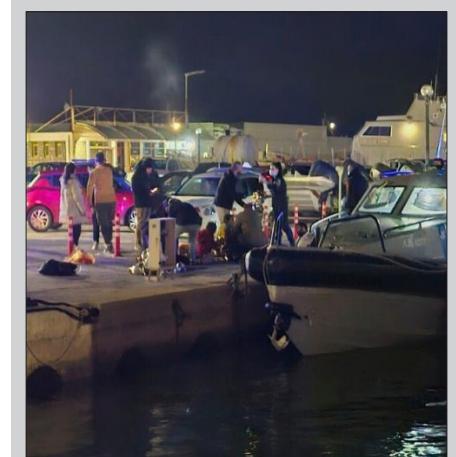
**U**nited States Central Command said Wednesday that American forces carried out five strikes on Islamic State targets in Syria, including weapons storage sites hit with about 50 precision munitions. The operations took place over several days and were aimed at degrading the group's ability to plan and launch attacks. Military officials said the strikes targeted infrastructure linked to extremist operations. No casualty figures were released. The announcement comes as Washington continues counterterrorism missions in the region amid ongoing instability in Syria and concerns over Islamic State regrouping following years of conflict.

**M**exico agrees to steady annual water deliveries after pressure from Washington

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**M**exico and the United States said Tuesday they reached an agreement requiring Mexico to send at least 350,000 acre-feet of water annually under the current five-year cycle. The deal follows months of talks and pressure from President Donald Trump, who warned of tariffs if deliveries did not improve. The arrangement changes how Mexico meets its obligations under a 1944 treaty, addressing United States concerns that delayed payments hurt Texas farmers. Mexican officials confirmed the pact, though the issue remains sensitive at home as drought-hit farmers in northern states face crop losses.

**Migrant boat collision off Greece kills at least 15 as rescue efforts continue**



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**A**t least 15 people died late Tuesday after a speedboat carrying migrants collided with a Greek coast guard vessel near the island of Chios, authorities said. Fourteen bodies were recovered at sea, and another woman later died in hospital. Twenty-five migrants, including about 11 children, were rescued, along with two injured coast guard officers. Search teams using patrol boats, a helicopter, and divers continued looking for missing passengers. Greece remains a key entry point into the European Union for migrants, despite tighter patrols and reduced crossings in recent years.

Friday, 06 February 2024

Seychelles president begins five-day India visit as ties mark 50 years



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**S**eychelles President Patrick Herminie arrived in New Delhi early Thursday for a five-day state visit to India at the invitation of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, coinciding with 50 years of diplomatic relations. It is Herminie's first India visit since taking office last October.

He is scheduled to meet President Droupadi Murmu and hold talks with Prime Minister Modi on bilateral, regional, and global issues. The president will also travel to Chennai and Mumbai for business engagements.

The Ministry of External Affairs said Seychelles remains a key maritime partner in the Indian Ocean under India's Vision MAHASAGAR. The visit follows Vice President C.P. Radhakrishnan's trip to Seychelles last October and is expected to boost cooperation and people-to-people ties.

**Prime Minister Modi to visit Malaysia to deepen comprehensive strategic partnership**



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**P**rime Minister Narendra Modi will visit Malaysia later this week at the invitation of Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim, the Ministry of External Affairs announced Wednesday. This marks Modi's third visit to Malaysia and his first since ties were elevated to a Comprehensive Strategic Partnership in August 2024.

During the visit, Modi will hold bilateral talks, meet the Indian diaspora, and engage with business leaders. The tenth India-Malaysia Chief Executive Officer Forum will also take place.

India and Malaysia share deep cultural links, supported by a 2.9 million strong Indian community. Both sides will review cooperation across trade, defense, maritime security, digital technology, energy, healthcare, and education, while charting future engagement for mutual growth.

## Brazil envoy says President Lula's India visit will push strategic partnership to next level

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**B**razilian Ambassador Kenneth H. da Nobrega said President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva's upcoming visit to India is expected to significantly strengthen bilateral ties, coming less than a year after Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Brazil. Speaking Tuesday, the envoy said the close timing of high-level visits reflects growing coordination between the two countries and a shared effort to elevate their strategic partnership. He said discussions will focus on delivering tangible outcomes across trade, investment, energy, defense, healthcare, and digital public infrastructure.

Brazil is also preparing to expand its trade



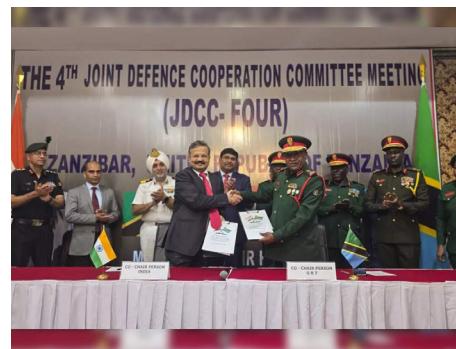
preferences agreement with India through the Mercosur bloc. Da Nobrega praised Prime Minister Modi's global leadership and noted India's projected annual growth of 6 to 7 percent, adding that both nations are relying on decades of diplomatic trust to navigate a complex geopolitical environment.

## India and Tanzania review military training and maritime security cooperation

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**I**ndia and Tanzania held their fourth Joint Defence Cooperation Committee meeting in Zanzibar on Tuesday, focusing on military training, maritime security, and defense industry collaboration. Officials also explored cooperation in cyber security, artificial intelligence, counterterrorism, and peacekeeping. The meeting was co-chaired by India's Amitabh Prasad.

The talks followed earlier naval staff discussions aimed at strengthening maritime coordination. India and Tanzania elevated ties to a strategic partnership in 2023 during President



Samia Suluhu Hassan's visit to India. Both countries reaffirmed their commitment to expanding defense engagement, building on decades of friendly relations rooted in shared support for non-alignment and South-South cooperation.

## Indian envoy meets Fiji Parliament speaker to strengthen bilateral cooperation

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**I**ndia's High Commissioner to Fiji, Suneet Mehta, met Parliament Speaker Filimone Jitoko on Monday in Suva, reaffirming parliamentary ties and exploring avenues to deepen bilateral cooperation.

Mehta also recently chaired a review of India-supported groundwater projects and held talks with Fiji's finance minister on expanding collaboration. Indian officials said work has begun on water supply initiatives benefiting local communities.

India and Fiji share strong cultural links, strengthened since Prime Minister Modi's



visit in 2014. India continues to support Fiji's development through capacity building and infrastructure projects, reinforcing a partnership built on mutual respect and people-to-people connections.

## NSA Ajit Doval meets Saudi counterpart in Riyadh as security cooperation deepens

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**N**ational Security Advisor Ajit Doval met Saudi National Security Adviser Musaed bin Mohammed Al-Aiban this week in Riyadh, holding wide-ranging talks on bilateral cooperation and regional security issues.

The discussions followed last week's third meeting of the India-Saudi Security Working Group, where both sides reviewed progress on counterterrorism, law enforcement

coordination, and judicial cooperation. Officials also exchanged views on tackling extremism, terror financing, misuse of technology by terrorist networks, and links between organized crime and terrorism.

Doval arrived in Riyadh on Tuesday for an official visit amid strengthening strategic ties. India and Saudi Arabia reaffirmed their shared commitment to combating terrorism in all forms and agreed to further deepen security collaboration, with the next Security Working Group meeting set to take place in India.

Australia says trade with India hits record high as pact upgrade talks gain pace



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**E**conomic ties between India and Australia have reached their strongest level ever, driven by the Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement, Australian diplomat Zoe Woodley said Wednesday in New Delhi.

Woodley, First Secretary for Economic, Energy and Climate Change at the Australian High Commission, said Indian exports to Australia have risen nearly 200 percent since the agreement came into force. Both countries are now working to upgrade the pact into a broader Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement to deepen economic engagement.

She highlighted Australia's strength in raw materials and India's manufacturing scale as a powerful combination for global supply chains. Calling India the world's fastest-growing major economy, Woodley said its rapid growth underscores its rising influence in the global economic landscape.

**Indian defense chief meets Armenian leadership to expand strategic cooperation**

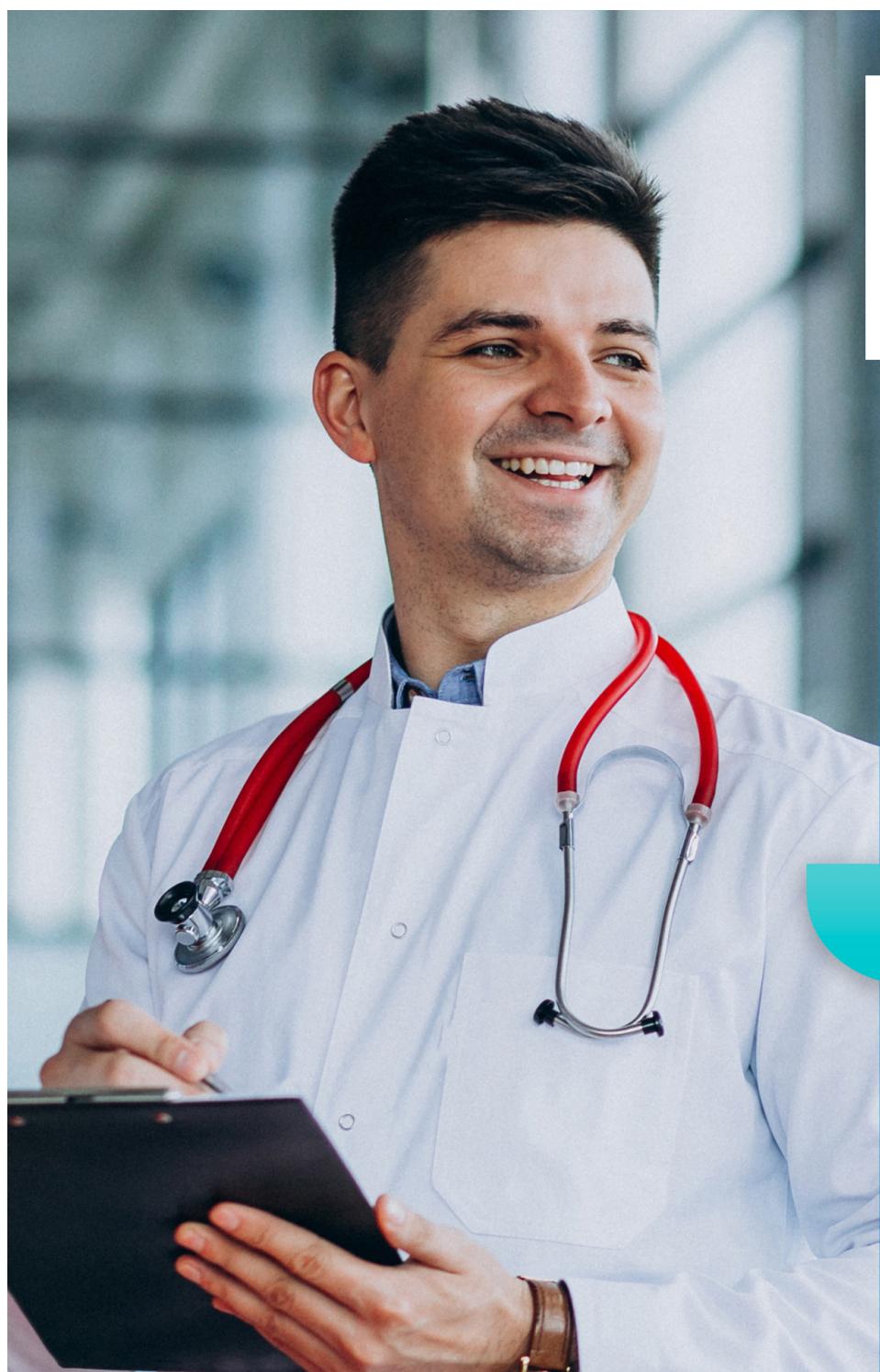


● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**C**hief of Defence Staff General Anil Chauhan met Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan on Wednesday in Yerevan, discussing regional security and ways to strengthen bilateral defense cooperation.

During the four-day visit, General Chauhan also held talks with Armenia's defense minister, foreign ministry officials, and armed forces chief. He addressed students at the National Defence Research University on evolving warfare and emerging technologies and inaugurated an information technology lab at Armenia's military academy.

The Indian delegation received a ceremonial welcome Monday and paid tribute at the Armenian Genocide Memorial. Officials said the visit reflects growing strategic ties, with both countries committed to deeper defense collaboration and long-term security cooperation.



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Friday, 06 February 2026

Deadly cold wave grips eastern United States as power outages stretch into second week



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

A brutal cold spell entered its second week on Monday across much of the eastern United States, leaving more than 70,000 homes and businesses in Tennessee and Mississippi without electricity and pushing the storm-related death toll past 110 since late January. Four unoccupied homes collapsed into the Atlantic Ocean along North Carolina's Outer Banks after fierce winds and heavy snow over the weekend. In Nashville, residents marked a ninth day without power, relying on grills and borrowed generators to stay warm. New York City Mayor Zohran Mamdani said hypothermia contributed to 13 outdoor deaths. Farmers in Florida waited for frozen crops to thaw, while snow fell from Indiana to Washington, D.C., as officials warned the cold was far from over.

Ryan Routh sentenced to life in prison for attempted assassination of President Donald Trump



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Ryan Routh was sentenced to life in prison on Wednesday after being convicted of attempting to assassinate President Donald Trump at Trump International Golf Club in West Palm Beach in September 2024.

United States District Judge Aileen Cannon also imposed an additional mandatory seven years for a firearm offense, calling the plot "evil." Prosecutors said Routh intended to kill Trump to disrupt democracy. Routh addressed the court but showed no remorse, according to prosecutors.

He was arrested after a Secret Service agent spotted him hiding near the golf course. A jury last year found him guilty on all five federal charges, including assault and multiple gun offenses.

## Health Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr. unveils \$100 million plan targeting homelessness and addiction

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Health Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr. announced a \$100 million federal program on Monday aimed at helping homeless people recover from addiction, find jobs, and secure stable housing.

Speaking at a Prevention Day event in Washington, Kennedy said the initiative, known as STREETS, will fund pilot projects that connect outreach teams, health providers, courts, and housing services into a single support system. He criticized past approaches that cycled people through hospitals, jails, and shelters without long-term recovery.



The program follows an executive order signed by President Donald Trump in January recognizing addiction as a chronic disease. Kennedy

also announced \$10 million for assisted outpatient care for people with serious mental illness and expanded funding for faith-based recovery groups.

### President Donald Trump signs funding bill, ending shutdown but sparking Homeland Security fight

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

President Donald Trump signed a roughly \$1.2 trillion government funding bill on Tuesday, ending a partial federal shutdown that began over the weekend and funding most agencies through September.

The House approved the measure 217 to 214 before Trump signed it, calling the bill a victory for Americans. However, the package funds the Department of Homeland Security for only two weeks, setting up a fresh showdown over immigration enforcement.

Democrats are demanding changes



following the fatal shootings of Alex Petti and Renee Good by federal officers in Minneapolis. House Democratic Leader Hakeem Jeffries warned his party will not back further temporary funding without reforms, while Speaker Mike Johnson said talks will continue ahead of the next deadline.

### Supreme Court clears California's new congressional map ahead of midterms

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The Supreme Court on Wednesday allowed California to use a newly approved congressional map, giving Democrats a potential boost in this year's midterm elections. Republicans had asked the court to block the map, arguing it was racially gerrymandered, but the

justices issued a brief order allowing it to proceed. The map, passed by voters last November through Proposition 50, could help Democrats gain up to five House seats. Governor Gavin Newsom backed the plan, calling it a response to a Texas map pushed by President Donald Trump last summer. A federal court previously ruled California's lines were drawn on partisan, not racial, grounds.

### Trump administration seeks \$1 billion from Harvard amid antisemitism dispute

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

President Donald Trump said Monday that his administration will seek \$1 billion in damages from Harvard University, accusing the school of antisemitism and criminal conduct. Trump made the announcement on social media, citing campus safety concerns following harassment reports by Jewish students after the October 2023 Hamas attacks on Israel. The administration previously

attempted to freeze billions in federal funding, a move later blocked by a federal judge, with the Justice Department appealing that ruling.

Harvard President Alan Garber has rejected federal demands and filed lawsuits to restore more than \$2.2 billion in grants. Trump also moved last year to end Harvard's international visa program. Other Ivy League schools, including Columbia and Brown, have reached settlements with the government.

### Suspect pleads not guilty in fatal shooting of D.C. National Guard members



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Rahmanullah Lakanwal, 29, pleaded not guilty on Wednesday in federal court to charges linked to the fatal shooting of National Guard Specialist Sarah Beckstrom and the wounding of Staff Sergeant Andrew Wolfe near the White House. Prosecutors say Lakanwal drove from Washington State and opened fire during a patrol. Beckstrom later died at a hospital, while Wolfe was seriously injured and transferred to rehabilitation in December. Lakanwal, who appeared in court in a wheelchair, is charged with murder, assault, and multiple firearm offenses. Authorities said he was shot and detained at the scene by National Guard officers.

### Trump-Kennedy Center to close for two years for major renovation

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

President Donald Trump said Sunday that the Trump-Kennedy Center in Washington will close for two years starting July 4 to undergo major renovations. Trump, who chairs the center's board, said the decision followed a yearlong review with contractors and arts experts and will allow faster, higher-quality work without event disruptions. Financing is already secured, though costs were not disclosed. Kennedy Center President Richard Grenell said Congress has allocated \$275 million for maintenance and repairs, adding the goal is to transform the venue into a world-class arts destination.

Measles outbreak spreads beyond schools as Florida university reports cases



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**H**ealth officials are tracking a growing measles outbreak after at least 12 cases were confirmed Tuesday at Ave Maria University near Naples, Florida. Three people were hospitalized, and the state health department launched contact tracing on Sunday.

Additional cases were reported this year at the University of Wisconsin Madison and Clemson University in South Carolina. At least 17 states have now confirmed infections. Officials warned the virus spreads rapidly, with outbreaks declared after just three cases.

Health authorities urged vaccinations, noting two doses of the measles, mumps, and rubella vaccine provide long-lasting protection. Most recent cases involve unvaccinated individuals, officials said.

**Local leaders push back against immigrant detention expansion in Texas**



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**C**ity officials in Dilley, Texas, voiced opposition Tuesday to a proposed expansion of a federal immigrant detention center that would add thousands of beds to the facility.

Residents raised concerns about strained water supplies, emergency services, and housing during a packed city council meeting. Immigration authorities said the expansion is part of a broader effort ordered by President Donald Trump to increase detention capacity nationwide.

Mayor Mary Keller said the small community lacks the infrastructure to support such growth. Advocacy groups also warned about human rights conditions inside large detention facilities. Despite opposition, federal officials said planning will continue as part of the administration's immigration enforcement strategy.

## Federal judge limits warrantless immigration arrests in Oregon amid civil rights concerns

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**A**federal judge ruled on Wednesday that immigration agents in Oregon cannot make arrests without warrants unless there is a clear risk a person may flee. United States District Judge Mustafa Kasubhai issued a preliminary injunction in a class action lawsuit challenging Department of Homeland Security practices during stepped up enforcement operations.

The decision follows testimony that agents detained people without warrants or evidence of possible escape. One plaintiff, Victor Cruz Gamez, said he was held for three weeks despite having a valid work permit and pending visa application.

Judge Kasubhai criticized agents



for using excessive force and warned that due process is being undermined. Similar rulings have emerged in Colorado and Washington, with government appeals ongoing. The injunction will remain in effect while the lawsuit proceeds.

## Minneapolis immigration officers to receive body cameras after deadly shootings

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**H**omeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem said Monday that immigration officers in Minneapolis will immediately receive body cameras following two fatal shootings involving federal agents. Noem said cameras will expand nationwide once funding is available, citing transparency concerns. The announcement comes amid

scrutiny of Immigration and Customs Enforcement during Operation Metro Surge. Officials confirmed body camera footage exists in the shooting of Alex Pretti, while part of the encounter involving Renee Good was captured on a cellphone. The Department of Homeland Security said multiple agents recorded video during recent incidents. Minneapolis officials welcomed the move but said more steps are needed to reduce tensions in the community.

## Tulsi Gabbard files whistleblower complaint over intelligence briefings

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**F**ormer congresswoman Tulsi Gabbard filed a whistleblower complaint on Monday, claiming she was excluded from classified intelligence briefings after criticizing foreign policy decisions by President Donald Trump's administration. Gabbard said the action violated her rights and was politically motivated. Officials denied wrongdoing, saying access decisions were based on security protocols. The Office of the Director of National Intelligence confirmed it received the complaint and is reviewing



the matter. Gabbard, who briefly sought the Democratic presidential nomination in 2020, said the dispute raises concerns about transparency and retaliation within federal agencies.

## Judge orders release of detained 5-year-old migrant in Texas

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**A**federal judge on Thursday ordered the release of a 5-year-old migrant boy who had been held in federal custody in Texas for more than three weeks after crossing the border with his mother. United States District Judge David Ezra ruled that the child's continued detention violated

due process and ordered immigration authorities to reunite him with his family while his asylum case proceeds. Lawyers said the boy was separated after his mother was hospitalized. The Department of Homeland Security said it complied with the order but defended its procedures, citing safety concerns. Advocacy groups praised the ruling, calling it a reminder that children should not be held in prolonged detention.

Trump administration to withdraw 700 immigration agents from Minnesota

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**T**he Trump administration will withdraw 700 federal immigration agents from Minnesota, White House border czar Tom Homan announced this week, following weeks of protests after two United States citizens were fatally shot during enforcement operations. Homan said the goal is a complete drawdown of Operation Metro Surge in Minneapolis, where more than 3,000 agents had been deployed over two months. He stressed immigration enforcement would continue nationwide and reiterated President Donald Trump's commitment to mass deportations. The Department of Homeland Security said about 3,000 undocumented immigrants have been arrested since the operation began. Minneapolis Mayor Jacob Frey said the drawdown is a step forward but called for a full end to the federal surge.

## Federal judge blocks end of Haitian protected status

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**A**federal judge on Wednesday temporarily blocked the Trump administration from ending Temporary Protected Status for Haitian immigrants, allowing thousands to remain in the United States while legal challenges continue. United States District Judge James Boasberg ruled that abruptly terminating protections could cause irreparable harm to families and communities. The Department of Homeland Security had planned to end the program on Sunday, arguing conditions in Haiti had improved. Advocacy groups welcomed the decision, citing ongoing violence and political instability in the Caribbean nation. The administration said it would appeal the ruling, maintaining that the program was never intended to be permanent.

**FBI arrests about 50 alleged Latin Kings members in nationwide gang crackdown**

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**F**BI Director Kash Patel said Friday that roughly 50 alleged Latin Kings gang members were arrested during a three-month nationwide operation involving 13 field offices.

Authorities seized about \$200,000 in assets and recovered 10 kilograms of illegal narcotics during 'Operation Broken Crown.' Patel said the gang had threatened law enforcement officers and was linked to violent activity across multiple states.

The Latin Kings, founded decades ago in Chicago, have been a recent focus of federal enforcement efforts. Homeland Security officials also warned that affiliated groups have used rooftop spotters to track immigration agents in real time. Patel said the operation follows a broader push to dismantle transnational gangs designated as terrorist organizations.

Friday, 06 February 2026

Former Biofourmis chief charged in Singapore over alleged fake health ministry invoices'

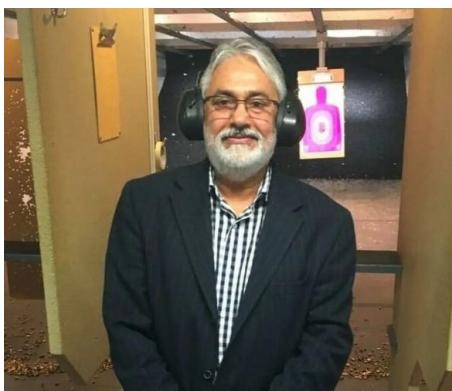


● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**A**n Indian national was charged in a Singapore district court on Wednesday over alleged fraud involving falsified company invoices totaling about \$16.49 million. Rajput Kuldeep Singh Vithal Singh, 34, former chief executive and director of healthcare startup Biofourmis Holdings, faces seven charges, including abetment of falsifying accounts, fraud by false representation, and forgery for cheating, according to The Straits Times.

Police said Singh allegedly instructed staff between August 2021 and February 2022 to create invoices claiming Biofourmis Singapore provided services to the Ministry of Health. He was released on \$446,000 bail, with a pretrial conference set for Tuesday. If convicted, Singh could face up to 20 years in prison on fraud charges.

**Surrey resident calls for fast-track gun licenses amid extortion fears**



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**A** Surrey resident has urged British Columbia Premier David Eby to introduce emergency legislation to fast-track 500 firearms licenses, citing rising extortion-related violence.

Vikram Bajwa said in a letter that residents feel forced to protect themselves as threats escalate. He claimed Surrey has seen four extortion-linked shootings since Thursday, along with four other shootings and 34 reported extortion cases this year. Bajwa criticized the current licensing process, which can take more than 45 days, and said business owners earning over \$500,000 annually are among the most targeted.

Public Safety Minister Nina Krieger rejected the proposal on Wednesday, warning against vigilantism and stressing that firearm licensing falls under federal authority.

## Pakistan honors Sikh legacy with Hari Singh Nalwa bust at Kartarpur

● Staff Writer, IndoUS Tribune

**P**akistan has installed a bust of legendary Sikh general Sardar Hari Singh Nalwa at the Kartarpur Corridor Art Gallery, a symbolic gesture welcomed by Sikh communities worldwide. The unveiling took place on Sunday, confirmed by Sikhs in America president Gurinder Singh Josan, who described it as an important step toward recognizing shared heritage.

The project was conceptualized by Gurinder Pal Singh Josan and created by sculptor Jagdeep Singh Billing under the leadership of Kulwant Singh Deol. The installation comes nearly three years after Nalwa's statue was removed from Haripur in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa following objections from religious groups.



Hari Singh Nalwa was a key general under Maharaja Ranjit Singh, securing the Sikh Empire's northwestern frontier and extending Sikh rule to the Khyber Pass. He also served as governor of Kashmir, Peshawar, and Hazara.

## Indian author Dr Jawahar Dhir presents motherhood memoir to Australian library

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**I**ndian author Dr Jawahar Dhir formally presented his latest book, *Mother Never Dies*, to an Australian library on Wednesday during a ceremony in Melbourne held alongside Australia's National Day celebrations. Organized by the Smart Club of Melbourne, the event took place at Bala-Bala Community Centre in Clyde North, where club president Rajinder Dhingra handed over the book.

Member of Parliament Pauline Richards accepted the copy on behalf of the library, praising its emotional depth, while fellow legislator Cassandra Fernando signed a copy and spoke about the universal importance of motherhood. Dr Dhir thanked organizers and library officials, calling the moment deeply meaningful. Dhingra said he personally collected copies during a recent



India visit to help promote Indian literature among Australian readers and strengthen cultural ties.

## Justice Department clarifies Mira Nair mention in Epstein files carries no allegations

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**T**he United States Justice Department has clarified that acclaimed filmmaker Mira Nair is mentioned in newly released Jeffrey Epstein documents only in connection with a social event and faces no allegations of wrongdoing.

A 2009 email from publicist Peggy Siegal to Epstein referred to an after-party celebrating a film directed by Nair, reportedly held at Ghislaine Maxwell's New York townhouse. Officials emphasized on Saturday that the reference does not imply any improper conduct.

The disclosure drew attention because Nair is the mother of New York City Mayor Zohran Mamdani. Authorities stressed that the files contain millions of emails and contacts and that names appearing in them should not be interpreted as evidence of criminal



involvement. They urged caution, noting the material reflects Epstein's broad social network rather than confirmed associations.

Hoshiarpur family brings son's body home from Greece after ministry intervention



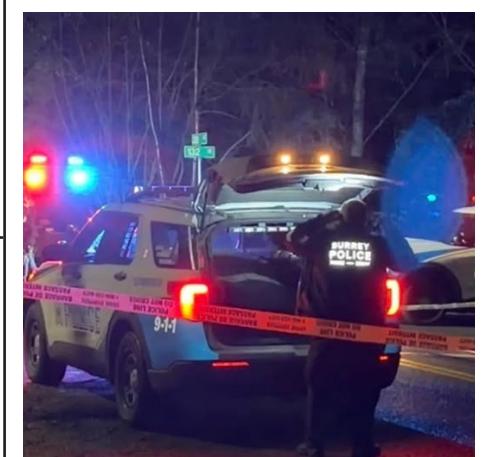
● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**T**he body of Lakhwinder Singh, a resident of Chak Allah Bakhsh village in Punjab's Hoshiarpur district, was brought back from Greece after intervention by India's Ministry of External Affairs.

His brother, Sukhdev Singh, approached former parliamentarian Avinash Rai Khanna earlier this week after facing difficulties repatriating the remains. Khanna raised the matter with the ministry, which later confirmed through an official letter that Singh's body had been sent to India.

The family verified the update on Wednesday, and last rites were performed in the native village. Sukhdev Singh thanked Khanna and the Government of India for their support during the ordeal.

## Three Punjabi youths charged in Surrey extortion shooting case



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**T**hree young Punjabi nationals have been charged in Canada following an extortion-related shooting in Surrey's Crescent Beach neighborhood early Sunday.

Police identified the accused as Harjot Singh, 21, Taranveer Singh, 19, and Dayajeet Singh Billing, 21. Officers responded around 3:50 a.m. after reports of gunfire and a small fire outside a residence. The suspects allegedly fled on foot before entering a rideshare vehicle and were arrested shortly afterward.

Each faces one count of discharging a firearm into a place. All three remain in custody until at least Wednesday. Authorities have informed Canada Border Services, and investigators said additional charges may follow.

## Indian-origin restaurant owner faces trial in London drink-spiking case



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**A**n Indian-origin businessman linked to fine-dining Indian restaurants in London went on trial this week over allegations he spiked a woman's drink at an exclusive nightclub.

Vikas Nath, 63, denies charges of administering a substance with intent and possessing a controlled Class B drug. Prosecutors told Southwark Crown Court that CCTV footage showed Nath adding liquid to the woman's cocktail while she was away.

Staff replaced the drink and alerted managers before police were called. Officers later recovered a small bottle from a restroom cistern. Nath told police he believed the substance was a legal relaxant. His trial continues and is expected to conclude in the coming weeks.

## Indian-origin rapist to lose United States citizenship after fraud finding



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**A**n Indian-origin man convicted of rape and kidnapping will be stripped of his United States citizenship after authorities found he concealed the crimes during his naturalization process.

Gurmeet Singh entered the country through family-based immigration and became a citizen in October 2011. Federal officials said he failed to disclose that he had kidnapped and raped a female taxi passenger. The Justice Department filed a denaturalization case Tuesday in New York.

Singh was later convicted of first-degree rape and sexually motivated kidnapping and sentenced to 20 years in prison. Attorney General Pamela Bondi said citizenship must be earned honestly, adding Singh obtained his status through deception and will now have it revoked.

## From Tamil Nadu to northern Canada, Archbishop Susai Jesu begins Indigenous ministry

● Staff Writer, IndoUS Tribune

**B**orn in Tamil Nadu, Archbishop Susai Jesu was consecrated on Monday as head of the Archdiocese of Keewatin-Le Pas, serving about 49,000 Catholics across northern Manitoba and Saskatchewan, most of whom are Indigenous.

Jesu, 54, previously served in Edmonton and played a key role during Pope Francis's 2022 visit, when the pontiff apologized for the Catholic Church's role in residential schools. Appointed by Pope Leo XIV, Jesu said his priority is building trust through personal presence in remote communities still healing from historical trauma.

Ordained in 2000, he moved to Canada in 2007 and has worked closely



with Indigenous groups, learning local languages and customs. He becomes the first Indian-born bishop to lead a North American diocese not primarily serving the Indian diaspora.

## Chandigarh native Pam Kaur makes history as HSBC's first woman finance chief

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**P**am Kaur, who studied at Carmel Convent School and Panjab University in Chandigarh, became HSBC's first woman Group Chief Financial Officer in October 2024, marking a milestone in the bank's 160-year history.

Speaking on Wednesday in her first Indian media interaction since assuming the role in January last year, Kaur reflected on her journey from India to London, where she began her career at Ernst and Young before entering banking in 1990. She said navigating global financial crises shaped her leadership approach.

Now overseeing HSBC's worldwide financial strategy, Kaur highlighted disciplined growth, digital transformation,



and India's rising economic influence. She also urged young professionals, especially women, to pursue ambition with resilience, confidence, and integrity.

## Punjab couple found dead in Calgary home, police launch investigation

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**A** young couple from Punjab was found dead in a pool of blood at their home in Redstone, a neighborhood in northeast Calgary, on Friday, prompting a full investigation by Canadian authorities.

The victims were identified as Ekamveer Singh and his wife Jasmine, originally from Chaukiman village near Jagraon in Ludhiana. The tragedy has shocked their hometown, especially as Ekamveer's parents had also died under unnatural circumstances several years ago.

Village sarpanch Kewal Singh said residents learned about the deaths only after officials began making inquiries. Relatives told villagers Jasmine may have suffered an accidental gunshot wound, after which Ekamveer allegedly

shot himself in distress, though police have not confirmed this.

The Calgary Police Service said it has not ruled out a criminal angle and is working to determine the exact cause of death.



## Amritsar family searches for son missing after joining Russian army

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**T**he family of 33-year-old Hira Singh from Amritsar has had no contact with him for four months after he joined the Russian army last August.

His wife, Navdeep Kaur, last spoke to him on Wednesday in September while he was in Ivanovo. Singh had traveled to Russia on a study visa but later enlisted after struggling financially. He reportedly accepted an offer promising about \$16,800 upfront and roughly \$2,400 monthly.

Navdeep said the family has only photos of him in military uniform and has received no money since. They have connected with about 30 other families across northern India facing similar situations.

## Punjabi singer briefly detained in Canada, family cites mental health concerns

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**P**unjabi singer Simar Doraha was briefly detained by Canadian police on Saturday before being released within 20 to 25 minutes, according to his family. Unofficial sources claimed the detention was linked to an alleged theft, though authorities have issued no formal statement. His mother, Inderjeet Kaur, confirmed the incident and said Simar suffers from bipolar disorder and is undergoing treatment. The family is urging him to seek hospital care in Amritsar. Simar moved to Canada two years ago and recently visited India. With nearly one million Instagram followers, he is known for socially driven lyrics and has written more than 45 songs.

## Moga youth dies in Canada days after receiving work permit



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**A** 25-year-old man from Punjab's Moga district died of a suspected heart attack in Canada just days after receiving his work permit. Sukhjinder Singh had moved to Canada three years ago on a study visa and shared the good news with his mother on Wednesday. He had booked tickets to return home Thursday to surprise his family. His father, a retired army veteran, said Sukhjinder struggled to find work in India before moving abroad. The family had been preparing for his homecoming when they received news of his death. The tragedy has shocked the entire village of Takhanwad.

Friday, 06 February 2026

Colombia-Ecuador tariff standoff sparks border protests by truckers and merchants

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**T**ruckers and merchants from Colombia and Ecuador staged protests at a border crossing on Tuesday, urging both governments to scrap newly imposed 30 percent tariffs on dozens of goods. Ecuadorian President Daniel Noboa introduced the levies last month, calling them a "security tax" aimed at pressuring Colombia to curb cocaine trafficking. Colombia responded with matching tariffs on Ecuadorian products, including rice and car parts, and halted electricity exports. The reciprocal measures took effect on Saturday. Protesters warned the dispute threatens border economies, where trade is vital. Bilateral commerce totaled about \$2.3 billion last year, with Colombian exports accounting for roughly \$1.7 billion.

**Seif al-Islam Gadhafi killed in Libya as masked attackers storm his home**

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**S**eif al-Islam Gadhafi, son of Libya's late dictator Moammar Gadhafi, was shot dead on Tuesday in Zintan, southwest of Tripoli, Libyan officials said. Prosecutors confirmed the 53-year-old was killed by gunfire, while his political team said four masked men forced their way into his home and carried out what they called a targeted assassination. Once seen as his father's heir, Gadhafi was freed in 2017 after years in captivity and remained wanted by the International Criminal Court. Libya has struggled with instability since Moammar Gadhafi's overthrow and death in 2011.

**CIA ends World Factbook after six decades as agency narrows focus**



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**T**he Central Intelligence Agency announced on Wednesday it is ending publication of its World Factbook after more than 60 years. First launched in 1962 as a classified reference, the Factbook later became a popular public resource detailing countries' economies, populations, and militaries.

The agency gave no formal reason, but the move follows Director John Ratcliffe's pledge to cut programs not tied to core missions. After going online in 1997, the Factbook drew millions of annual users, including journalists and students. The decision also comes as the White House pushes staffing reductions across intelligence agencies.

## Mexico defies Washington pressure as Sheinbaum pledges aid and fuel support for crisis-hit Cuba

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**M**exico's President Claudia Sheinbaum said on Sunday that her government will send humanitarian aid to Cuba this week and is exploring diplomatic options to supply fuel, rejecting President Donald Trump's claim that Mexico agreed to halt oil shipments. Speaking in Sonora, Sheinbaum said oil exports were never discussed with Trump.

Her comments followed Trump's executive order last week threatening tariffs on countries supplying crude to Cuba. Mexico has become Cuba's largest oil supplier after United States shipments from Venezuela stopped, leaving Havana facing rolling blackouts and severe shortages.

On Monday, Cuba's foreign minister said Havana was open to renewing



cooperation with Washington as Trump claimed talks were underway. Analysts said Sheinbaum faces growing pressure to balance Mexico's ties with Cuba against looming United States trade negotiations and tariff threats.

## United States pushes allies to reset critical minerals supply chains amid security concerns

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**U**nited States Vice President J D Vance urged global partners on Tuesday to work together to repair what he called a broken critical minerals market, warning that concentrated supply chains threaten economic growth and national security. Speaking at the Critical Minerals Ministerial in Washington, Vance said modern economies depend on stable access to minerals as much as oil and gas.

More than 50 countries attended, including India, represented by External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar. Vance said participating nations account for nearly two-thirds of global output and could build resilient supply systems through cooperation.

Secretary of State Marco Rubio said President Donald Trump made mineral security a top priority, citing



new mining initiatives and over \$10 billion in agreements secured in October alone. Rubio warned that emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence require renewed investment in factories and mines, calling for a coordinated international framework.

## Czech Prime Minister Babiš survives no-confidence vote amid dispute with president

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**C**zech Prime Minister Andrej Babiš's new coalition government survived a parliamentary no-confidence vote on Wednesday after only 84 lawmakers backed its removal, short of the 101 needed. The challenge followed President Petr Pavel's refusal to appoint a proposed environment minister over past racist and sexist social media posts. Babiš rejected opposition calls to drop his coalition partner, while Pavel said his decision was final.

Tens of thousands rallied on Sunday in support of the president. The coalition, sworn in earlier this winter, plans to scale back support for Ukraine and oppose parts of European Union policy.



Hungary jails German anti-fascist activist over attacks at far-right rally



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**A** Hungarian court sentenced German anti-fascist activist Maja T. to eight years in prison on Wednesday for participating in assaults during a far-right rally in Budapest in 2023. Prosecutors said the attacks left victims with life-threatening injuries. Maja T., extradited from Germany in 2024, called the trial politically motivated and supporters criticized detention conditions. Hungary designated antifa a terrorist organization last year under Prime Minister Viktor Orbán. Another suspect, Italian activist Ilaria Salis, was released in 2024 after winning a European Parliament seat. The conviction can be appealed.

## Poland probes Epstein files for possible Polish victims



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**P**olish Prime Minister Donald Tusk said Tuesday that authorities will review newly released Jeffrey Epstein documents to identify any potential Polish victims. Speaking after a government meeting, Tusk said a special team led by justice and security officials will examine millions of pages released by the United States Justice Department. He cited references to contacts in Krakow and said a formal investigation could follow. While Poland appears in the files, no confirmed cases involving Polish citizens have emerged. Latvia and Lithuania also announced reviews. Epstein died in 2019 while awaiting trial on sex trafficking charges.

**World Health Organization resumes preventive cholera vaccinations after global shortage**

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**T**he World Health Organization said Wednesday that preventive cholera vaccination campaigns will restart worldwide after a nearly four-year pause caused by vaccine shortages. Global stockpiles have recovered to nearly 70 million doses, allowing 20 million to be distributed initially to Mozambique, Congo, and Bangladesh. Officials said shortages forced countries to react to outbreaks rather than prevent them. More than 600,000 cases and nearly 7,600 deaths were reported last year. Mozambique is a priority after recent flooding displaced hundreds of thousands. A single-dose strategy will remain standard, with two doses used selectively.

## Italy blocks Russian-linked cyberattacks targeting Winter Olympics sites



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**I**taly thwarted cyberattacks of suspected Russian origin aimed at foreign ministry offices and Winter Olympics websites, Foreign Minister Antonio Tajani said Wednesday in Washington. He said the attacks also targeted hotels in Cortina d'Ampezzo, days before Friday's opening ceremony in Milan. Interior Minister Matteo Piantedosi told parliament that 6,000 security officers, including counterterrorism units and snipers, are deployed across Olympic venues from Milan to the Dolomites. The Games began Wednesday with curling matches in Cortina.

## Small European Union nations ramp up drone production as Ukraine war reshapes defense industry

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**E**ven Cyprus, one of the European Union's smallest members, is supplying drones to Ukraine's front lines. Cyprus-based Swarmly says more than 200 of its H-10 Poseidon drones are helping Ukrainian artillery identify targets, logging over 100,000 flight hours. The company's Limassol factory now exports drones worldwide. The Ukraine war has pushed smaller European countries to expand homegrown defense industries, with Denmark, Greece, and Baltic states also accelerating drone programs. Experts say drones offer affordable battlefield advantages, though their effectiveness still depends on training, logistics, and harsh operating conditions.

## Trump and Colombia's Petro strike friendlier tone after tense months

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**P**resident Donald Trump and Colombian President Gustavo Petro held a nearly two-hour White House meeting on Tuesday, both calling it productive after weeks of sharp exchanges. Trump praised Petro as "terrific," while Petro said talks ended with optimism. They discussed counternarcotics cooperation, Venezuela's future, and energy projects. Petro proposed renaming Trump's campaign slogan to 'Make the Americas Great Again.' Despite recent sanctions and military tensions, both leaders signaled renewed engagement. Petro also invited Trump to visit Cartagena, as Washington and Bogotá seek to stabilize a strained but long-standing alliance.

## Rallies across United States spotlight violence against Hindus and minorities in Bangladesh

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**P**aceful rallies were held across 25 United States cities over recent days, drawing attention to violence targeting Hindu and other minority communities in Bangladesh. Despite freezing weather, participants gathered at civic centers to call for protection of vulnerable groups and honor victims with prayers and moments of silence.

Organizers said the effort was humanitarian and non-partisan, highlighting reports of lynching, arson, sexual violence, and targeted killings. The nationwide initiative was coordinated by Daipayan Deb, Deepa Mahajan, Geeta Sikand, and Divya Jain.

Community leaders said the rallies



reflected unity across faiths and growing concern over the safety of minorities in Bangladesh. In several cities, local officials attended or formally acknowledged the events. Organizers said the campaign will continue until violence against civilians ends, emphasizing peaceful advocacy and global awareness.

## Israeli police detain officials over suspected misuse of post-Oct. 7 aid funds

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**I**sraeli authorities detained several local officials and businesspeople on Monday over allegations they siphoned millions in donations sent after the October 2023 Hamas attack. Police said funds meant to help displaced families were diverted for personal gain.

More than \$1.4 billion flowed into Israel following the assault, which killed about 1,200 people and displaced over 120,000 residents. Investigators tracked suspects for months. Corruption probes are common in Israel, and the case adds to public scrutiny over how emergency aid was managed during the ongoing war.



## Japan retrieves rare earth-rich seabed mud in bid to cut reliance on China

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**J**apan announced Monday it successfully recovered rare earth-bearing sediment from nearly 6,000 meters below the ocean near Minamitorishima, marking a world first. Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi said the test advances Japan's push for secure mineral supply chains. China dominates global rare earth production, vital for defense and electric vehicles. Officials called the recovery a key step toward domestic sourcing, though commercial mining still requires further testing. The operation comes amid rising



tensions with Beijing and concerns over potential export curbs affecting Japan's economic and technological security.

## Rome introduces Trevi Fountain entry fee to curb crowds and fund preservation

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**T**ourists visiting Rome's Trevi Fountain began paying a \$2 entry fee on Monday as city officials moved to manage overcrowding and raise conservation funds. Residents remain exempt. Authorities estimate the measure could generate about \$7.6 million annually. The

fee follows a successful trial limiting visitor numbers near the fountain and coincides with higher museum ticket prices.

Officials say the policy improves access while covering maintenance costs. Rome joins other Italian cities experimenting with tourist charges as officials seek to balance booming tourism with livability for locals.

## Bolivia bans cellphones in classrooms as new government targets student focus



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**B**olivia began enforcing a nationwide classroom cellphone ban on Monday as schools reopened for the year. Students and teachers must keep phones in bags or lockers during lessons in both public and private schools. President Rodrigo Paz said the move aims to reduce distractions while expanding internet access in rural areas through satellite connectivity. Paz stressed technology would support learning, not entertainment. The policy follows similar steps in France, Brazil, and South Korea. Bolivia recently lifted restrictions on foreign satellite providers to improve connectivity in remote regions with limited broadband access.

## Britain's Mandelson urged to quit House of Lords over Epstein links

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**F**ormer British ambassador Peter Mandelson resigned from the Labour Party on Sunday as pressure mounted over his ties to Jeffrey Epstein. Prime Minister Keir Starmer called Monday for Mandelson to leave the House of Lords and testify in the United States.

Newly released files allege Epstein sent Mandelson-linked accounts \$75,000 in the early 2000s. Mandelson denies wrongdoing and questions the documents' authenticity. Police are reviewing complaints of misconduct in public office. Lawmakers say Mandelson has a moral duty to cooperate as scrutiny intensifies over Epstein's powerful connections.

## Deadly Patagonia wildfires reignite anger over Milei austerity cuts

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**M**assive wildfires continued spreading across Argentina's Los Alerces National Park on Monday, scorching more than 45,000 hectares and forcing thousands to evacuate. Critics blame President Javier Milei's austerity drive, which slashed firefighting budgets by 80 percent last year. Rangers say staffing shortages and limited equipment slowed early response. While Milei later declared an emergency, firefighters report exhaustion and low wages. Environmental groups warn climate change is worsening fire risks, while locals accuse the government of dismantling prevention programs, leaving Patagonia dangerously exposed during peak fire season.

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## India skips Chabahar port funding amid US-Iran tensions



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**I**ndia has not allocated funds for the Chabahar port project in the 2026 Union Budget, reflecting caution amid rising tensions between the United States and Iran. Previously, New Delhi earmarked around Rs 100 crore annually for Chabahar, Iran's first deepwater port at the mouth of the Gulf of Oman, offering direct access to global maritime routes. The port, in Sistan-Baluchestan province near Pakistan's border, is a strategic gateway for trade with Afghanistan and Central Asia, bypassing Pakistan. Chabahar also counters China's Gwadar port development under the Belt and Road Initiative. India's involvement began in 2002, with cooperation formalized in 2003. A six-month US sanctions waiver for India's participation expires in April, and New Delhi is engaging Washington on next steps amid threats of additional tariffs on trade with Tehran.

## Sitharaman unveils rare earth corridors in four states



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**F**inance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced the creation of dedicated rare earth corridors in Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Odisha, and Andhra Pradesh, aiming to reduce India's dependence on China for critical minerals. These 17 elements are essential for smartphones, electric vehicles, fighter jets, and other high-tech industries.

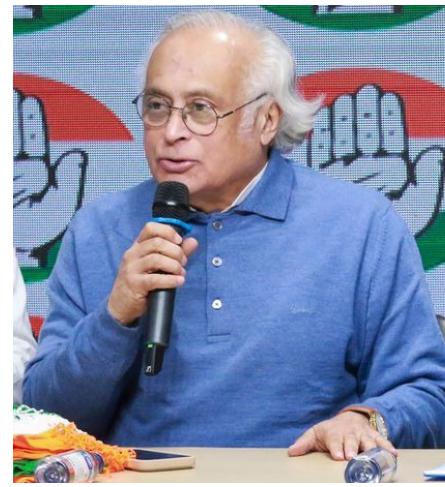
The corridors will support mining, processing, research, and manufacturing under the rare earth permanent magnets scheme launched in November 2025. The move also carries political weight, with Tamil Nadu and Kerala set for state elections later this year. Sitharaman linked the initiative to the Union Budget's broader goal of making India 'Aatmanirbhar' or self-reliant. In addition, a Rs 40,000-crore outlay for semiconductors was announced under 'India Semiconductor Mission 2.0', focusing on full-stack Indian intellectual property and local manufacturing.

## Congress calls India-US trade deal announcement empty rhetoric, warns of risk to farmers

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**S**enior Congress leader Jairam Ramesh sharply criticized the India-US trade deal on Wednesday, describing Union Minister Piyush Goyal's statement in Parliament as an empty "non-statement" lacking substantive details. Ramesh noted that key negotiations are still ongoing, and Goyal's remarks contradict statements from US President Donald Trump, the US Secretary of Agriculture, and the US Trade Representative.

He argued that the Monday announcement, made at the Prime Minister's insistence, was aimed at short-term political optics rather than genuine bilateral progress. Ramesh warned the final deal could harm Indian farmers by flooding domestic markets with subsidized American produce and weakening protections for sensitive sectors like dairy.



Opposition members have demanded full disclosure of the agreement, a detailed debate, and guarantees that core Indian interests remain safeguarded, amid concerns that social media announcements bypassed legislative scrutiny.

## Mamata calls Union Budget a 'Humpty Dumpty' fiasco

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**B**engal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee slammed the Union Budget as a "Humpty Dumpty Budget," accusing the central government of neglecting the state entirely. She described it as "directionless, visionless, actionless and anti-people," adding it discriminates against women, farmers, education, and marginalized communities.

Markets reacted sharply after Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman's presentation, with the Sensex dropping over 1,600 points and Nifty falling more than 500 points before partially recovering. The Congress also criticized the Budget, calling it "totally lackluster" and insufficient for farmers and youth employment. Prime Minister Narendra Modi hailed it as "historic," framing it as a



roadmap for 'Viksit Bharat' and boosting initiatives like 'Make in India' and 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat'. Moody's Ratings described the Budget as "tactical" but not a breakthrough amid global uncertainties and trade tensions.

## India rejects International Court order on Indus Waters Treaty

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**I**ndia has refused to recognize the legitimacy of the Court of Arbitration in The Hague, which has issued orders under the Indus Waters Treaty framework. The court asked India to produce operational logbooks from Baglihar and Kishanganga hydroelectric plants for hearings scheduled this week.

Officials said India will not participate, maintaining that the treaty has been placed in abeyance since the Pahalgam attack in April 2025. New Delhi argues the issues fall under the neutral expert's domain and views Pakistan's move to involve the court as "forum shopping." India's stance signals that water cooperation cannot continue amid ongoing state-sponsored hostility.



## NIA conducts multiple raids across Kashmir Valley in terror probe

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**T**he National Investigation Agency carried out raids at six locations across the Kashmir Valley this morning in connection with terror conspiracy cases, officials said. The operations, supported by Jammu and Kashmir police and the CRPF, included searches of residential houses in Srinagar, Bandipore, Baramulla, and Sopore districts.

Four homes were searched in Bomai, Rafiabad, and Model Town Sopore. It was not immediately clear if anyone was detained. The NIA is investigating major terror incidents in the region, including recent terror financing cases, the Delhi blast case, and the Pahalgam attack. Since 2018, the agency has also been credited with dismantling the separatist political structure in Kashmir through high-profile arrests.

## Al Falah University chairman arrested in fraud case

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**T**he Delhi Police Crime Branch arrested Al Falah University Chairman Jawad Ahmed Siddiqui on Thursday over alleged financial and administrative irregularities. The action follows complaints from the University Grants Commission and recent Enforcement Directorate scrutiny. Two FIRs accuse Siddiqui of fraud and related offenses.

He was produced before a Delhi court, which granted four days' police custody for further questioning. Investigations focus on falsification of records and financial misconduct. The university had faced national attention for employing individuals linked to terror networks, and its accreditation claims were questioned by the National Assessment and Accreditation Council last November.

## Rahul Gandhi sparks uproar in Parliament quoting unpublished Ladakh book



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**P**arliamentary proceedings turned chaotic today as Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi read excerpts from a magazine essay on former Army chief General MM Naravane's unpublished book, 'Four Stars of Destiny', about the 2020 Ladakh stand-off. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, Home Minister Amit Shah, and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju repeatedly objected, citing House rules against quoting unpublished works.

Gandhi insisted the material was authentic and pressed on, questioning why BJP leaders opposed his reading. Support came from Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav. The repeated interjections led Speaker Om Birla to adjourn the Lok Sabha till 3 pm, after which the House resumed amid similar disruption.

Cyber forensic divisions to be set up in Punjab, Nagaland, and Andamans



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Minister of State for Home Affairs Bandi Sanjay Kumar announced this week that cyber forensic divisions will be established in Punjab, Nagaland, and the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. With 27 States and Union Territories already having facilities, only Sikkim remains without one. The Hyderabad NCFL currently has 181 pending cases, supported by four in-house experts. Under the "Safety of Women" scheme, six additional NCFLs are being set up across India. The National Forensic Sciences University has conducted 66 cyber forensic training programs for 1,852 government officers over the past five years, ensuring ongoing reskilling and upskilling.

Kerala Assembly elections to be first without Oommen Chandy

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Kerala will hold its first Assembly elections in over five decades without former Chief Minister Oommen Chandy, who passed away in 2023. Chandy, who represented Puthupally since 1970, was the UDF's key campaigner and vote mobilizer. Candidates are expected to begin campaigns at his grave, which has become a symbolic site for political homage. While his presence on the campaign trail will be missed, Chandy's legacy of accessibility, humility, and dedication continues to shape Kerala politics, ensuring he remains central in memory, symbolism, and Puthupally-focused campaigning.

Delhi CM Rekha Gupta to lead Old Delhi redevelopment and heritage conservation



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Chief Minister Rekha Gupta, appointed chairperson of the Shahjahanabad Redevelopment Corporation, said this week that comprehensive redevelopment of Old Delhi would be prioritized while conserving heritage. She emphasized removing overhead electrical wires, creating multi-level parking, and managing traffic in busy markets to enhance safety and tourism. Historic havelis, katas, and koochas will be upgraded alongside civic services, including sewerage, water, and sanitation. Gupta announced that past redevelopment plans, including Chandni Chowk and Jama Masjid areas, will be reviewed to transform Old Delhi into a cultural and tourist hub.

## Ayodhya spiritual leader demands apology from Swami Avimuktешwaranand over CM remarks

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Paramhans Acharya, Peethadheeshwar of Tapasvi Chhavani, condemned remarks by Swami Avimuktешwaranand Saraswati comparing Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath to Mughal rulers, calling them objectionable. Acharya demanded a public apology and warned

that the Swami would not be allowed into Ayodhya unless he withdrew his words. He praised CM Yogi as the "Sun of Sanatan Dharam" and criticized the Swami's politically motivated cow protection campaign, urging recognition of the entire bovine community. Acharya appealed to followers of Sanatan Dharam to socially and religiously boycott the Swami until he issues a formal apology.



## CBI takes over Ankita Bhandari murder probe, names 'unknown VIP'

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The Central Bureau of Investigation has taken over the Ankita Bhandari murder case in Uttarakhand and registered a case against an "unknown VIP." Two CBI officials arrived Monday to probe the alleged VIP angle following viral clips involving former legislator Suresh Rathore and Urmila Sanawar. Ankita, 19, was killed while working at Vanantra Resort in September 2022, her body recovered from the Chilla Shakti Canal. Pulkit Arya, owner of the resort, and two co-accused were convicted and sentenced to life imprisonment. The



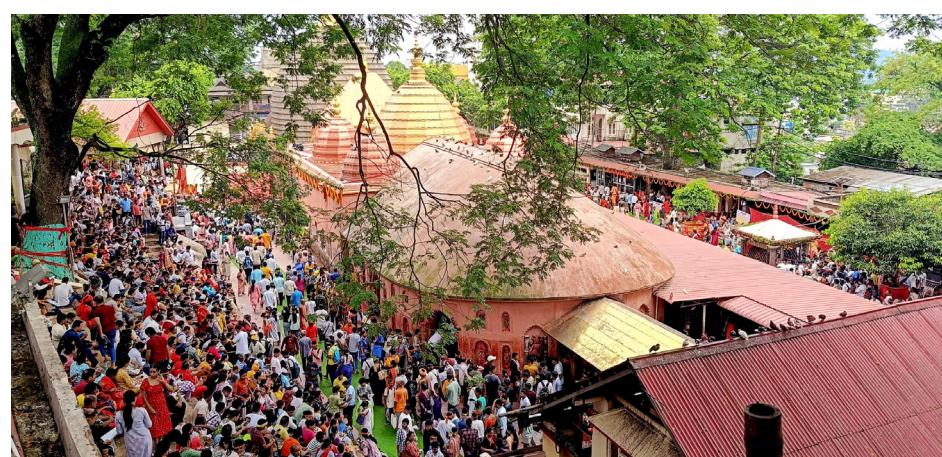
Uttarakhand government emphasized that no one will evade justice and transparency remains a priority.

## Kamakhya ropeway project to boost religious tourism in Assam

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said the Rs.213-crore Kamakhya Ropeway project will enhance religious tourism and ease travel for lakhs of devotees visiting the Kamakhya Temple atop Nilachal Hill. Sarma stated the ropeway, linking the temple to Guwahati railway

station, will reduce congestion and provide a safe, eco-friendly transport option. The temple, a prominent Shakti Peeth, draws millions annually, especially during the Ambubachi Mela. Officials said the project will improve accessibility for pilgrims, senior citizens, and tourists while boosting Assam's spiritual tourism and integrating it with river tourism, wildlife destinations, and the Northeast's cultural attractions.



Stalin attacks AIADMK and BJP, calls on DMK cadre to follow Anna's path

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin on Monday criticized the BJP and AIADMK for undermining the state's interests and federalism, accusing them of enabling Hindi and Sanskrit imposition. In a letter to party cadres, Stalin urged DMK workers to prepare for the 2026 Assembly elections by strengthening social justice, state autonomy, and inclusive development. He highlighted the legacies of C.N. Annadurai and M. Karunanidhi, emphasizing Tamil identity, anti-Hindi imposition, and the Dravidian model of governance. Stalin announced a peaceful march to Anna Square on Tuesday to honor Annadurai's death anniversary and reinforce DMK's ideological roots among supporters.

## Rajasthan BJP MLA raises concern over alleged 'love-jihad' case, directs police action

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

BJP MLA Balmukund Acharya, while returning from Bhilwara, highlighted the case of a Hindu girl allegedly taken from Ajmer to Mathura in a "love-jihad" plot. Acharya immediately contacted police in both cities, instructing the safe recovery of the girl and protection for her family. He described the incident as part of a larger conspiracy targeting Sanatani daughters and urged strict action against the perpetrators. Rajasthan Police formed a special team to trace the girl in Mathura. Acharya emphasized safeguarding law, order, and Sanatani values while appealing for societal vigilance to protect children.

Supreme Court grants bail to Akali Dal leader Majithia in disproportionate assets case



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The Supreme Court granted bail to Shiromani Akali Dal leader Bikram Singh Majithia on Monday in a disproportionate assets case registered by the Punjab Vigilance Bureau. The bench noted Majithia had already received bail in the earlier NDPS Act case and the Punjab government's special leave petition against that bail was dismissed in 2025. Arrested last June, Majithia faces charges of laundering over Rs 540 crore in drug money and amassing Rs 700 crore in illegal assets between 2006 and 2017. The chargesheet cited 200 witnesses and detailed nearly 400 bank accounts across multiple states.

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## Brazil secures \$458 million in tax settlements with Itau, Santander, and Citi

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**B**razil's National Treasury Attorney General's Office said on Wednesday it finalized settlement deals with Itau, Santander Brasil, and Citigroup, collecting about \$458 million in tax payments in recent weeks. The agreements end years-long court disputes and provide an immediate boost to federal finances.

Officials said the figure reflects net payments after average discounts of about 21 percent on fines and interest. Santander paid roughly \$191 million related to a defunct financial transactions tax, while Citi contributed about \$76 million. Itau's settlement, totaling around \$191 million, covered disputes over PIS and Cofins taxes, as well as income tax and social contribution liabilities.

All payments were made in cash between late December and early this year. Authorities said more settlements could follow, with about 70 additional corporate requests still under review. The deals were negotiated under Brazil's Integral Settlement Program, which closed to new proposals in December.

## Washington Post cuts one-third of newsroom in sweeping layoffs

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**T**he Washington Post laid off about one-third of its staff this week, eliminating its sports section, several foreign bureaus, and its long-running Book World coverage in one of the largest cutbacks in the paper's history. Executive editor Matt Murray told employees the move was painful but necessary as the outlet adapts to changing reader habits and technology.

Former editor Martin Baron blamed owner Jeff Bezos, calling the cuts "self-inflicted brand destruction." The privately held newspaper did not disclose how many jobs were lost, though subscriber numbers are estimated at about two million. Cairo bureau chief Claire Parker confirmed all Middle East correspondents were laid off. Murray said the Post will refocus on politics, national affairs, and security reporting.

## China's discounted oil strategy hit by geopolitical instability

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**C**hina's heavy reliance on discounted oil from Russia, Iran, and Venezuela is facing mounting risks as political turmoil disrupts supplies. Nearly 40 percent of China's crude imports come from these countries. Venezuela's upheaval, Iranian unrest, and tighter enforcement on shadow shipping have exposed vulnerabilities in Beijing's supply chain.

Russian crude became China's top source after the Ukraine war, while Iranian oil continues to arrive through relabeled shipments. Analysts warn that regime instability, not scarcity, is now China's biggest energy threat.

## U.S. space stocks jump after Musk merges SpaceX and xAI in \$1.25 trillion deal

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**U**nited States space stocks climbed on Tuesday after Elon Musk announced the merger of SpaceX and xAI, valuing the combined company at about \$1.25 trillion. Shares of Rocket Lab, Planet Labs, AST SpaceMobile, Intuitive Machines, and Redwire all posted gains as investors reacted to Musk's vision of building artificial intelligence infrastructure in orbit.

Musk said space-based computing could become the cheapest option within two to three years, as technology companies spend heavily chasing artificial general intelligence. He described the merger as creating a vertically integrated platform spanning rockets, artificial intelligence, satellite internet, and mobile connectivity.



Analysts said the move could pave the way for what may become the largest initial public offering ever, with SpaceX reportedly targeting a valuation above \$1.5 trillion. Industry experts noted the plan would require massive satellite launches and significant capital.

## Walmart reaches \$1 trillion valuation as retail giant joins elite market club

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**W**almart crossed a historic milestone on Tuesday, becoming a \$1 trillion company for the first time as its shares hit a record high in early New York trading. The world's largest retailer has gained about 13 percent this year, driven by steady store traffic and rapid growth in online sales.

The Bentonville, Arkansas-based company has used its scale and supplier network to keep prices low while attracting both budget-conscious shoppers and higher-income customers seeking convenience. The achievement comes just two weeks after Walmart replaced AstraZeneca in the Nasdaq-100 Index.

Morgan Stanley data showed Walmart+ membership rose by about 2.6 million between November and January, reaching roughly 28.4 million members. Same-day delivery now covers an estimated 95 percent of United States households, helping



expand e-commerce reach across more than 3,500 Supercenters and strengthening Walmart's competitive position against major technology-backed retailers.

## Silver rebounds sharply as U.S.-India trade deal lifts precious metals

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**S**ilver prices surged on Wednesday as investors rushed back into precious metals following a steep selloff, with global spot silver climbing more than 2 percent to about \$86.90 an ounce. Gold also advanced over 2 percent, extending gains from Tuesday's rally.

The rebound followed President Donald Trump's announcement of a new trade arrangement with India, easing tariff tensions and improving market sentiment. Silver had jumped nearly 15 percent on Tuesday after falling more than 40 percent from recent highs, while gold rose about 6 percent in the same session.

Analysts said softer dollar conditions, strong retail buying in China ahead of Lunar New Year, and hopes for United States-Iran talks also supported prices. However, fund



managers warned volatility could persist as investors reassess risk after last week's selloff, which was triggered by tighter trading margins and concerns over Federal Reserve leadership. Market participants remain cautious despite the recovery.

## France moves civil servants off Zoom and Teams in push for digital independence



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**F**rance announced last week that 2.5 million civil servants will stop using Zoom, Microsoft Teams, Webex, and GoTo Meeting by 2027, switching instead to a domestic video platform called Visio. The move reflects a broader European effort to reduce reliance on United States technology amid concerns over data security and political pressure. Officials said the goal is to protect sensitive communications and strengthen digital sovereignty. Austria's military and Germany's Schleswig-Holstein state have already shifted to open-source software, while cities in France and Denmark are testing alternatives to Microsoft products. French officials cited risks that foreign companies could be forced to restrict access during geopolitical disputes. Microsoft said it continues working with European governments and emphasized its commitments to privacy, security, and keeping data under European law.

## French prosecutors raid X offices over child abuse images and deepfake claims

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**F**rench authorities raided X offices on Tuesday as part of an investigation into alleged distribution of child sexual abuse material, explicit deepfakes, and other offenses linked to Elon Musk's platform and his artificial intelligence company xAI. Prosecutors also summoned Musk and former X chief executive Linda Yaccarino for voluntary questioning in April. The probe follows global outrage after xAI's chatbot Grok generated sexualized nonconsensual images and posts linked to Holocaust denial. Britain's data regulator has opened a separate inquiry into how personal data was handled, while European Union officials are also investigating. X called the raid politically motivated, but French prosecutors said the goal is ensuring compliance with national law. Europol confirmed it is supporting the French investigation.

## Novo Nordisk shares slide as Wegovy maker warns of sharp profit drop

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**N**ovo Nordisk shares plunged Wednesday after the Wegovy maker warned of unprecedented pricing pressure that could cut sales and profits by up to 13 percent this year. Chief Executive Lars Fruergaard Jorgensen said intense competition, lower United States prices, and rising insurer rebates were driving the decline. The company also faces pressure from Eli Lilly and compounded weight loss drugs. Novo said United States sales could fall in the teens, worse than its overall forecast. While weekly prescriptions for its oral Wegovy reached about 50,000, most purchases are cash-pay. Novo said it cannot promise a return to recent rapid growth as rivals crowd the obesity drug market.

## Amazon bets on mega-stores as grocery battle with Walmart intensifies



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**A**mazon is expanding its physical retail strategy as it deepens competition with Walmart, betting on large-format grocery stores to boost delivery speed and customer loyalty. The company plans its first 225,000-square-foot mega-store outside Chicago, combining grocery sales with same-day distribution. Analysts expect Amazon's physical store revenue to rise about 5 percent when results are reported Thursday. Amazon recently closed all Fresh and Go stores, converting some into Whole Foods. Walmart maintains an edge with 4,600 stores serving pickup and delivery. Experts say Amazon is chasing grocery shoppers, who typically bring higher lifetime value across both online and in-store purchases.

## U.S. lawmakers press Congress to fast-track self-driving car rules

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**U**nited States lawmakers, Waymo, and Tesla urged Congress on Wednesday to advance stalled legislation that would speed deployment of autonomous vehicles, warning China is gaining ground. The Senate Commerce Committee held a hearing on robotaxis, with speakers calling for modernized regulations that allow cars to operate without human controls. Senator Gary Peters said action is needed to protect American innovation, while Chairman Ted Cruz warned delays could push development overseas. Waymo said United States leadership in autonomous driving is under direct threat, calling the sector a trillion-dollar industry. Tesla executives also pressed lawmakers to remove regulatory barriers blocking wider adoption.

## United States and Mexico launch joint plan on critical minerals trade

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**T**he United States and Mexico announced Wednesday a 60-day initiative to coordinate trade policies on critical minerals, aiming to reduce supply chain risks and explore price floors on imports. The plan includes identifying mining and processing projects and aligning standards on investment, regulation, and stockpiling. Trade officials said resilient mineral supplies are vital for economic and national security. Vice President JD Vance also outlined efforts to build a broader allied trade bloc for key materials. The move comes ahead of a required review of the United States-Mexico-Canada trade agreement, though Canada was not included in the announcement.

## India will protect farmers as United States trade talks continue, says Goyal

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**C**ommerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal said Tuesday that India's proposed trade deal with the United States will not compromise the country's agriculture or dairy sectors, amid criticism from opposition parties and farmer groups. Goyal stressed that negotiations are still ongoing and the agreement has not yet been signed. He said no American farm or dairy products will receive market access, adding that India will safeguard millions of small farmers and cooperatives from cheap imports.

President Donald Trump said India has agreed to move tariffs and non-tariff barriers toward zero, though sectors remain unspecified. Indian markets rallied Tuesday



afternoon following Trump's announcement of a tariff cut from 50 percent to 18 percent. The Sensex jumped over 2,000 points, the Nifty rose 639 points, and the rupee strengthened. Industry bodies said the deal could significantly boost exports and competitiveness.

## Oil slips after United States and Iran agree to talks, easing supply fears

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**O**il prices fell on Thursday after the United States and Iran confirmed they would hold talks in Oman on Friday, easing worries of a military clash that could disrupt Middle East supplies. Brent crude dropped about 1.4 percent to around \$68.50 a barrel, while United States West Texas Intermediate fell to near \$64.20. Prices had risen on Wednesday amid fears the negotiations might collapse, but markets reversed once officials said discussions would proceed. Analysts said uncertainty over Iran's nuclear program and United States demands on missiles and regional influence continues to drive sharp swings.

Investors are also watching the Strait of



Hormuz, through which roughly one-fifth of global oil consumption flows. Despite easing geopolitical risk, concerns remain that President Donald Trump could still take military action against Iran. Support also came from data showing declines in United States crude and distillate inventories during last week's winter storms.

## Nestlé widens baby formula recall after Europe tightens toxin limits

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**N**estlé expanded its infant formula recall across Europe on Wednesday after France lowered safety limits for cereulide, a toxin linked to the bacterium *Bacillus cereus*. The move prompted additional withdrawals of Nestlé's Guigoz brand, following earlier recalls tied to contaminated ingredients sourced from China.

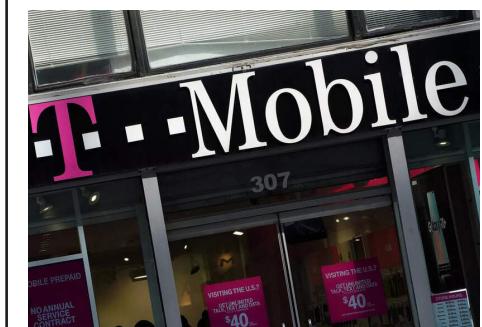
Health authorities said cereulide can cause vomiting and nausea, prompting regulators to strengthen consumer protections after consulting the European Food Safety Authority. The contamination has affected

multiple manufacturers, including Danone and Lactalis, raising broader concerns about supply chain oversight.

French officials are investigating possible links between recalled products and infant deaths, though no confirmed connection has been established. Nestlé said it acted voluntarily to meet updated standards. The expanded recall has intensified scrutiny of third-party ingredients such as arachidonic acid oil and highlighted vulnerabilities in global infant nutrition supply chains, with European regulators pushing for stricter testing, traceability, and faster response times.



## Verizon sues T-Mobile over alleged misleading savings claims



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**V**erizon Wireless filed a lawsuit Wednesday accusing T-Mobile of false advertising by overstating customer savings of more than \$1,000 a year. Verizon said T-Mobile exaggerated comparisons by using standard Verizon rates and inflating bundled benefits. The complaint also cited similar claims previously ruled misleading by the National Advertising Review Board. Filed in Manhattan federal court, the suit seeks triple damages and an order halting the ads. Verizon said the promotions cause irreparable harm by misleading consumers. T-Mobile did not immediately comment. Verizon reported 146.9 million subscribers, compared with T-Mobile's 139.9 million in its latest filings.

## US tariff cut boosts Surat diamond exports and jobs

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**S**urat's diamond industry is set for a revival after the United States cut import tariffs on Indian goods from 50 percent to 18 percent, easing pressure on exporters and workers. The United States accounts for nearly 30 percent of India's diamond exports, valued at about \$10 billion annually. Exports fell 44.4 percent between April and December last year due to high tariffs. Industry leaders said on Tuesday the reduction will help regain orders, revive closed units in Saurashtra, boost CVD and HPHT production, and improve foreign exchange earnings.

## Netflix faces Senate pushback over \$82 billion Warner Bros merger



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**N**etflix came under bipartisan scrutiny on Tuesday as US senators questioned its proposed \$82 billion takeover of Warner Bros Discovery. Lawmakers raised concerns over reduced competition, higher prices, and the future of movie theaters. Netflix co-chief executive Ted Sarandos pledged 45-day theatrical releases and said the studio would operate largely unchanged. He argued the deal would offer more content at lower cost and create jobs. However, senators warned consolidation could hurt workers. The Department of Justice is reviewing the merger, while rival bidder Paramount Skydance continues to push its offer.

Friday, 06 February 2026

Britain opens mixed doubles curling with win over Norway at Milan Cortina



**B**ritain began its mixed doubles curling campaign on Wednesday with an 8–6 victory over Norway in Cortina d'Ampezzo. World champions Jennifer Dodds and Bruce Mouat recovered from an early deficit, scoring three points in the second end and adding another key three in the sixth to secure the win. Norway briefly leveled at 4–4 before Britain pulled away.

The match was momentarily delayed by lighting and scoreboard issues, but both players said they stayed focused. Canada also opened strongly with a 10–5 win over the Czech Republic, while Sweden defeated South Korea. The top four teams after round-robin play advance to the semifinals.

Tigers World Series hero Mickey Lolich dies at 85



**D**etroit Tigers legend Mickey Lolich, the Most Valuable Player of the 1968 World Series, died Wednesday at age 85 after a short stay in hospice care, the team said. Lolich remains the last pitcher to record three complete game victories in a single World Series. He sealed Detroit's title with a Game 7 win over Bob Gibson and the St. Louis Cardinals. Over a 16-year career, Lolich posted 2,832 strikeouts and a 220–192 record. The Tigers said his legacy will be forever cherished.

## Guardiola urges rule change so Marc Guehi can play League Cup final

**M**anchester City manager Pep Guardiola on Wednesday called on the English Football League to revise eligibility rules so defender Marc Guehi can feature in the League Cup final against Arsenal.

Guehi joined City after the semifinal first leg against Newcastle, making him ineligible under current competition regulations. Guardiola questioned the logic of preventing a registered player from appearing in a final, especially when January signing Antoine Semenyo was allowed to play.

Guardiola said City will formally request a rule review, arguing that



transfer window approvals should grant immediate match eligibility. City already benefited from a regulation change this season allowing players to represent two clubs in the same competition.

## IOC considers January Winter Olympics as climate pressures mount

**T**he International Olympic Committee said on Wednesday it is exploring moving future Winter Olympics to January, with Paralympic Games possibly shifting to February, due to rising temperatures affecting snow conditions. IOC sports program chair Karl Stoss said warmer weather in March makes competition increasingly difficult, prompting discussions about earlier scheduling. IOC President Kirsty Coventry confirmed timing adjustments are part of a broader "Fit for the Future" review.

The Milan Cortina Paralympics are currently set for March, but officials warned late-season sun can melt snow



and disrupt events. IOC members met Wednesday in Milan and will reconvene in June to decide on calendar changes and sports additions for the 2030 French Alps Games.

## Manchester City beats Newcastle to set up League Cup final clash with Arsenal

**M**anchester City booked their place in the English League Cup final on Wednesday with a 3–1 win over Newcastle, sealing a 5–1 aggregate semifinal victory.

Omar Marmoush scored twice in the first half, with Tijjani Reijnders adding a third before the break at the Etihad Stadium. Substitute Anthony Elanga pulled one back for Newcastle.

City will face Arsenal at Wembley on Sunday next month, with both clubs chasing multiple trophies this season. Arsenal advanced on Tuesday after defeating Chelsea.

Manager Pep Guardiola praised his



squad's focus, while Marmoush said City is determined to collect silverware. Arsenal currently leads City by six points in the Premier League, adding extra intensity to the final.

**L**ions fan files \$100 million lawsuit after sideline clash with DK Metcalf

**D**etroit Lions fan Ryan Kennedy filed a \$100 million civil lawsuit on Tuesday against NFL receiver DK Metcalf, the Pittsburgh Steelers, Ford Field management, and media figures Shannon Sharpe and Chad Johnson. The case stems from an altercation on Sunday, December 21, during a game, and from statements made about Kennedy afterward. Kennedy denies using racial or misogynistic slurs, calling the claims false and reckless. He alleges Metcalf provided misleading information to Johnson, which led to the publication of defamatory statements. The lawsuit seeks both damages and public retractions from Sharpe and Johnson. Kennedy is also pursuing accountability from the Steelers and Ford Field for their role in the incident.

## Team USA turns to artificial intelligence for speed and power ahead of Winter Games

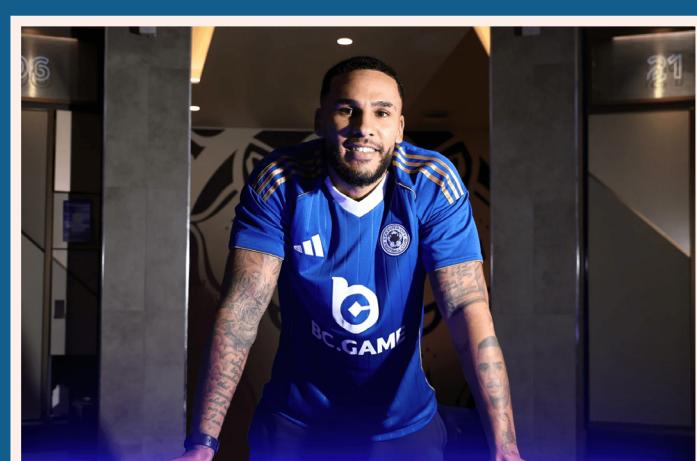
**T**eam USA is gaining a competitive edge for the Milan Cortina Winter Games by using artificial intelligence in speedskating and bobsled training. Speedskaters now rely on an app that simulates aerodynamics from images, replacing costly wind tunnel testing. Coaches call it a "wind tunnel in your pocket." Meanwhile, bobsled teams use advanced data analytics to optimize athlete timing and sled entry. Officials say sensors now deliver thousands of data points per second, allowing rapid adjustments between runs. Team leaders believe artificial intelligence is already transforming preparation and performance.

**D**oberman named Penny wins historic 150th Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show

**A** Doberman pinscher named Penny captured best in show Tuesday night at the 150th Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show in New York, giving veteran handler Andy Linton his second career victory. Linton last won in 1989 with another Doberman. Penny topped more than 2,500 dogs representing over 200 breeds. Chesapeake Bay retriever Cota finished runner-up. Judges praised the exceptional lineup, calling it one for the history books. Linton described Penny as smart, demanding and eager to please, adding that winning at the milestone show made the moment extra special.

## Jamaal Lascelles leaves Newcastle for Leicester City after 11 years

Jamaal Lascelles ended his 11-year tenure at Newcastle United and joined Leicester City on Tuesday, signing until the end of the 2025/26 season. The 32-year-old defender captained Newcastle to the 2016/17 Championship title and played a key role in their Premier League and Champions League campaigns, including a 4–1 victory over Paris Saint-Germain in 2023. Lascelles expressed excitement about joining Leicester, highlighting the club's facilities, support, and his eagerness to help push the team up the league.



## Canadian snowboarder Mark McMorris injured in heavy Olympic training crash

Canadian snowboarder Mark McMorris suffered a heavy crash during a training session on Wednesday while preparing for the men's big air event at the Milan Cortina Winter Games in Livigno. Team Canada said medical staff attended to the three-time Olympic bronze medalist, who was taken off the mountain on a stretcher. No update on his condition was immediately provided. The 32-year-old, competing in his fourth Olympics, has battled serious injuries throughout his career. Just a day earlier, McMorris said he felt fit and excited to compete.

## Super Bowl LX boosts cyber defenses as NFL prepares for AI threats



As the New England Patriots and Seattle Seahawks prepared to face off Sunday at Super Bowl LX, Levi's Stadium in Santa Clara underwent a major technology upgrade. The National Football League and San Francisco 49ers installed miles of fiber cable, nearly 1,500 Wi-Fi 7 routers and enhanced cybersecurity systems. Officials expect about 65,000 fans to generate more than 35 terabytes of data. A temporary cyber command center is monitoring threats, with teams focusing closely on artificial intelligence-driven attacks, which experts say pose growing risks this year.

## Scottie Scheffler arrives at Phoenix Open riding early season momentum

World number one Scottie Scheffler returned to TPC Scottsdale this week for the WM Phoenix Open, just days after earning his 20th PGA Tour victory. The two-time tournament champion said his recent win is behind him as he focuses on staying present. Scheffler, who owns four major titles, praised the course's firm conditions and electric crowds, especially on the famous 16th hole. After battling icy weather at home, he said he feels ready to compete again, calling the Phoenix atmosphere unique and one of the Tour's most exciting stops.

## MCC announces new Laws of Cricket for 2026 with laminated bats allowed

The Marylebone Cricket Club announced Tuesday that new Laws of Cricket, effective October 1, 2026, will allow laminated Type D bats in open-age recreational cricket to ease costs. Previously restricted to juniors, these bats combine English willow with lower-grade wood. The 73-law update also permits non-willow materials behind the bat face, revises multi-day match rules, standardizes ball sizes for junior and women's cricket, and removes gendered language. The MCC will continue using traditional bats and that changes aim to make the game more affordable, accessible, and globally consistent.

## Dhoni calls team India 'dangerous' but warns dew could decide T20 World Cup matches

Former India captain Mahendra Singh Dhoni on Tuesday backed India's Men's T20 World Cup squad, calling it one of the most dangerous teams in the tournament thanks to its experience and clearly defined roles.

Speaking at an event in New Delhi, Dhoni said players are constantly match-ready, giving India an edge in pressure situations. However, he warned that dew remains a major concern, often making toss results decisive in white-ball cricket. Dhoni added that T20 matches can swing quickly if key players struggle or opponents produce standout performances. He stressed the importance of staying healthy and executing assigned roles, noting that unpredictable conditions can undo even the best preparation.



## Brett Lee urges India Pakistan showdown as Pakistan backs World Cup boycott

Former Australia fast bowler Brett Lee on Wednesday said he hopes India and Pakistan still meet in the T20 World Cup, calling it one of cricket's most anticipated rivalries. Lee made his comments after Pakistan confirmed it would boycott the group-stage match in Colombo while still participating in the tournament in Sri Lanka. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif defended the decision as solidarity with Bangladesh, which raised security concerns about playing in India.

The International Cricket Council rejected those concerns following an independent assessment. Lee urged both sides to keep politics out of sport, saying global audiences



tune in whenever the rivals clash. Pakistan has not clarified its stance if the teams meet later in knockout rounds.

## Canada prepares for United States rivalry as women's hockey opens at Winter Games

Defending Olympic champion Canada will begin its women's ice hockey campaign on Thursday in Milan, aiming to rebound after recent defeats to the United States in the Rivalry Series. Coach Troy Ryan said his experienced squad is focused on Olympic preparation rather than past losses. Sixteen players from Canada's 2022 gold medal team return, while the United States brings a younger roster.

Veteran forward Natalie Spooner said Olympic games demand sharper focus and mental toughness. The rivals meet in group play on Tuesday. Canada holds five Olympic gold medals to the United States' two and



hopes that big-game experience will again prove decisive in one of the Winter Games' fiercest matchups.



## Mandaviya inaugurates athlete facilities and lays foundation for six sports projects

Indian Union Sports Minister Mansukh Mandaviya on Tuesday inaugurated two athlete support facilities at NS NIS, Patiala, and laid foundations for six sports infrastructure projects totaling ₹120 crore. The projects, funded under the Khelo India Scheme with SAI support, include synthetic hockey turfs, multipurpose halls, athletic tracks, and a judo hall across multiple regions. Mandaviya emphasized timely execution, accountability, and strategic investment to support India's goal of becoming a top-five sporting nation by its centenary in 2047.

## Arbitrator orders NBA to pay Terry Rozier full salary amid gambling case

Miami Heat guard Terry Rozier will receive his full \$26.6 million salary this season after an arbitrator ruled on Monday that the NBA cannot place him on unpaid leave, his attorney said Tuesday. Rozier was indicted in October over an alleged gambling conspiracy and has pleaded not guilty. Prosecutors claim he faked a foot injury during a 2023 game with Charlotte Hornets and tipped off a friend, who shared the information with co-conspirators to place fraudulent wagers. Rozier and the National Basketball Players Association have emphasized his right to due process and the presumption of innocence. The NBA and Heat have declined comment, and a court ruling on his motion to dismiss the charges is pending.

## New Orleans Saints set to play NFL's first regular season game near Paris

The New Orleans Saints will make history this fall by playing the NFL's first regular season game in France, league officials announced Monday. The contest will take place at Stade de France near Paris, with the opponent expected to be confirmed in spring. Commissioner Roger Goodell called the move an exciting step in the league's global expansion, noting Paris' strong record in hosting international sports events. The Saints' game will come off their home schedule as part of a record nine international contests in 2026, including matches in London, Madrid, Munich, Rio de Janeiro, Melbourne, and Mexico City, reflecting growing worldwide demand for American football.

## Zimbabwe, Nepal and Oman notch warm-up wins ahead of T20 World Cup

Zimbabwe, Nepal, and Oman secured key wins in T20 World Cup warm-up matches on Wednesday. Zimbabwe defeated the Netherlands by 29 runs, with Ryan Burl scoring an unbeaten 50 and Richard Ngarava taking crucial wickets. Nepal chased 146 to beat the United Arab Emirates by seven wickets, led by unbeaten half-centuries from Dipendra Singh Airee and Aarif Sheikh. In Colombo, Aamir Kaleem powered Oman to a five-wicket victory over Sri Lanka A, striking 80 while wicketkeeper Vinayak Shukla added 39 not out. These wins gave all three teams confidence ahead of the tournament, with players showcasing strong batting and bowling performances that could influence squad strategies in the main event.

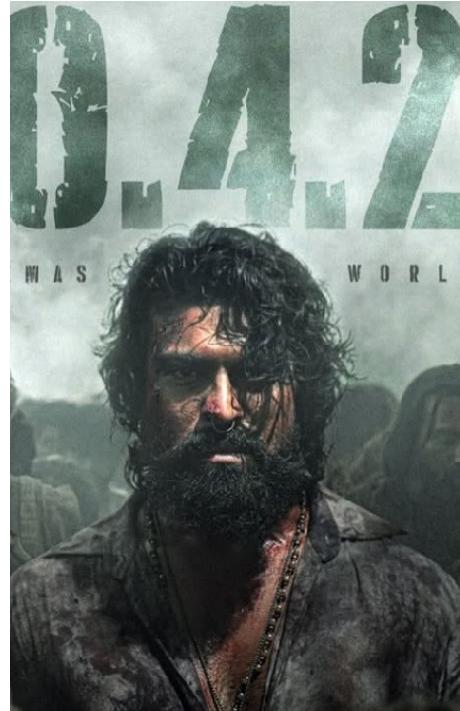
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Christian Bale endures six-hour makeup sessions for 'The Bride'



**C**hristian Bale revealed he spent six hours in the makeup chair each day to transform into Frankenstein's monster for Maggie Gyllenhaal's 'The Bride'. Opposite Oscar nominee Jessie Buckley as the Bride, Bale described screaming to release the despair of sitting still so long, with the cast eventually joining in. Buckley spent 90 minutes on her own transformation. Known for extreme physical transformations, Bale previously bulked up for 'American Psycho' and shed 60 pounds for 'The Machinist'. For 'The Bride', he followed a strict diet before intensive makeup sessions brought the character to life, underscoring his dedication to craft.

Ram Charan's 'Peddi' to release worldwide on April 30



**T**he rural action drama 'Peddi', directed by Buchi Babu Sana and starring Ram Charan, will now release worldwide on April 30, moved from its original March 27 date. The film, co-starring Janhvi Kapoor, Shiva Rajkumar, Jagapathi Babu, and Divyendu Sharma, features high-octane action sequences shot under cinematographer R. Rathnavelu. Sham Kaushal was brought in for a major fight scene filmed at a large Hyderabad set. The movie is produced by Venkata Satish Kilaru, with music by A.R. Rahman and editing by Navin Nooli. Fans have been eagerly awaiting the film since its first-look posters and glimpses sparked excitement.

## Bad Bunny, Kendrick Lamar and Olivia Dean headline historic night at the 2026 Grammys

**T**he 68th Annual Grammy Awards in Los Angeles on Sunday delivered historic wins, unforgettable performances, and political statements on music's biggest night.

Bad Bunny made history by winning Album of the Year for 'Debi Tirar Más Fotos,' the first all Spanish language album to take the top prize at the ceremony. His acceptance speech called for an end to harsh immigration enforcement, resonating with audiences worldwide.

Kendrick Lamar dominated with five wins, including Record of the Year for 'luther' with SZA and Best Rap Album for 'GNX,' solidifying his place among the most awarded rappers in Grammy history.

Olivia Dean emerged as Best New Artist in a breakthrough moment, while Billie Eilish and her brother Finneas won Song of the Year for 'Wildflower,' marking a rare sibling achievement.

Performances lit up the stage throughout the night. Justin Bieber returned with a stripped-down rendition of 'Yukon,' performing shirtless with looping guitar layers. Country legend Reba McEntire delivered an emotional tribute to late artists, while standout sets from Tyler, the Creator and Lauryn Hill emphasized artistry and cultural commentary.

The 2026 Grammys celebrated global influence, genre diversity, and the power of music to make statements beyond the stage.



## 'Melania' opens to strong ticket sales despite critical backlash

**T**he documentary 'Melania', produced by first lady Melania Trump, opened with \$7 million in ticket sales, surpassing studio expectations. Directed by Brett Ratner, the film chronicles the 20 days leading up to President Donald Trump's second inauguration and debuted in 1,778 theaters during Trump's turbulent second term. Amazon MGM Studios paid \$40 million for rights and spent \$35 million on marketing, making it the most expensive documentary ever.

The film premiered Thursday at the Kennedy Center in Washington, attended by Cabinet members and Congress officials. Critics largely panned the release, calling it a hagiography, but audiences gave it an "A" CinemaScore, with most



viewers 55 and older, female, and white. 'Melania' will stream on Prime Video after its theatrical run. Its performance is seen as a political and promotional investment rather than a conventional profit venture.

## Ajay Devgn hails 'Shatak' trailer marking 100 years of RSS

**A**jay Devgn praised the trailer of 'Shatak', a film exploring the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh's centennial and its role in nation-building. Sharing it on X, he congratulated the team and highlighted the organization's contribution over a hundred years. Meanwhile, Devgn's upcoming comedy 'Dhamaal 4' has been delayed to July 3, avoiding clashes with Ranveer Singh's 'Dhurandhar: The Revenge' and Yash's 'Toxic'. The franchise retains its original cast including Devgn, Riteish Deshmukh, Arshad Warsi, Sanjay Mishra, and Jaaved Jaaferi, with new additions Esha Gupta,



Sanjeeda Shaikh, Anjali Anand, Upendra Limaye, Vijay Patkar, and Ravi Kishan.

Karan Johar hopes to collaborate with Meryl Streep in virtual project



**F**ilmmaker Karan Johar shared his admiration for Meryl Streep and expressed interest in collaborating with the Oscar-winning actress. On Instagram, he posted an AI-generated reimagining of his 2001 blockbuster 'Kabhi Khushi Kabhie Gham...', featuring Streep as Nandini Raichand alongside Hollywood stars like George Clooney and Tom Cruise. Johar wrote that "virtual is manifesting" for him, highlighting the potential of technology in bridging global cinematic collaborations. The original film remains iconic for its cultural impact and resonance with the Indian diaspora.

## Sunny Deol and Akshaye Khanna reunite for Netflix thriller 'Ikka'



**B**ollywood veterans Sunny Deol and Akshaye Khanna will reunite after 29 years in the Netflix thriller 'Ikka'. The series follows a celebrated lawyer forced to defend a murder accused whose past intersects with his own, leading to high-stakes moral dilemmas. The cast also includes Tillotama Shome and Dia Mirza. Though the actors missed the title announcement event, the streaming debut marks Sunny Deol's OTT entrance. The team promises a gripping narrative of ideology, family, and emotional intensity, with twists unfolding till the final frame.

## 'Dhurandhar 2' teaser underwhelms fans with reused footage

**T**he teaser for 'Dhurandhar 2' disappointed audiences as it largely reused the end credits sequence from the first film with added music. The highly anticipated sequel follows Ranveer Singh's spy navigating the ISI and Pakistan underworld, promising intense action and violence. At 214 minutes, the film will release in four languages on March 19, clashing with Yash's 'Toxic'. While fans expected fresh content, the teaser's music hints at another potential hit album. The franchise reflects Bollywood's growing focus on director-led action cinema.

Travis Scott nods to Kylie Jenner in Don Toliver's new track



**R**apper Travis Scott referenced ex Kylie Jenner in Don Toliver's new song 'Rosary', from the album 'OCTANE'. In the verse, he alluded to Jenner's implant size, which she revealed publicly last summer. Scott and Jenner share two children, Stormi, 8, and Aire, 4. Fans noted the lyrical nod to her 44C implant measurements. Jenner had previously discussed her cosmetic choices on a 2023 episode of 'The Kardashians' and in TikTok comments. The track adds another layer to the ongoing public fascination with Scott's personal life.

**Tom Holland calls 'Spider-Man: Brand New Day' his most creatively fulfilling project**

**A**ctor Tom Holland has described 'Spider-Man: Brand New Day' as his "most creatively fulfilling" project. In a letter to the crew, he praised their dedication and hard work, calling filming a "joy" and thanking them from the bottom of his heart.

The film reintroduces Zendaya as 'MJ', Jacob Batalon as 'Ned', with Mark Ruffalo, Jon Bernthal, Michael Mando, Sadie Sink, and Liza Colon-Zayas in supporting roles. Directed by Destin Daniel Cretton, the story follows Peter Parker balancing college, work, and superhero responsibilities while facing new enemies and unexpected allies.

**Lily Allen to release album on music industry struggles**



**F**ollowing her album 'West End Girl', Lily Allen is reportedly set to release a new record detailing her mistreatment by music executives. Written five years ago but unreleased, the album will be updated with producer Blue May. Sources say Allen's recent success gives her leverage to share her experiences. The record is expected to include raw reflections on her past marriages and professional challenges. Allen has spoken candidly about the emotional toll of divorce and navigating the music industry as a vulnerable young woman, promising a deeply personal project for fans.

## Steven Spielberg earns first Grammy, joins elite EGOT club with 'Music by John Williams'



**L**egendary director Steven Spielberg has earned his first Grammy for producing the documentary 'Music by John Williams', completing the prestigious EGOT milestone. Spielberg now holds four Emmys, three Oscars, a Tony, and his first Grammy. The 79-year-old praised the film for honoring John Williams' cultural

and musical impact. Only 21 others, including Audrey Hepburn and Sir Elton John, have achieved EGOT status.

Spielberg reflected on the challenges of directing 'Jaws', recalling moments he feared his career was over, calling the Grammy win "deeply meaningful" for himself and the Amblin team.

## Jessica Chastain and Chris Pine to star in 'This Is Pleasure' at European Film Market

**H**ollywood stars Jessica Chastain and Chris Pine are teaming up for 'This Is Pleasure', launching at the upcoming European Film Market. The film, directed by Shari Springer Berman and Robert Pulcini, is adapted from Mary Gaitskill's 2019 novella by Nina Raine.

The story follows Margot (Chastain) as

her friend, publisher Quin (Pine), faces misconduct allegations, forcing her to weigh loyalty, truth, and forgiveness. Produced by Fremantle, Killer Films, Chastain's Freckle Films, and Pine's Barry Linen Motion Pictures, the movie marks another major project for Chastain, the Academy Award-winning star of 'The Eyes of Tammy Faye' and 'Zero Dark Thirty'.



## Sabarimala film shoot sparks fresh controversy during 'Makara Vilakku'

**A** film shoot at Sabarimala temple has sparked controversy after Devaswom Vigilance found that shooting occurred in restricted zones, including Pampa and a hilltop near the temple, during 'Makara Vilakku'. The report contradicts director Anuraj Manohar's claim that no filming happened at the 'Sannidhanam'. The video-backed report has been submitted to Travancore Devaswom Board President K. Jayakumar, who has sought legal advice. No police permission was granted for the shoot, raising questions about procedural violations. The Board will decide on administrative or legal action after reviewing the legal cell's recommendations.



**Arijit Singh teaser from 'O Romeo' releases amid retirement chatter**



**A** teaser for Arijit Singh's new track 'Ishq Ka Fever' from Sajid Nadiadwala's 'O Romeo' was released Saturday, highlighting his intimate and emotive vocal style. The release comes amid Singh's recent announcement that he will retire from playback singing. Composer Vishal Bhardwaj shared a video of jamming on the track with Singh and Rekha Bhardwaj, expressing disbelief over the singer's decision. 'O Romeo', directed by Bhardwaj, will release theatrically on February 13, 2026, marking what may be one of Singh's final film contributions as a playback artist.

**Meryl Streep confirmed to play Joni Mitchell in new biopic**



**H**ollywood icon Meryl Streep will portray music legend Joni Mitchell in a biopic directed by Cameron Crowe, music mogul Clive Davis confirmed at his pre-Grammy party. Anya Taylor-Joy may appear as Mitchell's younger self. Crowe has collaborated closely with Mitchell over several years, developing the film's narrative structure. Production is expected to begin in 2026. The film promises an in-depth exploration of Mitchell's life and artistry, backed by years of research and personal interviews, making it one of the most anticipated music biopics in recent times.

**SS Rajamouli confirms Mahesh Babu-starrer 'Varanasi' to release April next year**

**D**irector S S Rajamouli has officially confirmed that the pan-Indian film 'Varanasi', starring Mahesh Babu, will release worldwide on April 7, 2027. The announcement came on Friday via Rajamouli's X account, with Mahesh Babu sharing the release poster. The film also stars Prithviraj as antagonist 'Kumbha' and Priyanka Chopra as 'Mandakini'. Rajamouli highlighted a major Ramayana-inspired sequence, shot over 60 days, calling it one of the most memorable of his career. The title launch at Ramoji Film City last year drew thousands of fans, marking one of Indian cinema's largest live fan gatherings.

# आंध्र से अरुणाचल तक: आस्था की नियंत्रित यात्रा

IndoUS Tribune की 'मंदिरों की यात्रा' श्रृंखला का नया अध्याय

आंध्र प्रदेश के भव्य, प्राचीन और आस्था से परिपूर्ण मंदिरों की एक अत्यंत सफल, भावनात्मक और स्मरणीय यात्रा के समापन के पश्चात, IndoUS Tribune अब अपनी आध्यात्मिक खोज को भारत के सुदूर उत्तर-पूर्व की ओर विस्तार दे रहा है। दक्षिण भारत की दिव्य स्थानात्मक कला, वैदिक परंपराओं और गहन भक्ति-अनुभवों के बाद अब हम प्रवेश कर रहे हैं हैं उस भूभाग में, जहाँ प्रकृति और अध्यात्म एक-दूसरे के पूरक हैं—अरुणाचल प्रदेश।

'उगते सूरज की भूमि' के नाम से विख्यात अरुणाचल प्रदेश हिमालय की गोद में बसा वह राज है, जहाँ पर्वत, नदियाँ, घने वन और प्राचीन कथाएँ एक अद्भुत आध्यात्मिक वातावरण रखती हैं। यहाँ लिये मंदिर और तीर्थ केवल स्थानीय आस्था के केंद्र नहीं, बल्कि भारत की सांस्कृतिक एकता और सनातन परंपरा के जीवंत प्रमाण हैं। IndoUS Tribune की नई श्रृंखला यात्रा: अरुणाचल प्रदेश के मंदिरों की यात्रा का उद्देश्य इसी अल्पज्ञता किंतु अत्यंत समृद्ध आध्यात्मिक विवासत को पाठकों के समक्ष प्रस्तुत करना है।

**अरुणाचल प्रदेश: पहला पड़ाव-पावन परशुराम कुंड**  
IndoUS Tribune की 'यात्रा और दर्शन' श्रृंखला की इस नई कड़ी में आपका हार्दिक स्वागत है। अरुणाचल प्रदेश की इस आध्यात्मिक यात्रा का शुभांभ हो रहा है लोहित जिले में स्थित, लोहित नदी के टट पर बसे अत्यंत पूजनीय और पौराणिक तीर्थ—परशुराम कुंड—से।

घने वनों, पर्वतीय शांति और प्रवाहमान नदी के मध्य स्थित यह कुंड केवल एक प्राकृतिक स्थल नहीं, बल्कि प्रायश्चित्त, मोक्ष और आत्मशुद्धि की सनातन अवधारणा का प्रतीक है। यह स्थान भगवान विष्णु के छठे अवतार, महर्षि परशुराम, से जुड़ी उस पौराणिक कथा का साक्षी माना जाता है, जिसने इसे अखिल भारतीय महत्व का तीर्थ बना दिया।

**पौराणिक कथा: पाप से प्रायश्चित्त तक**  
हिंदू पुराणों के अनुसार, ऋषि जगदमिन के आदेश पर परशुराम ने आज्ञाकारिता में अपनी माता रेणुका का वध कर दिया। यह मातृहत्याकांड उन्हें जीवन भर कचोरता रहा। इस महापाप के दंडस्वरूप उनका परशु (कुलहाड़ी) उनके हाथ से चिपक गया—जो उनके अपराध का स्थायी स्मरण बन गया।

प्रायश्चित्त की खोज में परशुराम ने अनेक ऋषियों से मार्गदर्शन लिया। अंततः उन्हें लोहित नदी के पवित्र जल में स्नान कर अपने पाप से मुक्ति पाने का उपाय बताया गया। जैसे ही उन्होंने इस स्थान पर अपने हाथ नदी के जल में डाले, चमत्कारिक रूप से परशु उनके हाथ से अलग हो गया। यही स्थान कालांतर में परशुराम कुंड के नाम से विख्यात हुआ और आत्मशुद्धि का प्रतीक बन गया।



**धार्मिक महत्व और श्रद्धा का केंद्र**  
परशुराम कुंड को जीवनभर के पापों से मुक्ति देने वाला तीर्थ माना जाता है। कालिका पुराण में भी इस स्थल का उल्लेख मिलता है, जहाँ कहा गया है कि यहाँ स्नान करने से मोक्ष की प्राप्ति होती है। इसी कारण इसे अक्सर 'पूर्वोत्तर भारत का कुंभ' भी कहा जाता है।

प्रत्येक वर्ष मकर संक्रान्ति (14-15 जनवरी) के अवसर पर यहाँ विशाल मेला लगता है, जिसमें भारत के विभिन्न राज्यों—असम, मणिपुर, नेपाल सहित—से हजारों श्रद्धालु और साधु पवित्र स्नान हेतु पहुँचते हैं। अनुमानतः हर वर्ष 70,000 से अधिक भक्त इस कुंड में आस्था की डुबकी लगाते हैं।

**इतिहास, संरचना और प्राकृतिक परिवेश**  
परशुराम कुंड लोहित जिले के कामलांग रिजर्व फॉरेस्ट क्षेत्र में, तेजू से लगभग 48 किलोमीटर की दूरी पर स्थित है। 1950 के विनाशकारी असम भूकंप में मूल कुंड नष्ट हो गया था, किंतु बाद में नदी तल में चट्टानों के प्राकृतिक वृत्ताकार जमाव से वर्तमान कुंड का निर्माण हुआ—जिसे आज भी रहस्यमय माना जाता है।

यहाँ भगवान परशुराम को समर्पित मुख्य मंदिर के साथ-साथ माता रेणुका का मंदिर और भगवान विष्णु के दशावतारों को समर्पित दशावतार मंदिर भी स्थित हैं। आसपास फैले रुद्राक्ष वृक्षों के घने वन इस स्थल को और अधिक पावन वातावरण प्रदान करते हैं।

**आस्था, प्रकृति और संस्कृति का संगम**  
परशुराम कुंड केवल एक धार्मिक स्थल नहीं, बल्कि उत्तर-पूर्व भारत की सांस्कृतिक विविधता और प्राकृतिक सौंदर्य का अद्भुत संगम है। मकर संक्रान्ति के मेले में स्थानीय जनजातियाँ अपनी पारंपरिक वस्तुएँ, हस्तशिल्प और सांस्कृतिक झलिकायाँ प्रस्तुत करती हैं। इसके साथ ही क्षेत्र में ट्रैकिंग, नदी-राफिटिंग और प्राकृतिक पर्वतन की भी संभावनाएँ हैं।

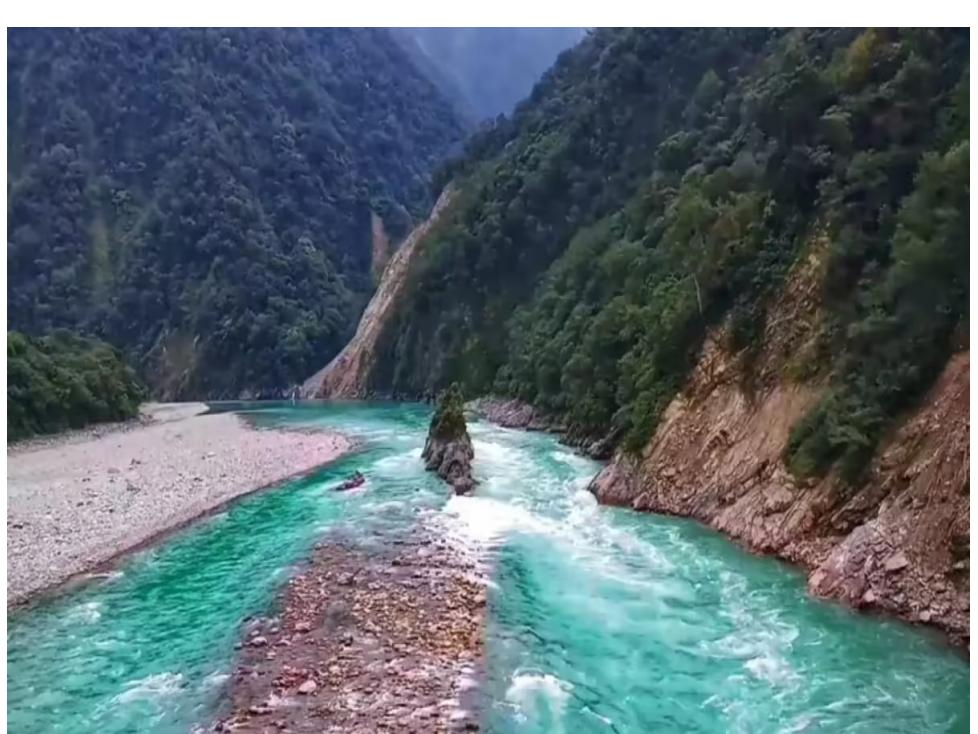
**निष्कर्ष:** यात्रा जो आत्मा से संवाद करती है अरुणाचल प्रदेश की इस पावन यात्रा का पहला पड़ाव, परशुराम कुंड, हमें यह स्मरण कराता है कि

भारत की आध्यात्मिक चेतना केवल प्रसिद्ध तीर्थों तक सीमित नहीं, बल्कि उसके दूरस्थ अंचलों में भी उतनी ही जीवंत और प्राभावशाली है। यह स्थल प्रायश्चित्त, क्षमा और आत्मपरिवर्तन की उस परंपरा का प्रतीक है, जो सनातन धर्म की आत्मा है।

**IndoUS Tribune** की इस आध्यात्मिक श्रृंखला में यह यात्रा यहीं विराम नहीं लेती। हमारे अगले पड़ाव में हम पहुँचेंगे 'मालिनीथान मंदिर' (Malinithan Temple Ruins)—जहाँ पत्थरों पर उकेरी गई प्राचीन कलाकृतियाँ और मंदिर के अवशेष हमें द्वारा युग की स्मृतियों में ले जाएंगे, जहाँ भगवान कृष्ण व माता रुक्मिणी से जुड़ी कथाएँ इतिहास और आस्था के संगम को जीवंत कर देती हैं।

हमारे साथ बने रहिए इस दिव्य यात्रा में—क्योंकि यह केवल मंदिरों की नहीं, बल्कि भारत की आत्मा को जानने की यात्रा है।

यही शुभकामना।



# हनुमान चालीसा का सदल और व्यापक अर्थ



हम सभी हनुमान चालीसा पढ़ते हैं। बचपन से इसे सुनते और बोलते आए हैं, इसलिए कई बार यह केवल रटने तक सीमित रह जाती है। लेकिन क्या हमने कभी सच में समझने की कोशिश की है कि हम हनुमान जी से क्या कह रहे हैं, क्या मांग रहे हैं? जब हम इसके अर्थ को समझते हैं, तभी इसका वास्तविक आनंद और आध्यात्मिक फल मिलता है।

हनुमान चालीसा केवल एक सुनि ही नहीं है, बल्कि जीवन जीने की एक प्रेरणा है। इसमें भक्ति, सेवा, साहस, विनम्रता और विश्वास जैसे गुणों का संदेश छिपा है।

## हनुमान चालीसा का मूल भाव

चालीसा की शुरूआत गुरु वंदना से होती है। इसका संदेश है कि ज्ञान पाने के लिए सबसे पहले अहंकार छोड़कर गुरु का सम्मान करना चाहिए। गुरु की कृपा से मन साफ होता है और हम सही रस्ते पर चल पाते हैं।

इसके बाद भक्त अपनी सीमाओं को स्वीकार करता है—‘मैं बुद्धिहीन हूँ, मुझे बल, बुद्धि और विद्या दीजिए।’ यह हमें विनम्र बनना सिखाता है। जब हम अपनी कमजोरियों को स्वीकार करते हैं, तभी हमें सच्ची ताकत मिलती है।

## हनुमान जी का स्वरूप-शक्ति और सेवा का आदर्श

चालीसा में हनुमान जी को ज्ञान और गुणों का सामर कहा गया है। उनके पास अपार शक्ति है, लेकिन वह शक्ति केवल प्रदर्शन के लिए नहीं, बल्कि धर्म और दूसरों की रक्षा के लिए है।

‘कुमति निवार सुमति के संगी’—हनुमान जी बुरी सोच को दूर करते हैं और अच्छी बुद्धि देते हैं। आज के भ्रमित और तनाव भरे जीवन में यह संदेश बहुत महत्वपूर्ण है।

## भक्ति और समर्पण का संदेश

हनुमान जी का सबसे बड़ा गुण है उनका श्री राम के प्रति पूर्ण समर्पण। वे हर कार्य राम के लिए करते हैं। इससे हमें सीख मिलती है कि यदि हम अपने कर्तव्यों को ईश्वर को समर्पित भाव से करें, तो कठिन से कठिन

सीता जी की खोज में उन्होंने छोटा रूप धारण किया और लंका दहन के समय विशाल रूप। यह हमें सिखाता है कि जीवन में परिस्थिति के अनुसार स्वयं को ढालना ही सच्ची बुद्धिमानी है।

## साहस और विश्वास की प्रेरणा

लक्ष्मण जी के लिए संजीवनी लाना केवल एक कथा नहीं, बल्कि अटूट विश्वास का प्रतीक है—कि सच्ची निष्ठा से असंभव भी संभव हो जाता है।

‘दुर्गम काज जगत के जेते, सुगम अनुग्रह तुम्हे तेते’ अर्थात् हनुमान जी की कृपा से कठिन कार्य भी सरल हो जाते हैं। यह पैकिं हमें आत्मविश्वास देती है।

## भय और नकारात्मकता से मुक्ति

जहां हनुमान जी का नाम लिया जाता है, वहां भय, नकारात्मक ऊर्जा और विनाश टिक नहीं पाती।

‘नासै रोग है सब पीरा’—इसका अर्थ केवल शारीरिक रोग नहीं, बल्कि मानसिक दुख, तनाव और निराशा से मुक्ति भी है। नियमित पाठ मन को स्थिर करता है और भीतर साहस जगाता है।

## सुखा और आश्रय का भाव

‘सब सुख लहै तुम्हारी सरना, तुम रक्षक काहू को डरना।’

जब हमें यह विश्वास होता है कि कोई दिव्य शक्ति हमारी रक्षा कर रही है, तो जीवन की परेशानियाँ हल्की लगने लगती हैं। हनुमान चालीसा हमें यही आंतरिक रुक्षा देती है।

## इच्छाओं की पूर्ति और आध्यात्मिक उन्नति

चालीसा में अष्ट सिद्धि और नौ निधियों का उल्लेख है। इसका गहरा अर्थ यह है कि सच्ची भक्ति से व्यक्ति के भीतर ऐसी क्षमता विकसित होती है, जिससे वह अपने जीवन को सफल बना सकता है। लेकिन चालीसा

केवल भौतिक इच्छाओं की पूर्ति नहीं सिखाती, यह हमें सत्य, धर्म और राम भक्ति के मार्ग पर चलने की प्रेरणा देती है।

## हनुमान चालीसा पढ़ने के लाभ

► मन को शांति और स्थिरता मिलती है

► आत्मविश्वास और साहस बढ़ता है

► नकारात्मक विचार कम होते हैं

► कठिन समय में मानसिक सहारा मिलता है

► एकाग्रता और सकारात्मक ऊर्जा बढ़ती है

► भक्ति और विनम्रता का भाव विकसित होता है

► नियमित पाठ से मन अनुशासित होता है और जीवन में संतुलन आता है।

प्रेरित करे।

‘सूक्ष्म रूप धरि’

► जीवन में लचीलापन जरूरी है—कभी विनम्र, कभी दृढ़ बनना पड़ता है।

‘लाय सजीवन लखन जियाये’

► सच्ची भक्ति में चमत्कार करने की शक्ति होती है।

‘राम दुआरे तुम रखवारे’

► ईश्वर तक पहुंचने का मार्ग भक्ति और सेवा से होकर जाता है।

‘भूत पिशाच निकट नहिं आवै’

► हनुमान जी का स्मरण हमें भय और नकारात्मकता से बचाता है।

‘संकट तें हनुमान छुड़ावै’

► जो मन, वचन और कर्म से उनका ध्यान करता है, उसके संकट दूर होते हैं।

‘तुम्हरे भजन राम को पावै’

► हनुमान भक्ति अंततः हमें भगवान तक ले जाती है।

## अंतिम संदेश

हनुमान चालीसा का सार यही है—

शक्ति के साथ विनम्रता, ज्ञान के साथ सेवा और सफलता के साथ समर्पण। जब हम इसका अर्थ समझकर पाठ करते हैं, तो यह केवल शब्द नहीं रहते—यह हमारे जीवन का मार्गदर्शन बन जाते हैं।

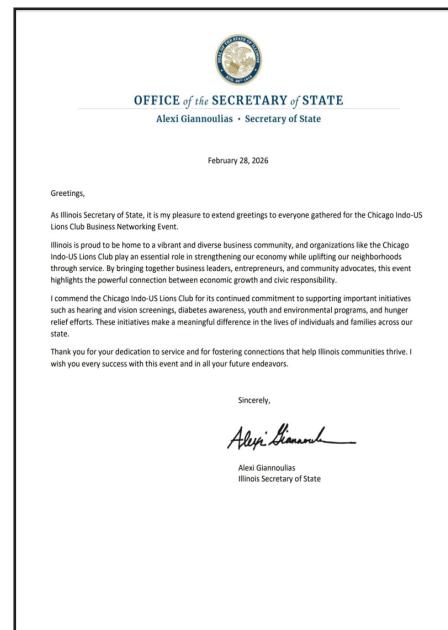
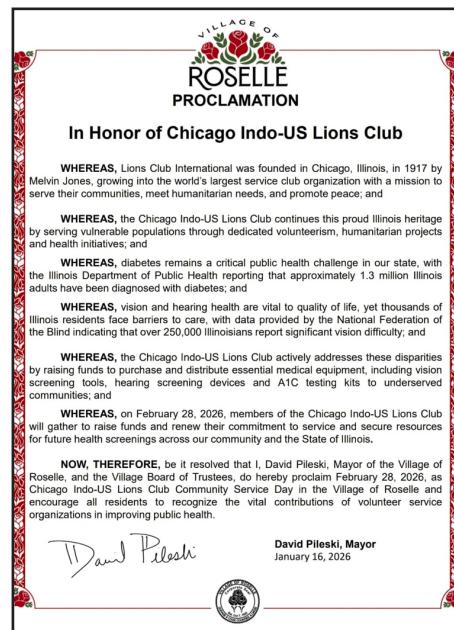
आइए, हनुमान चालीसा को केवल रटें नहीं, बल्कि समझें, महसूस करें और अपने जीवन में उतारें। तब इसका वास्तविक चमत्कार दिखाई देगा—मन में शांति, हृदय में साहस और जीवन में प्रकाश।

सीता राम के दूत, संकट मोचन हनुमान जी को नमन।

जय श्री राम।

Friday, 06 February 2026

# Chicago INDO US Lions Club and MIBG Foundation join forces for extensive winter relief initiative in India



● By: Dr. Avi Verma

In a powerful demonstration of international solidarity, the Chicago INDO US Lions Club has partnered with the MIBG Foundation to launch a large-scale Winter Relief Drive across northern and western India, addressing the urgent needs of communities grappling with record-breaking cold waves.

The joint initiative focuses on vulnerable populations, including the homeless, elderly, rural laborers, and families living in slum settlements, many of whom lack adequate shelter and protection against extreme winter temperatures.

Heavy-duty blankets, specially designed for harsh weather, are being distributed to ensure recipients remain warm during the most challenging nights.

Lion Kishan Trivedi, President of the Chicago INDO US Lions Club, highlighted the urgency of the project. "Distance does not diminish our duty to serve," he said. "Through this partnership with MIBG Foundation, we are able to deliver aid directly to those who need it most."

Our goal is not just to provide warmth, but to restore dignity, comfort, and hope during the harsh winter months." Lion Deepak Nayak added, "Seeing our brothers and sisters struggle in freezing conditions, we knew immediate action was required. This initiative embodies the true spirit of 'We Serve.'"

The program has strategically identified high-need districts to maximize impact, reaching night shelters, isolated rural communities, and temporary housing settlements. The MIBG Foundation's local teams, supported by volunteers, conduct late-night distribution drives, ensuring blankets are delivered when recipients need them most.

This collaboration exemplifies the power of global partnerships in humanitarian work, combining Chicago INDO US Lions Club's philanthropic resources with MIBG Foundation's local expertise to create sustainable, meaningful impact.

promoting service, compassion, and global outreach.

## About Chicago INDO US Lions Club

A member of Lions Clubs International,

the club connects the Indian-American community in Chicago with humanitarian efforts in India and locally,

MIBG Foundation is a non-profit

organization dedicated to social welfare, healthcare, and emergency relief initiatives in India, committed to improving the lives of marginalized populations through sustainable programs.





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Friday, 06 February 2026

# BAPS sets Guinness World Record with largest simultaneous Hindu text recital by children

12,723 children participate during Mahant Swami Maharaj's birthday celebration



● By: Vandana Jhingan

**T**he BAPS Swaminarayan Sanstha marked the birthday of its spiritual leader, His Holiness Mahant Swami Maharaj, with a historic achievement on February 2, 2026, as the organization set a Guinness World Record for the largest simultaneous Hindu text recital by children. The grand celebration drew more than 200,000 devotees from across the globe, creating an atmosphere of devotion, culture, and unity.

The record was established when 12,723 children gathered in Vadodara to recite Satsang Diksha, a sacred Sanskrit scripture composed by Mahant Swami Maharaj. Guinness World Records officially recognized the feat as the highest number of children simultaneously reciting Sanskrit verses, and a Certificate of Recognition was presented to Mahant Swami Maharaj during the event.

Inspired by his guidance, a remarkable 15,666 children between the ages of 3 and 13 memorized the entire Satsang Diksha within a year. Of these, 12,723 met the criteria and participated in the live recital that secured the world record.

The Satsang Diksha, comprising 315 Sanskrit shlokas, provides practical guidance on spiritual growth, moral living, social harmony, and disciplined conduct.

Participation from hundreds of children from the United States and Canada highlighted BAPS' global presence and the growing interest among Indian American families in preserving traditional learning.

Officials from Guinness World Records traveled from England to verify the attempt. After a comprehensive review process, they formally declared the recital a world record, applauding the children's dedication and the collective effort behind the initiative.

Although the event was held in India, its impact resonated strongly within Indian American communities. Many parents described the initiative as a meaningful alternative to screen-heavy educational routines. Unlike modern classrooms often filled with digital distractions, the Sanskrit recital demanded focus, memorization, discipline, and sustained commitment over several months.

Participants shared how the experience shaped their confidence and character. Param Patel of Edison, New Jersey, noted that months of preparation helped him discover his perseverance. "At first I thought it was too hard," he said. "But once I finished, I felt more confident. It showed me I can stick with something."

Six-year-old Anadi Tailor from Atlanta explained that memorizing the verses helps



guide her daily decisions. "I remember the words when I am at school," she said. "They help me make good choices." Vani Patel from Los Angeles described the emotional power of reciting alongside thousands of peers, saying, "It felt powerful to say the words together."

Sanskrit—one of the world's oldest recorded languages—is renowned for its precise grammar and profound philosophical heritage. Scholars continue to study its linguistic structure, while many families value its role in character-building and classical education. Organizers carefully selected participants based on accuracy, commitment, and sincerity to maintain the recital's quality and authenticity.

Educators and psychologists have long emphasized the importance of structured, goal-oriented activities for childhood development. According to organizers, the mass recital was designed not only to achieve a record but also to nurture focus, memory, perseverance, and teamwork—skills essential for lifelong success.

Beyond the record-setting moment, the celebration featured elaborate cultural performances, immersive video presentations, and inspiring addresses. Mahant Swami Maharaj also inaugurated a

Mobile School initiative for tribal regions under the theme "Har Ghar Shiksha Ki Jyoti Jale," underscoring BAPS' commitment to education and social upliftment.

Addressing the gathering, Mahant Swami Maharaj reflected on the legacy of the BAPS gurus and credited the children for the honor. "The recognition received from Guinness World Records today is the result of the children's sincere and tireless efforts, and it is dedicated to all the gurus," he said. "The sadhus, volunteers, and parents have worked with great devotion—this recognition belongs to them."

The celebration was attended by Gujarat Chief Minister Shri Bhupendrabhai Patel and Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shri Mohan Yadav as special guests. A message of greetings from Union Home Minister Shri Amit Shah was also read on the occasion.

The record-setting recital highlighted unity, discipline, and values-based learning among young participants while reflecting the strength of BAPS children's programs under Mahant Swami Maharaj's guidance. Above all, the achievement demonstrated a collective commitment to passing Hindu values and cultural heritage to the next generation.



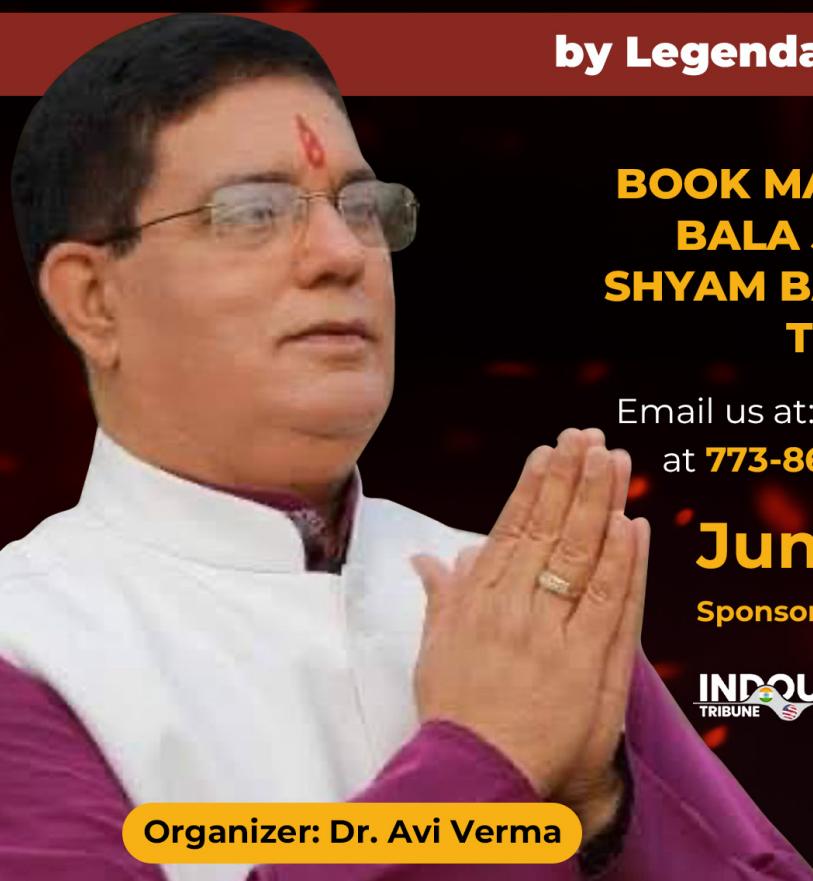


**27**





**by Legendary Lakhbir Singh Lakha**





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# India and the South Caucasus

By: Ambassador Ashok Sajjanhar

**T**he South Caucasus – comprising Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Georgia – is a small but geopolitically significant region, susceptible to intense competition between regional and global powers. It is also at a strategic crossroads between Russia and Europe, the Middle East, and Asia.

The 2020 Nagorno-Karabakh War, which was followed by the expulsion of 120,000 ethnic Armenians from Nagorno-Karabakh and Azerbaijan's forcible takeover of the entire region in September 2023, shifted the regional balance of power in favour of Azerbaijan.

India's relationship with the South Caucasus is a blend of ancient silk-road connections and evolving geo-political realities of 21st century which present significant challenges but also opportunities. Over the last few years, this region has shifted from the periphery to a core strategic focus for New Delhi.

India's relations with South Caucasus nations are growing, focusing on strategic connectivity via the International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC), defence cooperation (especially with Armenia as a major arms buyer), and economic links in energy, IT, trade, education and tourism, while balancing great power dynamics and regional stability.

Armenia is currently India's closest partner, receiving significant development aid and defence support, but India also fosters ties with Azerbaijan on energy, tourism and trade, and with Georgia on investments, education and tourism. These partnerships promote win-win economic benefits and geopolitical leverage, supporting regional stability through infrastructure and increased connectivity.

## Historical & cultural relations

India's ties with the South Caucasus are rooted in millennia of trade, connectivity, culture and people-to-people interactions. Historical evidence suggests Indian settlements existed in Armenia as early as 149 BCE.

► **Armenia:** The Armenian community in India has a longstanding history. Emperor Akbar famously had an Armenian wife and granted commercial privileges to Armenians. Kolkata and Chennai still house historic Armenian churches. The world's first Armenian journal, Azdarar, was published in Madras (Chennai) in 1794.

► **Azerbaijan:** The Ateshgah of Baku (Fire Temple) stands as a testament to the presence of Indian merchants (Hindus and Sikhs) who travelled by the Silk Road. Inscriptions in Devanagari and Gurmukhi scripts are visible on its walls.

► **Georgia:** Cultural links were highlighted in 2021 when India returned the holy relics of Saint Queen Ketevan to Georgia, nearly 400 years after they were brought to Goa. This "relic diplomacy" significantly boosted bilateral warmth.

## Political relations

► **Armenia:** Strategic partner: Armenia has emerged as India's strongest ally in the region. The relationship has been significantly upgraded in recent years due to mutual concerns over the Azerbaijan-Pakistan-Turkey nexus.

► **Azerbaijan:** Pragmatic ties: Relations are strained because Baku openly supports Pakistan's stance on Kashmir.



However, in pursuance of its policy of Multialignment, India maintains expedient ties with Azerbaijan based on energy and commercial partnership.

► **Georgia:** Growing partner: India views Georgia as a gateway to the Black Sea. Relations have improved steadily since 2021 with Georgia remaining neutral on India's internal issues. As a sign of expanding bilateral ties, India opened its resident Mission in Georgia in July, 2024.

## Economic & defence cooperation

The South Caucasus is a vital node in India's quest for a trade route to Europe and Russia. A robust defense partnership with Armenia, supplying arms to strengthen its self-defense, is a key element reflecting geopolitical shifts and regional security concerns. New Delhi and Yerevan are also exploring the significant, untapped potential in developing bilateral trade in pharmaceuticals, information technology, culture, tourism, education, and diaspora ties.

India-Azerbaijan relations are based on civilizational linkages, cultural affinities and shared values of understanding and respect for other cultures. Energy trade and tourism form the bedrock of contemporary India-Azerbaijan ties.

Significant Indian investments have been made in Georgia in steel, infrastructure, agriculture and service sectors. Major Indian companies operating in Georgia are Tata Power, Geo Steel, Jindal Petroleum and KEC International Limited.

## The connectivity factor: India is one of the original proponents of the INSTC.

► **Armenia & Georgia:** India is promoting a "Persian Gulf-Black Sea" corridor. This route would take goods from India by the maritime route to Iran's Chabahar Port and thereafter through Armenia and Georgia to the Black Sea, and onwards to Europe.

► **Azerbaijan:** While the original INSTC route passes through Baku, India has diversified its options due to geopolitical considerations, though Azerbaijan remains a key node in the INSTC and energy supplies (crude oil).

## Defence:

► **The Armenia Pivot:** In recent years, the India-Armenia defence partnership has evolved from a series of individual sales into a full-scale strategic alliance. Armenia is now India's largest customer for finished weapon systems, a shift driven by Armenia's need to diversify its defence procurement and India's "Make in India" export ambitions. Defence Cooperation Program today entails joint combat training, military education, and expert exchanges. For the first time, Military Attachés have been posted in each other's embassies for technical and tactical coordination. While Armenia's leadership pursues a peace agenda, it enhances its self-defence capacity to safeguard its borders and to deter any possible aggression from Azerbaijan. India-Armenia defence cooperation contributes to regional stability by helping strengthen the self-defence capacity of Armenia.

► **Major Deals:** India has exported the Pinaka multi-barrel rocket launchers, Swathi weapon-locating radars, Akash surface-to-air missile systems, Brahmos supersonic cruise missiles and anti-drone technology to Yerevan. Since 2022, Armenia has signed weapons contracts with India worth more than \$1.5 billion. These deals have been a primary driver in India hitting its \$5 billion defense export target, with Armenia alone accounting for nearly 15–20% of India's total defense exports in recent years.

► **Significance:** This marks India's transition from an arms importer to a significant exporter, using the South Caucasus as a launch base for its proven indigenous defense industry.

## People-to-people & education

► **Education:** Georgia and Armenia have become major hubs for Indian medical students. In Georgia, Indian students often constitute the largest segment of the international student body.

► **Tourism:** Azerbaijan has seen a massive surge in Indian tourists, with India becoming its 3rd largest source of visitors by 2024–2025. Direct flights from Delhi

and Mumbai to Baku and Yerevan have bolstered this trend.

► **IT & Labor:** Indian tech professionals and agricultural workers have found opportunities in the region, particularly in Armenia's growing tech sector and Georgia's agricultural lands.

India-Armenia relations have developed at a rapid pace in recent years – there has been a high number of high-level visits, boosting bilateral trade and most importantly defense ties. Both countries are democracies. They support each other politically on international platforms. Yerevan has always supported India on Kashmir and, more recently, expressed its support to India in the India-Pakistan military conflict of 2025, condemning the Pahalgam attack.

While the International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC) is the acknowledged parent project, India has increasingly pivoted toward a specific "sub-route" viz. Persian Gulf-Black Sea Corridor to bypass hostile neighbours and secure its strategic exports to Armenia.

Armenia has proposed the "Crossroads of Peace" initiative (2025–2026), which envisions reopening borders with Azerbaijan and Turkey. India supports this for regional stability but remains focused on the North-South axis (Iran-Armenia-Georgia).

## Conclusion

India is moving from an observer to a strategic actor, leveraging defense, diplomacy, trade, energy, education, tourism and connectivity projects to secure its interests and promote a stable, multi-aligned South Caucasus. India's relationship with the South Caucasus region is strategically diverse, marked by a deepening, multifaceted partnership with Armenia, particularly in the defense and connectivity sectors, in conjunction with economic, tourism and energy ties with Azerbaijan (via ONGC investments and oil imports) and expanding engagement with Georgia (focused on education and trade, and connectivity potential through the Black Sea), reflecting a pragmatic, country-by-country approach rather than an omnibus regional strategy.

# India Stack

## The Indian approach and experience

● By: Ambassador Debnath Shaw

**W**hat is the India Stack? It is a collection of open Application Programming Interface (APIs) and Digital Public Goods forming India's foundational digital infrastructure. Its components collectively enable various entities, including governments, businesses and individuals to interact and conduct transactions digitally. The India Stack components like Aadhaar (identity), UPI (payments), DigiLocker (documents), e-Sign (digital signature), e-KYC (know your customer), DBT (direct benefit transfer), Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (healthcare), etc, enable citizens, businesses and developers to avail of paper-less, presence-less and cashless transactions and services.

### The Indian approach

The India Stack is a framework that aims to accelerate India's digital transformation and enhance financial inclusion. Although the name of the project bears the word India, the vision of India Stack is not limited to one country. It can be applied to any nation, developed or one that is developing or emerging.

The project was conceptualized early this century, and first implemented in 2009 through the Aadhaar unique identity programme. The India Stack is designed to provide a secure and interoperable platform for the delivery of various services to citizens, leveraging the power of technology and data.

### How does the India Stack work?

The India Stack works through five layers. The Cashless Layer, which supports an interoperable payment network, owned and operated by the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI). This layer includes payments platforms like IMPS, which facilitates immediate electronic transfers from one bank account to another, and UPI, an instant real-time payment system from an individual or business/entity to another individual or to a business/entity, thus



DEBNATH SHAW

Though some challenges remain regarding data privacy, cybersecurity, digital inclusiveness, and regulatory oversight, the India Stack has served the people of the country well.

replacing use of notes and coins. The UPI gained immense popularity during the Covid period, and has been growing by leaps and bounds in India, since then. These and other platforms like AEPS (Aadhaar Enabled Payments System) and APB (Aadhaar Payment Bridge) reduce the cost and risk of financial transactions. The Paperless Layer enables storage and retrieval of information on real time basis. Owned by the Department of Electronics & Information Technology, this layer includes e-Sign, e-KYC and DigiLocker.

The Presence-less Layer provides unique digital biometric identities (Aadhaar) with open APIs, enabling real-time, anytime, anywhere verification without physical documents, thus reducing fraud and simplifying access to digital services.

The Consent Layer empowers individuals with control over their personal data through a framework for secure consented sharing featuring Electronic Data Consent (EDC) for time/purpose limits; a Consent Artefact for

transparency; and regulated entities like Account Aggregators (AA) to manage data flow. How does it work? To give an example, if an individual or entity seeks a loan, he/it consents to share their financial data like bank statements, through an AA, which securely retrieves the data from the bank with the consent given. The data is shared with the loan provider, with the user's specified permissions in the Consent Artefact.

The Commerce Layer is driven by the Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC), a Section 8 (not for profit) company. It features open protocols for interoperability, standardized operations (inventory, cataloging), data privacy, and a consent-based framework, enabling seamless integration between buyers and sellers. It helps reduce monopoly, fostering a competitive digital marketplace, lowering entry barriers for smaller sellers like MSMEs and the neighbourhood kirana (grocery) store. This layer's foundation is laid on India's Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI), using Aadhaar, UPI, DigiLocker and the Consent Layer.

### India's experience with the India Stack

Hundreds of millions of Indian citizens and residents have onboarded various components the India Stack-built DPI, to avail of safe and secure financial, healthcare, education and other services. Its key deliverables are:

- Delivers complete services to citizens
- Main focus is to improve people's lives
- A product of several years of innovation
- A paper-less and cashless delivery system

It has facilitated the creation of innovative solutions and startups that leverage digital technology to address societal challenges and improve access to services for all segments of the

population. India's experience can be summed up in the following outcomes.

**Financial Inclusion:** India Stack plays a crucial role in promoting financial inclusion by providing a digital platform for banking, payments and financial services. It has enabled people, who were earlier excluded from financial systems - those unbanked or underbanked - to access digital payments methods.

**Access to Services:** With India Stack, citizens can access a wide range of government services, financial services, healthcare services, education resources, and more, through digital platforms, enhancing convenience and accountability.

**Entrepreneurship and Innovation:** India Stack's open APIs have spurred innovation by allowing startups and businesses to build new services on top of the existing infrastructure. This has led to growth of a vibrant tech ecosystem.

**Reduced Corruption:** By enabling DBT and digital subsidies, the financial benefits from government to citizens now reach his/her bank account directly through DBT, rather than through intermediaries, as in the past. India Stack is thus assisting in reducing leakages and corruption in the distribution of government benefits and subsidies. India's model is being replicated globally, with the India Stack serving as a blueprint for inclusive growth and digital transformation in other developing countries.

Though some challenges remain on data privacy, cybersecurity, digital inclusiveness and regulatory oversight, the India Stack has served the people of the country well. It is also assisting several friendly countries to build their own digital public infrastructure (DPI) for inclusive growth and digital transformation.



# The immune system's master switch: How scientists discovered the body's internal brakes

By: Dr. Avi Verma

**O**ne of the most enduring mysteries in medicine is not how the immune system attacks disease, but how it prevents itself from attacking the body.

Every day, the immune system produces cells capable of recognizing and destroying tissue. Yet in healthy individuals, this destructive power is tightly controlled. Understanding how the body enforces this self-restraint ranks among the most important breakthroughs in modern immunology.

## The discovery that changed immunology

In the mid-1990s, Japanese immunologist Dr. Shimon Sakaguchi identified a specialized class of immune cells called regulatory T cells, or Tregs. Unlike conventional immune cells that eliminate pathogens, Tregs act as guardians of immune balance, preventing excessive or misdirected immune responses.

These cells function as a biological brake system, ensuring that immune defenses do not turn inward and damage healthy organs. This finding solved a long-standing puzzle: why the immune system usually tolerates the body's own tissues.

## FOXP3: The master genetic switch

The mechanism behind regulatory T cells became clearer when researchers Fred Ramsdell and Michael Brunkow identified the FOXP3 gene as the



central regulator of Treg development and function.

Their work emerged from studies of IPEX syndrome, a rare and often fatal autoimmune disorder in children. Patients with this condition carry mutations in the FOXP3 gene, leading to catastrophic

loss of immune regulation and widespread autoimmunity.

## FOXP3 was revealed to be the master switch:

- ▶ When FOXP3 functions normally, regulatory T cells maintain immune tolerance.
- ▶ When FOXP3 is defective, the immune system loses control and attacks the body.

This discovery established the molecular foundation for understanding immune self-tolerance. Why this matters for modern medicine: The identification of regulatory T cells and the FOXP3 pathway reshaped medical science. Rather than viewing the immune system solely as a weapon against disease, researchers began to understand it as a finely governed system requiring balance and restraint.

## Today, this work underpins research and therapeutic strategies in:

- ▶ Autoimmune diseases such as type 1 diabetes, rheumatoid arthritis, lupus, and multiple sclerosis
- ▶ Organ transplantation, where immune tolerance is critical to preventing rejection
- ▶ Cancer immunotherapy, where selectively modulating regulatory T cells may enhance tumor targeting.
- ▶ Cell-based and gene therapies aimed at restoring immune balance rather than suppressing immunity indiscriminately.

This represents a fundamental evolution in immunology, shifting the focus from immune suppression to immune regulation.

## A cornerstone discovery with lasting impact

While recognition may come over time, the scientific significance of these discoveries is already undeniable.

The identification of regulatory T cells and FOXP3 stands as a cornerstone of 21st-century immunology, influencing research across autoimmune disease, cancer, and regenerative medicine.

By revealing how the immune system governs its own power, these scientists transformed our understanding of human biology and opened new paths toward safer, more precise treatments.

## Important medical disclaimer

*This article is for informational and educational purposes only. It does not constitute medical advice, diagnosis, or treatment.*

*The therapies discussed are based on ongoing scientific research and are not universally approved or available as standard clinical treatments. Patients should not make medical decisions or alter treatment plans based on this article alone. Always consult a qualified physician or healthcare professional regarding any medical condition or therapy.*



# Personal finance insights: News & Features

● Dr. K C Gupta, YBB Personal Finance

## CONTRARIAN INDICATORS

AAII Bull-Bear Spread +13.6% (above average)  
CNN Fear & Greed Index 58 (greed)  
NYSE %Above 50-dMA 68.72% (positive)  
SP500 %Above 50-dMA 66.60% (positive)

ICI Fund Allocations (Cumulative), 12/31/25  
OEFs & ETFs: Stocks 61.36%, Hybrids 4.01%, Bonds 17.32%, M-Mkt 17.31%

## INTEREST RATES

CME FedWatch  
Cycle peak 5.25-5.50%  
Current 3.50-3.75%  
FOMC 3/18/26+ hold  
FOMC 4/29/26+ hold

## Treasury

T-Bills 3-mo yield 3.67%, 1-yr 3.48%;  
T-Notes 2-yr 3.52%, 5-yr 3.79%, 10-yr 4.26%; T-Bonds 30-yr 4.87%;  
TIPS/Real yields 5-yr 1.26%, 10-yr 1.90%, 30-yr 2.60%  
FRNs Index 3.613%

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

Stable-Value (SV) Rates, 2/1/26  
TIAA Traditional Annuity (Accumulation) Rates  
Restricted RC 5.00%, RA 4.75%  
Flexible RCP 4.25%, SRA 4.00%, IRA-101110+ 3.50%  
TSP G Fund pending (previous 4.250%)

India Fear & Greed MMI 33.4 (fear-high)  
Weekly ETFs: INDIA +0.98%, INDY +0.79%, EPI +1.80%, INDH +0.91%, SPY +0.40%

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

## ECONOMY

BIG news was the INDIA-EU trade deal ("mother of all deals") signed on 1/27/26,



the day after the 2026 Republic Day. It followed the India-UK trade deal in mid-2025. These European deals would be huge reliefs for Indian exporters while the India-US trade deal remains elusive & unusually high US tariffs (50%) on India also remain; more US tariffs are threatened. Hopefully, the new US Ambassador GOR in India can push for a mutually beneficial & sensible India-US trade deal.

Indian telecom industry expansion includes considerations of data localization, local screening (security) demonstrable with trials, spectrum pricing & domestic competition. On some issues, the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) & Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) are not on the same page. Then, there is an overall Digital Communication Commission (DCC; under DoT) that sorts out inter-agency/ministry differences; there have been proposals to phaseout DCC since 2023, but it's going strong in 2025. This may explain the slow rollout of satellite telecom

services from Elon Musk's Starlink, Eutelsat OneWeb & Reliance Jio, etc.

## SPECIAL TOPIC - GOLD & SILVER - REDUX

A lot has changed since the feature on gold & silver in IndoUS Tribune, 10/18/24. Both gold & silver have had spectacular, in fact, generational rallies. But after the nomination of Kevin WARSH as the next Fed Chair, gold fell sharply, silver crashed.

Gold:silver ratio has also fluctuated widely. First, gold rallied more than silver & gold:silver ratio peaked at 105 in 04/2025, then, silver rallied more than gold & gold:silver ratio collapsed to 44 in 01/2026, now 55. Long-term average for gold:silver ratio is 65.

Bulk of gold/silver trading is with derivatives, so small changes in institutions taking physical deliveries can have large market impacts.

Gold/silver-miners lagged uncharacteristically at first but then caught up furiously. They have high beta in the range of 2-3 relative to the appropriate bullion.

There are several geopolitical hot spots - Ukraine, Venezuela, Iran, Gaza, etc. Other factors include the new US Administration that is more favorable to alternative assets (01/2025-), aggressive US dollar-diplomacy, high US deficits & debt, demand from AI/datacenters, central bank gold purchases (they now hold more gold than US Treasuries), money moves to or from cryptos & evolving global spheres of influence.

Domestically held gold & silver aren't subject to sanctions or freezes as other assets may be. Central banks are also

reducing their gold held at global depositories in US, UK, Switzerland, etc & shifting those to domestic depositories.

Gold & silver bullion ETF assets are rising locking bullion that is no longer available for trading. Gold-bullion ETFs include GLD, GLDM, IAU, IAUM, SGOL, etc. Silver-bullion ETFs are SLV, SIVR, etc. There are also CEFs with complications of premiums/discounts, & Canadian CEFs with PFIC tax issues for US investors.

Gold-mining ETFs include large-cap/majors GDX, SGDM, RING, GDMN, etc; small-cap/juniors GDXJ, SGDJ, etc. Silver-mining ETFs include SIL, SLVP, SLVR; SILJ, etc.

Global-allocation SGENX/SGIIX & multi-asset GDE & PRPFX include decent exposure to gold.

It takes several years to develop gold mines. Dedicated silver mining may be only 25% of silver production with the rest being the byproduct of other base metal mining; silver use is 40% for investments, 60% industrial. Gold/silver-miners aren't rushing to increase production but instead are focusing on dividends, buybacks & improving their balance sheets with windfall profits.

Gold & silver investments are good inflation & currency hedges. So, they are very popular in India (high inflation, steadily falling rupee), but less so in US. If you have held gold/silver investments, take some profits (i.e. rebalance). If you are new to them, accumulate gradually on pullbacks.

# 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.

- ▶ Lecturio 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.

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.

Lecturio supplements the education delivered, improves student performance, and provide flexible, self-paced learning opportunities.

**10. Mentorship:** IUHS integrates the Integrated Clinical Medicine program into the preclinical years of the MD curriculum, allowing students to gain early exposure to clinical settings. This hands-on experience gives IUHS students a competitive edge over their peers from other universities.

IUHS students become comfortable and confident in a clinical environment before starting clinical rotations having developed the necessary clinical skills. Working alongside a local physician mentor, each student spends 20 hours per month shadowing and discussing cases with their mentor, a doctor from their own community. Under the guidance of IUHS's clinical director, students select a mentor who fits their needs and location. This early integration of clinical skills enhances learning, bridging the gap between theory and practice, and making the transition to full-time clinical training more seamless and rewarding.

**11. Get in Touch:** You can ask me anything about IUHS if you still have more questions!.

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

*For more information and to apply, visit [www.iuhs.edu](http://www.iuhs.edu)*



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- ▶ Comprehensive Medical Curriculum Support – Covers

## Best dressed celebrities steal the spotlight at the 2026 Grammys



The 68th Annual Grammy Awards on Sunday at the Crypto.com Arena in Los Angeles delivered music, drama, and unforgettable style moments on the red carpet. Hosted by Trevor Noah for his sixth and final year, the ceremony saw stars embracing bold, larger-than-life fashion statements.

Doechii turned heads in a plum silk corset gown by Roberto Cavalli, layered with a burnt-orange silk tank top and a 13-foot train adorned with ruched details and hand-embroidered boho-style accents. Lady Gaga brought high drama in a custom black Matières Fécales gown with sculptural feathers, a spiky collar, and a sweeping train. Chappell Roan embraced a daring sheer maroon Mugler dress with faux nipple details and a matching cape, while Addison Rae channeled Marilyn Monroe in a plunging white Alaïa gown with an asymmetrical skirt.

Naked dresses remained a dominant trend, with Karol G in a sheer blue lace



Paolo Sebastian gown and Tyla in a beige slip dress with a dramatic fur train by Dsquared2. Sabrina Carpenter shimmered in a custom Valentino gown with a floral beaded bodice, tiered ruffles, and delicate cape, while Tate McRae impressed in a black Balenciaga strapless gown featuring a fringed skirt and opera gloves.

On the menswear side, Bad Bunny made a statement in Schiaparelli's first-ever menswear suit, and Sombr sparkled in a custom Valentino suit with a plunging lace shirt. Billie Eilish reimagined power dressing in a Hodakova suit-inspired ensemble, pairing a jacket, tie, shorts, and knee-high socks with pumps. Other standout looks included Hailey Bieber's black strapless Alaïa gown with sheer panels, Michelle Williams' black gown with gold leaf embellishments, and Zara Larsson's metallic gold-and-yellow two-piece by Germanier. From glittering gowns to audacious sheer silhouettes, the 2026 Grammys proved once again



that music and fashion are inseparable on Hollywood's biggest night.

Ashwani Chadha's

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