

Indian passport rises to 75th place in latest global mobility rankings



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**I**ndia's passport climbed to 75th place in the latest Henley Passport Index, up from 85th last year, signaling improved international mobility for Indian travelers. The index shows Indian passport holders now have visa-free or visa-on-arrival access to 56 destinations.

While the jump marks a recovery, India remains below its historical high of 71st achieved in 2006. The country had slipped to 80th in 2024 before falling further last year.

At the top of the rankings, Singapore retained first place with access to 192 destinations, followed by Japan and South Korea. Several European nations occupy the next tiers, reflecting continued dominance by advanced economies in global travel access.

**India pushes back on opposition over US trade framework, says farm sector protected as exports set to rise**



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**I**ndia's Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal on Thursday rejected criticism from opposition leader Rahul Gandhi over an interim trade framework with the United States, saying farmers' interests remain fully safeguarded.

Goyal said key crops including wheat, millets, corn, spices, and soy-based products are protected under the agreement, while exports of basmati rice, fruits, tea, marine goods, and cotton textiles are expected to expand. He added that stronger market access would lift demand and improve farm incomes.

The minister said Prime Minister Narendra Modi continues to prioritize agriculture, stressing the deal supports growth while preserving domestic food security.

# IndoUS TRIBUNE

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■ VOL-03 • ISSUE:15 13 FEBRUARY 2026 MIDWEST EDITION [www.indoustribune.com](http://www.indoustribune.com) Weserve community first

## Power shifts in Bangladesh as BNP sweep positions Tarique Rahman for prime minister's office

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**B**angladesh Nationalist Party claimed a decisive victory in Bangladesh's parliamentary election, winning 210 seats, according to unofficial results announced Friday, paving the way for party chief Tarique Rahman to form the next government.

Rahman secured wins in Dhaka-17 and Bogra-6 after voting took place on Thursday, defeating candidates from Jamaat-e-Islami. He cast his ballot in Dhaka earlier Thursday, saying Bangladeshis had waited more than a decade for the moment.

The United States ambassador, Brent T. Christensen, congratulated Rahman and said Washington looks forward to working with the new leadership. India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi also welcomed the result, pledging continued support for a democratic and inclusive Bangladesh.

Rahman assumed leadership of the party after the death of his mother, former prime minister Khaleda Zia, in December.



He is the son of former president Ziaur Rahman, who founded the BNP in 1978.

The victory marks Bangladesh's return to male leadership after nearly 35 years.

## US House pushes back on Canada tariffs in rare bipartisan vote as trade pressures mount

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**T**he United States House of Representatives voted Wednesday, 219 to 211, to move against tariffs imposed on Canada by President Donald Trump, marking a rare bipartisan challenge to the administration's trade strategy. The resolution aims to end the emergency declaration used to justify the duties, though full repeal would still require Senate approval and the president's signature.

Lawmakers said the tariffs are raising costs for manufacturers, farmers, and households while threatening tightly integrated cross-border supply chains.

Several Republicans broke ranks despite Trump warning his party against opposing the measure. Canadian officials welcomed the House vote and urged a return to stable, tariff-free trade. Analysts said the outcome highlights growing concern in Washington over inflationary pressures, business uncertainty, and the broader economic impact of escalating trade actions.



**Nine dead after school shooting shocks remote Canadian community**



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**N**ine people were killed on Tuesday in and around Tumbler Ridge, Canada, after a shooting at a secondary school and a nearby home, authorities said. More than 25 others were injured, including two airlifted to hospital in critical condition. Police believe a female suspect died from a self-inflicted wound.

Officers reached the school within minutes, evacuating students as helicopters circled overhead. Prime Minister Mark Carney said he was devastated and suspended travel plans. The tragedy is Canada's deadliest mass shooting since 2020, prompting renewed calls for community support and gun violence prevention.

Friday, 13 February 2026

Peru Congress moves toward removal vote as president faces influence scandal



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**L**awmakers in Peru on Thursday secured enough signatures to begin proceedings to censure President Jose Jeri, following reports of undisclosed meetings with Chinese businessman Zhihua Yang.

Once formally filed, Congress has 15 days to summon Jeri for questioning before voting on his potential removal. A censure would also strip him of his earlier role as Congress president.

Jeri, who took office after Dina Boluarte was ousted, has denied wrongdoing, calling the effort destabilizing ahead of April elections. Peru has sworn in seven presidents since 2016, underscoring chronic political volatility that continues to weigh on investor confidence.

**United States lawmakers urge Taiwan to unlock \$40 billion defense budget**



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**A**bipartisan group of 37 U.S. lawmakers on Thursday pressed Taiwan's parliament to advance President Lai Ching-te's proposed \$40 billion defense package, warning that threats from China are intensifying.

The opposition-led legislature has stalled the plan, offering smaller alternatives that fund only part of the requested U.S. weapons purchases. The letter, addressed to Speaker Han Kuo-yu and party leaders, said stronger spending is vital to deterrence.

Washington remains Taipei's largest arms supplier. Taiwanese officials cautioned on Wednesday that prolonged delays risk weakening joint defense readiness, as Beijing continues military pressure around the island.

## Rubio heads to Munich as Europe seeks reassurance amid Trump tensions

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**U**nited States Secretary of State Marco Rubio traveled this week to Germany for the Munich Security Conference, as European leaders look for stability after months of strained relations with President Donald Trump. Rubio is expected to strike a less confrontational tone than Vice President JD Vance did last year, while still urging Europe to take greater responsibility for defense.

Rubio said the United States and Europe remain deeply connected but warned that geopolitics has entered a new era. He will also visit Slovakia and Hungary after Munich. European officials remain uneasy over Trump's comments on Greenland and trade, while hoping Rubio emphasizes cooperation on Ukraine, the Middle East, and China. Analysts say rebuilding trust across the Atlantic will be a central challenge of the visit.



## Russia strikes Ukrainian cities as Moscow hesitates on next peace talks

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**R**ussia launched a major overnight barrage of missiles and drones on Ukrainian cities on Thursday, even as uncertainty surrounded the next round of United States-brokered peace talks, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said. Zelenskyy confirmed Ukraine agreed immediately to proposed negotiations next week in Miami or Abu Dhabi but said Russia was "hesitating." Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said talks were expected soon.

Ukraine's air force reported 219 drones, 24 ballistic missiles, and one guided missile targeting Kyiv, Kharkiv, Dnipro, and Odesa. Several civilians were injured, including children, and thousands of homes lost heating and water.

Zelenskyy said Moscow has not responded to a United States proposal for an energy ceasefire. Ukraine meanwhile



confirmed long-range strikes on Russian oil and military facilities, including a refinery more than 1,700 kilometers from its border.

## United States hands over Al-Tanf base to Syria in milestone Middle East drawdown

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**T**he United States military on Thursday completed its withdrawal from the strategic Al-Tanf base in southern Syria, formally handing control to Damascus in a move that signals deepening cooperation and a potential wider American pullback.

Established in 2014 to fight Islamic State, the base later became a key checkpoint limiting Iranian supply routes. Washington recalibrated its presence after former leader Bashar al-Assad was overthrown in late 2024.

United States Central Command confirmed the transfer, saying forces remain ready to counter extremist threats. U.S. troops from Al-Tanf are relocating

to Jordan. Officials estimate about 1,000 American troops remain in Syria, with further reductions under review.



Trump to unveil multibillion-dollar Gaza reconstruction fund at Board of Peace meeting



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**P**resident Donald Trump will announce a multibillion-dollar reconstruction fund for Gaza Strip and outline plans for an international stabilization force when his Board of Peace meets in Washington next week, U.S. officials said Thursday.

Delegations from at least 20 countries are expected, with several nations pledging troops and financial support. Benjamin Netanyahu confirmed Israel has joined the initiative.

The plan includes disarming Hamas fighters and establishing a civilian administration to replace militant control. A fragile ceasefire has held since October, allowing hostage releases and humanitarian access as reconstruction planning accelerates.

## Norway and France pledge new funding for Ukraine weapons push



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**N**orway said on Thursday it will provide 4.2 billion Norwegian crowns, about \$443 million, in fresh military aid to Ukraine, while France guaranteed a loan worth roughly 3 billion crowns to support arms purchases. Oslo said the joint agreement focuses on acquiring air-to-ground weapons and surveillance capabilities from the French defense industry. Norwegian Defense Minister Tore Sandvik said the projects were chosen in close consultation with Ukraine's Defense Ministry and meet urgent battlefield priorities. He added the package is designed to deliver rapid operational impact as Kyiv seeks to strengthen its defenses against ongoing Russian attacks.

Pakistan polio drive misses nearly one million children, experts warn



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**P**akistan's latest nationwide polio campaign fell short on Wednesday, leaving nearly one million children unvaccinated despite officials reporting 98 percent coverage and more than 44 million doses administered. Health data showed about 670,000 children were marked "not at home," while over 53,000 families refused vaccination. Karachi alone accounted for roughly 31,000 refusals, nearly 58 percent of the national total. Public health experts said missed children reflect operational failures, not routine gaps, urging teams to revisit homes and deploy vaccinators in public spaces. Advocates also called for stronger community engagement, tighter enforcement of vaccination laws, and better security for health workers.

## Trump urges Israel president to pardon Netanyahu over corruption charges

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**P**resident Donald Trump on Thursday called on Israel's president to pardon Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who faces bribery, fraud, and breach of trust charges dating back to 2019. Trump praised Netanyahu as a strong wartime leader and criticized Isaac Herzog for not granting clemency. Netanyahu, who denies all accusations, met Trump in Washington on Wednesday to discuss Iran's nuclear program and missile capabilities. Herzog's office said the pardon request is under legal review and stressed that no decision has been made, noting there is no precedent for issuing a pardon mid-trial.

EU leaders back economic overhaul to counter pressure from US, China, Russia

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**L**eaders of the European Union agreed on Thursday to fast-track plans to restructure the bloc's economy as they face pressure from Washington, Beijing, and Moscow. Meeting in Belgium, officials endorsed an action plan aimed at upgrading energy grids, loosening merger rules, and deepening financial integration. European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen said urgency is driving reforms designed to build global competitiveness. French President Emmanuel Macron and German Chancellor Friedrich Merz stressed the need for stronger European industry, even as divisions remain over deregulation and strategic autonomy.

## India and China attempt diplomatic reset as strategic talks target unresolved disputes

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**I**ndia and China signaled efforts to stabilize long-strained relations on Tuesday after India's Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri met China's Executive Vice Foreign Minister Ma Zhaoxu in New Delhi for the India-China Strategic Dialogue.

India's Ministry of External Affairs said both sides reviewed recent momentum in bilateral ties, discussed expanding people-to-people exchanges, and addressed sensitive issues, alongside talks on regional and global developments.

Ma also attended the BRICS Sherpa Meeting on Monday, where members began preparations for the next summit and outlined cooperation priorities. China said it is ready to deepen coordination



with India and partners. New Delhi recently unveiled its BRICS chairship theme, centered on resilience, innovation, cooperation, and sustainability.

## Mexican Navy sends large food shipment to Cuba as fuel shortages deepen economic strain

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**T**wo Mexican Navy vessels arrived in Havana on Thursday carrying more than 800 tons of food and powdered milk, offering temporary relief as Cuba faces acute fuel shortages and rolling blackouts. The delivery followed warnings from President Donald Trump that countries

supplying oil to Cuba could face penalties. Cuban President Miguel Díaz-Canel described the pressure as an "energy blockade," while Claudia Sheinbaum said Mexico would continue humanitarian assistance. Airlines have begun reducing flights, adding to Cuba's tourism downturn. Economists say prolonged energy shortages risk further damaging industrial output and foreign investment prospects.



## United States energy chief meets Venezuela leaders as oil sector opens to private control

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**C**hris Wright arrived in Caracas on Wednesday for talks on reviving Venezuela's oil industry, meeting acting president Delcy Rodríguez following sweeping reforms that allow private firms to manage production and exports. The changes effectively end the monopoly of Petróleos de Venezuela.

Wright said the reforms could improve efficiency but cautioned that investor confidence will depend on regulatory clarity and revenue transparency. Venezuela currently produces about one million barrels per day. Washington has eased some sanctions since Nicolás



Maduro's exit, positioning the country as a potential medium-term supplier amid tighter global energy markets.

Quad rolls out \$6 million AI agriculture push across Indo-Pacific

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**T**he Quad launched six joint artificial intelligence farming projects this week, led by the National Science Foundation, to modernize agriculture across the United States and the Indo-Pacific. Washington is investing about \$2.4 million, alongside partner agencies from Australia, India, and Japan, lifting total funding above \$6 million.

Universities including Purdue University and Cornell University will deploy tools such as crop-monitoring robots and AI pest detection apps. Officials said the initiative aims to boost yields, strengthen food security, and improve climate resilience.

## US warns Peru risks losing control of strategic port to China

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**T**he United States Department of State warned on Wednesday that Peru could lose sovereignty over critical infrastructure after a court ruling limited regulatory oversight of the Chinese-built Chancay mega port. The \$1.3 billion facility north of Lima is majority owned by COSCO Shipping. Washington said "cheap Chinese money costs sovereignty," while Beijing rejected the claim as misinformation. Peru's regulator said it will appeal. China, Peru's largest trading partner, said the port remains under Peruvian authority. The dispute underscores rising United States-China rivalry in Latin America.

## UK court overturns Palestine Action terrorist ban, raising questions over protest rights



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**L**ondon's High Court on Friday ruled that Britain's 2024 designation of the pro-Palestinian group Palestine Action as a terrorist organisation was unlawful, citing disproportionate interference with freedom of expression and assembly. The group, founded in 2020, had carried out raids and direct actions against Israel-linked defense companies, including a 2024 Elbit Systems protest that caused significant damage and involved a police officer being hit with a sledgehammer. The ban will remain temporarily in place while the government appeals, with Interior Minister Shabana Mahmood pledging to contest the decision. Civil liberties groups welcomed the ruling, noting the ban had equated Palestine Action with Islamic State and al Qaeda, potentially chilling pro-Palestinian activism. The judgment comes after six activists charged in 2024 were acquitted of aggravated burglary.

Published Weekly by:  
Ansal Media Group  
of USA, LLC

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# H-1B uncertainty and the shifting global tech order



**Dr. Avi Verma**

The introduction of legislation in the U.S. Congress aimed at sharply restricting or even phasing out the H-1B visa program has reignited debate over the future of skilled migration between India and the United States. While such bills face long odds in a divided Congress, their very existence reflects a broader tightening of the American immigration climate.

For more than three decades, the H-1B visa has underpinned a powerful “brain circulation” between India and the U.S., helping fuel innovation in Silicon Valley while strengthening India’s remittance flows and global technology footprint. Although there is currently no law eliminating the H-1B program, recurring legislative efforts to cap or curtail it — combined with rising compliance costs, higher wage scrutiny, and political rhetoric around domestic labor protection — signal a period of structural uncertainty.

At present, H-1B visas continue to be allocated through a lottery system when applications exceed the annual cap. Proposals in recent years have included wage-weighted selection models and substantially higher employer fees, but these have not been enacted into

law. Even so, the policy direction is clear: scrutiny is intensifying.

This is less about a single bill and more about a recalibration of the “American Dream” for the Indian tech diaspora.

#### How India’s tech industry is adjusting

Rather than reacting with alarm, India’s major technology firms appear to be adapting through gradual decoupling and diversification.

► **Local hiring in the U.S.:** Large IT services firms such as Tata Consultancy Services, Infosys, and Wipro have steadily increased local U.S. hiring over the past decade. While H-1B usage remains part of their workforce strategy, dependency has declined relative to the early 2010s as firms invest in American talent pipelines and automation.

► **The rise of Global Capability Centers (GCCs):** Multinational corporations are expanding operations in India rather than relocating employees to the U.S. Industry estimates place the number of GCCs in India at over 1,500, employing well over 1.5 million professionals. This model allows U.S. companies to tap Indian talent without navigating visa constraints.

► **The AI inflection point:** The growth of generative AI and automation tools is reshaping service delivery models. Routine coding, testing, and maintenance — historically large areas of offshore or visa-dependent staffing — are increasingly augmented by AI systems, reducing sensitivity to immigration policy shifts.

#### The Indian government’s position

New Delhi’s response has been measured.

► **Public downplaying:** Indian officials, including Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal, have suggested that in a post-pandemic world of hybrid and remote work, the relative importance of physical

relocation has declined — signaling confidence in India’s domestic tech ecosystem.

► **Strategic framing:** The Ministry of External Affairs continues to describe skilled mobility as mutually beneficial to both nations, emphasizing that Indian professionals contribute significantly to U.S. innovation, especially in emerging sectors like AI, semiconductors, and cybersecurity.

► **Talent diversification:** With green card backlogs for Indian nationals stretching many years in employment-based categories, Indian professionals are increasingly exploring alternative destinations such as Canada, the United Kingdom, and Australia, which have expanded skilled migration pathways in recent years.

#### The bottom line

The proposed restrictions — including bills that seek to eliminate or drastically shrink the H-1B program — face significant political hurdles. Yet the environment they represent is already influencing corporate strategy and individual career decisions.

Whether or not any specific bill becomes law, the era of frictionless skilled mobility between India and the U.S. is giving way to a more complex, multipolar tech order. India is no longer positioned solely as a supplier of talent to America; it is increasingly a destination for global innovation in its own right.

The question is no longer whether the corridor will change — but how fast.

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



South Korea's former interior minister sentenced for role in failed martial law



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**A** Seoul court on Thursday sentenced former interior minister Lee Sang-min to seven years in prison for helping enforce former president Yoon Suk Yeol's short-lived martial law order in 2024. Judges said Lee relayed instructions to police and fire officials, including plans to cut utilities to critical media outlets, though the measures were never carried out after lawmakers overturned the decree. Prosecutors had sought 15 years. Lee denied wrongdoing and disputed witness testimony. The ruling comes days before a separate court weighs rebellion charges against Yoon, who was later removed from office. Lee is the second senior cabinet member convicted in connection with the aborted emergency powers move.

## Sweden to deploy jets and rangers to Greenland under NATO Arctic mission

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**S**weden said on Thursday it will send JAS 39 Gripen fighter jets and special forces to Greenland as part of North Atlantic Treaty Organization's new Arctic Sentry mission. Prime Minister Ulf Kristersson said the deployment would strengthen deterrence and stability in a region vital to transatlantic security. The aircraft will patrol airspace around Iceland and Greenland, while Swedish rangers will conduct ground exercises for several weeks. NATO launched the mission on Wednesday to boost its Arctic presence amid renewed geopolitical tensions. The move adds to growing European military contributions as alliance members increase defense spending and operational coordination across northern regions.

United States moves to fill Geneva envoy post, signaling renewed UN engagement

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**T**he White House said late Wednesday it plans to nominate Todd Stegerda as ambassador to the United Nations in Geneva, ending a long vacancy diplomats say hampered engagement. The appointment comes as the United States seeks to reset ties with multilateral institutions while pushing for reforms and addressing more than \$2 billion in unpaid UN dues. Observers welcomed the move as a sign Washington intends to stay involved, despite recent withdrawals from bodies including the World Health Organization. Only one US envoy has been based in Geneva since President Donald Trump returned to office. The nomination still requires Senate confirmation.

Trump says US–Iran talks will continue after inconclusive White House meeting with Netanyahu

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**P**resident Donald Trump said on Wednesday that negotiations with Iran would continue after a closed-door meeting with Benjamin Netanyahu produced no definitive agreement.

The talks lasted more than two hours, marking their seventh meeting since Trump returned to office. Netanyahu urged Washington to broaden diplomacy beyond Iran's nuclear program to include missile limits and Tehran's backing of militant groups, but Trump stopped short of committing. Writing on Truth Social, Trump said a deal remained his preference, while warning of consequences if talks fail. Iranian officials reiterated on Wednesday that missile capabilities are non-negotiable, even as both sides weigh a second round of discussions.



## Trump to host Latin American leaders in Florida as Washington counters China's regional push

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**P**resident Donald Trump will host a summit of Latin American leaders in Florida next month, the White House confirmed Thursday, as Washington steps up efforts to counter China's growing footprint across the region.

The meeting comes ahead of Trump's

planned visit to Beijing for talks with Xi Jinping. Recent United States warnings over Chinese-backed infrastructure projects, including ports in Peru, have underscored concerns about supply-chain security and geopolitical leverage. Trump has also renewed focus on the Panama Canal, signaling that control of strategic transit routes and logistics hubs will remain central to United States foreign and trade policy discussions.

## House Republicans advance voter citizenship bill, setting up Senate showdown

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**R**epublicans in the United States House of Representatives on Wednesday narrowly passed the SAVE America Act, requiring proof of citizenship to register to vote and photo identification at polling stations. Supporters said the measure strengthens election integrity, while Democrats warned it could disenfranchise millions. The bill cleared the chamber 218 to 213 and now heads to the United States Senate, where it faces steep procedural hurdles. Critics note federal law already limits voting to citizens and say documented fraud is rare. State election officials also raised concerns about implementation ahead of upcoming primaries. Republicans argue the legislation



fulfills campaign promises backed by President Donald Trump, while opponents call it voter suppression.

## US pays stranded Afghans to return home as Qatar camp closure draws criticism

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**T**he United States has begun offering cash payments to Afghans stranded at Camp As Sayliyah in Qatar, as Washington moves to shut the facility by the end of March. Speaking to lawmakers on Wednesday, Assistant Secretary of State S. Paul Kapur said about 150 people had accepted the offer. Advocacy groups

estimate payments of \$4,500 for a primary applicant and \$1,200 per additional family member.

Democrats criticized the policy as a betrayal of Afghan allies, many of whom fear Taliban retaliation. Officials said returns are voluntary and that third-country resettlement is still being pursued. More than 1,100 Afghans have been housed at the former base since last year.

Trump plans Florida summit with Latin leaders ahead of China visit

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**P**resident Donald Trump will host Latin American leaders in Florida on Friday next month, the White House confirmed Thursday, as Washington intensifies efforts to counter Chinese influence in the region. The meeting comes weeks before Trump's expected trip to Beijing for talks with Xi Jinping. The administration recently raised concerns over Chinese-backed ports in Peru and pushed for tighter regional security cooperation. Trump has also renewed rhetoric about the Panama Canal, highlighting infrastructure control as a central geopolitical battleground.

## Indonesia commits up to 8,000 troops to Gaza peacekeeping mission

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**I**ndonesia has begun training up to 8,000 soldiers for a proposed international peacekeeping force in Gaza, marking its first firm commitment to U.S. President Donald Trump's postwar reconstruction plan. The country has experience in United Nations missions and has provided humanitarian aid to Gaza, including funding a hospital. Critics question the lack of clarity over troop roles and funding, warning Indonesian forces could be drawn into conflict. Officials say their participation aims to protect Palestinian interests and promote a two-state solution. The Board of Peace, overseeing the International Security Force, remains outside U.N. authority, raising concerns among citizens and activists.

## EU drafts list of Russian concessions to secure lasting peace in Ukraine



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**E**uropean Union foreign policy chief Kaja Kallas said Tuesday that she is preparing a list of concessions Russia must make to ensure long-term peace in Ukraine. The move comes amid stalled U.S.-brokered talks in Abu Dhabi, where no breakthrough was reached, though a new prisoner swap was agreed. Kallas criticized the pressure placed on Ukraine, emphasizing that Russia must bear conditions, potentially including the return of abducted children and limits on its armed forces. The draft list will be shared with EU members ahead of a meeting of foreign ministers later this month as Europe seeks a sustainable peace plan.

Friday, 13 February 2026

## India and United Kingdom sign social security pact to ease short-term workforce mobility



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**I**ndia and the United Kingdom on Tuesday signed a social security agreement designed to prevent double contributions for employees on overseas assignments of up to 36 months.

The pact was signed by Misri and British High Commissioner Lindy Cameron. It complements the bilateral trade agreement finalized last year and is expected to boost services-sector cooperation by allowing workers to remain covered under their home country systems.

Officials said the deal will improve labor mobility, lower business costs, and strengthen India–United Kingdom economic ties once implemented later this year.

## United States and India advance trade momentum as envoy meets foreign secretary in New Delhi



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**U**nited States Ambassador to India Sergio Gor met Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri on Thursday to review progress in bilateral ties following the conclusion of an interim trade framework.

The agreement lowers United States tariffs on Indian goods to 18 percent and lays the groundwork for a broader bilateral trade pact launched by President Donald Trump and Modi last year. Officials said the deal aims to deliver early economic gains and strengthen supply chains.

Modi also spoke with Trump on Sunday, welcoming the tariff reduction for 'Made in India' products and calling the move a boost for cooperation between the world's largest democracies.

## India outlines people-focused priorities for 2026 BRICS chairship at New Delhi sherpa meeting

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**I**ndia on Wednesday presented its agenda for its 2026 chairship of BRICS during the first meeting of Sherpas and Sous Sherpas held in New Delhi on Sunday and Monday, according to the Ministry of External Affairs. Under the theme "Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability," officials detailed plans spanning health, agriculture, climate action, energy, innovation, security, and counterterrorism, alongside people-centric initiatives in youth, sports, culture, and business.

Delegations from member and partner countries later met S Jaishankar on Tuesday, where he welcomed their suggestions to advance the bloc's priorities as BRICS marks



20 years. The visiting representatives also toured Akshardham Temple. Participants praised India's proposed approach, noting it builds on earlier BRICS cooperation while strengthening resilience and sustainability across the grouping.

## New Zealand expands defense engagement with India through first resident military advisor posting

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**N**ew Zealand has strengthened its strategic partnership with India by appointing Royal New Zealand Navy Commodore Andy Dowling as its first resident defense advisor in New Delhi, beginning a three-year posting announced on Wednesday. Dowling said India's expanding naval presence across the Indo-Pacific reflects New Delhi's Act East focus, highlighting growing joint exercises and port visits. His appointment follows discussions between Modi and New Zealand Prime Minister Christopher Luxon, who recently advanced a free trade agreement and defense cooperation. Earlier this year, New Zealand led a multinational maritime task force in the western Indian Ocean, with the



Indian Navy serving as deputy commander. During the operation, Indian frigate INS Tarkash seized more than 2,500 kilograms of narcotics. Both countries reaffirmed support for a free and secure Indo-Pacific and pledged deeper collaboration on counterterrorism and regional stability.

## India and Malaysia deepen strategic partnership with six agreements spanning defense, payments, and culture

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**P**rime Minister Narendra Modi and Malaysian Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim on Sunday oversaw the signing of six major agreements in Kuala Lumpur, marking a significant step forward in the India–Malaysia Comprehensive Strategic Partnership. The pacts cover security cooperation, United Nations peacekeeping, semiconductors, health care, disaster management, anti-corruption efforts, vocational education, audiovisual co-production, and social security for Indian workers. Both leaders also discussed expanding ties in trade, renewable energy, maritime cooperation, digital technologies, tourism, and defense. Modi announced the launch of a Thiruvalluvar Centre at Universiti Malaya and new scholarships to promote



Tamil heritage. India will also open its first consulate in Malaysia. In a key financial move, National Payments Corporation of India and Malaysia's PayNet agreed to establish Unified Payments Interface linkages to ease cross-border transactions. Malaysia also completed formalities to join the International Big Cat Alliance.

## India and Seychelles unveil new development vision covering security, energy, and blue economy

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**M**odi and Seychelles President Patrick Herminie held wide-ranging talks on Monday in New Delhi, adopting a joint roadmap titled 'Vision for Sustainability, Economic Growth and Security through Enhanced Linkages'.

India announced a special economic

package supporting housing, infrastructure, mobility, capacity building, and maritime security. Agreements were also signed in health, digital services, culture, ocean science, governance, and food systems. Herminie, on his first state visit since taking office, paid tribute to Mahatma Gandhi and met Jaishankar earlier in the day. Officials highlighted Seychelles as a key maritime partner under India's Vision MAHASAGAR framework.

Indian Navy takes command of multinational maritime task force for first time



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**T**he Indian Navy made history on Tuesday by assuming command of Combined Task Force 154 under the Combined Maritime Forces during a ceremony in Manama, Bahrain.

Commodore Milind Mokashi formally took charge of the training-focused task force, which includes 47 nations. The unit works on maritime awareness, law of the sea, interdiction operations, rescue missions, and leadership development.

Vice Admiral Tarun Sobi attended the ceremony, underscoring India's growing role as a regional security partner. Indian officials said the command reflects international confidence in India's naval professionalism and commitment to safeguarding critical sea lanes.

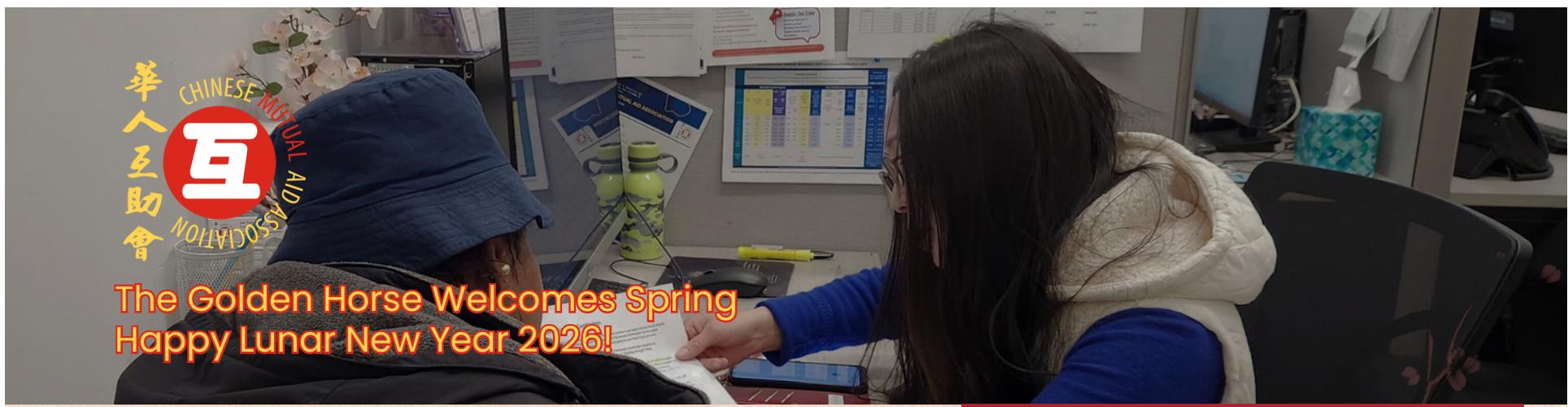
## India named Country of the Year at Germany organic trade fair



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**I**ndia has been designated "Country of the Year" at BIOFACH 2026, the world's leading organic products exhibition, to be held from Tuesday through Friday in Nuremberg, officials said on Tuesday.

Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority is organizing India's expanded presence, featuring a 1,074 square meter pavilion with 67 exhibitors. Products on display include organic rice, spices, pulses, turmeric, mango puree, and essential oils. Exhibitors from more than 20 Indian states are participating, highlighting India's growing global footprint in sustainable agriculture and organic exports.



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### Housing Assistance

CHA Section 8



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Friday, 13 February 2026

## Two dead, one injured in South Carolina State University dormitory shooting



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**T**wo people were killed and another injured in a shooting at a South Carolina State University residential complex on Thursday evening. Campus officials said the identities of the victims and the condition of the wounded remain unconfirmed. The university went into lockdown around 9:15 p.m. following the report, which remained in place for hours as investigators and law enforcement patrolled the campus and nearby areas. Classes scheduled for Friday were canceled, and counselors were made available to students. Authorities have not provided information on any suspects, and the investigation is ongoing.

## Senate probes Immigration and Customs Enforcement tactics after Minneapolis deaths spark civil liberties debate



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**A** heated debate unfolded Thursday in the US Senate over immigration enforcement after two United States citizens were killed during federal operations in Minnesota. The Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee examined "Operation Metro Surge," a large Immigration and Customs Enforcement deployment.

Chairman Rand Paul said restoring public trust was essential, while Ranking Member Gary Peters accused officers of heavy-handed tactics. Minnesota Attorney General Keith Ellison urged lawmakers to end the operation.

ICE Acting Director Todd Lyons said agents faced violent resistance, while Customs and Border Protection Commissioner Rodney Scott confirmed filming officers is legal. Both said investigations into the shootings are ongoing.

## United States Senate deadlock over Department of Homeland Security funding puts partial shutdown on the table

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**T**he United States Senate failed on Thursday to advance a funding bill for the Department of Homeland Security, heightening the risk of a partial government shutdown as temporary funding expires late Friday. The procedural vote ended 52 to 47, short of the 60 needed to move forward.

Democrats blocked the bill after rejecting a White House proposal they said did not adequately reform immigration enforcement following two fatal shootings in Minneapolis. Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer said Democrats would not back a continuation of current policies.



Without congressional action, funding for the Transportation Security Administration, Federal Emergency Management Agency, and Coast Guard

would lapse Saturday. Lawmakers recently approved broader federal funding, but Homeland Security received only a two-week extension.

## Federal judge halts \$600 million public health cuts targeting Democratic states

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**A**federal judge in Illinois on Thursday blocked the Trump administration's plan to withdraw \$600 million in public health funding from California, Colorado, Illinois, and Minnesota, dealing another setback to efforts to scale back social services in Democratic-led states. Judge Manish S. Shah ruled the states showed sufficient evidence that the cuts were arbitrary or unconstitutional, temporarily stopping the funding rollback while the case proceeds.

The money, administered through

the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, supports state and local health departments and nonprofit groups, including programs addressing human immunodeficiency virus and other sexually transmitted infections.

The decision follows another ruling last week that blocked a separate \$10 billion freeze on child care and social service funds.

President Donald Trump has defended the reductions by alleging widespread fraud, claims the states dispute. Nearly two-thirds of the affected funds were allocated to California.

## Pride flag restored at Stonewall after New York officials reverse federal removal



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**N**ew York City officials on Thursday re-raised the Pride flag at Stonewall National Monument, days after it was removed following guidance from the National Park Service allowing only approved flags on federal sites. The removal sparked backlash, with Mayor Zohran Mamdani calling it an act of erasure. Members of the City Council passed a resolution urging Congress to protect Stonewall's legacy. Representative Jerry Nadler joined local leaders in restoring the flag, saying history would not be erased under President Donald Trump's administration.

## FBI increases reward as Arizona sheriff limits access in Nancy Guthrie abduction case

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**T**he FBI raised the reward to \$126,000 on Thursday for information leading to the return of 84-year-old Nancy Guthrie, mother of journalist Savannah Guthrie. Investigators released new photos and an updated suspect description: a male, 5 feet 9 to 10 inches tall, wearing a black Ozark Trail backpack. Meanwhile, Pima County Sheriff Chris Nanos is blocking FBI access to critical evidence, including DNA and a glove, insisting on a private Florida lab. Guthrie, last seen February 1 in Tucson, Arizona, remains missing. Authorities continue forensic analysis and public appeals, with more than 13,000 tips received and the investigation ongoing.

## White House touts trillion-dollar regulatory rollback as EPA ends Obama-era climate rule

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**P**resident Donald Trump on Thursday formally terminated the Environmental Protection Agency's 2009 endangerment finding, eliminating the basis for federal greenhouse gas regulations. Trump said the action would remove more than \$1.3 trillion in regulatory costs and cut new vehicle prices by nearly \$3,000. EPA Administrator Lee Zeldin said families could save over \$2,400 per vehicle

and confirmed that automakers will no longer be required to measure and report greenhouse gas emissions for engines and cars. He also said federal pressure to shift fleets toward electric vehicles is ending.

Trump added that tailpipe standards and California's emissions waiver had been revoked. Budget Director Russell Vought called the move a strike at the foundations of the Green New Deal. Zeldin said traditional air pollution rules remain unchanged.

## Goldman Sachs chief legal officer resigns after emails reveal Epstein ties

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**K**athy Ruemmler announced on Thursday she will step down as chief legal officer of Goldman Sachs by June, following the release of emails showing a close relationship with convicted sex offender Jeffrey Epstein. Ruemmler, a former White House counsel to Barack

Obama, acknowledged receiving expensive gifts from Epstein after his 2008 conviction. Goldman chief executive David Solomon accepted her resignation, praising her professional record. The disclosures also showed Ruemmler advised Epstein during media inquiries in 2019, raising concerns about conflicts of interest within Wall Street leadership.

Minnesota operation locates 3,364 unaccompanied children, ends surge enforcement



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**I**CE located 3,364 missing unaccompanied children in a multi-month operation in Minneapolis, Minnesota, announced federal border czar Tom Homan on Thursday. The operation, launched in December, also led to more than 4,000 arrests. Homan said the enforcement surge will wind down, though some personnel will remain temporarily to oversee the drawdown. Democratic officials, including Governor Tim Walz and Mayor Jacob Frey, criticized the operation as heavy-handed, citing economic and community impacts. Homan credited President Donald Trump for the initiative, describing it as restoring safety to the Twin Cities and targeting entitlement fraud and unmonitored immigrant children.

NYC mayor urges tax hikes on wealthy and corporations to close deficit



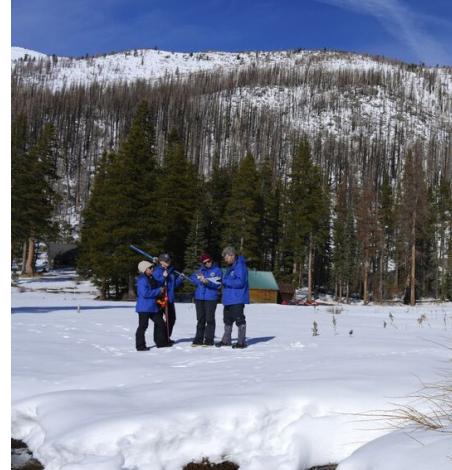
IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**N**ew York City Mayor Zohran Mamdani urged state lawmakers on Wednesday to approve a 2 percent surcharge on the city's highest earners and raise the corporate tax rate to help close a \$7 billion budget gap. He noted the deficit improved from \$12 billion due to savings measures but stressed additional revenue is needed. The mayor highlighted that the tax increases could support public services, housing programs, and transit initiatives while preserving middle- and low-income residents' finances. Gov. Kathy Hochul has expressed opposition, and lawmakers must approve any changes for implementation in the upcoming fiscal year.

## Record snow drought threatens western US water supplies and wildfire season

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**A** historic snow drought and unprecedented heat are hitting much of the American West, raising concerns about water shortages, wildfires, and losses for winter recreation. Snow cover and depth are at decades-low levels, with only 155,000 square miles blanketed, far below the typical 460,000 square miles, according to the National Snow and Ice Data Center. Oregon's snowpack is 30 percent below the previous record, while Colorado and Utah report their lowest levels since the early 1980s. Dry January, sunny days, and above-average temperatures have slowed snow accumulation, leaving the Upper Colorado River Basin at risk. Snow normally provides a steady water flow into rivers for agriculture, cities, and hydropower, but the lack of snow



threatens shortages later in the year. Experts also warn that early snowmelt could trigger an early wildfire season. Scientists link the extreme warmth to climate change, noting over 8,500 daily high temperature records have been broken or tied across the West since December.

## California investigates delayed evacuations in LA-area wildfire

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**C**alifornia's attorney general launched a civil rights investigation Thursday into delayed evacuation orders during the Eaton Fire near Los Angeles in January 2025. The blaze killed 19 people, mostly in west Altadena, which received evacuation warnings hours later than other neighborhoods. Attorney

General Rob Bonta said the probe will examine whether race, disability, or age-based discrimination contributed to the delays. LA County officials pledged full cooperation, while fire survivors welcomed the investigation as a path to accountability. An independent review had found conflicting protocols, leaving unclear why orders in west Altadena lagged behind, potentially increasing the fire's deadly impact.

## Appeals court allows Trump administration to end protected status for three countries

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**A** U.S. appeals court ruled Monday that the Trump administration can proceed with ending Temporary Protected Status for immigrants from Nepal, Honduras, and Nicaragua. The decision temporarily lifts a previous federal judge's block, affecting nearly 89,000 people. The court found the

government likely considered country conditions before ending protection, which was initially granted after natural disasters. Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem said the decision restores the temporary nature of the program. TPS allows holders work authorization and protection from deportation while conditions in their home countries make return unsafe. The ruling is a major win for federal immigration enforcement.

## Federal judge blocks California law forcing agents to remove masks

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**A** federal judge partially blocked California's law requiring law enforcement officers to remove facial coverings, ruling it discriminated against federal agents. Judge Christina Snyder of the U.S. District Court in Los Angeles sided with the Trump administration, prohibiting enforcement of the No Secret Police Act against federal officers while allowing the law requiring visible identification to stand. The ruling followed federal concerns that prohibiting masks put agents at risk



amid rising attacks. Attorney General Pam Bondi praised the decision as protecting officers, while the Los Angeles Police Department had already refused to enforce the mask law due to public safety concerns.

Judge blocks Pentagon from punishing Sen. Mark Kelly over resistance video

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**A** federal judge blocked the Pentagon from punishing Democratic Senator Mark Kelly on Thursday over his participation in a video urging troops to resist unlawful orders. U.S. District Judge Richard Leon ruled that the Defense Department violated Kelly's First Amendment rights and threatened the liberties of military retirees. Kelly, a former Navy pilot, sued to stop censure by Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth. The judge prohibited any enforcement while the lawsuit proceeds and asked for a 30-day progress update. The Pentagon has said it will appeal, while Kelly and other lawmakers maintain that resisting unlawful military orders is constitutionally protected.

California secures record \$2.75 million data privacy settlement with Disney

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**C**alifornia Attorney General Rob Bonta announced on Wednesday that Disney will pay \$2.75 million to settle allegations of violating the California Consumer Privacy Act. The investigation found Disney failed to fully honor consumer requests to stop sharing or selling personal data across devices and streaming services. The settlement requires the company to implement permanent opt-out procedures, ensuring consumer privacy is respected. Bonta emphasized that users should not need to manage privacy requests device by device or service by service. This marks the seventh enforcement action under the CCPA, following previous settlements with companies including Sephora, DoorDash, and Sling TV.

Pentagon laser prompts brief closure of El Paso airspace



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**T**he Pentagon allowed U.S. Customs and Border Protection to use an anti-drone laser near Fort Bliss, Texas, leading the Federal Aviation Administration to briefly close airspace over El Paso on Wednesday. The FAA initially announced a 10-day closure, grounding flights, but lifted it after a few hours. Officials said the laser was deployed without FAA coordination as authorities sought to stop Mexican cartel drones near the U.S.-Mexico border. The shutdown stranded travelers, canceled flights, and forced rerouting of medical evacuations. Representatives and local officials criticized the sudden action, highlighting ongoing coordination challenges between the FAA and Pentagon on air safety and national security operations.

Friday, 13 February 2026

## Barnala man shot dead in Manila, one suspect arrested



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**M**anpreet Singh, a 33-year-old man from the Sandhu Patti area of Barnala in Punjab, was shot dead in Manila, Philippines, by three motorcycle-borne assailants. According to his family, the attackers fired six bullets at him while he was on his way to work. One suspect has been arrested by Manila police, and two of the accused are reportedly Punjabis. The motive has not yet been determined.

Singh moved to Manila in 2017 in search of better opportunities and last visited India during Diwali last year for a family wedding. His family learned of the killing on Sunday through a phone call from a friend. He is survived by his parents, grandmother, wife, and younger brother. His family has appealed to authorities for assistance in bringing his body back to Barnala for final rites.

## Hindu trader killed in Bangladesh days before national election



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**A** 62-year-old Hindu trader was hacked to death inside his shop on Monday night in Trishal upazila of Mymensingh, Bangladesh, days before the country's parliamentary election on Wednesday. Police said Suren Chandra Sarkar, owner of Bhai Bhai Enterprise and a resident of Southkanda village, was attacked at the Bogar Bazar intersection by unidentified assailants armed with sharp weapons.

The attackers reportedly locked the shop shutters after the assault. Sarkar's family found him covered in blood and rushed him to Mymensingh Medical College Hospital, where he was declared dead. His son alleged that several hundred thousand taka were stolen. Minority groups have reported rising communal violence in recent months, with 51 incidents recorded in December.

## Indian American prosecutor Saritha Komatireddy tapped to challenge New York attorney general Letitia James

● Staff Writer, IndoUS Tribune

**R**epublicans on Tuesday nominated Indian American lawyer Saritha Komatireddy to run for New York attorney general against Democrat Letitia James, a longtime critic of Donald Trump.

Accepting the nomination at the party's state convention, Komatireddy said she would campaign on public safety and accountability. A former federal prosecutor, she built her career handling terrorism, cybercrime, money laundering, and foreign corruption cases, including prosecutions tied to Al Qaeda and Islamic State. She said the September 11 attacks inspired her legal path.

Komatireddy previously served as chief of staff at the Drug Enforcement Administration and teaches at Columbia



University after earning degrees from Harvard University. She also clerked for Brett Kavanaugh earlier in her career.

James gained national prominence for winning a civil fraud judgment against Trump, later reduced on appeal.

## Study finds Indian diaspora is United Kingdom's most economically successful migrant group

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**A** study by Aston University, conducted in partnership with multicultural agency Here and Now 365 and reported by Khalsa Vox, finds that the Indian community is the most economically successful migrant group in the United Kingdom. The research highlights high employment rates, strong educational attainment, and a strong entrepreneurial culture as key drivers of success.

Indian-born professionals account for an estimated 15 percent of Britain's technology workforce, contributing significantly to innovation and digital growth. The study traces four major migration waves since India's independence, beginning after the Second World War, when Indians helped fill labor shortages in manufacturing, transportation, and public services, including the National Health Service. Later waves included Asians expelled from East Africa in the early 1970s



and highly skilled professionals in finance, health care, engineering, and technology. The report was unveiled on Wednesday at the House of Lords.

## Basant returns to Lahore after 19-year ban, reviving a shared cultural legacy

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**B**asant returned to Lahore from Thursday through Saturday after the Punjab government lifted a 19-year ban on the spring festival, originally imposed in 2007 due to deaths and serious injuries caused by glass-coated kite strings. The revival, held under strict safety regulations on kite flying and string materials, marked a significant cultural moment for the city.

Traditionally celebrated on the fifth day of the month of Maagh, Basant has been observed in the region for centuries as a festival welcoming spring. Its cultural roots run deep, from Raag Basant in the Guru Granth Sahib to Sufi poetry, including verses by the 13th-century poet Amir Khusrau and the 16th-century Lahore saint Madho Lal Hussain. Under Maharaja Ranjit Singh in the early nineteenth century, Basant became a major public celebration, with processions from



Delhi Gate to the saint's shrine.

This week, Lahoris retraced that historic route and gathered at heritage sites such as Haveli Baroodkhana. By evening, rooftops across the city came alive with kite flying and neighbors exchanging greetings in Punjabi, restoring a long-silenced symbol of community life.

Indian-Canadian man fatally shot in Toronto shopping center parking lot



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**A** 37-year-old Indian-Canadian man was fatally shot on Saturday afternoon in the parking lot of Woodbine Shopping Centre in Toronto. Toronto Police Service identified the victim on Sunday as Chandan Kumar Raja Nandakumar of Brampton, originally from Karnataka, India.

Police responded to reports of gunfire at about 3:31 p.m. near Rexdale Boulevard and Highway 27 and found the victim suffering from gunshot wounds. He was transported to a hospital, where he later died. The suspects fled in a vehicle. Investigators believe the shooting was targeted and not random. The killing marks Toronto's third homicide of the year. Authorities are canvassing for witnesses and reviewing surveillance footage.

## Kerala graduate launches London tour venture to support job-seeking students



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**J**ame Thomas Mathew, a 23-year-old graduate from the London School of Economics, has launched Thomas Tours in London to help fellow graduates earn fair wages while searching for jobs. Originally from Mallapally in Kerala, Mathew completed a master's degree in macroeconomics and started the venture after witnessing peers struggle in a difficult job market.

Operating on a graduate route visa, he observed many students taking unstable retail jobs with zero-hour contracts. His company offers customized city tours using public transportation and walking routes to keep costs low. Guides are paid the London Living Wage of 14.80 pounds per hour, with potential tips.

Launched in late January, Thomas Tours secured bookings within days. The model includes a free introductory online consultation and payment at the meeting point. Mathew says the initiative promotes dignity, financial stability, and mental well-being for graduates navigating employment challenges in the United Kingdom.



Seattle agrees to 29 million dollar settlement in death of Indian student Jaahnavi Kandula



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The city of Seattle has agreed to pay 29 million dollars to the family of Jaahnavi Kandula, a 23-year-old graduate student from India who was struck and killed by a speeding police officer in 2023. Kandula was pursuing a master's degree in information systems at Northeastern University's Seattle campus. Officer Kevin Dave was driving as fast as 119 kilometers per hour in a 40 kilometer per hour zone while responding to a drug overdose call. He had his emergency lights activated and used his siren at intersections. Prosecutors declined to file felony charges, saying they could not prove he acted with reckless intent. He was cited for negligent driving and fined 5,000 dollars. The settlement was announced on Wednesday, and about 20 million dollars is expected to be covered by the city's insurance.

Amritsar chef allegedly trafficked into Russian army, family seeks help



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The family of 35-year-old Sahil Sekhri from Amritsar says they have not heard from him since Friday in September after he was allegedly deceived into joining the Russian army. His mother, Anita Sekhri, said her son was promised a helper's job and a work visa by a travel agent who charged him 500,000 rupees. Instead, he reportedly underwent military training and feared deployment to the war front. Sahil left for Russia on Thursday in July, after quitting a clerical job that paid 15,000 rupees per month. He told his mother that he received 1 million rupees out of a promised 1.5 million rupees upon joining. During training, his phone was confiscated, and he secretly obtained another device to stay in contact. A trained chef, Sahil had earlier worked in Cyprus for five years before returning home during the pandemic. His family alleges he is a victim of human trafficking and is seeking government intervention to bring him back safely.

## Indian-American maritime executive honored for global leadership

● Staff Writer, IndoUS Tribune

Indian-American maritime leader Dr. S. V. Anchan, chairman of Safesea Group, was honored on Saturday with the ACE Global Bridges 2026 Global Maritime Personality for Performance and Leadership Award. The recognition was presented at an event hosted by the Bahrain Chamber of Commerce and Industry, in collaboration with the United Nations Industrial Development Organization and the Washington-based ACE Health Foundation.

Anchan, a third-generation shipping executive with more than three decades of experience, highlighted Bahrain's strategic maritime role, including its link to the United States Fifth Fleet and commercial shipping in the Gulf region. He previously supervised vessels under the United Nations Oil for Food Programme in the region.

Last year, Anchan was elected to the



20-member board of the American Steamship Owners Mutual Protection and Indemnity Association, known as the American Club, becoming the only Indian-American on its board. The club, founded in New York in 1917, is part of the International Group of P and I Clubs, which provides insurance coverage for about 90 percent of global shipping.

## Pakistan promotes Harcharan Singh as first Sikh lieutenant colonel in army

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Harcharan Singh has become the first Sikh officer in the Pakistan Army to be promoted to the rank of lieutenant colonel. Born in 1987 in Nankana Sahib, the birthplace of Guru Nanak, Singh joined the army in 2007 at age 20. He initially served in the Ordnance Corps before volunteering for a combat role with the 12th Battalion of the Baloch Regiment, serving in operational and border areas as a major.

His promotion followed a rigorous selection board evaluation in late 2025. Punjab Minister for Minorities Affairs Ramesh Singh Arora said that although many Christians have served in the Pakistan Army, no Sikh had previously qualified for this rank. Singh is currently posted



in Abbottabad in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Community leaders described the promotion as a milestone for religious minorities in Pakistan.

## Rohtak gangster Sombir deported from United States, arrested in Delhi

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Haryana's Special Task Force secured the deportation of alleged gangster Sombir, also known as Motta, from the United States. He arrived in Delhi on Tuesday and was arrested at the airport later that night. The 39-year-old resident of Karor village in Rohtak district faces 26 criminal cases, including murder and extortion, across Haryana and Delhi.

Police said he fled India on Friday, January 3, 2024, from Mumbai to Bangkok using a fraudulently obtained passport. A red corner notice was later issued by Interpol, and his passport was revoked in August 2024. Authorities said this marks the tenth extradition or deportation secured by the Haryana Special Task Force since 2025 and the third from the United States.

Here are the rewritten diaspora news items with new sentence case headlines. The first two are 100 to 120 words each. The last three are 150 to 200 words each. All are in American English, with key facts retained and days mentioned where provided.



Indian-American Ashok Baddi launches campaign for Michigan House seat



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Indian-American community leader Ashok Baddi has announced his candidacy for Michigan's 56th House District, representing a diverse suburban area north of Detroit that includes Troy. A resident of Troy for more than a decade, Baddi said he is seeking to bring practical, people-first leadership to the state legislature. He noted that nearly 25 percent of the district's population is of Indian origin, with about 12,000 voters overall.

Originally from Hyderabad, Baddi moved to the United States in 2005 with his wife, a pediatric nephrologist, and later settled in Michigan after living in Georgia and Missouri. Formerly active in the Democratic Party, he said his values now align more closely with Republicans. He is challenging Democratic incumbent Sharon McDonald. The Michigan House is the lower chamber of the state legislature, where members serve two-year terms.

From Punjab to Italy, Jaspreet Singh helps lead Italy to T20 World Cup



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Jaspreet Singh's journey from Phagwara in Punjab to representing Italy in international cricket reflects years of persistence and sacrifice. Singh moved to Bergamo at age 10 with his parents, who worked in factories. With limited cricket infrastructure in Italy, he later relocated to England, where he played league cricket in Birmingham and worked as an Uber driver to support himself.

A right-arm fast bowler, Singh made his Italy debut against Norway in 2019. Italy narrowly missed qualifying for the 2024 Twenty20 World Cup but secured a place a year later by topping the European regional qualifiers in June 2025.

Now 32, Singh says playing practice matches in Chennai and traveling to Kolkata and Mumbai is a dream. He hopes exposure to India's world-class facilities will help improve Italy's cricket structure. Italy aims not just to participate in the tournament, but to compete strongly on the global stage.

Iran protest deaths top 7,000 as Trump presses Tehran on nuclear talks

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**A**ctivists said on Thursday that at least 7,003 people have died in Iran's crackdown on nationwide protests that began last month, deepening domestic unrest as nuclear talks with the United States remain uncertain. The U.S.-based Human Rights Activists News Agency reported the toll includes more than 200 government forces. President Donald Trump said at the White House on Thursday that Iran should reach an agreement "very quickly," suggesting a deal could come within a month. Benjamin Netanyahu urged tougher terms, including limits on missiles and regional militias.

United Nations rejects Pakistan claim that Jaish-e-Mohammed is inactive after Delhi attack



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**A** terrorism monitoring team at the United Nations said on Wednesday that Jaish-e-Mohammed remains active, contradicting Pakistan's claim the group is defunct. A recent report linked JeM to last November's Red Fort attack in New Delhi that killed 15 people and noted its leader, Mohammed Masood Azhar, announced a women's wing. Both JeM and Azhar are under UN sanctions. India welcomed the findings, saying they reflected its concerns over cross-border terrorism. The report also cited militant activity tied to Pakistan-based groups, highlighting ongoing challenges in global counterterrorism enforcement.

Angus Taylor elected Australia's opposition leader after partyroom revolt



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**A**ustralia's Liberal Party on Thursday elected Angus Taylor as opposition leader, defeating Sussan Ley by 34 votes to 17 in a partyroom ballot. Taylor's victory ends Ley's nine-month tenure as the party's first female leader. Ley said she will resign from parliament in coming weeks, triggering a by-election in her New South Wales seat. Senator Jane Hume was elected deputy leader. Taylor now faces pressure to unify the party amid falling poll numbers and competition from minor parties.

## United States says India is scaling back Russian oil as lawmakers press sanctions enforcement

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**O**fficials from the United States said on Wednesday that India has begun reducing purchases of Russian oil and diversifying energy imports, amid congressional scrutiny over Moscow's war in Ukraine.

Testifying before a House panel, Assistant Secretary of State Paul Kapur said India is buying more American energy, calling the shift "promising." Lawmaker Keith Self raised concerns about indirect Russian exports reaching Europe through third parties.

Washington has urged New Delhi to curb reliance on discounted Russian crude since



2022. While India has not commented publicly, the exchange underscored the delicate balance between expanding US-India ties and enforcing sanctions on Russia.

## Africa urged to mobilize financing and deepen integration as global economy shifts

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**T**he head of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, Claver Gatete, called on Wednesday for African nations to strengthen development financing and accelerate regional integration to withstand global economic uncertainty. Speaking at the African Union headquarters in

Addis Ababa, Gatete warned that slowing growth, rising borrowing costs, and climate pressures mean Africa can no longer rely on external partners. He urged countries to add value to natural resources, invest in infrastructure, and expand regional supply chains under the African Continental Free Trade Area, calling continental cooperation essential for long-term resilience.



## US lawmakers urge health care exemption from new H-1B fee amid staffing shortage fears

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**A**bipartisan group of 100 lawmakers urged Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem on Tuesday to exempt health care employers from a new \$100,000 H-1B visa fee, warning it could worsen nationwide staffing shortages.

Led by Representatives Yvette D. Clarke and Michael Lawler, with support from Senator Kirsten Gillibrand, the group cited federal data showing nearly 87 million Americans live in areas lacking adequate medical professionals.

Major hospital organizations backed the appeal, saying rural and safety-net hospitals would be hit hardest. Indian professionals account for most H-1B



approvals, many serving underserved communities across the United States.

US judge allows Trump defamation lawsuit against BBC to proceed



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**A** United States judge on Wednesday rejected a request by the British Broadcasting Corporation to halt discovery in a \$10 billion defamation lawsuit filed by President Donald Trump. Trump alleges the broadcaster edited his January 6 speech to imply he incited violence while omitting calls for peaceful protest. Judge Roy Altman said the stay request was premature and scheduled a two-week trial for February 2027. Trump is seeking at least \$5 billion on each of two claims, including violation of Florida consumer protection law. The BBC said it will defend the case and seek dismissal.

## Storms batter Spain and Portugal, grounding flights and forcing evacuations



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**A**uthorities across Spain and Portugal issued high alerts Thursday as heavy rain and powerful winds injured several people and disrupted transport. In Catalonia, one person was seriously hurt by a falling tree, while more than 100 flights were canceled at Barcelona-El Prat Airport. Portugal evacuated about 3,000 residents after intense downpours triggered flooding and caused part of the A1 motorway near Coimbra to collapse. Spain declared red alerts in Galicia, Cantabria, and the Basque Country, warning of waves up to nine meters. Infrastructure repairs are expected to take weeks.

Morocco commits \$330 million to rebuild flood-hit agricultural heartland

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**M**orocco said Thursday it will spend about \$330 million to support northern regions devastated by weeks of flooding that displaced nearly 188,000 people. The government said King Mohammed VI ordered a broad recovery program for Larache, Kenitra, Sidi Kacem, and Sidi Slimane. Funds will repair roads and farmland, relocate families, compensate lost income, and refurbish homes and businesses. Officials said more than 110,000 hectares were flooded. Four people died last weekend near Tetouan. Water inflows since mid-January reached 8.82 billion cubic meters, almost matching the previous two years combined.

Two US Navy ships collide during refueling mission near South America



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**T**wo United States Navy vessels collided Wednesday during a refueling operation near South America, leaving two crew members with minor injuries, the United States Southern Command said. The incident involved the destroyer USS Truxtun and supply ship USNS Supply. Both vessels continued sailing safely, and the injured sailors were reported in stable condition. Officials did not disclose the exact location, saying the collision occurred within Southern Command's Caribbean and South Atlantic area. The cause remains under investigation as the military maintains heightened regional operations.

Portugal advances bill requiring parental consent for teen social media use

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**P**ortugal's parliament on Thursday approved a draft law requiring parental consent for children aged 13 to 16 to access social media, marking one of Europe's earliest legislative moves to restrict youth online activity. The proposal uses a Digital Mobile Key system to verify consent and reinforce the existing ban for children under 13. Lawmakers said the measure aims to curb cyberbullying and harmful content exposure. Technology companies that fail to comply could face fines of up to 2 percent of global revenue. The bill still needs final approval. Similar efforts are underway in France, while Australia already enforces a nationwide under-16 social media ban.

Brazil considers beef export quotas after China tightens import limits

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**B**razil is weighing individual export quotas for beef producers shipping to China, following Beijing's safeguard measures aimed at protecting its domestic industry, Brazil's agriculture trade secretary said Wednesday. China imposed a 55 percent tariff on imports exceeding quota levels and set a 2026 total quota of 2.7 million metric tons, with Brazil allotted about 1.106 million tons. Officials said the move is meant to prevent exporters from rushing shipments and depressing prices. China remains Brazil's largest trading partner, and Brazilian beef exports to the country reached a record 1.648 million tons last year. Discussions with industry are ongoing ahead of a Foreign Trade Chamber meeting.

## Gazans begin rescuing heritage sites as ceasefire reveals scale of cultural destruction

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**P**alestinians in Gaza City are starting emergency recovery efforts at historic landmarks such as the Great Omari Mosque, after a fragile ceasefire allowed residents to assess two years of war damage. Gaza's Health Ministry says more than 72,000 Palestinians were killed in Israel's offensive, launched after Hamas's attack on Israel.

On Thursday, heritage workers sifted rubble at sites including Pasha Palace and Hamam al-Sumara, searching for displaced artifacts. UNESCO has verified damage to at least 150 cultural locations, including religious buildings and archaeological sites. Israel says militants used some landmarks for military purposes, a claim local officials deny. Experts warn Gaza's cultural identity now faces irreversible loss, even as limited salvage work begins.



## United States warns Peru risks strategic leverage loss as China-backed Chancay port dispute grows

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**T**he United States Department of State warned on Wednesday that Peru could lose control over critical infrastructure following a court ruling that limited regulatory oversight of the Chinese-built Chancay mega port. The \$1.3 billion project, located north of Lima, is majority owned by COSCO Shipping and is expected to become a major Pacific trade hub. Washington said "cheap Chinese money costs sovereignty," while Beijing dismissed the comments as misinformation. Peru's transport regulator said it will appeal the ruling, stressing that national authority remains intact. China is Peru's largest trading partner, and analysts say the dispute highlights intensifying United States-China competition for influence over



ports, logistics corridors, and commodities flows across Latin America.

## French police detain nine in alleged \$11.8 million Louvre ticket fraud

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**F**rench authorities said this week they detained nine people over a suspected decade-long ticket fraud scheme at the Louvre Museum, allegedly costing more than \$11.8 million. Arrests took place on Tuesday following a complaint filed by the museum in late 2024. Prosecutors said two Louvre employees, several tour guides, and a suspected ringleader are among those held. Investigators allege guides repeatedly reused tickets for Chinese tour groups and paid staff in cash to bypass checks. Surveillance and wiretaps confirmed the practice, along with efforts to avoid mandatory guide fees.



## Japan seizes Chinese fishing vessel as regional tensions weigh on tourism and markets

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**J**apan said Thursday it seized a Chinese fishing vessel in its exclusive economic zone near Nagasaki after the boat tried to flee inspection. Eleven people were aboard, and the captain was arrested.

Chief Cabinet Secretary Minoru Kihara said Tokyo would act firmly against illegal fishing. The incident follows strained ties after Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi warned in November that Japan could intervene over Taiwan. Beijing later issued travel warnings, hurting tourism-linked stocks. China has not formally responded.

Seoul signals dynastic shift as Kim Jong Un's daughter emerges as successor



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**S**outh Korea's spy agency told lawmakers on Thursday that Kim Jong Un has designated his teenage daughter, Kim Ju Ae, as his successor, citing her growing prominence at state events. The National Intelligence Service said she now appears to offer input on policy and has been positioned alongside her father at military anniversaries and visits to the Kumsusan Palace of the Sun. Lawmakers said this marks a formal transition to "successor designation," reinforcing expectations of a fourth-generation Kim dynasty.

Saudi Arabia names Fahd Al Saif investment minister to accelerate Vision 2030 inflows



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**S**audi Arabia on Thursday appointed Fahd Al Saif as investment minister, replacing Khalid Al-Falih, as Riyadh pushes to attract \$100 billion annually in foreign direct investment by 2030. Al Saif previously led investment strategy at the Public Investment Fund. Officials said the shift reflects a sharper focus on revenue-generating sectors such as artificial intelligence. Foreign investment reached about \$32 billion in 2024, still short of targets under the Vision 2030 diversification drive.

Norway charges former prime minister over alleged Epstein-linked corruption

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**N**orwegian authorities this week charged former prime minister Thorbjørn Jagland with gross corruption following an investigation into his ties with late financier Jeffrey Epstein. Police said the charge came after the Council of Europe lifted Jagland's diplomatic immunity. Investigators allege Epstein covered travel costs to properties in Paris, New York, and Palm Beach between 2011 and 2018. Norway's financial crimes unit Økokrim searched three of Jagland's homes on Thursday. His lawyer said Jagland denies wrongdoing and will cooperate.

Friday, 13 February 2026

## TN CM Stalin releases Rs. 5,000 aid to 1.31 crore women, pledges increase under Dravidian Model 2.0

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**T**amil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin announced on Tuesday that 1.31 crore women have received Rs.5,000 each under the Kalaingar Magalir Urimai Thogai scheme, including Rs.3,000 as advance and Rs.2,000 as a summer package. He described the aid as a rightful entitlement, not a welfare dole, and vowed no political or administrative interference would delay payments. Stalin also promised to double the monthly entitlement from Rs.1,000 to Rs.2,000 under the proposed Dravidian Model 2.0 if re-elected. The scheme supports household expenses, children's education, and healthcare, particularly among low and middle-income families.

## AAP accuses Haryana government of halting diet allowance for 37,000 athletes

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**S**enior Aam Aadmi Party leader Anurag Dhanda on Saturday accused the Haryana government of stopping the diet allowance for 37,000 athletes training in state-run sports nurseries for the past 10 months. He also said coaches had not received salaries for the same period. Dhanda criticized Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini, saying athletes who have represented India in the Olympics and Asian Games are being neglected. The AAP leader alleged that pension payments to over 75,000 elderly residents were being withheld due to "absurd" reasons, including family income discrepancies in official records. He stressed that such measures undermine sports development and fail to respect the efforts of athletes and their families.

## Vaishno Devi Shrine Board consults on rehabilitation plan for pony operators and service providers



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**T**he Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board this week held a consultative meeting to discuss a structured rehabilitation plan for pony operators, palkiwallas, and other service providers along the Yatra route, in compliance with National Green Tribunal directives. Chaired by CEO Sachin Kumar Vaishya, the meeting involved officials and representatives led by Bhupinder Singh. Discussions focused on balancing environmental sustainability with livelihoods, improving registration processes, exploring alternative parking, and phased implementation with compensation. The board also met young athletes to address training, coaching, and infrastructure challenges to strengthen sports development in the region.

## Himanta Sarma calls for central probe into Gaurav Gogoi Pakistan links

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**A**ssam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Wednesday urged a central agency to probe Congress MP Gaurav Gogoi and his wife, following a special investigation team report alleging links to Pakistan. Sarma claimed the report suggests Gogoi's British wife, Elizabeth Coleburn, shared confidential information with Pakistan while working under former Pakistani Planning Commission adviser Tauqeer Sheikh. He said she traveled to Pakistan nine times since marrying Gogoi, allegedly maintaining a low profile by using the Attari border. Sarma also alleged that Gogoi's minor son's passport was altered for British citizenship and called on Congress leader Rahul Gandhi to respond. He said the SIT report reveals salary transfers from a Pakistani firm and involvement of family members in sharing information.



Gogoi dismissed the press conference as "worse than C grade cinema," calling it a political stunt, while Sarma insisted that a detailed inquiry is necessary for national security and transparency. The Assam government will seek the Union Home Ministry's consent to hand over the case.

## Rohit Pawar alleges sabotage in Ajit Pawar plane crash, calls for independent probe

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**N**CP (SP) MLA Rohit Pawar on Tuesday suggested that the Learjet 45 crash in Baramati that killed Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar could have been sabotage. He demanded a probe by an independent agency, including foreign aviation bodies. Rohit accused VSR Ventures, which owned the aircraft, of unsafe practices, carrying extra fuel tanks, ignoring pilot alcohol warnings, and having a monopoly over Learjets in India. He also noted suspicious delays by senior NCP leaders affecting Ajit Pawar's schedule. Five people, including Ajit Pawar, his security officer, the pilot, co-pilot, and cabin crew, died in the crash. DGCA announced a phased safety audit of non-scheduled operators starting February 9. VSR Ventures owner VK Singh denied wrongdoing and confirmed cooperation



with investigations. Rohit proposed that international experts, including from the US, review the aircraft's black box, and family members be present during analysis. He stressed that unresolved safety concerns and regulatory gaps must be investigated to determine the true cause of the crash.

## FM Sitharaman rebuts Rahul Gandhi, defends budget and national policies

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**F**inance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman mounted a strong rebuttal to opposition Leader Rahul Gandhi in the Lok Sabha on Wednesday, defending Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the Union budget. She rejected Gandhi's claims that the government had "sold India," citing Congress's historical positions on negotiations with Pakistan and the World Trade Organization. Sitharaman emphasized that shouting would not silence her and highlighted that credit and fertilizer allocations are sufficient for farmers. She accused West Bengal leaders, including Mamata Banerjee, of blaming the Center while failing their citizens, alleging corruption and mismanagement. The minister also addressed MSMEs, fisheries, and animal husbandry, pledging to modernize around 200 longstanding industrial clusters in Ludhiana, Jalandhar, Kanpur, Bihar, and potentially Bengal.



Sitharaman stressed the government's economic priorities, including supporting traditional industries, expanding existing businesses, and upgrading production equipment. She criticized TMC statements discouraging women from going out at night, saying they undermine law and order rather than protect citizens.

## Dalai Lama's office rejects reports linking him to Jeffrey Epstein

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**T**he office of the Dalai Lama on Sunday firmly denied reports suggesting any association between the Tibetan spiritual leader and convicted financier Jeffrey Epstein. The clarification followed media coverage of documents from the U.S. Department of Justice in which the Dalai Lama's name allegedly appeared 169 times. The statement emphasized that the spiritual leader has never met Epstein or authorized any interaction on his behalf. While some reports referenced emails and scanned materials, the Dalai Lama's office dismissed claims of direct involvement. The issue gained attention after media speculation and a journalist's commentary on alleged fundraising events, though no evidence confirmed any personal or organizational connection.

## Supreme Court cautions on WhatsApp talaq, favors mediation over immediate ban

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**T**he Supreme Court of India on Wednesday highlighted concerns over men pronouncing talaq via WhatsApp or email but stopped short of banning the practice. A Bench led by Chief Justice Surya Kant emphasized that immediate prohibition could lead the public to believe the court has pre-judged the matter. The hearing followed a 2022 plea challenging certain aspects of divorce under Muslim personal law. The court suggested mediation as a more appropriate approach for resolving individual disputes and referred a specific case to a senior former judge. Judges noted that reforms on repeated pronouncements and electronic divorce methods would be considered only after hearing detailed submissions from all parties.

## DMK to form seat-sharing panel from February 22 after Congress raises concerns



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**A**fter Congress expressed concern over delays in seat-sharing talks for the Tamil Nadu Assembly elections, the ruling DMK announced it will form a committee to start negotiations from February 22, after the Assembly session concludes. DMK President and Chief Minister M.K. Stalin will lead the panel, which will engage with Congress representatives on constituency allocations. Congress leaders said the delay hindered election preparation and finalization of seats. The DMK stated that its cadres have been busy revising voters' lists, conducting membership drives, training polling agents, and preparing the election manifesto. The announcement comes as the party undertakes ongoing welfare initiatives and outreach across the state in anticipation of upcoming elections.

Kerala High Court flags inconsistencies in Global Ayyappa Sangam audit



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The Kerala High Court on Wednesday identified "serious inconsistencies" in the audit report of the Global Ayyappa Sangam, including unaccounted items such as aravana, appam, vibhuti, kumkum, and sandalwood. Justices Raja Vijayaraghavan V and K.V. Jayakumar noted questionable financial practices, including execution of work through the Indian Institute of Infrastructure and Construction without a tender and discrepancies in estimated bills for VIP food charges and wooden tables. The court directed the Travancore Devaswom Board and Kerala State Audit to provide explanations and listed the matter for further hearing on February 27.

India joins UN honor roll after promptly paying 2026 dues

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

India has been included in the United Nations Honor Roll for promptly paying its 2026 dues of \$35.18 million on Tuesday. The payment covers 1.016 percent of the UN's \$3.45 billion regular budget, excluding peacekeeping operations. UN spokesperson Stephane Dujarric noted that the honor roll recognizes countries paying within 30 days. India's total contribution, including staff income tax offsets, amounts to \$38.22 million. The payment comes amid a financial crunch at the UN after the United States failed to pay its dues last year.

Nine Bengaluru railway stations to undergo major upgrades under Amrit Bharat scheme



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Nine key railway stations in Bengaluru are being redeveloped under the Amrit Bharat Station Scheme to improve accessibility, waiting halls, toilets, and foot overbridges. Work at stations including KSR Bengaluru, Bangalore Cantonment, Yesvantpur, Whitefield, and Krishnarajapuram focuses on lifts, escalators, parking, kiosks under 'One Station One Product', executive lounges, landscaping, and multimodal integration. Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnav said civil and finishing works at Yesvantpur and Cantonment stations are ongoing. The phased upgrades are being monitored through a dedicated portal, but completion dates are uncertain due to statutory clearances and operational challenges.

## Amit Shah launches India's first cooperative-based taxi service Bharat Taxi

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Thursday launched Bharat Taxi, India's first cooperative-based taxi platform, in New Delhi. Drivers, called Sarathis, become shareholders with real ownership rights and receive earnings directly, with no commission deducted. The service integrates four-wheelers, three-

wheelers, and two-wheelers and includes a women-only Sarathi Didi option for safety. Within eight months, over 2.5 lakh drivers and 8.5 lakh passengers joined in Delhi-NCR and Gujarat. Partnerships with Delhi Metro, Airports Authority of India, SBI, and others support operations, digital payments, insurance, and last-mile connectivity. Shah said the service will expand nationwide over three years.



## Bharat Bandh fails to affect normal life in BJP-ruled Tripura

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The nationwide Bharat Bandh called by over 10 central trade unions on Thursday had little impact in Tripura, with daily life largely unaffected. Police said shops, offices, banks, and schools functioned normally. About 225 bandh supporters were detained briefly for picketing. The CPI-M and CITU held a rally in Agartala, led by former Chief Minister Manik Sarkar, Opposition Leader Jitendra Chaudhury, and former minister Manik Dey. While the CPI-M called the bandh a success, Chief Minister Manik Saha rejected the claims, stating the strike failed



to disrupt work. Protests were in opposition to labor codes and VB-G RAM G reforms.

## Centre blocks Punjab CM Bhagwant Mann's planned Europe visit again

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann had to cancel his proposed visit to the Czech Republic and the Netherlands after the Union government withheld political clearance, leaving his delegation unable to travel. This marks the third time Mann has failed to secure approval for an official foreign trip. Earlier in January, his planned visits to

the United Kingdom and Israel were also denied, and prior requests for France during the Paris Olympics were blocked. The Aam Aadmi Party accused the Center of targeting opposition-ruled states, arguing that such restrictions limit Punjab's ability to attract investment, engage with the diaspora, and promote education initiatives. The repeated denials have once again highlighted tensions between the Mann-led state government and the Union administration.



Uttarakhand UCC mandates registration of live-in relationships with parental consent for under-21s

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The Uttarakhand Assembly on Tuesday tabled the Uniform Civil Code, requiring individuals in live-in relationships to register with district authorities. Parental consent is mandatory for those under 21, and registration will not be allowed if it violates public policy, involves minors, or occurs under coercion. Termination of registered relationships requires a written statement, and authorities may investigate suspicious cases. Noncompliance can result in fines or jail terms. The UCC also grants legal recognition and inheritance rights to children born from live-in relationships and provides maintenance rights for deserted partners.

## Assam government introduces anti-cheating bill with hefty fines and jail terms

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The Assam government introduced the Assam Public Examination (Measures for Prevention of Unfair Means in Recruitment) Bill, 2024, on Monday during the first day of the Budget Session. The bill targets paper leaks and unfair practices in public examinations. Offenders could face five to ten years in prison or fines ranging from Rs. 10 lakh to Rs. 10 crore, with additional two-year imprisonment if fines are unpaid. The legislation covers examinees, officials, and anyone involved in leaking, printing, or unauthorized handling of question papers. The move follows the 2023 HSLC paper leak.

AAP leader Lucky Oberoi shot dead outside gurdwara in Punjab



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

AAP leader Lucky Oberoi was shot dead on Tuesday outside a gurdwara in the Model Town area of Jalandhar, Punjab. Oberoi sustained five bullet injuries and was declared dead on arrival at a private hospital. The area was cordoned off, and the incident, captured on CCTV, has sparked panic and heightened security concerns. Oberoi was a local Aam Aadmi Party leader. Police have launched an investigation into the shooting, while initial reports suggest multiple assailants fired at him. Authorities are examining motives and possible political angles behind the attack.

Friday, 13 February 2026

## Spirit Airlines seeks approval to auction 20 Airbus jets



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**S**pirit Aviation Holdings on Tuesday asked a United States bankruptcy judge in New York to approve bidding procedures for selling 20 Airbus A320 and A321 aircraft, according to a court filing. The ultra low cost carrier said the sale is critical to shrinking its fleet after filing for bankruptcy for the second time in a year. CSDS Asset Management has submitted an opening bid of about \$533.5 million. If approved, Spirit will seek higher offers starting near \$554 million, with an auction planned for April. Proceeds will help repay aircraft-related debt.

## United States investors escalate legal challenge against South Korea over Coupang

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**A** group of United States investors said on Wednesday they had expanded legal action against South Korea, alleging discriminatory treatment of Coupang following a major data breach disclosed last year. Abrams Capital, Durable Capital Partners, and Foxhaven joined Greenoaks and Altimeter in pursuing arbitration under the United States Korea Free Trade Agreement. The investors claim regulatory pressure caused billions in shareholder losses, with Coupang shares down over 30 percent since November. Seoul rejected the accusations, saying its actions were lawful. The dispute has drawn attention from United States lawmakers, with Coupang agreeing to cooperate with a congressional inquiry.

## Musk reshuffles xAI leadership ahead of planned mega IPO

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**E**lon Musk said on Wednesday he had reorganized artificial intelligence startup xAI following its merger with SpaceX, as the combined company prepares for a potential blockbuster public listing later this year. The overhaul follows the departure of several co-founders and aims to position xAI to compete with OpenAI and Google. Musk outlined ambitions spanning language models, coding tools, and image generation, while executives highlighted plans to expand hiring and infrastructure. SpaceX recently announced it would acquire xAI, creating a company valued at about \$1.25 trillion, partly to fund Musk's plans for space-based data centers.

## India clears \$39 billion Rafale fighter jet deal with France

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**I**ndia's Defence Acquisition Council on Thursday approved a major procurement plan to acquire 114 Rafale fighter aircraft from France's Dassault Aviation, in what industry analysts describe as one of the country's most significant defence spending decisions in years.

The clearance, valued at an estimated 3.25 trillion rupees (about \$40 billion), came just ahead of an expected visit to New Delhi by French President Emmanuel Macron, underscoring deepening defense and strategic cooperation between the two nations.

Under the proposal, 18 Rafale jets will be delivered fully built, while the remaining 96 are to be assembled in India with increasing local content under the government's production initiative. Officials noted that the deal includes technology transfer and partnerships with Indian industry, which is expected to give



a significant boost to domestic aerospace manufacturing and supply chains.

The Indian Air Force, currently operating below its sanctioned squadron strength, is seeking to modernize its combat fleet amid evolving regional security dynamics. The acquisition still requires final approval from the Cabinet Committee on Security before contracts are signed and delivery schedules are set.

## United States promotes artificial intelligence exports at APEC to counter China

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**U**nited States officials on Thursday unveiled a \$20 million fund to support adoption of American artificial intelligence technologies across Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation economies, as Washington seeks to counter China's regional influence. Speaking in southern China, officials said the initiative also promotes maritime surveillance tools to combat illegal fishing. The push comes ahead of President Donald Trump's expected visit to China in April. State Department representatives criticized Beijing's artificial intelligence governance model, while China defended its approach. The effort reflects growing competition between the world's two largest economies over technology leadership and strategic influence in the Asia Pacific.



## EU steel safeguards strengthen Thyssenkrupp hand in talks with India's Jindal

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**T**hyssenkrupp Chief Executive Miguel Lopez said on Thursday that planned European Union protections for steelmakers have improved market sentiment and strengthened the company's position in negotiations to sell a majority stake in Thyssenkrupp Steel Europe to India's Jindal Steel International. Jindal submitted a nonbinding bid last September, with due diligence starting in October. Lopez said investor confidence has risen after the European Union proposed cutting import quotas and raising tariffs on excess steel imports to 50 percent.

Thyssenkrupp remains in active talks with Jindal, although Chief Financial Officer Axel Hamann cautioned that a deal is not imminent. The company also reported about \$477 million in restructuring costs tied



to job cuts, contributing to a wider-than-expected quarterly loss. Selling the steel unit is central to Thyssenkrupp's plan to become a holding company.

## China softens stance on electric vehicle firms negotiating with European Union



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**C**hina said on Thursday it supports its electric vehicle makers reaching individual pricing agreements with the European Union, easing earlier criticism of such talks. The shift follows approval by European regulators to exempt Volkswagen's Cupra Tavascan, made in China, from import tariffs in exchange for minimum pricing and sales limits. A commerce ministry spokesperson said Beijing would maintain dialogue with Brussels and encouraged companies to use price undertakings. The development marks the first exemption since the European Union imposed tariffs on China-made electric vehicles in 2024 and signals a possible thaw after months of tense negotiations.

## Trump backed World Liberty Financial to launch foreign exchange platform

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**W**orld Liberty Financial, a crypto venture backed by the Trump family, said on Thursday it will launch a foreign exchange and remittance platform called World Swap. Announced in Hong Kong, the service aims to offer lower fees by linking users directly to debit cards and bank accounts worldwide. Co-founder Zak Folkman said global currency transfers exceed \$7 trillion annually and remain costly. The company also reported strong early traction for its lending arm, with about \$320 million issued and over \$200 million borrowed since launch. The move marks World Liberty's expansion beyond crypto into broader financial services.

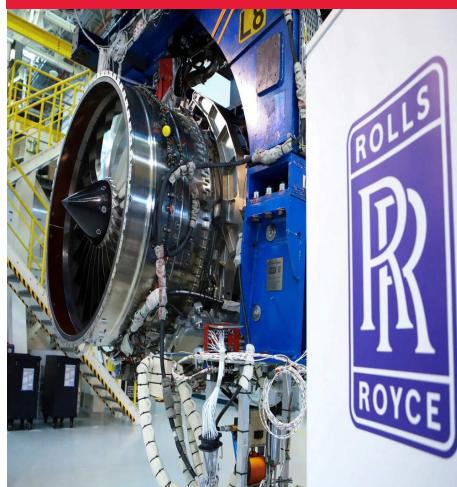
## India antitrust watchdog fines Intel \$3.3 million over discriminatory warranty policy

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**I**ndia's Competition Commission on Thursday fined Intel Corporation about \$3.3 million for enforcing an India-only warranty policy on boxed desktop microprocessors for nearly eight years. The regulator said the policy required Indian customers to buy chips only from authorized local distributors, refusing warranty claims on products purchased abroad.

The watchdog found Intel dominant in India's boxed desktop processor market and ruled the policy discriminatory compared with Intel's practices in China, Australia, and other regions. The case was filed by Matrix Info Systems. Intel has withdrawn the policy since April 2024 and was ordered to publicize the change and submit a compliance report.

## Rolls-Royce plans major India expansion, proposes joint combat jet engine development



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**R**olls-Royce said on Thursday it will significantly expand its India operations across defense, civil aviation, and energy, potentially doubling its local workforce to about 10,000. The company is offering to co-develop a 120 kilonewton combat jet engine core with full technology transfer and intellectual property ownership for India.

It also plans to localize engine manufacturing for the Army, Navy, and Coast Guard, and sharply increase sourcing from Indian suppliers. Chief Executive Tufan Erginbilic said the move supports India's self-reliance goals. On Wednesday, Prime Minister Narendra Modi welcomed Rolls-Royce's plans to scale up activities in the country.

## AstraZeneca India wins approval to expand cancer use of Imfinzi



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**A**straZeneca Pharma India said on Tuesday it received approval from India's drug regulator to market Durvalumab, sold as Imfinzi, for an additional cancer indication. The therapy can now be used with carboplatin and paclitaxel as a first-line treatment for advanced or recurrent endometrial cancer, followed by maintenance with Durvalumab alone in eligible patients. The approval also supports its earlier clearance for gastric and gastroesophageal junction cancers based on the Phase Three MATTERHORN study. AstraZeneca said the move brings immunotherapy earlier into treatment pathways, addressing high recurrence rates. India records more than 64,000 new gastric cancer cases each year.

## India's trade surplus with United States could exceed \$90 billion, SBI says

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**I**ndia's annual trade surplus with the United States could cross \$90 billion following a proposed bilateral trade agreement, according to an SBI Research report released on Thursday. The report estimates an additional \$45 billion surplus each year, equal to about 1.1 percent of India's gross domestic product, along with \$3 billion in foreign exchange savings. SBI said Indian exporters could boost shipments of their top 15 products to the United States by \$97 billion annually, with total export potential exceeding \$100 billion.

India recorded a \$40.9 billion surplus in fiscal 2025 and about \$26 billion from April through December of fiscal 2026. SBI also said the recent United States



Bangladesh textile deal is unlikely to hurt Indian exporters, noting higher input costs would preserve India's competitive edge. Separately, a zero-duty European Union agreement opens a \$260 billion textile market for India.

## Russia attempts to block WhatsApp as it pushes state-backed messaging app

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**M**eta-owned WhatsApp said on Wednesday that Russian authorities attempted to block its service nationwide, affecting nearly 100 million users. WhatsApp accused Moscow of trying to force people onto MAX, a government-backed messaging platform that critics say lacks end-to-end encryption. The move follows earlier restrictions on Telegram, with users reporting slower speeds and download problems.

Russia's communications watchdog has warned both platforms over data localization rules, while Kremlin spokesperson Dmitry Peskov said access could be restored if Meta complies with local laws. Russia designated Meta an extremist organization in 2022, leading



to bans on Facebook and Instagram. Authorities have also restricted FaceTime and Snapchat. MAX, which is preinstalled on new devices and promoted in schools and public offices, has about 55 million users. Rights groups say the measures are part of a broader effort to tighten control over online communication.

## Lufthansa cancels nearly 800 flights as pilots and cabin crew strike

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**L**ufthansa canceled close to 800 flights on Thursday after pilots and cabin crew walked out, disrupting travel for about 100,000 passengers. Germany's largest airline said it expects operations to return to normal on Friday. Most departures from Frankfurt and Munich were scrapped, including long-haul routes, as unions escalated labor action during the Berlinale film festival and ahead of the Munich Security Conference.



Pilots are demanding improved pension benefits, while flight attendants at Lufthansa CityLine protested planned shutdowns and the lack of a social compensation agreement. Lufthansa said it has no financial room to meet the demands and described its core airline as a long-standing cost challenge. The carrier attempted to rebook passengers on partner airlines. Germany's airport association separately estimated that more than 70,000 travelers were affected nationwide.

## Bithumb to compensate users after mistaken 620,000-bitcoin transfer



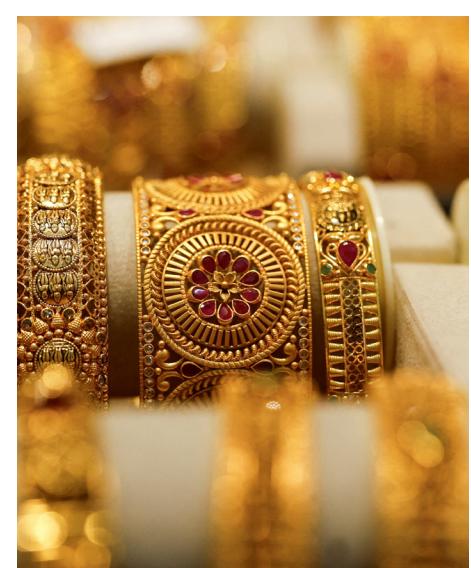
● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**S**outh Korean crypto exchange Bithumb said on Sunday it will fully reimburse customers affected by an internal error that mistakenly transferred 620,000 bitcoins to 249 users during a promotional event on Friday. Some recipients sold the assets, triggering a brief price drop.

Bithumb said it recovered most of the funds but remains short about 125 bitcoins. The exchange will cover losses plus an extra 10 percent and waive trading fees for a week starting Monday.

The error occurred when an employee entered "bitcoin" instead of "Korean won." Chief Executive Lee Jae-won apologized, and regulators are reviewing the incident.

## Gold and silver retreat as stronger dollar weighs on prices



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**G**old and silver prices slipped on Thursday after the US dollar strengthened following solid American jobs data.

On India's commodity exchange, gold futures fell to about \$19,100 per kilogram equivalent, while silver declined to roughly \$3,150 per kilogram equivalent. Analysts said January job growth in the United States and a lower unemployment rate supported the dollar, making bullion more expensive for overseas buyers.

Markets are now watching Friday's US inflation data for clues on interest rate policy. Despite the pullback, analysts said the broader trend for precious metals remains positive, citing geopolitical risks and steady industrial demand, particularly for silver.

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Fans petition skating body after US ice dance pair settle for silver in Milan



**M**adison Chock and Evan Bates finished with silver at the Milano Cortina 2026 Olympics on Wednesday, prompting supporters to launch a petition on Change.org questioning the judging.

Gold went to France's Laurence Fournier Beaudry and Guillaume Cizeron, sparking calls for the International Skating Union to review scores.

Speaking Thursday, Bates said the American pair felt they delivered their strongest career performance. The petition gathered nearly 9,000 signatures, while Chock said public confusion over results risks hurting the sport's growth.

United States cruise past Latvia as Nelson scores twice in Olympic hockey opener



**B**rock Nelson scored twice on Thursday as the United States opened its Olympic campaign with a convincing 5-1 win over Latvia in Milan. Brady Tkachuk opened the scoring, while captain Auston Matthews added a power-play goal. Jack Eichel, Quinn Hughes, Matthew Tkachuk and Jack Hughes each collected two assists. The Americans outshot Latvia 38-18 and controlled play after a choppy first period. Goaltender Connor Hellebuyck made 17 saves. The United States plays Denmark on Saturday before meeting Germany on Sunday.

## Atletico surge toward Copa del Rey final after ruthless first-leg rout

**A**tletico Madrid delivered a devastating first-half performance to beat FC Barcelona 4-0 on Thursday in the first leg of their Copa del Rey semifinal in Madrid, taking firm control of the tie. A defensive mistake gifted Atletico an early opener before three more goals arrived before halftime, exposing Barcelona on the counter despite the visitors holding nearly 70 percent possession. Atletico struck clinically through quick transitions, leaving the holders facing a daunting task in Monday's return leg in Barcelona.

Barcelona saw a second-half goal ruled out for offside after a lengthy video review, while Atletico finished with ten



men late on following a red card. The winners will face either Real Sociedad or Athletic Bilbao in April's final in Seville.

## NBA fines Jazz and Pacers over player participation amid draft concerns

**N**ational Basketball Association officials have fined the Utah Jazz \$500,000 and the Indiana Pacers \$100,000 for violating the league's player participation policy, introduced to discourage teams from prioritizing draft position over competition. The Jazz were penalized for sitting key players during close games despite medical clearance, while the Pacers were fined for resting multiple starters during a recent matchup. League officials said both actions affected competitive balance.

The NBA warned that further measures may follow to protect the integrity of games, especially with this year's draft widely viewed as one of



the strongest in recent seasons. Utah, already struggling near the bottom of the standings, is trying to retain a protected first-round pick while managing injuries. The Jazz are now on track to miss the postseason for a fourth straight year.

## Teen star Celebriini sparks Canada's dominant Olympic hockey opener in Milan

**M**acklin Celebriini scored late in the first period on Thursday to launch Canada to a commanding 5-0 victory over the Czech Republic in their opening men's hockey game at the Milano Cortina 2026 Olympics. The 19-year-old became the first active National Hockey League teenager selected for Canada's Olympic squad and justified the faith immediately. Goals from Mark Stone, Bo Horvat, Nathan MacKinnon and Nick Suzuki followed, while Connor McDavid recorded three assists. Captain Sidney Crosby praised



Celebriini's impact, calling his opening goal a major momentum boost. Canada next faces Switzerland on Friday.

Bangladesh signals thaw with India cricket board during high-profile Colombo clash

**B**angladesh Cricket Board president Aminul Islam said on Wednesday that officials will meet representatives from the Board of Control for Cricket in India during the India-Pakistan World Cup match in Colombo, aiming to reset strained ties. Islam said the gathering, encouraged by the International Cricket Council, would bring leaders from five Asian boards together to "watch the match and talk." Bangladesh had leaned toward Pakistan in recent disputes, but Islam indicated the meeting could serve as an icebreaker after a turbulent year in regional cricket relations.

## Canada batter Kirton opens up about airport arrest and road back to World Cup squad

**N**icholas Kirton said on Monday that his arrest in Barbados last year was the most difficult period of his career, but also a turning point. The Barbados-born batter was detained on arrival at Grantley Adams International Airport in April after authorities allegedly found cannabis in a bag linked to him.

Kirton pleaded not guilty, was released on bail, and later cleared to resume playing following reviews involving Cricket Canada. After therapy and months of uncertainty, he rejoined the national side and is now competing in India, focused on helping Canada maintain its one-day international status.

## Minnesota boosts Fleck pay with new bonus structure ahead of milestone season

**P**. J. Fleck will receive a major compensation increase after the University of Minnesota approved revisions to his contract this week.

The coach of the Minnesota Golden Gophers now earns a \$700,000 annual management bonus on top of his \$6 million salary and \$1.2 million retention payment, bringing his 2026 total to \$7.9 million. His deal, extended through 2030, also includes richer performance incentives tied to conference wins. Fleck enters his tenth season with a 66-44 record and remains unbeaten in bowl games.

## England coach commits through Euro 2028 after flawless World Cup qualifying

England coach Thomas Tuchel signed a new contract this week, committing to remain with the team until the Euro 2028 tournament. Tuchel, who previously managed Chelsea, Bayern Munich, and Paris Saint-Germain, took charge in January last year for an initial 18-month term. Under his leadership, England went unbeaten in World Cup 2026 qualifying, topping their group without conceding a goal. Tuchel praised the growing team spirit and said he is proud to continue building momentum toward winning England's first World Cup since 1966.



Brewers avoid arbitration with Contreras through one-year deal and future option



William Contreras and the Milwaukee Brewers finalized a one-year, \$9.4 million contract on Thursday, just before an arbitration hearing was set to begin.

The agreement includes a \$14.5 million team option for 2027 that becomes mutual if Contreras finishes fourth or higher in National League Most Valuable Player voting this season. The 28-year-old All-Star hit .260 with 17 home runs and 76 runs batted in last year while playing through a fractured finger. Contreras is eligible for free agency after the 2027 World Series.

Three Indian golfers reach weekend rounds at Saudi Ladies International



Three Indian players advanced past the cut on Thursday at the Saudi Ladies International at Riyadh Golf Club, led by Avani Prashanth, who carded a second-round 71 to sit at four under. Aditi Ashok moved to three under, while Pranavi Urs reached two under after a bogey-free round. Two other Indians missed the cut. England's Mimi Rhodes led at eleven under, one ahead of Cassandra Alexander and Chizzy Iwai.

## ESPN launches year-long Super Bowl push ahead of first broadcast rights

ESPN on Wednesday unveiled "Year of the Super Bowl," a cross-platform initiative turning the championship into a year-round experience as it prepares to air the game for the first time.

Programming will span ESPN, ABC and The Walt Disney Company properties, featuring documentaries, podcasts, and special segments highlighting Super Bowl history and players. The rollout began Sunday with live handoff coverage following Super Bowl 60.

Network executives said the campaign reflects both opportunity and responsibility as the first 24-hour sports network to hold broadcast rights. The effort builds toward Super Bowl 61, scheduled in Los Angeles, with weekly content planned through the offseason to keep fans engaged far beyond game day.



## Indian para swimmer makes history with Cook Strait crossing, earns praise from state leadership

Satendra Singh Lohiya created history on Thursday by successfully swimming across New Zealand's Cook Strait, becoming the first para swimmer from Asia to achieve the feat. Mohan Yadav congratulated Lohiya, calling it a proud moment for India and Madhya Pradesh. The Padma Shri awardee previously crossed the English Channel as part of a team and completed the Catalina Channel in the United States. Despite limited leg mobility, the 38-year-old has built a remarkable open-water swimming career, earning multiple national honors for his achievements.



## Ukrainian skeleton racer barred from Winter Olympics over helmet protest

Vladyslav Heraskevych was disqualified on Thursday from the Milan-Cortina Winter Olympics after refusing to remove a helmet honoring Ukrainian athletes killed since Russia's invasion. The International Olympic Committee withdrew his accreditation, citing rules banning political messaging during competition. Officials said he was offered alternatives such as wearing a black armband, but he declined. Heraskevych called the decision heartbreaking and said he did not believe he broke any regulations. Volodymyr Zelenskyy condemned the move, calling it morally unacceptable.



The IOC said athletes may express views through media and social platforms, but not on the field of play.

Balotelli reports racial abuse during club match in United Arab Emirates



Mario Balotelli said on Wednesday he was racially abused while playing for Al-Ittifaq against Dubai City in the United Arab Emirates. The former Premier League striker said he was targeted with racist remarks during the 2-0 defeat and later spoke out on social media, calling for stronger action against discrimination in football. Balotelli, who joined the club last month, said he was shocked by the incident and urged authorities to ensure such behavior is not ignored. Neither club had issued a statement by Thursday. The 35-year-old said he raised the issue to highlight racism faced by players and stressed there is no place for it in sport or society.

NASCAR penalizes Gragson for hand gesture during Daytona qualifying



NASCAR disqualified Noah Gragson on Wednesday during qualifying for the Daytona 500 after he stuck his left hand out the window in violation of a newly introduced aerodynamic rule. His lap for Front Row Motorsports was erased, costing him a chance to advance and compete for pole position. Gragson admitted he forgot about the rule and took responsibility for the mistake.

The incident drew lighthearted reactions across the paddock, including a social media jab from Dale Earnhardt Jr. Gragson will now rely on Thursday's qualifying races to determine his starting spot for Sunday's main event, saying grid position matters less over the long Daytona distance.

## Irfan Pathan hails South Africa-Afghanistan thriller in World Cup

Former India all-rounder Irfan Pathan called Wednesday's World Cup match between South Africa and Afghanistan "one of the best games in World Cup history." The match ended tied at 187 in regulation and again in the first Super Over, with South Africa eventually winning the second Super Over by four runs. Pathan praised the players' skill and temperament, highlighting Keshav Maharaj's final delivery. He also lauded West Indies' 30-run win over England, noting Sherfane Rutherford's composure and the effectiveness of their spin attack in securing a second consecutive Group C victory.



## Manchester City stay on Arsenal's heels with dominant Fulham win

Manchester City maintained pressure on Premier League leaders Arsenal with a 3-0 home win over Fulham this week. City led 3-0 at halftime, with Semenyo scoring his fifth goal, O'Reilly adding a second, and Haaland netting his 153rd City goal to equal Colin Bell in all-time rankings. Aston Villa moved closer to third with a 1-0 win over Brighton, while Liverpool ended Sunderland's unbeaten home run with a 1-0 victory. Burnley came from 2-0 down to beat Crystal Palace 3-2, keeping their survival hopes alive in the league.

Friday, 13 February 2026

## Michael Douglas to release candid memoir this fall



**M**ichael Douglas announced Wednesday that he will publish an untitled memoir in October through Grand Central Publishing. The Academy Award winner described the book as a raw and sweeping account of his personal and professional life. Now 81, Douglas said he wants to tell his story on his own terms, beyond headlines and box office results. Written with Michael Fleming, the memoir will trace his rise from the shadow of his father, Kirk Douglas, to his own success in projects such as 'Wall Street,' 'Fatal Attraction,' and 'Basic Instinct.' He also produced the Oscar winning 'One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest.' The book will address his battle with stage four cancer and his long marriage to Catherine Zeta Jones.

## 'Send Help' tops quiet Super Bowl weekend box office



'Send Help' repeated at number one during a typically slow Super Bowl weekend, earning 10 million dollars in its second frame, according to studio estimates Sunday. Directed by Sam Raimi, the survival thriller has collected 53.7 million dollars worldwide. Meanwhile, the documentary 'Melania' dropped 67 percent in its second weekend despite expanding to more theaters, bringing in 2.4 million dollars. Amazon MGM reportedly paid 40 million dollars for the film rights and spent heavily on marketing. Elsewhere, 'Solo Mio' debuted with 7.2 million dollars, and 'Iron Lung,' created by Markiplier, added 6.2 million dollars in its second weekend. Family sequel 'Zootopia 2' surpassed 1.8 billion dollars globally in its 11th week.

## James Van Der Beek, star of Dawson's Creek, dies at 48 after cancer battle

**J**ames Van Der Beek, who rose to fame as the title character on the hit WB drama Dawson's Creek, has died at 48, his family announced Wednesday morning. In a statement shared on Instagram, his family said he passed peacefully and met his final days with courage, faith, and grace. He revealed in 2024 that he was undergoing treatment for colorectal cancer.

Van Der Beek became a household

name playing aspiring filmmaker Dawson Leery from 1998 to 2003. The series helped define teen television and launched the careers of Katie Holmes, Michelle Williams, and Joshua Jackson. He also starred in Varsity Blues and later embraced self-parody in projects such as Don't Trust the B in Apartment 23 and online comedy videos. In 2025, he appeared on The Masked Singer. He is remembered for blending leading man charm with self-aware humor.



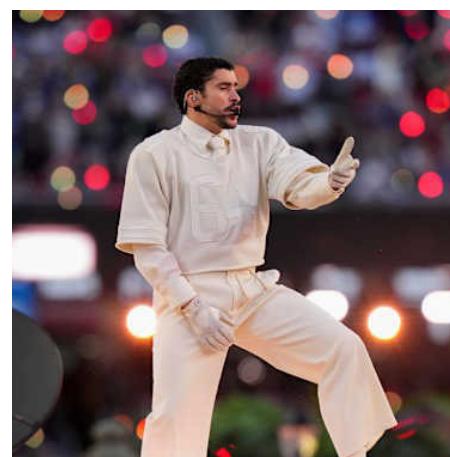
## Sidhu Moose Wala's parents stage protest in Punjab over stalled police probe into music company finances

**T**he parents of slain Punjabi rapper Sidhu Moose Wala held a sit-in on Wednesday outside the Mansa office of the Punjab Police, accusing authorities of delaying action on a financial complaint filed nearly six months ago. Balkaur Singh and Charan Kaur said they had submitted evidence alleging irregularities involving their son's music companies and manager Bunty Bains, including unauthorized use of unreleased tracks. Moose Wala was killed in May 2022, a day after his security was reduced. Police officials said the inquiry is ongoing. Balkaur Singh also criticized Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann, alleging a lack of accountability despite promises of action against organized crime.



## Bad Bunny's Super Bowl show fuels massive streaming surge

**B**ad Bunny saw a sharp jump in streams on Monday, the day after his Super Bowl halftime performance. According to Luminate, his United States streams rose 175 percent compared with the previous Monday, climbing to 99.6 million from 36.2 million. The prior Monday had already brought a boost after he won album of the year at the Grammy Awards for 'Débi Tirar Más Fotos,' the first all Spanish language album to take the top prize. Globally, his on demand streams increased 132 percent. His most streamed songs in the United States on Monday included 'DtMF,' 'Baile Inolvidable,' and 'Tití Me Preguntó.' Apple Music said his playlist became its most played set list shortly after Sunday's game,



while Spotify and Amazon Music also reported major spikes.

Britney Spears sells music catalog for about 200 million dollars



**B**ritney Spears has sold the rights to her music catalog to Primary Wave for about 200 million dollars, according to a source familiar with the deal. Representatives for Spears and the publisher did not immediately comment Tuesday. Spears, whose debut album arrived in 1999, is known for hits such as '...Baby One More Time,' 'Oops!... I Did It Again!,' and 'Gimme More.' In 2023, she released her memoir 'The Woman In Me,' which sold more than 1.1 million copies in the United States in its first week. Spears was freed from her conservatorship in 2021 after 13 years. She joins other major artists, including Bob Dylan and Bruce Springsteen, who have sold their catalogs in recent years.

## Blake Lively and Justin Baldoni fail to reach settlement



**B**lake Lively and Justin Baldoni did not reach a settlement during a court ordered conference Wednesday in federal court in New York. The actors, who starred in 'It Ends With Us,' have been locked in a legal battle since December 2024, when Lively accused Baldoni of sexual harassment and retaliation related to the 2024 film. Baldoni has denied the allegations. The closed door session marked their first in person court appearance together. If no agreement is reached, the case is scheduled to go to trial in May. The dispute has drawn widespread attention in Hollywood, even as 'It Ends With Us,' adapted from Colleen Hoover's novel, grossed more than 350 million dollars worldwide.

FWICE objects to Manoj Bajpayee film title, urges withdrawal



The Federation of Western India Cine Employees (FWICE) has raised strong objections to the title of the upcoming streaming film 'Ghooskhor Pandat', starring Manoj Bajpayee and produced by Neeraj Pandey's Friday Filmworks. On Friday, the federation, representing 36 affiliated associations, wrote to OTT platforms, calling the title derogatory toward a particular community and its traditional livelihood. FWICE warned that failure to withdraw it could lead members to distance themselves from the project. The controversy erupted after social media criticism and a petition in the Delhi High Court claimed the title was offensive to the Brahmin community, potentially disturbing social harmony.

#### Adnan Sami recalls composing 'Kabhi Toh Nazar Milao' in five minutes

Singer-composer Adnan Sami shared a memory of creating his iconic song 'Kabhi Toh Nazar Milao', starring Aditi Govitrikar, in just five minutes. On Friday, Sami posted a photo of the piano where the melody struck him unexpectedly after dinner. Walking past, he began playing and instantly composed the song's mukda. Reflecting on the experience, he said true inspiration can arrive at any random moment. Sami, a Padma Shri awardee, performs in multiple languages and is credited as the first musician to play Indian classical music on piano. Other hits include 'Lift Karadey', 'Kabhi Nahi', and 'Bheegi Bheegi Raaton Mein'

#### AP Dhillon debuts 'Thinking of You' on The Great Indian Kapil Show



Punjabi singer AP Dhillon performed his latest track 'Thinking of You' for the first time on 'The Great Indian Kapil Show' on Friday alongside comedian Anubhav Singh Bassi. The episode featured comedy and music, including Kapil Sharma joking about stolen gadgets at Dhillon's December Delhi concert. Dhillon responded with humor, and Bassi added a deadpan zinger about their recent Instagram interaction. The show also featured Krushna Abhishek, Kiku Sharda, and Sunil Grover, with Shinda Kahlon adding musical flair. 'The Great Indian Kapil Show Season 4' streams on Netflix every Saturday at 8 PM, blending celebrity interviews, comedy, and live musical performances.

## Ranveer Singh receives threat as police probe VPN link



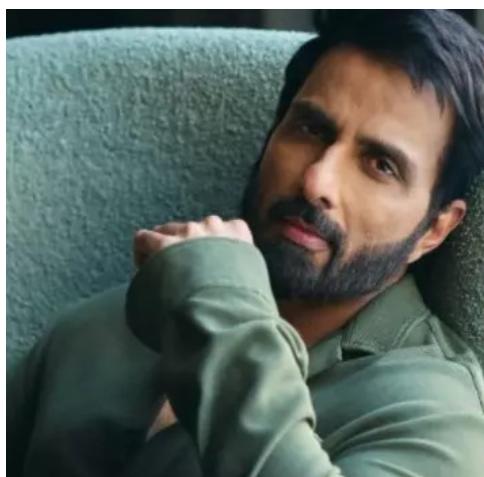
Mumbai police have launched an investigation after actor Ranveer Singh received a threatening voice message through WhatsApp demanding a large sum of money. Officials said Thursday that the message was sent using a virtual private network, and the sender's identity has not been disclosed. Security has been increased

outside Singh's residence. In separate cases, threats have recently targeted other film figures, including an email sent to Aayush Sharma that authorities said was routed through a secure email service. Police are also continuing to investigate an earlier shooting incident outside director Rohit Shetty's home. Officers said arrests have been made and that efforts are underway to locate additional suspects.

## Sonu Sood offers support to Rajpal Yadav amid legal troubles

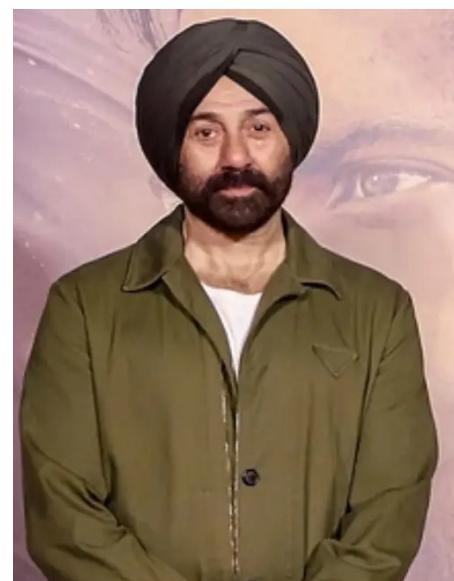
Actor Sonu Sood said Monday that Rajpal Yadav will join his upcoming film following Yadav's legal and financial difficulties. Writing on social media, Sood described Yadav as a gifted performer and said the industry should stand by its own during difficult times. Yadav recently surrendered after the Delhi High Court

directed him to do so in connection with multiple check bounce cases tied to loans taken for his 2010 film 'Ata Pata Laapata'. Lower courts had sentenced him and his wife to six months in jail, and a sessions court upheld the ruling. The High Court had granted temporary relief, but later criticized his failure to meet settlement commitments.



## Sunny Deol's 'Lahore 1947' to release in cinemas on August 13

The makers of 'Lahore 1947', starring Sunny Deol, announced the film will release in cinemas on August 13, during Independence Day week. Produced by Aamir Khan Productions, the film reunites Deol with director Rajkumar Santoshi and features Shabana Azmi, Preity Zinta, and Karan Deol, with music by AR Rahman and lyrics by Javed Akhtar. Adapted from Asghar Wajahat's play 'Jis Lahore Nai Dekhya, O Jamayi Nai', the story follows a Hindu family migrating from Lahore after Partition, discovering an elderly Muslim woman still in their new home. The film explores human relationships, empathy, and moral responsibility amid communal upheaval, moving away from spectacle-driven narratives.



Anupam Kher warns fans of fake social media accounts



Veteran actor Anupam Kher issued a warning on Friday about impostor Instagram accounts using his name and photos. In a video, he urged followers to ignore any requests from accounts other than his official handle, stating that several friends had reported suspicious messages. Kher clarified he has not created any new accounts and asked fans not to fall for impersonation. The actor is currently filming the sequel 'Khosla Ka Ghosla 2', following the 2006 National Award-winning film about a Delhi family reclaiming land seized by a builder. Kher reflected on reaching his 550th film milestone during the shoot.

## Five accused in Rohit Shetty firing case charged under organized crime law



Mumbai police have charged the five accused in the Rohit Shetty firing case under the Maharashtra Control of Organised Crime Act, 1999, after they were produced before a special court on Wednesday. The court remanded all five to police custody until February 17, 2026, rejecting a 15-day custody request. Investigation revealed that absconding accused Shubham Lonkar planned to spread terror in Mumbai, provided three weapons through his brother Praveen Lonkar, and transferred Rs 40,000 to one accused. Five bullets were fired at Shetty's Juhu residence using a vehicle sourced from Pune and left at a pre-decided location, with the shooter directed by Lonkar.

## Chris Hemsworth's 'meh' proposal to Elsa Pataky was surprisingly low-key

Hollywood hunk Chris Hemsworth has spilled the tea on his famously unromantic proposal to Elsa Pataky. The 42-year-old actor revealed on Nova's Fitzy, Wippa, and Kate that when he popped the question in 2010, it was more of a casual "why not?" moment than a fairy-tale declaration. Hemsworth even joked that his grand romantic gesture was... slipping the ring into a chocolate box. Over a decade later, the couple who share daughter India, 13, and 11-year-old twins Sasha and Tristan still chuckle about the moment. Hemsworth credits their lasting love to fun, adventure, and making sure the "us" in their marriage never disappears amid work and family chaos.

# अरुणाचल प्रदेश की आराधना यात्रा का दूसरा पड़ाव मालिनीथान मंदिर

IndoUS Tribune की श्रृंखला 'यात्रा: अरुणाचल प्रदेश के मंदिरों की' का उद्देश्य ऐसे ही अल्पज्ञात, किंतु अत्यंत समृद्ध आध्यात्मिक स्थलों को पाठकों के समक्ष लाना है, जो भारत की सांस्कृतिक एकता और सनातन परंपरा की गहराई को उजागर करते हैं। परशुराम कुण्ड के दिव्य और आत्मशुद्धि से जुड़े अनुभवों के बाद यह दूसरा पड़ाव हमें एक ऐसे तीर्थ से परिवर्तित करता है, जहाँ पौराणिक कथाएँ, ऐतिहासिक विवासत और प्रकृति की शांत छटा मिलकर आध्यात्मिक अनुभूति को और भी गहन बना देती हैं।

IndoUS Tribune की Temples of Arunachal Yatra का दूसरा पड़ाव हमें अरुणाचल प्रदेश के लोअर सियांग जिले के लिकाबाली क्षेत्र में सियांग पहाड़ियों की तलहटी पर स्थित मालिनीथान मंदिर के प्राचीन अवशेषों तक ले आता है—एक ऐसा पावन स्थल जहाँ इतिहास, पुरातत्व और आस्था एक साथ सजीव हो उठते हैं। 10वीं से 14वीं शताब्दी के मध्य निर्मित माने जाने वाले इस पत्थर-निर्मित मंदिर के अवशेष उस कालखण्ड की उत्कृष्ट शिल्पकला, स्थापत्य कौशल और सांस्कृतिक समृद्धि के सशक्त प्रमाण हैं।

लोकमान्यताओं के अनुसार, भगवान कृष्ण और रुक्मिणी द्वारा की ओर जाते समय यहाँ ठहरे थे। कहा जाता है कि माता पार्वती ने उनका पृष्ठमालाओं से स्वागत किया, और उन मालाओं की अनुम सुंदरता से प्रभावित होकर भगवान कृष्ण ने पार्वती को 'मालिनी'—अर्थात उपवन की स्वामिनी—कहा। तभी से यह स्थान 'मालिनीथान' के नाम से विख्यात हो गया।

## इतिहास और पुरातात्त्विक महत्व

मालिनीथान एक महत्वपूर्ण पुरातात्त्विक स्थल है, जहाँ प्रारंभिक मध्यकालीन हिंदू मंदिर के भव्य अवशेष पाए गए हैं। 1968 से 1971 के बीच अरुणाचल प्रदेश सरकार के शोध निदेशालय द्वारा किए गए उत्खननों में इस मंदिर का अनावरण हुआ।

यह मंदिर पूर्णतः ग्रेनाइट पत्थरों से निर्मित था—एक ऐसी विशेषता जो इसे उत्तर-पूर्व भारत के अधिकांश इंट-निर्मित मंदिरों से अलग करती है। 'अश्ममय' शैली में निर्मित इस मंदिर की वास्तुकला में ओडिशा की शास्त्रीय परंपरा की झलक मिलती है, जो उस समय विभिन्न क्षेत्रों के बीच सांस्कृतिक सम्पर्क को दर्शाती है।

खुदाई में लगभग 2.4 मीटर ऊँचा मंदिर चबूतरा मिला, जिसमें गर्भगृह, अंतराल और मंडप की संरचना स्पष्ट रूप से दिखाई देती है। पत्थरों को जोड़ने के लिए लोहे के डॉवेल का प्रयोग इस बात का संकेत देता है कि संभवतः 13वीं-14वीं शताब्दी में चुटिया साम्राज्य ने इसका निर्माण कराया



होगा। यहाँ से प्राप्त मूर्तियों में देवी दुर्गा, भगवान शिव, गणेश, कार्तिकेय, सूर्य देव और एक विशाल नंदी की प्रतिमा विशेष रूप से उल्लेखनीय हैं। मंदिर के चारों कोनों पर हाथियों पर आस्तड़ सिंहों की मूर्तियाँ इसकी भव्यता और कलात्मक उत्कृष्टता को दर्शाती हैं। नृत्य करती यक्षिणियों, पुष्प आकृतियों और पशु-प्रतिमाओं से सुसज्जित शिल्प उस युग की उन्नत कला का परिचय देते हैं।

मंदिर परिसर में प्राप्त मैथुन मूर्तियाँ तात्रिक परंपरा की उत्पस्थिति का संकेत देती हैं—एक ऐसी परंपरा जो स्थानीय जनजातीय उर्वरता अनुष्ठानों और शक्तिपूजा के साथ विकसित हुई। इस प्रकार मालिनीथान न केवल धार्मिक, बल्कि सांस्कृतिक समन्वय का भी प्रतीक बनकर उभरता है।

## पौराणिक कथा और नाम की उत्पत्ति

मालिनीथान की पहचान उसकी पौराणिक कथा से और भी समृद्ध हो जाती है। लोकमान्यताओं के अनुसार, जब भगवान कृष्ण ने विदर्भ की राजकुमारी रुक्मिणी से विवाह हेतु उनका हरण किया, तब वे द्वारा की ओर जाते हुए इस क्षेत्र से गुजरे।

कहा जाता है कि भगवान शिव और माता पार्वती ने इस स्थान पर नवाविवाहित दंपति का स्वागत किया। माता

पार्वती ने अपने उपवन के सुगंधित पुष्पों से बनी मालाएँ उन्हें अर्पित कीं। उन मालाओं की सुदरता से प्रभावित होकर भगवान कृष्ण ने पार्वती को 'सुचारू मालिनी'—अर्थात सुंदर मालाएँ गूँजने वाली देवी—कहा। तभी से यह स्थान 'मालिनीथान', यानी मालिनी का उपवन, कहलाने लगा।

यह भी माना जाता है कि यहाँ पूजित मुख्य देवी दुर्गा थीं, जिन्हें कुछ परंपराओं में जनजातीय शक्ति स्वरूप के चाई-खेती के रूप में पूजा जाता था। यह तथ्य इस स्थल को वैष्णव, शक्ति और स्थानीय जनजातीय आस्थाओं के अद्भुत संगम के रूप में स्थापित करता है।

## वर्तमान स्वरूप और आध्यात्मिक आकर्षण

1981 में मालिनीथान को राज्य संरक्षित स्मारक घोषित किया गया। आज यह स्थल इतिहासकारों, पुरातत्व प्रेमियों और श्रद्धालुओं के लिए समान रूप से आकर्षण का केंद्र है। खुदाई में प्राप्त देवी दुर्गा की प्रतिमा को समीप निर्मित एक नए मंदिर में स्थापित किया गया है, जहाँ नियमित पूजा होती है।

दुर्गा पूजा और मालिनीथान मेला के दौरान यहाँ विशेष उत्सव का वातावरण रहता है, जब बड़ी संख्या में श्रद्धालु इस पावन स्थल पर पहुँचते हैं। सियांग पहाड़ियों की हरियाली, शांत वातावरण और ब्रह्मपुत्र की निकटता इस

स्थान को आध्यात्मिक चिंतन के लिए आदर्श बनाती है। मालिनीथान केवल एक मंदिर नहीं, बल्कि उस ऐतिहासिक सेतु की तरह है जो सादिया (चुटिया) साम्राज्य की विरासत, प्राचीन हिंदू परंपराओं और जनजातीय संस्कृति को एक सूत्र में बांधता है।

**निष्कर्ष:** यात्रा जो आत्मा से संवाद करती है अरुणाचल प्रदेश की इस पावन यात्रा का दूसरा पड़ाव, मालिनीथान, हमें यह अनुभव करता है कि भारत की आध्यात्मिक विवासत केवल जीवित मंदिरों में ही नहीं, बल्कि उन अवशेषों में भी सांस लेती है जो समय के साथ इतिहास बन चुके हैं। यह स्थल हमें बताता है कि आस्था, कला और संस्कृति मिलकर फिर प्रकार सभ्यता की अग्रिम पहचान गढ़ते हैं।

IndoUS Tribune की इस आध्यात्मिक श्रृंखला में यह यात्रा यहीं नहीं रुकती। हमारे अगले पड़ाव में हम पहुँचेंगे 'तुपिन तारिन मंदिर' (Tupin Tarin Temple) —जहाँ स्थानीय परंपराएँ, प्रकृति और आध्यात्मिकता मिलकर पूर्वोत्तर भारत की एक और अनकहीं कथा सामने लाएँगी। हमारे साथ बने रहिए इस दिव्य यात्रा में—व्याप्ति की ओर यह केवल मंदिरों की नहीं, बल्कि भारत की आत्मा को जानने की यात्रा है।

यहीं शुभकामना।



# Simple and comprehensive meaning of the Hanuman Chalisa

By: Dr. Avi Verma

We all recite the Hanuman Chalisa. Since childhood, we have heard and spoken it, and many times it remains limited to mere memorization. But have we ever truly tried to understand what we are saying to Lord Hanuman, what we are asking for? Only when we understand its meaning do we experience its real joy and spiritual benefit.

The Hanuman Chalisa is not just a hymn of praise; it is an inspiration for living life. It carries messages of devotion, service, courage, humility, and faith.

## The core essence of the Hanuman Chalisa

The Chalisa begins with reverence to the Guru. Its message is that to gain knowledge, we must first let go of ego and respect the Guru. With the Guru's grace, the mind becomes pure and we are able to walk on the right path.

After this, the devotee accepts his limitations—"I am lacking in wisdom; please grant me strength, intellect, and knowledge." This teaches us humility. When we accept our weaknesses, only then do we gain true strength.

## The form of Hanuman – An ideal of strength and service

In the Chalisa, Lord Hanuman is described as an ocean of knowledge and virtues. He possesses immense power, but that power is not for display; it is for righteousness and the protection of others.

"Kumati nivar sumati ke sangi" — Hanuman removes wrong thinking and grants right understanding. In today's confused and stressful life, this message is extremely important.

## The message of devotion and surrender

Hanuman's greatest quality is his complete surrender to Lord Shri Ram. He performs every action for Ram. This teaches us that if we dedicate our duties to God with devotion, even the most difficult tasks become easy.

While searching for Sita, he assumed a small form, and during the burning of Lanka, he took a विश्वामी form. This teaches us that true wisdom lies in adapting ourselves according to circumstances.

## Inspiration of courage and faith

Bringing the Sanjeevani herb for Lakshman is not just a story, but a symbol of unwavering faith—that with true devotion, even the impossible becomes possible.

## "Durgam kaj jagat ke jete, sugam anugrah tumhare tete"

**Meaning:** With Hanuman's grace, even difficult tasks become easy. This line fills us with confidence.

## Freedom from fear and negativity

Wherever Hanuman's name is taken, fear, negative energy, and anxiety cannot remain.



**"Nasai rog harai sab peera"** — This does not only mean physical illness, but also freedom from mental sorrow, stress, and despair. Regular recitation steadies the mind and awakens inner courage.

## A sense of protection and shelter

**"Sab sukh lahai tumhari sarna, tum rakshak kahu ko darna."**

When we believe that a divine power is protecting us, life's troubles begin to feel lighter. The Hanuman Chalisa gives us this inner security.

## Fulfillment of desires and spiritual growth

The Chalisa mentions the eight siddhis (spiritual powers) and nine treasures. Its deeper meaning is that through true devotion, a person develops inner capabilities that help make life successful.

However, the Chalisa does not merely teach the fulfillment of material desires; it inspires us to walk on the path of truth, righteousness, and devotion to Lord Ram.

## Benefits of reciting the Hanuman Chalisa

- ▶ Brings peace and stability to the mind
- ▶ Increases self-confidence and courage
- ▶ Reduces negative thoughts
- ▶ Provides mental support during difficult times
- ▶ Enhances concentration and positive energy
- ▶ Develops devotion and humility

Regular recitation disciplines the mind and brings balance to life.

## Relevance of the Hanuman Chalisa in

## Modern Life

Today's life is filled with rush, stress, and uncertainties. In such times, the Hanuman Chalisa teaches us three important things—

- ▶ Be fearless
- ▶ Serve others
- ▶ Have faith in God

It is not just a religious text, but a source of mental and emotional strength.

Simple Meaning of Key Verses of the Hanuman Chalisa

## "Shri Guru Charan Saroj Raj..."

- ▶ By purifying our mind with the dust of the Guru's feet, we remember the virtues of God.

## "Buddhiheen Tanu Janike..."

- ▶ Accepting our ignorance, we ask Hanuman for strength, intellect, and knowledge.

## "Jai Hanuman Gyan Gun Sagar..."

- ▶ Hanuman is an endless ocean of knowledge, power, and virtues.

## "Ram Doot Atulit Bal Dhama..."

- ▶ He is the messenger of Lord Ram and the abode of incomparable strength.

## "Mahaveer Vikram Bajrangi..."

- ▶ He removes wrong thinking and grants good wisdom.

## "Vidyavaan Guni Ati Chatur..."

- ▶ True knowledge is that which inspires us toward service and duty.

## "Sookshma Roop Dhari..."

- ▶ Flexibility is essential in life—sometimes we must be humble, sometimes firm.

## "Laay Sanjeevan Lakan Jiyaye..."

- ▶ True devotion has the power to create miracles.

## "Ram Dware Tum Rakhvare..."

- ▶ The path to God goes through devotion and service.

## "Bhoot Pishach Nikat Nahin Aavai..."

- ▶ Remembering Hanuman protects us from fear and negativity.

## "Sankat Te Hanuman Chhudavai..."

- ▶ Those who remember him in mind, speech, and action are freed from difficulties.

## "Tumhare Bhajan Ram Ko Pavai..."

- ▶ Devotion to Hanuman ultimately leads us to God.

## Final message

The essence of the Hanuman Chalisa is this—

Strength with humility, knowledge with service, and success with surrender.

When we recite it with understanding, it is no longer just words—it becomes guidance for our life.

Let us not merely memorize the Hanuman Chalisa, but understand it, feel it, and live it. Then its true miracle will be seen—peace in the mind, courage in the heart, and light in life.

Salutations to Hanuman Ji, the messenger of Sita-Ram and the remover of difficulties.

**Jai Shri Ram.**

# India issues uniform rules for 'Vande Mataram' at official events nationwide

By: Dr. Avi Verma

The Union government has issued detailed guidelines on the singing and performance of Vande Mataram, India's national song, as the nation marks 150 years of the iconic composition.

The new protocol, released by the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), provides clarity on when and how the song should be rendered at official functions, schools, and ceremonial occasions across the country.

According to the guidelines, the full six stanzas of Vande Mataram, with a total duration of approximately three minutes and ten seconds, are to be sung or played at government events. In the past, it was common practice to render only the first two stanzas during formal programs.

The advisory further specifies that when both Vande Mataram and the national anthem, Jana Gana Mana, are performed at the same event, the national song will

precede the national anthem. Attendees at official ceremonies are expected to stand as a mark of respect when Vande Mataram is played or sung.

Schools have also been advised to incorporate the national song into their morning assemblies and formal functions. Additionally, the guidelines recommend its inclusion at important state ceremonies, including events involving constitutional authorities such as the President and Governors.

Officials said the objective of the new framework is to bring uniformity and consistency in the observance of the national song during public and government functions.

There is no change in the constitutional status of the national anthem, which continues to remain India's official anthem. Vande Mataram, composed by Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay, remains the national song and a symbol of India's freedom movement and cultural heritage.



# Know India Programme opens applications, offering overseas Indian youth immersive three-week journey

By: Dr. Avi Verma

The 88th edition of the Know India Programme (KIP) will run from March 8 to March 27, 2026, with applications now officially open.

Organized by the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, the initiative invites young members of the Indian diaspora to reconnect with their ancestral homeland through an immersive cultural and educational experience.

The Know India Programme is a flagship outreach effort designed to engage overseas Indian youth and deepen their understanding of India's culture, democratic institutions, economic progress, and technological growth.

Over nearly three weeks, selected participants will travel across the country, interact with policymakers and industry leaders, and gain firsthand exposure to India's development journey.

## Eligibility criteria

### Applicants must:

- Be between 21 and 35 years of age
- Hold at least a graduate degree
- Be proficient in English
- Belong to the Indian diaspora (excluding Non-Resident Indians)

The final date to submit applications is February 19, 2026.

Interested candidates are required to complete the official application form and review detailed guidelines available through the Consulate General of India, Chicago. Completed applications, along with supporting documents, must be emailed to pic.chicago@mea.gov.in before the deadline.

The program continues to serve as a bridge between India and its global diaspora, fostering stronger emotional, cultural, and professional connections. As India's international footprint expands, initiatives like KIP play a key role in strengthening ties with the next generation of overseas Indians.

Ministry of External Affairs  
Government of India



## APPLICATIONS ARE INVITED

### KNOW INDIA PROGRAMME (KIP) - 88<sup>th</sup> EDITION

#### IMPORTANT DATES

PROGRAMME DURATION 8<sup>th</sup> March 2026 to 27<sup>th</sup> March 2026

LAST DATE TO APPLY 19<sup>th</sup> February 2026

WHO CAN APPLY?

Persons of India Origin (PIOs)

Age 21-35 years

Passionate About India

Committed to contribute to Viksit Bharat

TO APPLY

Contact your nearest Indian Embassy/  
High Commission/ Consulate

Diaspora India Connect

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Young diaspora members seeking a meaningful journey

to rediscover their heritage are encouraged to apply promptly.



# Student returning from Canada visits temple, underscores importance of cultural roots

● By: Dr. Avi Verma

**W**hile many students studying abroad are perceived to drift away from their

cultural and religious traditions, some continue to remain deeply connected to their culture and heritage.

After returning from Canada, student Anshuman Davar visited the



Siddh Peeth Mahabali Sankatmochan Shri Hanuman Temple and sought blessings at Shri Balaji Maharaj. Temple authorities welcomed him and marked the visit with a brief felicitation.

Members of the temple committee highlighted that nurturing cultural values and understanding one's history is a vital responsibility for families and communities. They noted that maintaining a connection with tradition is possible regardless of where one lives, and young people should be encouraged to stay informed about their heritage.

Community representatives added that concerns about youth adopting foreign cultures underscore the need for stronger efforts to familiarize children with Indian traditions from an early age.



Davar emphasized the role of family guidance in staying connected to cultural roots and stressed the importance of awareness among the younger generation about India's culture, history, and spiritual traditions.

## Indian consulate in Houston to host cultural evening celebrating 150 years of 'Vande Mataram'

● By: Vandana Jhingan

**T**he Consulate General of India in Houston, in partnership with the Center for Indian Classical Music of Houston, VPSS Haveli, and leading Indo-American cultural organizations, will host a special commemorative evening to mark '150 years of Vande Mataram,' one of India's most iconic national songs.

The program is scheduled for Saturday, March 7, from 4:00 PM to 6:00 PM at VPSS Haveli, 11715 Bellfort Village Drive, Houston, TX 77031, with entry by registration only.

The event will pay tribute to 'Vande Mataram,' composed by Bankim Chatterjee.

Chandra Chattopadhyay, which became a rallying cry during India's freedom movement and continues to inspire patriotism and cultural pride.

Attendees will experience classical music renditions and curated cultural performances under the artistic direction of Pandit Suman Ghosh, blending tradition with contemporary interpretation.

By bringing together community organizations, artists, and the Indian diaspora, the evening aims to celebrate a historic milestone while highlighting the enduring cultural bonds that connect overseas Indians to their heritage. Registrations are encouraged to secure participation in this landmark celebration.

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Entry is by registration only.

Date: Saturday, March 7<sup>th</sup> | 4:00 PM – 6:00 PM

Venue: VPSS Haveli, 11715 Bellfort Village Drive, Houston, TX 77031

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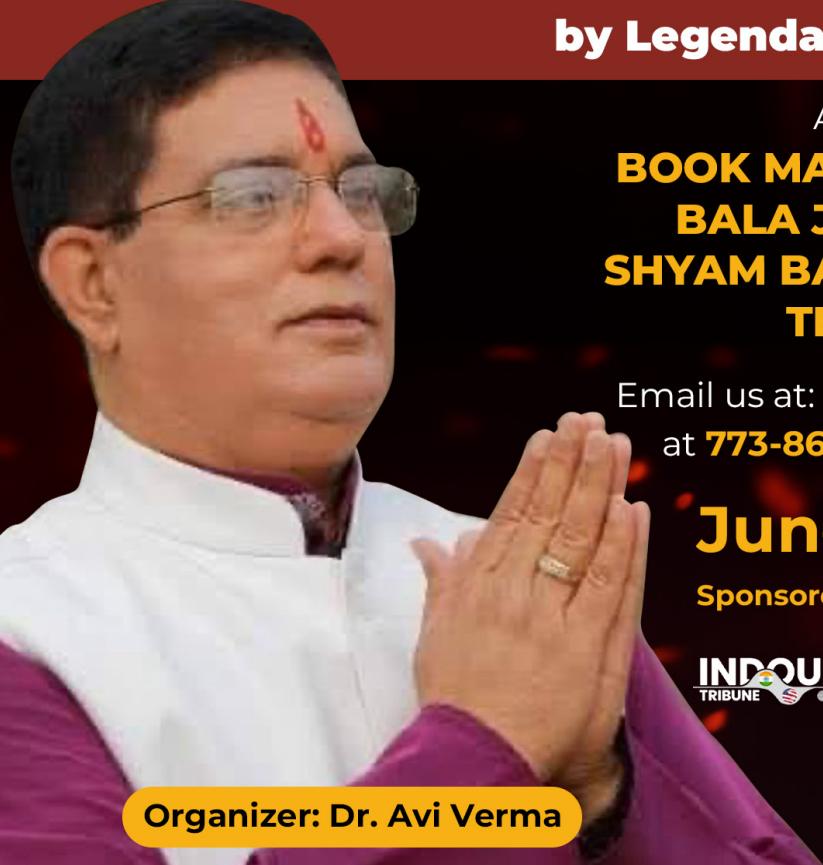




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# MGC 2026: Strong business showcase, but failed NRI engagement on ground

● By: Arun Mundra

**T**he Maheshwari Global Convention (MGC) has long held a respected position within the community, particularly after the widely regarded success of MGC 2019 in Jodhpur with all organization elements leadership. That edition set a high benchmark, featuring more than 500 business stalls, strong cultural programming, and well-structured NRI-focused initiatives including synergy workshops, C-level panel discussions, and participation from industrialists, senior bureaucrats, and political dignitaries.

In 2019, NRI leaders such as Arun Mundra and Dheeraj Rathi (IIT-MBA, Mumbai), along with representatives from several countries, coordinated strategic sessions across finance, healthcare, IT, and multiple business sectors. Youth and Mahila Samaj wings were actively involved, contributing with global NRI engagement and youth, women's empowerment efforts. Cultural innovation was also evident, including the introduction of the Ravidrums performance, which received overwhelming response and even prompted a second show.

## Against this backdrop, expectations for MGC 2026 were exceptionally high.

Business Expo Emerges as Major Success In terms of scale and execution, MGC 2026 delivered strongly in certain areas. The Business Expo, led by Saurabh and his team, was widely regarded as a success. With approximately 750 stalls across diverse sectors—exceeding the scale of 2019—the expo demonstrated impressive growth. Organizers incorporated digital tools, including app-based information systems, enhancing accessibility for visitors.

The expo reportedly attracted hundreds of thousands of attendees and received appreciation for its organization, scale, and commercial potential. Cultural programming also remained a highlight, with Ravidrums once again drawing attention, alongside other performances such as "Spotlight." Venue coordination and on-ground management were generally praised by attendees. Jaga coordination was superb that led to Maheshwari history.

## Global NRI participation: Built on long-term outreach

Global participation in MGC 2026 was the result of sustained international engagement over many years. Outreach efforts led by Arun Mundra and his team through the NRI



Maheshwari Global Coordination platform mobilized NRIs from multiple continents. Video campaigns (posted at his YouTube channel) and digital messaging played a role in encouraging attendance.

This mobilization was rooted in long-standing engagement. Over the years, the network had been involved in community support during crises such as the Nepal earthquake, Uttarakhand floods, Myanmar, Bangladesh, Nepal and many others (can't be named here) including the COVID-19 pandemic. Global medical Maheshwari experts for Global panels, and a 3D Virtual Business Expo initiative led by women wing given global outreach by Arun getting them Golden book of world record.

Though even during MGC 2026, interactions were facilitated by Arun Mundra between NRI representatives and senior dignitaries, including Speaker Om Birla, Minister Gajendra Singh, Members of Parliament, and MLAs, different organization elements—relationships reportedly developed over more than a decade/ rather decades.

## Operational lapses raise concerns

However, despite strong mobilization and international attendance, concerns emerged regarding the handling of NRI-specific events before or even during the convention.

Critical information related to startup showcases and award nominations was not circulated in NRI group before 1st deadline already passed - by the person assigned from Jodhpur. As a result, several NRIs who had

the capacity and interest to participate were unable to do so.

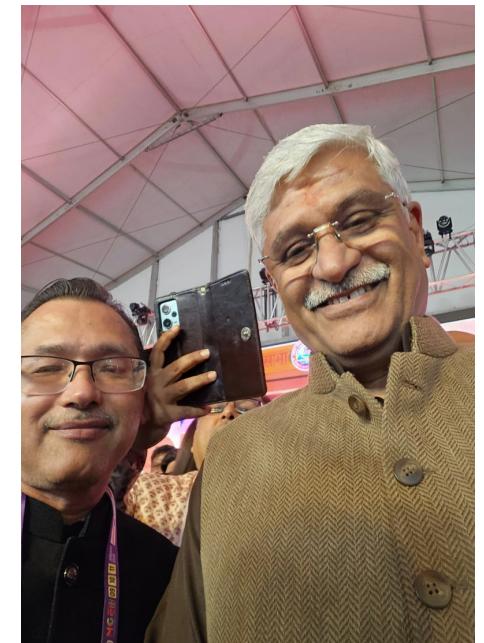
More serious that some NRIs who had traveled internationally—incurred significant personal expense—were denied access to most of NRI meetings! These reports led to frustration among delegates, with some attendees reportedly leaving the venue before the conclusion of the second day.

Serious concerns rising regarding inclusion and recognition. Many NRIs who had actively supported Bharat over decades, including mobilizing international advocacy during sensitive situations (Say Pahalgham), were excluded from NRIs meetings. At the same time, those who didn't support BHARAT in Pahalgham or who restricted others to support BHARAT were given backdoor stage entry. This was contrary in the MGC with motto published for stronger & developed BHARAT and invited guests pitched in as global convention with strong developing BHARAT.

The issue has raised serious concerns about alignment between the convention's stated motto of "Strong and Developed Bharat" and its execution in practice. Even guests were invited from out of community, those in government in "global" convention with "strong/ developing BHARAT motto".

## Missed strategic opportunity?

Significant financial resources, volunteer efforts, and community goodwill were invested in presenting MGC 2026 as a "global convention" and people gathered for same. With structured coordination event could have facilitated over 50 NRI-driven startups,



thousands of investment linkages, and tens of thousands of employment generation. More than 25 NRIs who have contributed globally over the years, missed opportunity of being awarded in MGC 2026 - the platform created on name of "Global" convention.

## A dual outcome

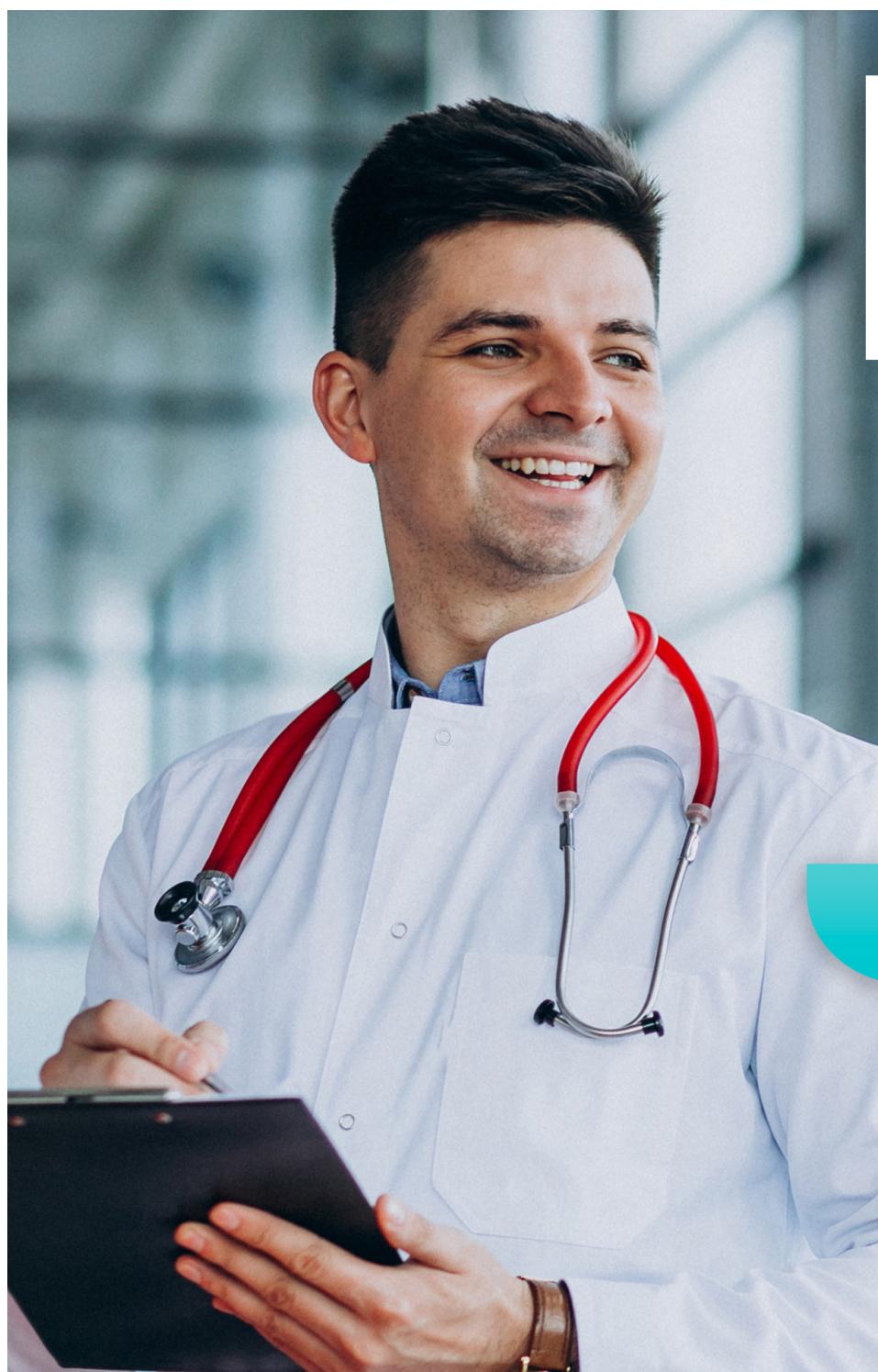
MGC 2026 ultimately reflects a mixed outcome.

On one hand, it successfully delivered a large-scale Business Expo with 750 stalls, strong attendance, effective coordination, and vibrant cultural programming. On the other, reported lapses in communication, missed deadlines, and denial of meeting access to many international delegates have raised questions about the management of NRI engagement. Hence many NRIs left convention before day two as denied meeting access and few gone back to hotel.

Compared to the integrated and structured NRI synergy seen in MGC 2019, the 2026 edition did not fully replicate that model of coordinated inclusion and show mismanagement & somewhere intent issue.

For a convention positioned as an international platform rooted in the values of "Seva, Tyag, Sadachar," the discussions following MGC 2026 suggest that while the event achieved significant success in business expo, may be some cultural events, spotlight or Jaga yet NRIs spending time money spirit coming to MGC & denied access to meetings says many things! And raised serious concerns not in community but also for pro BHARAT motto vs real actions and hence intent.





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# The future of preventive care Is the Whole-Body MRI right for you?

By: Dr. Avi Verma

In the evolving landscape of modern diagnostics, the whole-body MRI (WB-MRI) has emerged as a powerful, non-invasive tool for comprehensive health screening. Once reserved primarily for monitoring specific cancers like multiple myeloma, it is now being marketed directly to the general population as a "proactive" health measure.

## What is a Whole-Body MRI?

A WB-MRI is a radiation-free imaging procedure that examines the entire body—from the brain to the pelvis—using strong magnetic fields and radio waves. In approximately 40 to 60 minutes, it provides extraordinarily detailed images of internal organs, tissues, and bones without the need for needles or surgery.

The scan is designed to detect hidden abnormalities before symptoms manifest, including early-stage cancers (brain, lung, liver, and renal), vascular aneurysms, and inflammatory diseases.

## The rising trend in India

The MRI market in India is expanding rapidly, driven by a shift toward preventive healthcare. Several factors are fueling its popularity:

**1. Technological innovation:** India is moving toward indigenous MRI technology. Home-grown, helium-lean scanners are expected to reduce import dependence and significantly lower scan prices.

**2. Affordability: Costing between** Rs. 25,000 to Rs.60,000, these scans are becoming more accessible to the urban middle class compared to Western pricing.

**3. Radiation-free appeal:** Unlike CT scans, WB-MRI does not involve ionizing radiation, making it an



attractive option for repeat screenings.

## Availability and approval in the USA

In the United States, the status of whole-body MRI for screening healthy individuals remains a subject of debate.

**Commercial availability:**  
Companies like Prenuvo and Ezra

have gained significant traction, offering full-body scans aimed at early disease detection.

**Regulatory status:** While the MRI machines themselves are FDA-cleared, the use of WB-MRI as a general screening tool for asymptomatic people is not universally endorsed by the medical establishment.

**Medical consensus:** The American College of Radiology (ACR) maintains that there is insufficient evidence to justify recommending total-body screening for patients with no symptoms or specific risk factors.

for everyone, particularly those with certain metallic implants, pacemakers, or specific bone rods that could be affected by magnetic waves.

## Important medical disclaimer

*The information provided in this article is for educational and informational purposes only and is not intended as a substitute for professional medical advice, diagnosis, or treatment. Always seek the advice of your physician or another qualified healthcare provider with any questions you may have regarding a medical condition.*



## Limitations and the 'false positive' risk

Despite its advanced capabilities, WB-MRI is not without drawbacks. The primary concern is the high frequency of incidental findings—benign abnormalities (like harmless cysts) that pose no threat but can cause significant anxiety. These "false positives" often lead to unnecessary, invasive, and costly follow-up procedures.

Additionally, WB-MRI is not suitable

*While Whole-Body MRI (WB-MRI) is an advanced diagnostic tool, its use for asymptomatic screening is not currently recommended by major medical bodies, including the American College of Radiology (ACR) and the American College of Preventive Medicine, due to the high risk of false positives. Relying on this information or undergoing any medical procedure is at your sole risk. Neither the author nor the publication shall be held liable for any decisions made based on the content of this article.*

# Personal finance insights: News & Features

● Dr. K C Gupta, YBB Personal Finance

## CONTRARIAN INDICATORS

AAII Bull-Bear Spread +10.7% (above average)  
CNN Fear & Greed Index 45 (neutral-low)  
NYSE %Above 50-dMA 69.78% (positive)  
SP500 %Above 50-dMA 68.60% (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 (last FOMC meeting under Fed Chair Powell)

## Treasury

T-Bills 3-mo yield 3.68%, 1-yr 3.45%;  
T-Notes 2-yr 3.50%, 5-yr 3.76%, 10-yr 4.22%; T-Bonds 30-yr 4.85%;  
TIPS/Real yields 5-yr 1.26%, 10-yr 1.88%, 30-yr 2.58%  
FRNs Index 3.633%

## 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 40.47 (fear)  
Weekly ETFs: INDA +2.98%, INDY +2.82%, EPI +2.77%, INDH +1.36%, SPY -0.20%

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



## SPECIAL TOPICS

### PENSIONS

Indian NPS (National Pension System) pensioners who are NRIs (Non-Resident Indians) or OCI Card (Overseas Citizens of India) holders can use simpler online procedures for KYC (know-your-customer) from where they are. Documents required may be uploaded electronically. Previously, these KYC requirements or changes required physical presence in India. Strict online security protocols will be used to prevent fraud, impersonations, spoofing, etc.

New NPS rules for nongovernment participants allow 80% withdrawal upon retirement for balances above Rs 1.2 million (Rs 12 lakhs); the 20% remainder must be used for annuity (lifetime income). Different rules apply for smaller balances: (i) full withdrawal for balances up to Rs 800K (Rs 8 lakhs) and (ii) partial withdrawal up to Rs 600K (Rs 6 lakhs)

for balances between Rs 800K & Rs 1.2 million (Rs 8-12 lakhs).

### CRYPTOS

Coinbase/COIN is returning to India after 2 years as global sentiments for cryptos are shifting. It's a US-based combination crypto exchange, broker-dealer & custodian (3-in-1). In the non-crypto world, these operations are by separate companies or subsidiaries. India has 30% tax on crypto income & levies 1% fee per crypto transaction, so it isn't crypto-friendly, but global crypto companies are making the moves now & hoping that regulations will be relaxed. Binance & Kraken also have operations in India.

In its previous brief attempt for Indian business 2022-23, COIN's app was blocked from connecting with India payment system UPI, so it withdrew totally from India. This time, its approach is gradual & methodical (with regulatory approvals). It has also acquired significant stakes in Indian exchanges CoinDCX (there have been rumors that COIN may acquire it) & CoinSwitch. It will start with a clean slate for retail customers in India (i.e. none carried over from 2023).

### INDIA-RUSSIA TRADE

A new solution for huge Indian trade deficit with Russia (using rupee or ruble for bilateral trade) has been floated. The excess rupees that Russia cannot repatriate will be invested in the Indian stock index NIFTY 50 by Russia-based First-India Fund for Russians. The Fund is sponsored by Russian Sberbank & Indian JSC First Asset Management.

Regulatory limitations aren't clear from media reports, but there are limits on total foreign holdings by Indians &

there may be similar limits on total Indian holdings by foreigners. Non-rupee-ruble trades with Russia are in UAE dirham; Russia can also accept Chinese yuan but India has not used that option (in fact, India also has a large trade deficit for China, so it doesn't have much yuans).

### NUCLEAR ENERGY

New SHANTI Act 2025 will allow private companies to own & operate nuclear plants, but the government will maintain control over sensitive nuclear fuel technologies such as fuel enrichment, spent-fuel reprocessing & heavy water production. Only 3.1% of electricity generated by India is from nuclear sources (vs France 67%, US 18%, global 9%).

Several US & foreign companies are getting ready for the Indian market - US Holtec, CCTE, Westinghouse Electric, GE Hitachi; French EDF, Russian Rosatom, etc. US Holtec makes 300 MW SMRs & it may have potential US IPO & private placements in 2026 that will make it financially ready for entry in India. US CCTE uses thorium-uranium blend for fuel. India is not a signatory to the nuclear non-proliferation treaty (NPT), so some countries hesitate to collaborate with India; other NPT non-signatories are Israel, Pakistan, S Sudan, N Korea.

Indian companies include Tata Power, Adani Power, Reliance Industries, NTPC (government utility), etc. Under the Department of Atomic Energy (DAE), Bhabha Atomic Research Center (BARC) is developing 55 MW & 200 MW nuclear SMRs (small modular reactors); some are using the term BSRs (Bharat Small Reactors).

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



# Everything you need to know about IUHS School of Medicine

By: Dr. Avi Verma

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

## 2. Program Structure & Exams:

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

## 3. Assessments:

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

knowledge gaps.

- ▶ 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



**IUHS**  
School of Medicine

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  
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## Key Features:

- ▶ Comprehensive Medical Curriculum Support – Covers

# Sip your way to clearer skin

## How tea can help calm breakouts and boost glow

Once brushed off as a wellness cliché, tea is finally earning its place in the beauty conversation. Beyond being comforting and hydrating, certain teas offer skin-supporting benefits that work from the inside out, helping calm inflammation, balance hormones, and support digestion, all key factors in achieving clearer, more resilient skin.

Regular and herbal teas are naturally rich in antioxidants and polyphenols, compounds that help neutralize oxidative stress and reduce chronic inflammation, two major contributors to premature aging and persistent breakouts. Making tea part of your daily routine can also support gut and liver health, which plays a surprisingly important role in how your skin behaves. When digestion improves and detox pathways function efficiently, the body is better equipped to clear excess hormones and inflammatory byproducts that often show up as acne.

Green, white, and black teas all come

from the same plant, but their processing changes their skin benefits. White tea is minimally processed and retains especially high antioxidant levels, making it a great option for protecting collagen and elasticity. Green tea preserves powerful catechins that help reduce inflammation and support overall metabolic health. Black tea offers a deeper flavor with slightly lower antioxidant content, but still delivers skin-friendly compounds.

Matcha, a concentrated form of green tea, has gained popularity for good reason. When enjoyed in moderation, it may help calm inflammation, support circulation, and promote a more balanced complexion.

Herbal teas bring targeted benefits without caffeine. Spearmint is often used to support hormonal balance, making it helpful for those dealing with cyclical breakouts. Dandelion root supports liver function, which can aid toxin and hormone clearance. Hibiscus delivers vitamin C for brighter-looking skin and collagen support, while rooibos



provides zinc and helps encourage healthy circulation and skin renewal. Chamomile offers calming properties that can benefit both stressed skin and restless minds.

Tea may also help regulate blood sugar levels after meals. This matters because insulin spikes are linked to acne and glycation, a process that weakens collagen and accelerates visible aging.

The beauty of tea lies in its simplicity. Whether you reach for green tea in the morning or wind down with an herbal blend at night, these small, consistent rituals can quietly support clearer skin over time.

Glowing skin does not always start with a serum. Sometimes, it begins with what you choose to sip.



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