

OpenAI launches 'OpenAI for India' to expand local AI capacity



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Sam Altman on Thursday unveiled the 'OpenAI for India' initiative at the India AI Impact Summit 2026 in New Delhi, outlining plans to strengthen artificial intelligence infrastructure, skills and partnerships across the country. OpenAI said India now has more than 100 million weekly ChatGPT users, including students, developers and entrepreneurs.

The company will partner with Tata Group to build AI ready data center capacity under its global Stargate initiative. Tata Consultancy Services will initially provide 100 megawatts through its HyperVault business, with plans to scale to 1 gigawatt. OpenAI will be the first customer. Tata Group also plans to deploy ChatGPT Enterprise across hundreds of thousands of TCS employees in one of the largest enterprise AI rollouts globally.

Tarique Rahman sworn in as Bangladesh Prime Minister after landslide victory



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Tarique Rahman was sworn in as Bangladesh's 11th prime minister on Tuesday after his Bangladesh Nationalist Party won 209 of 299 contested seats in the parliamentary elections held last week.

President Mohammed Shahabuddin administered the oath in Dhaka. A 50 member cabinet, including 25 ministers and 24 state ministers, was also sworn in. BNP lawmakers earlier took the parliamentary oath but refused to sign the Constitution Reform Council form. Several alliance parties initially boycotted the process before some later took their oaths.

The election was held alongside a national charter referendum, marking a major political shift after prolonged unrest under the previous interim government.

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At AI Impact Summit, India pushes inclusive tech agenda while courting global investment and influence

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

India this week sought to cement its role in shaping the future of artificial intelligence, as Prime Minister Narendra Modi positioned the country as both an innovation hub and a voice for the developing world at the India AI Impact Summit.

Speaking on Thursday at the gathering of about 20 world leaders and leading technology executives, Modi called for artificial intelligence that is inclusive, accountable and globally accessible. Among those attending were Emmanuel Macron, António Guterres, Sundar Pichai, Sam Altman and Dario Amodei. Guterres urged the creation of a three-billion-dollar fund to help lower income nations build artificial intelligence capacity, warning that the technology's future should not be shaped by a handful of countries or corporations.

Global firms highlighted major investments in India's digital and cloud infrastructure, reinforcing the country's position as one of the fastest growing internet markets, with nearly one billion users. India promoted voluntary New Delhi Frontier AI Commitments aimed at responsible and multilingual AI



development and showcased domestic platforms built on its digital identity and payments systems.

The summit, which opened Monday, was not without controversy. On Wednesday, a private university was removed after presenting a Chinese made robotic dog as its own invention. Road closures for VIP movements led to heavy traffic disruptions across the capital.

On Thursday, Microsoft co-founder

Bill Gates withdrew from a planned keynote address. The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation said the decision was intended to keep the focus on the summit's priorities. Nvidia chief executive Jensen Huang also canceled his appearance.

Despite the logistical setbacks, Indian officials said the summit underscored the country's ambition to act as a bridge between advanced economies and the Global South in setting global norms for artificial intelligence.

Jaishankar and Canadian foreign minister highlight growing partnership at Munich Security Conference

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

India's External Affairs Minister Subrahmanyam Jaishankar and Canadian Foreign Minister Anita Anand met on Sunday on the sidelines of the Munich Security Conference, signaling continued momentum in relations between the two countries.

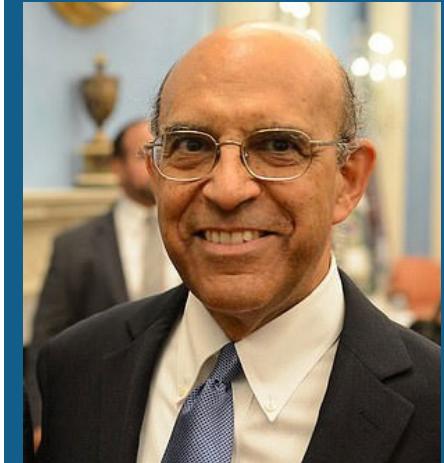
The meeting marked their fifth since September 2025 and reflected efforts to strengthen cooperation after a period of diplomatic strain. According to Canada's

government, the ministers reviewed progress under a joint road map announced in October 2025 and discussed expanding collaboration in energy, trade, technology, and critical minerals. They also emphasized opportunities in artificial intelligence and clean energy, underscoring India's growing role as a major global economy.

The talks come ahead of a planned visit to India by Prime Minister Mark Carney in early March, when agreements covering uranium, energy, critical minerals, and artificial intelligence are expected to be finalized.



Manhattan court accepts Nikhil Gupta guilty plea in murder for hire plot



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Afederal judge in Manhattan has accepted the guilty plea of Nikhil Gupta, 54, in a murder for hire conspiracy targeting a Sikh separatist leader in New York. On Monday, United States District Judge Victor Marrero approved the plea after reviewing Gupta's earlier statements before Magistrate Judge Sarah Netburn. Gupta admitted that in spring 2023 he agreed to have a person killed in the United States and delivered 15,000 dollars in cash. He pleaded guilty to conspiracy to commit murder for hire and money laundering conspiracy. Sentencing is scheduled for Thursday, May 29. He faces a maximum of 40 years in prison and likely removal from the United States.

World Bank backs India rooftop solar push with \$198 million guarantee



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The World Bank Group on Tuesday approved a \$197.67 million guarantee to support India's rooftop solar expansion, backing the refinancing of a \$500 million loan to the State Bank of India for grid connected solar systems serving commercial and industrial users.

The guarantee was issued by the Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency to Citibank for its loan to SBI. The program has already delivered 1,004 megawatts of rooftop solar installations.

India aims to reach net zero by 2070 and requires an estimated \$160 billion to \$300 billion annually for its clean energy transition. Officials said the deal lowers borrowing costs and mobilizes private capital for renewable growth.

Sanders and Newsom divided over proposed California billionaires tax



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

A proposed California ballot measure to impose a one-time 5 percent tax on the assets of billionaires has exposed divisions among leading Democrats ahead of the fall midterm elections. Bernie Sanders traveled to Los Angeles on Wednesday to rally support for the initiative, which is backed by a major health care union and aims to offset federal health funding cuts signed last year by President Donald Trump.

The measure would tax assets such as stocks, art and businesses. California Governor Gavin Newsom opposes the proposal, warning it could destabilize state finances and drive wealthy residents out of the state. Supporters must gather more than 870,000 signatures to qualify it for the November ballot. Sanders argued the tax would address extreme wealth inequality and could serve as a national model.

Prince Andrew released under investigation after arrest in Epstein fallout

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Prince Andrew, now known as Andrew Mountbatten-Windsor, was arrested on Thursday in Norfolk on suspicion of misconduct in public office following fresh scrutiny over his links to Jeffrey Epstein. Thames Valley Police said the man in his 60s was released 11 hours later under investigation, meaning he has not been charged.

The arrest, described as routine procedure with prior notice to the Home Office, marks the first detention of a senior royal in centuries. Authorities are examining claims that while serving as United Kingdom trade envoy in 2010, he shared confidential material with Epstein.

Police searched addresses in Berkshire and Norfolk. King Charles III said the law must take its course. Mountbatten-Windsor denies wrongdoing.



Moscow backs Havana as Cuba's energy crisis deepens under US pressure



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

President Vladimir Putin met Cuban Foreign Minister Bruno Rodríguez Parrilla in Moscow on Wednesday and reaffirmed Russia's support for Cuba as it grappled with blackouts and fuel shortages tied to a tightened United States oil embargo. Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov urged Washington to avoid imposing a sea blockade, saying most countries opposed further escalation. Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said Russia would expand economic cooperation and consider humanitarian fuel supplies. Venezuela and Mexico halted oil shipments to Cuba in January after tariff threats from President Donald Trump, worsening the island's energy crunch.

Trump seeks to expand 'Board of Peace' authority beyond Gaza and elevate it above United Nations

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

President Donald Trump said Thursday that his newly formed 'Board of Peace' should expand beyond its Gaza ceasefire mandate and act as a body that oversees the United Nations. Speaking at the group's first meeting at UN headquarters in New York, he said the board would be "looking over the United Nations and making sure it runs properly."

UN spokesperson Stéphane Dujarric responded by citing the UN Charter, stressing that member states, through the General Assembly and Security Council, oversee the organization. Trump acknowledged the Security Council's limited endorsement of the board for Gaza reconstruction but said it could take on "numerous other things." He also pledged financial support to the UN, which is facing a \$4 billion shortfall from unpaid US dues, but did not confirm when payments would be released.



Rubio urges Europe to rebuild military and economic strength in Munich address

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio told leaders at the Munich Security Conference on Saturday that Europe must reverse decades of complacency since the Cold War. He argued that high welfare spending, deindustrialization, climate driven energy policies, and mass migration weakened Western competitiveness. Rubio called for stronger defense budgets and greater economic sovereignty while reaffirming the transatlantic alliance. European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen welcomed his commitment to cooperation, though some officials challenged his critique. Observers said the speech reflected President Donald Trump's priorities but struck a more diplomatic tone.

Trump presses for swift Ukraine deal ahead of third round of Geneva talks

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

President Donald Trump said Sunday that Ukraine must move quickly toward an agreement with Russia as delegations prepared to meet Monday in Geneva for a third round of peace talks. Russia controls roughly 20 percent of Ukraine's pre 2014 territory, including Crimea, annexed in 2014. Moscow has demanded additional territorial concessions, which Kyiv has rejected. President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said security guarantees must precede any settlement and warned against compromises that would let Russia regroup. Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said broader territorial questions would be central to discussions.

Iran and Russia hold naval drill as Trump signals possible strike timeline

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Iran and Russia conducted joint naval exercises in the Gulf of Oman and the northern Indian Ocean this week, as President Donald Trump warned Thursday that Tehran has 10 to 15 days to reach a nuclear deal or face consequences. Iranian and Russian special forces simulated freeing a hijacked vessel, with Iran deploying the Alvand destroyer, missile ships, helicopters, and fast attack craft.

The drill followed earlier exercises by Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps in the Strait of Hormuz, which included a temporary closure of the waterway. Meanwhile, the United States has reinforced the region with the USS Gerald R. Ford joining the USS Abraham Lincoln strike group. Indirect



Trump family seeks trademark protection for airports bearing president's name

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The Trump Organization has filed trademark applications with the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office seeking exclusive rights to use President Donald Trump's name for airports and related services, including passenger buses, travel bags and flight suits. The filings follow debate in Florida over a state bill proposing to rename Palm Beach International Airport, located near Mar-a-Lago, after the president.

A company unit, DTTM Operations, applied to trademark three names: President Donald J. Trump International Airport, Donald J. Trump International Airport and DJT. The company said the move was prompted by the Florida legislation and described it as protection against misuse of the Trump name, adding that neither the president nor his family would receive royalties from the proposed renaming. Trademark lawyer Josh Gerben called the filings unprecedented for a sitting president's private company.

Trump outlines \$36 billion in Japanese projects tied to broader \$550 billion trade pledge

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

President Donald Trump announced Monday that Japan would launch three major projects worth \$36 billion under a wider \$550 billion trade commitment to the United States. The first phase includes a 9.2 gigawatt natural gas power facility in Ohio, a deep water crude export project near Texas expected to generate \$20 billion to \$30 billion annually, and a synthetic diamond plant in Georgia. Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick said the investments would strengthen energy and manufacturing capacity. Trump said tariffs helped secure the agreement and reduce dependence on foreign supply chains.

US points to 2020 seismic data as evidence of suspected Chinese nuclear test

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

A senior State Department official said Monday that new seismic analysis supported claims China conducted an underground nuclear test in June 2020 near Lop Nur. Assistant Secretary Christopher Yeaw said data recorded in Kazakhstan showed a magnitude 2.75 explosion about 450 miles from the site, inconsistent with natural seismic activity. The Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty Organization said the two minor events detected did not meet its confidence threshold. China denied conducting any test. Both the United States and China have signed but not ratified the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty.

Zuckerberg testifies in trial over youth social media addiction claims

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Mark Zuckerberg faced questioning in a Los Angeles courtroom on Wednesday in a civil trial alleging that platforms operated by Meta Platforms and YouTube are addictive and harmful to minors. The lawsuit, brought by a plaintiff identified as KGM, claims she became addicted after beginning to use Instagram at age nine and suffered mental health harm.

Zuckerberg said children under 13 are not permitted on Instagram but acknowledged that enforcing age limits is challenging when users misrepresent their age. He said time spent on the app is used as a benchmark against competitors, not simply to increase usage. The trial, which began in late January, could



influence thousands of similar cases. TikTok and Snapchat settled before proceedings began.

Former South Korean President sentenced to life for martial law decree

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Yoon Suk Yeol was found guilty of insurrection on Thursday and sentenced to life in prison over his 2024 declaration of martial law. A three judge panel at Seoul Central District Court ruled that Yoon subverted the constitutional order by ordering troops to enter parliament and arrest political opponents, including current president Lee Jae Myung.



United States reinforces Middle East forces as Iran talks continue

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The United States is deploying additional warships, air defenses and submarines to the Middle East as President Donald Trump weighs possible military action against Iran, even as diplomatic talks continue. Officials said forces required for potential action could be in place by mid March.

The aircraft carrier USS Gerald R. Ford is sailing to join the USS Abraham Lincoln strike group, alongside destroyers and a nuclear submarine. Indirect talks in Geneva between Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi and United States envoy Steve Witkoff showed limited progress, according to the White House.



Iran has warned it could block the Strait of Hormuz if attacked. President Donald Trump has said diplomacy is his first option but has not ruled out strikes targeting nuclear and missile facilities.

European lawmakers warn Congress that EU speech rules could affect Americans online



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Finnish lawmaker Paivi Rasanen told the House Judiciary Committee last week that Europe's expanding speech laws could indirectly restrict Americans, despite First Amendment protections. Rasanen has faced prosecution since 2021 for quoting Bible verses in posts criticizing her church's participation in a Pride march. Although acquitted by lower courts, prosecutors appealed to Finland's Supreme Court. Irish writer Graham Linehan also testified, describing past police action over his views. A February 3 committee report titled "The Foreign Censorship Threat" alleged that the European Commission pressured technology companies to adopt global moderation policies under the Digital Services Act. Committee chair Jim Jordan said subpoenaed communications showed European regulators influencing platform rules affecting American users.

United Nations report says RSF siege of El Fasher bears hallmarks of genocide



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

A United Nations fact finding mission said Thursday that the Rapid Support Forces siege and capture of El Fasher in Sudan last October bore the hallmarks of genocide.

Investigators said RSF fighters and allied militias deliberately targeted Zaghawa and Fur communities during an 18 month occupation marked by killings, sexual violence and mass displacement. The mission interviewed 320 witnesses and verified 25 videos.

The conflict between the RSF and Sudanese army since April 2023 has displaced 11 million people. On Thursday, the United States imposed sanctions on three RSF commanders over their alleged roles in the operation.

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From digital public infrastructure to global boardrooms, India asserts leadership in shaping the future of artificial intelligence



Dr. Avi Verma

The recently concluded AI Summit in India marks a defining milestone not only for the nation but for the global technology ecosystem. With participation from over 80 countries and the presence of leading AI scientists, policymakers, innovators, and industry captains, the summit stands as a testament to India's growing stature as a global technology powerhouse. The scale, substance, and strategic direction of the event reflect a remarkable achievement of the Government of India under the leadership of Narendra Modi.

This summit was not merely a congregation of experts—it was a statement. A statement that India is no longer just a participant in the global AI conversation, but a principal architect shaping its future. The deliberations spanned critical domains: ethical AI frameworks, governance standards, cross-border collaboration, AI for public good, cybersecurity, semiconductor ecosystems, startups, skilling, and inclusive digital growth. By bringing together nations from across continents, India positioned itself as a neutral, trusted, and forward-looking platform for dialogue on responsible AI innovation.

One of the summit's most significant

achievements was its emphasis on "AI for All." India's approach underscored the need to democratize artificial intelligence—ensuring it empowers agriculture, healthcare, education, climate action, and governance, rather than deepening inequality. This inclusive philosophy resonated strongly with developing nations, many of whom look to India as a model for scalable digital public infrastructure.

The event also highlighted India's rapidly expanding AI ecosystem—driven by a vibrant startup culture, world-class engineering talent, progressive policy frameworks, and an increasingly innovation-friendly regulatory environment. The government's proactive initiatives in digital infrastructure, data governance, and research funding have laid the foundation for India to become a global AI hub.

Equally noteworthy is the extraordinary impact of Indian-origin technology leaders on the global stage. Indian-origin executives are now a defining force in corporate America. Leaders such as Satya Nadella of Microsoft, Sundar Pichai of Alphabet Inc., Leena Nair of Chanel, and Raj Subramaniam of FedEx helm Fortune 500 giants with a combined market value exceeding \$6.5 trillion. What was once a rarity has become a defining trend—Indian CEOs now lead 11 Fortune 500 companies.

Research by leadership advisory firm ghSMART, which analyzed 30,000 global executives, reveals that Indian-origin CEOs are five times more likely to take calculated risks, six times more likely to embrace challenges, and three times more resilient than their peers—traits indispensable in volatile and transformative markets.

Experts attribute this remarkable rise to India's fiercely competitive education pipeline—particularly elite institutions such as the Indian Institutes of Technology

(IITs)—combined with an adaptability forged by navigating new cultures and markets. From technical experts to global strategists, these leaders have mastered execution, resilience, and reinvention. Migration, for many, became not a hurdle but a management advantage.

The AI Summit in India thus represents more than diplomatic success; it symbolizes intellectual confidence. It reflects a nation whose talent leads global boardrooms, whose engineers build foundational technologies, and whose policymakers are shaping the ethical contours of artificial intelligence.

The Government of India deserves commendation for orchestrating an event of such magnitude and consequence. Hosting 80+ nations in meaningful dialogue demonstrates diplomatic maturity, technological ambition, and administrative excellence. The summit has strengthened India's voice in global AI governance and reinforced its role as a bridge between advanced and emerging economies.

As artificial intelligence reshapes industries, economies, and societies, India stands at the forefront—not only as a talent reservoir but as a responsible global leader. The success of this summit is both a celebration of achievement and a promise of what lies ahead.

We extend our heartfelt congratulations to the Government of India for delivering a truly historic and impactful AI Summit—one that will be remembered as a turning point in the global AI narrative.

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



Twelve killed in firecracker store blast in China during Lunar New Year

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Twelve people were killed on Wednesday after a firecracker shop exploded and caught fire in Xiangyang, Hubei province, according to state broadcaster China Central Television. Authorities said the cause of the blast remains under investigation.

Video verified by Reuters showed thick black smoke pouring from a low rise building. The explosion occurred during Lunar New Year celebrations, when fireworks are widely used across China despite safety concerns.

Such incidents are not uncommon. In June, nine people were killed and 26 injured in a fireworks factory explosion in neighboring Hunan province. While some cities have imposed bans over pollution and safety risks, firecrackers remain a traditional part of holiday festivities meant to ward off evil spirits.

Eleven detained in France over killing of far right activist

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

French authorities detained 11 people, including an aide to a lawmaker from La France Insoumise, over the fatal beating of 23 year old far right activist Quentin Deranque in Lyon on Saturday. Prosecutors have opened a murder investigation. Deranque was attacked outside a conference where European Parliament member Rima Hassan was speaking. Videos of the confrontation circulated widely online. The aide to lawmaker Raphael Arnault has suspended parliamentary duties pending the inquiry.

The party condemned the killing, while Jordan Bardella of the National Rally accused the hard left of fostering violence. The incident has intensified tensions ahead of upcoming local and presidential elections in an already polarized political climate.

Afghan migrants report forced returns from Pakistan ahead of Ramadan

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Afghan migrants have reported an increase in forced deportations from Pakistan through the Torkham crossing ahead of Ramadan, local officials said Tuesday. Returnees described police raids, electricity cuts, blocked mobile services and demolition of shops. One deportee said he left behind decades of property and savings.

Authorities in Nangarhar said around 800 families are returning daily and assistance is being provided. Refugees earlier urged Pakistan to allow a phased return over three months.

Rights activists warned that rapid expulsions risk worsening Afghanistan's humanitarian crisis and called for voluntary, orderly repatriation in line with international refugee principles.

United States panel told India-China rivalry remains structural despite easing of border tensions

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

India's strategic rivalry with China remains entrenched despite last year's partial disengagement along their disputed frontier, experts told the United States China Economic and Security Review Commission on Tuesday.

Testifying before the bipartisan congressional body, analysts said the October 2024 pullback along the Line of Actual Control reduced immediate risks of confrontation but did not alter the broader military balance, which they said continues to favor China. The frontier remains heavily militarized, with Beijing advancing infrastructure in Tibet and across contested sectors.

Witnesses warned that flashpoints, including a potential succession crisis



involving the Dalai Lama, could trigger renewed escalation. They also pointed to China's expanding presence in South Asia and the Indian Ocean, as well as India's reliance on Chinese pharmaceutical supply chains. Several experts stressed that closer United States India cooperation in defense and critical technologies will be central to balancing China's regional influence.

Belgium summons United States ambassador over antisemitism accusation

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Belgium summoned the United States ambassador on Tuesday after Bill White accused the country of antisemitic prosecution linked to an investigation in Antwerp. Foreign Minister Maxime Prévot called the claim dangerous disinformation and said diplomats must respect Belgium's institutions and judicial independence.

Belgian authorities are examining whether three men performed ritual circumcisions without certified medical training. White described the probe as harassment of the Jewish community and urged legal protections for religious officiants known as mohels.



Prévot responded that Belgian law permits ritual circumcision when conducted by qualified physicians under strict health and safety standards and declined to comment further on the ongoing investigation.

Debate grows within Sikh community over Canadian MPs' remarks on immigration bills

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Remarks made by Sikh members of Parliament in Canada's House of Commons have sparked debate within Sikh communities in Canada and abroad, according to a report published Tuesday by Khalsa Vox. Critics allege some MPs framed two immigration and border bills as preventing criminals from seeking

asylum, although the legislation primarily addresses border procedures and administrative reforms. The report said Sikh lawmakers carry dual responsibilities as national representatives and community symbols rooted in values of service and truth. It noted that immigration debates resonate deeply due to Sikh refugee history and concerns over crime affecting Punjabi Canadians, stressing that accuracy in public statements is vital to maintaining trust.

Sharif backs President Trump's regional diplomacy during Washington visit but no bilateral meeting held

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif praised United States President Donald Trump at the inaugural meeting of the Board of Peace in Washington, crediting him with helping prevent a potential conflict between India and Pakistan. Sharif said Trump's intervention had "potentially averted" large scale loss of life and called him "a man of peace," endorsing Washington's role in regional de escalation. He also backed the proposed Gaza peace framework and called for the establishment of an independent and

sovereign Palestinian state. Separately, Sharif met United States Secretary of State Marco Rubio, who thanked Pakistan for supporting the Gaza initiative and conveyed condolences over recent attacks in Balochistan and Islamabad. They discussed counterterrorism cooperation, critical minerals, energy collaboration, and opportunities for American investment. No standalone bilateral meeting between Sharif and Trump was scheduled.

Earlier, Trump said he warned both India and Pakistan during heightened tensions that trade penalties would follow if the confrontation escalated further.

Evo Morales reappears in Bolivia after weeks of unexplained absence

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Former Bolivian president Evo Morales resurfaced Thursday in his political stronghold after nearly seven weeks of unexplained absence, citing complications from chikungunya.

Morales, who governed from 2006 until 2019, appeared in Chimoré to endorse candidates for upcoming regional elections. Rumors had circulated that he fled following geopolitical tensions linked to United States actions in the region.

He vowed to remain in Bolivia despite an outstanding arrest warrant on human trafficking charges, which he denies. President Rodrigo Paz confirmed Thursday he will meet President Donald Trump in Miami next month for a regional summit.

Peru's interim president removed after four months amid corruption scandal

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Peru's Congress voted Tuesday to remove interim president José Jerí in what lawmakers described as an express impeachment following allegations over undisclosed meetings with Chinese businessmen.

The vote passed 75 to 24 after security footage showed Jerí at off agenda meetings linked to influence peddling investigations. Prosecutors have opened inquiries involving businessman Yang Zhihua and others.

Jerí denied wrongdoing. Lawmakers are expected to select a replacement this week, just months before April elections. The political upheaval comes amid diplomatic tensions between the United States and China over investment in Peru's Chinese majority owned Chancay port.

Nepal monarchy debate resurfaces as former king urges election postponement amid political unrest

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Former King Gyanendra Shah on Wednesday called for postponing Nepal's upcoming parliamentary elections, warning that voting amid widespread dissatisfaction could deepen instability. Shah, removed from power in 2008 when Nepal became a republic, questioned the legitimacy of the interim government overseeing the March 5 polls. Elections were scheduled after former Prime Minister Khadga Prasad Sharma Oli resigned in September following protests by young demonstrators alleging corruption and nepotism. A minister described Shah's remarks as objectionable and said the government remains committed to holding the vote despite growing pro-monarchy rallies.

Brazil President Lula hails India as birthplace of digital innovation

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva praised India on Thursday during the AI Impact Summit in New Delhi, highlighting the country's role in inventing the binary system over 2,000 years ago. He called the Summit a return of the digital world to its homeland and stressed the ethical and political challenges of technological innovation. During his February 18–22 visit, Lula met PM Modi on February 21 and held discussions with Google CEO Sundar Pichai about AI, data centers, and digital services. He highlighted India-Brazil trade, which reached over \$15 billion in 2025, and emphasized strengthening cooperation in AI regulation, innovation, and gender-focused technology initiatives.

PM Modi and Serbian President Vucic expand bilateral cooperation

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Prime Minister Narendra Modi met Serbian President Aleksandar Vucic on Wednesday in New Delhi during the AI Impact Summit to strengthen ties across trade, investment, AI, fintech, education, agriculture, tourism, and people-to-people exchanges. The leaders also discussed regional and global issues of mutual interest, reaffirming the longstanding India-Serbia friendship. This high-level engagement aims to deepen strategic and economic cooperation while promoting AI initiatives aligned with India's vision of "Sarvajana Hitaya, Sarvajana Sukhaya" (welfare and happiness for all). The five-day Summit has drawn over 110 countries, including 20 heads of state and nearly 45 ministers, providing a global platform for collaboration on AI-driven development.

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PM Modi and Swiss President discuss trade, investment and AI partnerships

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Prime Minister Narendra Modi met visiting Swiss President Guy Parmelin on Thursday during the AI Impact Summit in New Delhi to strengthen India-Switzerland economic collaboration. Discussions centered on trade, investment, technology, and the India-EFTA Trade and Economic Partnership Agreement (TEPA), which came into effect in October 2025. Both leaders emphasized AI innovation and future-ready partnerships to create jobs and boost technological collaboration. Parmelin highlighted Switzerland's role in advancing global AI governance and underscored responsible AI development. He



also toured the Switzerland pavilion at the Summit, showcasing innovation and research. The summit theme, "Welfare for all, happiness of all," focuses on inclusive AI growth and sustainable development.

India and Spain pledge to strengthen partnership during AI Impact Summit

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Spainish President Pedro Sanchez met PM Narendra Modi on Wednesday in New Delhi, noting the "excellent state" of India-Spain relations and committing to further strengthening ties. Both leaders discussed cooperation in defence, security, technology, and AI, with 2026 designated as the India-Spain Year of Culture, Tourism, and Artificial Intelligence. Sanchez also attended the dedication of a mural in the Lodhi Art District, created collaboratively by Indian and Spanish artists. The leaders emphasized people-to-people links, innovation, and the benefits of the historic EU Free Trade Agreement, which they said will provide



new economic opportunities. The AI Impact Summit remains a key platform for global collaboration and inclusive technology growth.

Arunachal Pradesh explores Japanese investment and innovation partnerships

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister Pema Khandu and Deputy Chief Minister Chowna Mein met a Japanese delegation on Thursday to discuss investment opportunities in the state, focusing on sustainable urban development, innovation, and people-to-people engagement.

CM Khandu emphasized Arunachal Pradesh's readiness to partner with Japan for shared prosperity and innovation, while Deputy CM Mein highlighted strategic investments and cultural exchanges. The engagement follows Khandu's official visit to Japan last October, where he explored higher education, disaster management, and



economic cooperation. Officials said these initiatives aim to attract foreign investment, strengthen cultural ties, and leverage Japanese expertise in sustainability and technology.

PM Modi and Dutch counterpart discuss AI for social transformation

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

PM Narendra Modi met Dutch Prime Minister Dick Schoof on Thursday in New Delhi during the AI Impact Summit to explore how India and the Netherlands can harness AI for social transformation. Discussions covered semiconductors, green hydrogen, mega water projects, talent mobility, counterterrorism, and emerging technologies.

Both leaders acknowledged the India-Netherlands partnership's steady progress in trade, investment, water, agriculture, and health sectors, and emphasized new



opportunities under the India-EU Free Trade Agreement. They also committed to cooperation on multilateral platforms, global challenges, and strengthening joint initiatives in AI, quantum technologies, and sustainable development, while addressing ethical considerations in technological innovation.

PM Modi and Finnish PM Orpo reaffirm responsible AI collaboration

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Finnish Prime Minister Petteri Orpo met Wednesday in New Delhi during the AI Impact Summit to discuss cooperation in sustainability, digitalization, AI research, and ethical innovation. The leaders highlighted opportunities for Indian talent to strengthen bilateral ties and commended Finland's emerging role in AI development. The five-day Summit, attended by more than 110 countries, aligns with India's vision of "Sarvajana Hitaya, Sarvajana Sukhaya" and emphasizes inclusive AI-driven development. Both leaders reaffirmed commitment to advancing responsible, talent-driven AI and leveraging technology for a sustainable future, while promoting global collaboration on ethical and human-centered innovation.

Vice President Radhakrishnan and Bolivian counterpart discuss tech and energy collaboration

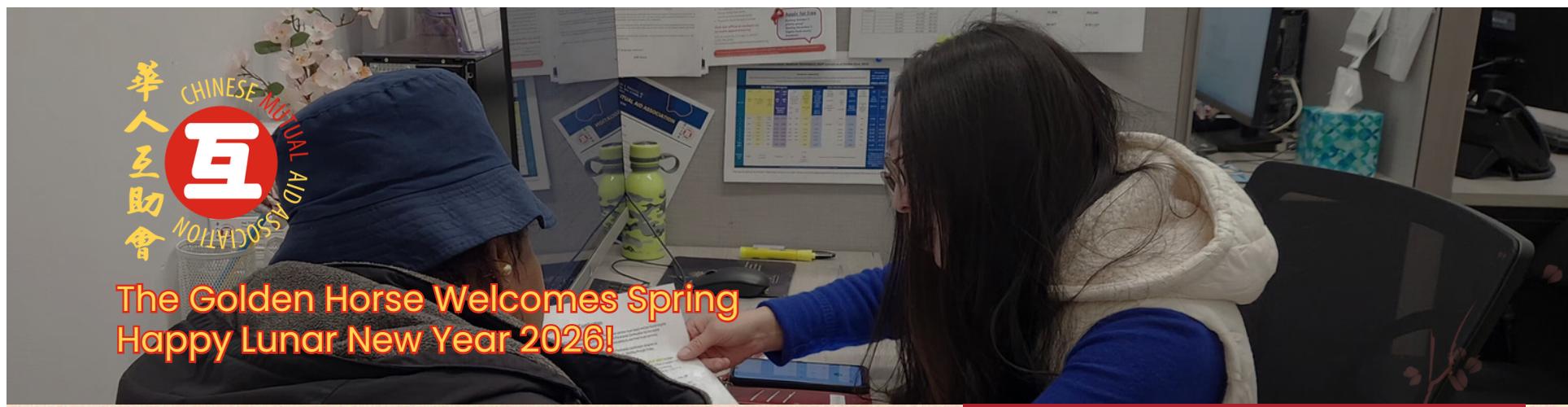
● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Vice President C. P. Radhakrishnan met Bolivia's Vice President Edmundo Lara Montano on Thursday in New Delhi during the AI Impact Summit to discuss cooperation in solar energy, critical minerals, digitalization, higher education, and the medical sector. The Vice President's Office confirmed the meeting on X, noting both leaders expressed satisfaction with steady bilateral ties and exchanged views on strengthening collaboration in multilateral forums. Montano arrived in India on Tuesday and was welcomed by Union Minister Satish Chandra Dubey. Last November, India had sent Minister Pabitra Margherita to the inauguration of Bolivian President Rodrigo Paz Pereira, further cementing India-Bolivia relations.

Norway looks forward to PM Modi's visit to boost bilateral cooperation

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Norwegian Prime Minister Jonas Gahr Store, in a meeting with India's Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in Oslo, expressed anticipation for PM Modi's visit later this year to expand bilateral cooperation. The leaders discussed partnerships in fisheries, health tech, maritime, space, green technology, rare earth processing, renewable energy, and startups. Store lauded India's reform momentum and diaspora contribution, while Sitharaman highlighted India's trade and investment opportunities, particularly through EFTA and TEPA agreements. She also engaged with over 35 Norwegian CEOs to promote India as a prime investment destination. Both sides agreed on advancing high-tech manufacturing, carbon capture, and sustainable development collaborations for mutual benefit.



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Friday, 20 February 2026

NIH director to serve as acting CDC chief after leadership shakeup

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Dr. Jay Bhattacharya will serve as acting director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, administration officials said on Tuesday, following the departure of Jim O'Neill last week. Bhattacharya, who leads the National Institutes of Health, will hold the role until a permanent nominee is confirmed. O'Neill had been acting director after the removal of Susan Monarez. The leadership changes come amid debate over revised federal vaccine recommendations, including scaling back routine guidance for some childhood and coronavirus shots. A federal judge signaled last week he may block the updated schedule.

States sue Trump administration over withheld clean energy funds

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

California and 12 other states filed a lawsuit on Wednesday seeking to force the federal government to release congressionally approved funding for clean energy projects. The suit challenges the Trump administration's termination of grants authorized under environmental laws, including the Inflation Reduction Act, as part of a broader push to scale back support for wind, solar, and other fossil free energy sources while promoting oil production. California Attorney General Rob Bonta said the state lost 1.2 billion dollars for the Alliance for Renewable Clean Hydrogen Energy Systems project. The complaint names the United States Department of Energy among the defendants. States including Colorado, New York, Oregon, and Washington joined the lawsuit.

White House says Trump has not held direct shutdown talks with Democrats

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The White House said on Wednesday that President Donald Trump has not recently held direct talks with Democratic lawmakers about averting a potential government shutdown. Press Secretary Karoline Leavitt made the statement as funding negotiations continue in Congress. Lawmakers face pressure to reach an agreement to keep the federal government operating, but no direct discussions between the president and Democratic leaders have taken place in recent days, according to the White House. The comments come amid ongoing partisan divisions over spending priorities and budget measures needed to prevent a lapse in federal funding.

Trump campaigns in Georgia amid renewed focus on economy and election claims

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

President Donald Trump traveled to Georgia on Thursday in a visit aimed at energizing Republicans ahead of the midterm elections. The White House said he focused his remarks on lowering costs and improving economic conditions for working families, even as his administration weighed possible military action against Iran, continued an aggressive immigration crackdown, and explored changes to federal oversight of elections.

Trump appeared in a strongly Republican district formerly represented by Marjorie Taylor Greene, who resigned in January after a public feud with him. A special election to



replace her is scheduled for March 10, with early voting already underway. Trump endorsed district attorney Clay Fuller, while former state Senator Colton Moore and Democrat Shawn Harris also ran. The visit followed a

recent federal seizure of voting records in Fulton County. On Wednesday, Trump repeated false claims that the 2020 election was stolen, despite audits and court rulings finding no evidence of widespread fraud.

Federal judge vacates immigration board ruling backing Trump detention policy

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Afederal judge this week threw out a decision by the Board of Immigration Appeals that endorsed the Trump administration's policy requiring mandatory detention for thousands of migrants arrested during its immigration crackdown. United States District Judge Sunshine Sykes in Riverside, California, said the administration failed to comply with her December ruling that found the policy unlawful because it denied detainees the chance to seek release on bond.

The nationwide class action decision prevents immigration judges from relying on the board's September ruling, which adopted the administration's view that some



noncitizens already living in the United States could be treated as applicants for admission. Sykes criticized the administration's conduct and accused officials of continuing to deny bond hearings despite her earlier order. The United States Department of Homeland Security and the United States Department of Justice did not immediately comment.

Lawsuits challenge Trump administration plan for new Alaska oil lease sale



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Conservation groups and an Inupiat organization filed lawsuits on Tuesday challenging the Trump administration's plan to expand drilling in the National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska and hold a lease sale next month. One suit, brought in Alaska by Earthjustice for environmental groups, and another filed in Washington, District of Columbia, argue the sale improperly includes protected areas near Teshekpuk Lake and the Colville River. The plan would open about 80 percent of the reserve to leasing under a law requiring at least five sales over 10 years. Defendants include the United States Department of the Interior and the Bureau of Land Management.

Education Department investigates Portland schools over race-based program

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The United States Department of Education said on Monday it is investigating Portland Public Schools over alleged racial discrimination tied to its Center for Black Student Excellence. Officials cited a complaint claiming the district directs resources and bond funds primarily to Black students while other groups show similar academic struggles. Data from 2021 to 2022 show low reading proficiency and graduation rates among several racial groups. The probe, opened by the Office for Civil Rights, will examine possible violations of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act. The district has not publicly responded to the investigation announced on Monday.

Federal judge bars ICE from re detaining Kilmar Abrego Garcia

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Afederal judge on Monday barred United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement from re detaining Kilmar Abrego Garcia, a Salvadoran national facing federal smuggling charges. Judge Paula Xinis ruled the government has not shown it can remove him in

the reasonably foreseeable future and converted a temporary restraining order into an injunction. Abrego Garcia was deported to El Salvador in 2025 and later returned after court orders, including one from the Supreme Court. He denies allegations that he is a member of MS 13. The United States Department of Homeland Security has described him as a gang member.

NAACP seeks limits on federal use of seized Georgia election records

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People filed an emergency motion on Saturday asking a federal court to restrict how the government may use 2020 election records seized in Fulton County, Georgia. The Federal Bureau of Investigation

removed about 700 boxes of ballots, tabulator tapes, ballot images and voter rolls from a county facility in late January as part of a criminal probe. The motion seeks limits on use of the data outside that investigation and demands disclosure of who has accessed the records, citing voter privacy and constitutional concerns. County officials have separately sued for the records' return.

Trump slams United Kingdom-California climate pact as Newsom expands overseas ties

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

President Donald Trump on Sunday criticized a net zero cooperation agreement signed in London between California Governor Gavin Newsom and United Kingdom Energy Secretary Ed Miliband. The pact aims to boost clean power development and strengthen renewable energy ties between the United Kingdom and California. Trump called the agreement harmful for Britain and renewed criticism of California's environmental policies. Newsom's office responded on social media the same day. California has a legal goal of carbon neutrality by 2045, while the United Kingdom is committed to net zero emissions by 2050 under its climate laws.

District of Columbia mayor seeks federal aid over Potomac sewage spill

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

District of Columbia Mayor Muriel Bowser declared an emergency on Wednesday and asked President Donald Trump for federal help after a ruptured sewer pipe released about 250 million gallons of untreated sewage into the Potomac River. The Potomac Interceptor pipe burst in January, and repairs could take months. The city is seeking a presidential emergency declaration to secure reimbursement and coordination with agencies including the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the Army Corps of Engineers. Drinking water remains safe, but officials warn against contact with river water during cleanup.

DNA from glove found near Nancy Guthrie home yields no database match



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Authorities said on Tuesday that DNA recovered from a glove found near the Tucson home of missing 84-year-old Nancy Guthrie did not match profiles in the national Combined DNA Index System. The glove resembled one worn by a masked man captured on video before Guthrie's apparent abduction in late January. The Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Pima County Sheriff's Department said other DNA samples are still under review. Sheriff Chris Nanos has ruled out immediate family members as suspects and said there is no proof of death, though no proof of life has emerged.

Trump administration releases remaining funds for Gateway tunnel project

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The Trump administration on Wednesday released the remaining federal funds previously withheld for the Gateway rail tunnel linking Manhattan and New Jersey, New York Governor Kathy Hochul said. The money was freed after a federal judge earlier in

February ordered the administration to stop blocking the payments. Construction on the multibillion dollar project, which began in 2023, had faced a work stoppage. The tunnel is part of a broader effort to repair and expand rail capacity under the Hudson River, including upgrades to the aging North River Tunnel damaged by Superstorm Sandy.



Civil rights leader Jesse Jackson dies at 84

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The Rev. Jesse Jackson, a longtime civil rights leader and two time Democratic presidential candidate, died Tuesday at age 84. A protégé of Martin Luther King Jr., Jackson rose to national prominence after King's assassination in 1968 and went on to found Operation PUSH and later the Rainbow PUSH Coalition. He advocated for voting rights, economic justice, and racial equality, and won 13 Democratic primaries and caucuses in



1988. Jackson faced health challenges in recent years, including Parkinson's disease and progressive supranuclear palsy. His family said he died at home in Chicago surrounded by relatives.

Harvard disputes Justice Department claim it withheld admissions data

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Harvard University has denied allegations by the U.S. Department of Justice that it failed to hand over admissions data tied to race based policies. The DOJ filed a lawsuit in federal court in Massachusetts seeking to compel the university to produce documents

following the 2023 Supreme Court ruling in Students for Fair Admissions v. Harvard, which ended affirmative action in college admissions. A Harvard spokesperson said the university has responded to inquiries in good faith and is complying with federal law. Assistant Attorney General Harmeet Dhillon said the records are needed to confirm compliance.

Judge to consider extending protections for Minnesota refugees

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

A federal judge in Minneapolis will hear arguments Thursday on whether to extend protections for refugees in Minnesota facing arrest and deportation under a federal operation. United States District Judge John Tunheim previously issued a temporary restraining order blocking arrests tied to Operation PARRIS, launched by the Department of Homeland Security. The judge said refugees are lawfully in the United States and cannot apply



for permanent residency until one year after arrival. Refugee advocates allege some were detained without warrants and sent to Texas. The order will expire next week unless replaced by a preliminary injunction.

Medical groups sue FTC over probe into pediatric gender dysphoria guidance

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The American Academy of Pediatrics and the Endocrine Society filed lawsuits on Monday in federal court in Washington challenging an investigation by the Federal Trade Commission. The groups argue the agency is unconstitutionally targeting their guidance on treatments for children with gender dysphoria.

In January, the commission issued civil demands seeking information about how the organizations developed and promoted recommendations, including puberty blockers and hormone therapy. The FTC said it is examining whether deceptive marketing occurred. The medical groups contend the probe violates First Amendment protections and are seeking to block further action.

Eight skiers with Tahoe ties killed in Sierra avalanche as storm hampers recovery

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Eight backcountry skiers with deep ties to the Lake Tahoe alpine community were found dead Wednesday after a powerful avalanche near Donner Summit, with one person still missing. The group of 15 had been returning Tuesday from remote huts when heavy new snowfall and strong winds triggered the slide. The Sierra Avalanche Center had upgraded an avalanche watch to a warning early Tuesday. Four guides from Blackbird Mountain Guides were among the group. Sugar Bowl Academy said victims had strong community ties. Authorities called it the deadliest United States avalanche since 1981.

New Mexico investigates claim of buried bodies near Epstein ranch



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

New Mexico authorities said Wednesday they are investigating an allegation that two foreign girls were buried near Jeffrey Epstein's Zorro Ranch. The claim surfaced in a redacted 2019 email included in a recent document release by the United States Department of Justice. The New Mexico Department of Justice has requested an unredacted copy of the message, which was sent to a radio host and alleged the girls died at the ranch. The Federal Bureau of Investigation declined comment. Officials cautioned that prior Epstein file releases contained unverified or false claims. Epstein died in custody in New York in August 2019.

Friday, 20 February 2026

Project South probe exposes alleged police corruption network in Ontario



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Seven active officers from the Toronto Police Service were suspended after York Regional Police announced sweeping arrests on February 5 in the Project South investigation. Launched in June 2025 after a marked cruiser was rammed outside a corrections officer's home, the probe uncovered an alleged network involving leaked police data and organized crime.

Authorities charged 27 individuals, including seven active and one retired Toronto officer, with offenses such as bribery, breach of trust, unauthorized database access and drug trafficking. Court records reported by The Toronto Star allege one officer assisted in installing a GPS tracker in a stalking case. Ontario's Inspector General of Policing has initiated a province wide independent review as the investigation continues.

Dal Khalsa and Akali Dal warn of threats to Sikh activists globally and in Punjab



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Sikh organizations, including Dal Khalsa, Shiromani Akali Dal Amritsar, and Panch Pardani Jatha, warned on Monday of an alleged plot to target Sikh activists worldwide. Leaders such as Simranjit Singh Mann and Kanwar Pal Singh stressed that justice in the killings of Hardeep Singh Nijjar and Gurpatwant Singh Pannun must not be compromised for diplomatic or trade considerations.

The groups cautiously welcomed the U.S. Department of Justice indictment of Nikhil Gupta, accused of attempting to kill Pannun. They said a pattern of coordinated violence against Sikhs abroad is being replicated in Punjab through extortion, targeted killings, and other violent tactics disguised as gang conflicts. Leaders described this "bogey of gangsterism" as part of a sinister design but noted that recent attempts to target Sikh leaders and vulnerable communities in Punjab have so far been unsuccessful.

Punjabi talent shapes Canada's T20 World Cup squad

● Staff Writer, IndoUS Tribune

Punjabis have made a remarkable mark on Canada's national cricket team, with half a dozen players of Punjabi origin featuring in the T20 World Cup squad. Gurdaspur's Dilpreet Singh Ponty Bajwa leads the group, drawing immense support from his hometown. In domestic Canadian cricket, dozens of Punjabi players are striving to break into the national setup, making the circuit resemble a mini-Ranji Trophy.

During Canada's match against New Zealand, Bajwa battled to 36 runs before being caught in the deep, sparking excitement and hope among fans in Gurdaspur. At home, he regularly trains under coach Rakesh Marshal at the Government College ground, with a special bowling machine provided by former Deputy Commissioner Himanshu Aggarwal for rainy days.

Other key Punjabi players include



Navneet Dhaliwal, Pargat Singh, Ravinderpal Singh, Jaskarandeep Buttar, and Yuvraj Samra, who scored a century against New Zealand, earning widespread recognition in Canada. Bajwa noted that team rules require English communication, with fines for noncompliance, often affecting Punjabi players the most. Reflecting on his journey, Pargat Singh highlighted the challenges he faced in India before moving to Canada, now helping him thrive in the international arena.

Sikh nurse assaulted outside Victoria gym in suspected racist attack

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

A 22 year old Sikh nurse, Harmanpreet Singh, was assaulted late Tuesday outside a gym in Corio, Victoria, after three men allegedly directed racial slurs at him. Speaking to 9News, Singh said the men first harassed him inside the facility before following him outside, where one allegedly struck him head first, causing his nose to bleed heavily.

Video aired by the outlet captured the attackers shouting racist abuse and telling him to return to where he came from. The suspects fled in a sedan. Singh was taken to a hospital and has been advised he may require specialist treatment and possible surgery. He said the attack left him traumatized and described it as the most distressing incident of racial abuse he has faced in Australia. The case follows other



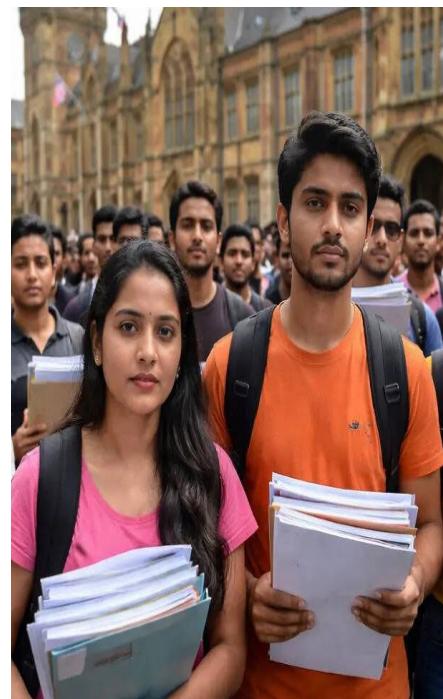
reported assaults targeting members of the Indian community.

Indian students join major compensation claim over pandemic era UK teaching

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Around 500 students based in India are among more than 20,000 international claimants pursuing compensation from 36 United Kingdom universities over pandemic era disruptions. The collective action, led by Student Group Claim and represented by Asserson and Harcus Parker, argues that students paid full tuition for in person teaching and campus access during the 2020 to 2021 academic year but received online instruction and restricted facilities.

Under English law, consumers may claim damages if a service delivered is of lower market value than what was paid for. The group notes that online degrees typically cost 25 to 50 percent less than traditional courses. University College London reached a confidential settlement without admitting liability, stating it followed government guidance. Universities UK



International said institutions adapted to unprecedented lockdown conditions while enabling students to complete their degrees.

Indian student found dead days after going missing in California



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Saketh Sreenivasaiah, a 22-year-old Indian postgraduate student at the University of California, Berkeley, was found dead on Sunday, several days after going missing on Monday. The student, originally from Karnataka, had been enrolled in the university's Master of Science program.

The Indian consulate in San Francisco confirmed the recovery of his body and assured full assistance to the family, including coordination with local authorities and repatriation of the remains to India. Authorities had earlier appealed to the public for information. Sreenivasaiah's backpack, containing his passport and laptop, was found on a doorstep in the Park Hills neighborhood, according to local reports. The consulate extended condolences to his family and said officers remain in direct contact to support them with all necessary formalities.

Sikh man feared abducted in California



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Vtar Singh, 57, a Sikh from Tracy, California, is missing under suspected abduction, authorities said on Wednesday. Last seen on Monday, CCTV footage shows him with three unidentified people near a white SUV, and police believe he may have entered the vehicle against his will. Singh, about 5 feet 7 inches tall and weighing 200 pounds, was wearing light-colored traditional Sikh attire.

The San Joaquin County Sheriff's Office responded to a missing person report at 8:52 p.m. on West Grant Line Road. The Sikh Coalition expressed concern and confirmed local Sikh leaders are coordinating with authorities. Anyone with information is urged to contact the sheriff's office immediately.

Indian-origin Singaporean woman jailed for assaulting taxi driver



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Shalini Devarajan, a 36-year-old Indian-origin Singaporean, was sentenced to two weeks in jail on Thursday for slapping a 73-year-old taxi driver at a police station over a fare dispute. Devarajan, intoxicated at the time, refused to pay her fare of SGD 24 (USD 19) and rejected alternative payment options.

The driver had taken her to her Yishun apartment, but she refused to leave her phone or let him follow her. She slapped him on the cheek, causing injury, and was arrested the same day. The prosecution sought SGD 172 for medical expenses, which Devarajan said she could not pay, claiming she had not realized she had cash in her pocket.

Punjab Police to use Interpol notices to freeze assets of gangsters abroad



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Punjab Police announced plans to request Interpol silver notices to target movable and immovable assets of gangsters living overseas. The move covers 61 individuals involved in extortion, rival attacks, and targeted killings. Extradition proceedings are already underway for 38 of them.

Interpol silver notices allow countries to trace and freeze criminal proceeds, including properties, bank accounts, and vehicles. ADGP LK Yadav said the measure will block the financial networks of criminals, similar to domestic asset seizure laws. The initiative is part of Punjab Police's "Gangstran Te Vaar" campaign, under which over 17,000 raids have led to more than 9,000 arrests and 128 weapons recovered since January. Operation Prahar 2.0 is continuing with intensified enforcement. DGP Gaurav Yadav declared 2026 the "Year against gangsters" and vowed to dismantle their networks while countering external efforts to destabilize the state.

Trump highlights Indian American civil rights leader at Black History Month reception

● Staff Writer, IndoUS Tribune

President Donald Trump on Wednesday marked Black History Month at the White House by spotlighting policy achievements and praising Indian American official Harmeet Kaur Dhillon. During the reception, Trump referenced ongoing legal scrutiny of major institutions and said Dhillon was actively enforcing civil rights laws.

Appointed Assistant Attorney General for the Civil Rights Division in 2025, Dhillon previously served as vice chair of the California Republican Party and as a national committee member. Her elevation placed her among the most senior Indian Americans in the administration. Trump used the event to reiterate his record, including the First Step Act on criminal justice reform, long term funding for historically Black colleges and universities, and the creation



of nearly 9,000 opportunity zones. The reception also featured remarks from Alice Marie Johnson, whose sentence was commuted during Trump's first term, underscoring themes of second chances and reform.

Indian origin man cleared after 43 years denied bail in deportation battle

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Subramanyam Vedam, 64, whose murder conviction was overturned in August after he spent 43 years in prison, was denied bail on Tuesday as he contests deportation. The Board of Immigration Appeals agreed this month to hear his appeal of a 1999 deportation order, citing exceptional circumstances.

Vedam, who arrived in the United States from India as an infant, was taken into federal immigration custody immediately after his release from state prison on October 3. Immigration Judge Tamar Wilson ruled that detention was mandatory because of a decades old felony drug conviction and said he could pose a safety risk. His attorney argued the offense occurred more than 40 years ago and that he would likely



have become a citizen if not for the now overturned murder case.

From Lucknow to leading NASA's flagship space telescopes

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

When NASA released a personal account on Wednesday by Indian American astrophysicist Hashima Hasan, it traced an extraordinary journey that began in Lucknow in October 1957. As a seven year old, she watched Sputnik streak across the dawn sky and imagined a future in space science. That dream led her to a doctorate in theoretical nuclear physics from the University of Oxford in 1976 and, eventually, to the United States in 1985.

At the Space Telescope Science Institute in Baltimore, Hasan developed Telescope Image Modelling software that proved critical after the launch of the Hubble Space Telescope. The tool helped scientists diagnose and monitor the telescope's spherical aberration



and maintain focus until a corrective servicing mission was designed. She later served as program scientist for Hubble and played a leading role in the development of the James Webb Space Telescope, guiding early technology work and international negotiations over the Mid InfraRed Instrument with European and Canadian partners. Hasan called both missions examples of global collaboration and urged young readers to pursue their dreams.

Indian-origin UK businessman sentenced for corporate fraud

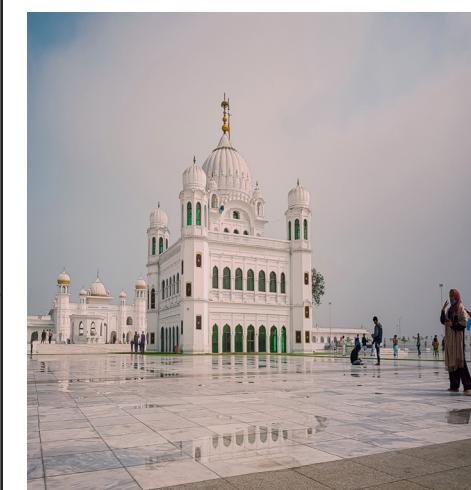


● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Ghanshyam Sarup Batra, 63, an Indian-origin property lettings businessman in Essex, England, was sentenced to 12 months in prison, suspended for 18 months, for fraudulently transferring over £100,000 from his company account to his personal account. Batra, who had considered running in the 2024 London mayoral elections, moved £105,690 over four days from Dylan Lettings Worldwide Limited after it was placed under an Official Receiver.

The jury found him guilty of fraud under the Insolvency Act. The Insolvency Service is seeking confiscation of the funds. Batra remains banned as a company director until March 2028. The company went into liquidation in 2017, leaving no assets for creditors.

Kartarpur Governing Council expedites flood-hit corridor restoration



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The Kartarpur Gurdwara Governing Council decided on Wednesday to accelerate repairs to flood-damaged areas of the corridor in Narowal, Pakistan. Chaired by Secretary of Religious Affairs Sajid Chauhan, the council approved urgent restoration and plans to reconvene within two weeks to monitor progress.

Chauhan highlighted the corridor as a symbol of humanitarian values and interfaith harmony. Punjab Minister for Minority Affairs Sardar Ramesh Singh Arora noted coordinated federal and provincial efforts to provide seamless services for Sikh pilgrims. Officials from ministries including Interior, Defence, and Finance participated. Kartarpur Sahib Gurdwara, four kilometers from India's Dera Baba Nanak shrine, is the final resting place of Guru Nanak Dev, who spent his last 18 years there.

Norway reiterates refusal to join Trump's Board of Peace

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Norway has rejected claims by US President Donald Trump that it would host an event for his newly launched Board of Peace. Speaking at the inaugural meeting of the US-based initiative, Trump said the United States would contribute \$10 billion and implied Norwegian participation. Ane Jorem, a spokesperson for Norway's foreign ministry, clarified that the country will not join the board, reaffirming its position. Norway plans instead to host a spring meeting of the Ad Hoc Liaison Committee, which coordinates aid to Palestinians. Several European nations, including France, Germany, and Britain, have also declined involvement in the controversial board, launched in Davos earlier this year.

Sheikh Hasina's son questions legality of Awami League ban



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Sajeeb Wazed, son of Bangladesh's former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, challenged the legality of an ordinance used to ban the Awami League. He said the interim government amended the Anti-Terrorism Act to grant itself authority to prohibit political parties and issued S.R.O. 137Ain/2025. Wazed cited Article 93(2) of the Constitution, noting the ordinance must be presented to Parliament within 30 days to remain valid. He warned that parliamentary endorsement could entrench the ban and normalize the use of anti-terrorism law against political parties. Conversely, allowing the ordinance to lapse would signal a return to a rights-compatible framework and restore space for pluralistic party competition.

Nepal's parties pledge stronger regional ties in pre-election foreign policy manifestos

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

As Nepal prepares for General Elections on March 5, the country's main parties unveiled foreign policy agendas emphasizing friendly relations with neighbors. The Nepali Congress reaffirmed non-involvement in defense conflicts and prioritizing equality and mutual benefit in international ties. CPN-UML reiterated its doctrine of "friendship with all, enmity with none." The Rastriya Swatantra Party, led by Prime Minister candidate Balen Shah, pledged dynamic diplomacy to position Nepal as a "vibrant bridge" between India and China, promoting trilateral economic partnerships and regional connectivity. The party highlighted opportunities to learn from India's development strategies and China's infrastructure expertise, aiming to strengthen Nepal's geopolitical posture and economic growth.

Netanyahu sets strict conditions for Iran deal and warns Gaza fighting could resume

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said on Sunday that any future agreement with Iran must require the removal of nuclear material, a complete halt to uranium enrichment and firm restrictions on ballistic missile development, signaling deep skepticism about Tehran's intentions.

Speaking at a public conference after meeting United States President Donald Trump in Washington, Netanyahu said Trump is determined to explore the possibility of reaching a deal with Iran. However, he stressed that Israel remains doubtful about whether a meaningful agreement can be secured.

Turning to Gaza, Netanyahu said Israel has dismantled about 150 kilometers of what it estimates to be a 500 kilometer



tunnel network used by Hamas. He said Israel is giving the current ceasefire a chance but would resume military operations if necessary to dismantle Hamas and prevent it from rebuilding weapons facilities.

According to Gaza health authorities, since the ceasefire took effect in October 2025, Israeli forces have killed 601 Palestinians and wounded 1,607 others.

France questions European Commission role at Trump's Board of Peace meeting

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

France expressed surprise on Thursday over the European Commission's participation in the inaugural Board of Peace in Washington, saying it lacked a mandate to represent EU member states. Paris has called for the Board to focus on Gaza in line with a United Nations Security Council resolution and said it would not participate until clarity is provided.

The U.S.-led meeting, chaired by President Donald Trump, brought

together representatives from over 45 nations, though most European governments sent lower-level officials or observers. Dubravka Šuica, the European Commission's commissioner for the Mediterranean, attended as an observer, citing support for Gaza's recovery and the ceasefire. Some EU diplomats criticized the Commission's decision, questioning its credibility and mandate, while the United Kingdom and Germany sent ambassadors. France opted not to send any representatives, emphasizing adherence to international law and coordinated multilateral action.



Hungary and US sign nuclear cooperation deal

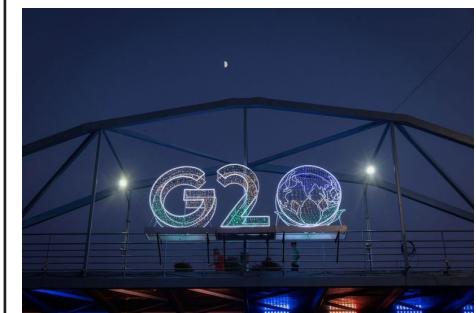
● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Hungary and the United States signed a civil nuclear energy cooperation agreement on Monday during US Secretary of State Marco Rubio's visit to Budapest. Prime Minister Viktor Orbán said the agreement, combined with a sanctions-related exemption, will strengthen Hungary's energy security and provide competitively priced energy for households and industry. Rubio confirmed Washington had lifted some sanctions, allowing progress in bilateral cooperation. Discussions also included possible joint projects between the Visegrad Four countries—Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, and Slovakia—and the United States. Slovak Prime Minister Robert Fico highlighted plans for a multinational



consortium to build a 1,200-megawatt nuclear unit by 2040. The deal follows talks between Orbán and US President Donald Trump last November.

US to host G20 finance meetings in North Carolina



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The United States announced it will host meetings of G20 finance officials in Asheville, North Carolina, in late August and early September. The meetings precede the G20 leaders' summit, which President Donald Trump will host at Trump National Doral in Miami on December 14–15. Treasury Department officials said the meetings will bring together finance ministers and central bank leaders to discuss global economic policies, financial stability, and coordination amid ongoing geopolitical tensions. These gatherings will serve as a platform for dialogue on international economic priorities and to strengthen partnerships among G20 member states before the year-end leaders' summit.

US sanctions Sudanese paramilitary commanders over mass killings in Darfur

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The United States imposed sanctions on three commanders of Sudan's paramilitary Rapid Support Forces over their role in mass killings and atrocities during the 18-month siege and capture of al-Fashir. The Treasury Department accused the RSF of conducting ethnic killings, torture, sexual violence, and starvation, while systematically destroying evidence of crimes. Over 100,000 civilians fled al-Fashir following the October 2025 takeover. Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent called for an immediate humanitarian ceasefire and condemned the ongoing campaign of terror. The sanctions target an RSF brigadier general, a major general, and a field commander, highlighting international efforts to hold perpetrators accountable for crimes in Darfur.

Mystery donor gives Osaka \$3.6 million in gold to upgrade aging water system

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Osaka city officials received 21 kilograms of gold, worth approximately \$3.6 million, from an anonymous donor to fund upgrades to the city's aging water infrastructure. Mayor Hideyuki Yokoyama praised the donation as "staggering" and "life-changing," noting that more than 20 percent of Japan's water pipes have exceeded their legal service life. The donation follows a previous cash contribution from the same donor. Osaka recorded over 90 water pipe leaks in the 2024 fiscal year, highlighting the urgency of repairs. The waterworks bureau said the gold will be used to replace corroded pipes, prevent sinkholes, and improve the city's water safety for nearly three million residents.

Over 1,000 Kenyans recruited to fight for Russia in Ukraine war



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Kenya's National Intelligence Service reported that more than 1,000 Kenyans have been recruited to fight for Russia, with 89 on front lines and at least one death. The report revealed rogue state officials allegedly colluding with human trafficking networks to send recruits through Nairobi, Turkey, UAE, and other routes. Recruits, mainly unemployed or former military and police personnel aged 20–50, receive minimal training before front-line deployment. Kenyan authorities are investigating recruitment agencies and embassy staff involvement while working to repatriate Kenyans. So far, 27 have returned home and received psychological care. The government is coordinating with Russia to prevent further illegal enlistments.

Mexican navy seizes submarine carrying four tons of cocaine

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The Mexican navy intercepted a submarine off the Pacific coast carrying up to four tons of cocaine on Thursday, arresting three individuals. Security Minister Omar Garcia Harfuch said the seizures this week, totaling nearly 10 tons, deal a multimillion-dollar blow to organized crime and prevent millions of doses from reaching streets. He noted the operation protects Mexican families and disrupts drug trafficking networks. The submarine interception highlights Mexico's intensified maritime operations against drug smuggling along the West Coast. Authorities continue investigating the incident to identify networks behind the shipment.

Brazil court restores access to Cargill port amid indigenous protests

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

A Brazilian federal court reinstated an order on Wednesday to reopen access to Cargill's Santarem river terminal in northern Brazil, blocked for several days by indigenous protesters. The demonstrations oppose plans to dredge the Tapajos river and expand grain exports, including soy and corn. The decision reverses a prior ruling that had temporarily blocked government action to remove protesters. Federal prosecutors are reviewing the court order. Cargill, a U.S.-based grain trader, welcomed the ruling, which allows trucks and shipments to resume operations, easing a disruption affecting regional exports.

Trump administration advances Saudi nuclear pact without traditional safeguards

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The Trump administration has informed Congress it is pursuing a civil nuclear agreement with Saudi Arabia that removes long-standing non-proliferation safeguards, according to a document reviewed by Reuters on Thursday.

The draft 123 Agreement would allow the kingdom to develop nuclear reactors for civilian purposes while placing U.S. industry at the core of the program. Critics warn that the pact opens the door for uranium enrichment and spent fuel reprocessing, potential pathways to weapons, and lacks the Additional Protocol granting the International Atomic Energy Agency broad oversight and snap inspections.

Arms control experts urge Congress to scrutinize the deal carefully. Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman has previously



stated the kingdom would pursue nuclear weapons if Iran did. The administration could formally submit the agreement to Congress as early as next week, after which it would take effect unless both chambers pass resolutions opposing it within 90 days.

Italy's Meloni accuses judiciary of obstruction ahead of crucial justice referendum

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni accused courts of undermining her anti-illegal migration efforts, intensifying tensions ahead of a March referendum on judicial reform. Controversial rulings, including compensation for migrants and a charity, prompted Meloni to claim a "politicized" judiciary obstructs government initiatives. Reform plans propose separating judges' and prosecutors' career paths to ensure impartiality. Critics, including magistrates and opposition parties, argue the changes threaten judicial independence. Polls suggest the referendum is too close to call, with turnout likely decisive. Deputy Prime Minister Matteo Salvini urged voters



to support the reforms, framing them as necessary to restore functionality and effectiveness to Italy's justice system.

France invites Brazil's Lula to join G7 summit discussions on global security

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

French President Emmanuel Macron has invited Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva to attend the G7 summit in June, the Brazilian government announced. The leaders met on the sidelines of India's AI summit in New Delhi, discussing global issues including peace, security, and international cooperation. The statement did not confirm Lula's acceptance. The invitation reflects France and Brazil's efforts to strengthen bilateral ties and enhance coordination on economic, technological, and environmental challenges ahead of the high-



level summit. The G7 gathering will bring together leaders from major industrialized nations to address pressing global economic and political issues.

Venezuelan legislature passes limited amnesty bill amid criticism

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Venezuela's ruling-party-controlled legislature approved a limited amnesty bill on Thursday, allowing clemency for select individuals jailed for political protests, though human rights groups say it does not benefit hundreds of political prisoners. Interim President Delcy Rodriguez, following U.S. pressure on

oil relations, signed the law, which excludes those convicted of serious crimes, military rebellion in 2019, and human rights violations. Tribunals must decide amnesty requests within 15 days. Critics warn the law leaves gaps for many activists and does not restore assets or revoke political bans, though it removes international arrest warrants for those eligible. Public protests and hunger strikes continue demanding broader releases.

US-backed Gaza committee sees 2,000 applicants for new police force

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The U.S.-supported National Committee for the Administration of Gaza opened applications for a new police force on Thursday, aiming to stabilize the enclave following the conflict with Hamas. Applicants must be Gaza residents aged 18–35, in good physical condition, and have no criminal record. Within hours, 2,000 Palestinians had applied. The recruitment is part of a broader U.S.-backed plan, announced by President Donald Trump at the Board of Peace meeting, to reconstruct Gaza and establish a U.N.-authorized stabilization force. Hamas retains partial control of Gaza, and its future role in policing remains a contentious issue, with Israel rejecting any Hamas participation in governance.

Alberta to hold referendum on provincial immigration control



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Alberta Premier Danielle Smith announced on Thursday that the province will hold a referendum this fall on limiting international students, temporary workers, and asylum seekers. The move seeks to transfer control of immigration from the federal government to the oil-rich province, citing strains on classrooms, hospitals, and social services due to rapid population growth. Alberta's population surpassed five million in 2025, adding over 600,000 people in five years. The referendum comes amid fiscal challenges caused by lower resource royalties and broader debates over Canadian unity, as the federal government under Prime Minister Mark Carney works to maintain ties with western provinces.

Afghan journalists in Pakistan and Iran face worsening conditions

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The Afghanistan Media Support Organisation has warned that Afghan journalists in Pakistan and Iran face worsening conditions while waiting for humanitarian visas. Many fled Afghanistan due to security threats, but prolonged delays and unclear visa timelines are harming their physical and psychological well-being. Five journalists were recently detained in Pakistan but have since been released. AMSO urged Brazilian authorities and other diplomatic missions to expedite processing and provide clear relocation updates. Afghan journalists and their families remain vulnerable in host countries, with uncertain legal status and livelihoods. International rights groups emphasize swift relocation as crucial to protecting journalists from ongoing security risks and deportation threats.

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India responds after old Trump remark about Modi resurfaces online

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

India's Ministry of External Affairs said on Thursday it would take "appropriate action" after an old video resurfaced showing United States President Donald Trump joking about Prime Minister Narendra Modi's political career. The remark was made in October last year during trade tensions linked to tariffs and India's Russian oil purchases. In the clip, Trump praised Modi before joking that he did not want to "destroy his political career." Officials indicated the comment was made in jest. Bilateral ties have since improved, with tariffs reduced last week under a new trade understanding.

Nationwide strike disrupts transport and banking in several Indian states



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

A nationwide strike called by central trade unions disrupted transport, banking and industrial services across several states last week. Organizers claimed millions of workers participated in protests against federal labor reforms and economic policies.

Demonsations and road blockades were reported in Odisha, Kerala, Jharkhand and West Bengal. Protesters are demanding repeal of new labor codes and withdrawal of proposed legislation affecting electricity and rural employment. Banking operations were partially affected in some regions, while essential services in others continued with limited disruption.

117 of 151 Punjab blocks declared dark zones amid groundwater depletion, says finance minister

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Punjab Finance Minister Harpal Cheema said on Friday that 117 of the state's 151 blocks have been classified as dark zones due to severe groundwater depletion caused by over extraction. He made the remarks while unveiling the State Focus Paper for 2026 to 2027 prepared by National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development at a State Credit Seminar in Mohali near Chandigarh.

Cheema said the paper projects a total priority sector credit potential of Rs 3,08,66,614 lakh, covering agriculture, farm infrastructure, allied activities, micro, small and medium enterprises, exports, education, housing, renewable energy, and social infrastructure. He noted Punjab's historic role in ensuring national food security but acknowledged the environmental cost. The minister said the government led by Bhagwant Mann is promoting canal irrigation, building field channels known as khalas, and encouraging crop diversification to restore groundwater levels and support sustainable growth.

Goyal calls Rahul Gandhi a habitual liar amid row over India United States trade deal

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Union Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal on Friday launched a sharp attack on Leader of the Opposition Rahul Gandhi, accusing him of spreading falsehoods about the proposed India United States interim trade deal and misleading farmers. In a post on X and subsequent remarks, Goyal described Gandhi as a "habitual liar" with "no concern for India," alleging that his criticism was aimed at provoking the farming community.

Gandhi had earlier released a video message accusing Prime Minister Narendra Modi of being anti farmer and claiming the trade arrangement would favor American agribusinesses while hurting Indian agriculture and dairy producers.

Rejecting those claims, Goyal said key crops including wheat, rice, millets, soybean, corn, spices and potatoes have been fully protected.



He added that India has not opened its dairy or poultry sectors under the agreement. The minister said the deal would create new export opportunities for basmati rice, fruits, tea, spices, marine products and cotton textiles, boosting farmer incomes while safeguarding national interests.

Election commission flags irregular birth records during voter roll verification in West Bengal

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

India's Election Commission has raised concerns over suspected false information submitted during the ongoing Special Intensive Revision of voter rolls, with verification hearings set to conclude by Friday. Officials in West Bengal reported several discrepancies, including missing dates of birth and questionable birth certificates.

In one case from the Baranagar Assembly constituency, a voter listed a birth date of March 6, 1993, but submitted a certificate registered on March 4, 1993, two days before the recorded birth. In another case from Memari in Purba Bardhaman district, a voter entered an incomplete birth date as "xx/xx/1987."

The Commission has directed



Electoral Registration Officers to initiate legal action under Section 31 of the Representation of the People Act, warning that submitting false information may invite prosecution.

Air India begins final compensation payouts for families of AI 171 crash victims

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Air India has initiated the final compensation process for families affected by the AI 171 crash that occurred on Thursday, June 12, 2025, killing 260 people, including 241 passengers. The airline had previously disbursed interim payments of 2.5 million rupees to most families by the end of December.

In a statement issued on Thursday, Air India said final compensation amounts would vary depending on individual circumstances and are being calculated in accordance with applicable legal frameworks. The airline also noted that an ex gratia payment of 10 million rupees from the AI 171 Memorial and Welfare Trust is underway.

Families accepting final settlements must confirm they will not pursue further claims. The Aircraft Accident Investigation



Bureau continues to investigate the cause of the crash.

Meerut to gain rapid rail link cutting Delhi travel time to 55 minutes

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Meerut will become Uttar Pradesh's seventh metro connected city on Saturday with the opening of the Meerut South to Modipuram section of the Delhi Meerut rapid rail corridor. The extension completes the city's portion of the 82 kilometer route. Once fully operational, travel time between Delhi and Meerut is expected to be about 55 minutes. The corridor has been opened in phases since October 2023. Officials have directed agencies to ensure security, traffic management and passenger facilities ahead of the launch.

Centre cuts toll charges on partially open expressways

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The central government has amended toll rules to ensure commuters do not pay full expressway charges when projects are incomplete. Under the revised National Highways Fee Rules, toll on partially operational National Expressways will be collected only for completed stretches at rates applicable to National Highways.

The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways said the change takes effect on Saturday and will remain valid for up to one year or until the expressway becomes fully operational. Previously, users were often charged for the entire length despite sections being under construction. Expressway tolls are generally 25 percent higher than highway rates. The move aims to ease commuter costs, reduce congestion on parallel highways, and improve freight movement.

Over 2,800 vacancies reported across IAS, IPS and IFS cadres



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

More than 2,800 posts remain vacant across India's top civil services, the government informed Parliament this week. In a written reply in the Rajya Sabha on Thursday, Minister of State for Personnel Jitendra Singh said the Indian Administrative Service has 1,401 vacancies out of a sanctioned strength of 6,858.

The Indian Police Service has 884 unfilled posts against 4,984 sanctioned positions, while the Indian Forest Service has 549 vacancies out of 3,193 posts.

The AGMUT cadre, covering Arunachal Pradesh, Goa, Mizoram and Union Territories including Delhi, reported the highest shortfall at 267 posts, followed by Uttar Pradesh with 215 vacancies. The government said annual recruitment continues through the Civil Services Examination.

Uttar Pradesh moves to remove leprosy linked term from civic laws

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The Uttar Pradesh government introduced two amendment bills in the Assembly on Monday to remove the term "Kushthashram" from municipal laws, aiming to eliminate discrimination against persons affected by leprosy.

The proposed changes to the Uttar Pradesh Municipal Corporation Act and the Uttar Pradesh Municipalities Act, 1916, follow Supreme Court directions issued on Tuesday, May 7 last year.

The court had asked states to identify and remove derogatory provisions targeting people cured of or affected by leprosy. An ordinance promulgated on Sunday, February 2, has already brought the change into effect. The bills seek to replace that ordinance and are expected to be taken up for passage during the session.

Delhi Police detain Youth Congress members after protest inside AI summit venue

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Delhi Police said they are taking legal action after members of the Indian Youth Congress staged a protest inside Bharat Mandapam during the India AI Impact Summit on Friday. Protesters raised slogans against Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the central government over unemployment, inflation, and the India United States trade deal.

Some removed their shirts, shouted slogans, and posed for photographs before being detained. They were taken to Tilak Marg Police Station. Additional Deputy Commissioner of Police Anand Mishra did not explain how security was breached. Youth Congress president Uday Bhanu Chib defended the protest as peaceful, while Uttar Pradesh minister Kapil Aggarwal condemned it.

Sabarimala temple tantris alleges political vendetta after bail in gold theft case



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Kantanar Rajeevar, tantris of the Sabarimala temple, was granted bail on Thursday by a vigilance court in Kollam after spending 41 days in custody in a gold theft case. In his bail plea, he accused the Pinarayi Vijayan government of orchestrating his arrest as political revenge linked to his opposition to the entry of women of menstruating age during the 2018 temple controversy. The court found no prima facie evidence directly linking him to the alleged theft or to the prime accused, Unnikrishnan Potti. It noted that his role was limited to rituals and that prosecution evidence was insufficient at this stage.

Galgotias University vacates AI summit stall after robot misrepresentation row

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Galgotias University vacated its pavilion at the India AI Impact Expo in New Delhi on Wednesday after controversy erupted over a robot dog displayed at its stall. A university representative had suggested the quadruped robot was developed by its Centre of Excellence. Social media users later identified the device as



Andhra Pradesh High Court cautions against routine look out circulars in dowry cases

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The Andhra Pradesh High Court has warned investigating agencies against mechanically issuing Look Out Circulars in matrimonial cruelty cases. On Tuesday, a bench set aside an LOC issued against a man arrested at Visakhapatnam airport after arriving from Dubai for court proceedings. The case relates to allegations under Section 85 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita and provisions of the Dowry Prohibition Act. The petitioner argued he had been cooperating with the investigation and that the LOC prevented him from returning to his job abroad despite being

the commercially available Unitree Go2 manufactured by China based Unitree Robotics. The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology said only genuine work should be showcased. IndiaAI Mission officials stated that misrepresentation violated exhibition terms. The university apologized, saying incorrect information was shared without authorization and that there was no intent to mislead. Power to the stall was cut before the premises were cleared.



granted bail. The court observed that such circulars restrict personal liberty and should be reserved for grave offenses, noting that routine issuance can cause irreparable professional harm.

Maharashtra orders probe after 75 minority school files cleared in a day

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

A political controversy has erupted in Maharashtra after 75 files related to minority schools were reportedly cleared on Tuesday, the same day news broke of senior leader Ajit Pawar's plane incident. Opposition leaders questioned how so many proposals, including recognition approvals, were processed

within hours during a day dominated by administrative attention on the aviation episode. Deputy Secretary Milind Shenoy has been transferred, and the government has initiated an inquiry into whether due procedure and scrutiny were followed. Officials are examining whether the approvals were pre planned or processed abruptly. The outcome of the investigation is expected to determine if any irregularities occurred.



Five arrested after Mumbai Metro slab collapse kills one in Mulund

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Five people have been arrested after a slab from the under construction Metro Line 4 collapsed in Mulund on Saturday afternoon, killing one person and injuring three others. The slab fell on an auto rickshaw and a car along LBS Marg. The Maharashtra government suspended an executive engineer and imposed penalties totaling \$720,000 on contractors Milan Road Buildtech and Louis Berger. Compensation of about \$18,000 has been announced for the victim's family.

Deputy Chief Minister Eknath Shinde ordered a comprehensive safety audit of the Metro stretch. Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis said a thorough investigation is underway, while opposition leaders criticized alleged safety lapses.

Intelligence agencies warn of alleged infiltration attempts ahead of West Bengal elections

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Indian intelligence agencies are monitoring activity in Satkhira and Chuadanga in Bangladesh amid inputs about alleged efforts to send illegal immigrants into West Bengal ahead of state elections. Officials claim Pakistan's Inter Services Intelligence is encouraging Jamaat e Islami to facilitate small batch infiltrations, reportedly involving Rohingya refugees from Cox's Bazar. Groups such as the Rohingya Solidarity Organisation and Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army are also under watch. Agencies allege the aim is to gradually alter local demographics. They have also flagged possible threats from Harkat ul Jihad Islami and Jamaat ul Mujahideen Bangladesh. No independent confirmation of these claims has been publicly released.

Security forces defuse two Maoist explosive devices during patrol in Bijapur



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Security forces recovered and neutralized two improvised explosive devices on the Ilmudi Mujalkander road in Chhattisgarh's Bijapur district on Wednesday. The joint team included personnel from Ilmudi Police Station, the Central Industrial Security Force, and the Bomb Disposal Squad. Officials said the two devices, each weighing about 10 kilograms, were planted in series to trigger sequential blasts targeting security convoys or civilians. The explosives were detected during an area domination and demining patrol and safely destroyed on site. No injuries or damage were reported.

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FDA to review Moderna's mRNA flu vaccine after dispute



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration will review a new influenza vaccine from Moderna after resolving a dispute that had stalled the application. The agency had issued a rare refusal to file letter questioning aspects of a 40,000 person trial comparing the shot to standard flu vaccines. Moderna now seeks full approval for adults aged 50 to 64 and accelerated approval for those 65 and older, subject to a follow up study. A decision is targeted for August 5. The vaccine uses messenger RNA technology and has also been submitted for approval in Europe, Canada and Australia.

Reese's heir criticizes Hershey over ingredient changes

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The grandson of H. B. Reese has criticized The Hershey Company, alleging some newer Reese's products use compound coatings and peanut butter crème instead of traditional milk chocolate and peanut butter. Brad Reese said the changes dilute the brand's legacy and quality standards. Hershey responded that classic Reese's Peanut Butter Cups remain unchanged, while recipe variations apply only to certain seasonal or innovative formats. The company cited high cocoa prices and evolving consumer preferences, and said European labeling differences reflect regulatory rules rather than formula changes.

Waymo defends use of remote assistance in robotaxi operations

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Self driving unit Waymo said on Tuesday that remote assistance workers do not directly control its robotaxis after lawmakers raised safety concerns. In a letter to Senator Ed Markey, the company said remote staff provide advice when vehicles encounter complex situations, but the automated system remains in control. Waymo operates remote assistance centers in Arizona, Michigan, and the Philippines, with about 70 agents on duty at a time. The company said only a United States based event response team could move a stopped vehicle, and that has not occurred outside training.

Asian stocks climb on technology rally as oil rises and rate concerns persist

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Asian equities advanced on Thursday, lifted by gains in United States technology shares, while rising tensions between the United States and Iran supported oil prices and kept demand for gold firm. Trading volumes were lighter with markets in Hong Kong, China, and Taiwan closed for the Lunar New Year holiday.

The broad Asia Pacific index outside Japan rose 0.4 percent and Japan's Nikkei gained 0.7 percent. South Korea's Kospi surged more than 3 percent to a record high. The rally followed news on Tuesday that Nvidia signed a multiyear agreement to supply artificial intelligence chips to Meta Platforms.

Oil prices extended Wednesday's sharp gains on fears of supply disruptions tied to a possible United States strike on Iran. Meanwhile, minutes from the Federal Reserve showed policymakers are in no



hurry to cut interest rates, keeping the dollar firm against major currencies.

Warner reopens talks with Paramount after Netflix waiver

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Warner Bros. Discovery has reopened takeover discussions with Paramount Global for seven days after securing a waiver from Netflix, allowing it to address deficiencies in Paramount's latest bid.

Warner's board continues to support its proposed \$72 billion cash sale of its studio and streaming assets to Netflix, valuing the deal at about \$83 billion including debt, or \$27.75 per share.

Paramount has launched a hostile \$77.9 billion all cash bid for the entire company, valuing it at roughly \$108 billion including debt, and signaled it could raise its offer to \$31 per share.

A shareholder vote on the Netflix transaction is scheduled for March 20,



setting up a high stakes showdown over the company's future ownership and strategy.

eBay to acquire Depop from Etsy for \$1.2 billion in cash

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Bay has agreed to acquire fashion resale marketplace Depop from Etsy for about \$1.2 billion in cash, expanding its footprint among younger shoppers.

Depop, founded in 2011, counts 7 million active buyers, nearly 90 percent under 34, and over 3 million active sellers. Etsy bought the platform five years ago for \$1.6 billion but is now divesting to sharpen focus on its core marketplace.

The deal, approved by both boards, is expected to close in the second quarter. Etsy said proceeds will support share repurchases and corporate initiatives, while eBay aims to strengthen its position in the fast growing secondhand apparel segment.



Sitharaman promotes India as FDI destination during Norway visit



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Irmala Sitharaman pitched India as an attractive investment destination during meetings with Norwegian business leaders in Oslo. She highlighted reforms in the Union Budget 2026 aimed at easing regulations and strengthening India's growth trajectory. The roundtable, organized by the Confederation of Indian Industry and the Indian Embassy, focused on fisheries, maritime, health technology and renewable energy. Norwegian Prime Minister Jonas Gahr Store expressed support for deeper economic ties and upcoming high level visits between the two countries.

Meta revives smartwatch plan, targets 2026 debut



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Meta Platforms is reviving its smartwatch efforts and aims to debut a device in 2026, The Information reported. The restarted "Malibu 2" project is expected to include health tracking features and a built in Meta AI assistant.

Meta had explored smartwatches about five years ago, including camera equipped prototypes, before shelving the initiative in 2022 during cost cutting at its Reality Labs division. The renewed push comes amid growing interest in AI driven wearables, including smart glasses developed with EssilorLuxottica. Meta declined to comment.

Vietnam's Sun PhuQuoc Airways signs \$22.5 billion Boeing deal

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Vietnam's Sun PhuQuoc Airways has signed a \$22.5 billion agreement with Boeing to buy 40 787-9 Dreamliner aircraft, the carrier said. The jets will support plans to launch long haul services, including potential direct flights between Vietnam and the United States. The 787-9, part of Boeing's fuel efficient Dreamliner family, is designed for extended range operations. The order marks a major fleet expansion for the airline as it positions itself for intercontinental growth and rising international travel demand.

Apollo says new Epstein files show 'nothing new'



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Apollo Global Management said newly released files linked to Jeffrey Epstein contain "nothing new" regarding its leadership. President James Zelter cited a 2020 internal probe that found no evidence of involvement in Epstein's criminal conduct by CEO Marc Rowan or other executives. The review examined payments made by co-founder Leon Black for personal financial advice. Teachers' unions have asked the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission to review prior disclosures.

JPMorgan in talks to provide banking services to Gaza Board of Peace



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

JPMorgan Chase is in discussions to provide core banking services to the Gaza Board of Peace, including processing payments as the body prepares to manage billions of dollars in pledged aid. The board was created after a United States brokered ceasefire ended two years of war between Israel and Hamas and is backed by a United Nations Security Council resolution. Chaired by President Donald Trump, the 26 member group has secured more than 5 billion dollars in pledges. The World Bank Group estimates Gaza reconstruction will cost 53.2 billion dollars. Talks were reported on Wednesday.

Indonesia, U.S. firms sign over \$7 billion in trade deals



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Indonesian and U.S. companies have signed agreements worth more than \$7 billion ahead of a planned trade pact between the two governments, the U.S.-ASEAN Business Council said. The deals include Indonesian purchases of U.S. soybeans, corn, cotton and wheat, as well as semiconductor joint ventures. Agreements were also signed between Freeport-McMoRan and Indonesia's investment ministry, and between Pertamina and Halliburton, aimed at boosting energy and minerals cooperation.

Thomas Pritzker steps down from Hyatt board after Epstein revelations

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Thomas Pritzker said on Monday that he will step down as executive chairman of Hyatt Hotels Corporation following the release of documents detailing his past association with Jeffrey Epstein. In a statement, Pritzker said he deeply regretted maintaining contact with Epstein and with Ghislaine Maxwell and acknowledged exercising poor judgment.

Recently released Justice Department records include emails showing continued interaction after Epstein pleaded guilty in 2008 to soliciting prostitution from a minor. Pritzker, 75, had served as executive chairman for more than two decades.

His resignation is effective immediately,



and Chief Executive Officer Mark Hoplamazian will assume the role of chairman. Hyatt operates more than 1,500 properties across more than 80 countries.

Malaysia and Japan advance cross border carbon storage plan despite criticism



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Japan plans to ship captured carbon emissions to Malaysia under a proposed cross border carbon capture and storage project in Southeast Asia. The process would capture emissions from Japanese industries, liquefy the carbon dioxide and transport it to depleted gas fields off Sarawak for underground storage. Malaysia, where about 81 percent of electricity comes from fossil fuels, aims to become a regional hub for the technology. Critics question its climate benefits, while the International Energy Agency says carbon capture could deliver less than 5 percent of emission cuts by 2050. The plan was detailed on Tuesday.

European Union opens formal investigation into Shein under digital rules

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The European Commission said on Tuesday it opened formal proceedings against Shein under the Digital Services Act. Regulators will examine whether the online fashion retailer has done enough to prevent the sale of illegal products and to address concerns about allegedly addictive design

features. The investigation will review Shein's systems for limiting illegal content, including items that could constitute child sexual abuse material, as well as the transparency of its recommender systems. The Commission said it has not reached any findings and did not provide a timeline. If found noncompliant, Shein could face significant penalties or be required to change its practices.



Anil Ambani files affidavit pledging not to leave India in RCOM probe

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Industrialist Anil Ambani has filed an affidavit in the Supreme Court of India undertaking not to leave the country without prior approval amid probes linked to Reliance Communications. The assurance formalizes a statement made earlier this week during hearings on a public interest petition alleging large scale loan fraud and diversion of funds.

The petition claims more than Rs 1.50 lakh crore, about \$18 billion, of RCOM group debt was written off. The court has asked the Enforcement Directorate and the Central Bureau of Investigation to submit status reports as investigations continue.



Judge allows United States antitrust case against Live Nation to proceed



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Afederal judge on Wednesday rejected a bid by Live Nation Entertainment to dismiss a lawsuit accusing it of monopolizing the live concert industry. Judge Arun Subramanian said there is a genuine dispute over whether the company used monopoly power to limit competition, clearing the way for a potential trial in Manhattan federal court. The case, filed in May by the United States Department of Justice, 39 states and Washington, District of Columbia, challenges Live Nation's 2010 acquisition of Ticketmaster. Shares fell in after hours trading following Wednesday's ruling.

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Alysa Liu ends American gold drought with figure skating triumph



Alysa Liu won the Olympic gold medal in women's figure skating on Thursday in Milan, ending a 20 year drought for American women in the event. Liu delivered a season best free skate score of 150.20 for a total of 226.79 to secure victory at the Milano Cortina Games.

Japan's Kaori Sakamoto earned silver with 224.90, and teammate Ami Nakai took bronze with 219.16. Liu, who retired in 2022 before returning to competition, previously won gold in the team event earlier in the Games. She became the first American woman to win Olympic gold in figure skating since 2002 and the first to medal since 2006.

Canada advances to Olympic men's curling final after semifinal drama



Canada defeated Norway 5 to 4 on Thursday night in Cortina d'Ampezzo to reach the Olympic men's curling gold medal match. The semifinal went to an extra end after Norway tied the score in the tenth with the hammer. Norway missed its final shot in the extra end, sending Canada to Saturday's final against Britain.

Britain advanced earlier Thursday with an 8 to 5 victory over Switzerland, handing the previously unbeaten Swiss their first loss of the tournament. Norway will play Switzerland for bronze on Friday. Canada is seeking its first Olympic gold medal in men's curling since the 2014 Sochi Games.

ITF executive highlights team events as catalyst for tennis growth in India

International Tennis Federation executive director Andrew Moss said on Tuesday in Bengaluru that hosting more international team events will be key to accelerating tennis development in India. Speaking during the Women's Open W100 tournament, Moss met officials from the All India Tennis Association and the Karnataka State Lawn Tennis Association to discuss expanding the International Tennis Federation World Tennis Tour calendar in the region.

He praised the SM Krishna Tennis Stadium for its facilities and player feedback. Moss noted that the global tour stages nearly 1,200 tournaments across 75 countries annually, providing



a pathway from junior competition to the professional circuit. He also pointed to the recent Davis Cup Qualifiers in Bengaluru, saying national team events inspire exceptional performances and help build sustained public interest in emerging tennis nations.

UEFA opens investigation into alleged racial abuse of Vinicius Junior

European soccer governing body UEFA confirmed on Tuesday that it has launched an investigation into alleged racial abuse directed at Real Madrid forward Vinicius Junior during Monday's Champions League playoff match against Benfica. The incident occurred after Vinicius received a yellow card for celebrating his goal in Real Madrid's 1-0 victory.

He reported that Benfica player Gianluca Prestianni made an offensive remark, prompting referee Francois Letexier to halt the match for about ten minutes under anti racism protocol. UEFA said official reports are under review and disciplinary action will



follow if misconduct is established. After the match, Vinicius criticized racism on social media, calling perpetrators cowards. The result strengthened Real Madrid's position in the playoff tie.

Real Madrid defend La Liga lead as Barcelona seek defensive reset

Real Madrid enter Saturday's trip to Osasuna at El Sadar Stadium holding the La Liga lead after overtaking Barcelona last weekend. Madrid are coming off a Tuesday Champions League win at Benfica and may rotate their squad against an Osasuna side unbeaten in five matches.

Barcelona host Levante on Sunday looking to recover from a Copa del Rey loss to Atletico Madrid and a league defeat at Girona on Monday. Levante sit seven points from safety after three straight losses. Atletico Madrid



host Espanyol on Sunday following a Wednesday Champions League draw with Club Brugge. The round concludes Monday when Alaves host Girona.

NCAA delays discussion of March Madness expansion until after tournaments



The National Collegiate Athletic Association will not discuss expanding the men's and women's basketball tournaments until after this year's March Madness concludes, senior vice president Dan Gavitt said Thursday in Indianapolis.

There has been speculation that the field could grow from 68 teams to 72 or 76 beginning in 2027. The tournament last expanded in 2011, introducing the First Four round. NCAA President Charlie Baker has expressed support for expansion, noting potential financial benefits through the current television agreement with CBS and Warner Bros. Discovery, which runs through 2032. Women's teams recently began receiving financial units for tournament participation, with additional incentives approved in January.

New union head rejects salary cap as Major League Baseball labor talks approach

Newly appointed Major League Baseball Players Association executive director Bruce Meyer dismissed the possibility of agreeing to a salary cap on Thursday in Phoenix, signaling a potential labor battle before the current contract expires on December 1.

Meyer defended free agency and salary arbitration, calling them essential to rewarding player performance. Major League Baseball is expected to propose a salary cap during negotiations. Players previously struck in 1994 and 1995 to oppose a similar proposal. Meyer was promoted Wednesday following the resignation of Tony Clark. He said the union will review internal policies but remains focused on collective bargaining as talks with the league continue.

Lauren Down retires after 15 year career with New Zealand

New Zealand batter Lauren Down announced her retirement on Wednesday, ending a 15 year career at age 30. She played 35 one day internationals and 13 Twenty20 internationals after debuting in 2018. Down represented Auckland 202 times and was among the Hearts' leading run scorers in both formats. She helped win five Hallyburton Johnstone Shield titles and scored 90 in the 2020 final. Down missed the 2022 World Cup with injury but returned for later tours before her final appearance against Australia last summer.



Radha Yadav's all-around brilliance sends India A into Rising Stars final



Captain Radha Yadav produced a commanding all-around display on Friday to guide India A to a five wicket victory over Sri Lanka A in the first semifinal of the Asian Cricket Council Women's Asia Cup Rising Stars tournament in Bangkok. Playing at the Terdthai Cricket Ground, India secured a place in Sunday's final with a clinical performance. After Sri Lanka chose to bat, Radha led the bowling attack with outstanding figures of four wickets for 19 runs as the opposition were dismissed for 118 in 19.4 overs. Prema Rawat and Tanuja Kanwer supported her with two wickets each. Sanjana Kavindi top scored with 31. In reply, Vrinda Dinesh smashed 42 off 20 balls, while Radha remained unbeaten on 31 to steer India to 119 for five in just 13.3 overs. India will now face the winner of the second semifinal between Pakistan and Bangladesh on Sunday.

Zadran and Nabi power Afghanistan to dominant win over Canada

Afghanistan closed their Twenty20 World Cup campaign with an emphatic 82 run victory over Canada on Thursday at the MA Chidambaram Stadium in Chennai. Despite missing out on the Super Eight stage, Afghanistan signed off in style in their final Group D match. Batting first, Afghanistan posted 200 for four, anchored by Ibrahim Zadran's unbeaten 95 off 56 balls, which included seven fours and five sixes. Sediqullah Atal contributed 44 in a 95 run partnership for the third wicket. Afghanistan added 69 runs in the final five overs.

Canada's chase faltered early despite a brisk start. Mohammad Nabi delivered a match winning spell of four wickets for seven runs, while Rashid Khan claimed two for 19. Canada finished on 118 for eight, with Harsh Thaker scoring 30 and Saad bin Zafar adding 28. The result gave Afghanistan a convincing end to their campaign.

Beverly Hills apologizes to Jaylen Brown over event shutdown claims

The City of Beverly Hills apologized on Thursday to Jaylen Brown for incorrectly stating that his All Star weekend event lacked a permit. The city clarified that no permit application had been submitted or denied and that the residence involved had no prior violations. Brown's company disputed earlier claims that a code violation led to the shutdown, saying no documentation was provided to support that assertion. City officials said they regret the confusion and are reviewing internal communication procedures.

Pakistan Cricket Board warns Shadab Khan over remarks about former players

The Pakistan Cricket Board has formally warned all rounder Shadab Khan over comments criticizing former players during the ongoing World Cup. Shadab made the remarks on Wednesday after scoring 36 off 22 balls and taking three wickets for 13 runs in Pakistan's 102 run win over Namibia in Colombo.

Team management conveyed that players must avoid disrespectful language toward former cricketers. Former players, including Saqlain Mushtaq and Kamran Akmal, publicly criticized Shadab's statements. Pakistan will face New Zealand on Saturday in their first Super Eight match in Colombo, followed by games against England on Sunday and Sri Lanka the following Thursday in Pallekele.



United States win Olympic women's hockey gold in overtime thriller over Canada

The United States captured the Olympic women's ice hockey gold medal on Thursday in Milan, defeating defending champion Canada 2 to 1 in overtime at the Milano Cortina Games. Megan Keller scored the game winner in three on three sudden death play after captain Hilary Knight tied the game late in regulation.

Canada had led through a short handed goal before the Americans pulled their goalie for an extra skater. Goaltender Aerin Frankel made 30 saves in the victory. It marked the third Olympic gold medal for the United States women and their eighth straight



win over Canada, renewing one of the sport's fiercest rivalries.

Brazil and Egypt to meet in World Cup warmup friendly in Cleveland

Brazil will face Egypt in an international friendly on Friday in Cleveland, five days before the 2026 FIFA World Cup begins across the United States, Mexico, and Canada. The match will be played at Huntington Bank Field as both teams finalize preparations. Brazil will also host Panama the previous Saturday at Maracana Stadium in its final home tuneup. The five time world champion opens Group C play against Morocco on Friday, followed by Haiti on Thursday and Scotland the next Tuesday. Egypt begins Group G action against Belgium on Sunday, then faces New Zealand on Saturday and Iran the following



Thursday. Brazil has won all six previous meetings against Egypt.

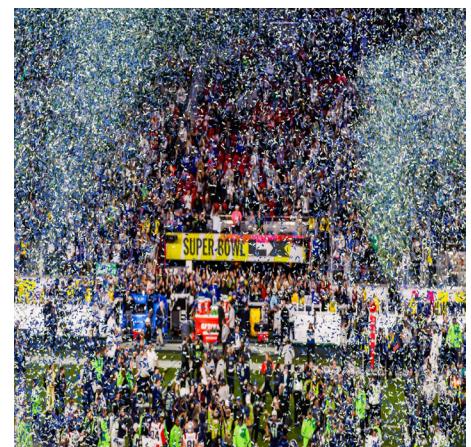
Florida Senate advances bill allowing coaches to fund player support



The Florida Senate passed the proposed "Teddy Bridgewater Act" on Wednesday, allowing high school coaches to spend up to 15,000 dollars of their own money on food, transportation, and recovery services for student athletes. The bill now moves to the Florida House and would require Governor Ron DeSantis' signature to become law.

Bridgewater, a Tampa Bay Buccaneers quarterback, was suspended and later resigned from coaching Miami Northwestern after seeking financial help for team expenses. He had led the school to a state title in 2024 before returning to the National Football League in 2025.

Super Bowl LX audience revised to 125.6 million viewers



Nielsen announced on Thursday that the final audience for Super Bowl LX between the New England Patriots and Seattle Seahawks increased to 125.6 million viewers. The revised total, up 700,000 from the initial estimate, includes viewership across NBC, Peacock, Telemundo, NBC Sports Digital, and NFL Plus. Nielsen said a data collection issue from a provider on Sunday affected the earlier count. Super Bowl LIX averaged 127.7 million viewers. Despite the slight decline from last year, Super Bowl LX remains the second most watched broadcast in United States television history.



Morikawa wins Pebble Beach as Bhatia finishes tied sixth

Collin Morikawa ended a 28 month title drought on Sunday by winning the AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am at 22 under par. He shot a final round 67 to secure a one shot victory over Sepp Straka and Min Woo Lee. Akshay Bhatia, who led after 54 holes, closed with a 72 to finish tied for sixth. World number one Scottie Scheffler surged with a 63 that included three eagles to tie for fourth, while Sahith Theegala finished tied for 60th. The victory marked Morikawa's first PGA Tour win since 2023.

Friday, 20 February 2026

Eric Dane, known for 'Grey's Anatomy' and 'Euphoria,' dies at 53 after ALS diagnosis



Actor Eric Dane died Thursday at age 53 from amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, also known as Lou Gehrig's disease, less than a year after announcing his diagnosis. Dane rose to prominence as Dr. Mark Sloan on the long running medical drama 'Grey's Anatomy,' appearing from 2006 to 2012 and briefly returning in 2021. He later portrayed Cal Jacobs on HBO's 'Euphoria' and starred as Tom Chandler in the TNT series 'The Last Ship.' His film credits included 'Transformers' and 'Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull.' In June, Dane spoke publicly in Washington to advocate for patients living with ALS. He is survived by his wife, Rebecca Gayheart, and their two daughters. His memoir, 'Book of Days,' is scheduled for release later this year.

Bad Bunny to lead cast in Residente's directorial debut 'PORTO RICO'



Puerto Rican artists Residente and Bad Bunny are joining forces for 'PORTO RICO,' an original historical drama announced Wednesday. The film marks Residente's feature directorial debut and will feature Bad Bunny in his first leading film role. Described as an epic Caribbean Western inspired by true events, the project aims to explore Puerto Rico's complex and often contested history. Residente co-wrote the screenplay with Academy Award winner Alexander Dinelaris, known for 'Birdman.' The cast includes Viggo Mortensen, Javier Bardem and Edward Norton, who will also serve as a producer. Alejandro G. Iñárritu is attached as an executive producer. No filming schedule or release date has been announced.

Crime branch probes \$1.2 million extortion threat to Ranveer Singh linked to Bishnoi gang

Mumbai police have launched a preliminary inquiry after Bollywood actor Ranveer Singh allegedly received an extortion threat demanding 10 crore rupees. A senior police official said Friday that a voice note was sent to Singh's manager from a United States based number via WhatsApp. Investigators from the Mumbai crime branch are coordinating with American authorities through official channels to trace the origin of the call.

During the initial probe, police

identified the voice in the message as that of Harry Boxer, described as a close aide of the Lawrence Bishnoi gang. The threat reportedly followed a recent firing incident outside filmmaker Rohit Shetty's residence. Singh's security has since been tightened, and his manager's statement has been recorded. No formal first information report has yet been registered.

On the professional front, Singh is preparing for the release of 'Dhurandhar: The Revenge,' scheduled to open Wednesday, March 19.



Political storm erupts over 'The Kerala Story 2' as parties clash over content

A political controversy intensified on Wednesday over the upcoming film 'The Kerala Story 2', with parties sharply divided over its message. Leaders from the Bharatiya Janata Party defended the film, calling it a reflection of reality and urging critics to respect freedom of expression if it has been cleared under existing laws. They argued that disagreements should be addressed through debate, not bans.

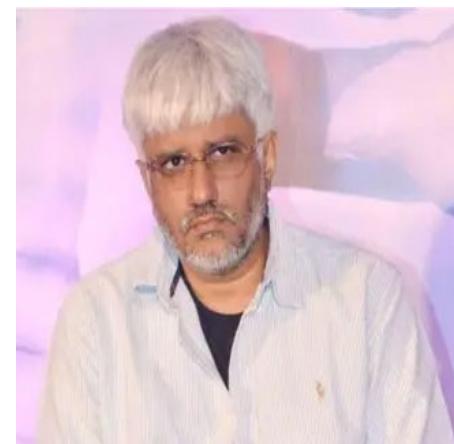
Leaders from the Peoples Democratic Party, Congress and Samajwadi Party criticized the film as divisive and warned it could deepen communal tensions. Some alleged it unfairly targets a community, while others said cinema should not promote hatred. The dispute follows strong reactions to the first installment, which was described by supporters as eye opening and by critics as inflammatory.



Supreme Court grants bail to Vikram Bhatt and wife in alleged \$3.6 million fraud case

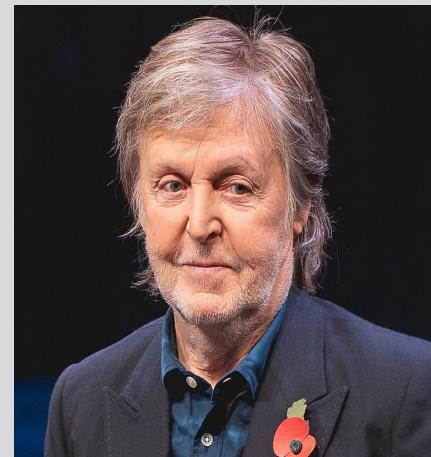
The Supreme Court on Thursday granted regular bail to filmmaker Vikram Bhatt and his wife in an alleged fraud case involving nearly \$3.6 million. The couple was arrested in December and brought to Udaipur after a complaint accused them of collecting funds to produce films, including 'Vishwa Virat' and 'Maharana-Ran', without fulfilling commitments.

The court observed that the dispute appeared to arise from a commercial transaction and set aside a Rajasthan High Court order denying bail. It directed both sides to explore an amicable settlement through mediation. Earlier, interim bail had been granted to Bhatt's wife. The



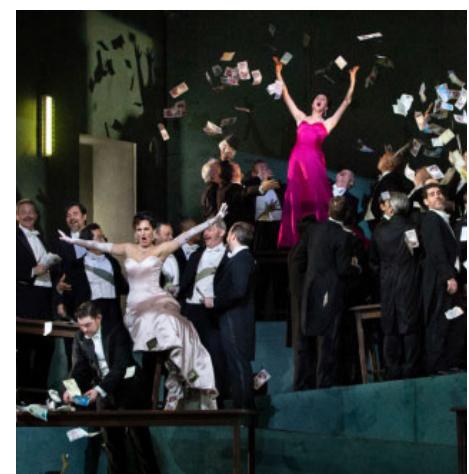
complaint alleged significant financial transfers, though only two films were completed. Investigations remain ongoing.

Rock and Roll Hall of Fame to open major 'Paul McCartney and Wings' exhibition



The Rock and Roll Hall of Fame announced Wednesday that it will open a major exhibition titled 'Paul McCartney and Wings' at its Cleveland museum beginning Thursday, May 15. The exhibit traces McCartney's career from his 1970 solo debut through the formation of Wings in 1971 and the band's breakup in 1981. Items from McCartney's personal archive will be displayed, including instruments, stage outfits, handwritten lyrics and rare photographs. It is billed as the first major museum exhibition devoted to Wings. McCartney has been inducted into the Hall twice, as a member of The Beatles and as a solo artist. The announcement comes amid renewed attention on his career, including the forthcoming documentary 'Man on the Run.'

Metropolitan Opera unveils scaled back 2026 to 2027 season with 17 productions



The Metropolitan Opera announced Thursday that its 2026 to 2027 season will include 17 productions, the fewest in at least 60 years outside pandemic disruptions. The season opens Tuesday, September 22, with a new staging of Verdi's 'Macbeth.' Among five new productions is the world premiere of Missy Mazzoli's 'Lincoln in the Bardo,' based on George Saunders' novel. Revivals of popular works including 'Tosca,' 'La Bohème' and 'Aida' will account for a significant portion of performances. Ticket sales have reached 72 percent this season, approaching pre-pandemic attendance levels, though average prices are lower. General manager Peter Gelb described the streamlined schedule as a financial and strategic adjustment.

Bruce Springsteen announces United States tour titled 'Land of Hope and Dreams'



Bruce Springsteen and the E Street Band announced Tuesday that their United States tour, titled 'Land of Hope and Dreams,' will begin Monday, March 31, in Minneapolis and conclude Tuesday, May 27, in Washington. The 20 date run follows a 2025 European leg that drew more than 700,000 fans. Springsteen has increasingly emphasized political themes in recent performances, including commentary tied to immigration enforcement and a dedication of his song 'Streets of Minneapolis' to residents affected by federal operations. The tour marks the band's first North American performances since 2024. The lineup includes Roy Bittan, Patti Scialfa, Stevie Van Zandt and Max Weinberg, along with the E Street Horns and Choir.

Logan Paul's rare Pikachu Illustrator card sells for record 16.5 million dollars

A rare Pikachu Illustrator Pokémon card owned by Logan Paul sold Monday for 16.5 million dollars at Goldin Auctions, setting a world record for any trading card sold at auction. Paul originally purchased the card in 2021 for 5.275 million dollars, then a record for a Pokémon card. Designed by Atsuko Nishida for a 1998 illustration contest, only a few dozen copies are believed to exist. Paul's card is reported to be the only example graded 10 for quality. The 41 day auction was livestreamed, and Guinness World Records confirmed the final sale price as a new global record.

Gisèle Pelicot releases memoir worldwide following landmark assault trial

Gisèle Pelicot's memoir, 'A Hymn to Life, Shame Has to Change Sides,' was released Tuesday in 22 languages worldwide. The book recounts her survival and public advocacy after a landmark 2024 trial in France. In December 2024, her former husband and 50 other men were convicted of sexually assaulting her over nearly a decade while she was drugged without her knowledge. He was sentenced to 20 years in prison. Pelicot waived her anonymity during the trial, prompting national debate about consent laws. France later passed legislation defining rape as any non consensual sexual act. Pelicot has said she hopes her memoir offers strength and encouragement to survivors.

Neeraj Pandey withdraws 'Ghooskhor Pandat' title after Supreme Court criticism



Filmmaker Neeraj Pandey told the Supreme Court on Wednesday that the title 'Ghooskhor Pandat' has been unequivocally withdrawn following objections. In an affidavit, he stated the film does not insult or target any religion or community and denied any intent to hurt religious sentiments.

The controversy began after a teaser was

released earlier this month, prompting a petition alleging that the title stereotyped the Brahmin community. The Supreme Court had remarked that freedom of expression cannot justify denigrating a section of society and indicated the film would not be allowed to release without a title change. Pandey confirmed promotional material was removed and said a new title would avoid unintended interpretations.

Salim Khan stable after minimal brain hemorrhage, doctors confirm

Veteran screenwriter Salim Khan was admitted to a Mumbai hospital on Tuesday after suffering a minimal brain hemorrhage, his doctor confirmed. Medical experts said the condition does not require surgery and described it as minor. He remains in the intensive care unit and was placed on ventilator support as a precaution

due to high blood pressure. A Digital Subtraction Angiography was performed, and doctors reported that his recovery is steady though slow because of his age. A team of specialists is monitoring him closely. Family members, including his son Salman Khan, visited the hospital. Doctors said further updates would be shared while respecting the family's request for privacy.



Rajpal Yadav released on interim bail in cheque bounce case

Actor Rajpal Yadav was released from Tihar Jail on Tuesday after the Delhi High Court granted him interim bail in a cheque bounce case. The relief, valid until Tuesday next month, allows him to attend his niece's wedding in Shahjahanpur. His lawyer informed the court that a demand draft of about \$180,000 had been submitted, and the actor has surrendered his passport. Speaking to reporters after his release, Yadav said he has always respected court orders and will continue to appear whenever directed. He added that during his nearly three decade career, he has acted in more than 200 films and credited the public's support for his success. The next hearing is scheduled for Tuesday next month.

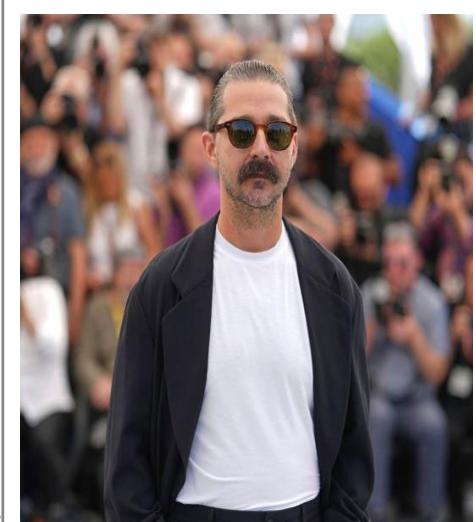


Austrian prosecutors file terrorism charges over alleged Taylor Swift concert plot



Austrian prosecutors filed terrorism related charges Monday against a 21 year old man accused of plotting an attack on a Taylor Swift concert in Vienna in August 2024. Authorities allege the suspect pledged allegiance to the Islamic State group, obtained online instructions for building an explosive device and attempted to acquire weapons illegally. He remains in custody and will face proceedings in Wiener Neustadt. Three planned Swift concerts were canceled after officials said they disrupted the alleged plot with intelligence assistance from the United States. The case underscores ongoing security concerns surrounding large scale entertainment events.

Shia LaBeouf arrested after alleged altercation during Mardi Gras in New Orleans



Actor Shia LaBeouf was arrested early Tuesday in New Orleans during Mardi Gras celebrations and charged with two counts of simple battery, according to police. Officers responded around 12:45 a.m. to reports of a disturbance near the French Quarter. Authorities allege LaBeouf struck two men with closed fists after being escorted outside a business.

Witnesses told police he was restrained until officers arrived. He was taken to a hospital for treatment of unspecified injuries and later booked into custody. Court records did not list an attorney representing him.

LaBeouf, known for roles in 'Transformers' and 'Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull,' has faced prior arrests and legal disputes during his career.

अरुणाचल प्रदेश की आराधना यात्रा का तीसरा पड़ाव

तारा तारिणी मंदिर

IndoUS Tribune की Temples of Arunachal

Yatra का तीसरा पड़ाव हमें पूर्वोत्तर की सीमाओं से आगे भारत की शक्ति-परंपरा के एक और महान धाम तक ले आता है—ओडिशा के गंजाम जिले की कुमारी पहाड़ियों पर अवस्थित तारा तारिणी मंदिर। यह पावर शक्तिपीठ न केवल प्राचीन आस्था का केंद्र है, बल्कि भारतीय सांस्कृतिक निरंतरता, समुद्री परंपरा और देवी-उपासना की जीवंत विरासत का प्रतीक भी है। यहाँ आकर यह अनुभव होता है कि भारत की आध्यात्मिक यात्रा किसी एक भूभाग तक सीमित नहीं, बल्कि संपूर्ण राष्ट्र की चेतना को एक सूत्र में पिंगती है।

यह मंदिर दक्षिण ओडिशा के पुरुषोत्तमपुर के निकट, रुषिकुल्या नदी के तट पर स्थित कुमारी पर्वत पर विराजमान है। लगभग 32 किलोमीटर दूर स्थित ब्रह्मपुर—जिसे ओडिशा संस्कृति का प्रमुख केंद्र माना जाता है—से यहाँ पहुँचा जा सकता है। 999 सीढ़ियाँ चढ़कर भक्त माँ के दर्शन करते हैं; साथ ही अब रोपें और मोटरमार्ग की सुविधा भी उपलब्ध है। पर्वत की चोटी से रुषिकुल्या नदी और हरित वादियों का दृश्य मन को आध्यात्मिक शांति से भर देता है।

शक्तिपीठ के रूप में यहाँ

तारा तारिणी को भारत के प्राचीन शक्तिपीठों में से एक माना जाता है। पौराणिक मान्यता के अनुसार, जब दक्ष यज्ञ के उपरांत देवी सती ने आत्महति दी और भगवान शिव उनके विर्खांडित शरीर को लेकर तांडव करने लगे, तब भगवान विष्णु ने सुर्दर्शन चक्र से सती के अंगों को विभाजित किया। जहाँ-जहाँ वे अंग गिरे, वहाँ शक्तिपीठ स्थापित हुए। मान्यता है कि सती के वक्षस्थल (स्तन) कुमारी पहाड़ियों पर गिरे और यह स्थान 'स्तनपीठ' के रूप में विख्यात हुआ।

देवी तारा और तारिणी को आदि शक्ति का स्वरूप माना जाता है। वे शक्ति, करुणा और रक्षण की प्रतीक हैं। दक्षिण ओडिशा के अधिकांश लोग इन्हें अपनी इष्टदेवी के रूप में पूजते हैं।

तांत्रिक, बौद्ध और जैन साहित्य में उल्लेख

तारा की उपासना का उल्लेख ब्रह्मांड पुराण के ललितोपाख्यान में मिलता है, जहाँ उन्हें जल-नियंत्रण और नाविकों की अधिष्ठात्री देवी बताया गया है। तांत्रिक परंपरा में वे 'नैकेश्वरी'-नावों की स्वामिनी—मानी जाती हैं, जो भक्तों को जीवन-सागर से पार लगाती हैं।



बौद्ध परंपरा में तारा को बुद्धों और बोधिसत्त्वों की माता के रूप में प्रतिष्ठित किया गया है, जबकि जैन साहित्य में भी उनका उल्लेख मिलता है। इस प्रकार तारा-तारिणी की उपासना भारतीय धार्मिक परंपराओं के विविध आयामों को समर्पित हुए हैं।

समुद्री व्यापार और देवी की आराधना

प्राचीन काल में रुषिकुल्या नदी का मुहाना समुद्री व्यापार का महत्वपूर्ण केंद्र था। व्यापारी समुद्री यात्रा पर निकलने से पूर्व तारा तारिणी की पूजा करते थे। लोककथा के अनुसार, एक व्यापारी जब समुद्र में संकट में घिर गया, तो उसने माँ से प्रार्थना की और सुरक्षित लौट आया। कृतज्ञता स्वरूप उसने अपनी समस्त आय देवी को अर्पित कर दी। इस कथा ने तारा तारिणी को समुद्री यात्रियों की संरक्षिका देवी के रूप में प्रतिष्ठित किया।

लोककथाएँ और किंवदंतियाँ

मंदिर से जुड़ी अनेक लोककथाएँ प्रचलित हैं। एक कथा के अनुसार, देवी ने दो बालिकाओं के रूप में प्रकट होकर एक निसंतान दंपति को आशीर्वाद दिया और अंततः रत्न गिरि पर्वत पर अपने दिव्य स्वरूप में स्थापित हुई। एक अन्य कथा में वे राजा के लोभ से बचने हेतु नदी में विलीन हो जाती हैं और पत्थर-प्रतिमाओं के रूप में प्रकट होती हैं।

ऐतिहासिक परंपरा के अनुसार, 18वीं शताब्दी के उत्तरार्ध में एक ब्राह्मण भक्त बसु प्रह्लाद ने मंदिर का निर्माण/पुनर्निर्माण कराया। बाद में स्थानीय दानदाताओं और समाज-सुधारकों के प्रयासों से मंदिर का विस्तार हुआ तथा पशुबलि की परंपरा समाप्त की गई।

पर्व और परंपराएँ

चैत्र मास के मंगलवार विशेष रूप से शुभ माने जाते हैं। इस अवधि में हजारों श्रद्धालु दर्शन के लिए पहुँचते हैं। प्रथम संतान के मुण्डन संस्कार की परंपरा यहाँ अत्यंत



लोकप्रिय है। स्वर्ण एवं रजत आभूषणों से अलंकृत देवी की दो पाषाण प्रतिमाएँ मुख्य गर्भगृह में प्रतिष्ठित हैं, जिनके अतिरिक्त उत्सवों के लिए चल-प्रतिमाएँ भी स्थापित हैं।

बहुरंगी आध्यात्मिक घोटना को प्रकट करती है।

अब हमारी Temples of Arunachal Yatra

अपने अतिम और विशेष पड़ाव की ओर अग्रसर है—अरुणाचल प्रदेश में स्थित नक्सा परवर मंदिर के खंडहर (Khandahar), जहाँ इतिहास के मौन पत्थर हमें प्राचीन सभ्यता की एक और अनकही कथा सुनाएँगे।

हमारे साथ जुड़े रहिए—व्यापारिक यह यात्रा केवल मंदिरों की नहीं, बल्कि भारत की सनातन आत्मा को समझाने और उससे संवाद करने की यात्रा है।

यही शुभकामना।

निष्कर्ष: शक्ति-परंपरा से संबंध की यात्रा

IndoUS Tribune की इस आध्यात्मिक यात्रा का तीसरा पड़ाव हमें यह अनुभव कराता है कि शक्ति-उपासना केवल एक धार्मिक परंपरा नहीं, बल्कि भारतीय समाज की सांस्कृतिक, ऐतिहासिक और भावनात्मक धारा का अभिन्न अंग है। तारा तारिणी मंदिर में आस्था, लोककथाएँ, समुद्री इतिहास और तांत्रिक साधना एक साथ मिलकर भारत की

राजा परीक्षित और कलियुग

धर्म, समय और मानव चेतना का शाश्वत संदेश

भारतीय आध्यात्मिक परंपरा में पुराण कथाएँ केवल धार्मिक आख्यान नहीं हैं, बल्कि मानव जीवन के गहन मनोवैज्ञानिक, नैतिक और सामाजिक सत्य को प्रकट करने वाले दर्शन हैं। राजा परीक्षित की कथा इसी श्रेणी में आती है। यह कथा हमें बताती है कि धर्म का संरक्षण केवल राजाओं या ऋषियों का दायित्व नहीं, बल्कि प्रत्येक मनुष्य की चेतना और आचरण पर निर्भर है।

राजा परीक्षित, महान धनुर्धर अर्जुन के पौत्र और वीर अभिमन्यु के पुत्र थे। पांडवों के स्वगारीहण के पश्चात उन्होंने धर्म, न्याय और सत्य के आधार पर राज्य चलाया। वे आदर्श शासक थे—प्रजा सुखी थी, यज्ञ सम्पन्न हुए, और समाज में व्यवस्था थी। किंतु इतिहास और धर्मग्रन्थ बार-बार स्मरण करते हैं कि समय का चक्र परिवर्तनशील है। जैसे ही भगवान श्रीकृष्ण पृथ्वी से प्रस्थान करते हैं, द्वापर युग समाप्त होता है और कलियुग का आंभ होता है—एक ऐसा युग जिसमें धर्म के चार स्तरों में से केवल सत्य शेष रह जाता है।

धर्म और पृथ्वी का संवाद: युग परिवर्तन का प्रतीक
दिविवजय के दौरान राजा परीक्षित ने एक अद्भुत दृश्य देखा—एक बैल (धर्म) एक पैर पर खड़ा था और एक गाय (पृथ्वी) विलाप कर रही थी। धर्म के तीन पैर—दग्ध, तप और पवित्रता—टूट चुके थे। यह दृश्य केवल प्रतीकात्मक नहीं था; यह समाज में घटते नैतिक मूल्यों का चित्रण था। पृथ्वी माता का शोक इस बात का प्रतीक था कि जब ईश्वर की चेतना से मानव दूर हो जाता है, तब सत्य, करुणा और सदाचार क्षीण होने लगते हैं।

कलियुग का प्रवेश और अर्थके निवास स्थान

राजा ने देखा कि एक क्रूर व्यक्ति गाय और बैल को पीड़ित कर रहा है। वह स्वयं को कलियुग बताता है। राजा उसे राज्य से निकालना चाहते हैं, किंतु वह निवास स्थान की प्रार्थना करता है। अंततः राजा परीक्षित उसे पाँच स्थान देते हैं—जुआ, मद्यापान, अनैतिक संबंध, हिंसा और अन्यायपूर्ण धन (स्वर्ण)। यह निर्णय गहन प्रतीकात्मक अर्थ रखता है: जहाँ लोभ, वासना, हिंसा और असत्य का वास है, वहाँ कलियुग सक्रिय होता है।

यहाँ एक महत्वपूर्ण आध्यात्मिक सत्य प्रकट होता है—कलियुग बाही शक्ति नहीं, बल्कि मानव प्रवृत्तियों में प्रवेश करने वाली मानसिक अवस्था है।

स्वर्ण का भोग और विवेक का क्षण

कलियुग को स्वर्ण में स्थान देने के पश्चात राजा परीक्षित एक स्वर्ण मुकुट धारण करते हैं। यह मुकुट पूर्वकाल से खजाने में स्था था और पांडवों ने उसे कभी नहीं पहना। स्वर्ण यहाँ केवल धातु नहीं, बल्कि लोभ और अहंकार का प्रतीक है। मुकुट धारण करते ही राजा की बुद्धि भ्रमित हो



जाती है और वे शिकार के लिए निकल पड़ते हैं—एक ऐसा कार्य जो उनके स्वभाव के विपरीत था। यह प्रसंग बताता है कि अनैतिक धन और अहंकार मनुष्य की विवेक शक्ति को क्षीण कर देते हैं।

क्रोध का क्षण और जीवन परिवर्तन

वन में स्थासे और थके हुए राजा एक तपस्त्री ऋषि की कुटिया पहुंचते हैं। ऋषि समाधि में लीन होते हैं और उत्तर नहीं दे पाते। क्रोध में आकर राजा मृत सर्प को उनके गले में डाल देते हैं। यह क्षणिक क्रोध जीवन की दिशा बदल देता है। ऋषि पुत्र द्वारा दिया गया श्राप—सातवें दिन तक्षक नाग के दंश से मृत्यु—राजा के जीवन का निर्णायक मोड़ बन जाता है।

यह घटना बताती है कि क्रोध एक क्षणिक प्रतिक्रिया है, किंतु उसके परिणाम दीर्घकालिक और गंभीर हो सकते हैं।

पश्चाताप से दैराश्य तक

जब राजा मुकुट उतारते हैं, उनका विवेक लौट आता है।

वे अपने अपराध पर पश्चाताप करते हैं और श्राप को ईश्वर की कृपा मानते हैं। वे गज्य त्याग कर गंगा तट पर चले जाते हैं और जीवन के अतिम सात दिनों को ईश्वर स्मरण और ज्ञान प्राप्ति में समर्पित करते का संकल्प लेते हैं। यह परिवर्तन दर्शाता है कि पश्चाताप आत्मशुद्धि का प्रथम चरण है।

मृत्यु का प्रश्न और जीवन का उत्तर

गंगा तट पर एकत्रित ऋषियों के समक्ष राजा एक सार्वभौमिक प्रश्न रखते हैं—मृत्यु समीप होने पर मनुष्य को क्या करना चाहिए? यह प्रश्न केवल परीक्षित का नहीं, बल्कि प्रत्येक मानव का है। उसी समय महान ज्ञानी शुकदेव प्रकट होते हैं और सात दिनों तक श्रीमद्भागवत कथा का उपदेश देते हैं। कथा के माध्यम से भक्ति, ज्ञान और वैराग्य का मार्ग स्पष्ट होता है। राजा परीक्षित को सात दिन मिले, हमें यह भी ज्ञान नहीं कि हमारे पास कितना समय है। यही इस कथा का आध्यात्मिक केंद्र है।

कलियुग का महान वरदान

यद्यपि कलियुग को अधर्म का युग कहा जाता है, फिर भी

इसमें एक महान वरदान है—भगवान के नाम का स्मरण ही मुक्ति का साधन है। पूर्व युगों में कठोर तप, यज्ञ और दीर्घ साधन नहीं आवश्यक थीं; कलियुग में श्रद्धा और नामस्मरण पर्याप्त हैं।

आधुनिक जीवन में कथा की प्रासारिकता

आज का समाज तकनीकी प्रगति के शिखर पर है, परन्तु मानसिक अशांति, लोभ, हिंसा और नैतिक संकट भी बढ़ रहे हैं। जुआ अब डिजिटल प्लेटफॉर्म पर है, मद्यापान सामाजिक स्वीकृति पा चुका है, हिंसा विचारों में प्रवेश कर चुकी है और अनैतिक धन को सफलता का प्रतीक समझा जाता है। इस संदर्भ में राजा परीक्षित की कथा हमें चेतावनी देती है कि कलियुग बाही समय नहीं, बल्कि आंतरिक चेतना की अवस्था है।

जीवन के लिए धर्मिक संदेश

यह कथा हमें सिखाती है कि:

- सत्य और करुणा धर्म के आधार हैं
- लोभ विवेक को नष्ट करता है
- क्रोध निर्णय शक्ति को भ्रष्ट करता है
- संतों का और ज्ञान का सम्मान आवश्यक है
- मृत्यु का स्मरण जीवन को सार्थक बनाता है
- नामस्मरण और सत्संग आत्मशुद्धि का सरल मार्ग है

निष्कर्ष: धर्म का संरक्षण भीतर से आरम्भ होता है

राजा परीक्षित की कथा हमें यह समझाती है कि मनुष्य त्रुटि कर सकता है, परंतु पश्चाताप, ज्ञान और भक्ति उसे पुनः प्रकाश की ओर ले जा सकते हैं। धर्म का पतन बाहर से नहीं होता; वह मनुष्य के भीतर से क्षीण होता है। उसी प्रकार धर्म का पुनर्जागरण भी भीतर से ही आरम्भ होता है।

कलियुग में यदि मनुष्य सत्य, करुणा और ईश्वर स्मरण को जीवन में स्थापित कर ले, तो वही युग उसके लिए मुक्ति का मार्ग बन सकता है।

धर्म की रक्षा शस्त्र से नहीं, चरित्र से होती है। और कलियुग में—हरि नाम ही सबसे सरल साधना है।



Consul General meets BAPS Akshardham delegation in New Jersey to advance India–U.S. cultural engagement



By: Dr. Avi Verma

India's Consul General in New York, Binaya Srikanta Pradhan, held an in-depth interaction with a delegation from BAPS Swaminarayan Akshardham in Robbinsville, led by Sadhu Nilkanthsevadas Swami, highlighting the growing role of spiritual and cultural

institutions in strengthening India–United States ties.

The discussions focused on enhancing people to people connections, promoting India's civilizational heritage, and expanding collaboration in areas such as youth engagement, community service, and interfaith dialogue. The Consul General praised BAPS for its

sustained efforts to showcase India's spiritual traditions while fostering social harmony and volunteerism across diverse communities in the United States.

BAPS Swaminarayan Akshardham in Robbinsville, one of the largest Hindu temple complexes in North America, has emerged as a major center for spiritual learning, cultural outreach, and diaspora

engagement. Drawing visitors from across the country and abroad, the temple plays a significant role in deepening awareness of India's history, philosophy, and values.

The interaction reaffirmed a shared commitment to advancing cultural diplomacy and supporting initiatives that celebrate India's heritage while strengthening bonds between the two nations.

CMAA ushers in Lunar New Year 2026 in Chicago celebrating the Year of the Fire Horse

The Chinese Mutual Aid Association's annual festival brings together hundreds of community members, elected officials, and diplomats for cultural performances, family activities, and recognition of civic champions.

By: Dr. Avi Verma

The Chinese Mutual Aid Association (CMAA) will host its annual Lunar New Year celebration on Saturday, February 21st, at St. Augustine College, welcoming the Year of the Fire Horse, a once-in-60-years zodiac milestone symbolizing rapid change, courage, and independence.

The event, from 10 a.m. to noon, is expected to draw approximately 600 participants, including CMAA clients, staff, community leaders, and a distinguished roster of local, state, and federal elected officials, along with foreign diplomats.

Guests will enjoy vibrant cultural



performances, family-friendly activities, raffle prizes, community resource booths, and complimentary food, highlighting the richness of Chinese traditions while promoting cross-

cultural engagement.

This year, CMAA will present special recognition to U.S. Senator Dick Durbin and Congresswoman Jan Schakowsky for their long-standing advocacy on behalf of immigrant and refugee communities, honoring their leadership in advancing rights, healthcare access, and public services.

Founded by refugees in 1981, CMAA serves thousands annually from more than 40 countries through social services, education, job training, adult ESL classes, and economic development programs. The celebration underscores the organization's commitment to preserving cultural heritage while fostering community solidarity and civic

Event Details

Date: Saturday, February 21st, 2026
Time: 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Location: St. Augustine College

Address: 1345 W Argyle St, Chicago, IL 60640
Admission: Free

For more information or to RSVP, please visit <https://www.chinesemutualaid.org/2026-lunar-new-year>

engagement across Chicago's diverse immigrant population.



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Mata Bhagat: Avi Verma

India–Israel AI–Cybersecurity connect in Palo Alto highlights growing startup collaboration

By: Dr. Avi Verma

Reflecting the deepening ties between India and Israel's startup ecosystems, the Consulate General of India in San Francisco and the Consulate General of Israel to the Pacific Northwest, in partnership with VentureDock, hosted the "India–Israel AI–Cybersecurity Connect" in Palo Alto. The event brought together over 130 startup founders, venture capitalists, and industry leaders to discuss emerging trends and challenges in cybersecurity in the era of artificial intelligence.

Consul General Dr. K. Srikanth Reddy highlighted the expanding collaboration between the innovation ecosystems of both nations, while briefing participants on preparations for the upcoming AI Impact Summit at Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi, emphasizing India's vision for responsible and transformative AI. Consul General Marco Sermoneta underscored key milestones in the India–Israel partnership and the growing synergy in



innovation-driven growth, noting that both countries share a strategic interest in fostering technology-led collaboration.

A keynote by Jay Chaudhry, CEO of Zscaler, delved into the challenges of scaling a cybersecurity startup, offering insights on resilience, leadership, and innovation. A high-level panel featuring Gadi Bashvitz of Bright Security, Glen Chisholm of SYN Ventures, Debanjan Saha of DataRobot, Alice Shaff of Gator Security, and Guru Chahal of Lightspeed Venture Partners, moderated by Raj Judge of Zscaler, explored the transformative shifts reshaping cybersecurity in the age of

agentic AI.

The event also included a fireside chat with Oren Zeev of Zeev Ventures, moderated by Gopi Rangan of Sure Ventures, providing perspectives on venture capital strategies and highlighting collaboration opportunities for Indian and Israeli founders. Supported by India's Ministry of External Affairs and the Embassy of India in Washington DC, the gathering reinforced the forward-looking partnership between India and Israel, showcasing a shared commitment to cutting-edge technology and innovation-led growth.

Global Hindu community condemns mockery of sacred beliefs at Plano council meeting

By: Dr. Avi Verma

Outrage is spreading across the global Hindu community after conservative commentator Alex Stein delivered a mocking speech at a recent city council meeting in Plano, appearing in traditional Indian attire and ridiculing sacred Hindu beliefs.

Stein, wearing a yellow kurta and a red tilak on his forehead, addressed the council in what critics described as a caricature of Indian identity. During his remarks, he mocked Hindu reverence for cows, making sarcastic references to cow urine and cow dung as sacred substances.

Several Indian-American residents in attendance reportedly walked out of the meeting in protest as the speech continued.



Videos of the incident quickly circulated across social media platforms, drawing condemnation from Hindu leaders and civil rights advocates in the United States, India, Canada, and the United Kingdom. Community members described the performance as not only offensive but deeply hurtful to practicing Hindus who regard the cow as

a sacred symbol of life, sustenance, and non-violence.

The Hindu American Foundation strongly criticized the remarks, calling them "demeaning" and warning that such rhetoric contributes to a climate of hostility toward Hindu Americans. Other advocacy groups said the incident reflects a broader pattern of cultural mockery and religious insensitivity increasingly appearing in public forums.

Leaders from temples and diaspora organizations in cities from Houston to London expressed solidarity with the Plano community, emphasizing that public institutions should be spaces for civic dialogue — not religious ridicule.

The controversy comes amid heightened tensions in parts of Texas over immigration

and H-1B visa programs, particularly in suburbs with growing Indian-American populations. Community advocates warn that inflammatory rhetoric about demographic change can embolden public expressions of prejudice.

For many Hindu Americans, the incident is about more than one speech. "When sacred beliefs are mocked in a government setting, it sends a message that our faith is acceptable to target," one community organizer said. "That is why people are upset — not because of satire, but because of disrespect."

As calls grow for local officials to address the matter, Hindu organizations worldwide say they are watching closely — urging civic leaders to reaffirm commitments to religious respect and pluralism.

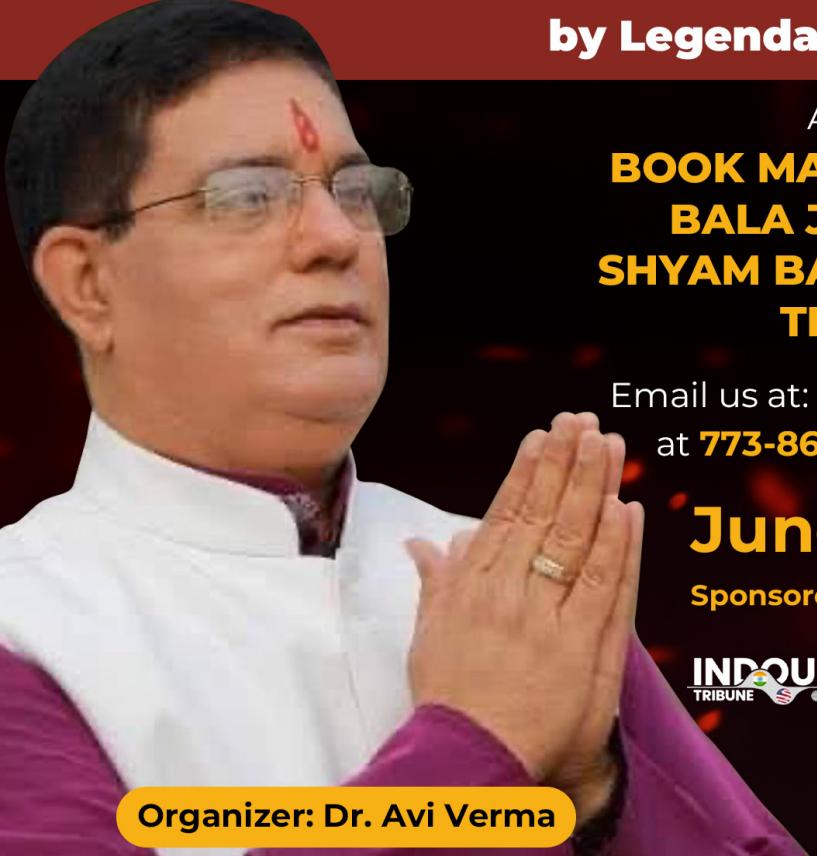




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A transformative step toward universal kidney transplants

By: Dr. Avi Verma

A promising breakthrough in transplant science may significantly reduce wait times and expand access to life-saving kidney transplants. Researchers from University of British Columbia in Canada, working in collaboration with Avivo Biomedical, have developed a method that can potentially make donor kidneys universally compatible across blood types.

The findings were published in *Nature Biomedical Engineering*, a leading peer-reviewed journal in translational medicine.

The challenge: Blood type compatibility in organ transplants

One of the major barriers in kidney transplantation is ABO blood group compatibility. Patients with blood type O, for example, can donate to others but can only receive kidneys from type O donors. Conversely, individuals with type AB can receive from all groups but are rarer donors.

This incompatibility leads to:

- ▶ Longer transplant waiting lists
- ▶ Increased risk of organ rejection
- ▶ Wasted viable donor organs
- ▶ Higher mortality for patients with rare blood types

In many countries, including the United States and Canada, kidney patients can wait years for a compatible donor.

The breakthrough: Converting blood Type A to universal Type O

The research team led by Stephen Withers and Jayachandran Kizhakkedathu developed specialized enzymes capable of removing blood type A antigens from the surface of donor kidneys.

How it works

- ▶ Blood type differences are



determined by specific sugar molecules (antigens) present on cell surfaces.

- ▶ Type A kidneys carry A antigens.
- ▶ The engineered enzymes selectively strip these A antigens from the organ tissue.
- ▶ Once removed, the kidney effectively resembles Type O, the universal donor type.

This enzymatic process is performed during normothermic machine perfusion, where a donor kidney is maintained outside the body under near-physiological conditions, allowing treatment before transplantation.

In preclinical testing, researchers demonstrated that treated kidneys showed a dramatic reduction in antibody binding, suggesting they could be transplanted into recipients of

different blood types with significantly reduced risk of rejection.

Why this matters

If validated in human clinical trials, this technology could:

- ▶ Expand the donor pool
- ▶ Reduce transplant wait times
- ▶ Improve organ allocation fairness
- ▶ Decrease organ discard rates
- ▶ Save thousands of lives annually

Patients with blood type O—who typically face the longest waiting periods—may particularly benefit.

A step toward more inclusive organ donation

The concept of modifying donor organs rather than suppressing recipient immunity marks a paradigm shift in transplantation science. Instead of intensifying lifelong immunosuppression, this approach addresses incompatibility at its biological source.

While the current research focused on Type A kidneys, future refinements may extend to other blood groups and potentially other organs such as hearts or lungs.

What comes next?

Although the laboratory and ex-vivo perfusion results are highly encouraging, clinical trials in human transplant recipients are still

needed before widespread adoption. Regulatory approval, long-term safety data, and cost-effectiveness analyses will determine how quickly this innovation can move from research to routine medical practice.

Experts suggest that if successful, this advancement could represent one of the most important milestones in transplant medicine in decades.

A hopeful future for kidney patients

Chronic kidney disease affects millions worldwide, and transplantation remains the gold standard treatment for end-stage renal failure. Innovations like this bring hope to patients and families navigating the uncertainty of transplant waitlists.

By potentially making kidneys “universally compatible,” Canadian scientists are moving us closer to a future where biology no longer limits lifesaving care.

Important medical disclaimer

This article is for informational purposes only and is not intended as medical advice. The described research is based on preclinical findings and requires further human clinical trials and regulatory approval before becoming an established treatment. Patients should consult qualified healthcare professionals regarding transplant eligibility and medical decisions. 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 +0.4% (below average)
CNN Fear & Greed Index 37 (fear)
NYSE %Above 50-dMA 67.00% (positive)
SP500 %Above 50-dMA 63.60% (positive)

ICI Fund Allocations (Cumulative), 12/31/25

OEFs & ETFs: Stocks 61.36%, Hybrids 4.01%, Bonds 17.32%, M-Mkt 17.31%

INTEREST RATES

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

Treasury

T-Bills 3-mo yield 3.68%, 1-yr 3.42%;
T-Notes 2-yr 3.40%, 5-yr 3.61%, 10-yr 4.04%; T-Bonds 30-yr 4.69%;
TIPS/Real yields 5-yr 1.19%, 10-yr 1.77%, 30-yr 2.46%
FRNs Index 3.633%

Bank Rates 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 4.25% (previous 4.250%)

India Fear & Greed MMI 58.12 (greed)
Weekly ETFs: INDIA -0.73%, INDY -1.03%, EPI -1.13%, INDH -0.57%, SPY -1.28%

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

ECONOMY

US-India Joint Statement, 2/6/26 included:

Indian imports from US at 0% tariff - many* industrial goods & agricultural products. Examples* provided are



dried distillers' grains, red sorghum for animal feed, tree nuts, fresh & processed fruits, soybean oil, wine, spirits. (It seems that grains for animal feed or distillation may be genetically-modified.)

Indian exports to US at 18% general reciprocal tariffs* - textile & apparel, leather & footwear, plastic & rubber, organic chemicals, home decor, artisanal products, some machinery.

Indian exports to US at 0% tariffs - generic pharma, gems, diamonds, aircraft parts.

Indian exports to US at preferential tariffs - active pharma ingredients (APIs), auto parts.

Improve mutual preferential market access & remove non-tariff barriers. Areas mentioned by US are med-tech, IT, telecom, standards (where appropriate).

Address non-market policies of 3rd parties to protect mutual economic interests. (This seems a vague reference* for dealings with China & Russia.)

India intends to purchase over 5 years \$500 billion of US energy, aircrafts, aircraft parts, precious metals, tech, coking/met-coal.

(*Items generally mentioned will be finalized in continuing negotiations, but examples were provided for specificity. A separate Executive Order removed 25% penalty & provided for monitoring of Indian oil trade.)

SPECIAL TOPIC TRUMP ACCOUNTS - UPDATE

Trump Accounts, dubbed Starter IRAs, were launched with OBBBA 2025 (budget) on 7/4/25. People would be able to start making contributions from 7/4/26. Account is opened by filing IRS Form 4547 (note "45" & "47"). Filers for 2025 taxes may include the Form with their 1040 in 2026. Online filing opened after its Super Bowl 2026 ad ran on 2/8/26. Treasury will start confirming Accounts starting May 2026.

Program Website: trumpaccounts.gov/
Form 4547 www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/f4547.pdf

Basic Rules

(i) All US citizen minors with Social Security Numbers are eligible but only newborns between 2025-28 are eligible for the initial \$1,000 government funding,

(ii) Up to \$5,000/yr can be contributed after-tax after 7/4/26 (inflation-indexed after 2027) by family & friends, including parents' employer benefit up to \$2,500/yr (pre-tax),

(iii) Up to \$2,500/yr additional (inflation-indexed after 2027) can be contributed by state & local governments, nonprofit 501c3 & charities; however, specific/ defined groups of children must be covered, not just particular children.

This Treasury program will be run through designated financial agents/institutions. The funds must be invested in qualified low-cost (ER < 10 bps), broad market-cap based US stock index funds until the age 18, but can be invested more broadly after age 18. Earnings will grow tax-deferred. Withdrawals are possible only after age 18 (only exceptions being transfers to 529-ABLE or premature death) & then the normal IRA withdrawal rules apply. So, some qualified withdrawals are possible before 59.5, but penalty-free taxable general withdrawals are allowed after age 59.5.

Media has started using the term "Starter IRAs" because these are possible between ages 0-18 when there is typically no earned income that's needed for IRAs.

As these Accounts will have both after-tax, pre-tax & tax-deferred money, taxation of withdrawals would be a bit complicated. Ordinary taxes will apply after excluding the after-tax proportion of withdrawals.

Michael & Susan DELL have announced \$250 in initial funding for up to 25 million kids who aren't eligible for initial funding by the government. Ray & Barbara DALIO will provide \$250 for up to 300,000 kids in Connecticut as part of Treasury's push for a 50-state challenge.

Several companies have announced programs to match federal contributions for their employees' eligible kids: BoA/BAC, Block/XYZ, BoNY-Mellon/BK, BlackRock/BLK, Charter Communications/CHTR, ICI (fund trade association), J P Morgan Chase/JPM, MasterCard/MA, Robinhood/HOOD, Schwab/SCHW, SoFi, UBER, Visa/V, etc.

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

Everything you need to know about IUHS School of Medicine

By: Dr. Avi Verma

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

2. Program Structure & Exams:

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

3. Assessments:

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

knowledge gaps.

- ▶ 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 your dream of becoming a medical doctor into reality.
For more information and to apply, visit www.iuhs.edu



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7. Live lectures: Learn from top-tier professors who also teach at prestigious universities through live, interactive lectures. Sessions are scheduled on weekdays, and if you miss one, you can easily catch up with recorded lectures available in the virtual library at your convenience.

8. Question and Concept Sessions: In addition to live lectures, students can participate in weekly live Q&C sessions with the academic advisor for their current block of study. These sessions provide valuable support for students studying from home, fostering engagement with both peers and faculty.

9. Lecturio: is a digital learning platform providing medical education resources. It offers a comprehensive, AI-driven learning system designed to support medical education through high-quality video lectures, question banks, and advanced learning tools.

Key Features:

- ▶ Comprehensive Medical Curriculum Support – Covers

Do pheromone perfumes really spark chemistry?

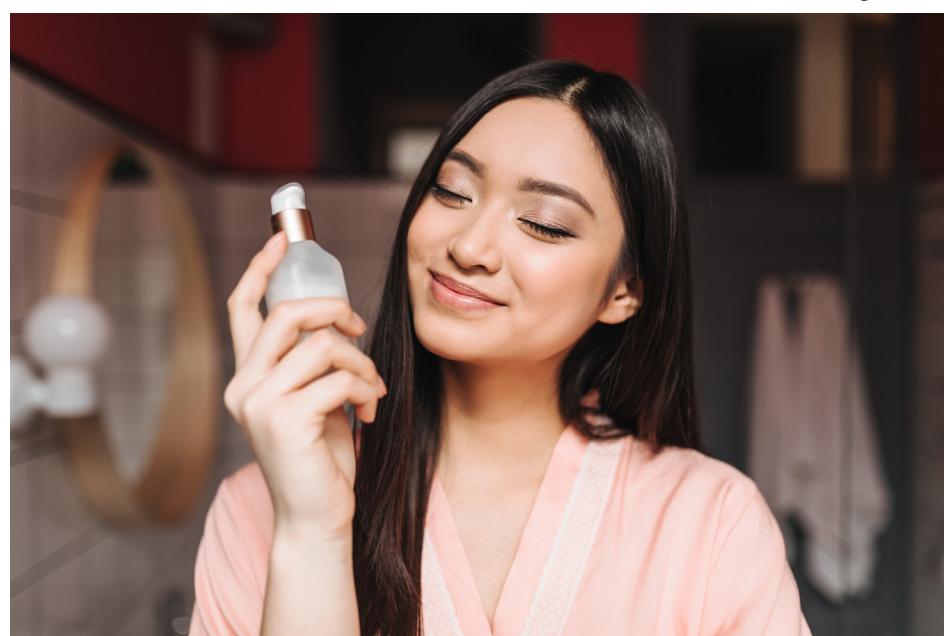
Love is in the air, and it smells like you.

In the endless pursuit of allure, pheromone-inspired perfumes have emerged as one of the most intriguing ways to enhance personal magnetism. Inspired by pheromones, the invisible chemical signals animals release to communicate instinctively, these fragrances offer a provocative idea: can scent amplify attraction and subtly influence perception? While the concept may feel mysterious, the science behind it is surprisingly accessible.

Experts note that most perfumes do not contain actual human pheromones.

Instead, these fragrances work with your natural body chemistry to create a unique and subtle aura. The effect is not about copying biology; it's about amplifying individuality. A "skin scent," which lies close to the body, can be particularly effective. Its intimate warmth acts as a personal signature, enhancing appeal without being overpowering, and it can also serve as a base for layering additional fragrances.

Pheromone-inspired perfumes often fall into three categories: floral, musky, and unisex blends. Floral musk fragrances



are delicate yet enveloping, combining soft floral notes with warm, comforting undertones. These scents feel inviting, cozy, and effortlessly alluring, ideal for both day and evening wear. Minimalist musky options focus on a single note, enhancing the natural scent of the wearer and layering beautifully with other fragrances. They offer a soft, personal warmth that can leave a lingering impression. Single-note ambers or woody blends evoke a subtle, magnetic effect, often reminiscent of cedarwood or soft musk, creating an understated, timeless allure that draws attention without trying too hard.

The appeal of pheromone perfumes lies not in instant seduction but in enhancing one's personal chemistry. They encourage a quiet confidence, an intangible magnetism that resonates differently with each wearer. Whether for a lively evening out or a quiet night in, these fragrances provide a sensory way to express individuality, experiment with attraction, and explore the subtle power of scent. In the end, pheromone perfumes remind us that allure is personal, layered, and as much about presence as fragrance, a gentle yet effective way to let your own natural charm shine.

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