

## India and United States delay trade talks after Supreme Court tariff ruling



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

India and the United States have postponed a planned meeting on an interim bilateral trade agreement following a Supreme Court ruling on Friday that struck down key tariff measures imposed by President Donald Trump. The three day talks, scheduled to begin Sunday in Washington, will be rescheduled after both sides assess the implications of the judgment. The court ruled 6 to 3 that the administration exceeded its authority under the International Emergency Economic Powers Act. On Saturday, President Trump said he would raise global tariffs from 10 percent to 15 percent and called the ruling a disgrace, adding that he has alternative plans.

## India rejects 'third category' Security Council proposal, calls it tactic to stall permanent reform



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

India has rejected proposals to create a third category of United Nations Security Council membership with longer renewable terms, calling the idea a diversion aimed at delaying genuine reform. Speaking Friday at the Intergovernmental Negotiations in New York, India's Deputy Permanent Representative Yojna Patel said the proposal was a "red herring" that would push meaningful reform "many decades into the future," undermining the credibility and legitimacy of the United Nations.

The proposal for so called Fixed Regional Seats has been advanced primarily by the Uniting for Consensus group, led by Italy and including Pakistan, which opposes expanding permanent membership. India and its partners in the G4 — Brazil, Germany, and Japan — argue that renewable longer term seats would not address structural imbalances. Japan's UN envoy Yamazaki Kazuyuki said the proposed seats would be little different from existing non permanent ones and could not substitute for permanent expansion.

The L.69 group of developing countries also opposed hybrid models, saying the Global South had not waited decades for partial reform. Patel further dismissed suggestions that holders of such seats could exercise veto power, calling the idea impractical and deliberately complicating negotiations. She reiterated that expansion in both permanent and non permanent categories, particularly to address under representation of Africa, Asia Pacific, and Latin America, remains central to meaningful reform.



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## Modi elevates India Israel ties during landmark visit marked by security pledge and technology push

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Prime Minister Narendra Modi concluded a two day State Visit to Israel on Thursday, elevating bilateral relations to a Special Strategic Partnership for Peace, Innovation and Prosperity alongside Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. Addressing the Knesset on Wednesday, Modi pledged "friendship, respect and partnership" and received the Speaker of the Knesset Medal, the parliament's highest honor, becoming the first world leader to do so.

At a joint press conference in Jerusalem on Thursday, Modi reaffirmed that India would stand with Israel in opposing terrorism, referencing the October 7, 2023 Hamas attack and a recent assault on civilians in Pahalgam in Indian controlled Kashmir. He also reiterated India's belief in dialogue and peaceful resolution of regional tensions, including those involving Iran.

The leaders agreed to accelerate negotiations on a free trade agreement and build closer cooperation in artificial intelligence, cybersecurity, semiconductors, quantum computing, biotechnology, defense



and space. They welcomed a previously signed bilateral investment agreement and expanded joint research funding from \$1 million to \$1.5 million each.

Both sides discussed linking India's Unified Payments Interface with Israel's fast payment

system and increasing direct flights. Israel will also issue 50,000 additional work visas to Indian nationals. Modi visited Yad Vashem with Netanyahu and met President Isaac Herzog before concluding what Netanyahu called an "extraordinarily productive and moving" visit.

## Trump touts economic gains and hardline agenda in marathon State of the Union

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

President Donald Trump used his State of the Union address on Tuesday to declare that "we're winning so much," arguing that his policies have fueled a jobs and manufacturing boom while reshaping the global order. Speaking for more than 100 minutes, longer than his address to a joint session last year, Trump sought to reassure voters amid slipping approval ratings ahead of November's midterm elections.

He spotlighted military guests, a former political prisoner freed after the fall of Venezuelan leader Nicolás Maduro, and members of the United States men's Olympic

hockey team. Trump announced he would award the Presidential Medal of Freedom to goaltender Connor Hellebuyck.

The president defended tariffs recently struck down by the Supreme Court of the United States, calling the ruling "unfortunate" and vowing to pursue alternative legal avenues. He also urged stricter immigration enforcement and voting rules, while Democrats heckled and Representative Al Green was escorted out after a protest. Trump proposed a new retirement savings match of up to \$1,000 for workers without employer plans and warned that he would never allow Iran to obtain a nuclear weapon, even as he said he preferred diplomacy.



## Trump shifts tariff strategy after Supreme Court ruling, imposes 15 percent global duty under 1974 trade law

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

President Donald Trump has overhauled his tariff strategy after the Supreme Court on Friday struck down key import duties imposed under the International Emergency Economic Powers Act, ruling 6 to 3 that the law did not authorize sweeping emergency tariffs. In response, Trump announced Saturday that he would impose a new universal 15 percent tariff under Section 122 of the Trade Act of 1974, raising it from an initial 10 percent rate.

Section 122 allows tariffs of up to 15 percent for 150 days unless Congress approves an extension. United States Customs and Border Protection said it will stop collecting the invalidated emergency tariffs beginning early Tuesday but has not clarified whether more than 175 billion dollars already collected could be refunded.

Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent said Sunday that the ruling was limited to the emergency statute and does not affect other trade authorities, including Sections 232 and 301, which remain in force.

The new 15 percent duty will apply broadly to imports, excluding goods already covered by national security tariffs.

**South Korean and Brazilian businesses push deeper cooperation during Lula visit**



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**B**usiness leaders from South Korea and Brazil called Monday for expanded cooperation in advanced manufacturing, agriculture, and strategic minerals during a forum in Seoul held alongside President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva state visit. The event was organized by the Federation of Korean Industries and the Brazilian Trade and Investment Promotion Agency. Officials highlighted Brazil's strengths in food, energy, and aerospace and South Korea's competitiveness in manufacturing and technology. Participants also discussed potential collaboration in artificial intelligence and critical minerals, as well as stronger cultural and consumer industry ties.

**Bangladesh prime minister navigates competing trade pressures from United States and China**



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**B**angladesh Prime Minister Tarique Rahman faces mounting pressure to balance trade ties between Washington and Beijing, according to a report published this week by Nikkei Asia. The United States has lowered tariffs on Bangladeshi goods to 19 percent from 37 percent under a new agreement that includes compliance with export controls. Meanwhile, China has offered zero tariff access for Bangladeshi exports and remains a major source of foreign direct investment, with stock estimated at about 3 billion dollars. Analysts say Dhaka's heavy reliance on the United States export market complicates efforts to maintain strategic neutrality.

**Yogi Adityanath promotes green hydrogen and investment push during Japan visit**

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**U**ttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath visited a hydrogen energy facility in Yamanashi Prefecture on Wednesday, underscoring his state's plans to expand green hydrogen and clean mobility initiatives.

He observed an advanced Power to Gas system and said the technology offers lessons for India's energy transition. During the visit, investment agreements worth nearly 11,000 crore rupees were signed with Japanese companies including Kubota Corporation and Japan Aviation Electronics Industry.

Adityanath also promoted a proposed Japan Industrial City near Noida International Airport, where 500 acres have been set aside for Japanese firms. He said Uttar Pradesh aims to deepen industrial and technology partnerships with Japan.



**Ukraine war enters fourth year with no breakthrough in sight**



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**T**he war between Russia and Ukraine entered its fourth year on Tuesday with no clear path to peace, as Secretary General Antonio Guterres called it a stain on the global conscience. The United Nations estimates more than 15,000 Ukrainian civilians have been killed and over 41,000 injured, with millions displaced. Russia controls about 20 percent of Ukrainian territory. President Volodymyr Zelensky said Ukraine has preserved its independence despite Moscow's invasion, launched in February 2022 by President Vladimir Putin. Western nations have committed hundreds of billions of dollars in support, but negotiations remain stalled over territory and security guarantees.

**Afghan forces target Pakistani posts amid widening cross border conflict**

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**A**fghanistan's Taliban government said Thursday it launched large scale attacks on Pakistani military posts, claiming dozens of soldiers were killed or captured after Pakistani air strikes earlier in the week. Spokesperson Zabihullah Mujahid said Afghan forces seized

more than 15 outposts within two hours. Pakistan's information ministry said Afghan forces opened unprovoked fire across several sectors in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province and that troops responded immediately. The clashes follow months of escalating border violence, including Pakistani strikes overnight into Sunday that the United Nations said killed at least 13 civilians.



**Nepal candidate drops China backed industrial park from manifesto amid border sensitivities**



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**N**epal politician Balen Shah has excluded the China backed Damak Industrial Park project from his election manifesto ahead of parliamentary polls scheduled for next week. The project, part of China's Belt and Road Initiative, was launched by former Prime Minister K. P. Sharma Oli in Jhapa district near the India border. Reports said Indian officials have expressed concern over the project's proximity to the Siliguri Corridor. The industrial park has faced debate within Nepal over financing terms, tax concessions, and broader geopolitical implications.

**Hillary Clinton tells House panel she has no new Epstein information**

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**F**ormer Secretary of State Hillary Clinton told the House Oversight Committee on Thursday that she has no new information about Jeffrey Epstein or his associate Ghislaine Maxwell, criticizing Republicans for what she described as partisan investigations. In a closed door deposition in Chappaqua, New York, she said she never flew on Epstein's plane or visited his properties and had no knowledge of criminal conduct.

Clinton accused lawmakers of attempting to distract from questions about President Donald Trump's ties to Epstein. Committee Chair James Comer said the inquiry was bipartisan and not a witch hunt. Representative Robert Garcia said he hopes the probe will ultimately

include testimony from Trump. Former President Bill Clinton is scheduled to sit for a similar deposition on Friday. Neither of the Clintons has been accused of crimes related to Epstein, who died in jail in 2019 while awaiting trial.



**NASA targets March 6 to launch four astronauts to Moon on Artemis II mission**

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**N**ASA said this week it is targeting a March 6 launch of Artemis II, its first crewed lunar mission in decades, after successfully completing a wet dress rehearsal of the Space Launch System rocket. Engineers had earlier detected hydrogen fuel leaks during testing, prompting a delay, but officials said the issue has been resolved. A Flight Readiness Review is expected by the end of next week. The rocket will carry astronauts aboard the Orion spacecraft as part of NASA's plan to establish a sustained human presence on the Moon.

## Indian agencies warn of alleged Jaish-e-Mohammed plan to target Indian owned venues in coordinated overseas attacks

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Indian intelligence agencies said Friday they have uncovered an alleged international plot by Jaish-e-Mohammed to target Indian owned bars, pubs, and nightclubs in India and abroad. Officials said the group has activated its women's wing to recruit young women who would seek jobs at selected venues to conduct reconnaissance before carrying out attacks themselves. Potential targets are reportedly being identified in the United States, United Kingdom, Thailand, Indonesia, the Philippines, and Dubai. Authorities allege that recruits would include foreign nationals from Uzbekistan, Indonesia, and the Philippines to obscure any direct Pakistani link. Once selected, they would be provided new identities and paid significant sums. Agencies also claim fundraising has been conducted under the guise of Gaza relief campaigns in Pakistan and Gulf countries. Officials said the group aims to stage simultaneous attacks to maximize impact and reduce the risk of detection.

## Japan to deploy surface to air missiles on Yonaguni island near Taiwan by 2031

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Japan will deploy surface to air missiles on Yonaguni, its westernmost island about 100 kilometers from Taiwan, by fiscal 2030 ending in March 2031, Defense Minister Shinjiro Koizumi said Wednesday. The move comes amid tensions with China over Taiwan and maritime disputes in the East China Sea. Yonaguni already hosts a Self Defense Forces base monitoring Chinese naval activity. Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi has said a Taiwan contingency could affect Japan's security. Officials plan to brief the island's 1,500 residents about the deployment.

## Record rainfall triggers deadly floods and landslides in Brazil's Minas Gerais

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

At least 30 people were killed and 39 remain missing after torrential rain caused flooding and landslides in Minas Gerais state, authorities said Tuesday. A river overflowed after record February rainfall, sweeping away homes in Juiz de Fora and Ubá. Firefighters rescued more than 200 people and continued searching debris with dogs and heavy machinery.

Juiz de Fora Mayor Margarida Salomão declared a state of emergency, saying 440 residents were displaced. President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva said federal authorities are focused on humanitarian aid and restoring basic services.

## Denmark calls snap election after Greenland tensions with Trump

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen on Thursday called an early general election for March 24, as Denmark continues to navigate tensions with President Donald Trump over his past push for United States control of Greenland. Frederiksen told parliament that voters would decide the country's direction for the next four years.

Trump had threatened tariffs on Denmark and other European countries during the dispute, prompting protests and boycotts of American goods by some Danes. Frederiksen warned that an American takeover of Greenland would effectively end the NATO alliance. After Trump stepped back from tariff threats, the United States, Denmark and Greenland began technical talks on Arctic security.

Frederiksen's Social Democrats have



seen a rise in support amid the crisis. Denmark, a member of NATO and the European Union, last held elections on a Tuesday in November 2022. If re-elected, Frederiksen would secure a third term leading the coalition government.

## Mediator reports progress as indirect US and Iran nuclear talks pause in Geneva

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Indirect talks between the United States and Iran concluded Thursday in Geneva, with Oman's foreign minister saying negotiations made significant progress and would resume soon. Badr al-Busaidi said technical level discussions are expected next week in Vienna, home to the International Atomic Energy Agency.

The talks are mediated by Oman and involve US envoy Steve Witkoff and Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi. President Donald Trump is seeking limits on Iran's nuclear program, while Tehran insists its activities are peaceful and says it will only discuss nuclear issues. The negotiations come amid heightened military tensions in the Middle East and concerns about potential escalation if diplomacy fails.

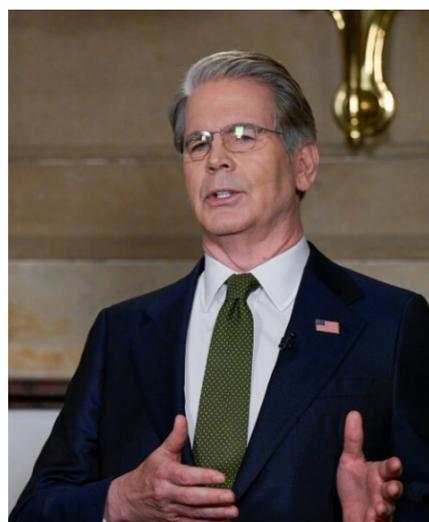


## Treasury moves to cut Swiss bank off from US financial system over alleged Iran and Russia ties

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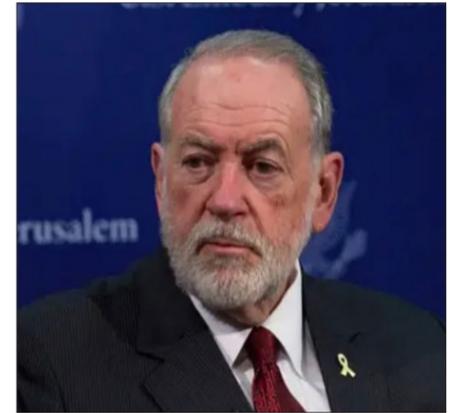
The United States Treasury on Thursday moved to sever Mbaer Merchant Bank AG, a small Swiss lender, from the American financial system over alleged illicit ties to Iranian and Russian actors. The Financial Crimes Enforcement Network proposed a rule that would bar US institutions from doing business with the bank, accusing it of funneling more than 100 million dollars through the US system on behalf of criminals, including figures linked to Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps.

Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent said the government would aggressively protect the integrity of the financial system. Founded in 2018, Mbaer is a small bank with about



245 million dollars in assets as of 2020. The bank did not immediately comment.

## Arab states condemn United States envoy remarks on Israel's regional claims



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The Arab League, Egypt and Saudi Arabia condemned remarks by United States Ambassador to Israel Mike Huckabee suggesting Israel has a biblical right to control the Middle East. In an interview posted Friday with Tucker Carlson, Huckabee said it would be fine if Israel took the entire region. Arab League Secretary General Ahmed Aboul-Gheit called the comments inflammatory and contrary to diplomatic norms. Egypt described them Saturday as a violation of international law, while Saudi Foreign Minister Faisal bin Farhan Al Saud warned they threaten regional stability and peace efforts tied to the Gaza ceasefire.

## PTI questions secrecy after Imran Khan taken for late night eye procedure

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf on Tuesday criticized the government after former Prime Minister Imran Khan was taken overnight to the Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences in Islamabad for a second anti-VEGF eye injection. Doctors said he underwent cardiac evaluation before the procedure and that results were normal. The party said it was not informed in advance and demanded treatment at Shifa International Hospital under independent supervision. Imran Khan's sister Aleema Khanum also questioned why the family was not notified. The government has rejected allegations of secrecy and maintains he is receiving proper medical care.

## Jacinda Ardern relocates to Australia with family after years abroad

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Former New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern is now living in Australia with her family, her spokesperson confirmed Thursday. The family has been traveling for several years and is currently based in Australia for work commitments. Ardern stepped down in January 2023, saying she no longer had enough energy to continue. Since leaving office, she has held fellowships at Harvard University and worked on the Christchurch Call initiative against online extremism. Reports of the move come as record numbers of New Zealanders relocate to Australia amid economic pressures.



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# From defense deals to strategic destiny PM Modi's landmark Israel visit redefines Indo-Israel ties



**Dr. Avi Verma**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's February 2026 visit to Israel marks a defining moment in India's evolving global posture. His address to the Knesset—the first ever by an Indian Prime Minister—symbolized far more than diplomatic ceremony. It underscored a decisive transition: from a traditional buyer-seller relationship in defense to a deep, technology-driven strategic partnership anchored in co-development, economic integration, and shared security objectives.

**From Procurement to Partnership**

For decades, defense ties between India and Israel were substantial yet largely transactional. This visit formalized a shift toward joint production and industrial integration aligned with India's Atmanirbhar Bharat (self-reliant India) vision.

A major highlight was collaboration with Rafael Advanced Defense Systems to explore integration of the Iron Beam laser-interception system—designed to neutralize rockets and drones at low cost—into India's evolving multi-layered air defense architecture. Discussions also covered enhanced cooperation on systems related to Iron Dome, precision-guided munitions, long-range stand-off strike capabilities, and advanced unmanned platforms.

Joint ventures between Indian and Israeli firms—ranging from UAV manufacturing to small arms production—have already begun reshaping India's defense industrial base. The emphasis is clear: co-design, co-develop, and co-produce high-end systems within India, while leveraging Israeli innovation in

sensors, AI-enabled targeting, cyber defense, and missile technology.

**Haifa and the Economic Corridor Vision**

Strategically, the Adani Group's stewardship of the Haifa Port has become the economic anchor of a much larger geopolitical design. During the visit, discussions reinforced Israel's central role in the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC), envisioned as a multimodal trade network linking Indian ports to Europe via the Arabian Peninsula and the Mediterranean.

Haifa's modernization as a green and digitally enabled transshipment hub positions it as the Mediterranean gateway for Indian goods moving toward European markets. Agreements linking Haifa with European ports strengthen this trade spine and reduce vulnerability to maritime chokepoints such as the Red Sea and the Suez Canal. In an era of repeated disruptions in the Bab al-Mandab Strait, IMEC represents strategic redundancy—shorter transit times, diversified routes, and improved energy and data connectivity.

**Cybersecurity and the "Digital Iron Dome"**

Recognizing that modern conflict increasingly unfolds in cyberspace, the two nations elevated cooperation between India's CERT-In and Israel's National Cyber Directorate. A new framework focuses on protecting critical infrastructure—power grids, water systems, banking networks—from state-sponsored and proxy cyber threats.

The establishment of an Indo-Israel Cyber Innovation Hub reflects a shared commitment to AI-driven threat detection and real-time cyber defense. This "digital Iron Dome" complements physical security architecture and strengthens resilience against hybrid warfare tactics.

**Counterterrorism and Strategic Signaling**

India and Israel have long cooperated on intelligence sharing. The 2026 visit expanded mechanisms for real-time information exchange and coordinated responses to financing, recruitment, and drone-enabled asymmetric threats.

With increasing global reliance on low-cost drone warfare and cyber-enabled disruption, the integration of advanced anti-drone and interception systems enhances deterrence. Prime Minister Modi's unequivocal condemnation of terrorism during the visit reaffirmed India's zero-tolerance doctrine, signaling that technological depth and intelligence coordination will underpin collective security.

**Strategic Autonomy in West Asia**

Equally significant is what this visit represents diplomatically. India has deepened its partnership with Israel while maintaining its principled support for a two-state solution and longstanding ties across West Asia. This calibrated "de-hyphenation" reflects India's growing confidence as a strategic actor capable of engaging all stakeholders on its own terms.

The visit reinforces India's identity as a Vishwa Mitra—a global friend—bridging advanced technology economies and the Global South, balancing values with interests, and strengthening connectivity from the Indo-Pacific to the Mediterranean.

**A Defining Chapter**

Prime Minister Modi's 2026 Israel visit will likely be remembered as the moment when Indo-Israel ties matured into a comprehensive strategic compact—spanning defense industrial integration, digital security, infrastructure corridors, and geopolitical alignment.

For India, this is not merely about bilateral cooperation. It is about securing supply chains, fortifying national defense, diversifying global trade routes, and asserting strategic autonomy in a turbulent world.

As publishers observing India's global rise, we view this visit not as a standalone diplomatic event, but as a structural shift—one that will shape India's economic security and strategic footprint for decades to come.

Best Regards,  
Dr. Avi Verma.  
Publisher,  
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Family of UN investigator sues Trump administration over sanctions tied to Israel criticism

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The family of Francesca Albanese filed a lawsuit Wednesday in federal court in Washington challenging US sanctions imposed on her last year over her criticism of Israel's conduct in Gaza. Albanese serves as the United Nations special rapporteur for the West Bank and Gaza and has accused Israel of genocide, an allegation strongly rejected by both Israel and the United States.

The suit argues the sanctions violate First Amendment protections and have harmed her family's ability to live and work in the United States. The State Department called the case baseless and defended the penalties as lawful. Israel's ambassador to the United Nations, Danny Danon, has sharply criticized her reports.

Paramilitary attacks in Darfur displace thousands as Sudan war nears three years

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Deadly attacks by Sudan's paramilitary Rapid Support Forces in the North Darfur town of Misteriha have displaced more than 3,000 people in recent days, the Sudan Doctors Network said Thursday. The group reported at least 28 people killed and 39 wounded, warning the toll may rise.

The Rapid Support Forces, led by Mohammed Hamdan Dagalo, intensified their assault Monday and seized the town, a stronghold of tribal leader Musa Hilal. The war between the paramilitary group and Sudan's military began in April 2023 and has killed at least 40,000 people and displaced about 12 million, according to the World Health Organization. The United Nations has warned of a sharp rise in civilian killings this year.

Ontario premier says Trump under pressure after Supreme Court tariff ruling

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Ontario Premier Doug Ford said Monday that "the walls are closing in" on President Donald Trump after the Supreme Court of the United States struck down many of Trump's sweeping tariffs in a 6 to 3 ruling on Friday. The court found Trump overstepped his authority by using emergency powers to impose tariffs on nearly every country.

Ford called the decision positive and said Canada is in an "economic war." He warned no deal is better than a bad deal and said he is watching November's midterm elections closely. While most Canadian exports are protected under the United States Mexico Canada Agreement, sectors such as steel, aluminum, autos and lumber face strain. Ford cautioned Trump could scrap the pact during its review this year.

Russia launches massive aerial assault on Ukraine ahead of Geneva talks

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Russia fired 420 drones and 39 missiles at Ukraine overnight into Thursday, including 11 ballistic missiles, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said. The strikes targeted energy infrastructure and residential areas across eight regions, injuring dozens of people.

The barrage came hours before US and Ukrainian officials met in Geneva to discuss efforts to end the war. US envoys Steve Witkoff and Jared Kushner met Ukrainian National Security and Defense Council head Rustem Umerov and joined a call between Zelenskyy and President Donald Trump. Territorial disputes remain the main obstacle in negotiations with Moscow. Meanwhile, Russia and Ukraine exchanged the bodies of fallen soldiers,



with Moscow returning 1,000 remains and receiving 35 in return.

Cuba says four killed in speedboat clash were US-based Cubans attempting infiltration

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Cuba's government said Wednesday that four people killed in a shootout at sea were armed Cubans living in the United States who tried to infiltrate the island. Authorities said the Florida registered speedboat entered Cuban waters near Cayo Falcones and opened fire first, injuring a Cuban officer. Six others were wounded. U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio said in St. Kitts that Washington is gathering independent information and will not rely solely on Havana's account. Cuba identified several passengers, including Michel Ortega Casanova, who was killed, and said some had criminal histories. The United States Coast Guard and Department of Homeland



Security are investigating. Vice President JD Vance said the White House is monitoring developments amid rising tensions between Washington and Havana.

Maduro lawyer says US blocks Venezuela from funding his drug case defense

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Lawyers for detained Venezuelan leader Nicolás Maduro said Wednesday that the Trump administration is preventing Venezuela's government from paying his legal fees in a New York drug trafficking case. Attorney Barry Pollack told a federal judge that the Treasury Department initially approved payment through its Office of Foreign Assets Control on January 9 but revoked it hours later without explanation. Maduro and First Lady Cilia Flores were arrested January 3 in a U.S. military operation and have pleaded not



guilty to charges alleging they conspired with drug cartels to ship cocaine into the United States. Pollack argued that blocking payment interferes with Maduro's Sixth Amendment right to counsel. If convicted, Maduro and Flores could face life in prison.

Hong Kong appeals court overturns Jimmy Lai fraud convictions

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

A Hong Kong appellate court on Thursday quashed fraud convictions against media entrepreneur Jimmy Lai, overturning a 2022 ruling that had sentenced him to five years and nine months in prison and imposed a fine of 2 million Hong Kong dollars. Judges said prosecutors failed to prove beyond

reasonable doubt that Lai made false representations over a lease dispute involving office space used by a consultancy firm. Despite the decision, Lai remains in prison after receiving a 20 year sentence weeks ago under a Beijing imposed national security law. Founder of the now defunct Apple Daily, Lai has become a symbol of press freedom concerns. The government said it will study whether to appeal the latest ruling.

Marine Le Pen says electronic tag order would end 2027 presidential bid

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

French far right leader Marine Le Pen said Wednesday she will not run for president in 2027 if an appeals court orders her to wear an electronic bracelet over alleged misuse of European Union funds. The verdict is expected July 7.

Le Pen is challenging a March 2025 ruling that found her and members of her National Rally party guilty of misusing EU Parliament funds between 2004 and 2016.

She denies wrongdoing. If convicted again, she could face a ban from elected office, electronic monitoring or both. If barred, she has said party president Jordan Bardella would run. Le Pen is widely seen as a leading contender to succeed President Emmanuel Macron.

Kim Jong Un threatens South Korea while signaling conditional US dialogue

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un warned Thursday that his country could "completely destroy" South Korea if threatened, while leaving open the possibility of talks with the United States. State media said Kim reaffirmed his hard line toward Seoul at the conclusion of the ruling Workers' Party congress in Pyongyang.

He called for developing underwater launch capable intercontinental ballistic missiles, expanded tactical nuclear weapons and artificial intelligence driven attack drones. The congress ended Wednesday with a nighttime parade at Kim Il Sung Square, where Kim appeared with his daughter, believed to be Kim Ju Ae. Kim said relations with Washington depend on whether the United States abandons what he calls hostile policies.

World Economic Forum chief steps down after scrutiny over Epstein ties

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The president and chief executive of the World Economic Forum, Børge Brende, resigned Thursday following disclosures about past contact with convicted sex offender Jeffrey Epstein. U.S. Justice Department documents showed Brende attended three business dinners with Epstein and exchanged messages between 2018 and 2019.

Brende said he regretted not being more transparent and did not want the issue to distract from the forum's work. An independent review found no additional concerns beyond previously disclosed contacts. WEF managing director Alois Zwinggi will serve as interim chief. Epstein died by suicide in 2019 while awaiting trial on sex trafficking charges.

### Sri Lanka's Tilvin Silva uses India visit to weigh development models and provincial election debate

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**T**ilvin Silva concluded a week long visit to India on Wednesday under the Indian Council for Cultural Relations Distinguished Visitors Programme, engaging with External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar and touring Gujarat and Andhra Pradesh. A report by the Trinco Centre for Strategic Studies said the visit carried symbolic and practical weight as Sri Lanka reassesses its political and economic direction. Silva compared India's development model with China's centralized approach and reiterated his party's criticism of Sri Lanka's provincial council system. The report said India emphasized inclusive development and Tamil rights as part of regional stability, while Colombo faces internal debate over elections and power sharing.

### Modi and Lula deepen strategic partnership during delegation talks in New Delhi

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**P**rime Minister Narendra Modi and Brazilian President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva held delegation level talks on Saturday in New Delhi, reviewing trade, investment, education, digital cooperation, energy, defense, and multilateral coordination. Lula, in India since Tuesday for the AI Impact Summit, is accompanied by 14 ministers and leading business executives. He paid tribute to Mahatma Gandhi earlier Saturday. India and Brazil, strategic partners since 2006, discussed cooperation in critical minerals, renewable energy, artificial intelligence, space, and global governance reform. Brazil remains India's largest trading partner in Latin America and the Caribbean, and both leaders signaled intent to expand engagement across the Global South.

### UK AI minister returns to Bihar, explores technology collaboration

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**U**nited Kingdom AI Minister Kanishka Narayan visited Patna on Saturday, returning to his birthplace after more than two decades. Welcomed by parliamentarian Sanjay Kumar Jha, Narayan is scheduled to meet Bihar officials to explore potential cooperation in artificial intelligence and technology development. Speaking on Friday at the India AI Impact Summit in New Delhi, he highlighted shared regulatory and strategic approaches between India and the United Kingdom. Narayan emphasized collaboration in responsible AI deployment, innovation, and research, calling the summit impactful. His visit is viewed as symbolically linking Bihar's technology ambitions with the United Kingdom's digital strategy.

## United States and India deepen strategic technology and Indo Pacific coordination amid China focus

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**T**he United States and India have expanded cooperation across artificial intelligence, critical technologies, and Indo Pacific security, reflecting converging concerns over China's growing economic and military influence. A new bilateral AI Opportunity Partnership announced this week focuses on aligning regulatory systems, strengthening semiconductor supply chains, securing critical minerals, and expanding energy infrastructure to support data centers and advanced computing.

The United States State Department's latest strategic framework identifies India as a central partner in maintaining a favorable balance of power in the Indo Pacific. The document highlights cooperation through the Quad, resilient supply chains, tariff enforcement, and economic statecraft as tools to counter coercive trade and security practices.

Officials in both countries describe the partnership as increasingly comprehensive, spanning emerging technologies, maritime



security, and industrial policy, positioning India as a key pillar in Washington's long term Indo Pacific strategy.

### India expands Africa outreach to secure energy supplies and scale trade beyond 100 billion dollars

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**I**ndia is stepping up engagement across Africa to strengthen energy security, maritime access, and South South economic cooperation, as bilateral trade surpasses 100 billion dollars and both sides target 200 billion dollars by 2030.

Nigeria remains one of India's top crude oil suppliers, with two way trade estimated between 11 and 15 billion dollars annually. Indian companies have invested heavily in pharmaceuticals, manufacturing, and services, while a diaspora community of about 50,000 people supports commercial ties.

In Mozambique, Indian public sector firms have committed billions of dollars to offshore natural gas projects in the Rovuma Basin, securing long term LNG supplies and reinforcing India's strategic presence in the



Western Indian Ocean.

At a recent New Delhi conference organized by the Chintan Research Foundation, policymakers emphasized digitization, climate cooperation, critical minerals, and supply chain resilience as pillars of a broader India Africa partnership.

### India and Sweden sign artificial intelligence pact and launch new technology corridor

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**I**ndia and Sweden on Wednesday signed a statement of intent to deepen cooperation in artificial intelligence and digital technologies on the sidelines of the India AI Impact Summit 2026 in New Delhi. The IndiaAI Mission and Business Sweden agreed to create a structured framework for developing and deploying artificial intelligence solutions with industrial and social impact.

The two sides also launched the Sweden India Technology and Artificial Intelligence Corridor, known as SITAC, to connect government agencies, companies, startups, and universities. Officials said the initiative will promote trade, investment,



research exchanges, conferences, and joint innovation platforms while advancing responsible and sustainable use of artificial intelligence.

### Gujarat and West Midlands explore green economy and AI cooperation after trade pact



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**A** delegation led by West Midlands Mayor Richard Parker met Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel on Sunday in Gandhinagar to discuss collaboration in higher education, green economy initiatives, electric vehicles, artificial intelligence, and advanced manufacturing. The visit follows the recent India United Kingdom trade agreement. Discussions also covered sports infrastructure ahead of the 2030 Commonwealth Games in Gujarat. Patel proposed a joint working group to accelerate cooperation and invited participation in future Vibrant Gujarat investment events.

### Guyana vice president praises India digital governance during New Delhi talks

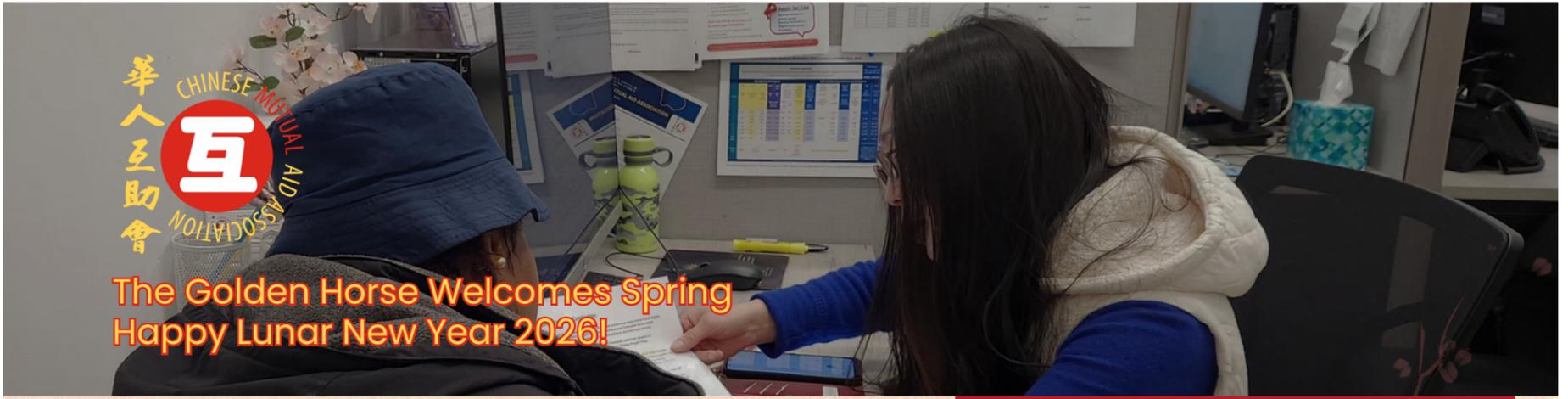
● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**I**ndia Vice President C. P. Radhakrishnan met Guyana Vice President Bharrat Jagdeo on Monday in New Delhi to discuss expanding cooperation in digital governance, financial inclusion, and capacity building. Jagdeo praised India's Unified Payments Interface model and expressed interest in adapting similar systems in Guyana, along with India's training programs. Both sides reaffirmed support for strengthening the Global South's voice at multilateral forums. Jagdeo attended the AI Impact Summit during his visit, underscoring growing India Guyana engagement across technology and diplomacy.

### Japan foreign minister reaffirms commitment to India partnership and Indo Pacific vision

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**J**apan Foreign Minister Toshimitsu Motegi said Tuesday he looks forward to strengthening ties with India following congratulatory exchanges with External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar. Both sides reaffirmed commitment to their Special Strategic and Global Partnership and cooperation toward a Free and Open Indo Pacific. The engagement follows their strategic dialogue held earlier in New Delhi, where discussions covered economic security, maritime cooperation, supply chains, critical minerals, and regional developments. Japan's ruling Liberal Democratic Party secured a two thirds majority in parliamentary elections earlier this month, reinforcing policy continuity.



### The Golden Horse Welcomes Spring Happy Lunar New Year 2026!

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# IndoUS TRIBUNE



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**Justice Department sues five more states over voter registration compliance**



**IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk**

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.

**EPA rolls back mercury rules for coal plants**

**IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk**

The Environmental Protection Agency announced Thursday it would repeal Biden-era mercury and hazardous air pollutant standards for coal-fired power plants, claiming the 2012 regulations already provide sufficient protection. Administrator Lee Zeldin said easing limits will save the United States an estimated \$670 million and support baseload power while maintaining health safeguards. Critics warn the rollback could increase mercury and toxin emissions, endangering children and communities. Senator Shelley Moore Capito praised the move, citing the burden on coal workers and communities. The decision aligns with broader Trump administration efforts to revitalize domestic coal production and energy independence.

**Berkeley council approves high-rise projects bypassing labor rules**

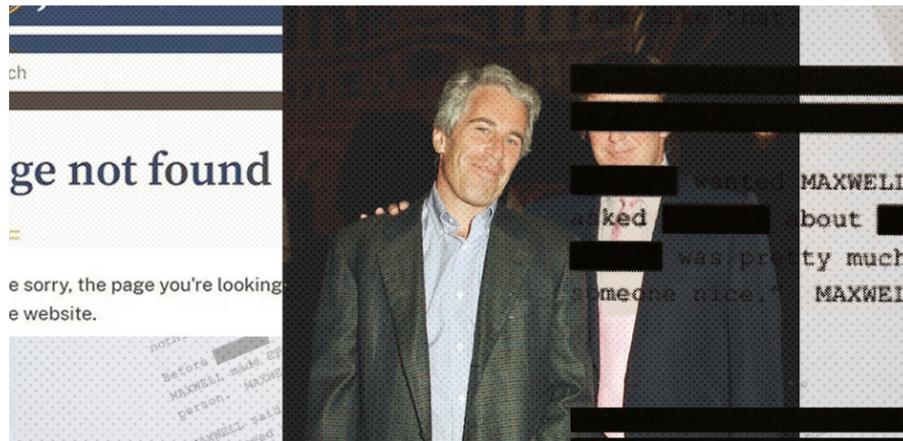
**IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk**

The Berkeley City Council approved two high-rise housing projects Monday that use California's density bonus law to bypass local labor standards. The 20-story Durant Avenue and 23-story University Avenue projects include affordable units, allowing developers to avoid mandates for worker health care, apprenticeships, and prevailing wages. Labor groups protested, arguing the law was intended for building size, not labor protections. Developers said complying with local requirements would make the projects financially unviable. Council members expressed concern but said state law prevents them from blocking the exemptions and urged legislators to close the loophole.

**Top Democrat says Justice Department withheld key Epstein interview records**

**IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk**

Representative Robert Garcia on Wednesday accused the Justice Department of withholding more than 50 pages of Federal Bureau of Investigation interview records tied to allegations against President Donald Trump in documents related to the late financier Jeffrey Epstein. Garcia, the senior Democrat on the House Oversight Committee, said media reports indicated the material involved interviews with a woman who accused Trump of sexual abuse as a minor.



The White House said Trump has been fully exonerated in matters related to Epstein, and law enforcement authorities have not

accused him of criminal wrongdoing. The Justice Department said it is reviewing whether any documents were improperly

withheld and would release them if appropriate, noting that prior disclosures include unverified and sensational claims.

**Lawmaker questions use of USAID funds for White House budget chief's security**

**IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk**

Democratic lawmaker is challenging the use of funds from the U.S. Agency for International Development to pay for White House budget chief Russell Vought's security. Representative Raja Krishnamoorthi called the move "a gross abuse of power," arguing it diverges from the funds' congressional purpose.



Reuters reported that more than \$15 million from USAID operating expenses was allocated for Vought's protection this year by the U.S. Marshals Service. Vought's office defended the decision, noting the director oversees three agencies and must ensure personal safety.

Krishnamoorthi has requested details on the funds' original congressional intent and whether other funding sources were considered for security costs.

**Bomb cyclone buries US Northeast, halts travel and cuts power for millions**

**IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk**

A massive winter storm dubbed a "bomb cyclone" slammed the US Northeast from Sunday night into Monday, dumping up to three feet of snow in Rhode Island and more than two feet in parts of Massachusetts, New York, and New Jersey. The rapidly intensifying storm brought wind gusts of 70 to 85 miles per hour, coastal flooding, and widespread power outages affecting more than 500,000 homes. Governors declared states of emergency and imposed travel bans on all but essential vehicles, while schools and offices were closed and thousands of flights were canceled across the region. New York City recorded 45 centimeters of snow in Central Park, its heaviest in a decade, prompting Mayor Zohran Mamdani to suspend nonessential travel and protect vulnerable residents. Emergency crews, reinforced by out-of-state utility workers, worked around the clock to clear roads and restore electricity. The National Weather Service warned that heavy snow and high winds would persist into Tuesday in northern New England, with coastal flooding expected from Delaware to Cape Cod.

**FBI searches LAUSD headquarters and superintendent's home**

**IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk**

The FBI served search warrants Wednesday at Los Angeles Unified School District headquarters and Superintendent Alberto Carvalho's San Pedro home. A Florida residence connected to Carvalho's former Miami-Dade schools role was also searched. Officials have not disclosed the nature

of the investigation. Carvalho, knighted by Spain for expanding Spanish-language programs, faced controversy over a failed \$3 million AI project and prior fundraising issues. Despite this, he has been praised for improving academic outcomes in both districts. The district said it is cooperating with authorities. This follows a recent lawsuit alleging racial discrimination under LAUSD's desegregation policy.

**Vermont towns struggle with surge in corporate records requests**

**IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk**

Colchester and other Vermont towns are overwhelmed by public records requests from out-of-state companies that resell government data. Officials say the volume, combined with tight state deadlines, is straining staff and budgets. Proposed changes include extending response times, charging

fees for in-person inspections, and limiting access to in-state residents and businesses. Journalists and transparency advocates warn these measures could reduce public accountability. Experts suggest alternatives like higher fees for corporate requesters or independent oversight. Officials report some requesters now submit dozens per week, costing towns hundreds of hours annually.

**Trump's glyphosate order sparks MAHA backlash**

**IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk**

President Donald Trump signed an executive order Tuesday invoking the Defense Production Act to boost domestic production of glyphosate-based herbicides and elemental phosphorus, calling them critical to national defense. The move drew criticism from Make America Healthy Again proponents, including Kelly Ryerson, who said it favors Bayer and Big Agriculture while harming public health and soil quality. Health Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr. defended the order, calling it vital for national security and the food supply. The measure also grants legal immunity for producers following federal directives, raising concerns about future litigation over glyphosate-related health claims.

## Secret Service fatally shoots man attempting to breach Mar-a-Lago

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**A** 21-year-old man from North Carolina was shot and killed by Secret Service agents early Sunday after he allegedly tried to unlawfully enter the secure perimeter of President Donald Trump's Mar-a-Lago resort in Florida. Law enforcement said the man was armed with a shotgun and carried a gasoline canister. Agents instructed him to drop the items, but he did not comply. No officers were injured. The FBI has opened an investigation, and the agents involved were placed on routine administrative leave. President Trump was in Washington at the time.

## Judge allows Trump White House ballroom construction to continue

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**A** U.S. judge on Thursday allowed President Donald Trump to proceed with the \$400 million White House ballroom project, ruling preservationists' challenge did not justify halting construction. The National Trust for Historic Preservation sought an injunction, citing the lack of congressional authorization and environmental review. U.S. District Judge Richard Leon said the group could amend its complaint to pursue claims of statutory overreach. Trump, who demolished the East Wing last October, called the ruling "great news for America" and praised the ballroom as a symbol of national pride. The project, approved by the U.S. Commission of Fine Arts, remains under construction with no firm completion date.

## Trump third-country deportation policy blocked by appeals court



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**A** U.S. appeals court on Wednesday refused to lift a lower court injunction blocking the Trump administration's policy to deport certain migrants to third countries. The First Circuit in Boston ruled that the government had not met the legal standard for a stay pending appeal. The case challenges the Department of Homeland Security's March 30 guidance, which allowed removals to countries other than migrants' nations of origin. The court expressed concern about potential "irreparable harm" from premature deportations and asked both sides to address whether the injunction conflicts with provisions of the Immigration and Nationality Act and related due process claims.

## NTSB chair criticizes House aviation bill after midair collision deaths

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**T**he head of the National Transportation Safety Board said Thursday that a House aviation safety bill falls short of NTSB recommendations following a midair collision near Washington, D.C., that killed 67 people last year. Chairwoman Jennifer Homendy called the bill "watered-

down" and said it does not require crucial ADS-B In systems, which allow pilots to track nearby aircraft. Families of the victims echoed the concern, saying the bill fails to prevent future tragedies. House leaders defended the legislation, saying it addresses 50 recommendations from the NTSB investigation. Homendy and the families insist full implementation of locator systems is essential to prevent another disaster.



## Larry Summers to resign from Harvard over Epstein ties

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**F**ormer Treasury Secretary Larry Summers announced Wednesday that he will resign from his remaining roles at Harvard University at the end of the academic year following scrutiny over his ties to the late convicted sex offender Jeffrey Epstein. Summers, who will remain on leave until his retirement, previously stepped back from public commitments, resigning

from positions at OpenAI, Bloomberg News, The New York Times, and the Center for American Progress. Since 2006, he held Harvard's Charles W. Eliot University Professorship and co-directed the Mossavar-Rahmani Center for Business and Government. While he has not been accused of wrongdoing, emails released in November showed frequent communication with Epstein after Epstein's Florida conviction but before his 2019 federal arrest.

## Report shows record numbers of Americans leaving the country

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**F**or the first time since the Great Depression, more Americans moved out of the United States than moved in last year. The Brookings Institution estimates a net loss of 150,000 people in 2025, a trend expected to grow in 2026. Factors driving migration include rising costs,

remote work, and lifestyle choices. Many Americans moved to European countries, including Germany, Portugal, Ireland, and Spain, seeking better quality of life. Relocation firms report surging demand, with families and mid-career professionals increasingly choosing overseas residency. Analysts have dubbed the trend the "Donald Dash," reflecting accelerated emigration during President Trump's second term.

## Minnesota governor unveils anti-fraud plan after Medicaid funding threat

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**M**innesota Governor Tim Walz unveiled a legislative package Thursday to combat public program fraud after the Trump administration threatened to withhold \$259.5 million in Medicaid funds over fraud concerns. The proposals include creating a centralized Office of the Inspector General and strengthening oversight and enforcement powers. Walz criticized the move as "targeted retribution" against the state, noting that federal officials gave no guidance or opportunity to demonstrate



existing anti-fraud measures. The funding freeze follows earlier actions withholding more than \$2 billion annually. Walz and Attorney General Keith Ellison are scheduled to testify before the U.S. House Oversight Committee next Wednesday on federal funds misuse.

## U.S. military shoots down Border Patrol drone by mistake in Texas

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**U**.S. military forces used a laser this week to destroy a drone near the U.S.-Mexico border that was later identified as belonging to Customs and Border Protection. The incident prompted the Federal Aviation Administration to temporarily close airspace around Fort Hancock, Texas. Lawmakers criticized the lack of coordination among the Pentagon, FAA, and Homeland Security. This marked the second laser-related airspace closure in two weeks in the region. Officials stressed that the action occurred far from commercial flights and populated areas. Congress has authorized additional law enforcement agencies to neutralize rogue drones if operators are properly trained.

## Mayor Mamdani secures housing and student release in White House meeting with Trump

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**N**ew York City Mayor Zohran Mamdani met with President Donald Trump on Thursday in an unannounced Oval Office visit, emerging with two unexpected wins. The mayor announced plans to collaborate on housing development projects, including 12,000 homes over Sunnyside Yards using \$21 billion in federal grants. In addition, Trump reportedly ordered the release of a detained Columbia University student, Elmina Aghayeva, after Mamdani raised her case. The meeting marked the second rare encounter between the Democratic socialist mayor and the Republican president, highlighting areas of common ground despite prior political tensions. Details on the housing plan and other interventions remain limited.

## Historic first as United States First Lady presides over Security Council meeting



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**U**nited States First Lady Melania Trump will preside on Monday over a meeting of the United Nations Security Council as the United States assumes the rotating presidency for March. United Nations spokesperson Stéphane Dujarric said Thursday it will be the first time a president's spouse gavel a council session. The debate will focus on education, technology and advancing tolerance. Under Secretary General Rosemary DiCarlo will brief members. United States Ambassador Michael Waltz said the role reflects Melania Trump's advocacy for children, including her Be Best campaign promoting responsible social media use.

## California Sikh volunteer killed in mistaken identity case shocks community



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**T**he Sikh community in Northern California is mourning the death of 57 year old Avtar Singh, a longtime gurdwara volunteer who authorities say was killed in a case of mistaken identity. The San Joaquin County Sheriff's Office said Tuesday that Singh, reported missing Sunday in Tracy, was forced into a vehicle and later found dead near Lake Berryessa.

Sheriff Patrick Withrow described the crime as an isolated incident and said Singh was not the intended target. Singh had served for more than two decades as head cook at his local gurdwara and was known for mentoring younger members of the congregation. Community leaders have called for swift justice as his wife and three children grapple with the loss.

## Pakistan moves to restore historic gurdwara tied to Guru Nanak's travels



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**I**n a development closely watched by the Sikh diaspora, Pakistan's minority affairs authorities on Wednesday inspected Gurdwara Pehli Patshahi Nanaksar in Sialkot district, a site associated with Guru Nanak Dev that has remained closed since Partition. Minority Affairs Minister Ramesh Singh Arora said restoration work would proceed as part of a broader heritage preservation initiative.

Located in Fateh Bhinder village, the structure shows significant wear, though a marble plaque in Gurmukhi commemorating Guru Nanak's visit remains intact. Officials said dozens of gurdwaras have been identified for phased restoration, with work already under way at several sites. The move is seen as an effort to preserve shared heritage and encourage religious tourism, drawing interest from Sikh communities in India, North America, and Europe.

## Sikh attorney Jaspreet Singh urges New York to recognize Punjabi as an official language

● Staff Writer, IndoUS Tribune

**A**mritsar native and Guru Nanak Dev University alumnus Jaspreet Singh has formally urged Kathy Hochul to grant official recognition to the Punjabi language in New York. On Monday, Singh was part of a Sikh delegation that submitted a memorandum to the governor's office seeking expanded language access and community support measures for Punjabi speakers across the state.

The delegation said Punjabi is among the fastest growing languages spoken in New York, particularly in neighborhoods with large Sikh and South Asian populations. They called for Punjabi to be included more broadly in government services, public school communications, and voting materials to ensure equal



access. Singh, who now practices law in New York, said recognition would reflect the community's economic contributions and civic engagement. Community leaders described the move as part of a broader effort to strengthen cultural identity and improve representation for the Punjabi diaspora in the United States.

## Indian American executive Asha Sharma to lead Microsoft Gaming amid AI shift

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**I**ndian American technology leader Asha Sharma has been appointed executive vice president and chief executive officer of Microsoft Gaming, overseeing the Xbox division at Microsoft. The leadership change was announced on Saturday by Chief Executive Officer Satya Nadella in an internal memo, marking the retirement of longtime gaming chief Phil Spencer after nearly four decades with the company.

Sharma will report directly to Nadella as Microsoft deepens its focus on cloud gaming, subscription services, and artificial intelligence driven experiences. She previously held senior roles at Meta, Porch Group, and Instacart, and rejoined Microsoft in 2024 as president of Core Artificial Intelligence Product. In a statement, Sharma pledged to deliver strong games, recommit to core Xbox fans, and redefine play across devices. Her



appointment has drawn both praise and online criticism, with some questioning her gaming background, while others celebrate her rise as another prominent Indian origin leader in global technology.

## Tighter visa rules and expiring permits leave Indian families in Canada facing growing uncertainty

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**I**ndian students and workers in Canada are confronting mounting uncertainty as federal caps on study permits coincide with a wave of expiring temporary visas. According to Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada, 383,905 study permits were issued in 2025, a 25 percent drop from the previous year. Indian nationals saw the steepest decline, with approvals falling from 188,715 in 2024 to 94,605 in 2025.

At the same time, nearly 2.9 million temporary resident permits across categories are set to expire through 2025 and 2026. Analysts estimate about 1.05 million work permits expired in 2025, with another 927,000 due to lapse in 2026. Many affected are Punjabi graduates and skilled workers who say they have contributed to Canada's economy and communities.

The federal government has introduced caps, stricter financial requirements, and tighter oversight of admission letters to



address housing and fraud concerns. Immigration Minister Lena Metlege Diab said last week the measures aim to restore balance, even as families worry about shrinking pathways to permanent residency.

## Calgary shooting adds to concerns over extortion targeting South Asian residents



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**A** shooting over the weekend at the Calgary home of Punjabi origin resident Lovjeet Sandhu has heightened concerns within Canada's South Asian diaspora about a rise in extortion related violence. Police said multiple shots were fired at the Savanna Park residence and the suspect fled. No injuries were reported. A social media post allegedly linked to Aarzo Bishnoi claimed responsibility, but authorities told CBC News that forensic analysis is ongoing before confirming any connection. Calgary police have reported 28 extortion related incidents since the start of 2025, including 13 shootings. Investigators believe some cases have targeted South Asian business owners, prompting community leaders to urge stronger protection measures and greater cooperation with law enforcement.

## Indo Canadian translator Padma Viswanathan earns International Booker longlist spot



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**C**anadian writer and translator Padma Viswanathan has been named to the 2026 International Booker Prize longlist for her translation of Brazilian author Ana Paula Maia's novel *On Earth As It Is Beneath*. The recognition has drawn pride across Indo Canadian literary circles. The annual prize, worth 50,000 pounds split between author and translator, honors works of fiction translated into English. Judges described the novel as a powerful exploration of power and moral decay. Viswanathan, who teaches at the University of Arkansas, has published fiction internationally and is widely respected for elevating global voices through translation. The shortlist will be announced by the end of March, with the winner revealed in May in London.



Friday, 27 February 2026

### US Sikh delegation urges SGPC to open religious centre in Yuba City



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

A visiting Sikh delegation from the United States met Harjinder Singh Dhama in Amritsar on Wednesday and urged the Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee to establish a Dharam Prachar Centre in Yuba City, California. Led by Dalbir Singh Gill, the group paid obeisance at Sri Darbar Sahib and said land for the centre had earlier been donated by US based Sikh leader Didar Singh Bains and his family.

Dhama said the proposal is already on the committee's agenda and assured the delegation that necessary steps would be taken. He appealed to the US Sikh community to extend support for expanding religious outreach and strengthening ties with the diaspora.

### Cross border marriage case of Sarabjeet Kaur reaches Lahore High Court



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The case of Indian national Sarabjeet Kaur, who traveled to Pakistan last year on a pilgrimage visa and later married a Pakistani citizen after converting to Islam, took a new turn on Tuesday. Her Indian husband, Karnal Singh, petitioned the Lahore High Court seeking annulment, claiming she had not legally dissolved her first marriage.

Filed through advocate Ali Changezi Sandhu, the plea alleges forced conversion and financial inducement, and argues the marriage is invalid under Islamic law without divorce. Sarabjeet, now known as Noor Fatima, has said she wishes to stay with her Pakistani husband. The court had earlier placed her in a shelter home before she returned to her spouse.

### Indian American attorney Neal Katyal helps secure Supreme Court curb on Trump tariffs

Staff Writer, IndoUS Tribune

Indian American attorney Neal Katyal played a central role in a major United States Supreme Court decision on Friday that limited former President Donald Trump's authority to impose sweeping tariffs under emergency powers. Representing a group of small businesses with support from the Liberty Justice Center, Katyal argued that the 1977 International Emergency Economic Powers Act did not give the president unilateral power to levy broad import taxes.



The Court agreed, ruling that the Constitution grants Congress the authority to impose taxes and that emergency economic powers cannot be stretched to justify across the board tariffs. Katyal, a former Acting Solicitor General and the son of Indian immigrants, said the decision reinforces the separation of powers and offers clarity for businesses, including many Indian American entrepreneurs affected by shifting trade policies.

### Indian American Voter Atlas launched to strengthen community political voice

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Community leaders this week unveiled the Indian American Voter Atlas, a new nonpartisan data initiative aimed at strengthening civic participation within the fast growing diaspora. Organizer Anang Mittal described it as the first open platform built specifically to map Indian American demographic trends and political engagement across the United States.



Launched ahead of the midterm elections, the online tool compiles public data to help advocacy groups, researchers, and community organizations better understand voting patterns and representation gaps. With more than four million Indian Americans nationwide, organizers say the atlas can help translate demographic growth into electoral influence. The initiative reflects broader efforts within the diaspora to increase

policy engagement and ensure that Indian American voices are visible in local, state, and national politics.

### U.S. Congressman honors Ami Bera family's immigrant journey and community service

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

In a tribute on Monday, Representative J. Luis Correa recognized the Bera family's decades long contributions to public service, education, and philanthropy, highlighting their immigrant roots from Gujarat. He praised Kanta and Babulal Bera for arriving in the United States in the 1950s, working multiple jobs, and raising three sons, including Representative Ami Bera, the longest serving Indian American in Congress.



Correa pointed to the family's commitment to giving back, including a 2020 donation of \$100,000 to the University of California Irvine School of Medicine to support medical students

traveling to India. He also cited their support for an all girls school in Rajkot that has educated more than 7,000 students. The remarks underscored the growing civic and philanthropic footprint of Indian American families across generations.

### London restaurateur shuts Indian eatery after alleged harassment and threats



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Indian origin entrepreneur Harman Singh Kapoor announced Monday that he will close his Hammersmith restaurant Rangrez next month after 16 years, citing financial strain, online abuse, and repeated disturbances. Kapoor alleged that his premises were targeted in 2023 after he posted videos criticizing the Khalistan movement and preacher Amritpal Singh.

He also expressed dissatisfaction with the response of the Metropolitan Police. In a message on social media, Kapoor described the decision as painful but said he plans to focus on community activism. The closure has sparked debate within sections of the British Indian and Sikh diaspora over free speech and safety concerns.

### Photo of Galway food bank queue sparks racist backlash against Indians



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

A photograph showing students lined up outside the Speir student pantry at the University of Galway triggered racist commentary online this week, with some social media users alleging without evidence that most in the queue were Indian. The image accompanied a report on rising demand for food assistance amid Ireland's cost of living crisis.

The article noted the pantry distributed nearly 500,000 euros worth of food last year but has turned away hundreds weekly due to demand. The report did not provide any nationality breakdown. The backlash comes amid previously reported attacks on Indians in Ireland, raising fresh concerns within the diaspora about xenophobia and misinformation.



### Migrant boat capsizes off Crete, leaving five dead as Greece faces renewed sea crossings

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**F**ive migrants were confirmed dead and about 20 remained missing after a wooden boat capsized early Saturday south of Crete, underscoring the continuing risks along the eastern Mediterranean migration route. The vessel overturned about 15 nautical miles from Kala Limena as passengers shifted while attempting to climb a rescue ladder from a passing ship, according to Greek authorities. A Panamanian flagged cargo vessel rescued 20 survivors, while the Hellenic Coast Guard and European Union border agency Frontex recovered five bodies. Survivors said roughly 50 people were aboard. Search operations by ships and aircraft were ongoing.

### Bangladesh Awami League reopens local offices amid debate over political comeback



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**B**angladesh's Awami League has reopened party offices in several districts in recent days, signaling a possible return to political activity after being banned last year by the interim government led by Muhammad Yunus. The party, formerly headed by ex Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, was barred from contesting national elections following her government's ouster. Analysts say the reopening of offices suggests an attempt at organizational revival, though questions remain about leadership, legal restrictions, and whether the current authorities will permit a broader political comeback.

### Special counsel appeals life sentence for former South Korean president over martial law order

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**A** special counsel team led by Cho Eun-suk said Wednesday it has appealed the life sentence handed last week to former President Yoon Suk Yeol for leading an insurrection linked to his brief declaration of martial law in December 2024. A Seoul court ruled that sending troops to the National Assembly in an attempt to block lawmakers met the constitutional definition of insurrection. Prosecutors cited factual and legal errors in the verdict and also appealed sentences imposed on former defense and police officials. Yoon, who denies wrongdoing, faces multiple additional trials, including an appellate hearing scheduled for next week on obstruction of justice charges tied to the martial law episode.

### European Union allows member states to use social funds to support cross border abortion access

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**T**he European Commission announced on Thursday that member states will be able to use existing European social funds to help women access safe abortion services in countries where the procedure is legal. The decision follows the My Voice, My Choice campaign, which gathered more than 1.2 million signatures calling for equal access to abortion across the 27 nation bloc. The proposal won majority backing from Members of the European Parliament in December. Equality Commissioner Hadja Lahbib said the move aims to reduce an estimated 500,000 unsafe abortions each year in Europe.

Supporters called the announcement a political commitment to women's rights, particularly for those in countries such as Malta and Poland with near total bans. Critics, including Poland based



group Ordo Iuris, argued it undermines national authority over health policy. Campaigners said they will continue pressing for dedicated funding and clear guidance for implementation.

### Trump asks Supreme Court to allow end to protections for Syrian migrants

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**P**resident Donald Trump's administration asked the United States Supreme Court on Thursday to lift a lower court order blocking the termination of Temporary Protected Status for about 6,000 Syrians living in the United States. The Justice Department filed an emergency request seeking to overturn a November ruling by United States District Judge Katherine Polk Failla in Manhattan, which halted the move while legal challenges

proceed. The New York based Second United States Circuit Court of Appeals declined on February 17 to pause that order. Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem announced in September that Syria no longer met the criteria for the humanitarian designation, first granted in 2012 during the civil war under former President Barack Obama. The administration argues the program has been overused, while advocates warn that ending protections could force families back into unstable conditions and disrupt American workplaces that rely on their labor.



### Kamala Harris sharply criticizes Trump's State of the Union in renewed policy clash

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**F**ormer Vice President Kamala Harris on Wednesday denounced President Donald Trump's State of the Union address, delivered Tuesday, calling it misleading on economic conditions, voting rights, and Iran. Speaking on a Substack program, Harris disputed Trump's claim that the nation is strong, citing high grocery, housing, and health care costs. She criticized proposed Medicaid cuts and opposed the SAVE Act voting measure. Harris also warned against escalating tensions with Iran, arguing that Americans do not want another military conflict. Her remarks signal an intensifying political battle ahead of the midterm elections.



### Indian tourism drives Sri Lanka's recovery as arrivals surpass pre crisis levels



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**I**ndian travelers have emerged as the largest source of visitors to Sri Lanka, accounting for 22.5 percent of total arrivals in 2025 as the island continues its recovery from the 2022 economic crisis. A report published Monday said overall arrivals reached 2.3 million in 2025, generating 3.2 billion dollars in revenue. The United Kingdom ranked second. Strong Indian demand has supported SriLankan Airlines and boosted low cost carrier IndiGo's expansion of routes to the island. More than 56,000 Indian tourists visited in December despite severe weather disruptions, highlighting the market's growing importance.

### Dutch minority coalition takes office after protracted post-election negotiations

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**A** new minority government in the Netherlands was sworn in on Monday at Huis ten Bosch Palace in The Hague, more than 110 days after the October general election. The coalition unites Democrats 66, the People's Party for Freedom and Democracy, and the Christian Democratic Appeal under Prime Minister Rob Jetten. Together, the parties hold 66 of the 150 seats in the House of Representatives, leaving them short of a majority. Their agreement prioritizes housing construction, energy transition, tighter immigration controls, social welfare reform, and national security. Minority cabinets are uncommon in Dutch politics, and coalition leaders acknowledged that sustained cooperation with parliament will be essential to pass legislation.

### Narendra Modi surpasses 100 million Instagram followers, widening global digital lead

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**P**rime Minister Narendra Modi has surpassed 100 million followers on Instagram, becoming the first serving world leader to reach the milestone and reinforcing his dominance in global digital outreach. Since joining the platform in 2014, Modi has built the largest following among political leaders, well ahead of President Donald Trump's more than 43 million followers. The milestone highlights Modi's sustained engagement with younger audiences at home and abroad. He also ranks highly in international approval surveys, underscoring his continued political prominence.

### German court suspends extremist designation of Alternative for Germany party



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

A court in Cologne ruled on Thursday that Germany's domestic intelligence agency must temporarily suspend its designation of the Alternative for Germany as an extremist organization, pending a final decision. The party had appealed the classification issued last year by the Federal Office for the Protection of the Constitution. Judges said there remained a strong suspicion that some officials acted against constitutional protections, but evidence was insufficient to label the entire party extremist for now. The injunction remains in effect until a full ruling. Interior Minister Alexander Dobrindt said the agency would continue defending its assessment in court.

### Vatican issues stamp honoring Ukrainian Catholics during wartime blackout



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The Vatican Postal Service unveiled a new postage stamp on Thursday honoring Ukraine's Catholics, depicting Kyiv's Cathedral of the Resurrection of Christ during a wartime blackout. The release coincides with the fourth anniversary week of Russia's invasion. Archbishop Sviatoslav Shevchuk called it a moment of consolation for the country's four million Eastern rite Catholics. The cathedral has served as a bomb shelter and symbol of resistance. The 1.35 euro stamp marks 30 years since the restoration of Kyiv's Catholic diocese and 12 years since the cathedral's construction.

### Italy's ruling coalition agrees on electoral law overhaul before 2027 vote

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Italy's governing coalition led by Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni agreed on Thursday to pursue a sweeping electoral law reform, according to sources. The proposal would replace the current mixed system with full proportional representation and guarantee a majority to any coalition winning more than 40 percent of the vote. A runoff would apply if coalitions secure between 35 and 40 percent. Supporters say the reform would ensure stability, while opposition parties accuse the government of trying to secure an advantage before the 2027 election. The measure requires parliamentary approval.

### El Mencho's killing seen as a setback for Mexico China drug networks using Indian waters

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The reported killing of Nemesio Ruben Oseguera Cervantes, known as El Mencho and leader of the Jalisco New Generation Cartel, in a military operation on Sunday is being viewed by Indian security agencies as a significant development in the fight against transnational narcotics trafficking. Mexican authorities reported coordinated violence in several states following his death, prompting travel advisories from India, the United States, and Canada.

Indian investigators have previously linked his cartel to a major interception by the Indian Coast Guard in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands in November 2024. In that operation, officials seized 6,000 kilograms of methamphetamine valued at approximately 6,000 crore rupees. Agencies suspected



coordination with networks associated with Tse Chi Lop, a convicted Chinese Canadian drug trafficker. Officials say Indian waters were used as a transit corridor to Southeast Asia and believe Oseguera's death could temporarily disrupt high value methamphetamine routes in the region.

### Nepal heightens security as election approaches amid monarchist protests and unrest concerns

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Nepal has intensified security measures ahead of parliamentary elections scheduled for Wednesday after authorities warned of possible disruptions. Security agencies cited risks including clashes between party supporters, activities by monarchist groups seeking the return of former king Gyanendra, and misinformation circulating online. Recent rallies in Kathmandu drew thousands backing the former monarchy, increasing political tensions. Officials said daily security briefings are underway and surveillance has been stepped up. The government maintains the vote will proceed as planned despite uncertainty fueled by protests and social media speculation.



### Hungary orders tighter security at energy sites amid claims of Ukrainian interference

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Prime Minister Viktor Orban on Wednesday ordered heightened security at key energy facilities, alleging Ukraine was attempting to disrupt Hungary's energy system. He claimed Kyiv was using "an oil blockade" after flows through the Druzhba pipeline halted on Monday, though Ukrainian officials said the pipeline was damaged in a Russian drone strike and repairs remain dangerous. Hungary and Slovakia continue importing Russian energy despite wider European reductions since the 2022 invasion. Orban also banned drone operations in a border county and deployed additional police and soldiers to



guard infrastructure. The move comes ahead of Hungary's April 12 election, where Orban faces a strong challenge from opposition leader Peter Magyar.

### Jaishankar urges development focused human rights approach at Geneva forum

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

India's External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar on Wednesday called for a broader, development driven approach to human rights while addressing the United Nations Human Rights Council in Geneva by video link. He urged zero tolerance for terrorism, describing it as among the gravest violations

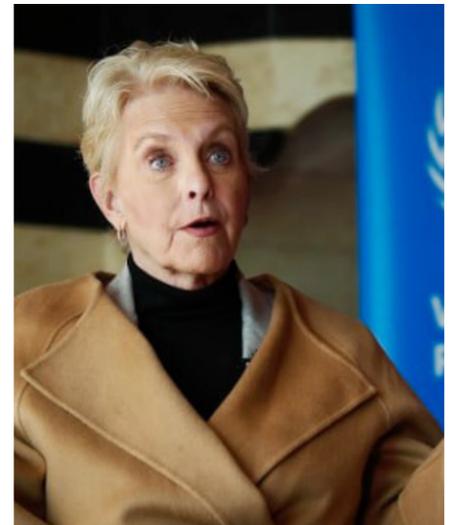
of human rights. Jaishankar said the United Nations must avoid politicization and double standards, and instead prioritize dialogue, capacity building and tangible improvements in people's daily lives. Citing India's election for a seventh term to the council with 177 votes, he said the mandate reflected trust from the Global South and reaffirmed India's commitment as a democratic bridge builder.

### Judge allows key witness to testify remotely in Prince Harry privacy trial

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

A High Court judge in London ruled on Thursday that a central witness in Prince Harry's privacy lawsuit against Associated Newspapers may give evidence by video link. Prince Harry and others allege unlawful information gathering by the Daily Mail publisher. Private investigator Gavin Burrows had provided a 2021 statement supporting the claims but later retracted it, saying it was substantially untrue. Judge Matthew Nicklin said Burrows' testimony is a major component of the case and allowed remote evidence after legal arguments. Live testimony in the trial is expected to conclude at the end of March.

### Cindy McCain to step down as head of United Nations World Food Programme



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Cindy McCain announced on Thursday she will step down as executive director of the World Food Programme in three months, citing incomplete recovery from a mild stroke suffered in October. The 71-year-old, who took office in 2023, said her health no longer allows her to meet the job's demands. She had returned to headquarters in Rome in January after recovering in Arizona. Her departure allows President Donald Trump to propose a successor to United Nations Secretary General Antonio Guterres. The United States remains the agency's largest donor.

### Two women detained under Uganda anti homosexuality law after alleged public kiss

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Two women were arrested last week in Arua City, Uganda, after police alleged they were seen kissing in public, an act that can carry life imprisonment under the country's 2023 Anti-Homosexuality Act. Wendy Faith, known as Torrero Bae, and Alesi Diana Denise remain in custody, and it is unclear when they will be formally charged. President Yoweri Museveni signed the law in 2023, introducing some of the world's harshest penalties for same sex relationships. Rights groups say arrests and harassment have increased sharply since the law took effect.

## Union Cabinet approves renaming Kerala to Keralam

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday, approved the proposal to change the name of the State of Kerala to Keralam. Following the approval, the President will refer the Kerala (Alteration of Name) Bill, 2026, to the Kerala Legislative Assembly for its opinion, as required under Article 3 of the Constitution. The Assembly had passed a resolution in June 2024 emphasizing that the state's name in Malayalam is Keralam and urging the Central Government to amend the First Schedule of the Constitution. The Home Ministry, with concurrence from the Departments of Legal Affairs and Legislative Affairs, finalized the proposal to proceed with parliamentary action for the name change.

## Agartala-Kolkata Maitree bus service via Bangladesh resumes after 18-month halt



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The Maitree international bus service connecting Agartala and Kolkata via Dhaka resumed on Tuesday after an 18-month suspension. The first bus departed Kolkata on Monday and reached Agartala via the Akhaura Integrated Check Post, where passengers received a warm welcome. Tripura Transport Minister Sushanta Chowdhury and TRTC officials highlighted the service as a symbol of trust and cooperation between India and Bangladesh. The route offers a faster, 620 km alternative to the traditional 1,650 km journey through the Siliguri Corridor, boosting trade, tourism, and connectivity in the Northeast.

## Delhi court acquits Arvind Kejriwal and Manish Sisodia in liquor excise case

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The Rouse Avenue Court on Tuesday acquitted former Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal and former Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia in the high-profile liquor excise policy case, citing insufficient evidence. The court found that no criminal conspiracy could be established and the prosecution failed to substantiate allegations of undue influence over the now-cancelled policy. Alongside 21 others, the leaders faced charges related to an alleged Rs 100 crore payment to favor a "south lobby." The judgment brings major legal relief to the AAP leaders after years of judicial scrutiny and follows their earlier arrests by the ED and CBI in 2024.

## India strengthens national security with first comprehensive counter-terrorism policy 'Prahaar'

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The government on Monday unveiled India's first comprehensive counter-terrorism policy, 'Prahaar', outlining a multi-layered strategy to prevent, disrupt, and respond to extremist violence. The policy, launched by the Home Ministry, is built on seven pillars, including intelligence-led prevention, denial of resources to terrorists, human rights compliance, countering radicalization, international cooperation, and recovery and resilience through community engagement.

The document notes that India faces threats from both domestic and foreign actors, including jihadi groups and global terror networks like Al-Qaeda and ISIS, which operate through sleeper cells and leverage technology, social media, and drones. Terrorist reliance on organized crime, encrypted communication, and CBRNED materials poses additional challenges, the policy says.

'Prahaar' emphasizes proactive, intelligence-guided interventions, coordinated through the Multi-Agency Centre and the Joint Task Force on Intelligence. The policy also underlines strengthening law enforcement capacities,



disrupting terror funding, addressing vulnerable communities, and fostering global partnerships. Investments in technology and private-sector collaboration are highlighted to counter emerging threats.

## Political clash intensifies as BJP calls out Priyanka Gandhi on Gaza remarks

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The political debate over India's stance on Gaza and Israel escalated on Wednesday as the Bharatiya Janata Party sharply criticized Congress leader Priyanka Vadra for what it described as "selective outrage." BJP national spokesperson Gaurav Bhatia labeled Gandhi the "female Ghajini of Indian politics," accusing her of highlighting the humanitarian crisis in Gaza while ignoring the October 7 attacks in Israel that killed over 1,200 civilians, including women who were abducted and raped. Mr. Bhatia shared an image of Gandhi carrying a bag with "Palestine" written on it, asserting that it is easier to display solidarity symbolically than to take a moral stand against such atrocities. Gandhi had urged Prime Minister Narendra Modi to



address the alleged genocide in Gaza during his two-day visit to Israel, emphasizing India's role in promoting truth, peace, and justice globally.

## Kerala's K.V. Thomas says Left poised for third term amid Congress divisions

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Kerala's Special Representative in New Delhi, K.V. Thomas, said on Wednesday that the Congress in Kerala is deeply divided and lacks leadership to rival Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan. Speaking on upcoming Assembly elections, Thomas noted the Left Democratic Front stands a strong chance to return to power under Vijayan's leadership. He also emphasized Kerala's progress on infrastructure projects, while noting financial challenges. On minority support, he highlighted Vijayan's approachability and recent Vatican visit as signals of continued engagement. Thomas remains a Congressman but collaborates closely with the Left, maintaining ties across party lines, including with senior BJP leaders.



## ED accuses Mamata Banerjee of obstructing I-PAC raid in Supreme Court

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The Enforcement Directorate told the Supreme Court on Wednesday that West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee grossly abused her power by entering I-PAC offices during ongoing raids on January 8. The agency alleged Banerjee, aided by senior Kolkata Police officials, forcibly removed computers, mobile phones, and incriminating documents linked to a Rs. 2,742-crore coal smuggling and money-laundering case. The ED rejected the State's claim that the CM intervened to prevent illegal searches, asserting her actions disrupted lawful proceedings and obstructed evidence collection. The matter underscores rising tension between the State government and central investigative agencies.

## NGT directs panel to propose long-term plan for Ghoramara Island erosion

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The National Green Tribunal has set up a Joint Committee to prepare a comprehensive plan to prevent coastal erosion of Ghoramara Island in the Sundarbans. The three-month study, announced on Wednesday, will assess ecological protection measures, mangrove restoration, costs, funding sources, and implementation agencies. The tribunal highlighted that piecemeal efforts have failed to curb land loss, with Ghoramara shrinking from 8.59 sq. km in 1969 to 3.83 sq. km in 2019. Climate change, sea-level rise, cyclones, and upstream human interventions contribute to ongoing erosion, threatening the livelihoods of around 4,000 island residents. The report is expected by May 28, 2026.

## Supreme Court sets May 5 for final hearing on Citizenship Amendment Act petitions



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The Supreme Court announced that it will begin the final hearing of over 200 petitions challenging the constitutional validity of the Citizenship Amendment Act, 2019, on May 5, concluding by May 12. A Bench led by Chief Justice of India Surya Kant heard the petitions on Thursday, noting that the Act's rules were notified nearly five years after its enactment. Petitioners argued that once citizenship is granted under the Act, it cannot be reversed. Solicitor General Tushar Mehta represented the Union government. The case addresses legal, constitutional, and human rights concerns, including the Act's implications for migrants and minority communities.

### India leads global AI initiative as 88 nations adopt New Delhi Declaration



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

New Delhi hosted the AI Impact Summit 2026, where 88 countries, including the US, China, Russia, and the European Union, signed the New Delhi Declaration on AI Impact. The non-binding agreement sets a global roadmap for equitable AI development, focusing on workforce reskilling, energy-efficient systems, and democratized AI resources. Held on February 18 and 19, the summit centered on seven pillars, or "Chakras," promoting inclusive innovation and cross-border scientific collaboration. India positioned itself as a bridge between AI superpowers and developing nations, signaling its ambition to lead global AI governance.

### PM Modi showcases India's AI achievements and celebrates Indian-origin cricketers in 'Mann Ki Baat'

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

In the 131st episode of his monthly radio program Mann Ki Baat on Sunday, Prime Minister Narendra Modi highlighted India's growing global influence in technology and sports. Reflecting on the AI Impact Summit 2026, held February 16-20 at Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi, he said the world witnessed "Bharat's remarkable capabilities" in artificial intelligence.

The summit emphasized human-centric AI, global cooperation, and ethical innovation, with India unveiling three 'Made in India' AI models. Standout innovations included AMUL's AI-assisted dairy management system and the digitization of the ancient Sushruta Samhita, made machine-readable, read by AI avatars, and translated into multiple languages, impressing global leaders.

Modi also praised Indian-origin cricketers excelling in teams abroad, from Canada's Dilpreet Bajwa to the USA's Monank Patel and Oman's Jatinder Singh. He said their achievements reflect the "speciality of



Bhartiyata," as they remain deeply connected to their roots while contributing to their adopted countries. Modi added that sports unite people and inspire youth, illustrating how Indians shine on the global stage in diverse fields.

### Supreme Court allows Tirupati laddu administrative enquiry alongside criminal proceedings

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The Supreme Court on Monday clarified that the Andhra Pradesh government's administrative enquiry into alleged adulteration of the sacred Tirumala 'Srivari laddu prasadam' will not interfere with ongoing criminal cases. A bench led by Chief Justice Surya Kant and Justice Joymalya Bagchi observed that the one-man committee enquiry and multiple chargesheets already filed in court can proceed simultaneously without overlap, ensuring both administrative review and criminal accountability in the matter.



### Supreme Court remands Madhya Pradesh OBC reservation pleas to state high court

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The Supreme Court on Thursday referred pleas challenging the increase of OBC reservation in Madhya Pradesh from 14 percent to 27 percent back to the state high court. A bench led by Justices P. S. Narasimha and Alok Aradhe directed the formation of a special bench to hear the matter and complete proceedings within three months. The top court emphasized that the high court is best placed to evaluate the legality and necessity of affirmative action, while the apex court made no comment on the merits of the petitions.

### Mahua Moitra challenges 2023 law on CEC and EC appointments in Supreme Court

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

MP Mahua Moitra has moved the Supreme Court against Section 7 of the 2023 Chief Election Commissioner and other Election Commissioners (Appointment, Conditions of Service, and Term of Office) Act, which governs the composition of the selection committee for appointing the CEC and ECs. The plea, filed through advocate Talha Abdul Rahman, describes the law as "executive-dominated" and argues it threatens the independence of the Election Commission, a cornerstone of free and fair elections. A bench of Justices Surya Kant and N. Kotiswar Singh deferred similar petitions on



Wednesday (February 19) after the Holi break. The matter could be heard on March 19. Moitra emphasized that impartiality in EC appointments is essential to safeguard India's democratic processes.

### India attends Trump's Gaza peace board meeting as observer

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

India attended the inaugural Board of Peace meeting on Gaza as an observer on Thursday, represented by Chargé d'affaires Namgya Khampa at the Donald J. Trump Institute of Peace in Washington. The meeting, chaired by US President Donald Trump, discussed Gaza's reconstruction and the deployment of an International Stabilization Force to ensure security and aid Israel-Hamas ceasefire efforts. India, while invited to join, chose not to become a member of the board, which includes 27 nations and a \$10 billion US funding pledge. The initiative is viewed as a potential alternative to the United Nations for promoting global peace.

### Veteran TMC leader Mukul Roy passes away at 71



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Mukul Roy, former railway minister and a founding member of West Bengal's Trinamool Congress, died of cardiac arrest in a Kolkata hospital on Monday at 71. He had battled multiple ailments, including Parkinson's disease, and had been hospitalized for over two years. Known as the Chanakya of Bengal politics, Roy played a key role in TMC's rise and served in both the shipping and railway ministries under the UPA government. Tributes poured in from leaders including Mamata Banerjee and Abhishek Banerjee, praising his political acumen and contributions to the state's public life.

### Maharashtra Assembly approves 10% reservation for Maratha community

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The Maharashtra Assembly unanimously passed a Bill granting 10 percent reservation in education and government jobs to the Maratha community on Tuesday (February 20). Chief Minister Eknath Shinde presented the legislation, based on a state Backward Class Commission report that identified Marathas as socially and educationally backward.

The law applies the creamy layer principle, ensuring benefits are limited to those outside the socially and educationally advanced segment. Justice (retired) Sunil Shukre, chair of the commission, stated that exceptional circumstances warranted reservation for Marathas even beyond the usual 50 percent cap. Shinde asserted the law would withstand legal scrutiny, emphasizing its alignment with constitutional provisions for equitable representation.



### Cabinet approves three railway projects to boost connectivity in four states



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The Union Cabinet on Tuesday approved three railway projects worth Rs. 9,072 crore, covering eight districts across Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Bihar, and Jharkhand. The projects include doubling the Gondia-Jabalpur line and adding third and fourth lines between Punarakh-Kiul and Gamharia-Chandil. Spanning 307 km, the projects aim to decongest busy routes, improve connectivity to 5,407 villages with a population of around 9.8 million, enhance access to tourist sites, and facilitate additional freight traffic of 52 million tonnes per year under the PM-Gati Shakti plan.

**Tesla promotes California robotaxi plans but logs no autonomous test miles**



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Tesla has continued to promote plans for a driverless robotaxi service in California, yet state records show it logged zero autonomous test miles there last year for the sixth consecutive year. Data from the California Department of Motor Vehicles indicate the company has not recorded any self driving miles with regulators since 2019 and only 562 miles since 2016. Tesla currently holds only an entry level permit allowing testing with a human safety driver and has not applied for additional approvals required for fully driverless service. By contrast, Waymo logged more than 13 million test miles over nearly a decade before securing permission to operate commercial driverless rides. Much of Tesla's valuation is tied to expectations of a large scale autonomous fleet.

**Coca-Cola to invest \$6 billion in Mexico following talks with Sheinbaum**

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Coca-Cola will invest \$6 billion in Mexico, President Claudia Sheinbaum said on Thursday after meeting the company's global chief executive, Henrique Braun. In a social media post, Sheinbaum said Braun outlined the multibillion-dollar commitment during their discussion. The investment is expected to strengthen Coca-Cola's operations in one of its key international markets, though further details on project timelines and allocation were not immediately disclosed. Mexico is among Coca-Cola's largest markets by consumption, and the announcement signals continued confidence in the country's manufacturing and consumer base. The company has maintained a significant presence in Mexico for decades, with extensive bottling and distribution networks across the country.

**Instagram to notify parents about repeated teen searches on suicide topics**

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Instagram said on Thursday it will begin alerting parents if teenagers repeatedly search for suicide or self-harm related terms, expanding its supervision tools as governments weigh tighter rules for minors online. The Meta owned platform will notify parents who enroll in optional oversight settings when such searches occur. The feature rolls out next week in the United States, Britain, Australia, and Canada. Instagram said it already blocks harmful content and directs users to support resources. The move comes as countries including Australia and Britain consider restrictions on social media use for children under 16, reflecting mounting global concern about online safety and youth mental health.

**India and Israel agree to link UPI with Israeli payment system to ease cross border transactions**

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

India and Israel agreed on Thursday to deepen their digital and financial partnership by enabling cross border use of India's Unified Payments Interface, allowing it to connect with Israel's domestic payments system. The announcement came during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Israel.

Under the agreement, UPI will be linked with Israel's local payments framework to make digital transactions between the two countries faster and more affordable for businesses and consumers. Modi said he was pleased that an understanding had been reached to operationalize UPI in Israel and described it as a step toward strengthening financial connectivity.

UPI is developed and operated by the National Payments Corporation of India and is already active in several countries, including the United Arab Emirates, Singapore, Bhutan, Nepal, Sri Lanka, France, Mauritius, and Qatar.



According to a study commissioned by India's Finance Ministry, UPI accounts for 57 percent of total payment transactions in India, surpassing cash at 38 percent, reflecting a significant shift toward digital payments.

**Bombardier sees growth opportunity in India as airport expansion gathers pace**

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Canadian aircraft manufacturer Bombardier believes India's push to upgrade and expand airport infrastructure could create new opportunities for business jet sales, Chief Executive Officer Eric Martel said on Thursday. Speaking to reporters in Montreal, Martel noted that about 60 Bombardier business jets are currently operating in India, but limited aviation infrastructure has constrained further growth. He said the Indian government is now investing heavily in airport development, with roughly a dozen new airports under construction and potentially more in the pipeline. Martel said the broader infrastructure buildout planned over the next several years is expected to support increased demand for private aviation services. India is one of the world's fastest growing major economies, and rising corporate travel and wealth



creation are seen as supportive factors for business jet demand. Martel indicated that improved airport capacity and connectivity would likely open doors for Bombardier to expand its footprint in the Indian market.

**OpenAI names London its largest research hub outside the United States**

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

OpenAI announced on Thursday that it will expand its London operations to become its largest research hub outside the United States, citing Britain's strong technology ecosystem and top universities as key advantages. The move aligns with the U.K. government's efforts to position the country as a global leader in artificial intelligence research.

Mark Chen, OpenAI's research chief, highlighted the concentration of talent and scientific expertise, while U.K. Technology Minister Liz Kendall described the expansion as a vote of confidence in the nation's AI leadership. OpenAI's London office, which first opened in 2023, currently employs more than 30 staff



focused on software and infrastructure development for AI models. The company did not disclose investment amounts or the number of new jobs to be created but indicated that the hub will support long-term AI research and development outside its U.S. headquarters in San Francisco and its European base in Dublin.

**Netflix and Paramount shares jump as Paramount wins Warner Bros race**



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Netflix has withdrawn from its pursuit of Warner Bros Discovery, clearing the way for Paramount to acquire the Hollywood studio in a \$111 billion deal. The decision came on Thursday after Paramount, owned by Skydance and backed by billionaire Larry Ellison, raised its offer to \$31 per share, surpassing Netflix's \$27.75 per share proposal. Netflix said the price required to stay in the contest made the acquisition financially unattractive and emphasized that the deal was always a "nice to have" at the right price.

Investors responded positively to the resolution of the months-long bidding war. Netflix shares rose more than 9 percent premarket on Friday, while Paramount shares jumped about 10 percent. Paramount's bid included a \$7 billion termination fee and \$45.7 billion in equity commitments. The merger still requires Warner shareholder and regulatory approval amid antitrust scrutiny in the United States and Europe. Warner CEO David Zaslav praised Netflix as "extraordinary partners" and said the deal "will create tremendous value."

**RBC and TD top estimates as Canadian banks post strong quarterly gains**



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Royal Bank of Canada and Toronto-Dominion Bank beat analyst expectations on Thursday, capping a quarter in which Canada's largest lenders reported broad based revenue growth. Royal Bank earned \$4.08 per share on an adjusted basis in its fiscal first quarter, above estimates of \$3.84, while Toronto-Dominion posted \$2.44 per share, topping forecasts of \$2.25. Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce also exceeded projections with adjusted earnings of \$2.76 per share. Royal Bank recorded \$1.09 billion in provisions for credit losses, slightly above expectations. Chief executive Dave McKay cited strength across retail banking and capital markets. Shares of CIBC and TD reached record highs, while Royal Bank slipped modestly in Toronto trading.

Friday, 27 February 2026

Gold and silver ease on Thursday as profit taking offsets safe haven demand

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Gold and silver prices edged lower on Thursday as investors booked profits after recent gains, although geopolitical tensions and a softer United States dollar limited declines. On India's Multi Commodity Exchange, gold futures for April fell 0.25 percent to about 1,940 dollars per 10 grams, while silver futures for March dropped 1.16 percent to roughly 3,200 dollars per kilogram, based on prevailing exchange rates. In the previous session, both contracts had posted strong gains, prompting some selling. Analysts said uncertainty surrounding United States tariff policy and global trade negotiations continues to support safe haven buying. While near term volatility is expected, market participants said the broader outlook for precious metals remains constructive amid lingering economic and geopolitical risks.

Chinese electric vehicle makers face slowing sales and margin pressure in crowded market

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Chinese electric vehicle manufacturers are grappling with weaker demand and rising competition that are clouding their long-term profit outlook. Li Auto reported November deliveries of just over 33,000 vehicles, down nearly 32 percent from a year earlier, highlighting cooling momentum in the world's largest electric vehicle market. Industry data from the China Association of Automobile Manufacturers showed new electric vehicle sales fell nearly 20 percent in January. Market leader BYD also recorded a sharp drop in deliveries at the start of the year. Analysts say shrinking government subsidies, rapid model launches, and limited demand beyond major cities are squeezing margins and forcing companies to compete more aggressively on price.

India outlines customs modernization drive at World Trade Organization meeting in Geneva

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

India's Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs on Tuesday showcased its customs reforms during sessions held alongside a meeting of the Committee on Trade Facilitation at the World Trade Organization in Geneva. Officials said India has notified 100 percent of its commitments under the Trade Facilitation Agreement and is advancing beyond minimum requirements under its National Trade Facilitation Action Plan. The delegation highlighted digital customs systems, a single window interface, risk management tools, and the authorized economic operator program. Since 2022, India's training academy for customs and indirect taxes has conducted 65 programs for more than 1,800 international participants, underscoring its growing role in capacity building for developing countries.

India and US explore trade revival following Trump tariff setback

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

India's Trade Minister Piyush Goyal held an in-depth meeting with United States Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick over lunch in New Delhi on Thursday to discuss expanding bilateral trade and economic cooperation. The talks came days after President Donald Trump saw his sweeping global tariffs invalidated by the Supreme Court, signaling a shift in the legal framework governing U.S. duties on imports.

U.S. Ambassador to India Sergio Gor described the meeting as highly productive, noting multiple areas for collaboration. The discussions highlighted India's intent to resume two-way trade negotiations while exploring frameworks for tariff reductions, supply chain integration, and market access.

Following the court ruling, Trump imposed a temporary 10 percent duty on imports from all countries, including India,



with plans to increase it to 15 percent. Previously, the United States and India had agreed on a framework to reduce Washington's tariffs on Indian goods from 50 percent to 18 percent, including adjustments to punitive tariffs linked to India's Russian oil imports. The meeting underscores India's ongoing strategy to strengthen global trade ties while navigating evolving U.S. trade policies.

Tesla and German union reach temporary truce ahead of works council vote

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Tesla and German labor union IG Metall agreed on Thursday to set aside a dispute over a labor meeting at Tesla's Berlin plant earlier this month. The agreement came after Tesla filed a criminal complaint against a union member accused of secretly recording a meeting on February 10, an allegation IG Metall called a "calculated lie." The temporary truce, mediated by

a Frankfurt an der Oder labor court, ensures that neither side will make further allegations until the works council election next Wednesday. Local IG Metall leader Jan Otto emphasized that the focus can now return to working conditions. Tesla has not provided immediate comments on the agreement. The resolution allows both parties to concentrate on broader labor issues while avoiding disruption ahead of the critical election for employee representation at the Berlin facility.



Walmart to pay \$100 million to settle deceptive earnings case

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Walmart has agreed to pay \$100 million to settle allegations that it misled delivery drivers about earnings in its Spark Driver program, the Federal Trade Commission said on Thursday. The agency, joined by 11 states, alleged that Walmart falsely told customers all tips would go to drivers and displayed inflated pay and tip amounts to workers. Under the settlement, Walmart is barred from misrepresenting driver earnings in future offers. The company said it has issued payments to affected drivers and continues to review compensation where appropriate. The Federal Trade Commission said transparent and accurate pay disclosures are essential for fair labor markets and warned



gig economy companies to maintain strong compliance systems.

South Korea fines Coupang 1.54 million dollars for supplier pressure as data breach probe continues

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

South Korea's Fair Trade Commission said on Thursday it fined Coupang 2.19 billion won, about 1.54 million dollars, for pressuring suppliers to lower prices and shoulder advertising costs to protect its profit margins. The regulator also found that the company delayed payments and failed to pay interest on overdue amounts, violating retail trade rules, and issued corrective orders. Separately, Coupang said on Wednesday that about 200,000 Taiwanese accounts were accessed in a broader data breach disclosed in November 2025. Following forensic investigations by Mandiant and Palo Alto Networks, the company said there was no evidence that highly sensitive data was shared and attributed the incident to unauthorized actions by a former employee.

European Union tightens controls on Chinese ingredient after global infant formula recalls



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The European Commission said on Tuesday it would impose stricter import checks from Wednesday on arachidonic acid oil from China after linking it to contamination in infant formula. Since December, companies including Nestle, Lactalis, and Danone have recalled products in about 60 countries after tests detected cereulide toxin produced by Bacillus cereus. French authorities are investigating two infant deaths potentially linked to contaminated milk. The European Food Safety Authority recently set a recommended intake limit for infants at 0.014 micrograms per kilogram of body weight. Shipments must now undergo border checks and include laboratory certification confirming the absence of the toxin.

AMD and Meta sign multi-year artificial intelligence infrastructure deal worth up to six gigawatts

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

United States chipmaker Advanced Micro Devices and Meta Platforms announced on Tuesday a multi-year partnership to expand artificial intelligence infrastructure. AMD will deploy up to six gigawatts of its Instinct graphics processing units to power Meta's data centers, with shipments for an initial one gigawatt expected in the second half of 2026. The systems will use a custom MI450 architecture and sixth generation EPYC processors. As part of the agreement, AMD issued Meta a performance-based warrant for up to 160 million shares tied to shipment volumes and technical milestones, positioning the deal as a significant driver of multi-year revenue growth.

**Joel Quenneville joins elite 1,000-win NHL coaching club with Ducks comeback victory**



**J**oel Quenneville celebrated his 1,000th NHL coaching victory as the Anaheim Ducks rallied to a 6-5 win over the Edmonton Oilers on Wednesday. The milestone places him alongside Scotty Bowman in hockey history. Anaheim overcame two two-goal deficits and another one-goal deficit in a four-goal third period, with Cutter Gauthier scoring the game-winner with 1:14 left. Quenneville, 67, returned to the NHL this season after a four-year absence, leading the Ducks into playoff contention for the first time since 2018. Over his 26-season coaching career, he has won three Stanley Cups with the Chicago Blackhawks and guided multiple teams to consistent postseason success.

**U.S. women's hockey team to celebrate Olympic gold with Flavor Flav in Las Vegas**



**T**he United States women's hockey team will be honored for its 2026 Winter Olympic gold medal with a "She Got Game" weekend event in Las Vegas starting July 16. Rapper Flavor Flav, a longtime supporter of women's Olympic athletes, will host the team for dinners, shows, and celebrations. Team USA defeated Canada 2-1 in overtime to claim its third Olympic gold in the event, following decisive quarterfinal and semifinal wins against Italy and Spain. Flav previously helped Olympic athletes with financial support and public recognition. The weekend celebration aims to spotlight female athletic achievement and the team's historic success at Milan Cortina 2026.

**David Blitzer intensifies global bidding war for Indian Premier League teams**

**B**illionaire investor David Blitzer is intensifying the competition to acquire a majority stake in an Indian Premier League franchise, joining a high-profile bidding war with Manchester United co-chairman Avram Glazer and prominent Indian tycoons. Sources say Blitzer, co-founder of Harris Blitzer Sports & Entertainment and executive at Blackstone Group, is evaluating Royal Challengers Bengaluru, last year's IPL champions, and Rajasthan Royals. Royal Challengers Bengaluru is reportedly valued at around \$1.8 billion.

Blitzer's move would further expand his global sports portfolio, which already includes the NBA's Philadelphia 76ers and NHL's New Jersey Devils. Both he and Glazer are negotiating with investors and lenders to form consortiums to secure control. Indian



billionaires Adar Poonawalla and Ranjan Pai are also eyeing Royal Challengers Bengaluru. The final bids are expected by mid-March, ahead of the IPL season beginning March 26, which will feature 84 matches across India.

**LA28 CEO Reynold Hoover reaffirms support for embattled chair Casey Wasserman**

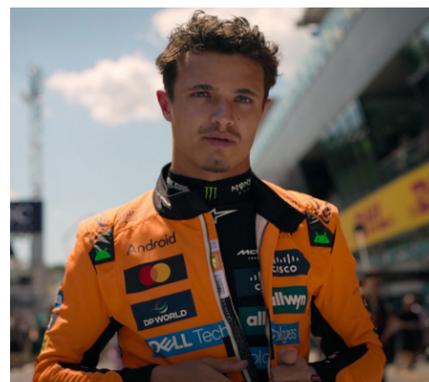


**L**A28 chief executive Reynold Hoover voiced strong backing for chair Casey Wasserman on February 23, following scrutiny over old emails linking Wasserman to convicted sex trafficker Ghislaine Maxwell. Hoover emphasized the board's support and pointed to LA28's strong commercial performance, including record sponsorship revenue and ticket sales, as evidence of stability under current leadership. This was Hoover's first public comment since the Los Angeles mayor suggested Wasserman step down. The remarks come after outside counsel concluded Wasserman's past associations did not go beyond previously documented information. Hoover reaffirmed confidence in LA28's leadership team ahead of the 2028 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

**Netflix and Apple team up to bring Formula One to U.S. viewers**

**N**etflix and Apple TV have joined forces to expand U.S. access to Formula One content, with Netflix streaming the Canadian Grand Prix live in May and season eight of its hit docu-series 'Drive to Survive' available on Apple TV, the companies announced Thursday. Apple TV takes over from ESPN as the exclusive U.S. broadcaster for all 24 F1 rounds this season, offering select races and practice sessions for free.

Season eight of 'Drive to Survive' offers behind-the-scenes coverage of the 2025 campaign, which saw McLaren and Lando Norris claim victories. Apple's Senior Vice-President Eddy Cue emphasized that the partnership will amplify F1 across all Apple services, while Formula One Chief



Media Rights Officer Ian Holmes noted the sport is attracting younger and more female audiences in the U.S. The collaboration underscores streaming platforms' role in broadening F1's fan base.

**President Donald Trump to award Medal of Freedom to U.S. men's hockey goalie Connor Hellebuyck**

**P**resident Donald Trump announced he will award the Presidential Medal of Freedom to Connor Hellebuyck after leading the U.S. men's Olympic hockey team to gold at Milan Cortina 2026. The award was confirmed during Trump's State of the Union address on Tuesday, where Hellebuyck and his teammates were special guests. Hellebuyck made 41 saves in the 2-1 overtime win against Canada and is a three-time Vezina Trophy winner and reigning Hart Trophy recipient. Trump praised the team as "special champions" and highlighted their contributions to American pride. Recent Medal of Freedom recipients include Simone



Biles, Megan Rapinoe, Katie Ledecky, and Lionel Messi.

**Abhishek Sharma and Hardik Pandya propel India to 72-run T20 World Cup win over Zimbabwe**



**I**ndia defeated Zimbabwe by 72 runs on Thursday in the ICC Men's T20 World Cup Super Eights, keeping their semifinal hopes alive. Abhishek Sharma scored 55 off 30 balls and Hardik Pandya added an unbeaten 50 off 23, while Tilak Varma contributed 44 not out. India posted 256/4, the highest T20 World Cup score to date, hitting 17 sixes. Arshdeep Singh claimed 3-24 to help restrict Zimbabwe to 184/6. Brian Bennett top-scored with 97 not out for Zimbabwe. The victory secures South Africa's semifinal spot and sets up a crucial March 1 clash against the West Indies in Kolkata for India's knockout hopes.



**Brooks Koepka donates \$5 million as part of PGA Tour return**

Brooks Koepka split a \$5 million charitable donation among several organizations on Tuesday, fulfilling a condition of his return to the PGA Tour under the Returning Member Program. The five-time major winner's hometown Nicklaus Children's Health Care Foundation received \$1 million, \$1.5 million was shared among ten other recipients, and \$2.5 million went to beneficiaries chosen by fellow PGA Tour players. Koepka also forfeited participation in the player equity program for five years. He has played two events since returning, including a tie for 56th at the Farmers Insurance Open.



## Chelsea and West Ham fined for mass brawl at London derby



Chelsea and West Ham United were fined \$439,140 and \$404,400, respectively, by the Football Association for a mass confrontation at the end of their London derby on January 31. The melee involved nearly 20 players after Chelsea battled back from two goals down to win 3-2. West Ham's Adama Traore threw Marc Cucurella to the ground, while Jean-Clair Todibo was sent off for clutching Joao Pedro's throat. Both clubs admitted failing to control player behavior, according to the FA. The incident has prompted renewed calls for stricter disciplinary measures in Premier League matches to prevent dangerous on-field confrontations.

## Kylian Mbappe sidelined for Real Madrid's Champions League playoff against Benfica



Real Madrid forward Kylian Mbappe will miss Wednesday's Champions League playoff second leg against Benfica due to a knee injury, manager Alvaro Arbeloa confirmed. The French striker, who has scored 38 goals this season, including 23 in LaLiga, has also missed December and January matches while recovering. Club and player doctors mutually agreed that resting Mbappe is necessary for a full recovery. Arbeloa could not provide a timeline for his return, indicating the absence will extend beyond a few days. The 27-year-old remains a key figure for Madrid's attack, and his full fitness is vital for the remainder of their domestic and European campaigns.

## Cristiano Ronaldo buys stake in Spanish club Almeria

Cristiano Ronaldo has acquired a 25 percent stake in Spanish second-division club Almeria, which is owned by Saudi Arabian investors, the player's consulting firm announced Thursday. The 41-year-old Portuguese forward, who plays for Al-Nassr in Saudi Arabia, said the move fulfills his ambition to contribute to football beyond the pitch.

Ronaldo's CR7 Sports Investments subsidiary executed the deal. Almeria, currently third in Spain's second division, was most recently in the first division during the 2023-24 season. Saudi owner Mohamed Al-Khereiji, who purchased the club in 2025, welcomed Ronaldo's involvement, praising his understanding of Spanish football and the potential for growth in both the first team and the academy. Financial terms were not disclosed. The move marks Ronaldo's first significant ownership investment in European club football.



## Leadership shake-up adds uncertainty to 2030 French Alps Winter Games

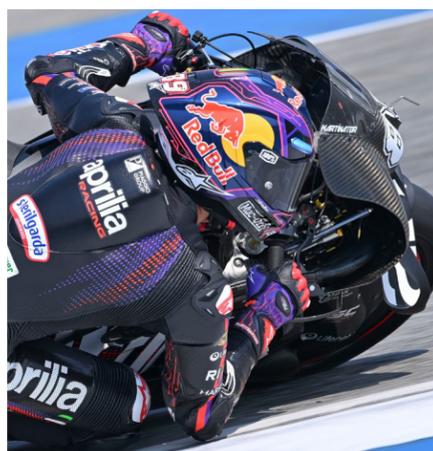
The 2030 French Alps Olympics face renewed uncertainty after CEO Cyril Linette resigned amid ongoing internal conflicts, formally acknowledged by the executive board over the weekend. Linette had clashed with Edgar Grospron, former freestyle skiing Olympic champion and head of the organizing committee, amid a series of high-profile resignations, including the chief operating officer, communications director, and remuneration committee head. Organizers emphasized a collective desire for "renewed governance" while affirming their commitment to the Games. The Winter Olympics, split between mountain snow sports and skating events in Nice, faces logistical challenges, with speed skating



likely to be hosted abroad in Turin, Italy, or Heerenveen, Netherlands, to avoid high construction costs. A final venue map is expected by the end of June.

## MotoGP enters pivotal final season of 1,000cc era

The 2026 MotoGP season opens in Thailand this weekend, marking the final year of 1,000cc bikes before the series transitions to 850cc in 2027. The 22-race season features a homologated engine freeze, emphasizing optimization over innovation. Ducati begins with an advantage, while Yamaha and Honda race to extract every possible performance gain. Reigning champion Marc Marquez faces both the weight of his seventh title and the risk of lingering injuries. Jorge Martin aims to rebuild confidence after a crash-hit 2025, while contract uncertainties loom for several top riders, including Francesco Bagnaia and Fabio Quartararo. MotoGP rookie Toprak Razgatlioglu's adaptation to the premier class will be closely watched in



a season defined by intense competition and the final roar of the 1,000cc era.

## Neymar ends goal drought with Santos double against Vasco da Gama



Neymar silenced critics who questioned his scoring form with a brace on Thursday, leading Santos to a 2-1 league victory over Vasco da Gama. The goals ended his recent drought and boosted his chances of securing a place in Brazil's World Cup squad. The winger's performance demonstrated his enduring impact, helping Santos maintain momentum in the domestic league. Neymar's double underlined his ability to deliver in crucial moments, reassuring fans and national team selectors alike. The victory also strengthened Santos' position in the league standings, showing that their star forward remains a decisive figure despite recent criticism.

## NBA fines Anthony Edwards and Desmond Bane for throwing balls into stands



The NBA fined Minnesota Timberwolves All-Star Anthony Edwards \$25,000 on Thursday for throwing the game ball into the stands during halftime of Minnesota's victory over Portland on Tuesday. Video showed the ball striking an arena staff member. Edwards casually grabbed the loose ball after a missed Trail Blazers shot and hurled it the length of the court. Orlando Magic guard Desmond Bane received a similar \$25,000 fine for throwing a ball into the stands at the conclusion of Orlando's 110-109 win over the Los Angeles Lakers on Tuesday. Edwards has faced multiple fines this season, totaling \$420,000, mostly for profane language and previous incidents involving ball tosses after ejections.

## McLaren cautious as Ferrari and Mercedes lead early F1 tests

McLaren team principal Andrea Stella said Ferrari and Mercedes currently appear a step ahead following last week's pre-season Formula 1 test. Charles Leclerc led Ferrari in a strong race simulation, while McLaren and Red Bull showed comparable pace. Stella noted performance will vary by circuit and emphasized the importance of mastering energy harvesting under new regulations. McLaren continues refining its Mercedes-powered engines and integration. The season begins with the Australian Grand Prix March 6-8, setting up a tightly contested 2026 campaign.



## Etcheverry wins first ATP Tour title at Rio Open

Tomas Martin Etcheverry captured his first ATP Tour title at the Rio Open on Sunday, defeating Alejandro Tabilo 3-6, 7-6(3), 6-4. After Saturday rain postponed his semi-final, the Argentine played two matches in one day to secure the ATP 500 championship. Trailing early in the final, Etcheverry dug deep to claim his career milestone and his 100th tour-level win. The victory moves him up 18 spots to No. 33 in the ATP Live Rankings. In doubles, Brazil's Joao Fonseca and Felipe Melo defeated Constantin Frantzen and Robin Haase 4-6, 6-3, 10-8.

**Diljit Dosanjh's childhood style hints at superstar swagger**



**P**unjabi superstar Diljit Dosanjh's team shared a nostalgic peek into his childhood, revealing his signature style and charisma from an early age. The "Lover" singer-actor's Instagram featured photos set to French Montana's "No Stylist," captioned, "From Day 1, NO STYLIST." Diljit, recently seen in *Border 2*, re-shared the images with a starry-eyed emoji. *Border 2*, set during the 1971 war, is presented by Gulshan Kumar and T-Series alongside J.P. Dutta's J.P. Films. Diljit, who began his career in 2002, gained fame with albums like *Smile*, *Chocolate*, and *The Next Level*. He will next star in *Panjab '95*, telling activist Jaswant Singh Khrala's story during Punjab's 1984-1995 insurgency.

**Aishwarya Rajinikanth to helm next multi-lingual project from 'Thalaivar Thambi Thalaimaiyil' makers**



**A**ishwarya Rajinikanth, daughter of Superstar Rajinikanth, will direct the next film from the team behind the Tamil hit *Thalaivar Thambi Thalaimaiyil*. Produced by Kannan Ravi Groups, the project is planned as a grand multi-lingual release in Tamil, Telugu, Malayalam, Kannada, and Hindi. The production house described the film as a wholesome entertainer promising a powerful cinematic experience for audiences nationwide. Aishwarya's collaboration is among several upcoming projects, and the announcement comes after the January Pongal release of *Thalaivar Thambi Thalaimaiyil*, which emerged a box office success and received critical praise.

**Vijay Deverakonda and Rashmika Mandanna officially tie the knot in intimate Udaipur wedding**

**A**ctors Vijay Deverakonda and Rashmika Mandanna are now officially married, ending years of fan speculation. The couple exchanged vows on Thursday at Mementos by ITC Hotels, Ekaaya Udaipur, in an intimate ceremony attended by close family and friends from the film fraternity. The celebrations began with pre-wedding festivities, including a Japanese dinner, volleyball and cricket matches, and a grand sangeet, where Vijay's mother gifted Rashmika heirloom bangles, symbolizing love and family legacy.

The couple's Haldi ceremony featured a garden-like setup with pink rose petals, marigold baskets, and floral décor blending tradition with personal charm. On social media, they shared that the wedding will officially be called "The Wedding of VIROSH," honoring fans who lovingly combined their names years ago.

Vijay and Rashmika, who starred together in 'Geetha Govindam' and 'Dear Comrade,' plan a grand reception in Hyderabad on March 4, where friends and industry colleagues will celebrate the newlyweds.



**Brazil's 'The Secret Agent' earns four Oscars and cements global cinematic acclaim**

**B**razilian cinema celebrated Thursday as 'The Secret Agent' secured four Oscar nominations, including best picture, best actor, best international feature, and achievement in casting, tying the record of the iconic 2002 film 'City of God.' Directed by Kleber Mendonça Filho, the film portrays a widowed father targeted by Brazil's 1970s military dictatorship for challenging a powerful businessman, with over one million viewers already drawn worldwide. Critics and audiences praised its emotional depth and historical resonance, sparking conversations about Brazil's dictatorship era from 1964 to 1985.



The success follows last year's Oscar-winning 'I'm Still Here,' marking a golden period for Brazil's film industry. President

Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva hailed it as "one of the best moments in Brazilian cinema," while casting director Gabriel Domingues described the reception as a wave of global enthusiasm. The film's universal themes of power and resistance are resonating with audiences far beyond Brazil's borders.

**Karan Johar celebrates 'Dhadak 2' screenings at Ivy League universities**

**F**ilmmaker Karan Johar expressed pride as *Dhadak 2* screens at Ivy League universities, marking a milestone for his production house. Starring Siddhant Chaturvedi and Triptii Dimri, the film is a spiritual sequel to *Dhadak* and a remake of Tamil's *Pariyerum Perumal*.

Johar credited director Shazia Iqbal for her storytelling and vision, calling her the soul of the film. *Dhadak 2* follows Nilesh and Vidhi, whose love faces obstacles due to caste differences. Despite underperforming at the box office, its academic screenings highlight the film's thematic resonance and Karan Johar's ongoing commitment to socially relevant cinema.



**Vin Diesel hails 'Sinners' as one of the year's best films**



**H**ollywood star Vin Diesel praised Ryan Coogler's horror drama *Sinners*, calling it "one of the best films of the year" on Instagram. The film earned a historic 16 Oscar nominations, a first for films led by filmmakers of color. Diesel, who grew up immersed in fantasy and horror stories, said he resonated with the film's portrayal of twins and rich historical exploration. He also noted the connection with Coogler, whose Oakland roots mirror his own father's hometown. Watching *Sinners* with his family, Diesel lauded the film for preserving a unique voice while rewriting cinematic history.

**Kerala High Court stays release of 'Kerala Story 2' for 15 days**



**T**he Kerala High Court has ordered a 15-day stay on the release of *Kerala Story 2*, just a day before its scheduled debut. Petitioners argued that the film's content could incite communal tensions and disturb public order. The court's interim order halts the release across theaters while a detailed hearing is pending. Producers, who invested heavily in promotions, now face cancellations of advance bookings. The controversy mirrors the turbulence surrounding the first *Kerala Story*, highlighting the balance between creative freedom and social responsibility. The final verdict could allow release, require cuts, or impose disclaimers.

### Cardi B claps back at doubters after sold-out tour



Rapper Cardi B celebrated the sold-out success of her Little Miss Drama Tour, proving doubters wrong after giving birth in November. She announced that every show has been packed, dismissing claims she would not commit post-pregnancy. Launching the tour in February, Cardi emphasized that she performs with energy and ensures fans get their money's worth. Sharing clips on social media, she credited her preparation and dedication for the success, highlighting that even with multiple children, she delivers two-hour shows filled with party-like energy. Fans and celebrities alike have praised her performances.

### Jennifer Garner opens up on co-parenting with Ben Affleck



Jennifer Garner discussed the challenges and lessons of co-parenting her three children with ex-husband Ben Affleck on Bustle's One Nightstand YouTube series. She described the "loss" inherent in raising Violet, 20, Fin, 17, and Samuel, 13, across two households while ensuring a conscientious upbringing. Garner said she balances mom and dad roles when the children are with her, while acknowledging similar efforts from Affleck. She reflected on her marriage breakdown, public scrutiny, and the importance of prioritizing her children without seeing it as a sacrifice, emphasizing the insights and resilience gained from navigating co-parenting.

### Crispin Glover faces lawsuit alleging captivity and assault

Actor Crispin Glover, 61, faces a lawsuit filed Wednesday in the Superior Court of California by a former model who alleges he held her captive, used her for sex and free labor, and physically assaulted her. The complaint says Glover lured her to Los Angeles in 2024, controlled her movements, and assaulted her after she left his home. Glover's representative denied the allegations, claiming he was the victim of an unprovoked assault and that police records and a restraining order support his account. The woman, identified as "Jane Doe," met Glover through social media in 2015 and alleges grooming and coercion over several years, including during a 2023 meeting in Germany. She seeks unspecified damages for battery, fraud, and wrongful eviction.

### John Davidson apologizes after Tourette's tic sparks controversy at BAFTAs

Tourette's activist and executive producer John Davidson has issued an apology following an incident at the British Academy Film Awards on Sunday, where one of his involuntary tics included a racial slur while actors Michael B. Jordan and Delroy Lindo were onstage. Davidson, whose life inspired the BAFTA-nominated film I Swear, explained that his tics are neurological and involuntary, saying, "What you hear me shouting is literally the last thing in the world I believe."

The episode sparked widespread outrage online and within the film community. BAFTA and the BBC apologized, with the latter removing the offensive language from its iPlayer broadcast. Google also apologized after its automated news alert mistakenly displayed the slur. Some Tourette's advocates called for understanding of Davidson's condition, while BAFTA jury member Jonte Richardson resigned in protest, citing the organization's mishandling of the incident and its impact on Black and disabled communities.



### Delhi High Court restrains misuse of Kajol's identity in AI, merchandise cases

The Delhi High Court has granted an ex parte ad interim injunction in favor of Bollywood actress Kajol, restraining multiple entities from using her name, image, voice, and other personality attributes without consent, including through AI, deepfakes, chatbots, and online merchandise. The order, issued by Justice Jyoti Singh on Wednesday, follows a suit filed by Kajol Vishal Devgan against Kash Collective and other defendants, including e-commerce platforms, social media intermediaries, and unidentified "John Doe" entities.

The court observed that Kajol's image carries immense goodwill and commercial value built over four decades, and unauthorized use, especially of low-quality products, could harm her reputation. E-commerce and video platforms have been directed to remove infringing content and disclose subscriber information within 72 hours. The

Department of Telecommunications and Ministry of Electronics and IT were also asked to block objectionable sites. The case is scheduled for further hearing on April 23.



### Shilpa Shetty denies allegations of cheating and fraud in Rs 60 crore case

Bollywood actress Shilpa Shetty Kundra has denied allegations that the Mumbai Police Economic Offences Wing invoked Section 420 of the Indian Penal Code against her and husband Raj Kundra. On Wednesday, she shared a note on Instagram calling the claims "baseless and motivated" and stated that a quashing petition is pending before the High Court. The case involves a complaint by businessman Deepak Kothari, alleging that approximately Rs 60 crore invested between 2015 and 2023 in Best Deal TV Pvt. Ltd., linked to the couple, was not repaid. Shilpa and Raj have maintained that the dispute is civil in nature and linked to business insolvency. The couple has fully cooperated with the



investigation, and no conviction has been recorded. She urged the media to exercise restraint as the matter is subjudice, emphasizing her faith in the legal system to ensure justice prevails.

### Akshay Kumar warns about mobile addiction, urges parents to guide children



Bollywood superstar Akshay Kumar addressed the growing issue of mobile addiction among children during a recent episode of 'Wheel of Fortune.' Interacting with contestants and the audience, he highlighted that spending hours on social media can consume up to six hours daily, describing it as a trap for young users. He urged parents to take responsibility, emphasizing that children are not at fault for early exposure to devices.

Akshay shared anecdotes, including a friend whose diabetes worsened due to excessive screen time, and drew parallels with Native American traditions to stress the importance of supervision and self-control. He concluded by advising parents to guide their children consciously and intervene early, stating that responsible parenting can prevent long-term consequences of digital overexposure. The episode sparked discussion on the role of technology, persuasion, and awareness in modern parenting.

### Sundance Film Festival to debut in Boulder with January 2027 edition



The Sundance Film Festival will hold its first Colorado edition from Wednesday, January 21 through Saturday, January 31, 2027. Festival organizers revealed over a dozen key venues, including the Boulder High School auditorium, Casey Middle School auditorium, Cinemark Century Boulder, Boulder Theater, and University of Colorado Boulder locations such as Macky Auditorium Concert Hall and Roe Green Theatre. Eugene Hernandez, Sundance's public programming director, said the venues offer an ideal setting for global festivalgoers to celebrate independent film. The move from Park City, Utah, follows the festival's final edition there last month. Founder Robert Redford, who passed away in September, approved the relocation before his death. His daughter Amy Redford said the transition preserves the festival's legacy while maintaining Sundance Labs in Utah for emerging filmmakers.

# अरुणाचल प्रदेश की आराधना यात्रा का चौथा पड़ाव नक्सा परवत मंदिर के खंडहर

IndoUS Tribune की **Temples of Arunachal Yatra** का चौथा पड़ाव आंध्र प्रदेश के भव्य, प्राचीन और आस्था से परिपूर्ण मंदिरों की अत्यंत सफल और स्मरणीय यात्रा के **IndoUS Tribune** अब अपनी आध्यात्मिक खोज को भारत के सुदूर उत्तर-पूर्व की ओर विस्तार दे चुका है। दक्षिण भारत की दिव्य स्थापत्य परंपराओं और गहन भक्ति-अनुभवों के बाद अब हम प्रवेश कर रहे हैं उस भूमि में, जहाँ प्रकृति, इतिहास और रहस्य एक साथ सांस लेते हैं—अरुणाचल प्रदेश।

‘उगते सूरज की भूमि’ के नाम से विख्यात यह राज्य हिमालय की गोद में बसा है, जहाँ पर्वतों की ऊँचाइयाँ, नदियों की कलध्वनि और घने वन एक अद्भुत आध्यात्मिक वातावरण रचते हैं। **IndoUS Tribune** की श्रृंखला ‘यात्रा: अरुणाचल प्रदेश के मंदिरों की’ का उद्देश्य इन्हीं अल्पज्ञात किंतु अत्यंत महत्वपूर्ण स्थलों को प्रकाश में लाना है। इस यात्रा के चौथे पड़ाव पर हम पहुँचते हैं नक्सा परवत मंदिर के खंडहर—एक ऐसा स्थल, जिसे ‘माउंटेन मार्क्स’ और ‘भूली हुई सभ्यता’ के अवशेष के रूप में भी जाना जाता है।

## इतिहास और उत्पत्ति

पक्के-केसांग जिले में स्थित यह मध्यकालीन पुरातात्विक स्थल 14वीं-15वीं शताब्दी का माना जाता है। इतिहासकारों और स्थानीय परंपराओं के अनुसार, इन संरचनाओं का संबंध असम के प्राचीन चुटिया (Chutia) साम्राज्य से जोड़ा जाता है। विशेष रूप से राजा मुक्ताधर्मनारायण का नाम सामने आता है, क्योंकि यहाँ मिले पत्थरों पर अंकित राजमिस्त्री चिह्न (mason marks) सादिया स्थित ताम्रेश्वरी मंदिर के अवशेषों से साम्य रखते हैं।

यह अनुमान लगाया जाता है कि यह स्थल राजाओं का ग्रीष्मकालीन शिविर, दुर्ग अथवा विश्रामस्थल रहा होगा। पर्वतीय भूभाग में चार स्तरों पर फैली यह बसावट लगभग पाँच किलोमीटर क्षेत्र में विस्तृत है। सबसे ऊपरी भाग ‘तापोसो’ कहलाता है, जबकि निचला भाग पासो नदी और डिंसिंग-पासो प्रशासनिक क्षेत्र के निकट है।

## स्थापत्य और पुरातात्विक विशेषताएँ

आंशिक उत्खनन में यहाँ विशाल जल-संग्रहण कुण्ड (रिंग वेल), पत्थर के स्तंभ, घरों के चबूतरे, नहरों के अवशेष तथा एक लघु संगमंच (अम्फीथियेटर) जैसी संरचनाएँ प्राप्त हुई हैं। पत्थरों पर उकेरे गए विशिष्ट चिह्न उच्च कोटि की स्थापत्य योजना और संगठित निर्माण प्रणाली का संकेत देते हैं।

‘नक्सा’ शब्द का अर्थ है—चिह्न या नक्काशी। संभवतः इसी



कारण इस पर्वत को ‘नक्सा परवत’ कहा गया, क्योंकि यहाँ की चट्टानों और पत्थरों पर बने चिह्न एक सुविकसित सभ्यता की गवाही देते हैं।

यह स्थल आज भी आंशिक रूप से रहस्य में डूबा हुआ है। स्थानीय लोककथाएँ इसे एक प्राचीन, शक्तिशाली साम्राज्य की सीमा-स्थली बताती हैं, जिसने अरुणाचल की तलहटी में उन्नत और सुदृढ़ बसावट स्थापित की थी।

## ट्रेकिंग और रोमांच

नक्सा परवत मंदिर के खंडहर आज साहसिक पर्यटन और ट्रेकिंग प्रेमियों के लिए आकर्षण का केंद्र बन चुके हैं।

- ▶ **ट्रेक मार्ग:** नामोरा गाँव से प्रारंभ होने वाला ट्रेक घने वनों और पर्वतीय पगडंडियों से होकर गुजरता है।
- ▶ **कठिनाई स्तर:** मध्यम (Moderate): लगभग 2-3 घंटे की चढ़ाई।
- ▶ **सर्वश्रेष्ठ समय:** अक्टूबर से अप्रैल के बीच, जब मौसम सुहावना और आकाश स्वच्छ रहता है।



- ▶ वर्षा ऋतु में मार्ग फिसलनभरा हो सकता है, इसलिए स्थानीय गाइड के साथ जाना उपयुक्त माना जाता है।

पालन करना आवश्यक है।

**निष्कर्ष:** इतिहास की शिला-लिपियों से संवाद **IndoUS Tribune** की इस आध्यात्मिक-ऐतिहासिक यात्रा का चौथा पड़ाव हमें यह स्मरण कराता है कि आस्था केवल जीवंत मंदिरों में ही नहीं, बल्कि उन खंडहरों में भी विद्यमान है जो समय की धूल में दबे हैं। नक्सा परवत के पत्थरों पर अंकित चिह्न हमें एक ऐसी सभ्यता की कहानी सुनाते हैं, जो कभी यहाँ फली-फूली थी और आज भी अपनी उपस्थिति का संकेत देती है।

अब हमारी **“Temples of Arunachal Yatra”** अपने अंतिम और विशेष पड़ाव की ओर अग्रसर है—भीष्मकनगर मंदिर परिसर, जहाँ प्राचीन किलों, राजवंशों और पौराणिक कथाओं का अद्भुत संगम हमारा इंतजार कर रहा है।

हमारे साथ बने रहिए—क्योंकि यह यात्रा केवल मंदिरों की नहीं, बल्कि भारत की उस अमिट आत्मा को जानने की यात्रा है, जो पर्वतों, नदियों और शिलाओं में आज भी जीवित है।



ट्रेक के दौरान प्राकृतिक सौंदर्य और ऐतिहासिक अवशेषों का संयोजन एक अनूठा अनुभव प्रदान करता है।

## कैसे पहुँचे

- ▶ **निकटतम हवाई अड्डा:** लीलाबाड़ी (असम) या गुवाहाटी।
- ▶ **निकटतम रेलवे स्टेशन:** हरमुट्टी (असम)
- ▶ वहाँ से सड़क मार्ग द्वारा पक्के-केसांग जिले के नामोरा या डिंसिंग-पासो तक पहुँचा जा सकता है।
- ▶ अंतिम चरण में स्थानीय वाहन या पैदल ट्रेक के माध्यम से स्थल तक पहुँचना होता है।

## दर्शन समय

चूँकि यह एक संरक्षित पुरातात्विक स्थल है, यहाँ कोई औपचारिक मंदिर-समय निर्धारित नहीं है। सामान्यतः सूर्योदय से सूर्यास्त तक भ्रमण किया जा सकता है। यात्रियों को स्थानीय प्रशासन और वन विभाग के दिशा-निर्देशों का

# King Parikshit and the age of Kali

## An eternal message on dharma, time, and human consciousness

● By: Dr. Avi Verma

In the Indian spiritual tradition, Puranic narratives are not merely religious stories; they serve as mirrors reflecting the profound psychological, moral, and social truths of human life. The story of King Parikshit belongs to this category. It teaches us that the preservation of dharma is not the responsibility of kings or sages alone, but depends upon the consciousness and conduct of every individual.

King Parikshit was the grandson of the great archer Arjuna and the son of the valiant Abhimanyu. After the Pandavas ascended to heaven, he ruled the kingdom based on dharma, justice, and truth. He was an ideal ruler — his subjects were content, sacred rituals were performed, and social order prevailed. Yet history and scripture repeatedly remind us that the wheel of time is ever-changing. With the departure of Krishna from the earth, the Dvapara Yuga ended and the Kali Yuga began — an age in which only truth remains from the four pillars of dharma.

### The dialogue of dharma and earth: A symbol of changing times

During his conquests, King Parikshit witnessed a striking scene — a bull (Dharma) standing on one leg and a cow (Mother Earth) weeping. Three legs of Dharma — compassion, austerity, and purity — had been broken. This was not merely symbolic; it represented the decline of moral values in society. Mother Earth's sorrow signified that when humanity distances itself from divine consciousness, truth, compassion, and righteousness begin to fade.

### The arrival of Kali and the abodes of adharm

The king then saw a cruel man tormenting the cow and the bull. He revealed himself as Kali, the spirit of the age. The king sought to banish him, but Kali begged for a place to reside. Ultimately, King Parikshit granted him five abodes: gambling, intoxication, illicit relations, violence, and unjust wealth (gold).

This decision holds deep symbolic meaning: wherever greed, lust, violence, and falsehood reside, Kali thrives.

A profound spiritual truth emerges here — Kali Yuga is not an external force but a mental state that enters human tendencies.

### The allure of gold and the decline of discernment

After granting Kali residence in gold, King Parikshit wore a golden crown that had long been kept in the treasury and never worn by the Pandavas. Gold here represents not merely metal, but greed and ego. Upon wearing the crown, the king's intellect became clouded, and he went hunting — an act contrary to his nature. This episode illustrates how unethical wealth and pride can erode human judgment.

### A moment of anger that changed destiny

In the forest, thirsty and exhausted, the king arrived at the hermitage of a sage absorbed in meditation. Receiving no



response, he placed a dead snake around the sage's neck in anger. This momentary lapse altered the course of his life. The sage's son cursed the king; within seven days, he would die from the bite of Takshaka, the serpent king.

This incident teaches that anger may be momentary, but its consequences can be grave and long-lasting.

### From repentance to renunciation

When the king removed the crown, his clarity returned. He repented deeply and accepted the curse as divine grace. Renouncing his kingdom, he went to the banks of the Ganga and resolved to dedicate his final seven days to remembrance of God and pursuit of spiritual knowledge. This transformation shows that repentance is the first step toward inner purification.

### The question of death and the answer to life

Gathered sages assembled by the Ganga, the king posed a universal question: What should a person do when death is near? This question belongs not only to Parikshit, but to all humanity. At that moment, the great sage Shukadeva appeared and narrated the Bhagavata Purana over seven days. Through this sacred discourse, the path of devotion,

knowledge, and renunciation became clear.

King Parikshit was granted seven days; we do not even know how much time we have. This is the spiritual core of the narrative.

### The great blessing of Kali Yuga

Though Kali Yuga is called the age of decline, it contains a great blessing — remembrance of the Divine Name alone can lead to liberation. In earlier ages, severe austerities and elaborate rituals were required; in Kali Yuga, faith and the chanting of God's name are sufficient.

### Relevance of the story in modern life

Today's society stands at the peak of technological progress, yet mental unrest, greed, violence, and moral crises are increasing. Gambling has moved to digital platforms, intoxication enjoys social acceptance, violence has entered thought and speech, and unethical wealth is often equated with success. In this context, the story of King Parikshit warns us that Kali Yuga is not merely a period in time, but a state of inner consciousness.

### Dharmic lessons for life

This narrative teaches us that:  
▶ Truth and compassion are the

foundations of dharma

- ▶ Greed destroys discernment
- ▶ Anger corrupts judgment
- ▶ Respect for sages and wisdom is essential
- ▶ Awareness of death gives meaning to life
- ▶ Chanting the Divine Name and spiritual fellowship purify the self

### Conclusion: The preservation of dharma begins within

The story of King Parikshit teaches that humans may err, but repentance, knowledge, and devotion can guide them back toward light. The decline of dharma does not begin outside; it begins within the human heart. Likewise, its revival must also begin within.

If in the age of Kali one establishes truth, compassion, and remembrance of the Divine in daily life, that very age becomes a path to liberation.

### Dharma is protected not by weapons, but by character.

And in Kali Yuga — remembrance of the Divine Name is the simplest path to spiritual realization

Jai Shri Ram.

# America first, India alert

## Reading the signals in Trump's national address



By: Dr. Avi Verma

**W**hen Donald Trump delivered his State of the Union-style address, the messaging was unmistakably domestic: affordability, border enforcement, anti-fraud crackdowns, and declarations of economic strength. The speech was calibrated for American voters navigating inflation anxieties, housing pressures, and political polarization. But for India, such speeches are never merely domestic theater.

Washington's internal priorities often radiate outward, shaping immigration frameworks, trade rules, regulatory climates, and strategic postures that directly affect New Delhi. As India's partnership with the United States deepens across technology, defense, supply chains, and the Indo-Pacific, the subtext of American political messaging matters as much as the headline rhetoric.

### Immigration: The talent question

Trump's forceful language on border security primarily targets illegal immigration. Yet history shows that restrictive atmospherics rarely remain neatly compartmentalized. Broader visa regimes, processing timelines, and compliance scrutiny often tighten in parallel.

### For India, this is not a peripheral issue.

Indian professionals constitute one of the largest high-skilled immigrant communities in the United States. From Silicon Valley engineers and AI researchers to physicians and financial analysts, Indian talent is deeply embedded in America's innovation economy. Work visa uncertainty reverberates through India's IT services sector, startup ecosystem, healthcare networks, and even remittance flows that support millions of families.

The economic logic of high-skilled migration remains strong for the U.S. economy. However, immigration debates shaped by political pressures can produce regulatory friction—even when policies do

not formally target skilled workers.

For India, talent mobility is strategic capital. Any disruption is consequential.

### Economic messaging and trade undercurrents

Trump's assertion of a "roaring economy" arrives amid mixed indicators—equity market resilience alongside voter unease over affordability. For India, the state of the U.S. economy is not abstract; it is a growth variable.

The United States is India's largest trading partner. American consumer demand fuels Indian exports in pharmaceuticals, textiles, engineering goods, and digital services. A confident U.S. consumer translates into stronger Indian balance sheets.

Yet political emphasis on affordability often brings renewed scrutiny of trade deficits and outsourcing narratives. If domestic pressures intensify, protectionist instincts could resurface. India-U.S. trade relations have weathered tariff tensions before; vigilance remains prudent.

Strong growth in the U.S. benefits India. Economic nationalism, however, complicates the equation.

### Housing signals and capital flows

Trump's reference to limiting institutional purchases of residential housing may appear purely domestic. But it signals broader political discomfort with large-scale capital concentration and affordability distortions.

### Globally, this matters

Real estate markets are increasingly interconnected. Regulatory shifts in the U.S. influence investor behavior, including Indian diaspora investments in high-demand urban centers. If scrutiny of institutional capital deepens, ripple effects could reshape cross-border investment strategies.

The housing debate is about voters—but the

capital implications are global.

### Fiscal discipline and anti-fraud narratives

The announcement positioning JD Vance at the forefront of an anti-fraud push reinforces a broader political narrative around fiscal discipline and government accountability. While claims that fraud recovery alone could rebalance federal finances remain contested by economists, stronger oversight frameworks can influence international compliance standards.

India, having advanced significant digital governance and financial transparency reforms in recent years, stands to benefit from greater global alignment on anti-corruption enforcement and financial tracking.

Transparency, once domestic policy, increasingly shapes cross-border financial credibility.

### Strategic alignment in a security-focused America

If there is an area of durable convergence, it lies in security.

Trump's emphasis on sovereignty, national strength, and strategic deterrence intersects with India's own priorities in maritime security, counterterrorism cooperation, and Indo-Pacific stability. Over the past decade, India-U.S. defense cooperation has expanded dramatically—from joint military exercises to defense technology initiatives and supply chain resilience efforts.

A United States focused on hard power and strategic balancing often aligns with India's interest in maintaining equilibrium in the Indo-Pacific.

Security continuity is one of the more stable pillars of the partnership.

### Polarization and policy predictability

Perhaps the most consequential takeaway from the address is not any single policy proposal, but the visible partisan divide surrounding it.

For global partners like India, American polarization introduces a structural challenge: policy continuity. Immigration frameworks, trade priorities, environmental standards, and technology regulations can shift with electoral cycles.

India's diplomatic approach has historically emphasized bipartisan engagement in Washington. That strategy becomes even more critical when domestic American politics appear sharply divided.

Strategic partnerships require insulation from electoral volatility.

### The broader equation

Trump's speech underscores several trends India must monitor closely:

- ▶ The tone and trajectory of immigration enforcement.
- ▶ Trade signals embedded in affordability politics.
- ▶ Regulatory cues affecting global capital.
- ▶ Security doctrine shaping Indo-Pacific strategy.
- ▶ Domestic polarization influencing policy stability.

India's rise means its partnership with the United States is no longer secondary—it is central to the architecture of global growth and security.

As Washington debates borders and budgets, India must respond not with reaction, but with calibrated strategy. Engagement must remain steady, bipartisan, and rooted in long-term interests.

American politics will evolve. India's strategic calculus must remain anchored in foresight, flexibility, and confidence.

The message from Washington is clear: domestic debates shape global realities. The responsibility in New Delhi is equally clear—anticipate, adapt, and engage from a position of strength.



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**Mata Bhagat: Avi Verma**



# Outrage grows after controversial 'invasion' comment on Hanuman statue in Texas

● By: Dr. Avi Verma

A wave of outrage has swept through the global Hindu community following controversial remarks targeting the 90-foot statue of Lord Hanuman at the Shri Ashtalakshmi Temple in Sugar Land. The towering Hanuman murti, unveiled in 2024, stands among the tallest Hindu statues in the United States and represents strength, devotion, courage, and selfless service in Hindu tradition. However, a Republican activist ignited controversy after referring to the monument as a symbol of a "third world invasion," triggering sharp backlash across social media and community platforms.

Hindu organizations across the United States and abroad have strongly condemned the remarks as xenophobic and disrespectful to a faith practiced by over a billion people worldwide. Community leaders emphasized that Hindu Americans are law-abiding, hardworking contributors to American society, active in medicine, technology, education, entrepreneurship, and public service.

IndoUS joins global Hindu organizations



in expressing unequivocal outrage at what is being widely viewed as an attack not merely on a statue but on religious freedom and cultural dignity.

Faith leaders underscored that the Hanuman statue is not a political symbol but a sacred representation of resilience and devotion. Many have pointed out that



America's constitutional framework protects freedom of religion and expression for all communities, regardless of origin.

The episode has reignited broader debates surrounding diversity, immigration, and pluralism in the United States. Supporters of the temple have called for mutual respect, dialogue, and reaffirmation of

America's foundational commitment to religious liberty.

For millions of Hindus, Lord Hanuman symbolizes protection, humility, and service, values that transcend geography and politics. Community voices remain firm: faith cannot be reduced to rhetoric and sacred symbols must never be targets of intolerance.

# Bushra Amiwala criticizes dark money and calls for abolishing ICE during 9th District debate

● By: Dr. Avi Verma

Congressional candidate Bushra Amiwala used a televised debate on FOX 32 Chicago to sharply criticize the influence of "dark money" in politics and call for the abolition of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), drawing clear contrasts with her opponents in the race for Illinois' 9th Congressional District seat.

During Wednesday evening's debate, moderator Paris Schutz asked Amiwala whether several of her opponents had benefited from outside spending.

"They're inviting dark money to spend on their behalf," said Amiwala, who currently serves on the Skokie School Board. "To me, it's a form of hypocrisy for them to call for an end to Citizens United, which currently allows uncapped amounts of money to be spent in races such as ours."

Amiwala referenced the 2010 U.S. Supreme Court decision in Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission, which permits unlimited independent political expenditures by corporations, unions, and outside groups. Critics argue the ruling has enabled significant influence by undisclosed donors in federal and state elections, while supporters defend it as protected political speech.

## Strong stance on immigration enforcement

The debate also turned to immigration



policy, where Amiwala took a firm position against ICE, the federal agency

operating under the Department of Homeland Security.

"ICE is a racist institution. They don't uphold due process, which, in and of itself, makes ICE an unconstitutional organization," Amiwala said. She clarified that her proposal would not eliminate the U.S. Border Patrol or the broader Department of Homeland Security but would specifically target ICE as an agency.

Amiwala argued that the institution, created in 2003, cannot be reformed and disproportionately impacts minority communities. Her remarks reflect a broader national debate over immigration enforcement policies that intensified during the administration of President Donald Trump and continue to divide voters.

## A generational campaign

Amiwala, often described as one of the nation's first Generation Z elected officials after winning her Skokie School Board seat at age 19, has centered her campaign on campaign finance reform, immigration justice, and accountability in government.

The 9th District race is drawing significant attention, with candidates debating issues ranging from campaign finance transparency to border policy and economic equity.

As the primary approaches, Amiwala's forceful debate performance signals a strategy focused on progressive reforms and generational change, positioning her as a challenger to both establishment politics and entrenched funding systems.



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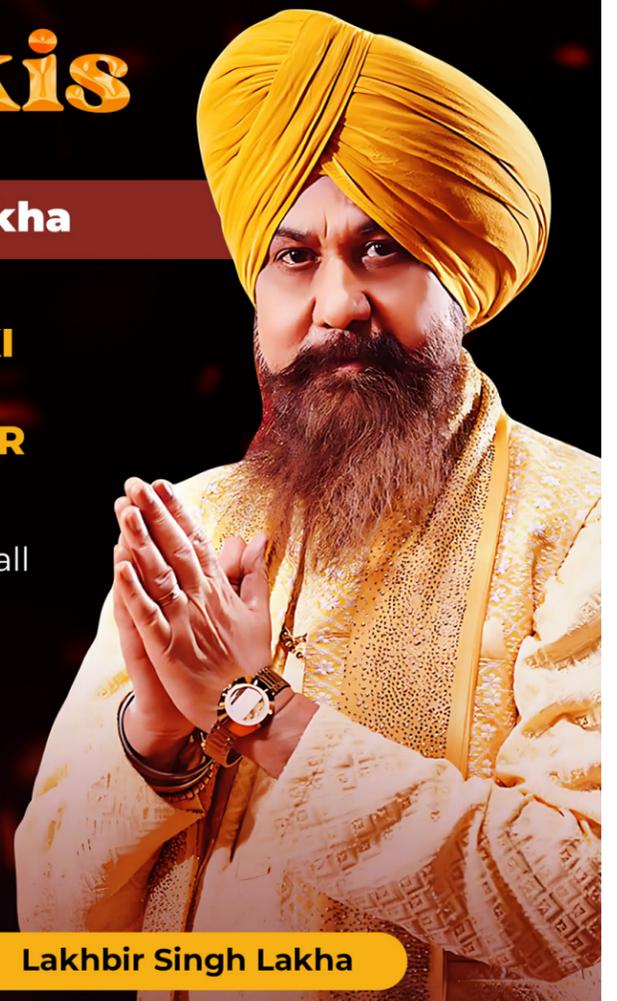
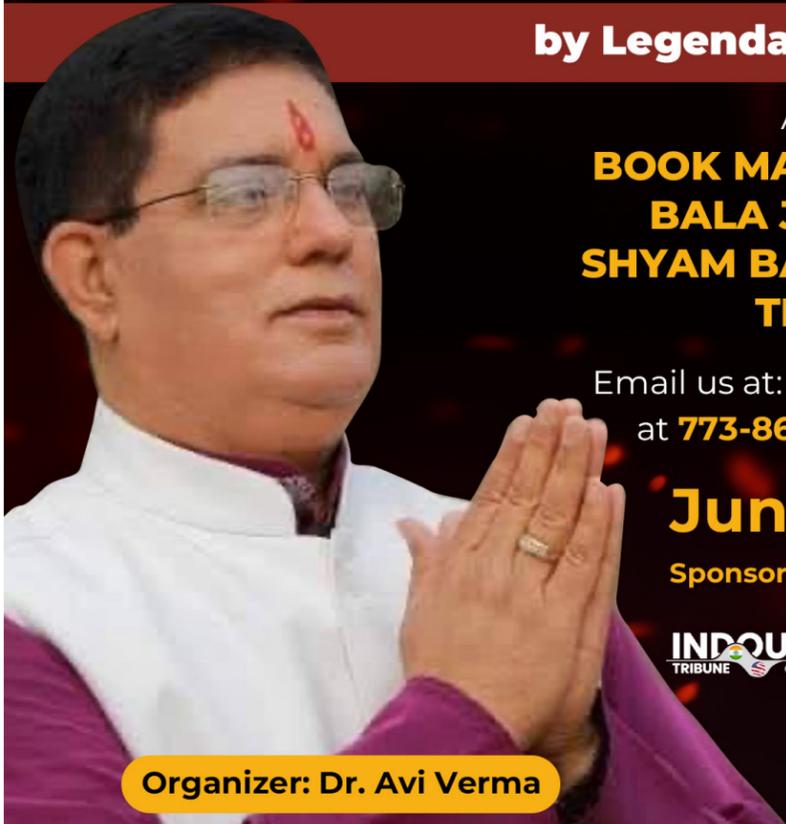
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Organizer: **Dr. Avi Verma**



**Lakhbir Singh Lakha**



# ‘India Corner’ inaugurated at Illinois Institute of Technology to promote academic and cultural ties



By: Dr. Avi Verma

**S**trengthening academic and cultural ties between India and the United States, the Consulate inaugurated an “India Corner” at the Illinois Institute of Technology as part of its initiative to establish similar spaces across Midwest universities.

The Consulate donated a diverse collection of books covering India’s culture, history, economy, science, technology, and political landscape.

The Consul General formally presented the books to the university’s President, highlighting their importance in enriching academic resources and fostering global awareness among students.

The India Corner aims to serve as an educational hub where students and researchers can access credible resources about India’s civilizational heritage, democratic institutions, economic development, and technological advancements.

Founded in 1890, Illinois Institute of Technology is home to more than 8,000 students and is widely recognized for its innovation-driven programs, research excellence, and strong industry partnerships. The institution’s diverse academic environment makes it an ideal setting for cross-cultural engagement initiatives.

During the visit, the Consul General also met faculty members and Indian students, discussing opportunities to deepen academic collaboration, cultural

programming, and student engagement initiatives. Conversations focused on strengthening institutional partnerships, promoting knowledge exchange, and enhancing opportunities for Indian students pursuing higher education in the United States.

The India Corner initiative reflects ongoing efforts to expand educational diplomacy, encourage cultural understanding, and build lasting people-to-people connections between India and the United States.



# Devon Avenue business corridor and the 2026 IL-09 Congressional race

## A federal policy analysis from the South Asian business perspective

● By: Dr. Avi Verma

### The political context: A post-Schakowsky open seat

Devon Avenue sits within Illinois' 9th Congressional District, long represented by Jan Schakowsky. Her retirement has transformed the March 17, 2026 Democratic primary into the decisive election for the district's future representation. Because the district is solidly Democratic, the primary winner will almost certainly become the next member of Congress. For immigrant-owned businesses along Devon Avenue, this race carries direct economic consequences, particularly regarding federal immigration, trade, and small-business policy.

### Devon Avenue as an economic and cultural engine

Devon Avenue is more than a retail strip—it is a regional South Asian economic hub serving Indian, Pakistani, Bangladeshi, and broader diaspora communities. Its restaurants, grocery stores, jewelers, travel agencies, and clothing boutiques operate on thin margins and rely heavily on immigrant consumer foot traffic, imported goods from South Asia, family-based labor networks, and predictable regulatory environments. Federal policy decisions often shape the corridor's day-to-day financial stability.

### Immigration policy and economic confidence

Immigration policy directly affects Devon Avenue's commercial vitality. Heightened enforcement climates can reduce customer visits as immigrant families—regardless of legal status—may avoid public commercial spaces during periods of uncertainty. For businesses dependent on daily volume, even temporary declines in foot traffic can significantly reduce revenue. Workforce stability is equally critical. Visa backlogs, green card delays, and limited entrepreneur visa options—particularly for Indian nationals who lack access to certain treaty investor visas—affect staffing, succession planning, and expansion decisions. For Devon merchants, immigration reform translates directly into economic confidence and operational continuity.

### Trade, tariffs, and import dependency

Many Devon Avenue grocers and retailers import spices, grains, specialty foods, textiles, and jewelry from South Asia. Federal tariff policy directly influences wholesale costs. Because grocery margins often range between two and five percent, merchants have limited capacity to absorb price increases without passing them to customers. Higher prices can weaken demand and competitiveness. Trade stability and tariff policy are therefore immediate economic issues for the corridor rather than abstract geopolitical concerns.

### Small business capital and federal support

Access to capital through federal programs—particularly via the Small Business Administration—can determine whether immigrant-owned businesses modernize, expand, or survive downturns. Loan guarantees, disaster assistance,

and technical support are critical tools. However, effective outreach and culturally competent engagement are necessary to ensure immigrant entrepreneurs can access these programs. Federal commitment to small-business inclusion plays a significant role in corridor resilience.



### Bushra Amiwala

Amiwala has articulated the most expansive pro-immigrant reform platform among leading candidates. She supports a pathway to citizenship, reinstatement of DACA, halting deportations until appeals are exhausted, and calls to abolish ICE. On trade, she opposes tariffs that increase costs for working families and small businesses, advocating repeal of Trump-era tariffs. Her economic messaging centers on affordability and a "people-first economy," directly addressing Devon merchants' concerns about import costs and consumer confidence.



### Daniel Biss

Biss supports immigration reform, including a pathway to citizenship,

opposition to mass raids, and protections for sensitive locations. On trade, he expresses concern about tariffs that harm working Americans while emphasizing fair trade principles. His progressive economic agenda focuses on affordability and worker protections, reinforced by endorsement from Pramila Jayapal. Biss represents institutional continuity paired with immigration reform support.



### Laura Fine

Fine offers a stability-focused and incremental approach. While she has not detailed expansive federal immigration or trade platforms in this race, her background suggests moderate reform. Merchants may view her as providing predictable governance and legislative experience, though without tailored economic tools for import-heavy businesses.



### Phil Andrew

Andrew emphasizes public safety and

accountability. While security may resonate with merchants mindful of historic corridor safety challenges, he lacks detailed proposals on immigration, trade, or small-business reform, leaving economic impacts uncertain.



### Kat Abughazaleh

Abughazaleh positions herself as an anti-establishment progressive advocating systemic economic reform and rejecting corporate PAC influence. Her platform emphasizes broad structural change but does not provide specific proposals addressing immigration, tariffs, or import-dependent business needs.

### Comparative outlook for Devon Avenue

From a Devon Avenue business perspective, Amiwala aligns most clearly with aggressive immigrant protections and tariff repeal, directly addressing consumer confidence and import costs. Biss combines strong immigration reform support with institutional viability and progressive economic framing. Fine offers legislative stability but lacks a clear trade or visa reform agenda. Andrew emphasizes public safety but without detailed economic policy. Abughazaleh focuses on systemic reform, but her proposals do not specifically address corridor dynamics.

### What is at stake for Devon merchants

The economic future of Devon Avenue depends on stable immigration policy, predictable trade rules, accessible capital, and sustained consumer confidence. As the March 17, 2026 Democratic primary approaches, South Asian merchants are weighing not only representation but which candidate's federal policy direction is most likely to stabilize revenues, control import costs, protect workforce pipelines, and preserve the long-term economic vitality of this historic commercial corridor.

# Diabetic foot care: Protecting your steps, preserving your health

● By: Dr. Avi Verma

**D**iabetes is a chronic condition that can be effectively managed through consistent lifestyle changes, regular monitoring, and appropriate medication. However, many people are unaware that a significant percentage of individuals living with diabetes develop diabetic neuropathy—a form of nerve damage that most commonly affects the feet.

Health experts estimate that nearly half of long-term diabetes patients may experience some degree of nerve damage. Because the feet are especially vulnerable, proactive foot care becomes a crucial part of diabetes management.

## Understanding diabetic neuropathy

Diabetic neuropathy occurs when prolonged high blood sugar levels damage nerves, particularly in the lower extremities. Over time, this nerve damage can reduce or completely eliminate sensation in the feet.

### This means:

- ▶ A small cut, blister, or crack may go unnoticed.
- ▶ Burns from hot water or heating pads may not be felt.
- ▶ Minor injuries can quickly turn into serious infections.

In addition, diabetes can impair blood circulation in the legs and feet, slowing the body's ability to heal wounds. Without timely treatment, untreated infections can lead to severe complications, including ulcers and, in extreme cases, amputation.

The encouraging news? Most complications are preventable with consistent daily care and regular medical supervision.

## Why daily foot care matters

Routine self-checks can dramatically reduce risks. Experts recommend examining your feet every morning and evening. Look for:

- ▶ Cuts or scratches
- ▶ Blisters
- ▶ Cracks in the skin
- ▶ Redness or swelling
- ▶ Tender or painful areas
- ▶ Changes in skin color

If you notice anything unusual, consult your healthcare provider promptly.

## Essential diabetic foot care tips

### 1. Choose proper footwear

Avoid walking barefoot—even at



home. Well-fitted, comfortable shoes and clean, dry socks provide essential protection.

Before putting on shoes, check inside for small objects like pebbles or debris that could cause injury without you realizing it.

### 2. Keep blood flow moving

Regular physical activity improves circulation in the legs and feet. Activities such as daily walking, light stretching, or low-impact exercises can support healthy blood flow and overall well-being.

Always consult your doctor before beginning a new exercise routine.

### 3. Trim toenails safely

Keep toenails trimmed straight across to prevent ingrown nails and accidental cuts. Avoid cutting into the corners. Use a nail file to smooth rough edges.

If vision problems or mobility issues make trimming difficult, seek professional assistance from a trained healthcare provider.

### 4. Wash feet daily

Wash your feet every day using mild soap and warm—not hot—water. Because nerve damage may reduce sensitivity, test water temperature with your hand or elbow before immersing your feet.

Dry thoroughly, especially between the toes. Apply moisturizer to prevent dryness and cracking—but avoid applying lotion between the toes, where excess moisture can increase infection risk.

## The role of our primary care provider

A strong partnership with your primary care provider (PCP) is essential for preventing complications. During routine diabetes checkups, your doctor should examine your feet for signs of nerve damage, circulation problems, or early infection.

### Your healthcare team can:

- ▶ Provide education on proper foot care
- ▶ Treat wounds early
- ▶ Recommend specialized footwear if needed
- ▶ Refer you to podiatrists or specialists when required

Prompt medical attention for even minor injuries can prevent serious outcomes.

## When to seek immediate care

Contact your healthcare provider immediately if you notice:

- ▶ A wound that isn't healing
- ▶ Signs of infection (redness, warmth, pus, swelling)
- ▶ Blackened or discolored skin

- ▶ Persistent pain or numbness

Early intervention can make the difference between simple treatment and severe complications.

## A step toward prevention

Managing diabetes is not only about blood sugar control—it's about protecting your whole body. Your feet carry you through life; caring for them daily is a small commitment with life-changing impact.

At IndoUS Tribune, our Health Corner encourages readers to stay informed, proactive, and engaged with their healthcare providers. With proper awareness and consistent care, diabetic foot complications are largely preventable.

Healthy steps today ensure stronger tomorrows.

## Important medical disclaimer

*This article is intended for informational and educational purposes only. It does not constitute medical advice, diagnosis, or treatment. Readers should consult their physician or qualified healthcare provider regarding any medical condition or before making changes to their health care routine. IndoUS Tribune is not responsible for any actions taken based on the information provided in this article.*

# Personal finance insights: News & Features

● Dr. K C Gupta, YBB Personal Finance

**CONTRARIAN INDICATORS**

AAll Bull-Bear Spread -2.4% (below average)  
 CNN Fear & Greed Index 43 (fear-low)  
 NYSE %Above 50-dMA 68.22% (positive)  
 SP500 %Above 50-dMA 66.00% (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 3.69%, 1-yr 3.51%;  
 T-Notes 2-yr 3.48%, 5-yr 3.65%, 10-yr 4.08%;  
 T-Bonds 30-yr 4.72%;  
 TIPS/Real yields 5-yr 1.22%, 10-yr 1.80%, 30-yr 2.48%  
 FRNs Index 3.633%

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

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

India Fear & Greed MMI 43.04 (fear)  
 Weekly ETFs: INDA +1.00%, INDY +1.11%, EPI +1.56%, INDH +1.41%, SPY +1.13%

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



**ECONOMY.** US Supreme Court rejected tariffs imposed under emergency powers.

**IT/TECH**

India AI Impact Summit, February 16-20, 2026, was attended by several global leaders (Abu Dhabi, Brazil, Finland, France, Spain, etc), company executives (US: Accenture, Adobe, Amazon, Anthropic, Cloudflare, Google, IBM, Meta, Micron, Microsoft, Nvidia, OpenAI, Palo Alto Networks, Qualcomm, Salesforce, ServiceNow, Synopsys, etc) & academics (US: Arizona State, Carnegie Mellon, Cornell, MIT, Rutgers, Stanford, UC-Berkeley, UW-Madison, etc). Previous AI Summits were in UK (11/2023), S Korea (05/2024), France (02/2025). Several heads of states also multitasked & finalized other deals. Adani-Embraer deal for aerospace & defense collaborations was finalized during Brazilian President Lula's visit, February 18-22, 2026. French

Rafale fighter jets deal was finalized during French President Macron' visit, February 17-19, 2026. French Safran will start a jet engine assembly plant in India.

Indian global AI datacenter initiatives include 20-yr tax holiday & flat 15% transfer-pricing for internal services between foreign parents & their Indian subsidiaries.

US private-equity/credit firm Blackstone (with majority stake) & others are backing back Indian AI infrastructure company Neysa (cofounder Sharad Sanghi). Other equity investors include Teachers' Venture Growth, TVS Capital, 360 One Asset, & Nexus Venture Partners.

**SPECIAL TOPIC**  
**WHAT TO DO IF YOU HAVE BAD 401K/403B PLAN?**

Typically, large 401k/403b plans are good. The employers may have special committees that monitor plan options & performances & can request plan changes. If you notice problems with your plans, or have suggestions for plan menus, contact your HR.

401k are offered by corporations & have stricter rules. 403b are offered by universities, school districts & nonprofits, are older & have less strict rules. There may also be 457 & some plans may allow doubling up those with 401k/403b.

Plans can be dedicated/ closed-architecture, single-firm plans with firms' in-house funds, or flexible/ open-architecture plans that include funds from multiple firms. In the latter case, the plan firm may only be a recordkeeper & total plan fees may include (i) overall plan fees, (ii) administration & recordkeeping fees, & (iii) fees from underlying funds. Some plans may offer regular listed funds with retirement classes, or customized plan funds that may be just the listed funds or

their clones with different fee structures. If multi-employer plan aggregators are used, that introduces another layer of fees.

All these fees add up for smaller plans. Unfortunately, there are bad or conflicted 401k/403b players & plans. Their menu options may be limited to high expense (ER) funds. These plans tend to be offered by smaller companies & nonprofits, or school districts that don't want to get involved or act as plan fiduciaries. One problem is that some bad players may make secret deals with employers to kickback/ share some fees, but all employees suffer.

Many 401k plans have employer matches that may be up to some % of salary contributions, 403b rarely do so.

401k/403b allow much higher annual contributions than IRAs & those have further restrictions for Traditional IRAs (TIRAs) & Roth IRAs (RIRAs). Lost/ foregone 401k/403b contributions are gone forever, although there are limited catchups later.

But when faced with bad 401k/403b, you can follow the following strategy: (i) contribute to 401k/403b up to employers' match, (ii) contribute to TIRA or RIRA, (iii) make additional contributions to 401k/403b, & (iv) use low-cost annuities. You hope that the plan will get better, or you will find another job with better 401k/403b. On job changes, you can rollover 401k/403b into IRAs, or into your new plan. Some think that they can just have taxable investment accounts instead, but then don't have the discipline of regular monthly retirement contributions that cannot be tapped without penalty until 59.5.

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



# Everything you need to know about IUHS School of Medicine

● By: Dr. Avi Verma

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

## 2. Program Structure & Exams:

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

## 3. Assessments:

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

knowledge gaps.

- ▶ Lecturio self-assessments which are mandatory but not graded.

## 4. Teaching methods:

- ▶ **Systems-based learning:** Integrates anatomy, pathology, and pharmacology within each body system.
- ▶ **Problem-based learning:** Encourages critical thinking and challenges students to draw on all the knowledge they have acquired as they would in a real-life scenario when treating a patient.
- ▶ **Spaced repetition:** Reinforces knowledge through periodic review, enhancing long-term retention.

## 5. Clinical rotations:

- ▶ U.S. students can complete all rotations at the main affiliated hospital in Chicago, Illinois with additional sites in Texas, West Virginia, California, Nevada, Missouri and Arizona (subject to availability). Clinical rotation preparation starts around Block 8.
- ▶ Australian students have a



dedicated clinical director assisting them with the arrangements for clinical placements.

**6. DxR Clinician:** is a medical education software designed to help students develop clinical reasoning and diagnostic skills. It provides virtual patient cases that simulate real-life medical scenarios, allowing students to practice taking patient histories, ordering diagnostic tests, making differential diagnoses, and developing treatment plans.

## Key Features:

- ▶ Interactive case-based learning with simulated patient encounters
- ▶ Clinical reasoning training to improve diagnostic accuracy
- ▶ Access to medical history, physical exams, and lab results
- ▶ Immediate feedback on decision-making and reasoning DxR Clinician is integrated into IUHS's problem-based learning (PBL) and case-based learning (CBL) curricula to enhance students' ability to apply medical knowledge in real world scenarios.

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

## 8. Question and Concept Sessions:

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

**9. 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

preclinical and clinical subjects aligned with USMLE, NBME, and other global medical exams.

- ▶ High-Quality Video Lectures – Taught by expert professors from leading medical institutions.
- ▶ AI-Powered Adaptive Learning – Personalized study recommendations based on student performance.
- ▶ Question Banks & Clinical Case Scenarios – USMLE-style questions, explanations, and performance tracking.
- ▶ Spaced Repetition & Smart Recall – Helps reinforce learning and improve long term retention.

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

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

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

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

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

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



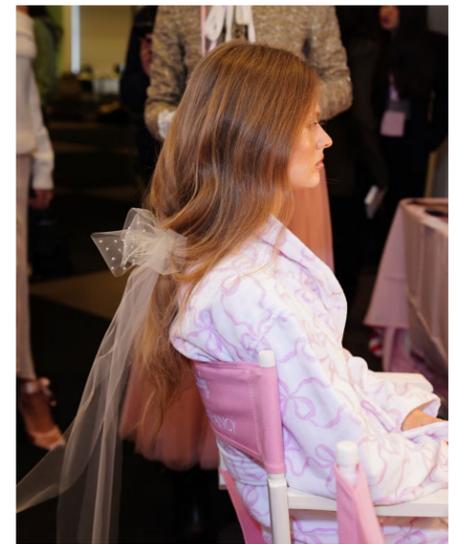
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# The biggest 2026 hair trends bring height, texture, and unapologetic drama

If New York Fashion Week offered any preview of the year ahead, 2026 is about to be a standout moment for hair. Designers swapped the slicked back restraint of recent seasons for sky high volume, soft texture, and romantic detailing. The common thread across runways was hair that felt expressive and slightly undone, polished enough to turn heads but relaxed enough to look effortless.



Ultra high volume led the charge. At Collina Strada, models wore towering, sculptural wigs that dramatically extended their silhouettes. Gabe Gordon embraced teased, fluffy texture across all hair types, with hairstylist Davey Matthew describing the looks as intentionally undone and high impact. Anna Sui

revived the poof with a Bardot inspired top knot crafted by Garren, proving that bold height can feel both nostalgic and modern.

Braids also took on a softer, bridal leaning tone. At Alice and Olivia, Lacy Redway created loose Dutch braids

and woven buns adorned with pearl and crystal pins. Similar crown braids appeared at Cult Gaia, while Rio offered a grungier spin with bold French braids. The takeaway is versatility. Braids work for formal moments, growing out bobs, and everything in between.

Blowouts returned with bounce. PatBo channeled 1970s Brazil with full bodied styles featuring subtly flipped ends. Celebrity hairstylist Dimitris Giannetos dubbed the look the bubble blowout, praising its rounded shape and lived in movement. It is glamorous without feeling stiff.

Then there is the rise of bed head chic. At LoveShackFancy, barely there low ponytails were tied with oversized tulle bows, capturing a playful, romantic spirit. Similar undone ponies and loose waves at Proenza Schouler reinforced the message. In 2026, hair is bigger, softer, and far more fun.

Ashwani Chadha's

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