

Trump says he should help choose Iran's next leader as war with Iran expands across Middle East

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

U.S. President Donald Trump said on Thursday that he believes the United States should play a role in selecting Iran's next supreme leader as the war between the United States, Israel, and Iran continued to intensify across the Middle East for a sixth day. Speaking to the news outlet Axios and later at the White House, Trump dismissed Mojtaba Khamenei, the son of the late Iranian Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, as a potential successor and said Washington wants a leader who can bring "harmony and peace" to Iran. Ayatollah Ali Khamenei was killed during the opening strikes of the war earlier in the week.

Trump also urged Iranians to "help take back your country," promising unspecified "immunity" to those who oppose the current government. The conflict has rapidly widened across the region. Iran launched missiles and drones at Israel, United States bases, and allied countries. Israel and the United States have conducted nationwide strikes across Iran targeting military infrastructure, leadership sites, and the country's nuclear program. According to Israeli military officials, about 80 percent of Iran's air defense systems and roughly 60 percent of its missile launchers have been destroyed. Still, Israel's top general warned that the threat remains. The war has killed at least 1,230 people in Iran, more than 120 in Lebanon, and about a dozen in Israel. Six United States troops have also died. The conflict has disrupted oil supplies, global travel, and regional security as tensions continue to escalate.

## India denies report claiming US Navy used Mumbai and Kochi ports for strikes on Iran



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

India on Wednesday dismissed media claims that its ports were being used by the United States Navy to launch strikes against Iran, calling the allegations false and fabricated. The clarification came from the Ministry of External Affairs through its official FactCheck social media handle.

The response followed a report aired by One America News Network that alleged American warships were using Indian naval facilities, particularly ports in Mumbai and Kochi, to stage attacks on Iranian targets. The network cited unnamed "military sources" and suggested the arrangement reflected closer strategic coordination between India and the United States against Tehran.

Rejecting the claim, the ministry said the report was "fake and false" and warned against spreading baseless information. The statement comes amid rising tensions between the United States and Iran in the Middle East. Officials said India continues to follow a balanced foreign policy that maintains relations with both Washington and Tehran while emphasizing verification of information and responsible reporting during periods of geopolitical instability.

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## United States House rejects measure to halt President Donald Trump's Iran military campaign

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The United States House of Representatives on Thursday voted 219 to 212 to reject a bipartisan resolution seeking to end military hostilities against Iran. The proposal, introduced by Representatives Thomas Massie and Ro Khanna, would have required congressional approval before further military action.

Republicans largely opposed the measure, arguing that President Donald Trump already had authority to continue the campaign launched over the weekend alongside Israel. Supporters said Congress should reclaim its constitutional power to authorize war.

The vote followed the Senate's rejection of a similar resolution on Wednesday, leaving the administration free to continue air and naval operations as Iran expands retaliatory drone and missile strikes across the region.



## India edge England in dramatic run fest to reach T20 World Cup final

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India secured a thrilling seven run victory over England on Thursday to reach the final of the men's Twenty20 World Cup after a record filled semifinal at Wankhede Stadium in Mumbai. The tournament co host posted 253 for seven, the fourth highest total in tournament history, before restricting England to 246 for seven in reply. The match produced 499 runs and 34 sixes, the most in a single World Cup game.

Sanju Samson led India with a blistering

89 from 42 balls after being dropped early, while Shivam Dube added 43 and Ishan Kishan scored 39. Jacob Bethell kept England in contention with a brilliant 105 from 48 balls, his first Twenty20 international century, but he was run out on the first ball of the final over with England needing 30 runs.

Jasprit Bumrah delivered a tight spell of one for 33, while Axar Patel impressed in the field with two outstanding catches. India will face New Zealand in the final on Sunday in Ahmedabad as it seeks a third title and consecutive championships.



## Global markets fall as Middle East war drives surge in oil and gas prices



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Global stock markets fell on Thursday as escalating fighting between the United States, Israel, and Iran pushed oil and gas prices higher and raised fears of renewed inflation. Early gains in European markets disappeared later in the day while United States stocks also dropped sharply. In Europe, London's FTSE 100 closed down 1.5 percent, while Germany's DAX and Italy's FTSE MIB each fell 1.6 percent. France's CAC index declined 1.5 percent and Spain's IBEX slipped 1.4 percent.

In the United States, the Dow Jones Industrial Average fell about 2 percent, while the S&P 500 dropped 1.3 percent and the Nasdaq declined roughly 1 percent. Energy markets surged amid concerns that the war could disrupt supplies passing through the Strait of Hormuz, a critical route for global oil shipments.

Brent crude rose about 4 percent on Thursday to nearly \$85 per barrel and has climbed roughly 15 percent over the past five days. Rising fuel costs also hit airline stocks as several carriers canceled flights across the Middle East due to security risks.

### Nepal records low voter turnout as parliamentary elections conclude peacefully

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Parliamentary elections in Nepal concluded on Thursday with an estimated voter turnout of about sixty percent, according to Acting Chief Election Commissioner Ram Prasad Bhandari. If confirmed, the figure would mark the lowest turnout since the country's parliamentary elections in 1991 and slightly below the sixty one point four one percent recorded in the previous national vote. Officials said voting continued at some polling centers for people who arrived before the closing time. Aside from a few isolated disruptions, observers reported that the elections were largely peaceful. More than 18.9 million citizens were eligible to vote across 23,112 polling centers, including over 915,000 newly registered voters. Ballot boxes from remote districts will be transported by helicopter before vote counting begins.

### Hong Kong's Jimmy Lai will not appeal 20-year national security sentence

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Hong Kong pro-democracy publisher Jimmy Lai will not challenge his 20-year prison sentence under the national security law, his legal team confirmed Friday, ending a yearslong legal battle. Lai, 78, founder of the now-defunct Apple Daily, was convicted in December of conspiracy to collude with foreign forces and publishing seditious articles. His lawyers gave no reason for the decision, stating only they received "clear and definitive instructions not to lodge an appeal." Lai's conviction has drawn international criticism, highlighting the erosion of press freedoms in Hong Kong, while authorities insist the case is unrelated to journalism. Observers note any potential release could require a diplomatic solution, possibly linked to U.S. President Donald Trump's upcoming Beijing visit. The chances of a resolution remain uncertain, and Hong Kong has no mechanism for medical parole.

### Israel launches major airstrikes on south Beirut after mass evacuation order

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Israel launched extensive airstrikes on the southern suburbs of Beirut on Thursday, hours after ordering more than 500,000 residents to evacuate the area immediately. The Israel Defense Forces urged civilians to leave the neighborhoods to "save your lives" before targeting sites it said were linked to Hezbollah.

The strikes followed missile and drone attacks by Hezbollah on Monday, marking a sharp escalation in hostilities between Israel and the group. Thick smoke was seen rising over the district of Dahiya as thousands of residents fled through heavily congested streets, with many forced to walk out of the area. The evacuation zone included hospitals and government buildings, making it one of the largest displacement orders issued in the Lebanese capital during recent conflicts.

### Russia reiterates willingness to supply oil to India amid West Asia tensions

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Denis Alipov said on Thursday that Russia remains open to supplying oil to India as geopolitical tensions escalate in West Asia. Speaking to reporters in New Delhi, the ambassador emphasized that it is up to India to decide its energy suppliers even as concerns grow over potential disruptions to global oil markets.

Alipov called for negotiations to end the ongoing conflict in the region, saying diplomacy remains the only path to resolution. His remarks come amid speculation about a possible closure of the Strait of Hormuz, a vital shipping route whose disruption could push global fuel prices higher.

On Saturday, Sergei Lavrov held a telephone conversation with Iranian Foreign Minister Seyed Abbas Araghchi, during which Moscow condemned recent United States and Israeli strikes



on Iran and urged an immediate return to diplomatic engagement through international institutions, including the United Nations Security Council.

### Hegseth urges Latin American nations to intensify military action against drug cartels



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Pete Hegseth on Thursday called on Latin American allies to adopt a more aggressive military strategy against drug cartels, warning that the United States could act alone if necessary. Speaking at the 2026 Americas Counter Cartel Conference at United States Southern Command in Miami, Hegseth said coordinated military action was needed to combat transnational criminal groups. Delegations from 16 countries attended the meeting, including Argentina and Chile, but major regional powers such as Brazil, Mexico, and Colombia were absent. Critics warned that relying solely on military force would not solve drug trafficking, arguing that the trade involves complex international networks and requires broader economic and law enforcement strategies.

### Trump removes Kristi Noem as homeland security secretary and nominates Senator Markwayne Mullin

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

President Donald Trump removed Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem on Thursday, making her the first Cabinet member to leave the administration during his second term. Trump announced that Markwayne Mullin will replace her, with the appointment expected to take effect later this month pending Senate confirmation.

Trump said Noem would instead serve as "Envoy for the Shield of the Americas," a new role overseeing a regional security initiative in the Western Hemisphere. Administration officials said the decision followed mounting controversies surrounding Noem's leadership, including criticism of immigration enforcement operations and internal disputes within the Department of Homeland Security.

The change comes after congressional hearings earlier in the week in which



lawmakers questioned Noem about a multimillion dollar immigration advertising campaign and federal operations in Minneapolis that resulted in two civilian deaths. Mullin, a close Trump ally and first term senator, said on Thursday he was "excited for the opportunity" and looks forward to working in the Cabinet once confirmed.

### Finland moves to allow nuclear weapons on its territory as security concerns grow

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Finland plans to lift a decades old ban on nuclear weapons on its territory in a move officials say would align the country more closely with North Atlantic Treaty Organization deterrence policy. Defense Minister Antti Hakkänen announced this week that Finland's security environment has changed significantly since Russia launched its full scale invasion of Ukraine in 2022. The proposal would amend the 1987 Nuclear Energy Act, which currently prohibits the import, possession, manufacture or detonation of nuclear explosives. If approved, the change would allow nuclear weapons linked to Finland's defense as part of the alliance. Finland joined the military alliance in 2023.

### Ukraine's drone war experience sought by United States and Middle East allies

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The United States and several Middle Eastern countries are seeking Ukraine's expertise in defending against Iranian Shahed drones as the conflict involving Iran spreads across the region. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said late Wednesday that several governments have approached Kyiv for assistance based on Ukraine's experience countering the drones during Russia's invasion.

Zelenskyy said he has spoken in recent days with the leaders of the United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Bahrain, Jordan, and Kuwait about possible cooperation on air defense and drone interception strategies.

Russia has launched tens of thousands of Iranian made Shahed drones at Ukraine

since its full scale invasion began more than four years ago. In one of the largest recent attacks, Russia fired a barrage of more than 800 drones and decoys overnight.

Iran has recently deployed the same type of drones in retaliatory strikes against Israel, United States military facilities, and several countries across the Middle East following joint United States and Israeli attacks on Iranian targets.



### Russia charges former deputy defense minister Ruslan Tsalikov in widening corruption crackdown

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Russia has charged former deputy defense minister Ruslan Tsalikov with corruption, investigators said this week, expanding a series of prosecutions targeting senior military officials. The state Investigative Committee said Tsalikov faces accusations including embezzlement, money laundering, and accepting bribes. He served as first deputy defense minister from 2015 until 2024, when multiple corruption cases led to the arrests of several generals and defense officials. Another former deputy minister, Timur Ivanov, was sentenced to 13 years in prison in July last year. Both officials served under Sergei Shoigu, who was removed as defense minister in 2024 and later appointed secretary of Russia's Security Council.

## More than twenty states sue over new tariffs imposed by President Trump

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**M**ore than twenty United States states filed a lawsuit on Thursday challenging new global tariffs introduced by President Donald Trump after the Supreme Court struck down a previous version of the policy. The legal challenge was led by attorneys general from Oregon, Arizona, California, and New York. The states argue that Trump exceeded his authority by invoking a rarely used provision of the Trade Act of 1974 to impose tariffs of up to fifteen percent on foreign imports.

The administration introduced the new tariffs several days after the Supreme Court of the United States invalidated earlier duties imposed under emergency economic powers. Critics say the new measure will raise costs for businesses and consumers, while the White House argues it is necessary to address longstanding trade deficits. The case will be heard by the Court of International Trade in New York.

## Shipping traffic plunges in Strait of Hormuz as regional attacks threaten maritime security

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**M**aritime security risks escalated sharply this week across the Strait of Hormuz, the Gulf of Oman, and the Persian Gulf as military confrontations involving Iran, the United States, and Israel intensified. Several commercial vessels have reportedly been struck by projectiles, missiles, or explosive drone boats since late February, damaging multiple ships including oil tankers and a container vessel. At least one seafarer has been killed and others injured. Shipping traffic through the narrow waterway, which normally carries roughly twenty percent of global seaborne oil and liquefied natural gas, has fallen dramatically in recent days. Major shipping companies such as Maersk and Hapag-Lloyd have suspended passages through the strait, while many vessels remain anchored in nearby waters or reroute around Africa, increasing travel time and costs.

## South Korea orders \$68.3 billion financial package to stabilize markets amid Middle East crisis

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**P**resident Lee Jae Myung on Thursday ordered the rapid implementation of a 100 trillion won financial stabilization package, valued at about \$68.3 billion, to protect capital markets from volatility linked to the escalating conflict in the Middle East. Speaking during an emergency Cabinet meeting at Cheong Wa Dae, Lee said the crisis had worsened global economic and security conditions. He instructed officials to respond quickly to fluctuations in stock markets and exchange rates. Lee also ordered authorities to prepare emergency evacuation plans for South Korean nationals across the region and ensure the safety of ships and crews in nearby waters. According to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of South Korea, roughly 21,000 South Koreans are currently in Middle Eastern countries.

## United States and Venezuela move to restore diplomatic ties after Maduro's removal

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**T**he United States and Venezuela agreed on Thursday to reestablish diplomatic relations, marking a major shift after years of hostility between the two countries.

The announcement came after a series of visits by Trump administration officials following a United States military operation in January that removed former Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro from power. Relations between Washington and Caracas had been severed since Sunday in 2019, when Maduro cut diplomatic ties after President Donald Trump publicly backed opposition leader Juan Guaidó's claim to the presidency.

The United States State Department said talks with Venezuela are focused on creating conditions for a "peaceful transition to a democratically elected government." The statement followed a two day visit by United States Interior Secretary Doug Burgum, who discussed Venezuela's mining sector. Earlier, Energy Secretary Chris Wright visited the



country to explore its oil potential.

Acting President Delcy Rodríguez said restoring diplomatic relations would strengthen cooperation and benefit the Venezuelan people.

The government has also approved an amnesty law releasing many political prisoners. Opposition leader María Corina Machado said on Sunday that she plans to return to Venezuela soon and that elections will be held.

## Iran says some countries are mediating as conflict with U.S. and Israel escalates

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**I**ranian President Masoud Pezeshkian said on Friday that "some countries" have begun mediation efforts to resolve the escalating conflict with the United States and Israel following last week's assassination of Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei. He emphasized Iran's commitment to lasting peace while defending national sovereignty and dignity. The comments came as Iran launched a new wave of ballistic missile attacks on Israel, including its Khorramshahr-4 missiles, described as striking deep into Israeli territory under the "22nd wave" of Operation True Promise 4.

In response, Israel carried out airstrikes on a residential building in Sidon, southern Lebanon, near Al-Siddiq Mosque, with casualties and damage still being assessed.



Meanwhile, U.S. Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth and CENTCOM commander Admiral Brad Cooper reported that Operation Epic Fury had targeted nearly 200 Iranian sites, including missile facilities, naval vessels, and space-related infrastructure, sharply reducing Iran's missile and drone activity and weakening its ability to rebuild military capabilities.

## IMF chief urges Asian economies to stay agile amid rising global uncertainty

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**M**anaging Director of the International Monetary Fund, Kristalina Georgieva, warned on Thursday that Asian economies must remain agile and financially resilient as global shocks become more frequent and unpredictable. Speaking at a conference in Bangkok, she said the global economy is entering a period of persistent uncertainty driven by major shifts in technology, demographics, trade, and geopolitics.

Georgieva noted that governments should strengthen their domestic economies rather than focus on factors beyond their control. She also highlighted the ongoing conflict in the Middle East, warning that a prolonged crisis could affect energy prices, financial markets, economic growth, and inflation worldwide.

Energy security remains a major concern



for many Asian economies, she said, as recent tensions have already triggered volatility in regional stock markets. Georgieva added that Asian nations must improve productivity and competitiveness by investing in digital infrastructure and skills to harness technologies such as artificial intelligence while ensuring appropriate safeguards and policies that support innovation and private investment.

## Czech parliament shields Prime Minister Andrej Babis from trial in subsidy fraud case



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**T**he lower house of the Czech parliament voted on Thursday not to lift the parliamentary immunity of Prime Minister Andrej Babis, preventing him from standing trial in a long running investigation over an alleged European Union subsidy fraud. Prosecutors accuse Babis of misusing about \$2.2 million in subsidies granted in 2008 for a hotel and conference center known as Stork Nest near Prague. Deputies from Babis's party and coalition partners voted against the court request. The decision protects him from prosecution until the parliament's four year term ends in 2029.

## Iceland government plans referendum on restarting European Union membership talks

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**I**celand's government plans to propose a referendum in autumn on whether to resume negotiations to join the European Union, public broadcaster RUV reported on Thursday. According to the report, the government intends to submit the proposal to parliament next week. The referendum would ask voters whether to restart accession talks that were abandoned more than a decade ago. Sources cited by the broadcaster said the vote would most likely take place in late September if parliament approves the proposal. Iceland previously halted membership negotiations after political opposition and concerns about national economic interests.

## Switzerland and European Union pledge deeper cooperation on security and defense

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**S**witzerland and the European Union agreed on Thursday to strengthen cooperation on security and defense following talks in Zurich between Swiss Foreign Minister Ignazio Cassis and European Union foreign policy chief Kaja Kallas. A joint declaration said the two sides will expand information sharing and hold annual dialogues on global issues including Ukraine, the Middle East, Africa, Asia, and the United States. Swiss representatives may also be invited to meetings of the European Union Foreign Affairs Council. The agreement includes cooperation on human rights, crisis management, peace mediation, and coordination between diplomatic missions abroad.



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# India's delicate diplomacy amid the escalating Iran-U.S. crisis



**Dr. Avi Verma**

**T**he conflict unfolding in West Asia has once again placed the world on edge. Rising tensions between the United States and Iran, fueled by military strikes and diplomatic escalation, have created a volatile geopolitical environment with global implications for energy markets, trade routes, and international alliances.

For India, the situation is particularly complex. New Delhi today navigates one of the most delicate diplomatic balances in modern foreign policy—between its strategic partnership with the United States and its long-standing civilizational and geopolitical ties with Iran.

**The current situation**

The crisis has sparked fears of disruptions in the Strait of Hormuz, a critical maritime chokepoint through which nearly 20% of global crude oil passes. For India, which imports roughly 90% of its crude oil, such disruptions could sharply raise energy costs and inflation.

The ripple effects are already visible across global markets, trade flows, and shipping routes. Even sectors far removed from the battlefield—such as electronics exports and logistics—are monitoring the situation closely, as instability in the Gulf can disrupt trade corridors vital to Indian businesses.

India's diplomatic tightrope  
India's foreign policy has long relied on strategic autonomy—maintaining



relationships with competing global powers while avoiding alignment with any single bloc. Today, that doctrine is being tested.

On one side stands the United States, one of India's most important strategic partners in defense, technology, trade, and Indo-Pacific security. On the other side is Iran, which has historically supported India on several regional issues, including diplomatic stances that indirectly strengthened India's position on Kashmir.

Iran is also strategically significant because of the Chabahar Port project, offering India a crucial trade corridor to Afghanistan and Central Asia while bypassing Pakistan. However, U.S. sanctions and geopolitical tensions have repeatedly complicated this investment.

**Is India in a strategic jam?**

The short answer is not quite—but the balancing act is becoming increasingly delicate.

**India has so far adopted a measured approach:**

- ▶ Calling for de-escalation and diplomacy
- ▶ Avoiding public alignment with either side
- ▶ Protecting economic and energy interests
- ▶ Maintaining dialogue with all major stakeholders

This approach reflects India's broader

diplomatic philosophy of multi-alignment rather than non-alignment—engaging with the United States, Europe, Russia, Israel, Iran, and the Gulf states simultaneously.

**The larger stakes**

The stakes go beyond diplomacy. Nearly nine million Indians live and work in the Gulf region, and instability could threaten both their safety and the billions of dollars in remittances they send home annually.

Rising oil prices, shipping costs, and insurance premiums could also impact India's economic growth and fiscal planning.

**The road ahead**

India's challenge will be to maintain strategic autonomy while safeguarding national interests in energy security, regional stability, and global partnerships.

In moments like these, diplomacy is less about choosing sides and more about managing relationships across competing power centers. India's success will depend on the principle that has guided its foreign policy for decades: engage everyone, align with none, and safeguard national interests above all else.

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



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### Azerbaijan accuses Iran of drone strike near Nakhchivan and warns of retaliation

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Azerbaijan said on Thursday that four Iranian drones crossed its border and injured four people in the Nakhchivan exclave, raising fears of wider regional escalation. Officials said one drone struck the terminal building at Nakhchivan International Airport, another landed near a school, one was shot down by the military, and another hit civilian infrastructure. The injured victims were hospitalized and reported to be in stable condition. President Ilham Aliyev warned that Azerbaijan would take retaliatory measures. Iran denied targeting the area and said it would investigate. Authorities temporarily closed southern airspace and restricted cargo crossings with Iran following the incident.

### Mexico security chief's pursuit of cartel leader El Mencho shaped by past assassination attempt

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Mexico's security chief Omar Garcia Harfuch played a central role in the operation that killed cartel leader Nemesio Oseguera, known as El Mencho, a moment described by associates as deeply personal. Harfuch survived an assassination attempt in 2020 when gunmen fired more than 400 bullets at his armored vehicle, killing two bodyguards and a bystander. He blamed the attack on the Jalisco New Generation Cartel led by El Mencho. The kingpin was killed during a military operation after authorities tracked his location through intelligence and surveillance. The crackdown has strengthened President Claudia Sheinbaum's tougher strategy against powerful drug cartels.

### Pope Leo calls on world leaders to renounce war amid expanding Iran conflict



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Pope Leo issued a video message on Thursday urging world leaders to abandon war and pursue dialogue as the United States and Israel continued military strikes against Iran for a sixth day. The pope asked God to guide global leaders to reject what he called projects of death and to seek peace through diplomacy and solidarity among nations. His monthly message for March focuses on disarmament and peace. On Wednesday, Cardinal Pietro Parolin, the Vatican's secretary of state, warned that preventive wars undermine international law and risk escalating global conflict if countries claim the right to launch them.

## Military conflict cannot resolve global disputes, says Prime Minister Narendra Modi

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Thursday that global disputes cannot be resolved through military conflict and emphasized the importance of dialogue, diplomacy, and respect for international law. He made the remarks during a joint press conference in New Delhi with Alexander Stubb following bilateral talks. Modi said both countries support efforts to end ongoing conflicts in Ukraine and West Asia and agreed that reforming global institutions has become urgent to address rising international challenges. He added that eliminating terrorism in all its

forms remains a shared priority.

Highlighting expanding ties between India and Europe, Modi said the recently signed India-European Union Free Trade Agreement will strengthen trade, investment, and technology cooperation. He also announced a comprehensive migration and mobility agreement between India and Finland to support talent exchange, research collaboration, and innovation. The leaders also agreed to expand cooperation in teacher training, school partnerships, and future education initiatives while strengthening joint research, startup collaboration, and Arctic and polar research programs.



## NATO chief backs France nuclear expansion but says United States shield remains key

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

NATO Secretary General Mark Rutte this week welcomed French President Emmanuel Macron's decision to expand France's nuclear deterrent but said the United States nuclear umbrella remains the ultimate guarantee of European security.

Macron recently proposed increasing France's arsenal and allowing European partners to host French warplanes for deterrence missions. Rutte said the move could strengthen Europe's defense posture and complicate Russia's strategic calculations. However, he stressed that Europe still depends on United States protection. France and Germany have created a nuclear steering group to discuss cooperation, while several European nations may participate in French nuclear exercises.



## United States opposes nuclear watchdog resolution condemning attacks on Ukraine energy grid

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The United States joined Russia, China, and Niger on Thursday in opposing a resolution adopted by the International Atomic Energy Agency Board of Governors condemning attacks on Ukraine's energy infrastructure. Diplomats said the resolution, the seventh since Russia invaded Ukraine four years ago, passed with 20 votes in favor, 10 abstentions, and four votes against. It warns that strikes on power systems supplying nuclear plants, including the Zaporizhzhia facility, threaten nuclear safety. The United States said it supports the agency's work in 33= Ukraine but



considered the resolution unnecessary and unhelpful to peace efforts between Ukraine and Russia.

## European Union foreign policy chief says erosion of international law fuels Middle East turmoil

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

European Union foreign policy chief Kaja Kallas said on Thursday that growing turmoil in the Middle East stems from the erosion of international law. Speaking at the University of Zurich, she said Russia's invasion of Ukraine had weakened global norms and encouraged other powers to act with impunity. Kallas also criticized China for expanding influence in the Asia Pacific and warned that shifts in United States foreign policy had shaken the transatlantic relationship. She said the world risks entering a new order dominated by military powers seeking spheres of influence unless international law and accountability are restored.

## France boosts military support to Lebanon as Macron urges restraint in regional conflict

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

France will increase military cooperation with Lebanon and supply armored transport vehicles along with operational and logistical support, President Emmanuel Macron said on Thursday. The move comes as Lebanon faces growing pressure from the wider conflict involving the United States, Israel, and Iran. Macron urged Israel not to expand the war into Lebanon and called on Iranian leaders to avoid drawing the country into the fighting. After meeting the French military chief in Beirut, Lebanese President Joseph Aoun asked France to intervene to prevent attacks on Beirut's southern suburbs following warnings from the Israeli military.

## Ukraine and Russia exchange 200 prisoners of war each in latest swap



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Ukraine and Russia exchanged 200 prisoners of war each on Thursday in the latest swap during the four year conflict, officials from both countries said. The exchange comes despite stalled United States backed negotiations aimed at ending the war. President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said the return of the prisoners shows Ukraine's continued effort to bring all captured soldiers home and thanked the United States and mediators who helped arrange the exchange. Some of the released Ukrainians had been held since the 2022 siege of Mariupol. Officials said both sides plan another exchange of about 300 prisoners each on Friday.

**Finland President Alexander Stubb highlights India's role in shaping emerging world order**



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**A**lexander Stubb on Thursday said India and the Global South will play a decisive role in shaping the next global order, emphasizing that the era of Western dominance is ending. Speaking at the Raisina Dialogue in New Delhi, Stubb said the world is undergoing a major transformation similar to shifts seen after the two world wars and the Cold War.

He noted that India's strong economic growth and status as the world's largest democracy position it as a central force in determining whether the global system moves toward conflict driven multipolarity or a cooperative multilateral order based on rules and institutions. Stubb also warned that violence has increasingly become a foreign policy tool, citing conflicts in Ukraine, West Asia, and Sudan. He stressed that global challenges must be addressed collectively through diplomacy, cooperation, and respect for international rules.

**India and United States discuss defense and trade cooperation at Raisina Dialogue**



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**S**ubrahmanyam Jaishankar met Christopher Landau in New Delhi on Thursday on the sidelines of the Raisina Dialogue to review expanding cooperation between the two countries. Landau is visiting India from Monday through Thursday to represent the administration of Donald Trump at the strategic conference. According to the United States Department of State, discussions focused on strengthening collaboration in defense, critical minerals, and efforts to combat narcotics trafficking, while also deepening commercial and economic ties.

Officials also reviewed efforts to expand market access for American businesses and advance a shared vision for a free and open Indo Pacific region. The meeting follows a recent framework for an interim trade agreement aimed at progressing negotiations toward a broader India United States bilateral trade pact launched by President Trump and Narendra Modi.

**India steps up diplomatic outreach as West Asia conflict threatens regional stability**

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**I**ndia intensified its diplomatic outreach on Thursday as tensions continued to rise across West Asia, with senior leaders engaging counterparts across the region and key global partners to address the rapidly evolving security crisis. Subrahmanyam Jaishankar held separate telephone conversations with Sayyid Badr Albusaidi and Seyed Abbas Araghchi to review the deteriorating situation and its broader regional implications. The discussions followed a deadly attack on the oil tanker MKD Vyom in the Gulf of Oman earlier in the week. According to Omani authorities, the vessel, flagged to the Marshall Islands, was struck by an unmanned surface vessel about 52 nautical miles off the Omani coast, triggering a fire and explosion in the engine room that killed one Indian crew member.

A total of 21 crew members, including 16 Indian nationals, were safely evacuated with assistance from a commercial vessel and the Royal Navy of Oman, while maritime authorities continued monitoring the damaged tanker. The crisis is part of a wider escalation that



began after joint military strikes by the United States and Israel on Iranian targets triggered retaliatory drone and missile attacks across the Gulf region, disrupting air traffic and economic activity. Amid the escalating tensions, Narendra Modi also spoke with Emmanuel Macron on Thursday to discuss the situation and emphasize the need for renewed diplomatic efforts to restore stability.

In recent days, Modi has held discussions with leaders from Qatar, United Arab Emirates, Israel, Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Bahrain, Oman, and Kuwait as India continues to advocate restraint and dialogue while safeguarding the interests of nearly ten million Indian citizens living and working across the Gulf region.

**United Nations highlights India's financial inclusion drive as model for women's empowerment**

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**T**he United Nations has praised India's financial inclusion program as a global model for advancing women's economic empowerment. Speaking on Wednesday, Sandra Hendriks said India's initiatives providing digital identification and banking access to millions of women demonstrate how policy reforms can transform economic opportunities. She highlighted the impact of the Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana, which has expanded banking services to more than 290 million women.

Under the program, women now hold about 56 percent of the accounts opened, supported by the country's biometric identification system Aadhaar. Hendriks said digital financial inclusion enables women to access

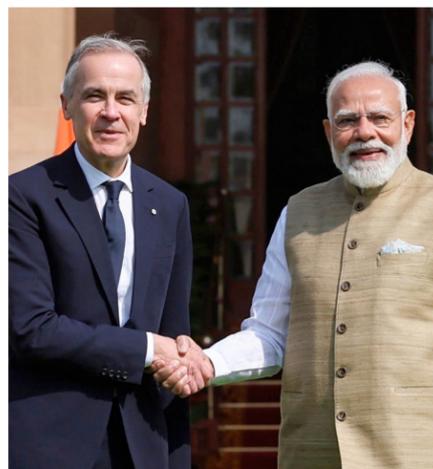


banking services, start businesses, and gain greater economic independence. The remarks came ahead of the annual meeting of the Commission on the Status of Women, where global progress on gender equality will be reviewed.

**Canada's Mark Carney praises PM Modi's governance and signals stronger India ties**

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**M**ark Carney praised the leadership style of Narendra Modi on Wednesday, highlighting his work ethic and focus on delivering government benefits directly to citizens while signaling efforts to strengthen relations between Canada and India. Speaking at the Lowy Institute in Sydney, Carney described Modi as a highly disciplined leader who has maintained an intense political schedule for decades while serving as chief minister of Gujarat and later as prime minister. Carney said Modi's governance approach focuses strongly on grassroots delivery and financial reforms aimed at reaching ordinary citizens. He highlighted India's digital payments ecosystem, including the Unified Payments Interface, which enables direct transfers to individuals and reduces leakages in welfare programs. Carney



added that Canada sees opportunities to deepen cooperation with India in emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence while continuing efforts to rebuild economic and security ties between the two countries.

**India and Japan discuss boosting defense technology and economic security**



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**F**oreign Secretary Vikram Misri met Japan's Prime Minister Special Advisor Sadamasa Oue on Friday to strengthen defense technology and economic security cooperation under the India-Japan Special Strategic and Global Partnership. The partnership, elevated to a "Special Strategic and Global Partnership" in 2014, emphasizes defense and security collaboration, particularly in the Indo-Pacific region. The meeting follows recent exchanges between EAM S. Jaishankar and Japanese Foreign Minister Toshimitsu Motegi on reinforcing bilateral ties and realizing a Free and Open Indo-Pacific. Prime Minister Narendra Modi also congratulated Japan's Sanae Takaichi on her election victory, highlighting continued collaboration to advance regional peace, stability, and prosperity between the two nations.

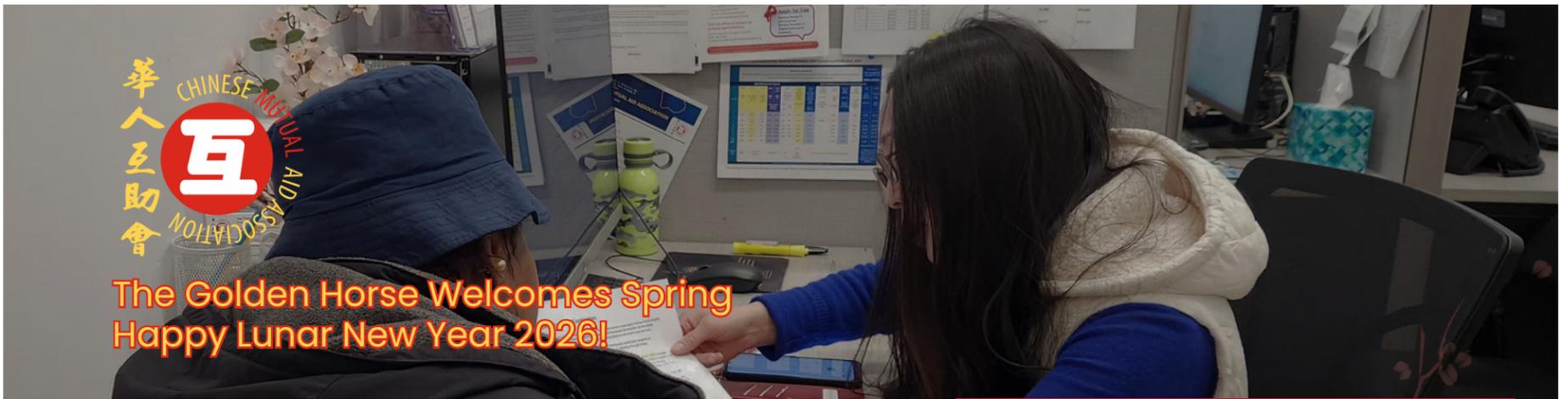
**USDA highlights India and China in U.S. agricultural trade strategy**



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**T**he U.S. Department of Agriculture is prioritizing India and China as key markets for American agricultural exports, Undersecretary for Trade Luke Lindberg told lawmakers on Wednesday. The strategy focuses on securing better deals, strengthening buyer-seller relationships, and enforcing accountability, aiming to restore U.S. agricultural competitiveness.

China has purchased 12 million metric tons of U.S. soybeans this year, and negotiations with India are ongoing to improve access for tree nuts and specialty crops. Lindberg also highlighted new agreements in Central America, Japan, Vietnam, South Korea, and Taiwan. The administration forecasts a reduced trade deficit of about \$29 billion, emphasizing increased domestic production and higher export growth for U.S. farmers.



The Golden Horse Welcomes Spring Happy Lunar New Year 2026!

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# IndoUS TRIBUNE



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### Republican lawmaker warns against Chinese investment ahead of Trump visit



**IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk**

**H**ouse China Committee Chair John Moolenaar warned Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent on Thursday that allowing Chinese industrial firms to expand in the U.S. could undermine national security and American manufacturing. Moolenaar cited subsidies and government support for Chinese companies as giving them unfair advantages and criticized potential inroads in sectors such as automotive and lithium-ion batteries. His letter came ahead of President Donald Trump's planned March 31-April 2 visit to Beijing for trade talks. The U.S. Trade Representative pledged to encourage foreign investment that strengthens U.S. industry without compromising security. Bessent is set to meet Chinese Vice Premier He Lifeng mid-March to prepare for the summit.

### House panel questions travel companies on AI-driven pricing

**IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk**

**T**he House Oversight Committee chair, James Comer, requested on Thursday that five major travel companies, including Uber, Lyft, and Expedia, disclose whether they use AI-driven "surveillance pricing" to increase costs for consumers. Comer cited concerns that algorithms could exploit personal data such as location, browsing history, or device information—to charge individualized prices. The committee requested documentation by March 19 detailing pricing algorithms and their financial impact. Uber, Expedia, and Instacart denied engaging in surveillance pricing. The inquiry is part of broader congressional scrutiny of AI and consumer data use, following a January probe by California Attorney General Rob Bonta into price personalization practices in travel and retail sectors.

### Austin bar shooting leaves three dead, FBI probes terrorism links

**IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk**

**T**hree people were killed and more than a dozen injured when 53-year-old Ndiaga Diagne opened fire at a downtown Austin bar. Police say Diagne, a naturalized U.S. citizen from Senegal, wore an undershirt depicting the Iranian flag and a sweatshirt reading "Property of Allah." He was shot and killed by officers. Authorities have contacted federal agencies to investigate potential terrorism links, given ongoing U.S. operations against Iran. Among the deceased were UT students Savitha Shan, Ryder Harrington, and Jorge Pederson. Three of the 14 injured remained in critical condition as authorities continued gathering information from over 150 witnesses.

### Justice Department releases previously missing Epstein interview summaries involving Trump claims

**IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk**

**T**he U.S. Justice Department released FBI records on Thursday summarizing interviews with an unidentified woman who accused President Donald Trump of sexual misconduct in the 1980s. The woman, interviewed four times in 2019 during the Jeffrey Epstein investigation, alleged that Epstein introduced her to Trump and that he attempted to force her to perform oral sex when she was between 13 and 15. Previously, only one of the interviews, concerning Epstein's abuse, had been released. The White House dismissed the new claims as "completely baseless." The Justice Department noted that some records contain "untrue and sensationalist



claims" and emphasized that the accuracy of the allegations could not be confirmed. The disclosure follows scrutiny over how the department handled Epstein-related documents and congressional interest in potential records involving Trump.

### Pentagon cuts ties with Ivy League and elite schools amid military education shake-up

**IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk**

**T**he Pentagon is realigning its relationship with higher education, ending longstanding military fellowships at more than a dozen elite universities while maintaining broader tuition programs for service members. Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth targeted prestigious schools, including Harvard, Yale, Brown, Georgetown, Carnegie Mellon, and MIT, from the Senior Service College Fellowship, a program for mid-career military officers on track for leadership roles. About 350 service members used the benefit at these campuses in 2024, compared with tens of thousands attending public or for-profit institutions.



Critics call the move an unprecedented overreach, raising concerns about the future of ROTC, Tuition Assistance, and other military education programs.

### US senator flags H-1B visa abuse, DHS begins review

**IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk**

**A** Republican senator raised concerns on Wednesday about alleged misuse of the H-1B and Optional Practical Training visa programs, prompting the Department of Homeland Security to review the student work program. Senator Eric Schmitt told a Senate Judiciary Committee hearing that the programs, intended to bring skilled foreign workers to the U.S., are displacing American workers and functioning as "visa mills" for universities. Schmitt has formally requested DHS examine the scope and duration of the OPT program. Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem confirmed that the department is reviewing both programs



and expects the evaluation to be completed within 2026. The discussion took place amid a broader oversight hearing on immigration enforcement, border security, and agency compliance, highlighting concerns about the impact of legal immigration pathways on American labor markets.

### USPS warns of cash shortfall without congressional help

**IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk**

**T**he U.S. Postal Service will run out of cash within a year unless Congress lifts the \$15 billion borrowing cap, Postmaster General David Steiner warned Wednesday. Without action, the agency may struggle to pay employees and vendors by February 2027, threatening mail delivery. Steiner will testify before Congress later this month on financial

reforms, citing burdensome rules that limit flexibility despite USPS's obligations to deliver six days a week nationwide. Funded mostly through postage and services, the agency operates like a government body but lacks appropriations from the federal budget. Steiner said immediate legislative changes are needed to maintain operations, preserve employee wages, and ensure uninterrupted mail service for businesses and households across the country.

### Elon Musk avoids deposition over USAID dismantling



**IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk**

**A** U.S. appeals court ruled Elon Musk will not have to sit for a deposition regarding his role leading the Department of Government Efficiency and dismantling the U.S. Agency for International Development. The Fourth Circuit ruled 2-1 in Musk's favor, rejecting claims that he illegally shuttered the agency, which coordinated global humanitarian relief. Circuit Judge Roger Gregory dissented, saying Musk and other officials were the only sources with relevant information. Former USAID employees accused Musk of causing chaos by firing thousands of workers, while a Department of Homeland Security spokesperson maintained the facility provided food, water, and medical care.

### Texas AG rules mental health providers cannot 'transition' minors



**IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk**

**T**exas Attorney General Ken Paxton issued a legal opinion clarifying that state-licensed mental health providers are prohibited from assisting in gender-transition procedures for minors. The opinion extends Senate Bill 14, passed in 2023, banning puberty blockers, hormone therapy, and surgeries for children. Paxton described any facilitation of such procedures as child abuse. The ruling has faced criticism from groups including the ACLU, which argue it blocks necessary care for transgender youth. Proponents cite concerns over permanent alterations from procedures, while studies show surgeries are rare for minors under 12 and mostly limited to chest-related procedures for teens.

### Senate Democrats ready to resume talks on permitting reform for renewable projects

**IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk**

**S**enate Democrats said on Thursday they are prepared to restart negotiations on legislation to speed permitting for large infrastructure and renewable energy projects. Senators Sheldon Whitehouse and Martin Heinrich expressed optimism following the Trump administration's recent review of stalled wind and solar applications and emphasized that fully permitted projects should face no further delays. Republican Senator Mike Lee welcomed the discussions, calling it a bipartisan opportunity to advance permitting reform. The SPEED Act, which aims to fast-track renewable and transmission projects, passed the House last December but remains under debate in the Senate, with Democrats seeking stronger support for clean energy initiatives.

## Trump vows vengeance after U.S. military deaths in Middle East

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

President Donald Trump vowed to “avenge” the deaths of three U.S. service members killed during Operation Epic Fury in the Middle East. Speaking March 1, he said military operations would continue until all objectives were met, including eliminating Iranian threats and striking key targets. Trump reported that nine Iranian ships were destroyed and hundreds of military sites hit. Additional U.S. casualties are expected. Iranian officials rejected negotiations, asserting their forces did not initiate the conflict. The president described the strikes as justified in response to past Iranian attacks on Americans and regional allies.

## Supreme Court upholds sole Republican-held NYC congressional district

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The U.S. Supreme Court blocked a lower court order requiring redistricting of New York’s 11th congressional district, the only Republican-held seat in New York City, preserving it for the 2026 elections. Six justices voted to halt the redrawing, while three dissented. The district, representing Staten Island and part of Brooklyn, was challenged for allegedly diluting Black and Latino voters’ influence. Justice Samuel Alito called the lower court ruling “unadorned racial discrimination,” while Justice Sonia Sotomayor argued the Court overstepped by intervening in state election law before allowing the state’s highest court to act.

## CDC deploys staff to help South Carolina control measles outbreak



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention will send staff to South Carolina next week to help contain the nation’s largest measles outbreak in decades, a state official said on Wednesday. The outbreak, now nearing 1,000 cases, began about five months ago, though new infections appear to be slowing after a 70 percent rise in February vaccinations. Three CDC disease detectives will analyze outbreak data, supplementing on-the-ground support provided by public health experts from the CDC Foundation. South Carolina officials said the deployment will improve understanding of transmission chains and strengthen containment efforts amid declining childhood immunization rates and growing concern over the U.S. measles elimination status.

## Millions of Americans face tornado risk as spring storms hit early

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

As spring storm season arrives early, millions of Americans from Texas to Iowa are under threat of severe weather, including potentially strong tornadoes. The National Weather Service warned that scattered thunderstorms could begin late Thursday in the Texas Panhandle, western Oklahoma, and parts of Kansas, with large hail, damaging winds, and isolated tornadoes possible. The most intense storms are expected Friday across Oklahoma, Kansas, Missouri, and neighboring areas, putting more than six million people at the highest risk, including residents of Kansas City and Tulsa. Another 22 million, in cities like Oklahoma City, St. Louis, Omaha, and Milwaukee, face a moderate risk. Meteorologists say the storms result from



warm Gulf air colliding with cold Canadian air. The weather system will also push unseasonably high temperatures eastward, with highs in the 80s reaching the Ohio Valley and Mid-Atlantic by the weekend. Emergency managers are urging residents to review tornado safety plans and heed warnings, especially in schools and universities, as sirens may signal imminent danger.

## Pakistani man on trial says Trump, Biden, Haley were potential targets

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

In a New York federal court on Wednesday, Pakistani businessman Asif Merchant testified that a 2024 plot targeting U.S. politicians included Donald Trump, Joe Biden, and Nikki Haley. Merchant said he was asked by an Iranian Revolutionary Guard operative to hire hit men, paying \$5,000 as a “token of appreciation,” though the supposed assailants were FBI undercover agents.



He claimed his actions were driven by threats against his family in Iran and anticipated being arrested before harm occurred. Merchant admitted sending

false reports to his handler but did not initially report the plot to U.S. authorities. Prosecutors said he failed to mention facts suggesting duress. Merchant emphasized he was not a “super-spy” and acted reluctantly, portraying himself as coerced while cooperating under the circumstances.

## Texas congressman to end re-election bid amid sex allegations

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

U.S. Representative Tony Gonzales, a Texas Republican, announced Thursday he will not seek re-election after allegations surfaced that he had an affair with a former staff member who later died by suicide. The House Ethics Committee will investigate the claims, and top Republican leaders had urged Gonzales

to withdraw. Gonzales acknowledged a “lapse in judgment” and pledged full cooperation with the inquiry. The decision comes two days after Gonzales was forced into a primary runoff against Republican challenger Brandon Herrera. Leadership actions also include potential legislative measures by fellow Republicans to censure Gonzales and remove him from committee assignments. He will serve out the remainder of his current term.

## Senator Warren seeks to end U.S. military ammunition sales to civilians

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

U.S. Senator Elizabeth Warren plans to introduce legislation this week to prevent military-grade bullets from reaching civilians, citing evidence that some are diverted to Mexican drug cartels and linked to mass shootings. The Stop Militarizing Our Streets Act, co-sponsored by Senator Andy Kim and Representatives Robert Garcia and

Jamie Raskin, would restrict Pentagon contractors to selling firearms and ammunition only to vetted commercial dealers. Warren pointed to the Lake City Army Ammunition Plant in Missouri, whose AR-15 bullets were used in at least a dozen shootings since 2012. Warren said taxpayer dollars should not fuel gun violence, emphasizing the need for tighter oversight of military contractors and civilian access to high-powered ammunition.

## Pentagon seeks domestic supply of critical minerals amid Iran tensions



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The U.S. Pentagon asked mining companies last Friday to provide proposals to boost domestic production of 13 critical minerals, including nickel, graphite, and yttrium, used in semiconductors, weapons, and aerospace components. The request to the Defense Industrial Base Consortium comes a day before U.S. and Israeli strikes on Iran. Proposals are due by March 20 for projects to mine, process, or recycle these minerals, which the U.S. relies on China to supply. Companies including Guardian Metal Resources and American Tungsten plan to apply for funding. Officials emphasized that expanding domestic production is vital for national security and economic stability amid global supply vulnerabilities.

## U.S. facilitates charter flights for citizens stranded in Middle East

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The United States began facilitating charter flights for citizens stranded in the Middle East on Tuesday, after joint U.S.-Israeli strikes on Iran disrupted regional air travel. The Department of State is arranging flights from the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, and Jordan, while seeking additional capacity as security conditions allow. About 1,500 Americans requested assistance, and the department is also securing military aircraft. Lawmakers criticized the delayed evacuation guidance, calling it poorly planned. The conflict has closed major Gulf aviation hubs, disrupted global transport, and increased crude oil prices. Non-essential U.S. personnel have been ordered to depart embassies in Bahrain, Qatar, the UAE, Kuwait, and Jordan.

## Federal judge blocks DeSantis order labeling Muslim civil rights group as terrorist

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

A federal judge on Wednesday issued a preliminary injunction against Florida Governor Ron DeSantis, preventing his executive order that labeled the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR) a “terrorist organization.” The order, issued in December, had barred CAIR from receiving government contracts, employment, or funds. U.S. District Judge Mark Walker called the action a political statement that violated constitutional rights, warning it suppressed CAIR’s protected speech and coerced third parties. Citing protections for religious minorities, Walker affirmed that the First Amendment safeguards CAIR’s lawful speech. CAIR executive director Nihad Awad thanked supporters, saying the ruling underscored that constitutional rights remain intact despite political attacks.

## Elderly Indian origin couple in United Kingdom warns others after fake ticket scam



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**A**n elderly Indian origin couple from Leicester has warned others about online travel fraud after losing more than \$3,100 to scammers who sold them fake flight tickets to Ahmedabad. Dinesh Jansari, 80, and his wife Shashikala Jansari, 78, discovered the fraud on Saturday when they arrived at Heathrow Airport and were told their tickets were invalid. The couple had booked the trip through a website that later shifted the process to a WhatsApp conversation with an account calling itself "Fly Expedia." Speaking to BBC Leicester over the weekend, Shashikala said the deal appeared genuine and her husband trusted the name because he had heard of Expedia before. The couple reported the fraud to the United Kingdom's national fraud reporting service and contacted their bank. However, because the payment was made through a direct bank transfer, authorities said recovering the money would be difficult. The couple later managed to travel to Ahmedabad after booking through a licensed travel agent.

## Two Indian students die in London house fire while third remains hospitalized



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**T**wo Indian students died and another was injured after a fire broke out at a rented home in Croydon in South London on Sunday, leaving families and the local Indian community in shock. Ganti Abhishek, 28, from Kakinada in Andhra Pradesh, died at the scene from smoke inhalation when the blaze engulfed the house where the three students were staying. Kamineni Sai Srikar, 26, from Nizamabad in Telangana, was rescued and taken to Croydon University Hospital with critical injuries. After several days in intensive care, doctors later declared Srikar brain dead and confirmed his death. His family in India has appealed to authorities to expedite the process of bringing his body home. A third student managed to escape the burning house but suffered injuries and remains hospitalized. Local authorities in London have launched an investigation to determine the cause of the fire.

## Indian missions worldwide celebrate Holi with messages of unity and cultural harmony

● Staff Writer, IndoUS Tribune

**I**ndian diplomatic missions across several countries marked Holi this week with celebrations highlighting the festival's message of unity, hope and cultural friendship among communities abroad.

At the Indian Embassy in Ulaanbaatar on Wednesday, Ambassador Atul Malhari Gotsurve hosted a 'Phoolon Ki Holi', or Holi with flowers, event attended by members of the Indian community, persons of Indian origin and Mongolian friends of India. Addressing the gathering, he said the festival of colors spreads joy, optimism and renewed friendship, adding that the world today "needs more colors."

In the United States, Somnath Ghosh attended Holi celebrations at the office



of Brandon Johnson, who proclaimed Monday as 'Holi Day' in the city to honor the festival's spirit of renewal and cultural inclusivity.

Meanwhile, Russian Ambassador Denis Alipov and Israeli Ambassador Reuven Azar also extended Holi greetings, highlighting the festival's universal message of good triumphing over evil and light overcoming darkness.

## High Court pauses sale of Hindu temple building to mosque group in Peterborough

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**A**Hindu community in Peterborough has won the first stage of a legal challenge to stop the sale of its temple building to a mosque organization. Worshippers from the Bharat Hindu Samaj secured a temporary injunction from the High Court, halting the proposed sale while the case proceeds.

The dispute arose after Peterborough City Council voted last month to sell the New England Complex, where the temple operates, as part of efforts to reduce millions of dollars in debt. After a confidential bidding process, the council informed the temple that its bid had failed. Court documents indicate the preferred buyer is Khadija Mosque.

Temple representatives said they sought the injunction after the council declined to pause the process for negotiations,



stressing that their dispute is with the council rather than the mosque. Established in 1986, the temple serves worshippers from several eastern English counties and hosts social, educational, and charity programs for the wider community.

## Canadian Sikh adventurer dies in Peru during global motorcycle journey

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**R**aghu Singh Bharawal, a 42-year-old Sikh adventurer originally from Punjab and settled in Canada, died in a motorcycle accident in Peru while undertaking an ambitious solo world tour.

Bharawal, who lived in Surrey in the province of British Columbia, was traveling across continents on a Harley Davidson motorcycle as part of a journey he had named the 'Flying Khalsa World Tour'. The father of three had begun the trip nearly three months earlier and planned to ride through 31 countries before returning to Canada and continuing the expedition.

Family members said they lost contact with him after he posted a short video from Peru on social media several days earlier. When repeated attempts to reach him failed, relatives contacted local authorities and acquaintances in the region.

On Tuesday, the family received



confirmation that Bharawal had died in a road accident.

His father, Pritam Singh Bharawal, who resides in Surrey but was visiting Ludhiana for a wedding, said his son had always been passionate about travel and adventure and hoped his journey would inspire others.

Further details about the crash were not immediately available as the family works with officials to repatriate his remains.

## Indians lead United Kingdom visa extension numbers for students and skilled workers



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**I**ndian nationals continue to top the number of visa extensions granted to international students and skilled workers in the United Kingdom, according to migration statistics released Thursday by the Home Office. The report showed that 95,231 sponsored student visas were issued to Indian nationals in the year ending December 2025, accounting for about 23 percent of the total and making them the largest group of foreign students.

Indians also led in several work related visa categories. The highest number of health and care worker extensions were granted to Indians at 104,555, followed by Nigerians and Zimbabweans. Indians also topped the skilled worker extension category with 90,031 approvals. The statistics also showed a decline in graduate route extensions as the government tightened immigration rules affecting family members of international students. Meanwhile, Indians ranked seventh among nationalities seeking asylum in the United Kingdom during the past year.

## Malaysian Indian man jailed and caned in Singapore for raping domestic worker



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**A**Malaysian man of Indian origin was sentenced on Thursday in Singapore to 12 years in prison and 12 strokes of the cane for raping an Indonesian domestic worker after posing as a police officer. According to court proceedings, the man approached the woman near a train station and falsely claimed to be a police officer conducting checks. He then lured her to a secluded location where the assault took place.

Investigators later arrested the man and prosecutors charged him with rape and impersonating a police officer. The Singapore court found him guilty and imposed a lengthy prison term along with caning, which is a legal form of corporal punishment in the country for serious crimes. Authorities said the victim reported the incident soon after the attack, enabling police to identify and arrest the suspect. The case has renewed attention on crimes involving impersonation and the safety of migrant domestic workers in Singapore.



Friday, 06 March 2026

### Punjab-born cricketer Arjun Sood leads Canada indoor team at Leicester tournament



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Arjun Sood, originally from Mandi Ahmedgarh in Punjab, recently captained the Canada Indoor Cricket Team at a four nation indoor cricket series held in Leicester from Saturday to Wednesday. An all-rounder known for his top order batting and right arm pace bowling, Sood was chosen to lead the side by the Canada Indoor Cricket Federation following his consistent performances in recent international indoor cricket events. His selection followed a strong showing during the World Indoor Cricket Federation Masters tour in Bengaluru last year, where he served as vice captain and was named Man of the Match in one of the fixtures.

Sood began playing cricket at the age of eleven under the guidance of his father, Pardeep Sood, a former Katoch Shield Trophy player. He studied at Kendriya Vidyalaya in Halwara and Anand Isher Senior Secondary School in Chhapaar before moving to Canada in 2014. In Canada, he continued his cricket journey at Centennial College and later joined Victoria Park Cricket Club. He currently plays in several leagues including the Scarborough League, Lakeshore League, and Toronto Super Cricket League.

### Indian-origin doctor accused of killing daughter in Florida drowning case



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Nisha Gupta, an Oklahoma-based pediatrician of Indian origin, has been charged with killing her four-year-old daughter, Aria Talathi, during a visit to Miami. Authorities recently released the emergency call she made on Sunday in June last year reporting the child's drowning at a rental home. In the recording, Gupta told dispatchers that her daughter had fallen into the pool during the night and said she could not swim to rescue her. Responding officers later pulled the child from the water. Investigators with the Miami-Dade Sheriff's Office said an autopsy found no water in the girl's lungs or stomach, indicating she had died before being placed in the pool. Authorities believe the child was smothered. Gupta has denied wrongdoing and maintains the death was accidental. She remains in custody and is scheduled to return to court on Monday in May.

### Punjabi-origin YouTuber Nancy Grewal fatally stabbed in Ontario, shocking diaspora community

Staff Writer, IndoUS Tribune

The killing of 45-year-old Punjabi-origin social media personality Nancy Grewal in Ontario has stunned members of the Indo Canadian community and triggered a police investigation in the town of LaSalle near Windsor.

According to the LaSalle Police Service, officers and paramedics responded late Tuesday evening to reports of a stabbing at a residence on Todd Lane shortly before 9:30 p.m. When first responders arrived, Grewal was found suffering from multiple severe stab wounds. She was rushed to hospital by Essex Windsor Emergency Medical Services but later died from her injuries.

Grewal, a Windsor resident, was known on social media for her outspoken commentary on Punjab related issues, India Canada relations, and diaspora politics. She had also publicly criticized pro Khalistan activists and controversial figures linked to separatist movements.



Police said Wednesday that investigators are treating the case as an isolated incident while continuing to search for suspects. Authorities cordoned off two homes and nearby wooded areas along Todd Lane while collecting evidence.

Investigators have urged residents in the surrounding neighborhood to share surveillance footage or information that could help identify those responsible.

### Indian economist Krishnamurthy Subramanian receives University of Chicago alumni honour

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Indian economist Krishnamurthy V. Subramanian has received the University of Chicago's Alumni Award for Professional Achievement, becoming the first Indian economist to receive the recognition in the award's 85-year history.

Subramanian previously served as Chief Economic Adviser to the Government of India from 2018 to 2021 and later represented India as Executive Director at the International Monetary Fund. The University of Chicago cited his work on India's Economic Surveys during his tenure in government, describing them as landmark policy documents that helped shape debates on economic reforms and growth strategy.

The citation also noted his early assessment of the economic shock caused by the COVID 19 pandemic. Subramanian argued that the crisis was largely a supply side disruption and publicly projected a V shaped recovery



for the Indian economy, a view that helped strengthen confidence during a period of global uncertainty.

Currently a professor of finance at the Indian School of Business, Subramanian holds a doctorate from the University of Chicago Booth School of Business.

With this recognition, he has now received distinguished alumni honours from all three of his alma maters including the Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur and the Indian Institute of Management Calcutta.

### Indian American student Savitha Shan remembered after deadly Texas shooting

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

An Indian American student at the University of Texas at Austin has been remembered by professors and classmates after she was killed in a mass shooting outside a bar in Austin. Savitha Shan, 21, was among two people who died Sunday when a gunman opened fire outside Buford's beer garden in the city's entertainment district. Fourteen others were injured in the attack before police officers fatally shot the suspect. Russ Finney, an assistant professor at the McCombs School of Business, described Shan as one of the university's standout students. In a message posted Tuesday, he said she was a double major with honors who was expected to graduate in May and had already secured a position with a major professional services firm. Authorities identified the second victim as Ryder



Harrington, 19. Investigators said the gunman, identified as Ndiaga Diagne, opened fire from an SUV before exiting the vehicle and continuing the shooting on foot. The Federal Bureau of Investigation's Joint Terrorism Task Force has joined the investigation as officials examine whether the suspect may have had extremist motivations.

### Two Indians killed and another missing after oil tanker attack near Oman



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Two Indian seafarers were killed and another reported missing after an attack on the oil tanker 'Skylight' near the Strait of Hormuz, one of the world's most important energy shipping routes. The victims were identified as Captain Ashish Kumar from Bihar and crew member Dixit Solanki from Mumbai. Another crew member, Dalip Singh from Rajasthan, remains unaccounted for. The Palau-flagged tanker was struck early Sunday about five nautical miles north of Khasab port near Oman's Musandam Peninsula. The Oman Maritime Security Centre said the vessel carried twenty crew members, including fifteen Indians and five Iranians, all of whom were evacuated. The attack followed rising tensions in West Asia and drone strikes reported near Oman's Duqm port. The Strait of Hormuz handles roughly one fifth of the world's oil shipments, making any disruption a major concern for global energy markets.

### Singapore launches initiative to strengthen Indian community identity



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Singapore has announced the formation of the Indian Engagement and Development Initiative (INEI) committee to strengthen the identity and development of its Indian community over the next five years. The initiative was shaped through consultations with more than 150 Indian organisations and over 240 youth leaders, aiming to foster stronger community networks, improve socio-economic outcomes, and nurture future leaders.

Chaired by Senior Minister of State for Transport and Law Murali Pillai and Minister of State for Culture, Community and Youth Dinesh Vasu Dash, the INEI will coordinate efforts in community upliftment, social cohesion, and youth leadership. An annual forum will bring together stakeholders to review progress and plan future initiatives, with the first dialogue scheduled for April.

The launch also coincides with broader multicultural efforts, including funding for arts and cultural programmes, highlighting Singapore's commitment to preserving heritage and empowering its Indian diaspora.



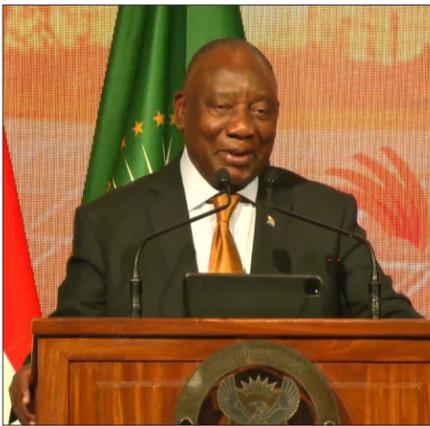
### Israel says Iran willing to target regional neighbors as conflict escalates



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Israel's military warned Thursday that Iran has shown a willingness to target multiple countries across West Asia as tensions intensify. Lieutenant Ben Cohen, international spokesperson for the Israel Defense Forces, said Iran has demonstrated its readiness to escalate hostilities in recent days. Cohen said Israel launched its campaign, known as 'Operation Roaring Lion', on Saturday to counter what it describes as major security threats from Iran. These include Iran's ballistic missile program, alleged nuclear ambitions and its network of regional proxy forces. He said Israeli aircraft recently shot down an Iranian Yakovlev Yak 130 fighter jet over Tehran and continue striking Iranian air defense systems and missile infrastructure.

### South Africa urges stronger regional energy cooperation amid global instability



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

South African President Cyril Ramaphosa on Wednesday called for stronger energy cooperation across Africa to improve security and reduce reliance on external suppliers.

Speaking at the Africa Energy Indaba conference in Cape Town, Ramaphosa said rising geopolitical tensions and supply chain disruptions are already affecting energy prices and availability across African economies.

He warned that countries heavily dependent on imported energy remain vulnerable to global crises and market volatility. Ramaphosa urged African nations to accelerate the creation of an integrated continental energy system capable of transmitting electricity across borders.

Such a network, he said, could combine hydropower, solar, wind and natural gas while improving reliability, affordability and long term economic growth across the continent.

## Middle East war spreads across continents as global tensions rise

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The escalating war involving Iran is spreading far beyond West Asia, reaching regions thousands of miles away and raising concerns about global security and economic stability. On Wednesday, survivors from the Iranian naval frigate IRIS Dena were rescued near Sri Lanka after the vessel was sunk by a United States submarine in the Indian Ocean.

The warship was torpedoed about 19 nautical miles off Sri Lanka's southern coast, killing 87 sailors. Sri Lankan naval forces rescued 32 survivors, who were treated at Karapitiya Hospital in Galle, while dozens remain missing.

The conflict began Saturday when the United States and Israel launched strikes on Iran. Since then, Iran has targeted several United States allied countries in the region, including the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Qatar, Jordan, Oman, Saudi Arabia and Turkey.

The conflict has also drawn Europe into the crisis. On Sunday, a drone strike hit a British military base at Akrotiri in Cyprus,



a member of the European Union. Spain, Italy and France have announced plans to deploy defensive forces to the region, while Britain said it would send a warship next week.

Meanwhile, Azerbaijan said Thursday that drone incidents injured four people near the Nakhchivan enclave, though Iran denied responsibility. Analysts warn the conflict could disrupt global shipping and energy markets, particularly through the Strait of Hormuz, a key route for roughly one fifth of the world's oil supply.

## United States lawmakers warn of China's growing influence across Europe

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

United States lawmakers and foreign policy experts warned Wednesday that China is expanding its influence across Europe through economic pressure, strategic investment and political tactics. The concerns emerged during a congressional hearing examining Beijing's growing presence on the continent.

Congressman Jake Ellzey said Europe must focus not only on Russia's war in Ukraine but also on China's pursuit of global dominance. He said Beijing is establishing strategic footholds across Europe using both overt and covert tools.

Lithuania's Vice Foreign Minister Vidmantas Verbickas described how



China imposed economic pressure after Lithuania allowed a Taiwanese representative office in Vilnius and withdrew from China's "17 plus one" cooperation framework. Lithuanian exports to China fell by 99.7 percent within months.

## President Donald Trump launches pledge with tech companies to power artificial intelligence expansion

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

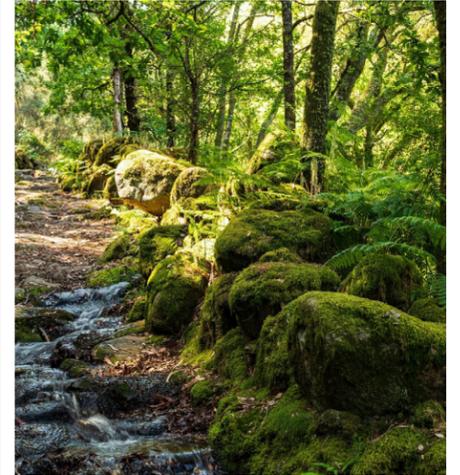
President Donald Trump on Wednesday introduced a new initiative to support the rapid expansion of artificial intelligence in the United States while protecting consumers from rising electricity costs.

Speaking at a White House roundtable with technology executives, Trump announced the "Ratepayer Protection Pledge." Under the agreement, companies building large artificial intelligence data centers will generate or finance the electricity needed for their operations instead of relying on existing power grids. Technology firms including Google, Meta, Amazon Web Services, OpenAI and Oracle committed to funding additional energy production to support the growing demand from artificial intelligence infrastructure.



Energy Secretary Chris Wright said artificial intelligence leadership would be critical for national security and technological competitiveness.

## European Union court fines Portugal for failing to protect biodiversity



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Europe's top court on Thursday fined Portugal €10 million, about \$10.9 million, for failing to protect biodiversity sites as required under European Union environmental law. The Court of Justice of the European Union also ordered Lisbon to pay €41,250 per day until it complies with a previous ruling issued in 2019.

Judges said at least 55 conservation areas still lack full protection, including sites linked to Peneda Geres national park, Litoral Norte natural park and habitats along the Minho and Lima rivers. The court said Portugal's territory hosts rich biodiversity, including 99 habitat types and 335 protected species. Portugal's government said legislative reforms launched last April have made rapid progress and that only limited steps remain to meet the directive's requirements.

## United States and Mexico to begin talks before regional trade pact review



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Mexico and the United States said Thursday they will begin bilateral talks on Sunday ahead of a review later this year of their regional free trade agreement. The discussions precede the evaluation of the United States Mexico Canada Agreement, which governs trade among the three North American economies.

Mexico's Economy Secretary Marcelo Ebrard said talks with United States Trade Representative Jamieson Greer will address rules of origin, supply chain security, expanding regional production and strengthening economic integration. While the agreement protects many Mexican exports, some products still face tariffs. Medium and heavy duty trucks are subject to a 25 percent tariff, while duties also remain on steel, aluminum, copper and Mexican tomatoes. Officials said negotiations will continue regularly after the initial meeting.

### Germany says it will not deploy additional forces to Middle East despite rising tensions



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Germany said this week that it has no plans to send additional military forces to the Middle East despite growing regional tensions after a drone strike on a British air base in Cyprus. Several European allies are preparing deployments in the eastern Mediterranean. Italian Defense Minister Guido Crosetto said Italy, Spain, France and the Netherlands plan to send naval assets to help protect Cyprus. Britain will deploy a destroyer and helicopters equipped with anti drone systems and is coordinating with France and Greece on air defenses. Germany said it will maintain existing commitments, including its navy's role in the United Nations mission monitoring Lebanon.

### Syria reopens Aleppo Mediterranean air corridor as regional aviation disruptions continue



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Syria has reopened an important air corridor linking the northern city of Aleppo with the Mediterranean Sea to support the gradual return of commercial aviation and ease regional air traffic disruptions. Civil Aviation Authority director Omar Hosari said Thursday the route provides a safe pathway for flights arriving at and departing from Aleppo International Airport. The corridor is open to Syrian Air and foreign airlines that meet international safety standards. Authorities also reopened air routes in northern Syrian airspace toward Turkey. A Syrian Air flight from Aleppo reached Istanbul safely Thursday, while flights to Jeddah and potentially Riyadh are being prepared.

### Twenty six Doctors Without Borders staff missing after South Sudan attacks

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Twenty six workers from Doctors Without Borders remain missing one month after attacks on two medical facilities in South Sudan, the humanitarian organization said Monday. The violence occurred on a Monday in early February in Jonglei State, northeast of the capital Juba, where fighting has displaced about 280,000 people since December.

A hospital in Lankien was bombed by government forces, according to the group, while another facility in Pieri was raided by unknown attackers.

Staff fled with residents into remote areas as clashes intensified. The organization said it has lost contact with 26 of the 291 staff members working at



the two sites. Aid agencies say attacks on humanitarian facilities have increased sharply during the past year.

### Honduras reviews China ties amid pressure over Taiwan relations

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Honduras is reviewing its agreements with China, raising the possibility it could reconsider its diplomatic break with Taiwan. President Nasry Asfura, sworn in on a Saturday in January with backing from President Donald Trump, has ordered an evaluation of deals signed with Beijing since ties were established in 2023.

Economic concerns are driving the review. Shrimp exports to Taiwan fell to \$16 million in 2025 from more than \$100 million in 2022 after Honduras switched recognition to China. Industry representatives say Chinese markets have not replaced the lost



trade. Analysts say the review also reflects pressure from the United States, which is seeking to reduce China's economic influence across Latin America.

### Jamaica ends long standing medical cooperation agreement with Cuba

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Jamaica's foreign ministry said on Thursday it will end a decades long agreement with Cuba that brought Cuban doctors and medical staff to the island. The decision follows criticism from the United States, with Secretary of State Marco Rubio calling the missions forced labor. Officials said Jamaica and Cuba failed to agree on terms for a new cooperation arrangement after the previous deal ended in 2023. Jamaica previously relied heavily on Cuban medical professionals, with more than 400 working in the country last year. Nearly 300 Cuban doctors remain under existing contracts, and



the government said Cuban professionals may still work individually if they comply with local labor laws.

### Three arrested in United Kingdom over suspected spying for China

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

London police said on Wednesday that three men were arrested on suspicion of assisting a Chinese intelligence service in violation of the National Security Act of 2023. The Metropolitan Police said the suspects include a 39 year old man arrested in London, a 68 year old detained in

Powys, Wales, and a 43 year old arrested in Pontyclun, Wales. Authorities have not named them as no charges have been filed. Labour lawmaker Joani Reid confirmed that her husband David Taylor was among those arrested but said she had no involvement. Security Minister Dan Jarvis warned of growing covert activity linked to Chinese state actors targeting United Kingdom democracy.

### Ecuador expels Cuba's ambassador and diplomatic staff

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Ecuador declared Cuba's ambassador Basilio Antonio Gutierrez and his diplomatic staff persona non grata on Wednesday and ordered them to leave the country within forty eight hours. Ecuador's foreign ministry did not provide a reason but said the move follows international diplomatic rules that allow countries to expel diplomats without explanation. Shortly after the announcement, a man was seen burning documents on the roof of the Cuban embassy in Quito. Cuba strongly condemned the decision, calling it an unfriendly act that harms bilateral relations. The move comes as Ecuador strengthens cooperation with the United States on security and organized crime.

### Brazil Senate ratifies landmark European Union Mercosur trade agreement



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Brazil's Senate unanimously approved the European Union Mercosur free trade agreement on Wednesday, bringing the long negotiated pact closer to implementation. The deal seeks to integrate a market of more than 700 million people across South America and Europe. Argentina and Uruguay have already ratified the agreement, while Paraguay is expected to follow. Brazil's President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva strongly supported the pact, which still awaits review by Europe's top court. European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen praised Lula's role in advancing the deal despite opposition from some European farmers who fear competition from South American agricultural exports.

### Cologne Cathedral to introduce entry fee for tourists as costs rise

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Officials of Cologne Cathedral announced on Thursday that tourists will soon have to pay an admission fee as rising maintenance and personnel costs strain finances. The famous Gothic landmark, located beside Cologne's main railway station and the Rhine River, attracts about six million visitors each year. Construction of the cathedral began in 1248 and was completed in 1880. It became a UNESCO World Heritage site in 1996. Church authorities said annual upkeep costs have climbed to about \$18.6 million, while financial reserves have fallen partly because tower and treasury visits were halted during the coronavirus pandemic. Worshippers and visitors attending prayer will remain exempt.

## West Asia tensions halt Kerala's fruit and vegetable exports ahead of Ramzan



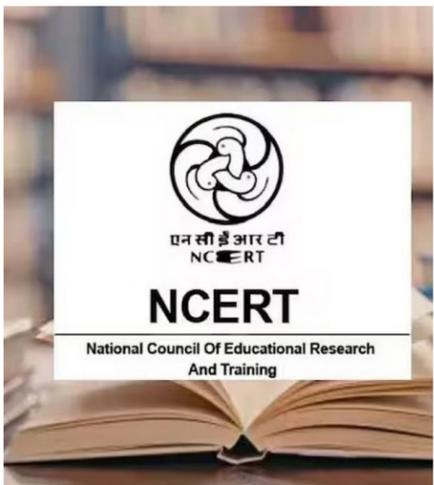
● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**R**ising tensions in West Asia have brought Kerala's exports of fruits, vegetables, and fish to a near standstill, causing losses worth several crores of rupees.

Air cargo shipments from Thiruvananthapuram, Kochi, Kozhikode, and Kannur airports have stopped due to suspended flights, while maritime exports are stalled by the closure of the Strait of Hormuz. Daily shipments of around 150 tonnes of produce, including pineapples, have halted just before the Ramzan peak season.

Limited flights to Oman charge nearly three times normal rates, making exports economically unviable and forcing farmers to consider selling perishables domestically at lower prices.

## PM Modi demands accountability over NCERT textbook chapter on judiciary



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**P**rime Minister Narendra Modi has expressed strong disapproval over a section on "Corruption in the Judiciary" in the NCERT Class 8 Social Science textbook.

Speaking at a Cabinet meeting, Modi asked Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan to identify those responsible and ensure accountability. Pradhan, addressing reporters Thursday, said the books have been withdrawn and assured the judiciary that the error was unintentional.

He added that action will be taken against those involved and emphasized that the government respects the judiciary. The Supreme Court had earlier imposed a ban on the textbook for undermining judicial authority.

## CBI appeals Delhi court discharge of Kejriwal in liquor policy case

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**H**ours after a Delhi court discharged Aam Aadmi Party convener Arvind Kejriwal, former deputy chief minister Manish Sisodia, and 21 others in the liquor policy case Friday, the Central Bureau of Investigation moved the Delhi High Court, challenging the special court's order. The agency argued that several aspects of its investigation were ignored and not adequately considered at the charge-framing stage.

Special Judge Jitendra Singh had discharged the accused, including Telangana Jagruthi president K Kavitha, citing insufficient evidence. The court found no prima-facie case against Kejriwal, noting the allegations rested mainly on an uncorroborated statement from a prosecution witness and lacked documents, financial records, or digital evidence linking him to policy manipulation or illegal gain. The judge emphasized that the mere use of the term



"conspiracy" cannot replace material proof of agreement or participation.

The CBI has stated that the appeal seeks to ensure all investigative aspects are reviewed, leaving open the possibility of future proceedings should new evidence emerge in the case concerning the now-scrapped Delhi excise policy.

## Kashmir sees tense protests over Khamenei's death, police warn against violence

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**W**idespread protests erupted across Kashmir following the killing of Iranian Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, with thousands taking to the streets, including women and children carrying his portraits. While Sunday's gatherings at Lal Chowk remained largely peaceful, some demonstrations turned violent on Monday and Tuesday, particularly at Shalteng on the Srinagar-Baramulla Highway, where protesters hurled stones at security forces, damaging vehicles. Twelve

people, including five police personnel, were injured.

Jammu and Kashmir police warned that rioting and stone throwing would not be tolerated, appealing for restraint. Mobile internet services were restricted, schools and colleges closed for two days, and Lal Chowk was sealed with fences and concertina wires. Authorities deployed heavy police and paramilitary forces to restore order, emphasizing that while peaceful protest is respected, disruption of public order and confrontations with security personnel are unacceptable.



## Former Tamil Nadu CM O Panneerselvam joins DMK in CM Stalin's presence

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**I**n a major political shift, former Tamil Nadu Chief Minister O Panneerselvam resigned as MLA Friday and joined the ruling DMK, meeting Chief Minister M K Stalin at the party headquarters. The move surprised observers, as Panneerselvam had long opposed the DMK under late AIADMK leader J Jayalithaa. Signals of the crossover emerged last week when his last loyalist MLA publicly praised Stalin in the Assembly. Sources described the decision as a full merger with DMK, not just an alliance alignment, marking one of the most striking developments in recent Tamil Nadu politics.



## Maharashtra begins drafting anti-conversion law, seeks legal feedback

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**T**he Maharashtra government has prepared the first draft of a proposed anti-conversion law aimed at addressing alleged forced religious conversions, often termed "love jihad" by ruling coalition leaders. The preliminary draft has been sent to the Law and Judiciary Department for feedback, with further discussions planned between Home and Legal departments before finalization. Officials said multiple rounds of review are expected, and the government aims to present the bill in the state assembly this year. The move follows similar legislative efforts in Gujarat regarding marriage registration and parental consent.

## India offers visa relief to foreign nationals amid West Asia travel disruptions

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**I**n response to escalating tensions in West Asia, India on Sunday urged foreign nationals stranded in the country to approach authorities for visa extensions. The Ministry of External Affairs issued the advisory after flight cancellations disrupted travel across the region, affecting airports including Abu Dhabi, where many Indians and foreign travelers were stranded. Authorities stressed that those impacted should seek timely assistance to extend their stay legally. The move aims to provide relief and ensure travelers do not face legal or administrative issues during the ongoing regional crisis, which has significantly affected air connectivity and international passenger movement.

## Seventeen killed in Nagpur explosives factory blast, relief announced



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**A**t least 17 people were killed and 18 injured in a blast at the SBL Energy Limited explosives factory in Raulgaon, Nagpur, on Sunday morning. A thick plume of smoke was seen rising from the site. The injured were rushed to nearby hospitals, and rescue operations involved teams from the National Disaster Response Force, State Disaster Response Force, PESO, and DISS. President Droupadi Murmu expressed condolences and prayed for the injured's recovery, while Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced ex-gratia payments of Rs 2 lakh for each deceased family and Rs 50,000 for the injured from the PM National Relief Fund. Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis termed the blast "extremely tragic" and ordered a detailed investigation.

### Telangana CM calls for more IPS officers to tackle modern security challenges



**IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk**

Telangana Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy met Union Home Minister Amit Shah in Delhi on Wednesday night, urging an increase in the sanctioned strength of IPS officers from 83 to 105 to meet rising administrative and security demands. Reddy highlighted the surrender of 591 Maoist leaders, who are being rehabilitated, and stressed modern threats such as cybercrime, drug trafficking, and white-collar offenses. He also cited the rapid growth of Hyderabad and police reorganization, including the proposed Future City Commissionerate, and requested central financial support for backward regions. Reddy called for the third cadre review to be conducted in 2026 as scheduled.

### Ex-RAW chief praises India's cautious approach to West Asia crisis

**IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk**

Former RAW chief Vikram Sood said on Friday that India is taking a prudent and balanced approach to the evolving West Asia crisis, stressing that only regional countries can resolve their conflicts. He urged external powers to avoid unnecessary interference. Speaking on intelligence strategy, Sood emphasized long-term planning and the need to adapt to emerging technologies like AI.

He also highlighted shifting global power dynamics, noting challenges in India's relations with China. Commenting on the Raisina Dialogue, Sood called it a vital forum for strategic and futuristic discussions, praising its significance in shaping India's geopolitical and geo-economic outlook.

### Indian rupee plunges to historic low amid rising oil costs and geopolitical tensions



**IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk**

The Indian rupee dropped to a record 92.17 against the US dollar, losing 68 paise in a single trading session, as rising oil prices and Middle East tensions hit markets. Crude has surged to \$82 per barrel, and India imports nearly 80 percent of its requirement, raising the current account deficit and fueling inflation. Foreign investors are withdrawing funds, further weakening the currency. Analysts warn that rising imports, high fiscal deficits, and global instability are straining the economy. Strengthening exports, reducing debt, and boosting domestic production are seen as crucial to stabilizing the rupee.

### President Murmu launches four women-focused welfare schemes in Delhi

**IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk**

President Droupadi Murmu on Tuesday launched four women-centric welfare initiatives under the Delhi Government's "Sashakt Nari, Samridhdh Delhi" programme, aimed at enhancing women's mobility, safety, and financial security across the capital.

A major highlight was the Pink National Common Mobility Card, which provides free bus travel for women and supports cashless ticketing across Delhi's public transport. The card seeks to improve connectivity and enable women to travel safely for work, education, and other daily needs.



The government also introduced a scheme to provide two free LPG cylinders annually to ration card-holding families during Holi and Diwali, reducing the financial burden of cooking fuel while promoting cleaner energy use. Another initiative, the Delhi Lakhpati Bitiya Yojana, offers long-term financial support for girls. Families with annual incomes up to Rs 1.2 lakh will receive Rs 56,000 in installments, expected to grow to over Rs 1 lakh by the child's 21st birthday.

Finally, Meri Punji Mera Adhikaar ensures timely settlement of pending financial dues, promoting transparency in public services for women across Delhi.

### NIA seeks Chinese help in Pahalgam terror attack investigation

**IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk**

An NIA court has issued a Letter Rogatory to China for assistance in tracing the supply chain and end-user details of a GoPro connected to the Pahalgam attack, which killed 26 civilians last April. The camera, activated in Dongguan, China, is key to establishing the attackers' pre-attack reconnaissance and operational planning. NIA Deputy Inspector General Sandeep Choudhary filed the request under BNSS Section 112. The court noted that assistance may be sought under the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, as both India and China are signatories. The Ministry of Home Affairs has approved the legal request.



### EC to visit West Bengal, set stage for upcoming polls

**IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk**

The Election Commission plans to visit West Bengal early next week after completing its trip to Kerala, preparing for upcoming Assembly elections in five states and a Union Territory. Senior EC officials held a virtual review with West Bengal Chief Electoral Officer Manoj Agarwal on Monday to assess preparedness. The elections will be the first following the Special Intensive Revision of electoral rolls, which concluded last month. The EC is expected to announce the polls in Delhi shortly after its state visits. Terms of the Assemblies of Assam, Kerala, Puducherry, Tamil Nadu, and West Bengal expire in May and June.



### PM Modi to review ministry reforms in upcoming cabinet meet

**IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk**

Prime Minister Modi will review reforms across all ministries in the next cabinet meeting, asking ministers to highlight major initiatives implemented since June 2024.

Each ministry is required to submit a two-page list detailing three reforms and their impact on citizens and ease of doing business. Key areas include legal metrology, quality control, Jal Shakti's decriminalization of minor water violations, and road transport improvements such as FASTag and satellite-based toll systems. Defense and Home Ministries may showcase modernization and anti-Naxalism measures. Officials said this exercise is part of accelerating the Modi 3.0 reform agenda.



### Andhra Pradesh plans social media ban for children under 13

**IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk**

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu said on Friday that the state will ban social media use for children under 13 within 90 days. He added that a decision regarding children aged 13 to 16 will be made after a consensus. The announcement follows similar measures in Karnataka, where children under 16 will be restricted from social media. The state government has been studying age-appropriate access rules and global practices with input from major platforms like Meta, X, Google, and ShareChat. Officials cited concerns about children's attention spans, education, and online safety, particularly for women and minors.

### Punjab Congress protests government over unpaid women's stipend



**IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk**

Hundreds of Congress workers in Punjab on Friday staged a protest against Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann and the Aam Aadmi Party government for failing to deliver on key promises, including the monthly Rs 1,000 stipend to women. The party demanded payment of four years' arrears and criticized the government for law and order lapses and economic mismanagement. State Congress President Amarinder Singh Raja Warring highlighted the state's debt crossing Rs 4 lakh crore and accused the government of spending on elections and advertisements instead of infrastructure. Workers were detained by police while attempting to march toward the Vidhan Sabha.

**US employers likely added 60,000 jobs in February amid slow recovery**



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**U**.S. employers likely added 60,000 jobs in February, marking a modest recovery after last year's weak monthly average of 15,000. The unemployment rate is expected to remain at 4.3 percent. Hiring was slowed by frigid winter weather and a four-week nurses' strike at Kaiser Permanente in California and Hawaii, which may have reduced payrolls by over 30,000. Private data from ADP and Bank of America also show solid gains in February, reflecting gradual improvement in the labor market. Economists note workforce reductions from retirements and deportations have lowered the number of workers needed to maintain stable unemployment. Despite lagging behind the 2021–2023 boom, the data indicate a steady forward momentum.

**NITI Aayog and UNICEF India partner to boost nutrition in Aspirational Districts**

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**N**ITI Aayog and UNICEF India signed a statement of intent Thursday to improve maternal and child nutrition in Aspirational Districts and Blocks. The partnership aims to strengthen implementation systems, promote multi-stakeholder engagement, and channel corporate social responsibility funds into nutrition initiatives through UNICEF's IMPAct4Nutrition platform. Activities include upgrading Anganwadi infrastructure, improving nutrition literacy, enhancing uptake of Integrated Child Development Services, and building frontline worker capacity. The agreement also focuses on community engagement and sharing best practices. Rohit Kumar of NITI Aayog and Arjan de Wagt of UNICEF India highlighted that data-driven governance and collaboration are key to accelerating development outcomes in underserved regions.

**Red Sea disruptions delay Coimbatore exports and strain textile sector**

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**E**xports from Coimbatore, including textiles, garments, and wet grinders, are facing major delays due to escalating conflict in West Asia and closure of the Strait of Hormuz. Vessels are rerouted around the Cape of Good Hope, adding 20–25 days to transit times, according to the Southern India Mills' Association. The delays threaten delivery commitments, risk canceled orders, and raise logistics costs. Coimbatore exports nearly \$2 billion in garments to the UAE and \$1 billion to other Gulf countries annually. The wet grinder sector is also affected, with shipments stuck at Jebel Ali Port. Exporters urged government intervention to mitigate disruption and support consistent overseas trade.

**Asia faces fuel oil shortage as Middle East exports collapse amid Iran war**

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**F**uel oil traders across Asia are struggling to secure supply as shipments from key Middle Eastern suppliers plummet due to the ongoing Iran war, sources said Friday. The conflict has disrupted tanker transits through the Strait of Hormuz, a crucial maritime chokepoint, sending high-sulphur bunker fuel prices in Singapore, the world's largest ship refueling hub, up more than 40 percent since the conflict began. Low-sulphur fuel oil prices have climbed over 30 percent.

Typically, about 1.2 million metric tons of fuel oil pass through the Strait for Asia each month, with roughly 70 percent destined for Southeast Asia. Tanker traffic is now nearly 90 percent lower than last week, Kpler data shows. Traders are exploring alternatives from the United States, Mexico, Venezuela, Russia, and regional Asian refiners, but high shipping costs, sanctions, and limited volumes are constraining options.

The shortage threatens to raise costs



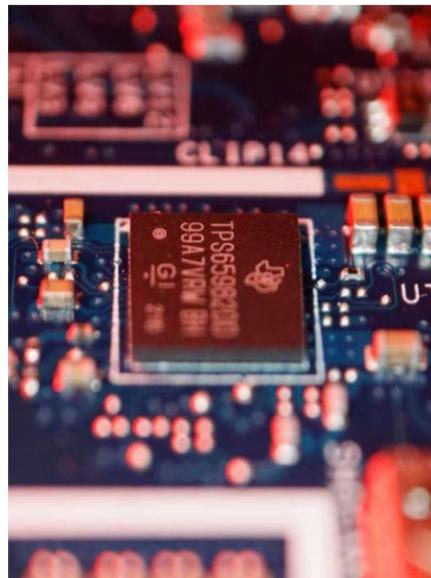
for shipping companies and, ultimately, for transported goods. While onshore stockpiles in Singapore and floating inventories offer temporary relief, analysts warn supplies could tighten sharply in the coming weeks as regional refiners cut production amid crude shortages.

**U.S. considers new rules for AI chip exports requiring foreign investment**

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**U**.S. officials are reviewing a new framework for exporting artificial intelligence chips, potentially requiring foreign countries to invest in U.S. AI data centers or provide security assurances to receive 200,000 chips or more, according to a document seen by Reuters. The rules, still in draft form, mark the first major U.S. attempt to regulate AI chip flows since President Donald Trump rescinded prior "AI diffusion" rules.

Proposed guidelines could apply licensing requirements even to small chip shipments, mandate monitoring, and limit chip clustering. Countries such as Saudi Arabia have already provided government assurances for purchases, and U.S. officials may visit installations of up to 200,000 chips. The plan reflects a shift from the Biden administration's policy, which eased



restrictions for close allies, and aims to secure U.S. tech while retaining leverage in export negotiations.

**Google settles with Epic Games to lower Play Store fees**

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**G**oogle will reduce its Android Play Store commissions and allow rival payment options, ending a long-running antitrust dispute with Epic Games. Filed Wednesday in a San Francisco federal court, the changes follow a 2023 trial ruling the Play Store operates as an illegal monopoly. Subscription and e-commerce transaction fees will drop to 10–20 percent, with an optional 5 percent processing charge for apps that remain within Google's system.

Developers may also choose certified alternative app stores. The U.S. rollout includes the United Kingdom and European Union. Epic Games CEO Tim Sweeney praised the move, calling it a step



toward open platforms. Alphabet may see reduced profits, though its \$3.7 trillion market value provides a buffer.

**Japan and India in talks to jointly develop Rajasthan rare earth deposits**

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**J**apan and India are discussing a joint effort to explore rare earth deposits in Rajasthan, aiming to reduce reliance on Chinese imports. India recently identified three hard rock deposits in Rajasthan and Gujarat, containing roughly 1.29 million metric tons of rare earth oxides. Under the proposed cooperation, Japan could provide extraction technology and financial support in exchange for a stable supply of materials crucial for electric vehicle motors, wind turbines, drones, and fighter jets. The talks follow a preliminary pact on critical minerals signed last year. No corporate or technology agreements have been finalized, and Japan is also exploring mineral projects worldwide to diversify supplies, reflecting growing strategic and industrial interests in secure access to rare earths.

**U.S. tentatively clears Wizz Air for UK-US. passenger flights**



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**T**he U.S. Transportation Department granted tentative approval Thursday for Wizz Air UK to operate flights between the United Kingdom and the United States, pending a 21-day window for objections. If finalized, the permit will last two years and allow the low-cost carrier to capitalize on growing European interest in U.S. cities. Wizz Air had previously applied in 2022 to operate all-cargo flights from Hungary to the U.S. Rising tourism and the upcoming soccer World Cup are expected to benefit the airline, and management said fiscal-year impacts from the Middle East conflict are likely to ease after April.

**Judge orders refunds for companies hit by Trump tariffs**

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**A** federal judge in New York ruled Wednesday that companies who paid tariffs struck down by the Supreme Court are entitled to refunds. The tariffs, imposed last year under President Donald Trump's emergency powers law, were declared unconstitutional. Judge Richard Eaton directed U.S. Customs to stop collecting the duties and recalculate past payments, applying to all importers of record. The decision provides clarity on the refund process, which could total as much as \$175 billion. The government may appeal or seek a stay to delay compliance. The ruling stems from a case by filtration company Atmus Filtration, and it ensures importers who paid within the last 180 days can recover overcharged duties.

**Elon Musk defends tweets in court over Twitter stock lawsuit**

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**E**lon Musk defended his pre-2022 acquisition tweets Thursday, amid a class-action lawsuit claiming they misled investors and caused losses. The San Francisco trial focuses on Twitter shareholders who sold stock between May and October 2022, during Musk's \$44 billion purchase of the platform, later renamed X. Musk argued Twitter had far more bot accounts than the 5 percent disclosed, claiming some analysts estimated at least 20 percent. Former CEO Ned Segal testified the rate was closer to 1 percent and that Twitter did not file false SEC reports. The trial examines whether Musk intentionally drove down the stock to renegotiate the deal or reduce the purchase price.

**GAIL's gas supply halted after Petronet LNG force majeure notice**



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**G**AIL India reported Thursday that its liquefied natural gas allocation from Petronet LNG has been reduced to zero after the supplier issued a force majeure notice. The notice cites disruptions from maritime restrictions in the Strait of Hormuz and a potential shutdown at Ras Laffan's liquefaction facility. The situation follows QatarEnergy signaling possible supply issues amid regional hostilities. GAIL said LNG from other sources remains unaffected but is assessing potential downstream impacts. The company is closely monitoring developments and will update stock exchanges on material changes. The long-term impact of the force majeure event is currently uncertain, leaving supply plans and contractual obligations under review.

**Pakistan faces record unemployment and brain drain amid slow growth**

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**P**akistan must create 30 million jobs over the next decade to absorb new labor-market entrants, but recent economic growth is insufficient, a Maldives Insight report said this week. Between 2022 and 2025, growth averaged 1.7 percent annually, while official unemployment reached 7.1 percent, the highest in 21 years. Low investment, energy shortages, policy uncertainty, and industrial contraction have fueled outward migration, including engineers, doctors, and IT specialists. Rising inflation has reduced household incomes, weakened domestic consumption, and slowed trade and manufacturing, threatening productivity and innovation across the country.

**'Beyond Meat rebrands as Beyond to expand into plant-based drinks and snacks'**

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**B**eyond Meat has rebranded as Beyond to expand beyond plant-based burgers, sausages, and tenders into protein drinks and snacks. Now called Beyond The Plant Protein Co., the company launched its first beverage, Beyond Immerse, in January and plans a protein bar this summer.

CEO Ethan Brown said the rebrand focuses on simple, plant-based ingredients and aims to revitalize consumer interest following a 14 percent revenue decline in 2025.

Beyond's shift mirrors broader trends among plant-based brands, which are introducing protein-packed drinks, bars, and dairy alternatives. The company has also revamped its flagship burger to make it healthier and simpler, hoping new products will attract consumers back to its core plant-based offerings.



**Berkshire Hathaway resumes buybacks and backs Kraft Heinz split pause**

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**B**erkshire Hathaway has resumed share buybacks for the first time since May 2024, and CEO Greg Abel supports Kraft Heinz's decision to pause splitting the company. Abel said the move allows Kraft to strengthen operations before revisiting the split. Berkshire will use cash reserves to repurchase shares when stock prices are favorable, and Abel personally invested his

entire 2026 salary in company stock.

Abel pledged continuity in Warren Buffett's management approach, emphasizing confidence in Berkshire's foundation and future opportunities. The company remains Kraft's largest shareholder with 325 million shares, and its Class A stock rose over 2 percent Thursday to \$745,451.75 each. The buyback signals faith in long-term growth and shareholder alignment.



**India reports 27 percent rise in new businesses amid reform drive**

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**I**ndia recorded a 27 percent rise in new business registrations, from 155,000 in 2020-21 to 198,000 in the first ten months of 2025-26, driven by reforms enhancing ease of doing business. Measures include digital trade facilitation, tax certainty, reduced compliance, trust-based customs, and investor-friendly policies. Start-up India, Credit Guarantee Schemes, and tech-enabled credit assessment support transparent, scalable growth. With over 216,000 DPIIT-recognized startups, India ranks among the world's largest ecosystems. Institutional and regulatory reforms aim to boost entrepreneurship, rural innovation, and regional inclusion. Positive sentiment is reflected in the RBI



Business Expectations Index, signaling confidence in output, employment, and investment prospects across the country's business landscape.

**India signals shift to AI-driven warfare after summit**

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**T**he India AI Impact Summit 2026 highlighted the country's strategic move toward AI-driven defense, a report said Thursday. While focusing on ethical AI, the summit revealed tools enabling the military to analyze satellite and drone data to detect potential threats along the Line of Actual Control with 94 percent accuracy. AI systems are being integrated into Army platforms, upgrading legacy tanks and armored vehicles for modern combat. The Strategic Forces Command emphasized speed in decision-making alongside traditional firepower, signaling India's intent to leverage AI for surveillance, threat assessment, and faster responses across all branches of its armed forces.

**Pentagon designates AI firm Anthropic a supply chain risk**



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**T**he Pentagon on Thursday labeled AI company Anthropic a supply chain risk, effective immediately, restricting government use of its Claude chatbot. President Donald Trump and Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth cited national security concerns after Anthropic resisted removing safeguards on mass surveillance and autonomous weapons. CEO Dario Amodei said the company plans to challenge the designation in court. Contractors like Lockheed Martin are adjusting operations, while Microsoft confirmed non-defense projects can continue. Former officials criticized the decision as an overreach, warning it misuses rules meant to protect against foreign adversaries and could hinder both the U.S. AI sector and military readiness.

**Morgan Stanley to cut 2,500 jobs amid financial sector layoffs**

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**M**organ Stanley will lay off roughly 2,500 employees, about 3 percent of its workforce, the Wall Street Journal reported Thursday. Cuts span investment banking and support functions, while financial advisors remain unaffected. The firm expanded aggressively during the pandemic, growing from 60,000 employees in 2019 to 83,000 by the end of 2025. Other financial companies, including Citigroup, Blackrock, and Block, have also reduced headcounts this year amid productivity gains from AI. Morgan Stanley's layoffs reflect broader industry trends, as firms adjust staffing after rapid pandemic-era hiring and rising automation across wealth management and investment operations.

### Delayed federal funds cast doubt over Massachusetts World Cup matches



Seven World Cup matches scheduled at Gillette Stadium in Foxborough, Massachusetts, face uncertainty after delays in federal security funding left local officials worried about covering public safety costs. The town's Select Board must approve licenses for the games but fears taxpayers could be responsible for nearly \$8 million in security expenses. More than \$600 million in federal grants approved last year for host cities has yet to be distributed through the Federal Emergency Management Agency after a lapse in funding and staff furloughs slowed the process. Boston's host committee told the board on Tuesday that costs would be covered with support from Kraft Sports Group, owned by New England Patriots owner Robert Kraft. The board is expected to vote on the license at a public hearing on Monday.

### Barcelona hit by defensive injury blow after Copa del Rey victory



Barcelona confirmed on Wednesday that defenders Jules Kounde and Alejandro Balde both suffered hamstring injuries during the team's three nil Copa del Rey victory over Atletico Madrid. Kounde sustained a hamstring injury in his left thigh and was forced off just 11 minutes after kickoff. The club said his return will depend on recovery progress. Balde also injured the hamstring in his left thigh and medical tests indicate he could be sidelined for around four weeks. The injuries add to Barcelona's concerns after midfielder Frenkie de Jong was recently ruled out with a similar problem. Coach Hansi Flick said he was unhappy with the cluster of injuries and will review fitness and medical procedures ahead of a demanding run of league and European fixtures.

### Real Madrid fined after fan performs Nazi salute during Champions League match

UEFA has fined Real Madrid 15,000 euros and warned of a partial stadium closure after a fan was filmed appearing to make a Nazi salute during their Champions League clash against Benfica at the Santiago Bernabeu last month. The individual was immediately identified and ejected by stadium security. UEFA also ordered the closure of 500 seats in the lower south stand for the club's next European home match, suspended for a one-year probation. The

incident came amid tensions after Real Madrid forward Vinicius Junior alleged racial abuse from Benfica midfielder Gianluca Prestianni, who missed the return leg due to a provisional suspension. Real Madrid secured a 2-1 win in the second leg, advancing 3-1 on aggregate to the round of 16, where they will face Manchester City. Benfica coach Jose Mourinho condemned all forms of discrimination and affirmed strict accountability for any players found violating these principles.



### Formula One season opens in Australia amid uncertainty and new technical era

Formula One opened its 2026 season on Friday at the Australian Grand Prix in Melbourne with major sporting and geopolitical questions surrounding the championship. Practice sessions began at Albert Park as teams prepared for the first race under sweeping new technical regulations affecting both chassis design and power units.



Pre season testing in Bahrain saw Ferrari's Charles Leclerc post the fastest time, although Mercedes is widely viewed as the early favorite because of a potential engine advantage. George Russell is expected to lead Mercedes' challenge ahead of rookie

teammate Kimi Antonelli. Local hopes focus on McLaren driver Oscar Piastri, who narrowly missed the title last year to teammate Lando Norris. Meanwhile, the conflict involving the United States, Israel and Iran has raised concerns about upcoming races scheduled in Bahrain and Saudi Arabia next month.

### Jayson Tatum close to return nine months after Achilles injury

Boston Celtics star Jayson Tatum is close to returning to National Basketball Association action nearly nine months after rupturing his right Achilles tendon during last season's playoffs. Tatum was listed as questionable on Thursday ahead of Boston's home game against the Dallas Mavericks on Friday, marking the first time this season he has not been listed as unavailable while recovering.



The injury occurred during Game Four of the Celtics' Eastern Conference semifinal loss to the New York Knicks last May. Team president Brad Stevens previously said Tatum would return only when he felt fully prepared both physically and mentally. The Celtics currently hold second place in the Eastern

Conference with twenty games remaining in the regular season.

### NASCAR champion Kyle Busch settles multimillion dollar insurance dispute



Two time NASCAR champion Kyle Busch and his wife Samantha have reached a confidential settlement with Pacific Life Insurance Company in a lawsuit claiming they were misled into buying life insurance policies marketed as retirement plans. Court filings confirmed the agreement on Wednesday. The couple sued the company in October, alleging they lost more than \$8.5 million after paying over \$10.4 million in premiums for indexed universal life insurance policies presented as tax free retirement investments. The complaint said the policies were promoted with misleading projections and failed to fully disclose risks and costs. Pacific Life denied wrongdoing and earlier sought dismissal, arguing the policies were not fully funded and that the couple had accepted the contract terms when they signed the agreements.

### Red Bull Bragantino defender suspended for 12 matches over sexist referee comments



Sao Paulo's sports court suspended Red Bull Bragantino defender Gustavo Marques for 12 matches and fined him \$5,700 after sexist remarks about female referee Daiane Muniz following a 2-1 quarterfinal loss on Thursday. Marques had criticized the referee in a post-match interview, saying women should not officiate high-stakes matches. The suspension applies to all competitions under the Sao Paulo state federation but not national tournaments. Marques later apologized on social media, acknowledging he was wrong and asking Muniz for forgiveness. Local media reported Bragantino fined him half his monthly wages. Marques, 24, said his family and wife also urged him to apologize, calling the incident a personal learning moment.



### Dahmen earns last spot at Bay Hill after losing PGA Tour card

Joel Dahmen missed the cut in the final PGA Tour event last year, jeopardizing his full card. He returned home to Arizona but has now earned the final spot in the 72-man field at the Arnold Palmer Invitational at Bay Hill. Dahmen secured entry through strong performances at Torrey Pines and the Cognizant Classic, edging out Jordan Spieth by five FedEx Cup points. The 38-year-old faces a strong field, including world No. 1 Scottie Scheffler and Justin Thomas, in a pivotal week before The Players Championship.



## Paramount signals long term commitment to National Football League broadcast deal



Paramount Skydance chief executive David Ellison said on Thursday that the company expects its partnership with the National Football League through CBS to continue for the foreseeable future. The current broadcasting agreement runs through the 2033 season, although the league holds an option to end the deal earlier in 2029.

Ellison described the National Football League as one of Paramount's most important partners following what he called a historic season for the network. He declined to comment on potential negotiations or increases in future rights fees.

The league currently distributes games across several broadcasters including CBS, NBC, Fox, ESPN, ABC and Prime Video, while additional packages are carried by YouTube and Netflix. Industry analysts expect the next round of media deals to command significantly higher revenues.

## Alex Bowman ruled out of Phoenix NASCAR race with vertigo

Hendrick Motorsports driver Alex Bowman will miss Sunday's NASCAR Cup race at Phoenix Raceway after being diagnosed with vertigo. Bowman experienced symptoms last Sunday at Circuit of the Americas in Texas, forcing mid-race replacement by Myatt Snider. Anthony Alfredo will drive Bowman's No. 48 Chevrolet at Phoenix. Bowman, 32, underwent two days of medical evaluation and test laps in North Carolina before being ruled out. Hendrick Motorsports president Jeff Andrews said Bowman's health is the priority and praised his progress, noting the Arizona native's competitiveness. Bowman has eight career Cup wins in 364 starts, made the playoffs in all but one season since 2018, and Hendrick will request a medical waiver to maintain his championship eligibility.

## King Charles revokes royal honor awarded to former Scotland rugby captain Stuart Hogg

King Charles has formally revoked the Member of the British Empire honor previously awarded to former Scotland rugby captain Stuart Hogg following his criminal conviction. The decision was published on Thursday in the official government record, The Gazette. Hogg, 33, had received the honor in 2023 for his services to rugby but pleaded guilty in 2024 to abusing his then estranged wife over a five year period.

Prosecutors said the behavior included verbal abuse, monitoring her movements and sending alarming messages. In January 2025, he was sentenced to community service with one year of supervision. Hogg retired from professional rugby in 2023 after



earning 100 international appearances for Scotland and captaining the national team beginning in 2020.

## Soccer authorities still plan Argentina versus Spain Finalissima in Qatar despite regional conflict

European soccer officials said on Thursday that Qatar remains the planned host for the upcoming Finalissima match between Argentina and Spain despite escalating tensions in the Middle East. The game, organized jointly by European and South American soccer authorities, is scheduled to take place later this month at Lusail Stadium in Doha. The match would feature a highly anticipated meeting between Argentina captain Lionel Messi and Spain's rising star Lamine Yamal.

Officials said discussions are continuing with local organizers and no alternative venue has yet been selected. However, a final decision is expected next week as



security conditions are reviewed. If Qatar cannot safely host the event, organizers may consider moving the match to Spain or another European location.

## LeBron James becomes NBA career leader in field goals

Los Angeles Lakers star LeBron James became the National Basketball Association's all time leader in field goals on Thursday during a game against the Denver Nuggets. James made a turnaround twelve foot jumper late in the first quarter to reach 15,838 career field goals, surpassing the previous record of 15,837 held by Kareem Abdul Jabbar. The milestone came in James's twenty third season in the league. Abdul Jabbar set the earlier mark when he retired in 1989 after a twenty year career. Karl Malone remains third on the list. James had already surpassed Abdul Jabbar to become the league's all time leading scorer in 2023 and previously crossed



50,000 combined regular season and playoff points.

## Global venues launch 100-day countdown to Women's Twenty20 World Cup

Cricket stadiums around the world marked the start of the 100 day countdown to the 2026 Women's Twenty20 World Cup on Wednesday, with celebrations led by Edgbaston in Birmingham. The stadium's iconic scoreboard displayed a giant countdown clock ahead of the opening match between England and Sri Lanka. England captain Nat Sciver Brunt attended the event alongside teammates Sophia Dunkley and Lauren Filer. Host venues including Old Trafford, Headingley, the Hampshire Bowl, Bristol County Ground, The Oval and Lord's also joined the celebrations. Cricket grounds worldwide, including Eden Gardens in Kolkata and the Sydney Cricket Ground, illuminated their scoreboards to mark the milestone. Organizers said more than 115,000 tickets have already been sold for the 24 day tournament featuring 12 teams and 33 matches.

## Van Foreest stuns world champion Gukesh in Prague Masters



World Champion Gukesh Dommaraju suffered a shock defeat to Dutch Grand Master Jorden van Foreest in round three of the 2026 Prague Chess Festival Masters. Van Foreest, who had lost to David Anton in round two, now shares the lead with GMs Nodirbek Abdusattorov, Nodirbek Yakubboev, and David Navara. Gukesh, meanwhile, has slipped into a four-way tie for last place, dropping to world number 13 alongside GM Praggnanandhaa Rameshbabu. Van Foreest celebrated his first career win against the world champion, describing the game as low-risk and confident in his one-pawn advantage. Other games saw draws, including GM Aravindh Chithambaram versus Parham Maghsoodloo, while top seeds Keymer and Hans Niemann faced tough fights from Abdusattorov and Yakubboev. Six rounds remain, keeping the tournament wide open.

## Blue Jackets acquire Conor Garland in NHL trade deadline move

The Columbus Blue Jackets bolstered their roster by acquiring winger Conor Garland from the Vancouver Canucks just after midnight Friday. Columbus sent a third-round pick this year and a 2028 second-round pick to secure the 29-year-old, who has 26 points in 50 games this season. General manager Don Waddell praised Garland's versatility, character, and two-way game. The move positions the Blue Jackets one point from the final Eastern Conference wild-card spot, adding a proven scorer as they push for the playoffs with 20 games remaining.



## Stuttgart advance to Europa League last 16 despite home loss to Celtic

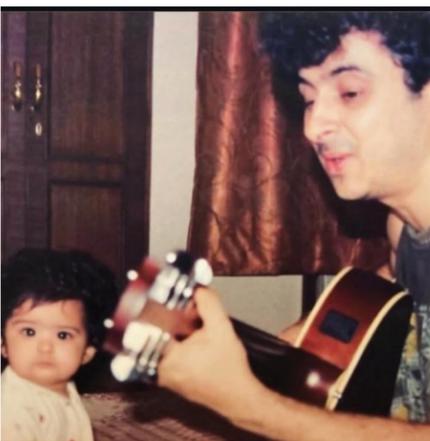
VfB Stuttgart reached the UEFA Europa League round of 16 despite losing 1-0 at home to Celtic on Thursday. Celtic took the lead after 30 seconds through Luke McCowan, but Stuttgart controlled most of the match and had two goals ruled out for offside. The Bundesliga side advances 4-2 on aggregate thanks to a dominant first-leg win. Coach Sebastian Hoernes emphasized the objective was always progression, while Celtic's European campaign ends. Stuttgart now awaits the last-16 draw, with domestic attention shifting to Wolfsburg.

**Peter Jackson to receive honorary Palme d'Or at Cannes Film Festival**



**F**ilmmaker Peter Jackson will be honored with an honorary Palme d'Or at the Cannes Film Festival, running May 12-23, 2026. Festival organizers praised Jackson for "a body of work that blends Hollywood blockbusters and films d'auteur with extraordinary artistic vision and technological audacity." Jackson, who first attended Cannes in 1988 to sell his debut film 'Bad Taste' and returned in 2002 for 'The Fellowship of the Ring,' called the recognition "one of the greatest privileges of my career." He added that Cannes has always celebrated bold, visionary cinema and expressed gratitude to be recognized among artists who continue to inspire him. Last year, Robert De Niro and Denzel Washington received honorary Palme d'Or prizes.

**Palash Sen shares adorable throwback of singing to his baby girl**



**E**uphoria frontman Palash Sen recently took fans down memory lane, sharing a nostalgic throwback featuring himself and his six-month-old daughter, Kyna. In the candid photo, Palash strums a guitar while his daughter watches curiously, making him his first-ever audience for every new song. Reflecting on parenthood, the singer wrote, "Life has no rewind, so enjoy every moment of your baby's babyhood." He also referenced Disney's Thumbelina, wishing little ones could stay tiny forever. Known for his heartfelt social media posts, Palash also spoke about his musical journey, describing himself as an "independent, unapologetic & perhaps misunderstood" rock singer. From founding Euphoria in college to hits like 'Dhoom Pichuck Dhoom,' he has balanced music, acting in Filhaal, and family life with devotion.

**Britney Spears arrested on suspicion of DUI in Southern California**

**P**op star Britney Spears was arrested Wednesday night near her Southern California home on suspicion of driving under the influence of alcohol and drugs and was released early Thursday morning. The California Highway Patrol reported Spears was driving erratically on U.S. 101 in Newbury Park before safely pulling over. Field sobriety tests suggested impairment, and chemical test results are still pending. Spears, 44, was alone in her vehicle.

Her representative called the incident

"inexcusable" and said she plans to take the right steps, comply with the law, and seek support to address this challenging moment. The arrest occurred just a few miles from her home in Thousand Oaks, California, where she has lived since her conservatorship ended. Spears first rose to fame on Disney Channel's 'The Mickey Mouse Club' and became a defining pop icon of the '90s and 2000s with hits including '...Baby One More Time,' 'Oops! ... I Did It Again,' and 'Toxic.' She is scheduled to appear in Ventura County court on May 4.



**Justin Timberlake sues to block release of 2024 arrest video**

**J**ustin Timberlake is suing the village of Sag Harbor, New York, to block the release of police body camera footage from his 2024 drunken driving arrest, citing privacy and reputational concerns. His lawyers argued that the video captures "intimate, highly personal, and sensitive details" including his physical appearance, speech, and behavior during field sobriety testing, arrest, and confinement, which could subject him to public ridicule and harassment.

Timberlake pleaded guilty to impaired driving after an incident in which he ran a stop sign while driving a BMW in June 2024, telling officers he had consumed one martini while following friends home. As part of his plea, Timberlake gave a public safety announcement urging drivers, "Even if you've had one drink, don't get behind the



wheel of a car." The court asked both sides to explore a possible resolution before ruling. The eight-hour video reportedly includes all aspects of the arrest and subsequent detention.

**Rajinikanth's #Thalaivar173 gears up for Pongal 2027 release**

**F**ans of Rajinikanth are in for a treat: the superstar's upcoming film, tentatively titled #Thalaivar173, is slated for a Pongal 2027 release. Kamal Haasan's Raaj Kamal Films International confirmed the schedule, with director Cibi Chakravarthy planning to begin shooting in mid-April. The young filmmaker promised fans a "proper commercial entertainer" that honors Rajinikanth's legacy and delivers satisfaction to audiences. Music by Anirudh Ravichander and production support from Mahendran, AP International Films, and Home Screen Entertainment heighten anticipation. Following its announcement, excitement has surged online, with fans eagerly



tracking updates. The festive release aligns with Pongal celebrations, amplifying expectations for a grand cinematic spectacle from India's iconic superstar.

**Anupam Kher celebrates 500 shows of autobiographical play**



**V**eteran actor Anupam Kher marked a major milestone as his autobiographical play 'Kuch Bhi Ho Sakta Hai' completed 500 shows in Jaipur. Taking to social media, Kher shared videos and photos capturing the standing ovation from the packed audience. The play chronicles his journey through struggles, failures, and hope, resonating worldwide for over two decades. Kher expressed gratitude to director Feroz Abbas Khan, writer Ashok Patole, and the entire team, writing, "Dreams don't come true because life is easy. Dreams come true because you refuse to give up." From his Bollywood debut in Saarang to hits like 'Tezaab' and Dilwale Dulhania Le Jayenge, Kher's career mirrors the perseverance his play celebrates.

**Sussanne Khan urges Hrithik Roshan to pen fatherhood reflections**

**H**rithik Roshan recently shared a heartfelt social media post reflecting on fatherhood and his love for sons Hrehaan and Hridhaan. The post emphasized valuing children for who they are, not just achievements. Ex-wife Sussanne Khan responded, suggesting he write a book "dedicated to fatherhood." Sharing a throwback yacht photo, Hrithik encouraged embracing all human experiences, success, and failure while prioritizing love over pride. Hrehaan and Hridhaan, born in 2006 and 2008, continue to be co-parented amicably by Hrithik and Sussanne. Both have moved on romantically—Hrithik with Sabaa Azad, and Sussanne with Arslan Goni—but remain united in raising their sons. Fans praised the post for its vulnerability and parenting insight.

**Salman Khan hails Kabir Bedi as the original Tiger of India**



**A**ctor Salman Khan paid tribute to veteran Kabir Bedi, calling him the "original Tiger of India" while reflecting on the 1976 television classic Sandokan. Sharing a video on Instagram, Salman praised Bedi for being the first Indian actor to headline an international TV show and wished luck to Can Yaman, who will play Sandokan in the new adaptation. Sandokan, based on Emilio Salgari's novels, follows the adventures of a 19th-century pirate known as the "Tiger of Malaya." Bedi reprised his role in the 1996 sequel The Return of Sandokan. Salman, meanwhile, is gearing up for Battle of Galwan, a film on the 2020 India-China clash in Ladakh, set to release on April 17.

### Bollywood celebrates Team India's T20 World Cup win



Bollywood stars erupted in joy after Team India defeated England to reach the T20 World Cup final. Kareena Kapoor Khan shared a graphic of the team with heart emojis, while Anil Kapoor cheered, "FINALS UNLOCKED LET'S GO TEAM INDIA." Ajay Devgn praised the team's performance, and Anupam Kher celebrated with "Ye mera Indiaaaaaaa! Bharat Mata Ki Jai!" Social media clips showed Raveena Tandon, Triptii Dimri, and Nushratt Bharuccha cheering, while Suniel Shetty highlighted Axar Patel and Bethell for match-winning performances. India will face New Zealand in the final on March 8 in Ahmedabad. The collective excitement showcased Bollywood's passion for cricket and the pride felt across fans nationwide.

### Bachchan family dazzles at Arjun Tendulkar's wedding

Bollywood's Bachchan clan made a rare appearance together at cricketer Arjun Tendulkar's wedding. Jaya Bachchan and daughter-in-law Aishwarya Rai Bachchan shared the spotlight, with Aishwarya in a silver anarkali adorned with delicate embroidery, and Jaya glowing in a white and gold saree. Abhishek Bachchan opted for a sleek black sherwani, while Amitabh paired a chikankari kurta with his signature shawl. High-profile guests included Shah Rukh Khan, Aamir Khan, Sonu Nigam, and Asha Bhosle. Despite social media rumors about marital strains between Abhishek and Aishwarya, their joint appearance emphasized family unity. Married since 2007, the couple has one daughter, and their ongoing public appearances continue to reassure fans about their relationship.



### Padma Lakshmi hosts CBS' new culinary competition 'America's Culinary Cup'



Padma Lakshmi returns to the kitchen with CBS' prime-time show 'America's Culinary Cup,' featuring a \$1 million cash prize, the largest in culinary television history. The show, airing Wednesdays after 'Survivor' and streaming on Paramount+, showcases 16 top chefs, including six Michelin stars, two James Beard winners, and multiple 'Top Chef' alumni. Lakshmi judges alongside three-Michelin star fish expert Michael Cimarusti and molecular gastronomy pioneer Wylie Dufresne. She evaluates the chefs by their dishes rather than credentials. The competition also adds a strategic edge, with contestants forming alliances and competing against each other, blending culinary skill with game-show intensity.

### Gwyneth Paltrow and Robert Downey Jr. join Oscars presenter lineup



Gwyneth Paltrow and Robert Downey Jr. will present at the Oscars on Sunday, March 15, joining Anne Hathaway, Will Arnett, Priyanka Chopra Jonas, Paul Mescal, and others. Conan O'Brien returns to host for the second year. The show, held at the Dolby Theatre in Los Angeles, will stream live on ABC and Hulu. Best actress nominees include Jessie Buckley for 'Hamnet' and Emma Stone for 'Bugonia.' Best actor nominees include Timothée Chalamet for 'Marty Supreme' and Michael B. Jordan for 'Sinners.' Music performances feature 'Golden' from 'KPop Demon Hunters' and 'I Lied to You' from 'Sinners.' Front-runner films for best picture and director remain 'One Battle After Another' and 'Sinners.'

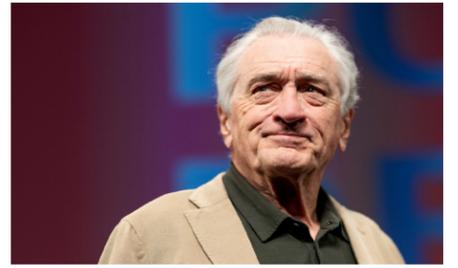
### Kerala High Court rebukes petitioners over 'Kerala Story 2' claims

The Kerala High Court firmly criticized petitioners for attacking the credibility of a Division Bench over the release of Kerala Story 2: Goes Beyond. Petitioners argued the film misrepresented Kerala as a hub of terrorism and depicted over 150 Muslim characters unfairly. Chief Justice Soumen Sen warned that casting aspersions on judges could risk

contempt proceedings. Following the reprimand, the petitioners apologized and agreed to remove contentious sections. The case stems from a previous single-judge stay, which was overturned by the Division Bench to allow the film's release. The court highlighted that the focus should remain on legal merits, not speculative commentary, with the final verdict on the appeal still pending.



### Robert De Niro reads Lincoln's call for civility at Carnegie Hall benefit



Robert De Niro appeared unannounced at Carnegie Hall's 39th annual Tibet House US benefit, reciting Abraham Lincoln's 1838 'Lyceum Address' urging reason, morality, and respect for the law. The performance highlighted the importance of civility without directly referencing current politics. The evening featured Laurie Anderson, Elvis Costello, Maya Hawke, and Allison Russell, with music ranging from avant-garde compositions by Philip Glass to folk, gospel, and classic rock. Costello performed '(What's So Funny 'Bout) Peace, Love, and Understanding,' and Toro y Moi joined Russell for 'Maybe I'm Amazed.' The event celebrated music's universality and activism, blending experimental and traditional styles in a nearly three-hour show.

### Rapper Ghetts sentenced to 12 years for fatal hit-and-run

British rapper Ghetts, real name Justin Clarke-Samuel, was sentenced to 12 years in prison and banned from driving for 17 years for causing the death of 20-year-old Nepali student Yubin Tamang in London last October. Prosecutors said Clarke-Samuel, 41, was speeding under the influence and ran six red lights before striking Tamang, who died two days later. Clarke-Samuel pleaded guilty to causing death by dangerous driving. In court, he expressed remorse. Tamang's parents said their hearts were "broken beyond repair," noting their son came to the U.K. to study and build a better life. Ghetts won best male act at Britain's MOBO awards in 2021.

### Hilary Duff opens up on missing out on school while growing up

Hilary Duff has candidly reflected on the education she missed while growing up in the spotlight. Speaking on Jessie Ware's podcast Lennie's Table Manners, the Lizzie McGuire star admitted she spent her childhood and teen years on sets rather than in school, calling it "zero education." Though she never pursued a GED, Duff credits self-learning for her knowledge and enjoys reading when time allows. She also praised her son Luca, 13, for teaching her things she never knew. Looking ahead, Duff hopes her children will have access to full schooling. She emphasized that while her path was unconventional, curiosity, asking questions, and modern tools like Google and ChatGPT have helped her bridge gaps in knowledge.



### Kim Kardashian and Lewis Hamilton share scenic getaway glimpses

Kim Kardashian and F1 star Lewis Hamilton offered fans a peek at their Lake Powell getaway, sharing faceless scenic footage on Instagram Stories. The couple, romantically linked in February, were spotted walking together at sunset after arriving in a black SUV, dressed warmly for the desert evening. Their Paris meetup reportedly sparked the romance, and sources tell People Hamilton makes Kardashian "feel safe" and valued. They also appeared together at Super Bowl LX in Santa Clara, California. The vacation posts mark a subtle, public acknowledgment of their relationship after years of friendship, delighting fans eager to see the couple together.

# हिन्दू धर्म में अंतिम संस्कार का महत्व

मृत्यु के बाद शीघ्र दाह संस्कार क्यों किया जाता है? मानव जीवन को सनातन धर्म में एक पवित्र यात्रा माना गया है, जो जन्म से शुरू होकर मृत्यु तक चलती है। हिंदू शास्त्रों के अनुसार मनुष्य के जीवन में सोलह संस्कार बताए गए हैं, जिनमें अंतिम और अत्यंत महत्वपूर्ण संस्कार है — अंत्येष्टि या अंतिम संस्कार।

जब किसी व्यक्ति की मृत्यु होती है तो परिवार और समाज के लोग शोक में डूब जाते हैं, फिर भी वे शीघ्र ही उसके अंतिम संस्कार की तैयारी करने लगते हैं। अक्सर यह प्रश्न उठता है कि मृत्यु के बाद शव का दाह संस्कार जल्दी क्यों किया जाता है? हिंदू धर्म में इसके पीछे आध्यात्मिक, धार्मिक और सामाजिक सभी प्रकार के कारण बताए गए हैं।

## 1. आत्मा की यात्रा और मोक्ष की मान्यता

सनातन धर्म में यह विश्वास है कि शरीर नश्वर है, जबकि आत्मा अमर और शाश्वत होती है। मृत्यु के बाद आत्मा शरीर को छोड़कर अपने अगले गंतव्य की ओर प्रस्थान करती है। धार्मिक ग्रंथ गरुड़ पुराण में बताया गया है कि यदि मृत व्यक्ति का समय पर और विधिपूर्वक अंतिम संस्कार किया जाए तो उसकी आत्मा को शांति और मोक्ष प्राप्त करने में सहायता मिलती है।

यह भी कहा गया है कि यदि किसी कारण से मृत व्यक्ति का अंतिम संस्कार न हो पाए तो उसकी आत्मा भटक सकती है और उसे शांति नहीं मिलती। इसलिए हिंदू परंपरा में यह माना जाता है कि दाह संस्कार आत्मा को अगले लोक की यात्रा के लिए मुक्त करता है।



## 2. पंचतत्व में शरीर का विलय

हिंदू दर्शन के अनुसार मानव शरीर पंचतत्वों — पृथ्वी, जल, अग्नि, वायु और आकाश — से बना होता है। मृत्यु के बाद इन तत्वों को पुनः प्रकृति में लौटाना ही अंतिम संस्कार का उद्देश्य माना गया है। दाह संस्कार में अग्नि के माध्यम से शरीर को पंचतत्वों में विलीन किया जाता है। इससे यह संदेश मिलता है कि जो प्रकृति से आया है वह अंततः प्रकृति में ही समाहित हो जाता है।

## 3. सामाजिक और धार्मिक शुद्धि

परंपरागत मान्यता के अनुसार जब तक किसी घर या मोहल्ले में शव रखा होता है, तब तक उस क्षेत्र में कोई भी शुभ कार्य नहीं किया जाता। न पूजा-पाठ होता है और न ही कोई मांगलिक कार्य।

इसी कारण समाज के लोग मिलकर यह प्रयास करते हैं कि मृत व्यक्ति का अंतिम संस्कार शीघ्र किया जाए, ताकि शोक की प्रक्रिया पूर्ण होकर जीवन की सामान्य गति पुनः प्रारंभ हो सके।



## 4. पिंडदान और अन्य कर्मकांडों का महत्व

अंतिम संस्कार के समय पिंडदान का विशेष महत्व बताया गया है। यह माना जाता है कि पिंडदान के माध्यम से मृत व्यक्ति की आत्मा को संतोष और शक्ति मिलती है तथा वह अपनी आगे की यात्रा के लिए तैयार होती है। परंपरा के अनुसार शव यात्रा के दौरान और चिता के पास पिंडदान करने से कुलदेवता, गृह देवता और पितरों का आशीर्वाद प्राप्त होता है।

ये सभी विधियाँ मृत व्यक्ति के प्रति सम्मान और उसकी आत्मा की शांति के लिए की जाती हैं।

## निष्कर्ष

हिंदू धर्म में अंतिम संस्कार केवल एक परंपरा या सामाजिक प्रथा नहीं है, बल्कि यह आध्यात्मिक दर्शन और जीवन के चक्र की स्वीकृति का प्रतीक है।

दाह संस्कार के माध्यम से यह संदेश दिया जाता है कि शरीर नश्वर है, पर आत्मा अनंत है। इसलिए मृत्यु के बाद पूरे विधि-विधान से अंतिम संस्कार करना न केवल मृत व्यक्ति के लिए, बल्कि उसके परिवार और समाज के लिए भी अत्यंत महत्वपूर्ण माना जाता है।

अंत्येष्टि हमें यह भी सिखाती है कि जीवन अस्थायी है और मनुष्य को अपने जीवन को धर्म, करुणा और सद्कर्मों के साथ जीना चाहिए।

## 5. धार्मिक परंपराएँ और प्रतीक

अंतिम संस्कार के समय कई प्रतीकात्मक विधियाँ की जाती हैं, जैसे—

- ▶ शव को चिता पर रखने से पहले उसके हाथ-पैर बांधना, ताकि शरीर स्थिर रहे।
- ▶ चिता में चंदन, तुलसी या पवित्र लकड़ियों का प्रयोग करना, जिसे शुभ और पवित्र माना जाता है।
- ▶ परिवार के बड़े पुत्र या निकट संबंधी द्वारा मुखारिण देना, जो कर्तव्य और सम्मान का प्रतीक है।



# मानव शरीर की पाँच ज्ञानेंद्रियाँ और उनका आध्यात्मिक महत्व



● By: Dr. Avi Verma

मानव शरीर प्रकृति और परमात्मा की अद्भुत रचना है। हमारे शरीर में पाँच प्रमुख ज्ञानेंद्रियाँ होती हैं— आँख, कान, नाक, जीभ और त्वचा। इनके माध्यम से हम संसार को देखते, सुनते, महसूस करते और समझते हैं। विज्ञान की दृष्टि से ये इंद्रियाँ हमें बाहरी दुनिया से जोड़ती हैं, जबकि आध्यात्मिक दृष्टि से ये आत्मा और चेतना को जागृत करने के साधन भी मानी जाती हैं।

## आँख - दृष्टि और दिव्य दर्शन की इंद्रि

आँख को दृष्टि इंद्रिय कहा जाता है। इसके माध्यम से हम वस्तुओं को देखते हैं, रंगों को पहचानते हैं और दूरी का अनुमान लगाते हैं। आँखों से प्राप्त जानकारी मस्तिष्क तक पहुँचती है जहाँ उसका विश्लेषण होता है।

आध्यात्मिक दृष्टि से, आँख केवल भौतिक वस्तुओं को देखने का साधन नहीं है, बल्कि यह सत्य, सुंदरता और दिव्यता के दर्शन का माध्यम भी है। संत और योग परंपरा में कहा गया है कि जब मन शांत होता है तो मनुष्य बाहरी दृष्टि के साथ-साथ अंतर्दृष्टि (Inner Vision) भी विकसित करता है, जिसे 'तीसरी आँख' या ज्ञान-चक्षु कहा जाता है।

## कान - श्रवण और ज्ञान ग्रहण की इंद्रि

कान श्रवण इंद्रिय है, जिसके द्वारा हम ध्वनियाँ सुनते हैं और शरीर का संतुलन बनाए रखते हैं। कान के बाहरी, मध्य और आंतरिक भाग मिलकर ध्वनि तरंगों को मस्तिष्क तक पहुँचाते हैं।

आध्यात्मिक रूप से, कान ज्ञान प्राप्ति का महत्वपूर्ण माध्यम है। भारतीय परंपरा में सत्संग, भजन, मंत्र और शास्त्रों का श्रवण आत्मिक विकास का मार्ग

माना गया है। कहा जाता है कि जब हम शुभ और सकारात्मक ध्वनियाँ सुनते हैं तो मन शुद्ध होता है और चेतना ऊँची होती है।

## नाक - प्राण और प्राण का द्वार

नाक प्राण इंद्रिय है, जो हमें विभिन्न प्रकार की गंधों को पहचानने में सक्षम बनाती है। यह श्वसन प्रक्रिया में भी महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका निभाती है और गंध हमारे स्वाद अनुभव को भी प्रभावित करती है।

आध्यात्मिक दृष्टि से, नाक को प्राण का प्रवेश द्वार माना जाता है। योग और ध्यान में प्राणायाम के माध्यम से श्वास को नियंत्रित कर मन और शरीर को संतुलित किया जाता है। पवित्र सुगंध—जैसे धूप, अगरबत्ती या फूल—भी मन को शांति और पवित्रता का अनुभव कराती है।

## जीभ - स्वाद और वाणी की पवित्रता

जीभ स्वाद इंद्रिय है, जिसके माध्यम से हम मीठा, खट्टा, नमकीन, कड़वा और उमामी जैसे स्वादों का अनुभव करते हैं। जीभ भोजन चखने के साथ-साथ बोलने और भोजन निगलने में भी सहायक होती है।

आध्यात्मिक दृष्टि से, जीभ केवल स्वाद के लिए नहीं बल्कि वाणी की पवित्रता के लिए भी महत्वपूर्ण है। संत परंपरा में कहा गया है कि जीभ से सत्य, मधुर वचन और ईश्वर का नाम लेना मन को शुद्ध करता है। इसलिए वाणी पर नियंत्रण को आत्मिक साधना का एक महत्वपूर्ण भाग माना गया है।

## त्वचा - स्पर्श और संवेदना का अनुभव

त्वचा स्पर्श इंद्रिय है और यह शरीर का सबसे बड़ा अंग है। इसके माध्यम से हमें गर्मी, ठंड, दर्द और दबाव का अनुभव होता है। त्वचा बाहरी वातावरण से शरीर की रक्षा भी करती है।

आध्यात्मिक दृष्टि से, स्पर्श का संबंध करुणा, प्रेम और ऊर्जा से माना जाता है। आशीर्वाद का स्पर्श, सेवा का स्पर्श या ध्यान में हाथों की मुद्रा (मुद्रा) व्यक्ति को आंतरिक शांति और सकारात्मक ऊर्जा का अनुभव करा सकती है।

## निष्कर्ष

मानव शरीर की ये पाँच ज्ञानेंद्रियाँ केवल भौतिक संसार को समझने के उपकरण नहीं हैं, बल्कि

आत्मिक जागरण और संतुलित जीवन के साधन भी हैं। जब हम इन इंद्रियों का उपयोग संयम, जागरूकता और सकारात्मकता के साथ करते हैं, तो जीवन अधिक संतुलित, शांत और अर्थपूर्ण बन जाता है।

इस प्रकार विज्ञान और अध्यात्म दोनों ही हमें यह सिखाते हैं कि इंद्रियों का सही उपयोग ही सच्चे ज्ञान और आनंद की ओर ले जाता है।



# A nation that worships goddesses must protect its daughters

By: Dr. Avi Verma

In a civilization where millions begin their day by chanting “Jai Mata Di,” and where divine feminine power is revered in the forms of Mahalakshmi, Saraswati, Durga, and Kali, it is deeply troubling that violence against women and children continues to stain the conscience of the nation.

India proudly celebrates the concept of Shakti—the divine feminine energy that sustains the universe. Our temples, scriptures, and festivals glorify the power, dignity, and protection of women. Yet the same society continues to witness horrifying acts of sexual violence, including crimes against minors and even infants. This contradiction is not just painful; it is morally indefensible.

In recent years, India has repeatedly been shaken by cases that reveal the brutal vulnerability of its most innocent citizens. From the horrific Kathua rape case in 2018 involving an eight-year-old child, to numerous reported assaults on minors across the country, the pattern is deeply alarming. Disturbingly, there have also been reports of crimes against toddlers and infants—cases that shake any remaining illusions about the limits of human cruelty.

Only recently, authorities in one Indian state arrested a man accused of sexually assaulting a two-year-old child, a crime so disturbing that it reignited public outrage across social media and news platforms. Such incidents are not isolated tragedies; they are reminders that the problem is systemic and persistent.

India has not been silent in the face of these crimes. After the nationwide outrage following the 2012 Delhi gang rape case, the country enacted stronger laws through the Criminal Law (Amendment) Act, 2013. Similarly, the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act (POCSO) created stricter provisions to safeguard minors.

These laws were necessary and important. They strengthened punishments, accelerated judicial processes, and increased public awareness.

Yet the persistence of brutal crimes



reveals an uncomfortable truth: punishment alone does not always prevent future violence.

This is why a difficult but necessary global conversation is emerging about preventive approaches. In Italy, lawmakers are examining the use of voluntary, reversible hormone therapy—often referred to as chemical castration—for convicted rapists and pedophiles as part of a broader strategy to reduce repeat offenses.

The proposal emphasizes informed consent, medical supervision, and rehabilitation, not vengeance. The purpose is simple: prevent future victims.

Whether or not India adopts such a measure is a matter that must be debated carefully. Ethical concerns about bodily autonomy, potential coercion, and medical ethics are legitimate and must be addressed with seriousness. Justice cannot compromise human dignity. However, ignoring preventive tools while crimes continue is also morally troubling.

**If India ever considers exploring such measures, they must be governed by strict safeguards, including:**

- ▶ Voluntary participation with full

informed consent

- ▶ Independent medical and psychiatric evaluation
- ▶ Reversible treatment protocols
- ▶ Strict judicial oversight and transparency
- ▶ Application limited to repeat, high-risk offenders
- ▶ Integration with rehabilitation, monitoring, and counseling programs

But policy discussions alone will not solve the deeper cultural contradiction.

The real question India must confront is this: How can a society that worships the feminine divine fail to protect its daughters?

Our scriptures describe the protection of the vulnerable as a sacred duty. The concept of dharma places the safety of women and children at the heart of social responsibility.

A nation guided by those values cannot tolerate a reality where infants and minors fall victim to such unspeakable violence.

Preventing sexual crimes requires far more than legal reform. It demands cultural accountability, better policing,

faster justice, community vigilance, and moral clarity. Families, schools, religious institutions, and media must all contribute to creating an environment where respect for women is not ritualistic but real.

- ▶ Every assault prevented is a life saved from trauma.
- ▶ Every child protected is a future preserved.
- ▶ Every effective safeguard strengthens public faith in justice.

India must move beyond cycles of outrage that follow each horrific headline.

The goal is not simply harsher punishment after a crime occurs—the goal must be fewer victims in the first place.

A civilization that reveres the divine feminine must demonstrate that reverence not only in temples but in its streets, schools, and homes.

**Protecting the innocent is not merely public policy.**

It is a moral duty.

It is national responsibility.

And in a country that chants Jai Mata Di, it should be nothing less than sacred.





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**Mata Bhagat: Avi Verma**

# Chicago Indo-US Lions Club hosts successful Business Networking Event in Illinois

By: Vandana Jhingan

The Chicago Indo US Lions Club in partnership with Pearl Banquets successfully hosted a major Business Networking Event on February 28, 2026, bringing together entrepreneurs, business leaders, community volunteers, sponsors, and civic representatives for an evening focused on collaboration and professional growth.

Organized to strengthen business connections within the Indo-US community and the wider Illinois business ecosystem, the event attracted over 400 attendees and featured more than 20 interactive business booths.

Participants showcased their products and services, exchanged ideas on emerging industry trends, and engaged in direct networking with fellow professionals and local community leaders. The vibrant gathering provided a platform for both startups and established enterprises to expand their networks and explore potential partnerships.

Several local elected officials also attended the event, reflecting strong support for small businesses and community-driven economic initiatives. Their presence highlighted the important role that grassroots organizations play in encouraging entrepreneurship and regional economic development.

The organizers also received congratulatory messages from prominent leaders including Alexi Giannoulas, JB Pritzker, Maria Pappas, and Raja Krishnamoorthi, along with several other elected officials and civic dignitaries. In their messages, they praised the Chicago Indo-US Lions Club for its efforts



in promoting small business growth, community engagement, and economic empowerment across the region.

Speaking about the success of the event, Club President Lion Kishan expressed appreciation for the strong participation and community support.

He noted that the event demonstrated the spirit of unity and service that defines the organization and emphasized that the collaboration among entrepreneurs, volunteers, and sponsors is helping build stronger business networks and a more vibrant community.

Founder President Lion Hina Trivedi also highlighted the significance of the gathering, stating that it was inspiring to see members of the community come together with enthusiasm and shared purpose. She thanked volunteers, sponsors, business participants, and guests for their trust and commitment, noting that such events reflect the collective vision of growth, service, and long-term partnerships.

The success of the networking event was made possible through the support of several sponsors and partners who contributed to the initiative. Special appreciation was extended to Raj

Jayara of Pearl Banquets for hosting the event and providing exceptional hospitality. Organizers also acknowledged the volunteer support from Sewa International USA, whose team assisted with smooth event operations. Additional thanks were offered to Atul Wahi, President of the United Punjabi Association (UPA), and fellow Lion Sudhir Sakhuja for their contributions behind the scenes.

Key sponsors supporting the event included Darshan Dhaliwal, Parminder Singh Goldy, Sukhwinder Singh Ghaggar, Brijesh Patel of Core Exteriors, Brij Kukreja of Kite Entertainment, Santhosh Kumar of Universal Metro Aging Services, Chintal Mehta of Care for Soul, Dr. Rani Yousefzai of Belleza Med Spa and J&R Hair Academy, Dr. Andrew Thomas of Heals on Wheels, Raj Jayara of Pearl Banquets, Avani and Hemant Trivedi of AUCI / 7-11, and Noman Khan of Illinois Media Group.

The Chicago Indo US Lions Club continues to serve as a community-focused organization dedicated to humanitarian initiatives, cultural engagement, and professional networking, while supporting philanthropic efforts across the United States and India.



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# Mela Maiyya Da Jagran Chowkis

by **Legendary Lakhbir Singh Lakha**

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# First bust of Mahatma Gandhi unveiled in Montana, celebrating India-U.S. cultural ties



*Dignitaries and participants at the unveiling ceremony of Gandhi Ji bust at Mike Mansfield Center, UMT.*

● By: Vandana Jhingan

In a historic cultural moment for the state, the first bust of Mahatma Gandhi was unveiled at the prestigious Mike Mansfield Center at the University of Montana in Missoula. The unveiling ceremony was jointly led by Greg Gianforte, Governor of the state of Montana, and the Consul General of India in Seattle. The event brought together state officials, faculty members, students from the university, and representatives from the Montana World Affairs Council.

Speaking at the ceremony, Governor Gianforte expressed appreciation to the Government of India and the Indian Consulate for presenting the bust as a gift to the state. He highlighted the growing relationship between India and Montana and praised Gandhi's philosophy of nonviolence, noting that the values he championed remain deeply relevant in today's global landscape.

The bust has been installed at the Mike Mansfield Center, an institution established by an Act of the U.S. Congress in 1983. The center promotes ethical leadership, civic responsibility, and global engagement, while supporting

youth and communities through civic and international education.

Later in the evening, students at the University of Montana celebrated the vibrant Indian festival of Holi, often called the festival of colors. Deena Mansour, Executive Director at the Mansfield Center, welcomed the celebration, describing it as a symbol of the arrival of spring and a celebration of unity.

Students and local residents enthusiastically participated in the festivities, playing with organic Indian colors and taking part in an Indian film screening. The Bollywood film *Zindagi Na Milegi Dobara* was screened for students, offering them a glimpse into Indian culture and storytelling. Participants also enjoyed traditional Holi sweets, including the popular delicacy *Gujiya*.

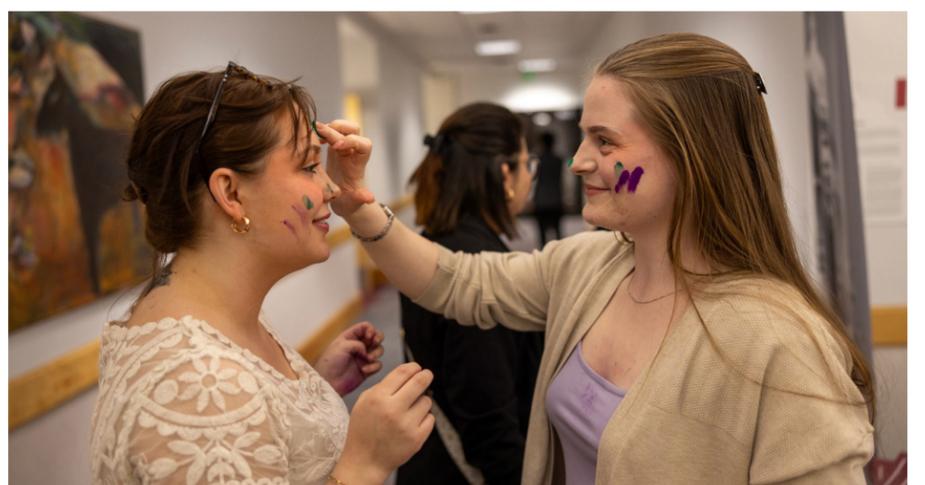
Earlier in the day, nearly 400 students from across Montana attended a session on "Brand India" during the Academic World Quest Conference hosted by the Montana World Affairs Council. The briefing introduced students to India's growing global presence, including discussions on the government's One District One Product (ODOP) initiative and tastings of premium Indian coffees such as Araku Coffee.

Since the establishment of the Indian Consulate in Seattle, cultural and educational ties between India and Montana have strengthened significantly. In June 2025, a group of ten high-school students from Montana traveled to India for a two-week cultural immersion program. More recently, a fifty-member delegation from Montana—including business leaders, educators, and technology experts—participated in the second edition of the Invest India Business Forum 2026 held in Seattle on January 25.

Officials noted that the installation of Gandhi's bust and the celebration of Holi



*Montana Governor Greg Gianforte, Consul General of India Prakash Gupta, First Lady Susan Gianforte and other dignitaries with Gandhi Ji bust.*



*Students at Holi celebrations at University of Montana.*

together represent another step toward strengthening cultural understanding and people-to-people connections between India and the state of Montana.

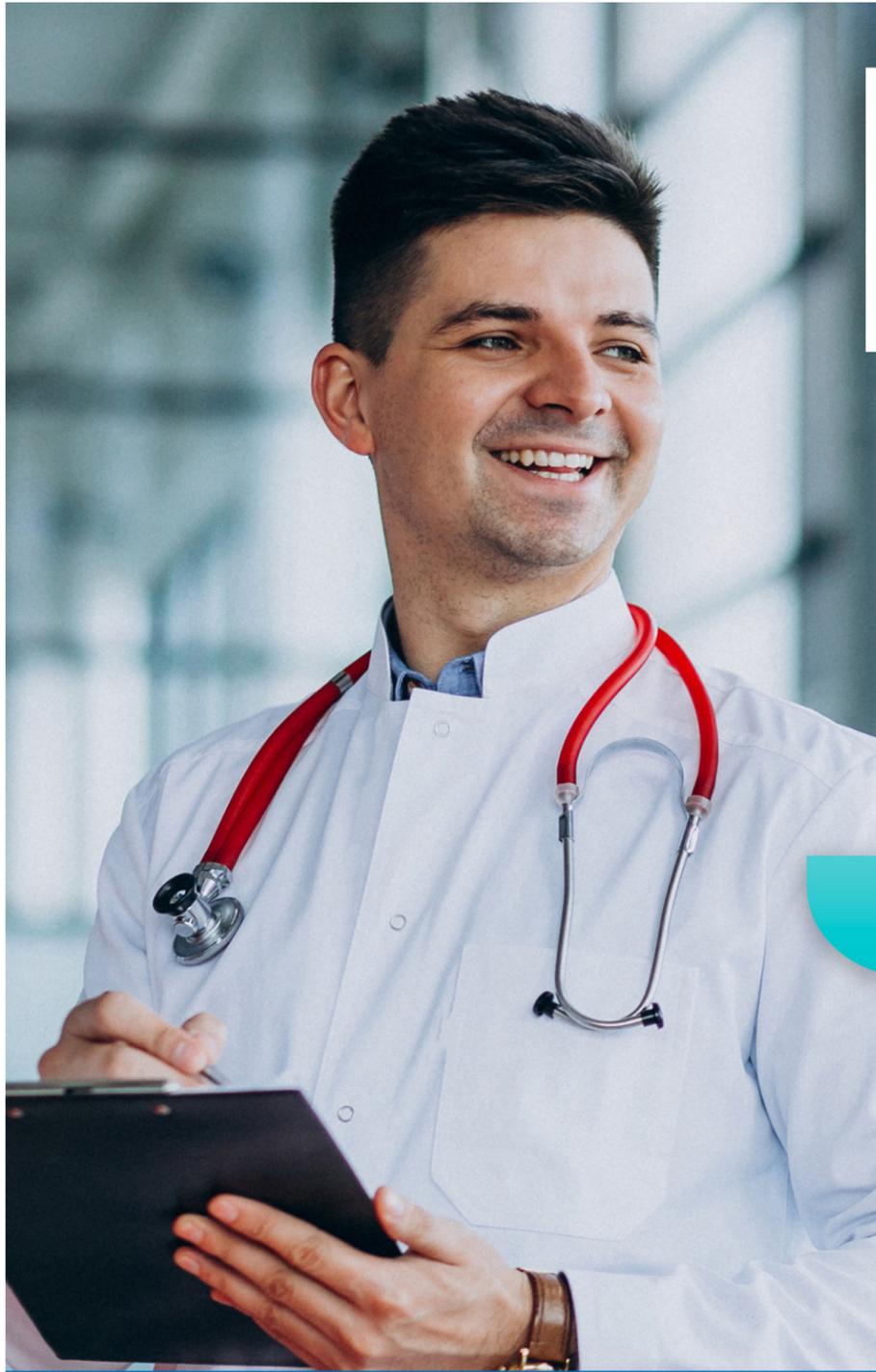
The statue unveiled at the Mansfield Center is the fourth installation of Mahatma Gandhi in the U.S. Pacific Northwest facilitated by the Indian Consulate in Seattle. Previous statues have been installed at the Space Needle in Seattle

in October 2024, at the Nebraska State Capitol in Lincoln, Nebraska in December 2024, and earlier at the Bellevue Public Library in Bellevue, Washington.

The unveiling in Montana adds another cultural landmark honoring Gandhi's enduring legacy of peace and nonviolence while further strengthening the bridge between India and communities across the American Northwest.



*Gandhi Ji bust unveiled at Mike Mansfield Center in University of Montana.*



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# Iowa's curriculum reform marks global milestone for Sikh community

By: Dr. Avi Verma

In a landmark achievement for the global Sikh community, Iowa has officially become the 21st state in the United States to include Sikhism in its K-12 social studies curriculum — a move widely celebrated as a major step toward recognition, representation, and inclusion. The decision, approved by the Iowa State Board of Education, ensures that Sikh history, beliefs, and contributions will now be taught in age-appropriate formats across grade levels, including in seventh-grade modern world history classes.

For Sikhs around the world, the development is being hailed as more than just a curriculum update — it is seen as validation of decades of grassroots advocacy aimed at correcting misconceptions and securing accurate representation in educational systems.

### A victory years in the making

The reform follows sustained efforts by civil rights groups such as the Sikh Coalition, which has worked closely with state education officials to promote religious literacy and ensure Sikh identity is properly reflected in textbooks and classroom instruction. Community leaders say the inclusion is especially meaningful in the United States, where Sikh Americans have historically faced misunderstanding and bias due to lack of awareness about their faith and articles of identity such as the turban.



### Global significance

Sikhism, founded in the 15th century in Punjab, is the world's fifth-largest organized religion. Yet, in many parts of the West, it remains underrepresented in school curricula. Iowa's move is therefore being viewed as part of a broader international trend toward educational inclusivity. Diaspora leaders say such recognition in American public schools

strengthens not only interfaith understanding but also the confidence of Sikh youth growing up abroad. By seeing their heritage reflected in mainstream education, young Sikhs gain affirmation of their identity and place in society.

### A message beyond Iowa

With Iowa joining 20 other states that

have incorporated Sikh studies into K-12 standards, advocates believe this momentum will inspire similar reforms globally — from North America to Europe and beyond. For the worldwide Sikh community, Iowa's decision represents a powerful message: that perseverance, civic engagement, and unity can lead to meaningful change — not just for one state, but for generations to come.

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# The Irony of a **Brown-Skinned** Nation

● By: Ryan Khanna

“People don’t blame the British enough.”

I once encountered this remark in a YouTube comment section. At first glance, it sounded exaggerated. Yet when one reflects on India’s persistent obsession with fair skin, the comment begins to feel less absurd. After all, there must be a reason why a civilization that once celebrated darker complexions—revering its deities as “Shyama Sundaram” (श्यामसुन्दरम), the beautiful dark one—now often treats the same complexion as something undesirable.

When a ruling class visibly differs from the population it governs, its physical features frequently become symbols of status and aspiration. Over time, fairness came to be associated with proximity to power, privilege, and authority. Colonial rule under the British Empire undoubtedly strengthened this association.

Yet attributing the problem entirely to colonial history is also a convenient escape.

The British left India more than seventy-five years ago. The obsession with fairness did not.

If colonialism planted the seed, modern India has continued to water it.

## From cultural pride to social currency

Historically, Indian literature and mythology often revered darker complexions. Krishna, for instance, is repeatedly described in classical texts as dark and radiant. Ancient poetry, sculpture, and storytelling did not rigidly equate beauty with fairness in the way contemporary advertising and popular culture often do.

Yet modern portrayals frequently dilute these traditions. Mythological characters historically described as dark are commonly depicted by extremely fair-skinned actors in television serials and films. Gradually, visual culture has reshaped perceptions of beauty.

The idea for this reflection struck me when I noticed tubes of fairness cream—marketed today as “glow-enhancing” products—on the dressing table of an Instagram creator who could not have been more than eleven or twelve years old.

At that moment, it became clear how early these ideas are absorbed.

Today, fairness often functions as a form of social currency.

## Education has not ended the bias

One might assume that education would dismantle such attitudes. Yet evidence suggests otherwise. Highly educated professionals—doctors, engineers, and academics—still publish matrimonial advertisements specifying a preference for a “fair-skinned” partner.

These are individuals who understand science, genetics, and the language of equality. Their choices reveal an uncomfortable truth: knowledge alone does not always change social behavior.

So why does this bias persist?

The answer lies less in ignorance and more in incentives.



## The rewards of fairness

In subtle but powerful ways, fairness continues to be rewarded. Cinema often favors lighter complexions for leading roles. Matrimonial markets openly prioritize them. Everyday compliments frequently equate fairness with attractiveness.

When a society consistently rewards a particular trait, people learn—consciously or unconsciously—to value that trait.

Prejudice, in such cases, survives not because people believe it is morally right, but because it is socially advantageous.

## The internalization of bias

Perhaps the most tragic aspect of colorism is that it is often reinforced not by outsiders, but by those who are themselves affected by it. Some of the harshest remarks about skin tone come from family members, relatives, and peers who share the same complexion.

In these moments, prejudice no longer requires an external oppressor. It survives because it has been internalized.

The hierarchy continues even after the ruler has disappeared.

## A small but telling incident

I recall an incident from a school function. Teachers were applying simple stage makeup to students preparing for a performance. Among them was a classmate—let us call him Dave.

The only thing that should matter about Dave is that he was my classmate.

But apparently something else mattered more: Dave had dark skin.

When his turn came, several casual jokes

about his complexion circulated among students—fifteen-year-olds who had already absorbed society’s prejudices.

The most disturbing remark, however, came from a teacher. She said, “When God creates someone, He always leaves one flaw so they don’t become too proud. For you, it was your dark skin.”

Notice the word flaw.

As if melanin were a defect.

As if dark skin were a mistake.

Yet perhaps the real flaw lies elsewhere—in a society that claims to have rejected colonial hierarchies while continuing to reward them.

## Challenging the system that sustains colorism

If colorism is to be dismantled, slogans and moral lectures alone will not suffice. The structures that quietly sustain these attitudes must be confronted.

First, representation matters. When cinema, advertising, and media repeatedly present beauty through a narrow lens, they reinforce unrealistic standards. A more honest portrayal of India’s natural diversity—especially in a tropical country with abundant sunlight—could gradually reshape cultural perceptions.

Second, accountability must begin within families. Casual jokes about skin tone are often dismissed as harmless humor. In reality, they are one of the primary ways prejudice passes from one generation to the next. Challenging such remarks in everyday conversations can disrupt this cycle.

Third, society must examine the economic incentives that reward fairness. Matrimonial preferences, beauty standards in entertainment, and the marketing of skin-lightening products all reinforce the idea that lighter skin holds greater value. Unless these incentives change, the bias will continue to reproduce itself.

## Redefining beauty

Ultimately, the deeper solution may lie in rethinking how beauty itself is defined.

Beauty has never been an objective biological fact. It is a social agreement—one that cultures continually renegotiate. Standards admired today may appear strange or even absurd a century from now.

Recognizing this fluidity allows societies to question whether the ideals they chase are truly authentic or simply inherited from historical power structures.

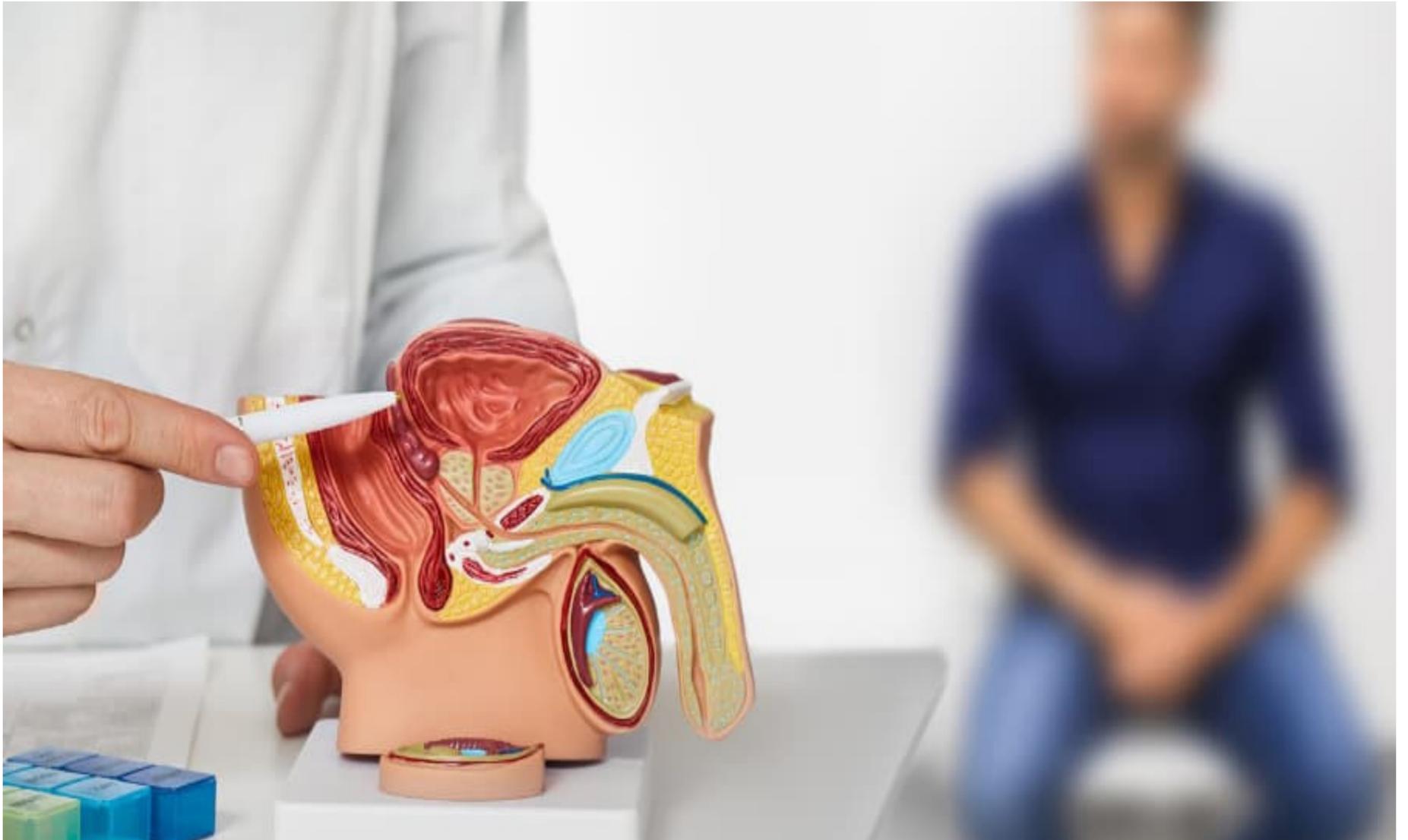
Until such reflection becomes widespread, India will continue to embody a striking paradox:

A brown-skinned nation that still chases fairness.

## About the Author

*Ryan Khanna is a young student from Punjab, India, representing a generation navigating identity, ambition, and social change in an increasingly fast-paced world. Writing from the perspective of a young Indian trying to solidify his place in a competitive global landscape, Khanna reflects on social issues, cultural contradictions, and the evolving mindset of modern India. His work aims to provoke thoughtful dialogue while capturing the observations of youth witnessing a society in transition.*

# Early trial shows promise for new prostate cancer immunotherapy



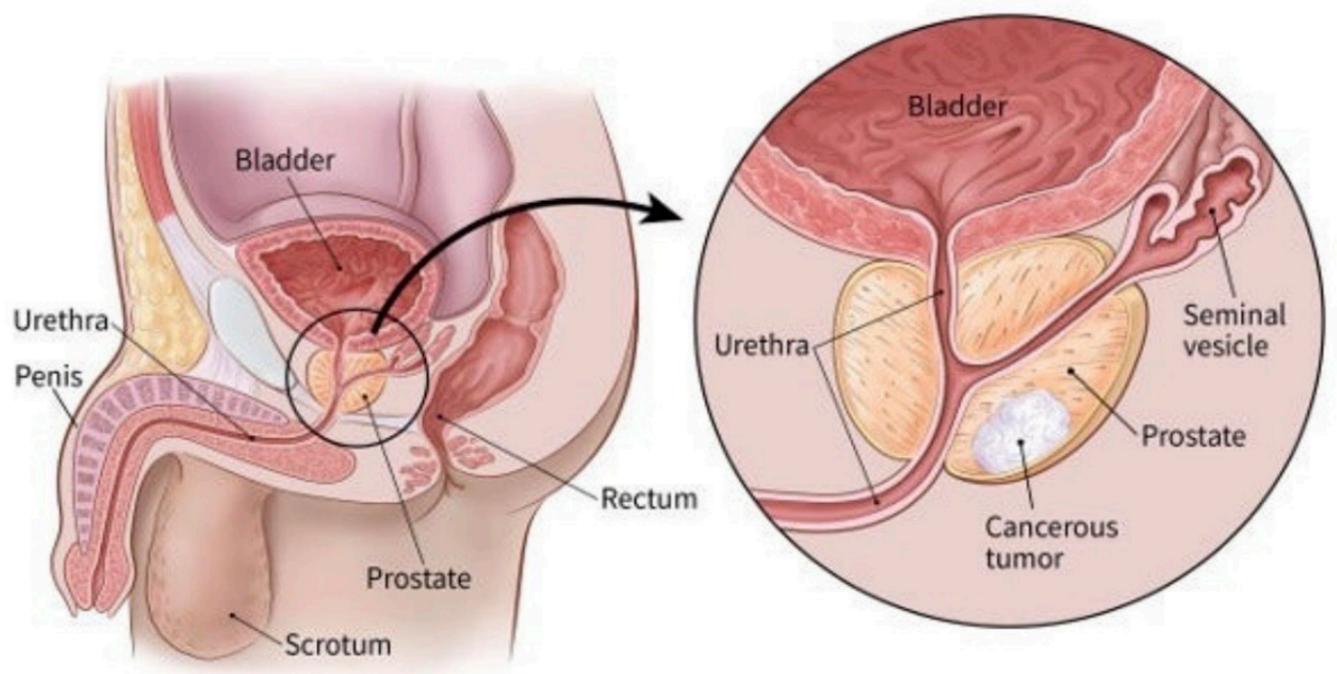
● By: Dr. Avi Verma

**A** new experimental therapy for advanced prostate cancer has generated cautious optimism among cancer researchers after early clinical trials showed encouraging results, including tumour shrinkage in some patients. The drug, known as VIR-5500, is currently being evaluated in early-stage trials involving men whose prostate cancer continued to progress despite receiving standard treatments. Researchers say the therapy represents a new approach in the fight against one of the most common cancers affecting men worldwide.

According to global health data, around 1.4 to 1.5 million men are diagnosed with prostate cancer each year. While many cases can be successfully treated when detected early, advanced or metastatic forms of the disease remain more difficult to manage.

VIR-5500 belongs to a category of immunotherapy treatments called T-cell engagers. These therapies are designed to harness the body's immune system by directing specialized immune cells, known as T-cells, to locate and attack cancer cells.

Scientists involved in the research explain that the drug acts as a bridge



between immune cells and tumour cells. By bringing them into close contact, the immune system is able to recognize and destroy cancer cells that might otherwise evade detection.

One notable feature of the treatment is its “masked” design, which keeps the drug largely inactive in the bloodstream and activates it mainly within the tumour environment.

Researchers believe this targeted mechanism may help reduce side effects while improving the drug's

ability to attack cancer cells.

Preliminary trial results have shown promising signals, including significant reductions in prostate-specific antigen (PSA) levels—an important marker used to track prostate cancer activity—in some participants. In certain cases, imaging scans also indicated tumour shrinkage.

Experts emphasize that the treatment remains in the early stages of development, and larger studies will be needed to confirm its effectiveness

and safety before it could become widely available.

**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**

AAII Bull-Bear Spread -6.6% (below average)  
 CNN Fear & Greed Index 43 (fear-low)  
 NYSE %Above 50-dMA 59.05% (positive)  
 SP500 %Above 50-dMA 62.80% (positive)

ICI Fund Allocations (Cumulative), 1/31/26  
 OEFs & ETFs: Stocks 61.83%, Hybrids 4.01%, Bonds 17.25%, M-Mkt 16.92%

**INTEREST RATES**

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

**Treasury**

T-Bills 3-mo yield 3.67%, 1-yr 3.48%;  
 T-Notes 2-yr 3.38%, 5-yr 3.51%, 10-yr 3.97%;  
 T-Bonds 30-yr 4.64%;  
 TIPS/Real yields 5-yr 1.11%, 10-yr 1.72%, 30-yr 2.43%  
 FRNs Index 3.623%

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

Stable-Value (SV) Rates, 3/1/26  
 TIAA Traditional Annuity (Accumulation) Rates  
 Restricted RC 5.00%, RA 4.75%  
 Flexible RCP 4.25%, SRA 4.00%, IRA-101110+ 3.30%  
 TSP G Fund pending (previous 4.250%)

India Fear & Greed MMI 57.06 (greed)  
 Weekly ETFs: INDA -2.15%, INDY -2.58%, EPI -1.88%, INDH -2.31%, SPY -0.50%

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

**FINANCIALS**

Indian real-time payment system UPI will soon be available in Malaysia, Maldives &



Oman. It will also be supported by China-based app AliPay+ (Ant). It's already accepted in Bhutan, France, Mauritius, Nepal, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Qatar, UAE. UPI One World for international travelers was launched at AI Impact Summit (02/2026) in India. CheqUPI from Transcorp-India links to credit/ debit cards. Fee to join, to load money & for transactions (by credit/ debit cards; currency fee extra); payments are limited to large businesses for now.

Japan's recent investments in India include MUFG & Sriram (nonbank financial), JFE & Bhushan Power & Steel, Mizuho & Avendus (financial); SMBC was cleared for a wholly-owned Indian subsidiary (it previously bought 24.2% stake in YES Bank), etc.

India may soon raise foreign ownership of state-owned banks from 20% to 49%.

**SPECIAL TOPICS**

German logistics & material handling company Beumer Group has expanded manufacturing facilities in MET City,

Jhajjar, Haryana. The new facility will produce airport baggage handling systems, logistics conveying & sorting equipment, cement packing & loading machinery, & components for mineral & mining machines.

**ASSET PLACEMENT - Where to Put Things?**

Investors have various types of accounts - taxable, tax-deferred (401k/403b/457, Traditional IRA/ TIRA, annuities, UTMA, Trump Accounts), tax-free (Roth versions, 529, HSA; limitations apply).

**So, where do you put stuff?**

In TAXABLE accounts, you pay taxes on interest/ dividends & realized capital gains (CGs). Unrealized CGs aren't taxed until you sell. On death, there is step-up of cost-basis, so inheritors pay taxes on CGs only from the date of death of the owner. If you lose money, there are some tax breaks - realized losses can offset realized gains, & beyond that, up to \$3,000 in ordinary income. Excess (unused) realized losses can be carried in future forever. This is why tax-loss harvesting (TLH) is important - you maintain exposure but book losses to offset potential realized CGs in future.

If some stocks have appreciated a lot, you can donate them to charity or your own DAF & claim itemized deductions for the donated amounts. You can also make partial donation so that tax on the gain for the amount you keep can be offset by itemized deduction for the amount you donate.

So, taxable accounts offer lot of flexibility & are preferred for high risk, high reward assets.

In TAX-DEFERRED 401k/403b accounts, contributions are pre-tax, earnings (dividends & CG distributions) accumulate tax-deferred, but withdrawals

after 59.5 are fully taxed. This also applies to annuities (qualified) within 401k/403b. Tax-deferred TIRAs may have a mix of pre-tax & after-tax (TIRA-basis) money from contributions & rollovers. Pre-tax contributions result when they are eligible for deductions based on income & 401k/403b participation. While all the money grows tax-deferred, only the pre-tax proportion of withdrawal (after 59.5) is taxed & the TIRA-basis is reduced by the after-tax amount attributed to withdrawals in Form 8606; without 8606, the IRS will assume 0 TIRA-basis & tax the entire withdrawal.

Commercial annuities (nonqualified) have after-tax contributions (except for 1035 exchanges), money grows tax-deferred & withdrawals after 59.5 are taxed after subtracting the contributions divided by life-expectancy.

Conservative/ moderate & income-oriented vehicles are appropriate for tax-deferred accounts.

ROTH versions have TAX-FREE withdrawals after 59.5 (limitations apply). So, they are appropriate for high risk, high reward assets.

Qualified withdrawals from 529 (educational) & HSA (healthcare) are tax-free. Conservative/ moderate & income-oriented assets are suitable due to their purposes.

Tax-advantaged vehicles have 10% early withdrawal penalties before 59.5 (20% before 65 for HSA); exceptions such as 72T may apply.

These are broad guidelines & personal situations vary.

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.

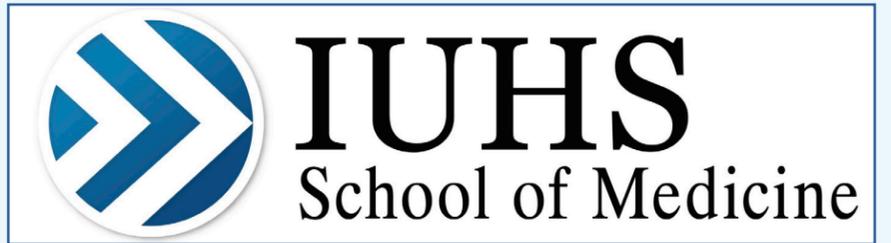
- ▶ Lecturio self-assessments which are mandatory but not graded.

## 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!

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# London fashion week reveals the bold new language of style

**L**ondon Fashion Week, held from February 16 to 20, 2026, once again proved that the city thrives on shaking up tradition. We've interpreted the best styles from the



runway, showcasing how designers took classic prints and timeless tailoring and twisted them into something entirely contemporary.

Plaid returned with authority, appearing in unexpected colors and oversized scales. At Toga and Burberry, tartan strutted across outerwear and suiting with confidence, while Erdem and Maximilian Raynor blended plaid with florals and embroidery in a way that felt equal parts nostalgic and fresh.

Florals, long considered a springtime indulgence, strutted confidently into everyday drama. Designers like Emilia Wickstead and Patrick McDowell layered subtle blooms on dresses and skirts, creating understated elegance, while

Daniel Del Valle went fully sculptural, transforming garments into wearable bouquets that brought a three-dimensional flourish to the runway.

Monochrome magic never gets old. Black-and-white pairings were reimagined with clever layering, blocking, and textural play. Some designers stacked the colors across pieces, while others fused them within a single garment, proving that even the simplest palette can feel exhilarating. Shades of blue also stormed the catwalks, from electric cobalt to navy deep enough to feel like midnight, providing a palette that is both bold and refined. Tailoring got a rebellious makeover. Jackets with exposed linings, curved hems, and grommet accents challenged the old rules of suiting while keeping elegance intact. Romantic silhouettes with lace, cinched waists, and subtle draping hinted at historical inspiration without tipping into costume, offering a soft counterpoint to sharper lines.

Sheer fabrics and metallic textures punctuated the collections with playful sophistication. Light-as-air fabrics flirted with heavier outerwear, creating movement and transparency, while lamé, sequins, and crystals added just enough gleam to catch the eye and the imagination.

This season at London Fashion Week was not about following the rules. It was about rewriting them. From unexpected color clashes to clever reinvention of classics, the shows revealed a fashion landscape that embraces experimentation, individuality, and sheer sartorial joy. In short, it is the kind of style that does not just dress you, it dares you.



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