

U.S. defends Israel at UN court, calls genocide accusations baseless



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The United States intervened in the International Court of Justice case against Israel, filed by South Africa, arguing that allegations of genocide in Gaza are false. The ICJ is examining whether Israel's military operations against Hamas meet the legal definition of genocide.

The U.S. filing warned that lowering the legal standard could undermine international law and described the accusations as part of a campaign against Israel and the Jewish people. Over a dozen other countries, including Spain and the Netherlands, have filed interventions, some offering differing perspectives.

## International court drops investigation into U.S. sanctions on Venezuela



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The International Criminal Court announced Thursday it is closing its investigation into whether U.S. sanctions on Venezuela constituted crimes against humanity. Venezuela had requested the probe in 2020, claiming asset freezes and travel bans imposed under former President Barack Obama caused widespread suffering.

ICC prosecutors said while sanctions may have worsened humanitarian conditions, there was insufficient evidence of criminal intent. The court noted the closure is unrelated to January events in Venezuela, when U.S. forces captured President Nicolás Maduro and carried out strikes on drug shipments.

The investigation into U.S. sanctions is separate from the ongoing ICC inquiry into alleged abuses by Venezuelan security forces during the 2017 anti-government protests.

# IndoUS TRIBUNE

A VENTURE OF ANSAL MEDIA GROUP OF USA, LLC

VOL: 03 • ISSUE: 19 13 MARCH 2026 MIDWEST EDITION www.indoutribune.com We serve community first

## Oil tops \$100 as Middle East war triggers historic supply shock

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Escalating conflict in the Middle East pushed global oil prices above \$100 a barrel on Thursday after Iran intensified attacks on shipping routes and energy infrastructure across the Gulf region. Brent crude rose about 9 percent during the day and has climbed roughly 38 percent since the conflict began on Friday, February 28, when the United States and Israel launched strikes on Iran.

Iran targeted a container ship off Dubai, sparked a major fire near Bahrain's international airport, and launched drone attacks near Saudi Arabia's Shaybah oil field. Iraqi authorities also halted operations at all oil terminals after a strike on the port of Basra.

The International Energy Agency warned on Thursday that the war has created the largest oil supply disruption in global market history. Production in Gulf states has



dropped by about 10 million barrels per day, nearly 10 percent of global demand.

Shipping traffic in the Strait of Hormuz,

through which about one fifth of the world's oil supply passes, has slowed sharply, raising fears of further supply shortages and sustained price volatility.

## India emphasizes diaspora safety and energy security at UN Security Council

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

India on Thursday said it co-sponsored a Gulf Cooperation Council-led resolution at the United Nations Security Council, highlighting the welfare of the large Indian diaspora in the Gulf and regional stability. External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said the resolution, supported by 135 nations, underscores the importance of protecting civilians amid escalating West Asia tensions.

The resolution condemns Iranian military actions against GCC states and Jordan, affirming the right of nations

to self-defense under Article 51 of the UN Charter. GCC Secretary General Jassem Mohamed Al-Budaiwi said the vote demonstrates international consensus against Iran's violations of international law targeting civilians, infrastructure, ports, and energy facilities.

Bahrain's representative noted GCC countries had intercepted over 954 missiles, 2,500 drones, and 17 aircraft while attacks disrupted trade and maritime routes. India stressed that safeguarding citizens abroad and securing energy supplies are key priorities in its approach to regional stability and global economic security.



## Hindu Canadian Foundation urges Canada to designate Khalistani groups as terrorists after Nancy Grewal's murder



Indous Tribune Newsdesk

The Hindu Canadian Foundation called on authorities to label Canada-based Khalistani extremists as terrorist entities following the March 3 murder of activist Nancy Grewal in Ontario.

Grewal, a critic of Khalistani groups, was stabbed at her home and later died in hospital. HCF warned of the growing influence of extremist networks, urging transparent investigation and accountability. The group highlighted media reports suggesting prior threats against Grewal.

Coalition of Hindus of North America described the killing as part of an escalating pattern of intimidation against activists, journalists, and community leaders. HCF also called on Prime Minister Mark Carney and political leaders to ensure caucuses are free from extremist influence.

### London surpasses United States cities to become world's largest fintech hub

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**L**ondon has overtaken San Francisco and New York City as the world's largest financial technology hub, according to data released on Thursday by investment firm Finch Capital. The report said European fintech funding grew 37 percent between 2022 and 2025, while investment in major United States hubs fell 13 percent. Both regions now attract roughly €40 billion in funding. However, large funding rounds in Europe still depend heavily on United States investors. Finch Capital noted that European pension funds allocate only 0.02 percent of assets to venture capital compared with 1.9 percent in the United States, a gap the firm said could unlock about €37.5 billion in annual investment if addressed.

### Iraq urges Australia to repatriate suspected Islamic State fighters held in prisons

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**Q**assim al-Araji, national security adviser of Iraq, called on Australia to take back its citizens suspected of joining the militant group Islamic State during a meeting with Australian ambassador Glenn Miles last week in Baghdad.

The request follows the recent transfer of more than 5,700 suspected fighters from detention facilities in Syria to prisons in Iraq as part of a military operation supported by the United States. About 13 Australian men are among the detainees, including one who was taken to the militant group's territory as a child. Iraqi officials say countries should repatriate their nationals, although Canberra has been reluctant to bring suspected fighters home.

### Meta shuts down more than 150,000 accounts in global crackdown on South East Asian scam networks

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**T**echnology company Meta said on Wednesday it had disabled more than 150,000 accounts linked to large criminal scam networks operating across South East Asia. The action followed a joint international operation led by the Royal Thai Police, working with investigators from the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the United States Department of Justice.

Thai authorities arrested 21 suspects during the crackdown. The networks, often based in compounds in Cambodia, Myanmar, and Laos, run sophisticated scams including fake romance schemes and fraudulent cryptocurrency investments.

Meta also introduced new safety tools on Facebook and WhatsApp to alert users about suspicious friend requests and attempts to link their accounts to unknown devices.

## USCIRF urges US to redesignate Pakistan as Country of Particular Concern

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**T**he US Commission on International Religious Freedom recommended on Monday that Pakistan be redesignated as a "Country of Particular Concern" due to ongoing violations of religious freedom. The report urges lifting waivers, imposing targeted sanctions on officials, and securing commitments to release prisoners jailed for blasphemy or faith-based reasons.

USCIRF highlighted violent attacks on religious minorities, forced conversions, and enforcement of blasphemy laws, including death sentences for social media content.

The body also called for reforms, accountability for vigilante actions, and oversight of the US-Pakistan relationship to ensure protections for religious freedom. The recommendation seeks to pressure Pakistan to address systemic human rights abuses.



### Iran's new supreme leader vows revenge and signals Strait of Hormuz will remain closed

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**I**ran's newly appointed supreme leader, Mojtaba Khamenei, vowed retaliation against the country's enemies on Thursday in his first public message since assuming power, warning that the strategic Strait of Hormuz would remain closed. In a written statement read on Iranian state television, he said Iran "will not refrain from avenging the blood of its martyrs" and indicated that Tehran could open additional fronts if required.

He also said Iran seeks friendly ties with neighboring countries and would only target bases used to launch attacks against it. Mojtaba Khamenei became Iran's third supreme leader after his father, Ali Khamenei, was killed during surprise airstrikes by the United States and



Israel on Friday, February 28. Iran later responded with waves of missile and drone strikes against Israeli targets and United States assets across the region.

### Starmer faces backlash over Epstein-linked ambassador appointment

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**B**ritish Prime Minister Keir Starmer is under renewed scrutiny after documents revealed he ignored warnings from advisers when appointing Peter Mandelson, a friend of convicted sex offender Jeffrey Epstein, as ambassador to the United States. Released Wednesday files show officials flagged Mandelson's ties to Epstein and past scandals, highlighting reputational risks.

Starmer later fired Mandelson in September after discovering continued contact with Epstein following his 2008 conviction. Starmer has apologized, claiming he was misled, though the documents provide no evidence supporting this. Analysts say the revelations could further damage the

prime minister's standing, though they come amid more pressing international concerns dominating public attention.



### British defense secretary says Russia shaping Iran's drone tactics in Middle East conflict



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**B**ritish Defense Secretary John Healey said on Thursday that Russia's "hidden hand" appears to be influencing the drone tactics used by Iran and its regional allies in the expanding Middle East conflict. British military officials reported that Iranian drone pilots have increasingly adopted tactics used by Russia in the war against Ukraine. Iran has already launched more than 2,000 Shahed drones across the region since fighting began on Friday, February 28. Overnight drone strikes targeted a military base in Erbil in northern Iraq used by Western forces, though British personnel were unharmed. Officials said the drones are now being flown at lower altitudes, making them harder to intercept.

### Gold prices firm but head for second weekly decline amid inflation worries

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**G**old prices edged higher on Friday but remained on track for a second consecutive weekly decline as inflation concerns and a stronger United States dollar weighed on the market. Spot gold rose about 0.8 percent to around \$5,118 per ounce during trading but was still down roughly 1 percent for the week. Analysts said the ongoing conflict involving Iran and rising oil prices have complicated expectations that the Federal Reserve will cut interest rates soon. Higher interest rates generally reduce the appeal of gold because it does not generate returns like other assets. Data released earlier showed consumer spending in the United States increased slightly more than expected in January. Meanwhile, partial resumption of flights from Dubai has allowed gold shipments from the major global trading hub to begin moving again.

### Bangladesh PM urges cross-party cooperation in new parliament

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**B**angladesh Prime Minister Tarique Rahman on Thursday called for unity and cooperation across all parties in the first session of the 13th National Parliament. Speaking after the election of Speaker Hafiz Uddin Ahmed and Deputy Speaker Barrister Kayser Kamal, Rahman stressed the need for constructive debate to make Parliament effective and meaningful. He urged MPs not to oppose for the sake of opposition but to focus on serving citizens' expectations. The opening session faced disruption as opposition lawmakers staged a walkout during President Mohammed Shahabuddin's address, signaling early tensions in the new legislative term.

## Venezuela and Colombia cancel presidents' meeting citing unexplained 'force majeure'

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The governments of Venezuela and Colombia abruptly canceled a highly anticipated meeting between their presidents planned for Friday at their shared border. The talks would have marked Venezuelan acting President Delcy Rodríguez's first official meeting with a Latin American leader since her January swearing-in following the U.S. operation to capture former President Nicolás Maduro. Colombian President Gustavo Petro and Rodríguez were expected to discuss border security, illegal armed groups, and Venezuelan gas exports. In a joint statement, both governments cited "force majeure" without elaboration, confirming the meeting will be rescheduled and emphasizing continued commitment to cooperation and bilateral relations.

## Pro-Iranian hackers target U.S. and Middle East amid escalating war

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Pro-Iranian hackers have intensified attacks on the Middle East and are beginning to target U.S. infrastructure, raising concerns over defense contractors, power grids, and water systems. On Wednesday, the group Handala claimed a major cyberattack on Michigan-based medical device company Stryker, reportedly in retaliation for U.S. strikes that killed Iranian schoolchildren. Since the war began, hackers have targeted industrial facilities, airports, schools, and data centers across the region. Analysts warn that future operations could disrupt American companies linked to defense and critical infrastructure, while also aiding Iran's missile targeting through regional surveillance breaches.

## South Korea affirms deterrence against North Korea despite possible US asset relocation



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

A senior official at Cheong Wa Dae said Wednesday that South Korea's deterrence posture against North Korea remains strong, regardless of reports that some US Forces Korea assets, including parts of the THAAD missile defense system, may have been relocated. The official cited South Korea's military capability, defense spending, and troop morale as key factors maintaining stability. Close coordination with the US continues to ensure a robust combined defense. President Lee Jae Myung, speaking on Tuesday, also affirmed that potential asset movements would not compromise deterrence. Officials declined to comment on operational details but reiterated ongoing collaboration between the two countries to preserve peace on the Korean Peninsula.

## Ukraine awaits White House approval on major drone production deal

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Ukraine is awaiting White House approval for a significant drone production agreement proposed last year, President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said on Thursday. The deal would involve drones and integrated air defense systems capable of countering swarms of hundreds or thousands of Iranian-designed Shahed drones and missiles. Zelenskyy noted Russia has fired over 57,000 Shahed

drones in the conflict. He highlighted the cost disparity between \$3–4 million Patriot missiles and \$130,000–\$150,000 Shaheds, underscoring Ukraine's development of low-cost drone killers. On Thursday, Ukrainian special forces reportedly struck a major oil depot in Russia's Krasnodar region, while Russia claimed its air defenses shot down 10 drones. Zelenskyy also met Romanian President Nicușor Dan to sign joint drone production and energy cooperation agreements.

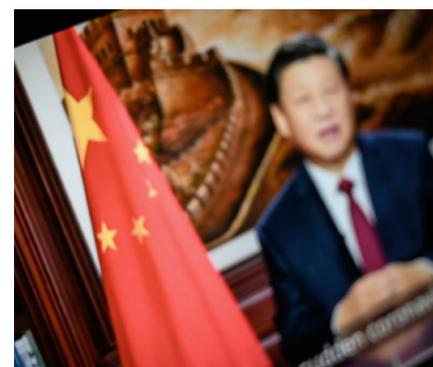


## United States lawmakers warn of China's growing influence in American universities

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

United States lawmakers raised concerns on Thursday that China may be exploiting partnerships with American universities to gain access to sensitive research and advanced technology. The Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee held a hearing examining foreign funding and academic ties involving United States campuses. Senator Bill Cassidy said universities are vital to national innovation but warned that large foreign donations could create security risks.

Lawmakers noted that universities reported about \$9.7 billion in foreign gifts and contracts last year. Experts testified that China has provided roughly



\$6.8 billion to American universities over time, while some transactions involved entities linked to government watch lists. Witnesses urged stronger transparency rules for foreign donations while preserving international academic collaboration and research partnerships.

## Trump administration criticizes CNN for airing Iranian leader's message

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The Trump administration criticized CNN on Thursday for broadcasting parts of Iranian Supreme Leader Mojtaba Khamenei's first public statement since his appointment, calling it propaganda. White House officials said airing Iranian state media without context was misleading. The network had shown Khamenei's remarks in Farsi with English translation, alongside analysis.

Experts said reporting the message was newsworthy, helping audiences understand Iran's stance after recent U.S. and Israeli strikes. The criticism follows an earlier White House attack on CNN for interviewing former Iranian negotiator



Hossein Mousavian. Other outlets, including The Associated Press, Sky News, and Al Jazeera, also aired portions of the leader's statement. The conflict remains high-stakes, with Khamenei vowing continued attacks on regional targets and threats to global oil supplies.

## Japan marks 15 years since tsunami and nuclear disaster as Takaichi urges nuclear expansion

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Tokyo observed the 15th anniversary of the devastating earthquake, tsunami, and nuclear disaster on Wednesday. The 9.0-magnitude quake and tsunami in 2011 killed more than 22,000 people and displaced nearly half a million, with 160,000 fleeing Fukushima after radiation leaks. About 26,000 remain unable to return home. Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi, speaking at a ceremony in Fukushima, pledged to accelerate recovery over the next five years and promote nuclear energy as a stable power source. Residents visited the coast to pray for lost loved ones. Despite reconstruction of infrastructure, many communities still struggle to rebuild local economies. The Fukushima Daiichi plant continues to contain 880 tons of melted fuel debris.

## India highlights civilian toll as Pakistan confirms targeting humanitarian aid to Afghanistan during Ramadan

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Pakistan on Monday tacitly admitted targeting India's humanitarian assistance to Afghanistan and conducting air strikes during Ramadan, which killed predominantly women and children. India's Permanent Representative Harish had criticized the strikes at the UN Security Council without naming Pakistan, but Islamabad's response confirmed the allegations applied to it. Harish said 185 civilians had been killed as of March 6, with 55 percent women and children, and condemned cross-border terrorism. He called for international coordination against groups including ISIL, Al Qaeda, Lashkar-e-Tayyiba, and Jaish-e-Mohammed. India has sent over 50,000 tonnes of wheat, 380 tonnes of medicines, and supported women-led self-help groups. Harish also celebrated Afghan cricket achievements, underlining India's continued support for the Afghan people's resilience and development.

## Pentagon reports Iran war costs exceed \$11.3 billion in first week

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Pentagon officials told lawmakers that the war against Iran has already cost over \$11.3 billion in its first six days, mainly for munitions. The estimate excludes deployment, medical, and equipment replacement costs. Early strikes relied on precision weapons such as the AGM-154 glide bomb, costing up to \$836,000 each, though cheaper munitions like JDAMs are now being used. The rapid expenditure may require Congress to approve supplementary defense funding to replenish U.S. stockpiles. Lawmakers are seeking clarity on the true scale of the conflict as President Donald Trump faces scrutiny over the abrupt decision to launch military action in the region.



**Published Weekly by:**  
Ansal Media Group  
of USA, LLC

**Chicago Office:**  
Lincolnwood, IL 60712  
marketing@indoutribune.com

**PUBLISHER**  
Dr. (H) Avi Verma  
publisher@indoutribune.com  
(773) 866-1222

**Editor**  
Nikita Sharma  
editor@indoutribune.com

**Graphics & Web Development**  
Sunil Panchal  
graphics@indoutribune.com

**Board of Advisors**  
Rakesh Malhotra  
Ramesh Soparwala  
Madhu Patel  
Vandana Jhingan  
Neelam Verma

**Legal Advisors**  
Seth Kebron  
Ankush Ansal

**Special Contributor**  
Rajesh Ansal

**Special Correspondent**  
Sunita Verma

**Social Media**  
Pooja Singh

**Chicago Office:**  
Lincolnwood, IL 60712

**Surrey Canada Office**  
surrey@indoutribune.com

**San Jose Office**  
sanjose@indoutribune.com

**Delhi Office:**  
delhi@indoutribune.com

**Disclaimer**

The aim of IndoUS Tribune is to entertain, educate and inform the readers. The opinions expressed in our published works are those of the author(s) and do not reflect the opinions of IndoUS Tribune or the editors. The information contained in our published work has been obtained by IndoUS Tribune nor its authors guarantees the accuracy or completeness of any information published herein and neither IndoUS Tribune nor its authors shall be responsible for any errors, omissions, or claims for damages, including exemplary damages, arising out of use, inability to use, or with regard to the accuracy or sufficiency of the information contained in this publication. Neither the editor, nor the publisher or any other party associated with the production of IndoUS Tribune accept the responsibility of any accident or injury resulting from the use of materials contained herein. All the content of the IndoUS Tribune is printed and published in Chicago. All rights reserved. No part of any work published in the paper may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording, or otherwise, without written permission from the publisher.

**BOOK**  
CLASSIFIED ADS



marketing@indoutribune.com

# Oil, power, and the edge of conflict

## The global stakes of the U.S.-Iran confrontation



**Dr. Avi Verma**

**T**he escalating confrontation between the United States and Iran has once again placed the world at the crossroads of geopolitics and energy security. What might initially appear as another Middle Eastern military flashpoint has quickly evolved into a crisis with profound implications for global resources, economic stability, and the delicate architecture of international diplomacy. At the center of this unfolding drama is a familiar but increasingly dangerous equation: energy, power, and strategic geography.

For decades, the Persian Gulf has been the artery through which the lifeblood of the global economy flows. Roughly one-fifth of the world's oil supply moves through the Strait of Hormuz, a narrow maritime corridor that connects Gulf oil producers to global markets. When tensions rise in this region, the world feels it almost immediately—in rising fuel prices, shaken markets, and growing geopolitical uncertainty.

Today, the stakes are even higher. Following intensified hostilities between the United States and Iran and the transition of power after the death of Ali Khamenei, Iran's leadership has entered a new phase under Mojtaba Khamenei, the country's newly elevated supreme authority. His emergence signals a harder ideological line and a readiness to use Iran's strategic geography and energy leverage as tools of resistance against Western pressure. In Tehran's strategic calculus, controlling pressure points in global supply chains—especially energy routes—is a powerful equalizer against militarily superior adversaries.

**The weaponization of energy**

Oil has long been a political instrument, but the current crisis underscores how deeply energy and security have become intertwined. With threats to shipping lanes and the potential disruption of tanker traffic through the Strait of Hormuz, global markets have already reacted with alarm. Energy analysts warn that prolonged instability in the Gulf could trigger one of the most severe supply disruptions in decades. Oil prices have surged past the psychological threshold of \$100 per barrel, reviving fears of inflation and economic slowdown across major economies.

This is not merely a regional issue. Energy markets are among the most interconnected systems in the modern global order. A tanker delayed in the Gulf can ripple through supply chains in Europe, Asia, and North America. Fuel prices influence everything—from airline tickets to fertilizer costs to food inflation. The modern economy runs on energy stability. When that stability is threatened, the consequences cascade rapidly across sectors.

**A New Phase in Iran's Strategic Doctrine**

Iran's leadership transition has added a new layer of unpredictability to the crisis.



Under Mojtaba Khamenei, Tehran appears poised to double down on a strategy of asymmetric pressure—leveraging regional proxies, maritime chokepoints, and energy infrastructure to counterbalance Western military superiority. This approach is rooted in decades of Iranian strategic thinking. If direct confrontation with the United States is untenable, Iran can still exert enormous influence by targeting vulnerabilities within the global economic system.

Shipping routes, pipelines, ports, and energy infrastructure become instruments of geopolitical negotiation. In effect, the battlefield extends far beyond the Middle East. It reaches into financial markets, energy exchanges, and the strategic calculations of governments across the world.

**India's strategic balancing act**

For India, the implications of this conflict are immediate and complex. As the world's third-largest oil consumer, India imports nearly 85–90 percent of its crude oil. A significant share of that supply originates in or transits through the Gulf region. Any prolonged disruption in shipping lanes or energy exports would place immense pressure on India's economy. Higher oil prices translate into a heavier import bill, inflationary pressures, and stress on fiscal balances. In a country where fuel costs ripple through transportation, agriculture, and manufacturing, the economic consequences could be far-reaching.

**But India's challenge is not only economic—it is diplomatic.**

New Delhi maintains strategic relationships across the geopolitical spectrum. It shares an expanding strategic partnership with the United States, while also maintaining historical ties with Iran. India has invested heavily in the Chabahar Port project in southeastern Iran, a key corridor designed to connect India to Afghanistan and Central Asia while bypassing Pakistan. At the same time, India has deepened defense and technological cooperation with Israel, another key player in the region's evolving security dynamics.

Navigating these overlapping relationships requires careful diplomatic balancing. India cannot afford to alienate Iran, given its strategic geography and energy resources. Yet it must also maintain alignment with Western partners who play an essential role in technology, trade, and security cooperation. This delicate balancing act has become a defining feature of India's foreign policy in the twenty-first century.

**Global economic reverberations**

The ripple effects of the U.S.–Iran confrontation extend far beyond energy markets. Financial markets have already begun to show signs of anxiety. Stock indices have fluctuated sharply amid fears of supply disruptions and geopolitical escalation. Insurance premiums for shipping in the Gulf have risen, increasing the cost of transporting goods across global trade routes.

**If the crisis intensifies, several global consequences could follow:**

- ▶ **Energy inflation:** Higher oil and gas prices feeding global inflation.
- ▶ **Trade disruption:** Increased shipping costs and delays across maritime routes.
- ▶ **Economic slowdown:** Rising fuel costs dampening industrial growth.
- ▶ **Geopolitical polarization:** Major powers aligning with competing blocs.

The world economy remains fragile after years of pandemic recovery, supply-chain disruptions, and regional conflicts. Another prolonged energy shock could test the resilience of that recovery.

**The risk of strategic miscalculation**

Perhaps the most dangerous aspect of the current crisis is the risk of escalation through miscalculation. History is replete with examples where regional confrontations spiraled into broader conflicts. When military operations intersect with critical economic infrastructure—oil terminals, shipping lanes, refineries—the stakes become global almost overnight. A missile strike on an energy facility or a blockade of shipping routes could transform the crisis from a geopolitical dispute into a full-scale economic emergency.

Diplomacy, therefore, remains the only sustainable path forward. Yet diplomacy in today's polarized international environment is increasingly difficult. Rivalries between major powers complicate mediation efforts, while domestic political pressures within each country limit room for compromise.

**A world at an inflection point**

The unfolding confrontation between the United States and Iran represents more than a regional conflict. It is a reminder that global stability remains deeply dependent on fragile geopolitical balances—especially in regions that control vital resources. Energy security, maritime freedom, and geopolitical influence have once again converged in the waters of the Persian Gulf.

For India and other major economies, the lesson is clear: diversification of energy sources, strategic reserves, and resilient supply chains are no longer optional policies—they are national security imperatives. The coming months will determine whether the current crisis stabilizes through diplomacy or deepens into a prolonged geopolitical confrontation.

In an era already marked by shifting alliances and contested power, the world now watches the Gulf with renewed anxiety. For what unfolds there will not remain confined to the Middle East. It will reverberate across the global order.

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

### U.S. Treasury's Bessent to meet Chinese vice premier in Paris ahead of Trump visit

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

U.S. Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent will meet Chinese Vice Premier He Lifeng on Sunday and Monday in Paris for a new round of trade talks, the Treasury Department said on Thursday. The meetings are seen as preparatory work for President Donald Trump's state visit to Beijing, starting March 31.

The visit would be the first by a U.S. president to China since Trump's 2017 trip and follows a one-year trade truce agreed last year in Busan, South Korea. Talks are expected to focus on reducing the trade imbalance, potential Chinese purchases of U.S. products like soybeans and airplanes, and maintaining stable relations between the world's two largest economies. China has not yet confirmed either the Paris meetings or the state visit.

### Argentina grants asylum to Brazilian January 8 rioter, stirring election tensions

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Argentina has granted asylum to Joel Borges Correa, a Brazilian convicted for participating in the 2023 January 8 riots aimed at overturning former President Jair Bolsonaro's electoral defeat. Borges Correa fled to Argentina in 2024 and argued he faced political persecution for his opposition to President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva. Argentina's refugee commission accepted his claim, granting him asylum. The move could influence Brazil's upcoming presidential election in October, where opposition candidate Flávio Bolsonaro is gaining traction. Analysts say the decision may be used by Brazil's opposition to argue the January 8 riots were politically motivated protests rather than a coup attempt.

### Canada and Mexico stress importance of trilateral trade pact ahead of US talks

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Canadian and Mexican officials emphasized the priority of maintaining the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement as Washington signals interest in bilateral deals. Canada's ambassador to Mexico, Cameron MacKay, and Mexican deputy trade secretary Luis Rosendo Gutierrez told a conference in Mexico City that the trilateral pact remains central to both countries' trade strategies. The remarks follow U.S. President Donald Trump's announcement of two new trade investigations targeting 16 countries over forced labor and industrial overcapacity. Mexican Economy Minister Marcelo Ebrard said most Mexican trade is covered by USMCA and would not be affected by Section 301 investigations, which allow the U.S. to probe unfair foreign trade practices.

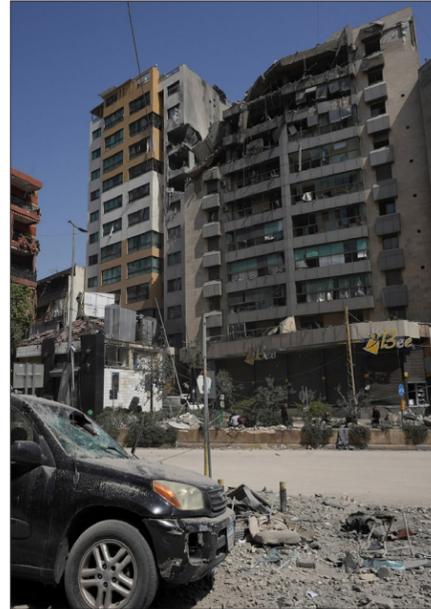
## Israel strikes Beirut and orders mass evacuation in southern Lebanon

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Israel escalated its conflict with Hezbollah on Thursday, striking central Beirut and ordering residents up to 25 miles from the border to evacuate north. The evacuation affects major cities including Nabatieh and dozens of villages, with warnings issued for neighborhoods near restaurants, shelters, and government offices in Beirut. The move follows Hezbollah and Iran's coordinated attacks using more than 200 rockets and drone strikes on Israel, targeting military bases in Haifa, Tel Aviv, and Beersheba. Lebanese authorities reported at least 70 deaths, including two academics at Lebanese University. President Joseph Aoun condemned the strikes as violations of international law, marking the most intense exchanges in the 10-day conflict.

Israel escalated its conflict with Hezbollah on Thursday, striking central Beirut and ordering residents up to 25 miles from the border to evacuate north. The evacuation affects major cities including Nabatieh and dozens of villages, with warnings issued for neighborhoods near restaurants, shelters, and government offices in Beirut. The move follows

Hezbollah and Iran's coordinated attacks using more than 200 rockets and drone strikes on Israel, targeting military bases in Haifa, Tel Aviv, and Beersheba. Lebanese authorities reported at least 70 deaths, including two academics at Lebanese University. President Joseph Aoun condemned the strikes as violations of international law, marking the most intense exchanges in the 10-day conflict.



## Canada to invest billions in northern defense and infrastructure projects

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney announced on Thursday that his government will spend billions to strengthen military presence and infrastructure in the North, asserting sovereignty over the strategically important region. An additional \$32 billion Canadian (US\$24 billion) will support forward operating locations in Yellowknife, Inuvik, Iqaluit, and Goose Bay.

The plan includes \$2.7 billion Canadian (US\$1.9 billion) for four new remote hubs to enable rapid deployment, alongside investments in roads and ports, including the Mackenzie Valley Highway linking Yellowknife and Inuvik. Carney emphasized Canada cannot rely on other nations for its



security. The announcement comes amid growing international tensions and concerns over the Arctic's role in global trade, climate change, and geopolitical competition.

## US bars foreign nationals from SBA small business loans

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The US Small Business Administration announced on Tuesday that foreign nationals and non-citizens are barred from all federally backed small business loans, including Microloan and Surety Bond programs. Applicants must now be US citizens or nationals with a principal US residence. The policy expands restrictions previously applied to 7(a) and 504 loans amid record demand for funding. SBA Administrator Kelly Loeffler said prioritizing American entrepreneurs is essential to drive economic growth and job creation. Lawful permanent residents will no longer qualify for ownership in businesses seeking SBA financing. The new rules, effective 30 days after publication, also include stricter



citizenship verification and plans to relocate some field offices from sanctuary cities.

## Australia releases part of fuel reserves to ease regional shortages

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Australia will release nearly 20 percent of its fuel stockpile after Energy Minister Chris Bowen reduced minimum stock obligations for petrol and diesel. The move frees roughly 300 million liters of petrol and 500 million liters of diesel for regional areas facing shortages. Bowen said the release could not guarantee immediate delivery due to the country's size but ruled out rationing or excise cuts. Petrol prices rose nearly 50 cents per liter in major cities, while diesel surged up to 68 cents. The release is part of the world's largest coordinated oil reserve action led by the International Energy Agency and aims to calm panic buying and regional fuel scarcity.

## Germany's former economy minister warns of global weaponization beyond energy

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Robert Habeck, Germany's former economy minister, said the era of energy as a political weapon has shifted to "weaponizing everything" under President Donald Trump's administration. Habeck, who managed Germany's last energy crisis, criticized past reliance on Russian gas and pipelines, which left Europe vulnerable during the Ukraine war. He said the new geopolitical environment now uses tariffs, technology, and other tools as instruments of coercion. Habeck defended Germany's focus on renewable energy and delayed nuclear shutdowns to prevent shortages, while acknowledging public frustration over inflation and energy policies. He called for accelerated adoption of clean energy and electrification in transport and heating.

## European Commission threatens Venice Biennale over planned Russian participation



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The European Commission warned it could suspend a \$2.2 million grant if the Venice Biennale proceeds with plans to include Russia in its 2026 exhibition. The commission said allowing Russia violates European ethical standards, as the country fails to uphold democratic values and has damaged Ukrainian cultural heritage. Organizers, led by Pietrangelo Buttafuoco, argued that the festival promotes dialogue by including all conflict zones. The Biennale runs from May 9 to November 22. EU and Ukrainian ministers criticized the decision, citing the destruction of over 1,600 cultural sites and the killing of more than 340 artists during Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine.

**Karnataka expands partnership with British Council to strengthen English learning in rural libraries**



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**T**he southern Indian state of Karnataka on Thursday expanded its partnership with the British Council to improve English learning resources in rural communities. Under the initiative, the number of British Council library corners in village knowledge centers known as Arivu Kendras will increase from 10 to 70 across the state.

The agreement was signed in Bengaluru under the leadership of Rural Development Minister Priyank Kharge. The British Council will provide 3,000 English language children's books and free access to digital learning resources. Karnataka currently operates 5,884 village libraries, and the government plans to expand the network to more than 12,000 centers in the coming years. Officials said the initiative will help rural students gain better access to global knowledge platforms and improve opportunities for higher education and employment.

**India joins global call to protect United Nations peacekeepers in Lebanon**



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**I**ndia joined 29 other countries on Wednesday in urging protection for United Nations peacekeepers deployed in Lebanon amid escalating hostilities in the region. The joint statement referred to the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon, which monitors the ceasefire along the border with Israel. Countries called on all parties to ensure the safety of peacekeeping personnel and facilities under international law. India currently contributes 642 personnel to the mission, making it the second largest contingent in the force of about 7,400 troops.

The appeal came after three peacekeepers from Ghana were injured during heavy fighting in southern Lebanon. The statement condemned attacks on peacekeepers and called for those responsible to be held accountable while urging all sides to respect international humanitarian law.

**Jaishankar speaks with global counterparts as India steps up diplomacy on West Asia crisis**

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**I**ndia has intensified diplomatic engagement over the escalating conflict in West Asia, with External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar holding a series of calls with key international counterparts to discuss the crisis and its wider implications.

In recent days, Jaishankar spoke with foreign ministers from several countries, including Seyed Abbas Araghchi of Iran, Johann Wadepuhl of Germany, Cho Hyun of South Korea, Jean-Noel Barrot of France, and Sugiono of Indonesia. The conversations focused on the rapidly evolving security situation and the need to prevent further escalation.

The crisis began on Friday, February 28, after joint strikes by the United States and Israel on Iran triggered retaliatory attacks across the region. The fighting has since disrupted shipping routes and raised concerns over global energy supplies.



India has repeatedly called for restraint and urged all sides to pursue dialogue and diplomacy to restore stability. The government has also been monitoring the safety of Indian nationals in the region and the potential impact on energy security and trade flows, which remain critical for the country's economy and its large diaspora in West Asia.

**India sends humanitarian aid to cyclone hit Madagascar and flood affected Mozambique**



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**I**ndia has sent humanitarian assistance to both Madagascar and Mozambique following severe natural disasters earlier this year. On Wednesday, an Indian Air Force aircraft delivered 12 tonnes of medical supplies and 18 tonnes of disaster relief material to Madagascar after cyclones Cyclone Fytia and Cyclone Gezani caused widespread damage. Relief items included medicines, tents, water tanks, dignity kits, and ready to eat meals.

India also dispatched 500 tonnes of rice, 10 tonnes of relief supplies, and three tonnes of medicines to Mozambique after floods displaced thousands. Officials said the assistance reflects India's role as a first responder and development partner in the Indian Ocean region and Africa.

**India and United States explore deeper defense cooperation during army talks**

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**S**enior military leaders from India and the United States held discussions in New Delhi on Thursday to strengthen defense cooperation and regional security coordination. Joel B. Vowell, deputy commanding general of the United States Army Pacific, met Indian Army chief Upendra Dwivedi and Vice Chief of Army Staff Pushpendra Singh.

The talks focused on Indo Pacific security, expanding military engagement, and improving interoperability through joint exercises and training. Both sides also explored new areas of cooperation across operational domains. The meeting followed the ongoing India United States joint special forces exercise Vajra Prahar being conducted at the Special Forces Training School in Bakloh, Himachal Pradesh.

The exercise, which began on Monday,



February 24 and runs until Sunday, March 16, includes 45 Indian special forces personnel and 12 United States Green Berets. Officials said the training aims to strengthen operational readiness, build mutual trust, and enhance cooperation in complex mountainous terrain.

**India and Fiji explore stronger cooperation in climate action and digital communications**



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**I**ndia and Fiji held discussions on Tuesday aimed at expanding cooperation in climate initiatives, digital communications, and capacity building. India's High Commissioner Suneet Mehta met Fiji's Minister for Information, Environment and Climate Change Lynda Tabuya in Suva. The talks focused on collaboration in digital and multimedia communications, waste management, training programs, and climate action.

Mehta also met Filimone Waqabaca, chief executive of the Fiji Development Bank, to explore opportunities in development finance and sustainable investment. Relations between the two countries have strengthened in recent years, particularly after Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited Fiji in 2014 for the first summit of the Forum for India Pacific Islands Cooperation. Both sides reaffirmed their commitment to expanding economic and development partnerships.

**India reviewing diesel supply requests from Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, and Maldives**

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

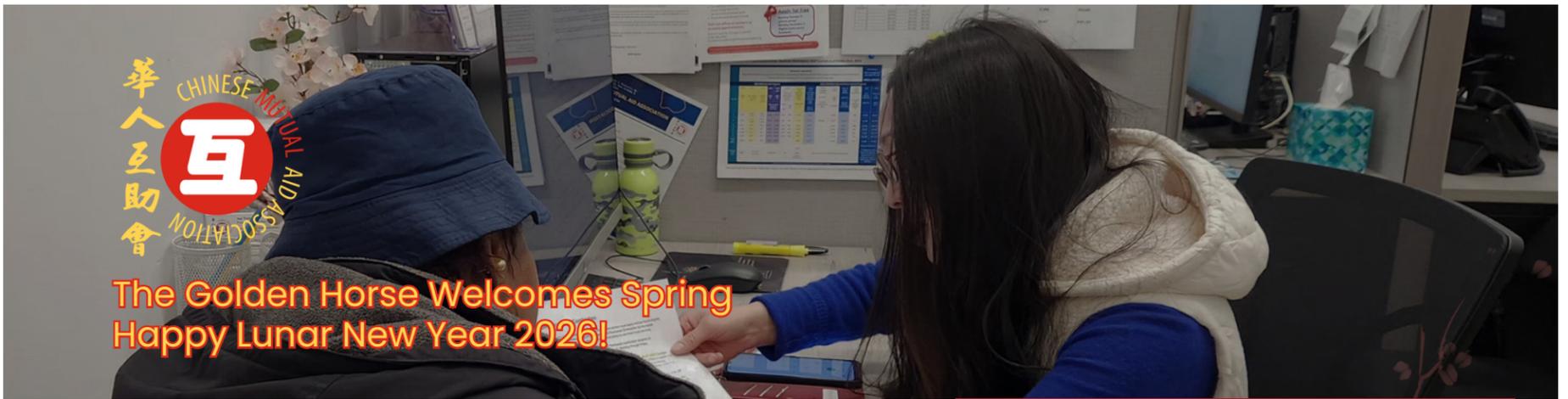
**I**ndia is examining requests from several neighboring countries seeking diesel supplies amid concerns over global energy disruptions linked to tensions in West Asia. Speaking on Thursday, foreign ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said the government had received a request from Bangladesh for diesel supply, which is currently under review. Similar requests have also come from Sri Lanka and the Maldives.

India has been supplying diesel to Bangladesh since 2007, including through the India Bangladesh Friendship Pipeline. A fuel supply agreement was signed in October 2017 between Numaligarh Refinery and Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation.

Officials said any decision on additional exports will consider India's domestic fuel needs and refining capacity. Energy concerns



have risen globally after disruptions to shipping through the Strait of Hormuz heightened fears of supply shortages.



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

**Do you need help with these services? CMAA can help you at no cost.**

**CONTACT US:**

- 9 am - 5 pm (Mon - Fri)
- socialservicesreferral@chinesemutualaid.org
- chinesemutualaid.org

**Chicago - Argyle:**  
1112 W Argyle St  
Chicago IL, 60640  
(773) 784-2900

**Chicago - Broadway:**  
4853 N Broadway  
Chicago IL, 60640  
(773) 784-2900

**Chicago - Peterson:**  
2424 W Peterson Ave  
Chicago IL, 60659  
(773) 784-2900

**Elgin:**  
357 Division St, 3rd Fl  
Elgin IL, 60120  
(847) 289-1138



**Food & Cash Assistance**  
SNAP/LINK, TANF, AABD



**Medicaid**  
All Kids, Family Care, Moms and Babies



**Energy Assistance**  
Electric, heating/cooling bill assistance, reduced water and sewer bills, and weatherization



**Senior Transit Benefit**  
RTA (Free/Reduced Rides), Benefit Access (Free Rides & License Plate Discount)



**Housing Assistance**  
CHA Section 8



**Translation & Interpretation**  
Cantonese, Burmese, Lao, Thai, Hindi, Mandarin & Vietnamese



**Case Management & Referral**  
Assess needs and help provide and/or connect with appropriate resources.









**Available Online**

[www.indoutribune.com](http://www.indoutribune.com)



### Appeals court allows most of California's children's online safety law to proceed



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

A federal appeals court on Thursday lifted much of an injunction blocking California's law protecting children from harmful online content. The 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals ruled that trade group NetChoice was unlikely to prove the law unconstitutional on its face, rejecting claims it violated First Amendment rights of companies including Amazon, Google, Meta, Netflix, and X. The court allowed enforcement of most provisions while agreeing that restrictions on personal data use and "dark patterns" were too vague. The case returns to a lower court for further proceedings. California Attorney General Rob Bonta called the ruling a "critical win" for children's safety.

### CDC warns of little-known virus spreading across the United States

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The human metapneumovirus is spreading in the U.S., including California and the Great Lakes, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The virus causes fever, cough, and nasal congestion, and has no vaccine or specific treatment. Children, the elderly, and people with weakened immune systems are at higher risk of severe illness. Supportive care includes hydration, oxygen, and use of humidifiers. HMPV cases reached 5 percent of nationwide respiratory virus tests the week ending February 28, higher than COVID-19 but lower than influenza and RSV. California reported 8.6 percent positivity in clinical tests, marking a higher-than-usual level for this season.

### FBI opens first office in Ecuador to fight drug trafficking

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The United States opened its first FBI office in Ecuador on Wednesday to combat drug trafficking and organized crime. The office will work with Ecuadorian authorities, building on joint operations such as a strike against a narcoterrorist supply complex last week. Ecuadorian President Daniel Noboa and U.S. officials emphasized the move strengthens security and diplomatic ties while targeting narcoterrorist networks. The initiative follows the launch of the Americas Counter Cartel Coalition, a new 17-nation alliance announced by President Donald Trump to combat drug cartels and corruption across the hemisphere.

## Trump urges Republicans to make elections bill top priority ahead of midterms

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

President Donald Trump on Monday told House Republicans that passing his Safeguard American Voter Eligibility (SAVE) America Act must be their primary focus heading into the midterm elections. Speaking from his Doral, Florida, golf club during the party's annual policy retreat, Trump said clearing the bill through the Senate would prevent Democrats from retaking the House. The legislation, passed by the House in February but stalled in the Senate, would require voter applicants to provide proof of citizenship in person, including a government-issued ID, passport, and certified birth certificate. Trump urged Senate Majority Leader John Thune to use the talking filibuster rule to advance the bill, though Thune warned the process could take months. Trump also



called for new provisions restricting mail-in voting, banning gender-related surgery for children, and preventing "men in women's sports." He emphasized the bill's passage is crucial for national survival and suggested he would not approve other legislation until it becomes law.

### Six United States crew members killed after refueling plane crash in Iraq



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

All six United States crew members aboard a KC 135 Stratotanker were confirmed dead after the aircraft crashed in western Iraq on Thursday while supporting operations linked to the conflict with Iran. United States Central Command said on Friday that the cause of the crash remains under investigation but confirmed it was not due to hostile or friendly fire. Officials added that two aircraft were involved in the incident and that the other landed safely. Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth described the crew as heroes and honored their service. The crash brings the number of United States service members killed since the war began in late February to twelve, with another death reported earlier due to a medical issue.

### Michigan synagogue and Virginia university targeted in shocking day of violence

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Thursday saw two separate attacks in the United States, raising fears over homegrown violence amid rising tensions abroad. In West Bloomfield, Michigan, a 41-year-old U.S. citizen born in Lebanon drove a truck into Temple Israel and its preschool. Security personnel quickly intervened, killing the attacker and evacuating all 140 children safely. Thirty law enforcement officers were treated for smoke inhalation from a fire caused during the crash. Authorities said the attacker had lost family members in a recent Israeli strike in Lebanon.



Norfolk, Virginia, a convicted Islamic State supporter opened fire in a classroom, killing one and wounding two Army personnel before being subdued and killed by Reserve Officer Training Corps students. The FBI is investigating both incidents as targeted acts of terrorism and antisemitic violence.

## US faces historic weather extremes as storms, heat and polar vortex converge

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The United States is bracing for a series of unprecedented weather events this week, with nearly every region affected. Hawaii faces days of heavy rain from an atmospheric river, while Alaska sees temperatures about 30 degrees below normal. The Southwest is set to bake under a heat dome, with Phoenix forecast to hit 107 degrees Fahrenheit (42 Celsius)

later this week, well before its usual first 100-degree day in May. The Midwest and East will endure a polar vortex, with Minneapolis near zero and Chicago in single digits. Two snowstorms along the northern tier could deliver up to four feet of snow, including a rare land-based bomb cyclone. Tornadoes have already killed at least eight people in Oklahoma, Michigan, and Indiana. Meteorologists say the extreme jet stream is driving wild swings from hot to cold and back again.

### Texas governor warns of cyber risks in Chinese medical devices

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Texas Governor Greg Abbott on Tuesday ordered state agencies and medical facilities to review cybersecurity risks tied to medical devices made in China. Abbott cited federal warnings that unauthorized actors could access protected health data remotely. The directive follows a November executive

order requiring agencies to strengthen defenses against Chinese cyberthreats. Abbott also directed the Texas Health and Human Services Commission to run awareness campaigns and submit recommendations by April 17. Nearly half of U.S. medical devices are imported, with \$15 billion of Chinese-made equipment among \$102 billion imported in 2024, raising concerns over patient safety and national security.

### Socialist groups linked to nationwide student walkouts, report says

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

A new report says socialist organizations are influencing student walkouts across the United States. In Oakland, California, 11 schools protested Immigration and Customs Enforcement arrests, with videos showing students reading scripted messages. Similar walkouts occurred in Rhode Island, Texas, North Carolina, and Oregon. Defending Education tracked 357 protests this year, up from 51 last year, often using signs provided by the Party for Socialism and Liberation. The report says groups like Young Democratic Socialists of America are grooming students via social media, offering attention and support rather than focusing solely on the causes.

### Trump administration sues California over vehicle-emission rules

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The Trump administration sued California Thursday over its strict vehicle-emission standards, challenging rules aimed at reducing car pollution. The lawsuit follows Trump's 2025 block on the state's ban of new gas-powered cars by 2035. California Governor Gavin Newsom criticized the move amid rising gas prices, which average \$5.37 per gallon in the state. The administration argued even the state's less stringent standards are unlawful, calling electric vehicle mandates "oppressive" and costly. California maintains authority to set stricter emissions rules under federal law, with other states allowed to follow its standards.

## NASA clears Artemis moon rocket for April launch after repairs

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

NASA has cleared its Artemis II moon rocket for an April launch with four astronauts after completing repairs to address hydrogen fuel leaks and a helium-flow problem. The 322-foot rocket will roll back to the pad at Kennedy Space Center next week, aiming for a launch as early as April 1, marking humanity's first lunar mission in over 50 years. NASA officials caution the mission carries significant risks due to long gaps since the last Space Launch System flight. NASA's administrator Jared Isaacman has restructured the Artemis program to accelerate lunar missions, targeting one or two moon landings in 2028.

## U.S. trade deficit narrows as exports reach record high in January

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The U.S. trade deficit narrowed sharply in January, driven by a surge in exports to a record \$302.1 billion and a slight drop in imports to \$356.6 billion. The goods trade deficit fell 17.6% to \$81.8 billion, supported by gains in industrial supplies, capital goods, and technology exports. Exports of services also reached a record \$106.7 billion, led by financial and business services. Imports of consumer goods, especially pharmaceuticals, declined, while capital goods imports rose to a record high. Economists say if the trend continues, trade could boost economic growth in the first quarter, offsetting some challenges from tariffs and global supply disruptions.

## Senate fails to resolve Homeland Security funding amid airport delays



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Senators from both parties failed on Thursday to pass funding for the Transportation Security Administration, raising concerns over airport security amid the busy spring break season. Efforts to approve a full Department of Homeland Security budget or a short-term extension fell short of the 60-vote threshold. TSA officials warned that more than 300 officers have quit since the funding lapse began, straining airport operations. Several airports, including Philadelphia, Houston Hobby, and New Orleans, reported security lines exceeding two hours. Republicans and Democrats blamed each other for the standoff, with airlines warning that prolonged delays could disrupt record-breaking travel periods as 171 million passengers are expected to fly.

## Muslim families challenge Texas over exclusion from voucher program

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Four Muslim parents and three private schools have filed federal lawsuits against Texas officials, claiming the state discriminated against Islamic institutions in its private school voucher program. The suits, filed March 1 and March 11, target Attorney General Ken Paxton, Acting Comptroller Kelly Hancock, and Education Commissioner Mike Morath. Gov. Greg Abbott's 2025 law allows families to use public funds for private schooling, but no Islamic schools have been accepted. Plaintiffs argue schools blocked from participation meet all eligibility criteria and have no ties to terrorism, seeking court orders to allow inclusion before the March 17 application deadline.



## Trump suggests Cuba could face friendly or unfriendly U.S. takeover

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

President Donald Trump on Monday said Cuba faces severe humanitarian challenges and could experience a U.S. takeover, which he described as possibly friendly or not. Speaking at Trump National Doral Miami, he said Secretary of State Marco Rubio is leading negotiations. Trump said Cuba is "down to fumes," lacking money and energy, and emphasized ongoing discussions between Cuban officials and U.S. representatives. Earlier this year, the administration cut off Havana's oil supply after capturing Venezuelan leader Nicolás Maduro, further isolating Cuba. Trump



has urged Cuba to reach an agreement and praised Rubio's role in handling Cuban and Venezuelan affairs, while the island nation's leader has insisted talks respect Cuban sovereignty and international law.

## Federal judge halts construction of Maryland immigration detention center

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

A federal judge in Maryland issued a temporary restraining order on Wednesday to pause construction of a 1,500-bed immigration detention center after the state sued over environmental concerns. Maryland Attorney General Anthony Brown argued that the federal government, under President Donald Trump, had not conducted proper environmental reviews

or public consultations. The 54-acre site in Washington County had received over \$100 million for conversion into a detention facility. Judge Brendan Hurson granted the pause for up to 14 days while broader legal challenges are considered. Rights advocates have criticized Trump's immigration crackdown for creating unsafe conditions and violating due process, while officials maintain the expansion is necessary to improve border enforcement.



## Senate Democrats intensify criticism of Trump's Iran war

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Senate Democrats escalated their criticism of President Donald Trump's war in Iran on Thursday, calling it illegal, costly, and unconstitutional while demanding public testimony from top officials. Senator Tim Kaine said the United States had been drawn into a conflict without congressional authorization, with rising costs to troops, Americans, and Iranian civilians. Senators Tammy Baldwin, Cory Booker, Chris Murphy, Adam Schiff, and Tammy Duckworth pressed for hearings with Secretary of State Marco Rubio and Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth. Senator Elizabeth Warren also questioned the expected \$50 billion war funding, noting the funds could instead reduce domestic costs such as health care. Anti-war demonstrations in California highlighted growing public opposition.

## White House celebrates Women's History Month with tribute and policy focus

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The White House marked Women's History Month with a ceremony honoring women's contributions to society. First Lady Melania Trump praised women for shaping families, communities, and future generations, urging young women to pursue education, ambition, and risk-taking. President Donald Trump highlighted historical figures such as Martha Washington, Rosa Parks, and Amelia Earhart and emphasized women's roles in the workforce, noting the creation of 300,000 women-held jobs and 1.2 million new women-owned businesses. The event featured speakers including a waitress, a mother of seven, a second-generation farmer, and law enforcement officials, who shared stories of career advancement, balancing family, and benefiting from government policies. Olympic athlete Kaillie Humphries presented Trump with an Order of Ikko medal.

## Senate debate intensifies over citizenship verification for voting

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Lawmakers debated the proposed Save America Act on Thursday, a bill requiring proof of U.S. citizenship and photo identification for federal elections. Senator Richard Durbin warned that the measure could disenfranchise millions, as many Americans lack passports or birth documents linking name changes. Republicans defended the legislation, saying it safeguards election integrity while providing alternative verification for voters without documents. Senator Mike Lee explained that states would verify sworn statements and confirm authenticity. Durbin countered that voter fraud by non-citizens is extremely rare, citing only 24 cases in the past two decades. The debate highlights the tension between election security and voter access ahead of upcoming federal elections.

## Indian origin man charged in Singapore for defaming former prime minister and inciting racial hostility



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

A court in Singapore has charged an Indian origin man with defaming a senior government minister and attempting to promote racial hostility through social media videos. Jay Ish'haq Rajoo, 59, is accused of posting online videos targeting Lee Hsien Loong, the country's former prime minister who currently serves as a senior minister in the government. Prosecutors allege the videos contained defamatory statements and content that could incite ill will between racial groups in Singapore's multicultural society. The charges stem from posts that appeared online during the middle of the previous decade. The case is significant because it represents the first criminal prosecution under the country's Protection from Online Falsehoods and Manipulation Act since the law came into force in 2019. Under Singapore law, individuals convicted of spreading false statements can face fines of up to fifty thousand Singapore dollars, prison sentences of up to five years, or both. Separate penalties also apply to defamation and acts intended to stir hostility between racial groups.

## Federal Bureau of Investigation raises reward to one million dollars for fugitive accused of killing wife



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The Federal Bureau of Investigation has increased the reward to one million dollars for information leading to the capture of an Indian national accused of murdering his wife more than a decade ago. Bhadreshkumar Chetanbhai Patel, 35, is wanted in connection with the killing of his wife Palak Patel inside a doughnut shop in Hanover, Maryland where the couple worked. Investigators believe Patel attacked his 21-year-old wife in a back room of the shop shortly before midnight while they were working the night shift. Authorities say he fled the scene through a rear door before walking to the apartment he shared with her to collect cash and a few belongings.

He later traveled to Newark in New Jersey, where he checked into a hotel near the airport during the early morning hours before disappearing. Patel was added to the FBI's Ten Most Wanted Fugitives list and faces charges including first degree murder and unlawful flight to avoid prosecution. Investigators believe he may still be in the United States, possibly with distant relatives, or may have traveled through Canada before returning to India. Authorities warn that he should be considered armed and extremely dangerous.

# Indian origin surgeon performs United Kingdom's first long distance robotic surgery from London

● Staff Writer, IndoUS Tribune

An Indian origin surgeon based in London has performed the United Kingdom's first long distance robotic surgery on a patient located about 2,400 kilometers away in Gibraltar, marking a significant breakthrough in remote medical care.

Prokar Dasgupta, a leading robotic urological surgeon and recipient of India's Padma Shri, carried out the prostate removal surgery from the The London Clinic. The patient, 62-year-old Paul Buxton, had recently been diagnosed with prostate cancer and volunteered for the experimental procedure.

The surgery took place on Tuesday



using the Toumai Robotic Surgical System developed by MicroPort. The robot in Gibraltar was equipped with a high-definition three-dimensional camera and four robotic arms controlled remotely by the surgeon through a console in London. The connection between the

two locations was maintained through fiber optic cables with a backup fifth generation wireless network, creating a delay of just 0.06 seconds.

Medical staff in Gibraltar remained on standby in case of technical problems, but the operation was completed successfully. Dasgupta said the technology could allow top surgeons to treat patients in remote areas without requiring them to travel for specialized care.

Born in Odisha and raised in Lucknow, Dasgupta is also the first Professor of Robotic Surgery at King's College London. Another remote surgery is planned for Friday and will be broadcast to surgeons attending the European Association of Urology congress.

## Dubai issues warning to Indian expatriates over fake Iran war videos, says misinformation could lead to deportation

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Authorities in Dubai have issued a strong warning to residents, including large Indian expatriate communities, against sharing misleading or "negative" content on social media during heightened tensions in the Gulf region. A widely circulated video online shows a representative believed to be from Dubai Police cautioning people not to upload videos of accidents, fires, or other incidents that could damage the emirate's reputation. The message warns that individuals posting such material could face serious consequences, including deportation.

Officials clarified that penalties arise under the country's cybercrime legislation rather than automatic deportation. Under UAE Federal Decree Law No. 34 of 2021 on Combating Rumours and Cybercrimes, publishing false or misleading information that contradicts official announcements can lead to criminal charges. Authorities say violators may face fines starting



at 200,000 United Arab Emirates dirhams and possible jail time if misinformation spreads panic or threatens public safety. Agencies such as the UAE Cyber Security Council and Dubai International Airport have also warned about fabricated or digitally manipulated videos circulating online.

Officials urged residents to rely only on verified government channels and practice responsible online behavior to maintain public order and national security during sensitive geopolitical developments.

## Indian businessmen in Dubai open homes to shelter stranded Indians amid Middle East crisis



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Two Indian businessmen in Dubai and Ajman have stepped forward to shelter stranded Indian travelers after regional tensions triggered widespread flight cancellations across the United Arab Emirates. As airports faced disruptions and travelers struggled to find accommodation, hundreds of Indians found themselves stuck in the Gulf city with limited options. In response, businessman Yogesh Doshi, chairman of the Al Mizan Group, opened his entire residential building containing sixty four apartments to Indians stranded in Dubai. The facility is offering free lodging and food to travelers affected by the crisis. The humanitarian effort is being coordinated with the Indian People's Forum UAE and the Consulate General of India in Dubai. More than 125 Indians, including families with children, have already been given temporary shelter.

In a similar effort, businessman Dhiraj Jain from Rajasthan converted his farmhouse in Ajman into an emergency shelter for travelers who had run out of money or accommodation. Jain also deployed eleven cars, including six luxury vehicles, to pick up stranded passengers from hotels and transport them safely to the shelter. The crisis intensified after joint military strikes by the United States and Israel on Iran triggered retaliatory attacks and heightened instability across the Middle East. For many stranded travelers, the community driven initiative has provided much needed safety and relief during an uncertain period.

## Indian sailor killed after explosive boat attack hits oil tanker in Iraqi waters

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

An Indian crew member has been killed after an oil tanker was struck by an explosive laden boat near Khor Al Zubair Port in Iraq during escalating tensions in West Asia. The vessel, Safesea Vishnu, is a United States owned crude oil tanker sailing under the flag of the Marshall Islands. Maritime sources said the ship was attacked by what appeared to be a remotely operated or suicide boat believed to have been launched by Iranian forces.

The identity of the Indian national killed in the incident has not yet been publicly released. The remaining twenty-seven crew members and personnel on board were rescued and transported safely to Basra. Shipping sources described the attack as part of the growing maritime security risks in the region amid heightened tensions involving Iran and the United States.

The tanker, built in 2007, is more than



228 meters long and transports crude oil across international waters. Maritime experts note that Indian nationals make up more than fifteen percent of the global seafaring workforce, meaning that conflicts targeting commercial vessels can place large numbers of Indian crew members at risk. Industry representatives have called on governments to strengthen maritime security protections for merchant ships operating in volatile waters.

## Indian origin brothers convicted in United States fraud schemes worth millions



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**T**wo Indian origin brothers in the United States have been convicted of running a large fraud network that prosecutors say generated millions of dollars through multiple schemes. Bhaskar Savani, 60, and Arun Savani, 58, were found guilty by a federal jury of racketeering conspiracy involving visa fraud, healthcare fraud, money laundering, and tax fraud. Authorities said the brothers operated a complex network of businesses known as the Savani Group for more than a decade. Investigators found the group fraudulently billed the Medicaid program for more than \$30 million and exploited foreign workers through false visa applications. The brothers now face maximum sentences of 420 years and 415 years in prison respectively, with sentencing scheduled for Wednesday in July.

## Indian origin teen in Canada wins competition for artificial intelligence tool predicting wheat diseases



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**A**n Indian origin high school student in Canada has gained national attention after winning a science competition with an artificial intelligence project aimed at protecting crops. Gurnoor Kaur, a Grade 11 student at Central Peel Secondary School in Ontario, won the National High School Big Data Challenge organized by the STEM Fellowship. Her project uses artificial intelligence and large environmental datasets to predict wheat disease outbreaks linked to climate patterns. By analyzing temperature, humidity, and pathogen spread, the system aims to help farmers anticipate crop infections earlier. Judges said the research demonstrates how advanced data science can address global issues such as food security and climate change. Kaur's achievement highlights the growing impact of young researchers in science and technology.

## Leaving Toronto career behind, Jalandhar entrepreneur revives handwritten letters through creative art club

● Staff Writer, IndoUS Tribune

**A**fter leaving a corporate marketing career in Toronto, 25-year-old entrepreneur Stuti Kohli has returned to her hometown of Jalandhar to revive a fading form of communication: handwritten letters. Kohli founded a creative initiative called Local Arbol, a community driven art club that encourages people to reconnect with the emotional value of handwritten messages in an increasingly digital world. Through the project, members receive carefully curated packages that include a handwritten letter from the studio, illustrated art prints, postcards, and a music playlist designed to accompany the reading experience.

The concept began during the global lockdown period when Kohli was completing her undergraduate studies in Sonipat. At a time when most conversations were happening through text messages and video calls, she began sending handwritten letters to friends along with festival gifts. After moving to Canada in



2022 to work in corporate marketing, the idea of creating a small creative studio centered on art and slow communication stayed with her. She eventually returned to India to pursue the project.

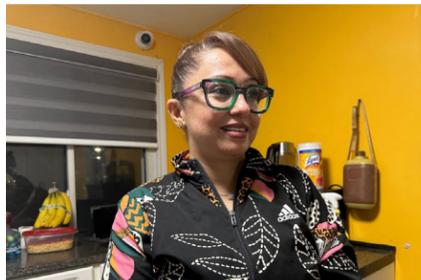
Local Arbol releases themed letter collections every few months and limits participation to around fifty members at a time to keep the experience intimate. Kohli hopes the studio, currently under development in Jalandhar, will become a quiet creative space where people can step away from fast paced digital communication and rediscover the joy of thoughtful writing.

## Family mourns Sikh influencer Nancy Grewal as Canadian police continue probe into fatal stabbing

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**T**he family of Sikh social media personality Nancy Grewal is remembering her as a compassionate and outspoken woman after she was fatally stabbed outside a residence in LaSalle, Ontario. Grewal, 45, worked as a personal support worker and was attacked outside a house on Todd Lane where she had been providing care services. Investigators have not yet announced any arrests in the case. Her sister Alisha Grewal said the two remained extremely close despite living in different countries and spoke frequently through video calls. Family members say Grewal had previously received threats online because of her outspoken criticism of Khalistan extremism on social media platforms.

Reports from Canadian broadcaster CBC News also cited security footage from a nearby home showing a hooded individual



approaching a property with a container of liquid and attempting to set part of the deck on fire shortly before the killing. Local authorities have not publicly confirmed whether the footage is linked to the fatal attack. Grewal moved to Canada in 2018 after working as a singer in India. She later became a caregiver and had plans to launch a healthcare business that would provide jobs to other caregivers in the community. Her family in India is now seeking emergency visas to travel to Canada as police continue the investigation.

## Punjab student says he was tricked into Russian military contract, family seeks government rescue

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**A** family in the Patran region of Patiala district has appealed to the Indian government for help after their son said he was unknowingly forced into military service with the Russian army. Gagandeep Singh, a resident of Dedhna village, is believed to be near the front lines of the conflict along the Russia and Ukraine border. According to his family, Singh had traveled to Russia for studies and employment opportunities after relatives spent their savings to support his education abroad. Until recently, they believed he had secured a job with a private company.

The situation emerged when Singh managed to send a video message to relatives describing how he had been persuaded by another student to sign a contract written in Russian. Believing it was an employment agreement, he signed the document. He later discovered that it had



enlisted him into military service. In the video message, Singh said he had been injured and described intense fighting in the area. He urged the Indian government to help secure his evacuation. Local Member of Parliament Dharamvira Gandhi said he had raised the issue with External Affairs Minister Subrahmanyam Jaishankar, who assured that the government would examine possible assistance.

## Indian origin chief of United Kingdom police body suspended after arrest in corruption probe

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**T**he Indian origin head of a major police representative body in the United Kingdom has been suspended following his arrest in a corruption investigation. Mukund Krishna, chief executive of the Police Federation of England and Wales, was detained by officers from the City of London Police as part of an inquiry into alleged fraud involving abuse of position. The investigation has been underway for more than a year and includes allegations connected to activities within the federation. Search warrants were executed at multiple locations during the probe. The federation, which represents more than 145,000 police officers across England and Wales, confirmed on Monday that Krishna had been suspended while the investigation continues. Authorities said the inquiry remains ongoing.

## Indian origin man faces backlash after removing goddess Lakshmi image from brand packaging

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**A**n Indian origin entrepreneur has sparked controversy online after his company removed images of the Hindu goddess Lakshmi from its product packaging. The decision drew criticism from many social media users who accused the brand of disrespecting religious imagery and abandoning cultural symbolism. Supporters of the move, however, argued that religious figures should not be used on commercial packaging that may later be discarded. The debate quickly spread across social media platforms, with users sharing screenshots of the earlier packaging that featured the goddess associated with prosperity and wealth. The company later clarified that the change was part of a rebranding effort and not intended to offend religious sentiments.

## Indian origin man may face deportation after dance video at World War II memorial goes viral

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**A**n Indian origin man in the United States may face immigration consequences after a video showing him dancing at the National World War II Memorial in Washington, D.C. sparked widespread criticism online. The man, identified as Madhu Raju, posted a video of himself dancing with a woman at the memorial dedicated to soldiers who died during World War II. The clip quickly went viral, with many viewers accusing him of disrespecting a historic war memorial. Following the backlash, the man reportedly deleted his social media profiles. Reports said authorities could examine the case under immigration rules, raising the possibility of deportation if violations are found.



### Deadly landslides in southern Ethiopia kill 50 and leave over 100 missing



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**H**eavy rains in southern Ethiopia this week have triggered landslides that killed at least 50 people and left 125 others missing in the Gamo Zone districts of Gacho Baba, Kamba, and Bonke. Rescue teams pulled one survivor from the mud, while most victims were found buried. South Ethiopia Regional State President Tilahun Kebede urged residents in flood-prone areas to move to higher ground as the rainy season continues. Mudslides and floods are common in the region; a similar disaster in 2024 claimed 229 lives. Authorities are still assessing the full impact on households.

### U.S. to close Peshawar consulate, shifting operations to Islamabad

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**T**he U.S. State Department announced it will permanently close its consulate in Peshawar, Pakistan, its closest mission to Afghanistan. The closure, which saves \$7.5 million annually, will transfer operations and consular services to the embassy in Islamabad, about 114 miles away. The Peshawar consulate employed 18 American diplomats and 89 local staff and served as a key logistics hub for Afghanistan. The decision follows a broader downsizing of U.S. diplomatic missions but is not related to the ongoing Iran war. Equipment, vehicles, and office facilities will be relocated to other Pakistani posts.

### Russian court convicts 19 over deadly 2024 Moscow concert hall attack

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**N**ineteen people were convicted for their roles in the 2024 Moscow concert hall attack that killed 149 and wounded over 600 at Crocus City Hall. Four Tajik gunmen opened fire on concertgoers and set the venue ablaze. Fifteen defendants received life sentences, and the rest were given prison terms ranging from nearly 20 to 22 1/2 years. They were also fined between \$6,300 and \$34,000. The trial, held in a military court since August 2025, was closed to the public for security reasons. Russian authorities claimed Ukraine had ties to the attack, which Kyiv denies.

## Iran demands reparations and unity as new supreme leader urges national cohesion amid war with U.S. and Israel

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**A**s the military conflict between Iran, the United States, and Israel enters its third week, Tehran has outlined three conditions for ending the war: recognition of its rights, payment of reparations for damage, and firm international guarantees against future aggression. Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian said the conflict, which began after U.S. and Israeli strikes, will not end without concrete assurances regarding Iran's security and sovereignty.

The announcement comes as Iran declared the coming week as the "Week of National Unity and Solidarity," following the first public message from the country's new Supreme Leader, Mojtaba Khamenei. Khamenei urged citizens to maintain cohesion and support defense efforts amid the conflict.

Meanwhile, U.S. President Donald Trump indicated operations would continue, citing remaining targets, while Israel maintains plans to strike additional



military and nuclear-linked sites. The war has killed nearly 2,000 people and injured over 1,100 children, disrupting regional stability and global energy markets, with oil prices spiking amid tensions around the Strait of Hormuz.

## United States launches sweeping probe into forced labor practices across 60 economies

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**T**he United States launched a broad investigation on Thursday into 60 economies, including India, China, Japan, the European Union, and the United Kingdom, to determine whether weak restrictions on imports made with forced labor harm American workers and businesses. The probe was initiated by the Office of the United States Trade Representative under Section 301 of the Trade Act of 1974.

Officials will assess whether governments have failed to effectively ban goods produced with forced labor, allowing companies to gain unfair cost advantages. Trade Representative Jamieson Greer said American firms should not have to



compete with producers benefiting from exploitative labor. The International Labor Organization estimates about 28 million people worldwide were trapped in forced labor in 2021, generating nearly \$64 billion in annual profits in the global private economy.

## China's parliament expected to approve law prioritizing Mandarin over minority languages

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**D**elegates at National People's Congress are expected to approve a new ethnic unity law this week that will prioritize the use of Mandarin in schools and public life across China. The legislation, discussed during the annual "two sessions" meetings in Beijing, would require schools to use Mandarin as the default teaching language, reducing the role of minority languages such as Tibetan, Uyghur, and Mongolian.

Human rights groups say the measure reflects President Xi Jinping's broader policy of assimilating ethnic minorities into the dominant Han culture.

Delegates are also expected to approve a new environmental code and the country's



economic development blueprint for 2026 to 2030. China has set a growth target of 4.5 percent for 2026, the lowest in decades.

### Ex-PM Oli concedes defeat as RSP wins Nepal elections decisively



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**F**ormer Prime Minister K.P. Sharma Oli accepted the people's mandate after a crushing defeat in Nepal's House of Representatives elections. Oli lost his Jhapa-5 seat to Rastriya Swatantra Party candidate Balen Shah, who secured 68,348 votes to Oli's 18,734. Oli's party won only nine of 165 seats under the First Past the Post system. The three-and-a-half-year-old RSP led by Shah and Rabi Lamichhane captured 125 seats and dominated proportional representation votes. Oli pledged to continue serving the people despite the loss, while social media highlighted public frustration toward traditional parties over corruption and repeated government instability.

### Synagogue damaged in Liege explosion, no casualties reported

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**A**n explosion damaged a synagogue in Liege, Belgium, early Monday morning, breaking windows of surrounding buildings. Authorities reported no casualties and launched an investigation to determine the cause. A security perimeter was established, with federal police attending the scene. Mayor Willy Demeyer condemned the incident as antisemitic and warned against importing foreign conflicts. The attack follows gunfire incidents at synagogues in Toronto earlier this week, prompting Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney to vow stronger protections for Jewish communities and enhanced law enforcement measures. The Liege blast underscores global concerns about rising antisemitic attacks and threats to religious sites.

### UN chief condemns drone attack that killed UNICEF staffer in Congo

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**U**N Secretary-General Antonio Guterres condemned the killing of UNICEF staffer Karine Buisset in a drone strike in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo, calling the attack "outrageous." Buisset was providing aid to children and families affected by conflict when she was killed in Goma, the North Kivu provincial capital. Peacekeepers responded immediately to the strike, and the UN urged all parties to respect international law and protect humanitarian personnel. Since January, at least 92 incidents affecting aid workers have been reported in the DRC.

### Tibetans mark 67th anniversary of uprising, emphasize resistance to Chinese repression



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Tibetans worldwide observed the 67th anniversary of the 1959 Lhasa uprising on Tuesday, highlighting their continued struggle against Chinese control. The rebellion saw Tibetans confront Chinese forces to defend their culture, faith, and dignity. Despite Beijing's surveillance, propaganda, and restrictions on language and religion, Tibetans preserve identity through faith, philosophy, and collective memory. Families pass down stories of resistance and survival, defying efforts to erase Tibetan history. The anniversary serves as both mourning and defiance, demonstrating that while China may control behavior, it cannot command belief. Observances on March 10 reaffirm Tibetan cultural resilience and the enduring hope for freedom despite physical and political constraints.

### Rights bodies condemn arrest of Pakistani women activists on International Women's Day



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Pakistan's Human Rights Council condemned the arrests of women activists and civil society members during the Women's March in Islamabad on Monday. The rights body stressed that peaceful assembly and freedom of expression are constitutional rights, and called for the immediate release of all detainees. Despite three journalists being freed, many participants remain in custody. The Baloch Yakjehti Committee also denounced the crackdown, highlighting systemic suppression of women and civil rights in Pakistan. The HRC urged authorities to ensure women and civil society can exercise democratic rights without fear. The group emphasized that silencing activists on International Women's Day undermines Pakistan's commitment to human rights.

### Russia gains oil windfall as Middle East conflict drives global prices higher

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Russia has earned roughly \$6 billion in additional revenue from rising oil prices triggered by the war involving Iran, a United States senator said during a Senate Armed Services Committee hearing on Thursday. Senator Angus King told military officials that Moscow has emerged as a major economic beneficiary of the conflict, with energy prices surging after the fighting began two weeks earlier. He said Russia is earning about \$400 million a day from higher global oil prices. Military leaders warned that instability around the Persian Gulf is raising concerns about shipping routes and supply chains. Nearly one fifth of the world's petroleum passes through the Strait of Hormuz each year, making the region critical for global energy markets and maritime security.



### Britain ends centuries old tradition by removing hereditary nobles from Parliament

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Britain's Parliament voted on Tuesday night to remove hereditary aristocrats from the House of Lords, ending a centuries old political tradition. The legislation, backed by the government of Prime Minister Keir Starmer, will oust the remaining dukes, earls, and viscounts who inherited their seats. Government minister Nick Thomas Symonds said the reform eliminates an outdated and undemocratic system. The House of Lords, which reviews legislation passed by the elected House of Commons, currently has more than 800 members and is the world's second largest legislative chamber after China's parliament. Most hereditary peers were already removed



in 1999, when the government of Prime Minister Tony Blair allowed 92 to remain temporarily. The remaining hereditary members are expected to leave once King Charles the Third grants formal approval to the bill.

### Cuba to release 51 prisoners in goodwill move linked to Vatican ties

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Cuba's government announced on Thursday night that it will release 51 prisoners in the coming days in what officials described as a goodwill gesture tied to relations with the Vatican. The Foreign Ministry said those selected have served a significant portion of their sentences and maintained good behavior in prison. Authorities did not reveal the identities of those to be freed. The announcement came hours before President Miguel Diaz Canel was scheduled to speak to the press on Friday about national and international issues. Cuba said it has granted pardons to



9,905 prisoners since 2010 and released about 10,000 more inmates over the past three years. Human rights groups estimate that more than 1,200 political prisoners remain in Cuban jails.

### Peru declares emergency in hundreds of districts as deadly rains batter country

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Peru declared a state of emergency across 283 districts this week as authorities moved to address the impact of intense rainfall threatening public safety. Regional authorities are coordinating with the National Institute of Civil Defense and several ministries to carry out emergency

response and rehabilitation work.

Ministers have been deployed to supervise relief efforts, while health brigades are providing medical and psychological support. The Health Ministry reported on Monday that 41 people have died and dozens were injured during the rainy season this year, which has also damaged about 5,500 homes and forced evacuations.

### South Korea enacts judicial reforms allowing constitutional appeals and punishing legal distortion



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

South Korea implemented major judicial reforms Thursday, allowing citizens to appeal Supreme Court rulings on constitutional grounds and punishing judges or prosecutors who intentionally distort legal principles with up to 10 years in prison. The laws also gradually expand the Supreme Court from 14 to 26 justices starting in 2028. Individuals can file complaints within 30 days of a final ruling if they allege violations of fundamental rights. Critics argue the reforms could undermine judicial independence, while supporters say they prevent interference and improve accountability. The first constitutional complaint has already been submitted by a Syrian national challenging a deportation order, signaling the law's immediate impact.

### Over 500 Uyghurs arrested in Xinjiang during Ramadan crackdown



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Chinese authorities in Xinjiang arrested more than 500 Uyghurs in Hotan during Ramadan for private fasting and religious gatherings, a report said Saturday. Checkpoints around mosques and random searches for halal food and religious texts created widespread fear. The crackdown, part of a long-standing state policy, suppresses Islamic practices, with over 16,000 mosques affected since 2017. Surveillance, facial recognition, and AI monitoring target Uyghur communities, restricting religious expression. Human rights advocates warn that the "Holy Month Siege" transforms Ramadan into a period of heightened repression, eroding communal and spiritual life. The arrests exemplify Beijing's ongoing efforts to control religious activity and cultural identity.

## AQIS seeks to revive separatist mindset in Jammu and Kashmir



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**A**l Qaeda in the Indian Subcontinent (AQIS) is attempting to use the war in Iran to recruit youth in Jammu and Kashmir, officials say. In its March Urdu magazine, the group urges Kashmiris to prioritize religion over development and restart the debate on Article 370. AQIS identifies India, the United States, Israel, the United Kingdom, France, and Spain as common enemies of Islam and frames Kashmir as the center of its campaign. Intelligence officials note that AQIS has struggled since 2014 and is now desperate to regain traction by spreading propaganda and reviving separatist sentiment. Security agencies are closely monitoring developments, including efforts to revive groups such as Lashkar-e-Taiba, Jaish-e-Mohammed, and Hizbul Mujahideen.

## Amit Shah launches digital tools and mascots for Census 2027



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**U**nion Home Minister Amit Shah unveiled four digital platforms and mascots Pragati and Vikas, symbolizing women and men, for Census 2027 in New Delhi. The tools include the House Listing Block Creator Web Application, HLO Mobile Application, Self-Enumeration Portal, and Census Management and Monitoring System Portal, all designed by the Centre for Development of Advanced Computing. Census 2027, the world's largest, will be conducted digitally for the first time in two phases, using secure mobile applications for door-to-door data collection. Over three million enumerators, supervisors, and staff will be deployed to ensure complete coverage, with the mascots emphasizing equal participation of women and men in building a developed India by 2047.

## India asserts independent oil policy amid Gulf tensions, opposition voices energy concerns

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**T**he Indian government reaffirmed that it does not need permission from any country to purchase Russian crude and will continue sourcing oil from the most competitive suppliers. The statement comes amid heightened tensions along the Strait of Hormuz, following the conflict involving Iran, the United States, and Israel.

Officials confirmed that India continues importing Russian oil, including shipments covered under a short-term U.S. waiver allowing oil already loaded on vessels at sea to be delivered. India has consistently bought Russian crude during the Russia-Ukraine war despite objections from the U.S. and European Union, with imports rising after 2022 due to discounted prices and refinery demand. Strong reserves of over 250 million barrels and a refining capacity of 258 million metric tonnes ensure domestic



supply for seven to eight weeks.

Rashtriya Janata Dal leader Tejashwi Yadav called for stronger energy independence, emphasizing that India should make sovereign decisions free from external pressure. He stressed that Prime Minister Narendra Modi must prioritize national interests and energy security amid Gulf tensions.

## AAP implements Punjab women's cash transfer scheme amid Congress protests

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**F**our years after taking office, the Aam Aadmi Party government in Punjab has launched its Chief Minister Mawan-Dhiyan Satkar Yojana, fulfilling its poll promise to provide monthly financial assistance to women. Announced in the 2026-27 Budget on International Women's Day by Finance Minister Harpal Singh Cheema, the scheme offers Rs 1,000 per month to most women above 18, with Scheduled

Caste women receiving Rs 1,500. The program covers women receiving pensions and aims to make them economically self-reliant, encouraging household decision-making, health investment, and education for daughters. Some groups, including government employees and taxpayers, are ineligible. The Congress criticized the delay, demanding payment of arrears from the past four years, and staged protests outside the Assembly, with several workers detained. Punjab expects to spend around Rs 10,000 crore annually on the scheme.



## Delhi records highest early March temperature in 50 years as north India faces heat wave

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**D**elhi experienced an unseasonably high temperature on Saturday, reaching 35.7 degrees Celsius, the highest maximum recorded during the first week of March in the past 50 years. Safdarjung, the city's base weather station, had previously logged 34.8 degrees Celsius in early March 1999. The minimum temperature was 17.4 degrees Celsius, above the seasonal average. Neighboring states also reported above-normal heat, with Hisar in Haryana hitting 36.3 degrees Celsius and Dehradun in Uttarakhand recording 31.5 degrees Celsius, five to six degrees above normal. Jammu and Katra saw temperatures several degrees above seasonal norms. The



Meteorological Department forecasts wet weather from March 10 to 12 as a western disturbance approaches, though Himachal Pradesh continues to experience heat wave conditions in districts including Kangra, Kullu, Mandi, and Solan.

## NITI Aayog warns of national security risks from quantum technology

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**N**ITI Aayog has highlighted national security and economic risks posed by quantum technology, noting that countries with quantum capabilities gain a strategic edge. Quantum computers could break encryption, threatening sensitive government, military, financial, medical, and intellectual property data. India's quantum research ecosystem faces funding constraints, with a \$750 million investment over five years, far below countries like China and the United States. The country also relies heavily on imported components such as lasers, microwave devices, and dilution refrigerators. NITI Aayog urges development of post-quantum cryptography, assessment of vulnerabilities, and bilateral partnerships to safeguard data and maintain technological competitiveness.

## Mamata Banerjee targets PM Modi over LPG prices, announces Kolkata rally

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**W**est Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee criticized Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday over rising domestic LPG prices and shortages linked to Middle East tensions. She announced a Trinamool Congress rally in Kolkata on March 16 to protest the price surge, which saw auto LPG prices rise from Rs.57.06 to Rs.62.88 per liter. Banerjee accused the Prime Minister and the central government of poor planning, enforcing the Essential Services Maintenance Act instead of addressing shortages, and suggested fuel stockpiling ahead of elections. She highlighted the impact on common citizens, small businesses, and public transport, emphasizing that subsidies alone would not solve the supply crisis.

## Taranjit Singh Sandhu appointed new lieutenant governor of Delhi



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**P**resident Droupadi Murmu has appointed former diplomat Taranjit Singh Sandhu as Delhi's new lieutenant governor, replacing Vinai Kumar Saxena, who has moved to Ladakh. Sandhu, a Bharatiya Janata Party leader, previously served as India's ambassador to the United States, high commissioner to Sri Lanka, and consul general in Frankfurt. He holds a history degree from St Stephen's College and a master's in international relations from Jawaharlal Nehru University. Saxena's nearly four-year tenure was marked by conflicts with the Aam Aadmi Party government, whereas Sandhu is expected to maintain smoother relations. The change comes amid a wider reshuffle of gubernatorial posts across nine states and union territories.

### India-UK FTA could take effect soon, says Piyush Goyal



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

India's Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal said on Friday that the proposed free trade agreement between India and the United Kingdom could come into force soon as the ratification process in Britain is moving quickly. Speaking at a virtual event in New Delhi marking two years of the India and European Free Trade Association Trade and Economic Partnership Agreement, Goyal said the deal could become one of the fastest trade agreements approved by the British Parliament. He noted that the India United Kingdom pact was signed during Narendra Modi's visit to Britain on Thursday and expressed confidence it would be implemented soon. Goyal also highlighted that the EFTA agreement includes a legally binding \$100 billion investment commitment expected to generate about one million jobs in India.

### Centre launches 'Nirbhay Raho' to enhance women's safety in rural India

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The Union government on Monday launched the "Nirbhay Raho" initiative under the Nirbhaya Fund to strengthen women's safety in Panchayati Raj Institutions. The announcement coincided with the National Conference of Women Elected Representatives, marking one year of the Sashakt Panchayat-Netri Abhiyan. Over 14.5 lakh women elected representatives across the country will receive leadership and legal training, while 17.5 lakh male representatives will be sensitized on gender equality. CCTV installation in rural areas and a compendium of model women-led Panchayats were also unveiled to promote safety, accountability, and inclusive grassroots governance.

### Over 52,000 Indians return from Gulf amid US-Iran conflict



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Between March 1 and March 7, over 52,000 Indian nationals returned safely from the Gulf region as commercial and non-scheduled "rescue" flights cleared passengers stranded during regional disruptions. The Ministry of External Affairs confirmed 32,107 traveled on Indian carriers. Indian diplomatic missions in Abu Dhabi and Dubai maintained 24x7 helplines and coordinated with local authorities to ensure safe returns. Flights resumed gradually to cities including Mumbai, Delhi, Kochi, and Hyderabad. Authorities continue to monitor airspace restrictions and regional security, emphasizing the welfare of millions of Indians living in the Gulf, particularly in the UAE.

## UP government to expand rural broadband under Project Ganga

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The Uttar Pradesh government will sign a key Memorandum of Understanding under Project Ganga on Monday to expand high-speed broadband in rural and semi-urban areas. Led by the State Transformation Commission, the initiative will empower 8,000-10,000 local entrepreneurs to operate

as Digital Service Providers, delivering internet services directly in villages. The project aims to provide connectivity to over 20 lakh households, create jobs, and support online education and digital services. Women entrepreneurs will play a central role, with a target of 50 percent representation among service providers. The MoU will be signed in Lucknow with officials from the Hinduja Group and state representatives present.



## RM Nachammai becomes first woman to lead operational nuclear power plant in India

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

RM Nachammai has become the first woman chief superintendent overseeing a functional nuclear power plant, taking charge of Karnataka's Kaiga Generating Station Units 3 and 4. Her appointment marks a milestone in India's nuclear sector and supports the country's goal of reaching 100 gigawatts of nuclear capacity by 2047. Nachammai, an Electrical and Electronics Engineering graduate with over 35 years of experience, will supervise operations, maintenance, and engineering support divisions. The promotion highlights increased female participation in a sector where only 900 of



nearly 10,000 employees are women and sets an example for future women leaders.

## PM Modi inaugurates Delhi's first ring metro network

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated two new Delhi Metro corridors on Sunday, completing the city's first fully operational ring metro. The Majlis Park-Maujpur Babarpur section of the Pink Line and the Deepali Chowk-Majlis Park stretch of the Magenta Line were opened, extending the Pink Line to 71.56 kilometers and the Magenta Line to nearly 49 kilometers. The corridors include multiple elevated stations, a bridge across the Yamuna, and a double-decker viaduct carrying both metro tracks and a road flyover. Modi also laid foundation stones for infrastructure and housing

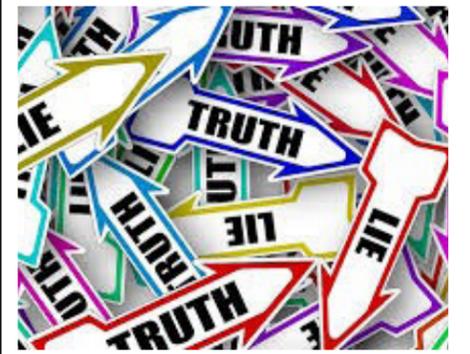


projects worth around Rs.33,500 crore, including two metro projects worth over Rs.18,300 crore.

## Centre refutes social media rumors on new Union Territory

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The government dismissed as false claims circulating online that it plans to create a new Union Territory combining districts from Bihar and West Bengal near the Siliguri Corridor. The Press Information Bureau clarified there is no such proposal under consideration and urged the public to rely only on verified information. Social media posts naming districts such as Purnea, Malda, and Kishanganj as part of a proposed territory are misleading. The Siliguri Corridor remains a strategically vital 20-22 kilometer-wide land passage connecting India's northeastern states to the rest of the country.



## Raghav Chadha calls for expansion of affordable airport cafes

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

AP MP Raghav Chadha on Monday highlighted the limited reach of the Udaan Yatri Cafe initiative, designed to provide reasonably priced food to air travelers. He noted that the scheme currently operates at only 10-12 airports, leaving most passengers without access. Chadha urged the government to expand the program nationwide and relocate cafes to post-security departure areas, where travelers spend most waiting time. He emphasized that affordable food should be considered a basic convenience rather than a luxury, ensuring wider benefits for domestic and international passengers alike.

## Sanjay Singh demands fresh Delhi elections amid liquor scam controversy



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

AP Rajya Sabha MP Sanjay Singh on Monday urged Parliament to call fresh Delhi Assembly elections, alleging a planned conspiracy weakened the government that came to power with a large majority. He claimed ministers and senior leaders were jailed, and misinformation campaigns targeted the party, noting that, for the first time in India, a sitting Chief Minister was imprisoned. Singh linked his demand to developments in the alleged liquor scam, where the High Court issued notices to previously cleared individuals. He said Delhi voters deserve a new mandate to choose their government.

**BMW warns of weaker earnings as tariffs and China competition intensify**



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**G**erman automaker BMW said on Thursday it expects pre-tax earnings to decline moderately in 2026 as trade barriers and intense competition in China weigh on performance. Chief Executive Officer Oliver Zipse said the company's strategy to overhaul its model lineup and reduce costs remains on track, but warned that global conditions remain unstable. BMW reported a 6.7 percent drop in pre-tax profit in 2025 to about \$11.78 billion. The company expects automotive profit margins to fall to between 4 and 6 percent in 2026, partly due to higher United States tariffs and a European Union levy on Chinese built electric vehicles affecting Mini models. Deliveries are expected to remain similar to 2025 levels as China sales struggle to recover.

**Estee Lauder sues Jo Malone and Zara over alleged misuse of brand name**

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**C**osmetics giant Estee Lauder said on Thursday it filed a lawsuit in a British court against entrepreneur Jo Malone, her fragrance brand Jo Loves, and Zara's United Kingdom business over the use of Malone's name on certain products. Estee Lauder bought the Jo Malone fragrance brand and the rights to the name in 1999. Malone left the company in 2006 and later launched Jo Loves in 2011. The lawsuit alleges that fragrances sold through Zara referenced "Jo Malone" in ways that violate a previous agreement restricting her commercial use of the name. The company claims breach of contract, trademark infringement, and misleading marketing. Zara's parent company Inditex and Jo Loves did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

**Anthropic challenges Pentagon ban after supply chain risk label**

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**A**rtificial intelligence company Anthropic asked a United States appeals court this week to temporarily block a Pentagon designation labeling the firm a supply chain risk while the case undergoes judicial review. The company warned that the decision could cost it billions of dollars in lost revenue. The dispute follows a week's long disagreement over safeguards governing military use of Anthropic's artificial intelligence tools. Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth recently labeled the firm a supply chain risk and barred the Pentagon and its contractors from using its technology. Anthropic argues the designation could severely damage its business and is seeking a court order allowing the company to continue operating with defense related customers during the legal review.

**IEA announces emergency release of 400 million barrels of oil to stabilize global markets**

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**T**he International Energy Agency announced on Wednesday that member countries will release 400 million barrels of oil from emergency reserves to address major supply disruptions caused by the ongoing conflict in the Middle East. The coordinated move follows an extraordinary meeting of the agency's 32 member governments to assess the impact of the crisis on global energy markets.

The emergency oil will be released gradually, depending on national circumstances, and may be supported by additional measures from individual governments. Member countries collectively hold more than 1.2 billion barrels in emergency reserves, along with another 600 million barrels of industry stocks maintained under government obligations.

According to the agency, this is the sixth coordinated stock release since the organization was created in 1974. Previous



collective actions occurred during major supply shocks in 1991, 2005, 2011, and twice in 2022.

Executive Director Fatih Birol said the current disruption is unprecedented in scale and requires a unified global response. The conflict, which began on Friday, February 28, has severely restricted oil flows through the Strait of Hormuz, where export volumes have dropped to less than 10 percent of pre conflict levels.

**Trump announces massive Texas refinery project involving India's Reliance Industries**

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**U**nited States President Donald Trump has announced what he described as a historic investment by India's Reliance Industries in a new oil refinery project planned in Port of Brownsville in Texas.

In a social media post released on Tuesday, Trump said the project represented a three-hundred-billion-dollar deal and would deliver a major boost to American energy production and employment.

He described the investment as a "massive win" for United States workers and the people of South Texas, adding that the facility would strengthen the country's energy security and increase domestic fuel supply.

The project is being developed by



the company America First Refining, which earlier announced it had secured a significant investment from an unnamed global energy company and had signed a long-term agreement to purchase and distribute oil produced from United States shale fields.

**Wall Street futures fall as oil surge fuels inflation fears and rate uncertainty**

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**U**nited States stock futures fell early Thursday as oil prices surged above \$100 a barrel amid escalating tensions in the Middle East, raising concerns about inflation and delaying expectations for interest rate cuts. Crude prices jumped after reports that two tankers were set ablaze in Iraqi waters following suspected Iranian strikes on regional energy and transport infrastructure. Analysts at Goldman Sachs pushed back their forecast for the next Federal Reserve rate cut to September instead of June. Markets now expect only one quarter point rate reduction by December. At about 3:35 a.m., futures tied to the S&P 500, Dow Jones Industrial Average, and Nasdaq 100 all declined. Investors are also closely



watching developments in the \$2 trillion private credit market and upcoming jobless claims data.

**India says strong reserves and diversified oil imports shield economy from energy shock**



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**I**ndia has sufficient oil reserves and diversified supply sources to avoid an energy crisis despite disruptions linked to the Iran conflict, a senior government official said on Thursday.

The country has strategic crude and petroleum stocks covering more than 70 days of demand and imports oil from more than 40 countries, reducing reliance on the Middle East. India's foreign exchange reserves are also strong enough to cover 11 to 12 months of imports.

Officials said discounted Russian crude accounts for about one third of total imports, alongside supplies from Iraq, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, and the United States. Neighboring countries including Pakistan, Bangladesh, and Sri Lanka face tighter fuel supplies and rising prices due to limited reserves.

**Former Deutsche Bank employees seek \$800 million in damages over Monte dei Paschi dispute**



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

**F**our former employees of Deutsche Bank are seeking more than \$800 million in damages from the German lender in a legal dispute linked to dealings involving Italy's Monte dei Paschi di Siena.

The bank disclosed the claims in its annual report on Thursday, saying the lawsuits were filed in courts in England and describing the allegations as without merit. The former bankers claim the bank's actions harmed their careers.

The damages demand comes in addition to a separate \$175.58 million claim filed by another former banker in a court in Frankfurt in 2024, with hearings expected later this year. Deutsche Bank said it will strongly contest the claims.

Friday, 13 March 2026

JetBlue flights briefly grounded in the United States after system outage



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

All flights operated by JetBlue were briefly grounded early Tuesday after a system outage disrupted operations. The halt was requested by the airline and implemented by the Federal Aviation Administration. The agency lifted the ground stop about 40 minutes later after the technical issue was resolved. JetBlue said normal operations resumed shortly afterward but did not provide details about the cause of the outage. The airline, headquartered in New York City, operates a major hub at John F. Kennedy International Airport. Technology outages have occasionally affected airline operations across the United States in recent years, sometimes causing widespread delays.

Uber expands women only ride matching feature across the United States



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Uber launched a nationwide feature on Monday allowing women riders and drivers in the United States to be matched with other women in an effort to improve safety on the ride hailing platform. The option, called "Women Drivers," lets female passengers request a woman driver or set a preference within the application. Female drivers can also choose to accept rides primarily from women riders. The feature expands a pilot program and also allows users to reserve rides with women drivers in advance. The rollout comes as the company faces a class action lawsuit in California filed by drivers who claim the policy discriminates against men.

United States launches trade probes to revive tariff pressure on major partners

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The administration of President Donald Trump said on Wednesday it launched two trade investigations targeting excess industrial capacity and forced labor practices among major trading partners. The probes could pave the way for new tariffs on countries including China, the European Union, India, Japan, South Korea, and Mexico. United States Trade Representative Jamieson Greer said the investigation will examine economies with large trade surpluses or unused production capacity in sectors such as automobiles. Additional countries under review include Taiwan, Vietnam, Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia, Bangladesh, Switzerland, Norway, and Singapore. China rejected the accusations on Thursday, calling claims of overcapacity false. Officials aim to complete the investigations before temporary tariffs introduced earlier this year expire in July.



South Korean lawmakers approve law to manage \$350 billion investment pledge in the United States

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Lawmakers in South Korea passed legislation on Thursday to implement the government's pledge to invest \$350 billion in the United States as part of a trade agreement aimed at reducing tariff pressure. The law calls for creating a public corporation to manage the investments

and select projects in consultation with trade authorities from both countries. The agreement includes \$200 billion for semiconductor and technology sectors and \$150 billion for shipbuilding. The deal followed negotiations between President Donald Trump and South Korean President Lee Jae Myung and reduced reciprocal tariffs on South Korean goods from 25 percent to 15 percent.



Drone company linked to Trump sons seeks Pentagon contracts

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

A fast-growing drone manufacturer partly owned by the sons of President Donald Trump is aiming to secure defense contracts from the United States Department of Defense. The company, Powerus, counts Donald Trump Jr. and Eric Trump among its investors and hopes to compete for a share of about \$1.1 billion set aside to expand domestic production of armed drones. Founded by former United States Army special operations veterans, the firm has recently acquired several smaller companies and raised about \$60 million from investors. Critics have raised concerns about potential conflicts of interest, but company leaders say their focus remains on developing technology for defense and commercial uses.



Goldman Sachs delays forecast for Federal Reserve rate cuts amid inflation concerns

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Goldman Sachs said on Wednesday it now expects the Federal Reserve to begin cutting interest rates in September rather than June, citing rising inflation risks linked to the Middle East conflict and higher oil prices. The bank forecasts quarter point reductions in September and December. Global markets have been unsettled by the war involving the United States, Israel, and Iran, which has raised fears of an oil supply shock and prolonged inflation. Goldman analysts said earlier rate cuts could still occur if the labor market weakens more sharply than expected. A weaker jobs outlook and slowing economic growth could strengthen the case for earlier monetary easing.

Costco shoppers file lawsuit seeking share of refunds from overturned tariffs



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Customers of Costco Wholesale filed a proposed nationwide class action lawsuit on Wednesday seeking refunds if the retailer receives money back from tariffs previously imposed by President Donald Trump. The lawsuit was filed in federal court in Illinois after the Supreme Court of the United States ruled on Thursday, February 20, that the tariffs imposed under emergency powers were unlawful. More than two thousand companies, including Costco, are now pursuing reimbursement for duties paid. The lawsuit argues that customers bore the higher prices and should receive a share of any refunds. Costco said it may use potential refunds to lower prices and improve value for shoppers.

Tesla wins approval to supply electricity to homes in the United Kingdom

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Tesla has received regulatory approval to supply electricity directly to households in the United Kingdom, expanding its presence in the country's energy market. The approval was granted on Thursday by the regulator Ofgem to Tesla Energy Ventures, a subsidiary of the company led by Elon Musk. The license allows Tesla to compete with established providers such as Octopus Energy, British Gas, and EDF Energy. The company plans to use its solar power and battery storage technology to supply electricity and manage household energy systems. The move comes as rising energy prices linked to the Iran conflict increase pressure on British consumers.

**Guardiola remains defiant after Manchester City suffer heavy defeat to Real Madrid**



**M**anchester City manager Pep Guardiola struck a defiant tone on Wednesday after his team suffered a 3-0 loss to Real Madrid in the first leg of their Champions League round of sixteen tie in Madrid. Federico Valverde scored a stunning hat trick within 22 minutes of the first half to give the Spanish club a commanding advantage despite missing several key players, including Kylian Mbappe. Guardiola admitted his team struggled to create clear scoring chances but insisted the contest is not over. He said there are still ninety minutes left in the return leg and City will try to improve their attacking play. Goalkeeper Gianluigi Donnarumma also saved a penalty late in the match to limit further damage.

**Carlos Alcaraz reaches fifth straight Indian Wells quarterfinal**



**T**wo time champion Carlos Alcaraz continued his impressive run at the Indian Wells Open on Wednesday, defeating Casper Ruud 6-1, 7-6 to reach the quarterfinals for the fifth consecutive year. The 22 year old broke serve in the opening game and comfortably won the first set. Ruud responded strongly in the second and pushed the match to a tiebreak without facing a break point, but Alcaraz produced several winners to seal the victory. The Spaniard is now the first player to reach five quarterfinals at Indian Wells before turning 23 and is bidding for a third title at the tournament. Alcaraz will face 2021 champion Cameron Norrie in the quarterfinals on Thursday.

**India clinch historic third T20 World Cup title with dominant win over New Zealand**

**I**ndia sealed a historic triumph on Sunday by defeating New Zealand by 96 runs in the International Cricket Council Men's T20 World Cup final at the Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad, becoming the first team to retain the title and the first host nation to win the tournament.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi congratulated the team, praising their skill, determination, and teamwork throughout the competition. In a message posted on social media, he said the victory had filled millions of Indians with pride and joy.

India produced a commanding performance after posting a formidable 255 for five in 20 overs, the highest total in a T20 World Cup final. Sanju Samson led the charge with a blistering 89 off 46 balls, hitting five fours and eight sixes, while



Abhishek Sharma smashed 52 off 21 balls and Ishan Kishan added 54 off 25 deliveries. Samson and Abhishek put together a 98 run opening partnership before James Neesham briefly slowed the momentum with three

wickets in an over. Shivam Dube's unbeaten 26 off eight balls pushed India beyond the 250 mark.

New Zealand's chase of 256 never gathered momentum. Jasprit Bumrah delivered a decisive spell of four for 15, while Axar Patel claimed three for 27 as the visitors were bowled out for 159 in 19 overs. Tim Seifert offered resistance with 52.

The victory also made Suryakumar Yadav the fourth Indian captain to win a men's World Cup title.

The International Cricket Council later confirmed that champions India will receive about \$2.63 million from the tournament's \$11.25 million prize pool, while runners up New Zealand will earn about \$1.42 million.

**Iran withdrawal threat from 2026 World Cup leaves FIFA weighing replacement options**

**G**lobal soccer's governing body FIFA is weighing its options after Iran's sports minister Ahmad Donyamali said on Wednesday that the national team may not participate in the 2026 World Cup, which will be hosted by the United States, Canada, and Mexico beginning in early June. The statement came after air strikes by the United States and Israel on Friday reportedly killed Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei and triggered a widening regional conflict.

Iran had qualified for its fourth consecutive World Cup after topping Group A in the final round of Asian qualifying. The team was scheduled to open its campaign against New Zealand



in Los Angeles on Sunday.

Under World Cup regulations, FIFA has full discretion to select a replacement if a qualified team withdraws. Iraq and the United Arab Emirates have been mentioned as possible alternatives. The Asian Football Confederation said it is monitoring developments while remaining in contact with FIFA over the situation.

**ICC suspends Javon Searles and two officials over anti-corruption charges**

**T**he International Cricket Council has provisionally suspended West Indies all-rounder Javon Searles, Titans team owner Chitranjan Rathod, and team official Griffith for alleged breaches of anti-corruption rules.

The charges relate to the Bim10 tournament in the 2023 to 2024 season under the Cricket West Indies Anti Corruption Code. The trio are accused of attempting to improperly

influence match results, encouraging corruption offenses, and failing to cooperate with investigators.

Searles and Griffith also face charges for failing to report suspicious approaches, while Griffith faces an additional allegation under the International Cricket Council code for obstructing an investigation.

All three have been suspended from cricket and have 14 days to respond.

**WNBA players union sees progress after marathon bargaining session**



**T**he Women's National Basketball Association players union said progress was made toward a new collective bargaining agreement after a nine-hour negotiating session on Wednesday in New York.

Union president Nneka Ogwumike said both sides exchanged proposals and discussions showed signs of movement. The meeting followed a 12-hour bargaining session that began on Tuesday evening.

League commissioner Cathy Engelbert said the league has offered a "transformational" deal that includes major increases in salaries and benefits. According to reports, the proposed first year salary cap could rise to about \$6.2 million.

Key issues still under discussion include revenue sharing, housing benefits, and rules governing franchise player designations.



**Sangram Singh intensifies training ahead of mixed martial arts bout in Argentina**

Indian wrestler turned mixed martial arts fighter Sangram Singh has intensified preparations for his upcoming bout against France's Matteo Monteiro. The fight is scheduled for Sunday in Tigre, Buenos Aires, Argentina, marking the first time an Indian mixed martial arts fighter competes on Argentine soil. The Commonwealth heavyweight wrestling champion is training across Mumbai, Ahmedabad and Delhi with a seven-member team of coaches and a physiotherapist overseeing wrestling, boxing, kickboxing, jujutsu, flexibility and recovery.



## Ukraine accuses Paralympic officials of systematic pressure at Winter Games



Ukraine's National Paralympic Committee has accused the International Paralympic Committee and organizers of the Winter Paralympics in Italy of placing "systematic pressure" on its delegation during the Games. In a statement released this week, Ukraine said its athletes, coaches, and officials had faced "openly negative" treatment, something it described as unprecedented in three decades of participation in the Summer and Winter Paralympics. Ukraine boycotted the opening ceremony on Thursday in Verona to protest the participation of 10 athletes from Russia and Belarus. Officials also cited restrictions involving the display of Ukrainian flags, athlete accessories, and team activities. Paralympic authorities said the rules were applied equally and were intended to prevent political demonstrations during competitions.

## Vinnie Pasquantino powers Italy past Mexico with historic three homer game



Vinnie Pasquantino hit the first three home run game in World Baseball Classic history on Wednesday night, leading Italy to a 9-1 victory over Mexico and securing first place in Pool B. Pasquantino, who entered the game hitless in the tournament, homered in the second, sixth, and eighth innings to guide Italy to the quarterfinals for the third time and the second consecutive tournament. Jon Berti also added a home run. The victory helped the United States advance to the quarterfinals as the group's second place team. Italy will face Puerto Rico on Saturday, while the United States meets Canada on Friday.

## Max Verstappen jokes new Formula One cars feel like Mario Kart

Four-time world champion Max Verstappen said on Thursday that the new generation of Formula One cars feels more like the video game Mario Kart than traditional racing machines. The Red Bull driver explained that the cars require extensive battery management and energy harvesting, with equal reliance on conventional and electric power. Features such as straight-line mode, active aerodynamics, boost buttons, and overtaking systems make the driving experience feel closer to a video game. Verstappen crashed during qualifying in Australia last weekend but fought back from 20th on the grid to finish sixth. Despite his frustrations, the Dutch driver said he hopes future discussions with Formula One and regulators will improve the rules.

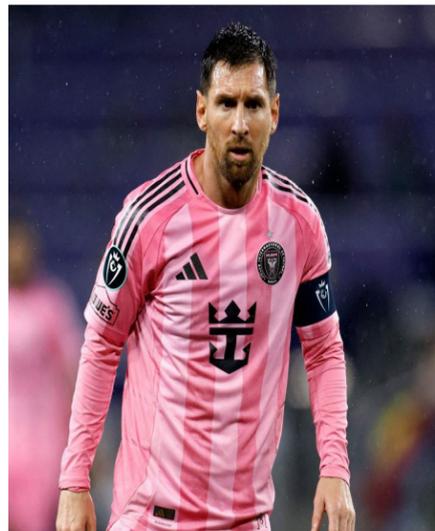


## Arshdeep Singh fined after code of conduct breach during T20 World Cup final



India fast bowler Arshdeep Singh has been fined 15 percent of his match fee for breaching Level 1 of the International Cricket Council Code of Conduct during the T20 World Cup final against New Zealand in Ahmedabad on Sunday. The charge relates to Article 2.9, which concerns throwing a ball or equipment at or near a player in a dangerous or inappropriate manner during an international match. One demerit point has also been added to his disciplinary record, his first offense in 24 months. The incident occurred in the 11th over when New Zealand batter Daryl Mitchell reacted angrily after being struck by a throw. Arshdeep later apologized, saying the throw unintentionally swung and hit him.

## Lionel Messi held scoreless as Inter Miami draw with Nashville in Champions Cup



Lionel Messi was held scoreless on Wednesday night as Inter Miami played Nashville to a 0-0 draw in the first leg of their CONCACAF Champions Cup round of sixteen match in Tennessee. Messi entered the game having scored in six consecutive matches against Nashville since Sunday in April two years ago, but managed only one shot on target. Nashville goalkeeper Bruan Schwake saved his best opportunity in the 55th minute.

Inter Miami controlled 59 percent of possession, but Nashville recorded 15 shots compared with Miami's eight. The teams will meet again on Tuesday in Fort Lauderdale, where the winner on aggregate goals will advance to the quarterfinals.

## United States lawmakers urge FIFA to lower 2026 World Cup ticket prices

Dozens of United States lawmakers have urged the International Federation of Association Football to reduce ticket prices for the 2026 World Cup, warning that dynamic pricing could make the tournament inaccessible to many fans. In a letter sent on Wednesday to President Gianni Infantino, Representative Sydney Kamlager Dove and 68 members of Congress said the pricing system allows ticket costs to rise based on demand, inventory, and match popularity. The lawmakers argued that the approach prioritizes revenue over accessibility and risks excluding supporters



who make the World Cup the most watched sporting event in the world. The 2026 tournament will be hosted by the United States, Canada, and Mexico.

## Indian men's basketball team returns home after ten day travel disruption in Doha



The Indian men's basketball team began its journey home on Tuesday after being stranded in Doha for ten days due to regional tensions that disrupted international flights. The team had traveled to Qatar for the International Basketball Federation World Cup Asian qualifiers. With flights limited, the squad first traveled by road to Dammam in Saudi Arabia before departing in two groups. One group flew via Jeddah to Mumbai while another traveled directly to Lucknow. The Basketball Federation of India thanked the Qatar Basketball Federation and Indian embassies for supporting the team.

## Pakistan slammed after heavy defeat to Bangladesh in first ODI

Pakistan's cricket team faced sharp criticism from fans and media after an eight-wicket defeat to Bangladesh in the first one day international in Dhaka on Wednesday. Pakistan were bowled out for 114 in 30 overs after Bangladesh chose to field first. Fast bowler Nahid Rana dismantled the batting lineup with five wickets, while Mehidy Hasan Miraz claimed three. Faheem Ashraf top scored with 37. Bangladesh chased the target comfortably, reaching 115 for two in just over 15 overs. Tanzid Hasan Tamim remained unbeaten on 67 while Najmul Hossain Shanto added 27.



## Diksha leads Indian challenge at Women's Australian Open in Adelaide

Diksha Dagar will spearhead a five player Indian challenge at the Women's Australian Open in Adelaide this week on the Ladies European Tour. She is joined by Pranavi Urs, Avani Prashanth, Hitaashee Bakshi and invitee Vani Kapoor. Dagar enters the tournament with confidence after a top five finish last week lifted her into the top ten of the Order of Merit standings. Australia's Minjee Lee, Hannah Green and Grace Kim headline the field at Kooyonga Golf Club, which is hosting the tournament for the first time since 2020.

**Anupam Kher reflects on life in heartfelt letter to his teenage self**



**V**eteran actor Anupam Kher shared an emotional note addressed to his sixteen year old self, reflecting on his journey from a small town boy in Shimla to an internationally recognized actor. Posting the letter on social media, Kher said he still feels like “Bittoo from Shimla,” the curious and hopeful teenager who dreamed big despite uncertainty. The actor, known for films such as ‘Saaransh’ and ‘Dilwale Dulhania Le Jayenge’, wrote that success, failure, applause, and criticism shaped his life but never changed his spirit. Kher said every setback taught him resilience and gratitude. Having recently turned seventy, he added that life still feels like it is only at the “interval point,” emphasizing the importance of staying true to oneself.

**Kylie Jenner says she wants more children before turning 30**



**R**eality star Kylie Jenner says she hopes to expand her family in the future as she focuses on personal growth in her late twenties. In an interview with Vanity Fair, Jenner said she wants to spend the next few years concentrating on her businesses, travel, and raising her children before having more kids. Jenner shares daughter Stormi, eight, and son Aire, four, with rapper Travis Scott. After their split in 2023, she began dating actor Timothee Chalamet, who has previously spoken about wanting to become a father. Jenner said she hopes to enjoy time with her children while keeping the door open to welcoming more siblings into the family in the future.

**Harvey Weinstein attacks Gwyneth Paltrow again as legal battles continue**

**D**isgraced film producer Harvey Weinstein has renewed his criticism of actress Gwyneth Paltrow nearly a decade after her allegations of inappropriate behavior helped spark the global MeToo movement. Speaking from custody in an interview with The Hollywood Reporter, Weinstein said he “will not forgive” Paltrow for publicly discussing an encounter she said occurred early in her acting career. Paltrow has previously said she was 22 when Weinstein allegedly made an unwanted advance during a meeting in a hotel

room about a potential film role. She rejected the advance and later informed her then boyfriend Brad Pitt about the incident. Pitt reportedly confronted Weinstein during the opening night of the Broadway production of ‘Hamlet’ in 1995 and warned him not to approach Paltrow again. Paltrow later worked with Weinstein on the film ‘Shakespeare in Love’, which he produced through Miramax. Weinstein is currently awaiting a retrial after an appeals court overturned his New York conviction, ruling that certain testimony in the original trial had been prejudicial.



**Shots fired at Rihanna’s Beverly Hills home while singer was inside, suspect arrested**

**G**lobal pop star Rihanna was inside her Beverly Hills home on Sunday afternoon when a woman allegedly fired multiple shots toward the property, prompting a major police response. The Los Angeles Police Department said officers arrived at about 1:15 p.m. local time after receiving reports of gunfire at the residence. Investigators said the suspect, a 30-year-old woman whose identity has not been released, allegedly fired several rounds from a white Tesla parked across the street. Police radio dispatch audio indicated that about ten shots were fired, with at least one bullet striking the exterior wall of the house.



Authorities said the vehicle fled south along Coldwater Canyon Drive after the shooting. The suspect was later located and taken into custody without incident, and

officers recovered a firearm. No injuries were reported. Rihanna shares the property with her partner A\$AP Rocky and their children, and sources close to the singer said she was unharmed following the frightening incident.

**Geeta Gandbhir makes Oscar history with two powerful documentary nominations**

**F**ilmmaker Geeta Gandbhir is making a strong mark in this year’s Academy Awards race with two nominations in the documentary categories: ‘The Perfect Neighbor’ for best documentary feature and ‘The Devil is Busy’ for best documentary short. Both films had already made the shortlist before nominations were announced. Gandbhir later revealed she slept through the announcement after staying awake with anxiety the night before. ‘The Devil is Busy’, distributed by HBO Max, offers a ground level look inside an abortion clinic in Atlanta and the risks faced by staff and patients. ‘The Perfect Neighbor’, released by Netflix, reconstructs the events leading to the killing of Ajike Owens in Florida using police calls and body camera footage.



Gandbhir said the project is deeply personal, noting Owens was a family friend and the film was produced with members of her own family.

**‘Ustaad Bhagat Singh’ cleared for release with family friendly rating**



**T**he action film ‘Ustaad Bhagat Singh’, starring Pawan Kalyan, has received a U/A certificate from the Central Board of Film Certification ahead of its theatrical release. Directed by Harish Shankar and produced by Mythri Movie Makers, the film is set to arrive in theaters during the Ugadi festival next Wednesday. The makers recently advanced the release by a week from the previously planned schedule. The soundtrack is composed by Devi Sri Prasad, while Thaman S has joined the project to create the background score due to scheduling constraints. Producers said the collaboration between the two composers will ensure a powerful musical experience for fans when the film releases worldwide.

**Sanjay Leela Bhansali’s ‘Love and War’ faces delays after reshoots**

**T**he highly anticipated drama ‘Love and War’, directed by Sanjay Leela Bhansali, has reportedly faced delays after several key scenes were reshot. The film stars Ranbir Kapoor, Alia Bhatt, and Vicky Kaushal in leading roles. Sources close to the production say Bhansali’s pursuit of visual perfection led to additional filming, which increased the movie’s already massive budget. Kapoor recently said during an online interaction that audiences may have to wait longer for the film, which was initially expected to release in 2026. The epic drama is rumored to draw inspiration from the classic 1964 film ‘Sangam’, starring Raj Kapoor, though the filmmakers have not officially confirmed the connection.

**Alia Bhatt and Sharvari’s action thriller ‘Alpha’ set for summer release**



**T**he spy thriller ‘Alpha’, starring Alia Bhatt and Sharvari Wagh, will arrive in theaters on Friday, July 10. The film is produced by Yash Raj Films and directed by Shiv Rawail. A recently released poster shows Bhatt with a bruised face, hinting at the film’s intense action sequences. Actors Anil Kapoor and Bobby Deol also appear in key roles. ‘Alpha’ marks Bhatt’s first collaboration with Yash Raj Films and is described as one of the first major female led action entries in the studio’s spy universe. The project was originally scheduled for a holiday season release but has now moved to a summer slot.

### Henry Cavill says he may be too old to play James Bond



Actor Henry Cavill believes he might be considered too old to play the iconic spy James Bond. Cavill revealed in an interview with Heat magazine that although he once auditioned for the role in 'Casino Royale', he lost it to Daniel Craig.

Now in his early forties, Cavill said he suspects producers may prefer a younger actor to launch the next chapter of the franchise. However, he added that he would happily consider playing a villain in a future Bond film.

Other actors rumored to be in contention for the role include Jacob Elordi and Callum Turner as the franchise prepares for its next installment.

### Kritika Kamra and Gaurav Kapur tie the knot in intimate Mumbai ceremony



Actors Kritika Kamra and Gaurav Kapur have married in an intimate ceremony attended by close family and friends in Mumbai this week. The couple chose a simple home registrar wedding instead of a large celebration, followed by a relaxed sundowner gathering overlooking the city skyline. Kamra wore a red Chanderi saree woven specially for her by artisans supported by her mother's initiative promoting traditional crafts. Kapur complemented the look in an ivory and gold outfit by designer Raghavendra Rathore.

In a joint statement, the couple said they wanted their wedding to be a deeply personal moment shared with loved ones as they begin a new chapter together.

### Judd Apatow says political comedy struggles to keep up with real world politics

Filmmaker and comedian Judd Apatow believes political satire has become increasingly difficult during the administration of President Donald Trump. In an interview with the Culture magazine of The Sunday Times published on Sunday, Apatow said modern political events often appear stranger than fictional satire, making it harder for comedians to exaggerate reality for laughs.

He compared the current climate with the classic political satire film 'Dr. Strangelove', directed by Stanley Kubrick, suggesting that some real life political figures seem even more absurd than characters from the movie. Apatow said the seriousness of global crises has also made comedians question whether humor is appropriate in some situations. The director of 'The 40 Year Old Virgin' also expressed concern about consolidation



in the entertainment industry. He warned that potential mergers involving Paramount Global and Warner Bros. Discovery could reduce the number of studios and streaming outlets, limiting opportunities for filmmakers and television creators to pitch and develop new projects.

### Kanye West sets Los Angeles stadium show ahead of release of new album 'Bully'

Rapper Kanye West, who now goes by Ye, is preparing for a major concert at SoFi Stadium in Los Angeles on Friday, April 3 as he gears up for the release of his upcoming album 'Bully'. The show has been promoted as his only performance in Los Angeles, with fans encouraged to pre-register for tickets by pre saving the album through the rapper's official website. According to the announcement, a limited number of pre-registered fans

will be selected to receive free tickets to the event. West has performed less frequently in the United States in recent years amid controversy over antisemitic remarks he made on social media and in interviews. Earlier this year he staged a performance in Mexico City and has also appeared at shows in South Korea and China since 2024. His last appearance at SoFi Stadium came in 2024 during a listening event for the album 'Vultures 1', created with Ty Dolla Sign.



### Michael Douglas and Michael J. Fox reunite three decades after 'The American President'

Actors Michael Douglas and Michael J. Fox delighted fans with a reunion more than three decades after their film 'The American President'. Fox shared a photo on Instagram showing the two sitting together and captioned it "Another Cali reunion. My American President." The 1995 political romance starred Douglas as widowed President Andrew Shepherd and Fox as his loyal staffer Lewis Rothschild. The film was written by Aaron Sorkin and helped inspire the television series 'The West Wing'. Fox has recently reconnected with several former co stars, including 'Back to the Future' actor Christopher Lloyd. He currently appears in the television series 'Shrinking', where he guest stars alongside Harrison Ford.



### Penguin Press founder Ann Godoff dies at 76



Influential publisher Ann Godoff, founder of Penguin Press, has died at the age of seventy six after a battle with cancer. Godoff built a reputation as one of the most powerful editors in American publishing, working with celebrated writers including Salman Rushdie and Arundhati Roy. She helped publish major bestsellers such as 'Alexander Hamilton' by Ron Chernow and 'Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil' by John Berendt.

Godoff founded Penguin Press in 2003 after leaving Random House and continued shaping influential nonfiction and literary works for decades. Colleagues credited her with discovering important voices and helping create books that defined modern American publishing.

### Ellie Goulding welcomes baby girl with boyfriend Beau Minniear



Singer Ellie Goulding has welcomed her second child, a baby girl, with actor Beau Minniear. The singer shared the news on Instagram, revealing that she gave birth on Friday at St Mary's Hospital in London. Goulding thanked the medical team and midwives who cared for her and the newborn.

The 'Love Me Like You Do' singer already has a four-year-old son, Arthur, from her previous marriage to Caspar Jopling. Friends close to the couple said both mother and baby are healthy and the family is thrilled with the new arrival. Goulding first revealed her pregnancy publicly during an appearance at the Fashion Awards in London.

# जनेऊ (यज्ञोपवीत) का महत्व, आध्यात्मिकता और वैज्ञानिक दृष्टि

हिंदू सनातन परंपरा में जनेऊ (यज्ञोपवीत) का अत्यंत महत्वपूर्ण स्थान है। यह केवल एक धागा नहीं, बल्कि संस्कार, अनुशासन, जिम्मेदारी और आध्यात्मिक जागरण का प्रतीक है। दुर्भाग्यवश समय के साथ इसके बारे में अनेक भ्रांतियाँ फैल गई हैं। कई लोग इसे केवल एक धार्मिक परंपरा समझते हैं, जबकि इसके पीछे गहरी आध्यात्मिक, सामाजिक और स्वास्थ्य संबंधी धारणाएँ भी जुड़ी हुई हैं।

## 1. जनेऊ क्या है और इसका वास्तविक अर्थ

यज्ञोपवीत शब्द दो शब्दों से बना है:

यज्ञ + उपवीत

- ▶ यज्ञ का अर्थ है - पवित्र कर्म, ज्ञान और त्याग।
- ▶ उपवीत का अर्थ है - कंधे पर धारण किया जाने वाला पवित्र सूत्र।

अर्थात् यज्ञोपवीत वह पवित्र सूत्र है जिसे धारण करने के बाद व्यक्ति को वेद अध्ययन, गायत्री मंत्र जप और यज्ञ कर्म करने का अधिकार प्राप्त होता है।

यह धारण करने की प्रक्रिया उपनयन संस्कार कहलाती है। उपनयन का अर्थ है - गुरु के पास ले जाना, अर्थात् ज्ञान के मार्ग पर प्रवेश कराना।

इसी कारण जनेऊ धारण करने वाले को द्विज कहा जाता है, जिसका अर्थ है दूसरा जन्म। पहला जन्म माता से और दूसरा जन्म ज्ञान और संस्कार से।

## 2. जनेऊ में तीन धागों का महत्व

जनेऊ सामान्यतः तीन मुख्य सूत्रों (धागों) से बना होता है। इन तीन सूत्रों का गहरा प्रतीकात्मक अर्थ है।

### 1. त्रिमूर्ति का प्रतीक

- ▶ ब्रह्मा - सृजन
- ▶ विष्णु - पालन
- ▶ महेश (शिव) - संहार

### 2. तीन ऋणों की याद दिलाता है

सनातन धर्म में माना गया है कि मनुष्य जन्म लेते ही तीन ऋणों से बंधा होता है:

1. देव ऋण - प्रकृति और देवताओं का
2. ऋषि ऋण - ज्ञान देने वाले ऋषियों का
3. पितृ ऋण - माता-पिता और पूर्वजों का

जनेऊ इन तीनों ऋणों को याद दिलाता है कि मनुष्य को अपने जीवन में धर्म, सेवा और ज्ञान से इन ऋणों का निर्वाह करना चाहिए।

### 3. जनेऊ के नौ धागों का रहस्य

जनेऊ के तीन मुख्य सूत्रों में से प्रत्येक में तीन-तीन तंतु होते हैं, इस प्रकार कुल नौ तंतु होते हैं।

### इन नौ तंतुओं को कई विद्वान नवग्रहों का प्रतीक मानते हैं:

1. सूर्य
2. चंद्र
3. मंगल
4. बुध
5. गुरु
6. शुक्र
7. शनि
8. राहु
9. केतु

यह प्रतीकात्मक रूप से दर्शाता है कि मनुष्य का जीवन समस्त ब्रह्मांडीय शक्तियों से जुड़ा हुआ है और उसे सदाचारी जीवन जीकर इन शक्तियों के संतुलन को बनाए रखना चाहिए।



4. जनेऊ बाएँ कंधे पर ही क्यों धारण किया जाता है जनेऊ को बाएँ कंधे से दाहिनी कमर तक पहना जाता है। इस प्रकार पहनने को 'उपवीत' कहा जाता है।

### शास्त्रों के अनुसार इसके पीछे कई कारण बताए गए हैं:

- ▶ यह हृदय के ऊपर से होकर गुजरता है, जिससे व्यक्ति को सदैव धर्म और नैतिकता की याद बनी रहती है।
- ▶ शरीर की संरचना में यह स्थिति हृदय और महत्वपूर्ण तंत्रिकाओं के पास होती है, जिससे व्यक्ति को अपने आचरण के प्रति सजग रहने का भाव उत्पन्न होता है।
- ▶ प्राचीन परंपराओं में इसे आत्मसंयम और अनुशासन की स्मृति माना गया है।

### 5. जनेऊ और अनुशासन

जनेऊ धारण करने के बाद व्यक्ति को कई नियमों का पालन करना होता है, जैसे:

- ▶ नियमित गायत्री मंत्र का जप
- ▶ संध्या वंदन
- ▶ स्वच्छता और संयम
- ▶ सदाचार और सत्य का पालन

इस प्रकार जनेऊ व्यक्ति को केवल धार्मिक नहीं बल्कि नैतिक और अनुशासित जीवन की प्रेरणा देता है।

6. शौच के समय जनेऊ कान में क्यों रखा जाता है शास्त्रों में कहा गया है कि मल-मूत्र विसर्जन के समय जनेऊ को दाहिने कान पर रख लेना चाहिए।

### इसके पीछे परंपरागत कारण बताए जाते हैं:

1. पवित्र सूत्र को अपवित्र होने से बचाना
2. शारीरिक क्रियाओं के समय उसे सुरक्षित रखना
3. स्वच्छता के नियमों का पालन करना

### प्राचीन ग्रंथों में यह श्लोक भी मिलता है:

'यथा निवीनी दक्षिण कर्णे यज्ञोपवीतं कृत्वा मूत्रपुरीषे विसृजेत।'

अर्थात् मूत्र और मल त्याग के समय यज्ञोपवीत को दाहिने कान पर रखना चाहिए।

### 7. जनेऊ और स्वास्थ्य से जुड़ी मान्यताएँ

परंपरागत मान्यताओं के अनुसार जनेऊ से कुछ स्वास्थ्य लाभ भी बताए जाते हैं, जैसे:

- ▶ स्वच्छता की आदत विकसित होना
- ▶ अनुशासित जीवनशैली
- ▶ नियमित स्नान और शुद्धता

हालाँकि आधुनिक चिकित्सा विज्ञान में इन सभी दावों के स्पष्ट वैज्ञानिक प्रमाण सीमित हैं, लेकिन यह अवश्य सत्य है

कि जनेऊ धारण करने से व्यक्ति सफाई, संयम और अनुशासन के नियमों का पालन करता है, जो स्वास्थ्य के लिए लाभकारी होते हैं।

### 8. जनेऊ धारण करने का मंत्र

यज्ञोपवीत धारण करते समय यह मंत्र बोला जाता है: 'यज्ञोपवीतं परमं पवित्रं प्रजापतेर्यत्सहजं पुरस्तात्। आयुष्यमग्यं प्रतिमुञ्च शुभ्रं यज्ञोपवीतं बलमस्तु तेजः ॥'

### अर्थ:

यह यज्ञोपवीत परम पवित्र है, प्रजापति से उत्पन्न है। यह हमें आयु, बल, तेज और पवित्रता प्रदान करे।

### 9. जनेऊ का सामाजिक और आध्यात्मिक संदेश

जनेऊ व्यक्ति को यह स्मरण कराता है कि:

- ▶ जीवन केवल भोग के लिए नहीं, कर्तव्य के लिए है
- ▶ ज्ञान और संस्कार से ही मनुष्य महान बनता है
- ▶ मनुष्य को धर्म, संयम और सेवा का मार्ग अपनाना चाहिए

इस प्रकार जनेऊ केवल एक धागा नहीं बल्कि जीवन दर्शन है।

### 10. निष्कर्ष

जनेऊ सनातन संस्कृति का एक अत्यंत महत्वपूर्ण संस्कार है। यह मनुष्य को ज्ञान, अनुशासन, जिम्मेदारी और आध्यात्मिकता की ओर प्रेरित करता है।

आज आवश्यकता इस बात की है कि हम इसे केवल परंपरा के रूप में न देखें, बल्कि इसके पीछे छिपे नैतिक और आध्यात्मिक संदेश को समझें और अपने जीवन में अपनाएँ।



**जय माता दी**

**JAI JAGDAMBE FOUNDATION**  
Serving the Hindu Community over 2 Decades

**FOR MATA KA**  
**JAGRAN**  
**OR CHOWKI**

Contact us at  
[Jagrantv@gmail.com](mailto:Jagrantv@gmail.com)

**Mata Bhagat: Avi Verma**

# Importance of final rites in Hindu Dharma

## Why is cremation performed soon after death?

**H**uman life in Sanatan Dharma is considered a sacred journey that begins with birth and continues until death. According to Hindu scriptures, sixteen sacred rites (Sanskaras) guide a person through life, and the last and one of the most important rites is Antyeshthi — the final rites or funeral ceremony.

When a person passes away, family members and society are naturally overwhelmed with grief. Yet, preparations for the final rites begin soon afterward. This often raises an important question: why is cremation performed soon after death?

In Hindu tradition, there are spiritual, religious, and social reasons behind this practice.

### 1. The journey of the soul and the belief in liberation

In Sanatan Dharma, it is believed that the body is mortal, while the soul is eternal and indestructible. At the time of death, the soul leaves the physical body and begins its journey toward its next destination.

The sacred text Garuda Purana explains that when the final rites are performed properly and in a timely manner, it helps the soul attain peace and liberation (moksha).

It is also believed that if the final



rites are not performed, the soul may remain restless or wander without peace. Therefore, cremation is considered a way of releasing the soul from the physical body so it can continue its spiritual journey to the next realm.

### 2. Returning the body to the five elements

According to Hindu philosophy, the human body is composed of five fundamental elements (Panch Tatva):

- ▶ Earth
- ▶ Water
- ▶ Fire
- ▶ Air
- ▶ Ether (Space)

After death, the purpose of the final rites is to return these elements back to nature.

Through cremation, the body is offered to fire, which gradually dissolves the physical form into the five elements. This symbolizes a profound truth of life:

What comes from nature ultimately returns to nature.

### 3. Social and religious purification

Traditional beliefs hold that as long as a body remains in a house or locality, no auspicious activities are performed. Religious rituals, celebrations, and sacred ceremonies are paused during this time.

For this reason, family members and the community work together to ensure that the final rites are conducted soon, allowing the mourning process to conclude and normal life to gradually resume.

### 4. The importance of Pind Daan and ritual offerings

During the funeral rites, Pind Daan (ritual offering of rice balls) holds great importance.

It is believed that through Pind Daan, the departed soul receives spiritual nourishment, satisfaction, and strength to continue its onward journey.

Traditionally, these offerings are made

during the funeral procession and near the funeral pyre. It is believed that through these rituals, the blessings of family deities, household deities, and ancestors are invoked for the departed soul.

### 5. Religious traditions and symbolic practices

Several symbolic rituals are performed during the final rites, such as:

Tying the hands and feet of the body before placing it on the funeral pyre so that the body remains composed and stable. Using sandalwood, tulsi, or sacred wood in the funeral pyre, as these are considered pure and auspicious.

The eldest son or closest relative lighting the funeral pyre (Mukhagni), which symbolizes duty, respect, and the final service to the departed.

These rituals are performed as a gesture of honor, gratitude, and prayer for the peace of the departed soul.

### Conclusion

In Hindu Dharma, the final rites are not merely a social custom or tradition. They represent a profound spiritual philosophy and the acceptance of the cycle of life and death.

### Through cremation, the message conveyed is clear:

- ▶ The body is temporary, but the soul is eternal.
- ▶ Performing the final rites with proper rituals is therefore considered deeply important — not only for the departed soul but also for the family and society.
- ▶ Ultimately, the rite of Antyeshthi reminds us of an essential truth of life:
- ▶ Life is temporary, and every human being should strive to live with righteousness, compassion, and noble deeds.





Friday, 13 March 2026

25

INDOUS  
TRIBUNE

www.indoutribune.com

Jagran TV  
CHICAGO



# Mela Maiya Da Jagran Chowkis

by **Legendary Lakhbir Singh Lakha**

Also contact us to

**BOOK MATA JAGRAN/CHOWKI  
BALA JI, Bhole Nath OR  
SHYAM BABA CHOWKI IN YOUR  
TEMPLE TODAY.**

Email us at: [Jagrantv@gmail.com](mailto:Jagrantv@gmail.com) or call  
at **773-866-1222** for booking details.

**June & July 2026**

Sponsored By

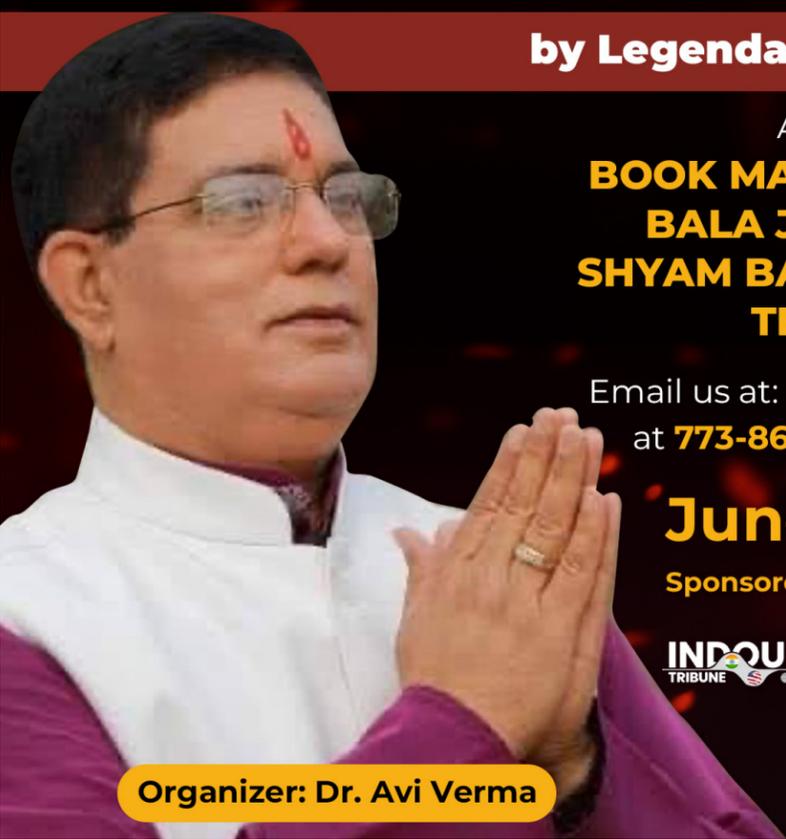
Media Partners



Organizer: **Dr. Avi Verma**



**Lakhbir Singh Lakha**



# FIA–New England honors women leaders and launches tree-planting initiative on International Women’s Day



By: Vandana Jhingan

The Foundation of Indian-Americans – New England (FIA–NE) hosted a vibrant International Women’s Day celebration atop Boston’s iconic Prudential Center, honoring the achievements of women leaders across healthcare, entrepreneurship, wellness, arts, and community service.

The event, hosted and moderated by FIA–NE Director Jyoti Singh, featured a roundtable discussion where leaders reflected on resilience, mentorship, and the importance of nurturing the next generation of women professionals. Singh’s thoughtful questions sparked personal stories of perseverance and purpose, creating a candid dialogue on the evolving role of women in



leadership and community impact.

Shruti Purushottam, Deputy Consul General of India in Boston, attended as the Chief Guest, joining community leaders in recognizing the remarkable contributions of women shaping New England communities.

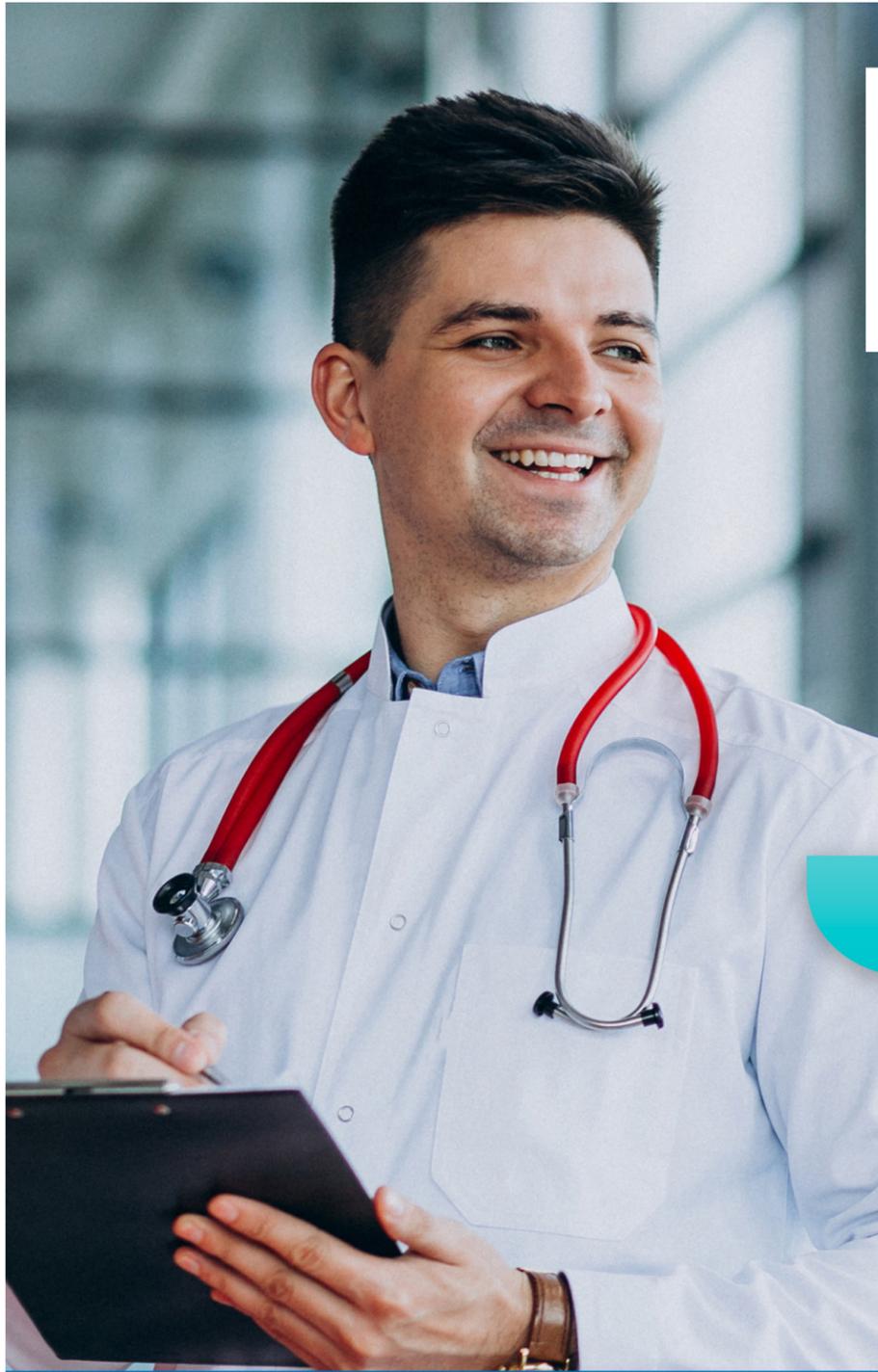
In a special highlight, FIA–NE launched its environmental initiative, “Plant a Plant – Give to Gain,” pledging to plant 250 fruit-bearing trees over the coming months in honor of 250 years of American independence.

The initiative reflects the nurturing role women play in families and communities while promoting sustainability and collective action.

The celebration also honored a distinguished group of women for their leadership and service, including educators, entrepreneurs, wellness advocates, community organizers, and artists. Among the honorees were Kathy McDonald, Vicky Brogden, Vandana Pitke, Sujata Patil, Priya Bagade, and Tanu Phoenix, recognized for their lasting impact on communities across New England.

The event concluded with networking and engagement, leaving attendees inspired by the stories shared and the shared commitment to empowering women. Through initiatives like this, FIA–New England continues to advance its mission of fostering leadership, service, and cultural unity while strengthening communities throughout the region.





# MW MIDWEST

CLINICAL & RECRUITMENT CENTER INC

PIONEERS IN QUALITY MEDICAL EDUCATION FOR OFFSHORE MEDICAL STUDENTS

## HELPING TO TRAIN SUCCESSFUL PHYSICIANS FOR TOMORROW

### SPECIALIZE IN

- ▶ Clinical Rotations
- ▶ Externships
- ▶ Observership
- ▶ Residency guidance



More information call us

**PH: 773 866 1222 • FAX: 773 337 1222**

For further information contact us at:  
[midwestclinicals@gmail.com](mailto:midwestclinicals@gmail.com)

To enroll : Contact us at  
[registrar.mwc@gmail.com](mailto:registrar.mwc@gmail.com)

# Chicago Board of Elections highlights language support for voters ahead of March 17 primary

By: Dr. Avi Verma

The Chicago Board of Elections held a press conference Thursday morning to highlight expanded language assistance available to voters ahead of the March 17 primary election, emphasizing resources for residents with limited English proficiency.

The event took place at the new Chicago Voter Supersite, located at 137 S. State Street in downtown Chicago. Officials outlined the multilingual support systems that will be available during early voting and on Election Day to ensure broader participation in the democratic process.

Among those addressing the media were Max Bever, Director of Public Information; Giovanna Carrillo, Spanish Community Service Representative; Kimico Mehta, South Asian Community Service Representative; Ezra Lee, Chinese Community Service Assistant; Monika Galuszka, Polish Community Service Representative; and Khun Byun, Korean Community Service Assistant.

Kimico Mehta, who serves as the South Asian Outreach Representative for the Board of Elections, highlighted resources available for voters from South Asian communities. She discussed the assignment of bilingual election judges and early voting officers who speak Hindi, Urdu, and Gujarati in wards



where language services are required. These officials will assist voters who may need help understanding ballots, voting procedures, or election-related information.

Election officials announced that 34 early voting sites across the city will have bilingual early voting officials present. In addition, all early voting locations and precinct polling

places will be equipped with touchscreen voting machines and audio ballots available in 12 languages: English, Spanish, Chinese (Mandarin audio), Hindi, Korean, Tagalog, Polish, Gujarati, Urdu, Ukrainian, Arabic, and Russian. The Board also confirmed that ahead of every election it releases a list of wards and precincts that will receive Limited English Proficiency (LEP) assistance on Election Day.

At those locations, bilingual poll workers will be assigned and paper ballots will be available in Spanish, Chinese, Hindi, Korean, Tagalog, or Polish.

Officials say the initiative reflects Chicago's diverse population and aims to ensure that language barriers do not prevent eligible residents from exercising their right to vote.

**IndoUS**  
TRIBUNE

Available Online

[www.indoustribune.com](http://www.indoustribune.com)

# Illinois at a political crossroads

## The high-stakes primaries that could reshape Democratic power

● By: Dr. Avi Verma

Illinois politics is entering a rare moment of transition. For decades, the state's federal delegation has been defined by long-serving figures whose influence extended far beyond Springfield and Chicago. With the retirement of Dick Durbin and the decision of Jan Schakowsky not to seek reelection, Illinois voters now face a set of primary contests that could reshape the direction of Democratic leadership in the state for years to come.

These races are not merely about replacing two respected incumbents. They represent a deeper struggle over the future of Democratic politics in Illinois — a contest between institutional power and grassroots energy, between political machines and independent campaigns, and between competing visions of progressive governance.

### The Senate race: Money vs. machine

The open U.S. Senate seat has quickly become the most consequential Democratic primary in Illinois in decades. With the departure of Durbin, three prominent Democrats have emerged as the leading contenders: Raja Krishnamoorthi, Juliana Stratton, and Robin Kelly.

At first glance, Krishnamoorthi appears to hold a commanding advantage. Armed with a massive fundraising operation that has generated tens of millions of dollars, he has dominated television advertising and built statewide name recognition well before many voters began paying attention to the race.

His campaign has emphasized economic opportunity, innovation, and national security experience gained through his role on the House Intelligence Committee.

### But elections in Illinois have rarely been decided by money alone.

Stratton enters the race with a different kind of strength: the institutional backing of the state's Democratic establishment. As lieutenant governor under JB Pritzker, she benefits from a powerful political network that includes party organizations, local officials, and major Democratic donors.

Endorsements from figures such as Tammy Duckworth reinforce her credibility as the candidate of the governing coalition in Springfield.

Meanwhile, Kelly has built support within the Congressional Black Caucus and among African-American voters in Chicago and its suburbs.

While her campaign has not matched the fundraising of her rivals, her presence adds a crucial dynamic: she splits key segments of the vote that might otherwise



consolidate behind Stratton.

### In a crowded primary, that fragmentation could prove decisive.

Illinois Democratic primaries are often determined by coalition-building across three regions — Chicago, the suburban collar counties, and downstate communities. Krishnamoorthi's strength in suburban districts combined with his financial advantage could give him the edge, particularly if Stratton and Kelly divide urban support.

For now, the race appears to be a test of whether political infrastructure can overcome financial dominance. The answer may define Illinois Democratic politics for the next generation.

### The 9th District: A battle for the progressive soul

While the Senate contest attracts national attention, the race to succeed Schakowsky in Illinois' 9th Congressional District is equally revealing.

For more than two decades, Schakowsky represented one of the most progressive districts in the country, encompassing Chicago's North Side and the North Shore suburbs. Her departure has unleashed a crowded Democratic primary featuring fifteen candidates.

Among them, three have emerged as serious contenders: Daniel Biss, Laura

Fine, and Kat Abughazaleh.

Biss, the mayor of Evanston and a longtime progressive advocate, has secured endorsements from national figures such as Elizabeth Warren and built strong support among activists aligned with the progressive wing of the Democratic Party. His campaign draws heavily from Evanston's politically engaged electorate and the district's progressive grassroots organizations.

Fine represents a more traditional political pathway. A state senator with deep connections to North Shore communities, she has assembled a coalition that includes moderate Democrats and influential pro-Israel advocacy networks. Her strength lies in established community relationships and a well-funded campaign apparatus.

Abughazaleh, a former journalist and digital media figure, has taken a different route. Her campaign has relied heavily on social media engagement and small-dollar fundraising, appealing particularly to younger voters seeking an outsider voice in Congress.

In a field this large, victory may require only a small share of the vote — perhaps as little as twenty percent. That reality places extraordinary importance on turnout patterns in key areas such as Evanston, the North Shore suburbs, and

Chicago's lakefront neighborhoods.

### The broader meaning

These two races together illustrate a larger shift underway within Illinois Democratic politics.

The Senate contest highlights the growing power of independent fundraising networks and national donor bases, while the 9th District race reflects an ongoing debate about the direction of progressive politics in urban America.

Both contests also underscore the continued importance of Chicago and its suburbs as the political heart of Illinois. Whoever emerges from these primaries will inherit not only safe Democratic seats but also the responsibility of shaping policy debates on issues ranging from economic inequality to national security.

For Illinois Democrats, the coming primary is more than a routine electoral exercise. It is a generational transition.

New leaders will emerge, new alliances will form, and the balance between grassroots activism and institutional power will be tested once again. In a state long known for its complex political machinery, the outcome may reveal whether that machinery still defines the future — or whether a new political order is beginning to take shape.

# Brazil unveils experimental drug aimed at repairing spinal cord damage



● By: Dr. Avi Verma

**B**razil has recently introduced an experimental medical treatment that scientists hope could help repair spinal cord damage, drawing global interest in regenerative medicine. The therapy, known as Polylaminin, is being studied by researchers at the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro after more than 25 years of scientific research.

The challenge of spinal cord injuries Spinal cord injuries remain one of modern medicine's most difficult challenges.

Trauma such as car accidents, falls, or sports injuries can permanently disrupt the nerve fibers that carry signals between the brain and body.

Unlike many other tissues, the central nervous system has limited regenerative ability, making paralysis caused by spinal cord injury typically permanent.

## What is Polylaminin?

Polylaminin is derived from laminin,

a protein naturally found in the extracellular matrix of human tissues, including the placenta.

Scientists have developed a modified polymer form that can act as a biological scaffold to support nerve fiber regrowth.

The treatment is designed to:

- ▶ Stimulate regeneration of damaged nerve cells
- ▶ Encourage axons (nerve fibers) to reconnect across injured areas
- ▶ Reduce inflammation around the injury site
- ▶ Support communication between the brain and body

The drug is administered directly into the injured spinal cord region and is often combined with intensive rehabilitation therapy.

## Early research results

Initial studies and early experimental treatments have shown promising signs:

- ▶ Some patients regained partial movement or sensation
- ▶ Others showed improved muscle

control and voluntary movement

- ▶ Certain cases demonstrated significant functional recovery after treatment and rehabilitation

Animal studies had previously shown similar results, with treated animals exhibiting improved mobility and nerve regeneration compared with untreated cases.

However, scientists caution that these results involve very small sample sizes, and spontaneous recovery can occur in spinal cord injury patients. Larger clinical trials are necessary to draw definitive conclusions.

## Availability in India and the United States

Currently, Polylaminin is not commercially available anywhere, including India or the U.S. Key points:

- ▶ The drug is still in experimental research phases
- ▶ Brazil's health regulator ANVISA has only approved early-stage clinical trials to evaluate safety
- ▶ Large-scale human trials are required before potential regulatory approval

- ▶ Even if trials succeed, international availability may take several years or over a decade.

## Why this research matters

If confirmed as safe and effective, Polylaminin could represent a landmark advance in neurology and regenerative medicine. Millions of people worldwide live with paralysis due to spinal cord injuries, and even partial restoration of nerve function could dramatically improve mobility, independence, and quality of life.

For now, researchers and neurologists urge cautious optimism, as scientific breakthroughs often require years of testing before becoming widely available treatments

## Important medical disclaimer

*This article is for general health awareness and educational purposes only. The treatment described is experimental and not yet approved for routine use in India, the United States, or most countries. It should not be considered medical advice. Patients with spinal cord injuries should consult qualified healthcare professionals regarding appropriate treatment options.*

# Personal finance insights: News & Features

● Dr. K C Gupta, YBB Personal Finance

**CONTRARIAN INDICATORS**

AAll Bull-Bear Spread -2.4% (below average)  
 CNN Fear & Greed Index 27 (fear-high)  
 NYSE %Above 50-dMA 42.97% (negative)  
 SP500 %Above 50-dMA 45.40% (negative)

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 3.69%, 1-yr 3.55%;  
 T-Notes 2-yr 3.56%, 5-yr 3.72%, 10-yr 4.15%; T-Bonds 30-yr 4.77%;  
 TIPS/Real yields 5-yr 1.16%, 10-yr 1.80%, 30-yr 2.54%  
 FRNs Index 3.643%

**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 4.00% (previous 4.250%)

India Fear & Greed MMI 28.21 (extreme fear)  
 Weekly ETFs: INDA -4.36%, INDY -4.37%, EPI -4.54%, INDH -3.29%, SPY -1.98%



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

**MARKETS**

Arial attacks by US & Israel on Iran, & counterattacks, have disrupted oil supplies through Middle East. US has issued a 30-day waiver for Russian container oil. India has only about 8-week inventory of crude & refined oil. GCC is also #1 trading block & #1 remittance originator. An Iranian warship returning after participating in IFR & MILAN 2026 in India was torpedoed & sunk by a US submarine near Galle, Sri Lanka (Southern coast).

Barron's INTERNATIONAL column had recent features on India - 2/23/26 (positive) & 3/9/26 (cautionary). Indian ETFs include INDA, INDY, EPI & rupee-hedged INDH.

**IT/TECH**

India joined the Pax Silica Group at a ceremony at the AI Impact Summit in India. The Group was organized by US in 12/2025 to secure global supply-chains for AI & semiconductors. Signatories so far include Australia, Greece, India, Israel, Japan, Netherlands, Qatar, S Korea, Singapore, UAE, UK, US.

Bharti Airtel & US Zscaler (CEO Jay Chaudhry) are founding members of a newly launched cybersecurity research center in India with location & other participants to be announced later. Center will significantly expand Zscaler's footprint in India.

**ECONOMY**

India now allows up to 100% foreign ownership in insurance, but that for LIC will be limited to 20%. LIC is 96.5% owned by government & listed only 3.5% in 05/2022 under a SEBI exemption that will finally expire in 05/2027. It will offer additional shares as FPO (follow-on public offering) to raise the listed shares to 10% of market-cap by 05/2027. Additional FPOs may follow in future.

**SPECIAL TOPICS**

Kotak's family office USK Capital bought majority stake in Chicago-based healthy seed-centric snacks firm Go Raw (holding company is Freeland Foods).

**STABLE-VALUE (SV) FUNDS**

The stable-value (SV) funds guarantee principal & accumulated interest. The guarantee is from insurance companies. It's best to stick with highly rated insurance companies because the workouts of failed insurers by state insurance commissioners may take years; those programs are unfunded. Insurers may offer SVs backed by their General Accounts (with higher rates) or as separate accounts (with lower rates); their ERs are not disclosed & may not be relevant. SVs are

available only in workplace retirement plans because many restrictions for SVs are possible only within such plans.

SVs compete with money-market funds, ultra-short-term bond funds & short-term CDs.

The SVs are short/ intermediate-term bond portfolios with insurance wrappers for guarantees. This works because participants in retirement plans do not trade a lot & there are restrictions on deposits & withdrawals. For example, withdrawals from SVs may not go directly into competing fixed-income (FI) funds. A 30-90-day equity-wash may be required, i.e. the SV funds may have to first go into stock & bond funds with market risks before going into competing FI funds. There may also be restrictions on moving funds back into the SV.

There may be restrictions on withdrawals during company restructuring & by employees who are terminated for cause.

There are some SVs from fund firms that are not backed by insurance companies or by sponsors' reserves. Their sponsors say that they invest very conservatively. This works only until it doesn't. In these cases, it may be prudent to stick with such SVs from large firms who at least have their reputations to protect.

There are also SV-like products offered by TIAA (Traditional - RA, RC, SRA, RCP, IRA) & Federal TSP (G Fund). The guarantee for TSP G Fund is from the US Government; it may be used temporarily during the DC shutdowns, but the holders are made whole later. These may not have all of the features of standard SVs.

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



# Everything you need to know about IUHS School of Medicine

● By: Dr. Avi Verma

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

**2. Program Structure & Exams:**

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

**3. Assessments:**

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

knowledge gaps.

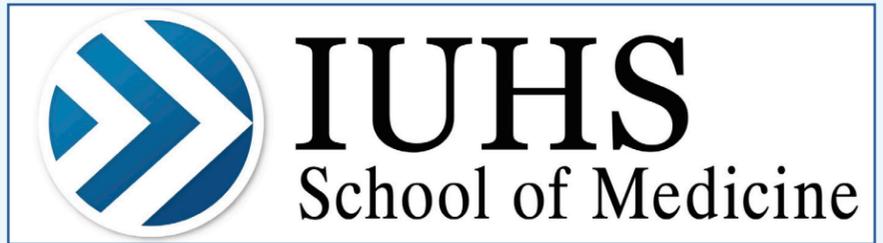
- ▶ Lecturio self-assessments which are mandatory but not graded.

**4. Teaching methods:**

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

**5. Clinical rotations:**

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



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

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

**Key Features:**

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

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

**8. Question and Concept Sessions:**

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

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

**Key Features:**

- ▶ Comprehensive Medical Curriculum Support – Covers

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



## MEDICAL DOCTOR DEGREE

- Hybrid: Online + In-person study
- Competitive Tuition Fees
- Sit the USMLE Step Exams to Practice Medicine in the USA
- Clinical Training in Affiliated US Hospitals
- Apply now to start in September

[www.iuhs.edu](http://www.iuhs.edu)

# Saint Laurent turns up the power and romance at Paris Fashion Week

**A**t Paris Fashion Week, Saint Laurent delivered a runway moment that balanced sharp authority with delicate sensuality. Creative director Anthony Vaccarello sent out a striking Fall Winter 2026 collection that moved between oversized power suits and whisper light lace dresses, creating a dramatic tension between masculine tailoring and feminine transparency.

The show opened with a series of sharply tailored black suits featuring strong shoulders, elongated silhouettes, and wide lapels. The pieces echoed the revolutionary 'Le Smoking' tuxedo introduced by Yves Saint Laurent in 1966, which famously challenged traditional ideas of womenswear. Vaccarello's modern interpretation leaned into bold proportions, projecting a commanding, almost cinematic confidence.

As the show progressed, the mood softened. Models appeared in sheer lace dresses and skirts in earthy shades of red, rust, and chocolate brown. The transparency of the fabrics was offset with dramatic styling choices such as oversized fur coats, sculptural jewelry, and towering heels. The interplay between softness and structure became the defining aesthetic of the collection.

Beyond the runway spectacle, the show also arrives at a critical moment for Saint Laurent's parent company Kering. The luxury group has faced slowing demand after the post pandemic boom in high end fashion spending faded. Still, Saint Laurent remains one of its most influential labels, with Vaccarello widely credited for expanding the brand's global appeal since taking over in 2016.



Ashwani Chadha's  
**JALANDHAR**  
JEWELLERS

**DIAMOND | GOLD | KUNDAN  
POLKI | PLATINUM**

**G.T. Road, Civil Lines, Near Company Bagh Chowk Jalandhar**  
**Mb: 9815192100**  
**www.jalandharjewellers.com | jalandharjewels@gmail.com**

# READ THE WORLD TODAY!



**IndoUS**  
TRIBUNE



[WWW.INDOUSTRIBUNE.COM](http://WWW.INDOUSTRIBUNE.COM)

