

United States strike on Iranian bridge escalates conflict as Trump warns of more action



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United States forces struck a strategic highway bridge near Tehran, targeting what officials described as a key supply route for Iranian missile and drone operations. Iranian authorities said the bridge was not fully operational and reported at least eight deaths and several injuries, including civilians during Nowruz celebrations. President Donald Trump warned that “much more” action could follow if Iran refuses negotiations. Iranian leaders rejected talks under current conditions. The strike adds to rising regional tensions involving Israel and Yemen, where missile exchanges and air defenses remain active, while diplomatic efforts at the United Nations Security Council continue to stall amid deep divisions.

India urges protection of peacekeepers amid rising attacks on UN mission in Lebanon



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India on Thursday called for stronger protection of United Nations peacekeeping forces and demanded accountability for attacks on personnel serving in conflict zones, following recent fatalities in Lebanon. Speaking at a weekly briefing in New Delhi on Thursday, a Ministry of External Affairs spokesperson said India strongly condemns recent attacks on the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon, which have killed multiple peacekeepers, including personnel from Indonesia.

India highlighted its long-standing role as one of the largest contributors to United Nations peacekeeping missions, with around six hundred Indian troops currently deployed in Lebanon. Officials stressed that the safety of blue helmet personnel must be ensured under international obligations and United Nations Security Council resolutions.

India also reaffirmed its support for holding perpetrators accountable for violence against peacekeepers and said it will continue working through multilateral channels to strengthen protections. The statement comes amid heightened tensions in southern Lebanon, where United Nations forces operate near volatile frontlines involving Israeli and Hezbollah positions, raising concerns about the security of international personnel.

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United States ambassador says President Donald Trump deeply values India partnership

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United States Ambassador to India Sergio Gor said on Tuesday that President Donald Trump “deeply cares about the relationship between the United States and India,” following a meeting at the White House during a short visit back to the United States. Gor shared a brief message after the meeting, noting that he began his trip by meeting the president in Washington.

Although no official details of the discussions were released, Secretary of State Marco Rubio was also present in the Oval Office, according to images shared by Gor. The remarks come as the United States continues to navigate global tensions while strengthening key partnerships in the Indo Pacific region.

The ambassador’s comments underscore ongoing efforts to maintain momentum in bilateral ties despite periodic differences over trade and regulation. Gor has been active in engaging both sides since taking up



his diplomatic role in New Delhi, focusing on deepening cooperation

in strategic sectors including security, technology and supply chains.

US-Europe rift deepens as Trump escalates NATO criticism over Iran war

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Tensions between the United States and Europe widened on Wednesday as President Donald Trump intensified criticism of NATO allies over the ongoing war with Iran, exposing fresh strains within the trans-Atlantic alliance. Speaking at a private White House lunch on Wednesday, Trump accused NATO of treating the United States unfairly and warned that allies could do so again in future crises.

In a separate interview published the same day, he suggested he might consider

leaving the alliance, though legal limits would make such a move difficult.

During an evening address on Wednesday, however, Trump avoided directly mentioning NATO while urging countries dependent on oil shipments through the Strait of Hormuz to take responsibility for securing their own energy routes. European leaders reaffirmed support for NATO, while officials including the British prime minister called it the world’s most effective defense alliance. The dispute highlights growing divisions over burden-sharing and Middle East security strategy. A NATO chief visit to Washington is planned next week.



India among US’s largest trade deficit partners with \$54.91 billion in past 12 months



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India remained among the United States’ major trade deficit partners, with the US recording a \$54.91 billion goods trade deficit with India over the 12 months through February 2026, according to official data. India accounted for about 5.01 per cent of the total US goods trade deficit during this period, reflecting steady bilateral trade flows.

In February alone, the US goods trade deficit with India stood at about \$3.5 billion. The overall US trade deficit widened to \$57.35 billion in February, up \$2.67 billion from January, as imports rose faster than exports. Total exports reached \$314.8 billion, while imports climbed to \$372.1 billion. Goods accounted for an \$84.60 billion deficit, partly offset by a \$27.26 billion surplus in services. Imports from India totalled \$101.97 billion over the year, highlighting its role in pharmaceuticals and engineering goods supply to the US market.

United States imposes sweeping tariffs on patented drugs citing security concerns

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The United States has announced tariffs of up to 100 percent on imported patented pharmaceuticals, with President Donald Trump citing national security concerns over reliance on foreign drug supply chains. The policy targets branded medicines and key active ingredients, while generics remain exempt for now. Companies shifting production to the United States will initially face lower rates before higher tariffs apply over time. Imports from allies including the European Union, Japan, South Korea, and Switzerland will face reduced rates under certain conditions. Officials say the measure is aimed at strengthening domestic manufacturing capacity and reducing dependence on overseas pharmaceutical production.

Zelenskyy offers maritime expertise as Ukraine war shows battlefield slowdown

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said Ukraine is prepared to share expertise in securing sea routes as global concerns grow over maritime safety near key shipping corridors. His comments came during discussions involving dozens of nations. Meanwhile, new analysis shows Russia made no territorial gains in March for the first time in over two years, with Ukrainian forces reclaiming limited ground. Russian strikes continue to cause civilian casualties and infrastructure damage across Ukraine. Separately, the White House confirmed ongoing efforts to return Ukrainian children taken to Russia. The war remains entrenched, with heavy losses on both sides and no immediate diplomatic breakthrough.

Uganda receives first United States deportation flight under third country deal



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Uganda has received its first United States deportation flight under a new third country agreement allowing migrants to be temporarily relocated. Officials confirmed that 12 individuals arrived and will remain in Uganda during processing before possible resettlement elsewhere. The deal excludes individuals with criminal records and unaccompanied minors. The Uganda Law Society criticized the arrangement as inhumane and warned of legal action. United States authorities say the policy is part of broader immigration enforcement efforts involving multiple partner countries. Uganda already hosts nearly two million refugees, making it one of Africa's largest refugee destinations and raising concerns about capacity and integration challenges.

India's MEA debunks claim of India seeking observer status in 'Islamabad Peace Process'

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The Ministry of External Affairs on Wednesday rejected social media reports claiming that India had sought observer status in a so-called "Islamabad Peace Process," calling the claim completely fake and misleading. In a statement issued through its official fact-checking handle, the ministry said no such request has been made by India and urged the public to rely only on verified government sources.

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar



also dismissed the reports, warning against misinformation targeting foreign policy issues. Officials said the viral claim appeared to originate from unverified online posts and had no basis in official communication.

The ministry noted that India does not engage in any dialogue framework linked to Pakistan unless there is credible action against cross-border terrorism. It added that the rapid spread of false narratives risks diplomatic confusion. Authorities said India remains committed to peace but will only engage in talks based on security, sovereignty and verified commitments.

European Union leaders vow full accountability for war crimes in Ukraine

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

European Union foreign policy chief Kaja Kallas and foreign ministers from member countries, except Hungary, gathered in Bucha on Tuesday in Ukraine to mark victims of atrocities committed during Russia's occupation of parts of Kyiv in 2022. In a joint statement, the leaders pledged full accountability for war crimes and other serious violations linked to Russia's military actions in Ukraine. The statement was signed by representatives of multiple European nations and the European Union's foreign affairs office. It highlighted killings, torture, sexual violence and forced deportations reported after Russian forces withdrew from the area. The group also welcomed progress toward establishing a special tribunal for the crime of aggression against Ukraine and a compensation commission for



victims. Kallas said Bucha has become a symbol of wartime brutality and stressed that those responsible must be held accountable. The leaders also reiterated support for International Criminal Court investigations and called for full international cooperation.

Sweden detains sanctioned tanker after Baltic Sea oil spill linked to Russian shadow fleet

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Swedish authorities on Friday boarded and detained a sanctioned tanker suspected of causing a 12-kilometer oil spill in the Baltic Sea near Gotland Island after it departed the Russian port of Primorsk earlier in the week. The vessel, identified as Flora 1, is linked to Russia's so-called shadow fleet, used to transport oil while bypassing Western restrictions. The Swedish Coast Guard said the ship and its 24-member crew were taken to anchorage near Ystad in southern Sweden. The spill was detected early



Thursday, with only a limited amount of oil released and no immediate threat to land. The vessel is under European Union sanctions for high-risk shipping practices, including possible manipulation of tracking systems.

Christians mark Good Friday as Easter weekend begins with global observances



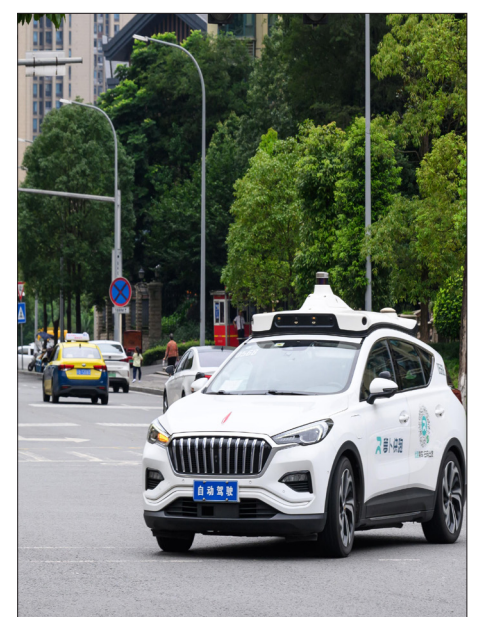
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Christians around the world observed Good Friday on Friday, a solemn day commemorating the crucifixion of Jesus Christ and marking the start of the Easter weekend, a central period in the Christian calendar. Good Friday falls during Holy Week, following the 40-day season of Lent, a time of prayer, fasting and reflection leading up to Easter Sunday, which celebrates Jesus' resurrection.

Across Europe, the Americas, Africa and Asia, churches held special services, Stations of the Cross processions and prayer vigils. Many faithful participated in quiet reflection and traditional liturgies focused on sacrifice and redemption.

At the Vatican, Pope Leo XIV presided over Good Friday observances and used the occasion to call for peace amid global conflicts, urging world leaders to pursue dialogue and reduce violence. Easter services are expected to draw large congregations worldwide over the weekend as Christians celebrate hope and renewal.

Robotaxi malfunction strands passengers in China, raising safety concerns



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

A system failure left multiple autonomous robotaxis stranded across roads in Wuhan, operated by Baidu's Apollo Go service, raising concerns over the reliability of driverless transport systems. The vehicles reportedly stalled simultaneously, leaving passengers trapped for extended periods. Some users said they were unable to reach customer support while stuck in traffic conditions. Videos circulating online showed immobilized vehicles causing road disruptions. Authorities said initial findings point to a technical malfunction but did not confirm the number of affected cars. The incident adds to growing scrutiny of autonomous vehicle safety in China, where companies are rapidly expanding driverless taxi services in major cities.

Myanmar military leader Min Aung Hlaing becomes president after disputed vote

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Myanmar's military chief Min Aung Hlaing was elected president on Friday by a pro-military parliament, strengthening his grip on power five years after the coup that removed an elected government. He led the 2021 takeover that detained Aung San Suu Kyi and triggered nationwide unrest that evolved into armed resistance. His rise follows a disputed election held in December and January, widely rejected by opposition groups and Western governments. In a live parliamentary vote, he secured a majority in a legislature dominated by military appointees and allies. Analysts say the move consolidates control under a nominally civilian system as the civil war continues. Analysts say the shift is aimed at consolidating authority under a nominally civilian system while the civil war continues across Myanmar.

Britain pushes coordinated action over Iran's grip on Strait of Hormuz

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Britain's Foreign Secretary Yvette Cooper called for coordinated diplomatic and economic pressure to secure the Strait of Hormuz, accusing Iran of disrupting a vital global shipping route. Speaking at a meeting involving around 40 countries including India, she said Iran had effectively "hijacked" the passage, threatening global economic stability. Cooper urged nations to use collective diplomatic tools and consider coordinated planning to ensure safe maritime movement and protect stranded vessels and crews. She also suggested military planners could explore post-conflict measures such as demining operations. The meeting, largely held online, continued in closed session without the United States or China present, as global tensions over shipping security and energy flows intensified following recent regional escalation.

Afghanistan says cross-border strikes displaced over 27,000 families, urges global response

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Afghanistan's Minister of Economy Qari Din Mohammad Hanif said on Thursday that Pakistani military actions have displaced 27,344 Afghan families across nine provinces, according to local media reports. He raised the issue during a coordination meeting with United Nations agencies and aid groups, alleging recent cross-border attacks have triggered widespread humanitarian suffering. Hanif said families in provinces including Kunar, Paktika, and Kandahar are facing shortages of food, shelter, clothing, and medical care. He called the situation a serious violation of humanitarian norms and urged international agencies to expand emergency assistance. UNICEF representative Tajuddin Oyewale also highlighted damage to health facilities and civilian infrastructure, stressing the need for peaceful dialogue between Afghanistan and Pakistan amid rising border tensions and repeated shelling incidents.

Lula accuses United States of false claims to justify war against Iran

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Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva on Wednesday accused the United States of spreading false claims to justify what he called an unnecessary war against Iran, escalating criticism of Western military action in the Middle East. Speaking in northeastern Brazil on Wednesday, Lula said Washington falsely alleged Iran was developing nuclear weapons and compared the situation to the Iraq war, where weapons of mass destruction were never found.

He urged the United Nations Security Council to reassess the conflict and



warned that global instability has already pushed up fuel prices in Brazil. Lula said disruptions in the Strait of Hormuz are increasing economic pressure on developing nations and noted that his government has responded by reducing fuel taxes and strengthening oversight to cushion consumers.

He also cited humanitarian concerns, referencing widespread damage to civilian infrastructure in Iran since the conflict escalated in late February. International agencies have reported significant impacts on hospitals, schools, and residential areas as the war continues to disrupt global energy and trade flows.

India's deep tech ambitions hinge on capital, demand and industry ties, say Indian American CEOs

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India's ambition to build a globally competitive deep tech ecosystem will depend on patient capital, stronger domestic demand, and deeper coordination between industry, government and research institutions, leading Indian American chief executive officers said on Wednesday during the Hopkins India Conference 2026. Speaking at a panel on building India's deep tech engine, General Atomics Global Corporation chief executive Vivek Lall said India's strongest advantage

is its talent base, calling it a "strategic asset" that outperforms many global peers. Cognite chairman and chief executive Girish Rishi said weak enterprise adoption remains a major constraint, noting that Indian businesses often treat technology as a cost rather than a growth driver. He stressed that domestic clients must scale startups. Experts also flagged funding gaps, long development cycles and execution risks, while urging stronger participation from large Indian conglomerates to help startups scale globally in artificial intelligence, defence and industrial technologies.



NASA astronauts take personal smartphones to Moon for first time on Artemis mission

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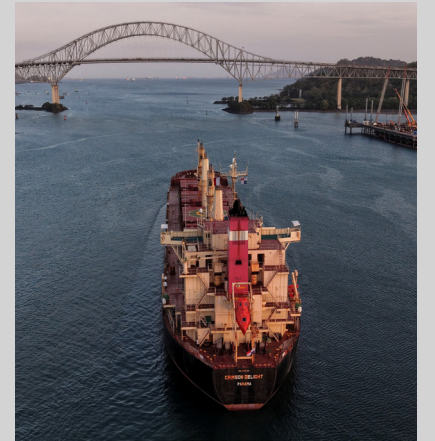
NASA astronauts have carried personal smartphones into deep space for the first time as part of the Artemis mission launched from Florida on Wednesday, marking a new step in how crews document space exploration. The four-member team lifted off aboard the Orion spacecraft for a 10-day journey around the Moon and back, becoming the first humans in more than half a century to travel to lunar proximity.

Officials said astronauts are using smartphones in aeroplane mode as advanced cameras, allowing them to capture images and video without



interfering with spacecraft systems. When near the International Space Station, they will be able to connect to Wi-Fi for limited communication, though voice calls will not be possible.

United States warns China over Panama flagged vessel disruptions



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The United States warned that actions affecting Panama flagged ships at Chinese ports could threaten global trade stability and raise costs for consumers. Secretary of State Marco Rubio said such detentions and delays undermine confidence in international supply chains and weaken the rule of law. His comments followed reports of increased inspections and disruptions involving Panama registered vessels. The warning also comes after Panama's Supreme Court invalidated a port concession tied to a Hong Kong based company, allowing the government to take control of key terminals. Washington said it supports Panama's sovereignty and praised transparency reforms. The Panama Canal, handling about five percent of global maritime trade, remains central to global energy and goods movement, making any disruption a major economic concern worldwide.

Russia warns Japan over missile deployment amid rising military tensions



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Russia warned that Japan's deployment of advanced anti-ship hypersonic missiles signals a dangerous shift away from its pacifist constitution. Foreign Ministry spokesperson Maria Zakharova said the move reflects growing militarization and could lead to "more than tragic" consequences if historical revisionism and weapons expansion continue. She said Moscow has repeatedly raised concerns through diplomatic channels over Japan's security policies in the Asia Pacific region. The missile systems deployed in Kumamoto and Shizuoka include long range capabilities that some analysts say extend beyond defensive use. Japanese officials describe them as deterrents, but critics argue they could enable preemptive strikes. Local protests have erupted near deployment sites, with residents warning the installations could make civilian areas potential military targets amid rising regional tensions.



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Fog of war or political messaging? Conflicting claims around the U.S.–Iran–Israel conflict



Dr. Avi Verma

Conflicting narratives from Washington, Tel Aviv, and Tehran have intensified, with each side projecting sharply different versions of reality. At the center of this information battle are sweeping claims of military success by the U.S. and Israel, and equally forceful denials by Iran.

Competing claims: Total damage vs. minimal impact

Donald Trump and Benjamin Netanyahu have asserted that joint operations have significantly degraded Iran’s military capabilities. According to their statements, key Iranian infrastructure—including missile systems, launch platforms, and strategic assets—has been “decimated,” resulting in a substantial reduction of Iran’s offensive and defensive capacity. The messaging suggests that Iran’s ability to sustain prolonged military engagement has been critically weakened.

In stark contrast, Iranian officials have dismissed these claims as exaggerated and misleading. Tehran insists that its core military strength remains intact, arguing that U.S. and Israeli forces failed to inflict any meaningful damage on its missile arsenal or operational readiness. Iranian statements go further, claiming that critical assets such as mobile missile launchers remain untouched and beyond the reach of adversarial strikes.

Iran has also escalated its rhetoric by warning against any potential ground invasion. Officials have stated that any deployment of U.S. or Israeli troops would be met with severe retaliation, asserting that “boots on the ground” would face consequences so significant that withdrawal would not be possible. This messaging appears aimed at deterrence, signaling both preparedness and confidence in defensive capabilities.

What can be verified?

At present, there is no independent, verifiable evidence fully supporting either side’s claims. While satellite imagery, intelligence leaks, and fragmented reports may indicate targeted strikes and localized damage, they do not conclusively validate assertions of either “decimation” or “negligible impact.”

Historically, in conflicts of this scale, both sides tend to:

- ▶ Overstate successes to maintain domestic and international support
- ▶ Understate losses to preserve morale and strategic ambiguity

The absence of neutral verification leaves the situation in a gray zone, where perception often substitutes for reality.

Strategic messaging and psychological warfare

The language used by both sides reflects more than battlefield assessment—it is part of a broader psychological and political strategy. Claims of having crippled an opponent serve to project strength, deter escalation, and reassure domestic audiences. Conversely, denying damage and projecting resilience reinforces national morale and signals readiness for prolonged conflict.

Trump’s declaration that the mission has been “accomplished” aligns with this pattern of assertive messaging. Similarly, Iran’s warnings about ground forces function as a deterrent

narrative, aimed at raising the perceived cost of further escalation.

Economic and political context

The timing of these announcements also intersects with economic and political pressures. Rising oil prices, volatility in global markets, and domestic political considerations add layers of complexity to official statements. Strong declarations of success can influence market sentiment and public perception, particularly in an election-sensitive environment.

Comparisons with past administrations, including Joe Biden and Jimmy Carter, highlight how economic performance and foreign policy outcomes often become intertwined in political narratives.

Ground reality: Between assertion and uncertainty

Based on available information, the most balanced assessment is:

- ▶ Some level of damage to Iranian assets is likely, given the scale of reported operations.
- ▶ Claims of total destruction or negligible impact are both likely overstated.
- ▶ The conflict remains active, with no confirmed ceasefire or definitive outcome.

Conclusion

In modern warfare, the battle for narrative dominance runs parallel to the conflict on the ground. Statements from all sides must be viewed through the lens of strategic communication as much as factual reporting.

Until independently verified data emerges, the truth remains contested—shaped by competing interests, political timing, and the enduring “fog of war.”

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



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Russia rejects United States pressure on India oil trade, backs New Delhi's independent stance



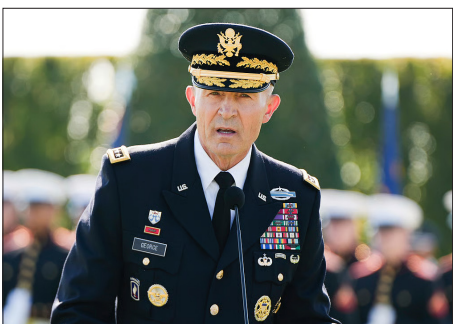
IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Russia has rejected what it called United States pressure on India's oil market, saying New Delhi continues to follow an independent foreign policy. Speaking in an exclusive interview on Wednesday, Russian Ambassador Denis Alipov said attempts to restrict Russia's access to the Indian market through external pressure are inappropriate and inconsistent with normal international trade practices.

He said Moscow and New Delhi continue to expand economic cooperation, particularly in the energy sector, where Russian oil exports to India have increased significantly in recent years. Alipov added that bilateral trade is on an upward trajectory and both countries remain committed to strengthening ties. He also criticised what he described as broader disruptions in global energy markets linked to United States policies.

On high level diplomatic engagement, he said Russia would warmly welcome a visit by Prime Minister Narendra Modi this year, noting the tradition of annual leadership summits and continued strategic cooperation between the two nations.

Pentagon shake-up deepens as Army chief forced out amid Iran tensions



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The United States military leadership saw a sudden shake-up after Army Chief of Staff General Randy George stepped down following a request from Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth. General Christopher LaNeve has taken over as acting chief pending Senate confirmation.

George, appointed in September 2023, was not due to retire yet. At least two other senior Army officials were also removed as part of the broader overhaul. Lawmakers, including Congressman Eugene Vindman, questioned the move, suggesting political motives. The Pentagon has not provided a reason, though the changes come amid heightened tensions linked to the escalating Iran conflict and wider regional instability.

US signals easing ties with Venezuela as sanctions on acting president lifted

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The United States has removed sanctions on Venezuela's acting president Delcy Rodriguez, signaling a potential shift in diplomatic engagement between Washington and Caracas, according to a Treasury Department update released on Wednesday. The decision was confirmed without explanation, but Rodriguez welcomed the move as a step toward improving bilateral relations and called for further easing of restrictions.

Rodriguez, who previously served as vice president under President Nicolas Maduro, was sanctioned in 2018. In recent months, Washington has gradually softened some measures on Venezuela, particularly in the energy sector, as the country remains a major holder of global oil reserves.

The development follows renewed diplomatic contacts, including the reopening of the United States Embassy in



Caracas earlier this week after seven years. Rodriguez said easing sanctions could help stimulate investment and economic growth in Venezuela.

Relations between the two countries have remained strained for years, though recent moves suggest cautious efforts to rebuild engagement amid global energy pressures and shifting geopolitical priorities.

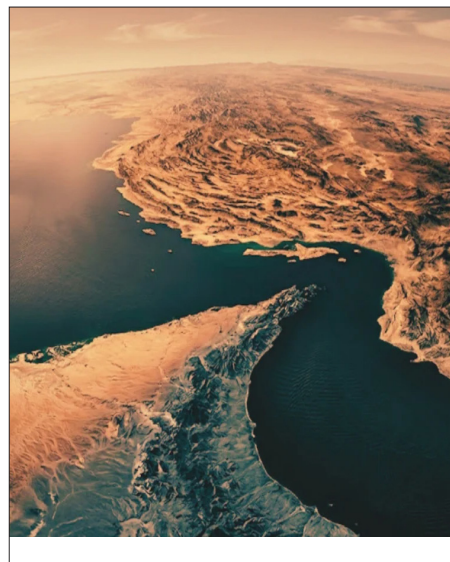
Global coalition moves to reopen Strait of Hormuz amid energy crisis concerns

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

More than forty countries gathered virtually on Thursday to discuss plans for reopening the Strait of Hormuz, a vital global shipping route disrupted by the ongoing conflict involving Iran. Britain led the meeting, accusing Tehran of holding the world economy hostage through repeated attacks on commercial vessels in the region.

Officials warned that disruptions in the strait have caused sharp increases in oil and food prices, affecting consumers worldwide. The United States did not participate in the talks, after President Donald Trump said securing the waterway should not be America's responsibility, intensifying debate over global burden sharing.

Participants, including European and Asian allies, focused on diplomatic and logistical strategies to restore safe passage for thousands of ships and seafarers. Proposals included post-conflict escort missions and mine-clearing operations once fighting subsides.



European leaders also emphasized that reopening the strait would require coordination with Iran, while warning that military intervention is currently unrealistic. The meeting underscored widening divisions within NATO allies over energy security, global trade stability, and responsibility for maintaining international shipping routes.

France and Japan deepen defense and energy ties amid Middle East tensions

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

French President Emmanuel Macron and Japanese Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi on Wednesday called for a ceasefire in the Middle East and stronger international cooperation during talks in Tokyo, as global tensions over the Strait of Hormuz continue to rise. The leaders emphasized shared support for international law and stable maritime trade routes, including safe passage through the strategic waterway.

Both countries agreed to expand defense cooperation, including joint military exercises and increased coordination in the Indo-Pacific region. They also signed

agreements to collaborate on rare earth materials and nuclear energy development, aimed at strengthening supply chains and technological independence.

The discussions come as the United States pressures allies over their role in securing global shipping lanes amid the Iran conflict. Macron did not directly address criticism from Washington but reiterated the importance of diplomacy and coordination rather than military escalation.

Japan and France also announced plans for future cooperation in space technology and advanced energy systems, underscoring their shared interest in reducing dependence on critical resources controlled by geopolitical rivals.

Former Nepal prime minister arrested over deadly protest crackdown

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Former Nepal prime minister KP Sharma Oli has been arrested in Kathmandu over his alleged role in a violent crackdown on youth-led protests last year. Former home minister Ramesh Lekhak was also detained as part of the investigation.

The protests began over a social media ban and broader corruption concerns, eventually turning deadly and killing at least 77 people. A government-backed inquiry recommended action against senior officials for excessive use of force.

The arrest came shortly after new prime minister Balendra Shah took office, promising accountability. Oli's legal team has challenged the arrest, calling it unlawful, while authorities say investigations are ongoing.

Italy's Giorgia Meloni visits Gulf states amid energy security concerns and regional tensions

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni began a two-day visit on Friday to Saudi Arabia, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates in an unannounced trip focused on energy security and regional stability. A government official said the visit aims to reinforce support for Gulf partners amid rising tensions linked to Iranian attacks and to safeguard Italy's energy supplies.

The trip comes as Europe faces growing concerns over oil and gas flows. Before the conflict in the region escalated, about 10 percent of Italy's gas imports came from Qatari liquefied natural gas, while roughly 12 percent of oil imports originated in the Middle East. Recent disruptions have further strained supplies, including a pause in liquefied natural gas deliveries linked to instability near the Strait of Hormuz. Analysts say Italy is also seeking alternative energy sources, including future imports from the United States.

Judge halts White House ballroom construction over lack of approval

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

A federal judge on Tuesday ordered a temporary halt to construction of a major White House ballroom project, ruling that the Trump administration must obtain congressional approval before proceeding. The judge said a preservation group was likely to succeed in its claim that the demolition of the East Wing and replacement construction exceeded presidential authority.

Work on the project, estimated at 400 million dollars, has already significantly altered the White House grounds. The ruling allows certain security-related construction to continue but blocks further expansion of the ballroom. The White House has appealed the decision and criticized the ruling as an overreach.

United States outlines expanded strategic vision for partnership with India

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

India's role in United States foreign policy was highlighted on Thursday as Ambassador Sergio Gor described New Delhi as central to Washington's long term global strategy. In an interview, he said the relationship is evolving into what he called the defining partnership of the twenty first century, with expanded cooperation in defence, trade, and emerging technologies. He emphasized close leadership level ties between President Donald Trump and Prime Minister Narendra Modi, along with joint efforts in defence exercises, military production, and interoperability. Gor also pointed to initiatives on supply chain resilience, semiconductors, and artificial intelligence, saying both nations stand to benefit from deeper collaboration. He stressed that the partnership is built on shared democratic values and aims to deliver tangible benefits, including economic growth and regional security in the Indo Pacific.

India thanks Azerbaijan for facilitating evacuation of nationals from Iran

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

India on Thursday expressed gratitude to Azerbaijan for assisting in the evacuation of Indian citizens from Iran through its land border. According to the Ministry of External Affairs, around 204 Indian nationals crossed into Azerbaijan and are in the process of returning home, with several already having arrived earlier in the week. The evacuation effort followed coordination between Indian and Azerbaijani officials amid regional tensions in West Asia. India's ambassador in Baku recently met Azerbaijan's foreign minister to review bilateral ties and express appreciation for the support provided. Officials also noted that hundreds of Indians had been assisted in earlier phases of evacuation routes through neighboring countries. The assistance highlights ongoing diplomatic cooperation between India and Azerbaijan during regional crises and reinforces consular coordination between the two sides.

Sri Lanka thanks New Delhi after emergency fuel supply arrives in Colombo

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

India's energy partnership with Sri Lanka was reinforced on Sunday as President Anura Kumara Disanayake expressed gratitude after 38,000 metric tons of fuel arrived in Colombo from New Delhi. The shipment came shortly after a phone call between the Sri Lankan president and Prime Minister Narendra Modi, during which they discussed fuel supply disruptions linked to instability in West Asia. Disanayake credited India's swift response for helping ease immediate shortages and thanked External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar for coordination. Earlier diplomatic exchanges between both sides focused on strengthening energy security and regional stability amid global market volatility.

China signals intent to deepen strategic alignment and cooperation with India

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

China on Wednesday said it is ready to strengthen strategic alignment with India and expand practical cooperation as both countries marked the seventy sixth anniversary of diplomatic relations. Chinese Ambassador Xu Feihong said the two neighbors should pursue good neighborly ties and work toward mutual success under what he described as the "dragon elephant tango." He added that Beijing also seeks greater people to people exchanges and stronger coordination on multilateral issues in support of the Global South.

Separately, Chinese officials highlighted a renewed push in air connectivity, with new



and resumed direct flights between multiple Indian and Chinese cities, including Kolkata, Shanghai, Delhi, Beijing, and Guangzhou, operated by major carriers from both sides. Earlier discussions between Indian and Chinese officials also reviewed steps to improve bilateral relations and manage sensitive issues through continued diplomatic engagement.

India and Tajikistan deepen cooperation across trade, science and regional security

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

India and Tajikistan reviewed their bilateral cooperation on Wednesday in Dushanbe as Secretary (West) in the Ministry of External Affairs Sibi George held talks with Tajikistan Foreign Minister Sirojiddin Muhridin and co-chaired the fifth round of Foreign Office Consultations with Deputy Foreign Minister Idibek Kalandar. The discussions covered trade and economic ties, science and technology, financial technology,

pharmaceuticals, culture, and people to people exchanges. Both sides also exchanged views on regional and global issues of shared concern. The engagement followed earlier high level contact between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Tajik President Emomali Rahmon during a regional summit, underscoring the traditionally close and stable relationship established after diplomatic ties were formed in 1992. Officials reaffirmed commitment to expanding cooperation across strategic and development sectors.

India and Russia expand parliamentary and economic engagement during high level visit

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

India and Russia strengthened parliamentary and economic cooperation on Thursday during meetings in New Delhi between visiting Russian Deputy Chairperson Vladimir Yakushev and Indian leaders, including Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla. Both sides discussed expanding collaboration in trade, technology, and cultural exchanges while reinforcing long standing parliamentary ties. Yakushev also met External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar as

part of a broader delegation visit focused on intergovernmental cooperation. In parallel, Russian First Deputy Prime Minister Denis Manturov held discussions with Indian officials, including Prime Minister Narendra Modi, on trade, fertilisers, connectivity, and implementation of outcomes from their annual summit. Leaders from both countries reaffirmed commitment to the India Russia Special and Privileged Strategic Partnership, with emphasis on defence, energy, and economic cooperation. The engagements reflect continued momentum in one of India's most established global partnerships.

Diplomatic ties with New Zealand strengthened as new envoy presents credentials

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

India's diplomatic engagement with New Zealand was highlighted on Wednesday as High Commissioner Muanpui Saiawi formally presented her Letter of Credence to Governor General Dame Cindy Kiro in Wellington. The ceremony included a traditional Maori welcome, symbolising cultural respect and shared diplomatic traditions. Saiawi also sang the Indian patriotic song "Sare Jahan Se Accha" alongside a Maori welcome song, reflecting growing people to people and cultural ties. She assumed charge earlier in March following her appointment in January as a senior Indian Foreign Service officer. India and New Zealand, which established diplomatic relations in 1952, continue to expand cooperation in trade, education, and regional security. Both countries also share engagement in



Commonwealth frameworks and have recently strengthened dialogue on Indo Pacific stability and maritime cooperation, underscoring a steadily evolving partnership built on shared democratic values and global collaboration.

India and Bangladesh discuss defence cooperation and regional security ties

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

India and Bangladesh reviewed defence cooperation on Thursday during a meeting in New Delhi between Bangladesh High Commissioner Riaz Hamidullah and Chief of Army Staff General Upendra Dwivedi. Both sides discussed strengthening military collaboration, including joint training initiatives and broader coordination to promote regional peace and stability. The engagement reflects ongoing efforts to deepen strategic ties between the two neighbors, built on shared history, cultural linkages, and the legacy of the 1971 Liberation War. Recent diplomatic interactions have also emphasized expanding connectivity, trade, and people to people exchanges. Officials reiterated that the partnership remains people centric and forward looking, with continued focus on capacity building and regional security cooperation. The meeting comes amid sustained high level engagement aimed at reinforcing trust and strengthening institutional defence dialogue between the two countries.

New Delhi and Malta expand cooperation across technology, health and renewable energy

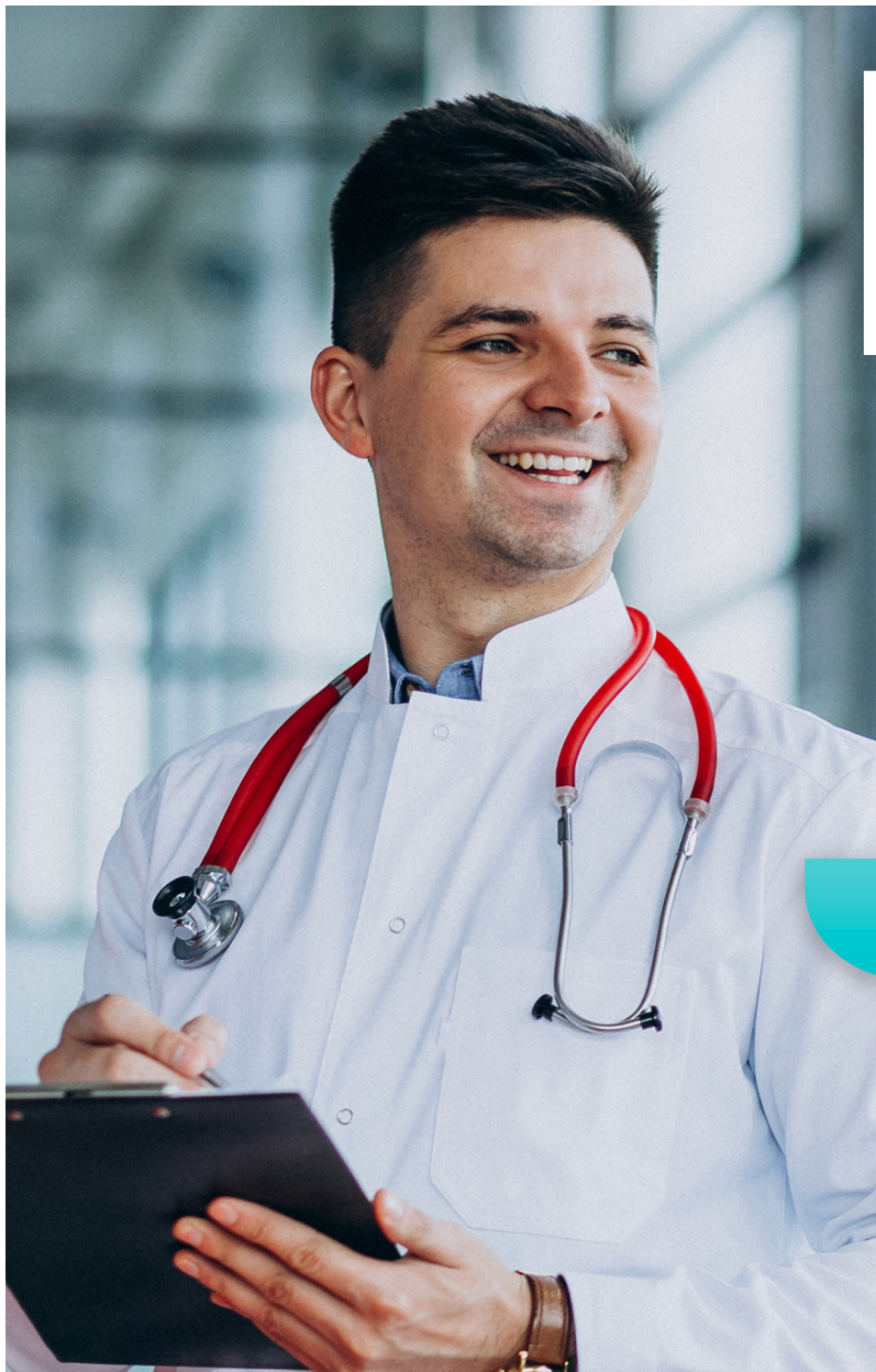
● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

India and Malta strengthened their bilateral partnership on Friday during the fourth round of Foreign Office Consultations in Valletta, focusing on expanding cooperation in information and communications technology, healthcare, renewable energy, pharmaceuticals, and education. Both sides reviewed the full spectrum of relations and expressed satisfaction with steady progress, including growing high level engagement and the upcoming sixtieth anniversary of diplomatic ties in 2025. Discussions also explored boosting trade and investment opportunities following the India European Union Free Trade Agreement. Indian officials met Maltese leaders, defence representatives, and business stakeholders to advance cooperation in maritime affairs, innovation, and security. The two countries also reaffirmed commitment to multilateral coordination, highlighting long standing ties since Malta's independence in 1964 and India's early diplomatic recognition and establishment of formal relations.

New Delhi emerges as top bilateral donor to Nepal in fiscal year 2024-25

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

India's development partnership with Nepal was reaffirmed on Sunday as official data showed New Delhi as the largest bilateral donor in fiscal year 2024-25. According to Nepal's Finance Ministry report, India disbursed 107.8 million dollars in grants, loans, and technical assistance, ahead of other bilateral partners including the United Kingdom and United States agencies. The assistance included funding for infrastructure, education, and community development projects, reflecting India's long term development priorities in Nepal.



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Massachusetts man arrested after allegedly threatening Trump with sword

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Federal agents arrested a Massachusetts man on Tuesday after he allegedly posted online threats to kill President Donald Trump and confronted officers with a sword during a raid. The Federal Bureau of Investigation said agents entered the suspect's apartment in Great Barrington at dawn after he failed to respond, where he was found holding a long metallic sword. He reportedly refused commands to drop the weapon and briefly barricaded himself inside before later exiting and being taken into custody without injury. Authorities said a search of his residence uncovered multiple blades. He is charged with interstate transmission of threatening communications and could face up to five years in prison if convicted.

Trump fires Pam Bondi after tumultuous 14-month term as attorney general

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

President Donald Trump on Wednesday dismissed Attorney General Pam Bondi and appointed Deputy Attorney General Todd Blanche as acting attorney general. Trump publicly praised Bondi's work on crime reduction but did not specify reasons for her removal, saying she would move to the private sector. However, sources said he had grown increasingly dissatisfied with her handling of key issues, including matters related to Jeffrey Epstein and limited progress on investigations involving political opponents. Bondi said she would oversee a transition period before stepping down. The decision follows another recent Cabinet-level removal and reflects continued shifts within the administration's senior leadership.

One crew member rescued after United States military aircraft crashes in Iran

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

A United States military aircraft went down in southwestern Iran on Friday, prompting an ongoing rescue and recovery operation involving American and Israeli forces, according to officials familiar with the situation. One crew member has been rescued so far, a United States official and an Israeli official said, speaking on condition of anonymity due to the sensitivity of the situation. The status of any additional personnel on board has not been confirmed.

Iranian state media reported that at least one crew member ejected before the aircraft came down in mountainous terrain. However, it remains unclear whether the aircraft was shot down or crashed due to a technical failure. The reports have not been independently verified.

Supreme Court signals skepticism toward Trump birthright citizenship order

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The Supreme Court on Wednesday appeared divided but largely skeptical of President Donald Trump's effort to restrict birthright citizenship, a central element of his immigration agenda. The case challenges a January 2025 executive order that seeks to deny citizenship to children born in the United States unless at least one parent is a citizen or lawful permanent resident. Trump attended arguments in person on Tuesday, the first sitting president known to do so, as justices questioned both the constitutional basis and practical implications of the policy.

The administration argued that the Fourteenth Amendment does not guarantee automatic citizenship to all individuals born on U.S. soil. However, several justices, including the chief justice, appeared unconvinced. The court is reviewing a



lower court ruling that blocked the order, with a decision expected by the end of June.

Legal experts say longstanding precedent has broadly affirmed birthright citizenship, with only limited exceptions. While some conservative justices showed limited openness to the administration's position, the overall tone suggested resistance to overturning established interpretation. The case is seen as a major test of Trump's immigration agenda and constitutional limits on executive power.

FBI warns Americans about foreign apps collecting user data

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The Federal Bureau of Investigation on Monday issued a public alert warning Americans about security risks posed by foreign-developed mobile applications widely used in the United States. The agency said many top downloaded apps are developed by companies based outside the country, particularly in China, and may be subject to foreign laws that allow government access to user data. The bureau said apps can continuously collect sensitive personal information, including contacts, location, and device activity, even when not actively in



use. Officials also warned that some applications store data on overseas servers and may include malware. The agency urged users to download apps only from official stores, review permissions carefully, update devices regularly, and change passwords frequently.

Federal judge dismisses Justice Department challenge to Colorado and Denver sanctuary laws

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

A federal judge on Tuesday dismissed a lawsuit filed by the United States Department of Justice that challenged sanctuary-style immigration laws in Colorado and Denver. The lawsuit argued that state and city policies limiting cooperation with federal immigration enforcement violated the Constitution's

supremacy clause. At issue were multiple state and local laws restricting the use of resources for immigration enforcement and protecting immigrant data. The judge ruled that the federal government cannot compel states to enforce federal law and said Colorado and Denver are within their rights to decline participation. Denver officials welcomed the decision, calling it a confirmation of local authority over resource allocation.

Art installation in Washington mocks Trump's White House renovations

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

A satirical art installation featuring a golden toilet appeared this week at the National Mall in Washington, D.C., drawing attention for its criticism of President Donald Trump. The sculpture, created by an art collective, depicts a toilet-shaped throne finished in gold tones and accompanied by a sign

reading "A Throne Fit for a King." The installation references Trump's renovation of a historic White House bathroom and broader changes to interior decorations that critics say emphasize luxury during a period of economic hardship. The group behind the piece has previously installed politically themed works targeting Trump and his administration. The White House has defended its renovation projects as part of ongoing restoration efforts.

California sheriff pauses election probe amid legal challenges



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Riverside County Sheriff Chad Bianco on Tuesday said his office has paused an investigation into alleged irregularities in last year's special election on redistricting following legal challenges from state officials and advocacy groups. The inquiry, which reportedly involved the seizure of more than 650,000 ballots, faced opposition from California Attorney General Rob Bonta and voting rights organizations, who questioned its legality. Bianco, who is also a Republican candidate for governor in 2026, said the probe was placed on hold due to what he described as politically motivated lawsuits. Officials have not indicated when or if the investigation will resume.

Judge rules Trump administration unlawfully ended immigrant parole

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

A federal judge on Monday ruled that the Trump administration acted unlawfully when it terminated temporary parole protections for hundreds of thousands of immigrants who had entered the United States using a government app during the Biden administration. The court said officials failed to properly document required legal findings before ending the program, violating federal procedures. The ruling vacates a 2025 directive ordering affected migrants to leave the country and requires restoration of parole protections. The Department of Homeland Security argued the terminations were lawful and necessary for border security. The case involves migrants from several countries who were granted two-year humanitarian parole after scheduling entry appointments through the app.

Florida vice mayor killed in suspected domestic shooting, husband arrested

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The vice mayor of Coral Springs, Florida, was shot and killed on Wednesday in what authorities described as a domestic violence case, with her husband arrested as the suspected gunman. Police said officers responded to a call and found the city official dead inside her home before taking her husband into custody without incident. She was a longtime public servant and had served as a city commissioner since 2020 before being named vice mayor. Officials described her as a respected community leader. The suspect, who worked in nonprofit management, is being held in jail while the investigation continues. Authorities have not yet announced formal charges or confirmed whether he has legal representation.

Trump proposes privatizing airport security as TSA faces staffing and funding strain

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

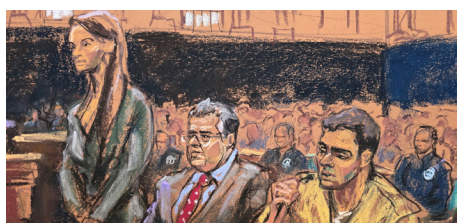
President Donald Trump on Friday proposed beginning the privatization of airport security operations currently handled by the Transportation Security Administration, as part of a new budget plan. The proposal includes a \$52 million funding cut and would require smaller airports to adopt private screening programs funded by the government. The move follows recent disruptions at major United States airports after Transportation Security Administration workers went unpaid since mid February due to a funding dispute. The agency employs about 50,000 personnel and continues to face staffing pressures as air travel rises. Trump also removed former agency head David Pekoske and has not named a replacement. The agency screened a record 904 million passengers in 2024.

Companies explore loans backed by tariff refund claims amid financial uncertainty

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Some companies affected by former United States tariffs are exploring loans backed by expected government refund claims, offering a new financing method while they wait for repayments tied to the overturned trade measures. The tariffs, once imposed under the Trump administration and later ruled unlawful by the Supreme Court, triggered billions of dollars in claims from importers seeking refunds. Financial firms are now offering funding structures that allow companies to borrow against those claims rather than sell them at a discount. However, the loans carry risk, as repayment depends on uncertain timelines and potential delays in government refund processing.

Judges delay Luigi Mangione murder trials amid scheduling clash



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Federal and state judges on Wednesday delayed key proceedings in the murder cases against Luigi Mangione, the man accused of killing UnitedHealthcare chief executive Brian Thompson. A federal judge moved jury selection to October, while a New York state judge rescheduled the state trial to early September, creating overlapping timelines between the two cases. Defense lawyers had argued that preparing for simultaneous trials would be unmanageable. Mangione faces charges in both state and federal court and has pleaded not guilty. Prosecutors say he could face life in prison if convicted. The victim was shot in December 2024 outside a Manhattan hotel, triggering a multi-state manhunt before Mangione's arrest in Pennsylvania.

Democratic states challenge Trump executive order tightening mail-in voting rules

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

A coalition of Democratic-led states filed a lawsuit on Friday seeking to block an executive order issued by President Donald Trump that tightens rules on mail-in voting across the United States.

The case, filed in federal court in Boston, was brought by attorneys general from 22 states and the District of Columbia, along with Pennsylvania Governor Josh Shapiro. It argues that the order is unconstitutional and unlawfully interferes with state control over election procedures.

The executive order, signed on Tuesday, directs federal agencies to create a national list of verified citizens eligible to vote, requires the United States Postal Service to only deliver ballots to voters on approved lists, and mandates states preserve election records for five years.

New York Attorney General Letitia



James said the measure undermines free and fair elections. The White House did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

The lawsuit adds to multiple legal challenges already filed by voting rights groups. Trump has defended the move as part of efforts to prevent voter fraud ahead of upcoming elections.

Delays in preventive health guidelines as advisory panel remains sidelined

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Updates to United States preventive health guidelines are being delayed after the advisory panel responsible for recommending screening standards has not met in over a year, according to medical experts. The United States Preventive Services Task Force, which guides coverage decisions for cancer screening and other services, has seen scheduled meetings canceled and membership changes stalled. Health professionals warn the disruption could affect access to early detection services for conditions including cancer and heart disease. Without updated recommendations, insurers are not required to expand coverage for newer tests or treatments, raising concerns about consistency in preventive care across the country.

Judge orders University of Pennsylvania to provide records in antisemitism probe

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

A federal judge on Tuesday ordered the University of Pennsylvania to comply with a federal investigation into alleged antisemitic discrimination by providing records about Jewish employees, while limiting disclosure of certain affiliation details.

The ruling upholds most of a subpoena issued by the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission but blocks requirements to identify connections to specific Jewish organizations.

The investigation was prompted by reported incidents on campus, including vandalism and antisemitic graffiti, as well as complaints related to protests over the war in Gaza. The university must comply by May 1 and has said it plans to appeal while emphasizing efforts to address discrimination concerns.

Federal judge blocks order cutting funding for national public broadcasters

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

A federal judge on Tuesday struck down a Trump administration order that sought to end federal funding for National Public Radio and the Public Broadcasting Service, ruling it unconstitutional. The judge said the directive targeted the broadcasters based on viewpoint, violating First Amendment protections against government retaliation. The order, issued earlier this year, aimed to cut funding on grounds that public media lacked balance in reporting. The ruling bars federal agencies from enforcing the policy. The White House criticized the decision and said Congress had already moved to reduce funding, while the broadcasters welcomed the ruling as protection of editorial independence.

Delaware judge reassigns Elon Musk cases after bias allegations surface

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

A Delaware judge on Monday reassigned cases involving Tesla chief executive Elon Musk after facing allegations of bias linked to her social media activity. Chancellor Kathaleen McCormick said growing public attention and recent motions for recusal created conditions that could affect

confidence in the court process, even though she denied any bias. Musk's legal team had argued that her interaction with a social media post referencing a prior ruling against him raised concerns about impartiality. McCormick said she neither intended to endorse the content nor acted improperly. She previously ruled against Musk in a Tesla compensation case that was later overturned on appeal.

Northern California earthquake shakes residents across wide region

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

A magnitude 4.6 earthquake struck Northern California early Thursday, shaking homes across a broad area including parts of the San Francisco Bay region. The earthquake was centered near Boulder Creek in the Santa Cruz Mountains and was felt as far as 100 miles away. Residents reported being awakened

by alerts before feeling strong shaking that lasted several seconds, with some items knocked from shelves. More than 25,000 people submitted reports to the United States Geological Survey. Officials said there were no immediate reports of major damage or injuries. Experts noted that small to moderate earthquakes are common in California, which regularly experiences seismic activity and occasional earthquake swarms.

Senate unanimously advances homeland security funding bill as partial shutdown nears resolution

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The United States Senate unanimously approved a bill on Thursday to partially reopen the Department of Homeland Security, sending it back to the House of Representatives as Washington moves closer to ending the longest partial government shutdown in recent history. House had earlier declined but now expected to reconsider after agreement between Senate Majority Leader John Thune and House Speaker Mike Johnson to pursue broader spending package later in spring. That

package expected include immigration and border security priorities sought by president. Lawmakers on two-week recess but pro forma sessions continue. Vote follows joint statement outlining two-step plan: partial reopening then comprehensive funding bill. Lawmakers are currently on a two-week recess, although brief pro forma sessions continue. The Senate vote follows a joint leadership statement with House Speaker Mike Johnson outlining a two-step plan involving an initial partial reopening of the Department of Homeland Security, followed by a comprehensive funding bill to resolve the shutdown impasse.

Indian-origin writer Padma Viswanathan shortlisted for International Booker Prize 2026

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Padma Viswanathan, a Canadian-American writer of Indian origin, has been shortlisted this week for the 2026 International Booker Prize as the English translator of Brazilian author Ana Paula Maia's Portuguese novella, 'On Earth As It Is Beneath'. The jury described the work as a brutal and hypnotic story set in a remote penal colony exploring justice and cruelty. Viswanathan, a professor of creative writing at the University of Arkansas-Fayetteville, shares the honor with Maia, with the prize of 50,000 British pounds split equally, along with 5,000 pounds for shortlisted titles. The list features six works across eight countries and is dominated by women authors and translators. The winner will be announced on May 19 at Tate Modern in London.

Indian-origin attorney honored at international leadership event in Washington

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

An Indian-origin attorney and alumnus of Guru Nanak Dev University in Amritsar has been recognized with an international leadership award in Washington, highlighting his professional achievements and contributions to the legal field. The award was presented at a global ceremony attended by business leaders, professionals, and public figures from several countries, recognizing individuals for leadership, innovation, and service. The honoree was acknowledged for his accomplishments in the legal profession and his leadership qualities. He had earlier contributed to establishing an academic chair at his alma mater through a significant financial donation. University officials congratulated him, saying his success brings pride and international recognition to the institution and serves as an inspiration for students. They added that alumni achievements on global platforms reflect the university's focus on academic excellence and value-based education.

United Nations appoints Shalini Bahuguna as resident coordinator in Papua New Guinea

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The United Nations has appointed Shalini Bahuguna of India as resident coordinator in Papua New Guinea, the highest-ranking United Nations official role in the country. UN Secretary-General António Guterres made the appointment, with spokesperson Stéphane Dujarric noting her decades of experience in international development and humanitarian work. Bahuguna most recently worked with UNICEF, where she helped develop an artificial intelligence strategy in partnership with Accenture. She has also served as UNICEF representative in Tanzania, advancing child rights and development priorities, and held senior roles in Ethiopia, Myanmar, and Nigeria focusing on social policy and gender issues. Her earlier career includes work in India on water and sanitation, as well as roles with the Indian government, the World Bank, and the United Kingdom's development agency across Asia. The United Nations operates 192 programmes in Papua New Guinea with funding of 85.5 million dollars.

Punjabi Poet Sifar Satbir appointed India chapter president of World Punjabi Sabha (Canada)

● Staff Writer, IndoUS Tribune

Noted Punjabi poet and entrepreneur Sifar Satbir has been appointed the National President of the Indian chapter of the World Punjabi Sabha (Canada), marking a significant leadership role in the global Punjabi literary network. The appointment was announced on a Wednesday by the organisation's International Chairman, Dr Dalbir Singh Kathuria, in recognition of Satbir's long-standing contribution to the promotion of Punjabi language and culture.

Satbir, who previously headed the Majha Zone unit of the Sabha in Punjab, has been active in strengthening Punjabi literary outreach through both creative and financial support. He is also known for establishing the first Vishav Punjabi Bhawan in India in Amritsar, built on his own expense, which provides free accommodation to visiting writers and hosts literary and cultural events. Similar centres have been developed by the Sabha in Brampton in Canada and



Lahore in Pakistan.

His appointment has been welcomed by literary figures and cultural organisations across Punjab, who said it reflects his sustained efforts to expand Punjabi literature's global presence. Satbir has also contributed to international literary festivals and served on editorial boards of several Punjabi journals, further cementing his role in the language's contemporary literary landscape.

Indian national killed in Kuwait during Iranian missile strike on power facility

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

An Indian national was killed in Kuwait on Sunday after Iranian missile strikes hit a power and water desalination facility, according to the Indian Embassy and local authorities. The embassy expressed deep condolences and said it is coordinating with Kuwaiti officials to provide assistance and support to the victim's family.

Kuwait's Ministry of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy said a service building at one of its plants was damaged during the attack, which was described as a violent strike amid escalating regional conflict. Officials confirmed that emergency teams were deployed immediately to manage the situation and secure the area.

Authorities reported that the strike resulted in the death of a worker of



Indian nationality. The ministry said operations across Kuwait's electricity and water network remain stable despite the incident. The attack comes amid rising tensions in the Gulf region following ongoing missile exchanges linked to wider conflict involving Iran, Israel, and the United States.

Indian-origin prodigy Bodhana Sivanandan, 11, becomes Britain's top-ranked female chess player

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Eleven-year-old Indian-origin chess player Bodhana Sivanandan has become Britain's top-rated female player, according to the International Chess Federation rating list for April 2026. The Harrow-based schoolgirl now holds a rating of 2,366 and is ranked 72nd globally among women, overtaking England's previous top female player, Lan Yao. Bodhana's rise has been marked by rapid achievements, including tournament victories in France, Austria and the United Kingdom. She began playing chess at the age of five after discovering a board at home during the pandemic and quickly developed her skills at Harrow Chess Club. At seven, she won all 24 matches at the European Schools Championship. She went on to earn the women's candidate



master title in 2023 and, in 2024, became the youngest person to represent England in any sport at the Chess Olympiad in Hungary. In 2025, she made history again by becoming the youngest female to defeat a grandmaster. Speaking about her ranking, she said she was happy but focused on continuing to improve. She is currently in Year 6 and aims to become the youngest grandmaster in chess history.

Indian-origin man killed in targeted shooting in Canada's Surrey linked to organized crime



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

An Indian-origin man was shot and killed in Canada's Surrey last week in a targeted attack linked to organized crime, according to local police reports. The incident took place on a Saturday evening in the Sullivan Heights area when the victim was reportedly chased by a dark-colored sport utility vehicle. Witnesses said two men exited the vehicle and opened fire before fleeing the scene. Police later identified the victim as a 27-year-old man with prior interactions with law enforcement and suspected ties to the drug trade. Investigators believe the attack was targeted and may be linked to gang activity, especially after a burning vehicle was discovered nearby, a tactic often associated with organized crime killings. Authorities are continuing to investigate the case and determine whether additional suspects were involved, noting that multiple shootings have recently been reported in the Surrey area within a short span of time.

United Kingdom Uber Eats driver of Indian origin jailed for raping customer after misleading approach



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

A 47-year-old Uber Eats delivery driver of Indian origin, identified as Jitendrakumar Prajapati, has been jailed in the United Kingdom for raping a customer after approaching her under the pretext of seeking help with visa-related matters, police said. The incident occurred on a Monday in mid-January when he delivered food to a woman's home and later returned, asking for her phone number and social media details while claiming he was new to the area and needed assistance settling in. He later returned to her residence the same day, where the interaction escalated into sexual assault, according to police. Afterward, he sent a message apologizing and changed his messaging settings to enable disappearing chats. The victim reported the case, and police arrested him the same day after tracing his delivery vehicle.



Friday, 03 April 2026

Indian national injured in drone interception debris incident in United Arab Emirates

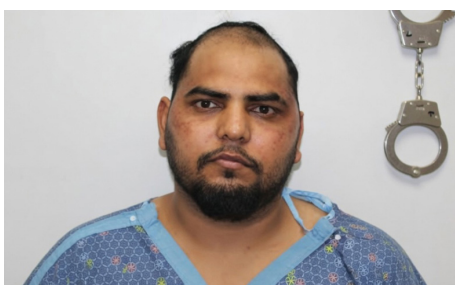


IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

An Indian national was injured in the United Arab Emirates last week after being struck by shrapnel from a drone intercepted by air defense systems, according to local authorities. The incident occurred in an industrial area in Umm Al Qaiwain, one of the country's seven emirates, when debris from the intercepted drone fell near a facility, causing injury to the individual. Officials confirmed that emergency responders were deployed immediately following the incident.

This comes amid a series of recent security-related incidents in the United Arab Emirates involving intercepted aerial objects. Earlier last week, several Indian nationals were injured in a separate incident in Abu Dhabi after debris from a missile interception fell near an industrial zone. In another case earlier in the week before that, two people, including an Indian national, were killed in a similar incident. Authorities in the region have reported heightened interception activity due to ongoing regional hostilities.

Indian-origin man charged in high-speed police chase crash that killed pregnant teenager in Ohio



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

A 33-year-old Indian-origin man has been charged in the United States state of Ohio after a high-speed police chase ended in a crash that killed a pregnant teenager and her unborn child. The incident occurred on a weekend in late March when the man, driving an SUV, allegedly accelerated despite police attempts to stop him. Authorities said the vehicle reached speeds exceeding 120 miles per hour before it collided head-on with another vehicle.

Seventeen-year-old Ashlee Holmes, a passenger in the SUV, was ejected during the crash and pronounced dead at the scene. The driver sustained injuries and was later taken into custody after being hospitalized. He appeared in court via video link with the help of an interpreter, where charges were formally read. He is being held on a one million dollar bond, with his next court appearance scheduled for early April. Authorities have described the case as a fatal consequence of reckless evasion of law enforcement.

Around 3,000 Indian Sikh pilgrims to travel to Pakistan for Baisakhi celebrations

Staff Writer, IndoUS Tribune

Around 3,000 Sikh pilgrims from India are expected to travel to Pakistan beginning next Friday to take part in the annual Baisakhi festival, according to an official from the Evacuee Trust Property Board. The main religious ceremony will be held next week at Gurdwara Panja Sahib in Hasan Abdal in Pakistan's Punjab province, a key site for Sikh devotees.

The official said the pilgrims are arriving under a bilateral arrangement

between the two countries. Baisakhi, which marks the harvest season and the Sikh New Year, is celebrated on the first day of the Vaisakh month and draws large congregations every year. Pilgrims will also visit several religious sites including Nankana Sahib, Kartarpur, Eminabad, Sheikhpura, Farooqabad, and Lahore during their visit. Pakistani authorities said arrangements are being coordinated through a high-level administrative process involving religious and government departments to ensure smooth travel and participation in the celebrations.



Indian-origin man arrested in England after car hits pedestrians, injuring seven

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

An Indian-origin man has been arrested in England on suspicion of attempted murder after a car struck pedestrians in the city of Derby on a Saturday night, injuring seven people, police said. The incident took place around 9:30 at night on a city center street when a black vehicle drove into several pedestrians, causing multiple injuries. Derbyshire police confirmed that the suspect, a man in his thirties originally from India, was located shortly after the incident and taken into custody. Authorities said he remains under arrest as investigations continue.

The injured were taken to local hospitals, including Royal Derby



Hospital and Queen's Medical Centre in Nottingham, where they were treated for serious but not life-threatening injuries. Police also confirmed that no fatalities occurred, despite online speculation. The suspect faces multiple charges, including attempted murder and dangerous driving, while officers continue to investigate the motive and circumstances of the incident.

New Zealand names Indira Gandhi assassin's nephew in major methamphetamine case

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

New Zealand media has identified Baltej Singh, nephew of one of the assassins of former Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, in connection with a major methamphetamine trafficking case involving one of the country's largest drug seizures. The identification was reported on a Friday by a major New Zealand news outlet, marking the first time his name has been published locally after earlier court-imposed name suppression. Authorities say Singh was involved in a large-scale operation that led to the discovery of hundreds of kilograms of liquid methamphetamine concealed in imported goods. The drugs were traced to a storage facility in Auckland as part of a long-running investigation. He was



arrested at Auckland airport while attempting to leave the country on a flight to Dubai and later sentenced to 22 years in prison for drug importation offenses. A co-accused received a 21-year sentence for manslaughter related to a fatal overdose linked to the operation. Officials also seized significant property assets connected to the case as part of the investigation.

Mahaveer Singhvi takes charge as India's Consul General in Toronto amid reset in ties

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Senior diplomat Mahaveer Singhvi assumed charge as India's Consul General in Toronto on Thursday, as New Delhi and Canada continue efforts to stabilize and expand bilateral ties. A 1999 batch Indian Foreign Service officer, Singhvi previously served as Additional Secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs. The Indian mission said his appointment comes at a key moment to boost cooperation in trade, technology, education, and innovation.

Singhvi said he looks forward to engaging with Canadian stakeholders and the Indian diaspora to strengthen partnerships and mutual trust. His appointment follows a new bilateral framework aimed at increasing annual trade to \$50 billion by 2030, finalized during Prime Minister Mark Carney's visit to India.

Relations had deteriorated after allegations by former Prime Minister Justin Trudeau in 2023 over the killing of Hardeep Singh Nijjar, which India rejected. Recent diplomatic steps signal a gradual normalization of ties.

Canada tightens asylum rules under new immigration law affecting Indian applicants



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Canada has introduced a new immigration law that significantly tightens asylum rules after receiving royal assent earlier this week. The legislation, now in force, introduces stricter timelines and eligibility criteria for refugee claims and expands government authority over immigration processing and information sharing.

Under the new rules, asylum claims filed more than one year after a person's initial entry into Canada on or after mid-2020 will generally not proceed to a full hearing before the Immigration and Refugee Board. Claims made after irregular entry from the United States and delayed beyond two weeks will also face restrictions.

Indian nationals remain the largest group of asylum seekers in Canada, with thousands of claims filed in recent years, particularly from regions such as Punjab. While the government says the law is aimed at improving efficiency and preventing system abuse, rights groups have criticized it, arguing it could weaken protections for vulnerable applicants and limit access to fair hearings.



Afghanistan flash floods kill one and injure thirteen in Herat province

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Flash floods in western Afghanistan on Thursday killed one person and injured thirteen others in Herat province, according to local officials. Heavy rainfall triggered flooding across several districts, causing a passenger bus to overturn on a highway and leaving multiple people injured. Emergency teams, supported by residents, carried out rescue operations to evacuate stranded passengers and recover those trapped in floodwaters. Authorities also reported temporary disruptions to road transport before conditions were stabilized. The incident adds to a broader pattern of flooding across Afghanistan in recent weeks, which has caused dozens of deaths, damaged infrastructure, destroyed homes, and affected thousands of families. Disaster officials continue to warn residents to avoid flood prone areas as weather conditions remain unstable.

India leads global compliance in biodiversity treaty system, says ministry

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

India has emerged as the global leader in issuing internationally recognized certificates under the Nagoya Protocol on access and benefit sharing, according to the Ministry of Environment.

The country accounts for more than half of all such certificates issued worldwide, reflecting strong implementation of biodiversity compliance systems. These certificates confirm that prior consent has been obtained and benefit sharing agreements are in place before genetic resources are used for research or commercial purposes.

Officials said India's system is supported by coordinated national and local biodiversity authorities, ensuring efficient processing and transparency. The achievement highlights India's strong compliance framework under its biodiversity law and reinforces its position in global environmental governance focused on conservation, sustainable use, and fair sharing of biological resources.

Man kills four children in machete attack at Uganda nursery school

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

A man on Thursday killed four children in a machete attack inside a nursery school in Uganda's capital Kampala after allegedly gaining access by posing as a parent, police said. Authorities said the suspect entered the Gaba Early Childhood Development Program, briefly interacted with staff, then locked the gate before attacking children. Police said the victims were "brutally stabbed and killed," while video from the scene showed grieving parents and security forces dispersing an angry crowd. The suspect was later arrested, according to police. Officials said the motive remains unknown. Such violent attacks in schools are rare in Kampala, a city of about three million people.

Kremlin urges Ukraine to withdraw from Donbas as Russia rejects temporary truce

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Moscow said on Wednesday that Kremlin spokesperson Dmitry Peskov urged Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky to withdraw forces from the Donbas region, arguing the move could save lives and bring an end to the active phase of the conflict. He said the pause in trilateral talks involving Russia, the United States, and Ukraine was unrelated to the situation on the ground. The Russian defence ministry separately

claimed full control of the Luhansk region and said several settlements in Kharkiv and Zaporizhzhia regions were also under Russian control. On Tuesday, Peskov rejected the idea of a temporary truce, calling instead for a lasting peace settlement. He also warned that Russia would respond if European Union member states allowed Ukraine to use their airspace for drone attacks. Russian forces said they intercepted 92 Ukrainian drones overnight from Monday into Tuesday, while regional officials reported injuries in the Leningrad area.

Hamas demands Israeli withdrawal guarantees before disarmament talks

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Hamas told mediators it will not discuss disarmament unless it receives guarantees that Israel will fully withdraw from Gaza under a United States backed plan linked to President Donald Trump's Board of Peace initiative. A delegation from Hamas met Egyptian, Qatari, and Turkish mediators in Cairo on Wednesday and Thursday to give its initial response to the proposal. The group demanded an end to reported violations, full

implementation of all provisions, and clarification on Israeli control in parts of Gaza. Israel has said it will not withdraw unless Hamas is fully disarmed, leaving talks stalled. Sources said a breakthrough is unlikely in the near term, though Hamas may not reject the plan outright. The United States could proceed with reconstruction in areas under Israeli control. The war began after the October 7, 2023 attacks that killed about 1,200 people in Israel and the subsequent Gaza campaign that has killed tens of thousands of Palestinians.

Macron rebukes Trump over marriage remarks, says comments were "not up to standard"

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

French President Emmanuel Macron on Thursday criticised comments made by US President Donald Trump about his marriage, calling them "neither elegant nor up to standard" after Trump appeared to mock him and his wife during a private lunch in Washington. Macron, speaking upon arrival in South Korea, said he would not respond further, adding that the remarks did not merit an answer.

The controversy erupted after a video from the White House showed Trump using a French accent while making disparaging remarks about Brigitte Macron and joking about France's role in international military cooperation. Trump also referenced a widely circulated 2025 video involving the French president and his wife, using it in his comments during the lunch attended by political and



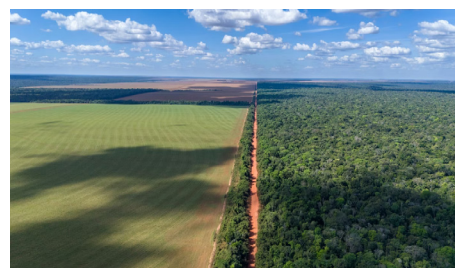
religious figures.

The remarks triggered strong reactions in France, where senior politicians described the comments as unacceptable and inappropriate, especially given ongoing global tensions and security discussions involving allies. Macron has not issued any further response beyond his initial remarks.

Brazil banks to block rural loans linked to illegal deforestation data

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Brazil on Wednesday implemented new rules requiring banks to verify satellite deforestation data before approving rural credit, tightening financial oversight of agricultural land use. Under the policy, lenders must check government records identifying areas linked to possible illegal deforestation after July 2019. If flagged, farmers must provide documentation proving legal clearance or submit restoration plans to qualify for loans. The measure, based on data from Brazil's space research institute, aims to align credit policies with environmental



protection goals. Supporters say it will encourage sustainable farming, while farm groups warn it could restrict financing for compliant producers. Brazil, a major global exporter of beef and soybeans, continues to face pressure over deforestation in the Amazon rainforest.

South Korea revises immigration system after Taiwan labeling dispute

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

South Korea said on Tuesday it will adjust parts of its electronic arrival system following a labeling dispute with Taiwan. Officials said the update will remove certain fields in the system where Taiwan had been listed in a disputed format, while maintaining its identification in other sections as Taiwan. The decision follows Taiwan's protest over labeling in South Korea's immigration platform and reciprocal adjustments made by Taipei. Authorities said the revision is administrative and aimed at improving consistency between paper and electronic arrival forms and enhancing user convenience. South Korea also said the change applies broadly to system design updates and is not directed at any specific country. Both sides maintain informal relations, as South Korea recognizes mainland China diplomatically while continuing practical ties with Taiwan.

Danish warship from Battle of Copenhagen discovered after 225 years

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Marine archaeologists in Denmark on Thursday announced the discovery of the wreck of the Danish warship Dannebrog, sunk during the Battle of Copenhagen in 1801 after taking fire from British forces led by Admiral Horatio Nelson. The ship was found 15 meters underwater in Copenhagen Harbor, buried in thick sediment with near-zero visibility. The Viking Ship Museum is leading ongoing excavations at the site, which is under threat from nearby construction. Researchers said the discovery offers rare insight into naval warfare from the early nineteenth century. Experts hope the wreck will help reconstruct life aboard the ship during battle, a subject previously documented mainly through historical accounts rather than physical evidence.

Intelligence warns of Pakistan's cyberattacks and misinformation campaign against India

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Indian security agencies on Wednesday warned that Pakistan's intelligence establishment is planning coordinated cyber operations targeting India's critical infrastructure. Officials said potential targets include defence systems, financial networks, and other sensitive sectors. The assessment indicates that hacker groups linked to Pakistan may be used alongside broader disinformation efforts aimed at spreading panic and false narratives. Authorities also flagged possible hoax calls and misleading online messages related to essential commodities and public services. Officials said earlier intelligence reports had identified cyber threats as a major concern for the year. Indian agencies are monitoring digital activity and strengthening cybersecurity measures across key sectors while also countering misinformation being circulated through social media networks linked to foreign actors.

New York City restores TikTok use for government agencies under new security rules

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

New York City on Tuesday reinstated the use of TikTok for government agencies after a nearly three-year ban imposed over security concerns. Mayor Zohran Mamdani announced the reversal, saying the city would return to the platform while following strict cybersecurity guidelines. The earlier ban, introduced in 2023 under former mayor Eric Adams, was part of broader restrictions on the app across the United States. Under the new rules, agencies must use separate devices without sensitive data, restrict internal access, and assign designated staff for posting. Officials said the move aims to improve public communication, especially for emergency updates and city services. Mamdani has been an active social media user, boosting the platform's renewed role in city outreach.

Bahrain weakens United Nations proposal on Strait of Hormuz security amid global divisions

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Bahrain on Thursday significantly revised a United Nations draft resolution aimed at reopening and securing the Strait of Hormuz after strong opposition from Russia and China. The final proposal authorizes only defensive action, removing earlier language that would have allowed military force to secure the vital waterway. The strait carries a major share of global oil shipments and has faced disruption amid regional tensions. The draft also limits authorization to a six-month period and allows multinational naval cooperation with prior notification to the United Nations. Diplomats said the vote was delayed as members sought consensus. The changes reflect deep divisions among Security Council members over the use of force in securing international shipping routes.

Belarus approves law targeting LGBTQ+ rights, drawing international concern

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Belarus on Thursday approved a new law imposing penalties for promoting LGBTQ+ content, sending the legislation to President Alexander Lukashenko for final approval. The measure introduces fines, short-term detention, and community labor for what authorities describe as "propaganda" related to homosexuality, gender transition, and other categories. The law follows earlier approval in the lower house and reflects tightening restrictions on civil liberties in the country. Rights groups said the legislation will worsen discrimination and increase risks for LGBTQ+ communities, who already face police raids and harassment. Belarus, a close ally of Russia, has long lacked legal protections for same-sex relationships. Activists warned the law could further stigmatize vulnerable groups and restrict access to medical and social support services.

King Charles to visit United States for independence anniversary events, says Donald Trump

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

United States President Donald Trump on Tuesday announced that King Charles and Queen Camilla will visit the United States from April 27 to April 30 for a state visit. The visit will include a formal White House banquet on April 28 as part of events marking the two hundred fiftieth anniversary of

American independence. Trump called the visit historic and said he looked forward to meeting King Charles the Third. The British royal household confirmed the visit, saying it was made on government advice and at the invitation of the United States president. Officials said the programme will highlight historic ties and the modern bilateral relationship between the two countries during the anniversary commemorations.

Cuba announces release of over two thousand prisoners in humanitarian gesture

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Cuba said on Thursday it will release 2010 prisoners in what it described as a humanitarian gesture linked to Holy Week. The government said those being released include Cuban citizens and foreigners, including women, elderly individuals, and young people, though it did not specify charges or timing. Authorities said the decision followed an internal review of prisoner behavior, health status, and time served. The announcement comes as the United States continues to maintain economic pressure on Cuba, contributing to shortages and blackouts on the island. Rights groups have long accused Cuba of detaining political prisoners, a charge the



government denies. Officials said this is part of periodic prisoner releases that have occurred in recent years under various humanitarian and diplomatic contexts.

China investments in Iran face rising risks amid West Asia tensions, report says

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

A report on Wednesday said Chinese investments in Iran are facing growing risks as tensions in West Asia escalate. Projects linked to ports, rail corridors, and energy infrastructure under China's Belt and Road Initiative are reportedly under pressure due to instability and security concerns. The report said Beijing has sought to develop Iran as a strategic hub for regional trade and energy cooperation, including major long term investment commitments signed in recent years. However, ongoing conflict risks disrupting supply routes, oil flows, and infrastructure plans. It added that China has responded mainly through



diplomatic statements calling for restraint, while the broader regional instability creates uncertainty for its economic and strategic ambitions in the region.

Pakistan court ruling on Christian minor case sparks protests and rights concerns

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Protests erupted in Pakistan on the weekend after a federal constitutional court upheld custody arrangements in a controversial case involving the alleged forced conversion and marriage of a thirteen year old Christian girl. Demonstrators in Karachi and Lahore demanded stronger protections for minority girls and stricter enforcement of laws against child marriage and forced conversion. Activists said the ruling undermines existing legal safeguards and urged authorities to intervene. Civil society groups warned that minority communities face increasing vulnerability to abduction and coercion. Rights advocates also called for judicial



review of the decision, arguing it could weaken protections for minors. The case has intensified debate over minority rights, child protection laws, and the treatment of religious communities in Pakistan's legal system.

Global media groups warn of worsening attacks on journalists in Serbia

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

International media organizations on Wednesday warned of a sharp rise in violence and intimidation against journalists in Serbia, describing what they called a deepening press freedom crisis. The groups, part of Council of Europe monitoring platforms, said recent months have seen record levels of physical attacks, online harassment, and threats. A visiting delegation said journalists are increasingly caught in a "spiral of violence" with limited protection. The Serbian government said it condemns attacks and is working to strengthen safeguards. However, journalists reported dozens of assaults during recent local elections and protests. Observers said the situation has worsened amid political tensions and mass demonstrations triggered by earlier national tragedies, raising concerns over accountability and media safety.

German artist jailed in absentia in Russia over Putin carnival satire

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Moscow court on Thursday sentenced German carnival artist Jacques Tilly to eight and a half years in prison in absentia for allegedly spreading false information about the Russian military and insulting religious feelings. Tilly, known for satirical floats at Germany's Düsseldorf carnival, has frequently depicted President Vladimir Putin in politically critical artwork. Russian authorities said his work violated laws on misinformation and religious respect. Tilly has not been detained and is expected to remain in Germany. His past creations have included caricatures of Putin in symbolic and critical settings linked to the war in Ukraine. The case highlights Russia's ongoing crackdown on dissenting expression related to its military actions abroad.

Mexico appoints Roberto Velasco as foreign minister amid strained United States ties

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Mexico on Wednesday appointed Roberto Velasco as its new foreign minister following the resignation of Juan Ramón de la Fuente due to health reasons. Velasco, a senior diplomat with extensive experience in North American relations, has played a key role in negotiations with the United States and Canada on trade, migration, and security issues. His appointment comes at a sensitive moment as Mexico prepares for renewed discussions on the North American trade agreement and ongoing tensions with Washington over border and security policies. The move must still be approved by the Senate. Officials said Velasco's experience with United States administrations positions him to manage increasingly complex bilateral relations under President Donald Trump's renewed pressure on regional security cooperation.

AAP appoints Ashok Mittal as Rajya Sabha deputy leader, replacing Raghav Chadha

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The Aam Aadmi Party has appointed Ashok Mittal as its new deputy leader in the Rajya Sabha, replacing Raghav Chadha. The party has formally informed the Rajya Sabha Secretariat to implement the change.

The move comes amid reports of internal tensions, though neither side has publicly commented. Mittal, a member from Punjab, joins leader Sanjay Singh in the Upper House leadership team. The party currently has ten members in the Rajya Sabha, with seven from Punjab.

The development follows recent friction within the party, including dissent from MP Swati Maliwal. Political speculation has also grown around Chadha's future, especially ahead of upcoming assembly elections in Punjab.

Election Commission mandates paid holiday for voters, warns employers of penalties

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The Election Commission of India has directed states and union territories heading into elections to grant a paid holiday to all eligible voters on polling day. The order applies to employees across sectors, including daily wage and casual workers, under provisions of the Representation of the People Act. The commission warned employers that violating the directive could result in penalties. It also clarified that workers employed outside their voting constituency are entitled to leave to cast their vote.

Upcoming elections include assembly polls in Assam, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal, and Puducherry, along with by-elections in several states. Authorities said state governments have been instructed to ensure compliance and facilitate maximum voter participation.

Election notice to T P Ramakrishnan intensifies campaign row in Kerala

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Election authorities have issued a notice to T. P. Ramakrishnan, a candidate of the Left Democratic Front, over a controversial campaign message in Kerala's Kozhikode district. The action follows a complaint by the United Democratic Front alleging that an audio message promoted voting along religious lines.

The message, recorded from a campaign vehicle, allegedly suggested that members of a community should support a particular candidate, triggering accusations of communal polarization. Opposition leaders said the content was pre planned and intended to influence voters.

Authorities have sought an explanation for possible violations of the Model Code of Conduct. The controversy has escalated political tensions in Perambra, making the constituency a key battleground as campaigning intensifies.

India begins digital census drive as top leaders complete self-enumeration

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

India has launched the initial phase of its long-delayed Census 2027, marking a major shift toward digital data collection, with top leaders leading by example through self-enumeration. President Droupadi Murmu and Prime Minister Narendra Modi were among the first to complete the process, followed by Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar and Mizoram Chief Minister Lalduhoma. Their participation is aimed at encouraging citizens to adopt the online system.

For the first time, the census allows individuals to submit their details digitally through a self-enumeration

portal, generating a unique identification number for verification. The exercise will be conducted in two phases, beginning with house listing in April and followed by population enumeration in early 2027. Officials have clarified that no documents are required for submission.

The upcoming census is also expected to include caste data, making it the first such comprehensive exercise in decades. As one of the largest administrative operations globally, the census will play a crucial role in shaping welfare policies, resource allocation, and governance planning, while signaling India's broader push toward digital governance and data-driven decision-making.



Five Indian airports enter global top 100 in 2026 Skytrax rankings

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

India's aviation sector has made notable gains in the 2026 Skytrax World Airport Awards, with five airports ranked among the global top 100. Indira Gandhi International Airport leads at 28th place, followed by Kempegowda International Airport at 41st and Rajiv Gandhi International Airport at 43rd.

Manohar International Airport ranks 64th, while Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport stands at 66th. The rankings highlight improvements in passenger experience, infrastructure, and service quality across major hubs.

Asian airports continue to dominate



globally, with Singapore Changi Airport retaining the top position. While India's broader representation signals steady progress, challenges such as congestion and scale remain. Continued investment and modernization are expected to further enhance India's global aviation standing.

Nitish Kumar resigns from Bihar council, signals possible leadership transition

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar resigned from the state legislative council after being elected to the Rajya Sabha earlier in March, complying with rules requiring lawmakers to vacate state posts within 14 days of entering Parliament. His resignation has fueled speculation about a possible step down as chief minister in the coming days. Separately, Bharatiya Janata Party leader Nitin Nabin also announced he would resign as a member of the Bihar Legislative Assembly after his election to the Rajya Sabha. He thanked constituents and reaffirmed his commitment to development under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision. The



developments signal a reshaping of Bihar's political landscape, with leadership roles shifting from the state to the national level ahead of upcoming political milestones.

Demand grows for clarity as Supriya Sule pushes probe into Ajit Pawar crash

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Nationalist Congress Party leader Supriya Sule on Thursday raised the issue of the fatal plane crash that killed Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar in Parliament, calling for a time-bound and transparent investigation. The January crash in Baramati claimed six lives and has since raised concerns over its cause. Sule urged the Centre to provide a clear timeline and make findings public to ensure accountability. The Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau is examining technical, weather, and operational factors, with early indications pointing to poor visibility. A recently registered Zero FIR citing a possible conspiracy has added complexity, prompting demands for a deeper probe.

Malda unrest escalates as Election Commission hands judicial gherao case to NIA

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The Election Commission on Wednesday transferred the Malda gherao case involving seven judicial officers to the National Investigation Agency, intensifying political tensions ahead of elections. The officers were confined for hours while reviewing voter list objections, triggering protests across districts with road blockades and clashes. A late-night rescue operation followed the escalation. The Supreme Court has criticized the state administration and directed deployment of central forces at revision centers. Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee condemned the incident but accused the Centre of politicizing the situation, while the Bharatiya Janata Party alleged the protests were orchestrated to protect illegal voters.

Haridwar plans relocation of meat shops ahead of Ardh Kumbh amid religious concerns



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The Haridwar administration on Thursday proposed shifting all raw meat shops outside city limits to Sarai village ahead of the 2027 Ardh Kumbh, citing religious sensitivities and civic concerns. Mayor Kiran Jaiswal said the proposal will be presented at a Municipal Corporation board meeting on Sunday. Existing rules already prohibit meat, liquor, and eggs within five kilometers of Har Ki Pauri. Officials noted that while only 20 shops are licensed, many operate illegally, contributing to hygiene issues and stray animal problems. The plan also includes action against unauthorized vendors and a review of cooked meat sales, with religious leaders backing the move.

Government claims decisive gains against Naxalism as Amit Shah targets opposition

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Monday told Parliament that India is nearing the end of Naxalism, highlighting progress under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership. He described Maoism as an armed ideology unrelated to development and said it has nearly disappeared from regions such as Bastar. Shah paid tribute to victims of past violence and asserted that those who take up arms will face strict consequences. He criticized the Congress party for allegedly enabling the spread of Naxalism and neglecting tribal communities, while emphasizing improved governance and development in previously affected areas.

Om Birla hosts European Union delegation, reinforces strategic partnership

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla met Angelika Niebler, Chair of the Delegation for Relations with India in the European Parliament, along with members of a visiting European Union parliamentary delegation at the Lok Sabha on Monday in New Delhi.

The meeting marked the first interaction of the Parliamentary Friendship Group for the European Union with the visiting delegation. Both sides underlined the strength of the India European Union strategic partnership and their shared democratic values.

In a post on X, Birla said parliamentary exchanges remain central to cooperation and help deepen people to people ties. External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar also met the delegation on the same day, emphasizing confidence in expanding convergence and strengthening cooperation between India and the European Union.

Lok Sabha passes Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code amendments to speed up resolution process

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The Lok Sabha on Monday passed amendments to the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, piloted by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman. The changes introduce twelve reforms aimed at improving resolution speed and maximizing value for stakeholders under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code framework.

The bill strengthens timelines, including fourteen days for admitting insolvency cases once default is established and up to thirty days for approval or rejection of resolution plans. It also introduces a creditor initiated mechanism with a 150 day out of court process and provisions for group and cross border insolvency. Penalties for frivolous filings may range from one lakh to two crore rupees, while appeals before the appellate tribunal must be decided within three months.

Modi reviews essential supplies and energy security amid West Asia crisis

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Prime Minister Narendra Modi chaired a meeting of the Cabinet Committee on Security to assess the impact of the ongoing West Asia conflict on India's economy and supply chains. Officials reviewed disruptions linked to the Strait of Hormuz and outlined steps to ensure uninterrupted availability of fuel, fertilizers, and essential goods. The government discussed diversifying imports of LPG and LNG, maintaining stable domestic prices, and strengthening action against hoarding. Measures to boost power supply, including increased coal movement and support for gas-based plants, were also reviewed.

Authorities said food prices have remained stable, while control rooms are monitoring supply in real time. The prime minister directed departments to



prevent misinformation and ensure smooth logistics, while diplomatic efforts continue to secure safe shipping routes.

Lok Sabha passes transgender rights amendment bill after heated debate

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The Lok Sabha passed the Transgender Persons Amendment Bill 2026 following a detailed debate, with Social Justice Minister Virendra Kumar describing it as essential to ensuring dignity and equality for transgender individuals. The bill amends the 2019 law and introduces stricter penalties for offenses such as forced mutilation, kidnapping, and exploitation. However, opposition members criticized the legislation as unconstitutional and raised concerns over the lack of consultation with the transgender community. The amendments redefine the category of transgender persons using



a biological framework and remove provisions related to self-perceived gender identity. The bill also proposes greater administrative oversight in issuing identity certificates through medical boards. It is expected to be taken up next in the Rajya Sabha for further consideration.

BJP rebuts Rahul Gandhi, defends governance and infrastructure push under Modi

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Leaders of the Bharatiya Janata Party rejected criticism from Rahul Gandhi, defending the government's record on fuel prices, supply chains, and infrastructure under Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Party spokesperson R. P. Singh said fuel prices have not risen significantly as the government absorbed excise duties, and denied any shortage of cooking gas.

BJP leader Gourav Vallabh added that

India holds crude oil reserves for more than 60 days and that supply chains remain stable despite global disruptions, including tensions affecting shipping routes such as the Strait of Hormuz. He credited India's foreign policy for ensuring safe passage of Indian vessels.

Both leaders emphasized ongoing infrastructure expansion across states and accused the opposition of spreading misinformation, asserting that economic fundamentals and governance remain strong.



Odisha political row escalates over remarks on Biju Patnaik

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

A political controversy intensified in Odisha after BJP MP Nishikant Dubey's remarks on veteran leader Biju Patnaik triggered strong protests from the Biju Janata Dal on Tuesday. Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik sharply criticized the comments, saying the MP needed psychiatric attention while defending Biju Patnaik's legacy. BJP leaders including Bajjayant Panda and Dilip Ray praised the former chief minister's contribution but avoided direct escalation, though the party expressed regret over the remarks. The Odisha Legislative Assembly witnessed uproar as Biju Janata Dal members demanded condemnation and a formal resolution. Leaders said Biju Patnaik's legacy remains central to Odisha's political identity and continues to influence public sentiment across the state.

Nalanda temple stampede triggers suspensions and probe over security lapses

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Authorities in Bihar suspended several police personnel after a stampede at Sheetla Mata Temple in Nalanda district on Tuesday left at least eight people dead. Bharat Soni, Superintendent of Police of Nalanda, ordered the suspension of the Station House Officer of Deepnagar Police Station, Rajmani, along with four other personnel over alleged negligence. Preliminary findings pointed to poor crowd management and lack of coordination, which allowed the situation to spiral out of control as large crowds gathered for special prayers. A Special Investigation Team has been formed to probe the incident, while Chief Minister Nitish Kumar announced compensation of six lakh rupees for families of the deceased and assured medical care for the injured.

Kiren Rijiju rejects Opposition claims over Foreign Contribution Regulation Act amendment bill

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Union Minister Kiren Rijiju on Tuesday rejected Opposition allegations that the Foreign Contribution Regulation Act amendment bill targets religious organizations. He said the proposed changes aim to prevent misuse of foreign funding and strengthen national security safeguards under the Foreign Contribution Regulation Act framework.

Rijiju criticized the Indian National Congress and Communist parties, particularly in Kerala, accusing them of spreading false and misleading claims. He asserted that the bill does not target any religious group and is intended to ensure transparency in foreign contributions and prevent illegal activities. The remarks come amid ongoing debate in Parliament, with the government maintaining that the reforms will improve accountability and strengthen oversight of foreign funding flows.

Gas prices in the United States cross 4 dollars as Middle East conflict drives surge

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

United States gas prices have risen above 4 dollars per gallon for the first time since 2022, reaching 4.02 dollars on Tuesday, according to AAA. The increase comes amid rising global oil prices triggered by the ongoing conflict involving Iran, which has disrupted supply chains and reduced output from major producers. Crude oil prices have surged past 100 dollars per barrel, with both Brent and United States benchmarks hitting multi year highs. Analysts said the conflict has created volatility in energy markets as key shipping routes remain under pressure. Higher fuel costs are expected to impact transportation, food prices, and inflation across the economy. Economists warned that sustained increases could reduce consumer spending and slow economic growth.

General Motors idles Detroit electric vehicle plant, temporarily laying off workers



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

General Motors has temporarily idled its Factory ZERO electric vehicle plant in Detroit until mid-April, extending an earlier shutdown that began in mid-March. The move affects about 1,300 workers as the company adjusts production to match weaker demand for electric vehicles. The plant produces models including the Chevrolet Silverado EV and Hummer EV. General Motors has already reduced output at the facility and taken billions in EV-related writedowns. The company is shifting focus toward higher-margin gasoline-powered trucks and plans to increase production of heavy-duty models at another Michigan plant starting in June.

Hershey to restore classic Reese's recipe after consumer backlash

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Hershey said on Wednesday that it will restore its classic milk chocolate and dark chocolate recipes for Reese's products starting in 2027. The decision follows criticism over the use of alternative coatings in seasonal products, including Easter items.

The Pennsylvania based company plans to shift more of its confectionery portfolio toward natural colors and improve recipes, including making Kit Kat creamier. It also plans to increase research and development spending by 25 percent next year. The move follows criticism from Brad Reese, grandson of Reese's inventor, who accused the company of lowering product quality. Hershey said the changes reflect efforts to strengthen trust and respond to evolving consumer expectations across its global confectionery business.

SpaceX moves toward initial public offering as it targets record valuation

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

SpaceX, led by Elon Musk, has confidentially filed for an initial public offering, marking a significant step toward what could become one of the largest public listings in history. The filing, made on Wednesday, could set the stage for a market debut as early as June, with reports suggesting the company may raise between 50 billion and 75 billion dollars. SpaceX is currently valued at more than 1 trillion dollars, driven by rapid growth in its rocket launch business and the expansion of its Starlink satellite internet service, which

provides global broadband connectivity.

Founded in 2002, the company has transformed spaceflight economics through reusable rocket technology and now aims to scale further into orbital data infrastructure and future missions to Mars. Chief executive Elon Musk, who also leads Tesla and artificial intelligence firm xAI, could see his wealth rise significantly if valuations continue to climb. The move signals a shift toward public markets after years of remaining privately held, despite strong investor demand and expanding global commercial space competition.

Oil surges above 110 dollars as geopolitical tensions rattle global markets

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Global markets fell sharply on Thursday after oil prices surged more than 10 percent, with United States crude climbing above 110 dollars a barrel following President Donald Trump's national address on Wednesday. Trump said the United States would escalate its military and strategic response in the ongoing conflict involving Iran, raising fears of prolonged disruption in global energy supplies and shipping routes. Futures for major United States indices, including the Standard and Poor's 500, Dow Jones Industrial Average, and Nasdaq, fell between 1.4 and 2 percent ahead of market opening. The spike in crude was driven by concerns over potential supply disruptions



through key maritime routes, including the Strait of Hormuz, a critical passage for global oil shipments. Asian and European markets also declined as investors reacted to rising risk. Analysts warned that sustained energy price increases could accelerate inflation, push up consumer costs, and place additional pressure on central banks already managing fragile global economic growth conditions across multiple regions and sectors.

Amazon explores Globalstar acquisition in push to rival Starlink satellite network

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Amazon is reportedly in talks to acquire satellite company Globalstar in a deal valued at around 9 billion dollars, according to reports on Wednesday. The move would strengthen Amazon's efforts to expand its low Earth orbit satellite network, known as Project Kuiper, and compete directly with SpaceX's Starlink service. Globalstar shares jumped after the report, while Amazon shares fell slightly. The company is expanding its satellite network as Starlink operates thousands of satellites serving millions of users worldwide. A potential deal could face regulatory scrutiny



and ownership complexities linked to Apple's stake in Globalstar. The acquisition would mark a major escalation in the satellite internet race as companies compete for global connectivity dominance.

Federal judge allows Wells Fargo lawsuit against JPMorgan over real estate loan to proceed

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Afederal judge in New York has ruled that a lawsuit by Wells Fargo against JPMorgan Chase over a 481 million dollar commercial real estate loan can proceed. Wells Fargo alleges JPMorgan ignored warning signs about overstated rental income in a 2019 loan to the Chetrit Group, which later defaulted in 2022. The lawsuit claims JPMorgan misrepresented loan quality before selling it to investors through mortgage-backed securities. JPMorgan argued there



was no proven link to losses, but the court said the case can move forward if conduct increased risk. The dispute will now proceed to discovery and further litigation.

Intel to regain full control of Ireland chip plant in \$14.2 billion buyback



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Intel said on Wednesday that it will spend 14.2 billion dollars to buy back the 49 percent stake in its Ireland manufacturing facility from Apollo Global Management, regaining full ownership of the Leixlip plant. The stake was originally sold in 2024 as part of a financing deal to support Intel's expansion in Europe and the United States. The company said the buyback reflects improved finances and rising demand for chips driven by artificial intelligence computing needs. Intel shares rose about 6 percent in early trading on Wednesday. The deal will be funded through cash reserves and about 6.5 billion dollars in new debt, and is expected to strengthen Intel's financial position and profitability from 2027 onward.

Sam Altman's sister amends lawsuit under child abuse statute

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Sam Altman's sister filed an amended lawsuit on Wednesday in federal court in St. Louis, Missouri, accusing the OpenAI chief executive of sexual abuse spanning more than two decades. The amendment follows a judge's ruling that allowed her to proceed under Missouri's child sexual abuse statute. She alleges abuse between 1997 and 2006 at the family home in suburban Clayton, beginning when she was three and he was 12. Altman has denied the allegations and is countersuing for defamation based on social media posts referencing the claims. A federal judge previously ruled that older civil claims had expired, but allowed limited legal avenues to proceed. Altman, now 40, is also co-founder of OpenAI and a prominent figure in the artificial intelligence industry.

Unilever and McCormick agree to \$65 billion food business merger

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Unilever said on Tuesday that it will merge its global food business with spice maker McCormick in a deal valued at about 65 billion dollars, creating one of the largest food sector transactions in history. Under the agreement, Unilever will receive 15.7 billion dollars in cash and retain a 65 percent stake in the combined company. The deal will be structured as a Reverse Morris Trust and is expected to deliver tax benefits. The new entity will combine Unilever's food brands such as Knorr and Hellmann's with McCormick's global seasoning portfolio. Analysts said the move reflects Unilever's strategy to streamline its business amid slowing growth in packaged foods and rising competition from private labels, while McCormick gains global scale.

Warren Buffett says he will not commit to further Gates Foundation donations

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Warren Buffett said this week that he is not committing to continue his annual multibillion-dollar donations to the Gates Foundation, following recent scrutiny surrounding the organization's ties and governance.

In a television interview, Buffett said he has not spoken with Bill Gates since the release of documents involving meetings between Gates and Jeffrey Epstein.

Buffett has donated more than 47 billion dollars in Berkshire Hathaway shares to the foundation since 2006. Last year's donation exceeded 4.5 billion dollars. He said he is "waiting to see what unfolds" before making further commitments.

Buffett also noted he remains supportive of philanthropy but expressed concern about recent developments. He previously said most of his remaining wealth will go to a charitable trust managed by his children.

Microsoft, Chevron and Engine No. 1 explore \$7 billion power deal for data centers

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Microsoft, Chevron, and investment firm Engine No. 1 said on Tuesday that they have signed an exclusivity agreement for a potential power generation project to support Microsoft's expanding data centers. The deal is linked to a proposed natural gas-fired plant in West Texas that could cost about 7 billion dollars and generate 2,500 megawatts of electricity. The companies said no final commercial agreement has been reached. The project is aimed at meeting rising energy demand from artificial intelligence services such as ChatGPT and Copilot. Chevron and Engine No. 1 had previously announced plans to develop power facilities near data centers. The arrangement reflects growing competition among technology firms to secure reliable electricity for large-scale computing infrastructure.

Qantas and American Airlines receive interim approval for trans-Pacific cooperation

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Australia's competition regulator said on Wednesday that it has granted interim approval for Qantas and American Airlines to continue their joint operations on trans-Pacific routes between Australia, New Zealand, the United States, Canada, and Mexico. The airlines had applied in November 2025 to extend their partnership and coordinate pricing, schedules, and capacity planning. The arrangement allows them to manage operations jointly across key international routes for a five-year period, subject to final approval. The Australian Competition and Consumer Commission said it expects to issue a final decision in June. The cooperation aims to improve connectivity and efficiency on long-haul flights while maintaining regulatory oversight of competition in the aviation sector.

Indian rupee records biggest jump in nearly 13 years after policy tightening

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The Indian rupee posted its strongest single day gain in nearly 13 years on Thursday, closing at 93.10 against the United States dollar. The currency had earlier surged as much as 1.7 percent, marking its sharpest rise since September 2013. The rally followed regulatory steps by the Reserve Bank of India to curb speculation in offshore and domestic currency markets. Measures included tighter controls on forward contracts and restrictions on derivative positions. Analysts said improved global sentiment after President Donald Trump's speech, which suggested possible negotiations in the Iran conflict, also supported the rupee. However, global equity



markets remained weak, and oil prices continued to rise. India's strong foreign exchange reserves, exceeding 700 billion dollars, also helped stabilize sentiment. The currency markets were closed earlier in the week due to holidays, adding to volatility once trading resumed.

Bharti Airtel becomes second largest telecom operator globally with 650 million users

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Bharti Airtel announced on Thursday that it has reached 650 million customers worldwide, becoming the second largest telecom operator globally by subscriber base. The milestone reflects strong growth across India and Africa, where the company continues to expand mobile, broadband, and digital services. In India, Airtel serves more than 368 million

mobile users along with millions using fixed broadband and digital television services. Its African operations contribute 179 million customers across 14 countries. The company said the milestone highlights its focus on innovation and customer experience through its fifth generation services rollout. Analysts noted that Airtel's growing subscriber base signals rising demand for premium digital services and long-term expansion opportunities.

Coca-Cola to invest \$1 billion in South Africa through 2030

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Coca-Cola and its authorized bottlers, Coca-Cola Beverages South Africa and Coca-Cola Peninsula Beverages, announced on Tuesday that they will invest about 17.6 billion rand, or 1.05 billion dollars, in South Africa through 2030. The investment is aimed at expanding production capacity, strengthening distribution networks, and accelerating innovation across the

company's value chain.

The announcement was made by Coca-Cola Africa president Luis Felipe Avellar at an investment conference in Johannesburg on Tuesday evening, where President Cyril Ramaphosa highlighted efforts to attract large-scale foreign investment. Coca-Cola said the funding will support long-term growth in the region and improve operational efficiency across its African markets as demand for beverages continues to rise.

California and states seek \$10.3 million for blocking Kroger-Albertsons merger

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

California and a coalition of states said on Tuesday that they are seeking 10.3 million dollars in fees and costs for helping block the Kroger-Albertsons merger. California would receive about 5.1 million dollars under the request, which follows a federal court ruling in Portland, Oregon, confirming the states are entitled to recover legal expenses. The states argued they acted without full federal

support in multiple antitrust cases, including challenges involving major media and entertainment mergers.

The request highlights the high cost of opposing large corporate deals, with companies spending heavily on legal defenses. The states previously helped secure a ruling blocking the 25-billion-dollar supermarket merger, which they said would have reduced competition in the grocery sector.

Trump imposes 50 percent tariffs on steel, aluminium, and copper imports

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

US President Donald Trump has signed a proclamation imposing steep tariffs on imports of steel, aluminium, and copper, tightening trade restrictions under national security grounds. The order

applies duties on the full customs value of imported metals and their derivatives, closing loopholes in earlier measures under Section 232 actions that cited risks to national security. Most primary steel and aluminium products will face a 50 percent tariff, while certain derivative goods will carry a 25 percent duty.

AT&T to invest in FirstNet upgrade for United States emergency network



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

AT&T said on Tuesday that it has reached an agreement to invest about 1 billion dollars to upgrade the FirstNet emergency communications network and deliver another 1 billion dollars in cost savings through reduced rates. FirstNet is a nationwide system built to support first responders, including police, firefighters, and medical teams, allowing them to communicate on a single secure network. The 25-year contract was originally awarded in 2017 following recommendations made after the September 11 attacks. The National Telecommunications and Information Administration said the new agreement reflects continued public-private cooperation. AT&T said the upgrade will improve reliability and coverage for emergency services across the United States as demand for resilient communications infrastructure continues to grow.

India develops bio-bitumen technology to convert crop waste into road material

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

India has developed a breakthrough technology that converts crop waste into bio-bitumen for road construction, offering a greener alternative to petroleum-based materials. Scientists from the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research created the process using pyrolysis, which heats biomass without oxygen to produce binding material for roads. Union Minister Jitendra Singh said crop residues such as rice straw can now be repurposed instead of being burned. Early trials show strong potential for large-scale use. The innovation could reduce stubble burning, cut air pollution, lower import dependence, and attract industry interest for broader applications including carbon-based materials.

Indian diesel exports help stabilize fuel supply in Australia amid Middle East disruption

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Indian diesel exports to Southeast Asia rose to a more than seven-year high in March as supply disruptions from the Middle East tightened global fuel markets. Around 1 million metric tons of diesel were shipped, with about half going to Singapore and most of the trade handled by Reliance Industries. The increased supply has helped ease fuel shortages in Australia, which imports about 90 percent of its fuel and relies heavily on Asian suppliers. With local refinery capacity limited and inventories under pressure, Indian cargoes are helping stabilize availability and reduce immediate supply risks across the region.

FIFA raises World Cup final ticket prices amid disrupted sales phase



FIFA raised the top ticket price for the 2026 World Cup final to \$10,990 during a disrupted reopening of sales on Wednesday after the tournament field was finalized. The increase marks a rise from \$8,680 in the previous sales phase following the draw in December. Category two tickets for the final at MetLife Stadium in New Jersey rose to \$7,380, while category three tickets increased to \$5,785. The governing body is using dynamic pricing across the tournament, which will be held in the United States, Mexico, and Canada. Sales were hampered by technical issues, with fans facing long queues and misdirected links during the rollout. FIFA said not all tickets have been released and that additional inventory will be made available in stages leading up to the tournament. The World Cup will run from June 11 to July 19.

LeBron James breaks all-time wins record as Los Angeles Lakers beat Cleveland Cavaliers



LeBron James set a new all-time wins record on Tuesday night as the Los Angeles Lakers defeated the Cleveland Cavaliers 127-113, extending their winning streak to four games. James recorded his 1,229th career win, surpassing the previous record held by Kareem Abdul-Jabbar. Luka Doncic led the Lakers with 42 points and 12 assists, while Deandre Ayton added 18 points and nine rebounds. Austin Reaves contributed 19 points as Los Angeles secured a strong home victory and continued its push in the Western Conference standings. James scored 14 points in the game, while Cleveland's Donovan Mitchell struggled offensively with just 10 points. The Lakers shot over 54 percent from the field and controlled the game after taking a double-digit lead in the second quarter. Cleveland has now lost two of its last eight games.

'The world cup curse' returns as Italy face national reckoning after playoff heartbreak

Italy are once again plunged into crisis after failing to qualify for the World Cup for the third consecutive time, following a playoff defeat to Bosnia and Herzegovina on Tuesday night. The match ended 1-1 before Italy lost 4-1 in a penalty shootout, extending their absence from football's biggest tournament since 2014. The defeat sparked immediate outrage across Italy on Wednesday, with newspapers describing the situation as a "World Cup curse" and calling for a full reset of the national team structure.

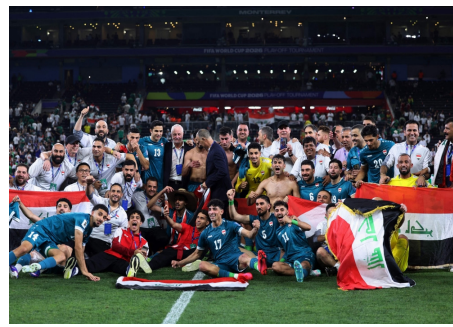


Pressure also mounted on Italian Soccer Federation president Gabriele Gravina, with political figures demanding his resignation and describing the result as an unacceptable failure. Gravina said his position would be reviewed at a federal

council meeting next week. Sports Minister Andrea Abodi called for a rebuild from the ground up, stressing accountability after three straight missed tournaments. Captain Gianluigi Donnarumma expressed deep disappointment and urged unity, resilience, and a fresh start to restore Italy's standing in international football.

Iraq end 40-year World Cup wait with dramatic playoff win over Bolivia

Iraq ended a 40-year absence from the World Cup with a 2-1 victory over Bolivia in a playoff final held on Wednesday at Monterrey Stadium, securing the last available berth for the expanded 48-team tournament. Iraq last appeared at the World Cup in 1986, also hosted in Mexico, when they exited in the group stage. They will now return to the same country for the 2026 edition after a hard-fought win.



Iraq opened the scoring through Al Hamadi, who headed in from a corner, but Bolivia equalized before halftime through Moises Paniagua. The decisive goal came early in the second half when Hussein

finished a cross with a first-time volley. Iraq held firm under late pressure to seal qualification. Coach Graham Arnold praised his players' resilience, while Bolivia's coach Oscar Villegas expressed pride despite the defeat.

Gukesh Dommaraju pulls out of full Grand Chess Tour season but commits to rapid and blitz events

World chess champion Gukesh Dommaraju has withdrawn from the full 2026 Grand Chess Tour season, opting instead to participate only in two rapid and blitz events in Warsaw and Zagreb as a wildcard player. The decision comes after a series of disappointing results, with Gukesh and his team choosing to reduce his schedule to focus on recovery and training.



In a statement, he said he needed a lighter competitive load away from home to regain top form and expressed gratitude to organizers for their understanding. As a result, Uzbekistan's Javokhir Sindarov, the reigning World Cup champion, will replace him as a full tour participant and

compete across the entire series. Tournament organizers said they respect Gukesh's choice while welcoming Sindarov's inclusion. The 2026 Grand Chess Tour will feature events in Poland, Romania, Croatia, and the United States across rapid, blitz, and classical formats.

Rishabh Pant laments extra runs as Lucknow Super Giants fall to Delhi Capitals

Lucknow Super Giants captain Rishabh Pant said extra runs and missed batting partnerships cost his team in their six-wicket defeat to Delhi Capitals on Wednesday. Lucknow were restricted to 142 and could not defend the total despite early breakthroughs with the ball.

Pant said conditions initially assisted the seam bowlers, with Mohammad Shami and Mohsin Khan striking early, while Prince Yadav also made an impact by dismissing Axar Patel with a late-swinging delivery. However, Delhi Capitals recovered to chase down the target comfortably.

Pant admitted his team failed to build momentum with the bat and lost key partnerships at crucial stages. He also noted tactical adjustments, including the use of flexible batting roles to exploit match-ups. Despite the loss, he suggested he would continue batting higher up the order as the team reassesses its approach moving forward.

Rassie van der Dussen retires from international cricket



South Africa batter Rassie van der Dussen has announced his retirement from international cricket, ending a career in which he became one of the nation's most dependable white-ball performers. The 35-year-old confirmed his decision in a social media statement on Wednesday, expressing pride and gratitude for representing the Proteas. He rose to international cricket relatively late, making his Twenty20 international debut at 29 after strong domestic form. Van der Dussen went on to play 18 Tests, 71 One-Day Internationals, and 57 Twenty20 internationals. In One-Day Internationals, he scored 2,657 runs at an average above 50 with six centuries. He will continue playing domestic cricket and aims to mentor younger players.



Little Andaman Pro 2026 to open India surfing season ahead of Asian Games debut

Surfing Federation of India announced the Little Andaman Pro 2026 National Surf and Stand-Up Paddle Championship as the opening event of the 2026 season, scheduled from Friday to Sunday, April 9 to 12, 2026. Held at Butler Bay Beach in the Andaman Islands, the competition will bring together India's top surfers and stand-up paddlers and mark the region's first major surfing championship. Backed by Andaman and Nicobar tourism, it comes ahead of India's Asian Games debut in Japan later this year after securing four quota places, while reef break conditions aim to improve technical skills.



Bayern Munich chase scoring records ahead of Freiburg test



Bayern Munich travel to Freiburg with the Bundesliga title nearly secured and several scoring milestones within reach. Vincent Kompany's side have scored 97 league goals this season, moving within four of the long-standing record of 101. England captain Harry Kane is also chasing the single-season mark of 41 goals, while Bayern continue to outpace last season's total under their current coach. Freiburg present a tough challenge at home, having lost only twice in all competitions at their stadium. However, their busy schedule across domestic and European competitions has tested their squad depth. Freiburg remain in contention for European qualification but face a demanding run of fixtures in coming weeks.

Borussia Dortmund face tension over Schlotterbeck contract talks



Borussia Dortmund are dealing with rising uncertainty after defender Nico Schlotterbeck said negotiations over a new contract remain far from completion. The 26-year-old Germany international dismissed reports suggesting an agreement was close, pointing to internal leadership changes as a factor slowing discussions. Talks have stretched for months, adding pressure on the club as it attempts a broader squad rebuild following several departures. Media reports suggest Premier League clubs are monitoring the situation, while Dortmund have considered a long-term deal with a major salary increase. Schlotterbeck also called for a clearer sporting vision, saying he wants assurance the club is building a team capable of challenging for major titles again.

Jannik Sinner completes Sunshine Double with Miami Open victory over Jiri Lehecka

Jannik Sinner won the Miami Open on Sunday with a straight sets victory over Jiri Lehecka, completing the prestigious Sunshine Double after also winning Indian Wells earlier in the season. The Italian won 6-4, 6-4 in the final, becoming the first male player since Roger Federer in 2017 to capture both events in the same year. Sinner also achieved the feat without dropping a single set across the two tournaments, marking one of the most dominant runs in recent Masters level history.



The win made him only the eighth man ever to complete the Sunshine Double, joining legends including Jim Courier, Andre Agassi, Federer, and Novak Djokovic. He

has now extended a strong season record and continues to close the gap in the ATP rankings race. Opponent Jiri Lehecka reached his first Masters 1000 final and is projected to rise to a career high ranking.

Japan women's coach Nils Nielsen steps down after Asian Cup triumph



Japan women's national team coach Nils Nielsen stepped down on Thursday, the Japan Football Association confirmed, shortly after leading the team to a major continental title. Japan defeated Australia in the final to win the Women's Asian Cup and secure their third crown in four editions. The team also confirmed qualification for the 2027 Women's World Cup after reaching the semifinals of the tournament. Nielsen became the first foreign head coach of the side in 2024 and brought experience from Denmark, Switzerland, and Manchester City's women's setup. He said his contract had expired and thanked the federation for the opportunity, closing his brief but successful tenure in charge.

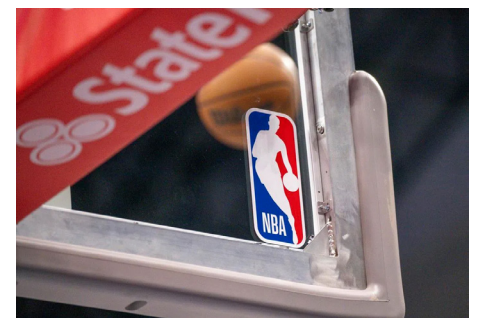
Ukraine urges International Olympic Committee to review neutral status of Russian athletes

Ukraine's sports authorities called on the International Olympic Committee on Wednesday to reassess the "neutral" status of Russian athletes, alleging that some competitors have links to military structures or have violated eligibility conditions tied to sanctions imposed after the invasion of Ukraine. The International Olympic Committee has allowed a limited number of athletes from Russia and Belarus to compete in the 2024 Paris Olympics and upcoming Winter Games in Milan under neutral status, provided they do not display national symbols or support the war effort. Ukrainian officials, including Sports Minister Matvii Bidny and National Olympic Committee head Vadym Guttsait, said they have submitted evidence of violations involving athletes allegedly connected to military



organizations and training activities in Crimea. They also cited concerns in sports climbing events under the International Federation of Sport Climbing. Ukraine has urged a full review and suspension of implicated athletes, while the International Olympic Committee continues to enforce case-by-case eligibility checks.

National Basketball Association and international federation see strong interest in European league plan



Plans for a new European basketball league backed by the National Basketball Association and the International Basketball Federation have drawn strong interest from investors and teams. League officials said more than 120 prospective investors, including existing clubs and ownership groups, have submitted bids for permanent franchise positions. The proposal involves major cities such as London, Paris, Madrid, Berlin, and Athens as potential markets. Reports indicate some bids range from 500 million to over 1 billion dollars. Officials will now evaluate proposals and shortlist partners aligned with their long-term vision. The project is expected to move forward in phases, with final decisions made after further discussions with governing bodies.

Tiger Woods steps away from 2027 Ryder Cup captaincy, PGA of America confirms

The PGA of America confirmed on Wednesday that Tiger Woods will not serve as captain of the United States team for the 2027 Ryder Cup in Ireland, after the golfer informed the organization he is stepping away to focus on his health. Woods had been considered the leading candidate for the role at Adare Manor.



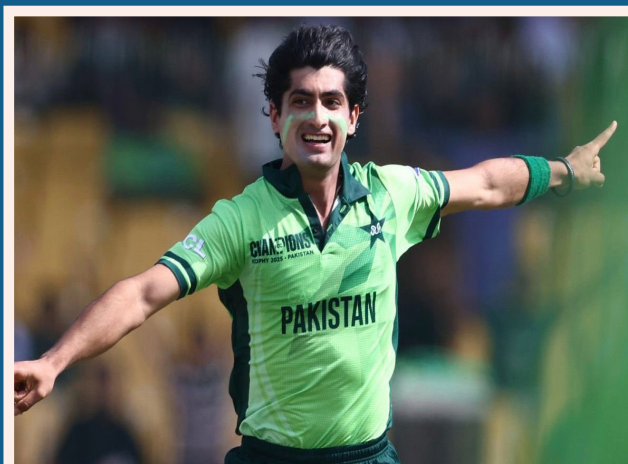
The announcement comes after Woods recently stepped away from professional commitments following legal and personal developments, with the PGA of America stating it fully supports his decision and wishes him recovery and well-being. Woods has been closely associated with the Ryder

Cup since his debut in 1997 and has also been active in PGA Tour governance.

The governing body said it will announce an alternative captain in due course as planning for the 2027 event continues.

Igor Tudor leaves Tottenham Hotspur after seven-match spell

Igor Tudor has stepped down as Tottenham Hotspur head coach by mutual agreement last week after just seven matches in charge. He lost his first four games and ended his spell with a defeat to Nottingham Forest, while assistants Tomislav Rogic and Riccardo Ragnacci also left. Tottenham acknowledged his father Mario's recent death and thanked the coaching staff for their efforts during a difficult six-week period. The club is close to the relegation zone and faces urgency in naming a replacement ahead of an away match against Sunderland on Sunday.



Naseem Shah faces disciplinary action after deleted social media post

Naseem Shah faces Pakistan Cricket Board disciplinary action after a deleted social media post during the Pakistan Super League opener on Wednesday in Pakistan. The post questioned the presence of Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz and was later claimed hacked, but officials were unconvinced and issued a show cause notice for alleged media policy breach. He remains available for selection while the tournament continues under tight conditions with limited venues and security concerns after earlier militant warnings to foreign players, though overseas cricketers are still participating.

Russell Brand trial delayed to October as new charges extend proceedings

Russell Brand's sexual assault trial has been pushed to October 12 after additional charges were merged with earlier allegations, extending the expected duration to nearly two months. The trial was originally scheduled for June but was delayed due to the expanded case and logistical concerns, including juror availability during the summer period. Brand, 50, faces multiple charges, including rape, indecent assault, and sexual assault involving several women, with alleged incidents dating back to 1999 and 2004. He has denied all accusations and previously said he welcomes the opportunity to defend himself in court. The comedian and actor, known for 'Forgetting Sarah Marshall' and 'Get Him to the Greek', was not present at the latest hearing.

Sophie Turner injury pauses 'Tomb Raider' production briefly



Sophie Turner has suffered a minor injury, prompting a temporary pause in filming of the upcoming series 'Tomb Raider', created by Phoebe Waller-Bridge. The production team confirmed that shooting has been halted as a precaution while Turner recovers, though it has not been disclosed whether the incident occurred on set. The break is expected to last around two weeks, with cast and crew continuing to receive pay during the downtime. The Amazon MGM Studios series, filmed primarily in the United Kingdom, recently began production and casts Turner as iconic archaeologist Lara Croft. The show expands the long-running video game franchise that previously inspired films starring Angelina Jolie and Alicia Vikander. The ensemble also includes Sigourney Weaver and Jason Isaacs. The production is expected to resume once Turner is cleared to return.

Celine Dion announces Paris comeback concerts during birthday celebration

Celine Dion has confirmed her return to live performances with a series of Paris concerts beginning in September. The announcement came through a video message during her birthday celebration near the Eiffel Tower, which was illuminated in tribute. She thanked fans for their continued support and said she feels strong and excited to return. Set for Paris La Defense Arena, the concerts will feature her most beloved songs in French and English, marking her first major live shows since stepping away in 2022.

Oscars to leave Hollywood after decades at Dolby Theatre

The Oscars will leave Hollywood starting with the ceremony held in the early 2030s, marking a major shift for the Academy Awards after more than two decades at the Dolby Theatre. The Academy announced on Thursday that the event will relocate to downtown Los Angeles and the Peacock Theater at the L.A. Live complex under a 10-year partnership with AEG, which operates the venue.

The move comes as the telecast also transitions from traditional broadcast television to YouTube beginning in 2029, signaling a broader modernization of the awards show. The Dolby Theatre, built specifically to host the Oscars, has been the ceremony's home since the early 2000s, aside from the pandemic-era event held at Union Station in 2021. Before that, the Oscars rotated among several Los Angeles venues, including the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion and the Shrine Auditorium.

The Peacock Theater, located next to a major sports arena in downtown Los Angeles, has significantly larger capacity and more modern infrastructure. It has



regularly hosted major televised events such as the Emmy Awards and music industry ceremonies. As part of the agreement, AEG will upgrade the venue to accommodate the technical and design needs of the Oscars, which will continue at the Dolby Theatre through the centennial ceremony in 2028 before moving permanently afterward.

Tim Curry calls missed 'Silence of the Lambs' role a lasting regret



Tim Curry has reflected on missing out on several iconic roles, describing his inability to audition for 'The Silence of the Lambs' as one of his greatest regrets. He revealed he had hoped to play Hannibal Lecter, a role that ultimately went to Anthony Hopkins. Curry also recalled auditioning for parts in 'Home Alone' and 'Jurassic Park', and being considered for Scar in 'The Lion King', but losing out on each opportunity. He later appeared in 'Home Alone 2: Lost In New York', joking that he "made it" in the end. Known for 'The Rocky Horror Picture Show' and 'It', Curry said his voice acting career became a fulfilling path despite earlier setbacks.

Megan Thee Stallion pauses Broadway run after onstage health scare

Megan Thee Stallion has temporarily stepped away from her Broadway performances in 'Moulin Rouge! The Musical' after being hospitalized during a show due to severe exhaustion and dehydration. The rapper later said she had been pushing herself beyond her limits and felt close to fainting on stage. Doctors diagnosed fatigue, low metabolic levels, and related symptoms. She was discharged shortly after and is now recovering. An understudy stepped in as performances continued. Megan confirmed she would miss two shows before returning to the stage. She recently made her Broadway debut as Harold Zidler, with her limited run scheduled through mid-May.

Netflix doubles down on original franchises after missing out on Harry Potter library

Netflix is focusing on building its own long-running entertainment franchises after losing its bid for Warner Bros Discovery's catalog of characters, including properties tied to 'Harry Potter' and 'Game of Thrones'. Chief Creative Officer Bela Bajaria said the company will continue investing in original ideas and partnering with major studios to develop films and series designed to last for years, similar to 'Stranger Things', 'Wednesday', and 'Bridgerton'.

The company has struggled to match century-old intellectual property libraries owned by rivals like Walt Disney and Universal Pictures. While hits like 'Stranger Things' and 'Extraction' have expanded into spin-offs and sequels, some costly projects, including a reported deal for Roald Dahl's works, have yet to deliver major success. Netflix now aims



to strengthen engagement as competition from YouTube and Disney intensifies.

Bombay High Court rejects Anita Advani's claim of marriage to Rajesh Khanna

Bombay High Court has dismissed Anita Advani's plea seeking legal recognition of her relationship with late actor Rajesh Khanna as a marriage, upholding an earlier sessions court ruling. The bench, led by Justice Sharmila Deshmukh, rejected the appeal, with a detailed order expected later. Advani had claimed a long-term live-in relationship akin to marriage and alleged she was evicted from Khanna's residence following his death in 2012. The case has been contested by his family, including Dimple Kapadia and Twinkle Khanna. Khanna remains one of Hindi cinema's most celebrated stars, known for a record 15 consecutive solo hits and a prolific film career spanning over 160 projects.



Samantha Ruth Prabhu shares 'power morning' routine that transformed her life



Samantha Ruth Prabhu has revealed a simple yet impactful "power morning" routine that she says transformed her health and focus. Sharing a video on Instagram, the actor stressed that mornings shape the rest of the day, linking issues like belly fat, skin concerns, and puffiness to poor habits. She explained that cortisol levels are naturally high upon waking, and checking phones or emails can double stress. Her routine includes avoiding screens for the first hour, practicing five minutes of deep breathing, and getting early sunlight exposure. She also recommends a simple morning drink, a balanced breakfast, movement before late morning, and delaying coffee until after eating, urging followers to try the routine consistently for 21 days.

Saurabh Shukla says children's cinema has evolved, not disappeared



Saurabh Shukla believes children's films have not disappeared but evolved with changing times and audience psychology. Addressing concerns about the decline of the genre, he said what people perceive as innocence is shaped by the era.

Referring to films like 'Hum Hain Rahi Pyar Ke', 'Makdee', 'Bhoothnath', 'Taare Zameen Par', and 'Stanley Ka Dabba', he noted that earlier storytelling reflected a different societal mindset. Today's children are exposed to far more information, but that does not mean innocence has been lost.

Shukla recently directed 'Jab Khuli Kitaab', starring Pankaj Kapur and Dimple Kapadia, about an elderly couple reexamining their marriage after decades together.

Anupam Kher dismisses 'Dhurandhar' propaganda claims, backs audience verdict

Anupam Kher has dismissed claims that 'Dhurandhar' is a propaganda film, urging people to stop amplifying such criticism. He said those making such remarks are "irrelevant" and do not deserve attention. The actor emphasized that a film's success lies with audiences, citing the popularity of 'The Kashmir Files' and 'Dhurandhar' as proof that viewers decide what works. He added that audiences are intelligent enough to make their own choices. Directed by Aditya Dhar, the franchise continues its strong run with 'Dhurandhar 2: The Revenge'. The cast includes Ranveer Singh, Sanjay Dutt, R. Madhavan, and Akshaye Khanna.

Arnold Schwarzenegger reflects on early struggles after receiving honorary doctorate

Arnold Schwarzenegger revisited his early struggles while accepting an honorary doctorate from Ulster University in Belfast, nearly six decades after his first visit as a young bodybuilder. He recalled competing in the city in 1966, when he spoke English publicly for the first time despite barely knowing the language. His simple words earned a standing ovation, a moment he described as both nerve-wracking and encouraging. He joked that he said "I come back" back then, long before popularizing "I'll be back" in 'The Terminator', calling the experience a turning point in overcoming his fear of public speaking.

Badshah wedding rumors intensify after viral photos surface online

Rapper Badshah has triggered speculation about a possible wedding after photos surfaced online showing him with Punjabi actress Isha Rikhi in traditional bridal attire. The images, shared by Rikhi's mother Poonam Rikhi, show Badshah dressed as a groom while Isha appears in a red bridal outfit with wedding jewelry, including chooda. Additional clips suggest the couple participating in ceremonial rituals resembling pheras.

The post included a blessing, fueling rumors that the two may have married in a private ceremony. However, neither Badshah nor Isha has confirmed the reports, and no official statement has been issued. The pair have been linked intermittently in the past, though they have never publicly acknowledged a relationship. Badshah was



earlier married to Jasmine Masih and has a daughter from that marriage. He recently also issued an apology after backlash over his song 'Tateeree'.

Delhi court defers Priya Kapur's defamation case amid ongoing family dispute

Delhi court has adjourned proceedings in a criminal defamation case filed by Priya Kapur against her sister-in-law Mandhira Kapur Smith, granting time to respond to a legal application. The matter will now be heard on April 22.

Mandhira Kapur has sought disclosure of documents supporting the complaint, which alleges a sustained campaign of defamatory statements made through interviews, podcasts, and digital platforms. Priya Kapur claims the remarks were false, misleading, and intended to damage her reputation. The dispute follows the death



of businessman Sunjay Kapur in June 2025 and forms part of a wider legal battle, including a civil defamation suit seeking significant damages.

Taylor Swift faces trademark lawsuit over 'The Life of a Showgirl' branding

Taylor Swift is facing a trademark infringement lawsuit over her album 'The Life of a Showgirl', with performer Maren Wade alleging similarities to her brand 'Confessions of a Showgirl'. The lawsuit claims both titles share a similar structure and commercial impression, targeting overlapping audiences.

Wade argues that Swift's global reach has created "reverse confusion," potentially overshadowing her long-established brand built through writing, live performances, and digital media. The complaint also notes that trademark authorities had flagged possible conflicts before the album's release.

Swift's album, her 12th studio project, sold four million copies in its first week. Her representatives have not issued a public response.



Kanye West set to headline all three nights of Wireless Festival 2026

Kanye West is set to headline all three nights of Wireless Festival 2026 in London's Finsbury Park from July 10 to 12. The shows mark his first United Kingdom appearance in over a decade. The announcement follows his latest

album 'Bully', with organizers promising more acts to be revealed soon. The rapper is reportedly looking to rebuild his fanbase after recent controversies. His New Delhi concert has also been rescheduled to May 23, 2026, due to geopolitical tensions, with all tickets remaining valid.

Lily Collins adopts comfort-first style after embracing motherhood



Lily Collins says motherhood has reshaped her fashion choices, shifting her style toward comfort and practicality. The 'Emily in Paris' star now prefers ballet flats and sneakers over high heels.

After welcoming her daughter with Charlie McDowell, Collins described her look as "understated, comfortable chic," often opting for jeans, oversized blazers, and relaxed tops.

She also simplified her beauty routine, choosing to air-dry her hair after cutting it into a short bob. Letting go of constant maintenance, she said, has been freeing and better aligned with her lifestyle as a new mother.

Taylor Swift skips appearance in 'Elizabeth Taylor' video, honors screen icon



Taylor Swift has released the music video for 'Elizabeth Taylor', choosing not to appear in it and instead dedicating the visuals entirely to the legendary actor. The video features a montage of scenes from films like 'Father of the Bride', 'Cat on a Hot Tin Roof', and 'Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?', along with archival footage. Swift had sought permission from the estate of Elizabeth Taylor before releasing the track on 'The Life of a Showgirl'. The video premiered on premium platforms such as Apple Music and Spotify, with a wider release expected later.

Riteish Deshmukh brings Maratha legend to life in 'Raja Shivaji' teaser

Riteish Deshmukh has unveiled the teaser for 'Raja Shivaji', a grand historical drama in which he portrays and directs the role of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj. The film traces the warrior king's journey of courage and the founding of Swarajya, combining emotional storytelling with large-scale visuals. It highlights key moments from his life, including battles against the Mughal Empire and the creation of an independent state. Featuring a cast that includes Sanjay Dutt, Abhishek Bachchan, and Vidya Balan, the film will release worldwide on May 1, 2026.



Hanuman

Jayanti 2026

A global celebration of devotion, strength & spiritual unity

By: IndoUS Tribune Desk

Across continents and cultures, the sacred occasion of Hanuman Jayanti 2026 was observed with deep reverence, vibrant temple rituals, devotional chanting, and community gatherings that reflected the enduring spiritual strength of the Hindu faith. Celebrated on April 2, 2026, this auspicious festival honors the birth of Lord Hanuman—one of the most beloved and powerful deities in Hindu tradition, revered as the embodiment of courage, devotion, humility, and selfless service.

From India's ancient temple cities to bustling metropolitan centers in the United States, Canada, the United Kingdom, and beyond, devotees came together in a unified expression of faith, reinforcing cultural identity and spiritual values that transcend borders.

The spiritual significance of Hanuman Jayanti

Hanuman Jayanti commemorates the divine appearance of Lord Hanuman, the



devoted follower and eternal servant of Lord Rama in the epic Ramayana. His life is regarded as the highest example of bhakti (devotion), where complete surrender to the divine becomes the path to strength, wisdom,

and liberation.

Lord Hanuman is revered across Hindu traditions for his:

- ▶ Unwavering devotion to Lord Rama

- ▶ Immense physical and spiritual strength
- ▶ Fearlessness in the face of adversity
- ▶ Humility despite extraordinary powers
- ▶ Commitment to righteousness and dharma
- ▶ Selfless service (seva) without expectation



His life story continues to inspire millions, teaching that true power lies not in domination, but in discipline, devotion, and humility. Devotees believe that sincere worship of Lord Hanuman removes obstacles, protects against negativity, strengthens willpower, and provides courage during life's most challenging moments. His presence is invoked especially on Tuesdays and Saturdays, but Hanuman Jayanti remains the most significant annual celebration dedicated to him.

Global observance: A worldwide expression of faith

In 2026, Hanuman Jayanti was observed across the world with traditional rituals and modern community gatherings that reflected both continuity and cultural adaptation. Temples organized early morning abhishekams, recitations of the Hanuman Chalisa, Sundarkand readings from the Ramayana, and evening aarti ceremonies attended by thousands of devotees.

Across India, major temples witnessed large gatherings with devotional music,

processions, and spiritual discourses highlighting Lord Hanuman's role in the Ramayana. Cities such as Varanasi, Ayodhya, Hyderabad, and Delhi saw particularly large congregations, where devotees participated in chanting and cultural programs throughout the day.

In Hyderabad, thousands joined vibrant processions featuring devotional chants, decorated tableaux, and traditional music, transforming city streets into corridors of faith and celebration.

United States celebrations: Chicago emerges as a vibrant hub

In the United States, Hanuman Jayanti celebrations reflected the growing strength and cultural unity of the Hindu diaspora. Among the most active regions

Hanuman bhajans.

The temple hall was filled to capacity as devotees participated in chanting and prayer sessions. Organizers noted that the spiritual energy of the gathering created a strong sense of unity and devotion, with many attendees describing the experience as deeply uplifting and spiritually enriching.

Chicago Kali Bari Temple

At the Chicago Kali Bari, Hanuman Jayanti celebrations included Ramayan Path, devotional Ram bhajans, and collective prayer sessions. The temple premises resonated with chants of "Jai Shri Ram" and "Jai Hanuman," creating a powerful devotional atmosphere.

Devotees from across the city participated in the event, highlighting the temple's role as a cultural and spiritual hub for the Bengali and broader Hindu community in Chicago.

connect with their cultural and spiritual roots.

Vadtal Dham — Shri Swaminarayan Temple (Wheeling, IL)

The Shri Swaminarayan Temple Vadtal Dham has historically observed Hanuman Jayanti with structured pujas and Hanuman Chalisa chanting. While detailed 2026 programming varied, the temple's longstanding tradition of celebration reflects the importance of Hanuman worship within the Swaminarayan community and across the Chicago region.

Community awareness and ritual precision

Chicago devotees also demonstrated strong engagement with traditional muhurat (auspicious timing) and puja vidhi (ritual procedures), ensuring that prayers were performed at spiritually significant moments on April 2. This reflects the continued importance of Vedic timing and ritual discipline among diaspora communities, even while living in a modern, fast-paced environment.

The universal message of Hanuman Jayanti

Beyond rituals and celebrations, Hanuman Jayanti carries a profound universal message. It teaches that:

- ▶ Devotion can overcome fear
- ▶ Discipline leads to strength
- ▶ Humility is greater than power
- ▶ Service to others is service to the divine

For Hindu communities worldwide, especially younger generations born outside India, the festival serves as a bridge between heritage and identity, reinforcing values that remain deeply relevant in contemporary life.

Community leaders emphasize that such celebrations not only preserve religious traditions but also strengthen intergenerational bonds, ensuring that cultural knowledge is passed forward with pride and authenticity.

IndoUS Tribune congratulatory message

On this sacred and auspicious occasion, IndoUS Tribune extends heartfelt greetings to all devotees celebrating Hanuman Jayanti across Chicago, the United States, and the world.

May Lord Hanuman bless all with:

- ▶ Courage in times of difficulty
- ▶ Wisdom in moments of confusion
- ▶ Strength to overcome obstacles
- ▶ Devotion that remains unwavering
- ▶ Peace that endures beyond challenges

May his divine presence continue to guide humanity toward righteousness, unity, and spiritual awakening.

Jai Hanuman!

was the Chicago metropolitan area, where multiple temples hosted elaborate spiritual programs attended by families, youth groups, and senior devotees.

Hanuman Mandir & Spiritual Community Center (Chicago Area)

The Hanuman Mandir & Spiritual Community Center became a focal point for devotional activities. Devotees gathered for Hanuman Chalisa recitations, aarti, and bhajan sessions throughout the day. The temple emphasized collective chanting, reinforcing the belief that group devotion amplifies spiritual energy and inner peace.

The atmosphere was filled with devotion as families participated together, offering prayers and seeking blessings for health, prosperity, and spiritual strength.

Shree Radhey Shyam Temple, Bloomingdale (Illinois)

The Shree Radhey Shyam Temple witnessed a deeply devotional celebration of Hanuman Jayanti marked by soulful Sundarkand recitations and melodious



Hindu Temple of Greater Chicago (Lemont, IL)

The Hindu Temple of Greater Chicago hosted one of the most vibrant gatherings of the day. The temple witnessed large crowds of devotees engaging in continuous chanting of the Hanuman Chalisa and Sundarkand recitation.

The spiritual fervor extended across the temple grounds, with chants of "Jai Shri Ram" and "Jai Hanuman" echoing through the halls and even reaching the parking areas, symbolizing the collective devotion of the community.

Hari Om Mandir (Chicago Area)

At Hari Om Mandir, celebrations included Hanuman Chalisa path and abhishek of Lord Hanuman with flowers and sacred offerings. Families participated in prayers seeking strength, protection, and spiritual clarity.

The temple emphasized the importance of discipline and devotion as central teachings of Lord Hanuman's life, encouraging younger generations to

Grand Shri Rama Navami celebrations enthrall devotees at Hindu Temple of Greater Chicago

By: Jayanti Oza

The Hindu Temple of Greater Chicago (HTGC) marked Shri Rama Navami with immense devotion and cultural splendor from March 26 to March 29, 2026, drawing over 1,200 devotees from across the Chicagoland area for a spiritually enriching celebration.

The festivities commenced on Thursday, March 26, the auspicious day of Shri Rama Navami, with sacred rituals including Abhishekam and the Sri Rama Taraka Homam. These ceremonies set a deeply devotional tone, immersing attendees in prayer and reverence from the very beginning.

On Friday evening, devotees gathered for Choornotsavam, a traditional ritual symbolizing purification and devotion, during which turmeric was ceremonially prepared to adorn Lord Rama and Sita Devi.

Saturday's events formed the centerpiece of the celebrations, highlighted by the grand Sita Rama Kalyanam, the divine celestial wedding of Lord Rama and Sita. A large congregation witnessed this sacred ritual, followed by a complimentary traditional wedding feast served by the temple. In the afternoon, members of the Chinmaya Mission led a mass recitation of the Hanuman Chalisa in the presence of Swami Sharanananda, creating an atmosphere charged with devotion and spiritual energy.

The evening featured the serene Oonjal Seva, where the divine couple was placed on a ceremonial swing, allowing devotees to participate in Chamara Seva and experience a close, personal connection with the deities.

The celebrations concluded on Sunday, March 29, with the Rama Pattabhishekam, the symbolic coronation



of Lord Rama, bringing the four-day event to a spiritually fulfilling close. Throughout the weekend, the temple grounds echoed with traditional Nadaswaram performances by visiting artists, along with vibrant music and dance presentations by local talent. Cultural richness was further amplified by Chenda Melam performances from the Chicago Kalakshetra group and energetic Dhol Tasha by the Maharashtrian Mandal of Chicago. The event was honored by the presence of Somnath Ghosh.

Reflecting on the success of the

celebrations, HTGC trustee Ranga Chandrasekaran noted that the temple, where Lord Rama is a principal deity, stands among the most prominent centers of devotion to Shri Rama in North America, and that the festival was celebrated with exceptional grandeur. Sathya Srinivasan, Chair of the Religious Committee, emphasized the meticulous planning by priests and volunteers, blending sacred traditions with cultural programming to create a holistic and memorable experience.

Looking ahead, HTGC is undertaking

significant renovations of the Rama shrine and temple structure, building on last year's successful restoration of the Raja Gopuram, with completion anticipated by Summer 2026. Jayanthi Mittur, President of HTGC, shared that the temple will celebrate its 40th anniversary this August. Preparations are already in full swing for a series of spiritual, cultural, and community focused programs to commemorate this milestone. She warmly invited the community to join in celebrating not only the temple's rich legacy but also the enduring devotion and collective spirit that have sustained it over the decades.





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Mata Bhagat: Avi Verma

Sindhi traditions shine at SAMC Chetichand celebrations 2026

By: Dr. Avi Verma

The Sindhi Association of Metropolitan Chicago celebrated Chetichand, the Sindhi New Year, with great fervor and cultural pride at Ashyana Banquet on March 22, 2026. The vibrant gathering brought together families and community members for an evening filled with devotion, tradition, and unity. The celebrations began with prayers dedicated to Lord Jhulelal, followed by the traditional 'Behrana Sahib' ceremony. Soulful aarti and devotional bhajans created a serene and spiritually uplifting atmosphere, setting a meaningful tone for the evening.

A major highlight of the event was the colorful showcase of Sindhi culture through traditional music and energetic dance performances. Participants of all ages took part, filling the venue with joy, enthusiasm,



Photos by: Ramesh Punatar



and a deep sense of cultural pride.

for their contributions to the community.

The program was formally introduced by Vice President Vinita Gulabani, who extended a warm welcome to all attendees. President of the Sindhi Association of Metropolitan Chicago (SAMC), Mr. Kenny Gurnani, addressed the gathering and acknowledged the efforts of the current board members, including Dr. Subash Balaney, Vinita Gulabani, Raj Khatri, Sanjay Wadhvani, and Nand Balani.

The Chief Guest, Deputy Consul General of India, Shri Kriti Das Thokchom, was warmly welcomed with a traditional Sindhi cap and Jhulelal shawl by the SAMC board. His presence added prestige to the celebration, highlighting the strong connection between the community and Indian cultural heritage.

Mr. Gurnani also expressed his appreciation for the continued support and active participation of community leaders such as Sunil Shah, Dr. Bhupender Beri, Dr. Radhika Chimata, Praful Rami, and Vyom Joshi. As part of the evening, the association honored Manju Dadlani and Dr. Ramesh Chhablani

Guests enjoyed authentic Sindhi cuisine, adding to the festive spirit of the occasion. The well-attended event stood as a testament to the community's commitment to preserving and promoting its rich traditions.

The Sindhi Association of Metropolitan Chicago looks forward to continuing this cherished tradition and organizing many more such meaningful events in the future.

Kali Bari Mandir hosts sacred Kumari Puja on Chaitra Navaratri Ashtami

By: Jayanti Oza | IndoUS Tribune

The Kali Bari Mandir hosted a spiritually uplifting Kumari Puja (Kanya Puja) on the auspicious occasion of Chaitra Navaratri Ashtami last week, drawing around 150 devotees from across the community. The sacred ceremony, organized under the guidance of priest Nagabhushan Deekshit, celebrated the divine feminine by honoring young girls as embodiments of Goddess Shakti. The ritual symbolizes purity, compassion, and the nurturing power of the Divine Mother, an important aspect of Navaratri traditions.

The day-long program began in the morning with Sankalpa (spiritual resolve) and invocation of Goddess Durga, creating a deeply devotional atmosphere within the temple premises. By midday, devotees gathered for the main Kumari

Puja, where young girls were respectfully worshipped, followed by the distribution of prasad to attendees.

The celebrations concluded in the evening with soulful bhajans and a grand Maha Aarti, filling the temple with devotion and collective spiritual energy.

Community members participated enthusiastically throughout the day, engaging in prayer, seva (service), and fellowship. The event reflected the strong cultural and spiritual roots of the Indian community, while fostering unity and shared devotion.

Organizers extended an open invitation to all devotees, emphasizing the importance of preserving and participating in such sacred traditions that strengthen community bonds and spiritual values.



FIA Chicago holds Annual General Council Meeting, elects the new Executive Board

By: Jayanti Oza

The Federation of Indian Associations (FIA-Chicago), established in 1980, successfully conducted its Annual General Council Meeting, followed by elections and key appointments. The program began with a welcome address by FIA President Hemant Patel, who outlined the organization's mission and ongoing commitment to community service.

He then invited Election Chair and Trustee Director Dr. Bharatbhai Barai, along with the election committee, to take charge of the proceedings. The elections and subsequent appointments were conducted under their careful supervision, ensuring transparency and efficiency.

FIA Trustees, Ex-Officio members, Executives, Directors, and delegates were invited on stage, where they highlighted the organization's achievements in 2025. A detailed financial report was also presented, reflecting the association's accountability and structured growth. In a unanimous decision, Dr. Bharatbhai Barai was re-elected as Trustee-Director for the 2026–27 term by the Board of Directors, active trustees, executives, delegates, and association representatives.

The newly elected Executive Team for the 2025–26 term includes:

- ▶ Hemant Patel – President
- ▶ Anil Singh – Executive Vice President
- ▶ Rohit Joshi – Vice President
- ▶ Joy Shah – Vice President
- ▶ Bhavesh Patel – Vice President
- ▶ Arvind Ankleshwaria – Secretary
- ▶ Amar Upadhyay – Treasurer



- ▶ Yashaswini Desai – Joint Treasurer
- ▶ Vira Adimulam – Joint Secretary

The Election Chair, administered the oath of office to the newly elected executives. Following the elections, the new leadership team appointed Directors and Delegates representing various member organizations. The FIA

President also introduced Amendment 4.0 for discussion, which was passed unanimously with two minor revisions. During the meeting, community leaders proposed several forward-looking initiatives, including organizing a health fair, hosting an OCI visa camp, establishing a health clinic, and launching an updated FIA website to enhance

outreach and engagement.

FIA leadership reaffirmed its commitment to serving both Indian and American communities and expressed enthusiasm for continued collaboration with member associations and community leaders to strengthen unity and impact.

Step toward universal organ transplants

Scientists reengineer donor kidneys

● By: Dr. Avi Verma

In a breakthrough that could redefine the future of organ transplantation, scientists have successfully demonstrated a method to convert donor kidneys into “universal” organs—potentially eliminating one of the biggest barriers in saving lives: blood-type incompatibility.

Researchers at the University of British Columbia, working alongside international collaborators including teams in China, have developed a novel enzyme-based technique that removes blood-group markers from donor kidneys. These markers, known as antigens, are responsible for triggering immune rejection when an organ is transplanted into a patient with an incompatible blood type.

The science behind the breakthrough

Using specialized enzymes, the research team successfully stripped A-type antigens from a donor kidney, effectively transforming it into a Type O-like organ. Since Type O is considered a “universal donor” blood group, this modification allows the kidney to become more broadly compatible across recipients.

To evaluate this innovation in a real-world setting, the modified kidney was transplanted into a brain-dead patient with full family consent under controlled clinical conditions. The organ functioned normally for several days—demonstrating, for the first time, that blood-type conversion in human organs is feasible.

The study, published in *Nature Biomedical Engineering*, marks a crucial step in translating laboratory science into clinical application.

Challenges and limitations

Despite the encouraging results, researchers caution that the technology is still in its



early stages. One key limitation observed during the trial was that blood-type markers began to reappear within a few days. This indicates that the current method does not yet provide a permanent solution.

Additionally, while the enzyme treatment may reduce the risk of immediate rejection, it does not completely eliminate the need for immunosuppressive medications—at least with current techniques. Long-term studies and further refinements will be essential before this approach can be used routinely in hospitals.

Why this matters

The global shortage of donor organs remains a critical healthcare challenge. In the United States alone, thousands of patients are on kidney transplant waiting lists, and many die each year before a suitable match is found.

Blood-type compatibility is one of the biggest barriers in organ allocation. Patients with Type O blood face the longest waiting times because they can only receive organs from Type O donors.

If perfected, this enzyme-based technology could:

- ▶ Dramatically expand the donor pool
- ▶ Reduce waiting times for transplant patients
- ▶ Improve survival rates and transplant success
- ▶ Create a more equitable organ allocation system

Looking ahead

Scientists believe this approach could eventually extend beyond kidneys to other organs such as the liver, heart, and lungs. While the concept of fully “universal” organs is still in development, this

breakthrough offers a powerful glimpse into the future of transplantation medicine.

As research progresses, innovations like this may transform organ donation from a highly restrictive system into one that is more flexible, efficient, and life-saving. Key takeaway

This landmark study demonstrates that it is scientifically possible to modify donor organs to overcome blood-type barriers—an achievement that could one day save countless lives worldwide.

Disclaimer

This article is for educational and informational purposes only. It is not intended as medical advice, diagnosis, or treatment. Patients should consult qualified healthcare professionals for personalized medical guidance.



Personal finance insights: News & Features

● Dr. K C Gupta, YBB Personal Finance

CONTRARIAN INDICATORS

AAll Bull-Bear Spread -17.7% (very low)
 CNN Fear & Greed Index 10 (extreme fear)
 NYSE %Above 50-dMA 22.58% (oversold)
 SP500 %Above 50-dMA 20.40% (oversold)

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 4/29/26+ hold
 FOMC 6/17/26+ hold

Treasury

T-Bills 3-mo yield 3.73%, 1-yr 3.77%;
 T-Notes 2-yr 3.88%, 5-yr 4.06%, 10-yr 4.44%;
 T-Bonds 30-yr 4.98%;
 TIPS/Real yields 5-yr 1.50%, 10-yr 2.13%, 30-yr 2.78%
 FRNs Index 3.669%

Bank Rates 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 22.95 (extreme fear)
 Weekly ETFs: INDA -1.65%, INDY -1.72%, EPI -1.56%, INDH -1.47%, SPY -2.23%



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

MARKETS

US 48-hr ultimatum to Iran became 5-day pause, then 15-day pause, while Israel & Iran continue the war & the Strait of Hormuz remains almost closed. Global stock & oil markets are totally confused by this chain of events & resulting uncertainties.

FINANCIAL

German DWS is acquiring 40% of Nippon Life India AIF Asset Management (NIAIF/NAMI). The focus of this joint-venture (JV) will be alternative investments (alts) along with conventional active & passive strategies for domestic & foreign investors.

Indian central bank RBI is restricting

NONBANKING products (insurance, mutual funds) sold by banks. It will require better disclosures & fiduciary considerations for selling these products to banking customers. RBI calls current practices "mis-selling" due to the lack of a better word & penalties may require full refund of investments. In general, bank-sold nonbanking products are more expensive & may have commissions. It's best to keep banking, insurance & investing separate.

Indian INSURANCE & REINSURANCE

markets are expanding now that foreign ownership in insurance can be up to 100% (with an exception of 20% for LIC). The latest are Allianz Jio Reinsurance (50-50; Allianz is German) & Kiwi General Insurance (backed by US-based private-equity firm WestBridge Capital & Neelesh Garg, formerly with Tata AIG General Insurance).

The largest reinsurer now is government-owned GIC Re, but the government is encouraging private reinsurance development with foreign capital & partnership from AIG (US), Allianz Re (Germany), Fairfax (Canada), Munich Re (Germany), Swiss Re (Switzerland), Lloyd's of London (UK), etc. General insurance is nonlife insurance - property & casualty, health, etc.

SPECIAL TOPIC - PRODUCTION-LINKED INCENTIVES (PLIs)

5-year PLIs started in India in 2020 for 14 designated industries to advance R&D, development of alternate technologies based on domestic natural resources, manufacturing & to boost "Make in India". Both domestic & foreign (Apple, Foxconn, Samsung, etc) companies have tapped PLIs of about \$21 billion (2020-26).

PLIs promote localization of technology & don't focus on exports exclusively. The main PLI program is being phased down due to mixed results. PLIs have been

helpful in some industries, but not in others. PLI extensions have been made for autos, solar, steel (below) & textile. There are also other approaches now to boost domestic production & manufacturing.

PLIs for specialty steel include the original PLI 1.0 (07/2021), PLI 1.1 (01/2025) & the latest launch of PLI 1.2 on 02/2026 (announced 11/2025).

China has filed a complaint at WTO regarding PLI & other schemes for EVs & batteries. India has explained that these aren't export subsidies. Due to tensions at India-China border, China also faces many restrictions on its business activities in India. Yet, in total Indian trade (imports + exports), China is #2 only behind US #1; if trading blocks are counted, #1-GCC, #2-EU, #3-US, #4-ASEAN, #5-China.

US has imposed tariffs of 126% (02/2026) on Indian solar products citing PLIs for solar industry & noncooperation by Indian solar producers in US investigations. Indian solar exports to US have increased dramatically from \$84 million in 2022 to \$793 million in 2024, or 9.4x in 2 years. Lot of it was US demand shift from China as India was also ramping up its solar industry. So, suddenly, 90% of Indian solar exports are going to US.

Many countries have incentives for domestic development, manufacturing & production that fall under fiscal stimulus & Indian PLIs aren't unusual. To prevent foreign dumping, or unfair trade, WTO doesn't allow exclusive export subsidies but there is a big gray area involving incentives for domestic industrial development.

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



Everything you need to know about IUHS School of Medicine

● By: Dr. Avi Verma

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

2. Program Structure & Exams:

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

3. Assessments:

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

knowledge gaps.

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

4. Teaching methods:

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

5. Clinical rotations:

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



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

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

Key Features:

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

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

8. Question and Concept Sessions:

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

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

Key Features:

- ▶ Comprehensive Medical Curriculum Support – Covers

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

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

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

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

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

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

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From pistachio to peppermint Fashion turns to toothpaste dressing

Fashion's color story has officially left the pantry behind and wandered into the bathroom cabinet. After seasons defined by pistachio greens, tomato reds, and butter yellows, a cooler, sharper shade is squeezing its way into the spotlight: toothpaste dressing. It is minty, icy, and just translucent enough to feel like a fresh restart for the wardrobe.

On recent red carpets and social moments, pale aqua and frosted mint silhouettes have been appearing with growing frequency, often styled in liquid-like fabrics that shimmer between blue and green. Worn head-to-toe or as a single sharp accent, the effect is strikingly clean, almost clinical, but softened into something playful and modern. It is less about color as decoration and more about color as sensation.

Across recent runway seasons, this palette



has been steadily building momentum. Soft greens and icy blues replaced blush tones, appearing in sheer layers, sculptural tailoring, and fluid eveningwear. Designers have used the shades to cut through heavier winter palettes and to soften spring collections with a sense of airiness and light. Whether in structured silhouettes or

floating fabrics, the tones suggest clarity, freshness, and a new kind of minimalism that feels anything but severe.

By the time collections reached their latest evolution, the spectrum had widened into an entire ecosystem of cool-toned greens and frosted blues. Mint, jade,

seafoam, and haze blue now sit together as a cohesive mood rather than isolated trends. The result is a visual language that feels organic yet futuristic, like nature filtered through glass.

Part of the appeal lies in its contradiction. Toothpaste dressing is both nostalgic and modern, simple yet slightly surreal. It can read as soft-focus romance or crisp precision depending on how it is styled. Worn head-to-toe, it feels bold and immersive. Used sparingly, it becomes a flash of freshness against neutral foundations.

Independent labels and emerging designers have embraced the shade for its versatility. It lifts muted winter palettes, softens bold silhouettes, and adds a playful edge without overwhelming the wearer. Some treat it as a statement of ease, others as a tool for structure and contrast, but all return to its sense of lightness.

Still, it is not without risk. The palette can veer too sterile if handled without texture or warmth. But when balanced with fluid fabrics, soft tailoring, or unexpected pairings, it transforms into something more expressive: clean without being cold, sweet without being saccharine.

After years of understated neutrals and quiet luxury codes, toothpaste dressing signals a shift toward emotion in color again. It is fashion reintroducing joy through tone, inviting a softer kind of boldness. In other words, it is time to brush up your wardrobe.



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