

European leaders push for negotiations as Strait of Hormuz crisis deepens



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

European leaders on Thursday urged urgent negotiations to stabilize the Iran conflict after Tehran reclosed the Strait of Hormuz, a key global oil route. The move followed Israeli strikes in Lebanon, which Iran claims violated a ceasefire brokered earlier this week. Leaders from France, Germany, the United Kingdom, and others called for a “substantive negotiated settlement” to protect civilians and prevent a global energy crisis.

French President Emmanuel Macron spoke with both U.S. President Donald Trump and Iran’s President Masoud Pezeshkian, urging full adherence to the ceasefire. European nations also condemned escalating violence in Lebanon, where over 200 people were killed on Wednesday. Meanwhile, plans are being prepared for a multinational naval mission to secure shipping routes once hostilities ease.

Netanyahu authorizes direct talks with Lebanon amid fragile regional ceasefire



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu authorized direct negotiations with Lebanon on Thursday, signaling a possible step toward easing regional tensions. The talks, expected to begin next week in Washington, aim to address Hezbollah’s disarmament and broader security concerns.

The announcement came amid a fragile ceasefire between the United States and Iran, which has been strained by continued Israeli strikes in Lebanon and disruptions in the Strait of Hormuz. U.S. President Donald Trump also raised concerns about Iran restricting oil shipments through the vital waterway.

Despite the diplomatic move, Israel said military operations against Hezbollah would continue. Decades of conflict and deep political divisions mean reaching a lasting agreement will remain a significant challenge.

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US-Iran ceasefire under strain as Hormuz tensions and Lebanon strikes escalate

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

A fragile ceasefire between the United States and Iran showed further strain on Friday, a day before high-stakes talks in Pakistan, as disputes over the Strait of Hormuz and renewed violence in Lebanon deepened mistrust between the sides. United States President Donald Trump accused Tehran of failing to uphold commitments to allow oil transit through the strategic waterway, saying in a social media post that Iran was doing a “very poor job” and that “this is not the agreement we have.”

Shipping through the strait, which normally handles about a fifth of global oil and liquefied natural gas flows, remained severely restricted, with only a handful of vessels passing in the first day of the ceasefire announced earlier in the week. Iran has maintained tight control over the chokepoint, citing Israel’s continued strikes in Lebanon, which Tehran says violate the truce.

Trump said he remained optimistic about a broader peace deal and confirmed he had urged Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to scale back operations in Lebanon. Israel, however, continued strikes on what it described as



Hezbollah targets, while also signaling plans for talks with Lebanon focused on disarming Hezbollah, even as it insists there is no ceasefire.

Lebanese leaders demanded an immediate halt to hostilities before negotiations, with President Joseph Aoun calling it the only viable path forward. Iran’s leadership also warned that Israeli actions in Lebanon could undermine any diplomatic progress, while reaffirming support for Hezbollah and vowing retaliation for wartime losses.

Meanwhile, global markets and shipping routes showed signs of partial stabilization but remained volatile. A small number of additional vessels crossed the Strait of Hormuz, while others turned back amid uncertainty.

Stocks in Asia and the United States rose on cautious optimism ahead of the upcoming talks, even as oil prices edged higher, reflecting continued nervousness over the durability of the ceasefire and the risk of renewed disruption to global energy supplies.

Saudi Arabia reports major oil output and pipeline disruptions after attacks

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Saudi Arabia said Thursday that attacks on its energy infrastructure cut oil production capacity by about 600,000 barrels per day and reduced throughput on its East West Pipeline by roughly 700,000 barrels per day, according to a Ministry of Energy official cited by state media.

The ministry did not identify the attackers, but Saudi Arabia has recently intercepted multiple missiles and drones, widely attributed to Iran. The strikes also

disrupted oil, gas, refining, petrochemical and power facilities across Riyadh, the Eastern Province and Yanbu Industrial City. One Saudi security worker was killed and seven employees were injured.

The East West Pipeline has become increasingly critical as tensions threaten shipping through the Strait of Hormuz, a key route for global oil flows.

Damage also hit major sites including the Manifa and Khurais oilfields and refineries in Jubail, Yanbu and Riyadh, raising concerns over tighter global supply.



Jet fuel swings drive global airfare hikes and fewer flights



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

A new wave of volatile jet fuel prices tied to Middle East supply disruptions is pushing airfares higher worldwide, cutting flight options and forcing airlines to adjust schedules while passing rising costs to travelers. Oil markets have swung sharply in recent weeks, briefly topping 119 dollars a barrel before falling below 95 midweek and climbing again on Thursday as uncertainty over the Strait of Hormuz continues. Major United States carriers have raised fees and trimmed flight schedules, with budget airlines expected to face the greatest pressure. Industry estimates point to billions in added costs, driving route cuts, fewer available seats, and higher fares across both business and leisure travel. Airlines are also reducing capacity on weaker travel days, reshaping global travel patterns and forcing passengers to reconsider trips. Even when fuel prices ease, relief for consumers is expected to lag.

Israel claims killing of Hezbollah leader's nephew in Beirut strike



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Israel's military said on Thursday it killed Ali Yusuf Harshi, a close aide and nephew of Hezbollah leader Naim Qassem, in a strike in Beirut. The operation also targeted weapons routes and multiple storage and command sites in southern Lebanon.

The escalation comes despite a recently announced two-week ceasefire involving the United States and Iran. Israeli officials said earlier this week that more than 100 targets were struck in coordinated attacks, underscoring ongoing tensions as military operations continue alongside fragile diplomatic efforts.

Drone strike massacres wedding guests in Sudan's Darfur

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

A drone strike on Wednesday tore through a wedding ceremony in Kutum, North Darfur, killing at least 30 civilians, including women and children, the United Nations said. The attack marks a sharp escalation in drone warfare between Sudan's army and the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces, locked in conflict since April 2023. The war has killed more than 40,000 people, though the toll is believed to be higher. Local groups blamed the Sudanese Armed Forces. On Thursday, the United Nations condemned the strike, warning that increasing drone attacks are worsening displacement and targeting civilians and vital infrastructure.

Tanzania president slashes motorcade size to curb fuel crisis



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

President Samia Suluhu Hassan has ordered a dramatic reduction in official convoys, directing aides on Wednesday to use shared buses instead of large motorcades to cut fuel use and costs. The move follows a \$0.40 per liter fuel price spike over two weeks, driven by Middle East tensions and the Strait of Hormuz closure. Tanzania has reserves lasting up to three months, but Hassan cautioned businesses against inflating prices. Across Africa, governments are taking similar steps this week, including rationing fuel and limiting official travel, as rising energy costs strain economies.

Venezuela approves sweeping mining reform to attract foreign investment

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Venezuela's National Assembly approved a sweeping mining bill this week aimed at attracting foreign investors to a sector long dominated by illegal operations. The legislation, backed by acting President Delcy Rodríguez, introduces clearer rules on mineral rights, taxation, and dispute resolution, including independent arbitration to reassure investors.

The bill also bans top officials from

holding mining titles and sets penalties for illegal mining and environmental damage. It will now be reviewed by the Supreme Court. The move comes as the government seeks to revive the economy after years of declining oil revenue and widespread poverty.

Mining activity has surged since 2016, often under dangerous and unregulated conditions linked to criminal groups. Officials say the reform could help formalize the industry and generate sustainable economic growth.



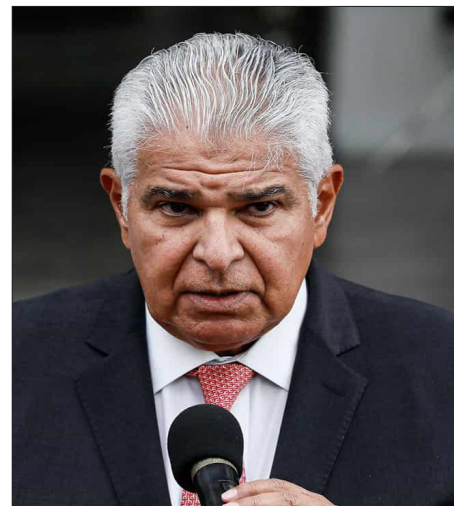
Panama president seeks to calm China tensions over vessel inspections

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Panama President Jose Raul Mulino on Thursday moved to ease tensions with China following concerns over increased inspections of Panama-flagged vessels in Chinese ports. Speaking during a visit to the Balboa port near the Panama Canal, he said Panama does not seek a dispute with Beijing and hopes for a return to normal diplomatic and trade relations.

His comments came a day after the foreign minister suggested the inspections could be linked to a Supreme Court ruling that invalidated CK Hutchison's concession to operate key canal ports, a decision that had drawn opposition from China.

Mulino said such inspections are routine in global shipping and also affect other major registries, including Liberia and the



Marshall Islands. He added that Panama has raised concerns with Chinese authorities and is reviewing the situation. He stressed that the issue should not be seen as political retaliation and called for de-escalation in relations.

Kremlin says Putin envoy's United States visit not linked to Ukraine peace talks

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The Kremlin said on Friday that a visit to the United States by Russian President Vladimir Putin's special investment envoy does not signal any resumption of negotiations on a potential peace deal in Ukraine. Kremlin spokesperson Dmitry Peskov clarified that Kirill Dmitriev, who leads economic cooperation efforts, is not engaged in political or peace settlement talks, despite reports of meetings with members of the United States administration.

Reuters had reported that Dmitriev was in Washington for discussions that included possible Ukraine peace frameworks and economic cooperation between the United States and Russia.

Peskov also reiterated that Moscow seeks a lasting peace agreement rather than a temporary ceasefire, describing a recently announced 32-hour Easter truce as humanitarian in nature. He added that Russia believes a durable settlement could be reached if Ukraine takes the necessary political decisions.

Pakistan defense minister sparks outrage with anti-Israel remarks



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Pakistan's Defense Minister Khawaja Muhammad Asif has drawn global condemnation after posting sharply critical remarks about Israel on X on Thursday. Israeli officials and United States lawmakers described the comments as inflammatory, especially ahead of sensitive talks in Islamabad involving the United States and Iran. Observers say the controversy raises questions about Pakistan's neutrality as a mediator. The backlash follows earlier confusion over a ceasefire announcement and ongoing Israeli operations in Lebanon, with critics warning the remarks could undermine diplomatic efforts at a crucial moment.

Argentina approves glacier law overhaul despite fierce backlash

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Argentina's Congress on Thursday passed a controversial bill backed by President Javier Milei that eases glacier protections to boost mining investment. The measure cleared with 137 votes in favor and 111 against, potentially unlocking over \$30 billion in projects focused on copper, gold, and silver. The reform narrows protections to glaciers with specific hydrological roles, leaving provinces to decide coverage. Environmental groups, including Greenpeace, have vowed legal action, warning of threats to water security and fragile ecosystems. Critics argue weakening safeguards amid climate change could accelerate glacier loss in a country with nearly 17,000 glaciers.

Cuba president rejects stepping down in rare US interview

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Cuban President Miguel Díaz-Canel said he would not step down, insisting leadership decisions belong to the Cuban people. In remarks aired Thursday from an NBC interview, he challenged whether similar questions are asked of other leaders. Díaz-Canel said he would only leave office if Cubans deemed him unfit. He also accused the United States of pursuing a hostile policy and called for dialogue without conditions. The comments come as tensions remain high, with limited talks underway and Cuba facing a worsening energy crisis due to fuel shortages and reduced oil shipments.

Brazil court delays Rio governor decision, deepening political vacuum

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Brazil's Supreme Court on Thursday postponed a decision on how Rio de Janeiro should select its next governor, extending a political crisis that began on Sunday when Cláudio Castro resigned to run for Senate. Justice Flávio Dino requested a review and has up to 90 days to decide whether the successor will be chosen by voters or lawmakers. A senior judge is currently serving as caretaker governor, but governance has stalled. Key decisions on fuel pricing and public safety remain pending, raising concerns over rising costs and the state's ability to respond to emergencies.

Philippines opens strategic coast guard base in South China Sea



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The Philippines on Thursday unveiled a major coast guard base on Thitu Island, strengthening its position in the disputed South China Sea. Officials described the facility as a symbol of sovereignty in waters also claimed by China, Vietnam, and Taiwan. The development came as Philippine authorities accused Chinese forces the same day of firing flares at a patrol aircraft near contested reefs. The base will support patrols, law enforcement, and rescue operations. About 400 civilians live on the island, which has long faced pressure from frequent Chinese patrols in surrounding waters.

North Korea and China pledge closer ties in rare high-level talks

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North Korea and China agreed to deepen cooperation following talks between their foreign ministers in Pyongyang on Thursday. Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi's visit, his first in seven years, included discussions on regional and global issues, though details were not disclosed. Both sides pledged stronger strategic communication. The meeting comes ahead of a planned summit between President Donald Trump and China's President Xi Jinping. Despite recent strains, including North Korea's growing ties with Russia, both countries appear to be reinforcing relations, alongside the recent resumption of flights and train services halted since 2020.

Afghanistan and Pakistan agree to de-escalate after China-mediated talks

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Afghanistan and Pakistan on Wednesday agreed to avoid further escalation and explore a comprehensive solution following weeks of deadly cross-border fighting. The agreement came after China hosted seven days of peace talks in Urumqi. China's Foreign Ministry said both sides identified terrorism as the core issue affecting relations and committed to continued dialogue. Afghanistan described

the discussions as constructive and focused on security and regional stability.

The conflict, which began in February, has killed hundreds and displaced nearly 94,000 people, according to the United Nations. Despite talks, tensions remain high, with accusations of cross-border shelling continuing. Pakistan has also carried out airstrikes inside Afghanistan. Both nations hope sustained diplomacy will rebuild trust and prevent further violence.



China weighs diplomatic role in Iran ceasefire ahead of Trump visit

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

China is carefully assessing its next steps in supporting a fragile Iran ceasefire as President Donald Trump prepares for a visit to Beijing next month. Diplomats say China played a quiet but significant role in encouraging Iran to accept the temporary truce earlier this week. Beijing, heavily reliant on Persian Gulf oil, has strong economic incentives to ensure the Strait of Hormuz reopens. Officials confirmed China has been working with Pakistan to support mediation efforts. Talks between the United States and Iran are expected to begin this weekend.

While China has avoided offering long-term security guarantees to Iran, it is positioning itself as a stabilizing force. Analysts say Beijing's involvement could



strengthen its global influence while protecting its economic interests amid ongoing regional instability.

Russia declares Nobel-linked rights group Memorial extremist, escalating crackdown

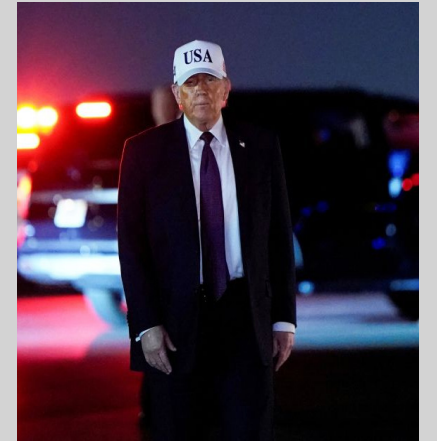
IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Russia's Supreme Court on Thursday effectively criminalized the work of Nobel Peace Prize-winning rights group Memorial, designating it extremist in a move that tightens an ongoing crackdown on civil society during the war in Ukraine. The ruling followed a closed hearing on a Justice Ministry petition and could expose members and supporters to criminal prosecution. Separately, police raided the Moscow offices of independent newspaper Novaya Gazeta, whose editor is Nobel laureate Dmitry Muratov, and restricted lawyers' access to the premises. Memorial, founded in the late nineteen eighties to document



Soviet-era repression, won the Nobel Peace Prize in 2022 and has since faced bans, fines, and mounting legal pressure. The group said it would continue operating abroad despite the ruling, while rights advocates called the decision an attack on freedom of expression and an effort to silence dissenting voices inside Russia.

Republicans block Democratic push to limit Trump Iran war powers



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House Republicans on Thursday blocked a Democratic effort to curb President Donald Trump's war powers over Iran, halting a long-shot resolution amid growing concern in Congress about an open-ended conflict in the Middle East. The move came as lawmakers sought an emergency vote while the House was in recess, but Republican leadership refused to recognize Democrats on the floor, effectively preventing a unanimous consent procedure. Democrats led by House Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries argued that a two-week ceasefire was insufficient and pushed for Congress to immediately reconsider war authorization limits. The standoff reflects unease on Capitol Hill as a fragile truce between Israel and Iran shows strain, with continued strikes and disputed interpretations of the deal. The House remains on recess until next week, while Senate lawmakers are expected to consider related measures when they return to Washington.

NASA's Artemis II heads for Earth after record-breaking lunar mission



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

NASA said on Friday that its Artemis II mission is nearing its return to Earth after a historic journey around the Moon. The spacecraft, launched on Tuesday, is expected to splash down in the Pacific Ocean later in the day. During the 10-day mission, four astronauts traveled more than 252,000 miles from Earth, surpassing the Apollo 13 record. The mission tested the Space Launch System rocket and Orion spacecraft in deep space, marking a major step toward future lunar landings and long-term human presence beyond low Earth orbit.



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Fragile ceasefire, widening conflict

India opts for strategic restraint in Middle East crisis



Dr. Avi Verma

India's decision to stay outside direct mediation efforts reflects a calculated and cautious approach in a volatile geopolitical environment. With strong ties to the United States and Israel, alongside energy and historical links with Iran, New Delhi is prioritizing quiet diplomacy over visible intervention. Given the lack of clarity over the ceasefire itself, entering talks without a stable framework could risk diplomatic capital without meaningful influence. India's approach is therefore framed as strategic restraint rather than disengagement.

State of the ceasefire: Limited, informal, and contested

As of April 9, 2026, the so-called United States–Iran ceasefire is best described as an informal de-escalation understanding. It has resulted mainly in a pause in direct strikes between the two sides. However, there is no formal agreement, no monitoring mechanism, and no clearly defined terms, making its legal and operational status uncertain.

Conflicting interpretations: A ceasefire in name only

The fragility of the arrangement

is reflected in sharply differing interpretations. The United States views it as limited strictly to direct conflict with Iran. Israel says it is not bound by it. Iran argues the pause should extend to regional allies, while Pakistan has echoed a broader interpretation. These competing positions have created a ceasefire in name, but not in consistent practice.

Lebanon flashpoint: Core of the escalation

Lebanon has emerged as the central arena of escalation. Israel has intensified strikes against Hezbollah, saying Lebanon was never part of any understanding with Iran. Iran views Hezbollah as central to its regional strategy and considers Israeli operations a violation of de-escalation. As a result, even if direct United States–Iran tensions have eased, wider regional conflict continues.

Strait of Hormuz: Escalation beyond the battlefield

Iran's reported move to restrict activity in the Strait of Hormuz following Israeli strikes in Lebanon has widened the crisis into the economic domain. As a critical global energy route, any disruption carries immediate international consequences, turning a regional conflict into a global economic concern.

Underlying causes: Structural drivers of conflict

The crisis is driven by long-standing structural rivalries. Israel continues targeting Iran-aligned groups such as Hezbollah, while Iran seeks to maintain regional influence without direct full-scale war. The United States is attempting to balance deterrence with avoiding deeper military

involvement. These competing objectives ensure that temporary pauses do not resolve underlying tensions.

Pakistan's role: Optics and diplomatic positioning

Pakistan has attempted to position itself as a facilitator in regional dialogue. However, there is limited evidence of a substantive role in core negotiations among major stakeholders. Its involvement appears more symbolic, focused on diplomatic visibility rather than direct influence over outcomes.

Broader geopolitical reality: Interconnected conflicts

The Middle East is increasingly defined by overlapping conflicts involving state and non-state actors. Ceasefires remain partial and fragile, while escalation can quickly spread across military and economic domains. This makes durable stability difficult without addressing deeper structural rivalries.

Conclusion: India's caution validated
India's restrained approach is reinforced by current realities. The ceasefire remains limited and contested, failing to prevent escalation in Lebanon or disruptions in strategic maritime routes. In this environment, caution reflects strategic clarity, as the region continues to operate in a state of managed instability where diplomacy and conflict coexist.

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



Orbán retains strong rural support ahead of Hungary's pivotal election



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orbán continues to command strong support in rural areas ahead of Sunday's closely contested election, despite growing national opposition. After 16 years in power, Orbán faces a significant challenge from Péter Magyar, whose Tisza party has gained momentum amid economic stagnation.

Polls show Orbán's Fidesz party remains especially popular among older voters and residents of smaller towns. Supporters credit him with defending national identity and providing economic benefits, including pension supplements and tax relief for families.

Critics, however, point to stalled growth and concerns over governance that have led to reduced European Union funding. While urban voters increasingly favor change, Orbán's enduring rural base could prove decisive in determining the election outcome.

Melania Trump denies ties to Jeffrey Epstein and urges public hearings for victims



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

First lady Melania Trump on Thursday said she "never had a relationship" with convicted sex offender Jeffrey Epstein or his associate Ghislaine Maxwell, and rejected claims linking her to either of them. Speaking at the White House, she said she was never friends with Epstein and did not meet him until 2000 at a social event with her husband. She added that any contact with Maxwell amounted only to "casual correspondence" and "trivial" exchanges, and warned against online misinformation.

Her remarks come as previously released Justice Department files included an email exchange that appeared to reference a message signed "Love, Melania," though records were heavily redacted and not definitively attributed. Melania Trump also called on Congress to hold a public hearing with Epstein's victims. A senior House Democrat backed the proposal, urging immediate action to hear survivor testimony in an open session.

United Kingdom and Norway conduct operation to counter Russian submarine activity

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The United Kingdom and Norway revealed they had carried out a weeks-long military operation to track and deter Russian submarines near critical undersea infrastructure in the North Atlantic. British Defense Secretary John Healey said a Royal Navy frigate, aircraft, and personnel monitored a Russian attack submarine and two surveillance vessels.

The operation prevented potential threats to underwater cables and pipelines, with no damage reported. Officials said the activity was linked to Russia's deep-sea research unit, which is capable of mapping and sabotaging infrastructure.

The mission highlights growing concern among NATO allies over Russian activities



targeting global communication networks. Both countries warned that any attempt to damage such infrastructure would face serious consequences.

Lebanon reels after deadly Israeli strikes as talks unexpectedly emerge

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Lebanon faced devastation on Thursday after Israeli airstrikes killed more than 300 people, marking the deadliest day of the conflict with Hezbollah. The attacks, which hit densely populated areas of Beirut on Wednesday, also injured over 1,100 people, according to health officials.

Amid the destruction, Israel announced it had authorized direct talks with Lebanon, raising hopes for a diplomatic breakthrough. Negotiations are expected to begin next week in Washington, focusing on disarming Hezbollah and easing tensions.

Lebanese officials condemned the strikes as violations of international law, while rescue teams continued searching for survivors under rubble. The violence has displaced over a



million people, intensifying pressure for a ceasefire as regional tensions remain high.

Canada's Mark Carney nears majority as opposition defection boosts Liberal government

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

A Canadian opposition lawmaker defected to the ruling Liberal Party on Wednesday, pushing Prime Minister Mark Carney closer to a parliamentary majority that would strengthen his ability to pass legislation. The Liberals, who have been governing in a minority since the April 2025 election, now hold 171 seats in the 343-seat House of Commons, just one short of a majority.

The latest defection marks the fourth

from the Conservative Party since November and follows another from the New Democratic Party last month. Carney welcomed the move, saying a stronger mandate is needed to respond to global economic uncertainty and United States trade measures.

Opposition leader Pierre Poilievre accused Carney of securing a majority without a fresh mandate from voters. With additional by-elections expected next week, the Liberals are widely seen as on the verge of crossing the majority threshold.



Spain escalates criticism of Israel and United States, deepening transatlantic rift

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Spain on Thursday stepped up criticism of Israel and the United States over the West Asia conflict, deepening strains with Washington amid threats from allies of United States President Donald Trump to penalize NATO members seen as uncooperative. Foreign Minister Jose Manuel Albares told lawmakers the war represents an assault on global values and accused Israel of violating international law and a recent ceasefire after strikes in Lebanon that reportedly killed more than 250 people. Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez called for suspending the European Union agreement with Israel and condemned Israeli actions, while also criticizing United States involvement. Spain has closed its airspace to aircraft linked to the conflict and summoned Israeli diplomats over incidents involving United Nations peacekeepers. The dispute has further strained relations with Washington over defence spending, though Madrid says it remains a committed NATO ally.

Israeli strikes in Gaza kill four, including Al Jazeera journalist

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Israeli airstrikes in Gaza killed four people on Wednesday, including Al Jazeera journalist Muhammad Washah, according to local health authorities and the Qatar-based broadcaster. Medics said a drone strike hit a vehicle in Gaza City, killing Washah and another Palestinian passenger. In a separate strike in central Gaza, two more people were killed, though details were not immediately available. Israel previously accused Washah of links to Hamas, allegations denied by Al Jazeera and Hamas. The Israeli military has not commented on the latest strikes. The attacks come despite a United States brokered ceasefire agreement reached last October, with both sides accusing each other of violations. Health authorities say hundreds have been killed since the deal, underscoring the fragility of the truce as violence continues across the enclave.

South Korea and Poland to deepen defense ties at summit amid global security concerns

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

South Korean President Lee Jae Myung will meet Polish Prime Minister Donald Tusk on Sunday, with their summit expected on Monday, according to media reports. Tusk's visit marks the first by a Polish prime minister to South Korea in 27 years, underscoring rapidly expanding defense and strategic ties between the two countries. The leaders are expected to focus on defense cooperation, global security and strengthening a broader strategic partnership. The talks follow a major defense framework agreement signed in 2022 worth about 44.2 billion dollars, under which South Korean firms agreed to supply weapons systems and pursue joint production in Poland. Companies including Hanwha Aerospace and Hyundai Rotem have since secured large follow-up contracts for tanks and missile systems. As members of the European Union and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, Poland is also expected to discuss wider geopolitical tensions, including the impact of the ongoing Middle East conflict.

India and Austria set for high-level talks during Chancellor Stocker's visit

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Austria's Federal Chancellor Christian Stocker will visit India from April 14–17 for high-level talks aimed at strengthening bilateral cooperation, the MEA announced on Thursday.

Stocker, visiting India and Asia for the first time, will be accompanied by a high-level delegation including Federal Minister of Economy, Energy and Tourism Wolfgang Hattmannsdorfer and senior business leaders. Prime Minister Narendra Modi will hold delegation-level talks with Stocker and host a luncheon in his honor.

Stocker will also meet President Droupadi Murmu and EAM S. Jaishankar. Discussions will focus on expanding cooperation in trade, technology, innovation, renewable energy, infrastructure, and multilateral coordination on global issues.

The MEA noted that PM Modi's visit to Austria in July 2024 significantly elevated bilateral ties, laying the foundation for a more strategic and future-oriented partnership.

India and Philippines review progress in strategic partnership

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

India and the Philippines reviewed progress in their strategic partnership during a meeting between Secretary (East), Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), Periasamy Kumaran, and Philippines Secretary of Foreign Affairs Maria Theresa P. Lazaro on Thursday in Manila. The two sides discussed strengthening bilateral ties and India's support for ASEAN. Lazaro said the exchange was productive and focused on advancing cooperation between the two countries. The relationship, established in 1949, is based on shared democratic values, rule of law, and strong people-to-people ties. ASEAN also continued discussions on regional priorities and preparations for the 2026 ASEAN Summit.

India and Turkey hold Foreign Office consultations on key bilateral issues

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

India and Turkey held the 12th round of Foreign Office Consultations in New Delhi on Wednesday, reviewing cooperation across trade, investment, tourism, energy, technology, education, culture, and people-to-people ties. The meeting was co-chaired by MEA Secretary (West) Sibi George and Turkey's Deputy Foreign Minister Berris Ekinci. Both sides also discussed regional and global issues of mutual interest, including counterterrorism cooperation. The last round of consultations was held in Ankara in 2022. Both countries agreed to hold the next round in Turkey on mutually convenient dates, signaling continued engagement despite global uncertainties.

Bangladesh's new leadership sees opening to reset ties with India

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Bangladesh's new political leadership under Prime Minister Tarique Rahman has an opportunity to recalibrate relations with India, according to a report in local media this week. An editorial in the Dhaka Tribune said the political transition following the 2026 elections, in which the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) secured a parliamentary majority, marks a new chapter in India-Bangladesh relations. It noted that both Dhaka and New Delhi are now at a pivotal moment in shaping future engagement. The report said India has remained a reliable partner for Bangladesh, supporting economic growth, infrastructure development and regional cooperation. It added that New Delhi is cautiously optimistic



about working with the new leadership. It also highlighted reported backchannel engagement, including a visit by Bangladesh's military intelligence chief to New Delhi in March for discussions with Indian security officials, underscoring continued institutional ties. India's energy support was also cited, including the release of around 5,000 tons of diesel in March 2026 to stabilize Bangladesh's fuel supply amid global uncertainty.

Misri meets Rubio in Washington, United States signals Quad focus and trade push

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

India's Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri held a "productive meeting" with United States Secretary of State Marco Rubio this week in Washington, where both sides discussed strengthening bilateral ties across trade, defence, critical minerals and the Quad grouping. The talks took place at the White House, with United States Ambassador to India Sergio Gor also present, according to social media posts. Following the meeting, officials said Secretary Rubio is expected to

visit New Delhi next month, marking a key diplomatic engagement between the two countries. Misri is on a three-day visit to the United States and also met Deputy Secretary of State Christopher Landau and Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs Allison Hooker.

The discussions included regional developments in West Asia and shared priorities in security and economic cooperation. Both sides reaffirmed commitment to advancing strategic ties and Quad cooperation.

India and Sweden agree to deepen cooperation across key strategic sectors

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

India and Sweden agreed to expand cooperation across trade, defense, innovation, sustainability, and people-to-people ties during the 8th Foreign Office Consultations (FOC) held in New Delhi on Thursday. The meeting was co-chaired by MEA Secretary (West) Sibi George and Sweden's State Secretary for Foreign Affairs Dag Hartelius. Both sides reviewed the full range of bilateral relations and exchanged views on regional and global issues of mutual interest. Officials noted

that the recently concluded India-European Union (EU) Free Trade Agreement (FTA) is expected to boost trade, investment, and technology ties between India and Sweden. The discussions reaffirmed growing momentum in political engagement and economic cooperation. Earlier, External Affairs Minister (EAM) S. Jaishankar met Hartelius in New Delhi to discuss bilateral cooperation and strengthening India-EU strategic ties. Sweden's Deputy Prime Minister Ebba Busch's visit to India for the Artificial Intelligence Impact Summit 2026 further highlighted expanding collaboration.

India and Bhutan deepen cooperation in energy and hydropower sectors

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

India and Bhutan reaffirmed their strong partnership in energy security and hydropower cooperation during a high-level meeting between Union Power Minister Manohar Lal Khattar and Bhutan Prime Minister Tshering Tobgay on Thursday. The discussions focused on strengthening hydropower collaboration, cross-border energy trade and expanding cultural and people-to-people ties. Prime Minister Tobgay emphasized that the two countries share a unique and enduring friendship built on trust and mutual respect.

Khattar reiterated India's commitment to supporting Bhutan's development and said the partnership is aligned with India's Neighbourhood First policy. He highlighted shared cultural and spiritual linkages as the



foundation of the relationship.

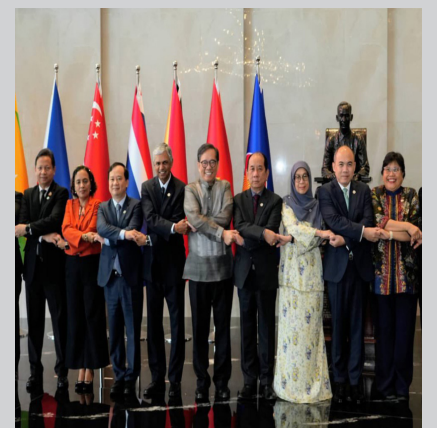
Earlier, Bhutan's Energy and Natural Resources Minister Lyonpo Gem Tshering and Indian Ambassador Sandeep Arya welcomed Khattar upon his arrival for a four-day visit. Officials said hydropower remains a cornerstone of bilateral cooperation, supporting Bhutan's economic development and India's clean energy goals.

Jaishankar meets Mauritius PM Ramgoolam, reviews growing bilateral partnership

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

EAM S. Jaishankar met Mauritius PM Navinchandra Ramgoolam on Thursday and reviewed strong progress in bilateral relations across multiple sectors. Jaishankar conveyed PM Narendra Modi's greetings and described the partnership as wide-ranging and steadily advancing over the past year. Discussions covered development cooperation, health, education, capacity building, technology, maritime security, mobility, and people-to-people ties, along with developments in West Asia. Jaishankar is on a four-day visit to Mauritius and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) from April 9–12. In Mauritius, he is attending the 9th Indian Ocean Conference and engaging with leaders to review bilateral ties. He will also deliver the keynote address at the conference. The conference brings together regional stakeholders to discuss maritime security and economic cooperation, underscoring India's Neighbourhood First policy and Global South engagement.

India, ASEAN discuss strengthening comprehensive strategic partnership



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

India and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) discussed ways to further strengthen their Comprehensive Strategic Partnership during the 28th ASEAN-India Senior Officials' Meeting held in Manila on Thursday.

Secretary (East), Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), Periasamy Kumaran and Undersecretary for Policy at the Philippines Department of Foreign Affairs Leo M. Herrera-Lim co-chaired the meeting. The sides reviewed progress in implementing decisions taken at the ASEAN-India Summit in October 2025 and discussed ways to enhance cooperation as 2026 is observed as the ASEAN-India Year of Maritime Cooperation.

Kumaran also met think tanks and academics in Manila for exchanges on bilateral and global issues, and held talks with Philippines Foreign Affairs Secretary Maria Theresa P. Lazaro on advancing the strategic partnership and ASEAN cooperation.

ASEAN Senior Officials also reviewed community-building priorities and preparations for the 2026 ASEAN Summit.



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Judge orders Pentagon to restore full press access in ongoing legal clash

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

A federal judge on Thursday ruled that the Pentagon's policy restricting unescorted media access violates a prior court order, escalating an ongoing legal battle over press freedoms at the military headquarters. U.S. District Judge Paul Friedman said the Defense Department's March 23 policy requiring journalists to be escorted inside the Pentagon breached his March 20 ruling that had previously struck down restrictions tied to press credentials. The New York Times had sued after reporters were asked to sign limits on obtaining unauthorized information or lose access. Although the Pentagon restored some credentials, it barred unsupervised entry while appealing. The court found the revised rules appeared to be a workaround rather than compliance with the injunction.

Judge rejects justice department bid for Massachusetts voter roll data

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

A federal judge in Massachusetts on Thursday dismissed a Justice Department lawsuit seeking unredacted state voter rolls, ruling the federal request failed to meet legal requirements. U.S. District Judge Leo Sorokin said the department did not properly explain the basis for requesting sensitive voter information, as required under federal law. The case stemmed from a July 2025 request by then Attorney General Pam Bondi for detailed voter data, including names, addresses, and dates of birth, to assess compliance with election laws. Massachusetts declined to comply, leading to litigation. The judge said the request outlined a purpose but not a legal basis for suspected violations, making the lawsuit insufficient under the Civil Rights Act.

Supreme court clears path for dismissal of former Cincinnati councilor case

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The Supreme Court on Monday allowed a lower court to reconsider and likely dismiss the bribery conviction of former Cincinnati City Council member Alexander Sittenfeld, who was previously pardoned by President Donald Trump. The court issued an unsigned order without explanation, vacating earlier proceedings and sending the case back for review in light of the pardon. Sittenfeld had been convicted in 2023 in a federal sting operation involving alleged campaign donations tied to a development project. Prosecutors said he accepted contributions in exchange for official support. His defense argued there was no explicit quid pro quo. The pardon eliminated his sentence, and the Justice Department now seeks dismissal of the indictment.

House lawmakers threaten contempt proceedings in Epstein probe involving Pam Bondi

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

House Oversight Committee Democrats on Wednesday threatened contempt of Congress proceedings against former Attorney General Pam Bondi if she fails to testify in an ongoing investigation into convicted sex offender Jeffrey Epstein.

The committee said Bondi would no longer appear for a scheduled deposition, prompting lawmakers to consider

enforcement action. Democrats argue the subpoena remains valid even after she left office. Republican Representative Nancy Mace, who supported the subpoena, said Bondi must still testify as it was issued by name.

Lawmakers accuse the Justice Department of mishandling Epstein-related records. Bondi has denied wrongdoing, while the committee continues broader subpoenas, including to former President Bill Clinton and former First Lady Hillary Clinton.



Appeals court allows Pentagon to proceed with Anthropic supply chain designation

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

A federal appeals court on Wednesday allowed the Defense Department to continue treating artificial intelligence company Anthropic as a supply chain risk while legal challenges proceed. The decision permits the Pentagon to maintain restrictions that block the company from federal contracts after officials cited national security concerns tied to its artificial intelligence system Claude. The Defense Department said Anthropic refused to modify policies related to autonomous weapons and surveillance use. The company argues the designation is unlawful and retaliatory.

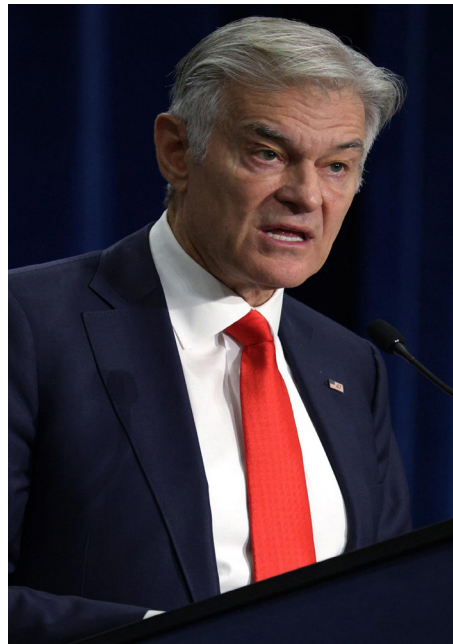


The court said Anthropic did not meet the standard required to pause the order, though it acknowledged potential harm and expedited the case. The ruling follows conflicting lower court decisions in California that had temporarily blocked the designation.

Judge allows federal Medicaid funding deferral for Minnesota to proceed

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

A federal judge on Monday ruled that the Trump administration may continue withholding hundreds of millions of dollars in Medicaid funds from Minnesota while a fraud investigation proceeds. U.S. District Judge Eric Tostrud denied the state's request to block a \$259 million funding deferral, saying the case was still in early stages. Minnesota argued the delay would severely impact its budget and Medicaid services. Federal officials said the funds were paused pending documentation proving eligibility and compliance. The judge said Minnesota's legal arguments were novel and not yet supported by the record. He added the state would still have an opportunity for a hearing under established procedures.



House set to vote next week on major aviation safety overhaul after fatal crash



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The United States House of Representatives is expected to vote next week on a sweeping aviation safety reform bill following a deadly January 2025 midair collision between an American Airlines regional jet and a United States Army Black Hawk helicopter that killed 67 people. The legislation, approved unanimously by two House committees on March 26, would require collision avoidance technology on most military aircraft by 2031 and expand safety requirements for civilian aircraft. It also targets air traffic control training, Federal Aviation Administration safety practices, and airspace around Reagan National Airport. The bill follows earlier failed efforts in February after Pentagon opposition, and lawmakers aim to reconcile it with a Senate-passed measure before final approval.

White House signals confidence Kevin Warsh will take over Federal Reserve in May



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

White House economic adviser said on Thursday that he expects Kevin Warsh to become Federal Reserve chair in May, as the administration moves toward leadership change at the central bank. Adviser Kevin Hassett said he is highly confident Warsh's confirmation process will proceed next week and that current chair Jerome Powell is expected to step aside once a successor is confirmed. Powell's term as chair ends in May, although he has said he may remain in a governor role until 2028 and stay on amid a separate criminal investigation. The transition remains uncertain as legal and procedural issues continue to unfold, including court action involving subpoenas tied to Powell's role and the broader Federal Reserve leadership structure.

Supreme Court clears path for dismissal of case against Steve Bannon

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The United States Supreme Court on Monday allowed the Justice Department to proceed with dismissing a criminal contempt case against former Trump adviser Steve Bannon. Bannon had been convicted in 2022 for defying a congressional subpoena related to the January 2021 Capitol attack investigation. The court sent the case back to a lower court to consider the government's request to drop the charges, which the Justice Department said is in the interests of justice. Bannon previously served a four-month prison sentence after losing appeals to delay incarceration. His lawyer welcomed the ruling, calling the conviction unjust. The case stemmed from Bannon's refusal to provide documents and testimony to a House committee investigating the Capitol riot following Donald Trump's 2020 election defeat.

Trump proposes 'historic' defense spending budget, eyes 10% cut to other federal programs

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

President Donald Trump on Friday proposed a 2027 fiscal year budget that calls for a 10 percent reduction in non-defense federal spending while increasing military funding by \$500 billion, raising total defense spending to about \$1.5 trillion. The plan comes as the United States continues military operations linked to its conflict with Iran and faces rising domestic pressure over economic strain tied to energy costs.

The proposal includes pay raises of 5 to 7 percent for military personnel, expanded missile defense systems, shipbuilding programs, and investments in critical mineral supply chains. It also seeks major cuts across domestic agencies, including agriculture, health, environmental protection, and space programs, while boosting funding for immigration enforcement and law



enforcement priorities.

The White House described the defense expansion as comparable to increases seen before World War Two, but critics in Congress called the proposal unrealistic and "dead on arrival." Lawmakers and budget analysts warned the plan lacks clear deficit projections and relies on optimistic economic assumptions, while leaving entitlement programs untouched despite rising national debt.

Florida law expands state power to label groups as terrorist organizations

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Florida Governor Ron DeSantis on Monday signed a law giving state officials authority to designate organizations as terrorist groups and take action against individuals linked to them. The law allows the governor and cabinet to dissolve designated groups, freeze funding, and expel students who are found to support them. Rights organizations including the Council on American Islamic Relations and PEN America criticized the measure, calling it unconstitutional and a threat to free speech. The law follows earlier state actions targeting advocacy groups and comes amid broader Republican efforts to restrict perceived extremist activity in schools and public institutions. Supporters say it strengthens accountability and counters extremism. Critics warn it could suppress political expression and lead to penalties for constitutionally protected speech on campuses.

Education department ends civil rights settlements protecting transgender students

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The United States Education Department on Monday said it has terminated agreements with five school districts and one college that were previously designed to protect transgender students under federal civil rights rules. The affected institutions include districts in Delaware, Washington, Pennsylvania, and California. The agreements had required schools to comply with interpretations of Title Nine adopted during the Obama and Biden administrations, which extended protections to transgender students. The department said it will no longer enforce these settlements. Civil rights officials said the move aligns with the administration's efforts to restrict transgender participation in girls' sports and shared facilities.

Universities of Wisconsin regents defend firing of system president over leadership concerns

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Leaders of the Universities of Wisconsin Board of Regents on Thursday defended their unanimous decision to fire system president Jay Rothman, rejecting his claim that he was "blindsided" by the move. Appearing before a state Senate education committee, regents said Rothman was aware of "substantial" concerns, including slow action on artificial intelligence policy, limited engagement with lawmakers, and reluctance to address internal governance issues. Regents President Amy Bogost said the decision was not political or retaliatory and followed extensive internal deliberations. Rothman, who leads the 165,000-student system, said in an



interview Wednesday that he was not given clear reasons for his dismissal. Lawmakers questioned transparency in the surprise Tuesday firing.

White House proposes deep staffing cuts and privatization push at airport security agency

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The White House on Monday proposed cutting more than 9,400 jobs and over \$1.5 billion from the Transportation Security Administration, according to budget documents. The agency, which handles airport security nationwide, employs about 60,000 people. The plan includes expanding privatization at smaller airports and reducing staffing at exit lanes and other roles to improve efficiency. Officials say the changes would save more than \$500 million. The proposal is part of a broader effort to reshape airport security operations. The union representing TSA officers strongly opposed the plan, warning it could weaken aviation security and disrupt operations at airports across the country.

USTR says no rollback in rules barring Chinese vehicles from United States

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

United States Trade Representative Jamieson Greer said on Thursday that the Trump administration has no plans to change restrictions on Chinese vehicle hardware and software, effectively keeping Chinese automobiles out of the United States market. The rules, introduced in January 2025 over national security concerns about data collection in connected vehicles, ban key Chinese software beginning in March and phase in hardware restrictions by 2029. Greer said the United States sees no policy shift and noted it would be difficult for foreign automakers to establish production under current rules. He added that upcoming United States-China talks will focus on broader trade issues ahead of a planned leaders' meeting, not the auto sector. Lawmakers from both parties continue to support keeping Chinese automakers out of the United States market.

US Postal Service to pause pension payments and raise stamp prices amid financial strain

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The United States Postal Service said Thursday it will temporarily suspend employer contributions to federal retirement annuities to preserve cash and maintain operations amid a severe financial crisis. Officials warned the agency could run out of liquidity by around February 2027 without intervention. At the same time, USPS has proposed raising the

price of a First-Class stamp from 78 cents to 82 cents, pending regulatory approval. The Postal Service said it will continue employee retirement and Social Security contributions. The decision follows years of declining mail volume and multibillion-dollar annual losses. Postal leaders said the move is necessary to ensure payroll, supplier payments, and uninterrupted delivery service while broader funding reforms remain stalled in Congress.



Kennedy broadens eligibility rules for vaccine advisory panel amid legal challenge

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

U.S. Health Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr. has revised the membership rules for a key vaccine advisory panel that guides federal immunization policy, according to a document released on Monday. The move follows a federal court ruling last month that found most of his previous appointees to the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices unqualified and temporarily blocked their recommendations.

The revised charter broadens eligibility beyond traditional vaccine and clinical expertise to include fields such as biostatistics and toxicology. The Health and Human Services Department said the update is routine and not a policy shift, while critics argue it weakens scientific standards for vaccine guidance.

Indian-origin Jammu youth killed in Russia-Ukraine war, body returned home

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The body of 24-year-old Sachin Khajuria from Pahariwala village in Akhnoor, Jammu, was brought home on Sunday after he was killed while reportedly fighting in the Russia-Ukraine war. Family members said Sachin and two others had traveled to Russia on student visas in search of education and work opportunities but were later allegedly persuaded to join the Russian military. One of the group returned safely, while another remains missing. The family has urged authorities to help trace the missing youth and assist in securing compensation promised by Russian authorities. The case has raised concerns over recruitment networks targeting Indian students.

Indian-origin couple jailed in United Kingdom for breaching company director ban



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

An Indian-origin couple in the United Kingdom has been sentenced for continuing to run businesses despite a court-imposed director disqualification linked to earlier tax fraud allegations. Authorities said 71-year-old Bharat Jogia ignored a 13-year ban and continued controlling two pharmaceutical-related companies, while his wife, Louise Jogia, acted as a front director. The pair were found guilty of breaching the restriction for several years. Both received suspended prison sentences, along with unpaid community work and additional disqualification periods. Officials said the case highlights serious abuse of corporate regulations designed to prevent convicted or disqualified individuals from managing companies.

Pakistan issues 2,800 visas for Indian Sikh pilgrims ahead of Baisakhi celebrations

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Pakistan has issued more than 2,800 visas to Sikh pilgrims from India for Baisakhi and the 327th Khalsa Janam Din celebrations, officials confirmed. The pilgrims are scheduled to enter via the Wagah border on April 10, with the main ceremony set for April 14 at Gurdwara Panja Sahib in Hasan Abdal. Visitors will also travel to Nankana Sahib, Kartarpur Sahib, and other key religious sites. Authorities said security and hospitality arrangements have been finalized, including accommodation, transport, and medical support. Baisakhi marks the harvest season and is one of the most significant festivals for the global Sikh community.

UK visa fee hike adds fresh financial strain for Indian students and workers

● Staff Writer, IndoUS Tribune

The United Kingdom has increased visa fees across visitor, student, and work categories, a move expected to directly impact thousands of Indian applicants. The revised charges came into effect on Tuesday, raising the cost of a short-term visit visa of up to six months from £127 to £135.

Longer-duration visas have also seen significant increases. A two-year visa now costs £506, up from £475, while five-year and 10-year visas have risen to £903 and £1,128 respectively. Student visa fees have increased from £524 to £558, and skilled worker visas valid for up to three years now cost £819, up from £769.

The hike affects key routes widely used by Indian nationals, who remain among



the largest groups seeking education and employment opportunities in the United Kingdom. Applicants are already dealing with currency fluctuations and rising living costs abroad, making the increase more burdensome.

Officials said the revision is part of efforts to build a more streamlined digital immigration system, adding that most applications will continue to be processed within three weeks.

Indian-origin student Birinder Singh fatally shot on Canadian highway; suspect charged

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Birinder Singh, a 22-year-old Indian international student, was fatally shot while driving on Highway 2 near Leduc, south of Edmonton in Canada. According to police, a pickup truck pulled alongside Singh's vehicle and at least one occupant opened fire before fleeing the scene. Singh was rushed for medical treatment but later died from his injuries. Authorities have since arrested and charged 23-year-old Deon Libsekal with second-degree murder and accessory to murder. The incident has deeply shaken Canada's Indian student community, particularly in Alberta, where many international students live and study. Community organizations have expressed concern over rising safety risks and have called for stronger protection measures for newcomers.

Indian-origin 'Ketamine Queen' jailed in high-profile Matthew Perry death case

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Jasveen Sangha, an Indian-origin drug dealer known as the 'Ketamine Queen', has been sentenced to 15 years in prison for her role in the 2023 death of actor Matthew Perry. The sentencing was delivered on Wednesday, with prosecutors stating she supplied the ketamine that caused the 54-year-old's death.

Sangha had pleaded guilty in September to five felony drug charges and admitted to operating a narcotics distribution network from her home in North Hollywood. Authorities said she sold around 50 vials of ketamine to Perry over a two-week period, earning approximately \$11,000.

Investigators described a broader underground network involving five individuals, including Perry's personal assistant and two doctors, who helped



procure and deliver the drug. Evidence presented in court showed attempts to delete messages and falsify medical records following his death.

Prosecutors also cited a 2019 overdose case linked to Sangha, arguing she was aware of the risks associated with ketamine misuse and continued supplying the drug regardless.

Harshita Arora becomes youngest Indian-origin General Partner at Y Combinator at 25

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Harshita Arora, an Indian-origin entrepreneur and startup founder, has been appointed as a General Partner at Y Combinator, one of the world's most influential startup accelerator programs. At just 25 years old, she becomes one of the youngest partners in the organization's history. Arora initially gained recognition as a teenage founder in the fintech space and later built a successful startup that reportedly reached a valuation of around \$700 million. She previously worked with Y Combinator as a Visiting Partner, where she advised early-stage founders and evaluated startup ideas. In her new full-time role, she will work closely with startup founders across sectors, providing mentorship, investment guidance, and strategic support. Her appointment is being seen as a significant milestone for Indian-origin representation in global venture capital and highlights the increasing influence of young immigrant founders in shaping the U.S. technology ecosystem.

From Aden to London, Katy Mirza redefined identity as trailblazing Indian-origin Playboy Bunny

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Katy Mirza, born Katiya Mirza in Yemen to Indian parents, broke cultural barriers when she became one of the first Indian-origin Playboy Bunnies in 1973. Her family had migrated to the United Kingdom in the late 1960s, where she initially worked as a receptionist at a London hotel before being discovered by the Playboy Club.

At the time, becoming a Playboy Bunny was considered highly desirable, offering glamour, financial rewards, and access to elite social circles. Mirza quickly gained visibility and appeared in magazine features, establishing herself in a space rarely occupied by South Asian women.

In the 1980s, she moved to Mumbai to pursue an acting career but was largely limited to minor roles in films such as 'Kasme Vaade' and 'Kissa Kursi Ka'. Social stigma surrounding her past



likely influenced her limited opportunities in the industry.

She later returned to London and chose to live a private life away from the spotlight. Mirza died in 2017 after battling cancer, leaving behind a legacy of defying convention.

Hindu American Foundation appeals court in California caste discrimination case

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The Hindu American Foundation has asked a United States appeals court on Wednesday to revive its lawsuit against California's Civil Rights Department, arguing the agency improperly links caste discrimination to Hinduism and unfairly targets Indian and South Asian communities. The case stems from a prior complaint involving Cisco Systems, where the regulator alleged caste-based discrimination in the workplace under California employment law. The foundation argues the agency's approach relies on stereotypes and wrongly associates caste with Hindu identity. While the state has removed earlier wording describing caste as a Hindu social hierarchy, the foundation says the underlying enforcement approach remains unchanged. The case could influence how United States civil rights law treats caste-related claims, particularly in workplaces with large South Asian workforces, and whether caste is treated as a standalone category or tied to religion.



Indian-origin ex-UK police officer pleads guilty in staged 'crash for cash' insurance fraud case



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

A former UK police officer of Indian origin has pleaded guilty to participating in a "crash for cash" insurance fraud scheme involving staged road collisions and fraudulent compensation claims. Prosecutors said the scheme involved deliberately orchestrated vehicle accidents, followed by false claims for personal injury and property damage submitted to insurance companies. The accused, previously dismissed from the Metropolitan Police for gross misconduct, was extradited from abroad to face trial in the United Kingdom. Authorities allege the scheme operated over a period of time and involved multiple co-conspirators who benefited financially from inflated or fabricated claims. The case has raised concerns about abuse of trust, particularly involving former law enforcement personnel. Sentencing is expected later this year, and officials say the prosecution underscores ongoing efforts to crack down on organized insurance fraud schemes that cost the industry millions of pounds annually.

Indian-origin doctor Jitesh Patel to pay \$14 million settlement in U.S. healthcare fraud case



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Indian-origin physician Dr. Jitesh Patel and his Georgia-based medical practice have agreed to pay a \$14 million settlement to resolve allegations of healthcare fraud involving improper billing practices. Federal authorities said the practice submitted claims to Medicare and Medicaid for medically unnecessary procedures, as well as tests that were allegedly not performed or not justified by patient conditions. The case originated from whistleblower complaints that triggered a federal investigation into billing patterns at the clinic. While the settlement resolves civil liability under the False Claims Act, it does not include criminal charges or an admission of guilt. Officials said the case reflects ongoing efforts by U.S. regulators to curb healthcare fraud and protect public funds. The development has drawn attention within the medical community, highlighting stricter enforcement actions against providers accused of inflating or misrepresenting patient services.

Indian-origin engineers rise to top roles at xAI as Musk's AI ambitions accelerate

Staff Writer, IndoUS Tribune

Three Indian-origin engineers have been appointed to senior leadership roles at xAI as the company prepares for a potential merger with SpaceX and a future public offering. The appointments were announced on Thursday as part of a broader restructuring aimed at strengthening its position in the artificial intelligence sector.

Devendra Chaplot will lead pre-training operations, focusing on how large models learn from vast datasets. Aman Madaan will oversee infrastructure, building the systems required to train and scale these

models efficiently. Aditya Gupta will head post-training and reinforcement learning, refining models for real-world applications.

All three bring strong academic and industry credentials, with experience at leading institutions and global technology firms. Their roles will shape core aspects of xAI's development, from foundational training to deployment and optimization.

The move highlights the growing influence of Indian-origin talent in global artificial intelligence, as xAI accelerates efforts to compete in the rapidly evolving and highly competitive technology landscape.



Indian-origin scientist Deep Jariwala named Tennessee Governor's Chair for Quantum Devices

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Indian-origin scientist Deep Jariwala has been appointed as the UT-ORNL Governor's Chair for Quantum Devices, a prestigious joint position between the University of Tennessee, Knoxville and Oak Ridge National Laboratory in the United States. In this role, Jariwala will lead advanced research focused on quantum materials, next-generation semiconductor technologies, and nanoscale electronic systems. His appointment is part of a high-level initiative designed to attract leading global researchers to strengthen U.S. leadership in quantum science and advanced computing. Beginning in early 2027, he is expected to build a research program that connects academic innovation with national laboratory



capabilities, while also mentoring students and early-career scientists. The appointment highlights the growing global presence of Indian-origin researchers in frontier science fields and underscores the increasing importance of quantum technologies in shaping the future of computing, communications, and advanced engineering systems.

Indian-origin NHS worker wins UK harassment case after colleague repeatedly called her 'auntie'

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

An Indian-origin healthcare assistant working with the United Kingdom's National Health Service has won a harassment claim after a colleague repeatedly referred to her as "auntie" at work. The case was heard by an employment tribunal in Watford, which ruled that the comments created an offensive environment and amounted to harassment on the grounds of age and sex. The tribunal ordered West London NHS Trust to pay 1,425.15 British pounds in compensation for injury to feelings.

The claimant, 61-year-old Ilda Esteves, said a staff nurse of Ghanaian heritage used the term on multiple occasions despite her request to be addressed by her first name. The



tribunal acknowledged that "auntie" can be a respectful term in Ghanaian culture but found that its repeated use in a professional setting against her wishes was inappropriate. Judges concluded it was reasonable for her to feel offended and upheld her claim, while other allegations were dismissed.

Family of Indian-origin UT Austin student Savitha Shanmugasundaram establishes scholarship after Texas shooting

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The family of 21-year-old Indian-origin student Savitha Shanmugasundaram has established a scholarship at the University of Texas at Austin in her memory following her death in a shooting incident in Texas. Savitha, a promising student known for her academic dedication and involvement in campus life, was killed in a tragic act of gun violence that shocked her university community. Her family said the scholarship is intended to honor her passion for education and ensure that her legacy continues to support future students. The fund will provide financial assistance to students, particularly those from underrepresented and immigrant backgrounds, reflecting Savitha's own journey as an Indian-origin student in the United States. University officials and peers have expressed support for the initiative, calling it a meaningful tribute that transforms personal tragedy into long-term educational opportunity and community impact.

Indian-origin truck drivers among thousands affected as United States cancels commercial licences

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Thousands of foreign commercial truck drivers, including many Punjabi Sikh workers, have been affected after the United States state of Indiana revoked 1,790 non-domiciled commercial driving licences under a new law. Officials said the rule limits eligibility to specific visa categories, excluding most other foreign workers. Drivers were notified in March, with cancellations taking effect in early April. Many now face job loss or licence downgrades. The move follows safety concerns raised after fatal truck crashes involving non-domiciled drivers. Indiana is the first state to implement such broad restrictions, with similar actions reported earlier in California.

Diaspora rallies grow globally in support of justice for Punjab official Gagandeep Singh Randhawa

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Support for justice for Punjab State Warehousing Corporation official Gagandeep Singh Randhawa has grown across the global Sikh diaspora following his recent death. Community gatherings, candlelight vigils, and memorial meetings have been held in Canada, the United States, and Australia, drawing hundreds of participants. Events in Surrey and Brampton saw participation from community leaders, alumni groups, and political representatives, all calling for a transparent investigation. Organizers have urged authorities in Punjab to ensure accountability and a fair probe into allegations surrounding the circumstances of his death. The case has triggered widespread discussion in diaspora circles, with repeated demands for swift action and justice for the deceased official and his family.



Finland moves closer to opening world's first permanent nuclear waste site

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Finland is nearing the start of operations at Onkalo, the world's first permanent underground nuclear waste repository, carved into 1.9 billion-year-old bedrock on Olkiluoto island. Authorities are expected to grant a final license within months. The facility, run by Posiva, sits more than 400 meters underground and will store spent nuclear fuel sealed in copper canisters surrounded by bentonite clay. It can hold about 6,500 tons of waste and is designed to operate until the 2120s before permanent closure. Officials say it offers a long-term solution for nuclear safety, though experts warn that corrosion and long-term uncertainties remain despite the geological stability of the site.

North Korea expands missile arsenal with cluster warhead tests, says state media



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

North Korea said Thursday its latest weapons tests included ballistic missiles fitted with cluster-bomb warheads, part of a multi-day series of launches aimed at advancing its nuclear-capable arsenal. State media said the tests began on Monday and also featured anti-aircraft systems and other experimental weapons. South Korea's military reported multiple launches on Tuesday and Wednesday, with missiles traveling up to 700 kilometers before landing in the sea. Japan and the United States said there was no immediate threat. Pyongyang claimed its systems could strike large areas with high destructive power. The launches come amid rising tensions as North Korea deepens ties with Russia and rejects renewed dialogue with Seoul and Washington.

Trump's Iran war strains ties with European nationalist allies

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

President Donald Trump's approach to the Iran conflict has widened divisions with European nationalist leaders once seen as ideological allies. While Vice President JD Vance visited Hungary to support Prime Minister Viktor Orbán, other far-right figures in Europe have openly criticized United States military actions and strategy. Italian and French right-wing leaders have rejected aspects of the Iran war, while Germany's far right has called for reduced United States military presence. Analysts say the split highlights limits in efforts to build a global nationalist alliance. Orbán, facing a tough election, remains a key Trump ally but risks backlash at home as public sentiment shifts across Europe.

Trump considers partial troop withdrawal from Europe as NATO tensions deepen

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

President Donald Trump has discussed with advisers the possibility of withdrawing some United States troops from Europe amid growing tensions with North Atlantic Treaty Organization allies, according to a senior White House official on Thursday.

The talks follow frustration over what Trump views as NATO's failure to support efforts to secure the Strait of Hormuz and stalled progress on U.S. interests involving



Greenland. No decision has been made, and the Pentagon has not been instructed to develop formal plans, the official said.

The United States currently maintains more than 80,000 troops across Europe, including major deployments in Germany, Italy, the United Kingdom, and Spain. While a full NATO withdrawal has also been floated publicly, officials stressed the current discussions focus only on potential reductions. The White House official said Trump is seeking stronger allied commitments before final decisions on force posture are made.

Hezbollah rejects direct talks with Israel as Lebanon pushes ceasefire first

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Hezbollah lawmaker Ali Fayyad said on Thursday that the group rejects direct negotiations with Israel and insists that any diplomatic process must begin with a ceasefire agreement. His remarks followed comments from Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu indicating he had instructed officials to begin direct talks with Lebanon. Fayyad said Lebanon's priority should remain securing a halt to hostilities, the withdrawal of Israeli forces from Lebanese territory, and the return of displaced civilians to border areas. He emphasized that any future discussions must be handled through the Lebanese government rather than direct engagement between Hezbollah and Israel.

The comments come amid heightened



regional tensions and ongoing cross-border confrontations that have displaced thousands. Lebanese officials have not confirmed any direct negotiation framework, and the situation remains highly fluid as international mediators continue efforts to prevent further escalation along the Israel-Lebanon border.

Australia seeks fuel security boost as Albanese meets Singapore leaders

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese met Singaporean Prime Minister Lawrence Wong this week as Canberra works to strengthen fuel supply security amid global disruptions linked to the Middle East conflict. Speaking after arriving in Singapore late Thursday, Albanese said fuel reliability has become a critical global issue.

Singapore remains Australia's largest supplier of petrol and a key source of diesel and jet fuel. Australia, which imports most of its refined fuel needs, has faced domestic shortages affecting farming and mining sectors, with some stations running dry in recent weeks. The Strait of Hormuz disruption has further tightened global oil flows, intensifying



supply concerns. Albanese said Australia and Singapore share a strategic energy relationship built on trust, noting Australia supplies liquefied natural gas to Singapore while relying heavily on its refining capacity. Officials from both countries are continuing talks on broader regional energy cooperation.

Germany urges NATO unity amid tensions over Iran war and Hormuz security talks



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

German Chancellor Friedrich Merz said on Thursday that he does not want NATO to split amid tensions linked to the Iran war and disputes over allied burden sharing. He said Germany remains committed to alliance unity while confirming ongoing diplomatic efforts with Iran alongside European partners and the United States. Merz also said Germany is prepared to contribute to securing the Strait of Hormuz once a ceasefire framework and international mandate are in place. He added that discussions with Pakistan will continue ahead of planned ceasefire talks, while noting no agreement has been reached on U.S. troop presence in Germany.

Trump threatens tariffs on countries supplying weapons to Iran amid fragile ceasefire

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

United States President Donald Trump on Wednesday threatened a 50 percent tariff on any country supplying weapons to Iran, warning there would be no exemptions, while also signalling openness to sanctions relief talks following a fragile ceasefire. In posts on Truth Social, he said the measures would take effect immediately. The announcement came as Washington and Tehran prepare for further negotiations after a truce described by officials as unstable. Vice President JD Vance said Iran had agreed to reopen the Strait of Hormuz under the ceasefire deal, though he cautioned the situation remains fragile and dependent on continued diplomatic engagement.

Over one million Sudanese refugees in Chad face deep aid cuts, United Nations warns

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

More than one million Sudanese refugees in Chad face severe reductions in humanitarian aid unless a funding gap of over 400 million dollars is filled, United Nations agencies warned on Thursday. The World Food Programme and the United Nations refugee agency said they are already struggling to support over 1.3 million people who have fled the Sudan conflict since 2023. Aid workers reported worsening hunger, overcrowded schools, and severe water shortages, with many refugees surviving on less than half the minimum daily requirement. Officials warned that further cuts could be unavoidable in the coming months without urgent donor support.

Sea surface temperatures near record highs in March as El Nino risk rises



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Global sea surface temperatures rose to their second-highest level on record in March, approaching peaks last seen during the previous El Nino event, according to the European Union's Copernicus Climate Change Service. On Friday, the climate monitor said average temperatures across extra-polar oceans reached 20.97 degrees Celsius, just below March 2024's record. Daily readings steadily climbed through March, raising concerns of a possible transition toward El Nino conditions in the second half of 2026, which can intensify global heat and extreme weather. March 2026 was also the fourth-warmest March globally, with temperatures 1.48 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels, alongside record-low Arctic sea ice.

Taiwan security chief warns of expanded Chinese infiltration and election interference



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Taiwan's National Security Bureau warned on Wednesday that China is intensifying "systematic and targeted" infiltration efforts, shifting recruitment from mid-level officers to lower-ranking military personnel, according to Director-General Tsai Ming-yen. He told lawmakers that Beijing is using intelligence networks, front groups, and influence operations to gather classified information. The bureau also said in a report released before a legislative briefing that China may attempt to interfere in Taiwan's November elections through cyberattacks, artificial intelligence-driven misinformation, and false polling. Officials reported more than 173 million cyberattacks on government networks in early 2026, underscoring escalating hybrid and cognitive warfare tactics.

Ukrainians and Russians skeptical as short Easter ceasefire raises doubts over lasting peace prospects

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Ukrainian officials on Friday urged Russia to extend a 32-hour Easter ceasefire announced by President Vladimir Putin and to move toward renewed peace talks, but residents in both Kyiv and Moscow expressed deep skepticism that the pause would lead to lasting peace.

Putin said the truce would begin on Saturday afternoon and run through Orthodox Easter until Sunday night. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said Kyiv would observe the ceasefire

despite previously dismissing similar Russian announcements as a public relations move, while also urging that it continue beyond Easter as a step toward ending hostilities.

Foreign Minister Andrii Sybiha proposed extending the halt in fighting and referenced other international ceasefire efforts as an example. The Kremlin described the pause as temporary and humanitarian, insisting it wants a permanent peace deal, a condition Ukraine rejects as a delaying tactic tied to territorial demands. Civilians in both capitals cited past violations and voiced little confidence in any durable breakthrough.



Dutch police launch global search for sextortion victims

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Dutch police on Thursday launched a social media campaign to find and support more victims in a major sextortion case involving a 22-year-old Dutch man on trial in Dordrecht. Authorities say more than 50 girls and young women, aged 13 to 20, across at least six countries including the United States, United Kingdom, Germany and Canada were targeted. The suspect allegedly tricked victims into sharing explicit images, then blackmailed and exploited them, sometimes ordering degrading acts and selling material online.



Police, linked to a tip from United States Homeland Security Investigations, believe more victims remain unidentified and are urging them to come forward. The campaign also aims to reassure victims the suspect is now in custody.

Russia's internet crackdown fuels growing public anger

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Public frustration is rising in Russia as sweeping internet restrictions disrupt daily life, blocking messaging apps, limiting cellphone internet and restricting VPN use. Authorities say the measures address security threats, but critics argue they are tightening state control over communication and pushing users toward government-approved platforms. Businesses and tech leaders have warned the shutdowns are damaging commerce and services. Opposition figures have organized small protests and legal challenges, though most gatherings are denied permission. Experts say the crackdown is fueling widespread anger



and limiting digital freedom, with growing calls for more targeted measures instead of broad restrictions that affect millions of users across the country.

Japanese town struggles with Mount Fuji tourism surge



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

A town near Mount Fuji is struggling with overtourism after viral social media images of cherry blossoms and the mountain drew huge crowds to Fujiyoshida. Officials say more than 10,000 visitors a day have caused traffic jams, littering and disruption in residential areas. The local government canceled this year's cherry blossom festival and introduced restrictions, including limiting vehicle access and requiring visitors to walk to popular viewpoints. Residents describe the impact as both positive and overwhelming, with some benefiting from tourism while others struggle with congestion and daily disruption. Authorities say the situation reflects a broader challenge in Japan as it tries to expand tourism while managing pressure on local communities.

Italy declares emergency after landslide disrupts key Adriatic transport corridor



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Italy's government on Thursday declared a state of emergency after a major landslide in Petacciato disrupted rail and motorway links along a key Adriatic corridor. Infrastructure Minister Matteo Salvini said an initial 10 million euro package would be used for urgent repairs, as partial motorway traffic resumed and rail services were expected to restart by Friday. The landslide, triggered earlier in the week by heavy rainfall, forced evacuations and closed sections of the A14 motorway and a major north-south rail line. Authorities said the slope has largely stabilized, though a collapsed bridge will take months to rebuild.

Punjab expands rural healthcare with new 30-bed hospital in Cheema

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann on Thursday inaugurated the Sant Attar Singh Ji Maharaj Hospital in Cheema village, a 30-bed facility built at a cost of about \$1.4 million, aimed at strengthening rural healthcare access. The hospital is expected to serve nearly 50,000 residents across 15 villages and nearby areas. Mann said patients who earlier traveled to Sangrur, Patiala, and Ludhiana will now receive treatment locally. The facility includes emergency care, maternal and child health services, diagnostic labs, and specialist support. He also announced plans for a medical college, adding that the government is expanding healthcare infrastructure and addiction treatment services across Punjab.

Maharashtra's piped gas push faces hurdles as LPG users report supply gaps

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The Maharashtra government on Thursday urged households to shift from liquefied petroleum gas to piped natural gas within three months, warning of possible LPG supply cuts for noncompliance. The directive does not apply to areas without pipeline infrastructure, but residents in parts of Mumbai, including Sion, report limited access and irregular LPG supplies. Small businesses say delayed cylinder deliveries have disrupted operations, forcing temporary closures and alternative fuel use. Residents in redeveloped housing societies also face long waits for connections despite early applications. While authorities aim to expand cleaner energy use, uneven infrastructure rollout has raised concerns over reliability and feasibility in densely populated areas.

Congress leaders diverge as some praise India's West Asia response



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Cracks appeared within the Congress party on Thursday as senior leaders Kamal Nath and Anand Sharma praised the central government's handling of the West Asia crisis, diverging from the party's broader criticism. Nath dismissed concerns over a gas shortage, saying there was no real liquefied petroleum gas crisis and that such claims were being exaggerated. Sharma described India's diplomatic approach as "mature and skillful," noting it helped avoid major risks in a volatile region. He also called for sustained national dialogue and urged India to lead efforts among Global South nations to restore stability. Sharma highlighted India's strong ties with Gulf countries, \$200 billion in trade, and the importance of energy supplies and diaspora security.

Manipur chief minister vows strong action after deadly blast triggers protests

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Manipur Chief Minister reiterated firm action to restore peace and stability following a deadly blast in Bishnupur district earlier this week. On Thursday, he chaired his third high-level security review meeting since Tuesday's incident, saying the government is taking strong and coordinated steps to neutralize threats and maintain public order. The explosion on Tuesday in Tronglaobi Awang Leikai village killed a five-year-old boy and his five-month-old sister, while their mother was injured and their home was severely damaged. Authorities said the bomb was allegedly fired by suspected Kuki militants.

Senior officials, including the chief secretary, director general of police, and security advisers, attended the review. The chief minister also said the state is working closely with the Union Home Ministry to restore normalcy.

Later on Thursday, large protests erupted in Imphal involving groups such as the All Manipur United Club Organisation, women's associations, and student bodies. The march defied curfew orders before being stopped by security forces at Hodam Leirak, after which a delegation met the chief minister and demanded action, including withdrawal of Suspension of Operations agreements. Authorities also prevented a self-immolation attempt by a 32-year-old man amid rising public anger.



Stalin urges withdrawal of foreign funding bill ahead of Tamil Nadu elections

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M K Stalin on Thursday urged Prime Minister Narendra Modi to withdraw the proposed Foreign Contribution Regulation Amendment Bill, raising concerns over its impact on minority institutions. In a letter, Stalin warned that provisions such as automatic cancellation of registrations and government control over foreign-funded assets could harm charitable organizations, including schools and hospitals. He said the measures risk undermining religious freedom and could disrupt services for marginalized communities. Stalin also criticized the lack of transparency in the renewal process and expanded liability for key functionaries.



He suggested the bill's delay may be linked to upcoming elections and cautioned it could have long-term consequences for India's secular framework.

Delhi government announces five day celebrations to mark 136th birth anniversary of Bhimrao Ambedkar

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The Delhi government will hold a five day series of programmes from Friday to April 14 to mark the 136th birth anniversary of Bharat Ratna Dr Bhimrao Ambedkar, Social Welfare Minister Ravinder Indraj Singh said on Thursday. He said the celebrations will include the "Bhim Jyoti Utsav" near India Gate in the Kasturba Gandhi Marg area, featuring exhibitions on Ambedkar's life, writings, and struggles. The event will also include cultural performances, folk programmes, workshops, quizzes, walkathons, and awareness drives aimed at students and youth. Singh said citizens from all sections of society, including saints, intellectuals,



and social workers, will participate. He added that the programme reflects national unity and Ambedkar's message of constitutional values and social harmony. The minister said the initiative will serve as a tribute to Ambedkar and help spread awareness about his ideals, rights, and responsibilities under the Constitution.

Government to make national highway tolls fully digital from Friday

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The government announced that from Friday, all toll payments on national highways will be made digitally, eliminating cash transactions across more than 1,100 toll plazas. Officials said the move aims to reduce congestion and improve efficiency through systems such as FASTag and Unified Payments Interface. The transition is part of a broader push toward fully electronic toll collection nationwide. Authorities have advised drivers to ensure their FASTag accounts are active to avoid delays. The change comes alongside recent toll revisions in some regions, including increases on expressways in Uttar Pradesh. Officials said the shift to digital payments is expected to streamline traffic flow and modernize highway infrastructure.

Allahabad High Court questions omission of honorific in FIR naming Union minister

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The Allahabad High Court on Thursday sought an explanation from a senior Uttar Pradesh official over the omission of the honorific "Honorable" before a Union minister's name in a police report. A bench of Justices J J Munir and Tarun Saxena raised the issue while hearing a petition seeking to quash a case filed in Mathura. The court said that even if the complainant failed to use the title, police were expected to follow protocol when drafting the report. It directed the additional chief secretary to file a response explaining the lapse. The matter has been scheduled for further hearing on Monday, with instructions issued to communicate the order promptly to concerned authorities.

Former top bureaucrat arrested in \$2.4 billion Jal Jeevan Mission corruption probe



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Aretired senior bureaucrat, Subodh Agarwal, was arrested in Delhi on Thursday in connection with a major corruption probe linked to the Jal Jeevan Mission, involving contracts worth about \$2.4 billion. Investigators allege private firms secured tenders using forged certificates and colluded with Public Health Engineering Department officials. Authorities said Agarwal and others introduced conditions that exposed bidder identities, enabling cartelization and inflated bids by 30 to 40 percent. The total contracts under scrutiny are valued at nearly \$2.4 billion. So far, 10 people have been arrested, while three remain absconding with warrants issued. Proceedings are underway to attach assets, as investigators continue examining technical and financial evidence in the case.

BJP flags Mamata Banerjee's remarks, moves election commission over alleged poll code violations in West Bengal

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The Bharatiya Janata Party on Tuesday wrote to the Chief Election Commissioner accusing West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee of making inflammatory remarks during election rallies that allegedly undermine the integrity of the ongoing electoral process. The party cited a speech in Mainaguri on March 25, where Banerjee reportedly said people may be forced to display posters outside their homes declaring they do not support the Bharatiya Janata Party. In its complaint, the party alleged a pattern of provocative statements amounting to intimidation and violation of the Model Code of Conduct, calling it a threat to free and fair elections. In response, Banerjee has accused the Bharatiya Janata Party of a conspiracy to manipulate voter rolls through fraudulent applications. The Election Commission has been urged to take immediate action amid escalating political tensions in the state.

UGC mandates Aadhaar linked bank accounts for scholarships under stricter direct benefit transfer system

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The University Grants Commission has made Aadhaar linking mandatory for all scholarship and fellowship payments, warning that students who fail to comply will lose eligibility from the 2026 to 2027 academic year. All payments will now be routed only through Aadhaar seeded bank accounts under the direct benefit transfer system. Students must update details on the scholarship and fellowship management portal by April 15, while institutional nodal officers must verify records by April 20. The commission said the move aims to ensure faster, transparent payments and eliminate intermediaries. Officials added that the tightened compliance system is intended to ensure only verified beneficiaries receive funds, making digital verification a compulsory condition for continued financial support under central scholarship schemes.

India secures clean sweep in United Nations ECOSOC elections across four key bodies unopposed

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

India on Wednesday swept four elections to Economic and Social Council bodies of the United Nations without opposition, securing seats across major committees. Former senior diplomat Preeti Saran was re-elected in her personal capacity to the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, where she had chaired last year's session. India was also elected by acclamation to the Commission on Science and Technology for Development, the Committee on Non Governmental Organizations, and the Committee for Programme and Coordination. All results were unanimous, reflecting broad international support. The Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights monitors implementation of the international covenant covering rights such as food, housing, education, health, work, and social security. The other bodies oversee civil society participation, scientific cooperation for development, and coordination of United Nations programs.

High voter turnout sparks political debate as Congress predicts gains in Assam, Kerala and Puducherry

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Congress leader Rashid Alvi on Friday said that the high voter turnout in Assam, Kerala and Puducherry during the Assembly elections held this week signals strong anti-incumbency and indicates possible Congress victories in all three regions. He noted that turnout levels reached about 85 percent in Assam and nearly 90 percent in Puducherry, arguing that such participation typically reflects voter dissatisfaction with ruling parties. Alvi also claimed that political sentiment is shifting in favour of the Congress, particularly in Kerala, and suggested that even opposition voices in some regions acknowledge a possible change in government.

He criticised Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma, alleging inappropriate conduct and remarks against senior leaders. Meanwhile, the Election Commission described the polling



process, conducted on Thursday across 296 constituencies, as historic, with over 5.31 crore voters participating. Assam recorded its highest-ever turnout at around 85 percent, Puducherry reached nearly 90 percent, and Kerala recorded about 78 percent, with women voters exceeding men in two regions. Voting was held peacefully on Thursday.

Nitish Kumar enters Rajya Sabha as JD(U) leaders project 'Nitish model' continuity and signal Nishant Kumar as future leader

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Janata Dal United leaders on Friday backed Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar after he took oath as a Rajya Sabha member, saying his governance model would continue to guide the state. Leaders said the "Nitish model" would remain central to Bihar's development and praised his long record in office. They also projected his son Nishant Kumar as a future leader of the party and state. Nitish Kumar was elected unopposed earlier in March and resigned from the Bihar Legislative Council later that month. With this move, he has served in all four legislative bodies in India. Party leaders described the shift as a continuation of stable governance and political experience shaping Bihar's future direction.

India launches first Quantum computer testing facility in Amaravati

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu on Monday launched India's first indigenous quantum computer testing facility at SRM University, marking World Quantum Day. A parallel quantum facility at Medha Towers in Gannavaram was inaugurated virtually. Officials said the Amaravati Quantum Reference Facility establishes sovereign quantum infrastructure, enabling India to design, test, and manufacture quantum systems. During the event, a live demonstration showed the Amaravati IQ system initiating processor cooling, while the Amaravati 1S system operated as an open-access platform. The project, under



the National Quantum Mission, includes an IBM 133-qubit system and over 80 industry and academic partnerships, positioning Amaravati among leading global quantum hubs with applications in defense, healthcare, and semiconductor manufacturing.

Supreme court orders CBI probe into Arunachal Pradesh contract award irregularities linked to chief minister's family

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The Supreme Court on Monday ordered a central bureau of investigation probe into allegations of favoritism in awarding public works contracts in Arunachal Pradesh linked to relatives of Chief Minister Pema Khandu. A bench directed a preliminary enquiry within two weeks covering contracts and work orders issued between January 1, 2015, and December 31, 2025, with scope for broader scrutiny if required. The state has been asked to fully cooperate, appoint a nodal officer, and preserve all records. A status report must be submitted within 16 weeks. The case stems from a petition alleging contracts worth about Rs.1,245 crore were granted to firms linked to family members and associates in violation of anti-corruption laws and procedural norms.

Madhya Pradesh accelerates plans to implement uniform civil code

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The Madhya Pradesh government has stepped up efforts to implement a Uniform Civil Code, with Chief Minister Mohan Yadav directing officials on Thursday to fast-track the process. A committee led by a retired judge will soon be formed to draft the legislation, drawing from models adopted

by Uttarakhand and Gujarat. Officials said the state is targeting rollout by late 2026, possibly before Diwali. The proposal aims to standardize laws on marriage, divorce, and inheritance. While ministers argue it promotes equality and national unity, opposition leaders have criticized the move, calling it a distraction from economic issues. The initiative revives an earlier 2022 proposal and is expected to involve broader public consultations.



National Human Rights Commission seeks report on alleged action against whistleblowers in Food Safety case

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The National Human Rights Commission has issued notices to the Ministry of Health, the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India, and Delhi Police over a complaint alleging action against whistleblowers who exposed recruitment irregularities. The commission has sought a report within two weeks after taking cognizance under the Protection of Human Rights Act. The complaint alleges individuals who flagged fraudulent documents in recruitment were later booked by police following an internal inquiry by the regulator. The commission has directed that whistleblowers' identities be protected and their safety ensured during investigation. It has also asked for details of the internal inquiry and subsequent actions. Delhi Police has been instructed to include relevant inquiry findings in its ongoing investigation into alleged document circulation.

UK court orders SpiceJet to pay \$8 million to lessor in fresh financial blow

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

A UK court has ordered SpiceJet to pay around \$8 million to aircraft engine lessor Sunbird France 02 SAS in a setback for the financially stressed airline. London's Commercial Court issued a summary judgment over unpaid rent and maintenance dues linked to three engines. The court said SpiceJet had no realistic defence against the claim. The dispute dates back to unpaid lease rentals from January 2022 and maintenance costs from November 2020. The engines were repossessed between late 2022 and mid-2023 after default notices. The airline, already under financial strain and facing regulatory scrutiny, has not responded to the ruling so far.

India e-retail sector crosses \$65 billion, growth expected above 20 percent annually



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

India's online retail market reached around \$65–66 billion in 2025 and is projected to grow over 20 percent annually to \$170–180 billion by 2030, according to a Bain and Company and Flipkart report. The study said gross merchandise value rose 19–21 percent this year, driven by stronger consumer demand and improving economic conditions. Private consumption increased to 10.5 percent due to tax relief, easing inflation, and lower interest rates. Quick commerce doubled to \$10–11 billion and may reach \$65–70 billion by 2030. Gen Z accounts for nearly half of new orders, while the overall shopper base has expanded to about 300 million.

Oil prices plunge more than 13 percent after ceasefire raises hopes of supply recovery

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Oil prices dropped sharply on Wednesday, falling more than 13 percent after President Donald Trump announced a two-week ceasefire with Iran, raising expectations that key global shipping routes could reopen. Brent crude settled at 94.75 dollars a barrel, while West Texas Intermediate fell to 94.41 dollars. The decline followed optimism that the Strait of Hormuz, which carries about 20 percent of global oil supply, could resume normal flows. However, traders remain cautious as tensions persist and the ceasefire appears fragile. Iran and Israel exchanged warnings and strikes continued in parts of the region, underscoring uncertainty about whether energy supplies will stabilize in the coming weeks.

Paramount president Jeff Shell steps down amid legal dispute

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Paramount president Jeff Shell has stepped down from his role and the company's board of directors amid an ongoing legal dispute and wider corporate restructuring at the media giant. The company confirmed on Wednesday that Shell "elected to transition" from his position, adding that its board reviewed recent allegations and found no evidence of securities disclosure violations.

Shell's exit comes as he faces a lawsuit from a media consultant alleging fraud, unpaid services, and broken business promises. The plaintiff also claimed Shell shared non-public information linked to Paramount's partnership with the Ultimate Fighting Championship and discussions involving Warner Bros. Discovery. Shell has denied the allegations and filed a counterclaim accusing the plaintiff of defamation and extortion.



Paramount said it will respond in court, calling the claims baseless. Shell, who previously left NBCUniversal in 2023 after an internal investigation, had played a key role in Paramount's recent Skydance acquisition and ongoing strategic talks.

PM Modi to inaugurate India's first refinery petrochemical hub on April 21

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate India's first integrated refinery and petrochemical complex of Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited at Balotra on April 21, Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma said. The Pachpadra project is expected to boost Rajasthan's economy and strengthen

national energy security. The Prime Minister will also address a public meeting and flag off liquefied petroleum gas tankers produced at the facility. The Rs 79,459 crore project has a capacity of nine million metric tonnes annually and processes both domestic and imported crude. It will produce key petrochemicals used in transport, packaging, pharmaceuticals, and other industries and has already begun partial production.

Puri holds key energy talks in Doha as India and Qatar eye stronger ties amid West Asia tensions

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

India's Petroleum and Natural Gas Minister Hardeep Singh Puri is on a two-day official visit to Doha, where he held key talks with Qatar's Minister of State for Energy Affairs and QatarEnergy Chief Executive Officer Saad Sherida Al Kaabi on Friday evening.

conveyed greetings from Prime Minister Narendra Modi to Qatar's leadership and acknowledged Qatar's support for the Indian community.

The discussions focused on strengthening bilateral energy cooperation, expanding trade and investment ties, and reviewing the impact of ongoing West Asia tensions on global energy markets. According to official statements, Puri

Both sides welcomed a recent two-week ceasefire agreed on April 8 and emphasized the importance of restoring stability and ensuring uninterrupted global energy flows.

Qatar reaffirmed its commitment as a reliable energy supplier to India. The two sides also agreed to remain in close contact to further deepen strategic cooperation in the coming weeks.

Disney plans up to 1,000 job cuts, most layoffs likely in marketing division, says report

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Walt Disney is planning to cut up to 1,000 jobs in the coming weeks, with most layoffs expected in its marketing division, according to a report. The Wall Street Journal said the restructuring began before the company's new chief executive officer took charge in March. The job cuts represent less than 1 percent of Disney's global workforce of about 231,000 employees. The company is also consolidating marketing operations under a new program aimed at reducing



costs. In related developments, Oracle has reportedly laid off thousands of employees globally, while HSBC is also considering future job cuts as it increases use of artificial intelligence in operations.

Meta pulls ads recruiting plaintiffs as social media addiction lawsuits against tech firms escalate



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Meta Platforms has removed advertisements on Facebook and Instagram that were recruiting plaintiffs for lawsuits alleging social media addiction harms, amid escalating legal pressure on major technology companies. The decision follows recent jury verdicts that found Meta and Google liable in cases involving alleged mental health harm to young users, resulting in multimillion-dollar damages. More than 3,000 similar cases are pending in California state courts, with thousands more consolidated in federal litigation. Meta said it is actively defending itself and will not allow third-party law firms to profit from its platforms while pursuing claims against the company. Law firms have increasingly relied on digital advertising to identify potential plaintiffs in mass tort cases.

Abbott ordered to pay \$53 million in premature infant formula liability case as broader lawsuits mount

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Abbott Laboratories has been ordered by a Chicago jury to pay \$53 million in compensatory damages to families who alleged its premature infant formula contributed to necrotizing enterocolitis, a serious and often fatal bowel disease. The case involved infants treated in Chicago-area hospitals between 2012 and 2019 and is part of a wider wave of litigation targeting infant formula makers. The jury will next decide punitive damages. Abbott denies that its cow's milk-based formula causes the condition, arguing it is critical when breast milk is unavailable for premature infants. Nearly 1,000 lawsuits are pending nationwide against Abbott and competitors, with hundreds consolidated in federal court.

McKinsey agrees to pay \$125 million in Purdue opioid bankruptcy settlement

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Consulting firm McKinsey has agreed to contribute \$125 million to Purdue Pharma's bankruptcy settlement, resolving potential claims tied to its role advising the company on how to increase sales of the opioid painkiller OxyContin. Court filings submitted on Wednesday show the payment will support Purdue's court-approved 7.4 billion dollar restructuring plan, which aims to compensate creditors and communities affected by the U.S. opioid crisis. McKinsey previously paid 1.6 billion dollars in separate government settlements but admitted no wrongdoing in this agreement. Purdue, which has pleaded guilty to federal charges over deceptive opioid marketing, is expected to convert into a nonprofit focused on addiction treatment after the settlement is finalized.

Friday, 10 April 2026

OpenAI plans retail investor access in expected blockbuster initial public offering

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

OpenAI said it plans to allocate a portion of shares to retail investors when it goes public, marking a shift toward broader ownership for one of the world's most valuable artificial intelligence companies. Chief Financial Officer Sarah Friar said the company has seen strong demand from individuals in recent funding rounds and wants retail investors to participate in its growth. OpenAI, valued at 852 billion dollars after a record private fundraising round, has not confirmed a timeline for its initial public offering but is preparing to operate more like a public company. The firm also expects rapid expansion in enterprise revenue, which could match consumer revenue by next year, driven by growing corporate adoption of artificial intelligence tools.

Lufthansa strike grounds flights as new subsidiary seals pay deal

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Tens of thousands of passengers were disrupted on Friday as cabin crew at Lufthansa and its regional unit Lufthansa CityLine staged a day-long strike across Germany, while Lufthansa City Airlines reached its first collective wage agreement.

The strike, led by the UFO union, ran from midnight to 10 p.m. and hit major hubs in Frankfurt and Munich, with walkouts also affecting multiple regional airports. Airport operator Fraport said about 580 flights were canceled in Frankfurt alone, impacting roughly 72,000 passengers, though figures covered all airlines.

Lufthansa criticized the strike as disproportionate, while union representatives said it followed stalled negotiations. In contrast, City Airlines signed a deal with Verdi covering about 500 staff, raising pay by 20 to 35 percent through 2029 along with improved leave and pensions. The group is restructuring its operations, including plans to shut CityLine by year-end amid internal labor tensions.

Tesla develops smaller low-cost electric sport utility vehicle amid strategy shift toward mass market

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Tesla is developing a smaller and cheaper electric sport utility vehicle as it explores a return to broader mass-market vehicles, according to sources familiar with the project. The compact model, measuring about 4.28 meters in length, would be significantly smaller than the Model Y and is expected to cost substantially less than Tesla's entry-level Model 3. Early discussions with suppliers suggest initial production may take place in China, with potential expansion to the United States and Europe. The vehicle would use a smaller battery and a single motor to reduce costs and weight. The project comes after Tesla previously shifted focus toward robotaxis and humanoid robotics, raising questions about its long-term consumer vehicle strategy.

Indian government cuts landing and parking charges for airlines by 25 percent to keep airfares affordable

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The government has reduced landing and parking charges for domestic airlines by 25 percent for three months to help keep airfares affordable amid rising jet fuel costs. Civil Aviation Minister Ram Mohan Naidu said the move will lower airline expenses by about Rs 400 crore during the period. The Airports Economic Regulatory Authority has been directed to implement the reduction at major airports, while the Airports Authority of India will apply it at non-major airports. The decision comes as global fuel prices

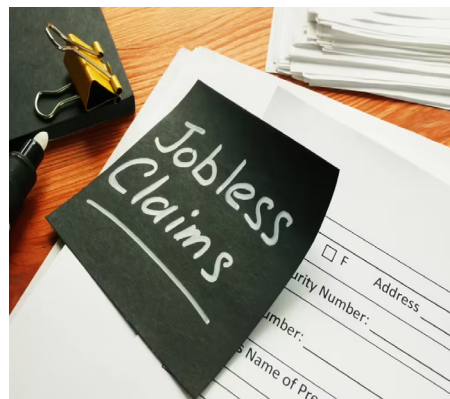


rise due to geopolitical tensions. The government said the measure aims to support airlines and ensure stable and affordable passenger air travel.

U.S. jobless claims rise modestly as inflation pressures and Iran conflict cloud Fed outlook

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

U.S. initial unemployment claims rose moderately last week, signaling continued labor market stability even as inflation pressures remain elevated and geopolitical risks from the Iran conflict complicate the Federal Reserve's policy outlook. Claims increased to 219,000 for the week ending April 4, above expectations of 210,000, suggesting no sharp deterioration in hiring or layoffs. At the same time, inflation data show persistent price pressures, with February recording the strongest monthly gain in a year and expectations of further increases in March driven by higher energy costs



linked to the war. With core inflation still above target, economists say the Fed is likely to remain cautious on interest rate cuts amid rising uncertainty.

IMF warns Iran war will permanently weaken global growth even in best-case peace scenario

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The International Monetary Fund warned that the Iran conflict will leave lasting damage on the global economy even if a durable peace is reached. Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva said the war has already created structural "scarring effects," including disrupted trade flows, higher energy costs, and weakened investor confidence. She said global growth forecasts for next year will be downgraded even under the most optimistic scenario, with no return to pre-war conditions. Volatile oil prices and uncertainty over key shipping routes through the Strait of Hormuz continue to weigh on markets. The IMF urged countries to

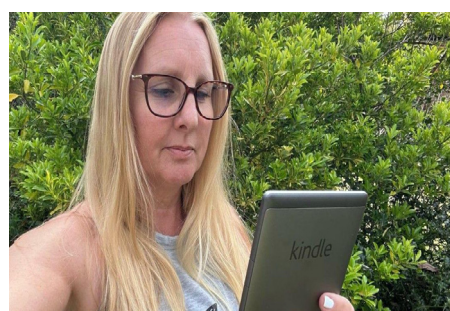


avoid protectionist policies and focus on targeted fiscal support while maintaining financial stability.

Amazon to end Kindle support for older devices, raising concerns over e-waste and access to content

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Amazon will end support for Kindle and Kindle Fire devices released in 2012 and earlier beginning May 20, preventing users from accessing the Kindle store to buy, borrow, or download new content. The move affects older models including early Kindle Touch, Keyboard, and Fire tablets, impacting an estimated 2 million devices. While users will still be able to read previously downloaded books, the devices will no longer function with Amazon's content ecosystem. Amazon said the decision reflects technological



advances and the need to phase out aging hardware after more than a decade of support. Critics argue the change could generate significant electronic waste and force unnecessary upgrades.

Berkshire unit ordered to face antitrust commission lawsuit despite earlier \$250 million settlement



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

A federal judge ruled that a Berkshire Hathaway Energy unit must face a proposed antitrust class action over real estate commissions despite a prior 250 million dollar settlement by its HomeServices brokerage. The lawsuit alleges the company conspired to inflate fees paid by home sellers to real estate agents. The judge rejected arguments that the broader Berkshire structure should be shielded from additional liability, saying the earlier settlement did not release related claims against other entities. The case stems from a wider wave of litigation following a Missouri jury verdict in 2023 that found major brokerages and the National Association of Realtors liable for inflating commissions. Additional related settlements have now exceeded 1 billion dollars.

Nike nears deal to supply official match balls for UEFA competitions starting 2027

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Nike is in exclusive talks to become the official match ball supplier for major European football competitions, replacing Adidas after more than two decades, according to organizers. The deal, expected to run from 2027 to 2031, would cover major tournaments including the Champions League and is estimated to be worth more than 40 million euros annually. Adidas confirmed it will not renew its long-standing contract. While the agreement would boost Nike's visibility in elite football ahead of major global tournaments, analysts say it is unlikely to resolve broader challenges in product innovation and sales growth. The move marks another shift in competition between the two sportswear giants across major football governing bodies.

India launches digital trade portal to boost \$500 billion US trade goal

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

India has launched a digital trade facilitation portal aimed at strengthening business links with the United States as both countries target \$500 billion in annual bilateral trade, Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal said on Wednesday. Speaking at the launch event at India's consulate in New York, Goyal said the partnership is driven by shared democratic values and innovation, and must also benefit small and medium enterprises, farmers, and fishermen. Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri, speaking virtually from Washington on Wednesday, said global disruptions, including the pandemic and shifting geopolitics, have underscored the need for resilient supply chains. The portal uses artificial intelligence tools to connect exporters and importers and help Indian businesses access US markets, including compliance support and virtual engagements with major retailers.

Jannik Sinner survives three-set battle to reach Monte Carlo quarterfinals



World number two Jannik Sinner advanced to the quarterfinals of the Monte Carlo Masters on Thursday after a hard-fought three-set win over Tomas Machac. Playing at Court Rainier III, Sinner won 6-1, 6-7, 6-3 in just over two hours. He dominated the opening set with aggressive baseline play but lost momentum in the second, falling behind 2-5 before forcing a tie-break, which Machac won. Sinner regrouped in the decider, improving his control and efficiency to close out the match. He said he struggled physically and with energy levels but focused on finding a way through. He will next face Felix Auger-Aliassime in the quarterfinals.

Sheetal Devi prioritizes Para Asian Games as Paralympic focus remains long-term



World number one para-archer Sheetal Devi has said her immediate focus is the Para Asian Games in Japan later this year, rather than the 2028 Los Angeles Paralympics. Speaking at a Sports Authority of India press conference on Thursday, she emphasized a step-by-step approach to her career following a strong 2025 season that included a world title and Para Archer of the Year recognition. She recently won silver at the World Archery Para Series, where fellow Indian Payal Nag took gold. Coach Gaurav Sharma highlighted ongoing training in Patiala through May, with a possible training stint in the United States later, supported by national sports schemes.

Gujarat Titans hold on in epic last-ball finish to beat Delhi Capitals by one run

Gujarat Titans secured a dramatic one-run victory over Delhi Capitals in the Indian Premier League on Wednesday in a match that went down to the final delivery at the Arun Jaitley Stadium in New Delhi. Gujarat Titans scored 210 for four, with Shubman Gill top-scoring with 70, Jos Buttler contributing 52 and Washington Sundar adding 55 in a strong batting performance.



Rashid Khan was the standout bowler for Gujarat Titans, taking three wickets for 17 runs to apply pressure on the Delhi chase. Delhi Capitals fought back valiantly, led by KL Rahul's brilliant 92 off 52 balls. David Miller returned from injury and hit an unbeaten 41, bringing Delhi to the brink of victory.

Needing two runs off the final ball, Delhi's attempt ended in heartbreak as a run out sealed the narrowest of wins for Gujarat Titans. The thrilling finish gave Gujarat Titans their first win of the season and left fans talking about one of the most exciting matches of IPL 2026.

Atletico Madrid stun ten-man Barcelona in Champions League quarterfinal first leg



Atletico Madrid took control of their Champions League quarterfinal this week with a 2-0 away win over Barcelona in the first leg. Julian Alvarez and Alexander Sorloth scored for Atletico after Barcelona were reduced to ten men just before halftime when Pau Cubarsi was sent off following a video assistant referee review. Atletico struck first through a free kick from Alvarez and sealed the result in the second half with Sorloth's finish. Barcelona had early chances through Marcus Rashford but failed to convert, while goalkeeper Jan Oblak made key saves. The result gives Atletico a strong advantage heading into the second leg.

Holger Rune set for comeback at Hamburg Open after injury layoff

Danish tennis star Holger Rune will return to competitive action at the Hamburg Open in May after recovering from an Achilles tendon injury that sidelined him for several months. Tournament officials confirmed his participation on Thursday, marking his comeback after surgery and rehabilitation following an injury suffered in Stockholm last year. Rune said he is eager to return to clay courts and compete again. He is also entered for the Rome Masters earlier in May. Tournament organizers welcomed his return, highlighting his popularity and strong fan following. Several top players, including Alexander Zverev and Felix Auger-Aliassime, are also expected to compete.



Rashid Khan doubts red-ball future ahead of one-off Test against India



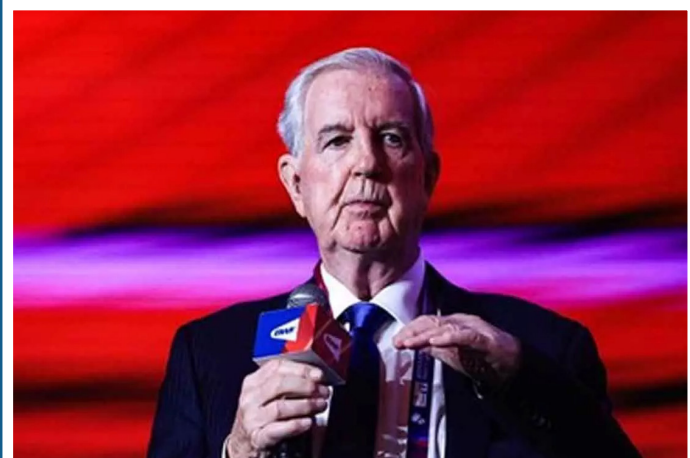
Afghanistan star spinner Rashid Khan has raised doubts about his participation in the upcoming one-off Test against India in June, citing concerns over workload and long-term fitness. Speaking after Gujarat Titans' narrow win over Delhi Capitals on Thursday, he said red-ball cricket places heavy physical strain following his previous back surgery. Rashid, who has played only six Tests for Afghanistan since 2018, said he prefers limited exposure to the format and may avoid playing more than one Test per year. He emphasized his commitment to one-day internationals, which he feels are more manageable. Afghanistan will play India in New Chandigarh in the five-day match scheduled in June.

Women's National Basketball Association free agency opens with 1.4 million dollar franchise tags for Ionescu, Collier and Plum

Free agency in the Women's National Basketball Association opened with several teams designating franchise-level "core" players, including New York's Sabrina Ionescu, Minnesota's Napheesa Collier, and Los Angeles' Kelsey Plum, each attached to potential one-year deals worth up to 1.4 million dollars. The designation gives teams exclusive negotiating rights and ensures a supermax salary under the new collective bargaining agreement. Other players receiving the designation include Kelsey Mitchell, Arike Ogunbowale, Allisha Gray, Ariel Atkins, and Ezi Magbegor. Expansion teams Portland and Toronto also used the designation on their draft selections Bridget Carleton and Marina Mabrey. The league salary cap is expected to be around 7 million



dollars, making roster construction more flexible but highly competitive. Negotiations opened midweek, with players able to sign contracts later in the week ahead of training camp scheduled for mid-April.



Craig Reedie, former Badminton World Federation president, dies at 84

The Badminton World Federation has mourned former president and honorary life vice president Craig Reedie, who died on Monday at the age of 84. Reedie was also a former International Olympic Committee vice president and president of the World Anti-Doping Agency. He played a key role in securing badminton's inclusion in the Olympic Games at Barcelona 1992 and helped modernize the sport through professional structures and the World Grand Prix circuit. He previously competed for Scotland before becoming a leading sports administrator and contributed to the London 2012 Olympic Games organizing committee.



BCCI expands IPL Fan Parks to 30 cities across India for upcoming season



The Board of Control for Cricket in India announced on Thursday the second phase of IPL Fan Parks, expanding the initiative to 30 cities across 18 states and one Union Territory. The Fan Parks will run over six weekends from mid-April to late May, offering live match screenings and interactive fan experiences including virtual cricket zones, music, food courts, and games. Several cities will host the event for the first time, including locations in Kerala, Assam, Manipur, and Himachal Pradesh. The initiative aims to bring the Indian Premier League experience closer to fans across smaller cities and strengthen nationwide engagement.

Brazil's Laura Cardoso makes history with record nine-wicket haul in T20 international



Brazil captain Laura Cardoso delivered a historic bowling performance this week in Gaborone, taking nine wickets for just four runs in three overs against Lesotho in a T20 international match. Her spell included a hat-trick and became the best bowling figures ever recorded in men's or women's T20 internationals. Lesotho were bowled out for just 13 runs as Brazil won by 189 runs after scoring 202. Cardoso's effort surpassed previous records held in both men's and women's cricket. Earlier in the tournament, she also contributed strongly in Brazil's dominant win over Zambia, where the team continued its unbeaten run with comprehensive victories.

China names strong squad led by Wang Chuqin and Sun Yingsha for world team championships

China announced its squad on Wednesday for the International Table Tennis Federation World Team Championships in London, selecting top-ranked players Wang Chuqin and Sun Yingsha to lead the men's and women's teams. The men's squad includes Wang, Lin Shidong, Zhou Qihao, Xiang Peng, and Liang Jingkun, while the women's team features Sun, Wang Manyu, Chen Xingtong, Kuai Man, and Wang Yidi. Coaches said selections were based on rankings, trials, and experience. China enters the tournament as defending champion in both men's and women's categories, with expectations of extending its long winning



streak. The event will be held from late April through early May.

Pirates sign teenage shortstop Konnor Griffin to nine-year contract worth at least 140 million dollars

Konnor Griffin will remain with the Pittsburgh Pirates for the long term after agreeing on a nine-year contract worth at least 140 million dollars that could rise to 150 million with incentives, the team announced on Wednesday. The 19-year-old shortstop, a former first-round draft pick, reached the agreement less than a week after making his major league

debut. The deal is the largest in franchise history. Griffin joined teammates at a news conference on Wednesday before the Pirates lost to the San Diego Padres 8-2. In the game, he entered as a pinch hitter in the seventh inning and drove in a run with a sacrifice fly. He was selected ninth overall in the 2024 amateur draft and quickly moved through the minor leagues after strong offensive production.

Oscar Piastri focused on closing gap during unexpected Formula One break

Oscar Piastri says he is using an unexpected early season break in the Formula One calendar as an opportunity to help McLaren close the performance gap to Mercedes after a mixed start to the year. The Australian driver, who recently turned 25, experienced a difficult opening stretch with a crash in Australia and a failure to start in China due to a technical issue, but rebounded with a second-place finish in Japan behind Mercedes driver Kimi Antonelli. With several races removed from the schedule, the sport is paused



until the Miami Grand Prix in early May. Piastri said the time allows his team to analyze data, improve preparation, and return stronger. He also reflected on last season's title battle, noting that consistency and execution remain critical even with competitive machinery.

Alex Bowman cleared to return to Bristol after vertigo sidelined him for four races

Alex Bowman has been cleared to return to National Association for Stock Car Auto Racing competition this weekend at Bristol Motor Speedway after missing four races due to vertigo. Hendrick Motorsports announced on Thursday that Bowman will drive the number 48 Chevrolet on Sunday in Tennessee. Bowman said it was important to be fully ready before returning after symptoms forced him out during the

March 1 race at Circuit of the Americas. He was replaced by multiple drivers during his recovery, including Myatt Snider, Anthony Alfredo, and Justin Allgaier. Team officials said Bowman completed a series of readiness steps, including simulator work, pit stop practice, a road course session in a street car, and a medical evaluation before receiving clearance. Team leadership said his recovery plan prioritized health and full medical approval before competition.

United Football League to launch Oklahoma City expansion team for 2028 season



The United Football League announced on Thursday that it will add an expansion franchise in Oklahoma City beginning in the spring of 2028, with games planned in a new downtown multipurpose stadium expected to seat just over 10,000 fans. League co-owner Mike Repole said Oklahoma City was selected because of its strong sports culture and successful professional basketball and college football environments. He added that early announcement reflects confidence in the league's growth. Repole said construction of the stadium is the only remaining hurdle, with groundbreaking planned for June. The league currently operates eight teams and plans to expand to at least 10 by the time the Oklahoma City team begins play. City officials welcomed the decision, calling it a strong fit for the community and a boost for the new stadium project.

Rushing hits two home runs and Shohei Ohtani homers as Dodgers rout Blue Jays in World Series rematch



Dalton Rushing hit two solo home runs for his first career multi-homer game as the Los Angeles Dodgers defeated the Toronto Blue Jays 14-2 on Monday night in a rematch of the 2025 World Series. The Dodgers hit five home runs in total and collected 17 hits while extending their strong offensive stretch. Teoscar Hernández and Freddie Freeman also homered, while Shohei Ohtani added a solo shot. The Dodgers, reigning champions after winning last year's Fall Classic, continued their hot start to the season after a dominant series in Washington. Toronto struggled as starter Max Scherzer allowed two runs in two innings before leaving early. Los Angeles pitcher Justin Wroblewski earned the win after allowing one run over five innings. The Blue Jays lost their fifth straight game as their bullpen also struggled late.

India Under 17 women to play three friendlies against Russia in Sochi

India's Under 17 women's team will play three friendly matches against Russia in Sochi on Saturday, April 11, Tuesday, April 14 and Friday, April 17 as part of preparations for the AFC Under 17 Women's Asian Cup. Head coach Pamela Conti has named a 23 player squad, with all matches at the Matsesta Football Center kicking off at 2:30 p.m. India time. The team arrived late Monday and recently won two friendlies in Yangon. India will face Australia, Japan and Lebanon in the tournament. The training camp before departure was held in Bengaluru.



Sangram Singh wins third straight mixed martial arts fight in Argentina

Indian fighter Sangram Singh defeated French opponent Florian Coudier in one minute and 45 seconds in Argentina on Sunday. The win at the Tiger Sports Club stadium marked his third straight mixed martial arts victory, following earlier wins in Georgia and the Netherlands. Competing in the 83 kilogram category, Singh controlled the bout with wrestling before securing a submission finish. He overcame a late weight challenge before the fight and credited discipline, yoga, and his support team for the achievement, becoming the first Indian to win a mixed martial arts bout in Argentina.

Pink to host 2026 Tony Awards at Radio City Music Hall

Singer Pink will host the 2026 Tony Awards on Sunday, June 7, at Radio City Music Hall, marking her first time as master of ceremonies for Broadway's biggest night. The three-time Grammy Award winner is widely known for her high-energy performances, aerial stunts, and emotionally driven live shows. She has never appeared in a Broadway production but said the honor reflects how deeply theatre has influenced her own career. In her statement, she described Broadway artists as "the hardest working people in show business" and said she looks forward to celebrating their work with a global audience. Producers praised her as a fearless performer whose authenticity and stage presence align with the spirit of live theatre. The ceremony will air live on CBS and stream on Paramount Plus, following a strong ratings performance last year.

'Charlie's Angels' cast reunites for 50th anniversary celebration

Kate Jackson, Jaclyn Smith, and Cheryl Ladd reunited at PaleyFest LA on Monday night to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the television series 'Charlie's Angels', which first premiered in 1976. The reunion took place at the Dolby Theatre in Hollywood, where the actresses were greeted with loud applause and a standing ovation.

The crime drama became a cultural phenomenon during its original run, portraying three women working as private investigators under a mysterious unseen boss. The cast reflected on the show's impact on television history, with Jaclyn Smith noting it showed women "chasing danger instead of getting rescued."

The event included archival footage, audience reactions, and tributes to late cast members. The series, which ran for five seasons, later inspired films and continues to enjoy global popularity through reruns and streaming.

Kevin Hart and Jason Kelce join stars at Augusta National Par Three Contest

Comedian Kevin Hart and former American football star Jason Kelce brought star power and humor to the Par Three Contest at Augusta National ahead of the Masters. Hart caddied for professional golfer Bryson DeChambeau, joking that he might take over if the game went poorly, while Kelce assisted Akshay Bhatia and even attempted to help read a putt in a playful moment that drew laughs.

The annual event is a relaxed tradition where professional golfers are joined by family members, friends, and celebrities in a lighthearted round before the competitive tournament begins. DeChambeau said Hart's presence added energy to the day and gave him a fun introduction to the atmosphere of Augusta National.

The contest is known for its informal spirit, with players often prioritizing entertainment and interaction with fans over competition.

Sandeep Reddy Vanga defends 'Dhurandhar 2' and praises Aditya Dhar amid industry debate

Filmmaker Sandeep Reddy Vanga has strongly defended Aditya Dhar's 'Dhurandhar 2: The Revenge', calling it an "outstanding film" while criticizing sections of the film fraternity for labeling it propaganda. In a social media post shared on Wednesday, Vanga said that writers and actors who built careers on similar narratives are now mocking the film, adding that truth is being unfairly rebranded as propaganda.

He questioned the industry's silence in

earlier cases and urged consistency in how creative expression is judged. Vanga also addressed Aditya Dhar and Ranveer Singh directly, offering playful but pointed advice on handling criticism, while praising the film after watching it the previous night. Dhar responded warmly in the comments, thanking Vanga for his support and praising his conviction as a filmmaker. He also expressed admiration for Vanga's upcoming project 'Spirit' starring Prabhas. Vanga is currently working on the film, which remains one of his most anticipated projects.



Hawaii storms damage 'Jurassic World' set, says Chris Pratt

Actor Chris Pratt has revealed that a set location from the film 'Jurassic World' was damaged after severe storms struck Hawaii, with a downed tree destroying a key structure linked to his character Owen Grady. Speaking to Entertainment Weekly, Pratt said he recently received a message from a friend who manages the ranch where the set was built, confirming that the bungalow used in the 2015 film had been "destroyed" during the storms.

The actor recalled being told that heavy weather brought a large tree crashing onto the structure, leaving it unusable. The update comes as Hawaii continues to recover from powerful Kona low storm systems that triggered extreme flooding and widespread disruption across the islands. Actor Jason Momoa had earlier shared that he and his family evacuated



parts of Oahu's North Shore as conditions worsened, urging residents to stay safe amid rising flood risks.

According to the University of Hawaii, the storms brought an estimated 2 trillion gallons of rain over a two-week period.

Tom Cruise celebrates return of 'Jerry Maguire' as film marks 30th anniversary re-release

Actor Tom Cruise has expressed excitement over the re-release of his 1996 sports romantic comedy drama 'Jerry Maguire', which is returning to theatres to mark its thirtieth anniversary. In a message shared on social media on Wednesday, Cruise said he is looking forward to sharing the film with audiences again on the big screen next week. Directed by Cameron Crowe, the film became a cultural hit and is remembered for its iconic dialogue, including "show me the money" and "you had me at hello."

It stars Cuba Gooding Junior, Renée Zellweger, Kelly Preston, and others, and follows the life of a sports agent navigating professional and personal challenges. The film was inspired by real events in sports



management during the introduction of free agency in professional football. Cruise, one of Hollywood's most bankable stars, continues to work on major projects, including an upcoming film directed by Alejandro González Iñárritu.

Wireless Festival canceled after United Kingdom blocks Ye entry

The Wireless Festival has been canceled after United Kingdom authorities blocked rapper Ye, formerly known as Kanye West, from entering the country over his history of antisemitic remarks. He had been scheduled to headline the three-day festival in July at Finsbury Park in London, expected to draw large crowds. Officials said his presence would not be "conducive to the public good," a decision backed by Prime Minister Keir Starmer, who reiterated the government's stance against antisemitism. Organizers confirmed that all ticket holders will receive refunds following the cancellation. The decision came amid mounting pressure from sponsors and public figures who opposed the booking due to Ye's previous statements and controversial releases, including a track titled 'Heil Hitler'. The rapper had recently expressed interest in meeting members of the Jewish community in the United Kingdom, but the entry ban ended those plans.

Academy confirms final Oscar dates before move to YouTube

The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences has confirmed the dates for the final two Academy Awards ceremonies to air on ABC before the show moves to YouTube in 2029. The 99th Oscars will be held on Sunday, March 14, 2027, followed by the historic 100th edition on Sunday, March 5, 2028. Both ceremonies will continue to take place at the Dolby Theatre in Hollywood, maintaining the venue's long association with the awards. The academy also outlined plans for a future long-term home at the Peacock Theater in downtown Los Angeles under a new agreement with AEG. The announcement follows a recent dip in television viewership despite strong industry interest and high-profile wins at the latest ceremony. The Oscars remain one of the most-watched global entertainment events, with anticipation already building for the centennial edition.

BTS draws massive crowds as world tour opens in South Korea



Thousands of fans gathered at a stadium near Seoul on Thursday as BTS launched their long-awaited world tour, marking their first major concerts since completing mandatory military service. The group performed songs from their new album 'Arirang', alongside earlier global hits, as fans from across the world braved heavy rain to attend. The tour follows a nearly four-year hiatus and represents the group's full reunion after all seven members completed military duty in South Korea. BTS, formed in 2013, has built one of the largest global fan bases in music history, known as ARMY, and continues to dominate international charts. The opening concert drew emotional responses, including from fans who had traveled long distances or waited outside the venue without tickets. The world tour will continue across Asia, North America, Europe, and South America over the coming months.

Appeals court questions sentence of Sean 'Diddy' Combs



Federal appeals court judges raised questions on Thursday about whether Sean 'Diddy' Combs received an excessively harsh four-year prison sentence for prostitution-related charges during oral arguments in Manhattan. Combs, who remains in federal custody, is appealing both his conviction and sentencing. The panel examined whether the trial judge improperly considered conduct tied to charges on which he was acquitted when determining punishment. Combs was convicted under the Mann Act but cleared of sex trafficking and racketeering charges that carried far heavier penalties. His lawyers argued the sentence is unusually severe compared with similar cases, while prosecutors maintained it falls within federal sentencing guidelines. The judges did not issue an immediate ruling, describing the matter as complex and significant. A decision is expected at a later date after further review of the arguments presented in court.

Rapper Offset injured in Florida shooting, out of danger after swift response



Rapper Offset, former husband of Cardi B and a founding member of the hip-hop group Migos, was shot near the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel and Casino in Florida on Monday evening and taken to hospital, according to reports. His representative said the three-time Grammy-nominated artist is stable and under close medical supervision. Police confirmed the incident occurred in a valet area after 7 p.m. and resulted in non-life-threatening injuries. Authorities said emergency teams responded quickly and the situation was contained, with two individuals detained as investigations continue. Officials also stated there is no ongoing threat to public safety. Offset, born Kiarri Cephus, rose to fame as part of Migos alongside Quavo and Takeoff, known for hits such as 'Bad and Boujee' and 'Walk It Talk It'. The group later disbanded after Takeoff's death in 2022, while Offset has continued his solo music career.

Akshay Kumar injured during stunt while filming 'Bhooth Bangla', release pushed to April 16

Actor Akshay Kumar sustained a minor injury while performing a stunt for his upcoming horror comedy 'Bhooth Bangla', after a behind-the-scenes video showed him falling during a high-action sequence. The clip, released by the makers this week, shows the actor attempting a mid-air jump kick before losing balance on landing. Known for performing his own stunts, Akshay has often spoken about preferring real action over visual effects, saying it enhances authenticity

for audiences. The film also stars Paresh Rawal, Asrani, Rajpal Yadav, and Wamiqa Gabbi. It was initially scheduled for release on April 10 but has now been postponed to April 16, with evening shows beginning at nine o'clock. Producer Ektaa Kapoor said the decision was made after consultation with distributors, noting the strong box office performance of 'Dhurandhar: The Revenge'. The film is directed by Priyadarshan and produced by multiple banners.



'Bridgerton' season 5 expands cast as production continues in United Kingdom

The streaming series 'Bridgerton' has added three new cast members as production continues on its fifth season in the United Kingdom. The Shonda Rhimes-produced period drama will focus on Francesca Bridgerton and Michaela Stirling, continuing the romantic storyline based on Julia Quinn's novels. Actor Tega Alexander will play Christopher Anderson, described as a charming Regency-era socialite with hidden insecurities. Jacqueline Boatswain joins as Helen Stirling, Michaela's mother, portrayed as a warm but guiding presence in London society. Gemma Knight Jones will appear as Lady Elizabeth Ashworth, a close friend and confidante of Michaela. The new season will explore Francesca's return to society after the death of her husband, as she reenters the marriage market for practical reasons. Production has already begun on the eight-episode season,



which continues the global success of the series centered on the Bridgerton family.

Rajpal Yadav clarifies controversy over award show remarks, calls incident a skit

Actor Rajpal Yadav has addressed controversy surrounding alleged humiliation at a recent award ceremony, clarifying that the incident was part of a scripted skit. In a video shared on social media on Tuesday, Yadav said he had a positive experience at the event, which included performances, comedy segments, and industry interactions. He urged fans not to criticize hosts Saurabh Dwivedi and Zakir Khan, saying they treated him with respect and are like younger brothers to him. Yadav explained that misunderstandings can occur in performance formats, where the meaning of a scene may not always reach audiences as intended. He praised the atmosphere of the ceremony and thanked the audience for their support, adding that the entertainment industry is built on shared storytelling. The actor also emphasized unity among artists



and dismissed any notion of personal disrespect during the event.

Gigi Hadid calls Epstein files reference 'disturbing' and denies any connection

Model Gigi Hadid has responded to her and her sister Bella Hadid being mentioned in the so-called Epstein files, calling the reference "disturbing" and firmly denying any connection to Jeffrey Epstein. The issue resurfaced after a 2015 email released by the United States Department of Justice showed a conversation in which Epstein discussed the sisters in response to questions about their rise in modeling. Following renewed attention on social media, Gigi addressed criticism and explained she chose not to comment initially to avoid distracting from survivors' stories. In a later statement, she said she had never met Epstein and had no affiliation with him. She also reflected on being named in the files at a young age and said the portrayal was upsetting. Gigi emphasized that she built her career through hard work after signing with a modeling agency in 2012. Epstein died in 2019 while awaiting trial.

Shehnaaz Gill joins Saad Lamjarred for global fusion track 'Bezaf'

Actor and singer Shehnaaz Gill has collaborated with Moroccan pop star Saad Lamjarred on a new cross-cultural music project titled 'Bezaf', blending Indian and Moroccan musical styles. Shehnaaz announced the track on social media, sharing a poster and revealing that the teaser would be released on Friday at 11 a.m. Indian Standard Time on a music channel's YouTube platform. Lamjarred is internationally known for his hit 'LM3ALLEM', which has surpassed one billion views on YouTube and remains one of the most viewed Arabic music videos. Earlier this year, he met Bollywood star Salman Khan and publicly expressed gratitude for his warm welcome and support. In his post, Lamjarred described Salman as a brother and thanked him for including him in his close circle. The upcoming song marks one of Shehnaaz Gill's latest international collaborations, continuing her expansion into global music projects.

India's I&B Ministry extends TRP suspension for news channels to curb sensational coverage amid West Asia conflict

The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting has extended its directive asking the Broadcast Audience Research Council to continue withholding publication of television rating points for news channels for another four weeks or until further orders. The decision was announced on Tuesday amid ongoing concerns about sensational and speculative reporting linked to the West Asia conflict. The ministry said the original order issued on March 6 had already suspended ratings for four weeks, and the extension was necessary as the conflict situation remains volatile. Officials said the measure is intended to prevent exaggerated coverage that could create panic among viewers, particularly those with families in affected regions. The Broadcast Audience Research Council, which is the only authorised television audience measurement body in India, has been instructed to maintain the suspension. Television rating points are widely used by broadcasters and advertisers to determine viewership and advertising rates.

नवार्ण मंत्र और दुर्गा सप्तशती के मंत्रों का गूढ़ अर्थ, महत्व और श्लोकवार व्याख्या

नवार्ण मंत्र का गहन अर्थ और व्याख्या

यह मंत्र नौ अक्षरों से मिलकर बना है और इसमें सम्पूर्ण सृष्टि की तीन मूल शक्तियाँ समाहित हैं।

- ▶ ॐ - यह परब्रह्म का प्रतीक है, जो सृष्टि का आदि, मध्य और अंत है। यह हमें याद दिलाता है कि सब कुछ उसी एक चेतना से उत्पन्न है।
- ▶ ऐं - यह माँ सरस्वती का बीज है। इसका अर्थ है ज्ञान, वाणी और विवेक। इसका जप हमें अज्ञान से ज्ञान की ओर ले जाता है।
- ▶ ह्रीं - यह महालक्ष्मी का बीज है, जो माया, आकर्षण और संतुलन की शक्ति है। यह आंतरिक और बाहरी समृद्धि का संकेत है।
- ▶ क्लीं - यह महाकाली का बीज है, जो शक्ति, साहस और परिवर्तन का प्रतीक है। यह नकारात्मकता के विनाश की ऊर्जा देता है।
- ▶ चामुण्डावै - यह उस देवी का नाम है जो चंड और मुंड (अर्थात् काम और क्रोध) का नाश करती हैं।
- ▶ विच्चे - पूर्ण समर्पण और नमस्कार का भाव, अर्थात् अहंकार का त्याग।

समग्र अर्थ: यह मंत्र हमें सिखाता है कि ज्ञान, शक्ति और संतुलन के माध्यम से हम अपने भीतर के दोषों पर विजय प्राप्त कर सकते हैं और परम सत्य की ओर बढ़ सकते हैं।

दुर्गा सप्तशती के प्रमुख श्लोक और उनकी व्याख्या

1. या देवी सर्वभूतेषु शक्ति रूपेण संस्थिता

अर्थ: जो देवी सभी प्राणियों में शक्ति के रूप में विद्यमान हैं, उन्हें बार-बार नमस्कार।

व्याख्या: यह श्लोक बताता है कि शक्ति कोई बाहरी वस्तु नहीं, बल्कि हर जीव के भीतर मौजूद है। जब हम स्वयं को कमजोर समझते हैं, तब हम इस दिव्य शक्ति को भूल जाते हैं।

2. या देवी सर्वभूतेषु बुद्धि रूपेण संस्थिता

अर्थ: जो देवी सभी में बुद्धि के रूप में स्थित हैं, उन्हें नमस्कार।

व्याख्या: यह दर्शाता है कि सही निर्णय लेने की क्षमता भी



एक दिव्य शक्ति है। जब मन शांत होता है, तब देवी का यह रूप सक्रिय होता है।

3. या देवी सर्वभूतेषु निद्रा रूपेण संस्थिता

अर्थ: जो देवी सभी में निद्रा के रूप में स्थित हैं, उन्हें नमस्कार।

व्याख्या: यह श्लोक बताता है कि विश्राम और संतुलन भी आवश्यक हैं। बिना विश्राम के जीवन में संतुलन संभव नहीं।

4. या देवी सर्वभूतेषु दया रूपेण संस्थिता

अर्थ: जो देवी सभी में दया के रूप में विद्यमान हैं, उन्हें नमस्कार।

व्याख्या: करुणा ही मानवता का मूल है। यह देवी का

वह रूप है जो हमें दूसरों के दुःख को समझने की क्षमता देता है।

5. सर्वमंगल मांगल्ये शिवे सर्वायं साधिके

अर्थ: हे देवी! आप सभी मंगलों की जननी हैं, सभी इच्छाओं को पूर्ण करने वाली हैं।

व्याख्या: यह श्लोक हमें सिखाता है कि जब हम सच्चे मन से समर्पण करते हैं, तो जीवन में शुभता और संतुलन स्वतः आता है।

6. देहि सौभाग्यमारोग्यं देहि मे परमं सुखम्

अर्थ: हे देवी! मुझे सौभाग्य, स्वास्थ्य और सुख प्रदान करें।

व्याख्या: यह केवल भौतिक सुख की प्रार्थना नहीं, बल्कि संतुलित और स्वस्थ जीवन की कामना है।

7. रूपं देहि जयं देहि यशो देहि द्विषो जहि

अर्थ: मुझे सुंदरता, विजय, यश दें और शत्रुओं का नाश करें।

व्याख्या: यहाँ शत्रु बाहरी नहीं, बल्कि आंतरिक दोष हैं—अहंकार, क्रोध, लोभ—जिन्हें दूर करना ही सच्ची विजय है।

दर्शन और आंतरिक संदेश

दुर्गा सप्तशती के सभी श्लोक एक गहरे सत्य की ओर संकेत करते हैं—

जीवन का सबसे बड़ा युद्ध बाहर नहीं, भीतर होता है।

- ▶ महिषासुर = अहंकार
- ▶ शुंभ-निशुंभ = द्वेष और असंतुलन
- ▶ चंड-मुंड = क्रोध और वासना

देवी की विजय का अर्थ है कि जब हम अपने भीतर इन दोषों को जीत लेते हैं, तब ही वास्तविक शांति और शक्ति प्राप्त होती है।

आधुनिक जीवन में महत्व

आज के समय में, जब जीवन तनाव, प्रतिस्पर्धा और अस्थिरता से भरा है, ये मंत्र हमें मानसिक संतुलन, आत्मविश्वास और आंतरिक शांति प्रदान करते हैं। ये केवल धार्मिक अनुष्ठान नहीं, बल्कि माइंडफुलनेस और चेतना जागरण का प्राचीन विज्ञान हैं।

निष्कर्ष

नवार्ण मंत्र और दुर्गा सप्तशती के श्लोक हमें यह सिखाते हैं कि ईश्वर कहीं बाहर नहीं, बल्कि हमारे भीतर ही विद्यमान है।

इनका जप और सही समझ हमें आत्मज्ञान, शक्ति और संतुलन की ओर ले जाता है। जब हम इन मंत्रों को केवल शब्द नहीं, बल्कि अनुभव के रूप में अपनाते हैं, तब हमारी यात्रा आत्मा से परमात्मा तक पूर्ण होती है।

महान क्रांतिकारी वीर शहीद मंगल पांडे का शहीदी दिवस श्रद्धा एवं सम्मान के साथ मनाया गया

● By: Satyaprakash Dwivedi

विश्व मानव कल्याण संघ के राष्ट्रीय अध्यक्ष पंडित शिवराम मिश्रा के नेतृत्व में, सत्य सनातन स्वर्ण मानव धर्म भारतीय महासंघ पार्टी के तत्वाधान में महान क्रांतिकारी वीर शहीद मंगल पांडे का शहीद दिवस बड़े श्रद्धा और सम्मान के साथ विकटोरिया पैलेस, नई दिल्ली में मनाया गया। इस गरिमामय कार्यक्रम की अध्यक्षता पंडित शिवराम मिश्रा, विनोद झा एवं विशाल अरोड़ा द्वारा संयुक्त रूप से की गई। कार्यक्रम में देशभक्ति, सामाजिक एकता और मानव कल्याण के संदेश को प्रमुखता से प्रस्तुत किया गया।

कार्यक्रम में अनेक गणमान्य अतिथियों की गरिमामयी उपस्थिति रही, जिनमें प्रमुख रूप से राष्ट्रीय उपाध्यक्ष सत्य प्रकाश द्विवेदी, सुदर्शन न्यूज चैनल के प्रधान संपादक धर्म योद्धा सुरेश चव्हाणके के संगठन सुदर्शन राष्ट्र निर्माण के

राष्ट्रीय प्रभारी डॉ पवन आर्या, राष्ट्रीय कार्यकारिणी अध्यक्ष विनोद ठाकुर, राष्ट्रीय महासचिव सोनू सैनी, महिला राष्ट्रीय अध्यक्ष नेहा शर्मा, दिल्ली प्रदेश अध्यक्ष गीता अरोड़ा, राष्ट्रीय महासचिव मनोज शर्मा, राष्ट्रीय उपाध्यक्ष उपेंद्र पाल सिंह, वरिष्ठ उपाध्यक्ष रश्मि शर्मा एवं महिला महासचिव, सोनिया शर्मा समाजसेवी (दिल्ली) उज्ज्वल मंथन भारत सेवा फाउंडेशन संस्थापिका पदाधिकारी शामिल रहे। इस अवसर पर वक्ताओं ने वीर शहीद मंगल पांडे के बलिदान को याद करते हुए उनके आदर्शों पर चलने का संकल्प लिया और समाज में एकता, नैतिकता एवं राष्ट्रभक्ति को बढ़ावा देने का आह्वान किया।

कार्यक्रम का समापन राष्ट्रहित और मानव कल्याण के संकल्प के साथ हुआ। आयोजकों ने इसे सफल बनाने के लिए सभी उपस्थित सदस्यों एवं अतिथियों का आभार व्यक्त किया।



हनुमान जी की आठ सिद्धियाँ

हनुमान जी के समान रामजी का कोई भक्त नहीं है। रामजी को भी उन पर पूरा भरोसा था। रामजी के हर काम को करने के लिए हनुमान जी सदा तत्पर रहते थे। इसीलिए जब पूरा वानर दल सीता खोज के लिए योजना बना रहा था, तो रामजी ने केवल हनुमान जी को अलग से बुलाया और उन पर भरोसा जताते हुए बोले, हनुमान जब तुम सीता से मिलना, तो उसे मेरी यह मुद्रिका निशानी के रूप में दे देना। इस पर सीता तुम को मेरा विश्वसनीय सेवक मान लेगी। यही विश्वास, हनुमान जी की शक्ति बन गया।



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भक्तों में ऐसी मान्यता है कि, हनुमान जी के पास कई प्रकार की सिद्धियाँ थीं। उन्हें अष्ट सिद्धि और नव निधि के दाता भी कहा जाता है। उन्हें यह सिद्धियाँ कैसे प्राप्त हुईं, इसके बारे में कई मत हैं। कुछ विद्वान मानते हैं कि, हनुमान जी को यह सिद्धियाँ माँ सीता के आशीर्वाद से मिली तो कुछ का कहना है कि हनुमान जी ने अपने युवा काल में, खूब तपस्या कर यह सिद्धियाँ बहुत सारे गुरुओं से अर्जित कीं। मेरा भी मानना है कि, यह पूँजी उनकी अर्जित की हुई थी, जिसे उन्होंने सीता खोज में पूरी तरह से इस्तेमाल किया। उनकी आठ सिद्धियाँ निम्नलिखित हैं।

1) अणिमा 2) महिमा 3) गरिमा 4) लघिमा 5) प्राप्ति 6) प्रकाम्य 7) ईशत्व 8) वशित्व

आइये इन सिद्धियाँ का करीब से विवेचन करते हैं। बड़ी अच्छी बात यह है कि, इतनी बड़ी उपलब्धि के बाद भी हनुमान जी अत्यंत विनम्र थे। उनकी विनम्रता का एक उदाहरण यहाँ प्रस्तुत है। एक बार जब हनुमान जी लँका विध्वंस के बाद लौटे, तो रामजी उनके बल की खूब प्रशंसा करने लगे।

**कहु कपि रावन पालित लंका,
केहि बिधि दहहू दुर्गा अति बैका**

हनुमान तुमने लँका जैसे, अति दुर्गम दुर्ग को कैसे जला दिया, तो यह सुन हनुमान जी सकुचा गए, बोले महाराज यह सब आपके प्रताप का परिणाम था। वरना मैं तो एक साधारण सा वानर हूँ जो पेड़ों पर कूदना जानता हूँ।

**साखामृग की बड़ मनुसाई, साखा ते साखा पर जाई
सो सब तव प्रताप रघुसाई, नाथ न कछू मोरि प्रभुताई**

ऐसे प्रिय और विनीत थे मेरे प्यारे हनुमान जी। उनकी विनम्रता को हमारा नमन। अब प्रस्तुत हैं, हनुमान जी की सिद्धियाँ।

अणिमा- शरीर को अणु के समान छोटा बना लेना। हनुमान जी ने इस सिद्धि का प्रयोग, सीता खोज के समय, लँका में प्रवेश के लिए किया। लँका के द्वार पर पहरा था। ऐसे में हनुमान जी ने अपने आप को एक मच्छर



के समान छोटा बना, लँका में घुसने का प्रयास किया।

मसक समान रूप कपि धरहि, लंकहि चलेउ सुमिरी नरहरि

फिर भी लँका की सिक्योरिटी ने उन्हें पकड़ लिया। फिर हनुमान जी ने अपने बल का प्रयोग किया और लँका में प्रवेश पा लिया। यह थी उनकी बुद्धिमत्ता।

महिमा- इस सिद्धि के प्रभाव से हनुमान जी अपने आप को इच्छा अनुरूप बड़ा बना लेते थे। इसका प्रयोग भी लँका जाते समय दिखाई पड़ा। रास्ते में सुरसा नाम की एक राक्षसी मिली, जिसे देवताओं ने हनुमान की परीक्षा के लिए भेजा था। उसने हनुमान जी को खाना चाहा। जैसे ही सुरसा ने मुँह खोला, हनुमान जी ने उसके मुँह में पहुँच, अपना शरीर बढ़ाना शुरू कर दिया। सुरसा ने भी, और मुँह बढ़ाना आरम्भ कर दिया। फिर एक समय ऐसा आया कि, सुरसा की पीड़ा इतनी बढ़ गई कि, उन्हें हनुमान जी को रास्ता देना पड़ा। हनुमान जी, यह बाधा अपनी इस सिद्धि के कारण पार कर पाए।

गरिमा- इस सिद्धि के प्रभाव से हनुमान जी अपने शरीर को भारी बना लेते थे। इस सिद्धि का प्रयोग उन्होंने राम रावण युद्ध के दौरान कई बार राक्षसों को परास्त करने में किया। वह कभी कभी अपने शरीर को इतना भारी बना लेते थे कि, राक्षस उन्हें हिला भी नहीं पाते थे। उनके किसी भी प्रहार का उन पर कोई असर नहीं होता था। इसलिए हनुमान जी राक्षसों पर आसानी से विजय पा लेते थे।

लघिमा- इस सिद्धि के प्रयोग से हनुमान अपने शरीर को हल्का यानि भार रहित बना लेते थे। अपने शरीर को पत्ते के समान हल्का बना, वह तुरंत उड़ कर रामजी का हर संभव कार्य कर देते थे। युद्ध में जब लक्ष्मण जी मूर्च्छित हो

गए, तो वह विभीषण के सुझाव से तुरंत उड़ कर लँका जा पहुँचे और वैद्य सुषेण को युद्ध भूमि में ले आए। फिर जब वैद्यराज को संजीवनी बूटी चाहिए थी, तो हनुमान जी उसी हल्के शरीर से उड़, हिमालय के पहाड़ों से संजीवनी बूटी लाए और लक्ष्मण को नया जीवन प्रदान किया।

प्राप्ति- हनुमान जी की यह सिद्धि उन्हें कोई भी वस्तु प्राप्त करने में सहज सहायक होती थी। उन्होंने अपने लिए कभी कुछ पाने का प्रयास नहीं किया। या तो वह हर काम अपने इष्ट रामजी के लिए करते थे या फिर अपने भक्तों के उद्धार के लिए तत्पर रहते थे। जिस किसी ने हनुमान जी को अपना इष्ट मान अपने जीवन में उतारा, उन्हें हनुमान जी ने अपने रंग में रंग कर, अपना सब कुछ लूटा दिया। ऐसे सरल थे मेरे प्यारे हनुमान जी, उनको मेरा बारम्बार प्रणाम।

प्रकाम्य- इस सिद्धि का अर्थ है कि, किसी की भी मनोकामना को पूर्ण करना। हनुमान जी की यह सिद्धि उनके भक्तों के लिए विशेषरूप लाभदायक है। जो भी उनकी निर्मल हृदय से भक्ति करता है, उसकी हर मनोकामना पूर्ण होती है। एक बार तुलसी बाबा राजा अकबर की बात न मानने के कारण, बंदी बना लिए गये थे। जब कोई और उपाय नहीं सूझा, तो बाबा ने हनुमान जी को गुहार लगाई। बस फिर क्या था, हनुमान जी ने उस जेल के आसपास, अपनी वानरों की एक टुकड़ी भेज इतना उत्पात मचवा दिया कि, अकबर को तुलसी बाबा को तुरंत छोड़ना पड़ा। इसे बाबा ने अपने हनुमान चालीसा में लिखा है।

**जो शत बार पाठ कर कोई,
छूटहि बन्दी महासुख होई
और
संकट कटे मिटे सब पीरा,
जो सुमिरत हनुमत बलबीरा**

जिस मनोकामना को लेकर हनुमान जी लँका की ओर गए, वह सीता जी को अशोक वाटिका में मिलकर पूर्ण की। यह था इस सिद्धि का प्रभाव।

ईशत्व- ईश्वरीय गुण। इसी सिद्धि के कारण, हनुमान जी को अजर और अमर कहा जाता है। वह हर युग और काल में विद्यमान रहते हैं। उन्हें यह वरदान माँ सीता ने रामजी का सकुशल समाचार पाने पर, प्रसन्न होकर दिया था। माँ ने सुंदरकांड में कहा है-

**अजर अमर गुण निधि सुत होहू,
करहुँ बहुत रघुनायक छोहू
करहुँ कृपा प्रभुअस सुनि,
निर्भर प्रेम मगन हनुमाना**

यह आशीर्वाद पाकर हनुमान जी अत्यंत प्रसन्न हुए। माँ ने रघुनायक की सेवा का अमर आशीर्वाद जो दे दिया था।

वशित्व- किसी को भी अपने वश में करने की क्षमता। हनुमान जी का कई बार ऐसे दम्भी और कपटी राक्षसों से पाला पड़ा, कि उन्हें जीतने के लिए उन पर वशीकरण का अस्त्र चलाना पड़ा। दम्भी जनों का उद्देश्य होता था, छल से जीतना और हनुमान जी का उद्देश्य रहता था, न्यायपूर्ण ढंग से जीतना। इसीलिए जीत हमेशा हनुमान जी की होती थी। वह इन दुष्टों को रास्ते से हटाने के इरादे से, वशीकरण का प्रयोग कर उन्हें यमलोक पहुँचा दिया करते थे। इसीलिए वह रामजी का हर काम इतनी सहजता से कर पाए।

यह थी हनुमान जी कि आठ सिद्धियाँ, जिनके होते, हनुमान जी में अतुलित बल समाया हुआ था। जितेन्द्रिय वोह बचपन से थे। इसीलिए वानरों के अग्रगण्य मुख्य नायक बने। राम भक्त हनुमान जी को हम सबका सादर नमन!!

Sundar Kand recitation and Ram Leela to illuminate Naperville this Saturday

By: Dr. Avi Verma

A spiritually enriching evening of devotion, culture, and community will take place this Saturday at Barsana Banquet Hall (ISKCON Naperville), as devotees and families from across the Chicagoland area gather for a Sundar Kand Path and Ram Leela celebration.

Organized by a team including Prashant Tyagi, Inderjeet, Mayank Malik, Dr. Raj Raghav, Gopal Hari Das, and Amara Devi Dasi, the event promises a vibrant cultural and devotional experience.

The evening will begin at 6:00 PM with Maha Arati, followed at 6:30 PM by a recitation of the Sundar Kand, a revered section of the Ramayana highlighting the devotion and courage of Hanuman.

At 8:00 PM, attendees will witness a Ram Leela performance depicting episodes from the life of Lord Rama, accompanied by kirtan and bhajans encouraging community participation.

The event is open to all with free entry, and festival food will be available for attendees.

Celebrate The Divine Advent of

Lord Rama

With A Soulful Sundar Kand Recitation

Join Us For A Soulful Evening Of Devotion, Culture, And Community.

Saturday, April 11th, 2026
Time - 6 PM To 10 PM



Program Highlights

- **Maha Arati** : A Grand Start To The Festivities.
- **Sundar Kanda Path** : An Uplifting And Powerful Recitation.
- **Cultural Showcase** : Captivating Ram Leela, Kirtan/bhajan & Classical Dance Performances.

Event Schedule

- **6:00 PM** : Maha Arati
- **6:30 PM to 8:00 PM** : Sundar Kanda
- **8:00 PM to 10:00 PM** : Kirtan/Bhajan, Ram Leela & Classical Dance

Key Details

Free Entry For All

Refreshments : Visit Our Food Courts For Delicious Festival Treats

ISKCON Naperville, Barsana Banquet Hall, 1505 McDowell Rd, Naperville, IL 60563

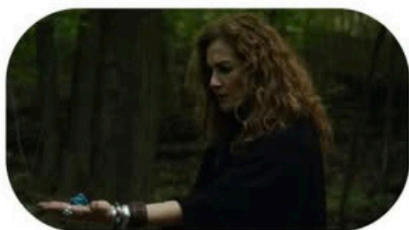


MSP IFF45

Minneapolis St Paul International Film Festival 45

APRIL 8-19, 2026

INDIAN FILMS



ANDA

Jayendra Ganta | USA | 2026

Director Attending!

When an elderly woman's mother returns, untouched by age, a search for answers draws her into a surreal realm of myth and buried memories.

Fiction

SHOWING

MON 4/13 7:10pm THE MAIN 1

WED 4/15 4:30pm THE MAIN 1



APARAJITO

Satyajit Ray | India | 1956

Free Screening! Reservations Required

The second part of Satyajit Ray's *Apu Trilogy* sees Apu and his family leaving their rural home for the city as he grows into adolescence.

Fiction

SHOWING

SAT 4/11 2:30pm Mia



BAYAAN

Bikas Ranjan Mishra | India | 2025

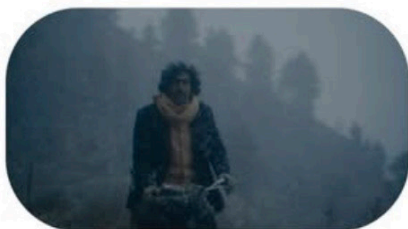
In a Rajasthan village, a cult leader is accused of sexual abuse. Detective Roohi is sent to investigate, only to discover the community's terrified silence.

Fiction

SHOWING

FRI 4/10 11:30am THE MAIN 4

SAT 4/11 9:40pm THE MAIN 4



THE CYCLE OF LOVE

Orlando von Einsiedel | UK, India, Sweden | 2025

Executive Producer and Emily Goldner and Actor Chirag Lobo Attending!

PK is a portraitist in Delhi. Lotta is Swedish and on vacation. They fall in love, she returns home, and PK is compelled to bike to Sweden to fulfill his destiny.

Fiction

SHOWING

SAT 4/11 7:15pm THE MAIN 3

SUN 4/12 2:15pm EDINA

SUN 4/12 6:30pm POP'S ART THEATER ROCHESTER

Indian consulate in Chicago supports global showcase of Indian cinema at MSPIFF45

By: Jayanti Oza

The Consulate General of India, Chicago has extended its support to the 45th edition of the Minneapolis St. Paul International Film Festival, reinforcing cultural ties and promoting Indian storytelling on a global stage. Running from April 8 to April 19, 2026, MSPIFF45 marks a major milestone as one of the largest and longest-running international film festivals in the region. This year's festival features more than 200 films from around the world, along with panel discussions, filmmaker interactions, and special events.

As part of its cultural outreach, the Indian Consulate's support has helped spotlight eight films centered on India and the Indian diaspora, offering narratives that reflect the country's diversity, heritage, and evolving global identity.

In a statement, the Consulate expressed appreciation to festival organizers for curating a platform that fosters cross-cultural dialogue and artistic exchange. Officials said cinema remains a powerful medium to connect communities and deepen mutual understanding. The inclusion of Indian-themed films at MSPIFF45 highlights the growing global reach of Indian cinema, including independent and regional storytelling gaining international attention.

Celebrating its 45th anniversary, the festival continues to build its reputation as a key destination for world cinema, supported by institutions like the Indian Consulate in Chicago.



Consulate General of India
Chicago



Mia
Minneapolis Institute of Art



IAM
Indian American Museum

mspiff.org



ICAM
Culture, Education Collaboration



MSP FILM



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Mata Bhagat: Avi Verma



From revolution to reckoning Where does AAP stand today?

● By: Dr. Avi Verma

In the arc of modern Indian politics, few parties have traveled a trajectory as dramatic as the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP). Born out of a mass anti-corruption uprising, it once embodied a rare political moment where street activism attempted to reimagine governance itself. Today, however, AAP finds itself navigating a far more complex reality: declining moral authority, leadership centralization, and a widening gap between its founding narrative and governing experience.

From movement to mandate

AAP's origin in the 2011 India Against Corruption movement, led by Anna Hazare, marked a moment of unprecedented public mobilization. Arvind Kejriwal's decision to enter electoral politics in 2012 transformed that moral energy into a structured political project, with a clear pitch: reform the system from within.

The early years validated that strategy. In Delhi, AAP disrupted entrenched political competition and built a governance narrative centered on education, health, and welfare delivery. The 2015 and 2020 electoral victories cemented its position as a dominant regional force, while its 2022 Punjab win briefly suggested national scalability.

At its peak, AAP was not merely a party but a political experiment in post-ideological governance.

From collective ethos to centralized command

As AAP transitioned from movement politics to governance, its organizational structure increasingly centralized around Arvind Kejriwal's leadership core. What began as a collective experiment gradually evolved into a tightly controlled decision-making system.

Internal dissent became a recurring feature of its evolution. Founding figures such as Yogendra Yadav and Prashant Bhushan were expelled in 2015 after raising concerns about internal democracy. Over time, other prominent leaders including Kumar Vishwas, Shazia Ilmi, and Ashutosh exited the organization.

This pattern created a lasting perception that AAP tolerated dissent only within limited boundaries and increasingly functioned as a personality-driven political structure rather than an internally pluralistic movement.

The liquor policy case and its aftermath

The most severe challenge to AAP's moral identity emerged from the Delhi excise policy (liquor policy) case, which directly targeted the party's foundational claim of clean governance.

Arvind Kejriwal was arrested in 2024 during investigations linked to the case, while senior leaders including Manish Sisodia and Sanjay Singh also faced prolonged legal proceedings. Sisodia spent over a year in custody before being released on bail.

However, the legal trajectory shifted significantly in 2026. In February 2026, a Delhi trial court discharged both Arvind Kejriwal and Manish Sisodia in the Central Bureau of Investigation case, observing that evidence was insufficient to sustain prosecution at that stage. The matter remains under challenge in higher courts, leaving the broader legal and political narrative unresolved.

Regardless of judicial outcomes, the political damage has already been absorbed. For a party built on anti-corruption legitimacy, even allegations of impropriety have created a durable credibility deficit that legal technicalities alone cannot fully erase.

Present crisis, internal fractures, and leadership tensions

In 2026, fresh internal tensions have added another layer of instability. The removal of Raghav Chadha from his position as Deputy Leader in the Rajya Sabha and his replacement by Ashok Kumar Mittal has reignited debate over AAP's internal hierarchy and decision-making style.

Chadha's public assertion that he was being "silenced" brought internal disagreements into open political discourse, reinforcing perceptions of shrinking space for independent voices within the party structure.

This episode is significant because Chadha was long viewed as part of AAP's next-generation leadership, symbolizing its attempt to move beyond Delhi-centric dependence. His marginalization raises renewed questions about whether AAP can structurally nurture durable second-line leadership.

A pattern of institutional fragility

Across its evolution, AAP has displayed a recurring structural pattern: rapid elevation of leaders followed by internal conflict and eventual exits or marginalization. This cycle has weakened institutional depth and reinforced perceptions of centralized control.

Unlike traditional parties with layered internal hierarchies, AAP continues to struggle with institutionalization beyond its core leadership group. This limits its ability to absorb dissent, manage transitions, and expand leadership diversity, all critical for long-term political sustainability.

Regional strength, national constraints

Despite internal turbulence, AAP remains electorally relevant. Its governance narrative in Delhi, particularly around education and public services, continues to retain voter support, and its presence in Punjab gives it a second political base.

However, national expansion ambitions have stalled. Legal controversies, leadership disputes, and organizational centralization have constrained its ability to evolve into a credible national alternative.

At the same time, India's broader political landscape has become more competitive, leaving AAP with diminishing space for uncontested expansion.

What does AAP represent today?

The most fundamental challenge facing AAP is no longer electoral but existential.

The party was born as a moral alternative to established politics, promising transparency, accountability, and participatory governance. Over time, however, the distinction between its original ideological identity and conventional political practice has blurred.

Its governance record remains mixed, internal democracy contested, and credibility under continuous scrutiny. Whether AAP can reconcile its founding ideals with its current political structure remains uncertain.

A party at an inflection point

AAP's journey from street movement to governing party remains one of the most significant political transformations in contemporary India. Yet its present phase is arguably its most consequential.

The party today stands at an inflection point, caught between revolutionary origins and institutional limitations. Its future will depend not only on electoral performance but on whether it can rebuild internal trust, expand leadership depth, and restore its credibility narrative.

Without such recalibration, AAP risks remaining a powerful regional force with a weakened national vision, politically relevant but ideologically diluted.





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Mela **Maiyya** Da Jagran Chowkis

by **Legendary Lakhbir Singh Lakha**

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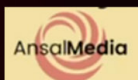
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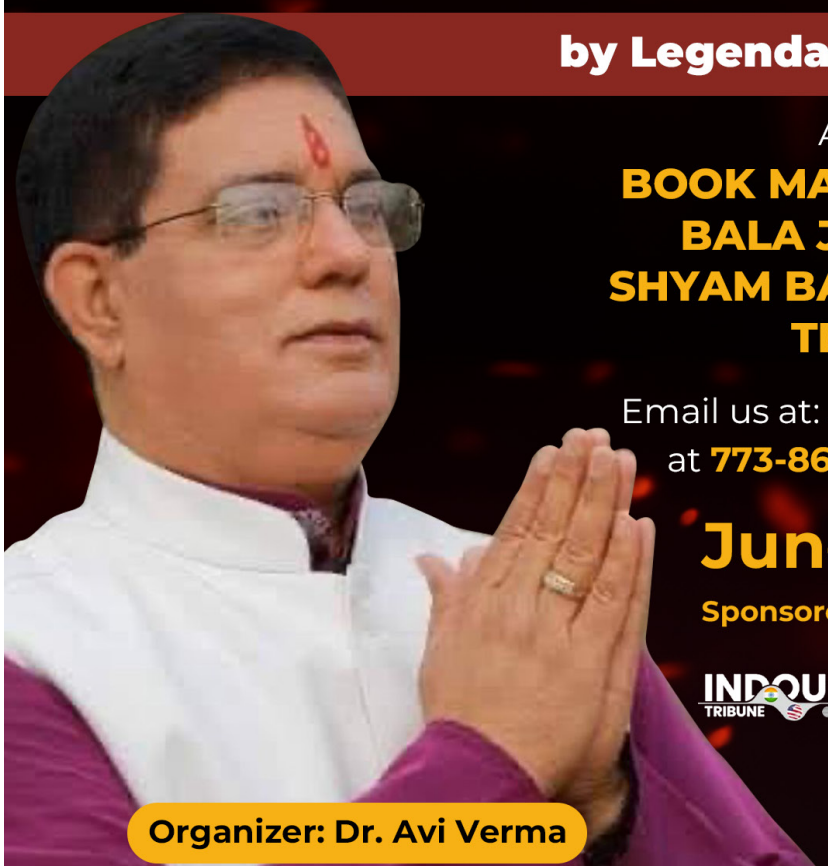
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Organizer: **Dr. Avi Verma**



Lakhbir Singh Lakha



Ancient wisdom meets modern science

Student research explores **herbal compounds** in cancer study

● By: Dr. Avi Verma

A recent student-led research project exploring traditional Native American herbal knowledge has drawn attention for its scientific curiosity and cultural relevance, while also underscoring the importance of cautious interpretation in early-stage medical findings.

What the study found

A 17-year-old high school student earned recognition at a national science fair for studying the effects of a traditional herbal blend, commonly associated with Indigenous healing practices, on cancer cells in a laboratory setting. The formulation reportedly included botanicals such as burdock root, slippery elm, and sheep sorrel, herbs long valued for their anti-inflammatory and antioxidant properties.

According to project summaries and science fair reports, the student tested the mixture on cultured human cancer cells in vitro, meaning outside the human body in a laboratory environment. The results suggested the preparation may have induced apoptosis, a process in which damaged or abnormal cells self-destruct.

Experts emphasize that in vitro results are only a preliminary step. Many substances can show effects on cancer cells in petri dishes without demonstrating safety or effectiveness in humans.

Clarifying the “chemotherapy comparison”

Claims that the herbal mixture had effects “rivaling early-stage chemotherapy drugs” should be treated with caution. Chemotherapy undergoes years of testing, including animal studies and multi-phase



human clinical trials. Student science fair projects are exploratory and not clinically validated.

Medical professionals stress that such comparisons are not scientifically equivalent and can be misleading if taken out of context.

The role of traditional knowledge

The study reflects a broader trend of

integrating traditional healing knowledge into modern biomedical research. Many widely used medicines originate from plant-based or traditional remedies. For example, aspirin was developed from compounds found in willow bark, and paclitaxel, a cancer drug, was derived from the Pacific yew tree.

These examples highlight how cultural knowledge can inspire scientific discovery

when studied rigorously and ethically.

Expert perspective

Scientists reviewing similar research often commend the initiative but caution against overinterpretation. Key limitations include the fact that laboratory conditions do not replicate the complexity of the human body, while dosage, toxicity, and long-term effects remain unknown. Interactions with other treatments are also untested.

Before any therapy reaches patients, it must undergo extensive validation to ensure safety and efficacy.

A promising beginning, not a cure

The student’s work is best seen as early exploratory research rather than a medical breakthrough. It highlights the value of investigating traditional remedies while reinforcing the need for scientific rigor in how findings are communicated.

Bottom line

The project reflects curiosity, cultural respect, and scientific effort. However, no herbal mixture has been proven to cure or replace established cancer treatments based on current evidence.

Disclaimer

This article is for informational and educational purposes only. It does not constitute medical advice. Always consult qualified healthcare professionals for diagnosis and treatment decisions.



Personal finance insights: News & Features

● Dr. K C Gupta, YBB Personal Finance

CONTRARIAN INDICATORS

AAll Bull-Bear Spread -17.8% (very low)
 CNN Fear & Greed Index 15 (extreme fear)
 NYSE %Above 50-dMA 32.17% (negative)
 SP500 %Above 50-dMA 30.80% (negative)

ICI Fund Allocations (Cumulative), 2/28/26
 OEFs & ETFs: Stocks 61.70%, Hybrids 4.02%, Bonds 17.45%, M-Mkt 16.43%

INTEREST RATES

Cycle peak 5.25-5.50%
 Current 3.50-3.75%
 FOMC 4/29/26+ hold (last FOMC meeting under Fed Chair Powell)
 FOMC 6/17/26+ hold

Treasury
 T-Bills 3-mo yield 3.70%, 1-yr 3.68%;
 T-Notes 2-yr 3.79%, 5-yr 3.94%, 10-yr 4.31%; T-Bonds 30-yr 4.88%;
 TIPS/Real yields 5-yr 1.37%, 10-yr 1.97%, 30-yr 2.66%
 FRNs Index 3.653%

Bank Rates www.depositaccounts.com/

Stable-Value (SV) Rates, 4/1/26
 TIAA Traditional Annuity (Accumulation) Rates
 Restricted RC 5.00%, RA 4.75%
 Flexible RCP 4.25%, SRA 4.00%, IRA-101110+ 3.45%
 TSP G Fund 4.375% (previous 4.000%)

India Fear & Greed MMI 26.21 (extreme fear)
 Weekly ETFs: INDA +1.81%, INDY +2.12%, EPI +2.44%, INDH +0.36%, SPY +3.43%

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



IT/TECH

Indian-origin ROBOTICS company GreyOrange may have a US IPO or SPAC merger. SPACs are US blank-check companies that raise the money first & then have up to 2 years to find operating companies or return the money with interest back to investors; SPAC boom peaked in 2021.

GreyOrange was founded by BITS-Pilani alumni Samay KOHLI & Akash GUPTA. Its US investors include Tiger Global, Mythril Capital, Peter THEIL, etc; Indian investors include Binny BANSAL (cofounder of Flipcart), Blume Ventures, etc. It specializes in AI software & hardware related to order fulfillment & warehouse automation & has offices in Asia, Europe & North America. Since 2021, its headquarters are in Atlanta metro area (GA, US).

UK Gorilla Technology & Yotta Data Services have a deal to develop high-

performance AI datacenter.

Alkami Technology, in partnership with Summit Consulting, an affiliate of ANSR, is starting a GCC in India. Its DSSP platform is used by banks & credit unions. ANSR is a US-based company specializing in GCCs. Most GCCs are in India. Accenture has a minority stake in ANSR.

Altos Computing, an Acer (Taiwan) subsidiary, is launching AI server manufacturing in India.

SPECIAL TOPIC
20-Yr LEVEL TERM-LIFE

20-Yr level term-life insurance is the most popular term-life Insurance.

Term-life market shares (2024):
 By premiums: 20-yr 40%, 30-yr 21%, 10-yr 17%

By number of policies: 20-yr 39%, 10-yr 18%, 30-yr 17%

Level term policies don't have cash-values for the insured, but insurers hope that internally kept cash-value records average around \$0 at the term end. So, in the earlier years, the level premiums are higher than straight annual term premiums, but lower in the later years but the income from internal cash-values kick in.

These policies may have premium disability waivers &/or accelerated death-benefits in cases of terminal illnesses. At the end of the term, there are options to renew (at higher premiums) until age 95 or to convert to whole-life or universal-life (with much higher premiums & cash-value buildup) - both without medical underwriting, sometimes also referred to as guaranteed renewals or conversions.

Rated highly are Banner Life/William Penn (overall), Symetra (lower rates), Penn Mutual (favorable conversions), Principal

(business owners), Pacific Life (coverage ranges), Nationwide (early death-benefits). Most big life insurers offer term-life policies.

Use online quote services for shopping & select highly rated insurers - you want your insurer to be around for years ahead. If working with an insurance agent, you may have to ask & insist on term-life products because these have low commissions & agents tend to push more expensive insurance products that have higher commissions.

For younger families, some combination of term-life & permanent-life (while-life or universal-life) may be more affordable. If you have some life insurance through work, beware that those will disappear on job termination. Group life insurance through professional associations may start reducing coverages, say, after 60.

Contingent insurance such as AD&D (accidental death & dismemberment) is very cheap but not very useful either. Insurance is an expensive product, so avoid buying it piecemeal in small amounts, e.g. credit insurance, burial insurance, etc. Estimate the overall insurance needs & buy the largest coverage that you can afford.

Due to health issues, it may be very expensive to get life insurance at older ages. It's also difficult & expensive to get insurance for minors - logically, insurance should be for earners in the family or for family members providing essential household services. If you have insurance & don't need it when older, you can cancel. Don't mix insurance & investments although there are insurance products such as variable-life that do that.

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!

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

For more information and to apply, visit www.iuhs.edu



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Braided bob revival

The chic protective style taking over spring

The bob is having a major fashion moment this spring, but the braided bob is the version turning heads for all the right reasons. Equal parts stylish and practical, this cropped protective style is emerging as a go-to for warmer weather, travel season, and anyone looking to keep hair low-maintenance without sacrificing impact.

What makes the braided bob stand out is its versatility. It works across textures, braid sizes, and styling techniques, offering endless room for personalization. From sleek, blunt-cut box braids to softly curled ends or bold color experiments, the look adapts easily to personal style. It also puts emphasis on structure and detail, since the shorter length highlights parting patterns, cornrow designs, and braid precision rather than long lengths.

The appeal is also functional. A bob



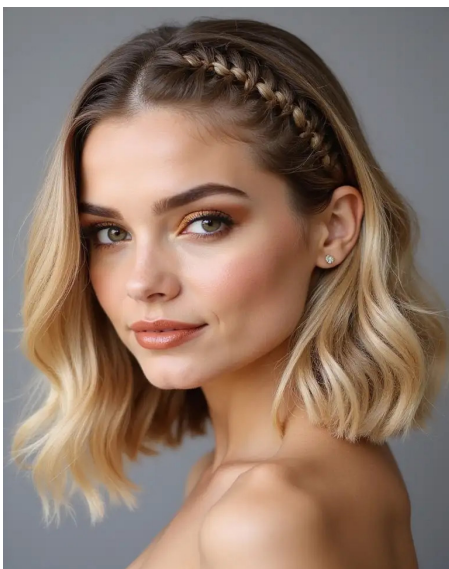
length keeps hair off the neck, reduces heat buildup, and minimizes tangling, making it especially practical for vacations or active days. At the same time, it remains polished enough for everyday wear or elevated events.

There are several standout variations defining the trend. The flipped-out braided bob adds a playful finish with curled ends for extra movement. The braided headband bob combines cornrows with volume for a bold,

face-framing effect. For something more geometric, the low pony braided bob uses directional cornrows to create structure while keeping hair neatly pulled back.

Jumbo braided bobs are also gaining attention for their speed and ease, offering a chunkier, fashion-forward alternative to micro braids. For more intricate styling, pin curl braids bring a sculpted, vintage-inspired finish, while twisted front sections paired with loose curls create a softer, more romantic look. Even color is getting a twist, with faux highlights achieved through mixed braiding hair shades instead of dye.

From playful to polished, the braided bob proves that short protective styles can still deliver maximum creativity. This season, it is less about length and more about expression, detail, and effortless cool.



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