

Iran rejects limits on nuclear program, criticizes US role in Hormuz tensions



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Iran on Thursday ruled out any compromise on its nuclear enrichment rights, with Foreign Ministry spokesperson Esmail Baqaei stating that the program is protected under international law and the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. He dismissed Western reports suggesting possible concessions, calling Iran's rights non-negotiable.

Speaking in Tehran, Baqaei said discussions with the United States remain at a preliminary stage and warned that detailed negotiations would be premature without a broader framework. He also rejected claims that Iran had reduced support for allied groups in Lebanon, accusing Israel of failing to uphold ceasefire commitments.

Baqaei criticized proposals for a United Nations-led security role in the Strait of Hormuz, asserting that regional countries can manage the waterway independently. He blamed recent instability on what he described as United States and Israeli actions, warning that foreign involvement would further escalate tensions.

India remains resilient amid global uncertainty despite energy risks, says IMF chief



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

India's economy is expected to remain resilient despite global uncertainty driven by conflict, International Monetary Fund Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva said on Wednesday. She noted India's growth is more than double the global average, supported by strong fundamentals and policy frameworks. However, she warned that prolonged Middle East tensions could slow global growth and increase energy prices, impacting import-dependent regions like Asia. Despite risks, India's domestic demand and institutional strength are likely to help it outperform many economies, she added.

IndoUS TRIBUNE

A VENTURE OF ANSAL MEDIA GROUP OF USA, LLC

VOL: 03 • ISSUE: 24 17 APRIL 2026 MIDWEST EDITION www.indoutribune.com We serve community first

Global oil market tumbles as Hormuz Strait reopens after ceasefire deal

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Iran announced on Friday that the Strait of Hormuz has been reopened to commercial shipping following a U.S.-brokered ceasefire linked to fighting in Lebanon, marking a significant easing of tensions in one of the world's most critical energy corridors.

Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araqchi said vessels would be allowed to pass through the strait along designated maritime routes for the duration of a 10-day truce between Israel and Iran-backed Hezbollah. The waterway, which carries roughly one-fifth of global oil and liquefied natural gas shipments, had been effectively disrupted during months of conflict that began in late February, fueling fears of a major global energy shock.

The announcement triggered a steep reaction in global markets, with Brent crude plunging more than 11 percent and U.S. West Texas Intermediate falling over 12 percent as traders priced in easing geopolitical risk and the prospect of improved supply flows.



Investor sentiment was also lifted by expectations of renewed United States-Iran diplomatic engagement, with reports suggesting talks could take place soon despite logistical delays surrounding planned meetings in Islamabad. U.S. President Donald Trump said he expects a deal to end the conflict "soon," adding to optimism over a possible breakthrough. The International Monetary Fund has warned

that prolonged instability in the region could push the global economy toward recession, underscoring the high stakes of ongoing negotiations.

Analysts said while the reopening of the strait is a positive signal, sustained stability will depend on whether the fragile ceasefire holds and tanker traffic resumes at normal levels in the coming days.

Israel-Lebanon ceasefire begins amid cautious Iran diplomatic progress

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

A 10-day ceasefire between Israel and Lebanon came into force on Thursday, marking a fragile pause in fighting and raising hopes that broader negotiations involving Iran could move forward.

Celebratory gunfire and explosions were heard in Beirut around midnight as the truce began, though tensions quickly resurfaced, with reports of continued Israeli military activity in southern Lebanon. President Donald Trump said the next meeting between the United States and Iran could take

place over the weekend, suggesting a potential diplomatic breakthrough after talks in Islamabad.

He said Iran had indicated it could avoid developing nuclear weapons for more than two decades, while discussions continue over uranium stockpiles and sanctions relief.

The conflict, which began in late February with a United States-Israel attack on Iran, has killed thousands and driven up global oil prices. Trump also said he plans to invite Israeli and Lebanese leaders to Washington for peace talks as negotiations continue over the future of the Strait of Hormuz.



India rejects China's renaming of Arunachal Pradesh locations, reaffirms territorial sovereignty



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

India on Sunday rejected China's latest attempt to assign fictitious names to locations in Arunachal Pradesh, reaffirming that the state is an integral and inalienable part of India, according to the Ministry of External Affairs.

Spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said India categorically rejects what he called mischievous attempts by China to rename places in Indian territory. He said such actions cannot change ground reality or alter India's sovereignty, and urged Beijing to refrain from steps that inject negativity into bilateral ties or undermine efforts to stabilize relations.

He added that repeated naming exercises reflect baseless narratives with no legitimacy. India noted similar actions last year when China released standardized names for locations in Arunachal Pradesh, which Beijing refers to as Zangnan, and those moves were also rejected. Jaiswal reiterated that Arunachal Pradesh has always been and will remain an integral part of India.

Starmer faces mounting pressure as Foreign Office chief exits over Mandelson vetting scandal



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Britain's top Foreign Office civil servant, Sir Olly Robbins, has stepped down after it emerged his department failed to inform Prime Minister Sir Keir Starmer that Lord Peter Mandelson did not pass security vetting before being appointed ambassador to the United States. The government said ministers only learned of the failed clearance earlier this week, despite Mandelson taking office in February 2025 and being dismissed seven months later over links to Jeffrey Epstein. Starmer, who repeatedly told Parliament that full procedures were followed, now faces calls to resign. He is expected to address lawmakers on Monday as opposition parties demand an inquiry into whether Parliament was misled.

Gonzales and Swalwell resign from Congress amid separate misconduct allegations and ethics probes



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Republican Representative Tony Gonzales of Texas and Democratic Representative Eric Swalwell of California have both announced their departures from Congress amid separate allegations of sexual misconduct and active ethics investigations, marking a rare dual resignation that has intensified scrutiny on workplace conduct in the House of Representatives. Gonzales said on Monday that he would retire following bipartisan calls for expulsion and a House Ethics Committee inquiry into his conduct involving a staff member. He had previously stepped away from re-election after acknowledging an extramarital affair and said serving Texas had been an honor. Swalwell also confirmed his resignation after facing sexual assault allegations from a former staffer, which he has denied, and growing pressure from colleagues across party lines. His decision came shortly after ending his campaign for governor of California, as the Ethics Committee opened a formal investigation. Lawmakers had been considering disciplinary action against both men before their announcements, highlighting increasing political fallout over misconduct allegations in Congress.

Pope condemns 'tyrants' ravaging the planet during peace visit to conflict-hit Cameroon

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Pope Leo XIV denounced what he called a handful of tyrants "ravaging" the world through war and exploitation during a peace-focused visit to Cameroon on Thursday. Speaking in Bamenda, a region deeply affected by a separatist conflict, he called for an end to violence and urged leaders not to misuse religion for political or military gain.

Crowds welcomed him with music and

celebration as he led a major interfaith peace meeting involving Christian, Muslim, and traditional leaders. The pope said Bamenda should serve as a global example of reconciliation, while also condemning corruption and foreign exploitation of Africa's resources.

The conflict in Cameroon's Anglophone regions has killed thousands and displaced hundreds of thousands since 2017. Despite a temporary pause in fighting, no formal peace agreement has been reached.



Chile launches first deportation flight under new immigration crackdown

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Chile has carried out its first deportation flight under President Jose Antonio Kast's new immigration policy, removing 40 foreign nationals as part of a broader crackdown on undocumented migration. The flight departed from northern Chile on Thursday and transported deportees to Bolivia, Colombia, and Ecuador. Authorities said 15 individuals were expelled following criminal convictions, while 25 were removed for administrative violations. The government described the operation as the first of many planned flights under its tightened border enforcement strategy. Kast, who campaigned on linking illegal immigration to rising crime, has urged undocumented migrants to leave voluntarily or face removal. Officials said thousands of migrants, including Venezuelans, have already left Chile since



the new administration took office, though the government has not disclosed how frequently deportation flights will operate.

Kremlin acknowledges viral criticism as influencer warns of rising public anger in Russia

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The Kremlin has acknowledged unusually sharp public criticism from social media influencer Viktoria Bonya, saying officials are already working on issues she raised in a widely viewed video appeal to President Vladimir Putin. Bonya warned that corruption, internet restrictions, and poor crisis responses are deepening public frustration, claiming Russians are being "squeezed" by authorities. Kremlin spokesperson Dmitry

Peskov said the concerns were known and under active review, adding that many officials are involved in addressing them.

The remarks come amid growing online debate inside Russia, where Bonya's video drew tens of millions of views despite restrictions on Western social media platforms. While critics suggested her message may have been tolerated by authorities, Bonya insisted she acted independently. The Kremlin maintained that none of the issues raised had been ignored.

China cautions citizens after scholars denied entry at Seattle airport



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

China has urged its citizens to avoid traveling through Seattle-Tacoma International Airport after about 20 Chinese scholars with valid visas were denied entry into the United States. Officials said the group faced intensive questioning by US Customs and Border Protection before being turned away, describing the inspections as unreasonable. The advisory warned of ongoing harassment and urged travelers to be cautious, understand US entry rules, and remain calm during questioning. The incident has raised diplomatic concerns, particularly as Seattle is home to a large Chinese community and serves as a key international travel hub.

Myanmar cuts Aung San Suu Kyi's sentence, frees former president in amnesty



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Myanmar has reduced the prison sentence of ousted civilian leader Aung San Suu Kyi as part of a wider amnesty ordered by the military-backed government, her lawyer said on Friday. The move comes five years after the 2021 coup that removed her elected administration.

Suu Kyi, 80, was serving a 27-year sentence on multiple convictions, including corruption, incitement, election fraud, and violating state secrecy laws, which her supporters call politically motivated. Her sentence has been reduced by one-sixth, though it remains unclear whether she will serve the remainder under house arrest. She has not been seen publicly since her trials ended, and her whereabouts remain unknown.

State media said President Min Aung Hlaing approved pardons for more than 4,300 prisoners, including former president Win Myint, an ally of Suu Kyi. The 2021 coup triggered a civil war that continues across Myanmar.

Friday, 17 April 2026

US completes exit from key Syria base as military drawdown accelerates



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

United States forces have completed their withdrawal from Qasrak air base in northeastern Syria, marking a significant step in a broader military drawdown. The final convoy left Hasakah province, with Syrian forces taking control of former American positions. The withdrawal follows an agreement between Syria's government and Kurdish-led forces, along with progress against remnants of the Islamic State group. US officials said they will continue supporting counterterrorism operations in the region. The move follows earlier withdrawals, including from al-Tanf base, and the transfer of thousands of suspected Islamic State detainees to Iraq for trial.

Artemis II mission clears key reentry test despite minor heat shield wear



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

NASA's Artemis II astronauts said their return to Earth was largely successful, though minor charring was observed on the Orion capsule's heat shield during reentry. The crew splashed down last Friday after a nearly 10-day mission that took them around the far side of the moon. Commander Reid Wiseman said small areas of heat shield wear were visible after descent at speeds exceeding Mach 30. NASA officials downplayed concerns, stating the shield performed as expected with no major damage. Engineers will analyze mission data closely, especially after unexpected wear during the Artemis I flight. The capsule is scheduled for another mission next year.

US House challenges Trump immigration policy with vote to extend Haiti protections

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The United States House of Representatives voted on Thursday to extend temporary protected status for 350,000 Haitians, marking a rare break with President Donald Trump's immigration agenda. The measure passed with support from several Republicans joining Democrats, allowing Haitians to remain in the country for three additional years after protections were set to end.

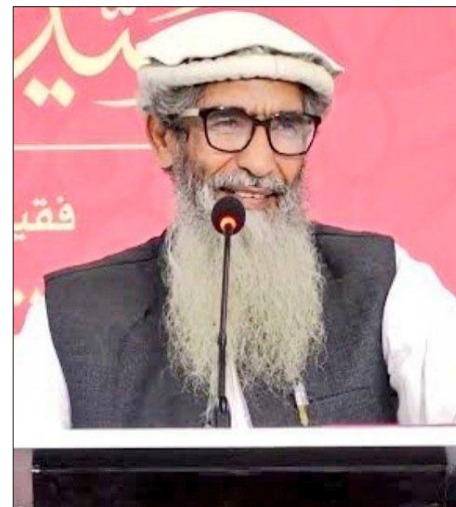
The program covers migrants from countries facing conflict or disasters and provides temporary work authorization and deportation relief. The legislation now moves to the Senate, where its future is uncertain. The vote comes as the Supreme Court prepares to review the administration's authority to end the program. Supporters of the bill argue Haiti remains unstable due to ongoing violence, while the administration says temporary protected status was never meant to function as long-term relief.



LeT co-founder Amir Hamza critically injured in Lahore shooting

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Lashkar-e-Taiba co-founder and senior ideologue Amir Hamza was critically injured after unidentified gunmen opened fire on his vehicle outside a television office in Lahore on Thursday. The 67-year-old, a close aide of Hafiz Saeed, was already being taken for treatment after an earlier accident at his residence when the attack occurred. Police said the shooting took place near Hamdard Chowk.



and declining recruitment. This marks the second attempt on his life since May last year and comes amid a series of killings of militant figures in Pakistan in recent years.

G7 warns of global economic risks as Middle East conflict drives instability

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Finance chiefs from the Group of Seven nations said on Thursday that it is urgent to limit the economic fallout from the ongoing Middle East war, warning that prolonged conflict could harm global growth. Meeting in Washington alongside International Monetary Fund and World Bank gatherings, officials also emphasized the need to restore stability and move toward lasting peace. The discussions focused on energy security, supply chains for critical minerals, and continued support for Ukraine amid Russia's invasion. The war has already disrupted oil markets and raised concerns about inflation and recession risks worldwide. The finance ministry of France, which



holds the Group of Seven presidency, said members agreed to coordinate closely on economic measures while maintaining pressure for diplomatic solutions to reduce global volatility.

Ukraine sees stronger U.S. backing after Washington talks, prime minister says



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Ukrainian Prime Minister Yuliia Svyrydenko said on Thursday she left Washington more confident about continued United States support after a series of meetings with senior officials during the spring meetings of the International Monetary Fund and World Bank.

She said talks with United States Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent were positive and reinforced the view that Washington remains supportive of Ukraine. She stressed that sanctions imposed on Russia after its full-scale invasion must not be weakened, delayed, or lifted, even as some energy-related adjustments were briefly made and later reversed.

Svyrydenko said Ukraine continues to seek firm security guarantees before any peace deal, along with a clear reconstruction and recovery plan. She added that while hopes for a quick settlement have faded, diplomatic efforts are still ongoing.

Europe weighs NATO fallback plan as doubts grow over US commitment



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Europe is exploring contingency plans to defend the continent using NATO's existing structures if the United States reduces its military role, according to a report on Thursday. Informally dubbed a "European NATO," the proposal would expand European leadership within the alliance's command structure and reduce reliance on US military assets. The discussions, still in early stages, aim to preserve deterrence against Russia and maintain NATO's operational continuity and nuclear credibility.

Germany has reportedly shown growing support under Chancellor Friedrich Merz, reflecting concerns over US reliability. Finland and other allies have emphasized that any transition must be gradual and coordinated. Officials acknowledged that Europe still lacks critical capabilities, including intelligence, missile defense, and nuclear deterrence, which remain heavily dependent on the United States.



Published Weekly by:
Ansal Media Group
of USA, LLC

Chicago Office:
Lincolnwood, IL 60712
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The Strait of Hormuz

A fragile opening amid continuing United States–Iran maritime tensions



Dr. Avi Verma

As of April 17, 2026, the Strait of Hormuz has entered a tense and highly conditional phase of partial reopening. Iran has declared the key waterway open to commercial shipping during a 10-day ceasefire linked to the Israel–Lebanon conflict. However, the move falls far short of a full normalization, as strict routing conditions and ongoing United States maritime enforcement continue to shape a fragile operating environment.

A conditional reopening, not a return to normalcy

Iran's decision to allow commercial vessels passage has eased immediate pressure on global markets, but the relief remains limited. Ships are required to follow designated routes under Iranian oversight, signaling that Tehran continues to assert strategic control rather than step back from it.

At the same time, United States authorities have maintained enforcement pressure on Iranian maritime activity, reinforcing a dual reality: passage is possible, but heavily managed and

politically constrained.

A conflict without resolution

The broader confrontation between Iran and the United States–Israel alignment remains unresolved. While the Israel–Lebanon ceasefire has reduced immediate regional violence, it has not produced a wider diplomatic breakthrough.

Maritime pressure remains a central tool for both sides. The United States continues deterrence operations through naval presence, while Iran uses geographic leverage over the strait to preserve influence without triggering full escalation.

A managed chokepoint, not normal waters

The Strait of Hormuz is no longer fully blocked, but it is far from normal. It now functions as a tightly managed chokepoint where navigation is possible but constrained by political risk and operational uncertainty.

Shipping companies remain cautious, with higher insurance premiums, slower transit decisions, and risk-averse routing strategies reflecting ongoing instability.

Global economic implications

The conditional reopening has reduced the risk of an immediate supply shock, but volatility persists:

Energy markets: Oil prices remain elevated due to persistent geopolitical risk premiums.

Supply chains: Partial movement has resumed, but bottlenecks continue for energy-linked goods.

Inflation pressures: Transport and insurance costs remain high despite eased disruption.

Market sentiment: Investors remain highly sensitive to any escalation in the strait.

Strategic signaling and risk

Both sides are engaged in calibrated signaling. Iran's controlled reopening projects restraint while preserving leverage. The United States maintains pressure to reinforce strategic deterrence.

Yet the risk landscape remains fragile. With military oversight and commercial traffic sharing the same narrow corridor, the potential for miscalculation remains significant.

Conclusion

The reopening of the Strait of Hormuz is not a resolution but a temporary and conditional pause. It reflects a delicate equilibrium defined by limited access, sustained mistrust, and unresolved confrontation.

The strait remains the world's most critical energy artery operating under geopolitical strain. Whether this moment evolves into sustained diplomacy or another cycle of escalation will depend on how long this controlled balance can endure.

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



Friday, 17 April 2026

Fire at major Australian refinery may disrupt petrol supply, officials say



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

A major fire at an oil refinery in Geelong, Australia, caused by equipment failure, may affect petrol supply, authorities said on Thursday. The blaze broke out on Wednesday night at a facility that produces about 10 percent of the country's fuel and continued burning into Thursday. Officials said petrol output could be impacted, though diesel and jet fuel supplies are unlikely to be affected. No injuries were reported. The incident comes amid global supply concerns linked to the Middle East conflict, with investigations underway into the cause.

School shooting in Turkey leaves four dead a day after similar attack

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Four people, including three students and a teacher, were killed and 20 injured in a school shooting in Kahramanmaraş, Turkey, on Wednesday. Authorities said the attacker, an eighth-grade student, opened fire inside classrooms before dying during the incident. His father has been arrested. The attack came a day after a former student shot and injured 16 people at another school in Siverek on Tuesday. Investigations are ongoing in both cases, with officials deploying multiple prosecutors and imposing restrictions to protect the inquiry.

PTI raises alarm over Imran Khan's health, alleges denial of medical care



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf on Tuesday raised concerns over the deteriorating health of former Prime Minister Imran Khan, his wife Bushra Bibi, and senior leader Ejaz Chaudhry, citing inadequate medical care during detention. The party said prolonged confinement and restricted access to doctors have worsened their conditions, including eye ailments and kidney disease. It called for immediate transfer to proper medical facilities. Concerns were also raised at the United Nations Human Rights Council, where Khan's son alleged violations of international human rights standards.

Shift to white-collar terror modules raises new security concerns in India

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Indian security agencies are reassessing strategies after recent cases revealed a growing shift toward white-collar terror modules. The Faridabad network linked to a car bomb blast in Delhi last November and a separate module in Nashik highlight this trend. While the Faridabad group, led by medical professionals, planned attacks across North India, the Nashik module, involving information technology professionals, focused on radicalization.



Officials said such networks often operate undetected for three to four years due to their professional backgrounds. These operatives use encrypted applications, ghost SIM cards, and closed messaging groups to coordinate activities. Intelligence inputs suggest groups like the Islamic State and Al-Qaeda are encouraging decentralized operations, allowing modules to function independently. Authorities also flagged long-term efforts by Pakistan's ISI to cultivate such operatives through targeted education and indoctrination, posing a sustained security challenge.

Britain's massive drone aid to Ukraine draws sharp warning from Russia

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Ukraine has started receiving drones from Britain's largest-ever military package, its Defense Ministry said on Wednesday. The shipment is part of a plan to supply 120,000 drones this year, including strike, reconnaissance, logistics, and maritime models to strengthen front-line operations.



The initiative is backed by Britain's broader military assistance worth about \$4.07 billion and supported by the Group of Seven financing mechanism. Kyiv said the drones are already enhancing battlefield capabilities.

Russia, however, warned that increased European support risks escalating the conflict. Its Defense Ministry said on Wednesday that expanding drone

production and supply would draw Europe deeper into the war. Moscow added that several European countries had agreed earlier to boost unmanned aerial vehicle production, citing manpower shortages in Ukrainian forces. Russian officials also claimed that Ukrainian drone manufacturing networks are now operating across multiple European countries.

Lula criticizes Trump rhetoric and calls for respect in global diplomacy

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva criticized United States President Donald Trump in an interview with Spanish newspaper El Pais published on Thursday, saying global leaders should pursue respect rather than govern through fear. He said Trump had no right to threaten other nations, referring to remarks on April 7 in which Trump warned of severe action against Iran during the United States and Israel conflict with Iran. Lula described

such rhetoric as a misguided approach to foreign policy driven by the belief that military and economic power allows Washington to set global rules.

He also called for free elections in Venezuela without outside interference, referring to reports of a January 3 raid in Caracas involving United States special forces and President Nicolas Maduro. Lula is scheduled to meet Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez on Friday in Barcelona. He added that leaders in their eighties should act with maturity.



Vietnam's new president underscores strategic shift toward China on first overseas trip



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Vietnam's newly elected President To Lam used his first foreign visit to signal stronger ties with China during meetings with President Xi Jinping in Beijing. The four-day trip began Tuesday, shortly after Lam assumed office last week, highlighting Beijing as a top priority. Xi called for deeper cooperation in infrastructure, artificial intelligence, and semiconductors, while emphasizing shared political interests. Lam described relations with China as a strategic choice and pledged expanded collaboration in trade and investment. The leaders signed multiple agreements, as Lam's dual role consolidates power in a shift toward a more centralized leadership model.

Prince Harry and Meghan meet Bondi attack survivors during Australia tour

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Prince Harry and Meghan met survivors and emergency workers affected by the Bondi Beach terror attack on Friday during the final day of their Australia tour. At the Bondi Surf Bathers' Life Saving Club, they spoke with survivors, including a mother who shielded her child and a man injured while protecting his children.

They also met Sydney Jewish Museum representatives preparing an exhibition on the attack that killed 15 people. Earlier, they joined Invictus Australia representatives for a Sydney Harbour boat ride and later attended a rugby match. The couple, visiting in a private capacity, have made several public appearances across Australia, including Melbourne, where Harry delivered a speech on mental health and personal struggles in public life.

South Africa opposition leader Julius Malema sentenced over 2018 rally gun incident

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

South African opposition leader Julius Malema has been sentenced to five years in prison for firearm-related offenses tied to a 2018 political rally. The court found him guilty of firing a semi-automatic rifle into the air during an event in Eastern Cape province. He was also ordered to pay fines totaling 60,000 rand, about \$3,200, or face additional jail time. Malema's Economic Freedom Fighters party said it will appeal the ruling. If upheld, the sentence would bar him from serving in Parliament. Malema, a prominent political figure, founded the party in 2013 after being expelled from the African National Congress.

India and Germany reinforce strategic partnership across technology, defense and green transition

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

India and Germany on Tuesday reaffirmed their strategic partnership during Foreign Office Consultations in Berlin, focusing on expanding cooperation in critical and emerging technologies, defense, digital governance, renewable energy, green hydrogen, and industrial collaboration.

Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri co-chaired the talks with German State Secretary Geza Andreas von Geyr, reviewing the full scope of bilateral relations and global developments, including the Russia-Ukraine conflict and West Asia.

Both sides agreed to deepen collaboration in trade, investment, mobility, innovation, and sustainable development. The consultations also marked 75 years of diplomatic relations between India and Germany, alongside the 25th anniversary of their strategic partnership framework. A commemorative logo was also launched during the visit.

India set to deepen energy and infrastructure ties with Nepal ahead of LDC exit

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

India is expected to play a critical role in Nepal's transition from least developed country status by November 2026, with energy and infrastructure partnerships central to the shift, a report said on Thursday.

A long-term power trade agreement signed on Thursday in January 2024 aims for Nepal to export 10,000 megawatts of electricity to India over the next decade. Connectivity upgrades and trilateral power flows to Bangladesh are underway.

However, delays in transmission projects, regulatory hurdles, and financing gaps continue to slow progress despite growing cooperation in high-tech and energy sectors.

India seen as key partner in accelerating Africa's renewable energy transition

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

India can play a major role in advancing Africa's renewable energy push by sharing technology and policy expertise, according to an analysis published on Thursday. With over 130 gigawatts of renewable capacity added in the past decade, India's experience in competitive bidding and grid expansion offers a model. Around 600 million people in Africa still lack electricity, despite growing investments in solar and wind. Indian firms are already collaborating on transmission and storage projects, while Africa's mineral resources position it as a key player in the global clean energy supply chain.

US launches Freedom250 campaign in Delhi with Trump-themed auto rickshaws to spotlight India ties

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

New Delhi on Monday marked the start of the United States Freedom 250 celebrations with a street-level cultural outreach led by US Ambassador Sergio Gor, who unveiled auto rickshaws decorated with American symbols and images of President Donald Trump. The initiative is part of nationwide commemorations leading up to the 250th anniversary of US independence in 2026.

Gor said the campaign is designed to bring American history and values into public spaces in India while highlighting the strength of the US-India partnership. The brightly designed autos will travel across New Delhi and later other Indian cities, serving as mobile displays of US heritage and symbols of freedom, innovation, and democracy.

The Freedom250 program, also



known as America250, includes events, public exhibitions, and educational initiatives across the United States and abroad. In India, the campaign takes a localized approach by using a familiar urban transport icon to engage everyday commuters and spark conversations about bilateral ties.

Officials said more outreach events are planned in the coming months as part of broader efforts to deepen public engagement between the two democracies.

South Korea's Lee Jae Myung to begin first India visit with focus on semiconductors and defense

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

South Korean President Lee Jae Myung will undertake a three-day state visit to India from April 19 to 21 at the invitation of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, marking his first visit to the country since assuming office. The visit is expected to further deepen the India-South Korea special strategic partnership. The South Korean president will be accompanied by First Lady Kim Hea Kyung and a high-level delegation of ministers, senior officials, and business leaders. External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar will also call on him during the visit. The talks are expected to build on recent high-level meetings between the two sides and add new momentum to economic and technological cooperation.

India and Austria deepen strategic ties as Stocker calls New Delhi a vital global partner



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

India and Austria on Thursday moved to strengthen their strategic partnership, with Austrian Chancellor Christian Stocker describing India as a key global voice and a reliable partner in times of geopolitical uncertainty. Speaking after talks with Prime Minister Narendra Modi in New Delhi, Stocker said both leaders agreed that global conflicts must be resolved through negotiation and supported a rules-based international order. The two sides held wide-ranging discussions on trade, investment, innovation, infrastructure, sustainability, and emerging technologies, including semiconductors and defense. Modi said the partnership would become more innovation-driven and future-ready, with both countries committed to boosting economic ties.

Stocker, on his first official visit to India after taking office, called the trip a milestone, noting it is the first visit by an Austrian chancellor in over four decades. He arrived on Wednesday with a high-level business delegation and paid tribute to Mahatma Gandhi earlier on Thursday.

Bilateral trade has grown to about €3 billion, with around 160 Austrian companies active in India. Both sides also agreed to enhance cooperation in security and defense through strategic dialogue, while backing progress on the India-European Union Free Trade Agreement.

India and France deepen strategic convergence across defense, technology and global governance

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

India and France strengthened their strategic partnership through a series of high-level parliamentary and diplomatic engagements in New Delhi and Paris this week. External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar met a visiting French Senate Friendship Group led by Senator Mireille Jouve, where both sides reviewed the full scope of bilateral relations and emphasized the importance of regular parliamentary exchanges.

In parallel, Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla held discussions with the France-India Parliamentary Friendship Group, focusing on the Horizon 2047 roadmap and expanding cooperation in technology, innovation, and democratic institution building. Both sides reaffirmed shared democratic values and the importance of parliamentary diplomacy in strengthening



the Special Global Strategic Partnership.

In Paris, Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri co-chaired Foreign Office Consultations with senior French officials, covering defense, civil nuclear energy, space, cyber cooperation, artificial intelligence, and green technologies. He also met French Foreign Minister Jean-Noel Barrot, with discussions extending to global issues, including the Middle East. Both countries reiterated their commitment to deepen cooperation amid evolving geopolitical challenges.

India and Kenya expand parliamentary diplomacy and security cooperation in Nairobi talks

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

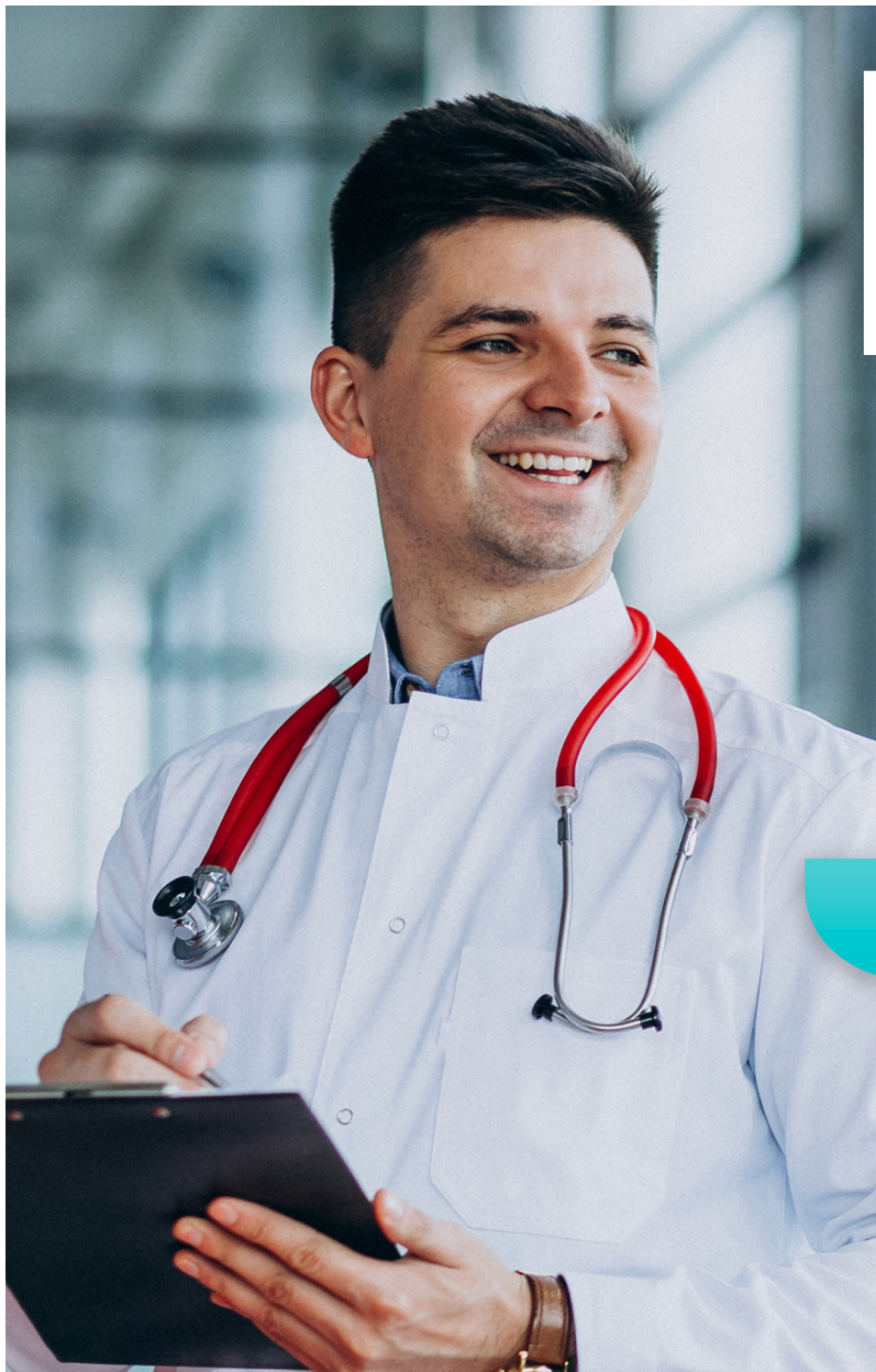
India and Kenya on Wednesday advanced efforts to strengthen parliamentary and bilateral cooperation during discussions in Nairobi between India's High Commissioner Adarsh Swaika and Kenyan National Assembly Speaker Moses Wetang'ula. Swaika handed over a letter from Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla announcing the formation of the India-Kenya Parliamentary Friendship Group in the Indian Parliament.

The discussions also focused on expanding cooperation in trade, investment, defense, security, capacity building, and training. Earlier engagements in Nairobi included meetings on youth affairs, sports partnerships, and the creative



economy, reflecting a broadening of ties beyond traditional sectors.

India and Kenya, maritime neighbors in the Indian Ocean, described their relationship as robust and multi-dimensional, supported by regular high-level visits, growing economic linkages, and strong people-to-people connections.



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California gasoline inventories hit record lows as supply shock intensifies



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

California's gasoline inventories have fallen to record lows as fuel prices surge across the United States following disruptions tied to the war in Iran and the closure of the Strait of Hormuz. On Thursday, drivers in the state were paying an average of \$5.86 per gallon, the highest in the country, compared with the national average of \$4.09, according to the American Automobile Association. Statewide gasoline stocks averaged 9.44 million barrels in the four weeks ended April 10, the lowest level in data going back to 2005. Analysts warn the full impact of reduced imports from Asia has yet to be felt due to shipping delays. Officials say supplies are sufficient through mid-May but expect tighter conditions ahead.

United States supports IMF quota reform and urges World Bank focus on critical minerals, says Bessent



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

United States Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent on Wednesday reaffirmed support for reforming International Monetary Fund quota resources and called on the World Bank to accelerate financing for critical minerals projects. He said the United States expects the development lender to shift focus toward projects that strengthen supply chains outside China, which dominates global rare earth production. Bessent also supported the expiration of the World Bank's climate action plan in 2026, saying lending should prioritize high-quality development projects rather than climate-focused spending. He emphasized that future International Monetary Fund quota changes should reflect members' economic weight and be based on a new formula, including greater representation for emerging markets. He also urged congressional approval of long-delayed quota reforms agreed in 2023.

Trump pushes economic message as inflation and fuel costs cloud Republican midterm outlook

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

U.S. President Donald Trump is promoting his economic agenda during a campaign-style swing through Nevada and Arizona this week, even as rising gasoline prices and broader inflation reshape the political landscape ahead of the midterm elections. Speaking in Las Vegas, Trump highlighted his tax and immigration legislation, including provisions eliminating federal taxes on tips and overtime pay, arguing that it has increased take-home income for millions of Americans, particularly service workers. The White House also pointed to more than 53 million tax filers benefiting from this year's filings and average refunds exceeding \$3,400, framing the policy as direct relief for working families.

However, Republicans are increasingly concerned that affordability issues, driven by higher fuel, food, housing, and insurance costs, are overshadowing those gains. Energy markets remain volatile amid tensions involving Iran



and disruptions around key global shipping routes, pushing oil prices higher and sustaining inflationary pressure across the economy.

Party strategists say the shift in voter focus from tax cuts to living costs is complicating Republican prospects in competitive House and Senate races. Democrats are gaining ground in several battleground states, while analysts warn even traditionally conservative districts could become competitive. Trump has urged supporters to view midterm losses as typical for the party in power but insists his policies can still reshape voter sentiment before election day.

House approves short term extension of surveillance program after GOP revolt



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The House on Friday approved a short-term extension of a key intelligence surveillance authority until April 30 after a late-night political standoff collapsed a longer renewal effort backed by President Donald Trump. Lawmakers had debated a revised five-year extension of Section 702 of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act, but the proposal failed after procedural votes broke down amid Republican defections and bipartisan frustration over the rushed process. The provision allows intelligence agencies to collect foreign communications without warrants, though Americans' data can be incidentally captured. Supporters say it is essential for counterterrorism, while critics warn of privacy risks. Speaker Mike Johnson said lawmakers were close to agreement as negotiations with the White House continue on a longer extension. The short renewal keeps the program active temporarily.

Former Virginia lieutenant governor kills estranged wife and himself amid divorce dispute

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Former Virginia Lieutenant Governor Justin Fairfax killed his estranged wife, Dr. Cerina Fairfax, and then himself on Thursday, just weeks before a court deadline to vacate the family home, according to police and court records. Authorities said officers responding to a call in Annandale, Virginia, found the couple dead in their residence. Investigators said Fairfax shot his wife in the basement before going upstairs and taking his own life. Their son called emergency services after the incident. The couple had been in the midst of divorce proceedings, with court filings noting rising conflict and Fairfax's worsening isolation. Once considered a rising Democratic figure who nearly became governor, Fairfax's political



career collapsed after sexual assault allegations surfaced in 2019. Police said the investigation remains ongoing, with officials reviewing the circumstances surrounding the divorce and court orders.

Death rate in United States immigration detention reaches 22-year high, study finds

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

A new study published in a leading medical journal found that deaths in United States immigration detention have reached a 22-year high, raising concerns about medical care and oversight in the system. Researchers reported an annualized death rate of 88.9 per 100,000 detainees in the current fiscal year based on early data, with 18 deaths recorded through January. The study found that most deaths involved men with a median age of 45, and cardiovascular disease accounted for about one-fifth of cases. Nearly half of all deaths were classified as undetermined or unclassified, raising concerns about transparency. The Department of Homeland Security disputed claims of



a spike, saying care standards remain strong. Experts said the findings point to systemic weaknesses worsened by expanded detention and limited oversight.

Health secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr. focuses on nutrition in congressional hearings amid vaccine scrutiny



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

United States Health Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr. appeared before Congress on Thursday, emphasizing nutrition, food safety, and healthcare policy while largely avoiding questions about vaccines and autism. Kennedy testified during hearings on the Trump administration's proposed health budget for 2027, which includes a reduced funding request for the Department of Health and Human Services. Lawmakers questioned him on vaccine policy, rising healthcare costs, and agency restructuring. Kennedy defended initiatives under his "Make America Healthy Again" agenda and said the department is expanding hiring after previous workforce reductions. He also acknowledged that a measles vaccine could have prevented a child's death in Texas last year during a heated exchange with lawmakers. Critics in Congress challenged his lack of medical credentials and expressed concern over his influence on national vaccine policy and public health decisions.

Justice Department fires four prosecutors in abortion clinic cases review



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The Trump administration on Tuesday fired four Justice Department prosecutors who worked on cases involving anti-abortion activists, accusing the Biden administration of misusing the Freedom of Access to Clinic Entrances law to target pro-life demonstrators. The move followed a new report from the Justice Department's "Weaponization Working Group," which alleged selective enforcement in abortion related prosecutions under the previous administration. Acting Attorney General Todd Blanche said the department would not tolerate a "two-tiered system of justice" or politically motivated prosecutions. Biden era officials defended the cases as lawful enforcement of a 1994 statute protecting clinics from obstruction and threats. Critics, including former prosecutors, said the report distorted evidence and defended the cases as grounded in court tested facts and consistent application of federal law.

Justice Sonia Sotomayor apologizes after remarks on colleague's immigration stance



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor apologized on Tuesday after remarks she made about Justice Brett Kavanaugh during a public event drew criticism from legal commentators and colleagues. Sotomayor said her comments at the University of Kansas School of Law were inappropriate and confirmed she had already apologized directly to Kavanaugh. Her remarks referenced a Supreme Court immigration case involving temporary stops by law enforcement and suggested disagreement with Kavanaugh's description of those encounters as brief and routine. Critics said her comments implied personal bias based on class and upbringing, while legal analysts called them improper and overly personal. Sotomayor clarified she was referring to a prior judicial disagreement rather than making a personal attack. The Supreme Court has not issued further comment on the matter.

Judge dismisses Trump defamation lawsuit over Wall Street Journal Epstein report but allows refiling

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

A federal judge on Monday dismissed President Donald Trump's ten billion dollar defamation lawsuit against The Wall Street Journal and media owner Rupert Murdoch over reporting that examined his ties to Jeffrey Epstein, but gave Trump the option to refile an amended complaint. The case centered on a Journal article describing a sexually suggestive letter allegedly bearing Trump's signature that was said to have been included in a 2003 birthday album compiled for Epstein.



resolved at this early stage of litigation.

U.S. District Judge Darrin P. Gayles ruled that Trump had not sufficiently demonstrated that the story was published with actual malice, a key standard required for defamation claims involving public figures. However, the judge also noted that disputed factual questions, including whether Trump authored the letter or the nature of his relationship with Epstein, cannot be

Trump responded on social media that the ruling was not a final defeat and said he intended to refile the case by the end of the month. The lawsuit was filed after the article brought renewed attention to his past association with Epstein, whose estate later provided documents to Congress following a subpoena. The White House did not immediately comment, while Dow Jones, which publishes The Wall Street Journal, said it stood by its reporting.

Federal judge blocks Trump administration from advancing White House ballroom construction

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk



A federal judge on Thursday sharply rebuked the Trump administration and reaffirmed an injunction blocking major work on a White House ballroom project without congressional approval. U.S. District Judge Richard Leon said officials had taken a "brazen" and "disingenuous" interpretation of his earlier ruling by trying to justify continued construction under a national security exemption. The dispute centers on a 90,000 square foot ballroom funded by private donors and tied to the demolition of the White House East Wing last October. The National Trust for Historic Preservation sued, arguing the project exceeded presidential authority. The administration claimed security related elements justified continued work. Leon clarified that only below ground security construction may proceed, not above ground ballroom development. The administration said it would appeal the ruling.

Tornadoes and flooding wreak havoc across central United States, one killed

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Severe storms continued to bring heavy rain, lightning, flooding, and tornado risks across the central United States on Thursday after causing at least one death in Wisconsin. Authorities said a man was likely struck by lightning in a parking lot during intense storms near Milwaukee. The system has produced more than 1,100 reports of severe weather, including tornadoes, large hail, and damaging winds across multiple states since earlier in the week. At least five tornadoes have been confirmed in Wisconsin, with more expected as damage surveys continue. Emergency declarations were issued in multiple areas of Michigan and Wisconsin due to flooding, with some



rivers approaching record levels. Forecasters warned that additional severe storms could continue into Friday before conditions begin to ease.

ICE acting director Todd Lyons to step down at end of May, Department of Homeland Security says

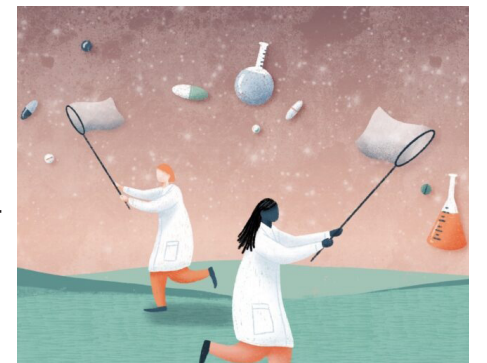
IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Acting United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement Director Todd Lyons will leave his post at the end of May, the Department of Homeland Security said on Thursday. Homeland Security Secretary Markwayne Mullin announced that Lyons' last day will be May 31, praising him as a strong leader who helped advance immigration enforcement under President Donald

Trump's deportation agenda. Lyons has led the agency since March 2025, overseeing expanded arrests, detention capacity, and high-profile enforcement operations in cities including Chicago and Minneapolis. His tenure also coincided with congressional funding increases that strengthened ICE operations. The agency faced criticism over controversial raids and protests, including after the deaths of two American protesters involving federal officers. Officials did not give a reason for his departure or name a successor.



FDA pushes drug makers to release missing clinical trial data



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The Food and Drug Administration is urging pharmaceutical companies and researchers to publish clinical trial results that have not been submitted to federal databases, warning that gaps in reporting undermine medical transparency. The agency said about three in ten eligible studies lack publicly available results, despite legal requirements to file summaries within one year of completion.

In late March, regulators contacted more than 2,200 sponsors to remind them of their obligations. FDA Commissioner Marty Makary said withholding data can conceal unfavorable outcomes and mislead doctors and patients. Officials emphasized that full disclosure is essential for patient safety, though enforcement actions remain limited for now.

UK Sikhs donate advanced sound system to Golden Temple

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Sikh families based in the United Kingdom have donated a modern sound system to the Golden Temple in Amritsar, reflecting continued diaspora contributions to religious institutions in India. The system was inaugurated by Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee president Harjinder Singh Dhani and funded collectively by several UK-based families. The donation was coordinated through Sikh community networks in England, highlighting strong emotional and religious ties between overseas Sikhs and their spiritual heritage. The families said the contribution was an act of devotion and service. SGPC officials noted that diaspora support plays a vital role in maintaining facilities at the shrine, one of the most important pilgrimage sites for Sikhs worldwide, especially during major religious gatherings.

Punjab announces rewards for 28 wanted gangsters operating from abroad



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Punjab has announced cash rewards for 28 proclaimed offenders operating transnational crime networks from abroad, underscoring the global reach of diaspora-linked organised crime. The list, released under the "Gangster-Free Punjab" campaign, includes fugitives based in countries such as Canada, the United States, the United Kingdom, Europe, the United Arab Emirates, and Pakistan. Many are accused of running extortion, drug trafficking, and targeted killings remotely. The top category includes Lakhbir Singh alias Landa and other high-profile gang leaders linked to major attacks in Punjab. Officials said the initiative aims to strengthen international cooperation and extradition efforts, as authorities struggle to curb crime networks that recruit operatives and fund operations across borders through diaspora connections.

Punjabis freed from Russian detention return home after alleged job scam

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Three youths from Punjab have returned to India after being released from detention in Russia, exposing yet another overseas job fraud affecting the Indian diaspora. The men, from Jalandhar, Mohali, and Tarn Taran, were allegedly lured by promises of high-paying jobs and later confined under harsh conditions. One returnee described severe treatment, minimal food, and alleged coercion during 22 days in custody. They had paid agents lakhs of rupees for employment guarantees that never materialised. Their release was secured through intervention by Sikh leader Balbir Singh Seechewal and support from India's Ministry of External Affairs. The case highlights continuing exploitation of Punjabi youth seeking work abroad through unregulated recruitment networks.

Indian man arrested at Perth airport over alleged in-flight sexual assault

● Staff Writer, IndoUS Tribune

A 52-year-old Indian national was arrested at Perth airport in Australia after being accused of sexually assaulting a fellow passenger during a Scoot Airlines flight from Singapore earlier this week. According to the Australian Federal Police, the woman was seated next to the accused when the alleged incident occurred mid-flight.

Authorities said the victim immediately alerted cabin crew, who relocated her and monitored the situation while informing law enforcement on the ground. After the flight landed in Perth, police boarded the aircraft and detained the passenger.



He has since been charged with sexual intercourse without consent and multiple counts of indecent acts without consent.

Bail was refused, and the accused remains in custody ahead of a Friday hearing. Officials stressed that in-flight misconduct is treated seriously under Australian law.

Indian national among two charged in Singapore cheating case worth 1.3 million US dollars

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

An Indian national and a Singaporean woman have been charged in Singapore for allegedly cheating a cultural organization of more than 1.3 million US dollars through rigged construction tenders. Authorities say the alleged offences took place between April and December in 2023. The accused, identified as a 53-year-old director of a construction firm and an 81-year-old maintenance head at a columbarium, allegedly conspired to manipulate open tenders for repair and maintenance work. The projects were awarded to one company, which then subcontracted them to another firm linked to the duo.



Investigators say they concealed the arrangement and misled the organisation into approving payments totaling about 1.66 million Singapore dollars. Both face nine cheating charges and will appear in court for a pre-trial hearing on May 21. If convicted, they could face up to 10 years in prison and fines.

Sikh hate crime surge in United States raises concern among community groups

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Sikh advocacy groups in the United States are raising concerns after Federal Bureau of Investigation data revealed a sharp rise in hate crimes targeting Sikh individuals over the past decade. According to the data, incidents have surged by approximately 3,800 percent between 2015 and 2025, despite an overall decline in hate crimes in the most recent year. While total hate crime

incidents dropped by 11 percent in 2025 compared to the previous year, the long-term trend shows a significant overall increase of about 88 percent over the decade. Community organisations say the spike in anti-Sikh bias highlights ongoing challenges in awareness and protection for minority religious groups. Advocacy groups are calling for stronger reporting mechanisms, improved education about Sikh identity, and enhanced federal and local measures to prevent targeted violence and discrimination.

Surrey Central shooting raises concerns amid rise in targeted incidents

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Police in Canada are investigating a shooting incident at a home in Surrey Central, British Columbia, a neighbourhood with a large Punjabi and Indo-Canadian population. The incident took place in the early hours of April 13, local time, near 95 Avenue and 127 Street.

Authorities said multiple shots were fired at the residence, causing damage to the property. Fortunately, no one inside the house was injured and all occupants were safe. Surrey Police Service and forensic teams have launched a full investigation and are examining possible leads, though



the motive remains unknown.

Officials have urged residents to share any CCTV or dashcam footage that could assist the probe. The area has recently seen a rise in targeted shootings and extortion-related incidents, raising concerns among the local community.

Indian-origin banker in Singapore jailed for forging client documents

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

An Indian-origin wealth manager in Singapore has been sentenced to seven weeks in jail for forging bank documents linked to Japanese clients, in a case highlighting professional misconduct within the global diaspora workforce. Vijendren Tanapal, who worked at a major bank handling insurance products, pleaded guilty to two forgery charges committed in 2017. He fabricated bank statements to meet sales targets while selling insurance policies. Authorities later uncovered multiple similar cases involving other clients. Although no financial loss was reported to the bank, the court noted deliberate deception. Tanapal, who is no longer employed at the bank, will begin serving his sentence later this year, underscoring stricter scrutiny of financial professionals within international diaspora-linked banking networks.

Andhra tech worker dies in California waterfall accident, diaspora family awaits repatriation

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

A young technology professional from Andhra Pradesh died in a tragic accident during a recreational visit to a waterfall in California, highlighting the risks faced by Indian diaspora workers abroad during leisure travel. The deceased, Singireddy Sai Sriharikrishna from Vizianagaram district, was employed at a software company in the United States. Authorities said the incident occurred while he was visiting the site with friends, though details remain limited. His sudden death has left the Indian diaspora community in California and his family in Andhra Pradesh in deep shock. He is survived by his parents in Piridi village. Local representatives and officials in India are coordinating with diaspora support channels and US authorities to expedite the repatriation of his mortal remains.

Tehran gurdwara marks Baisakhi amid war, highlights resilience of Sikh community

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

One of Iran's oldest Sikh places of worship, Bhai Ganga Singh Sabha Gurdwara in Tehran, marked Baisakhi on Tuesday amid the ongoing regional conflict, bringing together members of the Sikh community and local residents in a rare moment of celebration during difficult times. Established in 1941, the gurdwara remains an important spiritual and cultural centre for Tehran's Sikh population.

The festival was observed with traditional prayers, including Shri Akhand Path Sahib, shabad kirtan, and the ceremonial changing of the Nishan Sahib during the Chola Charauna ritual, symbolising renewal and continuity. Community members also served langar, reflecting unity and resilience in the face of uncertainty. Images from the celebration, which have circulated widely, show devotees participating in rituals while maintaining a sense of hope amid regional tensions. The gurdwara has also historically hosted visiting Indian leaders, including Prime Minister Narendra Modi during his visit to Iran in 2016.

California assembly recognises Vaisakhi, US leaders extend greetings to Sikh diaspora



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The California Assembly has adopted a resolution recognising Vaisakhi as one of the most significant observances for Sikh Americans, highlighting its cultural and historical importance for the Sikh diaspora in the United States. The motion, introduced by Assembly member Jasmeet Kaur Bains, received overwhelming support with 76 of 80 lawmakers backing it in the 80-member House and was passed on the eve of Vaisakhi on Monday. The resolution encourages Californians to participate in celebrations and acknowledges Sikh contributions to the state. California Governor Gavin Newsom also extended greetings on social media, joining several US lawmakers in sending Vaisakhi wishes to Sikh communities across the country and globally, underscoring growing visibility of the diaspora.

Sikh group launches legal challenge crowdfunding over UK anti-Muslim hostility definition



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

A United Kingdom-based umbrella body of Sikh organisations has launched a crowdfunding campaign to finance a legal challenge against the government's newly introduced anti-Muslim hostility definition. The campaign comes after UK Housing, Communities and Local Government Secretary Steve Reed tabled the definition in Parliament last month as part of a broader social cohesion strategy aimed at tackling prejudice and discrimination directed at Muslims or those perceived to be Muslim. The Network of Sikh Organisations argues that the move could have unintended consequences for freedom of religion and expression. The group says it plans to pursue a judicial review, claiming the policy may affect how British Sikhs and other faith communities practise and express their beliefs. It has raised concerns that non-criminal hate incidents could expand surveillance and create a chilling effect on speech. The crowdfunding effort has already raised over 2,000 pounds of its 25,000 pounds target.

Khalsa College alumni body expands global leadership network

● Staff Writer, IndoUS Tribune

The Khalsa College Governing Council in Amritsar has announced a restructured global alumni association aimed at strengthening its international network and institutional outreach. The initiative brings together prominent alumni and professionals from India and abroad. Five-time Canadian Member of Parliament Sukh Dhaliwal, retired police officer Mukhwinder Singh Chhina, sports person Kartar Singh Pahalwan, and former Punjab Agricultural University vice-chancellor B. S. Dhillon have been

named among key office-bearers.

The council said the tenure of office-bearers has been extended for two more years to enhance alumni engagement in academic, cultural, and developmental initiatives. The association will focus on fostering collaboration, knowledge exchange, and global partnerships to boost the college's international standing.

Officials said the move aims to connect the 1892-established institution with its worldwide alumni base and encourage greater participation in institutional growth and development.

Indian student clears 100,000 US dollar loan in one year after viral success story

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

An Indian student who moved to the United States for higher education has gone viral after revealing she repaid a 100,000 US dollar student loan within one year. The amount is roughly equivalent to 80 lakh rupees. The student, Sakshi, said her goal was to relieve financial pressure on her parents and credited discipline, a high-paying internship at Amazon, and work as a research assistant for helping her clear the debt quickly.



She described facing intense pressure during her studies but said emotional

support from family and her fiancé played a crucial role. Her story has drawn widespread attention on social media, with users praising her determination and financial discipline.

Indian American scientist Amit Kshatriya plays key role in United States moon mission

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Indian American scientist Amit Kshatriya has emerged as a central figure in the United States National Aeronautics and Space Administration's ongoing lunar exploration program. As Associate Administrator, he serves as the agency's highest-ranking civil servant and advises the NASA Administrator on mission strategy and operations.



Born in Wisconsin to first-generation Indian immigrant parents and raised partly in Texas, Kshatriya developed an early interest in space inspired by rocket launches near Houston. He holds degrees in mathematics from the California Institute of Technology and the University of Texas at Austin.

Over his career at NASA, he has worked across spacecraft operations, robotics, and

space station leadership, including serving as a space station flight director and later overseeing engineering and logistics for the International Space Station. He also contributed to the Artemis lunar program.

He was appointed Associate Administrator last year and has received multiple honors, including NASA's Outstanding Leadership Medal.

Supreme Court considers plea over 26 Indians allegedly detained in Russia

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The Supreme Court of India has agreed to hear a petition seeking the safe return of 26 Indian nationals allegedly detained in Russia and forced to participate in the ongoing conflict involving Ukraine. The matter is expected to be taken up later this month. The petition also seeks directions to several states, including Rajasthan, Haryana, Punjab, and

Himachal Pradesh, to act against illegal recruitment agents accused of trafficking workers abroad under false promises. The plea urges the Centre to ensure consular access, verify the whereabouts of the individuals, and provide medical and legal assistance. It also calls for a standard protocol for handling cases of Indians missing or detained overseas. The court has asked the government to respond and examine the issue before the next hearing.

Canada proposes major Express Entry overhaul affecting Indian and Punjabi diaspora aspirants

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Canada has announced a major overhaul of its Express Entry immigration system that could significantly impact thousands of skilled migrants from India, particularly the Punjabi diaspora seeking permanent residency. The government plans to replace three existing federal economic immigration programs with a single consolidated pathway under its proposed reforms outlined in the Federal Forward Regulatory Plan for 2026 to 2028. The Federal Skilled Worker Program, Canadian Experience Class and Federal Skilled Trades Program will be merged into one "federal high-skilled immigration class" aimed at simplifying the system and aligning it more closely with labour market needs. Applicants will require at least one year of skilled work experience, minimum language proficiency and a high school education. The Comprehensive Ranking System is also expected to be revised, potentially favouring candidates with job offers and higher earnings. The proposal remains under consultation, with changes likely to be closely watched by diaspora communities in India and Canada.

Canada pauses deportation hearing in AP Dhillon attack case amid diaspora-linked gang probe



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Deportation proceedings against Abjeet Kingra, an alleged member of the Lawrence Bishnoi gang linked to the 2024 attack on Punjabi singer AP Dhillon's residence in British Columbia, were abruptly halted in Canada after officials were unable to locate him during a virtual hearing. The case has drawn attention across the Punjabi diaspora, highlighting ongoing concerns over transnational gang activity targeting high-profile South Asian artists abroad.

Kingra is accused of firing at Dhillon's home and setting vehicles on fire in Colwood, actions allegedly carried out under gang orders and later publicised online. Authorities say he entered Canada on a student visa that later expired and was subsequently convicted before facing deportation proceedings.

The Immigration and Refugee Board suspended the hearing after corrections officials failed to confirm his whereabouts, exposing coordination gaps between agencies. The case underscores how diaspora-linked organised crime networks continue to operate across Canada's Punjabi community.



Sweden says pro-Russian cyber group targeted power plant in failed attack

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Sweden's government has said a pro-Russian cyber group attempted to disrupt operations at a thermal power plant in western Sweden last year, though the attack was unsuccessful. The security service identified the group as linked to Russian intelligence, according to the civil defence minister. Officials said built-in safeguards prevented any serious impact and no ongoing investigation remains open. Russia rejected the allegations as unfounded. Swedish authorities warned that hybrid threats, including cyberattacks on infrastructure, have increased since the war in Ukraine, with similar attempts reported across Europe targeting energy systems and critical services.

Burundi communications minister dies in reported accident, presidency says



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Burundi's communications minister Gabby Bugaga has died in what the presidency described as an accident, though no details of the incident were provided, officials said on Thursday. The government expressed condolences, with President Evariste Ndayishimiye calling Bugaga a dedicated public servant and praising his commitment to national service. Unverified images circulating on social media showed a damaged vehicle at a roadside location, but authorities have not confirmed the circumstances of his death. Bugaga, a former journalist, was appointed communications minister in August last year. The announcement has prompted widespread attention, though officials have not released further information about the cause or timing of the incident. An investigation or additional clarification has not yet been announced.

Suspect in 1982 Paris Jewish restaurant attack arrested in West Bank

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

A man suspected of helping orchestrate a deadly 1982 attack on a Jewish restaurant in Paris has been arrested by Palestinian authorities in the occupied West Bank. Mahmoud Khader Abed Adra, also known as Hicham Harb, is accused of directing the gun and grenade assault on the Jo Goldenberg restaurant in the Rue des Rosiers district, which killed six people and injured more than 20. France said it is working with Palestinian authorities on extradition after the arrest under an international warrant issued in 2015. A trial involving six suspects is expected early next year.

India proposes major parliamentary expansion and women's quota in sweeping democratic overhaul

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

India's government on Thursday introduced a major set of constitutional and electoral reform bills aimed at expanding Parliament and increasing women's representation, while redrawing constituency boundaries based on updated population data. Prime Minister Narendra Modi told lawmakers in the lower house that the proposals would steer the country in a "new direction," arguing that greater participation by women would bring "new strength" and "fresh

thinking" to governance. The plan would increase the number of seats in the lower house by about 55 percent, taking it to roughly 850 lawmakers, and similarly expand state legislatures ahead of the next general election in 2029. One-third of seats would be reserved for women, fulfilling a 2023 commitment tied to the next census. Opposition parties support gender quotas but accuse the government of manipulating boundaries for political advantage. The bills require a two-thirds majority and approval from at least half of state legislatures.



IMF and World Bank resume formal ties with Venezuela after years of suspension

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The International Monetary Fund and the World Bank on Thursday announced they are resuming formal dealings with Venezuela, ending a pause that began in 2019. The move could open the door to a long-delayed economic assessment of the country and potentially unlock billions of dollars in frozen special drawing rights. IMF Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva said the decision reflects the view of a majority of member states and involves engagement with Venezuela's government under interim President Delcy Rodriguez.

The World Bank also confirmed it is restoring relations, noting its last loan to Venezuela was issued in 2005. The shift follows a change in United States policy earlier this year, after President Donald Trump's administration moved to remove



President Nicolas Maduro and began working with Rodriguez. Venezuelan officials welcomed the decision, calling it a key step toward economic normalization as the country eyes debt restructuring and access to international financing.

Danish Refugee Council warns millions more could be displaced as global aid declines

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

More than four million people are expected to be newly displaced worldwide by the end of next year as donor funding for humanitarian assistance declines, the Danish Refugee Council said on Thursday. The organization warned that shrinking aid budgets are weakening the global safety net for people fleeing war and crisis, leaving many with little support beyond survival. It noted that around one hundred seventeen million people are already forcibly displaced, while the number of conflicts has risen to about one hundred thirty, roughly double early twenty-first century levels, according to the International Committee of the Red Cross. The largest increase is expected in Sudan, where a war that entered its fourth year this week could force an additional



six hundred seventy thousand people to flee this year and next. The report, supported by IBM, analyzed security and environmental risks across twenty-seven countries and warned of worsening humanitarian pressure.

US senators signal imminent weapons approvals for Taiwan amid China pressure



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Abipartisan group of United States senators has told Taiwanese lawmakers that pending U.S. weapons sales are expected to be approved in the coming weeks, while urging Taiwan to accelerate stalled defense spending. In a letter, Senators Jeanne Shaheen, John Curtis, Thom Tillis and Jacky Rosen said Washington remains committed to delivering critical capabilities, including counter-drone systems, integrated battle command tools and medium-range munitions. The lawmakers also pressed Taiwan's parliament to move ahead with proposed defense funding amid rising Chinese pressure. The appeal comes as Taiwan's opposition blocks parts of a major spending plan.

Two arrested after attempted arson attack on north London synagogue

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

A 47-year-old woman and a 46-year-old man have been arrested on suspicion of arson endangering life after an attempted attack on a synagogue in Finchley, north London, in what the Metropolitan Police described as an antisemitic hate crime. The suspects were detained in the Watford area on Wednesday evening and remain in custody. Police said the pair are linked to an incident shortly after midnight on Fallow Court Avenue, where two individuals in dark clothing and balaclavas approached the synagogue carrying bottles and a brick. The bottles, believed to contain petrol, were smashed against the building but did not ignite, and no injuries or damage were reported. Officers said the investigation is ongoing, with increased patrols in the area. Community leaders and local politicians condemned the attack, while police urged anyone with information to come forward.

Serbia moves to build attack drone units as military modernization accelerates

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Serbian President Aleksandar Vucic has directed the military to create new units equipped with attack drones as the country accelerates efforts to modernize its armed forces. After meeting top commanders, Vucic said Serbia would expand drone production and focus on digital warfare capabilities, including long-range strike systems and loitering munitions. He said the reforms would strengthen interoperability and regional defense capacity. Serbia has recently increased defense spending and signed major arms deals with Israel, France and China. The move has raised concern among neighbors, though Belgrade insists its military buildup is defensive and not aggressive.

Friday, 17 April 2026

Nigeria warns of widespread flooding risk in 2026 affecting millions across 33 states

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Nigeria has warned that more than fourteen thousand communities across thirty-three states and the Federal Capital Territory face a high risk of flooding in 2026, according to the national hydrological agency. The Nigeria Hydrological Services Agency said over fourteen thousand one hundred communities are classified as high risk, while more than fifteen thousand face moderate risk. It said flooding is expected to peak between July and September during the rainy season, threatening cities, farmland, and infrastructure. Coastal states including Bayelsa, Delta, Rivers, and Lagos are especially vulnerable, along with major urban centers such as Abuja and Port Harcourt. Nigeria regularly experiences severe flooding, with major disasters in recent years killing hundreds and displacing millions. The agency warned that the scale of risk this year is consistent with recent trends and urged preparedness as heavy rains approach.

Kremlin says US rejected Russian plan to move Iranian uranium stockpile

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The Kremlin has said the United States rejected a Russian proposal to take custody of Iran's enriched uranium as part of efforts to ease tensions over Tehran's nuclear program. Russian officials said the idea involved transferring Iran's uranium stockpiles to Russia for conversion into civilian fuel, but Washington reportedly declined the offer.

The proposal has been discussed intermittently for years without progress. Iran's uranium stockpile remains a central issue in negotiations over its nuclear activities, with Western governments warning it could potentially be used to develop weapons capability if no agreement is reached.

Macron urges teenagers to switch off screens and support social media restrictions for minors

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

French President Emmanuel Macron has called on teenagers to reduce screen time and read more, proposing a monthly "offline day" and stricter limits on social media use for children under fifteen. Speaking to high school students, Macron said children are being overwhelmed by unregulated digital platforms and need protection as they grow into adulthood. He also reiterated support for a proposed ban on social media access for those under fifteen, though the legislation is still being debated in parliament. Some lawmakers favor a narrower approach targeting harmful platforms, which could delay implementation. Several European countries are considering similar restrictions, alongside age verification systems. The proposal has drawn mixed reactions from students, with some supporting greater protection while others argue parents should enforce rules. Officials acknowledge that enforcement may be difficult, as many young users are likely to bypass restrictions using workarounds such as virtual private networks.

Bulgarian election fraud concerns intensify ahead of tightly watched vote

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Allegations of vote buying and coercion are once again casting a shadow over Bulgaria's election as the country prepares for its eighth national vote in five years. Brokers linked to political parties are accused of offering cash payments for votes, while others allegedly pressure rural residents by threatening access to heating supplies or employment.

Authorities say more than 1,000 violations have already been reported and over 180

people detained in recent weeks, significantly higher than during the previous election cycle. Despite a caretaker government promising stricter enforcement, analysts warn that entrenched patronage networks remain difficult to dismantle. The Anti-Corruption Fund estimates that up to 15 percent of votes could still be influenced. Officials say new monitoring units and voter hotlines are helping improve oversight, but acknowledge they cannot eliminate fraud entirely. With political trust weakened after repeated government collapses, voter confidence remains fragile ahead of Sunday's election.



Nepal sets up panel to probe assets of politicians and officials in anti-corruption drive

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Nepal's new government has formed a five-member panel to investigate the property and assets of current and former politicians and public officials in an effort to curb corruption, officials said. The commission will be headed by retired Supreme Court judge Rajendra Kumar Bhandari and will examine evidence-based allegations, according to cabinet spokesperson Sasmit Pokhrel.

He said the panel's findings and recommendations will be implemented by relevant government agencies, though no timeline has been set for the inquiry. The move comes after the electoral victory of the Rastriya Swatantra Party, led by rapper-turned-politician Balendra



Shah, who took office following a strong showing in elections held after anti-corruption protests last year. The probe is expected to cover hundreds of officials who have held office since the 2008 abolition of the monarchy, as the government seeks to reinforce its anti-graft agenda.

Hungarian state media journalists demand editorial independence after election upheaval

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

More than ninety journalists at Hungary's state news agency MTI have demanded the restoration of editorial independence and impartial reporting following political changes after the recent election, according to a letter seen by Reuters. The journalists said they want to regain control over what they report and how stories are covered based on professional standards. The call follows victory by opposition leader Peter Magyar, who has pledged reforms to public media, including suspending state broadcasts until unbiased reporting is ensured. Magyar's party has also promised a new media law and restructuring of public broadcasting institutions. Critics



have long accused Hungary's state media of becoming a government mouthpiece under Prime Minister Viktor Orban since 2010. Media analysts say restoring independence will be a major challenge, with significant implications for press freedom and democratic institutions in the country.

Burj Al Arab set for first major closure as Dubai landmark undergoes 18-month overhaul

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Dubai's iconic Burj Al Arab hotel will shut for an 18-month renovation, its first major refurbishment since opening in 1999, according to staff and its operator Jumeirah. The upgrade will be carried out in phases and led by French interior architect Tristan Auer, with guests redirected to nearby hotels. The sail-shaped landmark reportedly suffered minor damage earlier this year from debris linked to regional conflict activity, though the renovation is not connected to that incident. Tourism in the region has slowed due to geopolitical tensions, but Jumeirah said the project was planned as a long-term modernization effort.

Sudan war deepens as global aid lags at crisis summit in Berlin

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Britain has called for an immediate end to Sudan's war as international officials met in Berlin on the conflict's third anniversary, with aid levels far below what is needed. Foreign Secretary Yvette Cooper is expected to double UK humanitarian support to frontline responders as more than 19 million people face acute hunger. Fighting between the Sudanese army and Rapid Support Forces has entered a fourth year with no ceasefire in sight. Analysts warn worsening conditions in regions like Kordofan, while diplomatic efforts among regional powers have stalled and drone warfare is intensifying civilian casualties.

El Salvador expands crackdown with life sentences for children as young as 12



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

El Salvador has enacted a law allowing life imprisonment for minors as young as 12 convicted of serious crimes such as murder, terrorism, or rape, marking a further expansion of President Nayib Bukele's hardline security policies. The measure follows a constitutional amendment passed in March and takes effect later this month. It comes amid a four-year state of emergency under which more than 90,000 people have been detained. Critics, including United Nations agencies, say the policy risks severe human rights violations and undermines juvenile justice standards, while the government argues it is necessary to combat gang violence.

Pay Commission panel proposes major salary revision that could raise minimum pay to 69,000 rupees

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The National Council–Joint Consultative Machinery has proposed a significant salary overhaul for central government employees under the eighth Pay Commission, recommending a fitment factor of 3.83. If implemented, this would raise the minimum basic pay from 18,000 rupees to around 69,000 rupees. The proposal also includes a 6 percent annual increment, two additional increments upon promotion, and a minimum benefit of 10,000 rupees. It further suggests merging dearness allowance with basic pay to streamline compensation. The proposed changes would impact more than 50 lakh employees and nearly 65 lakh pensioners. Analysts note that the final decision will depend on the government's approval after the commission submits its recommendations, expected within 18 months from its formation.

Gujarat High Court clears government move to reclaim encroached ashram land in Motera

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The Gujarat High Court has dismissed an appeal by the Asaram Ashram Trust, upholding government orders to reclaim more than 45,000 square metres of encroached land in Ahmedabad's Motera area. A division bench ruled that the trust repeatedly violated land allotment conditions and that illegal occupation could not be regularized. The court relied on satellite and GPS mapping, which showed expansion beyond permitted limits into government land and the Sabarmati riverbed. The state government said due process was followed through notices and hearings over several years. The ruling clears the way for authorities to recover land near key infrastructure zones, including areas linked to future sports development projects around the Narendra Modi Stadium and proposed international sporting events.

Government panel proposes tax cuts on CNG to accelerate shift toward cleaner fuel adoption

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

A government committee supported by the Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board has recommended removing 14 percent excise duty on compressed natural gas to make it more affordable and boost adoption. The panel also proposed reducing goods and services tax on CNG vehicles to 5 percent, aligning it with electric vehicle tax rates. The recommendations aim to increase CNG competitiveness against petrol and support India's target of raising natural gas's share in the energy mix to 15 percent by 2030. Officials said the proposals could benefit nearly two crore households and millions of users. The government is also expanding piped natural gas infrastructure nationwide as part of a broader clean energy transition strategy focused on reducing emissions and fuel import dependence.

India achieves major breakthrough with 1,000-kilometre quantum communication network under national mission

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

India has successfully demonstrated a 1,000-kilometre quantum communication network using indigenous technology, marking a significant milestone under the National Quantum Mission. The achievement, completed in less than two years, far exceeds early expectations and moves the country closer to its longer-term target of a 2,000-kilometre quantum-secure communication system. Developed with support from homegrown startup QNu Labs, the network is among the longest quantum key distribution systems

demonstrated globally.

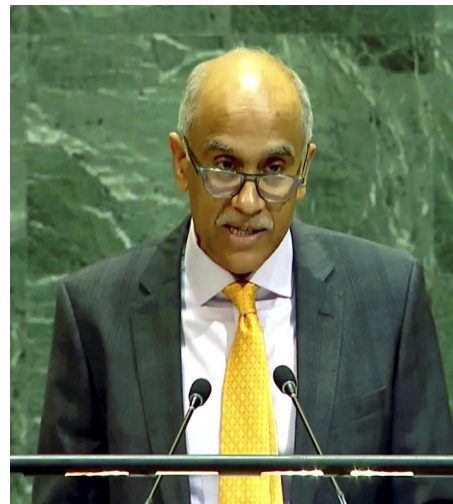
Officials from the Department of Science and Technology described the development as a landmark step in building quantum-safe infrastructure. The technology is expected to strengthen secure communication across defence, finance, and critical infrastructure, while also supporting deployment in challenging terrains, including underground and underwater environments. The mission has also expanded its startup ecosystem, increasing supported ventures to 17 working across quantum sensing, secure communication, and precision systems.



India calls for dialogue and restraint on Strait of Hormuz attacks amid United Nations veto dispute

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

India expressed concern over attacks on commercial shipping in the Strait of Hormuz while taking a neutral stance on a United Nations Security Council resolution vetoed by Russia and China. Speaking at a General Assembly meeting on Thursday, India's representative urged all parties to prioritize dialogue, de-escalation, and respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity. India emphasized the strategic importance of the strait for its energy security, noting that disruptions have affected trade and livelihoods. The statement also condemned attacks on civilian shipping and the loss of Indian seafarers' lives. India reiterated that freedom of navigation must be protected and that international



law governing maritime security must be fully respected by all sides involved in the ongoing regional conflict.

Delhi high court hears Arvind Kejriwal's recusal plea in liquor policy case

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The Delhi High Court on Monday heard arguments by former Delhi chief minister Arvind Kejriwal, who sought the recusal of Justice Swarana Kanta Sharma from proceedings related to the Central Bureau of Investigation's challenge against a trial court order discharging him and other accused in the liquor policy case. Kejriwal raised concerns over prior judicial observations and rulings in related matters, including bail decisions involving co-accused and earlier proceedings linked to his arrest. During the hearing, which lasted several hours before the court reserved its verdict, Justice Sharma remarked that Kejriwal had presented his



arguments effectively enough to consider a career in law. Kejriwal responded that he was satisfied with his current role in public life. The underlying case stems from allegations of irregularities in the now-scrapped Delhi excise policy, which remains under judicial scrutiny across multiple proceedings.

India intensifies crackdown as Pakistan-linked drug trafficking through Golden Crescent expands

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Indian security agencies have stepped up surveillance as narcotics trafficking linked to the Golden Crescent, covering Pakistan and Afghanistan, shows an upward trend. Officials estimate that about 65 percent of drugs entering India originate from this route, with smuggling networks pushing shipments through southern states such as Kerala and Tamil Nadu before moving them to neighbouring countries.

Agencies including the Narcotics Control Bureau and the Indian Navy are monitoring sea routes, high-speed boats, and container shipments being used by cartels. Officials said coordination has been strengthened with international partners, even as domestic enforcement operations have disrupted several supply chains in recent months.

Authorities also noted that cartel networks linked to both the Golden Crescent and Golden Triangle remain interconnected and require coordinated multi-agency action.

Former communist leader declines Rajya Sabha pension, cites long-standing personal principle

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Veteran Communist Party of India (Marxist) leader and senior advocate Bikas Ranjan Bhattacharya has declined to accept his pension as a former Rajya Sabha member. In a letter addressed to the Rajya Sabha Secretariat, he stated that he does not wish to receive any retirement benefits and requested official records reflect his decision. Bhattacharya, who served in the Upper House from 2020 until earlier this year, has a history of refusing official emoluments, including during his tenure as mayor of Kolkata Municipal Corporation. His decision has drawn public attention and social media praise, with supporters calling it a reflection of personal discipline and political principle. He is currently contesting a West Bengal assembly seat in the upcoming state elections.

Bhopal overbridge redesign ordered after sharp 90-degree turn triggers safety backlash

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The controversial railway overbridge in Bhopal's Aishbagh area, widely criticized for its dangerously sharp 90-degree turn, will be redesigned before being opened to the public. The decision follows a high-level meeting between the Public Works Department and Indian Railways after months of public outrage and safety concerns. Built at a cost of about 18 crore rupees and completed in June 2025, the bridge remained unused due to its flawed design. Officials plan to widen the curve and increase the road width to allow safer vehicle movement. Seven engineers were suspended earlier as experts reviewed corrections.

United States extradites 2008 Mumbai attacks accused Tahawwur Rana to face trial in India

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The United States on Wednesday extradited Canadian citizen and Pakistan-born Tahawwur Hussain Rana to India, where he will face trial on ten criminal charges linked to the 2008 Mumbai terrorist attacks that killed more than 160 people, including six Americans. Indian authorities allege Rana conspired with Lashkar-e-Tayyiba operatives by helping co-accused David Coleman Headley obtain false visas and establish a cover for surveillance of attack sites. Rana was previously convicted in the United States in 2013 for providing material support to a terrorist organization and serving a foiled plot in Denmark. After years of legal challenges, the United States Supreme Court and lower courts cleared his extradition, which was completed on April 9, when he was handed over to Indian authorities for prosecution.

Bihar political transition advances as Bharatiya Janata Party appoints Shivraj Singh Chouhan as observer

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The Bharatiya Janata Party has appointed Union minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan as central observer for electing its legislative leader in Bihar, signaling movement toward a new government formation. The decision follows former chief minister Nitish Kumar's transition to the Rajya Sabha, ending his long tenure in state politics. The National Democratic Alliance is expected to finalize its leadership after a legislature party meeting, likely to be held after April 13. While several names are being discussed for the chief minister's post, including senior leaders within the coalition, no official announcement has been made yet by the alliance.

India proposes lifestyle and mental health focus at BRICS health working group meeting

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

India chaired the first Health Working Group meeting under its BRICS presidency for 2026 on Wednesday, bringing together representatives from nine member countries to discuss cooperation in public health.

The virtual meeting, led by Union Health Secretary Punya Salila Srivastava, included participation from Brazil, Russia, China, South Africa, Egypt, Ethiopia, the United Arab Emirates, and Indonesia. India outlined its priorities under the theme "Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability," proposing two new initiatives: a BRICS Mission for Healthy Lifestyles and a framework for mental health promotion.

The agenda also covered tuberculosis research, digital health systems, early warning mechanisms for infectious diseases, and access to medicines. Member countries supported expanded cooperation in universal health coverage, pandemic preparedness, and traditional medicine integration into healthcare systems.

Mamata Banerjee accuses centre of using delimitation link to divide West Bengal

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Thursday accused the central government and the Bharatiya Janata Party of using the delimitation process linked to the Women's Reservation Amendment Bill as a strategy to divide West Bengal. Addressing a campaign rally in Mathabhanga in Cooch Behar district ahead of the upcoming two-phase Assembly elections, she questioned why delimitation provisions were included with the women's reservation legislation. She alleged that the move was aimed at altering voter rolls in the future and possibly introducing the National Register of Citizens in the state. Banerjee also warned against attempts to "deport" people after elections and said law and order concerns would be addressed after the polls. She further alleged misuse of central agencies



and financial influence in the election process, claiming the Bharatiya Janata Party lacks ground-level organisational strength in the state.

Mangeshkar family plans Asia-scale hospital and museum to preserve Lata Mangeshkar and Asha Bhosle legacy

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Hridaynath Mangeshkar has announced an ambitious plan to build a large hospital in Mumbai dedicated to the legacy of Lata Mangeshkar and Asha Bhosle, aiming to make it one of Asia's largest healthcare institutions. The project, still in early stages, may be named 'Lata-Asha Institute of Medical Sciences' or 'Lata-Asha Mangeshkar Ayurvedhya Sansthan'. Alongside the hospital, the family plans to establish a museum showcasing the musical heritage of the Mangeshkar family, including interactive learning experiences for visitors. The announcement follows widespread tributes to Asha Bhosle, who died at the age of 92 on Sunday, with her last rites



held on Monday in Mumbai. Prominent figures from the film and music industry attended, honoring her immense contribution to Indian music and culture.

India and securities regulator join hands to strengthen telecom intelligence against financial fraud

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The Department of Telecommunications and the Securities and Exchange Board of India have signed a memorandum of understanding to enhance cooperation in tackling financial fraud involving telecom resources. The agreement enables real-time sharing of telecom intelligence, including fraud risk indicators and mobile number revocation data, to identify suspicious activity linked

to investment scams. SEBI will also share inputs on telecom numbers associated with cyber fraud, impersonation, and money mule networks. Officials said the partnership marks a shift from reactive enforcement to proactive prevention within India's digital financial ecosystem. The system will help regulators detect and block fraudulent mobile connections early, strengthening investor protection as digital trading and investment platforms continue to expand rapidly across the country.



Noida violence case: Police identify key conspirators amid probe into alleged cross-border digital links



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Police in Gautam Buddha Nagar have claimed a breakthrough in the investigation into recent labour unrest, saying it was triggered by a coordinated conspiracy. Officials identified three alleged masterminds, arresting two while one remains absconding. Authorities also flagged two social media accounts that circulated provocative content, which preliminary findings suggest were operated using virtual private networks from Pakistan. Multiple intelligence agencies have joined the probe. So far, 13 cases have been registered and 62 people arrested. Officials say most accused were outsiders, while normalcy has been restored with heightened security and resumed industrial activity across the region.

Manipur extends internet suspension in five districts amid law and order concerns

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The Manipur government has extended the suspension of mobile internet and broadband services in five Imphal Valley districts until April 18, citing ongoing law and order concerns and risks of misinformation. The restriction was first imposed after a deadly bomb attack in Bishnupur district on April 7, which killed two children and injured their mother. Authorities said repeated extensions were necessary to prevent the spread of rumors that could incite violence. Curfew relaxations have been allowed for limited hours during the day. The case has been handed over to the National Investigation Agency for further probe.

Bharatiya Janata Party challenges Trinamool Congress over AI videos and poll conduct complaints

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The Bharatiya Janata Party has approached the Election Commission alleging that the Trinamool Congress is spreading artificial intelligence-generated and doctored videos targeting national leaders, including the Prime Minister and Home Minister. The party claimed the content was intended to influence voters and demanded its removal from all platforms. It also accused Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee of making false claims about electronic voting machines and VVPAT systems, alleging she suggested tampering mechanisms without evidence. In a separate complaint, the Bharatiya Janata Party reported an alleged attack on a campaign convoy, seeking stronger security measures and central force deployment in sensitive areas.

BBC to cut up to 2,000 jobs in major cost-saving drive



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The British Broadcasting Corporation said it will cut up to 2,000 jobs as part of a plan to reduce costs by about 10 percent, or roughly 500 million pounds, over the next two years. The move represents its largest workforce reduction in more than a decade and reflects pressure from inflation, weaker license fee income, and declining commercial revenue. Interim leadership said most cuts will occur in the next fiscal year beginning April 2027. The restructuring comes as former Google executive Matt Brittin prepares to take over as director general. The BBC is also facing long-term funding uncertainty as audiences shift toward digital streaming platforms.

Asian markets fall as investors weigh Iran ceasefire uncertainty



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Asian markets fell on Friday despite record highs on Wall Street, as investors reacted to uncertainty over Iran ceasefire negotiations and potential energy disruptions. Major indices in Japan, South Korea, Hong Kong, and China all declined, while oil prices slipped amid shifting supply expectations. Brent crude fell more than 1 percent as optimism grew over a possible ceasefire extension, though geopolitical risks remain elevated. Traders are watching closely for developments in U.S.-Iran talks, which could impact global energy flows. Analysts say markets remain volatile as oil supply routes face continued uncertainty and inflationary pressures persist.

Jet fuel shortage may trigger flight disruptions, warns IEA chief

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The head of the International Energy Agency has warned that global aviation could face disruptions as jet fuel supplies tighten, with Europe potentially running low within six weeks. The warning comes amid ongoing tensions affecting major energy shipping routes. The agency said supply constraints could lead to flight cancellations and broader economic pressure if conditions do not improve. Refining bottlenecks and import dependencies in Asia and other regions are worsening the outlook. Officials described the situation as one of the most severe energy shocks in recent years, with developing economies expected to feel the impact first if shortages persist.

Live Nation and Ticketmaster face antitrust setback after U.S. jury rules monopoly over concert venues

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Live Nation Entertainment and its subsidiary Ticketmaster suffered a major legal setback on Wednesday after a U.S. jury found the companies maintained an illegal and harmful monopoly over large concert venues, in a high-profile antitrust case brought by dozens of states and the District of Columbia.

The jury in New York, which deliberated for four days, concluded that Ticketmaster's practices were anticompetitive and resulted in consumers in 22 states paying an estimated \$1.72 more per ticket. While the verdict does

not immediately alter pricing in the live events market, it sets the stage for a penalty phase that could include significant financial damages and potential structural remedies such as forced divestitures of venues.

State attorneys general said the ruling could ultimately increase competition and ease ticket prices in the long term. Live Nation, which merged with Ticketmaster in 2010 and dominates a large share of the U.S. live events market, said the decision "is not the last word" and indicated it will pursue appeals.

The case marks one of the most significant antitrust challenges in the entertainment sector in recent years.

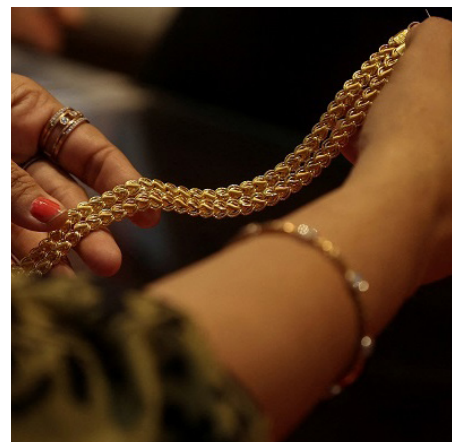


Gold steadies as easing geopolitical tensions support fourth weekly gain

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Gold prices held largely steady on Friday and were on track for a fourth consecutive weekly gain as easing geopolitical tensions between the United States and Iran improved market sentiment and helped temper inflation concerns. Spot gold rose 0.2 percent to \$4,797.49 per ounce, while United States gold futures gained 0.2 percent to \$4,818.80. The metal is up about 1.1 percent so far this week.

Markets are tracking developments in Middle East ceasefire efforts, including a 10-day Israel-Lebanon truce and expectations that United States-Iran talks could resume over the weekend. Analysts said easing oil prices are reducing inflation



pressure, supporting gold even as higher interest rates continue to weigh on non-yielding assets. A softer United States dollar also lent support. Silver, platinum, and palladium posted gains and were set for another weekly advance.

Netflix shares fall after weak revenue outlook and co-founder exit announcement

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Netflix shares fell sharply in early European trading on Friday after the streaming giant issued a weaker-than-expected revenue growth forecast and announced leadership changes at the top. The company said its revenue growth outlook fell short of market expectations, raising concerns among investors about near-term performance despite continued global subscriber demand.

Adding to investor unease, co-founder and chairman Reed Hastings said he would not seek re-election, signaling a major governance transition for the company. His planned departure marks the exit of one of Netflix's most influential figures since its founding. By early



morning trading, Netflix shares listed in Frankfurt were down 8.7 percent. The stock, however, remains up about 15 percent so far this year on the New York market, reflecting earlier optimism around content expansion and subscriber growth. Analysts said the latest guidance has tempered sentiment, highlighting pressure on revenue momentum in a competitive streaming market.

India expands semiconductor push with new Dholera special economic zone



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

India has advanced its semiconductor strategy with the notification of a new special economic zone in Dholera, Gujarat, dedicated to electronic hardware and software manufacturing. The project is expected to become a key node in India's chip fabrication ecosystem. Developed by Tata Semiconductor Manufacturing Private Limited, the zone spans more than 66 hectares and is projected to generate about 21,000 jobs. It will support semiconductor and electronics production under streamlined regulations. The move follows policy reforms to attract capital-intensive investments and strengthen supply chains. Several major semiconductor projects are already underway as India aims to build a competitive global manufacturing hub.

Maruti Suzuki market share falls to 13-year low in India

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Maruti Suzuki India's market share has fallen to 39.26 percent in fiscal year 2026, its lowest in 13 years, marking a third consecutive annual decline. The company has lost nearly 12 percentage points since fiscal year 2020, according to industry data.

The drop comes despite expansion into the fast-growing sport utility vehicle segment, where Maruti continues to trail competitors. Utility vehicles now dominate India's passenger vehicle market, but Maruti's share remains below 25 percent. The company still leads in small cars but that segment's growth has slowed significantly. Separately, Maruti has received a draft tax assessment demand of more than 5,700 crore rupees, which it says will not affect operations.

Google faces EU push to share search data under digital rules

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The European Commission has proposed that Google share search data with rival engines and artificial intelligence chatbots to improve competition under the Digital Markets Act. The measures include rules on anonymization, access conditions, and pricing, with a final decision expected in July. Google strongly opposed the plan, arguing it risks exposing sensitive user data and undermining privacy. The company is already under investigation for alleged breaches of the law. It has previously been fined nearly \$11.4 billion in Europe since 2017 for antitrust violations, while further penalties could reach up to 10 percent of global revenue.

Friday, 17 April 2026

Starlink reliance raises concerns after Navy drone test failures



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

A U.S. Navy drone exercise was disrupted after a global Starlink outage left unmanned vessels without communication, highlighting risks tied to growing reliance on SpaceX systems. The incident, along with earlier connectivity issues during 2025 tests, temporarily halted operations involving autonomous boats and drones off California. Officials said Starlink struggled under heavy data loads, exposing limitations in multi-vehicle missions. Despite setbacks, the system remains widely used due to its affordability and reach. Experts say reliance on a single provider creates vulnerabilities, even as SpaceX expands its role in military communications and satellite infrastructure.

Panama Canal rejects claims of multimillion-dollar auction jump fee



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The Panama Canal Authority dismissed reports that a liquefied petroleum gas vessel paid \$4 million to bypass the transit queue, saying auction results reflect market demand rather than fixed fees. The authority said pricing depends on urgency, freight rates, and fuel costs, and that auctions are only one way to secure passage. Traffic through the canal has increased as the Iran war shifts global shipping routes. The authority added that operations remain stable, with more than 6,000 transits recorded in the first half of fiscal 2026, despite higher congestion and longer waitlists.

India among most advanced AI markets in coding and reasoning, says OpenAI

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

OpenAI said on Wednesday that India ranks among the world's most advanced artificial intelligence markets, particularly in coding, data analysis, and complex reasoning. The country is among the top five globally in advanced thinking capability usage per user, based on ChatGPT Plus reasoning token data. OpenAI noted four-fold growth in Codex users within two weeks of its February 2026 launch. However, usage remains concentrated in a few major cities. The company said expanding access beyond urban hubs will be key to closing capability gaps across education, healthcare, and other real-world applications nationwide.

United States approves new pipeline permits linking Canada and United States oil flows

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

United States President Donald Trump on Wednesday approved multiple pipeline permits aimed at strengthening cross-border crude oil and petroleum product transport between the United States and Canada, according to White House documents. The approvals include authorization for the Bakken Pipeline Company to construct new pipeline facilities in Burke County, North Dakota, marking a fresh infrastructure expansion in the region's energy network. In addition, the administration granted permits to both Bakken Pipeline Company and Enbridge Energy to continue operating and maintaining existing pipeline infrastructure across key border-linked locations in North Dakota and Michigan.



The White House said the permits are intended to support the reliable movement of energy supplies and ensure the continued functioning of established cross-border routes. The decision comes amid ongoing emphasis on energy security and infrastructure stability, with the United States and Canada remaining deeply integrated in oil and refined product trade flows.

7-Eleven to close hundreds of North American stores in restructuring

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

7-Eleven will close 645 stores in North America as part of a restructuring plan, while opening 205 new locations in the current fiscal year, according to corporate filings. The closures are largely linked to store conversions into wholesale fuel outlets, a segment the company is expanding.

Parent company Seven & i Holdings said the changes reflect shifting consumer demand and ongoing pressure from inflation. The chain operates more than 13,000 stores across the United States and Canada. Despite closures, the company is investing in delivery services, fresh food expansion, and international growth to stabilize revenue and adapt to changing retail conditions.

Canada Post moves toward ending home mail delivery nationwide

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Canada Post has begun consultations with communities to phase out home mail delivery and shift to community mailboxes, starting with about 136,000 addresses. The long-term plan could eventually affect up to 4 million households over five years as part of major cost-cutting efforts.

Officials said the transition will be gradual, with no immediate changes and timelines of up to nine months per community. The move is expected to save about 400 million Canadian dollars annually amid ongoing financial losses. Canada Post said most addresses already



use centralized delivery systems and confirmed there will be no layoffs, though workforce shifts are expected.

Gautam Adani overtakes Mukesh Ambani as Asia's richest person

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Gautam Adani has overtaken Mukesh Ambani to become Asia's richest individual, according to the Bloomberg Billionaires Index. Adani's net worth rose to 92.6 billion dollars, while Ambani's fell to 90.8 billion dollars, placing them 19th and 20th globally.

The shift was driven by gains in Adani Group shares, which added more than 3.5 billion dollars to his wealth in a single trading session. The change highlights ongoing volatility in global wealth rankings amid market fluctuations. Elon



Musk remains the world's richest person, followed by major technology billionaires. Several global billionaires saw declines in net worth this year, particularly outside the technology sector.

Mark Mobius, pioneer of emerging markets investing, dies at 89



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Veteran investor Mark Mobius died on Tuesday at the age of 89, leaving behind a legacy as one of the pioneers of emerging markets investing. Often called the "Indiana Jones of emerging markets," he built his reputation on extensive field research across developing economies. Mobius spent over three decades at Franklin Templeton, where assets under his leadership grew from \$100 million to \$50 billion. He also advised global institutions including the World Bank. Following his death, Mobius Investments said leadership will continue under its existing partners with no change to its investment approach.

Nadir Godrej to retire as Godrej Industries chief after 25 years

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Nadir Godrej will retire as chairman and managing director of Godrej Industries on August 13, ending a 25-year leadership tenure, the company said in a filing on Sunday. He will become chairman emeritus from August 14, following his 75th birthday in August. The board has appointed Pirojsha Godrej as chairperson designate with immediate effect, and he will assume the role fully on August 14. Burjish Godrej has also been named a non-executive director. Nadir Godrej will step down from other group companies while continuing his association in an honorary capacity.

Amex to acquire Hyper in push to expand artificial intelligence driven expense tools



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

American Express said on Thursday it will acquire artificial intelligence expense management startup Hyper, a company backed by OpenAI Chief Executive Sam Altman, in a move aimed at strengthening its corporate payment tools. The financial terms of the deal were not disclosed, and completion is expected in the second quarter of 2026. Hyper, founded in 2022, builds systems that automate expense categorization, reporting, and compliance checks for businesses. The acquisition reflects a broader push by financial firms to integrate artificial intelligence into core operations. American Express Chief Executive Stephen Squeri has previously described artificial intelligence as a structural shift in business operations.

Lionel Messi acquires Spanish fourth tier club UE Cornellà



Lionel Messi has acquired Spanish club UE Cornellà, a Catalan team competing in the fourth tier of Spanish football, marking his first major step into club ownership. The announcement on Thursday confirmed Messi's full takeover of the historic club, founded in 1951 and currently competing in the Tercera RFEF. The move strengthens his long-standing connection to Catalonia, where he spent most of his playing career with Barcelona. The club highlighted its focus on youth development and said Messi's investment will support long-term sporting growth. Cornellà, currently third in its group and in contention for promotion playoffs, has built a reputation as a strong talent development hub, producing several professional players who reached top European levels. Messi is expected to invest in infrastructure and the academy system as part of the project. The acquisition also aligns with his growing involvement in football development initiatives, including youth tournaments in Miami, signaling his expanding role beyond his playing career.

Former Arsenal goalkeeper Alex Manninger dies in Austria road accident



Former Arsenal goalkeeper Alex Manninger died in a road accident in Austria on Thursday at the age of 48. The Austrian, capped 33 times, was involved in a collision at a railway crossing near Salzburg when his car was struck by a local train and dragged, according to police. Emergency responders attempted resuscitation, but he could not be saved. Manninger won the Premier League title with Arsenal in 1998 and was part of the club's Double-winning season. Arsenal, Liverpool, and the Austrian Football Association paid tribute to the former international.

IOC urges protection of sports autonomy amid rising global tensions

IOC President Kirsty Coventry on Thursday called on policymakers to safeguard the neutrality and independence of sport, warning that political interference risks undermining its unifying power. Speaking at the European Union Sport Forum in Cyprus, she said sport remains one of the few global spaces where people can come together beyond political and cultural divides. She highlighted the upcoming Milano Cortina 2026 Winter Games as an example of peaceful competition amid global tensions. Coventry stressed that athletes can only inspire when sport is kept neutral and free from political pressure. She urged the European Union and its member states to uphold the autonomy of sport and protect the independence of the International Olympic Committee. She also emphasized sport's wider benefits, including



public health, mental well-being, and social cohesion through grassroots participation. Coventry added that physical activity is a cost-effective way to prevent disease and improve mental health. She concluded that sport can remain a unifying global force if its core principles are protected.

Hugo Ekitike ruled out for season after Achilles rupture



Liverpool striker Hugo Ekitike has been ruled out for the rest of the season and will miss the FIFA World Cup after suffering a ruptured Achilles tendon during Tuesday's Champions League quarterfinal against Paris Saint-Germain. The 23-year-old went down without contact and was substituted immediately. Liverpool confirmed on Thursday that scans showed a severe injury requiring at least six months of recovery. The French forward will miss key matches for club and country. He thanked fans for support on social media and said their encouragement will help his recovery.

WADA pushes India to strengthen anti-doping enforcement as concerns persist

The World Anti-Doping Agency says India has made some progress in tackling doping but remains its most serious concern, after topping the global list of doping violations for three consecutive years. Speaking on Thursday at a global anti-doping conference in Seoul, WADA President Witold Bańka said performance-enhancing drugs are widely available in India, which raises alarm as the country prepares to host major international sporting events, including the 2030 Commonwealth Games and a bid for the 2036 Olympics.



Bańka said discussions with Indian officials, including the sports ministry and law enforcement agencies, have focused on improving cooperation to dismantle doping networks. India's National Anti-Doping Agency has nearly doubled testing in recent years, but still trails larger programs such as China's. WADA officials also stressed shifting focus from athletes to suppliers and enablers. They warned that doping crime is increasingly transnational and complex. Officials added that stronger enforcement, not fewer positive cases, may actually reflect a more effective detection system.

Punjab Kings crush Mumbai Indians after record chase at Wankhede

Punjab Kings defeated Mumbai Indians by seven wickets on Thursday in a high-scoring Indian Premier League match at Wankhede Stadium after successfully chasing a target of 196 with 21 balls remaining. Mumbai were powered by Quinton de Kock, who smashed an unbeaten 112 off 60 balls on his return to the side, and Naman Dhir, who added 50, taking the total to 195 for six despite early setbacks and three dropped catches by Punjab. In response, Punjab Kings were led

by Prabhsimran Singh and Shreyas Iyer, who built a dominant 139-run partnership for the third wicket. Prabhsimran struck an unbeaten 80 off 39 balls, while Iyer scored 66 off 35, continuing his strong run of form with a third consecutive half-century. Mumbai's bowlers struggled, with Jasprit Bumrah going wicketless and multiple fielding errors proving costly. Earlier, Arshdeep Singh's early strikes left Mumbai reeling at 12 for two before de Kock's counterattack. The win pushed Punjab Kings to the top of the standings.

R Vaishali wins world chess candidates, earns title shot against Ju Wenjun



India's R Vaishali won the FIDE Women's Candidates Tournament on Wednesday, securing a world championship match against Ju Wenjun later this year. The 24-year-old clinched the title in Cyprus with a final-round victory over Kateryna Lagno, finishing on 8.5 points from 14 rounds. She ended half a point ahead of the field in a dramatic finish, despite starting as one of the lowest-rated players. Vaishali's composed play in the decisive game helped her convert a small advantage into victory. Her triumph was also aided by a key draw involving Bibisara Assaubayeva, which confirmed her overall win.



Viktor Axelsen retires after injury ends legendary badminton career

Two-time Olympic champion Viktor Axelsen has announced his retirement from professional badminton at the age of 32 due to a long-standing back injury. The Danish star, also a two-time world champion, said ongoing pain made it impossible to continue competing at the required level. Axelsen revealed that surgery last year and rehabilitation were followed by a setback, and doctors warned of further complications if he continued. He retires after winning Olympic gold in Tokyo 2020 and Paris 2024, cementing his legacy as one of badminton's greatest players.



World Cup planning hit by shutdown, United States officials warn senators

Federal preparations for the 2026 FIFA World Cup have been disrupted by a Department of Homeland Security funding lapse, officials told United States senators during a hearing on Wednesday.

Christopher Tomney, the department's senior coordinating official for the tournament, said the shutdown has slowed coordination with state and local agencies and significantly reduced planning capacity. He added that hundreds of unpaid Transportation Security Officers have left during the funding gap, warning that expertise cannot be quickly replaced.

Officials also said the shutdown could affect airport security and broader logistics across eleven host cities. Lawmakers questioned how the government will ensure safety and smooth operations for millions of fans expected during the tournament. Despite challenges, officials insisted preparations are ongoing for the global event scheduled next summer.

Stanley Cup playoffs to open with tripleheader as matchups take shape



The National Hockey League will open the Stanley Cup Playoffs on Saturday with a tripleheader as first-round matchups are finalized. The Carolina Hurricanes will host the Ottawa Senators in the opener, followed by the Minnesota Wild facing the Dallas Stars, and the Pittsburgh Penguins meeting the Philadelphia Flyers in a prime-time rivalry game. The Eastern Conference bracket is fully set, with Carolina securing the top seed. In the Western Conference, several pairings remain undecided as the regular season concludes. The Vegas Golden Knights will face the Utah Mammoth once standings are finalized.

Real Madrid face crisis after Champions League exit to Bayern Munich

Real Madrid are facing major questions after their Champions League quarterfinal defeat to Bayern Munich on Wednesday ended their last realistic chance of silverware this season. The loss deepens a disappointing campaign in which they also trail Barcelona by nine points in La Liga with seven matches remaining.

Earlier setbacks, including a shock Copa del Rey exit, have further stalled momentum. Managerial changes during the season have failed to stabilize results, leaving uncertainty over the club's direction. Attention has also turned to squad balance, tactical structure, and the future of key players such as Vinicius Junior, whose contract talks remain unresolved. With pressure mounting, the coming weeks are expected to shape decisions on leadership and rebuilding plans after another



underwhelming European campaign for the 15-time champions.

Lalit Modi says India-Pakistan bilateral cricket unlikely due to political tensions

Former Indian Premier League chairman Lalit Modi has said India and Pakistan are unlikely to resume bilateral cricket due to what he described as politicisation within the Pakistan Cricket Board. Speaking on a podcast with Michael Vaughan, he said neutral venues would not resolve the issue and argued that political influence has disrupted cricketing ties. Modi noted that India and Pakistan have not played a bilateral series since 2013, meeting only in multinational tournaments since then.



He also referred to earlier efforts to include Pakistani players in franchise cricket, which ended after rising tensions.

US Olympic officials monitoring reaction to LA 28 leader Casey Wasserman

The United States Olympic and Paralympic Committee says it is closely monitoring concerns surrounding Los Angeles 2028 chair Casey Wasserman following questions raised over past communications linked to the Jeffrey Epstein investigation. Committee chair Gene Sykes said the issue was discussed at a recent board meeting and concerns were shared with the Los Angeles organizing committee, though no action has been taken to remove Wasserman. Wasserman has denied wrongdoing and previously underwent an internal review by LA28, which concluded he should remain in his role. The United States Olympic and Paralympic Committee emphasized that it remains focused on



supporting preparations for the Games while upholding Olympic values. Final decisions about leadership rest with the Los Angeles board, not the national committee.

Damon Jones to plead guilty in insider betting information case



Former NBA player and coach Damon Jones will plead guilty to charges of selling non-public injury information to sports bettors, according to ABC News. Jones, 49, has requested a court hearing scheduled for April 28 in Brooklyn to change his earlier plea of not guilty to two federal charges filed in November. He would become the first of six defendants in the case to plead guilty. Prosecutors allege Jones shared confidential injury updates about NBA stars, including LeBron James and Anthony Davis, while working with the Los Angeles Lakers. He is also accused of texting a co-conspirator in February 2023 to place a large wager before official news that James would not play. Jones also faces separate charges in a related poker rigging investigation.

Lionel Messi faces lawsuit over missed exhibition match in Miami



Lionel Messi is facing a lawsuit from Miami-based promoter Vid Music Group, which alleges breach of a seven million dollar contract linked to an exhibition match in Miami last year. The company claims Messi and the Argentine Football Association failed to meet obligations requiring him to play at least 30 minutes in two friendlies. Messi reportedly did not appear in one match in October, watching from a suite instead, before playing in later fixtures. The promoter says it lost millions due to reduced attendance and commercial impact. Messi and the AFA have not commented on the case.

Mercedes tension builds as Antonelli and Russell fight for early supremacy

Three races into the season, Mercedes faces an unexpected internal battle as Kimi Antonelli leads the championship ahead of George Russell. Antonelli won in China and capitalized again in Japan, while Russell opened with victory in Australia but has since struggled with timing and qualifying setbacks. The gap between the teammates has narrowed, creating pressure as both drivers compete for wins in a dominant car. Russell insists his approach remains unchanged, while Antonelli continues to build momentum. A long break before Miami adds further uncertainty to their developing rivalry.



Pakistan Cricket Board bans Blessing Muzarabani for switching to IPL

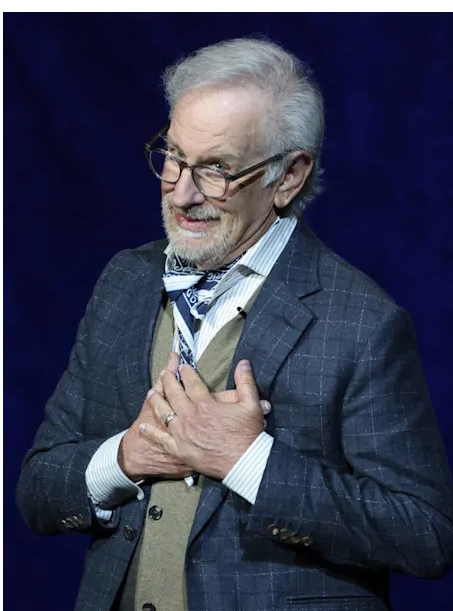
The Pakistan Cricket Board has imposed a two-year ban on Zimbabwe fast bowler Blessing Muzarabani after he left Islamabad United to join the Kolkata Knight Riders in the Indian Premier League 2026. Muzarabani, initially unsigned in both leagues, was drafted as a replacement in the Pakistan Super League but opted to switch after being signed by the Indian franchise. The board said the move violated contractual obligations and damaged the integrity of the competition. He has already played matches for Kolkata Knight Riders, including a four-wicket haul against Sunrisers Hyderabad.

Sylvester Stallone and Samuel L. Jackson begin filming 'Frisco King' with first shared scene



Hollywood stars Sylvester Stallone and Samuel L. Jackson filmed their first shared scene for the upcoming series Frisco King this week. Stallone posted behind-the-scenes footage on social media on Thursday, marking the start of production for the Tulsa King spin-off. In the clip, the two actors exchanged playful remarks, with Stallone praising Jackson's performance and Jackson joking about his character's rise to power. The project expands the Tulsa King universe, where Stallone plays mafia figure Dwight Manfredi. A fourth season of the original series is also in production alongside the new spin-off.

Steven Spielberg urges original storytelling as he returns with sci-fi film 'Disclosure Day'



Filmmaker Steven Spielberg used a CinemaCon appearance this week to unveil new footage from Disclosure Day and argue for more original storytelling in Hollywood. Speaking on Tuesday, he said studios risk creative exhaustion if they rely only on sequels and reboots. The film, centered on extraterrestrial contact and government secrecy, stars Emily Blunt, Josh O'Connor, and Colin Firth, with David Koepp writing the script. Spielberg said belief in life beyond Earth has grown over decades and called the project "closer to truth." He emphasized that cinema must continue investing in fresh, original narratives.

Asha Bhosle, legendary Bollywood voice that shaped generations, dies at 92

Indian playback singer Asha Bhosle, one of the most versatile and influential voices in Bollywood history, died on Sunday in Mumbai at the age of 92 due to multiple organ failure. She had been admitted to Breach Candy Hospital late Saturday after suffering a chest infection and exhaustion, according to family sources.

Asha Bhosle's voice defined nearly eight decades of Indian cinema, with an extraordinary recorded output of around 12,000 songs spanning film music, cabaret numbers, classical-inspired pieces, and Western-influenced melodies. Her artistic range helped her carve a distinct

identity separate from her sister, Lata Mangeshkar, who was widely revered as the "Melody Queen."

Born on September 8, 1933, she was trained in music by her father, Dinanath Mangeshkar, and came from a family deeply rooted in Indian classical music. Over her long career, she became one of the most celebrated playback singers in the country, earning admiration for her adaptability and emotional depth across genres.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi led national tributes on Sunday, calling her voice a priceless cultural contribution that touched audiences across generations and borders. Born into a musical



Katy Perry faces police investigation in Australia after Ruby Rose allegations

Singer Katy Perry is under police investigation in Australia following sexual assault allegations made by actor Ruby Rose. On Sunday, Victoria Police confirmed that detectives from the Sexual Offences and Child Abuse Investigation Team are probing an alleged incident from 2010 at a licensed venue in Melbourne's central business district. Rose publicly accused Perry on Sunday through social media, claiming the incident occurred when both were in their early twenties. Perry has strongly denied the allegations, calling them "categorically false" and "reckless lies" through her representatives. Authorities said the investigation is ongoing and declined further comment. Rose later stated she had formally filed reports and would no



longer speak publicly on the matter. No charges have been filed so far, and the case remains under review as investigators assess the claims.

Sundar Pichai, Ranbir Kapoor and Vikas Khanna feature on TIME's 2026 influential list

Google Chief Executive Officer Sundar Pichai, actor Ranbir Kapoor, and chef Vikas Khanna were named in TIME magazine's 100 Most Influential People of 2026 list released on Wednesday. Pichai was recognized for advancing artificial intelligence across Google platforms, while Kapoor was honored for reshaping Indian cinema with his performances. Khanna earned praise for combining culinary excellence with cultural storytelling. The list also includes global leaders such as President Donald Trump, Xi Jinping, and Mark Carney. The annual ranking highlights individuals across industries whose work is shaping global conversations and influencing change worldwide.



Rabbi Shergill returns to cinema music with emotional track 'Talash' for Nawazuddin Siddiqui film



Singer Rabbi Shergill has returned to film music with the song 'Talash' from the upcoming Nawazuddin Siddiqui starrer 'Main Actor Nahin Hoon', director Aditya Kripalani confirmed this week. Shergill said the track gains new meaning within the film's emotional narrative. Nawazuddin praised the song, calling it deeply moving, while Kripalani said Shergill's music inspired key themes in the story. The film explores loneliness and emotional healing through an online connection between two strangers. It is produced by Aditya Kripalani, Sweta Chhabria Kripalani, and Faizuddin Siddiqui, and is set to release on May 8.

Mahesh Babu unveils gripping teaser for debut film of nephew Jaya Krishna Ghattamaneni



Actor Mahesh Babu released the teaser of Srinivasa Mangapuram on Wednesday, introducing his nephew Jaya Krishna Ghattamaneni in his film debut. Directed by Ajay Bhupathi, the film is set in Tirupati and follows a love story disrupted by conflict, with the protagonist fighting to stay with his partner. The teaser blends romance with intense action, reflecting Bhupathi's signature storytelling style. About 60 percent of the film has been completed after a recent shooting schedule. The cast includes Rasha Thadani and Mohan Babu, with music by G V Prakash Kumar. The project has generated strong anticipation among fans.

'Young Sherlock' renewed for second season as Guy Ritchie expands origin story



The series Young Sherlock has been renewed for a second season, producers confirmed this week, with filmmaker Guy Ritchie returning to direct the opening episode. The show, starring Hero Fiennes Tiffin, explores the early life of Sherlock Holmes as he encounters James Moriarty and becomes involved in a major conspiracy. Set in Victorian England, the series blends action with mystery and character development. Studio executives said the show has connected strongly with global audiences. Created by Matthew Parkhill, the production will continue to expand the iconic detective's origin story in its next chapter.

Offset returns to stage days after shooting, calls recovery a personal victory



Rapper Offset returned to performing on Sunday, just days after being shot outside a casino in Florida. The artist appeared on stage at a university event, initially using a wheelchair before standing to perform, drawing strong support from fans. He had been hospitalized with non-life threatening injuries and was discharged earlier in the week. Offset later shared that he is focused on recovery and family. His mother described his return as a miracle. Authorities have arrested rapper Lil Tjay in connection with the incident, charging him with disorderly conduct as investigations continue.

Singer D4vd arrested in Los Angeles murder case as lawyers deny allegations

Singer D4vd, whose legal name is David Anthony Burke, was arrested on Thursday in Los Angeles on suspicion of murder in connection with the death of 14-year-old Celeste Rivas Hernandez. Authorities said homicide detectives took the 21-year-old into custody as part of an ongoing investigation into the girl's death, whose decomposed body was discovered months earlier inside a vehicle linked to him.

Police said the remains were found in

September after a Tesla registered to Burke was towed from the Hollywood Hills. Investigators later recovered dismembered body parts from bags inside the vehicle. The victim had been reported missing in 2024 from Lake Elsinore, California. Burke's attorneys strongly denied the allegations, stating there is no evidence linking him to the killing and emphasizing that no charges or indictment have been filed. Prosecutors are expected to review the case on Monday to determine whether formal charges will proceed.



Kanye West postpones Marseille concert amid mounting controversy

Rapper Kanye West has postponed his planned concert in Marseille, France, citing personal reasons, as controversy grows over whether he should be allowed to perform. On Tuesday, West said the decision to delay the show was entirely his own, adding that he did not want to place his fans "in the middle" of the situation.

The move follows strong opposition from local officials, including Marseille mayor Benoît Payan, who earlier stated that West was "not welcome" in the city over concerns linked to his past antisemitic remarks. French authorities had also been exploring legal options to restrict his entry or performance.

The postponement comes days after the United Kingdom denied West entry for a planned festival appearance. Despite the setbacks, West indicated he intends to



reschedule future shows, including a planned performance in New Delhi next month, as he works to rebuild his public image.

PEN America launches safety program to protect authors facing rising harassment

PEN America announced on Friday the launch of a nationwide safety program aimed at protecting authors facing increasing harassment and threats. The initiative, supported by major publishers including Penguin Random House and Macmillan, will offer safety training and resources to writers dealing with online abuse and real-world intimidation. Officials said harassment has expanded from journalists to authors and educators in recent years. Writers such as Maia Kobabe and Ashley Hope Pérez have reported threats and attacks. Nearly \$1 million has been raised to fund the effort, with authors like Jodi Picoult planning fundraising initiatives to support the program.



Imtiaz Ali reveals period authenticity behind Diljit Dosanjh film 'Main Vapas Aaunga'



Filmmaker Imtiaz Ali shared new insights this week into his upcoming film Main Vapas Aaunga, starring Diljit Dosanjh, set in the post-Partition era. Speaking during promotions on Wednesday, he explained how production design, costumes, and lighting were crafted to reflect fragmented memory and 1940s Punjab. The team researched period fabrics, dyes, and even Western cultural influences of the time. Ali said the goal was to recreate how people remembered 1947 rather than strict realism. The film, produced by Applause Entertainment and Window Seat Films, is scheduled for theatrical release on June 12.

Madonna set to unveil new album this week after longest career gap



Madonna is preparing to reveal details of her upcoming album on Friday, marking her return to music after a seven-year gap since 'Madame X'. Sources said the project, created with producer Stuart Price, reflects personal struggles including her 2023 health crisis and family loss. The album is described as deeply emotional and artistically ambitious. Reports also suggest Madonna has explored a possible collaboration with Britney Spears, which would reunite them decades after their earlier hit. The release marks the longest gap between albums in her career, signaling a significant new phase for the global pop icon.

असम के मंदिरों की यात्रा का पहला पड़ाव कामाख्या मंदिर की आध्यात्मिक महिमा



IndoUS Tribune की विशेष श्रृंखला भारत के मंदिरों की यात्रा के अंतर्गत आंध्र प्रदेश और अरुणाचल प्रदेश के दिव्य और ऐतिहासिक मंदिरों की यात्रा सफलतापूर्वक पूर्ण करने के बाद अब हम पूर्वोत्तर भारत की आध्यात्मिक भूमि Assam की ओर अग्रसर हो रहे हैं।

असम अपनी समृद्ध सांस्कृतिक विरासत, प्राचीन शक्तिपीठों और गहन आध्यात्मिक परंपराओं के लिए विश्वभर में प्रसिद्ध है। यहाँ आस्था, प्रकृति और तंत्र साधना का अद्भुत संगम देखने को मिलता है। इस श्रृंखला में हम असम के अत्यंत पवित्र और ऐतिहासिक मंदिरों की यात्रा करेंगे।

हमारी इस आध्यात्मिक यात्रा का पहला और सबसे महत्वपूर्ण पड़ाव है कामाख्या मंदिर, और इसके बाद हम उमानंदा मंदिर की ओर प्रस्थान करेंगे। इस यात्रा के समापन के पश्चात IndoUS Tribune की यह श्रृंखला बिहार के पवित्र मंदिरों की ओर आगे बढ़ेगी।

पहला पड़ाव - कामाख्या मंदिर, गुवाहाटी: परिचय कामाख्या मंदिर असम की राजधानी गुवाहाटी में स्थित नीलांचल पहाड़ी पर विराजमान भारत के सबसे प्राचीन और अत्यंत पूजनीय 51 शक्तिपीठों में से एक है। यह मंदिर माँ कामाख्या को समर्पित है, जिन्हें सृष्टि की इच्छा शक्ति और स्त्री ऊर्जा की देवी माना जाता है।

यह मंदिर देवी सती के उस पवित्र अंग से जुड़ा है, जहाँ उनकी योनि (योनिभाग) पृथ्वी पर गिरी थी। यही कारण है कि यहाँ देवी की पूजा सृजन और शक्ति के प्रतीक स्वरूप की जाती है। यह स्थल न केवल धार्मिक दृष्टि से महत्वपूर्ण है, बल्कि तांत्रिक साधना और शक्ति उपासना का भी प्रमुख केंद्र माना जाता है।

पौराणिक मान्यता और आध्यात्मिक स्वरूप मान्यता के अनुसार, जब भगवान शिव सती के वियोग में तांडव कर रहे थे, तब उनके शरीर के विभिन्न अंग पृथ्वी पर गिरे और 51 शक्तिपीठों का निर्माण हुआ। उन्हीं में से एक अत्यंत शक्तिशाली पीठ कामाख्या मंदिर है। यहाँ किसी मूर्ति की पूजा नहीं होती। गर्भगृह में एक

प्राकृतिक जलस्रोत से सदैव आर्द्र रहने वाला योनि-आकार का पत्थर स्थापित है, जिसे देवी कामाख्या का प्रत्यक्ष स्वरूप माना जाता है। यह परंपरा इसे अन्य सभी मंदिरों से विशिष्ट बनाती है।

ऐतिहासिक पृष्ठभूमि

ऐतिहासिक प्रमाणों के अनुसार इस स्थल पर 5वीं से 7वीं शताब्दी के बीच भी पूजा स्थल मौजूद था। वर्तमान मंदिर संरचना 16वीं शताब्दी में पुनर्निर्मित की गई, जबकि इसके पूर्व के कई रूप समय-समय पर नष्ट और पुनर्निर्मित होते रहे। वर्तमान मंदिर का पुनर्निर्माण 1565 में कोच राजा चिलाराय के संरक्षण में किया गया। इसके बाद अहोम काल में भी इसका विस्तार और संरक्षण होता रहा। मंदिर की वास्तुकला में भारतीय और स्थानीय शैलियों का अद्भुत मिश्रण देखा जाता है, जिसे 'नीलांचल शैली' कहा जाता है।

तांत्रिक परंपरा और विशेष महत्व

कामाख्या मंदिर भारत में तांत्रिक साधना का सबसे प्रमुख केंद्र माना जाता है। यहाँ देवी के दस महाविद्याओं की उपासना भी की जाती है, जिनमें काली, तारा, त्रिपुर सुंदरी, भुवनेश्वरी, भैरवी, छिन्नमस्ता, धूमावती, बगलामुखी, मातंगी और कमला शामिल हैं।

यह स्थान विशेष रूप से महाविद्या साधकों और तांत्रिक परंपराओं से जुड़े भक्तों के लिए अत्यंत महत्वपूर्ण माना जाता है।

अम्बुबाची मेला और धार्मिक महत्व

हर वर्ष जून माह में आयोजित होने वाला अम्बुबाची मेला इस मंदिर का सबसे बड़ा धार्मिक आयोजन है। यह मेला देवी के मासिक धर्म चक्र का प्रतीक माना जाता है और इस दौरान मंदिर कुछ दिनों के लिए बंद रहता है।

देश-विदेश से लाखों श्रद्धालु इस अवसर पर गुवाहाटी पहुंचते हैं, जिससे यह स्थल एक वैश्विक आध्यात्मिक केंद्र के रूप में स्थापित होता है।



भौगोलिक स्थिति और यात्रा जानकारी

यह मंदिर नीलांचल पहाड़ी, पश्चिमी गुवाहाटी में स्थित है। यहाँ पहुँचने के लिए गुवाहाटी हवाई अड्डा लगभग 20 किलोमीटर दूर है, जबकि कामाख्या रेलवे स्टेशन सबसे नजदीकी स्टेशन है। सड़क मार्ग से टैक्सी और स्थानीय वाहन आसानी से उपलब्ध हैं।

दर्शन के लिए निःशुल्क प्रवेश उपलब्ध है, हालांकि शीघ्र दर्शन के लिए विशेष टिकट व्यवस्था भी होती है। पर्व और त्योहारों के समय यहाँ भारी भीड़ रहती है।

कामाख्या मंदिर-समापन

कामाख्या मंदिर केवल एक मंदिर नहीं, बल्कि शक्ति,

सृजन और आस्था का जीवंत प्रतीक है। यहाँ का वातावरण, प्राचीन परंपरा और आध्यात्मिक ऊर्जा हर भक्त के मन में गहरी छाप छोड़ती है। यह स्थल भारत की उस समृद्ध सांस्कृतिक और आध्यात्मिक विरासत का प्रतीक है, जहाँ स्त्री शक्ति को सृष्टि के मूल आधार के रूप में पूजा जाता है।

IndoUS Tribune की इस असम यात्रा का यह पहला पड़ाव हमें यह संदेश देता है कि भारत की आध्यात्मिक परंपराएँ केवल पूजा-पद्धति नहीं, बल्कि जीवन-दर्शन हैं। अब हम अपनी इस दिव्य यात्रा के अगले पड़ाव उमानंदा मंदिर की ओर अग्रसर होंगे, जहाँ एक और अद्भुत आध्यात्मिक अनुभव हमारी प्रतीक्षा कर रहा है।

The eight siddhis of lord Hanuman

There is no devotee of Lord Rama like Hanuman. Lord Rama had complete faith in him. Hanuman was always ready to perform every task of Rama. That is why, when the entire Vanara army was planning the search for Sita, Lord Rama called only Hanuman aside and, expressing his trust, said: "Hanuman, when you meet Sita, give her this ring of mine as a token. She will recognize you as my trusted servant." This very faith became Hanuman's strength.



Rajendra Kapil
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Devotees believe that Hanuman possessed many divine powers. He is known as the giver of Ashta Siddhi and Nava Nidhi. There are different views on how he attained these powers.

Some believe he received them as a blessing from Mother Sita, while others say he acquired them through intense penance and learning from many gurus during his youth. It is also believed that he used these powers fully during the search for Sita. His eight siddhis are as follows:

1. Anima 2) Mahima 3) Garima
- 4) Laghima 5) Prapti 6) Prakamya 7) Ishitva 8) Vashitva

Let us understand these siddhis more closely. One important aspect is that despite possessing such great powers, Hanuman remained extremely humble. An example of his humility is given below. Once, after returning from Lanka, Lord Rama praised his strength:

“Kahu kapi Ravan palit Lanka, kehi bidhi dahahu durg ati banka”

Hanuman, how did you burn such a strong and well-guarded Lanka? Hearing this, Hanuman felt shy and replied, “Maharaj, this was all due to your grace. Otherwise, I am just an ordinary vanara who knows only how to jump on trees.”

**“Sakhaamrig ki bad manusai, sakha te sakha par jai
So sab tav pratap Raghurai, naath na kachhu mori prabhutai”**

Such loving and humble was Hanuman. We bow to his humility. Now, here are his siddhis:

Anima – The ability to make the body as small as an atom. Hanuman used this power while entering Lanka during the search for Sita. There was tight security at the gates, so he made himself as tiny as a mosquito to enter.

“Masak samaan roop kapi dharahi, Lankahi chaleu sumiri narahari”

Even then, he was noticed, and then he used his strength to enter Lanka. This shows his intelligence.

Mahima – With this siddhi, Hanuman could expand his body as desired. While going to Lanka, he met a demoness named Surasa, who was sent by the gods to test him. She tried to swallow him. As she opened her mouth, Hanuman entered and began expanding his body. Surasa also kept enlarging her mouth, but eventually she had to let him pass. Hanuman crossed this obstacle using this siddhi.

Garima – With this power, Hanuman could make his body extremely heavy.

During the war between Rama and Ravana, he used this siddhi many times to defeat demons. At times, he became so heavy that enemies could not even move him or affect him with their attacks.

Laghima – With this siddhi, Hanuman could make his body extremely light. By becoming light like a leaf, he could fly instantly and complete tasks for Lord Rama. When Lakshmana became unconscious in battle, Hanuman flew to Lanka to bring Vaidya Sushena. Later, he flew to the Himalayas and brought the Sanjeevani herb to revive Lakshmana.

Prapti – This siddhi allowed Hanuman to obtain anything. However, he never used it for himself. He always used his powers in service of Lord Rama and for the welfare of devotees. Whoever accepts Hanuman as their deity receives his blessings.

Prakamya – This siddhi means fulfilling any desire. It is especially beneficial for devotees. Anyone who worships Hanuman with a pure heart has their wishes fulfilled. It is said that even great saints prayed to him in times of distress.

**“Jo shat baar paath kar koi, chhootahi bandi maha sukh hoi
Sankat kate mite sab peera, jo sumirat Hanumat balbeera”**

With this siddhi, Hanuman successfully fulfilled his mission of finding Sita in Ashok Vatika.

Ishitva – This represents divine power. Because of this siddhi, Hanuman is considered immortal and ever-present. He received this blessing from Mother Sita after delivering Lord Rama's message.

**“Ajar amar gun nidhi sut hohu, karahu bahut Raghunayak chohu
Karahu kripa prabhu as suni, nirbhar prem magan Hanumana”**

Receiving this blessing, Hanuman was filled with joy.

Vashitva – The power to control others. Hanuman often faced deceitful and arrogant demons. To defeat them and uphold righteousness, he used this power when necessary. His purpose was always just, and therefore he was always victorious.

These are the eight siddhis of Hanuman, through which he possessed immense strength. From childhood, he was self-disciplined and devoted, which made him the foremost among the vanaras.

We offer our respectful salutations to the great devotee of Lord Rama—Hanuman.

AAHOACON26 draws 5,000+, signals industry shift amid challenges and innovation

● By: Vandana Jhingan

The AAHOACON26 brought the U.S. hospitality industry into sharp focus this past week, as more than 5,000 hotel owners, operators, and vendors convened in Philadelphia from April 8–11. Organized by the Asian American Hotel Owners Association, the annual gathering once again underscored its influence as a key platform shaping the future of hotel ownership across the country.

This year's convention unfolded at a critical juncture. Facing persistent economic uncertainty, rising operational costs, and rapid technological disruption, attendees arrived seeking direction and left with a clearer sense of strategy. The conference delivered a robust blend of education, advocacy, and business opportunity.

From the outset, industry leaders stressed a central theme: adaptation is no longer optional. In keynote sessions and panel discussions, AAHOA leadership called on members to rethink traditional models and embrace innovation. Conversations tackled pressing concerns including labor shortages, insurance pressures, and the growing integration of automation in hotel operations.

Prominent voices, including Paul Brown, Rahul Kapoor, and Dr. Sudhir Mehta, emphasized that independent hotel owners who form the backbone of AAHOA remain agile but increasingly burdened by market pressures. Their insights resonated strongly, particularly among first- and second-generation



Kamlesh Patel - Outgoing Chairman

hoteliers navigating an evolving landscape.

Special sessions highlighted emerging leadership within the industry. Young professionals explored investment-focused strategies, while the “Her Ownership” forum drew strong participation. Led by Shira Miller, the session encouraged women entrepreneurs to step forward with confidence, take ownership of their achievements, and assert their presence in leadership spaces.

On the trade show floor, technology took center stage. Exhibitors showcased innovations ranging from AI-powered revenue management systems to contactless guest services and energy-efficient solutions.

Vendors noted a rising demand for

tools that streamline operations while delivering measurable cost savings an increasingly critical priority as margins tighten.

The convention also served as a platform for policy engagement. Discussions addressed legislative and regulatory challenges impacting hotel owners nationwide, including access to financing, franchise dynamics, and local compliance issues. Interactive workshops and roundtables enabled direct dialogue between members and industry experts, reinforcing AAHOA's dual role as both advocate and resource hub.

Recognition of excellence remained a key highlight. Several members were honored for their leadership, service, and resilience. “Each of this year's award recipients has helped move our industry forward,” said Laura Lee Blake.



Dhiren Masters - Secretary

Leadership transitions were also announced, with Rahul Patel introduced as the incoming Chairman and Dhiren Amin named Secretary.

Beyond formal programming, networking remained at the heart of the convention. From informal gatherings to structured meetups, attendees highlighted the value of connecting with peers confronting similar challenges. For many, AAHOACON continues to serve as both a business forum and a community anchor within a diverse, entrepreneurial membership.

As the convention concluded, the mood was one of cautious optimism. While uncertainties persist, the energy in Philadelphia reflected an industry that is not just enduring disruption but actively evolving to meet it.

For AAHOA members and the broader hospitality sector, the message was unmistakable: the road ahead will demand agility, collaboration, and a willingness to embrace change.



Laura Lee Blake - President & CEO, AAHOA



Rahul Patel - Incoming Chairman



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Mata Bhagat: Avi Verma



Indian seniors of Chicago celebrate Hanuman Janmotsav with devotion and community spirit



Members celebrating April birthdays were felicitated with flowers by Pallaviben Darji and Nayanaben Darji during the Hanuman Janmotsav event.

By: Jayanti Oza

The Indian Seniors of Chicago marked Hanuman Janmotsav with devotion and enthusiasm on April 11, 2026, at Mahalaxmi Hall, Manav Seva Mandir. Nearly 380 members attended the celebration, reflecting the organization's strong sense of community, cultural pride, and togetherness.

The program began with a warm tribute to members celebrating birthdays in April. Pallaviben Darji and Nayanaben Darji presented flowers to the birthday honorees, adding a personal and festive touch to the gathering. This was followed by a collective recitation of the Hanuman Chalisa, creating a deeply spiritual atmosphere.

Health and wellness remained an important focus of the event. Dharambhai Punwani led an interactive laughter yoga session, sharing techniques to promote physical and mental well-being. He was later felicitated by ISC President Kantibhai K. Patel for his contribution.

Treasurer Hemant Modi presented the financial report for March, covering income, expenditures, and donor acknowledgments. Professor Sharad Shah spoke about the religious and historical significance of Hanuman Janmotsav, highlighting Lord Hanuman's appearance on Chaitra Sud Poonam in the Treta Yuga and explaining verses from the Hanuman Chalisa composed by Goswami Tulsidas.



Dharambhai Punwani is conducting Laughter Yoga for the ISC members.

Arvindbhai Kotak also addressed the gathering on dementia awareness, outlining its effects on the brain and body and sharing preventive guidance.

During the event, President Kantibhai Patel announced the new executive committee for 2026, including Vice President Navinbhai Patel, Secretary Jayesh Shah, Joint Secretary Daksha Parikh, Treasurer Hemant Modi, Joint Treasurer Panna Shah, and Coordinator Bhupendra Suthar. Members were also

informed about upcoming community activities, including a Mother's Day art exhibition in May, a picnic scheduled for July 12, and the annual ISC program on October 3. A solemn moment was observed with a two-minute silence in memory of Mudrikaben Dave, wife of member Sureshbhai Dave, who passed away in a tragic house fire. Prayers were offered for Sureshbhai Dave's recovery from injuries sustained in the incident.

with humor and storytelling by Vishnubhai Mahadeswar, who entertained members with jokes in Hindi and Gujarati. Announcements were also made about a joint celebration of the 150th anniversary of 'Vande Mataram' and the 250th year of American independence, to be held on April 19, organized by the Indian Community of Niles.

The event ended with a community meal, leaving members with a sense of unity, reflection, and cultural pride.

The program concluded on a lighter note



The newly formed 2026 executive committee of the Indian Seniors of Chicago. Left to right: Bhupendra Suthar (Coordinator), Hemant Modi (Treasurer), Panna Shah (Joint Treasurer), Navinbhai Patel (Vice President), Kantibhai K. Patel (President), Jayesh Shah (Secretary), Daksha Parikh (Joint Secretary).



Pallaviben Darji and Nayanaben Darji honor Rambhai Patel with flowers on the occasion of his birthday celebration.

Rep. Raja Krishnamoorthi calls for DHS accountability, honors WWII hero, and urges end to Iran conflict



By: Dr. Avi Verma

Congressman Raja Krishnamoorthi has issued a series of major public statements this week spanning national security oversight, legislative action, and foreign policy, reflecting an unusually wide-ranging focus on governance, military history, and global stability.

Probe demanded into alleged 'shadow operations' in DHS and FEMA

Krishnamoorthi has formally demanded answers from the Department of Homeland Security over reports suggesting improper influence by Special Government Employees (SGEs), contractors, and other non-career personnel within DHS and FEMA operations.

In a letter addressed to DHS leadership, he warned that what initially appeared to be isolated misconduct may actually reflect “a broader breakdown in internal controls, ethics compliance, and oversight across the Department.”

The allegations cited include claims that former aide and Special Government Employee Corey Lewandowski exceeded statutory limits of his role, exercising influence beyond

legally permitted boundaries.

The letter also references contractor Kara Voorhies, who is alleged to have exerted “outsized and deeply inappropriate influence” over FEMA operations, potentially functioning as a “shadow administrator” in decisions involving coordination with Congress, state governors, and the White House.

Krishnamoorthi argued that these concerns point to a systemic failure of oversight, warning that non-career personnel may have improperly shaped core governmental functions.

He has requested a formal response by April 29, 2026, seeking clarity on internal reviews, ethics investigations, corrective actions, and safeguards to prevent unauthorized influence across DHS agencies.

Legislation to honor WWII hero Bernie Bluestein passes House

Separately, the House has passed legislation introduced by Krishnamoorthi to rename the Palatine Post Office in honor of the late Bernie Bluestein, a decorated World War II veteran and member of the highly secretive “Ghost Army.”

Bluestein served in the American

deception unit that used inflatable tanks, fabricated radio transmissions, and sound effects to mislead Nazi forces during critical European campaigns, a strategy credited with saving thousands of Allied lives.

Following his military service, Bluestein became a respected community figure in Palatine, Illinois, where he worked as an artist, mentor, and educator influencing generations of students, including at Harper College. He passed away earlier this month at the age of 102.

Krishnamoorthi called the House passage a meaningful recognition of Bluestein’s legacy, stating that renaming the post office will ensure his contributions to both national security and the local community are preserved for future generations.

Calls to end Iran conflict and prevent economic escalation

On foreign policy, Krishnamoorthi also emphasized urgent efforts to de-escalate the ongoing conflict involving Iran, warning that the situation remains dangerously unstable amid tensions in Lebanon, disruptions in the Strait of Hormuz, and volatility in global energy markets.

He stressed that continued instability risks further escalation and economic

harm to American families already facing rising energy costs and uncertainty. The Congressman called for immediate diplomatic engagement to end the conflict and protect U.S. personnel deployed in the region.

He also urged strict oversight to ensure accountability within the executive branch, calling for investigations into whether any officials may have engaged in improper financial activity tied to war-related developments.

Krishnamoorthi further pressed for broader ethics reforms, including a ban on stock trading by Members of Congress, arguing that public trust depends on eliminating conflicts of interest in national security decision-making.

Broader message: Accountability at home and stability abroad

Taken together, Krishnamoorthi’s statements this week highlight a dual focus: strengthening oversight of federal agencies at home while pushing for de-escalation and transparency in one of the most volatile international crises in recent years. From homeland security governance to honoring military legacy and addressing global conflict, his interventions underscore a consistent theme of institutional accountability and public trust in government.

Swami Vivekananda statue unveiled in downtown Seattle in historic first

By: Vandana Jhingan

A life-size statue of Swami Vivekananda has been unveiled in downtown Seattle, marking a historic cultural milestone and the first time a U.S. city government has installed a monument honoring the Indian spiritual leader. The bronze statue was inaugurated at Westlake Square, one of the city's most prominent public spaces, by Seattle Mayor Katie Wilson along with the Consul General of India. The location sits at a major urban crossroads, surrounded by key civic and commercial landmarks and attracting heavy daily footfall.

The ceremony brought together civic leaders, diaspora representatives, and community organizations from across the region, reflecting strong participation from both local and Indian American communities. Officials described the installation as a symbol of Seattle's multicultural identity and its growing cultural ties with India. The statue is a gift from the Indian Council for Cultural Relations as part of India's cultural diplomacy efforts to strengthen global people-to-people connections. The unveiling also coincided with ICCR Day, underscoring the organization's long-standing role in promoting cultural exchange worldwide.



Swami Vivekananda Monument unveiled in downtown Seattle.



Participants at the unveiling ceremony of the Swami Vivekananda Monument.



Dignitaries at the unveiling ceremony of the Swami Vivekananda Monument.

The artwork was created by sculptor Naresh Kumar Kumawat, known for installations celebrating Indian heritage across multiple countries. Swami Vivekananda, the 19th-century spiritual thinker, is widely credited



Mayors from Seattle, Kent, Auburn, Tukwila, Normandy Park, and Kirkland with the Consul General of India following the unveiling ceremony.

with introducing Vedanta and Yoga philosophies to the West. The new monument stands as a tribute to his message of unity, spirituality, and harmony, and his enduring global influence.



Seattle Mayor Katie Wilson and the Consul General of India at the unveiling of the Swami Vivekananda Monument.

Indian consulate in New York warns of rising impersonation scams targeting community

By: Dr. Avi Verma

The Consulate General of India in New York has issued a public advisory warning about a surge in fraudulent attempts by scammers impersonating consulate and Government of India officials through fake calls and letters.

According to Ambassador Binaya S. Pradhan, the scammers are attempting to deceive members of the Indian diaspora by seeking sensitive personal information, including one-time passwords, bank details, and account passwords. The consulate has clarified that it never requests such confidential information under any circumstances.

Officials urged the community to remain alert and verify any suspicious communication directly through the official email address cons.newyork@mea.gov.in. They also advised individuals to report scam attempts to the United States Federal Bureau of Investigation's Internet Crime Complaint Center at ic3.gov.



The advisory emphasized heightened vigilance and encouraged community

members to protect themselves and their families from digital fraud and impersonation

attempts targeting immigrants and international residents.

Invitation for 22nd foundation day of Shri Balaji Maharaj sparks devotion and community spirit

By: Dr. Avi Verma

The invitation for the 22nd foundation day of Shri Balaji Maharaj has become a symbol of faith and auspiciousness, generating strong enthusiasm among devotees across Ludhiana.

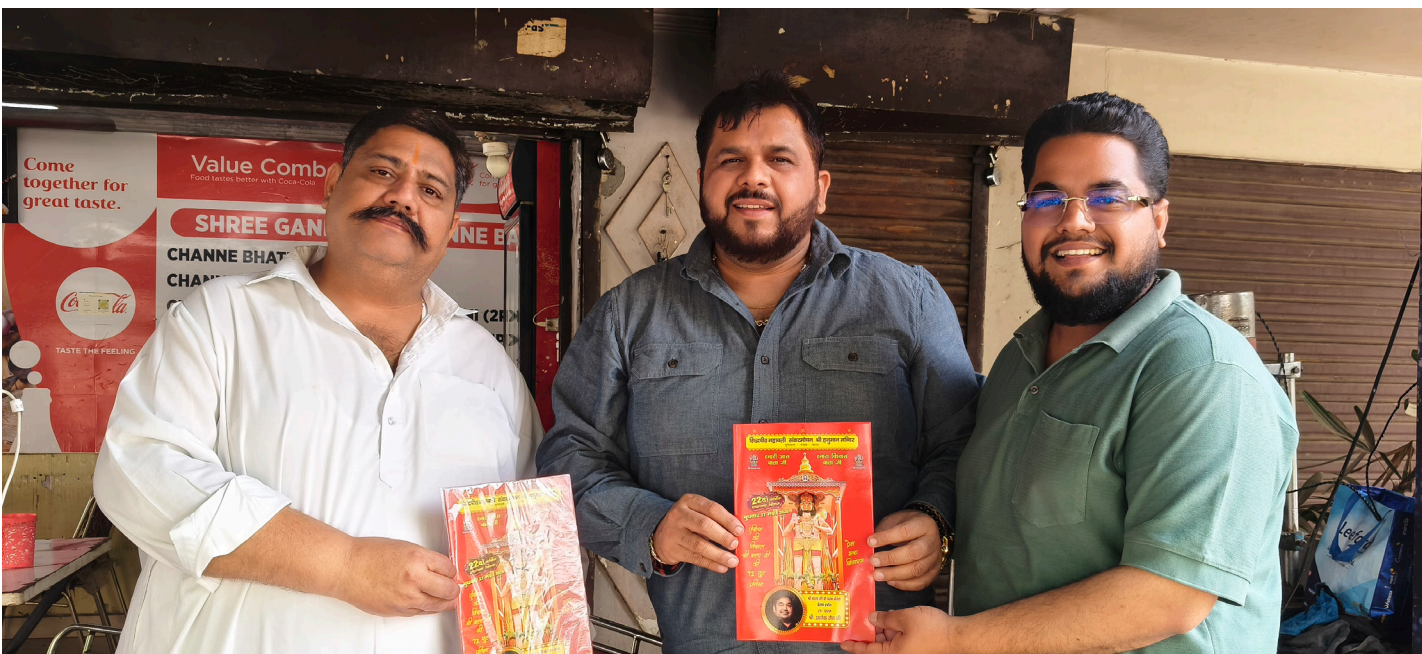
Invitations are being distributed for the upcoming celebrations at the Siddh Peeth Mahabali Sankat Mochan Shri Hanuman Temple in Joshi Nagar, Shankaracharya Nagar, and Haibowal Kalan. The outreach is being led under the guidance of temple representatives Aman Jain, Rishi Jain, and Anuj Madan, inspired by the vision of the late Ashok Jain.

For many devotees, receiving the invitation is not seen as a formal gesture but as a blessing and an expression of divine grace. The upcoming Hanuman Jayanti and temple foundation anniversary are being observed with deep reverence and growing anticipation.

Organizers highlighted that such religious invitations hold special significance in Sanatan Dharma, symbolizing divine blessings and reinforcing collective faith. They added that events like these strengthen social unity, harmony, and a shared sense of belonging within the community.

Devotees have been encouraged to participate in large numbers, attend the religious ceremonies, and seek blessings. Community members also noted that such gatherings help spread positivity, devotion, and goodwill across society.

The invitation drive has reached several prominent families and individuals across the city, further strengthening the spirit of togetherness and shared devotion.



Anuj Madan distributes invitations for the foundation day celebration among community members.



Engineered ‘tumor-eating’ bacteria

Promise, progress, and reality check

By: Dr. Avi Verma

A new line of research in synthetic biology is advancing an intriguing idea: using specially engineered bacteria to target and destroy cancer from within. Scientists at the University of Waterloo are studying how a naturally occurring soil bacterium, *Clostridium sporogenes*, can be reprogrammed into a highly selective anti-cancer tool.

Why bacteria—and why this one?

Solid tumors often contain oxygen-poor (hypoxic) cores. These regions are notoriously difficult to treat with conventional therapies like chemotherapy, radiation, or even immunotherapy because drugs and immune cells struggle to penetrate them effectively.

This is where *Clostridium sporogenes* becomes relevant. As an anaerobic bacterium, it thrives in low-oxygen environments. When introduced into the body under controlled conditions, it preferentially localizes and grows inside the hypoxic core of tumors, largely avoiding healthy, oxygen-rich tissues.

How the ‘tumor-eating’ mechanism works

Once inside the tumor, the bacteria can:

- ▶ Compete with cancer cells for nutrients
- ▶ Disrupt tumor structure
- ▶ Potentially deliver therapeutic molecules directly within the tumor

Researchers, including Marc Aucoin and collaborators, are enhancing this natural behavior using genetic engineering. Their work, published in *ACS Synthetic Biology*, focuses on building programmable biological systems inside the bacteria.

The role of quorum sensing and genetic circuits

A key challenge has been ensuring that the bacteria remain active long enough to affect the entire tumor, including its outer edges, where oxygen levels are higher.

To address this, scientists have engineered a system based on quorum



sensing—a communication method bacteria use to coordinate behavior based on population size.

Here’s how the engineered system works:

- ▶ The bacteria remain relatively inactive initially
- ▶ As they multiply inside the tumor, they reach a “critical mass”
- ▶ At that point, a genetic circuit activates oxygen-tolerance genes
- ▶ This allows them to survive slightly more oxygenated zones and extend their anti-tumor activity

This self-regulating mechanism is designed to:

- ▶ Limit bacterial growth in healthy tissues
- ▶ Maximize activity specifically

within tumors

Where the research stands

While the concept has been explored for over a decade, including foundational work dating back to around 2009, current efforts represent a more refined and controllable approach.

Importantly:

- ▶ This research is still in the preclinical stage
- ▶ Most testing has been conducted in laboratory and early animal models
- ▶ Human clinical trials are not yet established for this specific engineered system

Broader context: Bacteria in cancer therapy

The idea of using bacteria against cancer

is not entirely new. Similar strategies have been explored with other species such as *Salmonella* and *Clostridium novyi*. However, advances in synthetic biology now allow scientists to:

- ▶ Precisely control bacterial behavior
- ▶ Program safety “switches”
- ▶ Combine bacterial therapy with drug delivery systems

Expert perspective

Researchers emphasize that this approach does not simply “eat cancer” in a literal sense. Rather, it is a multi-mechanism strategy involving:

- ▶ Tumor colonization
- ▶ Metabolic disruption
- ▶ Immune system activation
- ▶ Potential targeted drug release

The road ahead

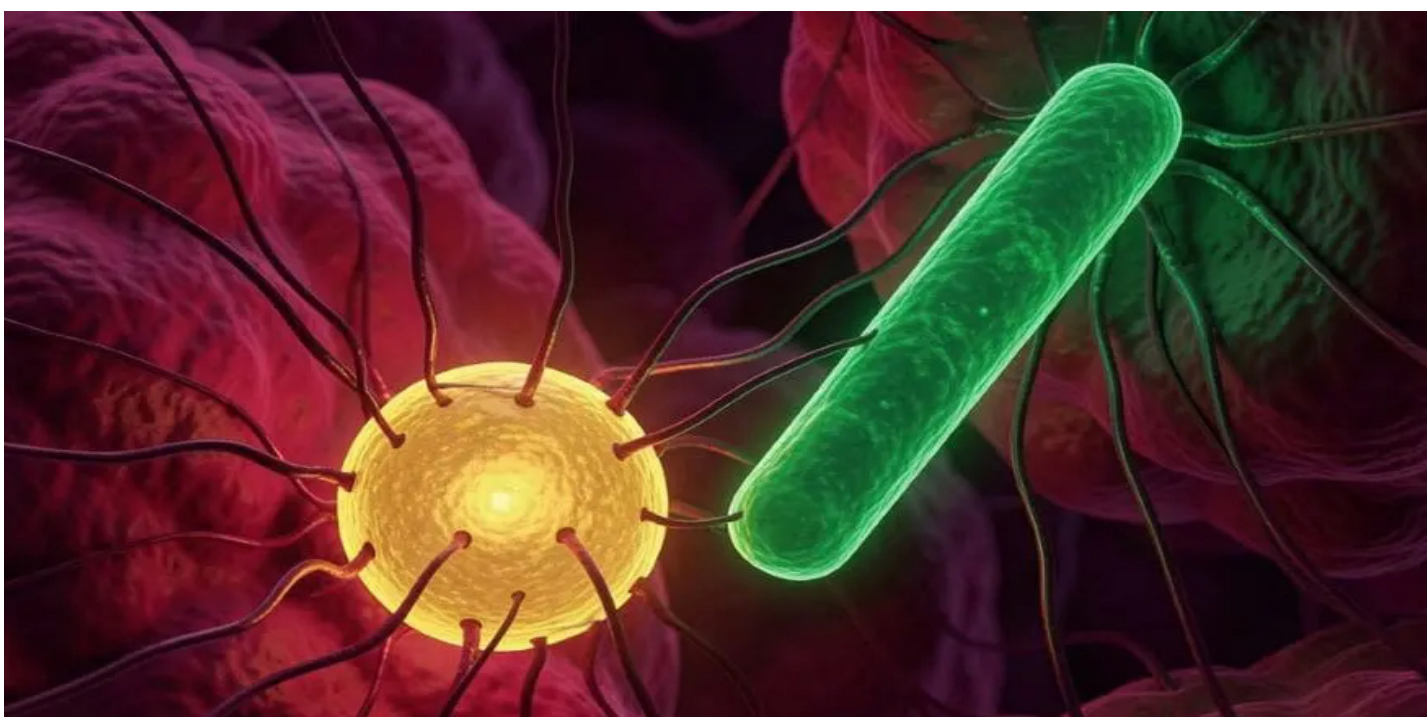
Before such therapies can reach patients, several critical hurdles remain:

- ▶ Demonstrating safety and preventing unintended infections
- ▶ Ensuring precise control over bacterial growth
- ▶ Regulatory approvals and phased clinical trials
- ▶ Long-term outcome data

If successful, this approach could complement—not replace—existing treatments, particularly for hard-to-reach solid tumors.

Disclaimer

This article is for informational and educational purposes only and does not constitute medical advice. The research described is experimental and not yet approved for routine clinical use in humans. Patients should consult qualified healthcare professionals for diagnosis, treatment options, and medical guidance.



Personal finance insights: News & Features

Mini Feature I-BOND VARIABLE RATE

● Dr. K C Gupta, YBB Personal Finance

CONTRARIAN INDICATORS

AAll Bull-Bear Spread -7.3% (below average)
 CNN Fear & Greed Index 38 (fear)
 NYSE %Above 50-dMA 49.36% (negative)
 SP500 %Above 50-dMA 43.60% (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

CME FedWatch
 Cycle peak 5.25-5.50%
 Current 3.50-3.75%
 FOMC 4/29/26+ hold
 FOMC 6/17/26+ hold

Treasury

T-Bills 3-mo yield 3.69%, 1-yr 3.70%;
 T-Notes 2-yr 3.81%, 5-yr 3.94%, 10-yr 4.31%;
 T-Bonds 30-yr 4.91%;
 TIPS/Real yields 5-yr 1.36%, 10-yr 1.95%, 30-yr 2.67%
 FRNs Index 3.669%

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 54.92 (greed)
 Weekly ETFs: INDA +4.42%, INDY +3.71%, EPI 4.33%, INDH +3.78%, SPY +3.12%

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



MARKETS

RBI held the repo rate at 5.25%.

In 2025, US JANE STREET (private) was suspended by Indian stock regulator SEBI for manipulating stock, index & option markets. Jane Street contested the charges in court but agreed to put its large profits in question in an escrow account (\$567 million) so that it could operate in India even as legal proceedings continued. In early 2026, the specific strategy used by Jane Street became clear. The manipulation involved pumping & running up stocks & index-futures (less liquid in India) & simultaneously buying puts as they got cheaper (options are more liquid in India). Later, on selling the combinations, there were small losses in stocks & index-futures but large profit in related puts.

This process was repeated, often daily, on a large scale to mint huge profits. While this arbitrage strategy isn't illegal, to use it on huge scale to move the markets maybe - that's to be determined by the court.

ECONOMY

Barron's International column (4/13/26) has a feature on GIFT City in Gujarat.

ENERGY

LPG (in cylinders) vs PNG (piped natural gas) dilemma. LPG is domestically produced (40%) & imported (60%; most from Middle East) but bottled locally; there is an extensive distribution network for LPG cylinders. PNG is produced domestically (50%) & imported (50%; from various sources, including Middle East) as LNG & then piped into homes. So, supplies of PNG are more stable in India than that of LPG. Recently, government restricted LPG to households with PNG connections.

TRANSPORTATION

Air India Express is turning its planes into flying canvases of Indian culture & heritage. The rear 2/3rd of the plane body is used for displays with some themes. Paint isn't used, but some process sticks the artwork on to the plane body - the term airplane-wrap is used. Durability of the artwork isn't clear. Air India Express has domestic & regional international flights & it's profitable (unlike Air India).

LOGISTICS

German Hapag-Lloyd (HL) has a controlling interest in the container business of J M Baxi Ports & Logistics. Baxi put its container business in a separate unit first, J M Baxi Container Holdings, & then HL got 51% controlling & 49% economic interest via its subsidiary HL Terminal Holding. Indian gateways assets are in Kandla, Haldia, Visakhapatnam, Thoothukudi, etc.

FASHION

Estee Lauder bought 100% (vs 49% previously) of Forrest Essentials

(Founder/Director Mira Kulkarni, Executive Director (son) Samrath Bedi) that produces natural, organic & Ayurvedic luxury COSMETICS. Although most ingredients are edible, you cannot eat final products due to processing for external use only. Forest Essentials has 200+ stores, most in India, some in UK & Middle Eastern countries (GCC) & is available in US through online orders only.

SPECIAL TOPICS - I-BOND VARIABLE RATE

March CPI release on 4/10/26 determined the I-Bond variable rate from 5/1/26: 3.34% (unadjusted 6-mo change) (semiannual 1.67% will be used in the formula below)

US Savings I-Bonds have the current rate that is a combination of base/fixed rate & recent semiannual inflation rate (CPI-U, unadjusted; March-September-March). Rates change on May 1 & November 1 & remain valid for the next 6 months. The personal limit is \$10K. Buyer cannot cash I-Bonds within 12 months; there is 3-month interest penalty if cashed within 5 years.

The tax can be deferred until redeemed. They stop earning interest in 30 years. Buy late in the month, or sell early in the month, to get full month interest. Account must be opened at Treasury Direct.

Formula for composite rate = [fixed rate + (2 x semiannual inflation rate) + (fixed rate x semiannual inflation rate)]

Treasury will announce the new fixed rate & total rates on 5/1/26 (maybe on 4/30/26).

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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Satin trench coats are spring's most elegant upgrade to a timeless staple

The trench coat has long been one of fashion's most dependable outerwear pieces, but this spring it is stepping into a noticeably more refined era. The familiar tailored silhouette remains intact, yet designers are reworking it in satin, silk blends, and glossy finishes that transform the utilitarian classic into something softer, dressier, and far more expressive.

trenches are rooted in function and structure, satin versions bring fluidity and sheen. The fabric changes everything. It catches light, moves with the body, and instantly elevates even the simplest outfit. What was once a rain-ready layer becomes a statement piece that feels equally at home in daylight styling or evening dressing.

Where traditional cotton gabardine



practicality and glamour without forcing a compromise between the two.

Designers are exploring the silhouette in multiple directions this season. Cropped satin trenches bring a sharper, fashion-forward energy, often styled with high-waisted trousers or skirts for proportion play. Double-breasted versions stay closer to the traditional structure, but the glossy finish softens the tailoring and adds a romantic undertone that makes them work from office hours to dinner plans.

Color also plays a defining role. Soft whites, ivory tones, and creamy neutrals amplify satin's natural glow, creating fresh, airy looks that feel distinctly spring-ready. On the opposite end of the spectrum, evening-focused trenches lean into drama with deep black, rich burgundy, and warm butter yellow, often designed with fluid draping or tuxedo-inspired cuts that feel made for nightfall.

The effect is subtle but powerful: a trench coat that no longer just completes a look but defines it.

Part of the appeal lies in how easily it adapts to modern wardrobes. A satin trench can be thrown over denim, a tank top, and sneakers for an effortless daytime look, then reimagined over slip dresses, tailoring, or monochrome separates for evening plans. It is transitional dressing at its most polished, perfectly suited to spring's unpredictable shifts in temperature. Lightweight yet impactful, it bridges

More experimental interpretations push the trend further with fringe detailing, cargo-inspired pockets, oversized sleeves, and bold prints. In satin, these details feel heightened rather than overwhelming, thanks to the fabric's reflective surface.

Ultimately, the satin trench coat represents a shift in how outerwear is styled this season. It is no longer just a layering essential but a focal point, offering structure, movement, and a sense of quiet luxury that makes everyday dressing feel more intentional.

Ashwani Chadha's

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