

Iran issues fresh threat of 'long and painful strikes' as tensions with United States persist



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Iran warned on Thursday it would launch "long and painful strikes" on United States positions if Washington resumes attacks, as the conflict involving Iran, the United States, and Israel entered its second month. The Strait of Hormuz remains closed, choking nearly 20 percent of global oil and gas flows and driving up energy prices.

A ceasefire has been in place since Tuesday, April 8, but tensions remain high, with Iran continuing to block the strait in response to a United States naval blockade of its oil exports. President Donald Trump was briefed on Thursday on options including fresh strikes and potential plans to reopen the waterway.

Air defenses were activated in Tehran late Thursday against drones, while the United Arab Emirates on Thursday restricted travel to Iran, Lebanon, and Iraq. Iranian officials said quick progress in negotiations remains unlikely.

India seen as trusted balancer as West Asia tensions deepen



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

As instability continues across West Asia, experts on Thursday said India is increasingly being viewed as a neutral and trusted partner capable of balancing competing regional interests. Speaking during a policy discussion on Thursday, Egyptian lawmaker Mohamed Farid said India's role as a constructive partner is likely to expand as the region confronts evolving security challenges, including the convergence of militant networks.

Farid warned that terrorism is becoming a global threat and emphasized the need for both security measures and engagement. He also pointed to growing public frustration in regions such as Lebanon and Gaza amid prolonged conflict. India has maintained balanced relations with key players and continues to advocate for de-escalation, positioning itself as a credible actor in a shifting regional landscape.

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BJP eyes surprise gains in key state polls as exit surveys signal momentum

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Exit polls released on Wednesday suggest Narendra Modi's Bharatiya Janata Party and its allies could secure victories in two of four major state elections, indicating a potential resurgence after the party lost its outright majority in the 2024 general election. Voting concluded on Wednesday across Assam, West Bengal, Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Puducherry, with results expected on Sunday.

The BJP-led alliance is projected to retain Assam for a third consecutive term. In West Bengal, pollsters indicate a possible upset against the ruling Trinamool Congress. In Tamil Nadu, the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam alliance is likely to return to power, while Kerala could see a tight contest with the Congress-led opposition gaining ground against the Left.

Exit polls in India have a mixed accuracy record, and final results will determine whether the projected gains hold.



Jaishankar underscores Modi's address, highlights 'three Ts' at global envoys conference

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar on Friday described Prime Minister Narendra Modi's address as the highlight of the 11th Heads of Mission Conference, emphasizing the growing role of trade, technology, and tourism in India's diplomatic strategy. The three-day conference, held from Monday to Wednesday in New Delhi, focused on the theme "Reforming Indian Diplomacy for 2047." Prime Minister Modi addressed Indian envoys on Thursday, offering guidance on advancing national interests and strengthening global engagement.

Jaishankar, who delivered the inaugural address on Tuesday, said discussions covered the Neighbourhood First policy, diaspora outreach, and the need for resilience and de-



risking in a volatile global environment. The conference brought together ambassadors, high commissioners, and senior officials for sessions including strategic discussions, technology briefings, and policy exercises, with a focus on future-ready diplomacy and expanding India's global partnerships.

India rejects viral BRICS exit rumors, reaffirms role ahead of 2026 chairmanship

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

India's Ministry of External Affairs on Wednesday dismissed viral claims suggesting the country is exiting the BRICS grouping or being replaced by Pakistan, calling them false and misleading. Through its official fact check unit, the ministry warned the public against misinformation circulating on social media, including posts alleging that BRICS would remove India or admit Pakistan and Turkey in its place. The clarification comes as India prepares to assume the BRICS chair in 2026, following its leadership theme focused on



resilience, innovation, cooperation, and sustainability. BRICS was formed in 2006 with Brazil, Russia, India, and China, expanded to include South Africa in 2010, and has since remained a key multilateral platform for emerging economies.

United Nations warns of global slowdown and rising poverty if Hormuz crisis continues



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres warned on Thursday that prolonged disruption in the Strait of Hormuz could slow global economic growth and increase poverty worldwide.

The conflict, now in its third month, has blocked a key route for nearly 20 percent of global oil and gas shipments. Speaking to reporters on Thursday, Guterres said continued disruption could push inflation higher and reduce economic output, with worst-case scenarios pointing to a global recession.

The United Nations is working with partners to manage the crisis, including plans to evacuate ships and establish humanitarian corridors. Guterres stressed that restoring safe and predictable navigation through the strait is critical, warning that the longer the disruption continues, the harder it will be to reverse the damage.

Russia claims Africa Corps thwarted Mali coup as conflicting reports emerge

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

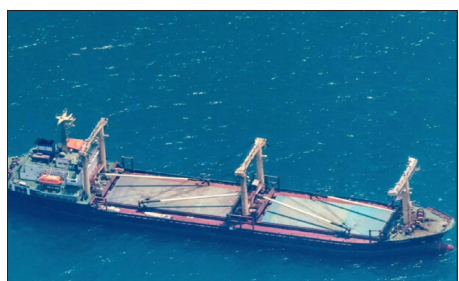
Russia's defense ministry said Tuesday that its Africa Corps forces prevented a coup attempt in Mali over the weekend, claiming they fought while surrounded in Kidal and inflicted heavy losses on insurgents without harming civilians. The Kremlin also alleged, without evidence, that militants were trained by European and Ukrainian instructors. However, local reports on Monday suggested Russian forces negotiated a withdrawal with Algeria's mediation. Rebel groups reportedly seized Kidal, attacked near Bamako, and killed Defense Minister Sadio Camara in a suicide bombing. Kremlin spokesperson Dmitry Peskov said restoring stability is a priority. Analysts say the events highlight limits to Moscow's influence in the Sahel, where about 2,000 Russian troops remain deployed.

South Africa deports Mugabe's son after fines over immigration and firearm offences

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

A South African court on Wednesday ordered the deportation of Bellarmine Chatunga Mugabe after fining him for immigration violations and a firearms-related offense. Mugabe, 28, pleaded guilty to both charges and was fined 600,000 rand in total, equivalent to about \$32,000. His cousin, Tobias Mugabe Matonhodze, was sentenced to three years in prison after pleading guilty to attempted murder and related charges linked to a February shooting at the family's Johannesburg home. The victim later withdrew charges after receiving compensation. Magistrate Renier Boshoff cited guilty pleas and time already served as mitigating factors. Mugabe was ordered deported to Zimbabwe following sentencing.

Piracy fears rise off Somalia after three vessels hijacked in a week



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Concerns over a resurgence in Somali piracy grew after three vessels were hijacked within a week, according to maritime officials. The Maritime Security Centre Indian Ocean said on Monday that all incidents remain ongoing, urging heightened vigilance near Somalia's coast. The seized ships include the tanker Honour 25 and the cargo vessel Sward, which was carrying 17 crew members when captured near Garacad. Security officials reported up to 20 armed pirates onboard one vessel. Analysts say reduced naval presence, due to deployments in the Red Sea, has created an opening for pirate networks. Piracy had sharply declined after peaking in 2011 but has shown signs of returning since 2023.

Melania Trump hosts King Charles and Queen Camilla with technology-led White House program

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

First Lady Melania Trump hosted King Charles the Third and Queen Camilla on Thursday during a state visit that combined formal diplomacy with a technology-driven educational initiative at the White House. As part of her "Fostering the Future Together" program, Trump led a virtual reality experience allowing students to explore British landmarks, including Buckingham Palace, while standing on White House grounds. Students, including winners of the Presidential Artificial Intelligence Challenge, later interacted with the First Lady and Queen Camilla. The visit also featured a formal state dinner held



on Thursday evening, with British-inspired decor and a menu incorporating honey from White House beehives. Officials said the visit highlighted enduring ties between the United States and the United Kingdom across diplomacy, education, and innovation.

Starmer vows tougher action after series of attacks targeting Jews in Britain

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Prime Minister Keir Starmer on Thursday called for stronger powers to counter threats linked to states such as Iran following a series of attacks targeting Jewish communities across Britain.



Speaking after meeting residents in Golders Green on Thursday, Starmer said incidents in Hendon, Kenton, and Manchester show a pattern rather than isolated cases. British counterterrorism police have classified the latest stabbing of two Jewish pedestrians in north-west London as a terror attack.

Starmer pledged to fast-track legislation to shut down organizations promoting

anti-Semitic extremism, increase police presence, and expand security support. He also said the government would block extremist figures from entering the country and prosecute those inciting violence, warning that many Jews now feel unsafe openly practicing their faith.

Putin calls for renewed global push toward nuclear disarmament at United Nations forum

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Russian President Vladimir Putin called for intensified global efforts toward nuclear disarmament, emphasizing adherence to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty during remarks delivered at a United Nations conference. He said the current security environment requires renewed cooperation without compromising any nation's safety.

The appeal comes as concerns grow over

rising nuclear arsenals and weakening international trust. United Nations Secretary General Antonio Guterres also warned that the treaty is under strain, with commitments eroding and proliferation risks increasing.

He urged countries to reinforce safeguards and prevent nuclear conflict. The conference, which began on Monday, is expected to address emerging threats, including the intersection of nuclear weapons with new technologies such as artificial intelligence.

Hezbollah's fiber-optic drones bypass Israeli defenses in battlefield shift

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Hezbollah has deployed fiber-optic guided drones in attacks on Israeli forces, introducing a weapon that evades electronic detection and complicates air defense efforts. Unlike conventional drones, the devices are controlled through thin cables rather than radio signals, making them resistant to jamming. Israeli officials say the drones have become a significant threat, particularly in southern Lebanon.

Attacks on Thursday killed one Israeli soldier and wounded more than a



dozen others, with additional casualties earlier in the week. Experts say the low-flying drones are difficult to detect and track, forcing Israel to explore new countermeasures as the conflict along the northern border intensifies.

Kurdish militants accuse Turkey of freezing peace process amid reform delays

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

A senior Kurdish militant leader said Thursday that Turkey has effectively frozen a peace initiative, accusing Ankara of failing to deliver promised legal and political reforms. Murat Karayilan of the Kurdistan Workers' Party said the group had taken key steps, including declaring a ceasefire and moving toward disarmament, but the government had not reciprocated. The remarks contradict President Recep Tayyip Erdogan's statement a day earlier that the process was progressing positively. There was no immediate response from Turkish officials. The initiative followed a call by imprisoned leader Abdullah Ocalan to end the armed struggle, but progress has stalled, leaving the decades-long conflict unresolved.

Musk testifies he did not read 'fine print' about OpenAI becoming for-profit company

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Elon Musk told a California court on Thursday that he did not read the "fine print" of a 2017 document outlining OpenAI's move toward a for-profit structure, saying he relied on reassurances from Sam Altman that it would remain a nonprofit. Musk is suing OpenAI, Altman, and Greg Brockman, alleging they misled him into contributing \$38 million by promising to prioritize safe artificial intelligence development before shifting to profit. OpenAI counters that Musk is motivated by control and competition from his own firm, xAI. The case, heard before Yvonne Gonzalez Rogers, could reshape OpenAI's governance. Musk is seeking \$150 billion in damages and structural changes, including leadership removals.

Global media demand Gaza access, say reporting limits obscure war reality



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Major international news organizations have urged Israel to lift restrictions barring foreign journalists from independently entering Gaza, warning that limited access undermines credible reporting. In a joint statement released Thursday during Press Freedom Week, editors from outlets including The Associated Press, Reuters, CNN, and The New York Times said on-the-ground reporting is essential to verify claims and document civilian conditions.

Israel has maintained the ban since the war began in 2023, citing security concerns, while allowing only tightly controlled media visits. With foreign reporters excluded, local Palestinian journalists continue to cover the conflict under extreme risk, with more than 200 media workers reported killed.

Brazil congress moves to cut Bolsonaro sentence after overriding Lula veto

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Brazil's congress and senate on Thursday overrode President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva's veto to approve a bill reducing the prison sentence of former president Jair Bolsonaro. If upheld by the supreme court, Bolsonaro's sentence for attempting a coup would drop from over 27 years to about 22 years. The change could also shorten time in a closed prison regime, potentially allowing a transition to a less restrictive system by 2028. The law affects around 280 others convicted over the 2022 election unrest. The vote marks a political setback for Lula ahead of elections, where Bolsonaro's son Flávio is a leading contender. The sentence reduction is not automatic and requires judicial review.

First US commercial flight since 2019 lands in Venezuela signaling reset in ties

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The first direct commercial flight between the United States and Venezuela since 2019 landed in Caracas on Thursday, marking a major shift in relations. An American Airlines jet from Miami touched down at Simón Bolívar International Airport, with officials calling it a historic milestone. The development follows the United States capture of former leader Nicolás Maduro months earlier and a new political arrangement under Vice President Delcy Rodríguez. US diplomat John Barrett said the route reflects efforts to rebuild economic ties and reconnect people. Venezuelan officials welcomed the move as part of reopening to global commerce. Flights had been suspended for years amid political tensions, sanctions, and economic collapse.

New Zealand court rejects Christchurch gunman's appeal bid as meritless



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

ANew Zealand appeals court on Thursday rejected an attempt by Brenton Tarrant to challenge his guilty pleas for the 2019 mosque attacks that killed 51 people. Judges ruled his claim that poor prison conditions affected his mental state was unsupported and inconsistent with expert evidence. The court found he acted rationally and was not pressured into pleading guilty. Tarrant had also failed to justify delays in filing the appeal. He is serving life without parole, the first such sentence in New Zealand. Prosecutors argued evidence of guilt, including livestream footage, was overwhelming. The court concluded the appeal was "utterly devoid of merit," ending his latest legal challenge.

United States naval blockade cuts Iran oil exports, forces crude into floating storage

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

AUnited States naval blockade has sharply reduced Iran's oil exports, leaving millions of barrels stranded at sea as storage facilities near capacity, according to shipping data and analysts on Thursday. Only a handful of tankers carrying Iranian crude departed the Gulf of Oman between Sunday, April 13 and Friday, April 25, marking a drop of more than eighty percent compared with March levels. Analysts estimate around four million barrels have moved out during the blockade, though tracking has become difficult as vessels switch off transponders and face interception.

United States officials said on Wednesday



that forty-one tankers carrying nearly sixty-nine million barrels remain unsold. The disruption has added pressure to already tight global supply following the closure of the Strait of Hormuz, pushing oil prices sharply higher and increasing market volatility.

Hegseth says Iran ceasefire may pause war powers deadline as legal dispute looms

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth told lawmakers on Thursday that the current ceasefire with Iran may pause the 60-day deadline requiring congressional authorization for military action, setting up a potential legal clash with Congress. Speaking during a Senate hearing on Thursday, Hegseth said the administration believes the War Powers clock "pauses or stops" during a ceasefire. Senator Tim Kaine disagreed, arguing the law does not allow for such an interpretation and warning the deadline could expire by Friday.

The timeline stems from the United States and Israel launching joint strikes on Iran on



Friday, February 28, with President Donald Trump notifying Congress on Sunday, March 2. Separately, Russian President Vladimir Putin and Trump spoke earlier this week, with Putin backing the ceasefire and warning of severe global consequences if military action resumes.

EU rolls out emergency aid plan as Middle East crisis drives energy shock

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The European Commission on Wednesday unveiled a temporary state aid framework to help industries hit by the Middle East crisis and surging energy costs. The plan, called METSAF, will run until the end of 2026 and targets vulnerable sectors such as agriculture, fisheries, transport and energy intensive industries. Officials said the framework will remain under review as geopolitical and economic conditions evolve. Commission President Ursula von der Leyen warned that in just 60 days of conflict, the European Union's fossil fuel import bill rose by more than \$31.57 billion without any increase in



supply. The measures allow governments to offset rising fuel and fertilizer costs and expand support under existing industrial rules. The bloc stressed that while clean energy transition remains the long term solution, immediate intervention is needed to protect growth.

Zelenskyy questions scope of Russia's Victory Day ceasefire as attacks persist

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said Thursday that Kyiv is seeking clarity on Russia's proposed short-term ceasefire tied to Victory Day, after the idea was raised in talks with President Donald Trump. Zelenskyy said officials are engaging the United States to determine whether the proposal offers a meaningful pause or limited security for events in Moscow. The Kremlin said no final decision has been made. Fighting continued overnight, with Russian drone strikes killing one person in Dnipro and wounding at least 20 in Odesa.



Ukraine also carried out a second day of strikes inside Russia, targeting energy infrastructure, underscoring ongoing escalation despite ceasefire discussions.

Israeli evacuation alerts in Lebanon drive mass displacement and legal scrutiny

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

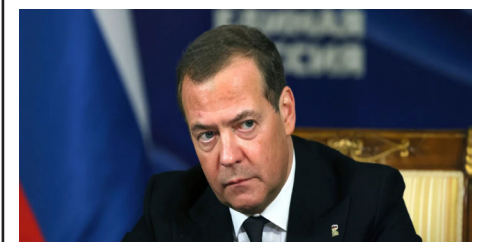
Israel's evacuation warnings in Lebanon have triggered widespread displacement and raised legal concerns, as civilians face inconsistent alerts and continued strikes despite a ceasefire. Since the conflict began on Sunday, March 2, warnings issued via calls, texts, and social media have forced large-scale evacuations, with more than one million people displaced at the peak. Residents say alerts are often unclear or come with little notice, while some attacks occur without warning. A major strike on Tuesday, April 8 killed more than 350 people, including many civilians. Legal experts argue broad or late warnings risk violating international law, while many displaced families remain in shelters with little sense of security.

United States charges Sinaloa governor and officials over alleged cartel links

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The United States Justice Department on Thursday charged Rubén Rocha Moya and nine other Mexican officials with drug trafficking and related crimes tied to the Sinaloa cartel. Prosecutors allege Rocha Moya was elected with cartel support and later protected its operations. He faces charges that could carry life imprisonment if convicted. Rocha Moya denied the allegations, calling them baseless. Mexican President Claudia Sheinbaum said authorities would investigate but warned the case could be politically motivated. The indictment adds pressure amid tensions with Washington, which has pushed Mexico to intensify action against organized crime. Mexican prosecutors said they would review evidence and consider extradition requests.

Medvedev denies Russian aggression toward Europe amid rising tensions and sanctions



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Russia's former president Dmitry Medvedev said on Thursday that Moscow has no aggressive intentions toward Europe, even as military buildup and rhetoric intensify across the region. Speaking at a national forum, he warned that repeated claims of an inevitable war could increase the risk of conflict. His remarks come days after the European Union approved a new package of sanctions targeting Russia's economy and military sectors over the Ukraine war. European leaders have also cited growing security threats, including airspace violations and hybrid warfare tactics. Medvedev urged global leaders to pursue negotiations instead of escalation, but tensions remain high as both sides continue military and strategic positioning more than four years into the conflict.



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India's 2026 Assembly Verdict

Consolidation, contest, and the battle for Bengal



Dr. Avi Verma

From a likely NDA hold in Assam to a cliffhanger in West Bengal, the latest exit polls reveal a nation politically split—where regional resilience meets national ambition and the road to 2029 begins to take shape.

The latest round of Assembly elections across West Bengal, Assam, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, and Puducherry offers more than just a snapshot of regional political contests—it provides a revealing barometer of India's evolving electoral mood and the strategic trajectory of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and the National Democratic Alliance (NDA).

At first glance, the exit polls present a fragmented and, at times, contradictory picture. But beneath the surface, a few clear patterns emerge: the NDA is consolidating where it already holds power, testing its limits in politically resistant regions, and eyeing a potential breakthrough that could redefine national politics.

West Bengal: The defining battleground

All eyes are on West Bengal, where the contest between Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee and the BJP has reached a level of intensity rarely seen in state politics. Exit polls range dramatically—from a comfortable lead for the Trinamool Congress (TMC) to projections suggesting a BJP surge strong enough to cross the majority mark.

The truth likely lies in between. The data points to a deeply polarized electorate, with the real possibility of a hung assembly or a razor-thin margin of victory for either side.

For the BJP, this election represents more than a state contest—it is a test of whether it can dislodge a powerful regional leader on her home turf. For Mamata Banerjee, it is a referendum on her enduring political resilience and grassroots connect.

Should the BJP manage an upset here, the consequences would be far-reaching. West Bengal is not merely another state; it is a political and symbolic frontier. A victory would signal the BJP's transition into a truly pan-Indian force, capable of penetrating even the most entrenched regional strongholds. Conversely, a TMC victory—especially a decisive one—would reaffirm the continued relevance and strength of regional parties in India's federal structure.

Assam: Stability and consolidation

In Assam, the picture is far clearer. Under the leadership of Himanta Biswa Sarma, the NDA appears poised for a comfortable return



to power. Exit polls consistently project a decisive majority, reflecting a combination of governance delivery, political messaging, and organizational strength.

Assam underscores an important trend: where the BJP has established credible local leadership and governance continuity, it is not only retaining power but doing so with confidence. This stability contrasts sharply with the volatility seen in West Bengal.

Southern realities: Tamil Nadu and Kerala

The southern states continue to present structural challenges for the BJP.

In Tamil Nadu, the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) is projected to retain power, while the political landscape is being reshaped by the emergence of Vijay and his Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK). The BJP remains a peripheral player here, with influence largely dependent on alliances rather than independent strength.

Similarly, in Kerala, the bipolar contest between the Left Democratic Front (LDF) and the United Democratic Front (UDF) continues to define the political landscape. While the BJP may see incremental gains in vote share, a structural breakthrough remains elusive. These states highlight a crucial limitation: despite its national dominance, the BJP's expansion into the South remains a work in progress, constrained by entrenched regional identities and political traditions.

Puducherry: Coalition strength in focus

In Puducherry, the NDA appears well-positioned to retain control. Though smaller in scale, this contest reinforces the alliance's ability to navigate coalition politics effectively and maintain its footprint in diverse political environments.

What is tilting the balance?

Across states, a set of recurring factors appears to be shaping electoral outcomes:

► **Governance and Welfare Delivery:** The BJP's emphasis on direct benefit transfers, infrastructure development, and welfare schemes continues to resonate with large

segments of the electorate.

- **Leadership Factor:** Strong regional leaders, particularly in states like Assam, are proving decisive.
- **Identity and Narrative Politics:** The interplay of national identity, regional pride, and community alignments remains central, especially in closely contested states like West Bengal.
- **Fragmented Opposition:** Multi-cornered contests and lack of cohesive opposition strategies are often working to the NDA's advantage.

The national implications

If there is one takeaway from these elections, it is this: India's political landscape remains both dynamic and deeply regionalized. A BJP victory in West Bengal would mark a watershed moment, reshaping national political equations ahead of future parliamentary elections. It would weaken one of the strongest opposition voices and expand the BJP's influence in the eastern corridor.

On the other hand, if Mamata Banerjee retains power, it will reinforce a counter-narrative—that strong regional leadership, local identity, and welfare-driven governance can effectively challenge the BJP's electoral machinery.

Conclusion

These elections are not delivering a uniform verdict—they are producing a layered and complex mandate. The NDA is consolidating its base, expanding cautiously into new territories, and encountering resistance where regional forces remain deeply rooted.

As the final results unfold, one thing is certain: the story of Indian democracy continues to be written not just in sweeping national trends, but in the nuanced, fiercely contested politics of its states. The real headline, perhaps, is not who wins or loses—but how India continues to balance national ambition with regional identity in one of the world's most vibrant democracies.

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

Malaysia emerges as covert base for pro-Khalistan network with focus on funding and narcotics

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Indian intelligence agencies are closely monitoring a suspected shift of pro-Khalistan operatives to Malaysia, where they are believed to be building a low-profile network focused on fundraising and drug smuggling into India. Officials say the move, backed by Pakistan's intelligence agency, reflects declining operational space in Canada and the United Kingdom. Unlike earlier overseas activities, the Malaysia-based module is expected to avoid public mobilization and operate discreetly under remote coordination. Authorities warn narcotics trafficking poses a greater risk than propaganda, especially as enforcement has tightened in Punjab. The network is reportedly led by Pardeep Singh Khalsa and aims to rebuild financial channels. However, officials note limited local support and strong India-Malaysia cooperation may restrict its long-term effectiveness.

Trump attacks Powell as Federal Reserve chief defends decision to remain in role

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

President Donald Trump criticized Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell on Wednesday after Powell said he would remain on the Federal Reserve Board even after stepping down as chair. Powell warned that the central bank's independence is under threat due to unprecedented legal challenges and political pressure. He said maintaining autonomy is critical for economic stability and market confidence. Powell added that recent developments compelled him to stay on to safeguard the institution's integrity. Trump, in a social media post, mocked Powell's decision and questioned his credibility. The dispute highlights growing tensions between the administration and the central bank over policy direction and institutional independence.

United States senators push bill to assess China's actions in Tibet as possible crimes against humanity

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Two United States senators introduced legislation seeking a formal determination on whether China's actions in Tibet constitute genocide or crimes against humanity. The proposed law would require the State Department to assess evidence within a year, including allegations of forced displacement, cultural repression, and detention.

Lawmakers said the move reflects growing bipartisan concern over human rights conditions in Tibet and aims to hold Beijing accountable. The bill also calls for policy responses such as sanctions if violations are confirmed. China has rejected such allegations, maintaining that its policies promote stability and development. The initiative underscores escalating tensions between Washington and Beijing over human rights issues.

United States lawmakers raise alarm over China's growing influence at United Nations

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

United States lawmakers on Wednesday warned that China is expanding its influence within the United Nations through increased funding, staffing, and diplomatic outreach.

During a House subcommittee hearing held Wednesday, members said Beijing's strategy includes placing personnel across United Nations agencies and strengthening ties in developing regions. Representative Jared Moskowitz said reduced United States engagement would allow China to gain further influence.

Lawmakers were divided on how to



respond, with some calling for funding cuts and others urging stronger engagement. Experts told the panel that while the United States remains the largest contributor to the United Nations, its influence depends on how effectively it is used.

Trump backs Iraq's new premier pick after blocking pro-Iran candidate

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

President Donald Trump has endorsed Iraq's prime minister-designate Ali al-Zaidi, signaling approval after intervening to block a rival candidate viewed as too close to Iran. Trump spoke with al-Zaidi on Thursday and invited him to Washington once a government is formed, later calling it

the start of a stronger bilateral relationship. Al-Zaidi, a businessman with no prior political office, was nominated on Monday by Iraq's Coordination Framework after internal divisions. The coalition had earlier backed former Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki before shifting under U.S. pressure. Al-Zaidi now has 30 days to form a cabinet, as Iraq faces economic strain linked to regional conflict and disrupted oil exports.

India condemns Hormuz attacks, demands safe passage at United Nations

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

India strongly condemned attacks on commercial shipping in the Strait of Hormuz, calling for the immediate restoration of safe and free navigation during a United Nations Security Council meeting on Tuesday. Speaking at the session, Yojna Patel warned that targeting civilian vessels and crews is unacceptable and threatens global commerce. She referenced India's

support for a Security Council resolution condemning attacks linked to Iran, without naming the country directly. Officials noted that recent incidents have affected Indian vessels and resulted in the deaths of at least three Indian sailors. With nearly 10 million Indians living in the Gulf region, India stressed the importance of regional stability. New Delhi urged dialogue and diplomacy, emphasizing that the Middle East remains critical to its energy security and economic interests.

Amnesty urges Pakistan to reveal fate of missing Pashtun activists held since last year

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Amnesty International on Thursday called on Pakistani authorities to immediately disclose the whereabouts of Pashtun activists Hanif Pashteen and Noor Ullah Tareen, who have been missing since their detention in November last year. The two, linked to the Pashtun Tahafuz Movement, were taken into custody after leaving a provincial assembly

session in Peshawar. While five others detained with them were released in January, the pair remain unaccounted for. Amnesty warned their enforced disappearance violates international law and raises concerns about torture and unlawful detention. The group said the case reflects a broader pattern of repression against Pashtun activists, including arbitrary arrests and intimidation, and urged authorities to ensure due process and transparency.

United States warns of China and Russia as space becomes a contested military domain

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

United States lawmakers and experts warned during a congressional hearing that space is rapidly evolving into a contested military arena, with China and Russia expanding capabilities that threaten global security. Officials described China as the most significant long-term competitor, citing its growing satellite network and strategic partnerships. Concerns were also

raised over aggressive orbital maneuvers and Russia's development of advanced anti-satellite weapons. Experts said modern warfare increasingly depends on space-based systems for communication, intelligence, and navigation. With more than 100 countries now active in space and most satellites commercially operated, the risk of conflict and miscalculation is rising. Lawmakers emphasized stronger alliances and global rules to manage competition and prevent escalation.

Jaish commander killed in Bahawalpur as pattern of unexplained militant deaths deepens



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Jaish-e-Mohammad commander Maulana Salman was killed on Wednesday in Pakistan's Bahawalpur after being struck by an unidentified vehicle, in what officials describe as part of a growing pattern of mysterious deaths among militant leaders. A close aide to Masood Azhar, Salman was linked to major attacks in India, including the 2001 Parliament assault and the 2019 Pulwama bombing. His funeral took place the same day at Markaz Subhanallah and was attended by hundreds, including intelligence officials. His death follows recent killings and attacks on Lashkar-e-Taiba figures, including Sheikh Yusuf Afridi. Analysts say repeated unexplained incidents have weakened both groups, already hit by losses during Operation Sindoor, and triggered leadership uncertainty within their ranks.

India-US satellite flags rapid sinking in Mexico City with alarming new data

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

A joint United States and India satellite mission has revealed that parts of Mexico City are sinking at an alarming pace, with some areas subsiding by more than 2 centimeters per month, according to data released on Wednesday. The findings come from early observations by the NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar satellite, which tracked land movement between October and January. Mexico City, built on an ancient lakebed, has long faced subsidence due to groundwater extraction and urban pressure, with historical rates reaching 35 centimeters annually. Scientists say the satellite's advanced radar can monitor ground shifts in near real time. Experts believe the mission will significantly improve global tracking of environmental changes and infrastructure risks.

New York mayor raises Kohinoor return with King Charles during United States visit

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

New York City Mayor Zohran Mamdani said on Wednesday he would urge King Charles to return the Kohinoor diamond, calling it a symbol of colonial-era extraction. Speaking before a brief meeting at a memorial ceremony for victims of the September 11 attacks, Mamdani said he would raise the issue if given the opportunity. The two later exchanged a short interaction, though details of their conversation remain unclear. The diamond, now housed in the Tower of London, was taken by the British East India Company after the Second Anglo-Sikh War. India has long demanded its return. Mamdani limited his engagement with the King to official protocol during the visit.

United States and India deepen defence cooperation during Pacific military leadership visit

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The United States Embassy said defence cooperation with India was strengthened during a recent visit by United States Pacific Air Forces Commander General Kevin Schneider. The visit, held over several days, included meetings with senior Indian military leaders and visits to operational and training facilities. Discussions focused on expanding interoperability, logistics cooperation, and joint preparedness across air, land, sea, space, and cyber domains.

Both sides emphasised the importance of faster coordination during humanitarian and regional security operations. The visit reflects growing trust and expanding defence engagement between the two countries, reinforcing their shared objective of maintaining stability across the Indo Pacific region.

Vietnam's top leader To Lam to begin landmark India visit to mark ten years of strategic partnership

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Vietnamese President and Communist Party General Secretary To Lam will begin a state visit to India on Tuesday, staying until Thursday, marking his first visit since taking office. Invited by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, he will be accompanied by senior ministers and a business delegation. The visit includes a ceremonial welcome in New Delhi on Wednesday, followed by wide-ranging talks with Prime Minister Modi on bilateral, regional, and global issues. President Droupadi Murmu will also meet the visiting leader, along with other senior officials. To Lam is expected to visit Bodh Gaya and Mumbai during his trip. The visit comes as both countries mark ten years of their comprehensive strategic partnership, with discussions expected to further deepen cooperation across multiple sectors.

India expands cultural and humanitarian outreach in Pacific with new aid initiatives for Tuvalu

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

India deepened its engagement with Tuvalu during a visit by Minister of State for External Affairs Pabitra Margherita over the weekend in Funafuti. He announced assistance for preserving cultural and heritage sites under a quick impact development programme and handed over initial funding. India also committed to providing a sea ambulance, food grain support, and medical treatment sponsorships in India for selected patients under its health initiative. The minister met local leaders, visited a hospital, and attended cultural events showcasing traditional Tuvaluan heritage. The visit reflects India's broader outreach to Pacific island nations under its regional cooperation framework focused on development, climate resilience, and capacity building partnerships.

Rajnath Singh holds key SCO bilaterals with Russia, China and Belarus amid focus on regional security

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Tuesday held separate meetings with the defence ministers of Russia, China, and Belarus on the sidelines of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation Defence Ministers' meeting in Bishkek, focusing on strengthening defence cooperation and regional security. In his meeting with Russian Defence Minister Andrei Belousov, both sides discussed key aspects of bilateral defence ties, including ongoing cooperation frameworks. Singh also met Chinese Defence Minister Admiral Dong Jun, where discussions centred on regional security dynamics and improving defence engagement between the two countries.

Separately, Singh held talks with Belarus Defence Minister Lieutenant General Viktor Khrenin, where both leaders explored



ways to expand and strengthen defence cooperation. Earlier in the day, Singh addressed the SCO meeting, reiterating India's firm stance against terrorism, separatism, and extremism. He stressed that states supporting cross-border terrorism undermine sovereignty and warned against double standards. He also called for stronger collective action and deeper cooperation among SCO members to ensure long-term regional peace and stability.

India and Ecuador broaden strategic engagement across trade, technology and development cooperation

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

India and Ecuador on Wednesday discussed expanding bilateral cooperation during a meeting between External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar and Ecuador's Foreign Minister Gabriela Sommerfeld in New Delhi. Talks focused on strengthening engagement in trade, agriculture, digital technology, health, and capacity building. India also welcomed Ecuador's participation in several international initiatives and confirmed progress on financial support for quick impact development projects. The Ecuadorian foreign minister is on a multi-day visit that includes meetings with senior Indian ministers and cultural engagements in the capital. Both sides reviewed recent diplomatic progress, including the establishment of India's resident



mission in Quito. Officials said the visit reflects growing momentum in India's engagement with Latin America, with both countries seeking to expand cooperation across development, technology, and multilateral platforms.

India and Armenia expand defence cooperation with focus on joint development and interoperability

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

India and Armenia on Wednesday discussed strengthening defence cooperation during high-level meetings in New Delhi involving senior military leadership from both countries. Armenia's Chief of the General Staff Lieutenant General Edvard Asryan met Defence Secretary Rajesh Kumar Singh and other top defence officials. Discussions focused on enhancing operational coordination, improving

interoperability, and expanding long-term military cooperation. Both sides also explored opportunities for joint development of defence equipment and technology sharing. The engagement reflects growing strategic alignment and an expanding defence partnership between India and Armenia. Officials noted that the talks build on ongoing exchanges and aim to deepen structured cooperation in training, capability development, and defence industry collaboration, marking a steady expansion of bilateral defence ties.

India and United Arab Emirates reinforce strategic alignment amid West Asia tensions and diaspora concerns

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

India and the United Arab Emirates are expected to further strengthen their strategic partnership amid evolving dynamics in West Asia and regional security challenges. Emirati leadership has recently underlined the deep people-to-people connection between the two countries, describing Indians in the United Arab Emirates as part of an extended family. During recent regional tensions, India

maintained close diplomatic engagement with the United Arab Emirates, with External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar visiting to express solidarity and discuss regional stability, energy security, and the welfare of the Indian diaspora. Both sides reaffirmed respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity while coordinating on broader security concerns. The partnership continues to expand across trade, investment, energy, and strategic cooperation, reflecting increasing alignment on regional and global issues.

India and Italy deepen defence industrial ties as strategic convergence gains momentum

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

India and Italy on Thursday reinforced their growing defence relationship during talks between Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and Italian Defence Minister Guido Crosetto in New Delhi. The discussions focused on expanding defence industrial cooperation, strengthening supply chain partnerships, and exploring joint development opportunities under India's self-reliance initiative. Both sides also exchanged a bilateral military cooperation plan covering engagements for 2026 to 2027. The ministers reviewed global and regional security developments, including ongoing challenges in West Asia, and expressed commitment to deepening strategic cooperation. Crosetto's visit follows earlier high-level exchanges that have accelerated defence collaboration between the two countries. Officials said the engagement reflects rising strategic convergence and a shared interest in advancing long-term industrial and technological cooperation in defence.

India and United Arab Emirates strengthen strategic dialogue amid regional tensions

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

India's National Security Advisor Ajit Doval on Sunday met United Arab Emirates President Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan in Abu Dhabi, discussing ways to deepen the comprehensive strategic partnership and review regional developments. The meeting also covered wider geopolitical issues of mutual concern. Doval conveyed greetings from Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The engagement comes amid continued high-level exchanges between the two countries, including a recent visit by India's External Affairs Minister. Both sides reaffirmed commitment to strengthening cooperation in security, energy, and people-to-people ties, with special emphasis on regional stability and the welfare of the Indian community in the United Arab Emirates.

India and Kenya expand trade cooperation with new customs facilitation agreement

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

India and Kenya held the tenth meeting of their Joint Trade Committee in Nairobi on Monday, focusing on expanding bilateral trade and economic cooperation. Officials discussed market access, tariff and non-tariff barriers, and collaboration in sectors such as pharmaceuticals, agriculture, energy, and digital infrastructure. Both sides agreed to strengthen institutional mechanisms to support trade growth and business engagement. A new agreement was signed between customs authorities of both countries to share pre-arrival information on goods, aimed at speeding up clearance processes and improving risk management. The agreement is expected to enhance trade efficiency and further strengthen economic ties between India and Kenya.



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Trump expands retirement savings access through new executive order

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

President Donald Trump on Thursday signed an executive order expanding access to retirement savings accounts for millions of Americans, particularly low-income workers and those without employer-sponsored plans. Calling it a "historic executive order," he said the initiative would extend retirement-style benefits similar to those available to federal employees. Trump said eligible low-income workers could receive up to \$1,000 annually in matching contributions. He added that even modest monthly savings could grow substantially over decades. Officials said the policy targets structural gaps in retirement coverage and may later be expanded to middle-income earners with congressional approval.

Trump signs homeland security funding bill, ending weeks-long shutdown standoff

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

President Donald Trump on Thursday signed legislation funding key Department of Homeland Security agencies, ending a partial shutdown that had disrupted operations for nearly eleven weeks since funding lapsed on Friday, February 14. The breakthrough came after the House of Representatives unanimously passed a Senate-approved bill on Thursday, following weeks of resistance from conservative lawmakers over the exclusion of funding for immigration enforcement agencies. The legislation funds agencies such as the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the Coast Guard, and the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency through the end of the fiscal



year. Pressure intensified after a shooting on Saturday at the White House Correspondents' Association dinner and warnings that affected agencies could miss payroll in May. Republican leaders secured support on Wednesday after advancing a separate budget plan to fund immigration enforcement, clearing the way for final passage.

Pentagon says Iran conflict has cost 25 billion dollars so far

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

A senior Pentagon official on Wednesday told lawmakers that the United States has spent about 25 billion dollars on its military operation against Iran over the past two months. Acting Comptroller Jules Hurst said most costs stem from munitions, operations, and equipment replacement. Defence Secretary Pete Hegseth testified before Congress amid sharp partisan divisions, with Republicans supporting the campaign and Democrats questioning its costs and strategy. Hegseth defended the operation and said the proposed defence budget would ensure long-term readiness, while declining to provide estimates for the war's duration or total cost.

Senators probe Pentagon over Kuwait drone strike during Iran conflict

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Four Democratic senators on Monday launched an investigation into the Pentagon's handling of a drone strike in Kuwait during Operation Epic Fury that killed six US service members.

Lawmakers said the attack occurred without adequate warning systems or defensive coverage. Survivors reportedly treated injuries themselves and evacuated wounded colleagues using civilian vehicles.

The senators accused Defence Secretary Pete Hegseth of misrepresenting the incident and said intelligence warnings about potential targeting were not acted upon. They also raised broader concerns about troop safety and requested detailed explanations, setting a deadline for the Pentagon to respond.

Congress delays spy powers reform with short-term extension

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The United States Congress on Thursday approved a 45-day extension of a key surveillance authority, keeping warrantless foreign intelligence collection powers in place while lawmakers continue negotiating reforms. The Senate passed the measure unanimously before the House quickly followed with a 261-111 vote, sending it to President Donald

Trump for approval. The extension prevents the lapse of Section 702 of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act, which allows intelligence agencies to monitor foreign targets abroad while sometimes incidentally collecting data from Americans. Civil liberties advocates continue to demand a warrant requirement for searches involving US persons. Lawmakers will revisit broader reforms in the coming weeks ahead of a mid-June deadline.

Democrats split over impeachment talk as Trump dominates political debate

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Democrats remain divided over whether pursuing impeachment or constitutional action against President Donald Trump is an effective election message heading into the midterm cycle. On Sunday, some lawmakers backed a proposal examining presidential incapacity under the constitutional amendment

process, while others argued the focus should remain on inflation, healthcare, and cost of living. Party strategists warn that renewed impeachment talk could distract from economic messaging that has recently gained voter traction. Republican leaders say Democrats are politically motivated. Polling shows voters remain primarily focused on prices and the economy, even as Trump continues to drive political controversy and shape the national debate.

Appeals court rejects Trump administration policy denying bond hearings to immigrants

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

A federal appeals court in New York has ruled that the Trump administration cannot detain immigrants without giving them the opportunity to seek bond, saying the policy raises serious constitutional questions. The unanimous decision from the Second United States Circuit Court of Appeals conflicts with rulings in other federal circuits and sets up a possible Supreme Court review. The case involved a Brazilian man who has lived in the United States for years without a criminal record but was placed in mandatory detention under a 2025 immigration enforcement policy. The court said the government's interpretation of a 1996 immigration law would allow broad detention powers that Congress did not clearly authorize, and noted most lower courts have rejected the approach.

Trump administration fires entire National Science Board overseeing science foundation amid policy shift

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Trum administration on Friday fired members of the National Science Board, an independent panel overseeing the National Science Foundation, according to emails sent from the Presidential Personnel Office on behalf of President Donald Trump. The notice said their positions were terminated immediately. All 22 sitting members were removed, including scientists from academia and industry. The board, created in 1950, advises the president and Congress on science policy and approves major funding decisions. Dismissed member Keivan Stassun called the move disappointing, while Yolanda Gil said it signals sweeping changes at the agency. Senator Maria Cantwell called it a dangerous attack on innovation.

Former FBI director James Comey indicted over alleged threat against Donald Trump

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

A federal grand jury on Thursday indicted former FBI director James Comey on charges of threatening President Donald Trump. Prosecutors allege he posted content online that was interpreted as a serious threat and transmitted it across state lines. The case centers on an Instagram post featuring coded numbers that authorities said could imply harm. Officials said the investigation involved months of evidence review, including digital communications. Comey is also accused of deleting the post after publication. He faces up to 10 years in prison if convicted. Authorities emphasized that an indictment does not establish guilt.

Supreme Court voting rights ruling raises concerns over minority representation

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

A United States Supreme Court ruling delivered on Wednesday has sparked concern among civil rights advocates after it struck down a Louisiana congressional district created to strengthen Black representation. The decision significantly limits how Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act can be applied in future redistricting cases.

Civil rights groups warn the ruling could weaken protections against racial vote dilution and make it harder to challenge electoral maps in court. The law, enacted in 1965, has long been central to expanding minority political representation. Supporters



of the ruling argue it reinforces constitutional limits on race-based districting. Critics say it could reduce minority representation in Congress and state legislatures nationwide.

Trump signals accelerated return to the Moon under Artemis program

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

President Donald Trump on Wednesday said the United States is on track to return astronauts to the Moon, highlighting progress under NASA's Artemis programme during a White House event with Artemis II astronauts. He said the mission timeline could be ahead of schedule and praised NASA leadership. Administrator Jared Isaacman outlined plans for Artemis III in 2027, with additional landing opportunities in 2028. Trump linked space exploration to national security, while officials said the programme reflects a renewed push for sustained lunar missions and long-term US leadership in space.

Lawmakers push new 'Buy America' rules targeting foreign supply chains

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Bipartisan legislation introduced in the United States Senate on Sunday aims to strengthen domestic sourcing rules for federally funded infrastructure projects and reduce reliance on foreign suppliers, including China. The proposal would require agencies to fully enforce "Buy America" standards and submit annual compliance reports to Congress. It also seeks to limit broad waivers that allow imported materials in public projects. Supporters said the measure ensures taxpayer funds support American workers and manufacturers. Industry groups and labour unions have backed the initiative, calling it a step toward stronger supply chains and improved economic security.

Senate bans prediction markets for lawmakers amid gambling concerns



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

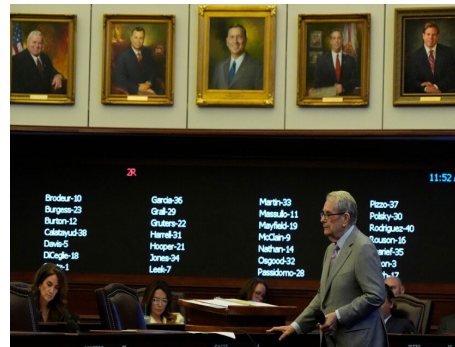
The United States Senate on Thursday unanimously approved an immediate ban preventing senators, congressional staff, and officers from using prediction markets that allow betting on real-world events. The rule change was led by Republican Senator Bernie Moreno, with a Democratic amendment expanding the restriction to staff. Lawmakers also urged the House, executive branch, and judiciary to adopt similar bans. The move follows a fraud case involving a U.S. Army soldier accused of profiting from a bet tied to classified information about Venezuela. Supporters warned that Congress must avoid becoming a "casino," while critics of market trading say lawmakers already face conflict-of-interest risks.

Florida approves new congressional map boosting Republican advantage ahead of elections

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Republican lawmakers in Florida on Wednesday approved a new congressional map aimed at strengthening their party's position in upcoming United States House elections by reshaping district boundaries currently held by Democrats. Backed by Governor Ron DeSantis' office, the plan could give Republicans as many as 24 of the state's 28 House seats, expanding their current advantage.

The state House and Senate passed the measure largely along party lines, while Democrats strongly opposed it, calling it unconstitutional partisan gerrymandering.



Legal challenges are expected.

Republicans argue the map follows lawful redistricting standards, while critics say it undermines fair representation and weakens minority voting strength.

United States to issue limited commemorative passports featuring Donald Trump

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The United States State Department on Tuesday announced plans to issue a limited number of commemorative passports featuring President Donald Trump as part of celebrations marking the 250th anniversary of American independence in July. Officials said the special edition will include customized artwork and enhanced design while maintaining standard security and will be available only at the Washington passport office at no extra cost. The design places Trump's portrait alongside historical imagery linked to the Declaration of Independence.



The initiative is part of broader national anniversary plans involving commemorative federal items. Supporters call it patriotic, while critics question political branding in official documents.

Trump hosts crypto contest winners as meme coin value collapses

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

President Donald Trump on Saturday hosted winners of a cryptocurrency contest at his Florida resort, where top holders of his branded digital token gained access to a private reception and keynote event. The token, launched in 2025, has lost more than ninety five percent of its peak

value, trading near record lows during the gathering. Critics say the event reflects growing overlap between Trump's political role and family-linked crypto ventures, which have generated significant revenue. The White House says assets are held in trust and no conflicts exist. Analysts note weaker investor demand compared with last year's contest despite continued promotional activity.

Republican lawmakers urge National Guard role to counter drone threats at World Cup

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Republican Representatives Michael McCaul and Elijah Crane are calling on the Trump administration to deploy the National Guard to help counter potential drone threats and secure airspace over eleven United States cities hosting World Cup matches in 2026.

In a letter sent on Friday to Homeland Security Secretary Markwayne Mullin, Acting Attorney General Todd Blanche, and Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth, the lawmakers urged immediate interagency coordination and a unified federal security approach, warning that divided



responsibilities between federal, state, and event organizers could weaken preparedness. They said the National Guard's rapid deployment and counter-drone capabilities make it well suited for the task. The appeal came amid heightened security concerns following a recent shooting incident at a Washington event. The White House said the tournament will be safe and secure.

Food and Drug Administration moves to restrict mass compounding of obesity drugs

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The Food and Drug Administration on Thursday proposed removing Novo Nordisk and Eli Lilly weight-loss medicines from a key bulk compounding list, a step that could limit large-scale production by outsourcing pharmacies. The agency said there is no clinical need to compound semaglutide, tirzepatide, or liraglutide, the active ingredients in blockbuster obesity drugs. If finalized, the decision could affect telehealth companies that rely on mass production of lower-cost versions. Novo Nordisk and Eli Lilly welcomed the proposal, saying compounding should remain rare and limited. The agency has opened a public comment period until late June before issuing a final decision.

Trump revives Keystone pipeline push with new cross-border oil permit

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

President Donald Trump on Thursday signed an order granting a cross-border permit for a new oil pipeline project that partially revives the canceled Keystone expansion, aiming to move Canadian crude into the United States. The project, led by South Bow and Bridger Pipeline, would run from the Canada border to Wyoming using a new route and some existing pipeline already built in Canada. Trump said his administration supports energy infrastructure after earlier cancellations. The proposal still requires state approvals, shipper commitments, and potential court review. If completed, it could increase Canadian oil exports to the United States by more than 12 percent.

Trump plans release of additional UFO records amid economic claims



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

President Donald Trump on Wednesday said his administration plans to release additional information on unidentified flying objects, citing public interest and reports from military pilots who described unexplained sightings. He said the material would be "very interesting" and confirmed ongoing review of related files. Alongside the announcement, Trump highlighted strong economic performance, pointing to record investment in manufacturing, technology, and artificial intelligence. He said foreign firms are relocating production to the United States, attributing the shift to trade policy. He also claimed the country is leading global artificial intelligence development.

Haryana woman breaks barriers as she becomes logistics officer in Royal Australian Air Force

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Neha Sahu, a 37-year-old woman from Ding Mandi in Haryana's Sirsa district, has achieved a major milestone by becoming a logistics officer in the Royal Australian Air Force, inspiring women in her hometown and beyond. Having lived in Australia for nearly 15 years, Sahu initially worked as a primary school teacher for almost a decade before pursuing her ambition of joining the armed forces. Her husband, Abhinav Sahu, has served in the Royal Australian Air Force for 14 years. Speaking about her journey, Sahu said she comes from a background where girls are often expected to limit their ambitions after basic education. She credited her family, especially her husband and 14-year-old daughter, for supporting her through intensive three-month war-zone training at Wagga Wagga. The training included weapons handling, physical drills, and long periods away from family. Her achievement has been widely celebrated in Sirsa as a symbol of changing aspirations for Indian women.

Indian-origin man jailed in Singapore for decade-old child molestation case



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

A 33-year-old Indian-origin man has been sentenced to 19 months in jail by a Singapore court for molesting his friend's younger sister in a case that dates back over a decade. The offences occurred when the victim was between seven and nine years old, while the accused was 19 to 21 at the time. The survivor came forward only in March 2023 after disclosing the abuse to her mother and boyfriend, who encouraged her to report it. She said she remained silent earlier out of fear she would not be believed. The accused denied the allegations and claimed the interactions were consensual. He also argued the complaint was motivated by revenge. He has indicated that he will appeal against both conviction and sentence.

Punjab families battle delay and cost to repatriate bodies of youths who died abroad

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Families in Punjab are struggling to bring back the bodies of three young Indians who died under unclear circumstances in the United States and Canada within the same week. Mehak Singh from Ludhiana died on Wednesday in Indiana, while Pratibha Gupta was found dead on Saturday in Brampton, Canada. Another case involves Anmoldeep Kaur, whose body was discovered in a park in Ontario. All three families say they are facing financial hardship and lack clarity on the cause of death. They have sought assistance from the Ministry of External Affairs, while community groups have launched fundraising efforts. Lawmakers have also stepped in to help speed up repatriation procedures as investigations continue in the respective countries.

US Congress introduces SACRED Act to create 100-foot protection zone around places of worship

● Staff Writer, IndoUS Tribune

A bipartisan group in the United States Congress has introduced the Safeguarding Access to Congregations and Religious Establishments from Disruption Act, known as the SACRED Act, proposing a federal safety zone around places of worship, including temples and gurdwaras. The legislation seeks to make it a federal crime to intentionally intimidate, obstruct, or harass individuals within 100 feet of a religious site while they are exercising their right to worship. It also targets conduct such as blocking entry, issuing

threats, or approaching within eight feet with the intent to harass or intimidate.

The bill has been introduced by Congressman Tom Suozzi, a Democrat from New York, and Congressman Max Miller, a Republican from Ohio, reflecting cross-party support. It is backed by several major advocacy groups, including the Anti-Defamation League, the American Jewish Committee, and the Hindu American Foundation. Supporters say the measure responds to rising concerns over religiously motivated hostility and aims to ensure safe, uninterrupted access to places of worship while balancing constitutional free speech protections.



Singapore opposition leader Pritam Singh reprimanded after court-upheld conviction

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Singapore's opposition Workers' Party has formally reprimanded its Secretary-General Pritam Singh after a court upheld his conviction for lying to a parliamentary committee. The party's central executive committee issued a formal letter of reprimand following a disciplinary panel review completed in January.

Singh, a former Leader of the Opposition, was found to have contravened two provisions of the party constitution. However, the party noted he had no intent to act against party principles or harm its welfare. The committee considered the circumstances and opted against harsher disciplinary action.



Singh, who has led the party since 2018, remains eligible to contest internal elections scheduled for later in 2026. His conviction previously led to his removal as Leader of the Opposition by Prime Minister Lawrence Wong, following parliamentary findings and a court ruling.

Washington exhibition brings rare pahari paintings from the Himalayas into global spotlight

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

A major exhibition showcasing rare Indian art from the Himalayan hill kingdoms has opened in Washington, highlighting a lesser-known but historically rich painting tradition. Titled "Of the Hills: Pahari Paintings from India's Himalayan Kingdoms," the show runs from April 18 to July 26, 2026, at the Arthur M. Sackler Gallery of the National Museum of Asian Art.

The exhibition features 48 works created between the 1620s and 1830s for Hindu rulers in northern India's Pahari region. Curators describe them as among the most beautiful yet underexplored artworks from the Himalayas. The display highlights diverse styles ranging from lyrical and



naturalistic to bold and abstract, shaped by regional cultural influences.

It also emphasizes collaborative artist communities and includes rare acquisitions and loans, some exhibited publicly for the first time, offering deeper insight into Pahari artistic heritage.

Indian-origin man in Canada faces deportation after conviction in child abduction case



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

An Indian-origin man convicted of abducting a child in Canada may face deportation after completing an 18-month prison sentence, according to court reports. Manoj Govindbalunikam, 37, pleaded guilty to abducting a nine-year-old boy in Thessalon in 2023 after approaching him and offering gifts and transport. Court records state he engaged the child in conversation, offered a ride home, and continued driving past the destination when asked to stop. The judge rejected arguments that the case involved a cultural misunderstanding, stating he understood Canadian legal and social norms. Prosecutors said a sentence of six months or more could render him inadmissible under immigration law, making deportation likely. His defense had sought a conditional discharge to avoid removal from Canada, but the court ruled that deterrence and denunciation were necessary in the sentencing decision.

Kerala-born democratic socialist Nithya Raman emerges as progressive contender in Los Angeles mayoral race



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Nithya Raman, a 44-year-old democratic socialist born in Kerala, has emerged as a prominent challenger in the 2026 Los Angeles mayoral race, drawing attention as part of a growing wave of Indian-origin progressive leaders in American politics. Often referred to as the "next Mamdani," Raman moved to the United States at the age of six and later built an academic foundation at Harvard University and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Before entering politics, she worked as an urban planner and engaged in community work with slum dwellers in India. After relocating to Los Angeles, she co-founded the homeless advocacy group SELAH and later served as executive director of Time's Up Entertainment, focused on workplace equality.

In 2020, Raman became the first South Asian and Asian American woman elected to the Los Angeles City Council. Now, she is challenging incumbent Mayor Karen Bass on housing affordability, transparency, and revitalizing Hollywood's production industry.

New York Fifth Avenue baraat goes viral as Indian couple turns wedding into live musical procession



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Avibrant Indian wedding procession turned heads in New York City when a grand baraat took over Fifth Avenue, one of the world's most iconic and busy streets, sparking widespread reactions online. The celebration featured music, dancing, and traditional attire as guests filled the avenue in a high-energy display of festivity.

The couple at the center of the viral moment, Pankti Doshi, a genetic counselor, and Dr Avish Jain, a medical journalist and singer, chose an unconventional entrance by performing live music during their procession. Instead of a traditional band or disc jockey, the bride and groom sang popular Bollywood songs from an open vehicle while guests danced alongside them.

The video, shared by a wedding content creator on social media, quickly went viral, highlighting both the scale and creativity of the celebration. While many praised the spectacle, others raised concerns about disruption in a major public thoroughfare known for luxury shopping and heavy traffic.

British Sikh marathon runners raise funds for charity and community projects in London



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Two British Sikh runners took part in the London Marathon on Sunday, raising thousands of pounds for charitable causes while joining tens of thousands of participants in one of the world's largest running events. Eighty-year-old Baldev Singh Bains and fifty-two-year-old Manny Singh Kang completed the marathon as part of separate fundraising efforts. Bains dedicated his run to Fauja Singh, the legendary marathon runner from Punjab who died last year, and raised funds for a proposed community sports clubhouse in London. Kang, who also walked from Wolverhampton to London before the race, raised over three hundred thousand pounds for a dementia care charity. Organisers said the event saw record participation and strong diversity among runners.

India digitises overseas citizenship system with major overhaul of OCI rules

● Staff Writer, IndoUS Tribune

India has revamped its Overseas Citizen of India framework with sweeping digitisation reforms introduced under new Citizenship Amendment Rules notified by the Ministry of Home Affairs. The updated system, effective immediately, requires all OCI applications to be filed exclusively online through the official portal, eliminating duplicate paperwork.

The reforms introduce electronic OCI registration alongside physical cards, modernising recordkeeping. A new rule bars minor Indian passport holders from simultaneously holding foreign citizenship, requiring formal declaration compliance. The system also introduces biometric data collection for faster immigration processing.

OCI renunciation must now be completed online, while cancellation provisions have been strengthened, allowing authorities to revoke electronic



registrations. The appellate process has also been restructured. Officials said the changes aim to streamline citizenship services, improve security, and modernise immigration management under a fully digitised framework.

BJP spokesperson urges evacuation support for Iranian Sikh families stranded in Tehran

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Bharatiya Janata Party spokesperson Jaiveer Shergill has urged India's Ministry of External Affairs to assist Iranian Sikh families stranded at a gurdwara in Tehran amid regional tensions. In a social media post, he highlighted that elderly Sikh couples are unable to leave Iran despite arrangements for an evacuation flight scheduled for May 5.

Shergill said the airline operating the flight has refused boarding without clearance from the Indian government. He requested intervention to ensure safe passage for those affected, tagging External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar in his appeal.

The gurdwara, Bhai Ganga Singh Sabha,



recently hosted Baisakhi celebrations despite the ongoing crisis in the region. Shergill emphasized the need for urgent humanitarian assistance for the stranded families, noting that they remain sheltered at the historic place of worship awaiting evacuation approval.

Sindh moves to provide Hindu religious textbooks in schools to promote inclusion

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Pakistan's Sindh province will introduce Hindu religious textbooks in government schools for the first time in an effort to promote inclusion and reduce intolerance toward minority communities, an education official confirmed. The books will be available from the new academic session for students in classes three to five.

Sindh Education Secretary Zahid Abbasi said three textbooks on Hinduism have been prepared under a provincial initiative and will be distributed in government schools. The costs are being covered by a Hindu welfare organization in Karachi.

The decision follows approval by the Sindh Curriculum Council earlier this month. Officials said the initiative aims to foster religious tolerance and address exclusionary narratives in education.



Studies have linked such narratives to rising discrimination. Similar approvals have been granted for minority religious texts nationwide, though implementation has been limited until now.

Sikh groups announce global events marking 40 years since Khalistan declaration

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Sikh hardline and separatist groups have announced coordinated events in India and abroad to mark the fortieth anniversary of the Khalistan declaration. In Punjab, organizations including Dal Khalsa and Shiromani Akali Dal Amritsar will hold a religious prayer at Sri Akal Takht Sahib on Wednesday, along with the release of a policy document outlining future plans. Leaders said the original declaration was issued in 1986 at the Sri Darbar Sahib complex by a Panthic committee. Commemorative programmes are also planned in Brussels, the United States, and Canada over the following days. Organisers said the events will honour those who died during the militancy era and reaffirm their political stance on Sikh sovereignty.

Indian-origin woman's mysterious death in Canada prompts repatriation push from Punjab family



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

A 29-year-old Indian-origin woman has been found dead under unexplained circumstances in Brampton, Canada, prompting efforts by her family in Punjab to bring her body home. Pratibha Gupta was discovered near the staircase of her rented residence on Saturday, with Canadian authorities launching an investigation into the cause of death. No injuries were immediately visible, and a postmortem report is still awaited. Her family said they were shocked after repeated attempts to contact her failed. Relatives and social activists are now urging Indian authorities to speed up repatriation. The case adds to a growing number of recent deaths of Indian youths abroad, raising concern among families about safety and uncertainty overseas.

Amritsar's traditional food businesses export nostalgia to overseas Punjabi households

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Traditional food producers in Amritsar are increasingly shipping regional specialties abroad as demand rises among Punjabi-origin families settled overseas. Makers of papad, warian, pickles, and murabba are using courier services to send small, carefully packed consignments to countries including the United States, Canada, and Australia. Shop owners say demand is driven largely by nostalgia, as non-resident Indians seek authentic home flavours that are difficult to find abroad. Many businesses, some operating for over a century, continue to follow original recipes to preserve taste and customer loyalty. Traders say the trend has grown significantly since the mid-2000s, supported by easier global shipping and migration. These traditional items are now enjoyed not only by Punjabi families but also by other Indian communities abroad.



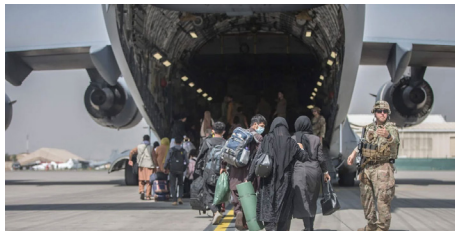
North Korea cements Russia war alliance with memorial for troops killed in Ukraine



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

North Korea has unveiled a new memorial in Pyongyang honoring troops killed while fighting alongside Russia in the war against Ukraine, reinforcing its deepening military alignment with Moscow. The ceremony, held on Sunday, marked the first anniversary of Russia's recapture of the Kursk region and was attended by senior officials from both countries. Leader Kim Jong-un described the partnership as forged in "blood" and vowed stronger strategic cooperation. Since 2024, Pyongyang has sent about 15,000 troops to support Russia, with around 6,000 reported killed or injured. Moscow also signaled plans to expand long-term military collaboration.

United States orders sweeping review of Afghanistan withdrawal and global fallout



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The United States Department of Defense has launched a comprehensive review of the 2021 Afghanistan withdrawal, revisiting decisions that led to the chaotic end of its 20-year military presence. Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth said the inquiry will assess both strategic and operational failures, including the Kabul evacuation and the Abbey Gate attack. The review, described as the most extensive of its kind, aims to establish accountability and draw lessons for future conflicts. Officials also link the withdrawal to wider geopolitical consequences, noting it influenced global perceptions of United States credibility. Findings are expected later this summer.

Azerbaijan suspends cooperation with European Parliament amid diplomatic tensions

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Azerbaijan's parliament on Friday voted to suspend all cooperation with the European Parliament, citing what it described as anti Azerbaijan activities by the European Union legislature. The decision includes ending participation in the European Union Azerbaijan Parliamentary Cooperation Committee and moving to withdraw from the EuroNest Parliamentary Assembly. The move came after a European Parliament resolution passed earlier in the week that Baku strongly rejected as biased. Azerbaijan's Foreign Ministry summoned the European Union ambassador to lodge a formal protest, saying the resolution distorted facts regarding the Karabakh region and internal legal cases. It also argued that the statements undermine regional normalization efforts and bilateral relations.

Jailed Hong Kong media tycoon Jimmy Lai honored in Germany amid global free speech concerns

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Imprisoned Hong Kong media entrepreneur Jimmy Lai has been awarded a major free speech prize in Germany, drawing renewed international attention to concerns over civil liberties in the city. The award, announced on Thursday, recognizes Lai's role in supporting independent journalism and the pro democracy movement through his now closed newspaper Apple Daily. Lai, a British citizen, is serving a 20 year sentence under Hong Kong's national security law on charges including collusion with foreign forces and publishing seditious material, which he denies. Rights groups and Western governments have condemned the ruling as politically motivated. The recognition



highlights growing global scrutiny of Hong Kong's legal environment, with critics arguing the case reflects a broader erosion of freedoms since the imposition of Beijing's security law in 2020. Chinese authorities maintain the measures are necessary to restore stability.

Russia escalates diplomatic tensions with Germany over Ukraine meeting with exiled Chechen leader

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Russia sharply escalated tensions with Germany on Monday after summoning Berlin's ambassador over a meeting in Kyiv between a German lawmaker and exiled Chechen leader Akhmed Zakayev. Moscow condemned the engagement as interference in its internal affairs and alleged links to a group it classifies as a terrorist organization. The German politician, a member of the foreign affairs committee, met Zakayev

in Ukraine, prompting Russia to issue a formal protest and warn of retaliatory measures. Officials in Moscow claimed the interaction demonstrated support for anti Russian activities, including alleged sabotage operations. The dispute underscores deepening geopolitical friction over the Ukraine conflict, with Russia increasingly sensitive to foreign contacts involving opposition figures. Berlin has not publicly detailed the purpose of the meeting, but the episode adds to mounting strain in already fragile diplomatic relations.

Trump signals possible US troop reduction in Germany amid growing NATO tensions

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

President Donald Trump said on Wednesday that the United States is reviewing a potential reduction of its military presence in Germany, a move that could reshape transatlantic security dynamics. The announcement follows rising tensions with European allies over their level of support during the Iran conflict. More than 36,000 United States troops are currently stationed in Germany, forming a key pillar of NATO's defense posture. Trump has criticized allied nations for what he described as insufficient backing and warned that Washington would reassess its commitments. The comments



also come after a public exchange with German Chancellor Friedrich Merz over strategy in Iran, highlighting broader disagreements. While both leaders have sought to maintain working relations, the prospect of troop cuts adds to uncertainty about the future of the alliance.

Canada moves to tighten financial crime enforcement as policy gap with US widens

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Canada is moving to overhaul its fight against financial crime with plans to establish a powerful new enforcement body, marking a clear policy divergence from the United States. Legislation introduced in Parliament on Thursday proposes a Financial Crimes Agency with authority to investigate and prosecute offenses, following a public inquiry that found Canada lacked a cohesive anti money laundering strategy.



The reform also includes a nationwide ban on cryptocurrency automated teller machines, widely linked to fraud and illicit finance. Officials say the move targets systemic vulnerabilities in a country that hosts nearly 4,000 such machines.

The initiative comes as criticism grows in the United States over reduced enforcement focus and controversial pardons in financial crime cases. Experts say Canada's approach signals a significant shift toward stronger oversight, though challenges remain in coordinating with existing agencies and sustaining long term resources.

Afghanistan remains among world's worst for press freedom despite slight gains

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Afghanistan has been ranked 175th out of 180 countries in the latest global press freedom index, highlighting ongoing restrictions under Taliban rule despite a marginal improvement in its overall score. Reporters Without Borders said the country's media environment remains tightly controlled, with legal, economic, and security pressures limiting independent journalism. Since the Taliban returned to power in 2021, about 43 percent of media outlets have shut down and more than two-thirds of journalists have left the profession. Women journalists have been particularly affected, with most no longer working, leaving access to independent information severely restricted.

Myanmar shifts Aung San Suu Kyi to house arrest in bid to ease global pressure



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Myanmar's military government has moved former civilian leader Aung San Suu Kyi from prison to house arrest, signaling an attempt to soften its international image amid ongoing criticism. The decision follows the recent elevation of military chief Min Aung Hlaing to president after elections that excluded Suu Kyi's party. Officials described the move as an act of goodwill, reducing her sentence while keeping her under detention. Myanmar continues to face economic strain, internal conflict, and diplomatic isolation following the 2021 military coup that ended its brief democratic transition.

Seven rescued, 17 bodies recovered after migrant boat breaks down off Libya

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Amigrant boat disaster off Libya's eastern coast has left at least 17 people dead, with only seven survivors rescued after drifting at sea for eight days in harsh conditions. The operation near Tobruk involved naval forces and humanitarian teams and lasted more than eight hours. Libya remains a key transit point for migrants attempting to reach Europe, particularly during calmer months when crossings increase. International data shows more than 27,000 migrants have been intercepted and returned to Libya this year, while over 1,300 have died or gone missing along the central Mediterranean route.

UN Security Council renews South Sudan mission with reduced troop levels

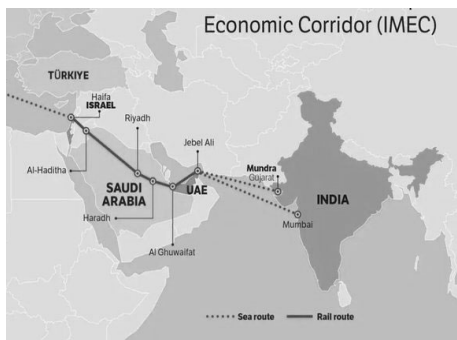
IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The United Nations Security Council on Friday renewed the mandate of the United Nations Mission in South Sudan for one year until April 30, 2027, while approving a reduction in troop levels. The resolution passed with 13 votes in favor, while China and Russia abstained.

It lowers the troop ceiling from 17,000 to 12,500 personnel, while maintaining police strength at just over 2,100. Members said the mission's size may be further adjusted depending on security conditions and cooperation from South Sudan's transitional authorities.

Several disagreements emerged over the mission's scope, funding, and priorities, including civilian protection and humanitarian access, as well as issues like women's rights and climate change.

United States seeks to secure IMEC corridor with eastern Mediterranean strategy push



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

United States lawmakers have introduced bipartisan legislation aimed at boosting the eastern Mediterranean's role in the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor, a major connectivity initiative linking Asia to Europe. The bill focuses on enhancing energy security, supply chains, and regional partnerships through investments in ports, infrastructure, and digital networks. Lawmakers described the region as a strategic gateway amid rising geopolitical tensions. The proposal also calls for expanded defense cooperation and innovation partnerships to secure critical trade routes and reduce vulnerabilities to global disruptions.

Kremlin dismisses European threat narrative as tensions over Ukraine reshape security divide

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Russia has pushed back against claims it poses a threat to Europe, with Kremlin spokesperson Dmitry Peskov saying Moscow is being cast as an "external enemy" for political purposes. Speaking on Sunday, he argued Russia remains part of the broader European space despite geopolitical tensions. The remarks come as relations worsen over the Ukraine war, with Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov saying Western backing for Kyiv amounts to an "open war" against Russia. Meanwhile, European leaders have strengthened support for Ukraine, including a major financial package and new sanctions aimed at curbing Russia's military capabilities.

Trump halts Pakistan diplomacy push as fragile Iran ceasefire hangs in balance

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

President Donald Trump has abruptly called off a planned diplomatic mission to Pakistan aimed at reviving Iran ceasefire talks, signaling uncertainty in ongoing efforts to stabilize the region. Speaking on Saturday, Trump said United States envoys would not travel, adding that Iran could initiate contact if it wished. The decision came shortly after Iran's foreign minister concluded meetings in Islamabad, where Pakistan has been attempting to mediate indirect negotiations between Washington and Tehran. A ceasefire has paused much of the fighting, but tensions remain high and talks have yet to produce a breakthrough. The conflict continues



to disrupt global energy markets, with oil prices significantly elevated due to restricted shipping through the Strait of Hormuz. With trust between the parties strained, the path toward a durable agreement remains uncertain despite ongoing diplomatic outreach.

Cambodia and Thailand revive border dialogue amid tensions over maritime pact dispute

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Cambodia and Thailand resumed high level talks on their long running border dispute during a regional meeting in Brunei on Monday, signaling cautious efforts to stabilize relations after recent tensions. Both sides discussed confidence building measures and reaffirmed the importance of resolving differences through international law and existing agreements. The dialogue follows

friction over a maritime memorandum of understanding signed in 2001, after Thailand indicated plans to withdraw from the pact governing overlapping sea claims. Cambodia expressed regret over the potential move, warning it could undermine years of cooperative engagement. Although a ceasefire agreed in late December halted weeks of armed clashes, underlying disputes remain unresolved. Officials from both countries emphasized the need for sustained diplomacy to ensure long term stability and prevent renewed conflict in the region.

Australia pushes for unified gun laws after deadly antisemitic attack sparks national review

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Australia is moving toward stricter and more coordinated gun laws following a major inquiry into a deadly attack at Sydney's Bondi Beach. An interim report released on Thursday called for a nationally consistent firearms framework and a buyback program to remove illegal and excess weapons. The recommendations follow a December attack that killed 15 people at a Hanukkah event, prompting the federal government to establish a royal commission on antisemitism and social cohesion. Authorities say the accused gunman faces terrorism related charges, while investigations continue. Prime Minister Anthony Albanese has pledged to implement



relevant federal recommendations, including tighter ownership limits and enhanced security measures at vulnerable public events. Officials say the reforms aim to address gaps in enforcement and strengthen counterterrorism preparedness nationwide.

Gulf states reject Iran's Hormuz restrictions as energy security fears intensify

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Leaders of the Gulf Cooperation Council on Tuesday strongly rejected Iran's actions to restrict navigation through the Strait of Hormuz, warning of serious implications for global energy security. Meeting in Jeddah, officials called for the immediate restoration of free movement through the critical waterway, which handles a significant share of global oil shipments. The bloc condemned attempts to impose transit restrictions or fees, stressing that such measures threaten regional stability and international trade. The statement comes amid escalating tensions following recent conflict involving Iran, Israel and the United States, which has disrupted shipping routes



and driven up energy prices. Gulf leaders also emphasized the need for a diplomatic resolution while accelerating joint defense and infrastructure initiatives, including missile warning systems and regional transport networks, to strengthen long term resilience.

Taliban invites stranded Afghan visa applicants to return as uncertainty clouds resettlement plans

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Afghanistan's Taliban-led government has told citizens waiting in Qatar for United States visas that they can safely return home, insisting there are no security threats in the country. The statement comes as more than 1,100 Afghans, many of them former United States allies, remain in limbo at a transit camp. Reports suggest some could be relocated to the Democratic Republic of Congo, drawing criticism from lawmakers. Kabul said returnees would be welcomed, while United Nations officials warned that forced deportations could violate international law, citing ongoing human rights concerns, particularly for women and former government workers.

Multinational naval exercise underscores deepening Indo-Pacific security alignment in South China Sea

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

A major multilateral naval exercise in the South China Sea has brought together warships from the Philippines, the United States, Japan, Australia, and Canada, underscoring rising security coordination in the Indo-Pacific. The joint sail, conducted on Monday under Exercise Balikatan, involved forces from multiple allied navies and coast guards. The broader drill includes about 17,000 personnel from seven countries and runs through early May. Officials said the exercise aims to strengthen interoperability and maritime security amid regional tensions. Japan's participation has expanded following a new defense pact with the Philippines, reflecting shifting strategic alignments.

Singapore warns global economic fallout as Middle East crisis deepens



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Singaporean Prime Minister Lawrence Wong warned on Friday that ongoing disruptions from the Middle East crisis could persist for months and raise the risk of recession in some economies. Speaking at a May Day Rally, he said the closure of the Strait of Hormuz has already driven up energy prices, affected shipping, and caused shortages in parts of Asia. He cautioned that inflation will spread from fuel to food and other essentials, while global growth will slow. The United Nations Secretary General separately warned that worsening conditions are affecting trade, transport, and energy flows, urging urgent dialogue to prevent further escalation.

Jammu–Srinagar Vande Bharat extended to Jammu Tawi, set to begin public runs May 2

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Union Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw on Thursday flagged off the 20-coach Vande Bharat Express connecting Jammu and Srinagar, with the service extended to Jammu Tawi and opening for passengers from May 2. The train will operate six days a week, excluding Tuesdays. Chief Minister Omar Abdullah and Minister Jitendra Singh attended the ceremony. Officials said the service will cut travel time, strengthen tourism, and provide a reliable all-weather alternative to the frequently disrupted highway. Covering 267 kilometres, the train features modern safety systems, GPS updates, and rotating seats. It is part of the Udhampur–Srinagar–Baramulla rail link built through challenging Himalayan terrain.

Jaipur airport becomes Rajasthan's first water-positive facility amid push for sustainability

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Jaipur International Airport has become the first airport in Rajasthan to achieve water-positive status, according to officials on Wednesday, after a certification by Bureau Veritas confirmed its conservation performance. Between April 2025 and March 2026, the airport recycled and replenished more water than it consumed, using about 103,000 kilolitres while restoring over 137,000 kilolitres. Measures include deep recharge pits, rainwater harvesting, and reduced freshwater usage. Handling over six million passengers annually, the airport has also received major sustainability certifications. Operated by Adani Airport Holdings, it is among India's busiest regional airports and continues to expand its digital-first infrastructure.

Bargi boat tragedy triggers probe into safety lapses and disaster response in Madhya Pradesh



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The Bargi Dam cruise boat tragedy in Jabalpur, which has left nine dead, has triggered scrutiny over safety standards, weather warnings, and disaster preparedness, officials said Friday as search operations continued. Congress Member of Parliament Vivek Tankha called the incident a case of serious negligence, questioning whether safety rules such as life jackets and trained staff were properly enforced. Survivors described sudden storms, strong winds, and rapid sinking of the vessel, with some passengers saying safety equipment was not initially available. Authorities are reviewing permissions and emergency systems of the tourism department as joint rescue teams continue search operations.

West Bengal poll row deepens as EVM security, voter rolls, and strongroom access trigger political storm

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The political confrontation over West Bengal's electoral process escalated sharply on Friday, with fresh allegations over Electronic Voting Machine security, voter list revisions, and access to sealed strongrooms intensifying tensions ahead of vote counting. The Trinamool Congress raised alarm over what it described as unauthorized entry into a sealed strongroom in Kolkata where EVMs are stored. Leader Shashi Panja cited surveillance footage showing individuals entering the facility without party representatives present, questioning the breach of protocol. Party leaders Kunal Ghosh and Dola Sen demanded an explanation from the Election Commission and warned of legal action to ensure transparency.

The controversy unfolded alongside broader political accusations. Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah said he did not believe in pre-poll EVM tampering but emphasized the need for parties to safeguard machines after voting. He suggested the real



concern in West Bengal lay in disputes over voter list revisions under the Special Intensive Revision process.

Meanwhile, Union ministers B. L. Verma and Nityanand Rai accused Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee of undermining democratic institutions and influencing the Election Commission, as well as failing to maintain law and order. CPI(M) leader Brinda Karat criticized both the Trinamool Congress and the Bharatiya Janata Party, warning that the escalating dispute risks eroding public trust in the electoral process.

Sikkim becomes India's first fully paperless judiciary, marking digital milestone

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Sikkim was officially declared India's first paperless judiciary on Friday during a national conclave in Gangtok, marking a major milestone in court digitization. Chief Justice of India Surya Kant said technology is transforming access to justice, especially in remote regions where travel once meant days of hardship. The two day event focused on digital courts and judicial education. Supreme Court judge J. K. Maheshwari said paperless systems remove procedural barriers without replacing human judgment. Legal leaders noted improved



efficiency, transparency, and accessibility, with virtual hearings and electronic filings helping overcome geographic challenges in the Himalayan state.

Delhi excise policy case hearing on CBI plea against Kejriwal's discharge adjourned

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The Delhi High Court on Wednesday adjourned the hearing on the Central Bureau of Investigation's plea challenging the discharge of former Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal and other accused in the excise policy case, rescheduling it for Sunday. Justice Swarana Kanta Sharma directed that the complete trial court record be produced before

the matter is taken up again. The CBI had filed its appeal in February 2026, contesting the trial court's decision to discharge Kejriwal, former Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia, and others linked to the case. The agency is seeking to revive proceedings in the alleged irregularities tied to the now-scrapped liquor policy. The adjournment allows time for the lower court records to be submitted and reviewed before detailed arguments resume in the high-profile corruption case.

NIA arrests key conspirator as probe deepens into Manipur ambush killings and militant links

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The National Investigation Agency arrested a key accused on Thursday in the 2023 killing of Sub Divisional Police Officer Chingtham Ananda Kumar Singh, who was fatally injured during an ambush by suspected Kuki militants in Manipur's Moreh area. The accused, Otkhothang Baite, is believed to have been part of the conspiracy behind the attack on a district police team at a playground during peak ethnic violence.

The case, initially registered by local police, was taken over by the agency in 2024 due to suspected cross border links, including the involvement of a foreign national. Officials said nine individuals have been arrested so far, with investigations ongoing.

Earlier this month, another suspect was detained, and in a separate case, the agency filed charges against three cadres of the banned People's Liberation Army over a 2025 ambush on an Assam Rifles convoy that killed two personnel.

Senior bureaucrats take charge in defence finance and MSME ministry leadership changes



● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Vishvajit Sahay, a senior Indian Defence Accounts Service officer, assumed charge as Secretary of Defence Finance on Friday after a long career across defence and public administration roles. Separately, Bharat Khera, a 1995 batch Indian Administrative Service officer, took charge as Secretary of the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises. He has previously served in key roles in the Cabinet Secretariat and Ministry of Defence. The MSME sector contributes over 30 percent to India's gross domestic product and plays a major role in employment and exports, making the leadership transition significant for policy direction in the sector.

Exit polls signal UDF return in Kerala as Left faces setback

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Kerala may be headed for a political shift, with multiple exit polls, including one by 'Marunadan Malayali', projecting a return to power for the Congress-led United Democratic Front. The survey estimates the United Democratic Front could win 80 to 99 of the 140 Assembly seats, crossing the majority mark.

The Left Democratic Front led by Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan is projected at 37 to 57 seats, marking a sharp decline from its previous performance. The Bharatiya Janata Party-led alliance may win 2 to 4 seats.

The United Democratic Front is expected to perform strongly across key districts, while the Left faces erosion beyond its stronghold in Kannur. Leaders from the Left have urged caution, saying results will be clear only on counting day.

Supreme Court says existing laws are enough to address hate speech

● IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The Supreme Court on Wednesday declined to issue fresh guidelines on hate speech, stating that existing criminal laws are sufficient to deal with such cases. A bench of Justices Vikram Nath and Sandeep Mehta said lawmaking falls under Parliament's authority and there is no legislative gap. Hearing petitions seeking tighter regulation of hate speech, the court noted that current provisions already cover acts that promote enmity or disturb public order. It rejected the argument for judicially framed guidelines, emphasizing separation of powers and focusing on enforcement rather than new laws.

Allahabad High Court rejects plea seeking fir against Rahul Gandhi over remarks on Indian state

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The Allahabad High Court on Friday dismissed a petition challenging a lower court order that had refused to direct registration of an FIR against Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi over his alleged remarks about fighting the Indian state. Justice Vikram D. Chauhan rejected the plea filed by Simran Gupta of the Hindu Shakti Dal, who claimed Gandhi's comments hurt public sentiment and were seditious. The case stemmed from remarks made during inauguration of All India Congress Committee headquarters in New Delhi last year, where Gandhi said Congress was fighting Bharatiya Janata Party, Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh, and the Indian state. Court upheld earlier findings, while controversy had led to an FIR in Assam and political reactions from Bharatiya Janata Party.

Supreme Court nine-judge bench revisits scope of religious freedom and equality

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

A nine-judge bench of the Supreme Court is hearing key constitutional questions arising from the Sabarimala case, focusing on the balance between religious freedom and fundamental rights. The court is examining how far religious autonomy extends when it conflicts with equality, dignity, and individual rights. Though not limited to women's entry into temples, the outcome could affect broader issues involving gender discrimination in personal laws and religious practices. The hearing is expected to shape future rulings on constitutional morality and the limits of religious traditions in India.

Modi pushes women's reservation while unveiling major rail and development projects



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday urged support for women's reservation in Parliament and state legislatures, calling it a national priority during an event in Varanasi. He said he would continue efforts to pass the long-pending measure despite political resistance. Alongside this, Modi inaugurated development projects worth thousands of crores of rupees and flagged off two Amrit Bharat Express trains linking Banaras with Pune and Ayodhya with Mumbai. He said improved rail connectivity would boost tourism, strengthen cultural ties, and accelerate economic growth across Uttar Pradesh and other connected regions.

Ladakh redraws map with five new districts to boost governance

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Ladakh on Sunday marked a major administrative overhaul with the notification of five new districts, expanding the Union Territory from two to seven districts. Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena approved the creation of Sham, Nubra, Changthang, Zaskar, and Drass districts, calling it a historic step to improve governance and service delivery in remote regions.

The move, earlier approved by the Ministry of Home Affairs in August



2024, is aimed at reducing administrative distance, improving accessibility, and accelerating development in far-flung areas. Nubra, Sham, and Changthang have been carved out of Leh district, while Zaskar and Drass have been created from Kargil district.

Officials said the restructuring will bring government services closer to people, many of whom currently travel over 300 kilometers for basic administrative needs. The new districts will also generate employment through new offices and infrastructure, while supporting tourism, entrepreneurship, and local economic growth.

Punjab Congress demands alcohol, dope tests for all assembly members after heated Labour Day session

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

During a Punjab Assembly session to mark International Labour Day, the Congress demanded breath analyzer and dope tests for all members, including Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann, after allegations over his conduct triggered chaos in the House. Leader of Opposition Partap Singh Bajwa urged a closed-door alcohol test for all legislators, alleging concerns about transparency. Congress MLAs later walked out after heated exchanges with treasury benches and briefly entered the Speaker's office pressing for testing of all members. Finance Minister Harpal Cheema rejected claims that Mann was intoxicated, calling them false and politically motivated.



Opposition and ruling side clashed repeatedly over Sukhpal Singh Khaira's remarks, forcing the Speaker to intervene. Shiromani Akali Dal and Bharatiya Janata Party leaders criticized Mann's conduct, tensions continuing over allegations affecting the House's dignity.

Gauhati HC rejects Pawan Khera's anticipatory bail plea in FIR by Assam CM's wife

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The Gauhati High Court on Friday rejected Congress leader Pawan Khera's plea for anticipatory bail in a case filed by the Crime Branch of Assam Police, marking a setback for the senior opposition leader. The detailed order is awaited after Justice Parthivjyoti Saikia had earlier reserved the verdict on April 21.

Khera faces allegations of defamation, forgery, and criminal conspiracy linked to his statements against Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma's wife, Riniki Bhuyan Sarma, over claims involving foreign passports and undisclosed assets. The Assam government argues the case involves serious offences including document fabrication, while Khera's



legal team maintains the charges are politically motivated and amount at most to defamation. The Supreme Court had earlier refused interim protection from arrest.

Ashok Gehlot defends Sachin Pilot, rejects BJP attack on loyalty



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Senior Congress leader Ashok Gehlot on Monday defended Sachin Pilot after BJP leaders questioned his political loyalty, saying Pilot remains firmly with the Congress. Gehlot dismissed claims of division, asserting that Pilot's commitment to the party is clear and unchanged. Referring to past political turmoil in Rajasthan, he said lessons had been learned and unity restored. Gehlot expressed confidence that Pilot would continue with the Congress and rejected BJP remarks as politically motivated. His comments came amid renewed political sparring in Rajasthan over Pilot's role and standing within the party.

India doubles online content blocking orders amid rise in deepfakes



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The number of online content blocking orders issued by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology has doubled in the past year, reaching around 24,000 in 2025, officials said. The surge is linked to a rise in deepfakes and artificial intelligence generated content. Roughly 60 percent of orders target X, followed by Facebook, Instagram, and YouTube. Authorities said many requests involve fake political content and impersonation. Orders are issued under the Information Technology Act, which allows blocking on grounds of national security, public order, and sovereignty following a formal approval process.

Ganga Expressway inaugurated, set to transform connectivity across Uttar Pradesh

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday inaugurated the 594 kilometer Ganga Expressway, a major high-speed corridor connecting Meerut and Prayagraj. The six-lane expressway, expandable to eight lanes, is designed for speeds up to 120 kilometers per hour and will cut travel time significantly across Uttar Pradesh. It connects twelve districts and includes a 3.2 kilometer airstrip for emergency aircraft landings near Shahjahanpur. Officials said the project will boost trade, tourism, and logistics while improving regional connectivity. The expressway also features modern traffic systems, emergency facilities, and planned industrial clusters along the route.

Amazon secures exclusive rights to Oprah Winfrey podcast in major Wondery deal

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Amazon's exclusive rights to Oprah Winfrey's podcast through its Wondery unit is a strategic content acquisition aimed at strengthening its position in the fast-growing podcast and creator economy. The deal gives Amazon control over distribution and advertising, helping it monetize high-value audiences across Prime Video, Amazon Music, Audible, and Fire TV. It also expands Amazon's advertising ecosystem by attaching premium celebrity content to its platforms. Beyond podcasts, Amazon gains access to Oprah's wider media assets like her book club and television library, allowing deeper integration across retail, media, and subscription services. This positions Amazon to compete more directly with Spotify and YouTube in premium audio-video content while boosting engagement and ad revenue across its ecosystem. It also reinforces Amazon's broader strategy of owning premium, personality-driven content that can drive long-term subscriber retention.

Trump moves to remove tariffs on Scottish whisky amid US-UK trade push



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

United States President Donald Trump announced plans to remove tariffs and restrictions on Scottish whisky, calling it a gesture to strengthen ties between the United States and Britain during King Charles the Third's visit. He said the move supports trade between Scotland and Kentucky, particularly in the whisky and bourbon industries, and referenced longstanding cooperation involving oak barrels used in production. The Scotch whisky industry has long pushed for relief from the 10 percent tariff due to the United States being its largest market. Officials also indicated the decision is part of a wider economic agreement covering sectors such as beef, pharmaceuticals, and ethanol.

Global markets mixed as oil holds near four-year highs amid geopolitical tensions

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Global equity markets traded mixed as most exchanges remained closed for May Day, while oil prices held near elevated levels amid ongoing geopolitical tensions. Brent crude hovered around 111 dollars per barrel, with U.S. crude also steady above 105 dollars, as concerns persisted over supply disruptions linked to the Iran conflict and potential risks to the Strait of Hormuz. Asian markets posted gains, with Japan and Australia advancing, while European markets slipped. U.S. futures edged higher after Wall Street reached record highs earlier in the week, driven by strong corporate earnings. Technology stocks remained volatile as investors weighed heavy artificial intelligence-related spending plans.

EU-Mercosur trade pact takes provisional effect amid hopes for growth and fears of disruption

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The long-awaited trade agreement between the European Union and South American bloc Mercosur took provisional effect on Friday, creating a transatlantic market of an estimated \$22 trillion with about 720 million consumers. The deal, signed in mid-January, is expected to boost exports by more than 10 percent for some participating countries by 2038 once fully implemented, while also triggering political and legal challenges within Europe.

European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen said the agreement would benefit



businesses and consumers while protecting sensitive sectors. She is expected to hold a videoconference on Friday with leaders of Brazil, Argentina, Uruguay, and Paraguay to mark the milestone. The move comes amid a legal challenge in the European Union, where lawmakers are questioning the decision to apply the deal provisionally without full parliamentary approval. The agreement could still be halted by the EU's top court.

Brazilian President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva has backed the pact, calling it a defense of multilateralism, while critics in Europe, including farmers and some political leaders, warn of environmental and market pressures from increased competition.

Union Pacific and Norfolk Southern pursue first transcontinental railroad through \$85 billion merger

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Union Pacific on Tuesday announced a proposed \$85 billion acquisition of Norfolk Southern that would create the United States' first coast-to-coast railroad under a single company, linking its western network with Norfolk Southern's eastern rail system. The combined operator would span more than 50,000 miles of track across 43 states and connect major ports on both the Pacific and Atlantic coasts. The companies say the merger would eliminate delays caused by freight handoffs between railroads, improving delivery speed and efficiency for industries ranging from agriculture to manufacturing.

Chief executive officer Jim Vena said the deal would move goods such as lumber, plastics, and steel more efficiently and avoid past integration mistakes. Regulators, however, are



expected to scrutinize the proposal closely due to concerns about reduced competition and service disruptions, following problems from earlier rail mergers in the 1990s. If approved, the deal could reshape the industry and trigger further consolidation among remaining major rail operators.

India expands global trade push as officials discuss India-United Kingdom agreement opportunities

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

India's Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal held a virtual meeting on Friday with United Kingdom Business and Trade Secretary Peter Kyle to explore ways to deepen trade and investment ties under the India United Kingdom Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement. The discussions focused on fully leveraging the agreement to strengthen bilateral economic cooperation and expand business opportunities between the two countries.

Goyal also recently emphasized the importance of a more balanced World Trade Organization that better reflects the needs of developing countries and least developed nations. India has increasingly pursued free trade agreements with partners where trade activity is already expanding, positioning



these deals as accelerators of existing economic momentum. Between fiscal year 2020-21 and 2024-25, India's trade with key free trade agreement partners rose 92 percent, significantly outpacing overall merchandise trade growth. India now has nine major free trade agreements covering 38 countries, including recent deals with the United Arab Emirates, Australia, and the United Kingdom.

Samsung Biologics workers launch first-ever strike over pay dispute



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Unionized workers at Samsung Biologics have begun a five-day general strike, marking the first industrial action since the company's founding in 2011. The dispute centers on wages and performance-based bonuses, with workers demanding higher pay increases and cash incentives, while the company has offered a lower compensation package. Samsung Biologics warned that a prolonged strike could lead to significant financial losses and urged employees to reconsider participation. The company has deployed staff to minimize disruption, though some operational impact is expected. Talks between both sides have repeatedly failed despite multiple rounds of negotiations, and mediation efforts are scheduled to continue under labour ministry supervision.

India advances Great Nicobar project to build strategic maritime and economic hub

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

India is moving ahead with the Great Nicobar development project, aimed at turning the island into a major strategic and economic hub due to its location near key global shipping routes. The plan includes a large container transshipment terminal, a greenfield international airport, a gas and solar power plant, and a new township. Officials say the project will reduce dependence on foreign ports such as Colombo and Singapore while boosting trade capacity. Environmental safeguards include limited forest diversion and compensatory afforestation. Authorities also highlight protections for indigenous communities, stating no displacement is planned for tribal groups, while tourism and connectivity are expected to improve significantly.

Bank of England holds rates steady as Iran conflict fuels inflation fears

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The Bank of England kept its benchmark interest rate unchanged at 3.75 percent and signaled the possibility of future increases as it assesses the economic fallout from the Iran conflict and higher energy costs. Policymakers noted uncertainty over global inflation, particularly after disruptions to oil flows through the Strait of Hormuz. Eight of nine members voted to hold rates steady, though one supported a hike. The bank warned inflation could rise significantly under severe scenarios, potentially exceeding 6 percent by early 2027. Central banks globally, including the United States Federal Reserve and European Central Bank, also paused policy changes as they evaluate similar risks.

Friday, 01 May 2026

Rupee falls to record low as crude oil surge pressures currency markets



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

The Indian rupee slipped past 95 against the U.S. dollar, hitting record lows as global crude oil prices surged amid escalating tensions between the United States and Iran. Brent crude climbed above 110 dollars per barrel, driven by fears of supply disruptions and tightening sanctions. The currency also faced pressure from strong U.S. dollar demand and steady American interest rates, which supported higher bond yields. Domestic equity markets weakened as investor sentiment turned cautious. Analysts said rising oil prices have added significant pressure on India's import bill, contributing to the rupee's nearly 6 percent depreciation so far this year.

Weekly United States jobless claims drop to lowest level in over five decades



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Weekly United States jobless claims fell to 189,000 for the week ending April 25, the lowest in more than 50 years, according to the Labor Department on Thursday. The drop of 26,000 from the prior week came in below expectations and signals continued strength in the labor market despite uncertainty linked to the Iran war and higher energy costs. Economists said jobless claims remain a key indicator of layoffs, but warned that rising input costs could eventually pressure companies to reduce hiring. The data comes as inflation remains elevated and geopolitical tensions continue to weigh on global economic outlooks.

Unilever to raise prices gradually as war-driven costs increase pressure

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Unilever said on Thursday it will raise prices in small increments to offset higher costs driven by the Iran war, while maintaining its 2026 outlook after posting stronger-than-expected first-quarter sales growth of 3.8 percent. The company said gains were led by strong performance in its beauty and home care brands.

It expects up to 900 million euros in cost inflation this year, driven by logistics and production expenses. Price increases will be selective, with the highest impact expected in parts of Asia, Africa, and Latin America, mainly in the second half of the year.

Brazil sues Cargill and JBS over alleged labor abuses in supply chains

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Brazilian labor prosecutors have filed lawsuits against several companies, including Cargill and JBS, alleging labor abuses in their supply chains involving conditions described as "slavery-like." The prosecutors are seeking roughly 23.78 million dollars in damages from JBS in a case linked to operations in Pará state, and about 21.8 million dollars from Cargill over alleged human rights violations in its soy supply chain in Rondônia state. The cases

stem from a 2020 monitoring initiative aimed at exposing human trafficking and severe labor exploitation. JBS said it had not yet been formally notified and reaffirmed that it follows strict purchasing and cattle monitoring procedures. Cargill did not immediately comment. Prosecutors also reached agreements with nine other firms to improve supply chain monitoring. The lawsuits highlight ongoing scrutiny of global agricultural supply chains, particularly around enforcement gaps and traceability of labor conditions in sourcing networks tied to major food exporters.



Royal Caribbean sees cruise demand rebound but warns of fuel cost pressures

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Royal Caribbean reported on Thursday that cruise bookings for its luxury Mediterranean itineraries have recovered after a month of disruption linked to the Iran war, sending its shares sharply higher in trading. The company said current booking levels are running above last year's pace, supported by strong travel demand across key markets. Chief executive officer Jason Liberty said leisure travel remains a top consumer priority even amid global uncertainty.



Despite the demand rebound, Royal Caribbean lowered its annual profit outlook due to sharply higher fuel costs driven by sustained oil price increases tied to geopolitical tensions in the Middle East. The company now expects fuel expenses of about 1.3 billion

dollars, higher than previous projections, though it has hedged a portion of its fuel needs for the year. It also warned that premium itineraries in the second quarter face the greatest pressure. Even so, first-quarter earnings exceeded expectations, helped by higher ticket pricing and strong demand.

Google Cloud surge highlights artificial intelligence spending race across big tech

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Alphabet's strong cloud computing growth has reshaped investor expectations across major technology companies as spending on artificial intelligence infrastructure accelerates. Combined artificial intelligence-related capital expenditures among leading tech firms are now projected to exceed 700 billion dollars this year, up from earlier estimates of around 600 billion dollars. Market reactions were mixed, with Alphabet shares rising sharply while Meta Platforms fell, and Amazon and Microsoft also declining.

Google Cloud reported 63 percent revenue growth, outpacing rivals and driven by artificial intelligence tools and custom chips used by enterprise customers. Chief executive officer Sundar Pichai said artificial intelligence products are now the primary growth driver for the division. The company



also increased capital spending guidance to between 180 billion and 190 billion dollars as demand for computing capacity continues to exceed supply. Analysts say Google is gaining new workloads from customers seeking diversified cloud providers, while competition intensifies across the sector to convert massive infrastructure spending into sustained revenue growth.

Judge approves Purdue Pharma sentence as opioid maker nears dissolution



IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

A federal judge in Newark, New Jersey, on Tuesday approved the criminal sentence of OxyContin maker Purdue Pharma, clearing a key legal hurdle for the company's planned dissolution by the end of the week under a sweeping opioid settlement. The company will be replaced by a new entity focused on public benefit as part of a deal resolving thousands of lawsuits tied to the U.S. opioid crisis, which has caused more than 900,000 deaths since 1999. Victims gave emotional impact statements, with some rejecting the settlement as insufficient justice. The agreement includes up to \$7 billion from the Sackler family over 15 years, while Purdue's criminal plea includes no individual charges. The company will cease to exist, and payments to victims are expected to range between \$8,000 and \$16,000.

More states join legal challenge to Nexstar and Tegna merger

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

Five more states joined an antitrust lawsuit against Nexstar's acquisition of Tegna after a judge blocked it. Massachusetts, Vermont, Indiana, Kansas and Pennsylvania joined, adding to seven states suing March 6.2 billion merger. Nexstar called allegations misguided citing Big Tech and misinformation. Ohio attorney general Dave Yost reached a deal for separate news teams in Columbus and Cleveland and local programming through 2030. Judge Troy Nunley ruled Friday April 17 likely to succeed, barring consolidation. deal closed after Justice Department and Federal Communications Commission approval Thursday March 19 80 percent of households; states warn job losses and higher bills, while Nexstar says it strengthens journalism.

Etisalat reviews Pakistan investment amid possible exit from telecom firm

IndoUS Tribune Newsdesk

United Arab Emirates telecom company Etisalat is reviewing its investment in Pakistan, which could lead to an exit from Pakistan Telecommunication Company Limited. Sources said the review reflects global economic uncertainty, regional geopolitical tensions and capital allocation strategies. Etisalat has not taken final decision. PTCL said its long-term plan was approved by board and it was unaware of any change. The government holds 62 percent, Etisalat 26 percent management control, and public investors 12 percent. Pakistan repaid 3.5 billion dollars to the United Arab Emirates, while Saudi Arabia raised deposits ahead of an International Monetary Fund meeting on May 8.

Riyan Parag sanctioned after dressing room vaping incident in IPL match



Rajasthan Royals captain Riyan Parag has been fined 25 percent of his match fee and given a demerit point after being found using a vape in the dressing room during an Indian Premier League match against Punjab Kings in New Chandigarh. The incident occurred during the second innings and was caught on broadcast cameras, prompting reports from on field umpires to the match referee. Parag accepted the charge under Level 1 of the code of conduct, which covers behaviour that brings the game into disrepute. The Board of Control for Cricket in India is also considering further action. The case comes under India's Prohibition of Electronic Cigarettes law, which bans vaping devices nationwide. Rajasthan Royals face Delhi Capitals next in Jaipur.

Mikel Arteta fumes after overturned late penalty in Champions League draw



Arsenal manager Mikel Arteta expressed frustration after a late penalty awarded to Eberechi Eze was overturned following a video assistant referee review in a 1-1 draw against Atletico Madrid in the first leg of the Champions League semifinal. Arsenal had taken the lead through Viktor Gyokeres from the spot before Julian Alvarez equalised for Atletico Madrid. With the match level, Eze was brought down inside the box by David Hancko, but after a lengthy review the referee reversed his original decision. Arteta said the incident changed the outcome of the game and insisted the contact was clear. He questioned the length of the review and said such decisions should not happen at this level. The second leg will be played in London next week.

Infantino says Iran will play World Cup matches in United States amid unity push

FIFA president Gianni Infantino said on Thursday that Iran will take part in the 2026 World Cup and will play in the United States, emphasizing that football must unite people rather than divide them. He said the global tournament should bring nations together and that it is his responsibility to ensure inclusion through the sport.

Iran had previously signaled it might withdraw from the competition amid a conflict involving the United States and Israel against Iran, although a ceasefire has been in place since April 7. Iranian officials have not yet responded to Infantino's latest comments.

Iran is drawn in Group G alongside Egypt, New Zealand, and Belgium.

United States President Donald Trump reacted by saying he was fine with the decision and added that he had already told Infantino during a March meeting



that Iran was welcome.

The tournament runs from the opening day in June through the final in July across the United States, Mexico, and Canada.

FIFA reports more than five hundred million ticket requests for world cup



FIFA said on Wednesday it has received more than five hundred million ticket requests for this year's World Cup, reflecting unprecedented global demand. Outside the host nations United States, Mexico, and Canada, the highest interest came from fans in Germany, England, Brazil, Spain, Portugal, Argentina, and Colombia. Ticket prices have reached up to \$8,680 for premium matches, though FIFA has introduced \$60 tickets allocated through national federations for wider access. Among the most requested matches were Colombia versus Portugal in Miami Gardens on June 27, Mexico versus South Korea in Guadalajara, the tournament final in New Jersey on July 19, and the opening match in Mexico City on June 11. FIFA will begin notifying applicants no earlier than February 5, with tickets allocated through a random draw when demand exceeds supply.

Jonty Rhodes targets long-term growth of European cricket through franchise ownership

Former South Africa international Jonty Rhodes has said his experience coaching in Sweden has prepared him to make a lasting impact in European cricket as co-owner of the Rotterdam franchise in the European T20 Premier League. Rhodes spent two and a half years in Sweden during the pandemic, coaching the national team and gaining insight into cricket development across emerging European nations. He said the experience showed him how eager players are for international exposure and better structures. Now involved in franchise ownership alongside Faf du Plessis and Heinrich Klaasen, he aims to strengthen infrastructure, expand



opportunities, and support associate nations. The league will run from August 26 to September 20 with teams across the Netherlands, Scotland, and Ireland in its inaugural season.

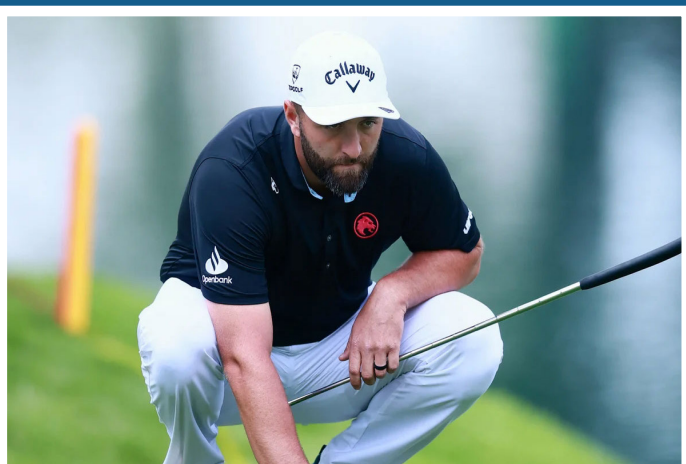
Palestinian soccer chief refuses handshake with Israeli federation official at FIFA congress

Palestinian soccer federation president Jibril Rajoub refused to shake hands with Israeli football federation vice president Basim Sheikh Suliman during a tense moment at the FIFA congress in Vancouver on Thursday. FIFA president Gianni Infantino attempted to bring both officials together on stage, but Rajoub stepped away despite repeated gestures urging him closer. A Palestinian federation vice president said Rajoub rejected the

gesture, accusing Israel of using sports for political image building amid the Gaza conflict. Infantino called for cooperation and dialogue in the interest of football and young fans worldwide. Rajoub later said he respects formal procedures but believes Israel should face sanctions and criticized what he described as double standards and the situation in the West Bank. The exchange came amid ongoing legal disputes involving Israeli clubs based in settlements.

Psychologist testifies maradona had bipolar disorder and narcissistic traits in death trial

A psychologist testified in a Buenos Aires court on Thursday that Diego Maradona suffered from bipolar disorder and narcissistic traits during proceedings into the football icon's death. Carlos Diaz, one of seven defendants accused of negligent manslaughter in Maradona's treatment, told the court the former Argentina captain also struggled with severe alcohol dependence. He said he first met Maradona in late October 2020, weeks before his death, and recalled seeing him drinking wine during their meeting. Diaz claimed Maradona required a strict alcohol-free care plan and that his condition was closely linked to addiction issues. Maradona died on November 25, 2020, at age 60 after brain surgery complications. The trial is examining whether members of his medical team failed in their duty of care, contributing to his death.



Saudi sovereign wealth fund to end funding for LIV Golf after 2026 season

LIV Golf is preparing for a major transition after Saudi Arabia's Public Investment Fund confirmed it will end its multi billion dollar backing after the 2026 season. The fund has invested more than five billion dollars since 2022, and players have been informed. The decision puts the league's future in question as it seeks new investors and continues its team format. It highlights broader financial pressures across the sport as both LIV and PGA Tour adjust spending and structures. The league insists the 2026 season will go ahead as scheduled currently.



Alcaraz watches from stands as teenage brother impresses in Madrid

Carlos Alcaraz swapped his racket for a spectator's seat at the Madrid Open on Thursday, watching his 14-year-old brother Jaime deliver a composed straight-sets win in the under-16 event. The world number two is sidelined by a wrist injury that has ruled him out of Madrid, Rome, and the French Open. Wearing a brace, he watched Jaime defeat seeded opponent Pol Mas 6-3, 6-3 on a wildcard entry. A delicate drop shot drew a smile from Carlos, who could only applaud lightly. His presence turned the junior match into a major attraction for spectators.

Ashley Young ends long career after two decades in football



Former England international Ashley Young has confirmed he will retire at the end of the season at the age of 40, closing a professional career that has lasted more than two decades. He began at Watford in 2003 and went on to play for Aston Villa, Manchester United, Inter Milan, Everton, and Ipswich Town. Originally a winger, he successfully reinvented himself as a full back in the latter stages of his career. He joined Ipswich Town in July 2025 and made 13 appearances this season, with his final match coming in January against Bristol City. Young earned 39 international caps for England, scoring seven goals, and said he is proud of his journey while now focusing on Ipswich's promotion push.

Tigers rally late to end losing streak against Braves

Gleyber Torres collected three hits and drove in the go-ahead run with a sacrifice fly in the eighth inning as the visiting Detroit team rallied for a 5-2 win over the Atlanta Braves on Thursday. The comeback snapped a 10-game losing streak against Atlanta. A two-run eighth began with Kerry Carpenter's triple and Matt Vierling's RBI double, before Torres delivered the decisive fly. Drew Anderson earned the win with two scoreless innings, while Kyle Finnegan struck out Ronald Acuña Jr. to close. Detroit added two insurance runs in the ninth inning.

Whitecaps fans protest outside FIFA congress over relocation fears

Around 100 Vancouver Whitecaps supporters gathered outside the FIFA congress in Vancouver on Thursday to protest against the potential relocation of their Major League Soccer team. Fans waved flags, sang, and urged officials to ensure the club remains in the city. The Whitecaps are reportedly struggling to secure a buyer committed to staying in Vancouver, with Las Vegas and Phoenix mentioned as possible relocation destinations. The club's lease at BC Place is set to expire this year, while its revenue share from match days is among the lowest in the league. Supporters highlighted the team's long history since 1974 and recent competitive success. City officials



have urged a temporary agreement with stadium authorities to stabilize the situation, but uncertainty remains over the club's long-term future in Vancouver.

Unai Emery blasts video assistant referee after Europa league loss to forest

Aston Villa manager Unai Emery strongly criticized the video assistant referee system after his team's Europa League first-leg defeat to Nottingham Forest on Thursday. Emery said a challenge by Elliot Anderson on Ollie Watkins, in which the defender won the ball but caught Watkins on the ankle, should have resulted in a red card. He questioned why the review was not upgraded after a brief check and called it a major error in officiating. Forest won the match 1-0 through a Chris Wood penalty in the seventy-first minute. Despite the incident, Watkins completed the full match and remains Villa's leading scorer this season with 15 goals. Villa sit



fifth in the Premier League and are set to face Tottenham Hotspur on Sunday in a crucial league fixture.

Arshad Khan inspires Gujarat Titans as Royal Challengers Bengaluru collapse to 155

Arshad Khan delivered a decisive spell as Gujarat Titans bowled out Royal Challengers Bengaluru for 155 in 19.2 overs in an Indian Premier League match in Ahmedabad at Narendra Modi Stadium. Royal Challengers Bengaluru began cautiously before Virat Kohli counterattacked Kagiso Rabada with five boundaries in an over, but he was dismissed for 28 off 13 balls. Devdutt Padikkal top scored with 40 off 24 balls, yet the innings unraveled as wickets fell at regular intervals. Jason Holder and Rashid Khan claimed two wickets each, while Mohammed Siraj and Kagiso Rabada picked up one apiece. Arshad Khan led the attack with three wickets,



triggering a collapse that ended Royal Challengers Bengaluru's innings short of their full quota.

Kei Nishikori to retire after injury-hit career ends in 2026 season



Kei Nishikori announced on Friday that he will retire at the end of the 2026 season, closing an injury-plagued career. The thirty-six-year-old is Asia's most decorated men's tennis player and a trailblazer for Japanese tennis. He became the first Japanese man to reach a Grand Slam final at the 2014 US Open, finishing runner-up, and reached a career-high ranking of world number four with 12 titles and an Olympic bronze medal in 2016 Rio. Nishikori said he still wished to continue playing but was proud of his career achievements and consistency at the top level.

Mitchell Santner ruled out for at least a month with shoulder injury

New Zealand white-ball captain Mitchell Santner will be sidelined for at least a month after suffering a serious shoulder injury while playing in the Indian Premier League for Mumbai Indians. New Zealand Cricket confirmed scans revealed a grade three shoulder injury requiring rest and rehabilitation. The injury was sustained during a fielding attempt in a match against Chennai Super Kings last week. He will miss the upcoming Test series against Ireland and at least the first Test against England, with a return expected later in the year depending on recovery progress.

Koeman calls Xavi Simons injury a major setback for World Cup hopes

Netherlands coach Ronald Koeman has described Xavi Simons' serious knee injury as a dramatic setback for the team's World Cup plans. Simons, 23, suffered a ruptured anterior cruciate ligament in his right knee during Tottenham Hotspur's one-nil win over Wolverhampton Wanderers in the English Premier League last weekend. Speaking on Thursday, Koeman said the injury is painful for both player and team, calling Simons a key talent. He named Justin Kluivert and Guus Til as possible replacements as the Netherlands prepare for the tournament and adjust their attacking options.

Formula One returns to Miami amid regulatory tweaks and weather concerns

Formula One returns at the Miami Grand Prix after a five-week break caused by canceled Middle East races linked to the war in Iran. During the pause, the sport's governing body introduced regulation adjustments following driver criticism over electrical battery power influence on racing. Max Verstappen called the changes minor, while Lewis Hamilton said drivers still lack meaningful influence in decisions. Teams arrive with major upgrades ahead of Sunday's race, and thunderstorms are forecast for race day, raising potential disruption concerns and logistical challenges for organizers and teams.



FIFA president Gianni Infantino set for Morocco-hosted 2027 election path

FIFA President Gianni Infantino has begun the process toward a 2027 election that is expected to secure him another four-year term, with the vote set to take place in Morocco. He confirmed that the FIFA Congress on March 18 will gather member federations, with his candidacy widely expected to go unchallenged. Infantino highlighted unity in global football and strong FIFA finances, including payments to member federations. The decision underscores Morocco's rising influence as a 2030 World Cup co-host, while African football leaders continue to strongly support his leadership.

Britney Spears charged with driving under influence after California arrest



Pop star Britney Spears has been charged with one misdemeanor count of driving under the influence following a March arrest near her California home. Authorities said she was pulled over after reports of erratic driving and signs of impairment. Prosecutors have offered her the option to plead guilty to a lesser reckless driving charge involving alcohol or drugs, a resolution that typically includes probation and treatment requirements. Spears is not required to appear in court on Monday, and her legal team may represent her instead. A spokesperson previously confirmed she voluntarily entered a rehabilitation facility. The case adds to Spears' long legal and personal history, including her 13-year conservatorship that ended in 2021. Officials say the matter remains under standard legal proceedings, with no further public statement from her representatives.

Bombay High Court quashes FIR against Shekhar Suman and Bharati Singh over comedy show remark



The Bombay High Court has quashed a 2010 First Information Report filed against actor Shekhar Suman and comedian Bharati Singh over allegedly offensive remarks made during the comedy show 'Comedy Circus Ka Jadoo'. The case stemmed from a skit in which the phrase "Ya Allah! Rasgulla! Dahi Bhalla" was used, prompting a complaint alleging hurt religious sentiments. The court ruled that the content was part of a light entertainment program and must be viewed in its full context, not through isolated words. It observed that a criminal offence under relevant sections requires clear malicious intent to insult religion, which was not established in this case. The bench also noted that the complaint appeared to have been filed without direct viewing of the episode. The ruling brings relief to both performers after years of legal proceedings.

Diljit Dosanjh turns 'The Tonight Show' into bhangra celebration with Jimmy Fallon, calls it cultural milestone

Punjabi superstar Diljit Dosanjh transformed 'The Tonight Show' into a full-on bhangra celebration as he appeared alongside host Jimmy Fallon, bringing his signature energy and cultural pride to American late-night television. Diljit performed his hit track 'Morni' and ended up teaching Fallon traditional bhangra steps, turning Studio 6B into a lively dance floor. Clips from the episode quickly went viral, showing Fallon clapping and moving to Punjabi beats while Diljit led the rhythm with effortless charm. The moment highlighted Diljit's growing global appeal

as he continues to bridge Indian music with international audiences.

Following the appearance, Diljit expressed heartfelt gratitude to Fallon on social media, thanking him for giving him a platform to represent his culture and calling the experience one filled with "positive aura." Fallon also praised Diljit's energy and presence during the show. The appearance comes as Diljit promotes his album 'Aura', which features tracks like 'Senorita', 'Kufar', 'You and Me', and 'Balle Balle', further strengthening his international crossover momentum.



Taylor Swift moves to trademark voice and likeness amid artificial intelligence concerns

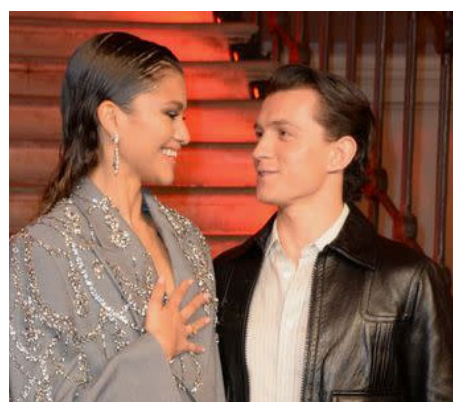
Taylor Swift has taken new legal steps to protect her identity in the age of artificial intelligence, filing trademark applications through her company that include sound marks such as "Hey, it's Taylor Swift" and "Hey, it's Taylor," along with a visual trademark tied to one of her stage images. The move is aimed at preventing unauthorized use of her voice and likeness in AI-generated content, an issue increasingly affecting entertainers. The strategy builds on similar legal protections pursued by Matthew McConaughey and reflects growing industry concern over digital impersonation. Swift's filings come after instances of manipulated or fake content using her image circulated online, including politically motivated AI-generated material. The trademarks are



intended to strengthen legal tools available to combat misuse, particularly in federal court, as artists seek stronger safeguards in the rapidly evolving AI landscape.

Tom Holland helps Zendaya avoid wardrobe malfunction during public appearance

Hollywood couple Tom Holland and Zendaya made a joint appearance at a padel tournament in Los Angeles, where a brief wardrobe issue drew attention. In a widely shared video, Holland is seen helping adjust the back of Zendaya's blue and white patterned dress after it appeared to come undone, ensuring she was comfortable during the event. The pair, both 29, attended the sporty outing that highlights Holland's growing involvement in promoting padel, a racket sport blending tennis and squash. Holland later spoke about the game's community spirit, saying it encourages social connection and conversation on the court. Zendaya has previously shared memories of meeting



Holland during the 2017 'Spider-Man: Homecoming' screen tests, describing him as someone who makes her feel calm and grounded. The couple got engaged in January 2025.

Rebel Wilson denies involvement in alleged cyber-attack in 'The Deb' legal battle

Actor and comedian Rebel Wilson has strongly denied allegations that she orchestrated a cyber-attack on actress Charlotte MacInnes during an ongoing legal dispute related to Wilson's directorial debut 'The Deb'. MacInnes has accused Wilson in a Sydney court of defamation and claimed that her Snapchat account was hacked, resulting in the leak of a private nude photo shortly after she filed a lawsuit last year. She alleged the incident caused severe emotional distress and suggested Wilson may have been involved. Taking the stand, Wilson rejected the accusation, calling it "outrageous" and firmly denying any role in hacking or arranging such an attack. The case also involves disputes over social media posts made during the controversy. The legal battle between the two continues as both sides maintain conflicting accounts of the events.

Delhi High Court freezes key assets in Sunjay Kapur estate dispute involving Karisma Kapoor's children



The Delhi High Court granted interim relief to the children of late industrialist Sunjay Kapur from his marriage with actor Karisma Kapoor, restraining his widow Priya Kapur from creating third-party rights over key parts of his estate. The court this week directed preservation of assets, including shares, bank accounts, and other holdings, until the inheritance dispute is decided. The children, Samaira Kapur and Kiaan Kapur, have challenged a contested will that allegedly leaves the entire estate to Priya Kapur, calling it forged. They seek a share as legal heirs in an estate estimated to be worth around Rs 30,000 crore. The court said suspicions around the will must be addressed during trial while maintaining the status quo.

Prosecutors outline serious allegations in case against singer D4vd

Prosecutors in Los Angeles have presented detailed allegations against singer D4vd, whose legal name is David Burke, in connection with the death of a 14-year-old girl. Court filings claim the victim was killed and dismembered, with evidence including messages and forensic findings being prepared for trial. Burke has pleaded not guilty to charges including first-degree murder and denies all allegations through his legal team. Authorities allege a relationship between the two began when the victim was underage and that she went missing before her remains were later discovered. The case remains in pretrial proceedings, with a judge set to review evidence in an upcoming hearing as prosecutors outline their case.

Rebel Wilson denies hacking allegations in defamation case involving 'The Deb'

Rebel Wilson has strongly denied allegations that she orchestrated a cyber attack on actress Charlotte MaInnes during court proceedings on Thursday in Sydney. MaInnes, who is suing Wilson for defamation related to the film 'The Deb', has claimed that Wilson was behind a hack of her Snapchat account that led to the leak of a private image. Taking the witness stand, Wilson called the accusation outrageous and firmly denied any involvement. Her legal team argued she had no role in any such activity, while cross-examination focused on social media posts and statements connected to the dispute. The case forms part of an ongoing legal battle linked to alleged reputational harm and production conflicts surrounding the film.

Ranveer Singh's 'Dhurandhar' set for Japan release in July

Ranveer Singh's blockbuster spy action film 'Dhurandhar' is set for its theatrical release in Japan on July 10. The announcement was shared by Jio Studios and B62 Studios, marking the film's continued international rollout after its strong global performance. The film, directed by Aditya Dhar, follows an undercover intelligence agent navigating criminal networks and political conflict in Pakistan. It reportedly earned over Rs 1300 crore worldwide following its initial release in December 2025, making it one of the highest-grossing Indian films. Starring Ranveer Singh alongside Akshaye Khanna, Sanjay Dutt, and Arjun Rampal, the film is part of a planned duology exploring high-stakes geopolitical storytelling.

Samay Raina and Ranveer Allahbadia reunite on 'The Great Indian Kapil Show' for comedy special



Comedians Samay Raina and Ranveer Allahbadia are set to appear together on 'The Great Indian Kapil Show' in a special World Laughter Day episode, marking a reunion after the controversy surrounding 'India's Got Latent'. The upcoming Netflix episode brings both creators back into a shared comedic space alongside host Kapil Sharma. The episode features a mix of sketches, improv, and celebrity interactions, including a news debate parody led by Sunil Grover, with Krushna Abhishek and Kiku Sharda adding to the chaos. Kapil Sharma said the special aims to deliver lighthearted, family-friendly entertainment. Produced by K9 Productions and Salman Khan, the episode streams on May 2.

'Michael' storms box office with record \$97 million debut despite controversy and criticism

The Michael Jackson biopic 'Michael' has delivered a massive box office debut, earning \$97 million in the United States and Canada, according to studio estimates, and setting a new record for music biopics. The film, co-produced with the Jackson estate, also collected \$120.4 million internationally, pushing its global opening to \$217.4 million.

Despite mixed reviews and a turbulent production, the film far exceeded early projections. It outperformed previous music biopic openings, including 'Straight Outta Compton' and 'Bohemian Rhapsody'. Industry analysts said audience interest remained strong across demographics, helping drive the surprise surge.

The film's production reportedly faced



major challenges, including costly reshoots after legal restrictions forced changes to its final act. While critics gave it a lukewarm response, audiences reacted more positively.

The release also reignited debate over Jackson's legacy, including past allegations of abuse, which he and his estate had consistently denied. A sequel is already in development.

Kailash Kher performs 'Bam Lahiri' at Kedarnath, seeks blessings of Lord Shiva

Singer Kailash Kher visited the sacred Kedarnath Temple in Uttarakhand and performed his devotional track 'Bam Lahiri' in front of Lord Shiva's shrine, creating a deeply spiritual moment amid the Himalayan setting. Standing before the temple surrounded by snow-capped peaks, Kailash sang as his voice echoed through the pilgrimage site, drawing devotees into the atmosphere of devotion. He shared a video of the moment, captioning it with a prayerful message praising Lord Shiva. Kedarnath, one of the twelve Jyotirlingas, remains open to pilgrims only between April and November due to extreme weather conditions. Known for spiritual hits like 'Teri Deewani' and 'Saiyyan', Kailash has long blended devotional music with mainstream success. His recent works



continue to focus on spirituality, including the track 'Jogi', inspired by Adi Shankaracharya and rooted in India's Bhakti tradition.

Arjun Kapoor seeks court protection over personality rights misuse

Actor Arjun Kapoor has approached the Delhi High Court seeking protection of his personality rights, alleging misuse of his name, image, and likeness through artificial intelligence-generated content and unauthorized merchandise. The petition claims that manipulated visuals, including explicit and defamatory material, are being circulated online without consent. Kapoor's

legal team argued that such content goes beyond satire and commercially exploits his identity. The court noted that public figures are subject to scrutiny but emphasized that defamatory material cannot be permitted. The matter is part of a growing trend of celebrities seeking legal protection against digital misuse of identity, with several major Indian personalities recently obtaining similar safeguards.

Jaafar Jackson recalls holding Michael Jackson's Grammy during biopic shoot

Jaafar Jackson, who plays his late uncle Michael Jackson in the recent biopic 'Michael', has shared a special behind-the-scenes moment from the film's set, revealing that he was allowed to hold one of Michael Jackson's original Grammy Awards during filming. Posting a photo of the moment, Jaafar called it one of his most meaningful experiences, saying it felt extraordinary to recreate history while holding the real award. The biopic, directed by Antoine Fuqua, traces Michael Jackson's journey from his early days with The Jackson Five to his rise as a global solo superstar. Michael Jackson, widely regarded as one of the most influential entertainers in history, won 13 Grammy Awards and reshaped global pop culture



with iconic performances and dance moves. The film has already drawn major attention following its strong box office performance.

Billie Eilish says dating experience made her believe in astrology

Billie Eilish has revealed that she once dismissed astrology but changed her view after dating a man who was a Gemini. In an interview with Elle, the Grammy-winning singer said she began noticing personality traits that matched zodiac stereotypes, which led her to reconsider her skepticism. Eilish said she can now easily recognize Geminis, adding that she has strong opinions about different zodiac signs. She also described herself as a Sagittarius and identified with traits like being outspoken, stubborn, and energetic. The singer admitted she is highly superstitious and linked it to her obsessive-compulsive tendencies, saying she avoids anything that could feel like bad luck or risk.

Tom Hanks explains Woody's worn look in 'Toy Story 5' teaser



Tom Hanks has shared new details about Woody's appearance in 'Toy Story 5', addressing a viral moment showing the character with a bald spot. Speaking about the teaser, Hanks said Woody's worn-out look reflects years of being played with and natural wear and tear on the toy. He explained that repeated use over time has changed the character's physical condition, including his fabric body settling and aging. The film continues the long-running Pixar franchise exploring childhood and nostalgia. The fifth installment is scheduled for release on June 19. Hanks, who voices Woody, is also set to appear in other upcoming film projects following his recent work with director Wes Anderson.

Ranveer Singh's 'Pralay' stays on track with August production schedule



Ranveer Singh's upcoming post-apocalyptic thriller 'Pralay' remains on schedule, despite recent speculation about delays. Reports of creative differences between Singh and director Jai Mehta have been dismissed by sources close to the project, who confirmed that pre-production is underway. The film, described as a large-scale dystopian action drama with zombie elements, is expected to begin shooting in August 2026. Backed by Hansal Mehta and Applause Entertainment, the project is being mounted on a reported budget of around Rs 300 crore. The team has locked the script and is actively working on production design and visual effects planning. Ranveer is also expected to sport a completely new look for the film.

असम के मंदिरों की यात्रा का तीसरा पड़ाव हयग्रीव माधव मंदिर, हाजो

उमानंद मंदिर की शांत, अलौकिक और आध्यात्मिक अनुभूति के पश्चात IndoUS Tribune की यह पावन यात्रा अब अपने तीसरे पड़ाव की ओर अग्रसर होती है। ब्रह्मपुत्र नदी के मध्य स्थित शिवधाम ने जहाँ मन को स्थिरता, शांति और भक्ति का अद्भुत अनुभव कराया, वहीं अब हमारी यात्रा हमें ऐसे दिव्य स्थल पर ले आती है जहाँ ज्ञान, आस्था, समन्वय और सभ्यता का अद्वितीय संगम दिखाई देता है।

हमारा अगला पड़ाव है हाजो का प्रसिद्ध हयग्रीव माधव मंदिर, जो न केवल असम, बल्कि सम्पूर्ण भारत की बहुधार्मिक चेतना, सांस्कृतिक विरासत और आध्यात्मिक परंपरा का जीवंत प्रतीक है। यह वह स्थल है जहाँ हिंदू श्रद्धा और बौद्ध आस्था एक साथ नतमस्तक होती हैं।

तीसरा पड़ाव - हयग्रीव माधव मंदिर, हाजो

असम के कामरूप जिले में स्थित ऐतिहासिक नगर हाजो, गुवाहाटी से लगभग 30 किलोमीटर पश्चिम दिशा में स्थित है। यह नगर सदियों से धार्मिक सहअस्तित्व, आध्यात्मिक महत्व और सांस्कृतिक विरासत के लिए विख्यात रहा है। इसी पवित्र भूमि पर मणिकूट पहाड़ी के शिखर पर स्थित है भव्य हयग्रीव माधव मंदिर, जो भगवान विष्णु के अश्वमुख अवतार हयग्रीव को समर्पित है।

'हयग्रीव' शब्द दो भागों से मिलकर बना है-

- ▶ हय अर्थात् घोड़ा
- ▶ ग्रीव अर्थात् गर्दन या मुख

अर्थात् यह भगवान विष्णु का वह स्वरूप है जिसमें वे अश्वमुख धारण कर दिव्य ज्ञान और वेदों की रक्षा करते हैं। भारतीय दर्शन में हयग्रीव को विद्या, बुद्धि, स्मरण शक्ति और ज्ञान के देवता के रूप में भी पूजा जाता है।

हिंदू और बौद्ध आस्था का दुर्लभ संगम

हयग्रीव माधव मंदिर की सबसे अनूठी विशेषता यह है कि यह मंदिर हिंदू और बौद्ध-दोनों परंपराओं के लिए समान रूप से पूजनीय है। हिंदू श्रद्धालु इसे भगवान विष्णु का पवित्र धाम मानते हैं, वहीं अनेक तिब्बती, भूटानी और स्थानीय बौद्ध अनुयायी विश्वास करते हैं कि यही वह स्थान है जहाँ भगवान बुद्ध ने महापरिनिर्वाण प्राप्त किया था। इसी कारण यहाँ देश-विदेश से बौद्ध भिक्षु, साधक और पर्यटक भी दर्शन हेतु आते हैं। यह दृश्य भारत की उस सनातन भावना को दर्शाता है जहाँ विभिन्न मार्ग अंततः एक ही सत्य की ओर जाते हैं।

इतिहास की परतों में समाया मंदिर

इतिहासकारों का मत है कि इस मंदिर की मूल स्थापना पाल वंश के शासनकाल में 6वीं से 10वीं शताब्दी के बीच हुई थी। बाद में समय, आक्रमणों और प्राकृतिक क्षति के कारण मूल संरचना प्रभावित हुई। वर्तमान भव्य पत्थर



निर्मित मंदिर का पुनर्निर्माण कोच वंश के राजा रघुदेव नारायण ने वर्ष 1583 ईस्वी में कराया। इसके बाद भी मंदिर को विभिन्न राजवंशों का संरक्षण प्राप्त होता रहा। अहोम राजाओं ने भी मंदिर की व्यवस्था, दीप प्रज्वलन, भूमि दान और धार्मिक गतिविधियों में महत्वपूर्ण योगदान दिया। यही कारण है कि यह मंदिर केवल धार्मिक स्थल नहीं, बल्कि असम के राजनैतिक और सांस्कृतिक इतिहास का भी साक्षी है।

स्थापत्य कला का अद्भुत नमूना

हयग्रीव माधव मंदिर का स्थापत्य असम की प्राचीन कला, शिल्पकौशल और धार्मिक प्रतीकों का उत्कृष्ट उदाहरण है।

मंदिर की प्रमुख विशेषताएँ:

- ▶ पत्थरों से निर्मित मजबूत संरचना
- ▶ ऊँचा शिखर, जो दूर से ही आकर्षित करता है
- ▶ निचले भाग में हाथियों की निरंतर उकेरी गई कतार
- ▶ बाहरी दीवारों पर विष्णु के दशावतार
- ▶ रामायण और महाभारत के दृश्य
- ▶ भक्तों, देवताओं और यक्ष आकृतियों की नक्काशी
- ▶ गर्भगृह में स्थापित काले पत्थर की दिव्य मूर्ति

मंदिर की दीवारों पर उकेरी गई हाथियों की कतारें शक्ति, स्थिरता और समृद्धि का प्रतीक मानी जाती हैं। विद्वानों के अनुसार इसकी शिल्पशैली एलोरा और पूर्वोत्तर भारतीय मंदिर परंपरा की झलक भी प्रस्तुत करती है।

पौराणिक कथा-वेदों की पुनर्प्राप्ति

कालिका पुराण तथा अन्य वैष्णव ग्रंथों के अनुसार एक समय दैत्य मधु और कैटभ ने ब्रह्माजी से वेदों का अपहरण कर लिया। संसार अज्ञान में डूबने लगा। तब भगवान विष्णु ने हयग्रीव रूप धारण किया, पाताल लोक में जाकर उन दैत्यों का वध किया और वेदों को पुनः प्राप्त कर संसार को ज्ञान का प्रकाश लौटाया। इसी विजय के प्रतीक रूप में भगवान यहाँ विराजमान हुए। इसलिए यह मंदिर ज्ञान, धर्म और सत्य की विजय का प्रतीक माना जाता है।

मणिकूट पहाड़ी का आध्यात्मिक वातावरण

मंदिर जिस मणिकूट पहाड़ी पर स्थित है, वहाँ पहुँचते ही वातावरण बदल जाता है। ऊपर चढ़ते समय वृक्षों की

हरियाली, पक्षियों की ध्वनि, मंद वायु और घंटियों की अनुगूँज मन को भक्ति भाव से भर देती है। पहाड़ी से दूर तक फैले असम के हरित दृश्य और ब्रह्मपुत्र क्षेत्र का मनोहारी विस्तार दिखाई देता है। सूर्योदय और संध्या के समय यह स्थल विशेष रूप से दिव्य प्रतीत होता है।

माधव पोखरी-श्रद्धा और प्रकृति का संगम

मंदिर के निकट स्थित विशाल जलाशय माधव पोखरी भी इस तीर्थ का प्रमुख आकर्षण है। यहाँ पाए जाने वाले दुर्लभ काले नरम कवच वाले कछुए भक्तों द्वारा पवित्र माने जाते हैं। श्रद्धालु इन्हें आहार कराते हैं और शुभ मानते हैं। यह पोखरी केवल धार्मिक दृष्टि से नहीं, बल्कि पर्यावरणीय दृष्टि से भी महत्वपूर्ण है।

उत्सव और मेले

हयग्रीव माधव मंदिर वर्ष भर भक्ति और उत्सवों से जीवंत रहता है। प्रमुख पर्वों में शामिल हैं:

दौल उत्सव (होली)

यहाँ होली को 'दौल उत्सव' के रूप में अत्यंत भव्यता से मनाया जाता है। भजन, कीर्तन, शोभायात्रा और गंगोत्सव वातावरण को भक्तिमय बना देते हैं।

जन्माष्टमी

भगवान कृष्ण जन्मोत्सव पर हजारों श्रद्धालु रात्रि जागरण और पूजा में सम्मिलित होते हैं।

बिहू

असम का प्रमुख सांस्कृतिक पर्व बिहू भी यहाँ विशेष उल्लास के साथ मनाया जाता है।

नवरात्रि और अन्य वैष्णव पर्व

पूरे वर्ष विभिन्न धार्मिक अनुष्ठान और सामूहिक पूजाएँ आयोजित होती रहती हैं।

हाजो - धार्मिक एकता की भूमि

हाजो केवल हयग्रीव माधव मंदिर तक सीमित नहीं है। यह नगर भारत की गंगा-जमुनी संस्कृति का अद्भुत उदाहरण है। यहाँ स्थित हैं:

- ▶ पौआ मक्का दरगाह - मुस्लिम श्रद्धालुओं का

प्रमुख स्थल

- ▶ केदारेश्वर मंदिर - शिव धाम
- ▶ अन्य अनेक प्राचीन तीर्थ

इस प्रकार हाजो वह भूमि है जहाँ मंदिर, मस्जिद और आध्यात्मिक धरोहरें एक साथ मिलकर सहिष्णुता का संदेश देती हैं।

यात्रियों के लिए उपयोगी जानकारी

कैसे पहुँचें:

- ▶ गुवाहाटी से सड़क मार्ग द्वारा 45 मिनट से 1 घंटा
- ▶ टैक्सी, निजी वाहन और स्थानीय बस उपलब्ध

दर्शन समय:

- ▶ प्रातःकाल और संध्या सर्वोत्तम समय माने जाते हैं

आध्यात्मिक संदेश

हयग्रीव माधव मंदिर हमें सिखाता है कि सच्चा ज्ञान केवल पुस्तकों में नहीं, बल्कि श्रद्धा, विनम्रता और सत्य के मार्ग पर चलने में है। यह मंदिर बताता है कि धर्म का सार विभाजन नहीं, बल्कि समन्वय है। यहाँ विष्णु की उपासना भी है, बुद्ध की स्मृति भी; परंपरा भी है, आधुनिक चेतना भी इतिहास भी है, और भविष्य के लिए प्रेरणा भी।

निष्कर्ष

हयग्रीव माधव मंदिर की यह यात्रा हमें यह अनुभव कराती है कि भारत की आध्यात्मिक विरासत केवल भव्य मंदिरों में नहीं, बल्कि उन स्थलों में बसती है जहाँ ज्ञान, सद्भाव और आस्था साथ-साथ फलते-फूलते हैं। मणिकूट पहाड़ी पर स्थित यह दिव्य धाम आज भी सदियों पुरानी परंपराओं, सांस्कृतिक सौंदर्य और धार्मिक समरसता का प्रकाश स्तंभ बना हुआ है।

IndoUS Tribune की असम यात्रा का यह तीसरा पड़ाव हमें यह संदेश देता है कि भारत की आत्मा उसकी विविधता में निहित है। जहाँ अनेक मार्ग हैं, पर गंतव्य एक है। अब हमारी यह दिव्य यात्रा आगे बढ़ेगी असम के पूर्वोत्तर अंचल में स्थित रहस्यमयी, शक्तिपूर्ण और ऐतिहासिक ताम्रेश्वरी मंदिर की ओर, जहाँ प्राचीन शक्ति साधना और इतिहास के अद्भुत अध्याय हमारा इंतजार कर रहे हैं।

Why did Ravana never touch Sita? Was it patience — or the power of a curse?

Born in the noble lineage of Sage Pulastya, the world-renowned Ravana was a mighty king of immense strength and great wisdom. In his youth, he performed deep devotion to Lord Shiva, as a result of which he obtained many divine weapons and powers. He was the son of the great sage Vishrava and grandson of Sage Pulastya. Scholars in India never tire of praising Ravana's virtues. Yet he had one fatal weakness — his lustful desires. Whenever he saw a beautiful woman, he would become restless.



Rajendra Kapil
Phone: 847-962-1291



Many have praised Ravana by saying that despite abducting Sita, he was so noble in character that he never once tried to touch her by force. Learned men often cite this as a beautiful example of Ravana's patience and restraint. But was it truly his patience — or was there another reason? In the Sundar Kand of the Ramcharitmanas, this episode is briefly described. Ravana tempts Sita by offering to make her a queen greater even than Mandodari. He appears ready to lay all his wealth at her feet. But when Sita gives no favorable reply, he tries every means to frighten and threaten her. Here lay the true test of Ravana's patience.

**Kah Ravana sunu sumukh sayani,
Mandodari adi sab rani**

**Tav anuchari karaun pan mora, ek baar
biloku mam ora**

Ravana said: Listen, O wise and beautiful one. Mandodari and all my queens shall become your attendants. I vow this—just look at me once.

But Sita did not even glance toward him. Instead, she replied: Where is my radiant Lord Rama, shining like the sun, and where are you — a dim firefly without light? Hearing this, Ravana became enraged. He shouted that Sita had insulted him and that he could cut off her head at once.

**Sita tain mam krit apamana, katihau
tav sir kathin kripana**

**Nahi ta sapadi manu mam bani,
sumukhi hoti na ta jeevan hani**

Was this truly Ravana's patience, or was some other force stopping him? In the Valmiki Ramayana, this episode is described in much greater detail. There, Ravana is shown discussing Sita with one of his ministers, Mahaparshva. This minister knew Ravana's strength and valor well. Seeing Ravana tormented with desire for Sita, Mahaparshva advises him to forcibly possess her.

**Balat kukkutavrittana pravartasva
mahabala**

**Akramya akramya Sitam vai tam
bhunkshva cha ramasva cha**

O mighty Ravana, force yourself upon Sita. Overpower her repeatedly and enjoy her. You need fear no one.

In reply, Ravana reveals a hidden secret to Mahaparshva.

**Mahaparshva nibodha tvam rahasyam
kinchid atmanah**

**Chiravrittam tadakhyasye yad avaptam
pura maya**

Listen, Mahaparshva. I shall tell you a secret from long ago, the result of which brought upon me a terrible curse. Because of that curse, I cannot act as you suggest.

Then Ravana narrates the story.

Once, Ravana had gone wandering

in a forest. While resting there, he saw a celestial apsara named Punjikasthala passing by. She was on her way to meet Lord Brahma. Seeing Ravana, she tried to hide herself so that his eyes would not fall upon her. But her beauty was unparalleled. The more Ravana saw her trying to hide, the more his desire grew.

When he tried to seize her, she resisted. But Ravana's lust had reached its peak. Ignoring her pleas, he overpowered her and violated her by force. Helpless, the apsara begged for mercy, but Ravana paid no heed.

After this terrible incident, she went directly to Lord Brahma. Seeing her sorrowful and angered state, Brahma was deeply disturbed. Her face looked faded like a withered lotus.

When Brahma asked the cause of her grief, Punjikasthala narrated the entire **घटना** exactly as it had happened. Hearing this, Brahma became furious. Consoling the apsara, he said: Daughter, I cannot undo what has happened to you. But I shall ensure Ravana can never again commit such an outrage upon another woman.

**Taking water in his hand, Brahma
cursed Ravana:**

If Ravana ever touches any woman against her will, his head shall shatter into a hundred pieces.

Some time later, news of this curse reached Ravana. Hearing it, Ravana was filled with fear. He kept the curse secret, but from then on he became cautious around women. Even if he desired a maidservant, he would first tempt her with expensive gifts and riches, trying to win her consent before approaching her.

Now let us return to the episode of Sita. When minister Mahaparshva advised him, Ravana confessed that he was constantly haunted by the fear of this curse. That is why, after abducting Sita and bringing her to Lanka, he repeatedly went before her, trying to persuade her. He offered to make her greater than Mandodari herself. But Mother Sita, firm in her devotion to her husband, rejected every offer.

The real reason Ravana did not touch Sita was less patience and more fear of Brahma's curse. There was another reason as well — Ravana knew very well that Rama was no ordinary man, but Narayana Himself. To dishonor His wife would invite a punishment beyond imagination.

Thus Ravana was reduced to pleading before Sita, unable to gather the courage to touch her. In the end, he had to wage war against Lord Rama and lost both his kingdom and his obsession for Sita. This is one of the hidden secrets of the Valmiki Ramayana that not everyone knows.

Dedicated devotees to be chosen as volunteers for temple foundation day celebrations



By: Dr. Avi Verma

Organizers of the upcoming Foundation Day celebrations at Siddh Peeth Mahabali Sankatmochan Shri Hanuman Mandir have announced that only devotees with a genuine spirit of service and dedication will be selected as volunteers for the event. Temple representatives Aman Jain, Rishi Jain, and Anuj Madan shared during the invitation

campaign that the Foundation Day invitation is not merely a formal gesture, but a divine call from Shri Balaji Maharaj to His devotees. They emphasized that such an invitation is received by the fortunate, and those who attend the celebrations to participate in seva and darshan are considered spiritually blessed.

The temple is preparing to celebrate its 22nd Annual Foundation Day, with the surrounding area already reflecting

an atmosphere of devotion and faith. Invitations are being distributed with reverence to political, religious, and social organizations, along with devotees across the city. Inspired by the late Ashok Jain, the invitation drive continues with strong dedication and commitment.

Thousands of devotees are expected to attend. To ensure comfort and smooth management, the temple committee will appoint volunteers and assign them

specific responsibilities.

Organizers reiterated that opportunities for seva will be given only to those who demonstrate sincerity, discipline, and a true spirit of service.

During the outreach campaign, invitations were also respectfully presented to members of the Vohra, Bajaj, and Chugh families, along with other prominent community members.



Sanskrit is the soul of India and a global heritage Mohan Bhagwat inaugurates 'Pranav' center in Delhi



By: Satyaprakash Dwivedi

RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat inaugurated the newly built 'Pranav' headquarters of Samskrita Bharati in Delhi on Monday, calling Sanskrit the "soul of India" and a vital foundation of its culture, philosophy, and knowledge systems.

The inauguration, held on the occasion of Akshaya Tritiya, was conducted with traditional Vedic

rituals, including ceremonies honoring cows and the concluding rites of a major yajna performed under the guidance of scholars. Bhagwat described 'Pranav' as a symbol of the primordial cosmic sound and said the initiative reflects a meaningful and enduring commitment to Sanskrit's revival.

He emphasized that Sanskrit is not just a language but the essence of India's worldview, adding that understanding India requires understanding Sanskrit.

He said it acts as a unifying link among Indian languages and contains a vast body of knowledge beneficial to humanity. He also highlighted conversation-based learning as the most effective way to promote wider use of Sanskrit and urged sustained, purpose-driven efforts.

In a message, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said the inauguration marks an important step in revitalizing India's knowledge traditions, describing Sanskrit as a language of the past,

present, and future.

Founded in 1981, Samskrita Bharati has grown into a global movement. The 'Pranav' complex, built as a modern facility rooted in traditional knowledge systems, will serve as a center for Sanskrit education, teacher training, research, and outreach. The organization aims to expand Sanskrit learning across India, promote instruction through multiple languages, and make the language more accessible in everyday life.



'Glimpses of Incredible India'

photo exhibit showcases India across the Pacific Northwest



● By: Vandana Jhingan

A vibrant photographic journey through India is now captivating audiences across the Pacific Northwest as the traveling exhibition 'Glimpses of Incredible India' begins its regional tour, highlighting the beauty, diversity, and cultural richness of India through the lens of one of Seattle's leading photographers.

The latest stop of the exhibit was hosted at Shoreline College, where President Jack Kahn led the inaugural session and shared his personal experiences from a recent visit to India. He was part of a delegation organized by the Consulate General of India in Seattle that traveled to India in March 2026.

The exhibit features a curated collection of photographs by acclaimed Seattle-based photographer Sam Horine, whose striking images capture India's vibrant streets, everyday life, iconic landmarks, UNESCO World Heritage Sites, and breathtaking cultural landscapes.

Horine's work has previously appeared in globally recognized publications such as National Geographic, The New Yorker, The New York Times, and Travel + Leisure.

The exhibition was originally inaugurated on April 26, 2026, at the Consulate premises by U.S. Congressman Adam Smith, Kent Mayor Dana Ralph, Tukwila Mayor Tom McLeod, and Issaquah Mayor Mark Mullet.



Horine's photographs were taken during a ten-day delegation visit to India from March 9–18, 2026, organized by the Consulate General of India in Seattle.

The thirteen-member delegation included distinguished professionals from Washington, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Nebraska, representing trade offices, local governments, universities, journalism, and the arts.

Following its successful opening events, the exhibit is now traveling throughout the Consulate's jurisdiction. Upcoming stops include Oregon State University on May 2, South Dakota on

May 7–8, and Montana State University, Bozeman on May 12, with additional visits planned at major universities across the Pacific Northwest in the coming weeks.

Organizers said the exhibition seeks to present India's pluralistic identity, scenic beauty, and the warmth of its people, while encouraging more young Americans to visit India and experience the spirit of Incredible India firsthand.

The traveling exhibit stands as a cultural bridge between India and the United States, using photography to deepen understanding and inspire global curiosity.



Buddha Purnima and Labour Day

A shared call for compassion and dignity

By: R.K. Raina

“Sukhino va khemino hontu Sabbe satta bhavantu sukhitatta (May all beings be happy and secure; May all beings be inwardly at peace)”.

Buddha Purnima marks the birth, enlightenment, and Mahaparinirvana of Gautama Buddha. It is not merely a commemorative day but a moment of inward reflection on the timeless truths he revealed. His teaching was simple in expression yet profound in implication. Human suffering arises from craving and ignorance. Its cessation lies in right understanding, right conduct, and right mindfulness.

At the heart of his Dhamma lies compassion, not as an abstract virtue but as a lived discipline. Compassion in the Buddha's teaching is inseparable from wisdom. One sees the interconnectedness of all life and naturally develops care for others. No being exists in isolation. Every action, every livelihood, and every form of existence is interdependent.

The Buddha's words from the Karaniya Metta Sutta remain among the most direct expressions of this ideal:

“Just as a mother would protect her only child at the risk of her own life, even so let one cultivate a boundless heart towards all beings.” This is not poetry alone. It is a standard for human conduct. It asks for a transformation of perception. Others are not instruments for our use but participants in the same web of existence.

Buddha Purnima, therefore, is not about ritual observance. It is a reminder to examine how we live, how we earn, how we relate, and how we respond to suffering around us.

Compassion in action: The meaning of Labour Day

The coincidence of Buddha Purnima with International Workers' Day on May 1 offers a deeper layer of reflection. Labour Day recognizes the dignity of work and the central role of workers in shaping society. Every structure we inhabit, every system we rely upon, and every comfort we take for granted rests on the Labour of countless individuals. Yet modern life often distances us from



this reality. Labour becomes invisible. The worker becomes a function rather than a human being. Efficiency replaces empathy. Profit overshadows dignity.

The Buddha's teaching directly challenges this imbalance. Right livelihood, one of the components of the Noble Eightfold Path, emphasizes ethical earning without exploitation or harm. It recognizes that work is not merely an economic activity but a moral one.

To see Labour through the lens of Dhamma is to recognize effort as sacred. The farmer, the mason, the driver, the cleaner, the artisan, and the daily wage worker are not peripheral to society. They are its foundation. Their work sustains life in visible and invisible ways.

Compassion in this context is not limited to charity. It is about respect, fairness, and awareness. It is about recognizing the human story behind every act of Labour. It is about ensuring dignity in wages, safety in conditions, and honor in social recognition.

The Buddha also emphasized gratitude.

In another teaching, he reminds us that one should be mindful of those who contribute to one's well-being. When seen deeply, every meal, every shelter, and every service carries the imprint of Labour. Gratitude becomes the first step towards compassion.

Extending compassion to nature and shared resources

The Buddha's insight into interdependence extends beyond human relationships to nature itself. The environment is not separate from human existence. It sustains Labour, livelihood, and life itself.

To exploit nature without restraint is to ignore this interdependence. The same principle that applies to human Labour applies to natural resources. What is taken must be balanced with care and responsibility.

In today's world, where climate stress and resource depletion are realities, this teaching becomes even more relevant. Labourers are often the first to be affected by environmental degradation. Their livelihoods are tied directly to the health of land, water, and climate.

Compassion, therefore, must expand to include ecological awareness. Respect for Labour and respect for nature are not separate values. They arise from the same understanding of interconnected existence.

A double occasion for reflection and renewal

The convergence of Buddha Purnima and Labour Day is not coincidental in spirit. One speaks of inner transformation. The other speaks of social recognition. Together, they offer a complete framework for a just and compassionate society.

Buddha Purnima reminds us to purify intention, reduce greed, and cultivate empathy. Labour Day reminds us to translate these values into social structures

that uphold dignity and fairness.

This is a moment to reflect on how we treat those whose Labour sustains us. It is also a moment to examine whether our own actions contribute to harmony or imbalance. Compassion begins with awareness and matures through practice.

If the teaching of the Buddha is to be meaningful, it must find expression in daily life. It must be visible in how we speak, how we employ, how we consume, and how we acknowledge the contributions of others.

On this day, one can pause and consciously extend respect to every form of Labour. A simple act of acknowledgement, a fair decision, a mindful choice can carry the spirit of Dhamma into lived reality.

Conclusion: Compassion as the foundation of society

Ethical duty

“Dasa-kammakara ca bhariya Anukampaya passati (One should regard workers and servants with compassion and treat them with care and fairness)”

Buddha Purnima and Labour Day together offer a powerful message. A society cannot be stable without compassion, and compassion cannot be complete without recognizing the dignity of Labour.

The Buddha's path is not removed from worldly life. It refines it. When compassion guides action, Labour gains dignity and society gains balance.

This dual observance is an opportunity to move from reflection to responsibility. To see clearly, to act justly, and to live with a sense of shared humanity.

In doing so, one honors both the wisdom of the Buddha and the silent strength of those whose Labour sustains the world.



Naperville's Boost+ Robotics Team wins Illinois State Excellence Award, advances to world championship

By: Prachi Jaitly

BoostPlus Academy's Boost+ Robotics Team 32356B has earned statewide recognition after capturing the prestigious Excellence Award at the Illinois State VEX IQ Championship in March 2026. The top honor secured the team's place at the international VEX IQ World Championship, recently held in St. Louis, Missouri, from April 28–29, 2026. The Excellence Award is considered the highest distinction in VEX IQ Robotics, recognizing outstanding performance in robot design, programming, teamwork, engineering notebooks, and overall competition results.

What makes the accomplishment especially impressive is that all five students on Team 32356B are first-time competitors who began their robotics journey only in October 2025. In just a few months, the young innovators developed the skills and confidence needed to rise among Illinois' top elementary robotics teams. The team was mentored by Coach Ms. Mongelli, along with Ms. Mili Srivastava and Ms. Kanika Talwar, whose guidance played a key role in building the students' technical abilities, teamwork, leadership, and enthusiasm for STEM learning.

"This achievement reflects the power of structured learning, mentorship, and the incredible potential of young minds," said the Boost+ Robotics leadership team. "To see first-time competitors reach the world stage and represent Illinois is truly inspiring."

The VEX IQ World Championship brings together leading student robotics teams from around the globe, offering a platform



to celebrate innovation, collaboration, and engineering excellence. Team 32356B will now compete with some of the brightest young minds in the world while proudly representing Illinois.

About BoostPlus Academy / Boost+ Robotics
Based in Naperville, BoostPlus Academy,

founded by Ms. Mili Srivastava, is dedicated to empowering students through hands-on programs in robotics, STEM education, entrepreneurship, and leadership development.

The Boost+ Robotics program offers:

- ▶ Year-round structured robotics programs and summer camps
- ▶ Competitive pathways from local to state

and world championships

- ▶ Practical experience in engineering, coding, and problem-solving
- ▶ Specialized VEX IQ robotics programs for students in Grades 3–8

BoostPlus Academy continues to shape the next generation of innovators by combining technical education with creativity, teamwork, and real-world problem-solving.



Proud milestone for the Midwest Punjabi Association Cook County declares April 2026 as Sikh Awareness and Appreciation Month

By: Prachi Jaitly

In a major recognition of the Sikh community's heritage, service, and contributions, the Cook County Board of Commissioners has officially proclaimed April 2026 as Sikh Awareness and Appreciation Month. The resolution was sponsored by Commissioner Kevin B. Morrison and approved under the leadership of Board President Toni Preckwinkle. The proclamation honors more than 120 years of Sikh presence in the United States and acknowledges the community's lasting role in helping shape the nation. It highlights early Sikh contributions in agriculture, railroads, and lumber industries, as well as the community's growing impact today in medicine, technology, business, the armed forces, education, and public service.

The resolution also recognizes the deep historical and spiritual significance of Sikh traditions, including Sikh Sajna Diwas, commemorating the founding of the Khalsa by Guru Gobind Singh Ji in 1699, and the celebration of Vaisakhi, which reflects



the values of courage, equality, unity, and selfless service.

Cook County further noted that Sikhism is the world's fifth-largest religion, with more than 25 million followers worldwide and an estimated 500,000 Sikhs in the United States, including over 25,000 residents in Illinois.

Importantly, the proclamation reaffirmed Cook County's commitment to diversity, inclusion, and standing firmly against discrimination, hate, and violence, while recognizing the Sikh community's enduring commitment to seva (selfless service), equality, and humanity.

The resolution also acknowledged several community leaders and

organizations, including Gurmeet Singh Dhalwan, Founder President of the Midwest Punjabi Association, for their continued efforts in strengthening and uplifting the Sikh community. The event was attended by Sikh community leaders and representatives from multiple organizations, including members of the Midwest Punjabi Association, Illinois Sikh Community Center, Swera, Sikh Religious Society, and media representatives.

Speaking on the occasion, Gurmeet Singh Dhalwan said the recognition was a proud and meaningful moment for the community, noting that it celebrates Sikh values of resilience, service, and commitment to humanity while promoting inclusion and understanding.

Prachi Jaitly, General Secretary of the Midwest Punjabi Association, described the proclamation as a moment of pride that honors Sikh contributions while helping build greater awareness of the community's history, values, and service.

The Midwest Punjabi Association said it views the proclamation as an important step toward increasing cultural appreciation and understanding, and reaffirmed its commitment to community service, cultural education, and unity across the Midwest.

About Midwest Punjabi Association

The Midwest Punjabi Association is a community-based organization dedicated to promoting cultural awareness, social service, and unity among the Punjabi and Sikh diaspora throughout the Midwest region.



Ekal Vidyalaya Chicago hosts sold-out fundraiser, boosts support for rural education in India



By: Prachi Jaitly

The Chicago chapter of the Ekal Vidyalaya Foundation hosted a vibrant and sold-out fundraiser on April 26, drawing more than 700 donors, guests, and dignitaries united in support of education for rural and tribal communities in India.

The evening began with the national anthems, followed by a traditional diya-lighting ceremony that created a respectful and inspiring atmosphere. The highlight of the program was a captivating musical performance by renowned artist Milind Oak and his acclaimed group, whose energetic and nostalgic presentation delighted audiences across generations while reinforcing the foundation's mission.

During the event, organizers shared updates

on Ekal Vidyalaya's continuing impact through its one-teacher school model, which provides education, healthcare awareness, and skill development in underserved regions. In a remarkable show of generosity, attendees pledged support for more than 100 Ekal schools, marking a significant milestone in expanding access to learning opportunities.

The program was carefully organized by the Chicago Metro and North Chapter teams. One of the evening's standout moments was the strong participation of youth volunteers, whose leadership and dedication earned widespread appreciation. Their visible role reflected the rise of a promising new generation of community leaders.

The event was guided by a committed leadership team that included Kamlesh Shah, Ankita Shah, Rootvij Bhatt, and Kinnari Sachala, supported by an energetic core group

of volunteers and organizers who worked tirelessly to ensure the program's success.

Beyond its flagship one-teacher schools, the Ekal Vidyalaya Foundation also leads several integrated rural development initiatives, including digital literacy, women's empowerment, vocational training,

health awareness, and sustainable farming programs. The 2026 fundraiser not only celebrated culture and community spirit but also reaffirmed a shared commitment to empowering children through education where it is needed most. The evening left attendees inspired and strengthened support for a cause that continues to transform lives.



Bharatiya Senior Citizens of Chicago pay musical tribute to legendary singer Asha Bhosle

By: Jayanti Oza

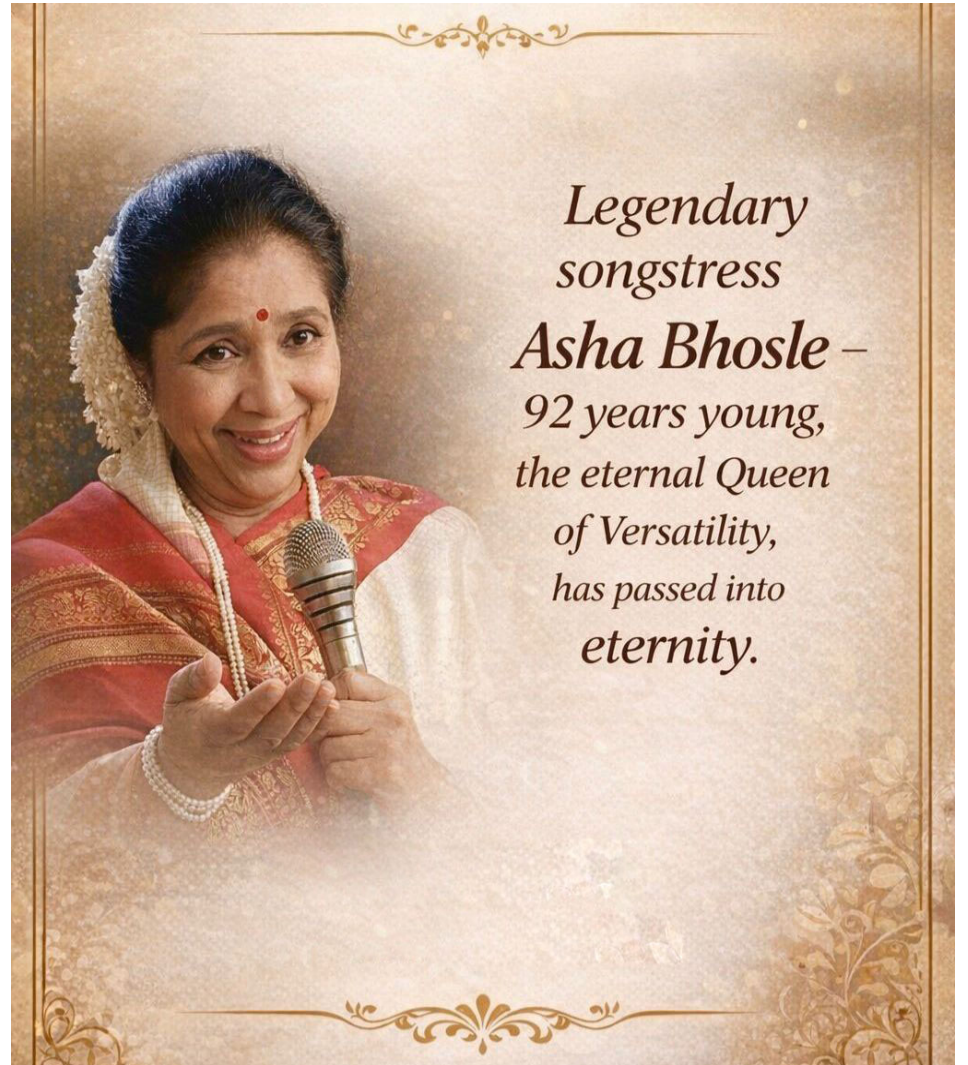
The Karaoke Club of the Bharatiya Senior Citizens of Chicago (BSC) organized a heartfelt tribute program in honor of legendary Bollywood playback singer Asha Bhosle, celebrating her timeless musical legacy through an evening of songs and remembrance.

Held at the Rana Reagan Center in Carol Stream on April 19, the event brought together nearly 20 members of the organization, who paid tribute by performing some of Asha Bhosle's most beloved songs. The program carried the theme of one of her evergreen classics, 'Abhi Na Jao Chhod Kar,' reflecting the deep emotional connection admirers continue to feel for the iconic singer.

BSC President Haribhai Patel spoke about Asha Bhosle's extraordinary contribution to Indian music and described her as one of the greatest voices of all time. He noted that her passing marked an irreplaceable loss for the music world and that the void created by her departure can never truly be filled.

Another member, Purnima Bhatt, shared an emotional tribute, saying that artists like Asha Bhosle never truly leave, as their voice and memories remain alive through their music. She added that Asha Ji's songs continue to resonate in the hearts of millions across generations.

The evening was filled with nostalgia as members sang memorable melodies that defined decades of Indian cinema. Participants celebrated not only Asha



Legendary songstress Asha Bhosle – 92 years young, the eternal Queen of Versatility, has passed into eternity.



Bhosle's unmatched versatility and expressive voice, but also the joy and emotion she brought to listeners around the world.

The tribute program concluded on a warm and reflective note, with attendees honoring a singer whose legacy continues to inspire music lovers everywhere.

Women's Cricket League celebrates 4th anniversary, launches inaugural tournament season in Hanover Park

By: Dr. Avi Verma

The Women's Cricket League (WCL), organized by B Sports Group, celebrated its 4th anniversary with a spirited community event at the Tennis Court of

the Hanover Park Park District — the same venue where the league first began in 2022.

The milestone celebration also marked the official launch of the league's inaugural tournament season, an important step in promoting women's cricket and advancing

inclusivity throughout the Chicagoland region. The event began with a cake-cutting ceremony, followed by an energetic practice session featuring the league's two founding teams: Chicago Blue, owned by Hina Trivedi, and Chicago Green, owned by Lubna Ejaz.

Several distinguished guests attended the celebration, including Hanover Park Park District Commissioner Grace Khan, Illinois State Representative Michelle Mussman, and Chairman Nauman Khan Azemi. Speakers praised B Sports Group for its four years of meaningful service to the community and recognized the Women's Cricket League as a symbol of empowerment, diversity, and the growing presence of multicultural sports in Illinois.

The league's first official tournament match is scheduled for June 27, 2026, when Chicago Blue and Chicago Green will face off in the much-anticipated opening game.

In preparation for the tournament, weekly trials and practice sessions will be held every weekend at Hanover Park Park District, inviting aspiring female cricketers from across the Chicago area to participate, develop their skills, and become part of the expanding cricket movement.

B Sports Group continues to focus on athletic excellence, community engagement, and inclusive sports opportunities through cricket and grassroots programming across the region. The Women's Cricket League remains its flagship initiative, helping create opportunities for the next generation of women athletes.





Breakthrough therapies are redefining blood cancer treatment-but caution remains

By: Dr. Avi Verma

A wave of cutting-edge research is reshaping how doctors treat blood cancers such as leukemia and lymphoma, offering new hope to patients once considered beyond the reach of conventional therapies. While viral claims on social media have amplified these developments as “miracle cures,” the scientific reality—though highly promising—is more nuanced.

At the forefront of this progress are advanced immunotherapies, particularly CAR T-cell therapy, which involves genetically reprogramming a patient’s own immune cells to identify and destroy cancerous blood cells. Institutions such as National Cancer Institute and Harvard Medical School have highlighted how these therapies can selectively target malignant cells while largely sparing healthy tissue—an important advantage over traditional chemotherapy.

Clinical studies published in journals including Nature Medicine report encouraging outcomes. In certain aggressive forms of leukemia and lymphoma, patients who had exhausted all standard treatments have achieved significant remission rates. Some cases



have even demonstrated long-term disease control, raising cautious optimism about the possibility of functional cures in select populations.

Beyond CAR T-cell therapy, researchers are developing next-generation approaches such as bispecific antibodies and treatments that activate alternative

cancer cell death pathways. These innovations aim to further refine precision targeting while improving patient safety and durability of response.

However, experts urge restraint in interpreting these advances. Despite impressive early results, these therapies are not universally effective. Outcomes

can vary widely depending on the type of cancer, stage of disease, and individual patient factors. Additionally, challenges such as high costs, limited accessibility, and potential side effects—including immune-related complications—remain significant barriers.

Importantly, many of these treatments are still undergoing clinical trials to determine their long-term safety and effectiveness. While they represent a major step forward in oncology, they do not yet constitute a universal cure for blood cancers.

The broader picture, however, is undeniably encouraging. Over the past decade, the rapid evolution of targeted therapies and immunotherapy has transformed survival prospects for many patients. What was once considered untreatable is, in some cases, becoming manageable—and occasionally, even reversible.

Disclaimer

This article is for informational purposes only and is based on currently available peer-reviewed medical knowledge. It does not constitute medical advice. Readers should consult qualified healthcare professionals for diagnosis or treatment of osteoporosis or any medical condition.



Personal finance insights: News & Features

Mini Feature CITs - COLLECTIVE INVESTMENT TRUSTS

● Dr. K C Gupta, YBB Personal Finance

CONTRARIAN INDICATORS

AAll Bull-Bear Spread +11.6% (above average)
 CNN Fear & Greed Index 66 (greed)
 NYSE %Above 50-dMA 60.57% (positive)
 SP500 %Above 50-dMA 52.80% (positive)

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 3.67%;
 T-Notes 2-yr 3.78%, 5-yr 3.92%, 10-yr 4.31%;
 T-Bonds 30-yr 4.91%;
 TIPS/Real yields 5-yr 1.31%, 10-yr 1.89%, 30-yr 2.65%
 FRNs Index 3.643%

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%
 TIAA MYGA 4.00% (3-yr), 4.20% (5-yr), 4.30% (7-yr) (NEW)
 TSP G Fund 4.375% (previous 4.000%)

India Fear & Greed MMI 63.18 (greed)
 Weekly ETFs: INDA -3.32%, INDY -3.63%, EPI -3.21%, INDH -2.89%, SPY +0.54%



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

ENERGY

Indian BARC has been researching thorium for nuclear power for years, but commercial breakthrough recently came from US Clean Core Thorium Energy (CCTE; Founder & CEP Mehul SHAH). It has designed thorium-based fuel, Advanced Nuclear Energy for Enriched Life (ANEEL), with 85% thorium & 15% enriched uranium, that is undergoing testing at the US DOE Idaho National Laboratory. Ironically, CCTE, with the approval of US DOE, will license this thorium technology to India under the new 2025 SHANTI Bill 2025 that has opened up some aspects of nuclear power to private companies.

Dr Anil KAKODKAR, the former Indian AEC Chairmen, the former BARC Head & the recipient of national Padma Vibhushan on 1/26/2009, is on the Advisory Board of private CCTE. People are asking questions - did BARC miss the commercial opportunity?

Fast breeder reactors (FBRs) provide a bridging technology between the current pressurized heavy-water (uranium) reactors (PHWRs) & future thorium reactors. India has abundant thorium. Recent successful FBR tests in India represented significant progress on this. Only Russia & India have this operational technology now.

US abandoned this technology because it had ample uranium supplies & plutonium that's used for FBRs can also be used for nuclear energy & nuclear bombs, so that's an additional risk for global nuclear proliferation. US Argonne National Lab (ANL) & Idaho National Lab (INL) were developing fast-breeder technology, & still have limited related R&D, but after the loss of primary federal funding, they moved into other areas to justify their existence.

SPECIAL TOPIC - CITs - COLLECTIVE INVESTMENT TRUSTS

Collective investment trusts (CITs) are unlisted, lower-cost funds that are loosely regulated by OCC (federal banking regulator) or states (state-chartered banks), not by SEC (securities regulator). So, their disclosure requirements are less stringent - but retirement plans have fiduciary duty in selecting them. Many firms' CITs are clones or cousins of their listed mutual funds/ OEFs. The CITs are available only in workplace retirement plans.

CITs don't have tickers that you could look up for quotes. However, daily NAVs can be found at CIT sponsor or company HR sites. If you use portfolio software, you will have to use tickers for comparable listed funds (OEFs, ETFs).

TDFs (target-date funds) with glide-path allocations exploded after they were allowed as default options in retirement plans. These can be TDF-OEFs (listed

or TDF-CITs (unlisted). Assets of TDF-CITs overtook those of TDF-OEFs in 06/2024.

For years, CITs were obscure, sleepy vehicles. But some recent changes in allowable options within retirement plans have put limelight on CITs.

SECURE 1.0 & 2.0 allowed LIFETIME INCOME under the framework of TDFs. Because SEC doesn't allow it in listed funds (OEFs, ETFs), fund firms & insurance & annuity companies have developed TDF-CITs to satisfy regulations & consumer demand.

For several years, DOL didn't allow ALTERNATIVES in retirement plans, but that was changed in 2025 through presidential executive orders (EOs). Alternatives include real estate, private-equity/ credit, gold, cryptos. SEC severely limits alternatives within listed funds (OEFs, ETFs), so the fund firms & specialized investment firms developed TDF-CITs that include alternatives.

So, suddenly, TDF-CITs aren't sleepy anymore. These newer features lead to higher cost (ER) & riskier CITs. And all this with lax regulation by banking regulator OCC or states. BlackRock, Fidelity, Transamerica, TIAA, Vanguard, etc offer such TDF-CITs.

The strongest complaints about these TDF-CITs are from smaller firms that handle only listed funds. SEC may also review the entire situation & allow some of these newer options under listed funds (OEFs, ETFs). Plan participants should be aware of these changes.

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



Everything you need to know about IUHS School of Medicine

● By: Dr. Avi Verma

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

2. Program Structure & Exams:

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

3. Assessments:

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

knowledge gaps.

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

4. Teaching methods:

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

5. Clinical rotations:

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



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

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

Key Features:

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

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

8. Question and Concept Sessions:

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

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

Key Features:

- ▶ Comprehensive Medical Curriculum Support – Covers

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

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

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

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

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

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

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Tiffany & Co. plunges into the deep with 'Sea of Wonder' high jewelry collection

Tiffany & Co. is exploring the depths of the sea in its latest high jewelry showcase, unveiling the 2025 Blue Book collection titled 'Sea of Wonder', a richly detailed tribute to the ocean's beauty, mystery, and movement. Designed by Nathalie Verdeille, the house's chief artistic officer of jewelry and high jewelry, the collection translates underwater landscapes into intricate, sculptural creations that feel both organic and meticulously engineered.

The designs draw inspiration from shifting tides, refracted light beneath the water, and marine life that glows with bioluminescence. Fluid forms mimic waves in motion, while

settings are crafted to capture the illusion of light rippling across the sea floor. The palette is anchored in vivid oceanic blues, complemented by Zambian emeralds, Mozambique rubies, and striking blue cuprian elbaite tourmalines, layered with Tiffany's signature diamonds for added brilliance and depth.

The collection also revisits the legacy of Jean Schlumberger, the house's legendary twentieth-century designer known for his ocean-inspired creations. Verdeille's interpretation carries that legacy forward with a modern, more immersive lens, positioning nature not just as reference but as architecture for design.

The result is a high jewelry collection that emphasizes craftsmanship, narrative, and scale, reinforcing Tiffany's continued push into thematic, art-driven luxury that blurs the line between nature and fine design.



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