



Weather Forecast

HYDERABAD	VIJAYAWADA	DELHI
TEMPERATURE	TEMPERATURE	TEMPERATURE
H 29° C L 16° C	H 30° C L 19° C	H 20° C L 10° C

PM Modi Tasks BJP Workers to "Expose" AAP Through Booth-Level Campaign

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, during the 'Mera Booth Sabse Majboot' program, called upon BJP booth-level workers to expose the shortcomings of the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) government in Delhi. Addressing workers across 13,000 booths, 70 assembly constituencies, and 256 mandals, he urged them to highlight civic issues by documenting poor conditions in their areas and sharing them with precise locations.

"You should take pictures of every street in your booth, make videos of areas with dirty water, broken drains, and garbage heaps, and share these with people," Modi instructed. The initiative is part of the BJP's strategy to connect with grassroots issues and emphasize the alleged failures of the AAP-led government in providing basic amenities.

The Prime Minister underlined the goal of forming a BJP government in Delhi to resolve the city's pressing problems, stating, "The resolution to make Delhi a developed capital of a developed India can only be fulfilled by freeing it from the troubles created by AAP."

Criticism of AAP and Congress

PM Modi sharply criticized both AAP and Congress for betraying the trust of Delhi's citizens during their respective tenures. Referring to the AAP as "two steps ahead of Congress in adopting destruc-



tive governance," he remarked, "Congress took decades to accumulate evils, but AAP inherited them within months and doubled them in nine years." Addressing the aspirations of Delhi's middle class, Modi lauded the BJP-led central government's contributions to infrastructure development. He highlighted initiatives like the expansion of the Metro network, national highways, and expressways, aimed at improving the ease of living and travel in the national capital.

"The middle class is the backbone of the economy, and the BJP has worked to meet their aspirations with modern facilities in education and health. In contrast, the AAP government has only burdened them with troubles and inefficiency," the Prime Minister added.

Call to Action for Booth Workers

Expressing confidence in the BJP organization's strength in Delhi, Modi encouraged workers to focus on grassroots efforts to secure a decisive victory. "With three to four generations of committed workers in every booth, I am confident that BJP will achieve massive success in the assembly elections," he said.

The Prime Minister's remarks come as Delhi prepares for a three-way electoral battle on February 5, with votes to be counted on February 8. The contest pits the ruling AAP against the BJP and Congress.

Arvind Kejriwal's Seven Demands for Middle-Class Relief

AAP Chief highlights tax burdens, asks Centre to address key concerns

TPN Correspondent |

New Delhi Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leader Arvind Kejriwal, in a strong appeal to the Centre, demanded substantial relief for the middle class, terming it "the government's ATM" and a victim of "tax terrorism." His statements come just two weeks before Delhi's February 5 elections. In a video message, Mr. Kejriwal criticized successive governments for neglecting the middle class while catering to vote banks based on caste, religion, or industrialist donations. He highlighted how the middle class shoulders massive tax burdens yet receives little in return, with over 50% of their income going to taxes.

Mr. Kejriwal emphasized that the middle class seeks basic aspirations like stable jobs, quality education, healthcare, and safety. Yet, high taxes and limited government support force young couples to reconsider family planning and even drive many to leave the country.

He outlined Delhi's achievements, citing increased education budgets, transformed public schools, and curbs on private school fee hikes. Additionally, he highlighted the success of mohalla clinics in middle-class neighborhoods and reduced utility bills.



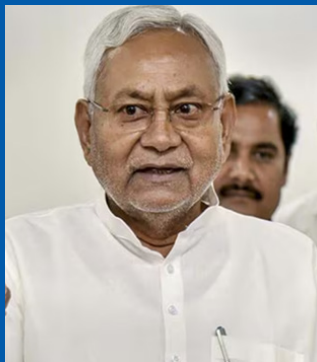
AAP's seven demands from the Union Budget include

1. A hike in education and health budgets.
2. A nationwide cap on private school fees.
3. Subsidies for higher education.
4. Tax removal on health insurance premiums.
5. Zero income tax on annual earnings up to ₹10 lakh.
6. GST exemption on essential commodities.
7. Free treatment, robust retirement plans, and 50% train fare concessions for senior citizens.

Calling the middle class the country's backbone, Mr. Kejriwal urged the government to prioritize their welfare in the upcoming Budget. AAP MPs, he assured, will raise these concerns in Parliament.

JDU Manipur Chief Pulls Support From BJP Govt In State, Party Sacks Him

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Traffic Restrictions Announced in Delhi for Republic Day Parade Rehearsal



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Maha Kumbh Mela 2025 CM Yogi Adityanath Took Holy Dip in Triveni Sangam

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Surge in Donations to Political Parties

Donations routed through electoral trusts following the ban on electoral bonds.

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi :

After the Supreme Court's landmark decision to scrap the electoral bonds scheme in February 2024, there has been a significant surge in donations to political parties through electoral trusts. The Prudent Electoral Trust, which received the largest share of contributions, directed most of its funds to the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), which emerged as the biggest beneficiary of this shift.

According to reports from the Election Commission of India (ECI), the Prudent Electoral Trust received a total of Rs 1,075.7 crore in the 2023-24 financial year, with a significant portion, Rs 797.1 crore, coming in after the Supreme Court's verdict. This marked a sharp rise in donations compared to the previous year, when the trust raised Rs 363.16 crore.

Key corporate donors to the Prudent Electoral Trust included ArcelorMittal Nippon (Rs 100 crore), DLF (Rs 99.5 crore), Maatha Projects (Rs 75 crore), Maruti Suzuki (Rs 60 crore), and CESC (Rs 60 crore). In total, the BJP received Rs 723.8 crore from the trust, while the Congress, Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS), and YSR Congress also benefited, receiving Rs 156.35 crore, Rs 85 crore, and Rs 72.5 crore, respectively.

Similarly, the Triumph Electoral Trust reported contributions totaling Rs 132.5 crore, with Rs 130 crore com-



ing in after the Supreme Court ruling. Major donors to the trust included Cholamandalam Investment (Rs 50 crore), CG Power Industrial (Rs 30 crore), and Coromandel International (Rs 25.5 crore). The trust allocated Rs 127.5 crore to the BJP, while Rs 5 crore went to the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK).

Jayabharat Electoral Trust Sees Donations for the First Time

Meanwhile, the Jayabharat Electoral Trust, which had no donations the previous year, reported Rs 9 crore in contributions, with funds allocated to various parties. The BJP received Rs 5 crore, DMK received Rs 3 crore, and the All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (AIADMK) received Rs 1 crore.

Six Feared Dead as Karnataka Express Runs Over Pushpak Express Passengers in Jalgaon

TPN Correspondent | Maharashtra

A tragic rail accident occurred in Maharashtra's Jalgaon district, leaving at least six people feared dead after passengers from the Pushpak Express were struck by the Karnataka Express. The incident happened near Badnera Junction station at approximately 4:19 pm on Wednesday.

The tragedy unfolded when passengers aboard the Pushpak Express, traveling from Lucknow to Mumbai, noticed sparks during braking and panicked, mistaking it for a fire. In a bid to escape the perceived danger, several passengers jumped onto the tracks, only to be struck by the incoming Karnataka Express.



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H-1B Visa: We Have To Have Quality People Coming In

President Trump on the importance of skilled foreign workers for US businesses.

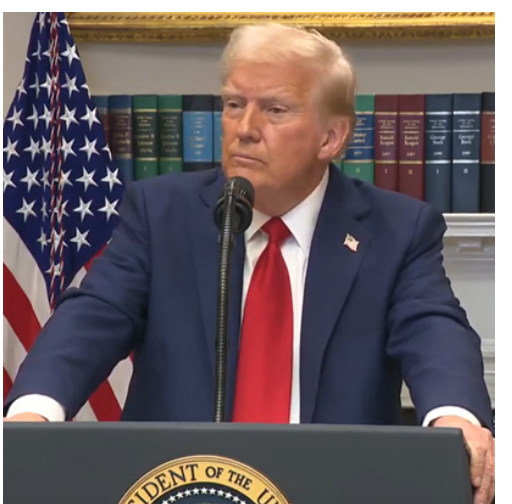
TPN Correspondent | Washington DC : US President Donald Trump weighed in on the ongoing debate over the H-1B visa program, which allows foreign workers to fill high-skilled positions in the US. Speaking at a joint news conference with notable business leaders including Oracle CTO Larry Ellison, SoftBank CEO Masayoshi Son, and OpenAI CEO Sam Altman, Trump reiterated his support for bringing "very competent people" into the country, noting that he himself has used the program.

"I like both sides of the argument, but I also like very competent people coming into our country," Trump told reporters. He emphasized that skilled workers, particularly in industries like technology, are crucial for expanding businesses and supporting innovation. While some of Trump's allies, such as Elon Musk, ad-

vocate for the H-1B visa to attract talented engineers, many of his supporters oppose it, arguing that it leads to job loss for American citizens. Trump, however, maintained that the need for skilled labor outweighs these concerns, stressing the value of highly qualified workers across various fields.

"We have to have quality people coming in," Trump added, referring to the essential role that foreign workers play in sectors ranging from engineering to hospitality. "People like Larry, he needs engineers; Masa also needs engineers. They need engineers like nobody's ever needed them."

Trump's comments reflect his broader stance on immigration, underscoring the importance of attracting skilled professionals to maintain US competitiveness in the global economy.



Justice Devendra Upadhyaya Sworn In as Chief Justice of Delhi High Court



TPN Correspondent | New Delhi
Justice Devendra Kumar Upadhyaya was sworn in as the Chief Justice of the Delhi High Court today in a ceremony held at Raj Niwas, Civil Lines. The oath was administered by Delhi's Lieutenant Governor in the presence of Chief Minister Atishi, senior government officials, legal professionals, and sitting judges of the Delhi High Court. Justice Upadhyaya's appointment follows a notification from the Central Government, issued through the Ministry of Law and Justice, confirming his transfer

from the Bombay High Court. He succeeds Justice Vibhu Bakhru, who served as acting Chief Justice.
• **Justice Devendra Kumar Upadhyaya takes charge as the Chief Justice of the Delhi High Court.**
• **His transfer from the Bombay High Court was recommended by the Supreme Court Collegium in January.**
• **Justice Upadhyaya succeeds Justice Vibhu Bakhru, the acting Chief Justice.**
Justice Upadhyaya, a graduate of Lucknow University, began his

legal career in 1991, specializing in civil and constitutional law at the Allahabad High Court. Appointed as an additional judge in 2011, he became a permanent judge in 2013 and was elevated to Chief Justice of the Bombay High Court in July 2023. His transfer to the Delhi High Court was confirmed by the President of India following the Supreme Court Collegium's recommendation. Justice Upadhyaya's extensive judicial experience and distinguished career make him a notable addition to the Delhi High Court.

"Needs To End Now...": Court to Police on Bail Pleas of Umar Khalid, Sharjeel Imam

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

The Delhi High Court on Tuesday emphasized the need to conclude the prolonged bail hearing of Umar Khalid, Sharjeel Imam, and others accused of masterminding the February 2020 riots. The violence, which erupted during protests against the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) and National Register of Citizens (NRC), left 53 dead and several injured.

A bench of Justices Navin Chawla and Shalinder Kaur directed the police to specify the roles of each accused in the alleged conspiracy behind the riots. "This has to end. This can't go on like this. We can't give you endless time," the court told the police counsel.

Special Public Prosecutor Amit Prasad reiterated allegations

that Sharjeel Imam and others delivered inflammatory speeches, including Imam's call for a "chakka jam" and references to "cutting the chicken neck" to block access to Assam. He argued these speeches undermined the sovereignty of the country and were part of a premeditated plan. Prasad also alleged that Shaheen Bagh protests were orchestrated by Imam despite resistance from locals, and the February 2020 violence unfolded as per their planned strategy. Evidence, including witness statements and communications from WhatsApp groups, suggested the protests were not organic. The accused have challenged



the trial court's denial of bail, citing prolonged incarceration and parity with co-accused who were granted bail. Khalid, in particular, approached the High Court in 2024 after his initial plea was dismissed in October 2022.

The police claimed that the accused used women for stone pelting, managed protest sites strategically, and incited violence, resulting in the registration of 751 FIRs. The hearing has been adjourned to February 12 for further arguments.

Traffic Restrictions Announced in Delhi for Republic Day Parade Rehearsal



TPN Correspondent | New Delhi
Delhi Police has issued a traffic advisory cautioning commuters about disruptions in vehicular movement in central Delhi on Thursday due to the full dress rehearsal for the Republic Day parade. Travelers are urged to plan their journeys accordingly and avoid the parade route between 9:30 am and 1:00 pm. The rehearsal will commence at 10:30 am from Vijay Chowk and proceed to Red Fort via Kartavyapath, C-Hexagon, Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose round-

about, Tilak Marg, Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg, and Netaji Subhas Marg. Extensive traffic arrangements and restrictions will be in place along the route to ensure smooth conduct of the rehearsal. Key road restrictions include:

- **No traffic on Kartavyapath from Vijay Chowk to India Gate till Thursday.**
- **No cross-traffic on Kartavyapath at Rafi Marg, Janpath, and Man Singh Road.**
- **C-Hexagon-India Gate will remain closed from 9:15 am**

Thursday until the parade crosses Tilak Marg.

- **Traffic will be restricted on Tilak Marg, Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg, and Netaji Subhas Marg from 10:30 am Thursday.**

Flying of aerial platforms, including drones, paragliders, and hot air balloons, is prohibited over Delhi until February 1. Motorists are requested to follow traffic rules and report any suspicious activity or objects to nearby police personnel.

Karnataka Express Runs Over Pushpak Express Passengers in Jalgaon

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- **At least six fatalities reported as passengers jumped onto tracks to escape suspected fire.**
- **Incident occurred at Badnera Junction station at 4:19 pm.**
- **Pushpak Express was en route from Lucknow to Mumbai.**

Emergency services were rushed to the scene, and railway authorities have initiated an investigation into the incident. Officials are working to identify the victims and provide support to affected families.

This incident underscores the importance of proper communication during emergencies on trains to prevent panic and ensure passenger safety.

Delhi Election 2025

Broken Roads, Yamuna Cleaning Issues, And Growing Discontent

Delhi Public to Shifts Away from AAP This Time?



TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

As the Delhi Election 2025 approaches, growing discontent among residents is reshaping the political landscape. While

some voters prioritize issues like the cleaning of the Yamuna, sanitation, and security, others highlight the lack of progress over the past decade. Despite Chief Minister Arvind

Kejriwal's claims of improvement, his government faces mounting criticism for failing to deliver on key promises such as the cleaning of the Yamuna River.

A significant portion of the electorate expresses frustration over the lack of visible change in the city's development, especially concerning infrastructure like broken roads. Despite the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) focusing on education, employment, and healthcare, which has garnered support from some voters, many are beginning to turn towards the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in hopes of seeing a shift in leadership and governance.

The BJP has seized upon widespread concerns about corruption, ineffective leadership, and unfulfilled promises, positioning itself as a viable alternative for voters seeking a change. As election day draws closer, the electorate's evolving preferences suggest a potential shift in Delhi's political alignment.

Warmer Days for Delhi as Winter Chill Temporarily Eases



TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

Delhi and parts of North India experienced a sudden rise in temperatures, with the city recording a minimum of 9.3°C on Wednesday, which is 1.8°C above the seasonal average. The increase in temperature is attributed to a strong western disturbance and southerly winds reaching the region.

Dr. Soma Sen Roy, a scientist at the India Meteorological Department (IMD), explained the phenomenon, stating, "This morning, Delhi's minimum

temperature was around 12°C due to a strong western disturbance and the arrival of southerly winds. Temperatures in north India will rise by 1-2°C, though no significant further increase is expected in Delhi."

- **Delhi's minimum temperature recorded at 9.3°C; maximum reached 24°C.**

• **A western disturbance and southerly winds caused the temperature rise.**

• **Rain predicted in Delhi-NCR, Punjab, Haryana, and Rajasthan on January 23.** The IMD also forecasts rain

for Delhi-NCR, Punjab, Haryana, Western Uttar Pradesh, and North Rajasthan today and tomorrow, as the western disturbance progresses. However, temperatures in Delhi may dip slightly from January 24 onwards as the disturbance moves away.

Despite the warmth, air quality in Delhi remained in the 'poor' category, with an Air Quality Index (AQI) of 262 at 9 AM, according to the Central Pollution Control Board. The maximum temperature is expected to hover around 24°C.

January has already seen record-breaking warmth, with Delhi clocking its warmest January day in six years on January 19, when the maximum temperature reached 26.1°C. The last higher January maximum temperature was on January 21, 2019, at 28.7°C. Meanwhile, dense fog conditions persist in states like Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, Bengal, and Odisha.

Chinese CCTV Cameras' Spark Row Between AAP and BJP in Delhi Polls

Parvesh Verma accuses AAP of misusing Punjab's resources; Mann demands apology



TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

The ongoing Delhi Assembly election campaign has sparked a fresh controversy, with BJP leader Parvesh Verma accusing AAP chief Arvind Kejriwal of misusing Punjab government resources and installing Chinese CCTV cameras in Delhi's slums. Verma claimed that the cameras, allegedly set up in haste, pose a security risk.

The BJP candidate from New Delhi alleged that vehicles with Punjab registration are being used to transport materials for AAP's campaign. He also urged the Election Commission to investigate the purported misuse of Punjab's official machinery. Highlights:

- **BJP alleges misuse of Punjab government vehicles and materials in Delhi polls.**
- **Verma claims Chinese CCTV**

cameras in slums are a security threat.

• **Punjab CM Mann calls Verma's remarks "insulting" and demands an apology. Verma also accused the Punjab government's employees of masquerading as AAP workers in Delhi, citing the arrest of two teachers from Amritsar.**

Reacting strongly, Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann said Verma's comments insult Punjab and demanded an apology from Union Home Minister Amit Shah. Mann pointed out that vehicles from any state are free to operate across the country, dismissing the allegations as baseless.

"Amit Shahji, you can't secure the country's borders or Delhi. Thousands of Bangladeshis and Rohingyas enter the country, yet you're labeling Punjab as a threat. You owe

an apology to Punjabis," Mann said on X.

Kejriwal echoed Mann's sentiments, accusing BJP of disrespecting the sacrifices of Punjabis, including refugees who settled in Delhi after partition. "BJP's statements insult the martyrs and sacrifices of Punjabis," Kejriwal said in a post. With the Delhi Assembly polls set for February 5 and results on February 8, the clash over governance and campaign strategies has added fuel to the heated contest.

Version X
BJP's Parvesh Verma accuses AAP of using Punjab resources in Delhi polls and raising security risks with Chinese CCTV cameras. Punjab CM Mann demands apology, calls remarks "insulting to Punjabis." Polls on Feb 5. #DelhiElections2025

Delhi Polls Sees Most Number of Candidates On Arvind Kejriwal's Seat



TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

Delhi is set to vote in a single-phase assembly election on February 5, with the counting of votes scheduled for February 8. A total of 719 candidates will be vying for 70 seats in the Delhi Assembly, with the New Delhi constituency seeing the most intense contest,

featuring 23 candidates.

- **719 candidates will contest the 70 Delhi Assembly seats.**
- **New Delhi constituency sees the highest number of candidates—23.**
- **Kejriwal faces BJP's Parvesh Verma and Congress' Sandeep Dikshit.**

Among the 719 candidates who made it past scrutiny, Arvind Kejriwal, the current Delhi Chief Minister and AAP leader, will be defending his seat against tough competition from Parvesh Verma, son of former Delhi CM Sahib Singh Verma, and Sandeep Dikshit, son of Sheila Dikshit. The high-profile contest in New Delhi underscores the growing political stakes in the capital. While New Delhi has the highest number of candidates, Patel Nagar and Kasturba Nagar have the fewest, with only 5 candidates each. The election battle has grown increasingly heated, with AAP, BJP, and Congress accusing each other of corruption and mismanagement, heightening the drama as voting day approaches.

AAP, BJP, Congress Offer Cash Transfers, Chase 'Women Power' in Delhi Poll

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

With the Delhi Assembly elections just around the corner, all eyes are on the growing influence of women voters. On February 5, voters, including women, men, and non-binary individuals, will cast their ballots, and the results will be revealed three days later on February 8. This election sees the three major political parties—Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), and Congress—intensifying their efforts to secure the support of women voters, a group that has been the focal point of recent electoral strategies.

Women voters have become a critical factor in elections, with their votes contributing significantly to the results in states like Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh, where welfare schemes targeting women helped political parties secure strong victories. In Delhi, women make up over 46% of the electorate, with around 71 lakh women registered to vote, and this number continues to grow.

Recognizing the significance of this demographic, all three parties have introduced various women-centric schemes and financial incentives. The AAP was the first to announce a Rs 2,100 monthly cash transfer to women voters. This followed the BJP and Congress, who introduced their own promises, with both parties offering Rs 2,500 per month.

AAP's Women-Centric Prom-



ises The ruling AAP, led by Arvind Kejriwal, was quick to unveil its plans for women voters. Kejriwal, who is currently facing corruption charges, promised Rs 2,100 per month in cash transfers to women if they voted for his party. This amount is an increase from the previous Rs 1,000 scheme, which was already in place. Additionally, Kejriwal promised to continue and expand the "free travel for women" initiative in state-run buses, which will now extend to female students. A 50% discount on Metro fares for women was also announced as part of the party's proposal.

Congress' 'Pyari Didi' Scheme Not to be outdone, the Congress party introduced its own women-focused welfare program. The party promised Rs 2,500 per month to women and announced that every woman would receive a "ration kit" every month. This kit would include essential items such as rice, sugar, cooking oil, grains, and tea leaves to

help offset the rising cost of living. This initiative follows the success of the Congress' "Gruha Lakshmi" scheme in Karnataka, which saw women receiving Rs 2,000 per month and played a pivotal role in the party's victory in the 2023 state elections.

BJP's Support for Pregnant Women The BJP, led by JP Nadda, is targeting pregnant women with a special welfare initiative. The party promised a one-time payment of Rs 21,000 to pregnant women, along with additional amounts for the first and second child. In addition, the BJP proposed Rs 2,500 per month for women. This focus on pregnant women is part of the BJP's broader strategy to appeal to women voters by addressing their health and financial concerns. As Delhi heads to the polls, the outcome of this election could depend largely on the decisions of women voters, whose increasing registration and interest in the election signal their growing political power.

Haryana CM Urges Delhi to drive away AAP to far side of Yamuna

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini has called on the people of Delhi to reject the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) and push them "to the other bank of the Yamuna." Speaking at a public meeting in Rajinder Nagar, Saini slammed the Arvind Kejriwal-led party for failing to fulfill its promises and delivering subpar governance.

Saini criticized Kejriwal's promises of improving the lives of Delhi's poor, alleging that instead of fulfilling key promises, AAP has opened liquor shops in every lane and failed to address the water crisis. He highlighted that the

roads in Delhi remain in poor condition and that the AAP government had not implemented the Centre's Ayushman Bharat Health Scheme, depriving the poor of benefits.



• **Haryana CM urges Delhi to oust AAP and send them "to the far side of the Yamuna."**

• **Criticized Kejriwal for failing to deliver on promises such as quality healthcare, water, and infrastructure.**

• **Alleged that AAP has opened liquor shops instead of addressing public needs.**

Saini also took a jibe at Kejriwal, who is currently out on bail in connection with the Delhi liquor policy case, saying the AAP leader would "return to jail" after the election results are declared. The Delhi Assembly elections are set to be held on February 5, with results scheduled for February 8. Saini urged voters to ensure the BJP's victory by voting for the "lotus" symbol and teaching AAP a lesson for their alleged failures.

Congress Accuses AAP of ₹382 Crore Scam in Healthcare Sector



TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

Congress leader Ajay Maken on Wednesday alleged that the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) government in Delhi had committed a massive corruption scam worth ₹382 crore in the healthcare sector. Maken made these allegations during a press con-

ference, citing multiple reports from the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG).

Maken accused the AAP government of misleading the public, stating that although the party had promised timely completion of projects while saving money, CAG reports revealed serious corruption. He highlighted that only three new hospitals had been constructed in the past 10 years, all of which were initiated during the Congress government's tenure.

Maken also pointed out that the construction of Indira Gandhi Hospital, Burari Hospital, and Maulana Azad Den-

tal Hospital faced significant delays—ranging from three to five years—and incurred additional costs. He emphasized that the CAG report noted ₹382.52 crore had been spent over and above the tendered amount for these projects.

Additionally, Maken referred to the acquisition of 15 plots by the Delhi government between 2007 and 2015, where no work had commenced. Furthermore, he revealed that ₹2,623 crore allocated for infrastructure projects between 2016-17 and 2021-22 had lapsed, suggesting poor financial management under the AAP government.

Sanjay Singh Alleges BJP Plans to Privatize Education in Delhi

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

AAP leader Sanjay Singh has strongly criticized the BJP's recently released "Manifesto 2.0" for Delhi, accusing the party of planning to privatize the education sector. He argued that such policies would force people to pay for education, contrasting it with the AAP government's model of free education for all. Singh remarked that the BJP's approach could weaken public education by prioritizing private schools, increasing their

dominance while reducing the quality and reach of government-run institutions.

Singh emphasized that education is a fundamental right



and should not be treated as a commodity. He lauded the AAP's investment in upgrading Delhi's government schools, which has been widely recognized for setting high standards in public education.

He further stated that privatizing education would create financial barriers, excluding economically disadvantaged groups and deepening societal inequalities.

The BJP is yet to respond to the allegations.

Illegal Migrants In Millions...": Vice President Flags "Demographic Disruption" Concerns

Calls for urgent action against illegal migration and demographic instability



TPN Correspondent | Raipur
Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar raised serious concerns on Tuesday about the impact of illegal migration on India's resources and national stability, calling it a "demographic disruption" that threatens nationalism. Speaking at an interaction with students on "Ideas for Building Better Bharat," he emphasized the need for united efforts to address the issue, which he described as having reached "unmanageable dimensions."
Addressing students from NIT Raipur, IIM Raipur, and IIT Bhilai at the Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay Auditorium, Dhankhar said, "We are suffering illegal migration in this country of millions. If we count the numbers, it's mind-boggling. Illegal migration strains our resources, employment, health, and education sectors and must be dealt with urgently."
• Vice President Dhankhar raised concerns about illegal migrants disrupting India's demographic balance.
• Stressed the urgency of addressing illegal migration, citing its adverse

impact on resources and electoral mechanisms.
• Advocated for a Uniform Civil Code (UCC), calling it a constitutional obligation.
Dhankhar highlighted the orchestrated conversions through allurements and temptations aimed at altering the nation's organic demography. "Organic demographic evolution is soothing and harmonious. But demographic explosion destabilizing democracy is a serious matter. We must address this concern collectively," he said.
The Vice President also supported the implementation of the Uniform Civil Code, describing it as a constitutional directive and lauding Uttarakhand for taking steps in this direction. "How can anyone object to something enshrined in the Constitution? Framers of the Constitution envisioned this as democracy matured," he said.
Referring to the strain caused by illegal migration, Dhankhar warned about its potential to disrupt the electoral process. "Illegal migrants in millions have the potential to upset electoral mechanisms. They find easy

supporters among those prioritizing petty politics over national interest," he remarked.
He also called for respecting the Constitution's separation of powers and urged institutions to function within their defined roles. "Legislatures, executives, and judiciary must respect each other's territories for effective governance," he said.
Commenting on public order and vandalism, he condemned the destruction of public property and urged strict measures to address such incidents. "In a country of 1.4 billion with our civilizational ethos, how can we tolerate challenges to public order and destruction of property like storming Vande Bharat trains?" he questioned.
Governor Ramen Deka and Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai were present at the event, which emphasized the role of youth in shaping a better future for India. Dhankhar encouraged students to demand accountability from public representatives and strive for quality politics.

Maha Kumbh Mela 2025

CM Yogi Adityanath Took Holy Dip in Triveni Sangam

TPN Correspondent | Prayagraj

On Wednesday, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, accompanied by his cabinet ministers, embarked on a special boat to take a holy dip in the Triveni Sangam during the ongoing Mahakumbh 2025. The group traveled from the Arail VIP Ghat to the Sangam by motorboats before performing the worship rituals and taking the dip in the sacred confluence of the Ganga, Yamuna, and the mythical Saraswati rivers.
The cabinet meeting was initially planned at the Mela Authority Auditorium but was shifted to the Triveni Sankul in Arail to avoid inconvenience to pilgrims due to VIP security concerns. During the meeting, CM Yogi highlighted plans for



the sustainable development of Prayagraj and surrounding areas, with a focus on enhancing infrastructure. He mentioned the extension of the Ganga Expressway, which will connect various districts, including Mirzapur, Bhadohi, Kashi, Chandauli, and Ghazipur, and link up with the Purvanchal Expressway.

In a symbolic gesture, CM Yogi and his ministers will be taking their second ceremonial dip at the Sangam, a tradition they had followed during the 2019 Kumbh Mela as well. This spiritual event is part of the larger Mahakumbh festivities that have drawn millions of devotees to Prayagraj.

No Bail For Tahir Hussain, Ex-AAP Leader And Delhi Riots Case Accused

Supreme Court denies interim bail for Tahir Hussain, who sought release to campaign in Delhi Assembly elections.



TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

In a significant legal development, the Supreme Court has rejected the interim bail plea of Tahir Hussain, the former Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leader and a key figure accused in the 2020 Delhi riots. Hussain, now a member of Asaduddin Owaisi's All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen (AIMIM), had sought temporary release to campaign for the Delhi Assembly elections scheduled for next month.

• Supreme Court denies interim bail to Tahir Hussain for election campaigning.
• Delhi Police criticized for

slow progress in investigation and trial.

• Justice Mithal stresses Hussain's involvement in serious cases diminishes his bail eligibility.

The bench, comprising Justice Ahsanuddin Amanullah and Justice Pankaj Mithal, delivered a split verdict on the matter. Justice Amanullah expressed concerns about the lack of progress in the investigation, criticizing Delhi Police for failing to examine key witnesses in the five years since the charges were brought. He pointed out that despite the serious charges against Hussain, including his alleged role in

the murder of Intelligence Bureau officer Ankit Sharma, the trial had not progressed sufficiently, with only a handful of witnesses being questioned. However, Justice Mithal disagreed, emphasizing that Hussain's involvement in multiple serious cases, including the Delhi riots, weakened his claim to be granted bail. Justice Mithal argued that allowing him to be released for campaigning purposes could set a dangerous precedent for other prisoners seeking similar reliefs for political reasons. In the hearing, Hussain's counsel argued that the police's failure to complete the investigation and frame charges in the UAPA case against him had led to prolonged detention. Hussain has been an undertrial for five years, and his lawyer sought a brief 15-day bail to enable him to campaign for the upcoming election. Despite the compelling arguments from Hussain's legal team, the Supreme Court ultimately denied the bail plea, with the matter set to be taken up by a larger bench for further hearings.

India Faces Internal Threats, Not External Ones: Farooq Abdullah



TPN Correspondent | Jammu
Dr. Farooq Abdullah, President of the Jammu and Kashmir National Conference, stated that India faces its greatest threats from within, not from external forces. Speaking at the National Conference headquarters in Jammu, he emphasized the need for unity and the rejection of divisive narratives to secure the nation's future.
"The country demands sacrifice even today to save itself. India does not face a threat from outside but from within. To make the nation strong, we must empower ourselves, our brothers, and our sisters," said Dr. Abdullah.

He criticized the divisive propaganda that portrays Hindus as being under threat, calling it a tactic to instill fear. "Eighty percent of the population here is Hindu. So, where is the threat? It is everyone's duty to dismantle this falsehood," he added.

• India's internal divisions pose a greater threat than external forces, says Abdullah.
• Criticizes divisive propaganda and emphasizes unity among diverse communities.
• Highlights economic challenges and loss of local rights post-Article 370 abrogation. Reflecting on past misinformation, Dr. Abdullah cited examples of divisive propaganda

during his tenure as Chief Minister, including false claims about the settlement of individuals from Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK).
Discussing the abrogation of Article 370, he argued that it was not a provision exclusive to Kashmiris but one aimed at protecting local communities from economic domination. He highlighted subsequent challenges such as the loss of local jobs and land rights.
Dr. Abdullah also addressed accusations questioning his patriotism, asserting, "I am a Muslim, and I am an Indian Muslim. This propaganda persists, but we have always faced it with integrity." Calling for internal unity within the party and the nation, he urged leaders to prioritize honesty, justice, and inclusivity. He also stressed the importance of gender equality and called for the swift implementation of reservations for women in Parliament.
Dr. Abdullah concluded, "India's strength lies in its diversity. This nation can only progress when all communities are united and share in its happiness and prosperity."

Jharkhand IAS Officer's Suspension Revoked After Bail In Laundering Case

Pooja Singhal reinstated after spending over two years in jail for alleged corruption under MGNREGA scheme.

TPN Correspondent | Ranchi

The suspension of Jharkhand IAS officer Pooja Singhal, who had been jailed for over two years in a money laundering case, has been revoked following her release on bail. Singhal, a former secretary in the state's Mines Department, was arrested by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) on May 12, 2022, in

connection with an alleged corruption case related to the implementation of the MGNREGA scheme. A notification issued by the Jharkhand government on Tuesday confirmed that Singhal's suspension, which had been in effect since her arrest, was lifted after the Suspension Review Committee's recommendations. Singhal was reinstated to her position

with effect from December 7, 2024, after securing bail. The ED had accused Singhal of money laundering in the case, and a special court granted her bail on December 7, 2024. Following her reinstatement, Singhal will resume her duties in the Department of Personnel, Administrative Reforms, and Raj Bhasa.



Trump Administration Prioritizes India, 1st Meetings With S Jaishankar

Signaling a strengthened India-US strategic partnership

TPN Correspondent | Washington DC
 In a significant move underscoring the importance of US-India relations, the new Trump administration began its diplomatic outreach by hosting India's External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar for key meetings. Dr. Jaishankar, in Washington at the invitation of the US government for President Donald Trump's inauguration, met with Secretary of State Marco Rubio and National Security Adviser Mike Walz on their first day in office. The first bilateral meeting of Secretary Rubio with Dr. Jaishankar held at the Foggy Bottom headquarters of the US State Department highlighted the evolving strategic partnership between the world's largest and oldest democracies. The discussions, attended by India's Ambassador to the

US, Vinay Kwatra, covered regional and global issues and emphasized advancing cooperation.

- **US Secretary of State Marco Rubio's first bilateral meeting was with India's S Jaishankar.**

- **The Quad's maiden meeting under the Trump administration emphasized a free and open Indo-Pacific.**

- **Dr. Jaishankar held key discussions with NSA Mike Walz and attended President Trump's inauguration.**

Following the bilateral meeting, Secretary Rubio and Dr. Jaishankar

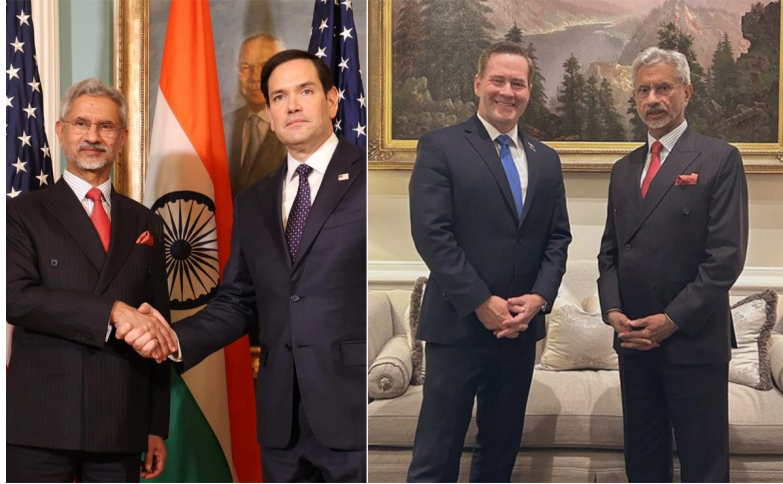
addressed the international press, showcasing the collaboration between the two nations. Dr. Jaishankar later shared on X: "Reviewed our extensive bilateral partnership, of

which @secrubio has been a strong advocate. Look forward to closely working with him to advance our strategic cooperation."

The day also saw the inaugural Quad meeting under the Trump administration. Dr. Jaishankar joined Australian Foreign Minister Penny Wong, Japanese Foreign Minister Takeshi Iwaya, and Secretary Rubio to deliberate on ensuring stability and prosperity in the Indo-Pacific region. Describing the discussions as productive, Dr. Jaishankar remarked, "Significant that the Quad FMM took place within hours of the inau-

guration... Our wide-ranging discussions addressed different dimensions of ensuring a free, open, stable and prosperous Indo-Pacific."

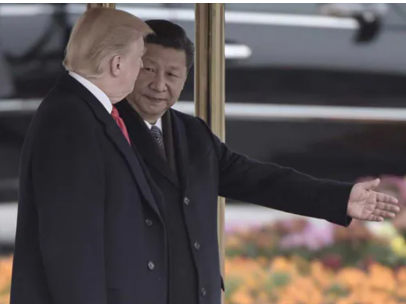
Dr. Jaishankar's day concluded with a meeting at the White House with NSA Mike Walz, marking Walz's first international engagement since assuming office. The discussions focused on bolstering ties to enhance global stability and prosperity. The visit also included Dr. Jaishankar's participation in President Trump's inaugural address at the Capitol Rotunda, where he described his presence as a "great honor" and held talks with key members of the administration, including Speaker Mike Johnson and Senate Majority Leader John Thune.



China Vows to Protect "National Interest" Against Trump's 10% Tariff Threat

TPN Correspondent | Beijing
 China has strongly responded to US President Donald Trump's threat of imposing a 10% tariff on Chinese imports, vowing to protect its "national interests." The tariff, which Trump has indicated could be enforced by February 1st, is linked to allegations of fentanyl being trafficked from China to the US via Mexico and Canada. China's foreign ministry issued a statement on Wednesday, asserting that the country was prepared to defend its interests while also expressing a willingness to engage in dialogue with the US. "We are willing to maintain communication with the US, properly handle differences, expand mutually beneficial cooperation,

and promote the stable, healthy, and sustainable development of China-US relations," said spokesperson Mao Ning.



China has consistently maintained that trade wars and tariff disputes benefit no one, warning against escalating tensions. This response comes after Trump reignited tariff

discussions on Tuesday, saying his administration is considering the punitive 10% duty as part of broader efforts to curb illegal drug trafficking and immigration. The timing of the tariffs, according to Trump, could coincide with the proposed 25% duties on Canada and Mexico, also set to take effect on February 1st. China's economy remains heavily reliant on exports, and the US is one of its largest trading partners. The trade tensions between the two nations have persisted throughout Trump's presidency and continue under President Biden, who has also introduced policies restricting Chinese access to advanced technologies.

India Mulls Lower Tariffs, More Imports to Counter Trump's Trade Threats

India considers trade strategies to address US President Trump's potential actions on trade surplus and tariffs.

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

India's government is actively considering a range of measures to counter potential trade actions by US President Donald Trump aimed at narrowing India's trade surplus with the United States. As India's largest trading partner, the US had a trade surplus of \$35.3 billion with India for the year ending March 31, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

In response to Trump's threats of increased tariffs and other trade restrictions, officials in the Narendra Modi-led administration have drawn up various scenarios. Among these options, India is weighing the possibility of reducing tariffs, striking a trade deal, and increasing imports of goods from the US. Some specific goods being considered for additional imports include whiskey, steel, and oil.

One proposal under discussion involves reducing duties on products that are politically significant to the Republican Party, such as bourbon whiskey and farm goods like pecan



nuts. This approach aims to balance trade relations while maintaining diplomatic goodwill with the Trump administration. Additionally, India is looking at the potential benefits of a limited trade deal with the US, which would include reductions in "most-favored nation" tariffs imposed on countries without a bilateral trade agreement with India. Previous efforts to reach such a deal during Trump's first term were unsuccessful.

India's broader strategy also includes benefiting from the ongoing US-China trade tensions, with some sectors ex-

pected to gain from potential US tariffs on Chinese products. Officials are evaluating key areas where Indian exports could increase, including electronics, high-tech machinery, textiles, footwear, and chemicals.

Furthermore, India anticipates pressure from the new US administration on issues related to data regulations, intellectual property, and e-commerce. India is also considering buying additional goods from the US in sectors like soybean, dairy, vehicles, medical instruments, and aircrafts, as part of efforts to appease the Trump administration.

'Boss Sahab': Fijian Premier Praises PM Modi

Fiji's Prime Minister lauds Modi as an icon for peace and global development.



TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

Fiji Prime Minister Sitiveni Ligamamada Rabuka has lavished praise on Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, calling him the "real boss" of the world and a top global leader. Rabuka made these remarks during a meeting with Rajya Sabha member Satnam Singh Sandhu and Indian Minorities Federation (IMF) Co-Founder Himani Sood in Fiji on Wednesday. Rabuka highlighted Modi's

governance model of 'Sabka Saath Sabka Vikas' (Together with all, development for all), lauding it as a great approach for inclusive development. He expressed that this model should be adopted globally to improve the world. "Sabka Saath Sabka Vikas is a great governance model which ensures inclusive development for all. I think the world should adopt it to make it a better place to live," Rabuka said.

The Fijian Prime Minister also congratulated Modi on his re-election, emphasizing that Fiji remains committed to the journey of peace and development. He noted that Modi has become an icon for peace and a source of inspiration for Hindus around the world.

"Having the confidence of

those in India is a big number," Rabuka remarked. "The oneness in that journey of Hindus in the world will eventually translate into oneness in the peoples of the world."

In addition to the praise, a 21-member international delegation from 10 countries, including Fiji, is currently visiting Prayagraj for the Maha Kumbh. The group consists of representatives from Fiji, Finland, Guyana, Malaysia, Mauritius, Singapore, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Trinidad and Tobago, and the UAE.

Earlier in 2023, Modi had met Rabuka during his visit to Fiji, where he was honored with the Companion of the Order of Fiji (CF), the highest honor of the Republic of Fiji.

Chaudhry and Sana Amjad, back online after kidnap, torture, 'Will not bow down'

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

Pakistani YouTubers Sohaib Chaudhry and Sana Amjad have reappeared after being missing for over three weeks, alleging abduction and torture by members of a political group. Both vowed to continue their work despite threats against their lives.

In their first public appearances since their return, the duo claimed they were targeted due to their content, which often highlights comparisons between India and Pakistan and advocates peaceful relations. Sohaib Chaudhry shared his traumatic ordeal, stating that armed men entered his



home, kidnapped him, and pressured him to stop creating content.

Chaudhry, in a video shared after his return, issued a defiant statement, saying, "Sohaib Chaudhry was not afraid. He is not; he will never be. I'll expose those harming Pakistan while staying within the law." He hinted at releasing evidence of his ordeal, stating, "I don't know if I can upload another

video. But if I can, I'll strip Pakistan's enemies naked."

Sana Amjad also detailed her harrowing experience, revealing that her family was victimized in an attempt to silence her. Despite the trauma, Amjad reaffirmed her commitment to continue creating content.

"In 1947, two countries got their independence. One progressed while the other did not. Who will take that country forward? All of us have to take that responsibility," Amjad said in her statement. She added, "I don't know if I will be able to upload another video. But Sana Amjad will not bow down."

Did Gurpatwant Singh Pannun attend Trump inauguration?

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

In a controversial development, Gurpatwant Singh Pannun, a prominent Khalistani separatist and advocate for an independent Sikh state, was reportedly seen chanting "Khalistan Zindabad" during Donald Trump's inauguration on January 20. The incident, which took place at The Liberty Ball, has raised questions about his presence at such a high-profile event.

Pannun, a US-based lawyer with dual citizenship in the United States and Canada, attended the event through what reports claim was a ticket purchased by a friend. A video circulating on social media shows Pannun chanting pro-Khalistani slogans while others cheered for President Trump and First Lady Melania Trump as they greeted the audience.

- **Gurpatwant Singh Pannun reportedly attended Donald Trump's inaugural ball on January 20.**

- **Video footage shows him chanting "Khalistan Zindabad" amidst pro-US cheers.**

- **Reports suggest he gained access to the event through a ticket bought by a friend.**



The authenticity of the video, shared by media outlets such as Times of India, could not be independently verified. However, it has sparked reactions due to Pannun's controversial background. Pannun is the founder of Sikhs for Justice

(SFJ), a group banned in India under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) for its pro-Khalistani activities.

The separatist leader has been known for his anti-India rhetoric, including issuing threats against Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Pannun's activities have long been a

subject of international concern, with his group advocating for the secession of Punjab from India.

The video allegedly captures the moment at The Liberty Ball, one of three official inaugural events following Donald Trump's

swearing-in as the 47th President of the United States. As the crowd chanted "USA! USA!" Pannun's chant of "Khalistan Zindabad" stood out, drawing attention to his presence at the high-security event.

The Next 20 Months: A Defining Period for Congress in Karnataka



always been a crucial factor in ensuring electoral success. The Congress won the 2023 Assembly elections by presenting a united front, despite internal differences over the Chief Minister's post. However, since coming to power, internal strife has resurfaced, particularly between the camps of Siddaramaiah and D.K. Shivakumar. The Congress party has had to address these tensions, even as the BJP struggles with its own internal divisions. The next 20 months will be critical for both parties as prolonged infighting could lead to significant political fallout. A stable, unified leadership with a clear focus on policy continuity is essential for Congress to retain its hold on power.

Building Confidence and Social Harmony

The third pillar of good governance is social harmony, which includes ensuring law and order, women's safety, and peaceful inter-group relations. Maintaining social stability requires proactive measures and efforts to build confidence among various societal groups. In the coming months, the government will need to demonstrate its ability to manage these challenges effectively. Any failure to uphold social harmony can erode public trust and impact the Congress's standing in the state. The next 20 months will be a defining period for Karnataka's Congress government. Its success will depend on its ability to address these challenges effectively, maintaining governance efficiency, party unity, and social peace.

As the Congress government in Karnataka marks 20 months in office, it finds itself at a crucial juncture in its five-year term. With a third of its tenure already completed, the next 20 months will determine the party's future in the state. Historically, Karnataka has seen a trend where governments tend to lose their focus in the second phase, which often leads to a decline in governance and eventual electoral defeat. The state has experienced a revolving-door politics cycle since 1985, with no ruling party managing to retain a clear majority by the end of its term.

Key Principles for Success

There are three key principles that shape the fate of any state government: efficiency in governance, unity within the ruling party, and social harmony. A look at past administrations reveals that most have struggled with at least two, if not all three, of these elements. Failure to meet the expectations of governance, resulting in a loss of focus or efficiency, has historically led to the downfall of several governments.

Responding to Public Aspirations

Empirical evidence shows that governments are more likely to be re-elected when voters perceive them as delivering on essential governance indicators. A post-poll study by Lokniti after the 2024 Lok Sabha elections revealed that Congress's improved performance, particularly among women voters, was driven by the successful implementation of key guarantees. This was a significant factor in their recent by-election sweep. Therefore, maintaining a focus on governance that addresses the aspirations of different voter segments is a critical path to success. However, public perception can change dramatically in the face of scandals or controversies involving government leaders, which can shift focus from governance to crisis management. For Karnataka's Congress, the next 20 months will test whether it can overcome current challenges and maintain its governance momentum.

Avoiding Internal Divisions

Unity within the ruling party has

Bangladesh's Constitutional Reforms: A Shift in Core Principles



The Constitution Reform Commission, appointed by the interim government in Bangladesh, has recommended significant changes to the country's fundamental principles. Among the most notable proposals is the deletion of the terms "secularism," "socialism," and "nationalism" from the preamble of the constitution. If these suggestions are approved, they would mark a drastic departure from the foundational principles established at the time of Bangladesh's independence.

A Departure from Traditional Principles

The inclusion of secularism, socialism, and nationalism in the constitution was a defining feature of Bangladesh's identity post-independence. Secularism aimed to ensure a separation of religion and state, promoting equal treatment for all religious communities. Socialism was intended to reflect the nation's commitment to economic equality and justice,

while nationalism emphasized unity and national identity among the people.

The proposed changes suggest replacing these terms with values that focus more on individual rights and societal justice, namely "equality," "human dignity," "social justice," and "pluralism." These new principles aim to promote a broader and more inclusive framework, which advocates for the protection of human rights and equal treatment for all citizens, regardless of their background.

Rationale Behind the Reform

The recommendations reflect a desire to shift the focus from ideological terms to more universally accepted values that align with modern democratic and human rights principles. The shift could be seen as an effort to address contemporary challenges such as religious tensions, social inequality, and the need for a more pluralistic society. By removing terms like

national discourse, appealing to a broader demographic, including religious groups that have historically been opposed to secularism.

Implications for Bangladesh's Future

If implemented, these changes could have far-reaching consequences for the political landscape of Bangladesh. The removal of secularism might invite criticism from those who view it as a step backward in terms of religious freedom and equality. On the other hand, emphasizing principles such as pluralism and equality could foster a more tolerant and balanced society, reflecting the nation's evolving needs. Ultimately, the proposed constitutional changes represent a major shift in the country's governing philosophy, potentially altering its socio-political dynamics in the years to come.



Can the BCCI's 10 Diktats End Team India's Superstar Culture?

The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) recently introduced a set of 10 guidelines aimed at curbing the growing "superstar culture" within the Indian cricket team. These rules, which echo standards from previous eras, have sparked significant debate. While some argue that they are a necessary reminder, others believe they reflect deeper issues that need addressing.

A Return to Basics: Why These Rules Matter

Many of the 10 diktats, such as mandatory availability for domestic cricket, attending all scheduled practice sessions, and staying with the team even after a Test series concludes early, were already in place. The concern now is that certain players, perhaps emboldened by their stardom, have ignored or bypassed these rules, potentially affecting team cohesion. The BCCI's move to reinforce these rules is not just about discipline; it's about fostering a sense of unity and accountability among players.

However, this intervention raises the question: Why were these basic principles not enforced earlier, especially when the team was performing well? Often, when a team is winning, complacency sets in, allowing star players to operate outside the established norms. Only when things start to unravel, as seen in recent Test performances, does the need to revisit these rules emerge.

Boosting Domestic Cricket and Player Development

One key aspect of the new rules involves encouraging players to participate in domestic cricket, which not only helps curb the

superstar culture but also strengthens the domestic circuit. High-profile players like Virat Kohli, Rohit Sharma, and Rishabh Pant making themselves available for domestic matches, including the Ranji Trophy, is a step in the right direction. This move not only boosts the standard of domestic cricket but also provides match practice for players struggling with form.

Handling Personalities and Logistical Changes

While some rules are unlikely to raise concerns, others, like restrictions on personal staff and family travel, have already drawn complaints. Reports suggest that some players have traveled with personal chefs, bodyguards, and nannies, a practice that the BCCI is seeking to curb. Additionally, the rule limiting family visits during long tours has sparked disagreement, with players like Rohit Sharma voicing dissatisfaction.

Despite these challenges, the rule about family travel is not new; it was part of player contracts since 2018 and was relaxed during the COVID-19 pandemic. Nevertheless, enforcing uniformity in such matters is crucial to maintain discipline within the team.

Striking a Balance

While the new diktats are aimed at reining in individualism for the greater good of the team, it's essential that the BCCI finds a balance. The emphasis on discipline, team unity, and cohesion should not come at the cost of team morale. The reintroduction of these rules must be handled with care to avoid deepening any rifts, especially when the team is in a phase of consolidation.

Hyderabad's Food Scene: Why Online Lists Often Miss the Mark

As a passionate foodie from Hyderabad, I find myself regularly frustrated by online lists claiming to highlight the best places to eat in the city. Recently, I came across a list by the international food guide TasteAtlas, which ranked Hyderabad 50th in its '100 Best Food Cities' category. While I don't expect these lists to get everything right, the lack of accuracy, particularly when it comes to Hyderabad's culinary gems, is hard to ignore.

The Biryani Blunder

Biryani is more than just food for us—it's a part of our lives. So, when TasteAtlas included well-known names like Hotel Shadab, Paradise, and Bawarchi for biryani recommendations, I was left shaking my head. While these places aren't bad, they hardly reflect the best of what the city has to offer. Missing iconic spots like Grand Hotel, Fanooz, and Biryaniwalla & Co. is a glaring omission. Even more perplexing is the exclusion of Nayaab Hotel, a local favorite for kheema-roti and khichdi khatta, both beloved breakfast dishes. These dishes are staples of Hyderabad's Old City and should be on any list of must-try foods. Moreover, while the list rightly includes Haleem, it overlooks kheema-roti, a dish that holds a special place in the hearts of Hyderabadi. For a true taste of local breakfast culture, Nayaab Hotel is unbeatable—its absence from the list feels almost criminal.

A Disservice to Hyderabadi Food Culture

One major issue with TasteAtlas's list is the



inclusion of mirchi ka salan in its 'Originally From Hyderabad' category. While this dish is indeed commonly served with biryani, it is a side dish, not a main attraction. Its status on the list would likely infuriate most Hyderabadi, who take their food culture very seriously. Similarly, the listing of MoMo Cafe as a traditional Hyderabad restaurant is baffling. This multicuisine spot has little to do with the city's rich culinary traditions, and mentioning it in such a list does a disservice to the many true-blue Hyderabad eateries.

My Hyderabad Food Recommendations

If you're truly looking for the best food in Hyderabad, here's my take. Start your day at Nayaab Hotel with some kheema, gurda, and khichdi khatta for breakfast. Don't miss out on their kesar biryani either—it's excellent. For biryani, skip the overhyped spots like Paradise and head to Fanooz or Biryaniwalla & Co. These places offer a more authentic, home-style experience. Also, make sure to stop by Karachi Bakery for their legendary fruit biscuits and Nimrat Cafe for Osmania biscuits, both of which are must-tries.

CBI Seeks Death Penalty For RG Kar Rape Convict, Approaches Calcutta HC

TPN Correspondent | Kolkata

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has approached the Calcutta High Court, seeking the death penalty for Sanjay Roy, the convict in the RG Kar rape and murder case. The lower court had sentenced Roy to life imprisonment, but the CBI argues that the sentence is inadequate given the heinous nature of the crime. In a move that has sparked significant controversy, the CBI contended that only the union government or the agency itself could challenge the sufficiency of the lower court's sentence. The state government's attempt to petition for the death penalty



high court. The case has caused widespread protests, particularly in Kolkata, where clashes have

frustration, questioning whether society should forgive such criminals, given their potential to commit further crimes.

The trial court had deemed the crime "particularly heinous" but emphasized the need for reformative justice in sentencing. Justice Anirban Das, who sentenced Roy to life imprisonment, stated that the CBI failed to provide enough evidence to warrant the death penalty in this instance. The Supreme Court has also taken suo moto cognizance of the case and will resume hearing the matter today. In a previous hearing, the Court denied a request to transfer the trial outside of West Bengal.



Saif Ali Khan Attacker Reveals Motive Behind the Crime

Bangladeshi national admits to attacking actor due to financial hardships and desire to help sick mother.

TPN Correspondent | Mumbai

Shariful Fakir, the Bangladeshi national arrested for attacking Bollywood actor Saif Ali Khan, has disclosed the reasons behind his crime. Fakir revealed that severe financial strain and his mother's illness in Bangladesh drove him to rob a wealthy individual to fund her medical treatment.

In a police statement, Fakir explained that on the night of January 16, he targeted Saif Ali Khan's residence with the intention of stealing valuables. He had hoped to flee to Bangladesh with the loot and use it to support his ailing mother. Fakir confessed to randomly selecting Khan's residence as the victim, intending to steal from a rich target.

Fakir, who was working with a housekeeping company, had lost his job in December 2024, leaving him with limited funds. He had previously worked at a restaurant in Worli, earning ₹13,000 per month, most of which he sent to Bangladesh for his mother's treatment. Surviving on just ₹1,000 in Mumbai, Fakir saw the robbery as a desperate option after his second job loss.

The attack on Saif Ali Khan occurred in the early hours of January 16, when Fakir stabbed the actor multiple times, including one injury to the neck. Khan was rushed to Lilavati Hospital, where he underwent emergency surgery.

Fakir was apprehended on January 19 at Hiranandani Estate in Thane while attempting to flee to his home country.

Priyanka Chopra Offers Prayers At Chilkur Balaji Temple



TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad

Priyanka Chopra, the global icon, recently arrived in Hyderabad to participate in a grand announcement for SS Rajamouli's much-awaited upcoming film, starring Mahesh Babu. The actress, known for her international success, took time during her visit to offer prayers at the Chilkur Balaji Temple in the city. On Tuesday, Priyanka shared her visit to the temple on Instagram, revealing the start of a "new chapter" in her life. Dressed in a light blue salwar suit and with a dupatta draped over her head, she was seen walking inside the temple and speaking with the pandit. Priyanka also shared a heartfelt message, thanking Upasana Konidela, wife of actor Ram Charan, for her support. In her caption, Priyanka wrote, "With the blessings of Shri Balaji, a new chapter begins. May we all find peace in our hearts and prosperity and abundance all around us. God's grace is infinite. Thank you @upasanakaminikonidela." Upasana Konidela responded warmly to the post, confirming Priyanka's involvement in a new film.



ISRO Captures Maha Kumbh Mela From Space

Advanced satellite imagery reveals the scale of the world's largest religious gathering

TPN Correspondent | Prayagraj

India's space agency, ISRO, has released stunning satellite images of the ongoing Maha Kumbh Mela in Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh. The event, recognized as the world's largest religious gathering, is expected to draw approximately 40 crore devotees over 45 days. Using the EOS-04 (RISAT-1A) microwave satellite, ISRO captured detailed time-series images showcasing the massive infrastructure, including tent cities, pontoon bridges, and extensive road networks. Dr. Prakash Chauhan, Director of the National Remote Sensing Cen-

tre (NRSC), highlighted the radar's ability to penetrate the cloud cover enveloping Prayagraj, providing unparalleled insights into the event's layout and planning.

- Images reveal a network of 1,50,000 tents, 3,000 kitchens, and 1,45,000 restrooms.
- Uttar Pradesh administration utilizes satellite data for disaster management and crowd control.
- Nearly 26 hectares of land reclaimed, with 12 km of new bathing ghats created.

Union Minister Jitendra Singh praised the initiative, stating, "These advanced technologies represent a

paradigm shift in managing large-scale religious gatherings. The Maha Kumbh Mela stands as a testament to how technology and tradition can coexist for a cleaner, healthier future."

A new district, Mahakumbh Nagar, has been established to manage the vast crowds converging at the Triveni Sangam, where the Ganga, Yamuna, and mythical Saraswati rivers meet. As of now, over eight crore devotees have taken the sacred dip, which is believed to purify the soul and cleanse sins. The Maha Kumbh Mela, hosted this year from January 13 to February 26, rotates between four sacred sites in India every 12 years.

Sudha Murty Serves Mahaprasad, Tours ISKCON Kitchen At Maha Kumbh



TPN Correspondent | Prayagraj

During her three-day visit to the ongoing Maha Kumbh in Prayagraj, philanthropist Sudha Murty took part in serving Mahaprasad at the ISKCON camp, spreading her warmth and blessings to the devotees attending the spiritual event.

Dressed in a green saree with a black bag slung over her shoulder, Murty was seen distributing chapattis at the food counter, serving the thousands of pilgrims present. In addition to her service at the food counter, she also toured the ISKCON Mahaprasadam Kitchen, which is responsible for preparing food for the devotees. During the tour, Murty interacted with volunteers and learned about the modern equipment being used to prepare large quantities of food.

ISKCON, in collaboration with Adani Group, has undertaken the task of preparing and distributing Mahaprasad to more than 40,000 devotees every day at the Maha Kumbh. The kitchen, located in Sector 19 of Prayagraj, is equipped with cutting-edge facilities such as boilers for heating water and boiling vegetables, and automated machines to prepare massive quantities of rotis. These machines can produce up to 10,000 rotis an hour.

Excited about her visit, Murty expressed her joy and reverence for the event, calling the Maha Kumbh a "Teerthraj" (king of all pilgrimage sites). She also took a holy dip in the Sangam on the first two days of her visit and plans to do so again on the final day. Speaking to ANI, she shared her emotional connection to the event, stating, "My maternal grandfather, maternal grandmother, grandfather, none of them could come - that is why I have to offer tarpan in their name, and I am very happy..."

The Maha Kumbh Mela, which began on January 13 and will continue until February 26, is expected to host a staggering 45 crore people who believe that a holy dip in the Sangam Triveni will cleanse them of their sins.

JDU Manipur Chief Pulls Support From BJP Govt In State, Party Sacks Him

TPN Correspondent | Imphal

In a significant political development, the Janata Dal (United), led by Nitish Kumar, has withdrawn its support from the N Biren Singh-led BJP government in Manipur. Following this, the lone JDU MLA in the state assembly, Md. Abdul Nasir, has moved to the Opposition benches. This decision, however, is not expected to affect the BJP's majority in the 60-member assembly, where it holds 37 seats and is supported by five Naga People's Front MLAs and three independents. The JDU's state unit chief, Ksh Biren Singh, officially communicated the withdrawal of support to Governor Ajay Kumar Bhalla, stating that the decision aligns with the party's affiliation to the INDIA opposition bloc. However, the party immediately acted against him, removing him

from his position.

- JDU's lone MLA, Md. Abdul Nasir, shifts to the Opposition benches.
- The BJP-led government maintains a stable majority in the assembly.
- JDU's move reflects its alignment with the INDIA bloc against the BJP.

In the 2022 Manipur Assembly elections, JDU won six seats, but five of its MLAs defected to the BJP soon after, strengthening the ruling party. This development follows a similar move by the Conrad Sangma-led National People's Party, which also withdrew support to the BJP government in Manipur months earlier. The BJP's numbers in the assembly remain unaffected, ensuring that the government continues its tenure without any major challenges.

Top Maoist Leader Evaded Cops For Decades..

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

Jayaram Reddy, a top Maoist leader and mastermind behind the 2008 Nayagarh attack, was killed this week in a joint operation by central and state forces along the Chhattisgarh-Odisha border. Known by his alias "Chalapati," Reddy had evaded security forces for decades, but a selfie with his wife led to his identification and eventual demise.

Reddy, who carried a bounty of ₹1 crore, was notorious for his role in the Nayagarh attack in Odisha, where 13 security personnel were killed, and the police armoury was looted. He had masterminded the escape plan for the Maoists and blocked police reinforcements by felling trees to obstruct roads. Reddy's elusive nature made him a significant target for authorities.

The turning point came in May 2016, when a selfie with his wife, Aruna (also known as Chaitanya Venkat Ravi), was found on an abandoned smartphone following an encounter in Andhra Pradesh. This discovery led to his identification, and a reward was announced for information on his whereabouts. To avoid detection, Reddy had started traveling with a personal security detail of 8-10 guards. Reddy's escape from Chhattisgarh's Bastar region and relocation near the Odisha border did not save him. He was killed during the latest encounter, along with 19 other Maoists.

In First Quad Meet Under Trump 2.0, Clear Warning Sent to China

TPN Correspondent | Washington DC

On his first day in office, US Secretary of State Marco Rubio convened the inaugural Quad ministerial meeting under President Trump's second term. Held in Washington, the meeting brought together Australia's Penny Wong, India's Subrahmanyam Jaishankar, and Japan's Takeshi Iwata to discuss regional stability in the Indo-Pacific. The meeting concluded with a joint statement signaling firm opposition to any attempts to alter the status quo through coercion or force—an implicit warning to China.

The Quad ministers reaffirmed their commitment to maintaining a Free and Open Indo-Pacific, emphasizing the importance of upholding democratic values, sovereignty, and territorial integrity. In a joint statement, they declared, "We strongly oppose any unilateral actions that seek to change the status quo by force or coercion." This was widely interpreted as a stance against China's claims over Taiwan and its assertive actions in the South China Sea.

- **Quad reaffirmed its stance on a Free and Open Indo-Pacific, opposing coercive actions.**
- **US Secretary of State Marco Rubio emphasized countering China's influence as a top priority.**
- **Quad Summit in India planned, signaling early collaboration under Trump 2.0.**

India's External Affairs Minister Subrahmanyam Jaishankar highlighted the meeting's significance, stating on X, "Significant that the Quad meeting took place within hours of the inauguration of the



Trump administration. This underlines the priority it has in the foreign policy of its member states."

China has consistently criticized the Quad, labeling it a US-led effort to encircle its rise in Asia. The grouping, initially envisioned by Japan's late Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, gained prominence as a leaders' summit under the Biden administration and now continues its strategic focus under President Trump.

The Quad's discussions reflected shared concerns over China's growing power in the Indo-Pacific, particularly regarding

territorial disputes involving the Philippines, a US ally. Analysts see the meeting as a message that countering Beijing remains a top priority for the Trump administration. Secretary Rubio, in his confirmation hearing, vowed to deter any invasion of Taiwan and emphasized working closely with allies to address regional challenges.

A Quad summit, planned for later this year in India, is expected to further advance collaboration among member nations and strengthen the alliance against regional threats.



22 US States Sue Trump Over Birthright Citizenship Order

TPN Correspondent | Washington DC

A coalition of 22 Democratic-led states, civil rights groups, and immigrant organizations has filed lawsuits challenging US President Donald Trump's executive order to end birthright citizenship. The controversial order, signed hours after Trump took office, declares that individuals born in the United States will not be granted automatic citizenship if their mother was in the country unlawfully and their father was not a citizen or lawful permanent resident.

Legal experts argue the order directly contradicts the Citizenship Clause of the 14th Amendment, which has guaranteed citizenship to anyone born on US soil since 1868. This constitutional provision, established after the Civil War, was reinforced by the Supreme Court's 1898 ruling in *United States v. Wong Kim Ark*, which affirmed citizenship rights for children of immigrants regardless of their parents' status.

Massachusetts Attorney General Andrea Joy Campbell emphasized the constitutional stakes, stating, "President Trump does not have the authority to take away constitutional rights." Civil rights groups have also highlighted the broader implications, including loss of access to federal programs and voting rights for affected individuals.

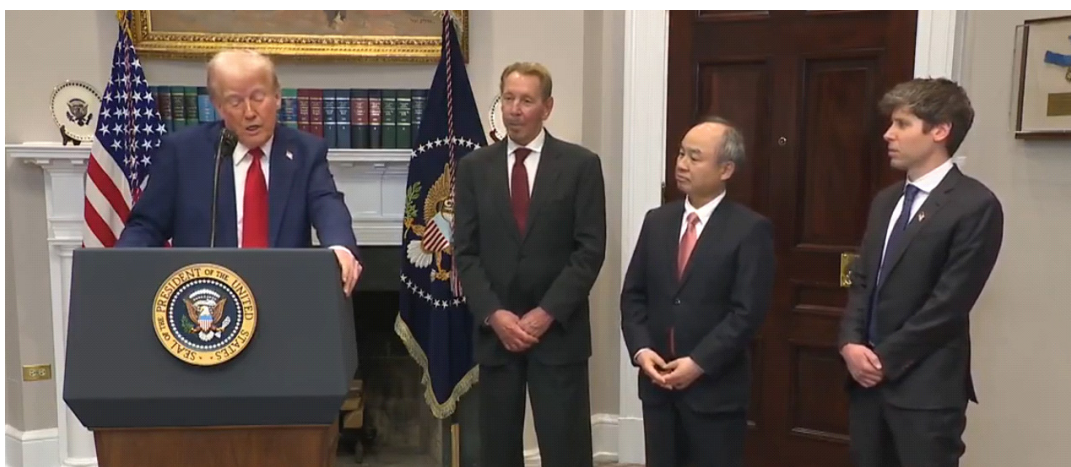
The lawsuits, filed in federal courts across Boston, Seattle, and Maryland, argue that Trump's order exceeds presidential authority. Legal experts suggest that while the President can direct federal agencies to interpret citizenship narrowly, such an action would inevitably face legal challenges.

According to Saikrishna Prakash, a constitutional expert at the University of Virginia Law School, "Ultimately, this will be decided by the courts... This is not something he can decide on his own." Amending the Constitution to end birthright citizenship would require overwhelming bipartisan support, a near impossibility given the current political landscape.

The lawsuits underscore a broader opposition to Trump's immigration policies, with many viewing the order as part of his administration's agenda to curb unauthorized immigration. Federal courts are expected to issue temporary restraining orders while the cases progress, potentially culminating in a landmark Supreme Court decision.

SoftBank, Oracle, OpenAI to Build \$500 Billion AI Infrastructure in the US

Major tech companies team up for groundbreaking AI infrastructure project in the US.



TPN Correspondent | United States

US President Donald Trump announced a historic collaboration between SoftBank, Oracle, and OpenAI to invest up to \$500 billion in artificial intelligence (AI) infrastructure in the United States. The ambitious initiative, named Stargate, is set to transform the AI landscape with a focus on building both physical and virtual infrastructure necessary for the next generation of AI advancements.

- **SoftBank, Oracle, and OpenAI pledge up to \$500 billion for US AI infrastructure.**
- **The project, named Stargate, aims**

to build data centers and support advancements in AI technology.

- **The first construction phase is underway in Texas, with more sites under consideration.**

At the White House on Tuesday, Trump hailed the project as a "monumental undertaking" that reflects immense confidence in America's technological potential. The collaboration, spearheaded by OpenAI's CEO Sam Altman, SoftBank's CEO Masayoshi Son, and Oracle founder Larry Ellison, will involve a \$100 billion initial investment, with a potential total investment of \$500 billion over the next four

years. "This is a resounding declaration of confidence in America's potential," Trump remarked, noting the scale and strategic importance of the project.

Stargate aims to develop "colossal data centers" and other critical AI infrastructure to meet the growing demands of AI technology. The project also intends to play a key role in the re-industrialization of the United States, with national security considerations at the forefront, according to OpenAI.

Key players in the project include the UAE's MGX technology fund, with major technology partners such as Arm, Microsoft, NVIDIA, Oracle, and OpenAI contributing to its development. The first phase of construction is underway in Texas, with further sites being evaluated across the country.

"This venture is not only about advancing AI, but also about ensuring that America remains at the forefront of the technology race," Altman said during the announcement. The news was followed by a surge in SoftBank's stock prices, reflecting the market's optimism surrounding the project. This investment comes at a time when the US tech sector is looking to secure its dominance in the global AI landscape.

Panama Canal Was "Not Gift From US"

TPN Correspondent | Davos

Panama's President Jose Raul Mulino firmly rejected US President Donald Trump's claims regarding the Panama Canal during a panel at the World Economic Forum in Davos. Trump had suggested the canal was a "gift" from the United States to Panama and threatened to "take it back," especially citing China's growing influence around the waterway.

Mulino responded sharply, stating, "The Panama Canal was not a concession or a gift from the United States," and reaffirmed Panama's complete ownership of the canal, which was transferred to the country on December 31, 1999, under the terms of treaties signed decades earlier.

Trump's comments, made in his inaugural address, implied that China was effectively "operating" the canal. However, China swiftly denied this, emphasizing its non-inter-



ference in the canal's affairs. Mulino also noted Panama's formal complaint to the United Nations, referencing international law protections regarding territorial integrity. Despite the controversy, Mulino re-

mained resolute, expressing that Panama would not be swayed by such statements and was focused on international cooperation, particularly with the United States, on issues like security and migration.

Canada Warns of Strong Response to Trump's Tariff Threats

TPN Correspondent | Ottawa

Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau issued a stern warning to US President Donald Trump on Tuesday, vowing a robust response if the US imposes a 25% tariff on Canadian imports, as Trump has threatened. Trudeau confirmed that Ottawa's reaction would be "robust and rapid," with a dollar-for-dollar matching of the tariffs.

Trudeau's remarks came at a cabinet retreat where officials strategized how to respond to economic threats posed by the new US administration. Trump had announced on his first day in office that he planned to impose tariffs on Canada and Mexico, citing concerns over immigration and the flow of illicit drugs like fentanyl.

The tariff announcement could affect a significant portion of Canadian exports, especially energy and auto sectors, which make up the majority of goods sent to the US. A Canadian government source revealed that potential counter-tariffs could include steel, ceramics, glassware, and orange juice, targeting specific US goods.

The economic ramifications of a trade war could be severe, with some forecasts predicting a 5% reduction in Canada's GDP, a spike in unemployment, and rising inflation. Trudeau warned that while the US would feel the impact, Canada would bear costs as well, but would not back down from defending its economic interests.

Australia Probes Possible Foreign Funding Behind Anti-Semitic Attacks

TPN Correspondent | Sydney

Australia is investigating whether foreign funding is behind a series of anti-Semitic attacks that have occurred in recent weeks. Prime Minister Anthony Albanese revealed on Wednesday that local criminals may have been paid by foreign actors to target Jewish communities in the country.

The wave of attacks includes the firebombing of a synagogue in Melbourne in December, the torching of a Sydney childcare center, car fires in predominantly Jewish neighborhoods, and vandalism of synagogues with red paint and graffiti. Albanese stated that some of these incidents appeared to be the work of "paid actors" rather than individuals with ideological motivations.

"It's unclear who or where the payments are coming from," Albanese said. The Australian Federal Police (AFP) have launched an investigation into whether these attacks were funded by overseas sources. Commissioner Reece Kershaw mentioned that authorities are exploring the possibility that local criminals were paid by foreign entities to carry out these crimes. So far, authorities have charged a 33-year-old man with attempting to set fire to a Sydney synagogue, and eight others have been charged in connection with a series of hate crime-related incidents dating back to November.

Markets Rebound Amid Volatility; Relief Rally Provides Stability



Domestic stock markets were volatile on Wednesday. Investors were relieved as a relief rally took place today. Benchmark indices found support at key levels. Indices initially fell on mixed signals internationally. HDFC Bank's good results and IT and finance stocks showed aggression led to a return to gains. Nifty found support at the crucial 23000 level. Investors should remain vigilant until the markets stabilize.



lio. Widespread distribution network across rural and urban India. Robust innovation pipeline.

2. Wipro Limited
Wipro is one of India's largest IT services companies, offering software development, business consulting, and IT outsourcing. Revenue: Steady growth (~8-10%) driven by digital



transformation deals. Operating Margins: Moderately pressured (~15-17%) due to wage inflation and increasing competition. Dividend Yield: Attractive, consistently rewarding shareholders. Global presence with a strong client portfolio. Investments in emerging technologies like AI and cloud computing.



3. Avanti Feeds
Avanti Feeds is a market leader in shrimp feed and a significant player in shrimp exports. Revenue: Subject to fluctuations due to shrimp demand and export trends. Margins: Highly sensitive to raw material price volatility (soybean and fishmeal). Strong distribution network and established presence in the shrimp industry. Focus on R&D and product innovation for feed quality. Dependency on international shrimp demand and pricing. Regulatory changes and disease outbreaks in aquaculture.

4. Bajaj Finserv
Bajaj Finserv operates in lending,



insurance, and wealth management. It is known for its strong brand in consumer finance. Loan Book Growth: Consistently growing at ~25% CAGR. Asset Quality: Stable with a low NPA ratio. Profitability: Strong return ratios (ROE ~18-20%). Diversified financial offerings across lending, insurance, and investments. Robust technology integration for digital-first customer service.



Manappuram specializes in gold loans, microfinance, and housing finance, catering mainly to rural and semi-urban customers. Loan Book: Dominated by gold loans (~65% of portfolio). Profit Margins: High net interest margins (~14-15%) due to the secured nature of loans. Asset Quality: Resilient NPA levels due to gold-backed loans. Quick disbursal process and strong penetration in rural areas. High loan recovery rates due to gold collateral.

1. Britannia Industries
Britannia is a leading player in the packaged food segment, specializing in biscuits, dairy products, and baked goods. The company has a strong market presence in India and growing international operations. Revenue Growth: Consistent annual growth driven by new product launches and distribution expansion. Profit Margins: Healthy EBITDA margins (~15-17%). Debt Levels: Low leverage with a focus on maintaining financial discipline. Strong brand equity with a diversified product portfolio.



India's Refined Petroleum Consumption Set to Reach New High in FY26

India's consumption of refined petroleum products is poised to hit a new peak in the financial year 2025-26 (FY26), driven by continued growth in energy demand across various sectors of the economy. According to the latest projections from the Petroleum Planning & Analysis Cell (PPAC) under the Ministry of Petroleum, petroleum product consumption is expected to rise by 4.7% over the revised estimate for FY25, reaching a total of 252.93 million tonnes.



This growth in consumption is primarily attributed to the increased demand for key fuels and products, including petrol, aviation turbine fuel (ATF), liquefied petroleum gas (LPG), diesel, and petroleum coke. The surge in petrol consumption is fueled by the expanding automotive sector, while the rise in LPG use is linked to the continued push for clean cooking solutions in households across the country. Diesel demand remains robust, supported by the transportation and industrial sectors, and ATF consumption is expected to grow with the recovery in the aviation industry as travel demand re-

bounds post-pandemic.

Petroleum coke, which is used in industries like aluminum, cement, and steel production, is also seeing a steady rise in demand. These trends highlight the broad-based nature of India's growing reliance on refined petroleum products, as the country's economic recovery continues to gain momentum.

As India advances its economic development and urbanization, the demand for energy is expected to keep climbing, further contributing to the country's

increasing petroleum consumption. The projections underscore the crucial role of the energy sector in supporting India's growth, with petroleum products continuing to be a key component in meeting the country's energy needs.

With this steady rise in refined petroleum consumption, India's oil demand trajectory is set to continue its upward trend, reinforcing the need for sustainable energy policies and greater investments in alternative energy sources to ensure long-term energy security.

Hindustan Unilever Reports 19.18% Growth in Q3 Net Profit



Hindustan Unilever Ltd (HUL) reported a 19.18% increase in its consolidated net profit for the December quarter, reaching Rs 2,989 crore, up from Rs 2,508 crore during the same period last fiscal year. The growth was primarily driven by the sale of its Pureit business, the company stated in a regulatory filing.

Key Financial Highlights
For the third quarter of the

ongoing fiscal year, HUL's consolidated total income stood at Rs 16,050 crore, compared to Rs 15,781 crore in the previous year. Total expenses increased to Rs 12,576 crore from Rs 12,305 crore year-on-year. HUL also had an exceptional item benefit of Rs 507 crore during the quarter.

Strategic Acquisitions and Future Outlook

In line with its strategy to expand into fast-growing sectors, HUL announced the acquisition of a 90.5% stake in Uprising Science Pvt Ltd, the company behind the premium beauty brand Minimalist. The acquisition, worth Rs 2,670 crore, will be funded through a combination of secondary buyouts and primary infusion. HUL plans to acquire the remaining stake in two years. Jawa

emphasized that the acquisition aligns with HUL's goal to enhance its beauty and wellbeing portfolio and capitalize on the growing mass-tige beauty segment.

HUL's homecare segment posted strong volume growth, while its beauty and wellbeing category saw momentum in hair care, though skincare was impacted by delayed winter conditions. The company's personal care revenue faced challenges due to a decline in the hygiene segment of skin cleansing.

Looking ahead, Jawa expressed confidence in HUL's medium- to long-term prospects despite short-term economic uncertainties, reaffirming the company's potential in India's FMCG sector.

Industry Eyes Key Announcements in India's Union Budget 2025-26 for Railway Sector

As the Union Budget 2025-26 approaches, industry stakeholders are hopeful for significant announcements aimed at boosting the railway sector, particularly in freight operations and infrastructure development. Experts believe that the upcoming budget could bring much-needed reforms and investments to enhance the efficiency and competitiveness of India's freight services.

Focus on Freight Speed and Infrastructure

One of the key areas of focus for the railway sector is the need to increase the average speed of freight trains to 50 kmph. Currently, India's freight trains operate at a significantly lower speed, which hampers the timely delivery of goods across the country. The industry has also called for the deployment of advanced 12,000 HP electric locomotives, which are expected to improve operational efficiency and reduce transit times.

In addition to speed improvements, the industry is eagerly awaiting announcements related to infrastructure development, particularly in freight corridors. The creation of dedicated freight corridors has been a long-standing demand of the sector to streamline freight movement and reduce congestion on passenger routes.

Wagon Orders and Investment Opportunities

Texmaxo Managing Director Sudipta Mukherjee voiced optimism about the government's continued commitment to the railway sector, particularly regarding the wagon orders. He expressed hope for a substantial order of new wagons, building on the government's 2022 announcement of approximately 1.2 lakh wagon orders over three years. This



initiative is seen as a crucial step in modernizing the railway freight network and ensuring that it meets the growing demands of the logistics industry.

The railway sector is also anticipating further investments in modernization, including upgrading tracks, expanding terminal facilities, and improving safety measures. Such investments are expected to enhance the overall efficiency of India's freight transportation network, positioning the railways as a key player in the country's logistics and supply chain ecosystem.

As the Union Budget approaches, industry players remain hopeful that the government will prioritize the development of the railway sector to further strengthen its role in India's economic growth.

Uncovering Ancient Ice Sheets Beneath the North Sea: New Insights into Climate History



Landforms buried beneath the North Sea, formed by a massive ice sheet that existed around 1 million years ago, have been uncovered using advanced high-resolution imaging. These newly discovered features, dating back to the mid-Pleistocene transition (MPT), provide valuable insights into the glacial dynamics of the past and how they relate to shifting climate patterns.

A study published in *Science Advances* highlights the findings, which were detected using sound wave data. Researchers, including Christine Batchelor, a senior lecturer in physical geography at Newcastle University, suggest that these structures were left behind by a single, expansive ice sheet that covered regions from present-day Norway to the British

Isles. This discovery challenges previous theories that multiple smaller ice sheets shaped the region during the MPT.

The ice sheet's movement created distinct patterns under more than 1 kilometre of sediment, offering a glimpse into how it advanced and retreated over time. These patterns are key to understanding the mechanics of past ice sheet dynamics. Grounded ice sheets sculpt the underlying sediment, producing both erosional and depositional features. Batchelor notes that streamlined features aligned with the ice flow direction were created during the ice's advance, while transverse imprints, such as crevasse-squeeze ridges, formed as the ice sheet retreated. These ridges develop when soft sediment is pushed into

cracks at the base of the ice before it lifts off, often aided by water undercutting the ice.

The findings hold significant implications for climate change research. The mid-Pleistocene transition was a critical period in Earth's glacial history, marked by longer and more intense ice ages. By studying these ancient landforms, scientists aim to better understand how ice sheets respond to climate shifts, using this knowledge to model past ice sheet behavior and make comparisons with current environmental changes. This research offers crucial insights into the processes influencing today's climate systems and how they may evolve in the future.

Retrieve Lost WhatsApp Messages: Methods for Android and iOS Users

WhatsApp's "Delete for Everyone" feature allows users to remove messages within a certain timeframe, but this can leave recipients curious about what was deleted. Whether it's an accidental message or something important, there are ways to retrieve these deleted messages. Android users can take advantage of the Notification History feature, which logs all incoming notifications. By enabling this feature in the settings, users can view deleted messages if the notification was received before the message was deleted. However, this method only works for messages that triggered a notification. Additionally, WhatsApp offers a chat backup feature that allows users to restore deleted messages if they were included in a previous backup. By uninstalling and reinstalling WhatsApp and restoring from a

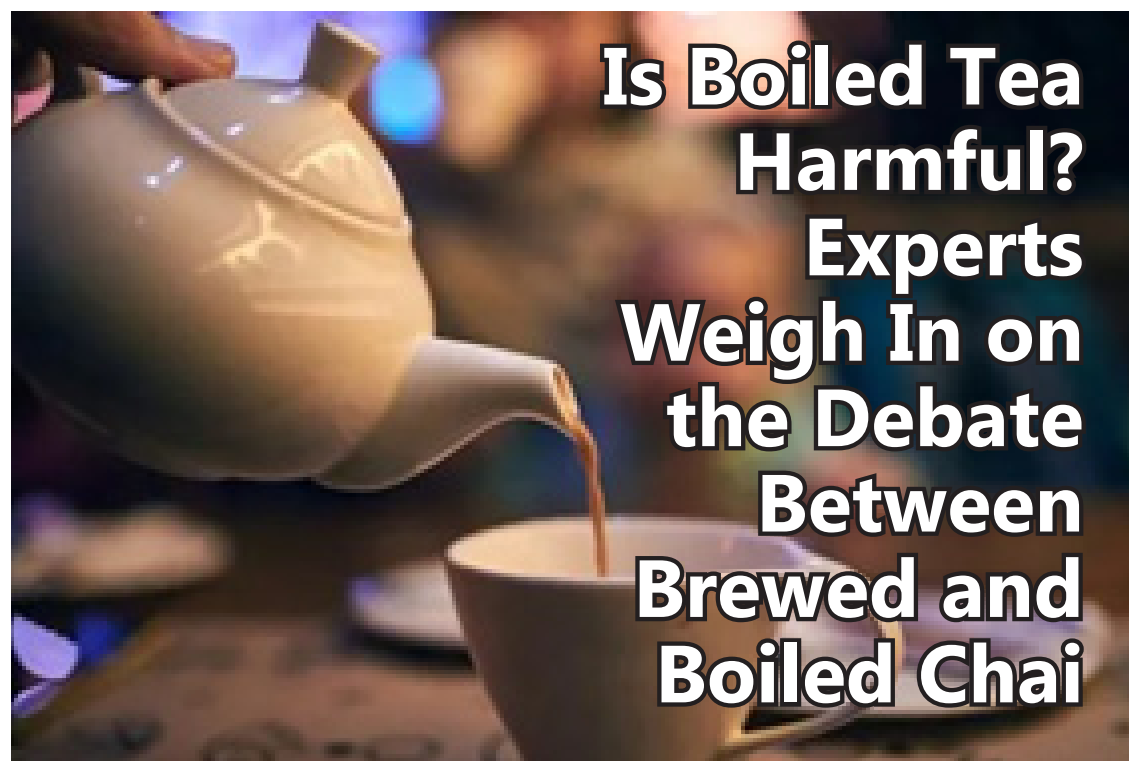


apps can only recover messages that were delivered as notifications, not those that weren't. On the iOS side, users can restore deleted WhatsApp messages using iCloud backups. If you have iCloud backups set up, simply checking the last backup date and restoring from it can help you retrieve deleted messages. However, this method replaces current chats with the backup data. iPhone users who use iTunes for regular backups can also restore deleted WhatsApp messages by rolling back to an earlier backup, but this also means any new data since the backup will be lost.

backup, users can recover lost messages, though this will not restore content received after the backup.

For Android users, third-party apps like Notisave also offer a way to retrieve deleted WhatsApp messages. These apps save incoming notifications, including deleted ones, allowing users to view content that was deleted after it appeared in the notification bar. However, these

While these methods provide ways to recover deleted WhatsApp messages, they all depend on prior actions, such as enabling notifications or creating backups. Users should exercise caution, particularly when using third-party apps, to ensure their privacy is protected.



Is Boiled Tea Harmful? Experts Weigh In on the Debate Between Brewed and Boiled Chai

Nutritionist Suman Agarwal recently made waves on social media when she suggested that brewed tea is a healthier option compared to the traditional boiled tea, commonly known as masala chai. According to Agarwal, boiling tea can release harmful elements like acrylamide, which is considered carcinogenic with long-term exposure. She emphasized that tea should be brewed, not boiled, to preserve its health benefits and avoid these potential risks. "Tea leaves should be steeped in hot water to extract the taste, flavor, and aroma within three minutes," Agarwal explained in an interview with *Traya.Health*.

effects if consumed regularly over time. The prolonged exposure to high heat during boiling can degrade the tea's antioxidants and other beneficial compounds, making it less effective in promoting overall health.

While brewing tea at the right temperature can preserve its flavor and health benefits, it's important to note that occasional consumption of boiled tea isn't likely to cause harm. However, for those seeking the maximum health benefits from tea, brewing it gently and avoiding excessive boiling could be a wise choice for the long run.

But is there any truth to this claim? Experts in the field of nutrition are weighing in on the brewing vs. boiling debate. Apeksha Chandurkar, a nutritionist and the founder of *Balanced Bite*, supports Agarwal's stance on brewing tea as a healthier alternative. She explains that brewing tea is a gentler process that helps maintain its delicate flavors and health-promoting compounds. "When tea leaves are brewed at the right temperature, they release their full potential. However, boiling the tea at high temperatures can destroy these delicate compounds, making the tea more bitter and less beneficial," Chandurkar said.

Furthermore, she acknowledged that Indian masala chai, which is typically boiled at high temperatures, could have some adverse effects if consumed regularly over time. The prolonged exposure to high heat during boiling can degrade the tea's antioxidants and other beneficial compounds, making it less effective in promoting overall health.

Apple Set to Launch New iPad Pro and iPad Air Models in 2025: What to Expect

Apple is reportedly gearing up for the release of new iPad Pro and iPad Air models in 2025, with some exciting upgrades over the current versions. According to recent leaks and reports, the upcoming iPad Pro models, including the 11-inch and 13-inch variants, are expected to receive minor upgrades, while the iPad Air lineup could see a significant boost with the addition of new chipsets and features.



The next-generation iPad Pro models are likely to retain a similar design to the current OLED tablets. However, Apple is expected to incorporate some internal enhancements, including better performance and new features. One major update could involve the display drivers, with South Korea's LX Semicon reportedly supplying components for the upcoming models. Mass production of these components is expected to begin in April or May 2025, suggesting an official release later in the year.

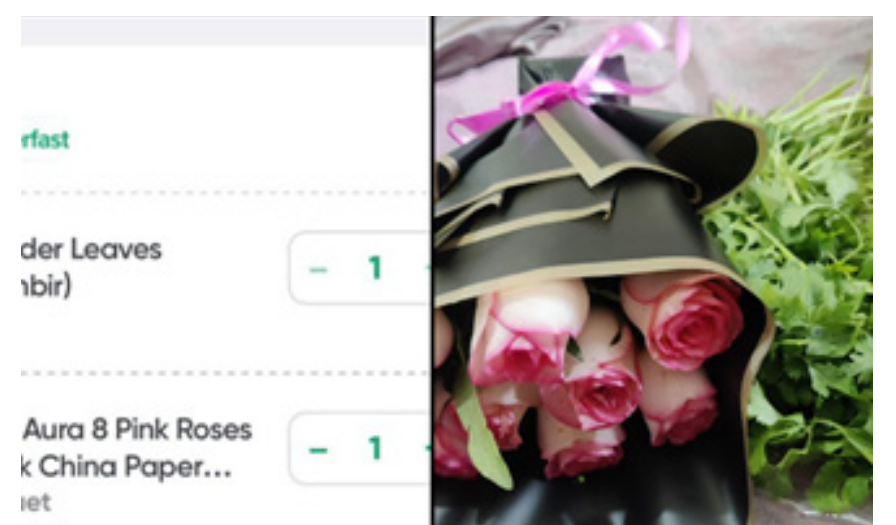
The upcoming iPad models are also expected to run on iPadOS 18.3, with support for 8GB of RAM and new Apple Intelligence features, which will improve the overall performance and functionality of the devices. While the exact details of the upgraded

iPad Pro are still unclear, these improvements will likely offer a more powerful and refined user experience compared to the current models.

In addition to the iPad Pro refresh, Apple is also expected to launch the new iPad Air lineup in 2025. These new models could feature 11-inch and 13-inch displays and are expected to be powered by the M3 chipset, a significant upgrade over the current M2-powered iPad Air models. This move is likely aimed at providing users with better performance and more capabilities, making the iPad Air a more attractive option for those seeking a high-performance tablet at a more affordable price point.

The new iPad models, including the iPad Pro and iPad Air, are expected to be launched alongside the rumored iPhone SE 4, potentially marking a major update to Apple's tablet and smartphone lineup in 2025.

Woman Receives "Free" Dhaniya With Roses From Swiggy Instamart, Internet Reacts



In an unexpected and humorous turn of events, a social media user recently shared her surprise when online grocery delivery platform Swiggy sent her free dhaniya (coriander leaves) along with a bouquet of roses. The bouquet, a thoughtful gift from her partner, was accompanied by a surprise addition — coriander leaves labeled as "free" on the Swiggy Instamart page.

The woman took to X (formerly Twitter) to express her confusion and amusement, writing, "He sent me flowers and Swiggy sent free dhaniya with that bro why would I need that?" Along with her post, she shared two images: one showing the Swiggy Instamart page where the rose bouquet was listed alongside coriander leaves with the word "free" next to it, and the second showing the actual bouquet of roses paired with the free dhaniya.

part of a promotional strategy by Swiggy, which has long been known for surprising customers with free items like coriander and green chillies when they buy vegetables or grocery items. However, in this case, the free dhaniya was given with a completely different purchase — a bouquet of flowers.

The post quickly went viral, with users amused by the unusual pairing and wondering why an online grocery store would pair flowers with a culinary ingredient. Some Twitter users joked about the unexpected addition, with others suggesting that it could be a humorous marketing tactic.

Whether a simple mistake or a clever promotional move, Swiggy's free dhaniya offer certainly caught the attention of many, proving that in the world of online shopping, anything is possible.

This quirky offer appears to be

Jasprit Bumrah Retains ICC No. 1 Test Bowler Spot; Noman Ali Joins Top 10

India's pace spearhead, Jasprit Bumrah, continues to hold the top position in the ICC Test Bowler Rankings, cementing his status as the world's No. 1 bowler. Bumrah has consistently performed at the highest level, and in the latest rankings, he has achieved a career-best rating of 908 points, surpassing his previous record of 907 points set ahead of the fifth Border-Gavaskar Test against Australia in January. This impressive feat keeps him firmly ahead of his closest rivals: Australia's Pat Cummins, who is ranked second with 841 points, and South Africa's Kagiso Rabada, who holds the third spot with 837 points.



he took a remarkable six-wicket haul. His performance helped him reach the No. 10 spot with a rating of 761 points, making him one of the most promising bowlers in Test cricket today.

Meanwhile, the top positions in the ICC Test All-Rounder Rankings remain unchanged. Ravindra Jadeja continues to occupy the top spot, holding steady at 400 rating points. South Africa's

Marco Jansen is ranked second with 294 points, while Bangladesh's Mehedi Hasan remains third with 263 points. There has been no movement in the all-rounder rankings, reflecting the consistency of these top players.

As Bumrah leads the bowling rankings and Jadeja dominates the all-rounders' list, Indian cricket continues to shine on the global stage with some of the world's most outstanding players.

In addition to Bumrah's dominance, the rankings also see a significant move from Pakistan's Noman Ali, who has broken into the top 10. Noman's rise comes after his stellar performance in the first Test against the West Indies in Multan, where

Madison Keys Wins 10th Match In A Row, Enters Australian Open 2025 Semi-Finals

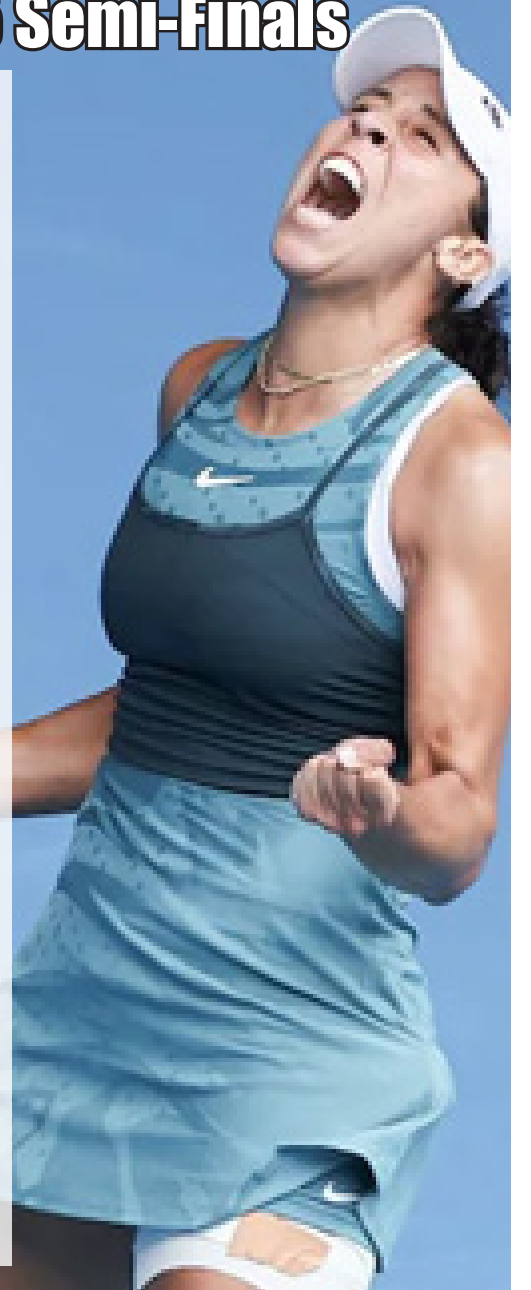
Madison Keys continued her stunning run at the Australian Open 2025 by coming from a set down to defeat Elina Svitolina 3-6, 6-3, 6-4, securing a spot in the semi-finals. This victory marked her 10th consecutive win, extending her unbeaten streak to 10 matches after claiming the Adelaide title earlier this year. The 19th seed American is now set to reach the semi-finals of Melbourne Park for the third time, a decade after her first appearance in the last four.

Keys, who will celebrate her 30th birthday next month, showed tremendous resilience in the match, recovering from a difficult first set. "I felt like I kind of just had to start playing a little bit more aggressive and try to get to the net a little bit quicker," she admitted after the win. Svitolina had the upper hand early on, controlling the points and forcing Keys to chase down rallies. However, Keys adjusted her strategy and began to dictate the play, especially in the second set.

The first set saw both players starting cautiously, with Svitolina taking the initiative in the eighth game when she converted her first break point. She sealed the set after just 33 minutes when Keys hit a ball into the net. In the second set, Keys increased her pace, creating several break points and eventually leveling the match with a forehand winner.

The deciding set was a tight contest, with both players holding serve until Keys capitalized on her opportunities. She broke Svitolina's serve at 2-2 with a backhand return winner, and from there, she held on to her lead to secure the win in 1 hour and 53 minutes.

Keys will now face either Iga Swiatek or Emma Navarro in the semi-finals, with a place in the final on the line. This victory also sees Keys move back into the top 10 in the WTA rankings, as she continues to build momentum ahead of the season's first Grand Slam final.



Zverev becomes first semifinalist in Australian Open 2025, Beating Tommy Paul in quarterfinal

Top German tennis player Alexander Zverev has secured his spot in the semifinals of the Australian Open 2025 after a hard-fought victory over Tommy Paul in the quarterfinals. Zverev triumphed 7-6(1), 7-6(0), 2-6, 6-1, becoming the first player to reach the semifinals in this year's tournament. The 27-year-old will now await the winner of the match between Carlos Alcaraz and Novak Djokovic in his quest for a first Grand Slam title.

Tuesday's match marked Zverev's third appearance in a Grand Slam quarterfinal and his second at the Australian Open. His previous best performance in Melbourne came in 2023 when he reached the semifinals. Despite

his impressive resume, Zverev faced a tough challenge from American Tommy Paul, who put up a strong fight in the opening sets.

After the match, Zverev was quick to praise his opponent for playing the better game. "To be honest, I should have been down two sets to love," said Zverev. "He played better than me. I was not playing great, and I thought he was. I somehow won the first set, somehow won the second set, and I'm up two sets to love all of a sudden and I need only one more set." Zverev admitted that he was lucky to take the first two sets but acknowledged his strong performance in the fourth set. "The fourth set was definitely the best that I've played, and

I'm obviously extremely happy to be back in the semi-finals now," he added.

Tommy Paul fought valiantly, taking the third set in a thrilling display, but Zverev responded with sheer dominance in the fourth. The German closed it out 6-1, sealing his place in the semifinals with a dominant performance.

Earlier in the tournament, Zverev had extended his remarkable streak against left-handed opponents to 26 consecutive wins, defeating Ugo Humbert in the fourth round. With his solid form continuing, Zverev remains a formidable contender for the title as the tournament



PV Sindhu and Lakshya Sen to Lead India at Badminton Asia Mixed Championship

Double Olympic medallist PV Sindhu and World Championship bronze medallist Lakshya Sen will spearhead a 14-member Indian team for the prestigious Badminton Asia Mixed Team Championship, which will be held in Qingdao, China, from February 11-16, 2025. India had a successful campaign in the previous edition in Dubai in 2023, where they clinched a bronze medal, and the team is hopeful of improving on that performance this year.

The selection of the team was based on the players' world rankings and current form, as stated by the Badminton Association of India (BAI). Joining Sindhu and Sen will be other top players, including HS Prannoy and Malvika Bansod, who will feature as the second men's and women's singles players respectively. The squad also boasts of star doubles players Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty, who have been instrumental in India's success in international competitions.

The women's doubles pairing will consist of either Gayatri



Gopichand and Treasa Jolly or Ashwini Ponnappa and Tanisha Crasto. In mixed doubles, Tanisha Crasto will pair up with Dhruv Kapila, while Sathish Kumar K and Adya Variyath will form the second combination.

Sanjay Mishra, the secretary general of the Badminton Association of India, emphasized the team's ambitious goals for the tournament. While they were proud of their bronze finish in 2023, the target this year is to reach the finals and potentially secure a gold medal. Mishra added that the team is determined to give their best and make the country proud.

The Indian squad for the Badminton Asia Mixed Team Championship includes the following players:

Men's: Lakshya Sen, HS Prannoy, Satwiksairaj Rankireddy, Chirag Shetty, Dhruv Kapila, MR Arjun, Sathish Kumar K.

Women's: PV Sindhu, Malvika Bansod, Gayatri Gopichand, Treasa Jolly, Ashwini Ponnappa, Tanisha Crasto, Adya Variyath.

With a strong lineup and high hopes, India will look to make a deep run in the tournament, aiming for their first gold in this prestigious event.

Jannik Sinner and Iga Swiatek Storm Into Semis at Australian Open 2025

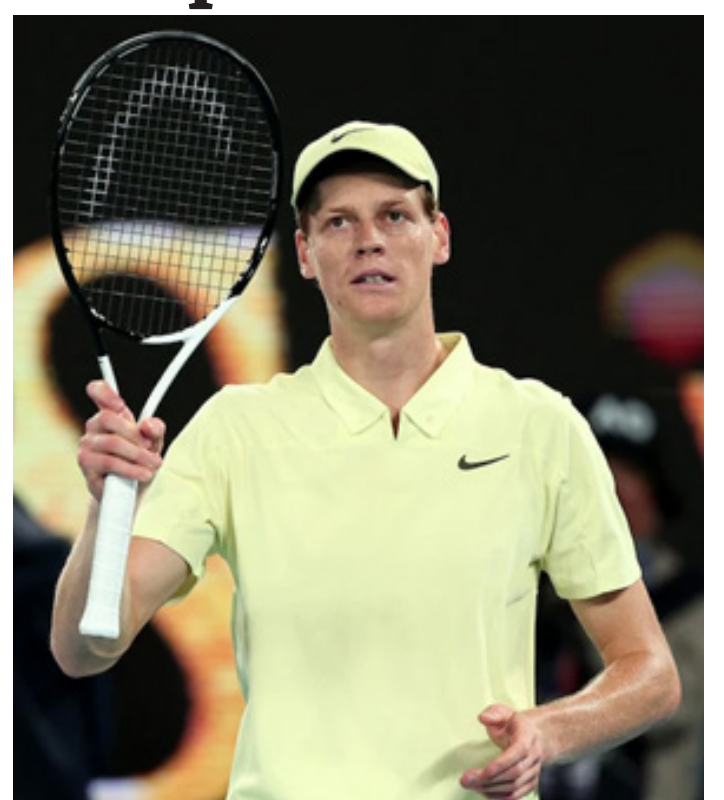
Jannik Sinner and Iga Swiatek continued their dominant runs at the Australian Open 2025, each securing a place in the semi-finals with commanding performances on Wednesday. Sinner, the defending champion, cruised to a 6-3, 6-2, 6-1 victory over Australia's Alex de Minaur, extending his unbeaten streak against the 8th seed to 10 matches. The Italian world number one, who had struggled with heat exhaustion earlier in the tournament, looked refreshed in the evening's cooler conditions and was in sublime form. "Today I felt like I was feeling everything," Sinner said, noting the ease with which he broke early in each set.

Sinner, who is aiming to defend his Grand Slam title for the first time after his triumph over Daniil Medvedev in last year's final, will next face 21st seed Ben Shelton. The American delivered a gritty 6-4, 7-5, 4-6, 7-6 (7/4) win over Italian Lorenzo Sonego to reach his first Australian Open semi-final. Shelton's performance, highlighted by a powerful 232kph ace, has earned him praise, though he expressed frustration over post-match interviews, calling them "embarrassing" and "disrespectful."

On the women's side, Swiatek continued her impressive form with a dominant 6-1, 6-2 win over American Emma Navarro. The Polish world number two has yet to drop a set at the tournament, making her the favorite to clinch

her first Australian Open title. Swiatek will next meet American 19th seed Madison Keys, who made a strong comeback to beat Elina Svitolina 3-6, 6-3, 6-4, advancing to her third Australian Open semi-final.

Swiatek remains cautious about her upcoming clash with Keys, stating, "Madison is a great player and experienced, so you never know." The women's semi-finals are set to take place on Thursday, with Swiatek and Keys battling for a spot in the final.





Naga Shaurya's next titled **Bad Boy Karthik**, first look revealed

Actor Naga Shaurya is all set to thrill audiences with his new film *Bad Boy Karthik*, where he teams up with debut director Raam Desina. The film is being produced by Srinivasa Rao Chintalapudi under the banner of Sri Vaishnavi Films. To celebrate Naga Shaurya's birthday, the makers not only unveiled the title of the film but also released its first-look poster, creating a buzz among fans.

The poster gives a glimpse into the high-energy, mass-appealing vibe of the film. Naga Shaurya, portraying the titular role of Karthik, is seen sitting with an air of authority on the back of a van. His forehead bears a blood mark, and the sacred namalu (lines) etched on it suggest a deep connection to his character's spiritual beliefs. His blood-stained hands further allude to the intense, violent journey his character will undertake. The first look hints at an action-packed nar-

ative that promises to captivate fans of high-octane thrillers.

Bad Boy Karthik features Vidhi as the female lead, with talented actors Samuthirakani and Sr Narresh playing pivotal roles. Music for the film is being composed by Harris Jayaraj, known for his memorable soundtracks, while Rasool Ellore handles the cinematography. With these experienced names on board, the film is expected to deliver both visually striking action sequences and a gripping musical experience.

The production of the film is currently in its final stages, and fans are eagerly awaiting its release. *Bad Boy Karthik* looks set to be an engaging action entertainer, with Naga Shaurya's intense portrayal promising to bring a fresh dimension to his acting career. This film could be a major milestone in his journey, blending mass appeal with a strong, compelling character.

First Look of **Thalapathy69** (Bhagavanth Kesari Remake) to Release on Republic Day

Thalapathy Vijay's upcoming film, tentatively titled *Thalapathy69*, is generating massive buzz as it marks his final project before he transitions into full-time politics. Directed by renowned filmmaker H. Vinoth, this film is an official adaptation of Balakrishna's *Bhagavanth Kesari*. As Vijay prepares to bid farewell to the silver screen, fans eagerly await his last cinematic appearance in this action-packed drama.

According to the latest reports, the first look of *Thalapathy69* will be unveiled on Republic Day, January 26, 2025. The movie is said to feature significant army-related sequences, which is why the team is choosing this special occasion for the big reveal. Along with the first look, fans can also expect clarity on the final title of the film. While an official announcement is still awaited, the anticipation for the first look is reaching a fever pitch.

Thalapathy69 is set to release in October 2025, and the star-studded cast includes Pooja Hegde, Bobby Deol, Mamitha Baiju, Prakash Raj, Priya-



mani, Narain, and Gautham Vasudev Menon, who will play pivotal roles. The film is produced by KVN Productions, marking the production house's foray into Tamil cinema. The music for the film will be composed by the acclaimed Anirudh Ravichander, adding to the excitement surrounding the movie.

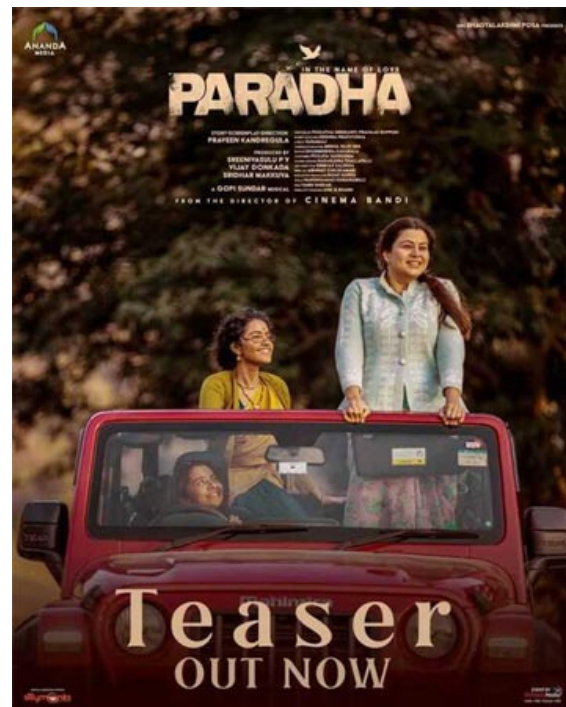
With its stellar cast, high-octane action sequences, and Vijay's final performance before his political journey, *Thalapathy69* is shaping up to be one of the most anticipated releases of 2025. Fans and cinephiles alike are eagerly awaiting the first look, which will offer a glimpse into what promises to be an unforgettable cinematic experience.

Anupama Parameswaran's **PARADHA** Teaser: A Promising Rustic Drama

The much-anticipated rustic drama *Paradha*, directed by Praveen Kandregula of Cinema Bandi fame, has just dropped its official teaser, and it's already creating a buzz. The film stars Anupama Parameswaran in the lead role, alongside Darshana Rajendran and Sangitha in pivotal roles. The teaser offers a glimpse into the world of Subbu, played by Anupama, a character deeply rooted in her village's customs and traditions.

Set against a rural backdrop, the teaser introduces Subbu, who embarks on an adventurous journey alongside two other women. One notable feature of Subbu's character is her adherence to the tradition of covering her face with a *paradha* (veil), a custom that represents the village's deep-rooted beliefs and superstitions. The teaser hints at the villagers' strong commitment to these traditions, which influence their actions and decisions for the betterment of their community.

The storyline appears to be a fascinating blend of humor, intensity, and

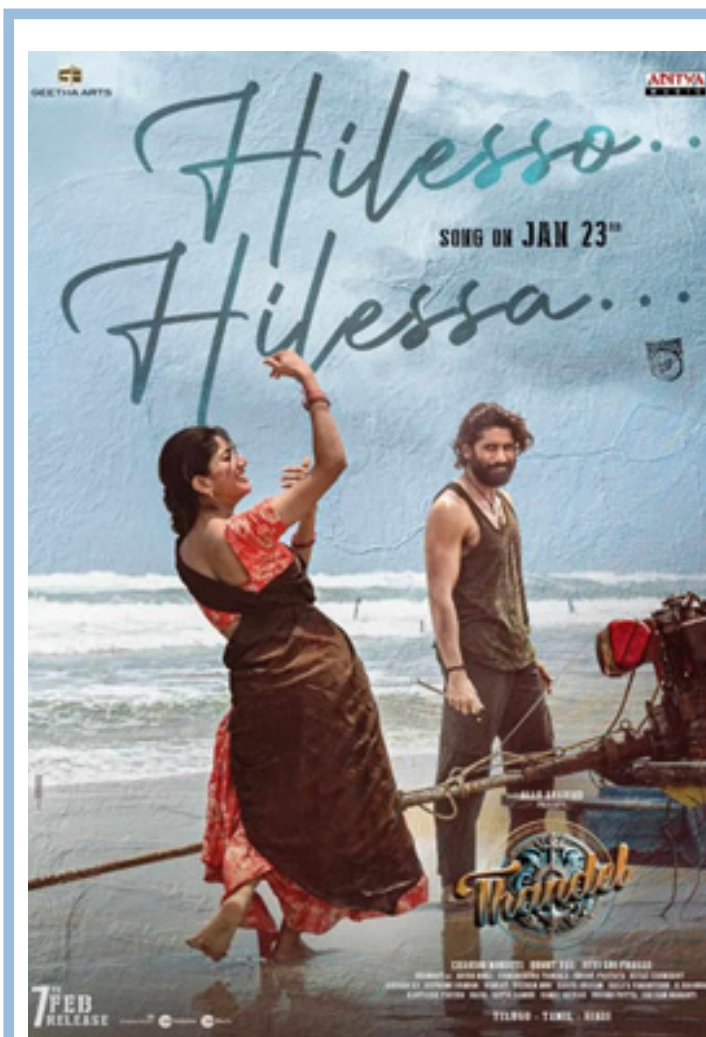


Anupama Parameswaran shines in her portrayal of Subbu, a village girl bound by tradition. Her performance is compelling, especially in moments that reveal the internal conflict between following customs and stepping out of them. Darshana Rajendran and Sangitha also make a significant impact, adding depth to their respective roles.

The cinematography by Mridul Sujit Sen is striking, perfectly capturing the rural setting with visually immersive shots, while Gopi Sundar's background score heightens the emotional atmosphere. The film's production, led by Vijay Donkada, Sreenivasulu PV, and Sri-dhar Makkuva under Ananda Media, reflects high production values that are clearly evident in the teaser.

emotional depth, capturing the essence of rural life with authenticity. Praveen Kandregula's direction and writing stand out for their realism, highlighting the strong cultural elements while ensuring the story remains engaging and relatable.

With a strong premise and solid performances, *Paradha* has generated significant curiosity. The film will be released in both Telugu and Malayalam, with the official release date to be announced soon.



Naga Chaitanya and Sai Pallavi's Romantic Tune **Hilesso Hilesso** Released from **Thandel**

The much-loved duo of Naga Chaitanya and Sai Pallavi is all set to share the screen again in the upcoming romantic action entertainer *Thandel*. Known for their incredible chemistry, the pair is expected to create magic once more, captivating audiences with their performances. The film, which features a mix of romance and action, also boasts music by the talented Rockstar Devi Sri Prasad, with the songs *Bujji Thalli* and *Namo Namah Shivaya* already receiving a positive response from listeners.

The excitement around *Thandel* continues to build, with the release of its third single, *Hilesso Hilesso*, scheduled for January 23rd. The announcement was made through a charming poster that showcases Naga Chaitanya

gazing affectionately at Sai Pallavi, who is seen dancing joyfully. Set against a tranquil beach backdrop, the image perfectly encapsulates the song's serene and romantic mood. Fans are eagerly anticipating this melody, which promises to be a soulful addition to the film's soundtrack.

Directed by Chandoo Mondeti, *Thandel* is produced by Allu Aravind and Bunny Vasu under the Geetha Arts banner. The movie is slated for release on February 7th, and with the promising chemistry between Naga Chaitanya and Sai Pallavi, along with a memorable soundtrack, expectations are high for this much-anticipated film. The trio of music, direction, and on-screen magic from the lead pair is sure to make *Thandel* a film to remember.

Akshay Khanna Unveils First Look as Aurangzeb in **Chhaava**

Bollywood actor Akshay Khanna is set to portray the infamous Mughal emperor Aurangzeb in the upcoming biographical film *Chhaava*. The movie, directed by Laxman Utekar, is based on the life of Shambhaji Maharaj, the eldest son of the legendary Maharashtrian warrior, Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj. Actor Vicky Kaushal stars in the titular role as Shambhaji Maharaj, while Rashmika Mandanna plays the female lead, Esu Bai. The film, produced by Dinesh Vision under the Madak Films banner, is set for release on February 14, 2025, just in time for Valentine's Day.



To mark the occasion, the filmmakers have revealed the first look of Akshay Khanna as the Mughal emperor Aurangzeb. Known for his ruthless reign over the Mughal Empire, Aurangzeb's portrayal in *Chhaava* promises to be an intense and powerful per-

formance. The first-look poster showcases Khanna in full Mughal attire, exuding the authority and cruelty associated with the historical figure. Alongside Khanna's look, the first looks of Vicky Kaushal as Shambhaji Maharaj and Rashmika Mandanna as Esu Bai have also been released, further building anticipation for the film.

The trailer for *Chhaava* will be released tomorrow, giving fans an exciting preview of the movie's epic scale and historical significance. The music for the film is being composed by the legendary A.R. Rahman, adding another layer of anticipation for what promises to be a grand cinematic experience. With a powerful cast, a gripping historical narrative, and a renowned director at the helm, *Chhaava* is shaping up to be one of the most awaited films of the year.