

POINT

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

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"Mystery illness" that caused panic in Jammu and Kashmir's Rajouri

Union Minister Jitendra Singh confirms toxic metal as the cause of 17 deaths.

Cadmium Poisoning Behind Rajouri Mystery Illness?

Neurotoxins led to irreversible brain damage in victims.

200 close contacts quarantined

Budhal declared a containment zone.



TPN Correspondent | Srinagar

A "mystery illness" that caused panic in Jammu and Kashmir's Rajouri district has been traced to cadmium poisoning, according to Union Minister Jitendra Singh. At least 17 people, including 14 children, lost their lives in Budhal village over the past month. Earlier investigations ruled out viral or bacterial causes. Cadmium, a highly toxic metal, was detected in the victims' bodies during tests at the Indian Institute of Toxicol-

ogy Research, Lucknow. It can enter the body through polluted air, contaminated food, or water. Authorities are investigating how the toxin reached the victims, with Minister Singh emphasizing that any foul play will be uncovered. The victims suffered from neurotoxins that caused severe brain swelling or edema, confirmed Dr. AS Bhatia, principal of GMC Rajouri. Despite extensive testing at premier labs, including the NCDC and NIV Pune, no other infections were

identified. The district administration, under DC Abhishek Sharma's supervision, relocated affected families to safer locations. GMC Rajouri has bolstered its medical team, adding child and anesthesia specialists to manage emergencies. Chief Minister Omar Abdullah visited Rajouri earlier this week, assuring residents of state and central efforts to address the crisis. An inter-ministerial team is further investigating the unexplained deaths.

'Shameful' vs 'readying script'

AAP, BJP in war of words over Punjab Police's security for Arvind Kejriwal



TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

A fresh political battle has erupted between the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) and Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) after Punjab Police withdrew security for AAP leader Arvind Kejriwal in the national capital. This move came after the Delhi Police, under the Union Ministry led by the BJP, raised concerns with the Election Commission regarding the presence of Punjab police personnel protecting Kejriwal.

- AAP accuses BJP and Amit Shah of orchestrating security withdrawal for Kejriwal.
- BJP dismisses allegations, calling Kejriwal's claims part of an "election

drama."

• Security row intensifies ahead of the Delhi Assembly elections on February 5. AAP leaders, including Delhi CM Atishi, who succeeded Kejriwal, labeled the move "shameful" and linked the recent attack on Kejriwal in Hari Nagar to the withdrawal of his security detail. Atishi accused Union Home Minister Amit Shah of influencing the decision and questioned the Election Commission's role in ensuring Kejriwal's safety.

"Do Modi and Shah want to play with Kejriwal ji's life? Will the Election

Commissioner remain a mute spectator?" Atishi wrote on social media. In response, BJP's Parvesh Verma, who is contesting against Kejriwal from the New Delhi constituency, mocked the allegations, stating that Kejriwal was merely preparing for another "attack drama" as the elections approach. "He is busy writing a script for his next attack story," Verma posted.

As the Delhi Assembly elections near, the battle over security has added fuel to the ongoing rivalry between AAP and BJP. Voting will take place on February 5, with the results scheduled for February 8.

Arvind Kejriwal's Big Claim

'Money, gold, shoes being distributed under police watch'

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

New Delhi: Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leader Arvind Kejriwal made serious allegations against the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) ahead of the Delhi Assembly elections, claiming that the party is distributing money, gold chains, shoes, and other items to voters with the protection of the Delhi Police.

In a video message on Friday, Kejriwal said, "These elections in Delhi are different. One and a half months ahead of the elections, open distribution of money, shoes, bed-sheets, sarees, ration, gold chains started. Nobody has any fear of the Election Commission or that someone would stop them. This distribution is being done under Police protection... This is very dangerous for our country."

The Delhi Chief Minister further alleged that BJP leaders were behind this distribution and urged voters not to "sell their votes." He questioned the source of the money being used to buy votes, linking it to corruption and the "looting" of the country.

"Accept whatever they are distributing



but remember one thing, do not sell your votes... Vote for anyone you want but not for those who are trying to buy your votes. They are corrupt. They are traitors. They are enemies of the nation," Kejriwal asserted.

He reminded voters of the sacrifices made by leaders like B R Ambedkar to secure their right to vote, emphasizing that a purchased vote undermines democracy. "If our votes can be purchased, then our democracy will end. There will only be the rule of the wealthy," he said.

Kejriwal also took to X, further accusing BJP's Parvesh Verma of distributing money and goods among voters in the New Delhi seat, where both leaders are contesting.

Republic Day 2025

Indonesian President Prabowo Subianto lands in India

- Subianto is the 4th Indonesian president at India's Republic Day.
- A 352-member Indonesian contingent will join the parade.
- India-Indonesia trade reached \$29.40 billion in 2023.

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

Indonesian President Prabowo Subianto arrived in India on Thursday night for a four-day visit, marking his first official trip as head of state. He will be the Chief Guest at India's 76th Republic Day celebrations on January 26, alongside holding several high-level meetings.

Union Minister of State for External Affairs Pabitra Margherita welcomed President Subianto at the airport. The Ministry of External Affairs highlight-

ed that the visit would bolster the India-Indonesia Comprehensive Strategic Partnership.

Over the next three days, President Subianto is scheduled to meet President Droupadi Murmu, Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, and External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar. Discussions will focus on enhancing cooperation in politics, defence, trade, and security, with multiple agreements expected to be signed.

President Subianto's visit also includes the 3rd CEO Forum and bilateral discussions aimed at expanding economic and maritime cooperation. India and Indonesia share strong ties under the Act East Policy, with their partnership elevated to a Comprehensive Strategic Partnership in 2018.

President Subianto's visit underscores growing ties between the two nations, reinforcing Indonesia's role as a vital partner in India's Indo-Pacific vision.





Atishi alleges Arvind Kejriwal murder conspiracy

TPN Correspondent, New Delhi: Ahead of the Delhi Assembly Elections, Chief Minister Atishi on Friday accused the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and the Delhi Police of being involved in a conspiracy to kill AAP leader Arvind Kejriwal. She made the claim in a press conference, reacting to recent attacks on Kejriwal during the election campaign. Atishi claimed that the BJP and Delhi Police were responsible for multiple attacks on Kejriwal, including an October 24 attack in Vikaspuri, a

November 30 attack in Malviya Nagar, and a January 18 attack in New Delhi where stones were thrown at Kejriwal's car. She further alleged that the attackers were identified as BJP workers on social media. "The next attack was on January 18 in the New Delhi assembly constituency, stones were pelted on his car. When we went to investigate on social media, it was identified that all attackers belonged to the BJP," Atishi said. She also claimed that in a recent incident in Hari Nagar, where Kejriwal

was campaigning, BJP workers with lathis and stones tried to assault him, but the Delhi Police did not intervene. "Sanjay Singh had to go and stop that attack but Delhi Police didn't come," she added. Atishi accused the Delhi Police of being complicit in the attacks due to its alleged ties with the BJP. "We do not trust the Delhi Police as it is under Amit Shah's control," she said. The accusations come as Delhi prepares for the assembly elections on February 5, with results expected on February 8.

Delhi Police nabs man in ₹15 crore Covid-19 vaccine scam

TPN Correspondent, New Delhi

The Economic Offences Wing (EOW) of the Delhi Police arrested Prafulla Kumar Nayak, a key player in a ₹15 crore fraud involving fake Covid-19 vaccine transportation contracts, after nearly three years on the run. The scam began in 2022 when Sunil Kaul filed a complaint alleging he was defrauded of ₹4 crore. Further investigation revealed a larger

scheme where victims were duped with false work orders for vaccine transportation. Nayak, using his access to Nirman Bhawan, issued fake orders and facilitated meetings by bribing ministry employees. In 2022, other individuals, including the mastermind Hermenn Sabherwal, were arrested. Nayak's arrest comes after months of investigation, with more individuals likely involved.

- Atishi accuses BJP and Delhi Police of conspiring to kill Kejriwal.
- Several attacks on Kejriwal have been attempted, allegedly by BJP workers, according to Atishi.
- AAP demands restoration of Kejriwal's security by Punjab Police.

HC Says no to Special Delhi Assembly Session on CAG Reports



TPN Correspondent, New Delhi

In a significant development ahead of the assembly elections, the Delhi High Court on Friday declined the BJP's plea to summon a special session of the Delhi Assembly for tabling several CAG audit reports. Justice Sachin Datta, while acknowledging the "inordinate delay" by the Delhi government in tabling the reports, ruled that summoning the assembly at this stage was unnecessary. The court emphasized that the tabling of audit reports is a constitutional obligation. However, it refused to intervene and mandate a special assembly sitting, stating, "The

court is not inclined to accept the prayer of the petitioner to summon a special sitting of the assembly."

- **BJP MLAs filed a petition last year seeking a special assembly session to table pending CAG reports.**

- **The court noted the delay in tabling but declined to issue directives ahead of the elections.**

- **Senior lawyers for the Delhi government argued there was no urgency to table the reports immediately.**

The petitioners, led by opposition leader Vijender Gupta and other BJP MLAs, had filed the plea through advocates Neeraj and Satya Ranjan Swain. They contended that withholding

the audit reports was against constitutional norms and demanded immediate action.

The AAP government, however, argued against the urgency of the BJP's demand, pointing to the proximity of the assembly elections. Senior lawyers representing the speaker and the Delhi government emphasized that summoning a special session at this juncture would not serve any immediate purpose. This verdict offers relief to the AAP government, which is gearing up for the upcoming polls. The matter of tabling the pending audit reports will likely remain unresolved until the elections are concluded.

Delhi Excise Dept Seizes 20,000 Bottles Of Illicit Liquor

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi
 Efforts to curb the illicit liquor menace in the capital intensified as the Delhi excise department seized nearly 20,000 bottles of illicit alcohol, worth ₹50 lakh, in the past fortnight. The seizures followed the implementation of the Model Code of Conduct (MCC) for the Assembly elections, officials revealed on Friday. The department also impounded 32 vehicles, bringing the total worth of the confiscated items, including 15,376 liters of liquor, to ₹1.5 crore. Since the MCC came into effect on January 7, 52 cases have been registered, with the excise department accounting for about 25% of the total seizures made, including those by the Delhi Police.

Excise Intelligence Bureau (EIB) teams have been conducting raids and monitoring key areas, focusing on liquor smuggled from neighboring Haryana. On Thursday night, the EIB intercepted two vehicles, seizing 5,000 bottles containing 3,600 liters of liquor, valued at ₹12 lakh, from Burari and Mahipalpur. In one operation, a truck carrying 3,036 bottles labeled "For Sale in Haryana Only" was chased for 14 kilometers and intercepted in Burari. Another mini-truck was caught in Mahipalpur, carrying 151 cases with 1,812 bottles.

The department, working under limited resources, has ramped up patrolling and inspections at inter-state borders, particularly with Hary-

ana, identified as a hotspot for smuggling. Non-conforming areas without liquor vends have also been closely monitored.

As per Election Commission (EC) directives, the excise department has instructed hotels, clubs, and bars to avoid "coupon-based and mass bookings" during the poll period. Inspections of bonded liquor warehouses and CCTV systems have also been intensified to prevent malpractices. With voting for the 70-member Delhi Assembly scheduled on February 5 and counting on February 8, the excise department has declared both days as "dry days" to ensure smooth electoral conduct.

FIITJEE Coaching Centres Shut Across UP, Delhi As Teachers Quit Over Unpaid Salaries

TPN Correspondent, New Delhi

In a major setback for students preparing for board and entrance exams, several FIITJEE coaching centres across North India have abruptly shut down due to a mass resignation by teachers protesting unpaid salaries. Centres in Noida, Ghaziabad, Bhopal, Varanasi, Delhi, Meerut, and Patna have closed their doors in the past week, leaving students and parents frustrated and without clear guidance. The crisis escalated when teachers at these institutes quit due to months of unpaid wages. A Meerut branch that tried to continue with teachers from Noida could not sustain

the operations, resulting in its shutdown. Many parents have now filed police complaints, demanding refunds and compensation. Videos and images of parents protesting outside the closed centres have gone viral, with parents alleging that the institution had assured continued classes despite the faculty departures. One parent shared that they had already invested ₹6 lakh in the coaching institute, but after being promised continuity, were left with no classes. Another parent, who had paid ₹4 lakh in fees, revealed that outgoing teachers had confirmed the salary issue, prompting widespread dissat-

isfaction.

The closure of these branches comes amidst a broader crisis at FIITJEE, with reports of financial troubles and regulatory issues, including violations of fire safety and licensing rules at various centres. The issue intensified after the conclusion of the JEE Mains 2025 Session-1 exams, which occurred from January 22 to 24. FIITJEE, founded in 1992 by IIT Delhi graduate DK Goel, operates over 70 centres across 41 cities, training students for engineering and medical entrance exams like JEE and NEET.

AAP MLA's son booked for misbehaving with Delhi Police

TPN Correspondent, New Delhi

A case has been filed by the Delhi Police against two individuals, including one who claimed to be the son of AAP MLA Amanatullah Khan, for misbehaving with officers during a security patrol in Okhla ahead of Republic Day. The incident occurred when the two were spotted riding a motorcycle erratically

with a modified silencer, creating loud noises and weaving through traffic. Upon being stopped, one of the individuals claimed to be the son of MLA Amanatullah Khan and accused the officers of targeting him due to his father's political status. When asked for their driving licenses and identification, the duo reportedly refused to provide them and even called

Khan to speak with the station house officer. They left without revealing their identities, while the motorcycle was impounded by the police. A case has been registered under various sections, and a challan has been issued. The duo's motorcycle was impounded for violating several provisions of the Motor Vehicle Act.



Battle of Freebies!!

AAP and BJP Woo Delhi Voters

G Avinash | TPN

Hyderabad, Jan 25:

As the Delhi assembly elections approach, the two main contenders, the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) and the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), are locked in a fierce competition, armed not only with promises but also sharp rhetoric. The 70-seat Delhi assembly vote on February 5 has turned into a battle of manifestos, with each party releasing its pledges in carefully timed instalments. The BJP's manifesto, or Sankalp Patra, has been particularly methodical. Released in three parts, its first instalment focused on women's welfare, promising a one-time financial aid of ₹21,000 for pregnant women, along with nutritional kits and monthly assistance under the Mahila Smridhhi Yojana. BJP chief J.P. Nadda even accused AAP of failing to fulfill its earlier promises, branding their governance as inconsistent and hollow. The second instalment shifted focus to youth and education, with lofty promises of free schooling from kindergarten to post-graduation for underprivileged students in government institutions. The BJP also dangled benefits for aspirants of competitive exams, including financial assistance and

reimbursement of exam fees. Former Union Minister Anurag Thakur announced a proposal for a Special Investigation Team (SIT) to probe corruption allegations against the AAP government, marking a direct attack on Kejriwal's administration. For AAP, the stakes are equally high. After three consecutive wins, Arvind Kejriwal faces the challenge of retaining his hold over Delhi while countering BJP's aggressive campaign. Confident of support from lower-income groups and minorities, thanks to his extensive freebies, Kejriwal has now turned his attention to wooing middle-class voters, often perceived as BJP's stronghold. However, his "demands" to the Centre for middle-class relief have drawn mixed reactions, with critics calling it a desperate attempt to broaden his voter base. Within BJP circles, opinions are divided on AAP's prospects. While some leaders acknowledge AAP's continued influence in slum areas, others believe its failure to deliver on essential services, such as piped water and sewage systems, could alienate voters. PM Modi himself has criticized Kejriwal's tenure, referring to it as an aapda (disaster). "Delhi de-

serves better," Modi declared in his campaign, urging voters to give BJP a chance to transform the city. Meanwhile, the Congress party has emerged as an unexpected wildcard. Despite its lackluster presence in recent elections, Congress leaders, including Rahul Gandhi, have ramped up attacks on AAP, using corruption allegations to question Kejriwal's credibility. The party's improved organization and newfound determination could play spoiler, cutting into AAP's vote share and indirectly aiding the BJP. Adding to the drama, UP Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has been roped in to spearhead BJP rallies. Known for his fiery speeches, Yogi has questioned AAP's governance, even challenging Kejriwal to take a dip in the Yamuna to showcase his government's success in cleaning the river. With Delhi's urban voters holding the key, both parties are working overtime to outdo each other. For now, it's a game of promises, punches, and plenty of political theatrics. Whether Delhi opts for more freebies or a new narrative remains to be seen on February 5.

Alka Lamba slams AAP over Yamuna's condition: 'Congress will clean it'



TPN Correspondent,

New Delhi: As the state of the Yamuna river becomes a focal point in Delhi's political discourse, Congress candidate Alka Lamba has launched a strong criticism against both BJP and AAP, accusing them of politicizing the issue. Lamba, contesting from the Kalkaji Assembly seat, promised that if given the chance, Congress would prioritize cleaning the Yamuna and not blame others for its condition. The controversy escalated after Uttar Pradesh Chief Minis-

ter Yogi Adityanath challenged Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal to take a dip in the polluted Yamuna, akin to his dip in the Ganges in Prayagraj with his cabinet. Yogi also blamed Kejriwal for turning the Yamuna into a "dirty drain," calling it a "sin." Lamba criticized both AAP and BJP for failing to address the pollution despite being in power for over a decade. She remarked that political games had been played in the name of cleaning the river, while corruption worth crores had

taken place. "Rivers Yamuna and Ganga are nothing more than election issues for them," Lamba added, asserting that Congress would work towards cleaning the Yamuna without making it a scapegoat for political failures. Lamba is contesting against AAP's Atishi and BJP's Ramesh Bidhuri in the Kalkaji constituency. As Delhi prepares for the Assembly elections on February 5, the condition of the Yamuna remains a crucial talking point.

Anurag Thakur says Arvind Kejriwal will be 'stumped', 'clean bowled'

TPN Correspondent, New Delhi

BJP MP Anurag Thakur on Friday predicted that Arvind Kejriwal, the former Delhi Chief Minister and AAP leader, would be "stumped" and "clean bowled" by the voters in the upcoming Delhi Assembly elections on February 5. Thakur, who was campaigning for his party, criticized Kejriwal's governance and emphasized the need for better basic services in the city. "Arvind Kejriwal is going to get 'stumped' and 'clean bowled' as people need clean drinking water, clean air, and a clean Yamuna," Thakur said, referring to the major concerns of the Delhi electorate. Thakur, a former Union Minister for Sports, who also has a background in cricket, went further to label AAP as "aapda" (disaster), a term popularized by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. He criticized the party's stance

on women's issues and referred to the recent developments surrounding the resignation of Atishi as Delhi's third female chief minister after Kejriwal's unexpected departure. He also questioned Kejriwal's security, saying, "Why his name is in the Z+ security category of Punjab, even when he is not the CM nor does he hold any position in Punjab?" Why Is Atishi Missing From AAP's Posters? Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) MP Anurag Thakur on Friday criticized the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) for excluding Delhi Chief Minister Atishi from its election posters in the national capital. "Why is CM Atishi's face missing from AAP's hoardings in Delhi?" Thakur questioned while campaigning in the city, where the BJP is mounting a challenge to the Arvind Kejriwal-led AAP.

The former Union Minister also labeled AAP as "aapda" (disaster), echoing a term used by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, and accused the party of being anti-women. Thakur referenced the alleged assault case involving Swati Maliwal, an AAP Rajya Sabha MP, whose alleged attacker, Bibhav Kumar, is reportedly a close aide of Arvind Kejriwal. Atishi Is Only a 'Temporary CM': AAP AAP leaders, including Kejriwal, have repeatedly described Atishi as a 'temporary' chief minister. This follows Kejriwal's shock resignation in September last year after he secured bail in the Delhi excise policy case. After his release, Kejriwal stated he would only take up a post after receiving a "certificate of honesty" from the people. Subsequently, he resigned, paving the way for Atishi, one of his ministerial colleagues, to assume the role of Chief Minister temporarily.



'We Felt Humiliated...' MPs Write to Speaker After Suspension from Waqf Panel Meeting



TPN Correspondent, New Delhi Ten Opposition MPs wrote a letter to the Speaker on Friday after being suspended from a Parliament meeting on the Waqf (Amendment) Bill. The suspension followed heated protests against the chairman's alleged high-handed conduct during the proceedings. In their letter, the MPs accused the chairman of reducing the committee's functioning to a "farce" and claimed their democratic rights were

ignored. The Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC), tasked with finalizing its draft report on the Waqf (Amendment) Bill by the end of January, has been mired in controversy over procedural disagreements. The Waqf (Amendment) Bill, introduced by Union Minority Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju in August 2024, seeks to amend the Waqf Act of 1995 to address challenges in regulating and managing Waqf properties. Opposition members argued that the government was rushing the process without allowing adequate time to study stakeholders' views. "When the meeting started at 11.00 AM, we, the members of the opposition, raised our voices respectfully against the chairman's unilateral and unfair approach to conducting the business. Despite our reasonable objections, the

chairman disregarded our concerns," the MPs wrote. They alleged that chairman Jagdambika Pal prioritized the government's agenda over a fair discussion, possibly due to the upcoming Delhi elections. TMC MP Kalyan Banerjee noted that Pal had ignored their request to postpone the meeting until January 30 or 31, after committee members had returned from stakeholder discussions in Lucknow. According to the letter, the chairman ordered their suspension unexpectedly after taking a phone call during the meeting. "As we all felt humiliated, we stood and raised our voice democratically to be heard. However, instead of addressing our concerns, the chairman shouted and ordered our suspension," they wrote. The Opposition MPs called for an impartial review of the incident and emphasized their commitment to upholding democratic values in parliamentary proceedings.

Owaisi claims AIMIM Okhla candidate can 'win while being in jail'



TPN Correspondent, New Delhi AIMIM chief Asaduddin Owaisi, while campaigning for party candidate Shifa-Ur-Rehman in Okhla, claimed that his candidate could win the Delhi elections from jail, drawing a parallel to Arvind Kejriwal's electoral success while out on bail. Owaisi, addressing a public gathering, emphasized the right of Shifa-Ur-Rehman to contest from jail, stating, "If Kejriwal can contest after being granted bail, so

can Shifa." He further compared Shifa's situation to that of George Fernandez, who won elections while incarcerated in the Baroda Dynamite case. The AIMIM chief also criticized political parties opposing his candidates, Shifa-Ur-Rehman and Tahir Hussain, for their involvement in the 2020 riots conspiracy. He highlighted the hypocrisy of those objecting to these candidates, pointing out the number of MPs in India with serious criminal cases, including rape, murder, and kidnapping charges. AIMIM has fielded Tahir Hussain and Shifa-Ur-Rehman from Mustafabad and Okhla constituencies, respectively, for the February 5 elections.

UP Playing Key Role In Economic, Spiritual Development

President Murmu on State Formation Day

TPN Correspondent, New Delhi

President Droupadi Murmu lauded Uttar Pradesh's significant role in the economic, social, political, and spiritual development of India on the occasion of the state's Formation Day. In a message shared on X, she extended her heartfelt greetings to the people of Uttar Pradesh and expressed optimism for the state's continued progress.

"Uttar Pradesh is playing an important role in the economic, social, political, and spiritual development of the country. I am confident that this state will continue to move forward on the path of overall development. I wish for the continued progress, happiness, and prosperity of the hardworking and talented residents of Uttar Pradesh," President Murmu wrote in Hindi.

Uttar Pradesh, earlier known as the United Provinces, was



officially renamed on January 24, 1950. Celebrated annually as Uttar Pradesh Day, the occasion marks the state's remarkable contributions to the nation.

President Murmu expressed

pride in the state's legacy and emphasized its role in shaping the nation's future. She also conveyed her best wishes to the people, acknowledging their dedication and resilience in driving progress.

Republic Day 2025: Theme for Tableaux, Which States Are Participating

TPN Correspondent, New Delhi

India is gearing up for its 76th Republic Day celebration this year, commemorating the adoption of the Constitution in 1950. Preparations are in full swing for grand parades, cultural exhibits, and vibrant state tableaux. The event will take place on Kartavya Path, showcasing the diversity and heritage of India. Tableaux Theme The tableaux theme for Republic Day 2025 is Swarnim Bharat: Virasat aur Vikas (Heritage and Development). The theme highlights India's rich heritage and its progress toward development, symbolizing the nation's growth while preserving its cultural legacy.

Participating States and Union Territories Fifteen states and union territories have been selected to participate in the Republic Day parade, including Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Chandigarh, Dadra Nagar Haveli &

Daman and Diu, Goa, Gujarat, Haryana, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Punjab, Tripura, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, and West Bengal, each presenting their tableaux to showcase their cultural heritage and development.



Additionally, 15 ministries and government departments will also display their tableaux during the parade. States and union territories that were not selected for the Kartavya Path parade will have the opportunity to showcase their displays at the Bharat Parv, which will be held at Red Fort from January 26 to 31.

Preparation for Tableaux To

ensure high-quality displays, authorities held a senior-level meeting in April of the previous year to finalize guidelines. The tableau designs must be colorful, easily comprehensible, and free of any lengthy explanations or logos unless approved by the Committee.

Each tableau will feature the names of the Union Territories and States in Hindi font at the front, with English at the back. The sides will feature the regional language. Similarly, ministries and other government agencies will display their names in Hindi at the front and English at the back. Virtual reality designs can also be incorporated using CDs and DVDs.

The tableau displays will be a key highlight of the Republic Day parade, reflecting the country's heritage, growth, and the spirit of unity in diversity.



- Opposition MPs claimed insufficient time to review the amendments and accused BJP of rushing the bill.
- Mirwaiz Umar Farooq opposed the changes, calling them interference in religious affairs.
- Suspended MPs include Owaisi, Banerjee, and A Raja, amid ongoing JPC controversies.

Waqf Bill Panel Meet, 10 Opposition MPs, Including A Owaisi, Suspended

TPN Correspondent, New Delhi

Ten opposition MPs, including AIMIM's Asaduddin Owaisi, the Trinamool's Kalyan Banerjee, and DMK's A Raja, were suspended for the day from the Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) discussing amendments to the Waqf Act of 1955. The suspensions followed disruptions during Friday's proceedings, which saw heated debates over the proposed changes to the law.

The Waqf Amendment Bill proposes significant modifications to the administration of Waqf boards, including add-

ing non-Muslim members and at least two women to the boards. Opposition MPs accused the ruling BJP of rushing the amendments without sufficient deliberation, leading to clashes during the session. During the session, the Mirwaiz expressed concerns about the amendments, stating that they risk disempowering Muslims and urged the government to reconsider. He emphasized that Waqf-related matters hold significant importance, especially in Jammu and Kashmir, and warned against interference.

Opposition leaders, includ-

ing Congress's KC Venugopal, claimed the amendments violate constitutional rights, particularly Articles 15 and 30, which protect religious freedoms and minority rights. Critics argue that provisions such as limiting donations from "practicing Muslims" undermine community autonomy and freedom of religion. The JPC's earlier report submission deadline of November 29 has been extended to February 13, the last day of the Parliament's Budget Session, to allow for further deliberations.

Explosion At Maharashtra Ordnance Factory



- Eight workers confirmed dead in the explosion.
- Seven others injured, with rescue operations ongoing.
- The blast was heard 5 km away, creating significant concern.

TPN Correspondent, Mumbai The blast at the ordnance factory in Bhandara district, Maharashtra, has claimed the lives of eight workers, with seven others injured. The explosion occurred around 10:30 am in the LTP section of the factory, leading to a roof collapse and trapping several workers. Rescue operations, involving firefighters and medical teams, were quickly initiated.

The blast's intensity was so severe that it was heard from

5 km away, with thick smoke visible rising from the site. Early rescue efforts saved three workers, but one was found dead under the debris. An excavator was employed to clear the rubble. Union Minister Nitin Gadkari confirmed the fatalities and extended condolences during an afternoon event. Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis assured that top officials were on-site and additional rescue teams were en route from Nagpur.

Fire Rumour By Tea-Seller Led To Jalgaon Train Tragedy

TPN Correspondent, Pune

Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar on Thursday attributed the Jalgaon train tragedy to a false fire alarm raised by a tea-seller inside the Pushpak Express. The incident led to confusion and panic among passengers, resulting in 13 fatalities and 15 injuries.

The tragedy occurred on Wednesday evening when some passengers of the Lucknow-Mumbai Pushpak Express, alarmed by the rumor, jumped off the train after an emergency chain-pulling incident.

They were tragically struck by the Karnataka Express heading from Bengaluru to Delhi on the adjacent tracks in Jalgaon district.

Addressing the media, Mr. Pawar revealed, "A tea-seller from the pantry shouted about a fire in a coach, which caused panic. Two passengers from Uttar Pradesh heard this and spread the false alarm to others." Terrified passengers from the general and adjoining coaches began jumping off the train.

When the train came to a halt due to the

chain pulling, more passengers disembarked, unknowingly stepping into the path of the speeding Karnataka Express. The powerful impact caused severe casualties, with several bodies mutilated.

The Deputy CM confirmed that of the 13 deceased, 10 have been identified. The two passengers who initially spread the rumor were among the injured. Authorities and the district guardian minister responded promptly to restore train movement in both directions.

Saif Ali Khan records statement on January 16 attack

TPN Correspondent, Mumbai

Actor Saif Ali Khan recorded his statement with the Bandra police on Thursday, recounting the harrowing attack at his Bandra home on January 16. The incident left Mr. Khan with multiple stab injuries after an intruder, later identified as Shariful Islam, entered his residence on the 11th floor of the Satguru Sharan building. Mr. Khan revealed that he and his wife, actress Kareena Kapoor Khan, were in their bedroom when they heard their younger son Jeh's nanny, Eliyama Philips,



scream. Rushing to their son's room, they found the alleged attacker confronting the nanny while Jeh cried in fear. Despite be-

ing injured in the neck, back, and hands during the struggle, Mr. Khan managed to push the intruder into the room, allowing Ms. Philips to escape with Jeh and lock the attacker inside.

The attacker reportedly demanded ₹1 crore during the incident and was later arrested after a three-day manhunt. Shariful Islam, a Bangladeshi national who entered India illegally last year, was tracked to Thane after he used Google Pay for a meal.

Illegal infiltration from Bangladesh could affect Manipur, warns CM Biren Singh

TPN Correspondent, Guwahati

Manipur Chief Minister N Biren Singh on Thursday expressed concern over illegal infiltration issues, warning that undetected migrants from Bangladesh entering Assam could pose a risk to Manipur. He emphasized the need for vigilance along the state's borders to address infil-

tration from neighboring countries. Highlighting Manipur's inter-state border with Assam (204 km), Mr. Singh stated that Assam and Tripura, sharing 263 km and 856 km borders with Bangladesh respectively, are also grappling with infiltration concerns. While most parts of these borders are fenced, some sections remain vulnerable, raising security chal-

lenges. The Chief Minister underscored that in addition to security forces, indigenous people must stay vigilant to prevent illegal infiltration. He stressed that any lapse in monitoring in Assam could allow illegal migrants to move into Manipur, exacerbating the situation.



India-US relationship is very strong...

MEA amid Donald Trump's tariff threats



- India-US relationship is strong and multifaceted, with special economic ties.
- India is committed to addressing trade issues constructively with the US.
- MEA affirms clear stance against illegal migration and its links with organized crime.

TPN Correspondent

New Delhi: The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) reaffirmed the strength of the India-US relationship amid growing concerns over potential trade tariffs from former President Donald Trump. MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal emphasized that the India-US relationship is multifaceted, with a particularly strong economic connection.

"Our approach has always been to address issues in a

constructive manner, in keeping with the interests of both countries," Jaiswal said, adding that India remains in close communication with the US administration.

Jaiswal also addressed the issue of illegal immigration, particularly concerning Indian nationals overstaying in the US. He reiterated that India opposes illegal migration, as it is linked to organized crime. The MEA spokesperson made it clear that any individuals

found overstaying in the US would be repatriated once the necessary documents are provided.

"Any discussion about numbers is premature," Jaiswal added, when asked about the specifics of the repatriation process.

India continues to stress that illegal migration and trade relations are separate issues, with the nation's stance on illegal migration remaining firm.

Adani Group Denies Cancellation of Sri Lanka Wind Power Projects



- Adani Group confirms wind power projects in Sri Lanka are ongoing.
- Tariff reevaluation by Sri Lankan authorities is part of standard procedures.
- \$1 billion investment in Sri Lanka's renewable energy sector reaffirmed.

TPN Correspondent

New Delhi

The Adani Group has refuted

reports claiming the cancellation of its 484 MW wind power projects in Sri Lanka's Man-

nar and Pooneryn districts. In a statement, the company termed the reports as "false and misleading" and confirmed the projects remain on track.

The spokesperson clarified that Sri Lanka's cabinet decision on January 2 to reevaluate tariffs approved in May 2024 is part of a routine review by the new government. This review ensures alignment with current energy policies and priorities.

Sri Lanka, recovering from an economic crisis in 2022, is expediting renewable energy projects to address its dependency on imported fuel and prevent power blackouts. The Adani Group emphasized its commitment to supporting the nation's energy transition.

Ola and Uber Deny Allegations of Fare Disparities for iPhone Users

CCPA issues notices after reports suggest higher charges for iPhone users compared to Android users

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi: Ola and Uber have responded to allegations of fare discrepancies based on the type of mobile phone used, after media reports claimed that iPhone users were being charged more than Android users for identical rides. Both companies have categorically denied the claims, stating that they maintain a uniform pricing structure for all customers, regardless of the device used.

The controversy began when the Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA) intervened, following consumer complaints and media reports highlighting the pricing disparity. Consumer Affairs Min-

ister Pralhad Joshi directed the CCPA to issue notices to the two major cab aggregators, urging them to explain the situation. In a statement released on Friday, an Ola spokesperson reiterated that the company does not differentiate between Android and iPhone users when it comes to pricing. "There is no differentiation based on the operating system of a user's phone for similar rides," the spokesperson emphasized. Ola also confirmed that it had provided a detailed clarification to the CCPA to address any concerns.

Similarly, Uber issued a statement denying the claims, stating that it does not set fares

based on the type of phone a rider uses. The company expressed its willingness to work with the CCPA to resolve any misunderstandings.

The issue gained attention when a social media user shared an image showing differing fares for the same Uber ride—₹290.79 on an Android phone and ₹342.47 on an iPhone. The user, Sudhir, shared his own experience, stating that he often noticed higher fares on his iPhone compared to his daughter's Android device. This sparked a broader conversation about potential fare discrepancies based on the phone model.

Elon Musk Comments on Satya Nadella's \$80 Billion Investment in Azure



TPN Correspondent

New Delhi

Satya Nadella, CEO of Microsoft, responded to Elon Musk's remarks about the Stargate project by reaffirming Microsoft's commitment to investing \$80 billion into its cloud computing platform, Azure. The exchange began after U.S. President Donald Trump announced the Stargate project, a joint venture involving OpenAI,

SoftBank, and Oracle, aimed at investing at least \$500 billion in AI infrastructure in the U.S. Elon Musk, a close ally of Trump, expressed doubts about the group's financial capability, claiming, "They don't actually have the money," and questioned SoftBank's financial position.

OpenAI's CEO, Sam Altman, rejected Musk's comments, offering him the chance to

visit the project's first site. In a CNBC interview, Nadella, when asked about Musk's doubts, confidently responded, "I am good for my \$80 billion. I am going to spend \$80 billion building out Azure, and customers can count on Microsoft."

In a response shared on social media, Musk acknowledged, "On the other hand, Satya definitely does have the money." Nadella, in a light-hearted reply, emphasized that the investment in AI is about creating practical solutions, not just hype.

The Stargate project is set to invest \$500 billion over the next four years to build AI infrastructure. SoftBank will manage finances, while OpenAI will handle operations. Key technology partners include Microsoft, Arm, NVIDIA, Oracle, and OpenAI.

Mumbai Jeweller Sentenced to 2.5 Years in US Prison

Sentenced for evading customs duties on jewellery worth ₹116.55 crore

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

A Mumbai-based jeweller has been sentenced to 30 months in prison by a US court for evading customs duties on jewellery imports worth ₹116.55 crore and for operating an illegal money-transmitting business.

Monishkumar Kirankumar Doshi Shah (40), who ran multiple jewellery firms in New York, was convicted for conspiracy to commit wire fraud. Shah had been involved in a scheme where jewellery shipments from India and Turkey were mislabelled to avoid paying customs duties.

Shah's fraudulent activities took place between December 2019 and April 2022, during which he directed his accomplices to route the shipments through South Korea, bypassing higher customs duties that would have been applicable if the items were shipped directly to the US. This tactic allowed him to avoid paying approximately 5.5% in customs duties. Shah's scheme involved creating fake invoices and altering the labels on the goods, making them appear as though they originated from South Korea instead of India or Turkey. The goods were then

shipped to customers in the United States, and Shah further instructed his customers to produce falsified documents to cover up the illegal transaction.

In addition to his prison sentence, the US District Judge ordered Shah to pay restitution of \$742,500 related to the wire fraud scheme. He must also forfeit \$11.12 million, the total amount tied to his fraudulent activities.

Shah, who had pleaded guilty earlier, will serve two years of supervised release after completing his sentence.

CBI Busts Rs 350 Crore Crypto Ponzi Scam



- CBI busts Rs 350 crore crypto Ponzi scam across seven states.
- Frauds promoted via social media, involving cryptocurrency investments.
- Seized digital assets worth USD 38,414 and Rs 34.2 lakh in cash.

Companies Involved: CoinDCX, WazirX, Zebpay, BitBns

TPN Correspondent

New Delhi

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has busted a massive Rs 350 crore crypto Ponzi scam, with search operations conducted across seven locations in multiple states. The accused, involved in seven separate modules, allegedly deceived investors by promising high returns on cryptocurrency investments. These fraudulent schemes were reportedly promoted through various social media platforms, targeting unsuspecting individuals. The accused individuals op-

erated in cities such as Delhi, Hazaribag, Bathinda, Ratlam, Valsad, Pudukkottai, and Chittoargarh. After analyzing bank transactions and cryptocurrency wallets, the CBI revealed that the proceeds from these scams were converted into cryptocurrencies, making it difficult to trace their origins. Over the course of the schemes, the transactions are believed to have exceeded Rs 350 crore.

Following the registration of the case, CBI teams conducted searches in Delhi, Jharkhand, Punjab, Madhya Pradesh, Gu-

jarat, Tamil Nadu, and Rajasthan. During these searches, the agency seized digital assets worth approximately USD 38,414, as well as cash amounting to Rs 34.2 lakh. Additionally, several devices and incriminating documents were recovered, including mobile phones, laptops, hard disks, and more.

The CBI registered the case under sections of the Indian Penal Code and the Information Technology Act, accusing the perpetrators of criminal conspiracy, cheating, and fraud. Investigations have revealed that the scam operated without approval from regulatory bodies like the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), with victims being lured into unregulated deposit schemes. The accused used various deceptive tactics, such as online loans, lucky orders, and UPI frauds, to defraud investors.

The probe has also uncovered numerous bank accounts and Virtual Digital Asset (VDA) wallets associated with cryptocurrency exchanges like CoinDCX, WazirX, Zebpay, and BitBns. These accounts saw transactions exceeding Rs 350 crore over two years, further highlighting the scale of the operation.

Tamizhaga Vetri Kazhagam: Vijay's Political Gambit and Emerging Alliances

Actor Vijay's TVK explores partnerships amid Tamil Nadu's polarized political landscape



TVK is positioning itself as an anti-Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) entity open to alliances with major opposition players like the All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (AIADMK). Vijay's move follows the lessons learned by Tamil cinema colleagues Kamal Haasan and the late Vijayakanth, who struggled to make electoral impacts without aligning with dominant Dravidian parties.

Vijayakanth's Desiya Murpokku Dravida Kazhagam (DMDK) gained 8% vote share in the 2006 assembly elections but won only one seat. However, his 2011 alliance with the AIADMK secured 28 seats. Similarly, Kamal Haasan's Makkal Needhi Maiam (MNM) saw limited success in the 2019 and 2021 elections, eventually aligning with the DMK. Vijay's acknowledgment of coalition power-sharing underscores the necessity

of an anti-DMK vote.

Vijay's TVK aligns on key issues with AIADMK and BJP to challenge DMK.

Anti-DMK bloc faces hurdles over leadership roles and seat-sharing. BJP remains a minor player in Tamil Nadu's Dravidian-dominated politics.

Recent events suggest tacit coordination between TVK, AIADMK, and BJP. The Anna University sexual assault protests saw Vijay meet Tamil Nadu's Governor, aligning with AIADMK and BJP efforts to highlight law-and-order issues against the DMK. All three parties also boycotted the Erode East by-election, citing concerns over electoral manipulation.

Despite shared goals, obstacles remain. Leadership dynamics will play a significant role in shaping a

principal opposition, may resist conceding too many seats to TVK. Vijay, leveraging his star power, will likely demand substantial representation. Additionally, incorporating the BJP into this coalition presents a challenge, given Tamil Nadu's strong Dravidian identity and resistance to the BJP's ideology. For the AIADMK, reeling from losses in three consecutive elections, an alliance with TVK offers a chance to revitalize its voter base and challenge the DMK's formidable coalition. Vijay, too, risks fragmenting the anti-DMK vote if he contests alone, making collaboration a strategic necessity. While hurdles persist, the groundwork for a cohesive anti-DMK front is being laid. If successful, such an alliance could alter Tamil Nadu's political trajectory, demonstrating the enduring need for strategic partnerships in a polarized electoral landscape.

Repatriation of Illegal Immigrants: A Challenge for India Amid U.S. Policy Shift



The repatriation of illegal immigrants and trade tariffs are emerging as two key challenges for India, especially in the wake of United States President Donald Trump's recent policies. One of the most immediate threats to India is the potential deportation of thousands of undocumented Indian nationals living in the U.S.

Under the new administration, nearly 18,000 illegal immigrants from India could be repatriated, as part of Trump's commitment to protect the American public from the negative effects of unlawful migration. With approximately 725,000 undocumented Indian immigrants in the U.S., Indians represent the ninth-largest group of illegal immigrants, making up around 6.6% of the total, according to 2022 statistics.

While it may not be feasible to deport all of these individuals to India in a short period, the symbolic action of sending back a significant number could occur as Trump seeks to fulfill his promise. However, he may eventually recognize that the U.S. economy relies on both low-skilled and high-skilled migrant workers, which could make a large-scale repatriation more challenging.

In the past, undocumented Indian immigrants have already faced deportation from the U.S. In the 2024 fiscal year, over 1,500 Indian nationals were deported, and the U.S. has been repatriating Indian immigrants for several years. For example, in October 2023, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security collaborated with the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement to send back Indian nationals who were unable to legally stay in the U.S.

India has been working on agreements to manage the mobility of its labor force through Labour Mobility Agreements with countries like Qatar, Kuwait, and Saudi Arabia. Additionally, India has Migration and Mobility Partnership Agreements with nations like France, the UK, Germany, and Italy to streamline migration processes and address issues related to deportation and legal stay. These agreements may help India manage the potential impact of a large-scale repatriation from the U.S.

AI videos from China are coming for the world



Chinese artificial intelligence (AI) companies are relentlessly pushing forward in an effort to close the development gap with the United States. Despite Washington's ongoing efforts to restrict the growth of China's AI industry, Chinese firms are proving their ability to remain competitive with Silicon Valley's best.

One example of this innovation is Vidu 2.0, an AI video generator released last week by Shengshu Technology, a Beijing-based startup with strong ties to Tsinghua University, a key institution in China's AI development. Vidu 2.0, which has been touted as a domestic rival to OpenAI's Sora, allows users from around the world to generate short videos from images.

While I experienced some inconsistencies during my tests, such as strange facial expressions, unnatural limb movements, and other clear signs of AI involvement, I was most impressed by the platform's speed. Within seconds, I was able to produce video clips, including one of Donald Trump crying and another of him embracing Elon Musk in a romantic setting.

What's even more impressive is Vidu 2.0's cost-efficiency. The platform claims to produce short-

form video content at 55% lower costs than the industry average, showcasing China's ability to cut production costs in AI-driven technology.

Vidu 2.0's release follows another notable AI development from China: DeepSeek-V3, a large language model launched late last month. The model not only performed impressively on global AI benchmarks but was also reportedly developed at an astonishingly low cost. Andrej Karpathy, a founding member of OpenAI, remarked on the budget for DeepSeek-V3, calling it a "joke of a budget."

These consecutive advancements serve as a clear signal to the U.S. administration, highlighting the limitations of its export controls and policies aimed at stalling China's AI progress. They underscore the fact that Beijing's AI capabilities are advancing at an accelerated pace, making it evident that the U.S.'s current strategy may not be as effective as intended in hindering China's technological ambitions. China's rapid strides in AI innovation could reshape the global technology landscape, challenging the U.S.'s historical dominance in this field and prompting a reevaluation of how both nations navigate the future of artificial intelligence.

Chandrababu Naidu Calls for More Children: A Demographic Solution in a Growing State

In a surprising move, Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu has called for families to have more children, a stance that seems out of sync with the global trend of population control, especially in a country that is set to become the world's most populous nation. Known for his progressive policies, Naidu's recent decision to amend the rules for local body elections, allowing candidates to have more than two children, has raised eyebrows. This policy reverses a law introduced three decades ago, which capped the number of children public representatives could have.



The catalyst behind this change stems from Naidu's recognition of a demographic imbalance in the state. With Andhra Pradesh's Total Fertility Rate (TFR) at 1.7, below the replacement level of 2.1, the state's population is expected to peak at 54.4 million by 2034 and then begin to decline. This trend, combined with the growing elderly population—predicted to surpass the number of children by 2046—has prompted the Chief Minister to reassess the need for a policy that encourages larger families.

This shift is not solely based on population dynamics. There are political considerations at play, as well. Southern states like Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu, which have successfully managed to reduce birth rates, are concerned about losing political representation during the upcoming delimitation process. The number of Lok Sabha seats allocated to states is determined by population, and with northern states still experiencing higher growth rates, southern states fear their voices will be diminished in the future.

Historically, this has been a point of contention. In 2001, when the delimitation exercise was frozen until 2025, southern political leaders argued that states with controlled population growth should not be penalized. This concern has only grown more pressing as the demographic gap between the south and the north widens.

While Naidu's call for larger families may be driven by a desire to counterbalance the ageing population, encouraging a return to the "Small is Beautiful" mentality, which advocates limiting families to two children, will not be easy. Social norms take time to change, as evidenced by Japan's struggle to overcome similar demographic issues.

Ultimately, this debate is about more than just population numbers; it's about finding a balance between political representation and social sustainability. As India moves towards its goal of becoming a developed nation by 2047, policymakers must engage in thoughtful discussions to address demographic shifts pragmatically.

PM Modi to Co-Chair AI Action Summit in Paris in February

The visit marks Modi's first to France in his third term, spotlighting India's AI ambitions and global partnerships.

TPN Correspondent |
New Delhi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is set to travel to Paris on February 10 and 11 to co-chair the Artificial Intelligence (AI) Action Summit, hosted by France. The summit, a key event in the global AI discourse, will be co-chaired by Modi and French President Emmanuel Macron. This visit, Modi's first to France in his third term, underscores the importance of India's strategic partnership with France. Ministry of External Affairs spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal confirmed the trip, stating, "The Prime Minister has accepted the invitation to travel to France and will co-chair the summit at the invitation of President Macron."

Strengthening AI Collaboration

The summit provides a platform to deepen AI-related collaboration between India and France while fostering global



cooperation on responsible AI development. As AI continues to transform industries, the focus will be on ethical governance, innovation, and leveraging AI to address global challenges.

Modi to co-chair the summit with French President Macron.

Focus on ethical AI development and innovation to tackle global challenges. Opportunity for bilateral en-

gagements with other world leaders.

Potential High-Profile Interactions

Modi's visit may also include a meeting with US President Donald Trump, should he attend the summit. Such interactions would be significant in aligning AI strategies among global leaders and exploring bilateral and multilateral cooperation on emerging technologies.

Beyond AI discussions, Modi is expected to hold bilateral engagements with Macron and other attending leaders, strengthening India's ties with key partners in technology, trade, and innovation.

India's AI Ambitions

India has been actively positioning itself as a leader in AI development and adoption, emphasizing its potential to drive economic growth, improve governance, and enhance public services. The summit offers an opportunity for India to showcase its advancements and contribute to shaping global AI policies. PM Modi's participation highlights India's commitment to leveraging AI responsibly while collaborating with global partners to address its challenges and opportunities. The visit reinforces India's stature in the international AI ecosystem, paving the way for impactful collaborations and policies.

Madhya Pradesh CM Takes a Step Toward Liquor Prohibition with Ban in 19 Sacred Cities



TPN Correspondent | Maheshwar, Madhya Pradesh

Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Mohan Yadav has announced a landmark decision to prohibit liquor sales in 19 religious cities and rural areas, marking a significant step towards a potential statewide alcohol ban. Drawing parallels to Bihar's prohibition policy, the move highlights the government's commitment to preserving cultural and spiritual values over revenue generation.

The new excise policy, approved during a cabinet meeting in the historic city of Maheshwar, mandates the permanent closure of all liquor shops and bars within urban limits of cities like Ujjain, Omkareshwar, and Orchha. Starting April 1, a total of 47 liquor outlets will be shut down without relocation options, underscoring the state's resolve to enforce the prohibition.

47 liquor outlets in sacred cities to shut by April 1, marking a cultural shift.

Decision echoes previous calls for prohibition by leaders like Uma Bharti.

Government expects a revenue loss of Rs 450 crore due to this policy.

Cultural Significance and Historical Context

The cabinet meeting in Maheshwar, a city revered for its spiritual heritage, provided a fitting venue for this announcement. Known as the erstwhile capital of Devi Ahilyabai Holkar, Maheshwar holds a deep connection to India's cultural and religious history, making it a symbolic backdrop for the policy shift.

The idea of prohibition is not new to Madhya Pradesh. Leaders across party lines, including Digvijay Singh, Uma Bharti, and Shivraj Singh Chauhan, have historically advocated for curbing alcohol consumption, albeit with limited success. Former Chief Minister Uma Bharti, a staunch proponent of liquor prohibition, lauded the decision as a long-awaited and commendable step.

Balancing Culture with Economy

While the decision aligns with the state's goal to preserve its spiritual ethos, it comes at an economic cost. The expected revenue loss of Rs 450 crore highlights the government's determination to prioritize public sentiment over financial gains. The move has sparked discussions about a potential statewide liquor ban, with Chief Minister Yadav hinting at broader plans for prohibition. For now, the closure of liquor vents in these sacred cities marks a pivotal moment in Madhya Pradesh's journey toward a transformative policy shift.

CM MK Stalin Credits Governor RN Ravi's Criticism for Boosting DMK's Support

TPN Correspondent | Chennai

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin asserted on Friday that criticisms from Governor RN Ravi have inadvertently bolstered public support for the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK). Addressing party workers, Stalin pledged that the DMK would stay committed to its Dravidian model of governance, undeterred by the Governor's remarks.

Stalin claimed that the DMK's ideology, deeply rooted in Dravidian principles, has only gained strength in the face of opposition. While some have demanded Ra-

vi's removal, Stalin noted that the DMK had refrained from passing any formal resolutions on the issue. Instead, he suggested that the Governor's criticisms have indirectly enhanced the party's standing among the people. Stalin says Governor's criticisms have unified and energized DMK supporters. DMK emphasizes commitment to the Dravidian model despite political rhetoric. Governor Ravi urged to symbolically skip reading next year's Assembly address. Stalin sarcastically proposed that Governor Ravi should attend the Tamil Nadu Assembly's annual session next year but leave without delivering the customary address, highlighting what he

perceives as a disconnect between the Governor's stance and the people's sentiment.

"He should be the Governor, and the DMK will grow further," Stalin remarked, suggesting that the Governor's actions are inadvertently strengthening the DMK's influence. Governor Ravi has previously been vocal in his critique of the DMK's policies, often clashing with the party's Dravidian ideology. Stalin, however, has used these criticisms to consolidate support, presenting the Governor's rhetoric as an opportunity for the DMK to reaffirm its commitment to its principles and governance model.

Uddhav Thackeray Admits Post-Lok Sabha Lapse

TPN Correspondent | Mumbai

In a rare moment of introspection, Uddhav Thackeray, the leader of the Shiv Sena (UBT), conceded that the Mahavikas Aghadi (MVA) coalition underestimated the challenges following its impressive performance in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections. Speaking after the alliance's dismal showing in the Maharashtra Assembly elections, Thackeray acknowledged that post-election complacency paved the way for the BJP to dominate the narrative.

Overconfidence and Negligence

"After the Lok Sabha elections, we got overconfident," Thackeray admitted. "There was negligence on our part to assume that the Assembly elections would naturally favor us. The BJP exploited this to spread a fake narrative against us."

The MVA, which helped thwart the BJP's bid for a majority in the general elections, failed to replicate its success at the state level. The BJP-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA) secured a sweeping victory with 233 seats, including 132 for the BJP, while the MVA managed only 49.

Allegations of EVM Misuse

Thackeray raised concerns about electronic voting machines (EVMs), echoing a familiar grievance among opposition leaders. "Even those who have won don't know how it happened. If you have guts, take one election with ballot papers," he challenged the BJP.

Thackeray accuses BJP of exploiting EVMs to secure a landslide win. Calls for reverting to ballot papers for transparency. BJP denies allegations, calling them baseless. Defending Campaign Remarks



Thackeray also addressed controversies from the campaign trail, including his emphasis on patriotism and references to the 1992 riots. He clarified that his remarks aimed to unite people rather than divide them, rejecting claims that he apologized for the riots as "fake news."

"Deshbhakt Muslims embraced the MVA," he said, challenging the BJP to prove their commitment to unity by removing the "green color" from their flag.

Maharashtra's Identity

The Shiv Sena (UBT) leader underscored the importance of respecting Maharashtra's cultural heritage. "In Maharashtra, you must say both 'Jai Shri Ram' and 'Jai Shivrai,'" he asserted, emphasizing the legacy of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj.

Lessons for the Opposition

The MVA's failure to maintain its Lok Sabha momentum in the Assembly elections highlights the challenges of sustaining a coalition. Thackeray's candid admission signals the need for recalibration as the INDIA bloc prepares for future electoral battles.

For now, the BJP's decisive win solidifies its grip on Maharashtra, leaving the opposition to rethink its strategy to stay relevant in the state's political landscape.

Gold Prices Surge Past ₹83,000 for the First Time Amid Global Uncertainty



TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

Gold prices continued their rally for the eighth consecutive session, crossing the ₹83,000-mark per 10 grams for the first time in history. On Friday, gold of 99.9% purity surged ₹200 to hit ₹83,100 in the national capital, according to the All India Sarafa Association. This milestone reflects increasing investor interest amid global market uncertainties.

The yellow metal's 99.5% purity variant also climbed ₹200, reaching a record high of ₹82,700 per 10 grams. Silver prices followed suit, rising ₹500 to ₹94,000 per kilogram. Analysts attribute this trend to escalating geopolitical and economic concerns.

Gold prices hit ₹83,100 per 10 grams, marking an all-time high in India. Silver prices climbed ₹500 to reach ₹94,000 per kilogram. Market volatility driven by U.S. tariff uncertainties boosts safe-haven assets.

The Multi Commodity Exchange (MCX) mirrored this bullish sentiment, with February gold futures gaining ₹334 to ₹79,960 per 10 grams. Intraday trading saw prices approach ₹80,050, nearing the October 2024 peak of ₹80,282. Similarly, silver futures for March delivery surged ₹835 to ₹91,984 per kilogram.

Globally, Comex gold futures rose \$15.50 per ounce to \$2,780.50, while silver increased 1.53% to \$31.32 per ounce. These gains were driven by concerns over U.S. tariff policies under President Trump and expectations for critical economic data releases.

Experts like Saumil Gandhi from HDFC Securities and Deveya Gaglani from Axis Securities emphasized that safe-haven demand will likely persist. Upcoming events, including the Union Budget and U.S. Federal Reserve's policy decisions, will be pivotal in determining future trends for bullion prices.

End Ukraine War Or Face Sanctions; Trump warns To Putin

US President calls for negotiations to end the "ridiculous war" as tensions persist.

TPN Correspondent | Washington

Newly sworn-in US President Donald Trump has urged Russian President Vladimir Putin to negotiate a peace deal with Ukraine, describing the ongoing conflict as "ridiculous" and unprecedented in its scale of devastation. Speaking on Truth Social on Wednesday and later to reporters in the Oval Office on Thursday, Trump reiterated his willingness to mediate, emphasizing the need to halt the loss of lives on the battlefield.

"I think he (Putin) should make a deal," Trump stated, expressing openness to meet Putin "as soon as possible." He warned Russia of further sanctions and high tariffs if progress toward a ceasefire is not made, underscoring his administration's firm stance on resolving the conflict.

- **Trump signals readiness to mediate peace talks between Russia and Ukraine.**
- **Warns of high tariffs, taxes, and sanctions if ceasefire negotiations fail.**
- **Describes the battlefield as unprecedented since World War II in terms of human loss.**

Trump criticized the human cost of the war, describing images of battlefield casualties as "pictures you don't want to see." He claimed that Russia has lost an estimated 800,000 soldiers, while Ukraine has also endured significant losses. "It



would be nice to end that war. It's a ridiculous war," he remarked.

The president noted that Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy is prepared to negotiate. "He's ready to make a deal... He'd like to stop. He's somebody that lost a lot of soldiers," Trump said. However, he stopped short of confirming whether sanctions alone would compel Russia to engage in talks, adding, "I don't know."

Trump's comments came with a stern warning to Moscow. "If there is no ceasefire deal soon, I'll have no other choice

but to impose tariffs, taxes, and sanctions on anything being sold by Russia to the United States, and various other participating countries," he declared, signaling a tough economic response if the conflict continues. As the war grinds on, Trump's remarks highlight the urgency of diplomatic intervention to prevent further loss of life and economic destabilization. His administration's approach underscores both willingness to mediate and readiness to exert economic pressure on Russia to bring about peace.



PM Modi Congratulates Micheal Martin on Securing Second Term as Irish PM

India reaffirms commitment to strengthening bilateral ties with Ireland.

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

PM Modi Congratulates Micheal Martin on Securing Second Term as Irish PM
India reaffirms commitment to strengthening bilateral ties with Ireland.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi congratulated Micheal Martin on his re-election as the Prime Minister of Ireland for a second term. Taking to X, PM Modi emphasized India's dedication to enhancing its bilateral partnership with Ireland, rooted in shared values and strong people-to-people connections.

"Congratulations @MichealMartinTD on assuming the office of Prime Minister of Ireland. Committed to work together to further strengthen our bilateral partnership," PM Modi posted.

Micheal Martin, leader of the Fianna Fáil party, secured his return to the top office following a vote in the Irish parliament on Thursday, receiving 95 votes in favor and 76 against. He will helm a coalition government that includes his party's historic rival, Fine Gael, along with independent lawmakers.

PM Modi expresses commitment to enhancing India-Ireland relations.

Micheal Martin elected for a second term after a delayed parliamentary vote.

Coalition includes Fianna Fáil, Fine Gael, and independents, replacing the Green Party.

Martin's nomination faced a brief delay after parliamentary proceedings were disrupted by opposition protests over speaking rights for independent lawmakers. The impasse was resolved through overnight talks, allowing the vote to proceed.

This marks the second consecutive coalition between Fianna Fáil and Fine Gael, two parties that have dominated Irish politics since 1937. Independent ministers will replace the Green Party, which lost considerable ground in the November elections.

Micheal Martin, 64, previously served as Prime Minister from 2020 to 2022. Under the coalition arrangement, Simon Harris of Fine Gael is slated to succeed Martin as Prime Minister in 2027. Harris, currently positioned to take over as Deputy Prime Minister, is expected to serve as Foreign Minister initially.

Bharat Mobility Global Expo 2025: A Grand Showcase of India's Mobility Future

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

The Bharat Mobility Global Expo 2025 concluded on a high note, highlighting India's growing dominance in the global mobility ecosystem. Spread across three premier locations—Bharat Mandapam and Yashobhoomi Convention Centre in Delhi, and India Expo Mart in Greater Noida—the event featured concurrent shows like the Auto Expo, Battery Expo, Cycle Expo, Construction Equipment Expo, and Component Expo. Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the event on January 17, 2025, setting the tone for a landmark showcase of innovation.

The expo recorded an unprecedented footfall of 9,83,522 visitors, a significant leap from its inaugural edition in 2024, which attracted over 1,50,000 attendees. This surge underscored growing public and industry interest in India's sustainable mobility revolution.

239 launches across diverse mobility sectors mark the event's success. Over 9.8 lakh visitors attend, cementing the expo's status as a major global event. Electric vehicles, advanced batteries, and urban air mobility steal the spotlight. Launches Highlight the Future of Mobility The expo saw a staggering 239 product and technology launches, underscoring industry commitment to smart, sustainable transportation. Key highlights included:

Auto Expo Motor Show 2025: Featuring 90 vehicle launches, dominated by electric and alternative powertrains like flex-fuel vehicles. **Auto Components Show:** With 97 launches, this segment highlighted advancements in supply chain readiness for a transformative future. **Bharat Construction Equipment Expo:** Twenty-four new products, including BS (CEV) Stage 5-compliant and hydrogen-powered equipment, showcased India's construction mobility evolution. **Battery Show:** Showcasing 21 new products in storage and charging solutions, emphasizing advancements in EV infrastructure.

India Engages UK Over Disruptions of Kangana Ranaut's 'Emergency' Screenings

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

The Indian External Affairs Ministry has expressed strong concerns over disruptions to screenings of Kangana Ranaut's film *Emergency* in the United Kingdom. The film, which portrays events during the Emergency declared by former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi in 1975, faced protests and alleged intimidation from groups objecting to its content.

The ministry stated, "Freedom of speech and expression cannot be applied selectively. Those obstructing the film's screening must be held accountable." It added that the Indian High Commission in London is in contact with UK authorities and community members to ensure their safety.

Protests and Disruptions

Reports indicated that masked individuals, identified as Khalistani sympathizers, disrupted screenings in northwest London, Wolverhampton, Birmingham, and Manchester. Bob Blackman, a Conservative MP, highlighted an incident where "masked Khalistani terrorists" interrupted a screening at Harrow Vue cinema, threatening the audience and forcing the show to stop.

Screenings in UK disrupted by protests, allegedly led by Khalistani groups. British MP Bob Blackman condemned the incidents, defending constituents' rights to view the film. Two cinema chains reportedly pulled the



movie amid safety concerns.

Protests were organized by British Sikh groups, such as the Sikh Press Association, citing objections to the film's portrayal of Sikh-related events. They claimed the movie was "anti-Sikh" and misrepresented historical facts, leading to disruptions and cancellations.

The Film's Journey

Emergency faced challenges during its production and release in India as well. Objections from Sikh organizations delayed its clearance by the Censor Board, which required cuts and verifiable sources for controversial dialogues. The film was eventually cleared in November and released on January 17, 2025.

Responding to protests, government sources acknowledged "sensitive content"

in the film but emphasized the importance of addressing religious concerns while upholding freedom of expression.

India's Stand

The Indian government has urged the UK to take appropriate action against those responsible for the disruptions, emphasizing that acts of intimidation threaten democratic values. "We consistently raise concerns with the UK regarding violent protests and intimidation by anti-India elements," the ministry said. These incidents have reignited debates over freedom of speech, religious sensitivities, and the fine balance required to uphold both in democratic societies. As *Emergency* continues to spark controversy, the focus remains on ensuring safe and uninterrupted screenings for audiences worldwide.

Sri Lanka government slashes ministerial privileges

TPN Correspondent | Colombo

The Sri Lankan government has introduced stringent regulations to curtail the benefits afforded to Cabinet and deputy ministers, addressing widespread public discontent over political privilege and accountability.

A circular issued by President Anura Kumara Dissanayake on Thursday limits Cabinet ministers to two official vehicles. Caps have also been placed on fuel allowances and monthly payments for office, residential, and mobile phone expenses. The support staff is restricted to 15 for Cabinet ministers and 12 for deputy ministers. Notably, family members or close relatives are barred from holding key advisory roles such as Private Secretary or



Media Secretary.

Ministers limited to two vehicles and capped allowances. Restrictions on hiring relatives for key positions.

Move follows debate over privileges of former President Mahinda Rajapaksa.

These reforms come amid mounting criticism over the treatment of former President Mahinda Rajapaksa, whose state-provided security was reduced from over 300 personnel to just 60 in December. Rajapaksa was also asked to vacate his state mansion, drawing sharp reactions from opposition leaders.

Sagara Kariyawasam, a spokesman for Rajapaksa's party, accused the government of political revenge, stating, "Mahinda Rajapaksa's personal security is under threat. The government wants to put him out on the road." Opposition members argue that benefits extended to former presidents are constitutionally protected and backed by legislation passed in 1986.

Sensex Slips 329 Points Amid Volatility; Nifty Manages to Hold 23,000 Mark

Domestic stock markets ended in losses on Thursday. There were mixed signals from international markets. The indices, which started in losses initially, continued in a range-bound mode for some time. At one stage, the Sensex rallied by 800 points as buying picked up. It fell into heavy losses again due to the Bank of Japan raising interest rates, disappointing corporate results and uncertainty. The markets may fluctuate between the tides for a few more days due to weak sentiment. The rise in bond yields and the dollar index is increasing concerns. However, the Nifty holding the 23000 level is a bit positive.

The BSE Sensex, which closed at 76,520 in the previous session, opened at 76,455 on Thursday. It touched an intraday low at 76,091. It reached an intraday high at 76,985. It ended at 76,190, down 329 points. The NSE Nifty, which opened at 23,183, touched a low of 23,050 and a high of 23,347. It closed at 23,092, down 113 points. The Nifty Bank fell 221 points to settle at 48,367.

In the Nifty50, 19 companies gained and 31 lost. Hindustan Unilever, Britannia, Eicher Motors, Grasim, ICICI Bank were the top gainers. Dr. Reddy's, Trent, Mahindra & Mahindra, Adani Enterprises, BPL were the top losers. All but the FMCG and IT sector indices lost today. Bank, auto, finance, media, metal, pharma, PSU bank, realty, health-



care, consumer durables, oil and gas indices rose.

Today, the market breadth on the NSE completely favored sellers. Of the 2891 shares traded, only 635 gained. 2183 lost. Shares of 18 companies reached 52-week highs. Only 168 reached 52-week lows. Fear Index India VIX is at 16.75.

Shriram Finance has registered a net profit of Rs 3570 crore in the third quarter. This is almost double compared to the same period last year. The company declared a dividend of Rs 2.5 per share. Caffeine Tech shares gained heavily after it said that the Rs 250 SIP plan was positive. Laurus Labs' net profit increased from Rs. 23 crore to Rs. 92.3 crore. AU Small Finance Bank's net profit increased by 7.5% to Rs. 528 crore. Atul Limited's profit increased by 53% to Rs. 109 crore from Rs. 71 crore. Revenue increased from Rs. 1138 crore to Rs. 1417 crore. Jagil signed a customer service agreement with Tiger Capital. NTPC Renewable Energy won a 300 MW solar project. Jindal SA's net profit and revenue decreased. FIIs are increasing their stake in small-cap companies more than in large-caps.

India's Forex Reserves Drop by \$1.88 Billion to \$623.98 Billion



India's foreign exchange reserves dropped by \$1.88 billion to stand at \$623.983 billion for the week ended January 17, according to data released by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Friday. This decline follows a larger reduction of \$8.714 billion recorded in the previous week (ended January 10), which brought the reserves down to \$625.871 billion.

The dip in the forex reserves has been attributed to a combination of factors,

including revaluation effects and the RBI's interventions in the forex market. The central bank has been actively managing the rupee's volatility, which has contributed to the reserves' downward trend in recent weeks.

Despite the decline, India's foreign exchange reserves are still significantly higher than the levels seen in the past. The reserves reached an all-time high of \$704.885 billion at the end of September 2021.

Breaking down the components of India's forex reserves, foreign currency assets — the largest part of the reserves — saw a decrease of \$2.878 billion, falling to \$533.133 billion. These assets reflect changes in the value of foreign currencies like the euro, pound, and yen, relative to the US dollar, which can lead to fluctuations due to exchange rate movements.

On a more positive note, India's gold reserves saw a slight increase, rising by \$1.063 billion to reach \$68.947 billion during the week. In addition, India's reserve position with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) fell by \$74 million to stand at \$4.122 billion.

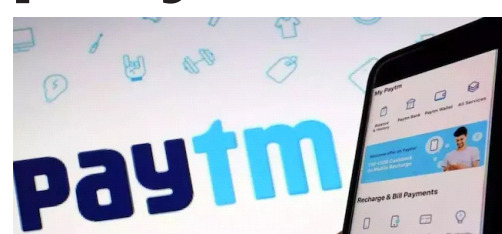
The overall dip in India's forex reserves signals a period of adjustment as the RBI continues to navigate global economic uncertainties and manage domestic currency fluctuations. However, the reserves remain at healthy levels, ensuring that India retains sufficient liquidity to meet its external payment obligations.

Paytm Shares Drop 9% Amid ED Probe, Company Denies Allegations

Shares of One97 Communications, the parent company of Paytm, plunged by as much as 9% to an intraday low of Rs 773.90 on Friday following reports that the Enforcement Directorate (ED) is investigating the company in connection with a cryptocurrency scam. The news sent shockwaves through the stock market, with Paytm's share price hitting Rs 773.05 on the NSE before partially recovering to trade 3.32% lower at Rs 820.95 by mid-morning.

In response to the reports, Paytm issued a clarification, stating that it had not received any inquiry or communication from the ED. The company described the media reports as "factually incorrect and misleading" and denied any new notices from the ED regarding the alleged investigation.

"We confirm that we have not received



any such new notice, communication, or query from the Enforcement Directorate," Paytm said in a stock exchange filing. The company added that the news article was based on incorrect information and clarified that they had not been contacted by the media before the publication of the report.

Paytm is one of several payment gateways, including Razorpay, PayU, and Easebuzz, under investigation by the ED in relation to the HPZ Token cryptocurrency scam, allegedly operated by Chinese nationals. The ED has been investigating the matter for

the past two years, freezing nearly Rs 500 crore in virtual accounts across various platforms, including Paytm.

According to the ED, the accused defrauded investors of over Rs 2,200 crore, with illicit funds being transferred out of India. Paytm is reported to hold around Rs 2.8 crore of the alleged "proceeds of crime," while other platforms like PayU and Easebuzz have larger amounts involved in the scam.

In addition to the ongoing investigation, Paytm's parent company, One97 Communications, recently posted a narrower consolidated loss of Rs 208.5 crore for Q3 FY25, compared to a loss of Rs 221.7 crore in the same period last year. However, the company's revenue from operations dropped by 35.8% to Rs 1,827.8 crore, primarily due to declines in payment processing, financial services, and marketing services.

Budget 2025 : Sitharaman Marks Final Preparations With Traditional 'Halwa' Ceremony



As preparations for India's Union Budget 2025-26 intensify, HSBC Global Research has laid out its expectations, forecasting a tax rationalization in the upcoming budget. While the research house does not anticipate significant cuts in taxes, it predicts adjustments aimed at simplifying the tax structure. Alongside this, there is an expected focus on boosting exports, improving center-state capital expenditure coordination, and continuing employment-linked benefits. Additionally, HSBC anticipates greater clarity on the structural reforms the government intends to pursue.

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman marked the beginning of the final phase of the budget preparation process on Friday with the traditional 'halwa' ceremony. The ceremony, which took place in the basement of North Block, the Ministry of Finance's headquarters, was attended by the finance minister and senior ministry officials. The Union Budget is set to be presented on February 1 in the Lok Sabha.

In the lead-up to the Budget, Sushil Suri, Chairman and Managing Director of Morepen Laboratories, emphasized the importance of leveraging the immense potential of the pharmaceutical sector. The sector is projected to reach \$130 billion by 2030 and \$440 billion by 2047, and Suri called for a more streamlined regulatory approval process to drive investments and productivity. He also urged the government to expand the scope of the Production-Linked Incentive (PLI) schemes to foster further growth.

These discussions point to a broader emphasis on sectors like pharma, which are seen as key drivers of India's economic growth. By facilitating exports and strengthening the regulatory environment, the Budget could unlock significant opportunities for various industries.

With less than a week to go before the presentation, the focus on tax reforms, exports, and structural enhancements reflects the government's drive to build a resilient economy and encourage sustainable growth in the years ahead.

Adani Power's Growth Boosted by Coal Supply, Expansion; Target Price Rs 806



Adani Power Ltd's growth is being fueled by enhanced coal availability and its business expansion, according to brokerage firm Ventura. The firm has set a target price of Rs 806 for the stock over the next 24 months, which indicates a potential upside of 54.5% from its current trading price of around Rs 522.

India's rising power demand, driven by increased manufacturing activities and the growing use of white goods and gadgets, has created a significant energy gap. As renewable energy is unable to meet the country's growing power needs, the gap between peak demand and supply highlights the need for a stronger thermal power capacity. Adani Power, India's largest private pure-play thermal power producer, is well-positioned to meet this demand with its aggressive capacity expansion plans.

Ventura has revised its price target for Adani Power, recommending a "BUY" with an upwardly adjusted DCF-based price target of Rs 806 (13.8X FY27 EV/EBITDA), representing an upside of 54.5%. The brokerage firm noted that the company's installed capacity of 17.55 GW and its capacity to source coal from both domestic and international markets provides a strong competitive edge.

The firm also highlighted the company's operational improvements. Adani Power's plant load factor (PLF) surged from 48% in FY23 to 72% in H1 FY25, marking the highest level in seven years. This increase in PLF, along with improved coal availability and lower imported coal prices, has significantly boosted Adani Power's operational efficiency.

In FY24, the company recorded a year-on-year revenue growth of 29.9%, reaching Rs 50,351 crore, with EBITDA rising 81% to Rs 18,181 crore. Ventura also anticipates steady growth for the company, with revenue and EBITDA expected to grow at a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 11.8% and 11%, respectively, over the FY24-27 period.

Adani Power is targeting a total capacity of 30.67 GW by FY31, which would increase its share in India's thermal power sector from 6% in FY24 to 11% by FY31.

Boiled Egg Turns into Fine Dining Materpiece for Rs 990 in Viral Video

High-end restaurants are known for their creativity in transforming even the simplest ingredients into gastronomic wonders. A recent viral video showcases a jaw-dropping example of this concept, as a basic boiled egg is elevated into a luxurious fine dining experience. The video, which has captured widespread attention, comes with the caption, "When you go fine dining and ask for one boiled egg."



The footage takes viewers through the meticulous and almost artistic process of preparing the humble boiled egg for a high-end meal. The chef starts by carefully placing the egg on a chopping board and presses it using a specialized machine. Next, the egg is sliced into six delicate pieces using thin threads, showcasing the precision involved in every step.

The egg pieces are then artfully arranged on a plate, with a layer of artistic sauce and garnishes that add both visual appeal and complexity to the dish. As the video progresses, the chef takes another boiled egg, cutting it into

a heart shape with a cutter. This piece is placed on a plate, once again adorned with sauce and garnishes, creating a picture-perfect dish.

What truly stands out is the price tag: this seemingly simple boiled egg, now transformed into an extravagant plate of fine dining, is priced at Rs 990. This surprising price reflects the effort, intricate plating, and creative presentation that go into turning a basic breakfast staple into an upscale culinary experience.

The viral video has sparked both amusement and amazement, showing how fine dining can take the most unexpected ingredients and turn them into an extraordinary dining experience.

AI Pets Are Helping China's Young Generation Deal With Social Anxiety

The use of smart Artificial Intelligence (AI) pets to help children cope with social anxiety and provide emotional support is rapidly growing in China, according to the South China Morning Post (SCMP). One notable example is BooBoo, a smart pet resembling a guinea pig, which has sold 1,000 units since its launch in May 2024.



Zhang Yachun, 19, shared with SCMP that owning a BooBoo has significantly eased her life. Having struggled with building friendships and anxiety at school, Zhang now feels more emotionally supported. She has named her AI pet "Aluo," a rugby ball-sized companion that she even outfits with winter clothes. Zhang, who lives with her parents and a real pet duck, explained that Aluo makes her feel needed and provides companionship, especially during moments of joy.

The rise in demand for AI pets is part of a broader trend where young adults, particularly in urban areas, are turning to "smart pets" for emotional support. This trend has led to a significant market forecast. The global market for "social robots," including AI pets like BooBoo, is expected to expand sevenfold, reaching \$42.5 billion by 2033.

Zhang's father, Peng, understands her attachment to Aluo, commenting that children today face more

pressures and may have fewer friends than in the past. He points out that while friendships were once formed easily, the urban lifestyle today can make it harder for kids to build meaningful connections.

However, the desire for AI pets is not confined to the younger generation. Guo Zichen, a 33-year-old father, also sees the benefit of these robots for his children. At a Weilan electronics store in Nanjing, Guo explained that AI pets can help children with studying and provide companionship when family members are busy. He acknowledges, however, that AI pets can never replace real ones.

Weilan, a provider of four-legged robots, states that 70 percent of their customers are families with young children, with their AI dog, BabyAlpha, priced between 8,000 and 26,000 yuan (Rs 95,000 to Rs 3 lakh).

Scientists finally make heads of giant stingray tails

Manta rays, known for their horn-like facial fins and diamond-shaped bodies that can stretch up to 30 feet, are among the ocean's most enigmatic creatures. However, it's their long, whip-like tails that have puzzled scientists for years. Unlike stingrays, whose tails are famous for their deadly stingers, mantas do not use their tails for propulsion or defense. The mystery of why these enormous creatures possess such elongated tails has now been partially solved.

A new study published in Proceedings of the Royal Society B: Biological Sciences sheds light on the purpose of these tails. Researchers examined the tails of cownose rays, a smaller relative of the manta,

and discovered that their long tails contain specialized organs. These organs help the rays sense underwater stimuli, essentially acting as finely tuned sensory antennae. This finding suggests that the long tails of mantas and related rays might play a critical role in detecting approaching threats in the open ocean.

Unlike most stingrays that dwell near the seafloor, mantas and their kin in the myliobatid family spend much of their time in open water. They are known for "flying" through the ocean, using their large, triangle-shaped pectoral fins to glide gracefully. The new research provides a possible explanation for why these rays might have evolved such lengthy tails—they likely use them to

sense the water around them as they navigate vast ocean expanses and avoid predators.

Júlia Chaumel, a marine biologist at Harvard University and one of the study's authors, expressed surprise at the complexity of the tail's function. "The complexity inside the tail was super surprising," Chaumel said. "We had no idea that this huge structure had a sensorial function."

This breakthrough gives scientists a deeper understanding of manta rays and their fascinating biology, opening the door for further exploration into how these giant creatures interact with their underwater environment.



ChatGPT outage: Netizens unable to access OpenAI's chatbot services globally

OpenAI's popular artificial intelligence chatbot, ChatGPT, is back online after experiencing significant outages earlier today. The disruptions affected millions of users globally, preventing access to the platform for hours.



The issue was traced to a "bad gateway error," which typically indicates a communication problem between the website's servers. Users were unable to interact with the chatbot for several hours, leading to widespread frustration, particularly among those who rely on ChatGPT for work, education, and various other tasks. Many took to social media to express their disappointment, with one user on X sharing, "Can't believe ChatGPT is down! I was in the middle of a project and now I'm stuck."

According to OpenAI, the problem was resolved at 15:09 GMT, and users can now access the service again. However, OpenAI has not yet provided a detailed explanation of the cause behind the outage. While service has been re-

stored, the outage had sparked a wave of disruption, as users across the globe reported being unable to use the chatbot for essential tasks.

This incident highlights the growing reliance on AI tools like ChatGPT, which have become integral for a wide range of activities. Whether for quick answers, brainstorming ideas, or solving complex problems, users are increasingly turning to AI for assistance, making such outages a significant inconvenience.

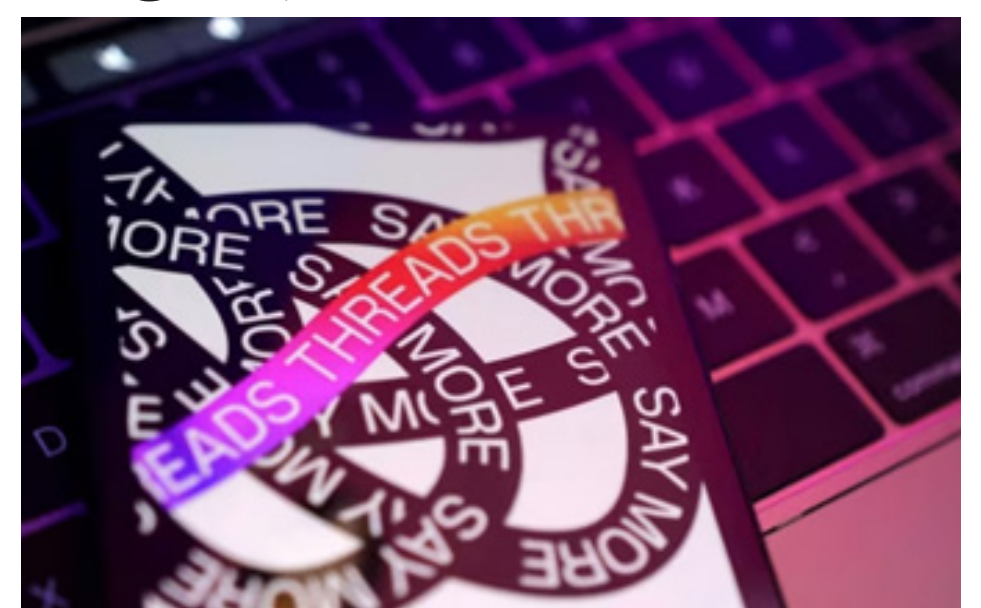
As of now, OpenAI's status page confirms that the issue has been resolved, and users are once again able to access the AI chatbot without interruption.

Threads Introduces New Features : Post Scheduling, Insights, and Markup Tools

Threads, the Meta-owned social media platform, has rolled out three new features designed to enhance user experience and engagement. On Thursday, Instagram head Adam Mosseri announced that the new features—Post Scheduling, Post Insights, and the Markup tool—will help users better manage their content and presence on the platform.

One of the most anticipated updates is the introduction of post scheduling, a feature that users have long requested. Until now, Threads did not allow users to schedule posts for a future time, but with this new addition, users can now plan and schedule posts ahead of time. To access the feature, users simply need to tap on the three-dot menu in the composer screen. Once scheduled, the post will appear in the user's drafts folder, where it can be edited or deleted before it goes live. The scheduling tool allows users to schedule posts up to 76 days in advance, offering flexibility in content planning.

Another new feature being rolled out is post insights, which provides users with detailed analytics on their posts. Available on both mobile apps



and the web client, post insights will give users information such as the number of views, interactions, likes, and replies for each post. A new insights icon has been added to the profile tab, where users can view metrics and filter posts based on a selected date range. This tool allows users to track their post performance and understand their audience better.

Additionally, Threads is introducing a Markup tool that allows users to add creative elements when

reposting or quoting content on the platform. However, this tool will be gradually rolled out, starting with select regions before being made available globally.

These updates come just a month after Threads enabled users to repost images without quoting the original post. With these new features, Threads continues to improve its functionality and user engagement, keeping up with the evolving needs of its growing user base.

Pat Cummins Leads ICC Test Team of 2024 with Three Indians Included

In a stellar year for Test cricket, Pat Cummins has been named captain of the ICC Test Team of 2024, which includes three Indian players—Jasprit Bumrah, Ravindra Jadeja, and Yashasvi Jaiswal. The squad also features prominent names from England, New Zealand, and Sri Lanka, but notably no players from South Africa, Pakistan, or the West Indies.

Jasprit Bumrah was a standout performer in 2024, taking 71 wickets at an exceptional average of 14.92, making him the highest wicket-taker in Test cricket that year. His dominant performances, including a remarkable 32 wickets in the Border-Gavaskar series against Australia, cemented his place in the team. Bumrah's ability to perform consistently against top teams, including a stunning 19-wicket haul against England, solidified his reputation as one of the greatest bowlers of all time.

Ravindra Jadeja also made his mark in 2024, contributing both with the bat and ball. Jadeja scored 527 runs at an average of 29.27 and picked up 48 wickets at an impressive average of 24.29. His all-round prowess played a crucial role in India's Test campaigns throughout the year.

Young opener Yashasvi Jaiswal's breakthrough year saw him become one of India's brightest batting stars. He amassed 1,478 runs at an av-



erage of 54.74, with two double centuries and three fifties to his name. Jaiswal's consistent performances, including a top score of 161 in the Border-Gavaskar Trophy, helped him secure a spot in the all-star team.

Pat Cummins, the lone Australian in the squad, led his side to series victories over the West Indies, New Zealand, and India. He took 37 wickets in 2024 at an average of 24.02 while contributing 306 runs with the bat, showcasing his leadership and all-round skills.

Other notable players in the team include England's Joe Root, New Zealand's Kane Williamson, and Sri Lanka's Kamindu Mendis, who impressed with their batting exploits during the year.

Djokovic Withdraws from Australian Open Semifinal Due to Injury

Novak Djokovic was forced to retire from his Australian Open semifinal match against Alexander Zverev on Friday due to a torn muscle in his left leg. After losing the first set 7-6 (5) in a tiebreaker, Djokovic walked around the net to concede the match to Zverev. The crowd reacted with boos as the Serbian champion made his way off the court, but Djokovic responded with two thumbs-up gestures to acknowledge his supporters.

During a post-match press conference, Djokovic explained the severity of the injury, stating, "It was getting worse and worse." He revealed that the pain in his left leg, which he initially injured during his quarterfinal win over Carlos Alcaraz earlier in the week, had become unbearable. Despite losing the first set, Djokovic admitted that even if he had won, it would have been a tough battle to continue playing through the pain.

The 11-time Australian Open champion was aiming for a record 25th Grand Slam title, and the loss was particularly disappointing for the 35-year-old, who had been in strong form leading up to the semifinal. Last year, Djokovic withdrew from the French Open before the quarterfinals due to a torn meniscus in his



right knee, further compounding his recent injury woes.

The opening set between Djokovic and Zverev lasted 1 hour and 20 minutes, filled with long rallies and intense points. A total of 19 points in the first set featured exchanges that lasted for more than nine strokes, including the first four games, which alone took 31 minutes to complete. Despite Djokovic's injury, the set was a thrilling display of high-level tennis between two top-tier competitors.



Mandhana Shine in ICC Women's ODI Team of the Year, No Representation in Men's Side

In a notable recognition for Indian women cricketers, Smriti Mandhana and Deepti Sharma were included in the prestigious ICC Women's ODI Team of the Year for 2024. The all-star team, which includes players from across the globe, saw India represented by these two stellar athletes. However, the men's team had no Indian players, a gap attributed to the limited number of ODIs India played in 2024.

Mandhana's inclusion came after an outstanding year in which she scored 747 runs across 13 matches, making her the highest run-scorer in women's ODIs for 2024. Among her highlights were back-to-back centuries in the home series against South Africa, where she also earned the Player of the Series award. Mandhana's consistency has made her a strong contender for the ICC Women's ODI Cricketer of the Year award as well.

Deepti Sharma, a key

all-rounder for India, also earned her place in the team for her impressive performances throughout the year. The 2024 Women's ODI Team also boasts players from England, Australia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, and the West Indies, with South African Laura Wolvaardt leading the squad as captain. Wolvaardt herself had an exceptional year, amassing 697 runs in 12 matches.

On the men's side, India was absent from the ICC Team due to a lack of ODI engagement in 2024. The men's team played only three ODIs during the year, all against Sri Lanka, losing two of them and drawing one. This limited exposure in the format left Indian players out of contention for selection.

Overall, Mandhana and Deepti's inclusion in the ICC Women's ODI Team of the Year highlights their stellar contributions to Indian cricket and global women's cricket in 2024.

On India's Big Win In 1st T20I, England Star Makes Bizarre 'Lucky' Remark

England fast bowler Jofra Archer expressed frustration after his team suffered a crushing seven-wicket defeat against India in the first T20I in Kolkata on Wednesday. Despite picking up 2 wickets, Archer felt that Indian batters were fortunate as many of their shots, including several mishits, found gaps rather than being caught in the field. India easily chased down a modest total of 132 with 43 balls to spare, driven by opener Abhishek Sharma's explosive 8 sixes in his innings.

Archer acknowledged that he had favorable conditions compared to his teammates but pointed out that luck played a significant role in India's success. "A few balls, well, a lot of balls, went up in the air but didn't go to hand, and probably next game they all go to hand and they're 40 for six," he said. He added that despite England's loss, they should not be discouraged, as such results are common in India when aggressive tactics are em-



ployed.

"It's just important to keep the head up, this happens a lot in India, especially in the IPL. The batters go hard, the bowlers go hard, and we were just on the unlucky side of it," Archer explained. He also em-

phasized the importance of trying to take early wickets in the powerplay to shift the momentum. "If you get them three or four down early, teams usually bat differently in the middle," he said, underscoring the need to continue challenging the opposition.

England captain Jos Buttler also reflected on the team's performance, attributing the loss to their inability to handle quality spin bowling. England collapsed to 132, struggling against the spin trio of Varun Chakravarthy, Axar Patel, and Ravi Bishnoi. Buttler admitted that his batters failed to "impose the game" in difficult conditions.

With coach Brendon McCullum's tenure beginning with a defeat, England will look to bounce back in the next game, hoping for better execution in their tactics and more favorable outcomes against India's spinners.

England Make One Change to Playing XI for 2nd T20I vs India

England have announced one change to their playing XI for the second T20I against India, scheduled to be held at the MA Chidambaram Stadium in Chennai on Saturday. Pacer Brydon Carse will replace Gus Atkinson in the lineup after the latter's poor performance in the series opener, where he struggled to contain the Indian batsmen.

In the first T20I, Atkinson had a tough outing, conceding 38 runs in just two overs, and he was unable to complete his full quota of four overs. Abhishek Sharma's brilliant knock of 79 off 34 balls, coupled with India's dominant chase, handed England a crushing seven-wicket defeat. This loss prompted England to make the tactical change, with Carse coming in to add more depth



to their pace attack.

Additionally, wicketkeeper-batsman Jamie Smith has been added to the 12-player squad for the match, though he is not expected to feature in the starting XI.

England captain Jos Buttler, reflecting on the first T20I defeat, said that the team would

assess the conditions in Chennai for the upcoming matches. He acknowledged that while the wicket offered some assistance to bowlers early on, it was a good pitch for batting once players got through the tough phase. Buttler praised the pace attack, especially Jofra Archer and Mark Wood, for their threatening spells, and emphasized that England

would continue to play aggressively while adapting to conditions at different venues throughout the series.

On the Indian side, captain Suryakumar Yadav was pleased with his team's performance, especially the energy after winning the toss, which set the tone for the victory. Yadav highlighted the strong execution of plans by the bowlers and praised the team's aggressive yet controlled batting. India currently lead the five-match series 1-0.

England's XI for the second T20I: Ben Duckett, Phil Salt (WK), Jos Buttler (C), Harry Brook, Liam Livingstone, Jacob Bethell, Jamie Overton, Brydon Carse, Jofra Archer, Adil Rashid, Mark Wood.



Oscar Nominations 2025: A Stellar Lineup of Films and Talent

The 97th Academy Awards promise a night of fierce competition and cinematic brilliance.

With the announcement of the 2025 Oscar nominations, anticipation for the 97th Academy Awards, scheduled for March 2nd, has reached new heights. This year's diverse slate of nominees celebrates the best in global cinema, featuring films and performances that have captivated audiences and critics alike.

Leading the race for Best Picture are *The Brutalist* and *Emilia Perez*, both of which made waves at the Golden Globe Awards. Other contenders include *Anora*, *A Complete Unknown*, *Conclave*, and *Dune: Part Two*, showcasing exceptional storytelling and visionary direction.

In the Best Director category, Jacques Audiard (*Emilia Perez*), Sean Baker (*Anora*), Brady Corbett (*The Brutalist*), and James Mangold (*A Complete Unknown*) are recognized for their outstanding contributions.

Best Picture contenders include *Dune: Part Two* and *The Brutalist*.

Adrien Brody, Timothée Chalamet, and Cynthia Erivo lead acting categories.

Inside Out 2 and *Memoir of a Snail* vie for Best Animated Feature.

The acting categories are no less competitive. Adrien Brody (*The Brutalist*), Timothée Chalamet (*A Complete Unknown*),



and Colman Domingo (*Sing Sing*) lead the Best Actor race, while Cynthia Erivo (*Wicked*), Carla Sofia Gascon (*Emilia Perez*), and Mikey Madison (*Anora*) headline the Best Actress category. Supporting performances by Kieran Culkin (*A Real Pain*), Guy Pearce (*The Brutalist*), and Ariana Grande (*Wicked*) have also earned acclaim.

In technical categories, *Dune: Part Two* and *The Brutalist* dominate, securing nods for Best Cinematography, Best Production Design, and more. Meanwhile, *Inside Out 2* and *Memoir of a Snail* are strong contenders for Best Animated Feature, showcasing the creativity of animated cinema.

Manoj Bajpayee Wraps Up Shooting for 'The Family Man' Season 3



The highly anticipated third season of *The Family Man*, starring Manoj Bajpayee in the lead role, has officially completed its shooting. This thrilling spy series, which first captivated audiences with its gripping storylines and stellar performances, continues to be a fan favorite on Amazon Prime Video.

Directed by Raj & DK, the show made waves with its unique blend of suspense, action, and drama. Season 1 delved into the world of terrorism, while Season 2 shifted its focus to the Sri Lankan rebel conflict. With Season 3, the stakes are set to rise even further, as it will take place in the scenic yet troubled backdrop of North East India.

The shooting of *The Family Man 3* began in May of the previous year, and the series has now wrapped up production. To mark the completion, Raj & DK shared a set of behind-the-scenes photos, capturing moments with the cast and crew, including a special appearance from Samantha, who played a pivotal role in the second season.

Season 3 promises to continue the journey of Srikanth Tiwari (played by Manoj Bajpayee), as he navigates both personal and professional challenges. In this season, Srikanth's children are now adults, and as Srikanth himself grows older, the challenges he faces intensify. Fans of the series will be eager to see how the character evolves and how the intricate plotlines unfold.

Raghava Lawrence's Kanchana 4: Pooja Hegde and Nora Fatehi Finalized for Key Roles



The popular horror-comedy genre has always had a massive following in both South and North India, and the *Kanchana* franchise is a prime example of this. The series, known for its thrilling yet comedic elements, has already seen three successful installments from the talented actor and director Raghava Lawrence. Now, fans are eagerly awaiting the next chapter in the series: *Kanchana 4*.

A major update has emerged about the cast of *Kanchana 4*, with two prominent actresses finalizing their roles. Pooja Hegde, known for her charm and versatile acting, has been confirmed as the female lead. Joining her is none other than the sizzling Nora Fatehi, the Bollywood dancing sensation, who will also play a crucial role in the film. Producer Manish Shah, who is backing the project, made the announcement

and revealed that the film will be produced by Gold Mine Films.

While the main cast has been decided, there are still a few more roles and technicians yet to be finalized. *Kanchana 4* is expected to go on the floors in January or February 2025, with production set to span multiple languages including Hindi, Tamil, Telugu, and Malayalam. The film is rumored to have a massive budget of Rs. 100 crore, further raising the anticipation.

Notably, *Kanchana 4* will be released in theaters first, followed by a digital release eight weeks after its theatrical debut. This is a strategic move, as the *Kanchana* series already enjoys a strong fanbase, particularly in the Hindi-speaking belt, where even Bollywood remade the original *Kanchana* as *Lakshmi* starring Akshay Kumar

Akhanda 2: Samyuktha Joins Nandamuri Balakrishna in Sequel's New Poster

The highly anticipated sequel *Akhanda 2* has created a buzz among fans, especially with the recent reveal of a new poster featuring Samyuktha as the leading lady opposite Nandamuri Balakrishna. Directed by Boyapati Srinu, *Akhanda 2* is set to continue the high-octane saga that began with the blockbuster *Akhanda*, which became a major hit due to its intense action and gripping storyline.



The film crew has already started shooting in parts of Andhra Pradesh, includ-

ing sequences tied to the Mahakumbh Mela. Regular shooting for the film will continue in the coming months. As excitement builds, the filmmakers have unveiled the first look at Samyuktha, who will be playing Balayya's partner in this high-profile film. Samyuktha, a popular Malayalam actress, is expected to bring a fresh energy to the screen alongside Balakrishna.

The film is being produced by Ram Achanta and Gopi Achanta under the banner of 14 Reels Entertainment, with Balakrishna's daughter, Tejaswini, also involved in the production. With a solid production team behind it, *Akhanda 2* is already generating massive anticipation, especially since it is set to delve into themes with a political undertone, adding more depth to the action-packed narrative.



Ravi Teja's Mass Jathara Glimpses Unveiled Ahead of Birthday Release

Tollywood's *Mass Maharaja* Ravi Teja is all set to thrill his fans with his upcoming film *Mass Jathara* (RT75), a highly anticipated project. With Sreeleela playing the female lead, the film promises high-energy action and entertainment. Recently, the makers shared a striking new look of Ravi Teja in the film, sparking excitement across social media. In this look, Ravi Teja is seen stroking his signature mustache while sitting down to eat, hinting that the film will be a "delicious feast" for fans.

On the occasion of Ravi Teja's birthday, set to be celebrated on January 26, the makers revealed that new glimpses from *Mass Jathara* would be coming soon, further raising expectations.

The stills suggest that Ravi Teja's character, "Ravanna," is in for a thrilling ride, ready to start his "mass davat," indicating that the film will be a feast of entertainment, action, and drama for fans.

Directed by Bhanu Bogavarapu, who is making his directorial debut, *Mass Jathara* is shaping up to be a benchmark film for Ravi Teja. Known for his charismatic mass appeal, Ravi Teja's role in *Mass Jathara* is expected to be nothing short of iconic. The tagline "Lakshmana Bheri... I won't tell you the income... I will count the expenses... Rajya Pujyam Unlimited... Avamanam Zero" has already garnered attention, teasing the movie's grand scale and intense action.

Teaser for Mohanlal's 'L2E' Set to Release on January 26, 2025

The much-anticipated sequel to the blockbuster *Lucifer*, *L2E* (Empuraan), is all set to take Mollywood by storm. Directed by Prithviraj Sukumaran and starring the legendary Mohanlal in the lead role, *L2E* is one of the most awaited releases in the Malayalam film industry. This action-packed thriller is not only gearing up for a grand release in Malayalam but will also have a Telugu version, expanding its reach to a broader audience.



Scheduled to hit theaters on March 27, 2025, *L2E* has already created a buzz among fans. To kick off the excitement, the makers have announced the release of the film's teaser on January 26, 2025, at 7:07 PM, coinciding with Republic Day celebrations. This strategic release date has fans eagerly awaiting the first glimpse of the highly anticipated film.

In addition to Mohanlal's powerful performance, *L2E* boasts an ensemble cast that includes Tov-

no Thomas, Indrajith Sukumaran, Manju Warrier, Saniya Iyappan, Sai Kumar, and Sachin Khedekar. Produced by Lyca Productions and Aashirvad Cinemas, the film is set to feature gripping action sequences and intense drama. Deepak Dev, known for his stellar music compositions, has been roped in to create the soundtrack, further adding to the excitement surrounding the film.