



Weather Forecast

HYDERABAD	VIJAYAWADA	TIRUPATHI
H 33° C L 25° C	H 35° C L 26° C	H 36° C L 26° C

Indian Students Anxious as Trump Tightens US Immigration



Students pull back from off-campus jobs, worried about visa status.

Uncertainty grows around OPT and intern opportunities.

Stricter visa norms lead to uncertainty.

Students considering Europe, Australia over US.

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

As President Donald Trump embarks on his second term, Indian students studying in the United States are filled with anxiety, anticipating stricter immigration policies and heightened scrutiny of illegal immigrants. Many fear that the upcoming changes, including a potential crackdown on illegal immigration and tighter visa regulations, will impact their education and future prospects in the US. Indian students, primarily holding F-1 visas, are facing mounting concerns over their ability to work part-time while pursuing their studies. Traditionally, students on these visas are allowed to work up to 20 hours a week on-campus, but stricter enforcement has led many to quit their off-campus part-time jobs. Those recently graduated or in their Optional Practical Training (OPT) period

are particularly worried about their visa status as job opportunities become increasingly scarce due to market slowdowns and potential changes in OPT regulations. The latest executive orders issued by Trump, including those on birthright citizenship and the anticipated restrictions on OPT, have added fuel to the uncertainty. With rising tuition costs and living expenses, many students rely on part-time work to support themselves. However, with fewer job opportunities and concerns about their visa status, some students have started to explore study options in other countries such as Europe, Australia, and Canada.

Study abroad consultants like Leverage.biz, Collegify, and EduVib are offering guidance to students, advising them to tread carefully to avoid actions that may jeopardize their stay in the US. Some students are even considering taking up unsafe jobs, such as working at petrol pumps or grocery stores, to make ends meet. The fear of more stringent policies has led many students to alter their travel plans or even reconsider the US as their preferred destination for higher education. As the US government continues to clamp down on immigration, students are left grappling with an uncertain future, prompting many to look for backup options in countries like Germany, Ireland, and France.

Kejriwal unveils AAP's 15 guarantees ahead of Delhi polls

AAP guarantees free electricity, water benefits for tenants.

₹18,000 monthly aid for priests included in AAP's plans.

₹2,100 monthly allowance for women under Mahila Samman Yojana.

Free bus travel for students with a 50% concession on Metro fares.

Clean Yamuna and improved water supply for all households.

Scholarships for Dalit students for higher education abroad.



TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leader Arvind Kejriwal on Monday released the party's manifesto, outlining 15 key guarantees for the upcoming February 5 Delhi assembly elections. He assured voters that AAP's government would continue its existing free schemes while introducing new measures aimed at welfare and development. The guarantees include employment generation, monthly allowances for women under the Mahila Samman Yojana, free medical treatment for senior citizens, clean drinking water, and enhanced

infrastructure, among others. Specific schemes like scholarships for Dalit students, financial aid for priests, and benefits for tenants were also highlighted. Kejriwal admitted that three guarantees from the 2020 elections remain unfulfilled, citing COVID-19 and alleged political interference as the reasons. He pledged to deliver these promises if re-elected.

The AAP chief accused the BJP of planning to discontinue free education, healthcare, and public transport schemes, claiming this would add an additional financial burden of ₹25,000 per month on house-

holds. Meanwhile, the BJP released its manifesto promising 50,000 government jobs, 13,000 e-buses, free Metro travel for students, housing for slum-dwellers, and financial aid for women and priests. Union Home Minister Amit Shah clarified that existing welfare schemes would continue under BJP's leadership.

Kejriwal signed a "guarantee card" during the manifesto launch, emphasizing AAP's commitment to fulfilling its promises. The battle for Delhi's governance now hinges on these competing visions.

Kejriwal Claims BJP Mixing Poison in Yamuna Water



BJP Hits Back: Haryana CM Says Kejriwal is Running Away with False Claims

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JPC clears Waqf bill; Opposition calls it 'farcical exercise'



- JPC adopts 14 NDA-proposed amendments
- Rejects opposition suggestions.
- Opposition calls the process undemocratic.
- Report expected during the Budget session.

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

The Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) reviewing the Waqf (Amendment) Bill adopted 14 amendments proposed by the BJP-led NDA on Monday, rejecting all changes suggested by opposition members. JPC chairperson Jagdambika Pal stated that the amendments were adopted by majority vote, with 16 members supporting the NDA's proposals and 10 opposing them. Opposition MPs, however, alleged that the process was undemocratic and accused the chairperson of stifling debate.

TMC MP Kalyan Banerjee criticized the proceedings, claiming the JPC functioned in a dictatorial manner and disregarded parliamentary rules. "This is a bad day for democracy," he said. Samajwadi Party MP Mohibullah Nadvi echoed similar sentiments, alleging the bill was a "joke" with the country's minority community and an attempt to exploit the Waqf Board. Pal dismissed the accusations, maintaining that the process was democratic and guided by majority opinion.

The Waqf (Amendment) Bill, introduced in 2022, proposes changes to the powers of state waqf boards, surveys of waqf properties, and the removal of encroachments by amending the Waqf Act, 1995. The JPC is expected to submit its report during the upcoming Budget session.

Uttarakhand Becomes First State to Enforce UCC



Key Changes

- Minimum marriage age: 21 for men, 18 for women.
- Second marriages prohibited while spouse is alive and not divorced.
- Equal property rights for daughters in all religions.
- Live-in relationships must be registered.
- Parents to be informed about live-in relationships.
- Equal inheritance rights for children born from live-in relationships.
- Polygamy, child marriage, nikah halala, and triple talaq are banned.

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi
Uttarakhand has officially implemented the Uniform Civil Code (UCC), becoming the first state in India to adopt such a framework, following Goa's longstanding legal system. The new UCC lays out uniform guidelines for marriage, divorce, property, inheritance, and adoption laws, ensuring equal rights for all citizens regardless of religion. The Code was brought into effect nearly a year after its passage in the Uttarakhand assembly. It also fulfills a key promise made by the BJP during the 2022 state elections. Key provisions include mandatory registration of live-in relationships, with parental consent required for those involving individuals below 21 years of age.

Under the UCC, failure to declare live-in relationships or providing false information could lead to a jail term of up to three months, a fine of ₹25,000, or both. Delayed registration, even by a month,

may result in a penalty of ₹10,000 or imprisonment for three months. Other notable reforms include mandatory marriage registration, uniform marriage age (21 years for men and 18 years for women), and the prohibition of polygamy, child marriage, and triple talaq. The Code excludes Scheduled Tribes from its purview. The UCC also ensures gender-neutral language in inheritance laws, referring to both sons and daughters as "child" to eliminate any gender bias. Moreover, it legitimizes children born out of live-in relationships, granting them equal inheritance rights. This historic move is expected to set a precedent for other states, aiming to establish uniformity and equality across diverse communities.



South India's Cultural Diversity Showcased at Rashtrapati Bhavan's 'At Home' Reception



TPN Correspondent
| New Delhi

The 76th Republic Day 'At Home' reception at Rashtrapati Bhavan celebrated the rich cultural diversity of Southern India, offering guests an immersive experience of its traditions, arts, and cuisine. Couples representing Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, and Kerala greeted guests in their mother tongues, dressed in their region's traditional attire. The event's special invitees included women achievers, "drone didis" trained in agricultur-

al drone operations, natural farming agriculturists, and divyang achievers, reflecting inclusivity and recognition of grassroots contributions. A captivating musical segment added charm to the evening, with performances by Carnatic musicians specializing in instruments like Veena, Nadaswaram, and Mridangam. Eminent artists like Guru Prasanna (Khanjira) and Rajkamal N (Flute) enthralled the audience, celebrating the region's artistic excellence. The event also spotlighted traditional handicrafts, includ-

ing Nachiarkoil Kuthuvilakku lamps, made by the Kammalar community of Thanjavur, and Kerala's iconic Nilavilakku lamps, emphasizing South India's heritage. The high tea featured a variety of regional dishes, blending Andhra, Karnataka, Tamil, and Kerala cuisines. Guests enjoyed savory treats like Udupi Uddina Vada and Andhra Onion Samosa, alongside desserts such as Mysore Pak and Rawa Kesari, leaving a lasting impression of South India's culinary richness.

Mahakumbh 2025

Flight Fares to Prayagraj Surge Amid Record Pilgrim Turnout



- Airfares from Chennai to Prayagraj for January 28-30 exceed ₹30,000
- while Kolkata fares cross ₹32,500.
- Passengers from Hyderabad, Mumbai, and Delhi face fares above ₹53,500.
- DGCA met with airlines on January 23, on fare rationalization.

TPN Correspondent
| Prayagraj

As Mahakumbh 2025 unfolds in Prayagraj, attracting millions of devotees from across the globe, flight fares to the holy city have skyrocketed. Return tickets from cities like Chennai, Kolkata, Hyderabad, Mumbai, and Delhi have surged to as high as ₹53,500, even as the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) urged airlines to rationalize fares and increase capacity to meet growing demand. This year's Mahakumbh, rooted in Sanatan Dharma, has al-

ready witnessed 130.2 million devotees take the holy dip at Triveni Sangam by Monday, with over 4.66 million participating just in the early hours of the day. The event, running from January 13 to February 26, is expected to draw over 45 crore pilgrims, marking it as one of India's most historic religious gatherings. Pilgrims traditionally gather at the Sangam—the confluence of the Ganga, Yamuna, and the now-extinct Saraswati rivers—to take a holy dip, a practice believed to cleanse sins and grant moksha (liber-

ation). With upcoming auspicious bathing dates like Basant Panchami (February 3), Maghi Purnima (February 12), and Maha Shivratri (February 26), travel demand is expected to remain high. The Mahakumbh is held every 12 years, drawing immense spiritual significance due to its celestial alignment. This sacred event provides a platform for spiritual purification and devotion, with the current edition anticipated to leave an indelible mark in history.

NGT questions CPCB over Usage of funds

TPN Correspondent
| New Delhi

The National Green Tribunal (NGT) has raised concerns over the Central Pollution Control Board's (CPCB) handling of environmental compensation (EC) funds collected from projects across India, particularly in Delhi. The tribunal has demanded a detailed audit of fund utilization within eight weeks, scheduling the next hearing for May 2.

The NGT's order, dated January 21, comes in response to a CPCB report filed on January 20, which revealed that only ₹223.44 crore out of ₹255.01 crore in EC collected up to September 2024 had been sanctioned for 67 projects. Despite this, a significant portion of the funds has not been used

for environmental restoration. The NGT, led by chairperson Justice Prakash Shrivastava, criticized the CPCB for spending a substantial amount on strengthening its computer network, a move deemed unrelated to environmental restoration. Additionally, funds were reportedly used for upgrading CPCB's and state pollution control boards' laboratories, which the tribunal noted should have been covered by their statutory responsibilities.



The bench also highlighted the poor utilization of EC funds by several states and Union territories, including Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Jammu & Kashmir, and Delhi, where usage was less than 20%.

The tribunal dismissed CPCB's initial claim that the Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) regularly audits EC funds, directing the board to provide detailed accounts and the latest annual audit report for the past ten years. The NGT emphasized that EC funds should primarily address environmental restoration in affected areas and warned against their diversion for unrelated purposes. The next hearing on the matter is set for May 2.

Delhi Family Returning from Mahakumbh Killed in Road Accident

TPN Correspondent
| New Delhi

A tragic road accident on the Lucknow-Agra Expressway claimed the lives of a Delhi-based family of four early Monday morning in Uttar Pradesh's Fatehabad area. The victims, Omprakash Singh (42), his wife Purnima (34), their 12-year-old daughter Ahana, and four-year-old son Vinayak, died on the spot after their car collided with a mini truck.

The family, originally from Motihari district in Bihar, was returning to their home in Delhi's Uttam Nagar after attending the Mahakumbh Mela and taking a holy dip at Triveni Sangam in Prayagraj.

- The accident occurred at 12:30 am when the car lost control and hit a mini truck.
- Police suspect the driver may have dozed off, causing the fatal collision.



• The vehicle was severely damaged, and bodies were extracted by Fatehabad police.

Assistant Commissioner of Police Amar Deep stated that the bodies have been sent for post-mortem, and the family has been informed. Preliminary investigations suggest that Omprakash Singh, who was driving the car, might have fallen asleep at the wheel, leading to the tragic accident. The collision left the car man-

gled, with police and emergency responders working to retrieve the bodies trapped inside. The incident highlights the dangers of fatigued driving, particularly during long journeys.

In a similar accident on January 24, two men lost their lives after their car rammed into a stationary truck on the Delhi-Agra highway in Mathura, underscoring the urgent need for road safety measures on major highways.

Light rain expected in parts of north India from January 29



TPN Correspondent
| New Delhi

Parts of north India, including Delhi and Uttarakhand, are likely to experience light rainfall from January 29 to February 1 due to two western disturbances impacting the Western Himalayan region. The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has predicted scattered to widespread

rainfall and snowfall activity across the Western Himalayan region during this period, with isolated rain expected in the adjoining plains, including Punjab and Haryana, between January 30 and February 1. Daytime temperatures in the region currently remain 1.6°C to 6.4°C above normal due to clear skies and low pollution levels, allowing the sun's heat

to reach the surface effectively. However, a slight drop in temperatures may follow the rainfall.

Meanwhile, the northeast monsoon rains have ceased in southern regions, including Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, and Rayalaseema, as of Monday, signaling the end of the seasonal

Kejriwal Claims BJP Mixing Poison in Yamuna Water

Sisodia to be my deputy CM, says Kejriwal at Delhi rally

BJP Hits Back: Haryana CM Says Kejriwal is Running Away with False Claims



TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

The political battle in the lead-up to the Delhi Assembly elections has intensified with a fierce exchange between Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal and the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). This time, the clash centers around Kejriwal's sensational claim that the Haryana government is "mixing poison" into the Yamuna river, which supplies water to the national capital.

Kejriwal, speaking to reporters on Monday, accused the BJP-led Haryana government of deliberately contaminating Delhi's water supply in a bid to create chaos and tarnish the Aam Aadmi Party's (AAP) reputation. He alleged that the Haryana government had added a poisonous substance—believed to be ammonia—into the Yamuna river, which flows from Haryana into Delhi. Kejriwal claimed that it was only due to the vigilance of the Delhi Jal Board (DJB) engineers that the allegedly poisoned water was stopped at the Delhi border and prevented from entering the city.

The allegations, which are not new in the political rivalry between AAP and BJP, come at a time when the Yamuna's water quality has been a significant issue in Delhi's governance. Kejriwal's admission last week that his government failed to fulfill its promise of cleaning the Yamuna and providing drinkable water has further fueled the political attacks from the opposition.

BJP's Rebuttal and Counterclaims

In response, Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini dismissed Kejriwal's accusations as baseless and reflective of his nature to accuse others without substantiated evidence. Saini's statement was backed by Haryana Labour Minister Anil Vij, who criticized Kejriwal's leadership, accusing him of failing to address Delhi's own water issues.

Vij, who has been vocal about the state of the Yamuna, pointed out that it is not Haryana's responsibility to clean the Yamuna once it enters Delhi, calling it a failure on Kejriwal's part. He further challenged Kejriwal to take journalists and experts to inspect the water quality where the Yamuna enters Delhi and compare it to the quality in Delhi.

AAP Seeks Election Commission's Intervention

Meanwhile, AAP leaders, including Delhi Chief Minister Atishi and Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann, met with the Election Commission (EC) to seek action against Haryana for allegedly sabotaging Delhi's water supply. The EC has instructed Haryana to submit a detailed report on the issue by January 28.

Kejriwal's Past Promises and BJP's Attacks

The ongoing controversy has added fuel to the BJP's attacks on Kejriwal over his past promises regarding the cleaning of the Yamuna. In the 2020 Delhi elections, Kejriwal had assured voters that the river would be cleaned and made suitable for drinking. However, as the BJP pointed out, these promises remain largely unfulfilled, with delays in various river-cleaning projects being reported.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah, while addressing a rally at the Maha Kumbh, took a dig at Kejriwal for his unfulfilled promises, referring to his pledge to make the Yamuna as clean as the River Thames in London. Shah sarcastically reminded the people of Delhi about Kejriwal's promise to take a dip in the Yamuna once it was clean.

Delays in River Cleaning Projects

A report by the Delhi Pollution Control Committee (DPCC) in October 2023 revealed that several river-cleaning projects are running behind schedule, including key initiatives by the Delhi Jal Board and the Delhi Development Authority (DDA). These delays have drawn attention from the National Green Tribunal (NGT), which has been monitoring the progress of these projects. This is not the first time that Kejriwal has been criticized for his failure to clean the Yamuna. Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath had previously accused Kejriwal of turning the once-sacred river into a "dirty drain."

As the Delhi Assembly elections draw closer, the dispute over the Yamuna's water quality and the failure to fulfill promises of cleaning it have become a major point of contention. With both the AAP and BJP using the issue to target each other, it remains to be seen how this will impact the voters' perception in the run-up to the elections.

Delhi polls will decide battle of ideologies: Kejriwal

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

Ahead of the Delhi Assembly elections, Arvind Kejriwal, AAP Chief, defended his party's welfare model and accused the BJP of focusing on benefiting billionaires rather than the public.

Kejriwal pointed out that the people of Delhi will decide not only the city's future but also whether AAP's welfare schemes should be extended across the country. He emphasized that AAP's governance is aimed at using funds for public welfare, contrasting it with the BJP's approach of of-

fering loans to billionaires that are later written off.

He highlighted key AAP welfare schemes, including free power, water, and bus travel for women, as well as a ₹2,100 monthly allowance for women voters. Kejriwal stated these schemes provide an average benefit of ₹25,000 per household each month, covering free education, power, and travel expenses. He argued that discontinuing these programs would burden the city's poor.

Kejriwal also criticized the BJP for calling these initiatives "freebies," pointing

out the contradictions in their own policies of offering massive tax concessions to big businesses.

In response, the BJP dismissed Kejriwal's claims, stating that the upcoming Delhi elections are a clear choice between an "anarchic" government or a "double-engine" development government. BJP spokesperson Praveen Shankar Kapoor accused Kejriwal of corruption and failure to develop the city and declared that Delhi residents are ready to elect a BJP government in 2025.



- Kejriwal announced Sisodia's return as Deputy CM if AAP wins.
- Manish Sisodia shifts from Patparganj to contest from Jangpura.
- AAP faces tough competition from BJP and Congress candidates.

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) chief Arvind Kejriwal announced on Sunday that Manish Sisodia will assume the role of Deputy Chief Minister once again if the party emerges victorious in the February 5 assembly elections in Delhi.

Addressing a public meeting in the Jangpura constituency, where Sisodia is contesting this time, Kejriwal said, "He will become the Deputy Chief Minister in the government, and with him, all of you will also become deputy chief minis-

ters," urging voters to support Sisodia. Manish Sisodia, a key figure in the outgoing AAP government, previously served as Kejriwal's deputy. Currently contesting from Jangpura, Sisodia has shifted his focus from Patparganj amid a tough electoral battle against BJP's Tarvinder Singh Marwah and Congress's Farhad Suri.

Kejriwal accused BJP MLAs of obstructing development in the last assembly, particularly in the eight constituencies they held. "You people should not make such a mistake again," he warned, emphasizing AAP's track record of improving government schools under Sisodia's leadership.

Highlighting AAP's education reforms, Kejriwal said, "Manish Sisodia and I have together transformed government schools for your children's future. The BJP threatens to close them if they form a government. You must choose wisely between the AAP that builds schools and the BJP that shuts them."

Manish Sisodia echoed Kejriwal's promises, assuring transformative governance. "If I win from Jangpura, every brother and sister here will become Deputy CM. No one will dare to stop the people's work here," he stated.

The assembly elections in Jangpura are expected to be a closely fought contest. Results will be declared on February 8.

Delhi LG: Rise above illusion of 'manufactured consent'

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

Lieutenant Governor VK Saxena has urged Delhiites to vote wisely in the upcoming assembly elections on February 5, cautioning against being influenced by what he called the "illusion of manufactured consent or dissent."

Speaking on Republic Day, Saxena emphasized that the election's outcome would determine key aspects of daily life, including education, healthcare, transport, and water supply. He appealed to voters to act responsibly and focus on Delhi's progress.

"In a few days, we will elect not just a government but an arrangement that will shape the future of our health systems, infrastructure, and wel-

fare initiatives for the next five years," Saxena said. He also underlined the importance of tackling air pollution, cleaning the Yamuna River, and addressing social welfare.



The LG warned against the influence of social media and propaganda on voter behavior, urging citizens to think critically. "Globally, we have seen attempts to manipulate elections through social media. It is our duty to discern right

from wrong without external pressure," he said, calling voting the "biggest responsibility towards the Constitution."

Saxena also called for voter enthusiasm, highlighting the role of democracy in protecting Delhi's heritage and securing its future.

Meanwhile, the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) responded by highlighting its achievements in education, healthcare, and infrastructure. "Delhi remains the only state with 24/7 electricity, and this became possible under the

AAP government," the party stated, accusing the BJP of resorting to "low politics" during a Republic Day address. The official X account of Raj Niwas echoed Saxena's appeal, calling the upcoming elections crucial for Delhi's progress.

Pappu Yadav accuses Kejriwal of surpassing Modi in corruption.



TPN Correspondent, New Delhi

Independent MP and Congress supporter Pappu Yadav took a sharp dig at the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) ahead of the Delhi Assembly elections, accusing both parties of corruption and neglecting key issues. Campaigning for Congress candidate Anil Kumar from Patparganj, Yadav claimed that AAP leader Arvind Kejriwal had

surpassed Prime Minister Narendra Modi in dishonesty.

"I have seen Narendra Modi lie, but Kejriwal has gone beyond him. He promised not to become a VIP but is now the biggest VIP. Whether it's the Paris-like streets, cleaning Yamuna, or Mohalla Clinics, none of it matters. In terms of corruption, AAP beats even BJP," Yadav remarked. Yadav also targeted BJP, accusing it of focusing only on

divisive politics and misusing central agencies like the ED and CBI. He asserted, "BJP has no real concern for Purvanchal or the country."

Referring to the tenure of former Delhi CM Sheila Dikshit, Yadav said, "People now recall her time when Delhi had better law and order, metro development, and greener spaces." Congress leader Sandeep Dikshit also criticized AAP and BJP for failing to address unemployment, a pressing issue in Delhi. "Both parties are offering false hopes. Welfare isn't about giving freebies but about building hospitals, schools, and houses," Dikshit said.

The Delhi Assembly elections are scheduled for February 5, with results to be declared on February 8. AAP, which swept the 2015 and 2020 elections, will face Congress and BJP as 699 candidates compete for 70 seats.

Focused Governance: PM Modi's 'One Nation, One Election' Appeal To NCC Cadets

Shiromani Akali Dal demands probe into alleged misuse of public funds. Prime Minister Modi emphasizes the role of young voices in shaping India's political future.

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has urged India's youth to actively participate in the national debate on the "One Nation, One Election" proposal, which aims to synchronize Lok Sabha and state elections. Addressing a National Cadet Corps (NCC) rally in Delhi, Modi highlighted the significance of this reform for India's democracy, calling it a critical step toward policy stability and effective governance.

Historical Context: Modi pointed out that simultaneous elections were a norm post-independence but were disrupted over time, leading to frequent elections and their associated challenges, such as continuous campaigning and policy delays.

Global Comparisons: Referencing election practices in countries like the United States, Modi emphasized the benefits of streamlined elections.

Youth Involvement: The Prime Minister urged young people to engage in discussions about this initiative, stating, "This issue is directly linked to your future." He encouraged youth to contribute fresh ideas to politics, reiterating his vision of involving one lakh young leaders in gov-



ernance. **NCC Growth:** Highlighting the increasing participation in the NCC, Modi noted the rise in cadet numbers from 14 lakh in 2014 to 20 lakh today, with a significant contribution from female cadets. President Droupadi Murmu also endorsed the "One Nation, One Election" initiative, emphasizing its potential to reduce financial burdens, prevent policy paralysis, and ensure consistent governance.

Controversy and Debate:

The proposal has ignited a spirited national conversation. Supporters, including the BJP, argue it could lead to cost-effective and stable governance, while critics, particularly opposition parties, warn about potential risks to India's federal structure and the independence of state legislatures.

As the discussion gains momentum, Modi's call to the youth aims to ensure the next generation is at the forefront of shaping India's evolving democratic practices.

Stalin gets relief in 'Sanatana Dharma' remark case

TPN Correspondent | Chennai

Tamil Nadu Deputy Chief Minister Udhayanidhi Stalin received a significant reprieve on Monday as the Supreme Court declined to entertain three writ petitions seeking criminal action against him over his controversial remarks on 'Sanatana Dharma.' The petitions were dismissed with the liberty for petitioners to seek alternative legal remedies.

Court's Decision:

The petitions, filed by B Jagannath, Vineet Jindal, and Sanatan Suraksha Parishad, alleged that Stalin's remarks equating 'Sanatana Dharma' to diseases like dengue and malaria constituted hate speech and hurt religious sentiments.

A bench comprising Justice Bela M. Trivedi and Justice Prasanna B. Varale questioned the maintainability of the petitions under Article 32 of the Constitution. Senior Advocate Dama Seshadri Naidu, representing the petitioners, sought permission to withdraw the petitions, which the court granted, allowing them to explore other legal remedies.

Stalin's Stance:

Udhayanidhi Stalin has consistently refused to apologise for his remarks made at the 'Sanatana Abolition Conference' in September 2023. He asserted that his statement was rooted in the ideologies of Dravidian leaders like Periyar, CN Annadurai, and M. Karunanidhi, and aimed to critique a system he believes opposes social justice and equality.

"My words were twisted," Stalin said, acknowledging the widespread criticism and legal actions. "Cases have been filed against me across India. They demanded an apology, but I stand by my words. I'm the grandson of Kalaingar, and I will not apologise."

The Controversy:

Stalin's comments, where he called for the "eradication" of Sanatana Dharma, sparked nationwide outrage, particularly from the BJP and Hindu organisations, leading to protests and multiple FIRs. His elevation to Deputy Chief Minister in September 2024 was reportedly delayed due to the backlash.



Mamta Kulkarni's Appointment Sparks Controversy Among Saints

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

The recent appointment of former Bollywood actress Mamta Kulkarni as the Mahamandaleshwar of the Kinnar Akhara during the Mahakumbh Mela in Prayagraj has ignited a debate among spiritual leaders. While some have celebrated her elevation, others have expressed strong reservations, citing her controversial past.

Kulkarni, now Shriyamai Mamta Nand Giri, was initiated into her new role by Laxmi Narayan Tripathi, the president of the Kinnar Akhara. The ceremony included traditional rituals that symbolized her integration into the spiritual community. However, this high-profile induction has divided opinion within the religious fraternity.

Several saints have questioned the decision, with Shri Swami Anand Swaroop Maharaj of Shambhavi Peeth calling it a "betrayal of Sanatan Dharma." Swaroop Maharaj advised Kulkarni to reconsider her path, suggesting that her appointment could tarnish her reputation and harm the Akhara's image.

Similarly, Mahamandaleshwar Balaknanda Ji Maharaj and Acharya Mahamandaleshwar Balaknanda Ji have expressed concerns, questioning Kulkarni's qualifications for the role and whether her past aligns with the spiritual ideals of the Akhara.

Despite the criticism, some members of the Kinnar Akhara and its supporters argue that transformation and redemption are key tenets of spiritual life. They believe that Kulkarni's journey could inspire others to embrace spirituality, regardless of their past. Mamta Kulkarni's appointment as Mahamandaleshwar has brought attention to the evolving dynamics within spiritual institutions. While the controversy highlights tensions between tradition and change, it also raises questions about the criteria for spiritual leadership and the possibility of personal transformation within Sanatan Dharma.



Rahul accuses BJP-RSS of insulting Ambedkar Constitution

TPN Correspondent | Mhow

Addressing the Jai Bapu, Jai Bhim, Jai Samvidhan rally, Rahul Gandhi accused the BJP and RSS of disrespecting Dr. B.R. Ambedkar and his vision of the Constitution. He alleged that the current government is systematically undermining the rights of marginalized communities.

Gandhi announced that the Congress would initiate a nationwide caste census upon returning to power at the Centre. He argued that such a census is essential to address historical inequities and ensure equitable resource distribution.

Gandhi accused Prime Minister Narendra Modi's administration of working for billionnaires, claiming it is dismantling employment opportunities and concentrating the nation's wealth among a select few. He alleged that Dalits, tribals, and other marginalized groups are being pushed into modern-day slavery through economic policies that favor the elite.



Emphasizing Ambedkar's legacy, Gandhi stated, "The BJP-RSS aim to change the Constitution framed by Ambedkar. Their '400 paar' slogan from last year's polls reflects their intent to consolidate unchecked power." He urged Congress workers to actively safeguard the Constitution.

The rally is part of Congress's ongoing campaign to counter the BJP's narrative and mobilize support among Dalits, OBCs, and other marginalized groups. Gandhi's focus on caste-based issues aligns with the party's broader strategy to challenge the BJP in the upcoming Lok Sabha elections.

Rahul Gandhi's speech reflects the Congress party's attempts to position itself as the defender of Ambedkar's vision and the rights of marginalized communities. As the electoral battle intensifies, issues of caste, economic disparity, and constitutional integrity are expected to dominate political discourse.



AAP Releases 15-Point Manifesto Ahead of Delhi Assembly Elections

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

With the Delhi assembly elections approaching, Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) chief Arvind Kejriwal unveiled the party's manifesto on Monday, focusing on employment, women's welfare, and public transport reforms. The manifesto highlights 15 guarantees, reflecting AAP's commitment to fulfilling promises made to Delhi's residents.

Key Guarantees in the Manifesto:

Employment Creation:

Kejriwal's foremost promise is robust job creation for Delhiites, aiming to address unemployment in the capital.

Mahila Samman Yojana:

The manifesto introduces the Mahila Samman Yojana, pledging a monthly financial aid of ₹2,100 for women, emphasizing the party's focus on empowering women.

Sanjeevani Yojana for Senior Citizens:

AAP has promised free healthcare for senior citizens under the Sanjeevani Yojana, ensuring quality medical facilities without financial burdens.

Free Bus Travel for Students:

Extending its free public transport initiatives, AAP guarantees free bus travel for students and a 50% concession on metro fares to promote accessible and affordable commuting.

Water Bill Waivers and 24x7 Supply:

AAP pledged to waive outstanding "hiked" water bills and provide uninterrupted clean drinking water to every household in Delhi.

At the manifesto launch, Kejriwal took a jab at the BJP, saying, "We coined the term 'guarantee' in the country. After us, the BJP stole it, but the difference is, we fulfil our guarantees, and they do not." With its 15-point manifesto, AAP aims to retain power in Delhi by addressing pressing issues like unemployment, public transport, and women's welfare. As the capital gears up for elections next month, voters will weigh these promises against the party's past performance.

Indonesian Navy Chief Admiral Muhammad Ali's Visit to India Strengthens Defence Ties

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

Admiral Muhammad Ali, Chief of Staff of the Indonesian Navy, visited India alongside President Prabowo Subianto, who graced India's Republic Day Parade 2025 as Chief Guest. The visit underscored the growing defence and maritime cooperation between the two nations, highlighted by bilateral talks and significant advancements in the proposed USD 450 million BrahMos missile deal.

Admiral Ali engaged in talks with Admi-

ral Dinesh K. Tripathi, Chief of the Naval Staff of India, focusing on bolstering maritime collaboration and addressing regional challenges. Key topics included the enhancement of Exercise Samudra Shakti, cooperation in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR), and tackling illegal activities such as piracy and smuggling.

The Admiral also toured significant Indian maritime establishments like the Information Fusion Centre - Indian Ocean Region (IFC-IOR) and the Weapons and Electronics Systems Engineering Estab-

lishment (WESEE), reflecting the shared commitment to regional stability and technological collaboration.

A pivotal moment of Admiral Ali's visit was his interaction at BrahMos Aerospace Private Limited (BAPL), where discussions on advancing defence strategies took centre stage. Coinciding with President Subianto's meeting with BrahMos officials at a banquet hosted by President Droupadi Murmu, sources confirmed that negotiations for the \$450 million BrahMos missile system are nearing conclusion.

Mumbai Cops' Probe Leads to Woman in Saif Ali Khan Attack Case



TPN Correspondent | Mumbai
A significant breakthrough has been made in the investigation of actor Saif Ali Khan's stabbing case, with Mumbai Police questioning a woman in West Bengal, who allegedly provided a mobile phone SIM card to the Bangladeshi national responsible for the attack. According to police sources, the woman, Khukumoni Sheikh, hails from Chupra in Nadia district and was reportedly known to Sariful Islam, the Bangladeshi national who illegally entered India. The SIM card used by Islam during his stay in India was traced back to her. Islam, who entered India illegally through Meghalaya, lived in Bengal before relocating to Mumbai in search of a job. Police revealed that he had used a local Aadhaar card to procure the SIM card while in Bengal. In Mumbai, he worked at jobs that did not require official documentation. During his stay, Islam used a National Identity Card and learner's driving license, both proving his Bangladeshi nationality. These

documents have been seized by the police. On January 16, Islam stabbed Khan multiple times during a failed burglary attempt at the actor's Bandra residence. After a 70-hour manhunt, Islam was arrested on January 19 in Thane. He was remanded in police custody. Kareena Kapoor Khan, the actor's wife, described the attack as highly aggressive, recalling that she saw the intruder stab her husband repeatedly. A nurse present at the time, Eliyama Philips, mentioned that Islam had demanded ₹1 crore during the attack. Islam admitted to attacking Khan after being grabbed by the actor, and he spent two hours hiding in the building's garden before fleeing. His father, however, denied the allegations, claiming his son was being framed. Following the attack, doctors successfully removed a 2.5-inch piece of a broken knife from Khan's spine, which could have caused severe damage had it penetrated any deeper. The actor was discharged on January 21.

Six arrested from Kaushal Chaudhary gang, targeted killing foiled



TPN Correspondent | Amritsar
Punjab Police successfully foiled a targeted killing plot on Monday by arresting six members of the notorious Kaushal Chaudhary gang. Director General of Police Gaurav Yadav confirmed the arrests and stated that six pistols and 40 rounds of ammunition were recovered during the operation in Amritsar. Among those apprehended were key associates

Puneet Lakhnpal, also known as Sharma, and Narinder Kumar, alias Lalli. According to the DGP, the arrested individuals had been evading capture for three years and were directly involved in high-profile murders, including the 2022 killing of kabaddi player Sandeep Singh Nangal Ambian and the 2021 murder of Sukhmeet Singh, alias Deputy. The gang members were also involved in an indiscriminate firing incident at the Highway King Hotel in Rajasthan, demanding an extortion of ₹5 crore in September 2024. A case has been registered in Amritsar, and further investigations are underway.

Ex-Judge Appointed As Independent Observer For Chandigarh Mayor Polls

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi
The Supreme Court of India has appointed former judge of the Punjab and Haryana High Court, Justice (ret'd) Jaishree Thakur, as the independent observer for the upcoming Chandigarh mayoral election, scheduled for January 30. A bench of Justices Surya Kant and N Kotiswar Singh took note of the mutually agreeable stand from both sides and directed that the election proceedings be conducted in the observer's physical presence, which should also be videographed for transparency. The court further directed the returning officer of the mayoral election to coordinate with Justice Thakur well ahead of the scheduled election

date. Justice Thakur, appointed for ensuring fairness and transparency in the process, will be paid an honorarium of ₹1 lakh by the Union Territory administration of Chandigarh within a week. The bench also ordered that necessary security arrangements be made for the observer's presence during the election. This decision comes after a petition filed by incumbent mayor Kuldeep Kumar from AAP, seeking a "show of hands" voting system instead of a "secret ballot" to ensure fairness. However, the bench rejected the request, reaffirming that the election would proceed under the usual secret ballot system. The Supreme Court clarified that the appoint-

ment of an independent observer was made in light of apprehensions raised by the petitioner regarding the fairness of the process. It also noted that while the court had no doubts about the authorities' objectivity, the observer's presence was necessary to ensure a free and fair election. The decision follows a contentious mayoral poll from the previous year, where the result was overturned by the Supreme Court due to alleged tampering with ballots. The previous election saw BJP candidate Manoj Sonkar win, despite controversy over the invalidation of votes.

Amit Shah takes holy dip at Maha Kumbh, joins Yogi Adityanath for aarti

TPN Correspondent | Prayagraj
Union Home Minister Amit Shah took part in the Maha Kumbh festivities in Prayagraj on Monday, taking a holy dip at the Triveni Sangam and later joining Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath for an aarti ceremony. Dressed in saffron attire, Shah was accompanied by seers during the dip, while Yogi Adityanath took a separate holy bath before the two leaders came together for the aarti. Shah also interacted with spiritual leaders, including Acharya Avdheshanand Giri Ji Maharaj, aboard a floating jetty before proceeding to the Sangam.

Shah's son, Jay Shah, also participated in the Maha Kumbh, seeking blessings for his newborn son. The event prompted heightened security measures across the Mela area

and Prayagraj city, with traffic restrictions and diversions impacting locals and pilgrims. The Mela area remains a no-vehicle zone to ensure smooth movement for the massive influx of devotees.

In a post on X, Shah described the Maha Kumbh as a "unique symbol" of Sanatan culture and harmony. He expressed gratitude for being part of the gathering and receiving blessings from saints. The Maha Kumbh will continue until February 26, with millions of devotees expected to participate in the sacred event.



'No Discrimination in Mahakumbh': Yogi Adityanath's Message of Unity

TPN Correspondent | Lucknow
Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath expressed gratitude towards the media for highlighting the essence of unity and faith at the Mahakumbh in Prayagraj, where devotees from across the globe have gathered to celebrate Sanatana Dharma. Speaking on NDTV's special show Mahakumbh Samvaad, the Chief Minister emphasized the inclusive nature of the event. "Everyone wants to take a dip in the Sangam," he remarked, lauding the media for positively sharing the spirit of the Maha Parv with the world. He noted that on January 14 alone, nearly

six crore devotees participated in the holy dip, showcasing the unity fostered by the Mahakumbh. "This message of unity was given by Mahakumbh. There was no discrimination. People who used to criticise Sanatana Dharma say they have come to see this," he stated. Highlighting the event's religious significance, Yogi Adityanath urged everyone to witness the celebrations firsthand. He reiterated his commitment to working with those who believe in the values of Sanatana Dharma. As the two-month-long gathering moves closer to Mauni Amavasya, the largest snan (bathing day) scheduled

for January 29, Prayagraj is witnessing a massive influx of pilgrims. Railway stations, bus stops, and highways are bustling as devotees arrive to take the holy dip at the Sangam. To manage the surge, the entire Mahakumbh area has been declared a no-vehicle zone, with barricades being installed to ensure crowd control. Authorities have prioritized public convenience by making special arrangements across sectors and zones. Notably, no special protocol will apply during the amrit snan festival to maintain the focus on the devotees' experience.

National Flag Unfurled For First Time In 35 Years At J&K's Tral



TPN Correspondent | Srinagar
For the first time in 35 years, the national flag was unfurled at Tral in Pulwama district of Jammu and Kashmir on Sunday, marking a significant moment in the region's journey towards peace and national integration. The 76th Republic Day celebrations saw nearly 1,000 participants gather for the event, once a stronghold of terrorism and separatism. The ceremony, held at Tral Chowk, witnessed the flag being hoisted by three individuals representing different generations: an elderly person, a youth, and a child. This act symbolized the unity and shared commitment to the nation across generations. PDP MLA Rafiq Naik attended the function, as patriot-

ic songs and chants of 'Bharat Mata Ki Jai' filled the air, highlighting the transformation of the town. Security was heightened for the occasion, with personnel from the Rashtriya Rifles, Jammu and Kashmir Police, and CRPF ensuring peace throughout the event. The flag-hoisting ceremony proceeded smoothly, reflecting the collaboration between local communities and security forces. A senior security officer described the sight of people from all walks of life waving the tricolour as a testament to Tral's ongoing transformation. The participation of the youth, in particular, underscored their desire for a future rooted in the ideals of democracy and unity. As the tricolour fluttered proudly against the backdrop of snow-capped mountains, it became a symbol of Tral's renewed commitment to peace, progress, and the values enshrined in the Indian Constitution.

Coaching center deaths: Delhi HC grants bail to basement owners



- HC grants bail, citing limited involvement of basement owners.
- ₹5 lakh voluntary donation directed to Delhi State Legal Services Authority.
- Case transferred to the CBI for further investigation.

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi
The Delhi High Court has granted regular bail to the co-owners of a basement housing a coaching center where three civil services aspirants drowned during heavy rains in July 2024. Justice Sanjeev Narula observed that the co-owners, Parvinder Singh, Tajinder Singh, Harvinder Singh, and Sarbjit Singh, appeared to have limited involvement, restricted to owning the property, with no evidence of corruption presented at this stage. The accused had been on interim bail since September 2024.

The court emphasized that granting bail aims to secure the accused's presence during the trial rather than act as punishment. It noted that while the allegations were grave, determining violations under Sections 105 and 106 of the BNS Act would depend on evidence presented during the trial. The owners had leased the basement to Rau's IAS Study Circle, where the incident occurred. The CBI opposed their bail plea, arguing the lease was granted unlawfully for commercial use. However, the court confirmed their bail on the same terms as their interim relief, directing them to deposit ₹5 lakh with the Delhi State Legal Services Authority for the victims' families. Three aspirants — Shreya Yadav (25) from Uttar Pradesh, Tanya Soni (25) from Telangana, and Nevin Delvin (24) from Kerala — lost their lives on July 27, 2024, when the basement flooded during heavy rains. The case was transferred from Delhi Police to the CBI following an earlier court directive.

We Will Not Leave: Palestinians Slam Donald Trump's Idea To Clean Out Gaza

Trump's proposal to relocate Gazans sparks widespread condemnation



TPN Correspondent | Gaza City

The latest chapter in the Gaza conflict has seen Palestinian leader Mahmud Abbas and Hamas strongly denounce U.S. President Donald Trump's suggestion to relocate Gazans to neighboring countries. Trump's proposal, described as a plan to "clean out" Gaza, was met with universal rejection from Palestinian factions and neighboring states, who labeled it as an attempt at ethnic cleansing.

Hamas, along with Islamic Jihad, pledged to thwart such initiatives, recalling past resistance to displacement plans. Abbas reiterated Palestinians' steadfastness in their homeland, rejecting any project aimed at uprooting them. Trump suggested relocating Gaza's 2.4 million residents to Jordan or Egypt temporarily or permanently. The Arab League and regional powers labeled the plan as ethnic cleansing, with Jordan and Egypt issuing strong

denials. Displacement talks evoke memories of the Nakba, symbolizing the mass displacement of Palestinians in 1948.

The fragile truce between Israel and Hamas, entering its second week, remains under strain as disputes over hostage exchanges and humanitarian access persist. While recent swaps freed four Israeli hostages and 200 Palestinian prisoners, ongoing tensions over a civilian hostage, Arbel Yehud, have delayed the return of displaced Palestinians to northern Gaza.

The United Nations has reported dire humanitarian conditions in Gaza despite the recent surge in aid. The truce agreement, which includes phased exchanges of hostages and prisoners, offers a glimmer of hope for easing the prolonged crisis, though the path to lasting peace remains uncertain.

Neighboring Lebanon has also seen clashes, with Israeli forces reportedly targeting civilians attempting to return to border areas, further highlighting the region's volatility.

Donald Trump imposes 25 per cent tariffs on Colombia for refusing deportation flights

TPN Correspondent | Washington

Trade tensions between the United States and Colombia have flared after US President Donald Trump announced a 25% tariff on all imports from Colombia. The move comes in response to Colombia's refusal to allow two US deportation flights to land, carrying immigrants for repatriation.

Trump's Announcement:

On his social media platform, Truth Social, Trump expressed frustration over the incident, accusing Colombian President Gustavo Petro of endangering US national security and public safety. He outlined a series of punitive measures, including:

- An immediate 25% tariff on Colombian imports, with the potential to rise to 50% within a week.
- Visa bans and revocations targeting Colombian officials, their allies, and members of Petro's party.
- Enhanced customs and border inspections for Colombian nationals and goods under national security concerns.
- Sanctions under the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (IEEPA).

Petro's Response:

Colombian President Gustavo Petro defended his government's stance, insisting that deportation flights must adhere to protocols ensuring dignified treatment of migrants. He called for the use of civilian planes



rather than military aircraft for such operations.

In retaliation to Trump's tariffs, Petro announced a 25% tariff on US imports, directing Colombia's foreign trade minister to implement the measure immediately.

Potential Fallout:

The escalating tit-for-tat measures threaten to disrupt bilateral trade relations between the two nations, which have enjoyed strong economic ties. Key sectors such as agriculture, textiles, and industrial goods may face significant impacts if the situation continues to escalate.

Conclusion:

This developing dispute underscores the fragility of international diplomacy in addressing migration issues. As the US and Colombia exchange economic blows, the broader implications for trade and regional cooperation remain uncertain. Observers await further developments as both governments grapple with the fallout of their decisions.

South Korea's Impeached President Yoon Suk Yeol Indicted Over Martial Law Declaration

TPN Correspondent | Seoul

South Korean prosecutors have indicted impeached President Yoon Suk Yeol for rebellion following his controversial declaration of martial law on December 3, a decision that threw the nation into political upheaval.

The Seoul Central District Prosecutors' Office formally charged Yoon, accusing him of violating democratic norms through the decree. This follows his impeachment and arrest earlier this month, with the Constitutional Court now deliberating whether to permanently dismiss him or reinstate his presidency.

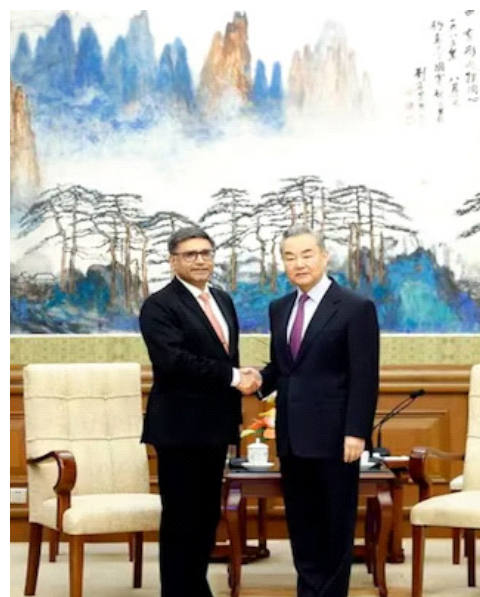
- Martial law triggered national unrest, with Yoon labeling the National Assembly a "den of criminals."
- The Constitutional Court's decision on Yoon's impeachment is still pending.



- Yoon justified his actions as a response to "North Korea followers" obstructing governance

Yoon, a staunch conservative, maintains that his declaration was a legitimate exercise of authority intended to combat what he described as anti-state forces and liberal interference in his administration. Critics, however, view it as a dramatic overreach that undermined democratic principles. South Korea's political landscape remains tense, with Yoon's actions sparking nationwide protests and raising concerns over the fragility of democratic institutions.

India and China Seek Common Ground Amidst Efforts to Strengthen Bilateral Ties



TPN Correspondent | Beijing

India and China are taking strides toward fostering improved relations, as highlighted in a meeting between Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi and Indian Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri on Monday in Beijing. Misri's two-day visit marks the second high-profile diplomatic engagement between the nations in less than six weeks.

Wang Yi underscored the necessity for both nations to embrace mutual understanding and cooperation rather than harboring mutual suspicion. He reiterated the importance of implementing the consensus reached by President Xi Jinping and Prime Minister Narendra Modi during their meeting in Russia last year, which aimed to reset ties strained by border tensions.

"India and China must commit to mutual support and understanding rather than suspicion," said Wang Yi. The relationship is pivotal for Asia's development and global South cooperation. Misri's visit follows talks between Wang Yi and Ajit Doval last month. Wang, also China's Special Representative for the India-China border mechanism, emphasized the broader significance of their relationship, noting its impact on the global South and contributions to peace, stability, and prosperity in Asia.

The visit included discussions with Liu Jianchao, head of the Communist Party's International Department, focusing on implementing leadership consensus, enhancing dialogue, and addressing regional and international issues of mutual concern. Misri's engagement comes ahead of China's Spring Festival and the Chinese New Year celebrations, symbolizing optimism for a new chapter in bilateral relations amidst challenges.



Preliminary Investigation Reveals Bird Strike as Possible Cause of Jeju Air Disaster

TPN Correspondent | Seoul, South Korea

A preliminary investigation into the catastrophic Jeju Air crash that occurred on December 29, 2024, suggests a bird strike as a potential cause. The Boeing 737-800, traveling from Thailand to Muan, South Korea, crash-landed and erupted into flames upon hitting a concrete barrier, killing 179 of the 181 passengers and crew.

Investigators discovered bird feathers and bloodstains in both engines of the ill-fated plane.

DNA analysis confirmed the remains belonged to Baikal teals, migratory ducks common in Korea during winter.

The pilots encountered a flock of birds while approaching runway 01, and the air traffic control tower had issued a warning about bird activity just before the crash.

The cockpit voice and data recorders ceased functioning one minute after the bird warning. Seconds later, the pilots declared a mayday, citing bird strikes, and attempted an emergency belly landing. Tragically, the plane collided with a concrete embankment, leading to an explosion.

The incident has raised concerns about the use of rigid concrete barriers at runways. Authorities have since announced plans to replace these barriers with "breakable structures" to enhance safety in case of similar emergencies.

Pilots' Experience and Questions Raised:

The captain, with over 6,800 flight hours, and the first officer, with 1,650 hours, were among the fatalities. Investigators are examining why the bird strike led to such catastrophic engine failure and why the concrete barricade was positioned at the runway's end.

This disaster, the deadliest on South Korean soil, underscores the need for improved bird strike prevention and airport safety measures.



Iran Adds Russian-Made Sukhoi-35 Fighter Jets To Its Combat Air Fleet

TPN Correspondent | Tehran

Iran has officially confirmed the purchase of Russian Sukhoi-35 fighter jets, marking a significant upgrade to its air force amidst heightened military cooperation with Moscow. Iran's air force, which comprises ageing US jets acquired pre-1979 and older Russian models, will see a considerable boost with the arrival of these advanced aircraft.

Ali Shadmani, deputy coordinator of the Khatam-ol-Anbia Central Headquarters, announced that military upgrades are underway, with outdated systems being replaced. While Shadmani did not confirm whether the Su-35 jets have been delivered, this is the first acknowledgment of the purchase by a senior Iranian official.

In November, Iran's Tasnim News Agency reported that arrangements to acquire the fighter jets had been finalized. This move aligns with a broader 20-year strategic partnership signed earlier this month between Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian and Russian President Vladimir Putin in Moscow.

Key Clauses of the Strategic Partnership:

Mutual Defense Commitment: Neither nation will allow its territory to be used for acts threatening the other.

Military-Technical Cooperation: Though not explicitly mentioning arms transfers, the agreement emphasizes the strengthening of military collaboration.

Geopolitical Context:

Russia's involvement in Ukraine has strained its regional influence. Iran faces mounting Western sanctions and regional instability due to its conflict with Israel.

The collapse of Bashar al-Assad's regime in Syria has further weakened the strategic foothold of both Tehran and Moscow in the Middle East.

The purchase of Sukhoi-35 jets and the strengthening of military ties highlight Iran and Russia's shared need to counteract their geopolitical challenges, ensuring mutual security and influence in a rapidly shifting global landscape.

SEBI Bars Eight Entities for Front-Running, Impounds ₹4.82 Crore

Action taken against entities for illegal trading based on insider information



TPN Correspondent| Delhi
The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) on Monday barred eight entities from participating in the securities market and ordered the impounding of ₹4.82 crore, representing unlawful gains from alleged front-running activities.

What is Front-Running?
Front-running is an illegal stock market practice where an entity trades on advanced, non-public information about impending transactions of a major client, enabling unfair profits.

SEBI's investigation focused on

the trades of Gagandeep Consultancy Private Limited (the "big client") between September 2018 and September 2023. It revealed that Ashish Kirti Kothari, along with family members and his Hindu Undivided Family (HUF), leveraged insider information to conduct front-running trades.

The broker, Nirav Mahendra Sapani, employed at Anvil Share & Stock Broking, acted as the information conduit. Sapani shared confidential details about the client's trades with Kothari and his associates. Another entity, Krishna Tukaram Kadam, facilitated the execution and laundering

of these trades.

SEBI's Findings and Action
The investigation uncovered a systematic scheme:

Kothari and his associates placed trades ahead of the big client's transactions based on Sapani's tips. The unlawful gains from these trades were distributed among the involved parties.

Citing violations of the Prohibition of Fraudulent and Unfair Trade Practices (PFUTP) rules, SEBI has:

Barred all eight entities from trading in securities, directly or indirectly. Impounded ₹4.82 crore, jointly and severally, from the accused.

Future Steps
The interim order remains in effect until further notice, as SEBI continues to investigate the extent of regulatory violations. This decisive action underscores SEBI's commitment to maintaining market integrity and cracking down on fraudulent practices.

India, China Agree to Resume Kailash Mansarovar Yatra and Direct Flights

High-level talks focus on rebuilding ties through people-centric measures.



TPN Correspondent| Delhi
India and China have decided to resume direct flights and the Kailash Mansarovar Yatra as part of efforts to rebuild bilateral relations. The decision emerged from a two-day meeting between Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri and Chinese Vice Foreign Minister in Beijing under the Foreign Secretary-Vice Foreign Minister mechanism.

Resumption of Kailash Mansarovar Yatra:
Both sides agreed to restart the pilgrimage to Kailash Mansarovar in the summer of 2025. A dedicated mechanism will finalize the modalities, ensuring the process adheres to existing agreements. The Yatra had been halted due to the pandemic and border tensions.

Direct Flights:
India and China decided to

Key Outcomes of the Talks:

restore direct air connectivity between the two countries, enhancing people-to-people exchanges and economic ties.

Focus on People-Centric Measures:

The discussions emphasized steps to stabilize relations, including easing travel restrictions and fostering cultural and religious exchanges. These measures align with the commitments made during the meeting between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President Xi Jinping in Kazan in October 2024.

The Kailash Mansarovar Yatra holds immense religious significance for Indian pilgrims, and its resumption marks a positive development in India-China relations. The move comes as both nations aim to rebuild trust following recent border disputes.

Indonesia President's Indian DNA Remark Leaves President, PM Modi In Splits

Subianto highlights India-Indonesia ties with humor and praise at Republic Day banquet.

TPN Correspondent| Delhi
Indonesian President Prabowo Subianto lightened the mood at a dinner hosted by President Droupadi Murmu on the eve of India's 76th Republic Day celebrations by humorously claiming, "I have Indian DNA." His comment sparked laughter among dignitaries, including Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar, and other guests.

President Subianto revealed that a recent genetic test showed traces of Indian ancestry, adding, "Everybody knows when I hear Indian music, I start dancing. He went on to highlight the deep-rooted civilizational

ties between India and Indonesia, noting shared Sanskrit influences in Indonesian culture and language.

President Subianto praised PM Modi's leadership, emphasizing his focus on alleviating poverty and uplifting marginalized communities. "His commitment to helping the weakest parts of society is an inspiration for us, he said.



During the Indonesian President's three-day visit, India and Indonesia signed five Memorandums of Understanding, covering diverse areas such as health, traditional medicine, and maritime security.

President Subianto attended the Republic Day parade as the Chief Guest, accompanied by a high-level delegation. A notable highlight was the performance by Indonesia's Genderang Suling Canka Lokananta, a 190-member ensemble from the Indonesian Military Academy, showcasing Indonesia's military traditions.

"Mutually Beneficial, Trusted Partnership - PM Modi's Phone Call With Trump

Leaders discuss cooperation for mutual benefit, global peace, and prosperity



TPN Correspondent| Delhi
Prime Minister Narendra Modi held a phone

conversation with US President Donald Trump on Monday, reaffirming their commitment to a trusted and mutually beneficial partnership.

Following the call, PM Modi expressed his delight, saying, "We are committed to a mutually beneficial and trusted partnership. We will work together for the welfare of our people and towards global peace, prosperity, and security."

The interaction highlights the ongoing cooperation between India and the United States across various domains, including economic collaboration, security partnerships, and global stability.

India Aims for Top 10 Sporting Nation Status by 2036 Summer Olympics Bid

TPN Correspondent | Ahmedabad
Union Minister for Youth Affairs and Sports Mansukh Mandaviya expressed India's aspirations to rank among the top 10 sporting nations by 2036, aligning with the country's bid to host the Summer Olympics that year. Speaking at the International Olympic Research Conference held at Rashtriya Raksha University in Gandhinagar, Gujarat, Mandaviya emphasized sports as a symbol of India's rising strength and a key component in its path to becoming a developed nation by 2047.

Vision for Olympic Success
Mandaviya highlighted Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of hosting the 2036 Olympics as a reflection of India's growing global stature. He

noted, "By 2036, Modi ji has set the goal for India to rank among the top 10 nations in sports. By 2047, India aspires to be among the top 5, coinciding with the centenary of independence."

The minister underscored the importance of initiatives like the "Fit India Movement" in promoting physical and mental fitness, essential for building a prosperous society.



Role of Sports Science and Research

Mandaviya identified sports science as a critical factor in improving India's performance on the global stage. "Olympic research extends beyond the field—it encompasses societal impact, youth engagement, international exposure, and perception. This comprehensive approach can drive medal victories," he stated.

Path to a Sporting Powerhouse
The conference, organized by the Indian Olympic Association (IOA), brought together experts to discuss strategies for advancing India's sporting capabilities. The minister called on stakeholders to focus on nurturing talent, strengthening infrastructure, and leveraging scientific research to bolster the nation's medal tally.

Congress Accuses AAP of Ignoring Rising Khalistani Sentiments in Punjab



TPN Correspondent| Delhi
The Congress on Monday accused the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) government in Punjab of ignoring rising Khalistani sentiments and radicalism. At a press conference, Congress leaders Ajay Maken, AICC Treasurer and MP, and Sukhjinder Singh Randhawa, former Deputy Chief Minister and Home Minister of Punjab, claimed that 11 grenade

attacks had occurred across Punjab, allegedly using Australian-made grenades linked to past terror attacks like the 2001 Parliament attack and 2008 Mumbai attacks.

Allegations Against AAP Government
Randhawa criticized the Bhagwant Mann-led government, describing it as "cowardly" and accusing it of failing to

address security issues in the state. "Our Chief Minister cannot speak against Khalistanis or act against them. Kejriwal must answer for these issues," he said.

Congress leaders also unveiled a PowerPoint presentation titled "AAP Ki Paap Ki Kadi," referencing statements from KPS Gill, the late Director General of Police in Punjab, known for his role in combating terrorism during the 1980s and 90s.

Concerns Over Grenade Attacks
Maken and Randhawa expressed concern about the lack of action and media attention regarding the alleged grenade attacks. They claimed that the AAP government's inaction on such incidents risked destabilizing the state.

Religious Conversions in Andhra: A National Security Wake-Up Call

The phenomenon of religious conversions in Andhra Pradesh has reached a critical juncture, raising alarm over its implications for social harmony and national security. What was once perceived as an isolated religious choice has now transformed into a broader issue with far-reaching consequences. The activities of organizations involved in these conversions, especially those receiving foreign funding, warrant immediate and thorough investigation. Beyond personal beliefs, this matter has significant social, political, and security dimensions that require urgent attention.

Missionary organizations often frame their work as humanitarian, aiming to uplift marginalized communities. While this narrative garners support and funding, a closer look reveals more complex and potentially troubling motives. Many of these organizations, particularly those backed by foreign entities, appear to pursue calculated strategies to alter the demographic composition of Andhra Pradesh. These demographic shifts could disrupt the region's cultural and social balance, enabling political manipulation and increasing social tensions.

The implications of unchecked religious conversions extend beyond immediate demographics. The establishment of new religious worship sites in villages and mandals across Andhra Pradesh over the past five years signals an organized effort to influence the local populace. This has the potential to destabilize the region, leading to social unrest and even challenges to governance. As conversions increase, the resulting polarization could deepen existing divisions, making communities more susceptible to external influences and destabilizing national unity.

Urgent Need for Comprehensive Action
To address this growing challenge, the following areas must be investigated:

1. Sources of Funding

Transparency in funding is crucial to understanding the motivations behind these conversions. Are these funds gen-



Dr. Buragadda Srinadh

uinely for charitable purposes, or are they part of a larger strategy by foreign entities to destabilize the region? Identifying the origins of financial support is the first step in curbing any harmful agendas.

2. Oversight and Accountability

Local authorities and regulatory bodies must take responsibility for monitoring the activities of organizations involved in religious conversions. Are these entities adhering to local laws and regulations? A robust oversight mechanism is essential to prevent misuse of power or influence.

3. Nature of Activities

What events and programs are being conducted at these newly established worship sites? Are they solely focused on religion, or do they include political or divisive social agendas? Understanding the scope and intent of these activities will help identify potential risks.

4. Registration and Legitimacy

Proper registration and compliance with local laws are critical for ensuring transparency. Are these organizations operating legally, or are they bypassing regulations to further hidden agendas? Strengthening Legal and Regulatory Frameworks
The Foreign Contribution Regulation Act

(FCRA) must be enforced rigorously to ensure organizations receiving foreign funding adhere to national legal standards. Key measures should include regular audits, transparent reporting, and strict penalties for non-compliance. Additionally, central government agencies must enhance their oversight mechanisms to monitor NGO activities, ensuring they align with national priorities and ethical practices. Proactive Measures to Safeguard National Security

Given the scale of conversions and the potential risks, a multi-faceted approach is necessary:

1. Temporary Suspension of Foreign Funding

As a precautionary measure, suspend foreign funding to religious institutions until detailed audits confirm the transparency and legitimacy of their operations.

2. Public Disclosure of Funding Details

Funding sources for these organizations must be made publicly accessible to promote accountability and discourage misuse.

3. Strengthening Local Monitoring

Equip local authorities with the resources and authority needed to oversee the activities of organizations in their jurisdictions effectively.

The rise of religious conversions in Andhra Pradesh is more than a regional concern—it is a national wake-up call. Left unchecked, this trend could undermine India's social fabric, destabilize its political landscape, and threaten its security. By enforcing stringent regulations, fostering transparency, and enhancing oversight mechanisms, India can safeguard its cultural and social integrity. This is not merely a state-level issue; it is a matter of national importance that requires immediate and coordinated action to ensure long-term stability and harmony.



The People's Padma: How PM Modi Redefined India's Highest Civilian Awards

The Padma Awards, instituted in 1954, have long been a symbol of India's recognition of excellence in various fields such as arts, science, social service, and sports. Initially, the Padma Vibhushan was classified into three categories: Class I, II, and III, ranking just below the Bharat Ratna. Over time, the awards were restructured into three separate honours: the Padma Vibhushan, Padma Bhushan, and Padma Shri. However, under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership, the Padma Awards have undergone a transformative shift, evolving into what can now be seen as true "People's Awards," celebrating inclusivity, democracy, and merit.

The most recent list of Padma Awardees underscores this evolution. It reflects a deliberate effort to recognize individuals from all walks of life, especially those contributing to society in the fields of social service, culture, and community welfare. Figures such as Nagaland's L. Hangthing, the "Fruit Man," who revolutionized fruit cultivation, and Bhim Singh Bhavesh from Bihar's Buxar district, a champion of the Musahar community, epitomize this shift. These unsung heroes, working quietly and selflessly, are driving real social change.

Noteworthy awardees like 106-year-old environmentalist Saalumarada Thimmakka, known as the "Mother of Trees," and Tulsi Gowda, a member of the Pakkali tribal community, are also celebrated for their tireless dedication to causes that go beyond personal fame. Their recognitions align with the original purpose of the Padma Awards—to honour those who embody service, dedication, and excellence, regardless of status.

A significant reform under PM Modi's leadership has been the democratization of the selection process. Prior to 2016, the awards were often seen as elitist and opaque, with selections influenced by political affiliations. In 2016, the nomination process was opened to the public, allowing any Indian citizen to nominate deserving individuals. This change has led to over 50,000 nominations annually, ensuring that selections are based solely on merit and contribution to society.

Indian Schools: Falling Short of Preparing Students for the Future

India's school infrastructure is at a critical juncture, where immediate attention is needed not only to address existing gaps but also to reimagine how schools can equip students for the challenges of the future. The Ministry of Education's recently released Unified District Information System for Education Plus (UDISE+) 2023-24 report paints a concerning picture of deficiencies in basic amenities such as drinking water, functional toilets, and electricity. But beyond these immediate concerns lies a much larger question: Are our schools ready to nurture future-ready students with the necessary skills to thrive in an increasingly complex world?



While technological advancements are reshaping education globally, Indian schools are struggling to meet even the basic needs for a future-oriented education system. Many schools lack essential infrastructure such as functional computer labs, science labs, and integrated learning devices. This points to the urgent need not just for foundational amenities, but also for advanced educational infrastructure that aligns with the demands of a rapidly changing world.

Digital Infrastructure in Schools

According to the UDISE+ report, only 57% of the 14.71 lakh schools in India have computer facilities, and of those, just 50.9% are equipped with functional systems for teaching purposes. Even more troubling is that only 8.1% of schools have integrated teaching-learning devices, and only 24.4% boast operational smart classrooms. This digital divide must be addressed immediately to ensure that no student is left behind in an increasingly digital world.

The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the critical role of digital tools in education, and while the need for digital infrastructure has grown, progress in upgrading this infrastructure has been alarmingly slow. Bridging the digital divide through affordable devices, reliable internet access, and teacher training should be a top priority to ensure that Indian students are prepared for future careers in a tech-driven world.

Skills for the Future

Beyond digital literacy, schools must equip students with critical skills like problem-solving, communication, adaptability, and analytical thinking. As technology continues to

redefine the workforce, subjects like coding, artificial intelligence, and data literacy should become an integral part of the curriculum. These competencies will enable students to thrive in an ever-changing global landscape.

Building Climate-Resilient Schools

As India faces the growing challenges of climate change, schools must prepare students to engage with environmental issues. The UDISE+ 2023-24 report reveals that only 10.5% of schools have solar panels, and 36.2% have kitchen gardens—resources that could play a vital role in teaching sustainability. Programs focused on waste management, renewable energy, and conservation could transform schools into hubs of environmental responsibility, providing hands-on experiences that foster practical learning.

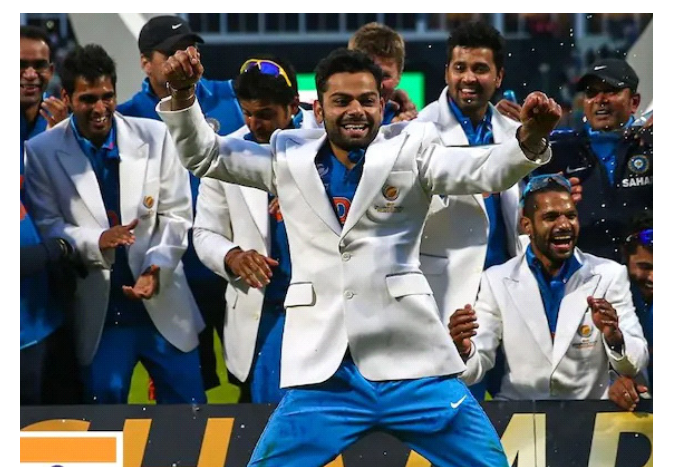
Tinkering labs, which only 10.9% of schools currently have, are another critical resource for fostering creativity and problem-solving skills. Integrating environmental challenges into these labs could help students design sustainable solutions, bridging the gap between theoretical knowledge and practical application.

The Path Forward

The Ministry of Education must take a lead role in addressing these gaps and ensuring schools are equipped for the future. Investments should prioritize both foundational infrastructure—such as electricity, water, and sanitation—and advanced resources like computer labs, science labs, and smart classrooms. A focus on making schools future-ready is essential to providing equitable, high-quality education for all students.

Can India Redeem Itself in the 2023 Champions Trophy?

The ICC Champions Trophy, which India won in 2013, remains a fond memory for many cricket fans. With Shikhar Dhawan's player-of-the-tournament performance and Virat Kohli's iconic 'Gangnam Style' dance, that victory marked the last time India clinched an ICC ODI tournament. As the Champions Trophy returns in 2023 after a six-year hiatus, India faces a critical opportunity to redeem itself, especially after underwhelming performances in recent series against Sri Lanka, New Zealand, and Australia.



The upcoming Champions Trophy holds immense significance for India, particularly as the team looks to recover its confidence after a series of setbacks. Winning the tournament would reignite the euphoria from last year's T20 World Cup victory and provide a much-needed boost ahead of the 2023-2027 ODI cycle. For senior players like Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma, this could be a make-or-break tournament. With their international futures intertwined with strong performances, both players must rediscover their form. Kohli, who once dominated the ODI format, will be aiming to put his recent struggles behind him. With over 14,000 runs and 50 centuries in this format, a strong showing in this tournament could help him reclaim his 'King Kohli' status. Similarly, Rohit Sharma, with his three ODI double centuries and impressive career stats, has the opportunity to rebuild his image and legacy.

Coach Gautam Gambhir, who took over the role just six months ago, also has a lot riding on this tournament. Though it's early in his coaching career, a Champions Trophy win could cement his credibility. For the team, the opportunity to clinch another ICC title, especially under his guidance, would be a significant achievement.

India's squad is looking strong on paper, particularly in the batting department, with a good mix of experienced and young players. However, the fast-bowling unit is a potential weakness. Jasprit Bumrah and Mohammed Shami are returning from injuries, and with no Mohammed Siraj in the squad, India's pace attack could face challenges.

Market Mayhem: Sensex Sinks 824 Points, Nifty Breaches 23,000 Amid Global Headwinds



Domestic stock markets were in turmoil. Benchmark and broad indices were bleeding on Monday. All indices went into bearish territory as investors sold off shares across sectors. The indices started the morning gap-down on negative signals from Asian and international markets. Negative sentiment prevailed in the market after Nifty broke the key support zone of 23000. In addition, the start of the US Fed meeting, economic data to come, Trump's imposition of tariffs on Colombia, and the free release of China's own AI model to compete with Chat GPT had an impact. With this, Nifty fell by 260 points and Sensex by more than 820 points. Investors lost wealth worth Rs. 9 lakh crore on this day alone.

The BSE Sensex, which closed at 76,190 in the previous session, opened at 75,700 on Monday. It touched an intraday low of 75,267. It reached an intraday high of 75,925. It finally closed at 75,366, down 824 points. The NSE Nif-

ty, which opened at 22,940, touched a low of 22,786 and a high of 23,007. It closed at 22,829, down 263 points. The Nifty Bank fell 303 points to settle at 48,064.

In Nifty50, 8 companies gained while 42 lost. Britannia, ICICI Bank, M&M, Hindustan Unilever, SBI were the top gainers. HCL Tech, Tech Mahindra, Wipro, Hindalco, Shriram Finance were the top losers. All sectoral indices were mixed today. IT and media fell by 3 to 4 percent. The rest fell by 2 percent. The banking index lost less. Fear Index India VIX rose by 8.28% to 18.13 percent.

Today, the market breadth on NSE completely turned in favor of bears. Out of 2955 stocks traded, 2535 lost. Only 352 gained. Shares of 20 companies reached a 52-week high. Shares of 452 companies reached a 52-week low.



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The rupee weakened by 13 paise to settle at 86.33 against the dollar. JP Morgan has given an overweight rating to ICICI Bank with a target price of Rs 1500. LT Foods shares fell by 9 percent after disappointing results in the third quarter. JSW Group expands into non-ferrous metals mining. Bernstein maintains outperform rating on NTPC with a target price of Rs 440. Wonderla cuts net profit to Rs 20.3 crore from Rs 37.3 crore. Jafferries maintains buy rating on ICICI Bank with a target price of Rs 1600. IOC reports net profit of Rs 2874 crore, revenue of Rs 1.94 lakh crore. Shares, which rose 12% on 144% profit, finally closed at 2.16%. Pine Labs IPO likely in February.

1. Bank of India (BOI)



Consistent profit growth due to lower provisioning and better recoveries. High capital adequacy ratio (CAR > 15%), ensuring stability. Public sector banks are sensitive to macroeconomic risks. Lower growth compared to private-sector peers. Suitable for investors looking for value in PSU banks. Long-term growth depends on further improvements in operational efficiency and credit growth.

2. DCM Shriram



Diversified business model: Chemicals, fertilizers, sugar, and PVC. Strong presence in the agri and chemical sectors, benefiting from favorable government policies. Consistent dividend payouts. Exposure to cyclical industries like chemicals and sugar. Volatile input costs impacting margins. Good for medium- to long-term investors seeking exposure to the chemicals and agri-business sectors. Watch for margin trends and expansion plans.

3. Torrent Pharmaceuticals

Strong domestic portfolio, particularly in chronic therapies (cardiology, diabetes). Aggressive investments in R&D (~7-8% of revenue) for future growth. Geographical diversification with key markets in the US, Brazil, and Germany. US FDA compliance issues in manufacturing plants may



pose challenges. Best suited for long-term investors looking to benefit from its strong domestic franchise and international growth opportunities. Monitor regulatory develop-

ments.

4. Hindustan Unilever (HUL)

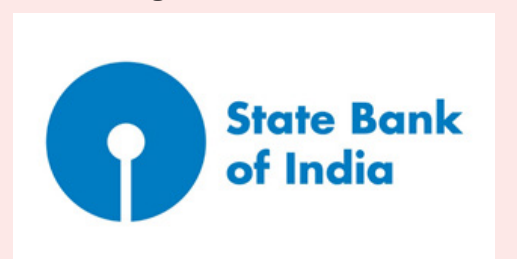
Market leader in FMCG with an extensive product portfolio. Steady revenue and profit growth driven by premiumization and rural penetration. Rural demand recovery remains sluggish. A stable, blue-chip stock for



long-term wealth creation. Ideal for conservative investors seeking steady returns with lower risk.

5. State Bank of India (SBI)

India's largest bank with a dominant



market share in retail and corporate lending. Strong asset quality (Net NPA ~0.8%) and credit growth (~16-18% YoY). Digital transformation driving operational efficiency. Vulnerability to macroeconomic shocks due to its size. Heavy reliance on government policy. A core portfolio stock for investors seeking exposure to the banking sector. Offers a mix of stability and growth potential.

Adani Total Gas Expands CNG Stations and Infrastructure, Reports Strong Quarterly Growth

Adani Total Gas (ATGL) has reported a strong operational performance in its quarterly earnings, with significant growth across multiple segments. The company increased its CNG stations to 605, adding 28 new stations during the October-December quarter. Additionally, the number of PNG home connections grew to 9.22 lakh, with 28,677 new households benefiting from the service. Industrial and commercial connections also saw an increase, with 167 new consumers, bringing the total to 8,913.

The company's cumulative steel pipeline network now spans 13,082 Inch Km, highlighting its ongoing infrastructure expansion. ATGL's combined CNG and PNG volume reached 257 MMSCM, marking a 15% year-on-year increase, underscoring the growing demand for natural gas.

In terms of financial performance, ATGL saw a 12% increase in revenue from operations, reaching Rs 1,397 crore. EBITDA stood at Rs 272 crore, while profit after tax (PAT) for the quarter was Rs 143 crore. These results reflect the company's ability to maintain a strong growth trajectory despite challenges in gas supply, including a reduction in APM gas allocation.

Suresh P Manglani, ED and CEO of ATGL, emphasized the company's focus on maintaining affordability for consumers while ensuring profitability. He also highlighted ATGL's commitment to expanding PNG and CNG infrastructure, particularly in its 34 Geographical Areas (GAs), including the recently added Jalandhar GA in Punjab.

ATGL is authorized in 34 GAs, with the remaining 19 GAs being operated through a joint venture with Indian Oil Corporation Limited under the name Indian Oil-Adani Gas Private Limited (IOAGPL). In addition to its core gas distribution business, ATGL has expanded into the E-Mobility and Biomass sectors with the formation of two wholly owned subsidiaries: Adani TotalEnergies E-Mobility Ltd (ATEL) and Adani TotalEnergies Biomass Ltd (ATBL). The company has also established a 50:50 joint venture, Smart Meter Technologies Private Limited, to manufacture gas meters.



India Poised to Expand Its Share in Global Pharma Manufacturing Beyond Generics: BCG Report

India is set to capture a larger share of the global pharmaceutical manufacturing market, moving beyond its traditional focus on generic drugs, according to a report by Boston Consulting Group (BCG). The report highlights that the ongoing "China+1" strategy, where companies are diversifying operations outside China, has created new opportunities for India to become a key player in the global pharmaceutical supply chain.

The report notes that with pharmaceutical companies looking to reduce their dependency on China, India is emerging as a competitive alternative due to its cost advantage. Indian pharmaceutical services are 20% cheaper than those offered by China, making it an attractive destination for manufacturing operations.

India's expanding role in the global pharma landscape is further supported by investments flowing into the country's pharmaceutical sector, enabling it to move beyond generics and explore other avenues such as biotechnology, digital health, and Med-Tech. According to the report, pharmaceutical and biotechnology investments have received USD 9.5 billion, while health services have garnered USD 12.1 billion in funding. Additionally, digital health has seen remarkable growth, securing USD 4.6 billion in investments over recent years.

India, along with Singapore, is also emerging as a prominent hub for healthcare innovation and investment in Asia. Since 2018, the pharmaceutical and biotech sectors in Asia have attracted USD



20 billion in private equity investments, with India receiving a significant share of USD 5 billion. This investment influx, coupled with India's competitive pricing and infrastructure development, positions the country for substantial growth in the global pharmaceutical market.

The report also emphasizes that Asia's healthcare market is projected to reach USD 5 trillion by 2030, contributing 40% of global sector growth. As India continues to attract investments and expand its pharmaceutical manufacturing capabilities, it is poised to play a transformative role in the global healthcare ecosystem, benefiting both the economy and global supply chains.

Industry Players Call for Pro-Manufacturing Policies Ahead of Union Budget 2025-26

As India prepares for the Union Budget 2025-26 on February 1, industry leaders from the manufacturing sector are urging the government to introduce policies that foster local production, reduce GST on consumer durables, and implement tax reforms that would increase disposable incomes, thereby stimulating consumer spending. The government has set an ambitious target of increasing the manufacturing sector's contribution to GDP from the current 17% to 25%. In light of this, industry representatives are hoping for financial incentives to expand the Production-Linked Incentive (PLI) schemes, support for sustainable manufacturing practices, and tax exemptions that can help bolster growth.

Simarpreet Singh, Executive Director and CEO of Hartek Group, acknowledged the positive strides made by the government in supporting the manufacturing sector but emphasized the need for continued fo-



cus on enhancing domestic production capacity. He advocated for policy measures that would make manufacturing more attractive and competitive, both for local businesses and foreign investors.

Manufacturers are particularly seeking reductions in GST rates for consumer durables, which would ease the financial burden on both producers and consum-

ers. Such measures are expected to boost consumer spending, helping to accelerate demand for manufactured goods. Additionally, a more favorable tax regime that increases disposable incomes will help generate higher demand for consumer goods, creating a positive cycle of growth. The industry is also calling for expanded PLI schemes that would encourage more investment in key sectors such as electronics, renewable energy, and automotive manufacturing. These sectors are seen as vital to India's economic transformation, and the government's support in the form of incentives and reforms would allow them to flourish further. With the government focused on boosting the manufacturing sector as a key driver of economic growth, industry players remain hopeful that the upcoming budget will address their concerns and provide the necessary policy framework to achieve these objectives.

Experium Eco-Friendly Park

A Groundbreaking Eco-Recreational Wonderland Opens in Hyderabad

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad

In a stunning blend of nature, art, and adventure, Experium Eco Friendly Park is officially opening its doors to the public, set to become one of the most unique destinations for nature lovers and thrill-seekers alike. Located at Prodtur Village, Near Pragati Resorts, Chilukuru Balaji Temple Road, Hyderabad, this one-of-a-kind eco-recreational park promises an unparalleled experience that combines environmental education, rare botanical species, and adrenaline-pumping activities. The grand inauguration is set for January 28th, with the Chief Minister of Telangana, Revanth Reddy, Tourism and Culture Minister, Jupally Krishna Rao, and Mega Star Chiranjeevi gracing the occasion.

A Vision 25 Years in the Making



The park's visionary founder, Ramadugu Ramdev, shared the deeply personal story behind the creation of Experium. "My father was a forest contractor, involved in deforestation. This realization later led him to create a forest on 80 acres of land. Inspired by this, I developed a deep love for nature and plants," Ramdev recalled. "My background in fine arts helped me envision a place that blends art with nature." The journey to establishing Experium began 25 years ago, with the formal action plan crafted 12 years ago, and the park foundation laid six-and-a-half years ago. Ramdev's company, Unique Trees, specializes in sourcing rare plants and trees and has supplied them to notable personalities including Shah Rukh Khan, Rani Mukerji, and Mega Star Chiranjeevi. Over the years, Ramdev has traveled to 85 countries, collecting over 25,000 species of plants and trees, which are now showcased in the park.



Unique Features of Experium



Spread across 150 acres, Experium houses over 25,000 species of plants, many of which are rare and exotic, sourced from 85 countries including Argentina, Uruguay, Mexico, Spain, Thailand, and Australia. The park boasts several unique features, including:

- **Rare and Ancient Trees:** Valued between ₹1 lakh to ₹3.5 crores.
- **Sculptures and Rocks:** Sculptures worth ₹5 lakhs to ₹1 crore, natural rocks ranging from ₹50,000 to ₹50 lakhs, and a total sculpture collection worth ₹15 crores.
- **India's Largest Hampi Theater:** Seating up to 1,500 people.
- **Stainless Steel Sculptures:** 20 sculptures, standing 30 feet tall, making Experium India's only destination with this feature.
- **Honeymoon and Themed Cottages:** The

park features unique honeymoon cottages, first-night, and last-night cottages, catering to a variety of experiences.

- **Pre-wedding and Post-wedding Photo Spots:** A premier location for photo shoots, with 600 selfie spots across the park.
- **Michelin-Grade Restaurants:** Offering culinary delights from top-tier chefs.
- **Adventure and Immersive Experience:** The park boasts the largest snow park in India, a four-direction zipline stretching 1 km, India's first box cricket facility, and the world's first artificial mountain landscape.
- **Innovative Attractions:** Including the world's first tree coffee shop, an aquarium restaurant, a drive-in LED theater, and more.

A Symbol of Nature and Innovation

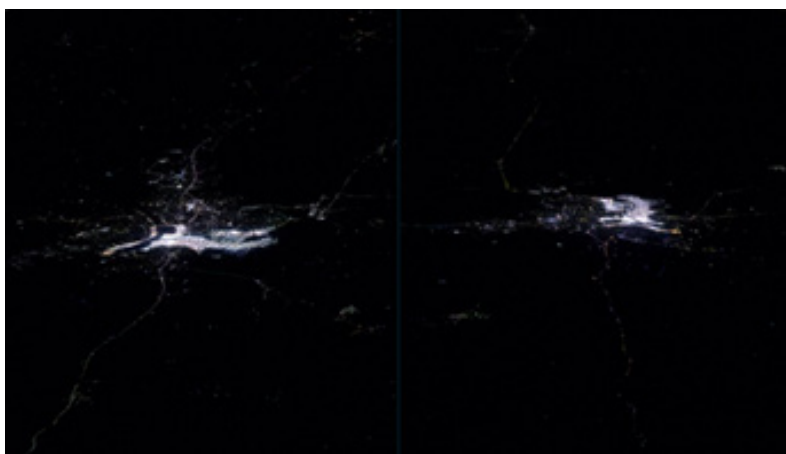
Experium is more than just a park; it is a celebration of nature's beauty and human creativity. "This park will spark curiosity and a greater appreciation for nature's wonders," says Ramdev, who has invested over ₹150 crores into the project. The park also features a glow garden created with an investment of ₹50 crores, a man-made beach spread over 12 acres, and a convention center with a capacity to host 10,000 people, currently under development.

Experium stands as a symbol of pride for the nation, a landmark for Hyderabad, and a true fu-



sion of art, nature, and cutting-edge innovation. It's not just a park; it's an experience that must be seen to be fully appreciated.

NASA Astronaut Shares Stunning Images of Maha Kumbh Mela from Space



The Maha Kumbh Mela 2025, returning to Prayagraj after 144 years, has drawn millions of devotees from around the world, all seeking spiritual solace and the chance to cleanse their sins in the holy waters of the Ganga, Yamuna, and Saraswati rivers. As photos and videos of the grand event flood social media daily, there is one perspective that offers an awe-inspiring view: that from space.

NASA astronaut Donald Pettit, currently aboard the International Space Station (ISS) as part of the Expedition 72 crew, has captured breathtaking images of the Maha Kumbh Mela from orbit. Sharing the photos on X (formerly Twitter), Pettit remarked, "2025 Maha Kumbh Mela Ganges River pilgrimage from the ISS at night. The largest human gathering in the world is well-lit." These images, taken at night, show the sprawling event in stunning detail, with the well-lit gathering of millions of devotees visible from space.

The Maha Kumbh Mela is

known as the world's largest human gathering, drawing pilgrims who come to take part in the sacred "Amrit Snan" (holy dip) at the confluence of the three rivers, seeking moksha (salvation). The event, which takes place every 12 years, is a grand display of devotion, spirituality, and tradition.

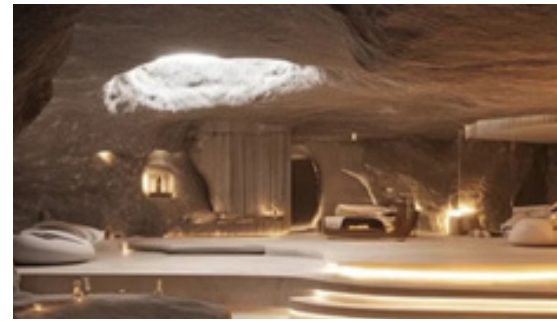
Pettit's photos reveal the scale of the event in a way that no ground-level camera can. The illuminated tents, roads, and pathways create a mesmerizing pattern that highlights the enormity of the Mela. The photos offer a rare and humbling view of the religious gathering, reflecting not only the sheer size of the event but also the deep spiritual connection that draws so many people from all over the world.

These images provide a unique window into the world's largest gathering of humans, showcasing the spiritual significance and unity of the Maha Kumbh Mela from a perspective that very few have ever seen.

US Company's Luxurious Underground Bunker To Protect From Disasters

A US-based company is offering an unprecedented level of security and luxury to ultra-wealthy clients with the launch of its doomsday bunker complex, the Aerie Project. Valued at \$300 million, these high-tech bunkers are designed to provide ultimate protection against disasters, including nuclear fallout. Slated for inauguration in 2026, the first glimpse of these fortified residences has been unveiled, sparking interest worldwide. The Aerie Project will be available across 1,000 locations globally, including 50 cities in the US, according to Forbes.

The Aerie bunkers promise White House-level security combined with lavish amenities. They will feature AI-powered medical suites, gourmet dining, wellness programs, and interactive spaces, blending luxury with defense. The first facility under this project is being built in Virginia and will be capable of housing 625 people



in the event of a global catastrophe.

Al Corbi, founder and president of Strategically Armored & Fortified Environments (SAFE), the company behind Aerie, explained that the project was created to ensure vulnerable clients are protected even when they leave their fortified homes or yachts. Each bunker is designed to be impenetrable, with SCIF-compliant (Sensitive Compartmented Information Facilities) environments for maximum privacy. The luxurious residences include multi-layer

biometric authentication and advanced security features like tactical mantraps to offer top-tier safety.

Aerie's bunkers are not just about protection; they are also about indulgence. Members will enjoy sprawling underground suites, including 2,000-square-foot individual suites and multi-level penthouses that span over 20,000 square feet. The facilities will boast unique features like panoramic lighting, a hyperbaric chamber, an underground swimming pool, an ice plunge room, an IV therapy room, and even a massage parlor.

Each Aerie residence is expected to cost up to \$20 million, and the exclusive nature of the project means only club members can purchase these properties. Before committing, potential buyers will be offered a taster experience to preview the luxurious, secure living space.

South African telescope discovers a giant galaxy that's 32 times bigger than Earth's

High above our heads, there's an ongoing cosmic party orchestrated by supermassive black holes. These enigmatic objects, which can have masses millions or even billions of times that of our Sun, are the driving force behind some of the most spectacular phenomena in the universe.

Astronomers believe that every galaxy harbors a supermassive black hole at its center. In many galaxies, vast amounts of interstellar gas spiral around these black holes, getting sucked in beyond the event horizon. This process generates immense friction and energy, leading to the release of enormous amounts of light across various wavelengths of the electromagnetic spectrum. It's this cosmic "rave" that's so captivating to scientists and sky-watchers alike.



In addition to the energy released from gas falling into the black hole, some supermassive black holes also eject vast jets of plasma that stretch millions of light-years across intergalactic space. These plasma jets are so hot that they consist of electrons moving at nearly the speed of light. The jets glow brightly in radio frequencies, making them visible through radio telescopes. When these jets are observed, they are called "radio galaxies," and their appearance can be likened to two glowing

sticks, each stretching out from the black hole like the arms of a cosmic dance.

As time passes, astronomers theorize that the plasma jets continue expanding outward, eventually growing into massive structures known as giant radio galaxies. These giant galaxies are incredibly rare, and by 2020, only about 800 of them had been identified, nearly 50 years after their discovery. For decades, they were considered exceptional outliers in the universe.

However, with the development of advanced radio telescopes and improved observational methods, a new generation of radio telescopes is uncovering more of these giant radio galaxies. Their existence hints at the vastness of the cosmos, where supermassive black holes continue to fuel the ongoing cosmic rave, lighting up the universe in dazzling ways.



The Powerful Eyes of Prabhas: First Look in 'Kannappa' to be Unveiled Soon

Rebel Star Prabhas is all set to make a memorable appearance in the upcoming devotional drama Kannappa, directed by Mukesh Kumar Singh and produced by Mohan Babu. Known for his intense screen presence, Prabhas will play a crucial role in the film, which has been generating significant buzz, especially with his extended cameo.

The teaser of Kannappa recently offered a sneak peek into Prabhas's character, showcasing his powerful eyes, leaving fans excited for more. To quench the thirst of eager audiences, the makers have now announced that the full first look of Prabhas will be unveiled on February 3, 2025. Along with this announcement, they released a pre-look poster that highlights Prabhas's intense gaze and the symbolic presence of a Trishul, adding to the intrigue surrounding his character.



While the official details about Prabhas's role are yet to be confirmed, sources hint that he may be playing Lord Shiva in the film. However, there's speculation that Prabhas will portray a different incarnation of Shiva, one who descends to Earth, distinct from the original form played by Akshay Kumar. Until the film's release, fans can only guess the true nature of Prabhas's role.

Apart from Prabhas, Kannappa features a star-studded ensemble cast, including Akshay Kumar, Mohanlal, and Kajal Aggarwal in extended cameos. The film also stars Mohan Babu, Sarathkumar, Preity Mukun-

dan, Madhoo, Brahmaji, and others in key roles, ensuring a diverse and dynamic performance lineup.

Slated for a worldwide release on April 25, 2025, Kannappa is a pan-India film that blends mythology and drama, with a captivating storyline and stellar performances expected to draw audiences from all corners. With the anticipation building around Prabhas's first look and his character's role in the film, fans are eagerly waiting for more updates.

Chhaava Director Removes Controversial Song Following Objections

Laxman Utekar, the director of the much-anticipated period drama Chhaava, has announced that a song featuring the film's lead actors, Vicky Kaushal and Rashmika Mandanna, will be removed following objections from various groups. The film, which centers on the life of Maratha ruler Chhatrapati Sambhaji Maharaj, sees Vicky Kaushal in the lead role, portraying the legendary king.



The decision to remove the sequence comes after concerns were raised by the Shiv Sena, the descendants of Shivaji Maharaj, and other stakeholders regarding the historical accuracy of the film. Specifically, the scene in question depicts Sambhaji Maharaj performing a Lezim dance with his wife, Maharani Yesubai, which drew criticism for its perceived inaccuracy and anachronism.

On Monday, Utekar confirmed that the makers of Chhaava had agreed to cut the scene following a meeting with Maharashtra Navnirman Sena (MNS) chief Raj Thackeray. In a statement to the media, Utekar expressed that the dance sequence, though a light-hearted moment in the film, was

insignificant when compared to the immense legacy of Chhatrapati Sambhaji Maharaj.

The director stressed that the film is made with respect and reverence for the Maratha king's legacy, and that historical authenticity is of utmost importance to the team. The removal of the scene reflects the filmmakers' commitment to ensuring that the portrayal of Sambhaji Maharaj remains true to his dignified legacy.

This development has sparked discussions about the challenges faced by filmmakers when portraying historical figures and events, particularly when it comes to balancing artistic freedom with historical accuracy and cultural sensitivities.

'L2E Empuraan' Teaser Promises an Epic Sequel to Lucifer

Mohanlal's 2019 blockbuster Lucifer became a landmark film in Malayalam cinema, and now the much-anticipated sequel, L2E Empuraan, is gearing up to take the saga to even greater heights. Directed by Prithviraj Sukumaran, who also starred in the original, the teaser for L2E Empuraan has finally dropped, and it promises a thrilling continuation of the gripping political drama.



at their continued partnership in this larger-than-life political saga.

The first installment of Lucifer ended with a major twist, revealing the dual identity of Steven Nedumpally as Abraam Khureshi, a political mastermind. L2E Empuraan appears to delve deeper into Khureshi's backstory, focusing on his role in the intricate political narrative unfolding in Kerala. While the teaser keeps the plot details under wraps, it showcases intense action sequences and provides a glimpse of the high stakes involved in the sequel.

L2E Empuraan is produced on an even grander scale than its predecessor, with a multi-lingual release planned for India. The film is set to hit theaters on March 27, 2025, and will be released in Malayalam, Telugu, Tamil, Kannada, and Hindi, ensuring it reaches a wider audience across the country. Produced by Lyca Productions and Aashirwad Cinemas, the film is set to raise the bar for Malayalam cinema and deliver an epic cinematic experience.

Mohanlal, despite his age, continues to exude charisma and strength in the teaser, leaving fans excited for his return as the formidable Steven Nedumpally. In a brief but impactful moment towards the end of the teaser, we catch a glimpse of Prithviraj as Mohanlal's trusted subordinate, hinting

at their continued partnership in this larger-than-life political saga. With its high-octane action, compelling storyline, and star-studded cast, L2E Empuraan is shaping up to be a worthy sequel to Lucifer, and fans can't wait to witness the next chapter of this thrilling political saga.

Bobby Deol's Poster Confirms Hari Hara Veera Mallu Sticks to Original Release Date

Amid speculation and rumors surrounding the release of Hari Hara Veera Mallu, Power Star Pawan Kalyan's much-awaited film, the team has officially confirmed that the movie will release as scheduled on March 28, 2025. The confirmation came with the release of a new poster featuring Bobby Deol, which was unveiled today to celebrate his birthday.



For weeks, there were discussions and concerns regarding potential delays in production, with some reports suggesting the film might be pushed back. These rumors were fueled by the lack of buyer interest at the movie's asking price. However, with the latest poster release, the makers have put these speculations to rest, assuring fans that Hari Hara Veera Mallu is on track for its planned release.

The new poster, which features a striking image of Bobby Deol, has added excitement to the an-

ouncement. After his success with Animal, Bobby Deol has been receiving numerous offers from the South film industry. He recently portrayed the antagonist in Kanguva and Daaku Maharaaj, and now he will be seen playing a key role in Hari Hara Veera Mallu.

For fans of Pawan Kalyan, the announcement has brought a sense of relief and excitement. It has been over a year and a half since the actor was last seen on the big screen, and his return in this highly anticipated historical drama has sparked significant anticipation. Hari

Hara Veera Mallu promises to be a grand spectacle, and with the confirmed release date, fans are eager to see the action unfold.

The film, directed by Krish, also stars Nidhi Agerwal and is produced by AM Ratnam. With its confirmed release on March 28, Hari Hara Veera Mallu is shaping up to be one of the major films of 2025.



Excitement Builds for 'Thandel': Trailer Launch Event Set for Vizag

The much-anticipated romantic drama Thandel, starring Akkineni Naga Chaitanya and Sai Pallavi, is all set to hit the big screens on February 7, 2025. Directed by Chandoo Mondeti, the film has been creating a buzz in Tollywood, with fans eagerly awaiting the trailer. In a bid to build even more excitement, the makers have shared details about the trailer launch event.

The trailer of Thandel will be unveiled at the Sri Rama Picture Palace (Rama Talkies Road) in Vizag, and the event is scheduled to take place on January 28 at 5 pm. The trailer launch is expected to be a grand occasion, with movie lovers and fans gearing up for an exclusive sneak peek into the film.

Thandel is based on real events that oc-

curred in Gujarat in 2018, adding a layer of intrigue to the narrative. The movie is produced by Bunny Vasu and presented by Allu Aravind under the banner of Geetha Arts. With Anirudh Ravichander composing the music and background score, the film is poised to offer an unforgettable musical experience alongside its compelling storyline.

This film marks the third collaboration between Naga Chaitanya and director Chandoo Mondeti, further raising expectations for a successful partnership. Their previous outings have already established a strong rapport with audiences, and with Thandel, anticipation is at an all-time high.

In the lead-up to the film's release, the makers have been gradually teasing au-

diences with individual song releases, increasing curiosity and excitement. Fans are especially looking forward to the chemistry between Naga Chaitanya and Sai Pallavi, both of whom are well-loved for their performances.

As the trailer launch event in Vizag approaches, the excitement continues to build for what promises to be one of the major romantic dramas of the year. Stay tuned for more updates as Thandel gets ready to take over the big screen on February 7!

This development has sparked discussions about the challenges faced by filmmakers when portraying historical figures and events, particularly when it comes to balancing artistic freedom with historical accuracy and cultural sensitivities.

Sumit Nagal, Rohan Bopanna Big Losers In Fresh ATP Rankings



New Zealand has secured a direct entry into the ICC Women's World Cup 2025 following Bangladesh's loss to the West Indies in their final ICC Women's Championship match on Friday in Basseterre. Both New Zealand and Bangladesh finished the 10-team tournament with 21 points, but New Zealand's superior number of wins—nine compared to Bangladesh's eight—earned them the coveted spot.

The tournament featured all teams playing eight three-match series—four at home and four away—and New Zealand's performance ensured their direct qualification. Along with the hosts India, the top five teams in the standings—Australia, India, England, South Africa, and Sri Lanka—have secured automatic berths for the upcoming World Cup.

Australia clinched the ICC Women's Championship title with an impres-

sive 39 points, while India closely followed in second place with 37 points. England (32), South Africa (25), and Sri Lanka (22) also guaranteed their spots for the World Cup, leaving the bottom four teams to battle for the remaining qualification spot through the upcoming World Cup Qualifier.

Bangladesh (21), West Indies (18), Pakistan (17), and Ireland (eight) will join Scotland and Thailand—ranked the highest as of October 31, 2024—at the Qualifier. The details for the Qualifier will be announced soon, with two spots available for the World Cup.

India will host the 2025 Women's ODI World Cup for the fifth time, marking the first global women's tournament held there since 2016 when India hosted the T20 World Cup alongside the men's event. The 2025 edition will be similar to the 2022 tournament, with eight teams competing across 31 matches.

Jasprit Bumrah Wins ICC Men's Test Cricketer of the Year 2024

India's fast-bowling ace, Jasprit Bumrah, has been named the ICC Men's Test Cricketer of the Year for 2024, thanks to a remarkable year with the ball. Bumrah claimed an impressive 71 wickets in 357 overs across 13 matches, with an outstanding average of 14.92. His achievements in 2024 make him only the fourth Indian bowler to take more than 70 wickets in a calendar year, joining the ranks of Ravichandran Ashwin, Anil Kumble, and Kapil Dev. Bumrah's sensational performance earned him the prestigious award, defeating stiff competition from Sri Lanka's Kamindu Mendis and England's Harry Brook and Joe Root.



Bumrah's exceptional year saw him shine in both home and away conditions, playing a key role in India's World Test Championship campaign, although they ultimately fell short of reaching the final. His 2024 campaign began with a standout performance in India's historic Test win in Cape Town against South Africa, where he took eight wickets. He followed this up with 19 wickets in India's 4-1 series victory over England, with a notable nine-wicket match haul in Visakhapatnam,

which helped India level the series.

However, Bumrah's crowning achievement in 2024 came during the Border-Gavaskar Trophy series in Australia, where he picked up 32 wickets in five matches at an incredible average of 13.06. His performance in Australia not only earned him the Player of the Series award but also saw him become the 12th Indian bowler to surpass the 200 Test wickets milestone. His best performance came in Perth, where he took eight wickets, including

a five-wicket haul in the first innings, propelling India to a dominant 295-run victory.

At just 31 years old, Bumrah's record-breaking year also saw him set a unique Test history milestone, becoming the only bowler with over 200 Test wickets to have an average under 20, with an impressive 19.4. His exceptional skill and consistency have solidified his place as one of the best fast bowlers in world cricket today.



Smriti Mandhana Named ICC Women's ODI Cricketer of the Year

India's charismatic opener, Smriti Mandhana, has been named the ICC Women's ODI Cricketer of the Year for 2024. The vice-captain of the Indian women's cricket team earned the prestigious honor after a stellar year, setting new personal milestones in One Day Internationals.

Mandhana, known for her elegant strokeplay and consistency, had an exceptional 2024, amassing 747 runs in just 13 innings. This tally made her the highest run-scorer among all women's ODI cricketers during the year. Her remarkable feat not only saw her surpass her own previous records but also placed her well ahead of other top performers in the format, including South Africa's Laura Wolvaardt (697 runs), England's Tammy Beaumont (554 runs), and West Indies' Hayley Matthews (469 runs).

Throughout the year, Mandhana's form was a standout feature in India's batting lineup, and she delivered key performances that helped her team in various

match-winning situations. Her ability to consistently score runs across different conditions highlighted her versatility as an opening batter and her importance to the Indian team.

Mandhana's achievement is a testament to her skill, hard work, and determination, making her one of the leading figures in women's cricket today. The left-hander's impressive 2024 campaign solidifies her position as one of the best in the world and further elevates her standing within the international cricket community.

This recognition comes as another milestone in Mandhana's already illustrious career, which has seen her garner praise for her technique and temperament in both limited-overs and longer formats. As she continues to break records and inspire future generations, Mandhana's remarkable year in 2024 will be remembered as one of the most outstanding individual performances in women's cricket history.

Barcelona Thrashes Valencia 7-1 in La Liga Rout

Barcelona secured a commanding 7-1 victory over Valencia on Sunday, snapping out of their recent slump in La Liga with an emphatic performance. Fermin Lopez played a starring role, scoring twice in the first half, as Barcelona took a dominant 5-0 lead into the break. Frenkie de Jong, Ferran Torres, and Raphinha also found the back of the net, while Valencia struggled defensively throughout the match.

The opening goal came early, just three minutes in, when De Jong converted a cross from teenage prodigy Lamine Yamal. Barcelona's second followed shortly after, with Torres scoring from Alejandro Balde's cross. Lopez then set up Raphinha for the third, and the Brazilian winger rounded the goalkeeper to slot in his 12th league goal of the season.

Lopez scored again for Barcelona with a well-timed volley after Raphinha's shot hit the post, sending them 5-0 up before



halftime. Valencia, missing the suspended Cristhian Mosquera, were unable to cope with Barcelona's attacking play. A potential penalty for Valencia was ruled out after a video review, further adding to their frustration.

Valencia pulled one back early in the second half when Hugo Duro scored from a Diego Lopez assist. However, Barcelona responded quickly, with Robert Lewandowski adding a sixth goal, his 17th of the season, after a through ball from Lopez. The seventh came when Cesar Tarrega deflected Torres' cross into his own net.

Despite the dominant scoreline, Valencia's coach Carlos Corberan faced harsh criticism for his side's performance. Valencia defender Jose Gaya expressed his disappointment, saying, "It was an enormous step backward," and urged his team to focus on the next match.

Barcelona's victory lifted them back on track in La Liga, but their coach, Hansi Flick, emphasized the importance of maintaining this momentum as they trail leaders Real Madrid by seven points.

Noman Ali Hat-Trick in vain as Pakistan Lost the match to West Indies

Pakistan's star spinner, Noman Ali, made history on Day 1 of the second Test against the West Indies in Multan by taking a remarkable hat-trick. This achievement, which came within the first hour of the match, placed Noman among an elite group of cricketers. He dismissed Justin Greaves (1), Tevin Imlach (0), and Kevin Sinclair (0), becoming the sixth player in Test cricket history to claim a hat-trick in the opening session of a match.

Notably, Noman is only the second-ever spinner to achieve this feat in Test cricket, following in the footsteps of Australia's Billy Bates, who accomplished it in 1883. At 38 years and 139 days old, Noman also became the second-oldest player to take a Test hat-trick, trailing only Sri Lanka's Rangana Herath, who was 38 years and 110 days when he achieved the same.



Despite Noman's historic performance, Pa-

kistan was unable to capitalize on his early breakthroughs, and the West Indies went

on to win the match by 120 runs. This victory allowed the West Indies to level the series 1-1, with spinner Jomel Warrican playing a key role in the win by taking five wickets. Warrican finished with nine wickets in the match, and an impressive 19 wickets in the series, leading the West Indies to their first Test win in Pakistan in nearly 35 years.

The last time the West Indies won a Test match in Pakistan was in November 1990 in Faisalabad. Despite tough tours in 1997 and 2006, the West Indies managed to defeat Pakistan on sharply spinning pitches, making this victory a historic one for the team.

West Indies captain Kraigg Brathwaite expressed his pride in the young squad, saying, "We haven't played in Pakistan for a number of years, but we haven't won here in a while, so to come here and do it as a young group is incredible."