



Weather Forecast

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

Trump calls PM Modi's February US visit a sign of strong ties.

Trump assures Modi will handle immigration issues.

18,000 Indian migrants reportedly in the US illegally.

Trump urges India to buy more US-made weapons.

Modi and Trump emphasize strengthening the QUAD.

India-US trade surpassed \$118 billion in 2023/24.



India Will Do The Right Thing

Trump On Migrants Row After Call With PM Modi

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

US President Donald Trump said Prime Minister Narendra Modi "will do what's right" regarding the issue of Indian immigrants in the US who are residing illegally. This statement came after the first phone call between the two leaders since Trump's second term began on January 20, 2025. The call, which took place on Monday (local time), was described by Trump as "productive," with both leaders discussing various key topics, including security in the Indo-Pacific, the Middle East, and Europe. The leaders also talked about strengthening bilateral cooperation between the two nations. President Trump also mentioned that Prime Minister Modi is scheduled to visit the United States in February. "We have a very good relationship with India," President Trump said to reporters aboard Air Force One. "He is going to be coming to the White House next month, probably February." During the call, Trump brought up the topic of immigration and reiterated his stance on illegal migration. "PM Modi will do

what's right" when it comes to addressing the issue of Indian nationals who have entered the US illegally. This comes amid reports suggesting that approximately 18,000 Indian migrants are currently living illegally in the country. In a prior meeting with India's Foreign Minister S. Jaishankar, US Secretary of State Marco Rubio emphasized the need to address concerns related to irregular migration. The Trump administration has been outspoken about cracking down on illegal immigration and has reportedly identified around 18,000 Indian migrants who have overstayed their visas or entered the country without authorization. However, Trump also expressed his openness to legal immigration, particularly in the skilled worker sector, where India plays a significant role with its massive pool of IT professionals. President Trump's call with PM Modi also touched on trade and defense issues. Trump urged India to increase its procurement of American-made security equipment while calling for a fairer bilateral trade relationship. In 2023/24, the US be-

came India's largest trading partner, with two-way trade surpassing \$118 billion, and India maintaining a trade surplus of \$32 billion. The two leaders also affirmed their commitment to the Quad partnership, which includes the US, India, Australia, and Japan. India will be hosting the next Quad summit later this year. Prime Minister Modi expressed his warm regard for President Trump, calling him a "dear friend" and reaffirmed their commitment to working together for mutual benefit, peace, prosperity, and global security. The two leaders also discussed issues related to technology, trade, investment, energy, and defense, agreeing to remain in touch and meet soon at a mutually convenient date. As both nations continue to strengthen their strategic partnership, the call between President Trump and PM Modi serves as a signal of continued collaboration on a wide range of global and bilateral issues, including addressing immigration concerns.

Water Terrorism

CM Atishi Echoes Kejriwal's Yamuna Charge



- Ammonia levels in Yamuna reportedly 700% above the treatable limit.
- Water supply in Delhi reduced by 15-20%, affecting 34 lakh residents.
- Atishi accuses Haryana of deliberate disruption, calls for CEC intervention.

Atishi reiterated the gravity of the crisis, stating, "Ammonia levels are six times above normal in Yamuna waters entering Delhi from Haryana. This toxic water cannot be treated and supplied without risking lives." In response, Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Saini dismissed the allegations, accusing the AAP government of mismanaging water distribution in Delhi. "It is Kejriwal's habit to blame and run away. Instead of working, he engages in politics of allegations," Saini said, suggesting a joint inspection to address the issue. The escalating dispute has drawn attention to the impact of the water crisis on Delhi residents and the potential implications for the upcoming elections.

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

Delhi Chief Minister Atishi has written to the Chief Election Commissioner (CEC), alleging that the Haryana government is responsible for the sharp rise in ammonia levels in the Yamuna River, which has severely affected the water supply in Delhi. She described the situation as an "act of water terrorism" and called for immediate intervention to address the crisis. In her letter, Atishi highlighted that the ammonia levels in water coming from Haryana have risen to over 7 ppm, far exceeding the treatable limit of 1 ppm. This contamination, caused by untreated sewage and industrial waste from Haryana, has rendered Delhi's water treatment plants nearly ineffective, leading to a 15-20% reduction in water supply. This has impacted around 34 lakh residents in Delhi. Atishi warned of the public health risks posed by the high ammonia levels, including kidney damage, respiratory issues, and long-term organ damage. She accused Haryana of intentionally disrupting Delhi's water supply to influence the upcoming elections and demanded an urgent meeting with the CEC to ensure the elections remain unaffected. On social media platform X,

Hitting back at the charges, Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini has demanded that Mr Kejriwal apologise or they will sue him. "For these blatantly false and disgusting statements, Kejriwal should immediately apologise to the people of Haryana and Delhi for this statement, otherwise, we will file a defamation suit against him," he told news agency ANI. Speaking to NDTV today, Haryana Minister Mahipal Dhanda called it an "unsubstantiated claim". It is an "objectionable and dangerous statement full of agenda" by the AAP chief, he said, adding that mere apology won't do. Congress too has accused Mr Kejriwal of lying with party candidate Sandeep Dikshit saying he is surprised that no action is being taken against him by Haryana Police.

DJB CEO Dismisses Kejriwal's 'Poison in Yamuna' Claim



- DJB CEO refutes Kejriwal's 'poison' claim, calls it misleading.
- Shinde explains ammonia levels and water treatment process in the Yamuna.
- Haryana is addressing the issue with pipeline installations.
- Said that such "fear-mongering statements" would mislead the public.

TPN Correspondent Delhi

Delhi Jal Board (DJB) CEO Shilpa Shinde has strongly refuted AAP chief Arvind Kejriwal's accusation that the Haryana government released "poison" into the Yamuna river. In a letter to Delhi's chief secretary, Shinde called the allegations "factually incorrect, without basis, and misleading." Kejriwal had earlier compared the

pollution of the Yamuna's raw water supply to "biological warfare" and warned of mass casualties in Delhi. Delhi Chief Minister Atishi also claimed that the Haryana government was deliberately discharging industrial waste into the river. Shinde clarified that DJB regularly monitors the water quality and adjusts its treatment processes. She explained that during winter, ammonia levels in the river naturally rise due to reduced flow and untreated sewage or industrial waste upstream. She added that the DJB's water treatment plants are equipped to handle ammonia levels up to 6.5 ppm, higher than the current levels.

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10 Crore Pilgrims Expected for Amrit Snan at Maha Kumbh Today

Mauni Amavasya is considered the most auspicious bathing day of the Maha Kumbh

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Burari Building Collapse: 2 Dead, Rescue Operations Continue

- Two fatalities in Burari building collapse, 12 rescued.
- Delhi CM Atishi assures speedy relief and help for affected families.
- BJP MP Manoj Tiwari claims negligence caused the collapse.



TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

Two people have died following the collapse of a four-storey building in Burari, Delhi, on Monday evening. Rescue operations are ongoing, with 12 individuals successfully rescued from the site so far. The building, located in Kaushik Enclave, Burari, collapsed around 6:30 pm, and the police were alerted at 6:58 pm. Delhi Police, Fire Services, District Disaster Management Authority (DDMA), and

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ISRO Set to Make History with 100th Mission Launch Today

- ISRO's 100th mission is set for lift-off today at 6:23 am.
- The mission will launch the NVS-02 navigation satellite as part of the NavIC series.
- First mission under ISRO Chairman V Narayanan's leadership.
- The satellite will enhance navigation and IoT services across India.



TPN Correspondent | Andhra Pradesh

Today marks a historic moment for India's space agency, ISRO, as it prepares to launch its 100th mission from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh. The mission is scheduled for lift-off at 6:23 am, and it will

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Delhi Riots accused Tahir Hussain gets 'custody parole'



- Tahir Hussain granted custody parole to campaign in Delhi elections.
- Hussain must pay ₹2 lakh per day for security expenses.
- Parole conditions restrict him from visiting his house and discussing pending cases.
- Hussain is accused in the killing of IB staffer Ankit Sharma during the 2020 riots.

TPN Correspondent
| New Delhi

The Supreme Court on Tuesday granted custody parole to former Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) councillor Mohammad Tahir Hussain, who is accused in the 2020 Delhi riots, allowing him to campaign for the upcoming Delhi elections. The court permitted Hussain to leave jail for 12 hours a day, from January 29 to February 3, to conduct campaign activities for the Mustafabad constituency, where he is contesting on an All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen (AIMIM) ticket. As part of the conditions for the parole, Hussain is required to

bear the cost of two police personnel, a jail van, and an escort vehicle, with an advance deposit of over ₹2 lakh per day. The court also instructed him not to visit his house in Karawal Nagar, as it is alleged to be the site of significant violence during the Delhi riots. Hussain will also be prohibited from making any statements regarding the pending cases against him. Hussain's lawyer, senior advocate Siddharth Aggarwal, argued that with only a few days remaining for campaigning, Hussain should be allowed to engage with voters under police custody. Aggarwal clari-

fied that Hussain would stay in a hotel instead of his house and would refrain from discussing the riots. The Delhi High Court had earlier granted custody parole to Hussain on January 14 to allow him to file his nomination papers. However, the Supreme Court's ruling this week now allows Hussain to actively campaign until February 3. The Delhi riots, which broke out in northeast Delhi on February 24, 2020, resulted in the deaths of 53 people, with several others injured. Hussain is accused of involvement in the killing of Intelligence Bureau staffer Ankit Sharma.

Illegal Migrants Threat To Democracy, Harmony, Security: Vice President



- VP Dhankhar calls illegal migrants a "threat to sovereignty."
- Warns of their influence on India's democracy and security.
- Stresses urgency in resolving the migrant issue.

TPN Correspondent
| New Delhi

Vice-President Jagdeep Dhankhar on Monday warned that illegal migrants pose a significant threat to India's democracy, security, and societal harmony. Addressing a group of Rajya Sabha interns

in Delhi, he emphasized that millions of illegal migrants living in the country challenge its sovereignty and national unity. "We have to see the challenges. The challenge to the nation is (that) millions of illegal migrants are living in our land. Is

it not a challenge to our sovereignty? Such kind of people will never be wedded to our nationalism," Vice President Dhankhar stated. He further elaborated that illegal migrants not only threaten democracy but also seek to influence India's electoral system, posing risks to social harmony and national security. "They use our resources of health, education, and other facilities. They engage in jobs meant for our people. I expect everyone in the government to take a severe look at this. This problem and resolution of it cannot be delayed even by a day. How can a nation suffer illegal migrants in millions?" he added. The Vice President also highlighted the growing opportunities for India's youth, noting the country's strides in development, with improved access to toilets, gas connections, the internet, road, and air connectivity, marking the first time many people have experienced such progress.

Burari Building Collapse: 2 Dead, Rescue Operations Continue

National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) are involved in the operation. Delhi Chief Minister Atishi expressed her condolences and assured citizens that all necessary help would be provided. "I have spoken to the local administration to ensure speedy relief and rescue operations. All possible help will be provided to the affected people," she posted on X. Bharatiya Janata Party MP Manoj Ti-

wari visited the site later in the evening, claiming possible negligence in the building's collapse. He mentioned that the construction had been completed, but finishing work was still underway. "There is no doubt that there was huge negligence," Tiwari said. He also reported that a child was in serious condition, though other victims are out of danger.

Haryana CM Meets ECI Over AAP's Claim on 'Poisonous' Ammonia In Yamuna



TPN Correspondent
| New Delhi

Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini met Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar at the Election Commission of India (ECI) office in Delhi on Tuesday to discuss the allegations of ammonia contamination in Yamuna water. The meeting followed a complaint by an Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) delegation led by Delhi CM Atishi, accompanied by Punjab

CM Bhagwant Mann, raised concerns over the rising ammonia levels in Yamuna water, claiming it could cripple Delhi's water supply. "Water from Haryana has poisonous ammonia levels. Delhi's treatment plants can only handle PPM-1 and PPM-2, but the levels have surged to PPM-7, which is toxic. This could shut down water treatment plants, leaving 30% of Delhi without water," she stated. Atishi also said the Election Commission

assured action in favor of Delhi residents. However, Delhi Jal Board (DJB) CEO Shilpa Shinde dismissed these claims as "factually incorrect and misleading," urging Delhi officials to avoid statements that could harm interstate relations and public trust. Haryana CM Saini rejected AAP's allegations, labeling them "baseless" and accusing the Delhi government of deflecting blame for its shortcomings. "The AAP government has a habit of blaming others. People of Haryana worship the Yamuna as a holy river. Why would we poison it?" Saini stated, demanding an apology from Arvind Kejriwal and threatening a defamation suit. Delhi BJP chief Virendra Sachdeva also visited the ECI office to lodge a separate complaint against AAP, further intensifying the political clash.

Court Orders FIR Against Rana Ayyub Over Derogatory Posts



- Alleged posts include insults to Hindu deities and incitement of disharmony.
- FIR directed under sections 153A, 295A, and 505 of IPC.
- Court stresses the need for fair investigation by Delhi Police.

TPN Correspondent
| New Delhi

A Delhi court has directed the police to register an FIR against journalist Rana Ayyub for allegedly making derogatory posts on social media during 2016-17. The posts reportedly include insults to Hindu dei-

ties, spreading anti-India sentiments, and inciting religious disharmony. The court stated that the allegations reveal cognisable offences and instructed a fair investigation into the matter. The directive came in response to an application filed by an

advocate seeking the court's intervention to register an FIR against Ms. Ayyub. The complaint alleged that her posts violated sections 153A (promoting enmity between different groups), 295A (outraging religious feelings), and 505 (statements conducing public mischief) of the Indian Penal Code (IPC). Chief Judicial Magistrate Himanshu Raman Singh, in an order dated January 25, noted the seriousness of the allegations, stating, "The facts of the case make out prima facie cognisable offences under the mentioned sections." The court emphasized that a police investigation was necessary, as the complainant would not be able to gather evidence independently. The court instructed the station house officer (SHO) of the cyber police station in South Delhi to register an FIR based on the complaint and ensure a fair investigation. A compliance report on the matter is expected to be submitted by Tuesday.

Burnt Body in Suitcase, Delhi Police Uncover Murder Linked to Love Affair

TPN Correspondent
| New Delhi

A gruesome murder has come to light after a charred body of a woman was discovered in a suitcase in Delhi's Ghazipur area on Monday. The murder, rooted in a complicated live-in relationship, shocked the city. The body was found on the morning of January 26 when Delhi Police received a call reporting a suspicious suitcase in the desolate area of Ghazipur. Upon inspection, officers found a severely burnt body, which was initially unidentifiable. Forensic analysis later revealed that the victim was a woman between 20 and 35 years old.

CCTV Footage Leads to Key Breakthrough

The investigation faced a major hurdle as the body was completely burned. However, a breakthrough came after police reviewed CCTV footage from the area. Authori-

ties spotted a Hyundai Verna passing through hours before the body was found. Tracing the car's registration led to a man from Loni, who revealed he had sold the vehicle to Amit Tiwari, a 22-year-old cab driver living in Ghaziabad. Police soon arrested both Amit and his friend, Anuj Kumar, a welding mechanic.



Cousins' Love Triangle Turns Deadly

During interrogation, Amit confessed that the victim was his 22-year-old cousin, Shilpa Pandey. The two had been in a live-in relationship for over a year, but things took a violent turn when Amit tried to

end the relationship. Shilpa allegedly threatened to accuse Amit and his family of false charges, leading to frequent arguments. On the night of January 25, after an intoxicated argument, Amit strangled Shilpa to death. Amit then enlisted the help of his friend Anuj to dispose of Shilpa's body. The two men stuffed her lifeless body into a suitcase and initially planned to drive to Western Uttar Pradesh to dispose of it. However, after crossing two police checkpoints, they abandoned the idea and opted for a nearby location in Ghazipur. There, they set the suitcase on fire in an attempt to destroy evidence. Both accused have been arrested, and Shilpa's family has been informed of the tragic incident. Four Delhi police teams are actively investigating the chilling murder as the city reels from the shocking crime.

132 of 699 Contestants in Delhi Elections have Criminal History: ADR



TPN Correspondent
| New Delhi

A new report from the Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR) has raised serious concerns over the candidates running in the 2025 Delhi Assembly elections. According to the report, 132 out of the 699 candidates contesting the elections have disclosed criminal cases against themselves, with 81 of these cases being serious in nature. The report also revealed that 13 candidates face charges related to crimes against women, including murder and attempted murder.

The ADR report underscores the lack of adherence to the Supreme Court's directions regarding the selection of candidates with criminal backgrounds. The court had ordered that political parties publicly disclose candidates' criminal histories and provide justifications for nominating those with ongoing criminal cases. However, the ADR claims that this directive has been largely ignored, with political parties failing to follow the rules.

Political Parties Fail to Comply with Supreme Court's Directive

According to ADR, political parties have failed to provide justifications for nominating candidates with criminal backgrounds, despite clear orders from the Supreme Court. The report indicates that nearly 19% of the candidates across major political parties have criminal records.

The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) has the highest number of candidates with criminal cases, with 44 out of 70 candidates declaring criminal charges. The Congress party follows with 29 out of 70 candidates, while the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has 20 out of 68 candidates with criminal backgrounds. Of these, the report indicates that 29 AAP candidates, 13 Congress candidates, and nine BJP candidates have declared serious criminal charges.

The ADR's Major General (retd) Anil Verma pointed out that despite the Supreme Court's 2018 ruling requiring the public disclosure of candidates' criminal records, political parties have not complied. The report also noted that political parties have not provided any valid justifications for selecting candidates with pending criminal cases.

'Red Alert' Constituencies Identified
The ADR report has flagged 16 constituencies as "red alert" areas, where

three or more candidates have declared criminal backgrounds. Among these, the Matiala constituency in west Delhi has the highest number, with five candidates facing criminal charges.

Candidates' Wealth and Educational Backgrounds

In addition to criminal backgrounds, the ADR report also highlights the financial standing of the candidates. It revealed that five candidates have assets worth over ₹100 crore, while 18 others declared assets of more than ₹50 crore. BJP's Karnail Singh tops the list with assets worth ₹259 crore, followed by BJP's Manjinder Singh Sirsa with ₹248 crore. Congress's Gurcharan Singh (Raju) has assets worth ₹130 crore, and BJP's Parvesh Sahib Singh declared ₹115 crore in assets. The total declared assets of all candidates amount to ₹3,952 crore. Interestingly, 222 candidates have declared assets under ₹10 lakh, and some candidates have reported extremely low or no assets, with some declaring as little as ₹6,586.

Criminal Background Linked to Electoral Success

A correlation between criminal backgrounds and electoral success has also been noted. According to Vipul Mudgal, director of Common Cause,

ADR's analysis shows that candidates with criminal backgrounds are 14% more likely to win than those without. Furthermore, candidates with substantial financial assets are twice as likely to be elected.

The ADR's surveys in 535 constituencies revealed that 35% of voters were aware of the criminal cases against certain candidates but still chose to vote for them. This indicates that political parties seem to be impervious to judicial or civil society pressures.

The ADR also examined the educational qualifications and age demographics of the candidates. It found that 324 candidates had education between the 5th and 12th standards, while 322 were graduates or had higher qualifications. A smaller number of candidates held diplomas or had no formal education.

Age-wise, most candidates fall between the ages of 41 and 60, with 394 candidates in this age range. A total of 196 candidates are between the ages of 25 and 40, while 106 candidates are aged 61-80, and three candidates are above 80. Seventy-two women are contesting the elections, and one transgender candidate has declared their candidacy.

"I Am Baniya, Will Arrange Money For All Schemes": Kejriwal



- "I am a Baniya," says Kejriwal.
- Promises to fight for Jats' OBC inclusion.
- Alleges BJP plans to end welfare schemes.

TPN Correspondent
| New Delhi

AAP chief Arvind Kejriwal, addressing public rallies ahead of the Delhi Assembly elections, emphasized his ability to manage finances for welfare schemes, underlining his identity as a "Baniya." Speaking at public meetings in Palam, Matiala, and Bijwasan constituencies on Monday, he reiterated his party's commitment to free electricity, water, healthcare, and education. "They ask where the money will come from. I am a Baniya. I know how to manage resources. You do not need to

worry. I know the maths, and I will arrange it (the money)," Mr. Kejriwal assured voters at a Jan Sabha in Palam.

Contrasting the AAP's approach with the BJP's, he claimed, "The AAP is the party for common people, whereas the BJP is a party for rich people." Mr. Kejriwal alleged that the BJP plans to dismantle welfare schemes like free electricity, education, and bus rides for women if it comes to power. "It is up to you to decide whether you want the AAP, which builds schools, or the BJP, which shuts them," he said.

Highlighting the AAP's governance model, he claimed his government provides direct benefits worth ₹25,000 per month per household in Delhi, unlike the BJP, which he accused of "writing off loans for its rich friends using public funds."

Addressing the issue of Jat reservation, he said, "Delhi has 54 Other Backward Classes (OBCs), including Jats, but in the Central government's list, only 50 OBCs are included. Delhi's Jats are excluded. This means a Jat from Rajasthan can get admission into Delhi University or a job in AIIMS under the OBC quota, but a Delhi Jat cannot. This is injustice. I promise our Jat brothers and sisters that I will fight with the Central government to get them their rightful place."

The Jat reservation issue has become significant in rural constituencies like Najafgarh and Bijwasan, where the community holds considerable influence. Former AAP minister Kailash Gahlot, now with the BJP, is contesting from Bijwasan, adding fuel to the political discourse.

Delhi's elections are scheduled for February 5, with results to be announced on February 8. While the AAP seeks a third consecutive term, the BJP aims to regain power in Delhi after 25 years.

Akhilesh Yadav to Campaign for AAP in Delhi Polls



TPN Correspondent
| New Delhi

Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav and his party MPs will campaign for AAP candidates ahead of the Delhi Assembly elections on February 5. Yadav is set to join AAP leader Arvind Kejriwal in a roadshow in Rithala on January 30. Other MPs, including Iqra Hasan from Kairana, will also campaign for AAP.

This move highlights the Samajwadi Party's alignment with AAP within the INDIA bloc, despite Congress being a part of the coalition. The SP leaders will exclusively campaign for AAP, which is contesting against Congress and BJP in Delhi.

The AAP and Congress, allies in last year's Lok Sabha elections, are now contesting against each other in the Assembly

polls. This reflects growing fissures within the opposition INDIA alliance, which had earlier debated over its leadership under Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge or TMC chief Mamata Banerjee.

TMC MP Shatrughan Sinha is also set to campaign for AAP in three constituencies on February 1 and 2, further strengthening the Kejriwal-led party's campaign efforts.



Gurmeet Ram Rahim Granted 30-Day Parole Week Before Delhi Elections

TPN Correspondent
| New Delhi

Dera Sacha Sauda chief Gurmeet Ram Rahim Singh, a convicted rapist, has been granted a 30-day parole, marking his 12th temporary release since his conviction in 2017. The release, which occurred on Tuesday morning, comes just days before the Delhi assembly elections scheduled for February 5.

Jail officials confirmed that Ram Rahim was released at

5:30 am from Sunaria jail in Rohtak and reached the sect's headquarters in Sirsa by 7:30 am. During his visit, he urged his followers to refrain from visiting the ashram and assured them that information about upcoming events would be shared soon.

The parole release follows a pattern of Ram Rahim's paroles coinciding with elections, such as his 20-day parole granted before Haryana's assembly elections in Octo-

ber 2024. During his parole, the sect chief will stay at his Sirsa ashram for the first 10 days and spend the remaining 20 days in Baghpat, Uttar Pradesh, where he has typically been allowed to stay during previous releases.

Ram Rahim's paroles have frequently coincided with key elections, including the 2020 Baroda byelections, the 2022 Punjab elections, and the 2023 Rajasthan assembly elections.

- Gurmeet Ram Rahim granted 30-day parole ahead of Delhi elections.
- Release follows a history of paroles coinciding with elections.
- Dera chief urges followers not to visit the Sirsa ashram during parole.

PM Modi Pushes for 'Concert Economy' After Coldplay's Successful India Tour

Growing Concert Sector Prompts Focus on Infrastructure Development

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

After the success of Coldplay's concerts in Mumbai and Ahmedabad, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday highlighted India's immense possibilities in the emerging concert economy. The British rock band's sold-out performances in India have proven that the country has significant potential to become a global hub for live music events. Modi urged both states and private sector players to focus on developing the infrastructure and skills necessary to support this growing sector.



In his remarks, Modi stressed the importance of developing world-class concert venues and infrastructure to meet the increasing demand for live entertainment. As India becomes an increasingly popular destination for international artists, there is a growing need for specialized venues, skilled event organizers, and improved services for concert-goers.

The concert economy is a rapidly growing financial ecosystem surrounding live music events. Globally, this sector is projected to reach \$31 billion by 2026, driven by the shift from physical album sales to live performances. In India, the concert economy is expected to grow robustly, with the market potentially valued at ₹6,000-8,000 crore. This includes revenue generated through local spending on accommodations, food, and transportation during live events, which boosts local economies significantly.

- PM Modi sees immense potential in India's concert economy, especially after Coldplay's successful shows in Mumbai and Ahmedabad.
- India's "conference tourism" is also growing, with venues like Bharat Mandapam and Yashobhoomi in Delhi becoming major centers.
- The concert economy in India is estimated to reach ₹6,000-8,000 crore, contributing significantly to local economies.

During his speech at the 'Utkarsh Odisha, Make in Odisha Conclave,' Modi emphasized that India, with its rich heritage of music, dance, and storytelling, has a vibrant pool of young consumers who are eager for live performances. He noted that the demand for live events and concerts has surged over the last decade. The Coldplay concerts, which drew record-breaking audiences, serve as proof of the huge potential for growth in this sector.

US State Department Evaluates Next Steps in Tahawwur Rana Extradition

US Support for Justice in Mumbai Attacks Case Amid Legal Developments

TPN Correspondent | Washington

The US State Department has confirmed it is evaluating the next steps regarding the potential extradition of Pakistani-origin businessman Tahawwur Rana to India. Rana is wanted for his involvement in the 2008 Mumbai attacks, which led to the deaths of 164 people.

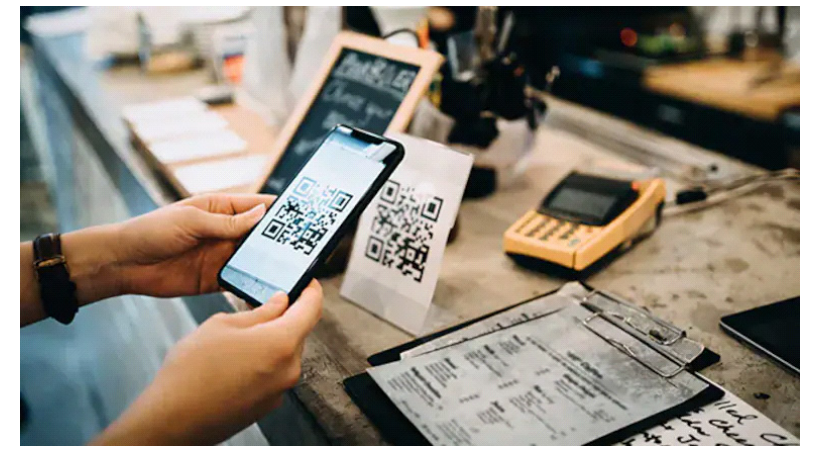


port for India's pursuit of justice in the aftermath of the 26/11 attacks. "We have long supported India's efforts to ensure the perpetrators of the Mumbai terrorist attacks face justice," the spokesperson stated. The department's statement also noted that, following the US Supreme Court's recent denial of Rana's appeal, the US is now reviewing the next steps in the case.

Rana, who was convicted for his role in the 26/11 attacks, has been fighting extradition to India. He was involved in the attacks alongside David Headley, who had already pleaded guilty and cooperated against Rana. The case took a significant turn on January 21 when the US Supreme Court denied Rana's petition for a writ of certiorari, effectively removing a legal barrier that had been in place since the earlier ruling of a lower court favoring Rana's extradition.

This decision opens the possibility for Rana's extradition to India, where he faces charges linked to his involvement in planning the deadly attacks. The attacks, which targeted several sites in Mumbai including the Taj Hotel, resulted in the loss of 174 lives, including 20 security personnel and 26 foreign nationals, with more than 300 people injured.

Extradition Process Under Review: The US State Department is assessing legal considerations for Rana's extradition. Supreme Court Decision Paves the Way: The recent US Supreme Court ruling could expedite Rana's transfer to India. Support for India's Justice Efforts: The US has reiterated its commitment to helping bring Mumbai attack perpetrators to justice. A spokesperson from the US State Department conveyed the nation's ongoing sup-



UPI Dominates India's Digital Payments Landscape, Reaching 83% Share in 2024

Explosive Growth in UPI Transactions Drives India's Digital Payment Revolution

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

The Unified Payments Interface (UPI) has achieved remarkable growth in India, now accounting for an astounding 83% of the country's digital payment volume in 2024, up from just 34% in 2019. This surge represents an impressive cumulative annual growth rate (CAGR) of 74% over the past five years, according to the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) latest payment system report. UPI's dominance has significantly outpaced other digital payment methods, such as RTGS, NEFT, IMPS, credit cards, and debit cards, whose combined share in digital payments has plummeted from 66% to 17% over the same period.

- UPI's share of India's digital payments has surged from 34% in 2019 to 83% in 2024, with a CAGR of 74% over five years.
- The volume of UPI transactions has skyrocketed, increasing from 375 crore in 2018 to 17,221 crore in 2024, while the value of transactions reached ₹246.83 lakh crore.
- UPI Lite, introduced in 2023, has boosted low-value transaction volumes, contributing to the continued expansion of digital payments in India.

UPI's explosive growth is attributed to its ease of use, reliability, and secure, real-time transaction capabilities, which have made it the preferred method for digital payments in India. As a result, UPI has played a pivotal role in driving the expansion of digital payment adoption across the country, with the volume of transactions increasing from 375 crore in 2018 to an impressive 17,221 crore in 2024. The total value of UPI transactions also saw a dramatic rise, reaching ₹246.83 lakh crore in 2024, up from ₹5.86 lakh crore in 2018. This equates to a CAGR of 89.3% in terms of transaction volume and 86.5% in transaction value.

Microsoft CEO Satya Nadella Calls Himself "Product" Of India-US Bond

Microsoft CEO Reflects His Journey, Highlights Contributions of Indian-Americans

TPN Correspondent | Seattle/New York

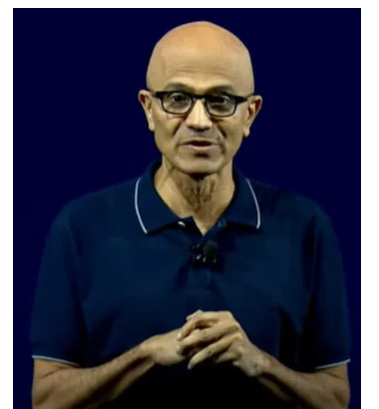
Microsoft CEO Satya Nadella celebrated the enduring bond between India and the United States, calling himself a "product of the bond" between the two nations during a special Republic Day reception in Seattle. The event, hosted by the Consulate General of India, marked India's 76th Republic Day and highlighted the immense contributions of the Indian-American community.

Nadella's Tribute to India-US Bond: The Microsoft CEO emphasized the importance of the relationship between the two countries.

State and Congressional Recognition: Several US lawmakers and government officials expressed gratitude for India's global contributions.

Cultural Exhibits and Performances: The reception showcased India's diverse culture through unique exhibits and performances.

Held at the Bell Harbour Conference Centre, the reception saw over 500 attendees from the Indian-American community, including notable figures such as Washington State Governor Bob Ferguson and Nadella himself. The event also marked a first as several members of the US Congress joined the celebrations, reinforcing the strong relationship between the two nations.



During his address, Nadella praised the leadership of both countries for their shared focus on leveraging technology to improve education, healthcare, public service, and small business productivity. He also acknowledged the Indian-American community's global influence, emphasizing their contributions not only to India but to the world.

In addition to Nadella's remarks, Governor Ferguson expressed his eagerness to further strengthen ties with the Consulate General of India in Seattle. He noted the immense impact the Indian community continues to make on the world stage. The Washington State Senate also recognized the occasion by passing a resolution celebrating India's Republic Day and its strong friendship with the US.

Parliament to take final decision on UCC, Waqf issues: Omar Abdullah

J&K CM Reacts to UCC Implementation in Uttarakhand and Waqf Bill Amendments

TPN Correspondent | Jammu

Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah stated on Tuesday that it is ultimately Parliament, not individual Union Territories or states, that will make the final decision regarding the implementation of the Uniform Civil Code (UCC) and the Waqf (Amendment) Bill. His comments followed Uttarakhand's decision to implement the UCC, with the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) fulfilling a key promise made during the 2022 assembly elections.



Omar Abdullah emphasized that the decision on UCC and the Waqf Bill lies with Parliament, not individual states or UTs. Uttarakhand became the first state to implement the UCC, fulfilling a major BJP election commitment.

The Joint Parliamentary Committee examining the Waqf Bill has accepted all amendments proposed by BJP-NDA members, rejecting opposition suggestions.

Abdullah reacted to Uttarakhand's move by stating, "Let them do what they want to do till a law is enacted for the country. Finally, it is Parliament which will decide on

this and not the individual UTs or States." His remarks underline the ongoing debate over the UCC, which aims to implement a uniform set of laws governing personal matters such as marriage, inheritance, and adoption across India. Regarding the Waqf Bill, Abdullah noted that the Joint Parliamentary Committee is still deliberating and no final decision has

been made by the government. The committee, in recent discussions, adopted the amendments proposed by the BJP-led NDA members, but rejected changes suggested by opposition members. Abdullah also referred to a recent meeting between Hurriyat Conference chairman Mirwaiz Umar Farooq and the committee, where Farooq expressed his viewpoint on the matter.

Coldplay's success in Mumbai, Ahmedabad shows India's huge potential for live concerts



Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday said that India has immense potential for live concerts, citing the success of the Coldplay concerts in Mumbai and Ahmedabad.

Speaking at the Make in Odisha Conclave 2025 in Bhubaneswar, PM Modi urged the state and private sector to focus on improving infrastructure and skills to tap into India's potential for live concerts.

"In the past few days, you must have seen the amazing pictures of Coldplay concerts in Mumbai and Ahmedabad. This is proof of how much scope India has

for live concerts," said Prime Minister Modi.

"Big artists from around the world are also being attracted towards India. Concert economy boosts tourism and creates large-scale employment. I urge states and the private sector to focus on the necessary infrastructure for the concert economy," PM Modi added.

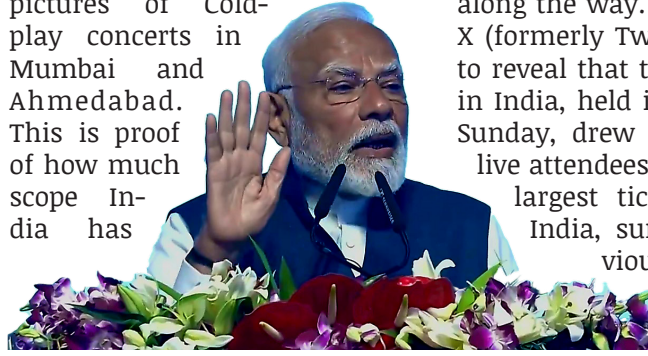
British band Coldplay has not only thrilled fans with five performances in Mumbai and Ahmedabad but also set new records along the way. The band took to X (formerly Twitter) on Monday to reveal that their final concert in India, held in Ahmedabad on Sunday, drew a record 1,34,000 live attendees. This made it the largest ticketed concert in India, surpassing the previous record by over 60,000.

Coldplay, front-

ed by lead singer Chris Martin, performed five concerts in India during their Music of the Spheres World Tour. The band began with three shows in Mumbai before concluding with two back-to-back performances in Ahmedabad at the Narendra Modi Stadium.

The Prime Minister also highlighted the upcoming World Audio Visual Entertainment Summit (WAVES) in India, emphasising its potential to enhance India's global creative presence and foster economic growth.

"Next month, India will host the first-ever World Audio Visual Summit, or WAVES. It will be a major event, showcasing India's creative power to the world. The revenue generated and the perception built through such events in the states will also contribute to advancing the economy," the PM said.



- PM Modi highlights India's potential for live concerts.
- Coldplay's Ahmedabad concert sets record with 134,000 attendees
- Surpassing previous record by 60,000.
- Focus on infrastructure and skill development for concert economy.
- India to host the first World Audio Visual Entertainment Summit (WAVES).

10 Crore Pilgrims Expected for Amrit Snan at Maha Kumbh Today

Mauni Amavasya is considered the most auspicious bathing day of the Maha Kumbh



TPN Correspondent | Prayagraj

The Uttar Pradesh government has made extensive arrangements ahead of the Amrit Snan on Mauni Amavasya, which is expected to draw around 10 crore pilgrims to the Maha Kumbh Mela today. The historic ritual, one of the grandest events of the Mela, has prompted the state authorities to ensure maximum security and smooth crowd management.

In the 17 days since the Maha Kumbh began, more than 15 crore devotees have already taken a holy dip, the state government reported. The Amrit Snan, formerly known as Shahi Snan, is the most significant of the Mela's rituals, taking place on the auspicious Mauni Amavasya, believed to hold immense spiritual importance.

Security measures have been ramped up for the day, with AI-powered CCTV cameras and drones being deployed to monitor the vast Mela grounds along the Triveni Sangam, the confluence of the Ganga, Yamuna, and the mythical Saraswati. Local residents have been advised to avoid using four-wheelers to ease congestion, with only two-wheelers allowed to transport senior citizens.

District Magistrate Ravindra Kumar Mandar urged citizens to walk or use two-wheelers to facilitate the movement of pilgrims, ensuring better access to the holy site.

In previous rituals, such as on Makar Sankranti, 3.5 crore people attended the Amrit Snan, and by Tuesday morning, over 45 lakh devotees had already bathed in the holy rivers. As part of the celebra-

tions, the state government plans to shower flower petals from helicopters at 6:45 AM on Wednesday, marking the beginning of Mauni Amavasya. The Amrit Snan is celebrated with a grand procession of saints from various akharas, making it a spectacle of devotion and spiritual significance. The date for the ritual is set based on favorable astrological conditions involving the Sun, Moon, and Jupiter, amplifying the spiritual power of the rivers.

Mauni Amavasya is considered the most auspicious day for bathing, believed to transform the river waters into 'Amrit' or nectar, granting spiritual purification. It is also known as the "Amavasya of the Saints," with participants traditionally performing the ritual in silence.

To ensure order during the event, additional police forces have been deployed across the Kumbh grounds. Schools for Classes 1 to 8 in Prayagraj will remain closed on January 28, 29, and 30 to ease movement, and the Allahabad High Court has declared a holiday in observance of the day.

The Maha Kumbh, which began on January 13, will continue until February 26, and the Uttar Pradesh government expects a footfall of 40 to 45 crore during this sacred event.

Bandh in Jalandhar, Phagwara Over Ambedkar Statue Vandalism

TPN Correspondent | Jalandhar

A complete bandh was observed in Jalandhar district and Phagwara town on Tuesday to protest the vandalism of a life-size statue of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar in Amritsar on Republic Day. The protest was called by Dalit organizations, leading to heightened security in the region.

Nearly 2,000 police personnel were deployed across Jalandhar, including in Kartarpur, Adampur, and Bhogpur. Protesters laid siege to critical points on the Amritsar-Delhi national highway,

forcing police to divert traffic to alternate routes.

All schools, colleges, and both private and government offices in Jalandhar and Phagwara were closed due to the protests, with only emergency vehicles like ambulances allowed through. Activists, including Arun Sandhal from the Sant Kabir Tiger Force, stated the protests would continue until 5 p.m.

The protests were triggered by the attempt to vandalize the Ambedkar statue in Amritsar, captured in a viral video. The man in the video,

identified as Akash Singh from Moga, was seen climbing the statue and hitting it with a hammer. He was arrested by police on Sunday and charged under sections of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) and the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act. Amritsar police commissioner Gurpreet Singh Bhullar condemned the incident and assured that an FIR had been filed in the case. The protestors demand justice for the damage done to the statue and the Constitution book it holds.

Rahul Gandhi's Remarks Draw Pushback From J Scindia, Cousin Dushyant

TPN Correspondent | Madhya Pradesh

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's recent remarks at a rally in Madhya Pradesh, where he stated that only kings had rights before Independence, have triggered strong reactions from BJP leaders Jyotiraditya Scindia and Dushyant Singh. Both, hailing from royal families, have criticized Gandhi for disregarding the positive impact these families had on India's social and educational reforms.

In his speech, Gandhi claimed, "Before Independence and the Constitution, the poor, Dalits, backward classes, and tribals had no rights. Only rajas and maharajas held power. The Independence brought rights." His comments, which seem to downplay the contributions of royal families, drew sharp rebukes from the BJP leaders.

Scindia, Union Minister and descendant of the Gwalior royal family, retorted that Gandhi's remarks showed a lack of understanding of history. "His narrow-minded views ignore the role of royal families in laying the groundwork for so-

cial equality in India," Scindia said. He highlighted the contributions of royal figures like Sayajirao Gaekwad of Baroda, who funded Ambedkar's education, and Shahu Maharaj of Kolhapur, who implemented the first reservation system for backward classes in 1902. Scindia also criticized the Congress for fostering an oppressive mindset, accusing the party of neglecting the rights of marginalized communities. "Rahul Gandhi should study history before making such statements," he added.



Dushyant Singh, BJP MP from the Dholpur royal family, also took issue with Gandhi's sweeping generalizations. He pointed out that royal families like the Gaekwads and Dholpur rulers made significant contributions to social justice, infrastructure, and education-

al reforms. "To dismiss these efforts as insignificant shows ignorance of history," Singh remarked.

Responding to the criticism, Congress leader Pawan Khera defended Gandhi, arguing that while some royals may have contributed positively, the overall impact of the royal system had been detrimental to the majority. He also referred to Scindia's royal lineage, suggesting that had the Constitution not been amended, the Gwalior dynasty would still be drawing tax-free income from the government.

Khera further quoted Subhadra Kumari Chauhan's poem about Queen Lakshmi Bai, asserting that Scindia's ancestor sided with the British during the 1857 revolt, thus labeling him a "traitor" in the context of India's fight for independence.

The exchange underscores the ongoing political debate over the legacy of India's royal families and their role in shaping the country's past. While some defend their contributions, others argue that the larger impact of colonial-era rulers must be examined critically.

1984 Anti-Sikh Riots

Centre tells SC that many 1984 anti-Sikh riots cases were mishandled, leading to acquittals.

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

The Centre informed the Supreme Court on Monday that the trials in several cases related to the 1984 anti-Sikh riots were conducted in a manner that resulted in the acquittal of the accused, rather than their conviction.

Appearing before the court, Additional Solicitor General Aishwarya Bhati, representing the Centre and Delhi Police, highlighted that although appeals had been filed against these acquittals, they were dismissed by the courts due to delays. Bhati noted that the Supreme Court had formed a Special Investigation Team (SIT) on January 11, 2018, to investigate 186 cases related to the riots, and the SIT had recommended filing appeals against acquittals in some of the cases.

Bhati presented the latest status report from the Delhi Police, revealing that eight appeals had been filed, which were later dismissed by the Delhi High Court. Some of these decisions were upheld by the Supreme Court. The Centre has filed appeals following the recommendations of the SIT, but the bench questioned why all acquittals and dismissals were not challenged in appellate courts.

The Supreme Court bench, consisting of Justices Abhay S Oka

and Ujjal Bhuyan, remarked that the trial process in many of these cases was conducted in a manner that led to acquittals instead of convictions.

The Centre has been asked to provide further clarification on the handling of these cases. The matter has been adjourned for hearing next Monday.

The case stems from the large-scale violence and killings of Sikh community members in Delhi following the assassination of Prime Minister Indira Gandhi in 1984. Over 2,700 people were killed, and of the 587 FIRs registered, around 240 were closed as "untraced" while 250 cases resulted in acquittals. The legal battle for justice has faced several setbacks, although there have been significant developments, including the reopening of cases and the prosecution of political figures.



Trump Confirms Modi's Likely Visit to White House in February

Strengthening US-India Relations Through Leadership Diplomacy

US President Donald Trump has announced that Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi is expected to visit the White House for a meeting in February. This statement was made on Monday while President Trump was addressing reporters aboard Air Force One during his return to Joint Base Andrews from Florida.

"I had a long talk with him this morning. He is going to be coming to the White House, over next month, probably February. We have a very good relationship with India," Trump revealed, emphasizing the strong camaraderie between the two leaders.

When questioned about the details of his phone call with PM Modi earlier that morning, Trump stated, "Everything came up," highlighting the depth and breadth of their discussions.

Trump and Modi share a positive rapport, with previous collaborative efforts cementing their leadership dynamics. Modi's visit marks another chapter in deepening US-India ties through open



dialogue and diplomacy.

This prospective meeting comes as a follow-up to Trump's last foreign trip as President, which was to India.

President Trump and Prime Minister Modi have often been seen working closely, addressing large-scale public gatherings and fostering bilateral

initiatives. The potential February visit aims to continue the momentum of cooperation on economic, strategic, and regional security issues. As the international community watches these developments, the meeting is poised to further solidify the robust partnership between the two nations.

Serbian Prime Minister Resigns Amid Protests Over Train Station Collapse

TPN Correspondent | Belgrade

Serbian Prime Minister Milos Vucevic announced his resignation on Tuesday, following months of mass protests triggered by the fatal collapse of a train station roof in Novi Sad last November. Vucevic, addressing a press conference in Belgrade, called his decision irrevocable. "I had a long meeting with the president of Serbia this morning. We talked about this. We talked about everything, and he accepted my arguments," Vucevic said, emphasizing that his resignation was intended to ease tensions in society and prevent further complications. Vucevic's resignation comes after ongoing protests over the deadly train station disaster that killed 15 people. The collapse of the train station roof, following extensive renovations, became the flashpoint for widespread dissatisfaction with the government's handling of construction projects and concerns about corruption in the country's infrastructure sector. These protests reflected long-standing grievances about the lack of oversight on major projects and the



slow pace of accountability.

The tragic event in Novi Sad, which occurred during renovations at the station, ignited a wave of public outrage over the safety of public infrastructure and the alleged mismanagement of funds. Despite serving less than a year in office as prime minister, Vucevic's decision to resign is seen as an effort to defuse mounting pressure from both the public and political opposition. The resignation comes after growing discontent over corruption and lack of oversight on con-

struction projects in the country. Before becoming prime minister, Vucevic had served as the mayor of Novi Sad from 2012 to 2022, overseeing the very renovations at the train station where the disaster occurred. His resignation marks a significant moment in Serbia's political landscape, where calls for government accountability have been steadily growing.

The protests, which have been a regular occurrence since the collapse, highlight the broader issue of corruption and transparency in government projects. Citizens have demanded greater oversight and accountability for public safety, particularly in the wake of the tragic incident. Vucevic had been in office for less than a year, but his tenure was overshadowed by the disaster and the subsequent public backlash. Despite his resignation, the political and public pressures are unlikely to subside quickly, with many calling for deeper reforms and a commitment to addressing systemic issues in the country's infrastructure and governance.

DeepSeek AI sends Shockwaves through US Tech Firms

TPN Correspondent | China

On Monday, Chinese startup DeepSeek announced that it would temporarily limit registrations for its AI assistant due to a cyberattack. The disruption comes after the company's AI model became unexpectedly popular, climbing to the top of the Apple App Store's free applications list in the United States. The company also faced significant outages, marking its longest downtime in around 90 days, coinciding with its newfound popularity.



DeepSeek, which launched its free AI assistant on January 10, has garnered attention for offering a model that uses less data and costs significantly less than its competitors. Powered by the DeepSeek-V3, which its creators claim outperforms many open-source models and rivals advanced closed-source models, the AI assistant has quickly become a favorite among US users. According to Sensor Tower, app data research firm, the model's rapid rise reflects a significant shift in the AI landscape, challenging long-standing views on the dominance of US companies and the effectiveness of US export controls targeting China's tech industry.

The popularity of DeepSeek's AI assistant highlights a major breakthrough for the Hangzhou-based startup, founded in 2023. The company's success has led to discussions in the US tech industry about the effectiveness of export controls on Chinese AI models. DeepSeek's AI application has reportedly been trained using Nvidia's H800 chips, which cost the company under \$6 million, a relatively low expense compared to its US counterparts. While some have disputed these claims, the success of DeepSeek's model has prompted US tech executives to question whether export controls on AI-related chips are truly effective.

DeepSeek's rise also coincides with in-

creased scrutiny of US technology firms' reliance on advanced chips to power AI models. Despite the US government's expanded chip bans, DeepSeek's breakthrough has shown that Chinese companies can still develop competitive AI models with comparatively lower costs, undermining the US's control over AI capabilities.

Little is known about DeepSeek beyond its impressive technological achievements, but the company's ability to rival US AI models has left a significant mark on Silicon Valley, prompting US executives to reconsider their stance on China's technological advancements.

DeepSeek, a Chinese startup, temporarily limited registrations after its AI assistant surged in popularity and faced a cyberattack. The company's DeepSeek-V3 AI model has outperformed many open-source models, challenging US dominance in the AI field. The startup's ability to develop a competitive AI model using less powerful chips and at a lower cost has sparked debates about the effectiveness of US export controls on Chinese AI technologies.

Lana Del Rey Criticizes Selena Gomez Over Immigration Video

Controversy Follows Selena's Emotional Plea Amid Trump's Deportation Plans



TPN Correspondent | Washington DC

Selena Gomez's emotional video expressing her heartbreak over the deportation of illegal immigrants by US President Donald Trump sparked a divided reaction across the internet. In the video, which was later deleted from her Instagram Stories, Gomez tearfully apologized, saying, "I just wanted to say that I'm so sorry. All my people are getting attacked... the children. I don't understand. I'm so sorry, I wish I could do something but I can't. I don't know what to do. I'll try everything, I promise." Along with her heartfelt message, Selena also posted the Mexican flag alongside the words, "I'm sorry." While many fans showed support for Selena's display of empathy, others, including singer Lana Del Rey, publicly criticized her. Lana, who is a known supporter of Trump's "Make America Great Again" slogan, commented on the video, suggesting that Selena should "pack your bags and go back to Mexico. Take your abuela (grandmother) with you." This remark quickly gained traction online, adding fuel to the fire of debate over the issue.

The backlash Selena faced prompted her to post another Story, where she expressed frustration, saying, "Apparently it's not ok to show empathy for people," though this message was also deleted shortly afterward.

Selena has long been an advocate for immigration rights, using her platform to raise awareness about the challenges faced by undocumented individuals. In 2019, she produced a Netflix documentary titled *Living Undocumented*, which highlights the stories of eight undocumented families living in the United States under Trump's administration. The documentary showcases her ongoing commitment to shedding light on the struggles of immigrants.

Selena's personal connection to the issue is rooted in her own family history. In an interview with *TIME* magazine in October 2019, she shared how her aunt crossed the US-Mexico border in the 1970s, followed by her grandparents, a journey that has shaped her understanding of immigration issues.

- Selena Gomez's emotional plea about deportations divided the internet, with many supporting her, while others criticized her for her reaction.
- Lana Del Rey's harsh comment advising Selena to "go back to Mexico" sparked further controversy.
- Selena has been vocal about immigration issues, producing the 2019 Netflix documentary *Living Undocumented*, which highlights the struggles of undocumented families.



Trump Encourages Bidding War for TikTok as Microsoft Considers Acquisition

TPN Correspondent | Washington

US President Donald Trump revealed that Microsoft is in talks to acquire TikTok, urging for a bidding war over the popular social media app. This comes after a series of national security concerns raised about the app's Chinese owner, ByteDance. Despite these developments, Microsoft declined to comment, and both TikTok and ByteDance have not responded outside of regular business hours.

TikTok, with around 170 million users in the US, faced a brief outage before a law requiring ByteDance to sell the app or face a national ban took effect on January 19. President Trump signed an executive order on January 20, delaying the enforcement of this law for 75 days. He stated that he was in talks with multiple parties regarding the app's acquisition and anticipated making a decision within 30 days.

Trump previously indicated that he would be open to allowing billionaire Elon Musk to purchase TikTok. However, Musk has not commented on the offer, leaving speculation to linger. In the latest developments, AI startup Perplexity AI has reportedly proposed a merger with TikTok, with the US government potentially holding up to half of the newly formed company. This proposal adds another layer to the ongoing negotiations.

West Bengal Allocates Land for BSF Outpost in Nadia

Government Approves 0.9 Acres Amid Tensions Over Border Security



TPN Correspondent| Kolkata
The West Bengal cabinet has approved the allocation of 0.9 acres of land in Karimpur, Nadia district, to the Border Security Force (BSF). This move could lead to the establishment of outposts and the installation of wired fences, crucial for enhancing security along the India-Bangladesh border.

The decision follows a formal request from the BSF, which informed the state government of its land requirements for border security operations. The matter was discussed in detail during a cabinet meeting held at the state secretariat in Kolkata.

Approval for BSF Outpost: The land allocation in Nadia aims to bolster security in the region.

Political Tensions: Mamata Banerjee's allegations of infiltration fuel debates on border control.

The state government also addressed key personnel and infrastructure issues.

This move comes amid political tension over border security. West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee recently accused the BSF of allowing infiltration from Bangladesh, which has sparked sharp criticism from opposition leaders. Suwendu Adhikari, Leader of Opposition, denounced Baner-

jee's remarks, calling them disrespectful to the BSF and CAPF personnel. He also highlighted that the state's reluctance to approve land for the fence was delaying the construction of a 284 km long security barrier along the border.

The cabinet's decision not only concerns the land allocation but also encompasses the approval of the state assembly's budget session set to begin on February 10, with the budget presentation on February 12. Additionally, the cabinet authorized the filling of 60 vacancies in various government departments.

In recognition of the Bengal Santosh Trophy-winning football team's achievements, the government has decided to offer state police jobs to players facing recruitment barriers due to physical limitations. Furthermore, two new police stations will be set up for the Special Task Force (STF) in New Town and Siliguri, although no separate appointments will be made for these stations at the moment.

India Lodges Strong Protest After Sri Lankan Navy Firing Injures Fishermen

Two Indian Fishermen Seriously Injured During Apprehension Near Delft Island

TPN Correspondent| Delhi
India has lodged a strong protest with Sri Lanka following an incident of firing by the Sri Lankan Navy during the apprehension of 13 Indian fishermen near Delft Island on Tuesday. The fishermen were aboard a fishing vessel when the Sri Lankan Navy opened fire, injuring two of the fishermen seriously. According to the Indian Foreign Ministry, three other fishermen also sustained minor injuries. The injured fishermen are currently receiving treatment at the Jaffna Teaching Hospital, where Indian Consulate officials have visited to ensure their welfare and offer assistance to the affected individuals and their families. India condemned the use of force, emphasizing that issues related to fishermen must be treated in a humane and humanitarian manner. The incident has heightened tensions be-

tween the two countries, with India demanding that existing understandings regarding the treatment of fishermen be strictly observed.

The Sri Lankan Navy's account of the incident states that their personnel had been conducting a special operation to address what they claimed was illegal fishing by Indian boats in Sri Lankan waters. According to Sri Lanka, the Indian fishing vessel in question had been observed in Sri Lankan waters off Valvettithurai, Jaffna, and refused to comply with orders to leave. Sri Lanka

claims that the Indian fishermen behaved aggressively, attempting to assault naval personnel and even attempting to snatch a firearm from a naval officer, which led to an accidental discharge causing injuries to two fishermen. Sri Lanka's response to the incident, which they deemed an act of self-defense, has sparked further diplomatic tensions.

In retaliation to the incident, India summoned the Sri Lankan Acting High Commissioner in New Delhi, lodging a strong protest. The Indian High Commission in Colombo has also raised the matter with the Sri Lankan Ministry of Foreign Affairs. India has reiterated that the use of force in such situations is unacceptable under any circumstances and that the existing agreements between the two governments regarding fishermen's safety and livelihoods must be respected.



Maharashtra Government Freezes Toll for Atal Setu for Another Year

Commuters to Benefit as Toll Remains at ₹250 for the Next 12 Months



TPN Correspondent| Delhi
In a move welcomed by commuters, the Maharashtra government announced on Tuesday that the toll tax for the Atal Setu will remain unchanged at ₹250 for the next year. This decision was made during a state cabinet meeting, ensuring that the nearly 22-km-long sea bridge continues to offer affordable passage for those traveling between Mumbai and Navi Mumbai. The toll for the Atal Setu will remain at ₹250 for the next 12 months, providing relief to commuters. The bridge, which is India's longest sea bridge, plays a critical role in easing traffic between the two cities, especially with its recent inauguration by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on January 12, 2024. Constructed at a cost of approximately ₹17,840 crore, Atal Setu is expected to become a significant part of the region's transport infrastructure.

The bridge, which connects Sewri in Mumbai to Navi Mumbai, was designed to improve connectivity and reduce travel time across the Thane Creek. According to the Mumbai Metropolitan Region Development Authority (MMRDA), the Atal Setu has already become a sym-

bol of modern infrastructure, boasting safety and efficiency. Over the past year, the bridge facilitated the movement of over 83 million vehicles, marking its success in making travel smoother and faster. In just one year, Atal Setu has transformed the commuting experience for over eight million vehicles, significantly aiding in regional economic and social development. However, despite these positive outcomes, traffic on the bridge has been lower than expected, with an average daily traffic of fewer than 23,000 vehicles, compared to the initial projection of over 56,000 vehicles per day.

Since its inauguration, Atal Setu has seen remarkable usage, with a peak daily traffic count of 61,807 vehicles on January 14, 2024, right after it opened to the public. The bridge has already served millions of vehicles, including cars, mini-buses, trucks, and buses, contributing to smoother transit for commuters. With a total of 77.2 million cars, 99,660 mini-buses, and nearly 900 oversized vehicles using the bridge over the past year, its impact on local traffic cannot be overstated.

Bihar Farmers' Farmlands "Disappear" into the Indian Ocean Due to Technical Glitch



TPN Correspondent| Delhi
Thousands of farmers in Bihar's Ara district were left baffled when their farmlands were mistakenly recorded as being in the middle of the Indian Ocean. Affected farmers, who own over 45,000 plots, were shocked to see their farmland shifted to an entirely different location on government records.

This issue surfaced as the Bihar government's Agriculture Department embarked on a major digitization effort of agricultural land records through its Digital Crop Survey (DCS) app. The app was designed to provide accurate crop surveys and streamline agricultural data collection. However, due to a technical glitch, several plots in Bihar were wrongly registered as being located around 6,500 kilometers away in the Indian Ocean.

Technical Glitch in DCS App: The problem occurred during a digi-

tal crop survey in the Jangal Mahal panchayat of Jagdishpur block. The data for certain farmlands was mistakenly mapped to the Indian Ocean due to a glitch in the mobile phone settings used by survey personnel. The issue was traced back to the smartphones' settings, which led to the bizarre location error. Officials have since updated the settings, resolving the issue.

Impact on Over 45,000 Farmers: As a result of the glitch, records for over 45,000 farmlands were incorrectly listed as being located in the middle of the ocean, leaving farmers confused and concerned about the accuracy of their land documents. While the issue was corrected quickly, it raised questions about the reliability of digital tools used for land surveys and crop monitoring.

Purpose of Digital Crop Survey: The digital crop survey aims to map the crops sown across Bihar in different agricultural seasons, offering a detailed overview of crop patterns at the micro level. This will aid in policy implementation, crop insurance distribution, and marketing of produce. As of now, 1.15 lakh agricultural plots have been surveyed, with over 300 officials involved in the effort.

Ambani Applauds PM Modi's Energy Vision, Foresees India Becoming Third-Largest Economy



TPN Correspondent| Delhi
Reliance Industries Chairman Mukesh Ambani has expressed his strong belief in India's growth potential, forecasting that the country will become the third-largest economy in the world within the next few years. Speaking at the 12th convocation ceremony of Pandit Deendayal Energy University (PDEU) in Gandhinagar, Gujarat, Ambani praised Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision for energy self-reliance and sustainability, emphasizing that no force can hinder India's growth trajectory.

Ambani, who is also the Founder-President of PDEU, urged the university's graduating students to strive for higher goals. "While it's natural to feel proud of achievements, we must not rest on our laurels. We must aim higher, for India's best days are ahead," he said. He also emphasized the responsibility that comes with India's growth, calling for urgent action on the climate crisis and advocating for the acceleration of clean energy solutions.

Generative AI Drives Indian Enterprises Toward Enhanced Productivity

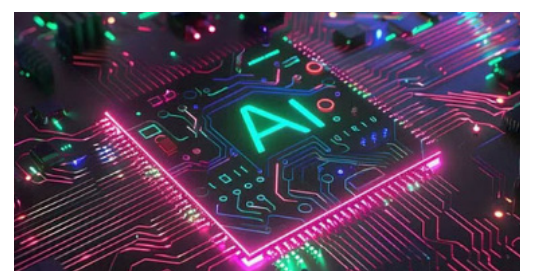
TPN Correspondent| Delhi
A survey by Ernst & Young revealed that 36% of Indian enterprises have allocated budgets and started investing in Generative AI (GenAI), while another 24% are experimenting with its potential. The innovation in GenAI has made significant strides globally, with India emerging as a key player in its adoption. The report, titled How much productivity can GenAI unlock in India? The Aidea of India: 2025, highlights that technology, life sciences, and financial services sectors are leading this transformation.

The E&Y survey noted that while AI implementation in production is still limited to 15% of enterprises, rapid advancements are making AI increasingly

scalable across various business functions. Companies are focusing on use cases in customer service, operations, and marketing. India's GenAI ecosystem, bolstered by reduced model costs and the development of Indic AI tools like Bhashini, shows great promise for catering to the unique needs of Indian businesses and professionals.

AI-powered tools for voice, regional language applications, and customer interactions are already transforming traditional working methods. The plummeting cost of AI models has made them more accessible to Indian enterprises. As these teething issues are resolved, AI and GenAI are expected to mainstream across departments, reshaping India's

professional landscape. Over one-third of Indian enterprises have initiated budgets for GenAI, with 24% in experimental phases. Indic LLMs and AI-powered regional tools are enhancing accessibility for diverse Indian users. AI advancements continue to lower costs, making adoption more viable for Indian businesses.



Implement UCC in Andhra, become first in South

We strongly urge the Andhra Pradesh Government to take immediate action in implementing the Uniform Civil Code (UCC) Act. By doing so, Andhra Pradesh has the opportunity to become the first southern state to adopt this significant legislation, thereby setting a powerful precedent for other states in the region to follow. The implementation of the UCC is not merely a legal obligation; it is a crucial step towards ensuring equality and justice for all citizens, regardless of their faith or background.

In this context, it is imperative that national interests are prioritized above local political considerations. The governance of our state should not be swayed by the potential electoral advantages or disadvantages that may arise from such a decision. Instead, the focus must remain on the broader implications for society as a whole, fostering unity and equality among all citizens.

Furthermore, we call upon our partners within the local National Democratic Alliance (NDA) to act decisively and with-



Dr. Buragadda Srinadh

out delay on this matter. It is essential that we present a united front in sup-

port of the UCC, demonstrating our commitment to the principles of justice and equality.

Granting privileges or special considerations based on faith and religion fundamentally contradicts the core principles of secularism and democracy that our nation upholds. The UCC aims to eliminate such disparities, ensuring that all individuals are treated equally under the law, irrespective of their religious beliefs. By implementing the UCC, Andhra Pradesh can lead the way in promoting a more inclusive and equitable society, reinforcing the values that are essential to our democratic framework.

In conclusion, we implore the Andhra Pradesh Government to take this bold step forward, embracing the Uniform Civil Code as a means to strengthen our commitment to equality, justice, and secularism. Let us work together to create a future where all citizens are treated with dignity and respect, free from the divisions that have historically plagued our society.



Forecasting Key Elements of Nirmala Sitharaman's Budget 2025

The Union Budget is one of the most anticipated events in India's fiscal calendar. It not only outlines the government's financial health but also provides insight into its future policy direction. The upcoming Budget 2025-2026, set to be presented by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on February 1, is expected to focus on key developmental programmes, policy reforms, and economic strategies to navigate the current challenges and promote growth.

The 2024-2025 Budget proposed a total expenditure of Rs 48.21 trillion, with expected revenues (both tax and non-tax) and non-debt capital receipts, including disinvestment proceeds, pegged at Rs 32.07 trillion. This left a fiscal deficit of Rs 16.13 trillion. Looking ahead to the 2025-2026 Budget, the government is expected to maintain a similar trajectory in terms of fiscal policy while introducing measures to improve revenue generation and fiscal management.

The gross tax receipts (GTRs) until November 2024 stood at Rs 22.61 trillion, reflecting a growth of 10.72%, aligning with the projections for the year. Specifically, the Goods and Services Tax (GST) growth of 9.1% and a slight contraction of 0.53% in corporate tax receipts indicate a mixed performance, impacted by macroeconomic factors and corporate sector dynamics. Given the ongoing trends, the government is likely to target Rs 28.41 trillion for net Centre's Tax Receipts (CTRs) for 2025-2026.

While the precise numbers will be revealed in the Budget, analysts predict that the government will continue to scale up ongoing flagship programs and announce new development initiatives aimed at spurring economic growth and addressing socio-economic challenges. Given the global uncertainties and domestic economic pressures, the Budget will also likely include measures to boost investment, job creation, and social welfare.

In terms of fiscal policy, the government is expected to take a cautious approach to ensure that revenue targets are met while managing inflationary pressures. The Budget may also prioritize key sectors such as infrastructure, healthcare, and education, along with digital economy initiatives and green energy projects, which have become increasingly important in the post-pandemic recovery phase.

The Budget 2025-2026, while maintaining continuity in fiscal policy, is likely to signal the government's commitment to long-term economic stability and sustainable growth, ensuring that India's recovery from the pandemic remains robust and inclusive.

The Rarest of Rare Doctrine and the Fate of Victims in India's Legal System



Justice Leila Seth, the first woman Chief Justice of the Delhi High Court, once poignantly remarked, "She is first raped, then she has to tell the story to the policeman. Then she has to tell the story to the judge, then she is cross-examined on it. She is raped over and over again." These words resonate deeply in the tragic case of a young junior doctor from RG Kar Medical College and Hospital, whose life was cruelly taken while performing her duties in a place that should have guaranteed her safety. Her murderer has been sentenced to life imprisonment, a sentence that some argue fails to match the severity of his crime. The Sessions Court in Sealdah deemed this case not to be one of the "rarest of rare," despite the brutal nature of the crime. Is the cost of a young life, taken so mer-

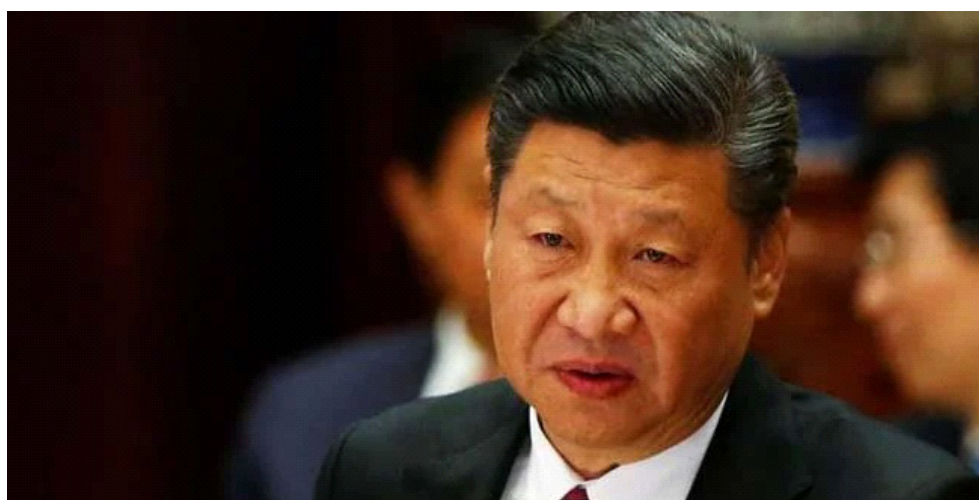
celessly, only worth a meager Rs 50,000 compensation to the victim's family?

India's legal system follows an adversarial model, which involves opposing parties presenting their case to a neutral judge or jury. This system differs from the inquisitorial model used in countries like France and Germany, where judges play an active role in investigating cases. In India, the burden of proof lies with the prosecution, and the accused has the right to silence. In sentencing, Indian courts follow key principles such as proportionality, deterrence, rehabilitation, and retribution, with the death penalty reserved for only the most extreme cases. The introduction of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (2023), which replaced the Indi-

an Penal Code (IPC), highlights a shift in legal frameworks, providing guidelines for serious offenses like murder and treason. However, capital punishment in India is only imposed in the rarest of rare cases, a doctrine established by the Supreme Court in 1980. The concept of "rarest of rare" was solidified in the Bachan Singh v. State of Punjab (1980) case, where the Supreme Court set forth criteria to determine when death penalty is appropriate. Factors such as the brutality of the crime, the offender's history, and the possibility of rehabilitation influence sentencing. Cases like Machhi Singh v. State of Punjab (1983), where the brutal slaughter of 17 family members was deemed beyond the scope of life imprisonment, led to the confirmation of the death penalty.

India-China Relations: Who's Shaping the Narrative?

India's Foreign Secretary, Vikram Misri, recently visited China for a two-day trip aimed at discussing the future of bilateral relations, which have been tense following a nearly four-year military standoff. Both countries have made moves toward normalizing ties, but the underlying issues are far from resolved.



The relationship between India and China soured significantly in 2020 when Beijing unilaterally attempted to alter the status quo along the Line of Actual Control (LAC), leading to casualties on both sides. India responded firmly, emphasizing that peace and stability along the border would define the broader relationship. As a result, a series of measures were enacted, including banning nearly 300 Chinese

mobile apps, halting direct flights, imposing strict visa restrictions, and reviewing educational cooperation. The focus shifted to safeguarding national security over economic or technologi-

cal engagements. However, since the disengagement in 2024, the focus has been on rebuilding the economic and people-to-people ties

that had been frozen for years. The Special Representatives (SRs) mechanism has been revived, aimed at resolving the border issue. Notably, pilgrimages to Kailash Mansarovar in Tibet will resume, and discussions on hydrological data sharing and transnational river cooperation are advancing. Plans to restart direct air services are also in the works, signaling a move toward economic and cultural revitalization.

Despite these positive developments, several concerns remain. The weaponry amassed along the border during the standoff has not been withdrawn, raising questions about China's long-term intentions. Indian military officials have cautioned that while the situation in Eastern Ladakh is stable, both sides remain in a "degree of standoff." Addi-

tionally, the creation of no-patrol zones and the ongoing presence of military forces indicate that full disengagement may not be complete.

Beyond the military concerns, China's actions in other domains continue to be troubling. Beijing has proposed carving out new counties in Xinjiang that include parts of Ladakh, and its ambitious hydropower projects on the Brahmaputra River in Tibet continue to raise alarms in India. Diplomatic protests have been lodged, but the strategic competition continues to simmer beneath the surface. China's narrative, shaped by its strategic class, seems to suggest that India's engagement with China is driven by vulnerability, with concerns about Chinese corporations hurting the Indian economy.

India's Electronics Manufacturing Shifts Focus to Component Production with EMS 2.0



ing incentive programs. The goal is to make India a more competitive destination for electronics manufacturing by promoting local production and reducing dependence on costly imports, which are often subject to tariffs and other barriers.

While India has made considerable progress in electronics assembly, particularly in mobile and consumer electronics, it still relies heavily on imports for component manufacturing and design. EMS 2.0 will address this gap by shifting the focus toward manufacturing components locally, thus enhancing India's capabilities in this critical area.

To support this shift, the government had previously launched the Scheme for Promotion of Manufacturing of Electronic Components and Semiconductors (SPECs), which offers a 25% upfront capital expenditure incentive to encourage investment in component manufacturing. However, both the PLI for Large-Scale Electronics Manufacturing and the SPECs scheme are approaching their deadlines, making the introduction of a new subsidy scheme vital for the future of component production.

EMS 2.0 is seen as a crucial step in India's ambition to become a global hub for electronics manufacturing, moving beyond assembly to a more robust and self-sustaining industry. This new phase will further enhance India's manufacturing capabilities, positioning the country as a key player in the global electronics market.

India is taking a significant step forward in its electronics manufacturing sector by advancing to the second phase of its electronics manufacturing journey, referred to as Electronics Manufacturing Services (EMS) 2.0. This phase will emphasize the actual manufacturing of electronic components, unlike EMS 1.0, which primarily focused on assembling these components.

According to a report by Phillip Capital, the Indian government is working on introducing a new Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme for electronic components. This new scheme aims to increase value addition in the sector to 35-40%, a significant jump from the current 18-20% under the ongoing electronics manufactur-

Industrialists Optimistic About India's Growth Ahead of Union Budget 2025-26

Ahead of the Union Budget 2025-26, a survey conducted by the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) has revealed that 64% of industrialists are optimistic about India's economic growth. The survey, conducted between late December 2024 and mid-January 2025, indicates that nearly 60% of the participants expect the GDP growth rate for 2025-26 to fall between 6.5% and 6.9%. While this represents a moderation from the robust 8% growth in 2023-24, it aligns with global economic challenges and persistent external headwinds.

Key takeaways from the survey include an expectation for the government to maintain its commitment to fiscal consolidation. Around 47% of participants believe the government will meet its fiscal deficit target of 4.9% for FY 2024-25, with 24% expecting even better results.

The survey also highlighted the importance of continuing public capital expenditure (capex) to sustain economic growth. 68% of respondents called for a significant focus on increasing capex, with many suggesting a 15% rise in allocation for FY 2025-26. This would help maintain the growth momentum and boost key infrastructure projects.



In addition to capex, over half of the respondents emphasized the need for further reforms to improve the ease of doing business in India, particularly in areas like land acquisition, labor laws, and power supply.

There was also a strong call for reforming the direct tax structure to increase disposable income and drive consumption. Industry members are advocating for simplification of the tax regime, incentivizing green technologies, and supporting MSMEs through measures such as

streamlined credit access and adoption of new technologies.

The focus for the upcoming budget remains on infrastructure, manufacturing, and agriculture, with an emphasis on increasing India's global competitiveness through improved logistics and continued support for exports. The Union Budget 2025-26 presents a crucial opportunity to further enhance India's economic resilience and solidify its position as a leading investment destination globally.

UPI's Growth in India: A Digital Payment Revolution



The Unified Payments Interface (UPI) has emerged as the dominant force in India's digital payment landscape, experiencing an extraordinary surge in adoption. According to the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) latest payment system report, UPI's share of digital payments has skyrocketed from 34% in 2019 to an impressive 83% in 2024. This represents a remarkable CAGR (Cumulative Average Growth Rate) of 74% over the past five years, underscoring the rapid acceptance and success of UPI as a payment solution.

During the same period, other traditional payment methods such as RTGS, NEFT, IMPS, credit cards, and debit cards saw a notable decline, with their combined share dropping from 66% to just 17%. The report attri-

butes UPI's meteoric rise to its ease of use and effectiveness in facilitating secure, real-time transactions.

In terms of transaction volume, UPI has seen exponential growth, with the number of transactions increasing from 375 crore in 2018 to 17,221 crore in 2024. Similarly, the total value of UPI transactions has soared from Rs 5.86 lakh crore in 2018 to Rs 246.83 lakh crore in 2024. These figures reflect a CAGR of 89.3% in volume and 86.5% in value, marking UPI as the key enabler of India's digital payments revolution.

One notable trend observed in the report is the shift in transaction types. While UPI's person-to-person (P2P) transactions still hold a higher value than person-to-merchant (P2M) transactions, P2M volumes overtook P2P in 2023. UPI Lite, a low-value transaction method introduced by Paytm and PhonePe, has also gained significant traction, recording 2.04 million daily transactions by December 2024.

India's explosive digital payment growth, spearheaded by UPI, has positioned the country as a global leader in digital financial solutions. The public-good approach of UPI holds valuable lessons for other nations, particularly in how to democratize digital payments and extend financial inclusion to previously underserved segments.

Markets Rebound Strongly as Banking and Auto Stocks Lead the Rally; Nifty Holds Above 23,000



Two days of consecutive losses have come to an end. Domestic stock markets gained heavily on Tuesday. Investors bought despite negative signals from global markets. Even though US and global tech stocks collapsed due to the impact of Chinese AI DeepSeek, our indices rebounded. The reason for this is that banking, finance, auto and realty stocks remained strong. After reaching daily highs, investors started taking profits, but the gains eventually declined slightly. Experts suggest that they should remain vigilant until the Donald Trump effect, the budget session and the US Fed meeting are over. The Nifty closed above the key support level of 23,000 is a positive.

The BSE Sensex opened at 75,659 on Tuesday. It touched an intraday low of 75,622. It reached an intraday high of 76,512. It finally closed at 75,901 with a gain of 535 points. The NSE Nifty, which opened at 22,960, reached a low of 22,852 and a high of 23,137. It gained a total of 128 points and closed at 22,957. The Nifty Bank rose 802 points and settled at 48,866.

In the Nifty50, 28 companies gained while 22 lost. Bajaj Finance, Axis Bank, Shriram Finance, Bajaj Finserv, HDFC Bank were the top gainers. Sun Pharma, Britannia, Hindalco, Grasim, Bharat Electronics lost the most. Today, realty, financial services, bank, auto, and service sector indices were in a state of turmoil. Capital Market, Pharma, IT and Media indices rose.

Despite the increase in benchmark indices, market breadth on NSE was more in favor of sellers. Out of a total of 2937 stocks traded, only 940 gained. 1920 lost. Shares of 6 companies reached 52-week highs. 538 shares reached 52-week lows.

UTI AMC's third-quarter results were disappointing. Net profit fell 18.9% to Rs 150 crore from Rs 185 crore. Suzlon Energy's net profit rose 90.6% to Rs 387 crore from Rs 203 crore. Colgate Palmolive's net profit fell 2.3% to Rs 330 crore from Rs 322 crore. The rupee weakened by 20 paise to settle at 86.53 against the dollar. Bharat Electricals bagged an order worth Rs 531 crore. JSW Infra's net profit rose 31.7% to Rs 329 crore from Rs 250 crore. Swiggy shares, which had fallen 15% in the last six sessions, reached the IPO price of Rs 390. Bajaj Housing's net interest income rose 25%. GE Shipping's profit rose 10.4% to Rs 538 crore from Rs 594 crore. CG Power Industries' net profit fell 68% to Rs 241 crore. Hindustan Zinc's net profit rose 30% to Rs 2650 crore.

1. Bajaj Finance

Bajaj Finance is one of India's leading diversified NBFCs, offering lending and asset management services. It specializes in consumer loans, SME loans, commercial lending, and rural financ-



ing. Bajaj Finance's consistent earnings growth, strong balance sheet, and high ROE (~24%) make it an excellent long-term investment. However, valuation is high, so consider staggered investments.

2. HDFC Bank



India's largest private-sector bank, known for its extensive retail and corporate banking portfolio. It benefits from a robust distribution network and a strong focus on digitalization. A blue-chip stock offering steady compounding returns. Its healthy capital adequacy ratio (~19%) and strong brand make it a safe long-term investment.

3. TVS Motor Company



TVS Motors is one of India's largest two-wheeler manufacturers, with a growing presence in international markets. It has a robust product lineup spanning motorcycles, scooters, and electric vehicles (EVs). Positive outlook due to EV growth and export demand. A good option for investors seeking growth in the automobile sector.

4. Tata Steel



Tata Steel is one of the largest steel producers in India, with operations spanning Europe, India, and Southeast Asia. It benefits from a diversified product mix and strong domestic demand. While cyclical, Tata Steel is a solid long-term bet due to its low-cost production and diversified operations. Investors should watch commodity price trends before investing.



5. Bharti Airtel

Bharti Airtel is a leading telecom operator in India, with a growing presence in Africa. It provides mobile, broadband, and enterprise services. A promising stock with long-term growth potential driven by rising data consumption, premium ARPU, and expanding 5G services. Suitable for investors with moderate risk tolerance.



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Tiger Urine for Sale in China: Controversy Surrounds Alleged Medicinal Claims

The sale of tiger urine at a popular wildlife zoo in China is sparking significant debate. Ya'an Bifengxia Wildlife Zoo, located in the Sichuan province, has been offering bottles of Siberian tiger urine, claiming it has therapeutic properties. According to a report by the *South China Morning Post*, each 250-gram bottle is sold for 50 yuan (approximately Rs 596). Despite no scientific evidence backing these claims, the zoo asserts that the tiger urine can help alleviate conditions such as rheumatoid arthritis, muscle pain, and sprains.



The zoo provides a guide with instructions on how to use the urine. The purported remedy involves mixing the urine with white wine and ginger, applying it to the affected area for relief. The zoo even suggests that the urine may be ingested, although it advises caution for individuals with allergies. However, questions remain about the safety and hygiene of this practice. A staff member at the zoo revealed that the urine is collected in a basin, but it remains unclear whether the substance is properly disinfected before being sold to customers.

While the sales of tiger urine are reportedly limited to an average of two bottles per day, the zoo's actions are raising concerns among animal rights advocates and the broader public. The zoo's previous use of tiger urine as a prize in a reality show back in 2014 has also drawn criticism for trivializing animal exploitation. Despite these controversies, the practice continues to attract attention from visitors eager to try what is marketed as a traditional remedy.

The sale of animal-derived products like tiger urine highlights ongoing debates around traditional medicine and animal conservation. Many experts argue that such practices may contribute to the illegal wildlife trade and harm endangered species like the Siberian tiger, which is already facing significant threats to its survival.

Food Products From Andaman And Nicobar Islands Get GI Recognition

In a landmark move to preserve India's cultural heritage and boost local economies, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, during the 118th episode of *Mann Ki Baat*, announced the grant of Geographical Indication (GI) tags to seven distinct food products from the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. Among the highlighted products, Nicobari Tavi-i-Ngaich Virgin Coconut Oil, Nicobar Coconut, and Andaman Karen Musley Rice were particularly praised for their unique benefits and cultural significance.



Nicobari Tavi-i-Ngaich Virgin Coconut Oil

This high-quality virgin coconut oil is made using traditional methods passed down by the Nicobarese people. It is celebrated for its numerous health benefits, including pain relief, skincare, and its high antioxidant properties. Additionally, its rich Medium-Chain Triglyceride (MCT) content supports fat burning, weight loss, and provides a quick energy boost. Unrefined, unbleached, and free of preservatives, this oil has now gained a GI tag, which confirms its authenticity and excellence, enhancing its chances for international recognition.

Andaman Karen Musley Rice

Grown by the Karen community in the Andaman Islands, Musley Rice is an organic, monocarpic variety cultivated using sustainable and traditional farming methods. This rice variety is ecologically and culturally significant, promoting food security while conserving biodiversity. The GI tag will help

boost the identity of Musley Rice, benefiting local farmers and improving their financial well-being while continuing to support eco-friendly agricultural practices.

Nicobar Coconut

Native to the Nicobar Islands, this coconut variety is renowned for its health benefits, including skincare, cardiovascular health, and rich fibre content. The coconuts are harvested by the Nicobarese people who hand-shred them and cold-press them to extract high-quality oil. The GI certification will help enhance the product's market recognition, especially since it forms the foundation for the highly popular Virgin Coconut Oil industry.

These products, now officially recognized by the Government of India with GI tags, will not only preserve the unique cultural identity of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands but also promote sustainable economic growth in the region.

82% of Children Aged 14-16 Know How to Use Smartphones: ASER Report



The Annual Status of Education Report (ASER) has revealed some significant insights into the use of smartphones and education trends among children in rural India. According to the 2024 ASER findings, over 82% of children aged 14 to 16 are familiar with using smartphones, but only 57% of them actively use the devices for educational purposes.

The report highlights a major improvement in the educational landscape since the pandemic, including a notable recovery from learning losses experienced during the COVID-19 crisis. Learning levels in primary classes are reportedly higher than before, and the percentage of children enrolled in Class 1 who are under-age has dropped to its lowest level ever at 16.7%.

Another key takeaway from the ASER 2023 findings is that the proportion of children aged 6 to 14 enrolled in government schools has nearly returned to the levels seen in 2018, signaling a steady recovery. However, the report also notes that the surge in government school enrollments seen during the pandemic has started to reverse in recent years.

Additionally, the ASER 2023 data points to a high rate of school enrollment among older children, with over 86.8% of youngsters aged 14 to 18 enrolled in educational institutions. More than half of these students have chosen the humanities stream, a trend that signals a shift in educational preferences.

What is ASER?

The Annual Status of Education Report (ASER) is a citizen-led household survey that provides insights into the schooling and learning status of children in rural India. First conducted in 2005, the survey has been a vital tool in tracking education trends, with a focus on enrollment, learning outcomes, and access to educational resources. It includes data on preschool and school enrollment for children aged 3 to 16, as well as assessments of foundational reading and arithmetic skills for children aged 5 to 16.

These findings help shape policies and initiatives aimed at improving education quality in rural areas of India.

NASA Study Reveals How Black Holes "Create Their Meals" Through Outbursts

A new study from NASA has uncovered a fascinating process through which black holes in galaxy clusters "create their meals" by cooling down surrounding gas. The research, led by Valeria Olivares from the University of Santiago de Chile, analyzed data from NASA's Chandra X-ray Observatory and the Very Large Telescope (VLT). It focuses on seven galaxy clusters, including the well-known Perseus and Centaurus clusters, where supermassive black holes reside at their centers.

These black holes, with masses ranging from millions to billions of times that of the Sun, play a crucial role in regulating the environment of their host galaxies. The study reveals that black holes cause internal outbursts that cool down the surrounding gas, leading to the formation of warm filaments. These filaments aid in the black holes' growth by drawing gas



toward their centers, where it serves as their "meal."

The study also highlights how turbulence in the surrounding gas boosts the triggering of these outbursts, setting off a cycle of repeated gas cooling and feeding. As the gas cools, it feeds the black holes, triggering another outburst and continuing the cycle. This process, as identified in the study, is fundamental to understanding the connection between the brightness of hot and warm gas filaments found at the

centers of galaxy clusters.

Astronomers have now identified, for the first time, a direct relationship between the brightness of hot and warm gas filaments, especially in areas with bright hot gas, which also show similar brightness in the warm gas. Interestingly, these filaments bear resemblance to the trailing structures seen in jellyfish galaxies, which shed gas while moving through space, creating similar patterns. This surprising link

suggests that a common cosmic process may govern both phenomena.

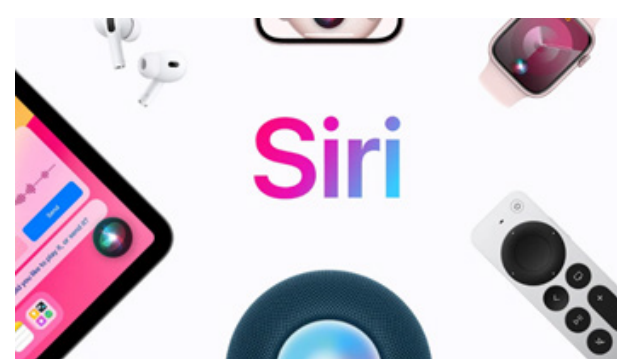
The research, published in *Nature Astronomy* on January 27, brings together a global team of experts in optical and X-ray observations, and was conducted using the MUSE (Multi Unit Spectroscopic Explorer) instrument on the VLT. This breakthrough could have profound implications for how we understand the behavior of supermassive black holes and their influence on galaxy formation.

iOS 18.4 Update to Bring Major Siri Upgrades and New Features

Apple's iOS 18.4 update is set to arrive by April, and it promises to bring significant upgrades, particularly to Siri, as well as new emojis and language support for Apple's suite of AI-powered tools. This new release follows the iOS 18.3 update and is expected to be one of the more substantial updates for iPhone users in recent months.

According to Bloomberg's Mark Gurman in his *Power On* newsletter, iOS 18.4 will feature a major overhaul of Siri, Apple's digital assistant. This update will enable Siri to tap into a user's personal data to provide more personalized and accurate responses. The digital assistant will reportedly be able to analyze data such as emails, messages, photos, calendar events, and files, tailoring its answers based on the individual's activities and information stored on their device.

Another noteworthy feature of the iOS



18.4 update is the introduction of upgraded App Intents software, which will allow users to have more precise control over their devices through voice commands. This enhancement aims to improve the overall user experience, making Siri even more powerful and responsive to individual needs.

In addition to these advancements in Apple's AI features, the iOS 18.4 update will also bring a range of new emojis. The up-

date is expected to include a new fingerprint emoji, a face with bags under the eyes, a harp, a root vegetable, a leafless tree, and various splatter emojis, adding more fun and expression to conversations.

Furthermore, iOS 18.4 will offer expanded language support for Apple Intelligence tools, making them accessible to more users around the world. New languages, including Chinese, English (India), English (Singapore), French, German, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Portuguese, Spanish, and Vietnamese, will be supported in the update, allowing more people to take advantage of these advanced AI features.

With these exciting updates, iOS 18.4 is shaping up to be an important release for Apple users, offering improved functionality and new ways to interact with their devices.

Virat Kohli Declines Delhi Captaincy, Returns to Ranji Trophy Action After 12 Years

Virat Kohli, one of India's greatest Test captains, is set to make his first domestic cricket appearance since 2012 in Delhi's final Ranji Trophy group match against Railways, starting Wednesday at the Arun Jaitley Stadium. Despite being offered the captaincy for the match, Kohli declined the role, allowing Ayush Badoni to continue leading the side.

Kohli last captained Delhi in the 2013 Challenger Trophy but has chosen to focus on contributing as a player in this game. His decision mirrors that of Rishabh Pant, who also declined captaincy duties earlier in the tournament. Pant, however, will miss this match to rest ahead of the upcoming white-ball season and the Champions Trophy.

The 36-year-old Kohli joined Delhi's training session on Tuesday after preparing under former India batting coach Sanjay Bangar in Ali- baug. Arriving at the stadium early, Kohli par-



ticipated in team drills, including a football warm-up session, before hitting the nets under the guidance of head coach Sarandeep Singh. This return comes amidst criticism of Kohli's recent form following a challenging series against New Zealand and Australia. However, his relaxed demeanor and determination during practice indicate his focus on regaining form in the red-ball format.

England Wins 3rd T20 Against India, Chasing Struggles for Team India

In the third T20 match of the five-match series, England defeated Team India by 26 runs at Rajkot. After losing the toss, England batted first and posted a total of 171/9 in their allotted 20 overs. India, in response, could only manage 145/9 in 20 overs, falling short of the target.

Hardik Pandya was the top scorer for India with 40 runs, followed by opener Abhishek Sharma with 24 and Tilak Varma with 18. Other notable contributions included Axar Patel (15) and captain Suryakumar Yadav (14). However, the rest of the batting line-up faltered, with Sanju Samson (3), Washington Sundar (6), and Dhruv Jurel (2) failing to deliver. England's bowlers were impressive, with Jamie



Overton taking 3 wickets, Jofra Archer and Brydon Carse picking up 2 wickets each, and Mark Wood and Adil Rashid claiming one wicket apiece.

This victory reduces India's series lead to 2-1. The fourth T20 match is scheduled for January 31 in Pune.

Padma Shri Para-Archer Harvinder Singh: "I Want to Take My Father and Wife to Rashtrapati Bhavan"

World No. 1 para-archer Harvinder Singh, renowned for consistently hitting the bullseye, has achieved another milestone—being conferred with the Padma Shri, India's fourth-highest



civilian award. This recognition holds historical significance as Singh becomes the first Indian para-archer to receive this prestigious honor. Recalling the moment he received the news, Singh shared, "I got a call from the ministry on January 25, informing me about the award. At first, I didn't tell anyone, as I wanted to be sure. By evening, congratulatory messages started pouring in, confirming it was true." Singh expressed his desire to take

both his wife, Manpreet Kaur, and father, Sardar Paramjeet Singh, to the Rashtrapati Bhavan for the award ceremony. "My wife said she wanted to accompany me, and when I told my father, he was overjoyed. I hope I can take them both—it makes them happy to see my achievements," he said with pride. Harvinder Singh's remarkable journey is a testament to his resilience and determination, inspiring many in the field of sports and beyond.

Shubhankar Sharma Calls International Series India a "Homecoming"

Indian golfer Shubhankar Sharma expressed excitement ahead of the US\$2 million International Series India, set to take place from January 30 to February 2 at the DLF Golf and Country Club in Gurugram. Sharma, a two-time Asian Tour winner, described the tournament as a "homecoming," highlighting the camaraderie and competitive spirit among Indian and international players. The tournament boasts a stellar lineup, including LIV Golf stars Bryson DeChambeau and Joaquin Niemann. However, Sharma remains wary of the challenge posed by fellow Indian golfers like Anirban Lahiri, Gaganjeet Bhullar, and veterans Jeev Milkha Singh, S.S.P. Chawrasia, and Shiv Kapur. Rising stars Yuvraj Sandhu and Karandeep Khochhar add depth to the field, making it a fiercely contested event.



Reflecting on his journey, Sharma praised the Asian Tour for shaping

his career, noting, "The Asian Tour has always been my home." He emphasized the growth of Indian golf and the increasing competition, attributing much of the progress to The International Series. Sharma concluded by expressing gratitude for the opportunity to compete on home soil, calling it "a great atmosphere" and a chance to connect with familiar faces.

Neymar and Al-Hilal Mutually Agree to Terminate Contract

Brazilian football star Neymar has parted ways with Al-Hilal after an injury-marred 18-month tenure. The Saudi Arabian club announced on Monday that they had mutually agreed to terminate his contract. "The club expresses its thanks and appreciation to Neymar for his contributions and wishes him success in his career," Al-Hilal said in a statement.

Neymar joined Al-Hilal in August 2023, reportedly earning \$104 million annually. However, injuries limited him to just seven appearances. Shortly

after arriving, he suffered a cruciate ligament rupture during a World Cup qualifier in October 2023, sidelining him for a year. Subsequent brief appearances in late 2024 were cut short by a hamstring injury.

Neymar, 32, remains focused on playing in the 2026 World Cup, describing it as his "last shot." Reports suggest Santos, his first club, may bring him back to Brazil, marking a potential end to his illustrious career, which includes a world-record transfer to PSG and 79 goals for Brazil in 127 matches.



Uzbek GM Yakubboev Clarifies Handshake Snub with India's Vaishali



Uzbekistan Grandmaster (GM) Nodirbek Yakubboev sparked controversy after refusing to shake hands with Indian chess player Vaishali Rameshbabu during the fourth round of the Challengers' section. The incident, captured on video, showed Vaishali extending her hand for a handshake, which Yakubboev declined, sitting down instead. The snub left Vaishali visibly uncomfortable and triggered criticism on social media. In response, Yakubboev issued a public apology and explained his actions on social media platform 'X'. "I do not touch women for religious reasons," he clarified, expressing respect for Vaishali and her brother, Indian chess prodigy R Praggnanandhaa. Yakubboev acknowledged his previous handshake with Indian GM Divya Deshmukh in 2023, calling it a mistake and reaffirming his commitment to his beliefs.

To avoid similar situations, Yakubboev informed Romania's Irina Bulmaga about his stance before their eighth-round match, agreeing to a "Namaste" gesture as a compromise. Yakubboev lost to Vaishali in their match but defeated Bulmaga later, securing four points from eight rounds. Vaishali is currently in sixth place with 4.5 points.

Trisha Gongadi's Record Century Powers India to Victory



TPN Correspondent

Hyderabad, Jan 29 : Telangana cricketer Gongadi Trisha made history in the ICC Women's Under-19 T20 World Cup by scoring an unbeaten century in just 53 balls against Scotland in a Super Six match on Tuesday. Trisha became the first woman cricketer to score a century in the Women's Under-19 World Cup.

In the match held in Malaysia, Scotland won the toss and elected to field. India's openers, Trisha and Kamalini, set the tone with an explosive start. By the end of the powerplay, India had reached 67-0, and the opening pair added a record-breaking 147 runs for the first wicket. Trisha finished with 110* off 59 balls, hitting 13 fours and 4 sixes. Kamalini also contributed with a solid 51 off 42 balls.

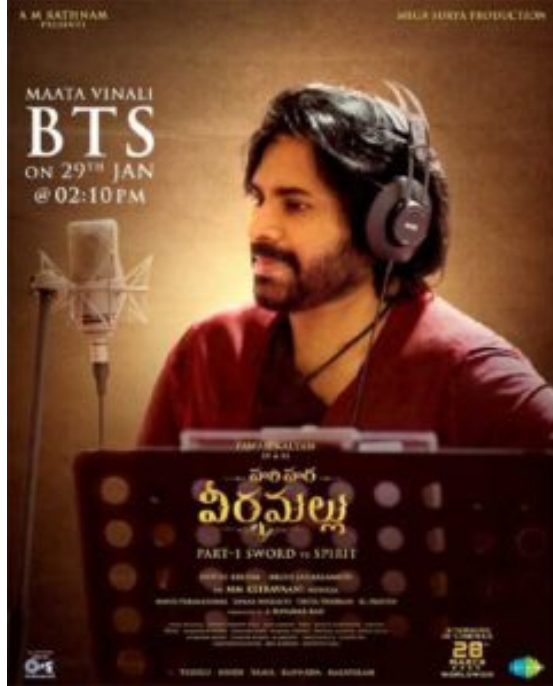
India posted an impressive total of 208/1 in 20 overs. Trisha didn't just shine with the bat; she also excelled with the ball, taking 3 wickets for just 6 runs. India's bowlers dominated as well, with Ayushi Shukla claiming 4 wickets for 8 runs and Vaishnavi Sharma taking 3 wickets for 5 runs. Scotland was bowled out for just 58 runs, giving India a comprehensive victory.



HHVM Team Announces Exciting Treat for Pawan Kalyan Fans

The Hari Hara Veera Mallu (HHVM) team is all set to treat Pawan Kalyan fans with an exciting new release! The much-anticipated first single of the movie, "Mata Vinali," sung by none other than Pawan Kalyan himself, has already made waves among fans who can't seem to get enough of it. Adding to the excitement, the team has now announced that they will be releasing a special behind-the-scenes video of the song's recording on January 29, 2025, at 02:10 PM.

The announcement came alongside a charming picture of Pawan Kalyan, captured in the midst of singing the track, which has only fueled fan excitement. This reveal is sure to give fans a unique glimpse into the making of the song and further amplify anticipation for the film.



The movie, a pan-Indian action-adventure, stars Nidhi Agerwal as the heroine, with Bollywood actor Bobby Deol playing a significant role. The film also boasts a stellar ensemble cast featuring Nasser, Sunil, Raghubabu, Subbaraju, and Nora Fatehi, all set to play pivotal characters.

Hari Hara Veera Mallu is produced by Mega Surya Production and is directed by the talented Krish Jagarlamudi and Jyoti Krishna. The film features music by MM

Keeravaani, known for his powerful compositions, which have already set the bar high for the movie's musical score.

Set to release on March 28, 2025, Hari Hara Veera Mallu is generating massive buzz, and with Pawan Kalyan's involvement in both acting and singing, fans are eagerly awaiting the film's release. This behind-the-scenes video promises to be an exclusive treat, making the wait for the movie even more exciting for PSPK fans.

Madras High Court Dismisses Netflix's Plea in Dhanush vs Nayanthara Copyright Dispute

In a significant legal development, the Madras High Court has dismissed Netflix India's plea to reject a copyright lawsuit filed by actor Dhanush against Nayanthara. The lawsuit stems from Nayanthara's use of a three-second film clip from Dhanush's production in her documentary, *Nayanthara: Beyond The Fairy Tale*, without his permission.

Dhanush, through his company Wunderber Films Private Limited, approached the court in November 2024. His suit claims that Nayanthara, her husband Vignesh Shivan, and their production house, Rowdy Pictures Private Limited, used visuals from the film *Naanum Rowdy Dhaan* in the Netflix original documentary. Dhanush's legal action came after he threatened to take legal steps if the footage was not removed within 24 hours. His legal team issued a statement demanding the removal of the infringing content and warned of seeking Rs 10 crore in damages if their request was ignored.

Nayanthara, in response, took to Instagram, expressing her disappointment over Dhanush's demand, calling it an "all-time low." She criticized the actor for seeking such a hefty sum over a few seconds of footage, a move that has sparked controversy.



As part of his petition, Dhanush also sought permission from the court to sue Los Gatos Production Services India LLP, a Mumbai-based company that handles Netflix's content investments in India. This petition is aimed at addressing the broader scope of content rights and ensuring that Dhanush's intellectual property is protected.

The court's dismissal of Netflix's plea has given Dhanush a legal victory, affirming the importance of intellectual property rights in the entertainment industry. This ongoing legal battle highlights the complexities surrounding the use of copyrighted content and the expectations of compensation for unauthorized usage.



Paayal Rajput Stuns in Pink Perfection with Her Latest Style Statement

Paayal Rajput is turning heads once again with her fashion-forward look, and this time, it's all about pink perfection! The actress was recently spotted in a jaw-dropping outfit that perfectly blended glam and playfulness. She wore a dazzling pink sequin crop top paired with a thigh-high slit skirt that hugged her curves in all the right ways. The ensemble was a visual treat, and Paayal looked every bit the fashion icon as she confidently strutted her stuff.

To complete the look, Paayal opted for silver accessories, including bold earrings and a matching necklace, which added a touch of sophistication to her outfit. She tied her hair into a sleek high bun, adding an extra layer of elegance to the chic ensemble. Her radiant smile and bold pink lipstick were the perfect finishing touches, ensuring all eyes were on her as she stepped out.

Paayal's style game is undeniably on point, and she continues to captivate fans with her fashion choices. Whether it's her playful yet glamorous outfits or her confident demeanor, she knows how to turn a simple look into a statement. The actress definitely knows how to paint the town pink, proving once again why she's a style star to watch.

On the professional front, Paayal is currently filming for the highly anticipated Telugu movie *Kirathaka*. Fans are eagerly awaiting her next big-screen appearance, as she continues to make waves both on and off-screen. With her impeccable sense of style and undeniable talent, Paayal Rajput is surely one to watch in the coming years.

Mahesh Babu, Jr NTR, and Hrithik Roshan in 'War 2': What's the Real Scoop?



Excitement is building up around the upcoming film *War 2*, directed by Ayan Mukerji, especially with rumors swirling about a star-studded lineup. The movie, a part of the YRF Spy Universe, features Bollywood icons Hrithik Roshan and Jr NTR, along with Kiara Advani playing the female lead. Set in the spy genre, *War 2* has already caught the attention of movie lovers, but some interesting rumors about Tollywood superstar Mahesh Babu have taken it up a notch.

Speculation has been running wild that Mahesh Babu will appear in *War 2*, creating a buzz among fans and media. However, insiders suggest that Mahesh Babu will not be acting in the film but rather lending his voice to the Telugu version. This marks a significant collaboration, as Mahesh Babu will provide his voice for the Telugu adaptation of the movie, while Bollywood actor Ranbir Kapoor is reportedly voicing the Hindi version. An official announcement confirming these details

is expected soon.

If these reports hold true, *War 2* will mark the second collaboration between Jr NTR and Mahesh Babu. The two stars previously worked together when Mahesh Babu provided a voice-over for Jr NTR's *Baadshah*, further adding to the excitement of this new project.

Meanwhile, the glimpses of *War 2* released by the makers have already gone viral, sparking curiosity about the film's plot and action sequences. Fans are eagerly awaiting the grand release, which is slated for August 14, 2025. As the sixth installment in the YRF Spy Universe, following successful films like *Ek Tha Tiger*, *Tiger Zinda Hai*, *War*, *Pathaan*, and *Tiger 3*, expectations are sky-high for *War 2* to deliver yet another blockbuster.

The buzz surrounding the film is only growing, with fans eagerly anticipating the twists, turns, and star power that *War 2* promises.