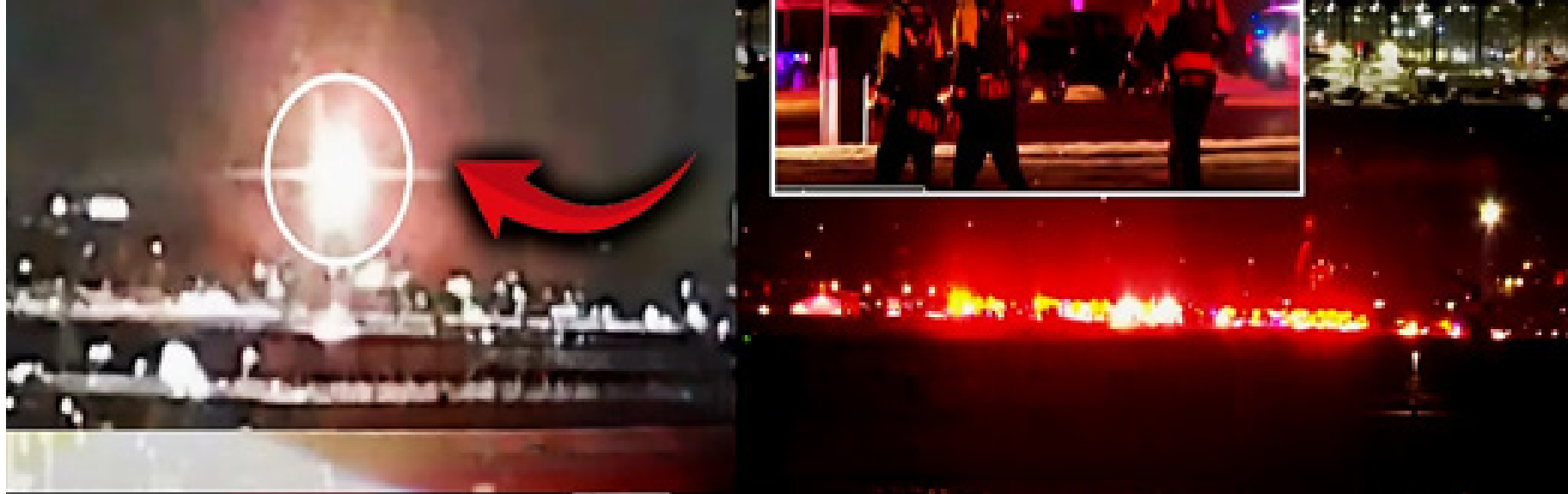


Weather Forecast
HYDERABAD TEMPERATURE H 29 C L 16 C
VIJAYAWADA TEMPERATURE H 30 C L 19 C
DELHI TEMPERATURE H 20 C L 10 C

Mid-Air Collision Near White House



- 28 bodies recovered; no survivors expected.
Black Hawk helicopter collided with a Bombardier CRJ jet.
CRJ jet is with 60 passengers and four crew members.
Air traffic control warned the helicopter moments before the collision.
Russian skaters Evgenia Shishkova and Vadim Naumov were among the victims.
Trump slams ATC, calls crash preventable.

TPN Correspondent | Washington DC
A midair collision between a US Army Black Hawk helicopter and a passenger jet near Washington DC has left no survivors...

local time as the Bombardier CRJ, operated by an American Airlines subsidiary, was approaching Reagan National Airport from Wichita, Kansas.

night sky. "I just saw a fireball and then it was gone," one voice was heard saying. President Donald Trump criticized the incident on social media...

senger jet would have had the right of way if cleared for landing. American Airlines, in a statement, expressed concern for those on board...

VVIP Passes Cancelled, No Vehicles..

Key Measures After Maha Kumbh Stampede



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Thousands Turning Up For Kohli's Ranji Trophy Return



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Delhi Assembly Election 2025

All About Harish Khurana, BJP's Moti Nagar Candidate



3 PAGE

Govt Calls All-Party Meet Ahead of Budget Session



TPN Correspondent | New Delhi
The government on Thursday convened an all-party meeting ahead of the Budget session of Parliament...

January 1. The first leg of the session will run until February 13, while the second phase will continue from March 10 to April 4.

Kejriwal Given Until 11 AM Friday to Clarify

What poison did the Haryana govt mix in Yamuna? Evidence on quantity, nature, and detection method of the poison. Exact location where it was found. Names of Delhi Jal Board engineers who detected it.



TPN Correspondent | New Delhi
The Election Commission of India (ECI) has directed AAP leader and former Delhi Chief Minister...

ter Arvind Kejriwal to submit a detailed response regarding his claim that the Haryana government was "mixing poison" in the Yamuna.

that failure to do so would result in further action without additional notice. The ECI has specifically asked Kejriwal to provide clarity on key aspects...

BJP Wins Chandigarh Mayor Election

BJP won with 19 votes against AAP-Congress' 17 Three councillors did cross-voting Polling was conducted under SC-appointed observer The election proceedings were videographed as per Court orders

TPN Correspondent | Chandigarh
BJP candidate Harpreet Kaur Babla won the Chandigarh mayoral election on Thursday, securing 19 votes against AAP's Prem Lata...



voting rights as an ex-officio member. Ahead of the election, the seat distribution stood at AAP (13), Congress (6), BJP (16), and one vote from the Congress MP.

three councillors engaged in cross-voting. The election was held through a secret ballot, with nominated councillor Ramneek Singh Bedi acting as the presiding officer.

Reacting to the ECI's notice, Kejriwal accused the commission of acting with political bias and ignoring alleged malpractices in Delhi. Speaking at a press conference on Wednesday...

Kejriwal Accuses EC of Political Bias



BJP Demands Kejriwal's Ban from Delhi Poll Campaign Over Yamuna 'Poisoning' Claim



TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has urged the Election Commission of India (ECI) to bar Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal from campaigning, accusing him of spreading misinformation about the Haryana government allegedly poi-

soning the Yamuna water supplied to Delhi.

A high-level BJP delegation, including Union ministers Nirmala Sitharaman, Bhupender Yadav, Delhi BJP chief Virendra Sachdeva, and Haryana CM Nayab Singh Saini, met the ECI to press for action against Kejriwal. They demanded

a retraction of his statement, an apology, and legal action, arguing that his remarks created unnecessary panic among Delhi residents.

Kejriwal had claimed on Monday that the BJP-led Haryana government was deliberately mixing poisonous ammonia in Yamuna water before sending it to Delhi. Responding to this, BJP spokesperson Sudhanshu Trivedi accused him of making baseless allegations to divert attention from AAP's failures.

Union Minister Sitharaman slammed Kejriwal's statement as "irresponsible and dangerous" to India's federal structure, questioning how a former CM could accuse another state government of an act "akin to genocide."

Haryana CM Saini also expressed his outrage, stating he was deeply insulted by Kejriwal's claim. The BJP, in its memorandum to the ECI, asserted that Kejriwal failed to provide any evidence, calling his remarks a violation of electoral laws.

The ECI has reportedly assured the BJP delegation of strict action.

Amrit Udyan to Open for Public from February 2



TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

Amrit Udyan at Rashtrapati Bhavan, formerly known as Mughal Gardens, will be open to the public from February 2 to March 30, 2025. The gardens will remain accessible six days a week, with Mondays reserved for maintenance. Known for its vibrant floral displays and serene landscape, Amrit Udyan is a popular destination for nature lovers and tourists who wish to experience a peaceful retreat in the heart of the capital.

The garden will be open from 10:00 AM to 6:00 PM, with the last entry allowed at 5:15 PM. Special arrangements have been made for different groups on select dates. March 26 has been reserved for differently-abled persons, March 27 for personnel from defence, paramilitary, and police forces, March 28 for women and tribal self-help groups, and March 29 for senior citizens. Entry to Amrit Udyan is free of cost, and visitors can either book slots online or opt for direct walk-ins. Online bookings can be made through the Rashtrapati Bhavan website, and each mobile number is allowed only one booking, with a maximum of 30 visitors per slot. Walk-in visitors must register at Gate No. 35 before entering. Those with online bookings must carry a digital visitor pass along with a government-issued ID.

All visitors will enter through Gate No. 35 on North Avenue

Road. They are required to arrive as per their designated time slots and must adhere to security guidelines. Mobile phones, wallets, handbags, baby bottles, and umbrellas are permitted inside the garden, while eatables, tobacco, cigarettes, backpacks, cameras, and arms are strictly prohibited.

Spanning 15 acres, Amrit Udyan is considered the soul of Rashtrapati Bhavan. It includes several themed sections such as the East Lawn, Central Lawn, Long Garden, and Circular Garden. Under the tenure of former Presidents Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam and Ram Nath Kovind, additional spaces like the Herbal Garden, Tactile Garden, Bonsai Garden, and Arogya Vanam were developed, further enhancing its appeal.

This year's edition will showcase a stunning variety of seasonal flowers, including Coleus, Celosia, and Tuberose, along with new landscape features. A special attraction will be the Bal Vatika, a dedicated space for children featuring a 225-year-old Sheesham tree, a treehouse, and Nature's Classroom. Visitors can also explore the Bonsai and Circular Gardens and relax at the food court while enjoying ongoing exhibitions.

With its breathtaking floral displays and rich history, Amrit Udyan promises a mesmerizing experience for visitors, making it a must-visit destination this spring.

AAP MP Swati Maliwal Detained for Dumping Garbage Outside Kejriwal's Residence



TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

AAP Rajya Sabha MP Swati Maliwal was detained on Thursday after she dumped three mini-truckloads of garbage outside the residence of former Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal in protest against the city's waste management issues. Earlier in the day, Maliwal visited Vikaspuri, where she claimed that the streets were filled with garbage, posing severe health hazards to residents. She,

along with a group of supporters, collected the waste and transported it in three mini trucks to Kejriwal's residence at 5, Ferozeshah Road.

Accompanied by hundreds of women carrying placards that read, "Muskuraiye, AAP Delhi Mein Hain," Maliwal personally used a shovel to dump garbage outside Kejriwal's house. Shortly after, she was confronted by female police personnel, removed from the site, and taken into custody at the Parliament Street Police Station.

Maliwal was released after a few hours, but an FIR was registered against her under Section 188 of the IPC for violating prohibitory orders. Speaking to reporters after her release, she criticized Kejriwal for failing to address Delhi's worsening sanitation crisis. "For the past ten years, Arvind Kejriwal has ensured that Delhi

becomes a giant garbage dump. Roads are broken, drains are overflowing, and waste is piling up everywhere. Women and children are forced to live in unhygienic conditions, and yet the government does nothing," she said.

Earlier, Maliwal had posted a video on X, showing her collecting garbage in Vikaspuri and announcing her plan to dump it outside Kejriwal's house. "The filth and stink that Delhiites face daily will be faced by Kejriwal ji today," she wrote.

Maliwal's protest comes amid her strained relationship with AAP and Kejriwal. Last year, she accused Kejriwal's personal secretary of misbehaving with her at his residence, a case that is currently under trial.

AAP Leader Naresh Balyan Denied Custody Parole by Delhi Court



TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

In a significant development, the Delhi High court has refused to grant custody parole to Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leader Naresh Balyan. Justice Vikas Mahajan, who presided over the case, rejected Balyan's plea after careful consideration of the arguments presented by both sides.

Balyan, who was arrested by the Delhi Police on December 4, 2024, under the stringent Maharashtra Control of Organised Crime Act (MCOCA), sought custody parole through his legal representative, MS Khan. His counsel, citing a relevant Supreme Court order in a similar case involving Tahir Hussain, emphasized the urgency of the matter, though it was noted that Balyan had not filed any nomination papers for the upcoming Delhi state assembly

elections, which would have potentially strengthened the case for immediate consideration. Special Public Prosecutor Amit Prasad strongly opposed the parole request and the prosecution's arguments appeared to carry significant weight in the court's final decision.

This ruling comes at a crucial time and highlights the judiciary's careful approach in handling cases under MCOCA. The court's decision demonstrates its commitment to maintaining legal precedents while ensuring justice is served in accordance with established procedures. The case continues to draw attention from political circles and legal experts, as it involves a prominent AAP leader and raises questions about the application of MCOCA in political cases.

AAP's Saurabh Bharadwaj Challenges Haryana CM to Drink Water from Drain No. 6



TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

Delhi Minister and AAP candidate from

Greater Kailash, Saurabh Bharadwaj, has challenged Haryana Chief Minister

Nayab Singh Saini to drink water from drain number 6, which he claims is releasing toxic industrial waste into the Yamuna River.

Bharadwaj criticized Saini's recent move of sipping Yamuna water to counter Arvind Kejriwal's allegations that Haryana had "poisoned" Delhi's water supply. He offered to provide Saini with a liter of water from the drain, urging him to drink it to prove its safety.

"Haryana CM Nayab Singh Saini should come to drain number 6. I will give him 1 liter of water from that drain. He should drink it and show the people," Bharadwaj said.

This challenge follows Saini's visit to Yamuna's banks in Delhi's Palla village, where he drank river water and dismissed Kejriwal's remarks as fear-mongering for political gain.

Fire Breaks Out at Maha Kumbh, 15 Tents Burnt; No Casualties Reported

TPN Correspondent | Prayagraj

A fire broke out near Chamanganj Chowki, outside Sector 22 of the Maha Kumbh Mela area on Thursday, destroying at least 15 tents. Officials confirmed that the blaze was swiftly brought under control, and no casualties were reported. Chief Fire Officer (Kumbh) Pramod Sharma stated that authorities received information about the fire in the afternoon. However, due to the lack of proper road access, fire engines faced difficulty reaching the site. Despite this challenge,

fire personnel managed to douse the flames, preventing further damage. According to Sharma, preliminary in-



vestigations suggest that the affected tents were unauthorized structures. "The cause of the fire is still being investigated. Fortunately, there was no loss of life or injuries," he added.

The Maha Kumbh Mela, one of the largest religious gatherings in the world, attracts millions of devotees, making safety measures a top priority for officials. Authorities have urged vigilance to prevent similar incidents during the ongoing event.

Delhi Assembly Election 2025

All About Harish Khurana, BJP's Moti Nagar Candidate



TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has nominated Harish Khurana, son of former Delhi Chief Minister Madan Lal Khurana, as its candidate for the Moti Nagar constituency in the upcoming Delhi Assembly election. He will be contesting against Aam Aadmi Party's (AAP) Shiv Charan Goel, a two-time MLA from

the seat, and Congress' Rajendra Namdhari.

Delhi will vote in a single phase on February 5, with counting scheduled for February 8.

Harish Khurana, son of veteran BJP leader Madan Lal Khurana, comes from a strong political background. His father served as the Chief Minister of Delhi from 1993 to 1996 and represented the Moti Nagar constituency in both 1993 and 2003. Harish Khurana, who completed his education at DAV Public School in Sahibabad and Ramjas College, Delhi University, was actively involved in student politics through the Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP), the BJP's student wing.

Currently serving as a secretary in the Delhi BJP, Khurana has held multiple roles within the party, including as the convenor of the public relations cell and a spokesperson for the Delhi unit. He has expressed his commitment to reviving the legacy of his father's work in Moti

Nagar, which he believes has been neglected over the years. The BJP last won the seat in 2013 when Subhash Sachdeva defeated AAP's Kuldeep Singh Channa. Since 2015, the constituency has been held by AAP's Shiv Charan Goel, who secured a victory by over 14,000 votes in the 2020 election.

In 2019, Harish Khurana was summoned by a Delhi trial court in a defamation case filed by then Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia. Sisodia accused Khurana, along with BJP leaders Hans Raj Hans, Manoj Tiwari, and Pravesh Sahib Singh Verma, of making corruption allegations regarding Delhi government schools to damage his reputation. However, in January 2023, the Delhi High Court stayed proceedings against Khurana in the case.

With strong political lineage and experience in the party's state leadership, Khurana aims to make a significant impact in the upcoming election, seeking to reclaim the Moti Nagar seat for the BJP.

Ahead Of Polls, Police At Bhagwant Mann's Delhi Home, AAP Cries Foul



TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

A team of Delhi Police and Election Commission officials conducted a search at Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann's residence in Delhi on Thursday evening, following a complaint of alleged money distribution ahead of the upcoming Delhi Assembly election. The move sparked a sharp reaction from the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), which accused the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) of using state agencies to target its leaders.

The operation took place at Kapurthala House, near Connaught Place, where the police and election officials were reportedly kept waiting outside for nearly 90 minutes before being allowed entry. Sources stated that the team was video-recording the search as part of standard procedures.

Election Commission's Complaint and Police Action

The search was initiated after a complaint was registered on the Election Commission's cVIGIL mobile app, which allows citizens to report election-related violations in real time. The Returning Officer for the New Delhi constituency, OP Pandey, confirmed the complaint, stating, "We have to dispose of the complaint within 100 minutes. Our team had arrived at the location but was initially not allowed entry. I personally came to request access along with a cameraperson."

Visuals from outside Kapurthala House showed uniformed security personnel, some carrying assault rifles, stationed at the main gate as officials attempted to gain entry.

AAP's Furious Response

Reacting strongly to the search, Bhagwant Mann took to social media, alleging political vendetta. "Today, an Election Commission team accompanied by Delhi Police came to raid my house... Kapurthala House in Delhi. BJP leaders are openly distributing money in Delhi, yet the police and Election Commission are turning a blind eye. No action is taken against them, but instead, they are defaming Punjabis at the BJP's behest," he wrote.

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal also questioned the timing of the operation. "I don't understand this... it is BJP leaders who are distributing cash and other items, but the raid is being conducted on the Punjab Chief Min-

ister," he told reporters.

AAP leader and Delhi Minister Atishi accused the Election Commission of selectively targeting AAP while ignoring similar allegations against the BJP. She referred to a complaint filed earlier in the day regarding the alleged distribution of cash and liquor in her Kalkaji constituency. "BJP workers are openly distributing money and liquor, yet no action is taken. But when a false complaint is filed, the Election Commission rushes to raid Bhagwant Mann's residence," she alleged.

She further claimed that a resident in her constituency was threatened by individuals carrying firearms, who were seen roaming with a Delhi Police constable. "BJP people distribute money and even shoes in broad daylight, but that is not visible. Instead, they raid the residence of an elected Chief Minister. Wow, BJP! Delhi will give its answer on February 5," she posted online.

Mystery Over Seized 'Punjab Government' Car

The exact nature of the complaint against Mann remains unclear, but reports indicate a possible link to a recent seizure outside Punjab Bhavan on Copernicus Marg. Delhi Police reportedly confiscated a car allegedly containing Rs 8 lakh in cash, liquor, and AAP pamphlets.

The vehicle had a 'Government of Punjab' sticker, raising questions about its ownership. However, the Punjab government denied any links to the car. Further confusion arose as reports indicated that the number plate of the seized vehicle matched a Ford EcoSport used by the Punjab government, while the impounded car was a Hyundai Creta. Delhi Police have registered a case and are investigating the matter.

Tense Political Climate Ahead of Delhi Polls

The search at Mann's residence comes just days before the crucial Delhi Assembly elections on February 5. The AAP is seeking a third consecutive term after sweeping the 2015 and 2020 elections, where it secured 67 and 62 seats, respectively, out of 70. However, this time, the contest is expected to be more intense, with the BJP looking to capitalize on multiple issues, including the arrest of several AAP leaders in various cases.

AAP and BJP have been at loggerheads over a range of matters, including allegations by AAP that the BJP-led Haryana government had "poisoned" the Yamuna River water being supplied to Delhi. The latest controversy surrounding the raid is likely to further escalate tensions as both parties gear up for the high-stakes election.

Swara Bhaskar's X Account Permanently Suspended

TPN Correspondent | Mumbai

Bollywood actress Swara Bhaskar's X (formerly Twitter) account has been permanently suspended over alleged copyright violations linked to two images. The actress, known for her outspoken political views, called the decision "ridiculous and untenable."

Sharing the news on Instagram, Bhaskar revealed that the suspension was triggered by a copyright claim on two posts. One of the images featured a protest slogan in Hindi: "Gandhi, we are ashamed; your killers are still alive." The second was a photograph of her own child waving



ing the Indian flag on Republic Day, with the child's face concealed.

Bhaskar questioned how these images could be considered copyright violations and suggested that mass reporting may have led to her account's suspension. "If these tweets have been mass reported, it is an effort to harass me and suppress my freedom of speech," she stated, urging X to review the decision.

The actress has frequently faced online backlash due to her political opinions. However, she remains vocal on various social and political issues, often engaging in debates on digital platforms.

Out At 6 AM, Back At 6 PM: Ex AAP Leader's 6-Day Parole For Delhi Polls



TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

The Supreme Court has granted six-day

parole to Tahir Hussain, an accused in the 2020 Delhi riots case and AIMIM's candidate from Mustafabad, allowing him to campaign for the upcoming elections.

Hussain will be released each morning and returned to Tihar Jail by evening from January 29 to February 3. He must pay ₹2 lakh per day in advance for security arrangements while on parole.

A former AAP councillor, Hussain was expelled from the party after being accused of involvement in the riots and the murder of Intelligence Bureau official Ankit Sharma. He later joined AIMIM. He also faces charges of rioting and conspiracy.

The court has restricted him from visit-

ing his home in Karawal Nagar or making statements related to the case but has permitted him to visit the AIMIM office. A three-judge bench clarified that this relief cannot be cited as a precedent. Earlier, Additional Solicitor General SV Raju had opposed the parole, arguing it could set a precedent for other prisoners to contest elections for temporary release. A split verdict by a two-judge bench last week had led to the case being referred to a larger bench.

Hussain is contesting from Mustafabad against AAP's Adeel Ahmed Khan, BJP's Mohan Singh Bisht, and Congress's Ali Mehndi. The seat was won by AAP's Haji Yunus in the last election.

Kejriwal Takes a Jibe on Future of INDIA Bloc

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

AAP leader Arvind Kejriwal on Thursday addressed key issues surrounding the Delhi Assembly elections, including his party's ties with the Congress and the INDIA bloc's future. Responding to questions on his alliance with Congress, Kejriwal dismissed any long-term commitment, making a sharp remark: "Mera bhavishya meri biwi ke saath hai, maine Rahul Gandhi ji se koi shaadi nahi ki hai (My future is with my wife. I have not married Rahul Gandhi)." Kejriwal's comments came during an exclusive interview with ABP News, where he emphasized that political alliances are formed and broken as per circumstances. Asked about Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's recent attacks on AAP, he suggested that Gandhi might have certain "compul-

sions" compelling him to adopt BJP's narrative against AAP.

The Congress scion has recently criticized Kejriwal, calling him the "architect of the liquor scam" and attacking his "sheeshmahal" lifestyle. Gandhi also dismissed Kejriwal's claim about Yamuna's contamination, reminding voters that the AAP leader had failed to fulfill his own promise of drinking the river's water.

Amid the rift, Kejriwal praised INDIA bloc allies like Akhilesh Yadav and Mamata Banerjee for standing with AAP. Notably, Akhilesh Yadav even joined AAP's election campaign in Delhi on Thursday. Kejriwal also warned that if BJP comes to power, it would dismantle AAP's welfare schemes, including free electricity, free bus rides for women, mohalla clinics, and government schools.

Sandeep Dikshit Challenges Kejriwal for Open Debate at Jantar Mantar

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

With the Delhi Assembly elections approaching, Congress leader Sandeep Dikshit has thrown an open challenge to former Chief Minister and AAP chief Arvind Kejriwal for a debate on governance and development claims. Dikshit, who is contesting against Kejriwal from the New Delhi Assembly constituency, has invited him for a face-off at Jantar Mantar on Friday between 2 pm and 3 pm.

In a letter addressed to Kejriwal, Dikshit questioned the AAP leader's claims regarding his tenure as Delhi's CM and as the MLA from New Delhi. He asserted that his analysis of government data has revealed

that many of Kejriwal's statements are either exaggerated or entirely false.

"I was hoping that as the (former) chief minister of Delhi, you would respond to these questions on your own or in any public appearance where we could come together on a common platform," Dikshit stated. He also claimed

that he had challenged Kejriwal to similar debates multiple times in the past but had received no response.

Highlighting the need for factual accuracy, Dikshit urged Kejriwal to come prepared with data to support his claims. "I shall use your own government's documents to show whether you are right or wrong. The only rule in this debate shall be that every point made and every counterpoint must be based on factual, reliable data," he added.

With polling set for February 5 and results scheduled for February 8, this challenge adds another layer of intensity to the high-stakes electoral battle in the national capital.



RG Kar rape-murder victim's parents withdraw plea for fresh investigate

West Bengal BJP Chief Alleges Evidence Tampering, Vows to Meet Family

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

BJP's West Bengal president Sukanta Majumdar on Wednesday strongly condemned the alleged mistreatment of the victim's family in the RG Kar rape-murder case in Kolkata. He accused the Kolkata police of mishandling the initial investigation and vowed to visit the victim's family to express his solidarity.

"It is shameful to malign the family. That is why I will go to their house and meet them... For five days, when Kolkata police were investigating the case, evidence was destroyed, preventing justice from being served," Majumdar said.

Meanwhile, the victim's parents withdrew their plea from the Supreme Court seeking a fresh investigation into the case. The Court, after reviewing the submissions, advised Senior Advocate Karuna Nundy to withdraw the application and file a new one if necessary, as the original plea had been filed before the trial and conviction.

The case saw a major development on January 20 when a Sealdah Civil and Criminal Court convicted and sentenced Sanjoy Roy to life imprisonment for the rape and murder. However, the verdict has sparked an outcry among doctors and medical workers, who are calling for the death penalty. There are also growing demands



- Majumdar alleges crucial evidence was destroyed in the first five days of the probe
- Victim's parents withdraw their Supreme Court plea seeking reinvestigation
- Doctors and medical workers demand the death penalty for the convict

for a reinvestigation, citing concerns over the way evidence was handled during the initial probe.

As legal battles continue, the political storm surrounding the case intensifies, with BJP leaders questioning the ruling party's role in ensuring justice.



ED Attaches ₹1.45 Lakh Crore Worth of Assets Under PMLA

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has attached assets worth ₹1.45 lakh crore under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) till date, with ₹21,370 crore seized in the first nine months of FY 2024-25 alone. The federal agency, which has ramped up its crackdown on financial crimes in the last decade, has also facilitated the restitution of ₹22,737 crore in attached assets to banks and victims.

Since Prime Minister Narendra Modi took office in 2014, the ED has significantly increased its actions against money laundering, attaching assets worth ₹1.19 lakh crore in the last decade. The agency has pursued major economic offenders such as Vijay Mallya, Nirav Modi, and Mehul Choksi, recovering funds linked to high-profile financial fraud cases.

Apart from PMLA, the ED also operates under the Fugitive Economic Offenders Act (FEOA) and the Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA). Enacted in 2018, FEOA targets individuals charged with high-value economic frauds who flee the country to escape legal proceedings. To date, 23 FEOA applications have been filed, with 13 individuals declared fugitive economic offenders. The Financial Action Task Force (FATF), a global anti-money laundering watchdog, recognized India's strong compliance with counter-money laundering and terror financing standards in June last year, further reinforcing the country's efforts in combating financial crimes.

Manipur Govt Orders Major Reshuffle of 70 Officers After New Governor Takes Charge

TPN Correspondent | Manipur

The Manipur government on Tuesday carried out a major bureaucratic reshuffle, transferring a total of 70 officers, including 60 from administrative services and 10 from police services. The move comes just days after Ajay Kumar Bhalla, a former Union Home Secretary, took charge as the state's new governor.

Among the significant changes, senior IAS officer Paudunthang Vaiphei has been appointed as Additional Chief Secretary and Director General of the State Academy of Training (SAT), while IAS officer Arurak Bajpai will now serve as Additional Chief Secretary for Textiles, Commerce, and Industries alongside his existing role as Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (PCCF).



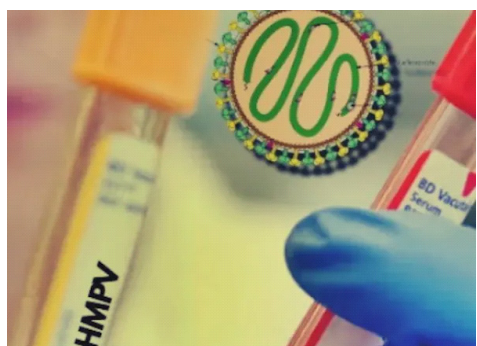
The reshuffling is expected to bring administrative efficiency and reinforce governance in the state amid ongoing political and security challenges. These changes will remain in force until further notice, ensuring a streamlined approach under the leadership of Governor Bhalla.

Gujarat Reports Eighth Case of Human Metapneumovirus in Ahmedabad

TPN Correspondent | Ahmedabad

A 4-year-old boy from Ahmedabad has tested positive for human metapneumovirus (HMPV), raising the number of cases in Gujarat to eight, health officials confirmed on Thursday. The child, from the Gota area, is currently undergoing treatment at a trust-run hospital in the city, and his condition is reported to be stable.

The child was admitted to SGVP Hospital on January 28 after experiencing fever and a persistent cough. A test conducted the same day confirmed that he was infected with HMPV. According to Bhavin Solanki, the medical officer from Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation, the boy has no history of recent foreign travel, indicating that the virus was contracted locally.



Before this case, Ahmedabad had already recorded six instances of HMPV, with three patients coming from other regions but seeking treatment in the city. All six previous patients have since been discharged following full recovery.

With the addition of this new case, Gujarat now has eight confirmed HMPV cases, with seven in Ahmedabad and one in Sabarkantha district.

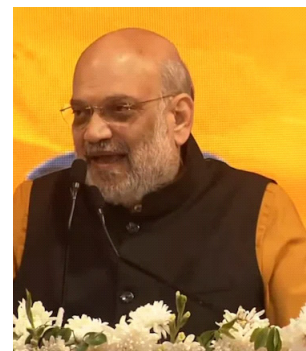
HMPV, discovered in 2001, is a virus belonging to the Paramyxoviridae family and is closely related to the Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV). The symptoms of HMPV include cough, fever, nasal congestion, and shortness of breath, and it primarily spreads through respiratory droplets when an infected person coughs or sneezes. It can also spread through touching contaminated surfaces or direct contact with infected individuals.

Amit Shah-Led Committee Approves ₹3,027.86 Crore for Disaster Mitigation

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

A High-Level Committee (HLC), chaired by Union Home Minister Amit Shah, has sanctioned ₹3,027.86 crore for disaster mitigation projects across several states. This funding, drawn from the National Disaster Mitigation Fund (NDMF), is aimed at addressing drought, lightning, and forest fire risks. The committee includes Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan, and the Vice Chairman of NITI Aayog. ₹2,022.16 crore allocated for drought-prone districts across 12 states ₹186.78 crore earmarked for lightning safety projects in 10 states.

₹18.92 crore approved for forest fire risk management in 144 districts. The 12 drought-affected states—Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Gujarat, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, and Uttar Pradesh—will receive catalytic assistance, with the central government contributing ₹1,200 crore. The lightning mitigation initiative covers Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Meghalaya, Odisha, Uttar Pradesh, and West Bengal.



A comprehensive forest fire risk management scheme has also been sanctioned for 19 states, including Himachal Pradesh, Kerala, Mizoram, Nagaland, and Uttarakhand, with the goal of transforming India's approach to forest fire prevention and response. These efforts align with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision for a disaster-resilient India. The government has significantly bolstered disaster risk reduction mechanisms, with prior approvals including ₹3,075.65 crore for urban flood mitigation, ₹150 crore for glacial lake outburst floods (GLOF) management, and ₹1,000 crore for landslide mitigation in 15 states.

Supreme Court PIL Seeks Reforms After Maha Kumbh Stampede

Advocate Petitions Court for Coordinated Crowd Management Efforts

TPN Correspondent | Mahakumbh

A public interest litigation (PIL) was filed in the Supreme Court on Thursday, alleging administrative failures by the Uttar Pradesh government over the recent Maha Kumbh stampede that claimed at least 30 lives and injured over 60 devotees. The petitioner, advocate Vishal Tiwari, has urged the court to direct state governments to collaborate on enhanced safety measures for religious gatherings.

Tiwari mentioned his plea before Chief Justice of India Sanjiv Khanna, requesting an urgent hearing. The CJ instructed him to submit a formal urgency letter



outlining reasons for immediate court intervention. The petition highlights critical measures, including setting up facilitation centres to provide pilgrims with essential safety guidelines and deploying small medical teams in coordination with the Uttar Pradesh government. It emphasizes the need for state collaboration to ensure secure travel for devotees and effective crowd control at one of the world's largest religious events.

The tragic incident occurred in the early hours of Wednesday when surging crowds at Prayagraj's Sangam broke past police barricades, trampling by-

standers as millions rushed toward the riverbank for the Mauni Amavasya ritual. Authorities acknowledge lapses in managing the massive gathering, bringing scrutiny to administrative preparedness.

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has ordered a judicial probe into the tragedy, appointing a three-member panel led by retired judge Harsh Kumar, along with former DGP VK Gupta and retired IAS officer DK Singh. A separate police inquiry has also been initiated to investigate the cause of the stampede and potential lapses in security arrangements.



-Municipal authorities must submit compliance affidavits by February 13.
- Supreme Court to review implementation on February 19.

Supreme Court Orders Immediate End to Manual Scavenging in Metro Cities

Commissioners of Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, Hyd Directed to Ensure Compliance

TPN Correspondent | Delhi
The Supreme Court on Wednesday issued a stern directive to end manual scavenging in six major metropolitan cities, ordering municipal commissioners and chief executive officers to comply immediately and report back within two weeks. The top court expressed deep concern over the continued prevalence of the practice, despite previous directives, and cited a recent tragic incident in Delhi where two young

men lost their lives while cleaning a sewer. A bench comprising Justices Sudhanshu Dhulia and Aravind Kumar stated, "A well-considered order was passed by us, and look at what is happening. People are still dying." The court emphasized the urgency of enforcing its October 2023 ruling, which directed all states and Union Territories to eradicate the inhuman practice.

Senior advocate K Parmeshwar, assisting as amicus curiae, suggested that official reports might indicate compliance, yet data remains incomplete. While 465 districts have been declared "manual scavenging-free," responses from 310 districts are still pending. The Supreme Court's intervention underscores the need for immediate and strict enforcement of mechanized alternatives to protect lives.

Shimla Police Unravel Drug Syndicate Involving 500 People

Kingpin Sandeep Shah's Arrest Exposes an Extensive North India Drug Network



- Drug deliveries were coordinated through online bookings and digital payments
- Innocent individuals' bank accounts were misused to launder money
- Kingpin Sandeep Shah and associate Neeraj Kashyap arrested in Kolkata and Delhi

TPN Correspondent | Shimla
Shimla police have successfully dismantled a large drug trafficking syndicate involving over 500 individuals operating across multiple states. The network, led by the kingpin Sandeep Shah, primarily focused on distributing adulterated heroin, known as chitta, in Shimla, Himachal Pradesh's capital. The syndicate relied heavily on social media platforms and digital transactions to facilitate its operations, making it difficult for authori-

ties to trace.

Two key suspects, one from Kolkata and another from Delhi, were arrested during the operation, revealing the complex structure of the drug trade. The investigation uncovered how the syndicate used social media to generate demand for drugs, which were then distributed using virtual phone numbers to conceal the identity of the dealers. Payments were transferred digitally, primarily through UPI, to

bank accounts that had been compromised or opened under false identities.

Deliveries were carried out without any direct contact between the buyer and the dealer. Instead, drugs were dropped off at designated locations based on GPS coordinates, further complicating law enforcement efforts to track the illegal trade.

Shimla Superintendent of Police (SP) Sanjeev Kumar Gandhi highlighted the increasingly digital nature of the narcotics trade, emphasizing the growing trend of online and financial-based operations. This crackdown serves as a stark reminder of the need for enhanced cyber-surveillance and financial tracking to tackle drug trafficking in the digital age.

The police action has disrupted a major trafficking network, but it also calls attention to the evolving methods employed by criminals. Authorities are now focusing on strengthening their ability to monitor online activities and financial transactions to prevent the spread of such illegal operations.

India to create own AI foundational model: Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnav



TPN Correspondent | Delhi
Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnav revealed India's ambitious plans to create its own foundational Artificial Intelligence (AI) model in the coming months, as part of the country's broader AI vision. The announcement came alongside the empanelment of 18,693 graphics processing units (GPUs) under a common computing facility, a move aimed at enhancing the nation's AI capabilities.

Speaking at a recent event, Vaishnav outlined several ini-

tiatives that aim to position India at the forefront of global AI innovation. He highlighted the creation of an AI safety institution, underscoring the government's commitment to ensuring the safe and ethical development of AI technologies.

Vaishnav emphasized that making cutting-edge technology accessible to all citizens aligns with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of inclusivity and economic growth. "Making modern tech accessible to everyone is the

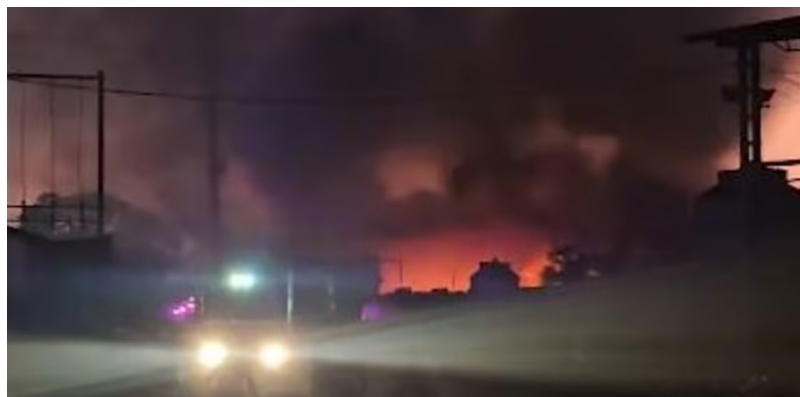
economic thinking of our PM," the IT Minister stated. He further added that India's current compute facility is the most affordable available, which will ensure broad accessibility for Indian businesses and researchers working in AI.

In response to privacy concerns raised around the Deepseek AI tool, Vaishnav assured that India would host the platform on local servers, addressing potential issues regarding data privacy and security. This step will ensure that data is handled within India's jurisdiction, complying with national privacy standards.

These announcements signal India's intent to become a significant player in the AI landscape, both in terms of innovation and regulation. As India takes these bold steps toward AI development, it also seeks to balance technological growth with privacy and security concerns, positioning itself as a global leader in ethical AI practices.

Boiler Explosion at Maharashtra Tyre Plant Leaves Five Critically Injured

TPN Correspondent | Palghar
Five individuals, including two children, were critically injured in a fire at a tyre plant in Vadavali village, Palghar district, Maharashtra, on Wednesday evening. The incident, which occurred in the Kudus industrial area of Wada taluka, was reportedly caused by a boiler explosion.



According to officials, the explosion took place after 6 PM when oil was being processed in two boilers at the factory. A sudden increase in pressure led to the detachment of a pipe from one of the boilers, triggering the explosion and subsequent fire. Vivekanand Kadam, the chief of the Disaster Management Cell in Palghar, explained that the explosion caused significant damage to the surrounding area, affecting both factory workers and nearby residents.

The injured individuals have been identified as Tufan

Kalsim Damar (30), Roshni Praveen Parmar (26), Mula Prema Vasar (27), along with two children, Kajal Parmar (3 years) and Aakash Prem Masar (18 months). The victims are reportedly residents of Jhabua in Madhya Pradesh, with some of them living in houses near the factory. It is currently unclear whether the adults were factory workers at the time of the incident. Emergency services rushed to the site of the explosion, and the fire was quickly brought under control by local authorities and disaster manage-

ment teams. The injured were immediately transported to a private hospital for treatment. Four of the victims, including the two children, were later transferred to a hospital in Thane for advanced medical care.

Authorities are investigating the cause of the explosion further and assessing the extent of the damage to the factory and surrounding areas. Meanwhile, safety protocols at the factory are under review to prevent similar incidents in the future.

IndiGo CEO Finds "Peace in Chaos at Maha Kumbh 2025"

TPN Correspondent | Delhi
IndiGo CEO Pieter Elbers recently attended the Maha Kumbh Mela 2025 in Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh, describing it as an event beyond words. Sharing his experience on LinkedIn, he said no word, sentence, or picture could truly capture the energy of the gathering. Elbers took the holy dip at 5 AM, finding serenity amidst the vast crowd. Describes Maha Kumbh as the world's largest human gathering, with 450 million visitors.



Expresses gratitude for witnessing the confluence of culture, spirituality, and heritage. The Dutch executive took an early morning dip at Triveni Sangam—the sacred confluence of the Ganga, Yamuna, and mythical Saraswati rivers—alongside a million devotees. He described the moment as deeply humbling, filled with chants, prayers, and an overwhelming sense of unity.

The Maha Kumbh Mela, held once every 144 years, is expected to see over 40 crore visitors by the end of the 45-day festival, which runs from January 13 to February 26. Over 10 crore

devotees have already participated in the ritual bathing. Key upcoming dates include February 3 (Basant Panchami), February 12 (Maghi Purnima), and February 26 (Maha Shivaratri), each offering significant spiritual importance.

The Maha Kumbh Mela, a rare event held once every 144 years, is expected to attract over 40 crore visitors by the time the 45-day festival concludes on February 26. The festival, which began on January 13, has already seen more than 10 crore devotees participate in the sacred ritual bathing. Key upcoming dates in the festival include February 3 (Basant Panchami), February 12 (Maghi Purnima), and February 26 (Maha Shivaratri), each car-

rying significant spiritual importance.

During his visit, Elbers, the CEO of IndiGo, expressed his admiration for the airline's team at Prayagraj Airport. He praised their efforts in efficiently managing the overwhelming influx of travelers to the city. Elbers described his experience at the Maha Kumbh Mela as a once-in-a-lifetime event, one that he would remember and cherish forever. With millions of people coming together for this extraordinary religious gathering, the event continues to capture global attention for its spiritual significance and immense scale.

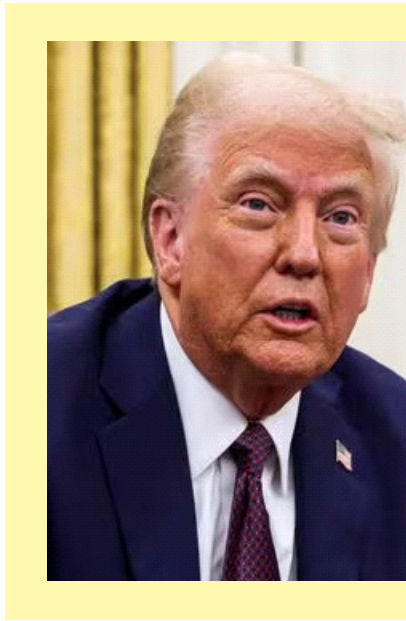
Donald Trump Questions Tactics Behind Washington DC Plane and Helicopter Collision

President Critiques Military Helicopter and Air Traffic Control in Social Media Post

TPN Correspondent | Washington

Donald Trump expressed strong concerns about the tragic plane crash near Washington DC, claiming that the incident "should have been prevented." In a post on his Truth Social platform, Trump questioned the actions of the military helicopter and air traffic controllers, both of which fall under his presidential oversight during his tenure.

In his post, Trump detailed his observations of the crash, explaining that the airplane was on a "perfect and routine line" toward the airport, while the helicopter flew directly at the plane for an extended period of time. He noted that the clear night sky should have made the plane easily visible, prompting the question of why the helicopter didn't adjust its course. He also criticized air traffic control for failing to provide proper guidance to the helicopter. He expressed further sorrow, stating, "What a terrible night this has been. God Bless you all!" The tragic incident, which occurred



- Trump raises doubts about the coordination of agencies involved in the crash.
- Incident involved a collision between an American Airlines jet and an Army helicopter.
- The FAA launched a search-and-rescue operation after multiple fatalities were reported.

as an American Airlines jet was preparing to land at Ronald Reagan National Airport, involved a collision with a Sikorsky H-60 (Black Hawk) helicopter. The FAA confirmed that the crash occurred around 9 pm, leading to a large search-and-rescue operation in the Potomac River. Though reports mention "multiple fatalities," details on the total number of victims

remain unclear.

The crash has led to significant disruption at the airport, with all take-offs and landings halted while authorities investigated the cause of the collision. An audio recording of the final communication between the pilot and the air traffic controller before the crash has since gone viral online.

India Highlights Serious Investigation Into Pro-Khalistan Group Ahead of Modi's US Visit

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

Ahead of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's proposed visit to the US, the Indian government has emphasized the seriousness of its ongoing investigation into the pro-Khalistan separatist group "Sikhs For Justice" (SFJ). The group, led by US-based lawyer Gurpatwant Singh Pannun, faces over 100 cases across India, with 96 registered in states like Punjab, Delhi, and Haryana, and eight cases under investigation by the National Investigating Agency (NIA). The Delhi High Court tribunal recently upheld the five-year ban on SFJ.



Pannun himself has 104 cases registered against him. The group has been involved in several subversive activities, including threats against high-profile Indian leaders such as PM Modi, Home Minister Amit Shah, and NSA Ajit Doval. Investigations have revealed that SFJ has raised sig-

nificant funds to carry out terrorist activities aimed at destabilizing the government and promoting the creation of a "Khalistan" state. The group has also allegedly compiled a list of children of police officers and politicians abroad, which it intends to use as leverage in case its activists are targeted or tortured.

SFJ's activities have extended to circulating photographs of Indian diplomats, including Ambassador Vikram Duraiswami and former Ambassador Tranajit Singh Sandhu, making them vulnerable to attacks. Last month, the group issued a new threat against Indian Ambassador Vinay Kwatra.

The Delhi High Court tribunal, which was formed in August 2023, confirmed the extension of the SFJ's ban on January 3, 2024, with the ban set to last until July 2024. The government has also highlighted the SFJ's links with other separatist and radical elements, supporting violent extremism and militancy in Punjab. Even while the tribunal's proceedings were ongoing, SFJ continued its hostile activities, including offering a reward for information on former Indian High Commissioner to Canada Sanjay Kumar Verma, who was allegedly linked to the killing of Khalistani terrorist Hardeep Singh Nijjar in Canada.

Elon Musk Nominated for Nobel Peace Prize 2025 for Defense of Free Speech

TPN Correspondent | United States

Billionaire entrepreneur and CEO of Tesla and SpaceX, Elon Musk, has been nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize 2025. The nomination, confirmed by European Parliament member Branko Grims, was submitted to the Norwegian Nobel Committee in recognition of Musk's significant contributions to the defense of free speech and human rights.

Grims, who shared the news in a Facebook post, emphasized Musk's efforts in advocating for the fundamental principles of free speech, particularly through his acquisition of the social media platform X (formerly known as Twitter). Musk's purchase of X was largely framed as a move to protect and promote free speech, with Musk asserting that his goal was to allow speech that aligns with legal standards. This stance on free speech has sparked both praise and controversy, but it has also positioned Musk as a significant figure in the broader debate over online expression and censorship.



In addition to his role as the head of Tesla and SpaceX, Musk is currently serving as the head of the Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE) in the new Trump administration, further solidifying his influence in both the business and political realms. His involvement in shaping policy related to government efficiency and his outspoken views on free speech have played a central role in the rationale behind his Nobel nomination.

Syria Appoints Ahmed al-Sharaa as Interim President After Bashar al-Assad's Ouster

TPN Correspondent | Damascus

Syria's new authorities announced on Wednesday that Ahmed al-Sharaa has been appointed as the interim president following the ousting of Bashar al-Assad last month. Sharaa, leader of the Islamist group Hayat Tahrir al-Sham (HTS), was tasked with forming a transitional legislature and guiding the country through this pivotal phase.

On December 8, a swift offensive led by HTS and allied rebel factions resulted in the ousting of Assad, ending the 50-year reign of the Assad family. Following this, a transitional government was set up to steer the country until March 1, with Sharaa stepping into the presidential role during this period. State media, quoting military official Hassan Abdel Ghani, confirmed that Sharaa would represent Syria in international forums and was entrusted with forming a temporary legislative council until a permanent constitution could be established.

The Assad-era parliament was dissolved, and the 2012 constitution was suspended, marking a significant shift in Syria's governance. The announcements were made during a conference celebrating "the victory of the Syrian revolution," which was attended by Sharaa, Foreign Minister Asaad al-Shaibani, and heads of various armed factions. Abdel Ghani also revealed the dissolution of all factions involved in the removal of Assad, including the former government's military and security apparatus. The Baath party, which had been in power for decades, was also dissolved, and a new security apparatus would be formed to ensure citizens' safety and to rebuild the Syrian army.



Canadian Report Clears India of Involvement in Hardeep Singh Nijjar's Killing

TPN Correspondent | Canada

A Canadian commission report has cleared the Indian government of any involvement in the killing of Sikh activist Hardeep Singh Nijjar, dismissing allegations made by Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau in 2023. The 123-page report, released on Tuesday, concludes that there is no definitive link between India and the murder of Nijjar, a Khalistani separatist, in June 2023.

The report, titled 'Public Inquiry Into Foreign Interference in Federal Electoral Processes and Democratic Institutions', also highlighted the disinformation campaign that followed Trudeau's public accusations regarding India's potential involvement in the murder. Commissioner Marie-Josée Hogue stated that "disinformation is used as a retaliatory tactic" when states feel their interests are being challenged.

Trudeau's allegations had escalated tensions between India and Canada, with India strongly denying any involvement in the killing. The report emphasized that while the allegations sparked a disinformation campaign, no conclusive evidence connected any foreign state to Nijjar's death.

Nijjar, who was killed in a parking lot near a Gurudwara in Surrey, British Columbia, in June 2023, was a prominent supporter of the Khalistan movement, which is banned in India but has significant support within the Sikh diaspora in Canada.

The report also touched upon the expulsion of six Indian diplomats in the wake of the allegations. The legal proceedings regarding the case have been slow, with four Indian nationals arrested in connection with the murder, though the trial has been adjourned multiple times.



Trump Signs Executive Order to Combat Antisemitism and Deport Protestors

TPN Correspondent | Washington DC

US President Donald Trump signed an executive order aimed at combating antisemitism, which includes a controversial pledge to deport non-citizen college students and others who participated in pro-Palestinian protests. The executive order, issued Wednesday, outlines "immediate action" by the Justice Department to prosecute criminal acts such as "terroristic threats, arson, vandalism, and violence against American Jews," following the surge in antisemitic incidents after the October 7, 2023, attack on Israel by Hamas.

The fact sheet accompanying the order emphasizes the growing antisemitism on US campuses and streets, spurred by the ongoing Israel-Palestinian conflict. In a strongly worded statement, Trump declared that non-citizens involved in "pro-jihadist" protests would face deportation, warning, "We will find you, and we will deport you." He further promised to cancel student visas for individuals he deemed to be Hamas sympathizers, citing a radicalized atmosphere on US college campuses.

The executive order has drawn significant criticism from rights groups and legal experts. Civil rights advocates argue that the order infringes upon the constitutional rights to free speech and political expression. Carrie DeCell, a senior attorney at the Knight First Amendment Institute at Columbia University, stated, "The First Amendment protects everyone in the United States, including foreign citizens studying at American universities." The Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR) also expressed concerns, warning that the order could lead to a legal battle if implemented.

Pro-Palestinian protests, triggered by the escalation of violence between Israel and Hamas, have taken place on various US college campuses, often accompanied by accusations of antisemitism. Many protesters, however, have clarified that their actions were against Israel's military tactics in Gaza, not support for Hamas. Maya Berry, executive director of the Arab American Institute, warned that conflating criticism of Israel with antisemitism could have a chilling effect on free speech in the US.

Manipur CM N Biren Singh Blames Politics for Confusion Over Ethnic Conflict

Excessive Political Interference Fueling Internal Divisions, Says Singh



Singh accused unnamed politicians of siding with those attempting to divide Manipur. He reaffirmed that the state's opposition is not against established communities. He insisted that Manipur will remain united despite ongoing tensions.

TPN Correspondent | Manipur Manipur Chief Minister N Biren Singh on Thursday said excessive political interference in the state's ethnic conflict has confused people and fueled internal divisions. He claimed that certain politicians were working alongside those attempting to break the state apart.

Speaking at a public event in Khangabok, Thoubal district, Singh highlighted that many people still do not fully grasp the ongoing crisis. Manipur has been gripped by violence between the Meitei and Kuki communities since May 2023, leading to over 250 deaths and thousands being displaced.

He emphasized that the state government's opposition is directed at new immigrants involved in drug-related activities, not against long-settled residents.

"Our duty is to identify our real opponents and defend ourselves. However, excessive politics has misled people and caused internal conflicts. Some politicians are working with those who seek to break Manipur," Singh said, without naming any individuals or parties.

The Chief Minister further alleged that external forces have placed "agents" in Imphal

Valley to provoke unrest and create divisions among the people. "We must be careful of such individuals who act on behalf of those who wish to break Manipur," he cautioned.

Singh reiterated that all communities—including Thadou, Mate, Gangte, Vaiphei, Paitte, Tangkhul, Mao, and Maram—are part of the same family. He urged people to stand together, assuring them that Manipur will not break.

His remarks come amid continued ethnic unrest in the state, with calls for a political resolution to the ongoing crisis.

House Foreign Affairs Committee to review US policy towards India



TPN Correspondent | Delhi

The House Foreign Affairs Committee is set to review US policy towards India, with a particular focus on strengthening bilateral cooperation, particularly in the defense sector. India is ranked 11th on the committee's list of priorities for the current Congress, underscoring the growing importance of US-India ties.

The committee plans to evaluate efforts to expand the US-India partnership based on shared democratic values while addressing the influence of US adversaries in South and Central Asia. A key area of review will be the US-India defense relationship, including collaboration on security and

technology, as well as counterterrorism efforts. This review will also explore opportunities to enhance the roles, missions, and capabilities of both nations within the defense sector.

Additionally, the committee will focus on advancing US-India economic relations, particularly in industries such as technology, telecommunications, and pharmaceuticals. These sectors present key opportunities for growth and collaboration, and the committee aims to identify ways to bolster economic exchanges between the two countries.

India's growing participation in the Quadrilateral Security

Dialogue (Quad) will also be closely examined, as the committee seeks to strengthen India's role in regional security efforts. The review will also consider India's rapidly expanding energy demands and their implications on bilateral cooperation and energy security.

At the top of the committee's priorities is addressing the threat posed by China. The committee plans to review international agreements and treaties signed by China, scrutinizing its violations of human rights and commitments, particularly regarding the genocide of Uyghurs, the abuse of human rights in Hong Kong, and actions that contradict its World Trade Organization obligations.

Beyond China, the committee will focus on multilateral forums like the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework and Quadrilateral Security Dialogue, alongside monitoring trade agreements in the Indo-Pacific region. Other major issues on the committee's radar include Taiwan, Russia's war against Ukraine, the Middle East, Israel, Iran, Africa, and Afghanistan.

Delhi Metro Phase 4 Expansion: New Corridors to Boost Connectivity



TPN Correspondent | Delhi

The Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) is making significant strides in expanding its metro network with the ongoing development of the Phase 4 corridor. As the longest metro system in India, covering over 395 km of track and 289 stations across 12 corridors—including the Noida Metro Aqua Line and Rapid Metro Gurgaon—the DMRC continues to enhance its reach.

Currently, metro services are operational on the Janakpuri West-Krishna Park Extension section, which spans 2.8 km and is part of the Magenta Line extension. This marks an important milestone in the Phase 4 project, with the remaining sections set to be completed by the end of the 2026-27 financial year. According to a senior DMRC official, "The Janakpuri West-Krishna Park Extension

section is now operational, and the rest of the corridors will be finished by 2026."

Key Corridors of Delhi Metro Phase 4

Phase 4 includes three key corridors that will greatly improve connectivity across the capital:

1. Maujpur-Majlis Park Corridor

Length: 12.318 km (8 stations)
Key Stations: Yamuna Vihar, Bhajanpura, Khajuri Khas, Sonia Vihar, Jagatpur Village, Jharoda Majra, Burari, Majlis Park.

2. Krishna Park Extension-Ramakrishna Ashram Marg Corridor

Length: 26.462 km (21 stations)
Key Stations: Keshopur, Paschim Vihar, Mangol Puri, Pitampura, Ashok Vihar, Ghanta

Ghar, Ramakrishna Ashram Marg, and more.

3. Delhi Aerocity-Tughlakabad Corridor

Length: 23.622 km (15 stations)
Key Stations: Mahipal Pur, Saket, Anand Mayee Marg, and Tughlakabad.

These new corridors are designed to ease congestion, improve access to key areas, and provide a smoother travel experience across Delhi. The expansion aims to reduce traffic pressure and offer better connectivity to important hubs, enhancing the overall metro experience for commuters.

By 2026, the Phase 4 expansion will see 44 new metro stations operational, further strengthening the DMRC's role in shaping Delhi's public transport landscape.

Six Tamil Nadu Fishermen Released from Sri Lankan Prison

TPN Correspondent | Delhi Six fishermen from Rameswaram, Tamil Nadu, returned to India after being released from a Sri Lankan prison, an official at the Chennai airport confirmed on Thursday. Their release came after the intervention of both the Central and State governments, which helped secure their return.

The fishermen, who had been detained by the Sri Lankan authorities, flew from Colombo and arrived at Chennai International Airport on Wednesday night. Upon arrival, state officials were present to greet them and ensure they had the necessary support to travel back to their home district. Arrangements were made for them to continue their journey by road.

The fishermen had set out for

a routine fishing trip on January 12, but they were arrested by the Sri Lankan Coast Guard on charges of crossing the maritime border. Their fishing vessel was also seized. After their arrest, the fishermen were presented before a Sri Lankan court and were remanded in custody.



Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M K Stalin had taken immediate action to secure their release, writing a letter to Union External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar to urge the central government's involvement. In

the letter, Stalin requested the government to intervene and ensure the safe return of the fishermen.

The case had stirred concern in Tamil Nadu, where fishing communities often face such border-related issues with Sri Lanka. The fishermen's release highlights the ongoing diplomatic efforts between India and Sri Lanka to resolve issues related to the maritime boundary and the safety of fishermen from both countries.

The successful intervention of the Central and State governments is seen as a positive example of cooperation in protecting the rights and welfare of Indian citizens. The fishermen's release will bring relief to their families and the broader fishing community in Tamil Nadu.

independence.

In addition to the Governor and Chief Minister, Deputy Chief Ministers Pravati Parida and K V Singh Deo, Odisha Assembly Speaker, along with several ministers, also participated in the tribute ceremony, paying their respects to the Father of the Nation.

In a post on X (formerly Twitter),

Deputy Chief Minister Pravati Parida expressed the significance of Gandhi's teachings, saying, "On the occasion of Martyrs' Day, today, I paid homage to the statue of revered Mahatma Gandhi at the Odisha Legislative Assembly premises along with the Hon'ble Governor, Hon'ble Chief Minister, Hon'ble Speaker, other ministers, and MLAs. Gandhi's thought, which is based on the

foundation of morality, contains the solution to many problems. Therefore, even today, there is a need to keep Gandhi's thought alive in our thoughts, consciousness, and experiences and work for the development of society."

Leader of Opposition Naveen Patnaik also took to social media to honor Gandhi's legacy, highlighting his ide-

als of Ahimsa (non-violence), truth, and peace. Patnaik wrote, "Humble tribute to the father of the Nation, Mahatma Gandhi on his death anniversary, observed as Martyrs' Day. His timeless ideals of Ahimsa, truth, and peace have inspired people from across the world. Salute to the freedom fighters who sacrificed their lives for our country's independence."

Odisha Pays Tribute to Mahatma Gandhi on Martyrs' Day

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

On Thursday, Odisha Governor Kambhampati Hari Babu and Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi led the state in paying floral tributes to Mahatma Gandhi on his death anniversary at the Odisha Legislative Assembly premises. The solemn occasion marked Martyrs' Day, observed annually to honor the sacrifices of those who fought for India's

How PM Modi Has Taken Gandhi's Khadi Dream To New Heights

In 2023, Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressed a gathering of over 3,000 students, stating, "Many foreign-made objects have encroached on our lives, and getting rid of them is important for saving the country." This statement echoes the ideals of Mahatma Gandhi, who envisioned Khadi as a symbol of self-reliance, economic empowerment, and resistance to colonial rule. For Gandhi, Khadi was more than just fabric; it represented a movement—one that could unite India, uplift rural artisans, and promote the Swadeshi spirit.

Over the past decade, Khadi has witnessed remarkable growth, thanks to initiatives supporting the 'Make in India' and 'Vocal for Local' missions. The Khadi industry has seen record-breaking achievements, with sales turnover in the financial year 2023-24 surpassing Rs 1.5 lakh crore—an increase of around 400% from Rs 31,154.20 crore in 2013-14. The production value of Khadi products grew by 315%, from Rs 26,109.08 crore in 2013-14 to Rs 1,08,297.68 crore in 2023-24. Khadi fabric production alone increased by approximately 295%, and sales rose by 501%.

Khadi's expansion has also had a significant social impact, creating over 10.17 lakh jobs, with half of them in rural areas, and 80% of Khadi artisans being women. This growth is a testament to Khadi's role in empowering rural communities, particularly women, and contributing to local economies.

To boost Khadi's appeal, the government has taken several steps, including replacing rebates with the Market De-



velopment Assistance (MDA) scheme, which offers incentives to spinners and weavers. Khadi has also gained attention through collaborations with various government sectors, including railways and defense, and by showcasing products in major events like the IITF 2022 and Lakme Fashion Week. Social media and collaborations with design institutes such as NIFT have also played a role in rebranding Khadi as a contemporary fabric.

Internationally, PM Modi has used forums like the G20 Summit to promote Khadi, gifting Khadi shawls to world leaders. His advocacy for Khadi extends to the youth, encouraging them to embrace it as a symbol of self-respect and national pride. "Khadi is not just a piece of cloth, but a weapon for those with self-respect, who are proud of the nation, and who dream of Aatmanirbhar

Bharat," he said in August.

Khadi's low environmental footprint makes it even more appealing. The fabric's production uses no machines or energy, contributing to a minimal carbon footprint. It is skin-friendly, breathable in summer, and warm in winter. The water usage for producing Khadi is significantly lower than that of mill-produced fabric, which further underscores its eco-friendly nature. However, one of the biggest challenges facing Khadi is adoption. Many Indians still hesitate to make Khadi their go-to fabric. If more people embrace Khadi, it could drive significant economic, environmental, and social change, benefiting rural communities and reinforcing India's Aatmanirbhar mission. Turning Khadi into a global brand could be a transformative step towards a sustainable and self-reliant future for India.

Champions Trophy: Pakistan's Mess Is Shocking, But Not Surprising



When a country secures the hosting rights for a global sports tournament, the last thing it wants is to fall behind in preparations. Unfortunately, Pakistan is currently facing that nightmare scenario as it races against time to complete the renovation work on venues set to host the Champions Trophy matches, excluding those involving India. The country has already missed two deadlines—December 31 and January 25—and is now set to miss a third deadline on January 31. Renovation work at Lahore's Gaddafi Stadium, one of the key venues, is now expected to finish by February 2, just weeks before the tournament begins.

Reports suggest that the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) had to restrict journalists from entering stadiums in Karachi and Lahore to save face, as work was still incomplete. As of January 25, Gaddafi Stadium, which is scheduled to host four matches including the Australia vs England game on February 22, had unfinished seating and digital screen installations. The slow pace of renovation has sparked widespread criticism, with several social media videos showing the poor state of the venues.

The situation became more apparent after the issue of India's participation in the tournament was resolved. Many argue that the PCB could have directed more energy toward accelerating venue work rather than focusing solely on ensuring all matches would take place in Pakistan.

While the blame for the delay initially falls on the PCB, the International Cricket Council (ICC) shares some responsibility. The resignation of Geoff Allardice as ICC CEO just weeks before the tournament began raised eyebrows. Allardice was responsible for overseeing the preparations, and his departure is seen as a direct consequence of the delays. Additionally, the failure to plan for a hybrid model, where India could play its matches at a neutral venue, is considered a significant oversight by both the ICC and the PCB.

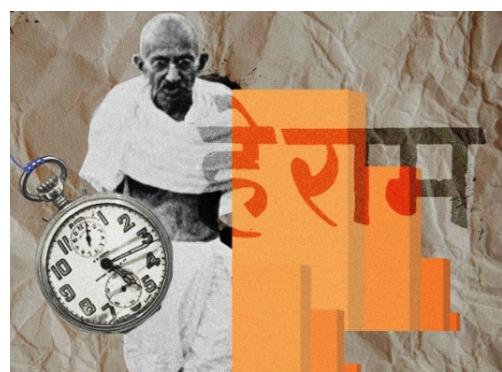
The mishandling of the Champions Trophy preparations highlights broader governance issues within Pakistan's sports ecosystem. Once known for excellence in sports like cricket, hockey, squash, and boxing, Pakistan's global sporting performance has steadily declined. Failures in administration, political interference, corruption, and lack of forward-thinking systems have hampered the country's sports development.

Despite manufacturing high-quality sports equipment, Pakistan has struggled to maintain a competitive edge in global sports. Cricket, the country's most popular sport, has been particularly affected by mismanagement. The PCB has seen frequent changes in leadership, with allegations of political interference and vested interests undermining its effectiveness. These issues were evident when Australian cricketer Jason Gillespie resigned as Pakistan's Test coach in December, citing poor communication with the PCB.

The current situation around the Champions Trophy serves as a stark reminder of Pakistan's struggles to maintain its sports infrastructure and governance. The PCB's large-scale renovation efforts, the most significant since 1996, are under intense scrutiny as the tournament approaches. The question remains: how will the ICC and the new leadership respond to the lessons learned from this fiasco? The tournament's success or failure may serve as a turning point for both the PCB and international sports governance in Pakistan.

The Complicated Legacy of Nathuram Godse and the Politics of Hindutva

On January 30, 1948, Nathuram Godse assassinated Mahatma Gandhi, an act that remains one of the darkest chapters in India's history. Godse's motivations were rooted in his belief that Gandhi's relentless efforts to reconcile with Pakistan and his policy of appeasement were harmful to Hindus and India's sovereignty. Godse's confession during his trial reflected his view that Gandhi's actions—particularly his insistence on compensating Pakistan—were tantamount to betrayal, fueling his decision to end Gandhi's life.



Seventy-seven years later, Godse's legacy continues to stir controversy in India. While Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leaders routinely honor Gandhi's memory, publicly offering prayers at Rajghat, there remains a lingering, uncomfortable connection with Godse within their ranks. Some BJP members have expressed admiration for Godse, a stark contrast to the party's official disavowal of him.

This dichotomy is particularly evident when considering the ideological link between Godse and his mentor, Vinay-

ak Damodar Savarkar, the founder of Hindutva. While the BJP has embraced Savarkar as the party's intellectual forebear, they are compelled to distance themselves from Godse, whose actions and confessions are too controversial to embrace publicly. In his pre-trial statement, Godse insisted that Gandhi had failed in his duty as the Father of the Nation and blamed him for the Partition and the creation of Pakistan.

Godse's relationship with Savarkar was deeply symbiotic. Under Savarkar's influence, Godse became a fervent advocate of Hindutva and played a key role in establishing underground organizations like the Hindu Rashtra Dal in Pune, aimed at advancing the ideology.

This ideological bond between the two figures is undeniable, yet the political complexities surrounding Godse's assassination of Gandhi make it challenging for the BJP to publicly acknowledge or reject one without implicating the other.

Interestingly, Gandhi and Savarkar had crossed paths earlier, and their differing philosophies on violence and politics were evident. In 1909, Gandhi expressed his regret after meeting Savarkar in London, particularly over Savarkar's advocacy for violence as a political tool. This philosophical divide would continue throughout their lives, with Gandhi's non-violence contrasting sharply against Savarkar's support for militant Hindu nationalism.

The question of how contemporary political leaders, such as Modi, who claim allegiance to Swami Vivekananda's teachings, also venerate Savarkar is troubling. Swami Vivekananda, who championed spiritual and intellectual growth, stood in stark opposition to violence as a political tool. Savarkar, on the other hand, espoused a doctrine of violence, rejecting democracy, and aligning himself with fascist ideologies.

Uttarakhand Implements Uniform Civil Code: A Postcolonial Perspective

On January 27, the Uttarakhand government made history by promulgating a Uniform Civil Code (UCC), becoming the first state in India to do so since independence. Goa, however, has been following a form of UCC since colonial rule, based on the Portuguese Civil Code of 1967. Uttarakhand's move marks a significant postcolonial development that warrants a closer look, both in terms of its contextual relevance and the merits of the proposal.



Contextual Significance

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has long championed the idea of implementing a Uniform Civil Code nationwide. The BJP's political agenda, inherited from its Hindu Right predecessors, has centered around two key

issues: the construction of the Ram temple at Ayodhya and the imposition of a UCC. While the Ram temple has gained substantial progress, the implementation of a UCC has been a more contentious issue.

Uttarakhand's decision to implement a UCC is not an isolated one. Several

other BJP-ruled states, such as Assam, Haryana, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, and Uttar Pradesh, have either expressed intentions to do so or have already initiated steps toward its implementation. However, Uttarakhand's small size and unique demographic landscape make it an interesting case study.

Demographic and Political Landscape

Uttarakhand's population is predominantly Hindu, comprising over 80% of the state's residents. Muslims account for about 14%, while other religious communities, including Buddhists, Christians, Jains, and Sikhs, make up around 3%. Scheduled Tribes (STs), though a minority, also hold significance in the state, and the UCC

exempts them from its scope. This demographic composition plays a crucial role in the implementation of the UCC, particularly when considering that the state's majority population is Hindu.

The BJP's push for a UCC, particularly in a state with such a clear Hindu majority, seems less contentious compared to other regions with more religious diversity. Nevertheless, the implementation of a UCC is deeply political, aligning with the BJP's vision of a nation unified under a common legal framework that transcends personal laws based on religion.

Merits of the Case

The argument for a UCC is rooted in the desire for equal treatment under

the law, irrespective of religious or cultural affiliations. Proponents argue that a UCC would bring much-needed uniformity to family laws, including marriage, inheritance, and property rights. It could potentially eliminate discrepancies between personal laws that often treat individuals based on their religious background, especially in cases of divorce or property disputes.

However, critics of the UCC raise concerns about its impact on India's pluralistic society. They argue that the imposition of a uniform law may not respect the diverse cultural and religious practices followed by various communities. For instance, many Muslim and Christian groups view their personal laws as an essential part of their religious identity.

Stock Markets See Volatile Session Amid Budget Session and Profit Booking

Domestic stock markets witnessed huge volatility today. Mixed signals from international markets, the start of the Budget session and profit-taking are the reasons for this. The indices, which started flat in the morning, swung to huge gains in the afternoon. They fell into losses again as investors took profit-taking at daily highs. They recovered somewhat in the end as buying resumed. Reality, energy and pharma shares were the main drivers of this. Overall, the Sensex gained 226 points and the Nifty gained 86 points. The Nifty has a strong resistance at 23300. If it is broken, the index may recover a little more.

The BSE Sensex, which closed at 76,532 in the previous session, opened at 76,598 today. It touched an intraday low of 76,401. It reached an intraday high of 76,962. It finally closed at 76,759, up 226 points. The NSE Nifty, which opened at 23,249 on Thursday, touched a low of 23,139 and a high of 23,322. It closed at 23,249, gaining 86 points. The Nifty Bank rose 146 points to settle at 49,311.

In the Nifty50, 35 companies gained and 15 lost. BEL, Power Grid, Hero Moto, Bharti Airtel, Cipla were the top gainers. Tata Motors, ITC Hotels, Adani Enterprises, Shriram Finance, Bajaj Finserv were the biggest losers. Auto, IT, Media, Consumer Durables, Oil & Gas indices rose today. Bank, Finance, FMCG, Pharma, Healthcare, Oil & Gas indices were in the red.



Market breadth on NSE today slightly shifted in favour of buyers. Out of 2091 stocks traded, 1549 gained and 1256 lost. Shares of 18 companies reached 52-week highs while 64 reached 52-week lows.

The rupee weakened slightly against the dollar and settled at 86.62. Wari Energies' net profit in the third quarter rose 36.2% to Rs 492 crore from Rs 361 crore. Coromandel International's net profit rose to Rs 511 crore from Rs 231 crore. HSBC has maintained a buy rating on Bajaj Finance with a target price of Rs 8900. It is noteworthy that Nomura has given a reduce rating to JSW Infra. Dabur India's net profit was recorded at Rs 516 crore. Max Healthcare's revenue grew by 35% to Rs 2281 crore from Rs 1689 crore. Wellspun Living's net profit fell by 31.7% to Rs 120 crore from Rs 176 crore. GAIL India's net profit was recorded at Rs



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3870 crore with a growth rate of 36%. Revenue was recorded at Rs 34,960 crore. It declared a dividend of Rs 6.5 per share. Adani Enterprises' net profit fell by 97% to Rs 57 crore. Despite an increase in mining and airport revenue, foreign exchange losses of Rs 296 crore were a drag. Bharat Electronics' profit rose 47% to Rs 1316 crore from Rs 893 crore.

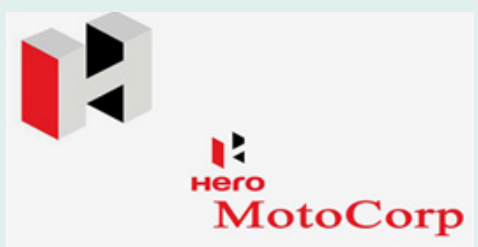
Dabur India Ltd.
Dabur is a leading FMCG company specializing in natural and Ayurvedic products. As of January 26, 2025, its stock price was ₹521.9, with a market



capitalization of ₹92,497 crore. The company has shown resilience in maintaining its market position.

Bharti Airtel Ltd.
Bharti Airtel is a major telecommunications provider in India. In a recent open market transaction, Bharti Telecom, a promoter group company, increased its stake in Bharti Airtel by 1.35% for ₹8,301 crore, bringing its total stake to 39.7%. Analysts anticipate that Bharti Airtel will continue to raise tariffs in the coming years, which could enhance its EBITDA.

Hero MotoCorp Ltd.



Hero MotoCorp is the world's largest manufacturer of two-wheelers. In the quarter ending September 30, 2024, the company reported a 14% year-on-year increase in standalone profit to ₹12.04 billion, surpassing market expectations. This growth was driven by a 7% rise in sales volumes, particularly in mid-range motorcycles, and the introduction of

premium models like the "Karizma XMR." Revenue for the quarter increased by 11% to ₹104.63 billion.

UPL Ltd.

UPL is a global agrochemical company specializing in crop protection solutions. As of January 30, 2025, UPL's stock price was ₹650. The company has a strong international presence and continues to focus on sustainable agricultural practices.



Colgate-Palmolive (India) Ltd.

Colgate-Palmolive is a leading provider of oral care products in India. In the quarter ending September 30, 2024, the company reported a 16% increase in net profit to ₹3.95 billion, driven by strong demand for premium personal care products and expansion into rural markets. Sales grew by 10% to ₹16.09 billion during the same period.



India's Rising Dependence on Imported Crude Oil: A Growing Concern for the Economy

India's reliance on imported crude oil has been steadily increasing, reflecting the country's rising energy demands and the gap between domestic production and consumption. This trend poses significant challenges for the Indian economy, which is already grappling with inflationary pressures and the impact of global energy prices.



Despite efforts to boost domestic production through exploration and development of new oil reserves, the country still remains heavily dependent on crude oil imports.

The growing import dependency also raises questions about the long-term sustainability of India's energy strategy. To mitigate risks and reduce the economic impact of imported oil, India has been focusing on diversification strategies such as expanding the use of renewable energy sources and promoting electric mobility. However, it will take time for these initiatives to make a significant impact on the country's overall energy consumption patterns.

As India's oil import dependency continues to rise, addressing this issue will be crucial for ensuring the nation's energy security and economic stability in the years ahead.

According to recent data from the Petroleum Planning & Analysis Cell (PPAC) of the oil ministry, India's oil import dependency surged to 88.1% in the first nine months of the current financial year. This marks an increase from 87.5% during the same period last year and 87.8% for the entire financial year 2023-24 (FY24). These figures highlight the nation's increasing dependence on foreign crude oil to meet its growing energy needs.

This growing dependency is a cause for concern as it makes India vulnerable to fluctuations in

global oil prices. Since crude oil is one of the largest import items for India, any spike in international oil prices can lead to higher import bills, thereby straining the country's current account deficit and putting pressure on the value of the rupee.

India's domestic oil production has not been able to keep up with the rapidly increasing demand for energy. As the world's third-largest oil importer, India faces the dual challenge of balancing its energy security needs while keeping costs under con-

control. Despite efforts to boost domestic production through exploration and development of new oil reserves, the country still remains heavily dependent on crude oil imports.

In addition, SEBI clarified that individuals engaged in purely educational activities cannot provide any direct or indirect advice or recommendations related to securities unless they are registered advisors. This is in line with SEBI's commitment to maintaining market integrity by ensuring that only qualified and registered entities provide investment advice.

One of the key provisions of the draft circular also focuses on the conduct of non-registered influencers, forbidding them from making explicit or implied claims about stock returns or performance. The idea is to prevent misleading information from reaching the public, which can unduly influence retail investors.

To combat the growing influence of "finfluencers" (financial influencers) promoting stock tips on social media under the guise of "educational purposes only," India's market regulator, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI), has introduced a draft circular. This new measure seeks to regulate the spread of unverified financial advice and reduce the risk posed by individuals with limited expertise in the stock market.

The draft circular stipulates that individuals who claim to offer financial education must refrain from using real-time stock price data from the last three months. The guideline prohibits them from discussing, displaying, or mentioning any securities, whether by name or code, if they intend to make predictions, offer advice, or recom-

Adani Ports Reports 32% Growth in Net Profit for 2024-25, Expansion & Sustainability Highlighted

Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone Ltd (APSEZ) reported a remarkable 32% growth in its net profit for the first three quarters of the financial year 2024-25. The company's net profit for the period from April to December 2024 stood at Rs 8,038 crore, compared to Rs 6,089 crore during the same period in the previous year. In the October-December quarter, APSEZ's ports business also showed strong performance, with a 14% increase in net profit, reaching Rs 2,518 crore, up from Rs 2,208 crore in the year-ago quarter.

A key development for the company was the successful closure of the Gopalpur and Astro Offshore transactions, valued at over Rs 4,600 crore, during the October-December quarter. APSEZ's performance was further bolstered by a prestigious recognition from S&P Global CSA, which ranked the company among the Top 10 most sustainable global companies in the transport and infrastructure industry.

Ashwani Gupta, Whole-time Director and CEO of APSEZ, shared his enthusiasm, citing exceptional execution across three main areas: market share gains, growth in the logistics vertical, and operational efficiencies. Gupta

also highlighted the company's focus on integrated transport solutions, with the launch of a new trucking platform as part of its commitment to becoming a comprehensive Transport Utility. On the domestic front, APSEZ saw an 11% year-on-year revenue growth in its ports, coupled with a significant increase in EBITDA margin. The company also achieved a 27.2% share in India's cargo market and 45.2% in the container market. The logistics segment grew by 22%, driven by strong container and GPWIS volumes. Additionally, APSEZ expanded its international operations, with a 16% increase in revenue driven by the Astro and Tanzania operations, as well as the commencement of Vizhinjam Port's operations.

APSEZ continues to focus on expanding its marine assets and aligned with India's "Make in India" and "Atmanirbhar Bharat" initiatives, placing large orders for harbor tugs. The company's total cargo volume in the first nine months of FY25 rose by 7%, led by strong growth in containers and liquids and gas. APSEZ's strategic investments and operational efficiency are set to continue driving its expansion in both domestic and international markets.



SEBI Draft Circular Aims to Curb Finfluencers Promoting Stock Tips on Social Media



SEBI has emphasized that violations of these guidelines could lead to penalties, suspension, cancellation of registration, or debarment. This is a step

towards safeguarding retail investors from the risks posed by unqualified individuals sharing stock tips that may not be based on solid research or expertise.

This move is part of a broader regulatory effort by SEBI to address the issue of influencers, who have gained prominence on social media platforms. Many of these individuals have been accused of manipulating stock prices or providing biased advice with limited understanding of the market dynamics. Last year, SEBI had already amended its norms to regulate unregistered entities offering financial advice. With this new draft circular, SEBI is reinforcing its stance against the unregulated financial content circulating online.

Study Reveals 4-Month-Old Babies Can Distinguish Language Sounds



A new study published in *Developmental Science* challenges previous beliefs about language development in babies, showing that infants as young as four months can distinguish sounds from languages they've never heard before. This finding provides insight into the early stages of language acquisition and could have important implications for identifying potential speech and language delays.

The research suggests that babies, even before they begin focusing on their native language, are already adept at sorting through a variety of sounds in the world around them. In the first six months of life, infants are able to differentiate between sounds from languages they've never encountered. For instance, babies raised in English-speaking households can recognize

tonal differences in Mandarin or subtle contrasts in Hindi, which can be challenging for adult English speakers.

This discovery shakes up the previous understanding that babies don't start recognizing language-specific patterns until they are between six and twelve months old. Prior to this, it was believed that infants only began to focus on their native language sounds around the age of six months through a process called *'perceptual attunement'*, where they tune in to the sounds they hear most often.

However, the new study suggests that this process begins much earlier. Babies at four months are already learning how sounds are made physically, such as the difference between a

sound produced with the lips and one made with the tongue. This early ability to recognize sound patterns may lay the foundation for later language development.

Around six months, babies begin fine-tuning their ability to focus on the sounds they encounter most frequently, particularly vowels. By the age of ten months, they become more attuned to consonants. This narrowing of focus allows them to hone in on the specific sounds that are essential for their language.

These findings not only deepen our understanding of language development but also offer an earlier window for intervention for babies at risk of speech or language delays.

8 Best Theme Parks in the World for an Unforgettable Adventure



From magical fairy tales to heart-racing roller coasters, the world's theme parks offer thrilling experiences for all types of adventurers. Whether you're visiting for a dedicated vacation or adding a day of fun to your travels, these top parks promise to deliver something unforgettable. Here are the eight best theme parks around the globe:

As part of the Walt Disney World Resort in Orlando, Magic Kingdom is a must-visit for Disney fans. Its iconic Cinderella Castle and attractions like "Pirates of the Caribbean" and "It's a Small World" offer a blend of nostalgia and excitement, making it one of the most visited theme parks in the world.

Tokyo Disneyland, the first Disney park outside the US, features seven themed lands including the charming "World Bazaar" and "Westernland." Unique rides like "Pooh's Hunny Hunt," which uses trackless technology, make this park an enchanting destination.

Set in Kaatsheuvel, Efteling is a fairy-tale-themed park that brings Dutch folklore to life. Visitors can stroll through the "Fairytale Forest" or experience thrilling rides like the "Baron 1898" dive coaster, all while surrounded by beautiful storybook architecture.

For car enthusiasts, Ferrari World offers a high-speed adventure with the world's fastest roller coaster, "Formula Rossa." The park also features

interactive exhibits and driving simulators, celebrating Ferrari's legendary automotive legacy.

Located on Sentosa Island, Universal Studios Singapore offers thrilling rides based on popular movies and TV shows. From the "Battlestar Galactica" dueling coasters to "Transformers: The Ride," this park provides cinematic experiences for all ages.

With attractions like "The Wizarding World of Harry Potter" and "Super Nintendo World," Universal Studios Japan brings pop culture and video game worlds to life. It's a perfect destination for movie buffs and gamers alike.

As the original Disney park, Disneyland in Anaheim offers classic attractions such as "Space Mountain" and "Haunted Mansion." This park seamlessly combines nostalgia with modern magic.

Germany's largest theme park, Europa-Park, offers a tour of Europe with 15 themed areas, each representing a different country. Highlights include the "Silver Star" coaster and the "Voleterium" flying theater.

What It Costs To Spend A Night At The World's Only "10-Star" Hotel

The Jumeirah Burj Al Arab, often hailed as the world's only "10-star" hotel, epitomizes luxury and extravagance. Officially recognized as a 7-star hotel, the Burj Al Arab is one of Dubai's most iconic landmarks, known for its sail-shaped design and unparalleled hospitality. Completed in 1999 and designed by architect Tom Wright, the hotel stands on a man-made island, rising 321 meters above the Arabian Gulf, making it one of the tallest hotels in the world.

Since its opening, the Burj Al Arab has become a symbol of luxury, attracting global celebrities, VIPs, and elite travelers. Its stunning design features lavish interiors adorned with 24-carat gold leaf, extravagant chandeliers, and spacious duplex suites that span two floors. With only 202 suites, each featuring Hermes amenities and breathtaking views of the sea, the Burj Al Arab ensures an exclusive experience.

A stay at the Burj Al Arab is reserved for those seeking the highest level of luxury, with rates soaring to over Rs 10 lakh per night during peak seasons. Guests enjoy a royal welcome with chauffeur-driven Rolls-Royce limousines or even helicopter transfers from the airport.

The hotel offers a host of world-class amenities, including a private beach, infinity pools, and a luxurious spa that features treatments like gold facials and diamond massages. Every guest is assigned a personal butler available around the clock, ensuring that their every need is met. The staff-to-guest ratio of 8:1 guarantees unmatched service and attention to detail.

For relaxation, the Burj Al Arab boasts a 10,000-square-meter terrace with stunning views over the sea, complete with an infinity pool. Fitness enthusiasts can take advantage of a fully equipped gym and personal trainers.

Guests can indulge in gourmet dining at one of the hotel's eight exceptional restaurants, including an underwater dining experience that offers views of marine life through a massive aquarium window.

With its unmatched luxury, personalized service, and breathtaking views, the Burj Al Arab truly deserves its reputation as a "10-star" hotel.



Bengaluru Company Seeks Chief Dating Officer for Unique Role

In a world where job titles are constantly evolving, one Bengaluru-based mentorship platform has introduced a role that has caught the attention of many – the Chief Dating Officer (CDO). Topmate, known for its coaching and mentorship services, has posted a job listing for this intriguing new position, sparking a viral reaction online.

According to Nimisha Chanda, Topmate's marketing lead, the company is looking for a candidate who understands the ins and outs of modern dating culture, rather than someone with a traditional business background. The posting humorously states, "We are looking for someone who lives and breathes dating culture. The self-proclaimed matchmaker who can decode 'ghosting,' 'breadcrumbing,' and every new dating buzzword in the book."

Unlike many corporate roles, the Chief Dating Officer doesn't require an MBA or a background in strategic planning. Instead, the company wants someone who has experience navigating the world of online dating, with a deep understanding of the dynamics that shape modern romantic relationships. Topmate's CDO will need to possess a flair for offering relationship advice, guiding others through the complexities of the dating world, and staying up-to-date with the latest trends in the

Nimisha Chanda
@NimishaChanda

Hiring Alert!

We are looking for a Chief Dating Officer.

Are you the go-to friend for dating advice? We're hiring someone who lives and breathes dating culture.

The self-proclaimed matchmaker who can decode "ghosting," "breadcrumbing," and every new dating buzzword in the book? Well, we just swiped right on you.

Requirements:

- Should have experienced at least 1 breakup, 2 situationships and 3 dates (Receipts not required, but we'll ask for the stories!)
- Should have knowledge of all the new dating terms and be daring enough to create new ones.
- Should have tried at least 2-3 dating apps (we're looking for hands-on experience, no catfishing allowed!)

Think you've got all the love intel we need? Submit your application here - lnkd.in/gzvGewnb

PS: The best pitches will receive dates(khajoor) from the topmate team :p

realm of love and online dating.

The company's job post, which has become a hot topic of conversation, suggests that the ideal candidate should have hands-on experience with at least two to three dating apps. This may seem unusual, but it reflects the growing role that technology and digital platforms play in contemporary romantic relationships. Whether it's decoding modern dating terminology, helping others navigate virtual rela-

tionships, or offering expert advice on avoiding pitfalls like ghosting, the Chief Dating Officer will be at the forefront of managing dating culture for the platform.

Topmate's playful job listing stands out not only for its unique title but also for its unconventional approach to tackling one of the most pervasive elements of contemporary social life – modern romance. If you're an expert in swiping right, this might just be the job for you.

Mumbai Startup Offers Unique Service for Payments With Just a Missed Call

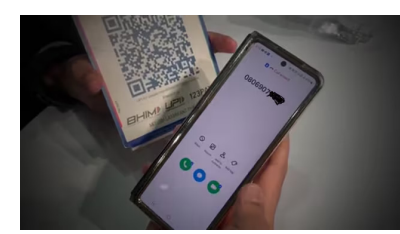
In a world where digital payments have become the norm, Unified Payments Interface (UPI) apps like PhonePe, Google Pay, and Paytm have made money transfers simpler than ever—though they do require a stable internet connection. However, a Mumbai-based startup is introducing a groundbreaking method for making payments without the need for internet connectivity: MissCallPay.

Founded by Mitesh Thakkar, MissCallPay offers users the ability to make payments by simply giving a missed call. The process is straightforward and designed to cater to users who may not have access to smartphones or a reliable internet connection.

Here's how it works: After placing the missed call, users will receive a call asking them to

input the name of the beneficiary, followed by the amount to be transferred. Finally, the transaction is completed once the user enters their UPI PIN, mimicking the standard UPI payment process.

What makes MissCallPay especially innovative is that it is compatible with basic keypad phones, expanding the reach of digital payments to those without access to smartphones or high-speed internet. The service is also free of charge, with no additional costs involved in making payments via a missed call, further simplifying access for



people across various economic backgrounds.

Mitesh Thakkar was inspired to create MissCallPay after observing the challenges faced by rural populations, where many people do not own smartphones or have regular internet access. The goal behind the service is to provide a fast, efficient, and simple solution for people in these areas to make money transactions without the usual technological barriers.

MissCallPay represents a huge step in financial inclusion, offering a user-friendly alternative to traditional digital payment methods. In regions where internet connectivity remains a challenge, this innovative solution could revolutionize how people send and receive money, making digital payments accessible to all.

Thousands Turning Up For Kohli's Ranji Trophy Return

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

Virat Kohli's return to domestic cricket after 12 years turned the Arun Jaitley Stadium into a carnival, with thousands of fans flocking to witness the cricketing icon in action. As Delhi faced Railways in the Ranji Trophy, what was expected to be a routine fixture transformed into a spectacle, driven by Kohli's sheer presence. Fans had gathered outside the stadium from the previous night, and each glimpse of the batting maestro was met with deafening cheers.

During the match, an interesting moment off the field caught attention when journalist Rohit Juglan revealed that Kohli's lunch choice was a simple yet special one—chilli paneer from the local DDCA canteen. The revelation quickly went viral as fans eagerly absorbed every detail about their favorite cricketer.

Sanjay Jha, a regular chef at the DDCA canteen who prepared Kohli's meal, shared in an interview that the cricketer insisted on eating from the canteen rather



er than ordering from outside. "Bahar se nahi, yahi canteen se hi khaaunga (No, not from outside. I'll have lunch from the canteen)," Jha recalled. In another interview, Jha expressed his surprise and admiration for Kohli, who personally met him, requested chilli paneer, and even addressed him with respect. "He called me 'Sanjay ji.' Itna badaa aadmi ban gaya hai, lekin mera naam yaad hai usko (He has become so big, yet he remembers my name.),"

Jha said. The anticipation for Kohli's appearance exceeded all expectations. The DDCA initially estimated a crowd of around 10,000 for the match—a remarkable figure for a Ranji Trophy fixture. However, Kohli's presence drew far larger numbers, forcing officials to open additional stands to accommodate the surging crowd. The 6,000-seat Gautam Gambhir Stand, originally designated for spectators, soon proved insuffi-

cient, prompting authorities to open the 11,000-capacity Bishan Singh Bedi Stand.

"I have been involved in Delhi cricket for over 30 years, but I have never seen such excitement for a Ranji game. Kohli's popularity is truly unmatched," said DDCA secretary Ashok Sharma. Even a former India cricketer present at the venue admitted he had never witnessed such a massive turnout for a domestic match.

Adding to the logistical challenges, Prime Minister Narendra Modi's cavalcade passed by the stadium just as fans were entering, leading to heightened security measures. "The VIP movement coincided with the crowd surge, making it even more challenging. The police instructed us to open another stand to ensure smooth entry," Sharma explained.

Kohli's impact on the game extended far beyond the boundary ropes. His simple yet heartfelt gesture at the DDCA canteen and his unmatched draw among fans reinforced why he remains one of the most beloved figures in Indian cricket.



Australia Crush Sri Lanka with 654-6 Declaration, Hosts Reeling at 44-3

Australia dominated Sri Lanka in the first Test, posting a massive 654-6 declared, thanks to Usman Khawaja's maiden double century (200) and Josh Inglis' debut ton (102). Sri Lanka crumbled to 44-3 at stumps on Day 2.

Australia's innings saw Steve Smith (141) and Khawaja put on a 266-run partnership before Smith reached 10,000 Test runs. Josh Inglis, making his debut, smashed 102 off just 90 balls, celebrating before getting dismissed in the next over. Alex Carey remained unbeaten on 46, while Mitchell Starc (19 not out) was at the crease when the declaration came.

Sri Lanka's bowling attack, led by spinners Prabath Jayasuriya and Jeffrey Vandersay (three wickets each), struggled as the visitors batted for 154 overs. Khawaja faced 352 balls, registering 16 fours and a six, celebrating his first double ton in Sri Lanka by kissing the turf.

In response, Sri Lanka lost three early wickets. Oshada Fernando (7) fell lbw to Matthew Kuhnemann, Dimuth Karunaratne (7) was caught at gully off Starc, and Angelo Mathews (8) was dismissed by Nathan Lyon.

By stumps, Dinesh Chandimal (9 not out) and Kamindu Mendis (13 not out) were battling to rebuild, with Sri Lanka trailing heavily. With Australia in a dominant position, Sri Lanka faces an uphill task on Day 3.

International Masters League 2025 to Begin on February 22

Cricket fans are set for an exciting tournament as the International Masters League (IML) 2025 is scheduled to begin on February 22. The much-anticipated inaugural season will feature six teams—India, Australia, England, South Africa, Sri Lanka, and the West Indies—with matches kicking off at 7:30 PM IST.

The opening match will be a thrilling clash between India, led by Sachin Tendulkar, and Sri Lanka, captained by Kumar Sangakkara. Speaking ahead of the tournament, Tendulkar expressed his excitement:

"IML will be a celebration of cricket's unique and enduring legacy. I can't wait to step back onto the



field with my contemporaries in an intense and competitive league." Sangakkara also shared his en-

thusiasm: "The IML is a tribute to cricket's timeless charm. This is a wonderful opportunity for former

cricketers to relive old rivalries and reconnect with fans."

Broadcast and Venues The tournament will be broadcast live on Disney+ Hotstar, Colors Cineplex (SD & HD), and Colors Cineplex Superhits, ensuring global reach.

- Navi Mumbai will host the first five matches.
- Rajkot will stage the next leg of the league.
- Raipur will host the semi-finals and final.

JioStar's Rohan Lavsi, Head of Hindi Movies Business, called the IML "a reunion of greatness," promising thrilling action, expert commentary, and nostalgia.

ICC Women's U-19 T20 World Cup 2025: India Eye Dominant Show Against England in Semis

The Indian Women's U-19 team will look to continue their dominant run as they face England in the semi-finals of the ICC Women's U-19 T20 World Cup 2025 on Friday. The Niki Prasad-led side has been in red-hot form, remaining unbeaten in the tournament.

India started their campaign with a 10-wicket thrashing of hosts Malaysia, followed by a 60-run win over Sri Lanka, an eight-wicket victory against Bangladesh, and a massive 150-run demolition of Scotland in their final Super Six match.

Opener Gongadi Trisha has been in sublime form, scoring 110 off 59 balls against Scotland, including 13 fours and four sixes. Her opening partner G Kamalini also made a solid 51 off 42 balls. With scores of 4, 27, 49, 40, and 110*, Trisha is the tournament's leading run-scorer with 230 runs at an average of 76.66, far ahead of England's top batter Davina Perrin, who has 131 runs in four games at 32.75.

India's bowling has been equally dominant. Against Scotland, they bowled them out for just 58 runs in 14 overs, with Vaishnavi Sharma (3/5), Aayushi Shukla (4/8), and Trisha (3/6) leading the attack. Vaishnavi and Aayushi have taken 12 and 10 wickets respectively, making them key threats for England.

England, on the other hand, has



had an inconsistent run in the Super Six stage, winning two and losing two matches. They will be wary of India's batting firepower and bowling attack, as their own batting lineup has struggled in patches.

With India in supreme form across all departments, they head into the semi-final as strong favorites. England will

need a near-perfect performance to challenge this unbeaten Indian squad.

Squads: India: Niki Prasad (c), Sanika Chalke, G Trisha, Kamalini G, Bhavika Ahire, Ishwari Awastare, Mithila Vinod, Joshitha VJ, Sonam Yadav, Parunika Sisodiya, Kesari Drithi, Aayushi Shukla, Anandita Kishor, MD Shabnam,

Vaishnavi S.

England: Abi Norgrove (c), Phoebe Brett, Olivia Brinsden, Tilly Corteen-Coleman, Trudy Johnson, Katie Jones, Charlotte Lambert, Eve O'Neill, Davina Perrin, Jemima Spence, Charlotte Stubbs, Amuruthaa Surenkumar, Prisha Thanawala, Erin Thomas, Grace Thompson.



Hockey India Announces 32-Member Squad for FIH Pro League 2024-25 in Bhubaneswar

Hockey India has announced a 32-member Indian Men's Hockey squad for the Bhubaneswar leg of the FIH Pro League 2024-25, set to be played at the Kalinga Hockey Stadium from February 15 to 25.

Harmanpreet Singh will continue as the captain, with Hardik Singh as his deputy. India will face Spain, Germany, Ireland, and England, playing each team twice in this leg.

The squad includes first-choice goalkeeper Krishan Bahadur Pathak, alongside Suraj Karkera and Princdeep Singh. The defensive line-up features experienced players like Jarmanpreet Singh, Amit Rohidas, Sumit, Jugraj Singh, and Varun Kumar.

The midfield will be led by Hardik Singh, with support from Manpreet Singh, Vivek Sagar Prasad, Rajkumar Pal, and Nilakanta Sharma. In the attack, Abhishek, Sukhjeet Singh, Mandeep Singh, Lalit Kumar Upadhyay, and Gurjant Singh will spearhead India's goal-scoring efforts.

Youngsters Angad Bir Singh (22) and Arshdeep Singh (20) have earned their first senior team call-ups, impressing in the junior team and Hockey India League. Head Coach Craig Fulton expressed confidence in the squad, stating:

"I believe this team can win matches and play an impressive brand of hockey. I am looking forward to seeing them compete against some of the best international teams."

Pushpa 2: The Rule Becomes Highest Ticket-Selling Film

Reloaded Version Hits OTT

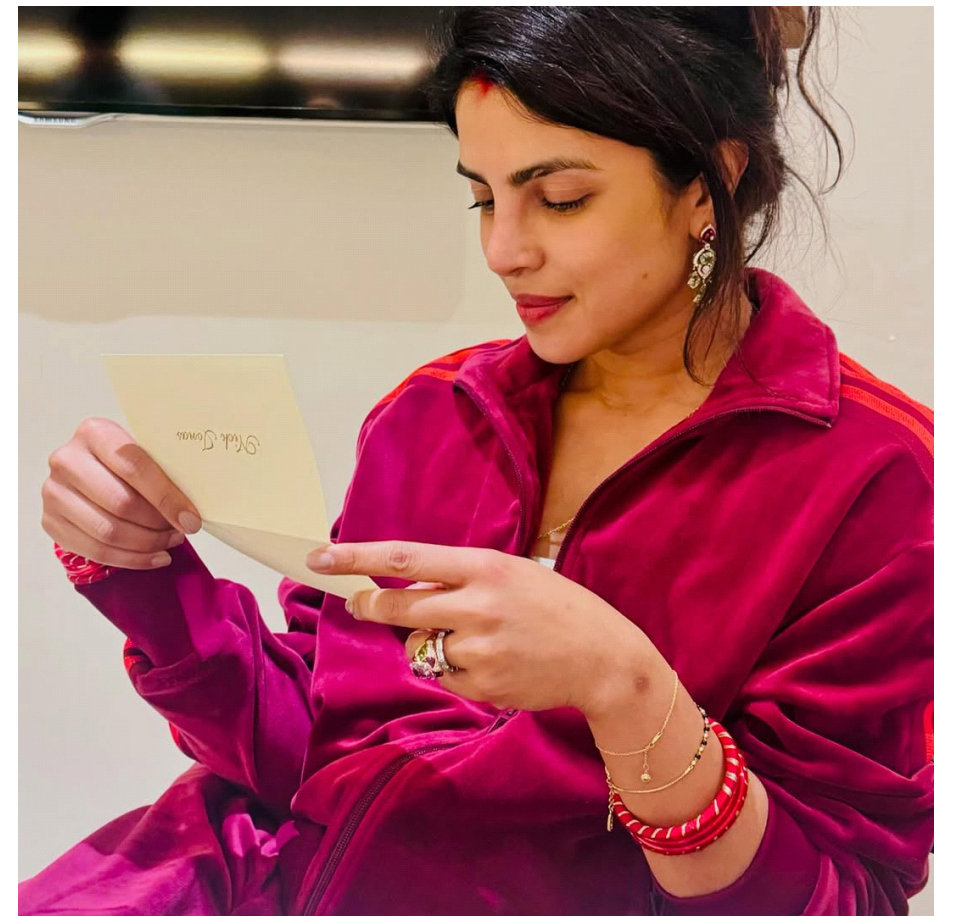
Pushpa 2: The Rule, directed by Sukumar and starring Allu Arjun and Rashmika Mandanna, has officially become the highest ticket-selling film ever, surpassing previous records. The film, which stormed the box office last year, has now sold over 20 million tickets on BookMyShow, outpacing K.G.F: Chapter 2. Ashish Saksena, COO of Cinemas at BookMyShow, highlighted the film's extraordinary success, stating, "Pushpa 2: The Rule has truly redefined cinematic milestones with over 20 million tickets sold, making it the most-watched film on BookMyShow." He also noted its massive appeal across cities like Hyderabad, Mumbai, Bengaluru, and Delhi-NCR.



The film's advance sales broke records, with 107,000 tickets sold in just one hour, surpassing Baahubali 2. Saksena emphasized that 35% of viewers experienced the film in single-screen the-

atres, reinforcing the enduring appeal of the traditional movie-going experience. Meanwhile, the Reloaded Version of Pushpa 2 dropped on Netflix today, featuring an additional 24 minutes of

footage. It is available in Telugu, Hindi, Malayalam, and Tamil. The film has so far collected ₹1,232 crore in India and ₹1,738 crore worldwide, according to Sacnilk.



Priyanka Chopra Bags ₹30 Cr for Mahesh-Rajamouli Film?

Though not officially confirmed, reports suggest that Priyanka Chopra Jonas will play the female lead in Superstar Mahesh Babu's upcoming film, directed by SS Rajamouli. The actress is currently in Hyderabad, reportedly preparing for the film. According to the latest buzz, the makers have finalized a ₹30 crore remuneration for her role.

Priyanka, who started her career in Bollywood before achieving global fame, initially demanded a higher fee, but negotiations led to the final figure. While ₹30 crore might seem steep, it's hardly a concern for the producers, given Rajamouli's track record of delivering massive blockbusters.

With Rajamouli at the helm, the film carries immense commercial potential even before its release. His ability to steer projects from inception to global recognition ensures strong pre-release business, making such deals viable.

Touted as an African adventure, the film aims to bring in international actors, and Priyanka's presence enhances its appeal both in India and overseas. Given her selective approach to roles in recent years, her inclusion has already generated significant buzz.

For a film of this scale, Priyanka's ₹30 crore deal is seen as a strategic investment rather than an expense.



Shahid Kapoor Praises Deva Co-Star Pooja Hegde

Shahid Kapoor, currently promoting his upcoming film Deva, lauded his co-star Pooja Hegde, acknowledging her hard work and independent rise in the industry.

Speaking at a promotional event, Shahid said, "She has worked hard to be where she is. Not everyone can make it on their own, and I appreciate that about her. She also has a charming way of dancing, which I enjoy."

Directed by Rosshan Andrews, Deva features Shahid Kapoor as a police officer and Pooja Hegde as investigative journalist Diya, with Pavail Gulati in a key role. The film's trailer and Bhasad Macha soundtrack have already received a positive response.

Apart from Deva, Shahid Kapoor will star in Arjun Ustara, directed by Vishal Bhardwaj, alongside Triptii Dimri and Randeep Hooda. Produced by Sajid Nadiadwala, the action thriller is set for a December 5, 2025 release.

South vs North – Regina Adds Her Voice!

Regina Cassandra, who is gearing up for the release of Vidaamuyarchi, has shared her thoughts on Bollywood's evolving approach toward South actors. During a recent interview, she reflected on the struggles South actors once faced in securing roles in Hindi cinema.

"Earlier, Bollywood rarely welcomed South actors, but now, they actively seek them to expand their films' reach to a larger audience. The scenario has completely changed post-pandemic," Regina stated. She also revealed that she has personally not faced such challenges and has recently signed a Bollywood film.

Regina plays a key role in Vidaamuyarchi, directed by Magizh Thirumeni and starring Ajith and Trisha. The film is set to release on February 6, 2025.



'Thandel' Censor Report

A 152-Minute Love Saga with Emotional Depth

Director Chandoo Mondeti, fresh off the success of Karthikeya 2, is set to captivate audiences once again with Thandel, starring Naga Chaitanya and Sai Pallavi. Backed by Geetha Arts, with Bunny Vasu as the producer and Allu Aravind presenting, the film has now cleared censorship with a U/A certificate.



With a runtime of 152 minutes, including ads and titles, Thandel promises a gripping love story infused with intense emotions. Inspired by real-life events, Chandoo Mondeti has crafted a narrative that blends romance with patriotism, complemented by a dramatic sea storm sequence that adds to the cinematic spectacle.

The chemistry between Naga Chaitanya and Sai Pallavi is expected to be a major highlight, making the emotional journey

even more compelling. Adding to the film's appeal is Devi Sri Prasad's music, with tracks like Bujji Thalli, Shiva Shakti, and Hilessa already winning hearts. His background score is set to amplify the film's impact. With strong buzz and high expectations, Thandel is all set for a grand release on February 7.

Hrithik Roshan Honoured at Joy Awards 2025

Alongside Morgan Freeman, Matthew McConaughey



Hrithik Roshan was recently honoured at the Joy Awards 2025 in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, marking his 25-year journey in the film industry. Sharing the stage with Hollywood icons Morgan Freeman and Matthew McConaughey, the Bollywood star called the moment "overwhelming and humbling."

Expressing his gratitude, Hrithik wrote on Instagram, "What a joy it was to be at the Joy Awards 2025 in the presence of some of the best talents from across the globe! Thank you Turki Alalshikh for

having me be a part of this celebration of global entertainment and cinema."

A video snippet from the event showed Freeman and McConaughey acknowledging their honours before Hrithik took the stage. The actor, visibly moved, said, "This doesn't make sense. Me holding an award amid such great legends—it's truly humbling."

The event featured several international stars, including Shradha Kapoor, Amanda Seyfried, Hans Zimmer, Anthony Hopkins, Cuba Gooding Jr., Christina Aguilera, Andrea Bocelli, Michael Bublé, Guy Ritchie, Mike Flanagan, and Martin Lawrence.

On the work front, Hrithik was last seen in Fighter alongside Deepika Padukone. He also appeared in The Roshans, a Netflix documentary showcasing his family's journey in cinema.