



**Weather Forecast**

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

# Karnataka Aims For ₹10 Lakh Crore Investment At Global Investors Meet



- Karnataka expects ₹10 lakh crore investment in GIM 2025.
- 19 countries participating, with 9 setting up pavilions.
- New industrial policy with flexible incentives to be unveiled.

### Grand Line-up Of Sessions And Participants

The meet will be inaugurated on February 10 at 4 PM, with Chief Minister Siddaramaiah presiding and Governor Thawar Chand Gehlot in attendance. Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh will formally inaugurate the event, while several other central ministers will participate in key sessions on February 12, 13, and 14. The event will witness the presence of top industrialists and policymakers. On February 12 and 13, the summit will feature business sessions, including a dedicated semiconductor summit. February 12 will also see an awards function to recognize industries that have contributed significantly to Karnataka's growth. February 13 will host multiple roundtables, including the Queen's City Roundtable, bringing together industry leaders for high-level discussions. The event will conclude on February 14 with awards for ventures and key contributors. As many as 19 countries are participating, with nine setting up dedicated pavilions. "With 60 speakers sharing insights, the forum will be a meaningful platform to drive investment," Patil added.

**TPN Correspondent | Karnataka**  
Karnataka is expecting investment commitments worth ₹10 lakh crore at the Invest Karnataka 2025 - Global Investors Meet (GIM 2025), scheduled from February 11-14 in Bengaluru. Industries Minister MB Patil stated that at least 70% of these investments are expected to materialize, making Karnataka a premier global investment hub. During his visit to the Republic Day Flower Show at Lalbagh, Patil emphasized that the event, themed Re-Imagining Growth, aims to position Karnataka as a leader in tech-driven, green, and resilient development. "We are in a phase where artificial intelligence, clean mobility, and sustainability are shap-

ing industries. EVs and green hydrogen will take center stage, while fossil fuels

will be phased out. The world is witnessing major geopolitical shifts, including the Ukraine-Russia war and the Israel-Gaza conflict, alongside evolving trade policies. Karnataka's approach must be adaptable and future-ready," he said.

### Flexible Incentives And Policy Enhancements

Karnataka, already a leader in IT, biotechnology, aerospace, defense, and machine tools, aims to strengthen its global competitiveness with a new industrial policy. "We are unveiling a policy with flexible incentives—either production-linked or capital-based, depending on investor preference," the minister said. The state is also offering incentives to boost employment, especially for women, and additional benefits for R&D initiatives that transition into manufacturing. Sustainability and green manufacturing will be encouraged through special incentives. A Microsoft-developed single-window portal will streamline investment approvals, integrating multiple departments to cut approval time by half. "Everything will be accessible at the touch of a button, making Karnataka one of the best states to do business in," Patil asserted. The state is open to investments across all sectors and countries. "We are not restricting ourselves to any one industry—our doors are open to all investors willing to contribute to Karnataka's growth story," he added.



### CM writes to PM Modi, calls for Putting UGC draft Regulations on Hold

- Siddaramaiah says proposed rules undermine state autonomy in education.
- Opposes allowing individuals without teaching experience to be vice-chancellors.
- Calls the move a "constitutional violation" aimed at centralizing power.

#### TPN Correspondent | Karnataka

Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah has written to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, urging him to put the draft UGC regulations on hold and initiate broad-based consultations with states, academicians, and other stakeholders. He asserted that the proposed changes undermine cooperative federalism and diminish the role of state governments in higher education governance. Siddaramaiah raised concerns over the draft regulations, which propose removing the state government's role in selecting vice-chancellors and introducing provisions that weaken the autonomy of universities established by state legislatures. He emphasized that while maintaining high standards in education is crucial, the constitutional framework must be upheld to ensure a balance between the roles of the Union and state governments. The Chief Minister specifically opposed the provision allowing individuals without teaching or research experience to be appointed as vice-chancellors, calling it a move that could compromise academic integrity. He also accused the Union government of centralizing power and undermining state autonomy through unilateral regulations imposed by the UGC. Congress leader Jairam Ramesh echoed Siddaramaiah's concerns, stating that leaders across the country have come together to oppose these "anti-federal and anti-democratic" regulations. He questioned whether the Union government would prioritize quality education or push its political agenda. Siddaramaiah termed the move a "constitutional violation" and a calculated attempt to "erode the democratic rights of states, control academic institutions, and stifle dissenting voices within the education sector." He urged the Centre to reconsider and engage in discussions with all stakeholders before proceeding with the regulations.



## Bengaluru Metro Fare Hiked by 50%

With maximum fare now ₹90. Commuters call the hike unfair.

Peak and non-peak hour pricing for the first time.

The fare revision is expected to boost revenue by ₹80 lakh daily.

Hike follows a 15% increase in govt bus fares

**TPN Correspondent | Bengaluru**  
Bengaluru Metro commuters will have to pay nearly 50% more for their rides as the revised fare structure comes into effect from Sunday. The Bengaluru Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) announced the hike on the recommendation of the Fare Fixation Committee. The maximum



## Ed Sheeran's surprise Bengaluru performance halted by police



#### TPN Correspondent | Bengaluru

British singer Ed Sheeran surprised fans with an impromptu street performance on Church Street, Bengaluru, on Sunday morning. However, the unexpected gig was cut short by the police, who stopped the performance due to lack of permission. Without prior announcement, Sheeran began singing on the footpath, drawing a large crowd within minutes. As the gathering grew, Bengaluru Police intervened, unaware of the singer's identity, and instructed him to stop. In a now-viral video, an officer is seen unplugging Sheeran's microphone mid-performance, leaving fans disappointed. Sheeran, who is in Bengaluru for his scheduled concert, gave city music lovers a memorable moment despite the abrupt end. His brief appearance on Church Street has since gone viral, sparking reactions from fans online.

## Biren Singh Quits As CM 2 Years After Manipur Violence Began



#### TPN Correspondent | Imphal

Manipur Chief Minister N Biren Singh has resigned amid growing dissent within the BJP and the looming possibility of a Congress-led no-confidence motion. He submitted his resignation to the Governor this evening after consultations with the central leadership. Despite the BJP's majority, the withdrawal of support by ally Conrad Sangma's National People's Party and internal party rifts posed a challenge. There were concerns that some BJP MLAs pushing for a leadership change might defy the party whip during a floor test. To prevent instability, Singh stepped down after meeting BJP chief JP Nadda and Union Home Minister Amit Shah in Delhi earlier today. Party sources indicate that around 12 MLAs were actively demanding a leadership change, with six others undecided. Additionally, differences between the Speaker and the Chief Minister further complicated matters. With the BJP gaining political momentum after its success in Delhi, the party high command was keen to prevent the Manipur crisis from overshadowing its national narrative.



# Army, Air Chiefs Fly Tejas Together in Historic Bengaluru Sortie



- Army and Air Force Chiefs fly Tejas together at Aero India 2025.
- General Dwivedi calls it the “best moment” of his life.
- Historic flight took place at Air Force Station, Yelahanka.
- LCA Tejas is an indigenous fighter jet developed by HAL and ADA.

TPN Correspondent | Bengaluru

In a first, Indian Air Force Chief Air Chief Marshal AP Singh and Army Chief General Upendra Dwivedi took a sortie together in the indigenous Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) Tejas at Aero India 2025. The historic flight, marking the first time two serving chiefs have flown together in a domestically built fighter jet, took place at the Air Force Station in Yelahanka, Bengaluru. General Dwivedi described the experience as the “best moment” of his life, stating that had he met the Air Chief earlier, he might have joined the Air Force as a fighter pilot. “We have been together since

our NDA days. From today, Air Chief Marshal AP Singh is my guru because he made me do various roles and activities while in the sky,” he remarked. Expressing his gratitude to the IAF, the Army Chief acknowledged the challenges faced by fighter pilots and the synergy required for successful operations. He also emphasized that the sortie was a great start to Aero India 2025. LCA Tejas, designed by the Aeronautical Development Agency (ADA) and manufactured by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL), is a key part of India’s indigenous defense capabilities, serving both the Air Force and Navy.

## Karnataka to set up sector-specific industrial parks

TPN Correspondent | Bengaluru

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh is set to inaugurate the Global Investors Meet (GIM) 2025 – Invest Karnataka, scheduled to take place in Bengaluru from February 12 to 14, with the inauguration on February 11, according to Large and Medium Industries Minister MB Patil. The state aims to attract investments worth ₹10 lakh crore across various sectors. As part of this initiative, the Karnataka government has announced sector-specific industrial parks, including a solar cell park and food park in Vijayapura, an advanced pharma park in Kolar, a drone park in Chitradurga, EV clusters in Chikkaballapur and Dharwad, a 200-acre startup park in Hubballi to support over 400 startups, and a 1,200-acre industri-



al park in Tidagundi, Vijayapura. A major highlight of the summit will be the launch of the Invest Karnataka Awards, which will recognize 14 industries that have significantly contributed to the state’s industrial growth. These awards will include categories such as the Sunrise Sector Awards, celebrating achievements in Aerospace and Defense, Auto/EV, and Biotech and Life Sciences, along with awards for the Highest One-Time Investment and

Pioneers in Global Research and Development.

Additionally, the state government will introduce the first-ever SME Awards, honoring over 35 small and medium enterprises. Special recognitions will also be given for district-level excellence and women entrepreneurs. To enhance investor facilitation, the department will launch an AI-powered Single Window Clearance, which will be inaugurated by Congress MP Rahul Gandhi. Global participation will be a key focus of Invest Karnataka 2025, featuring over 75 speakers, including Dr. Shashi Tharoor and Nikhil Kamath. The summit will also host discussions on renewable energy, university collaborations for KWIN, and healthcare innova-

# IEFK-2025 Calls for Stronger Energy Efficiency Efforts

- IEFK-2025 urges stronger energy efficiency measures for economic growth.
- BEE sets a 2030 target of saving 150 Mtoe to curb emissions.
- India strengthens its carbon market with new compliance guidelines.
- Kerala aims for carbon neutrality by 2050 with a renewable energy push.

## ENERGY IS LIFE



TPN Correspondent | Thiruvananthapuram

The International Energy Festival of Kerala (IEFK-2025), held from February 7-9, emphasized the need for State Designated Agencies (SDAs) to support the Bureau of Energy Efficiency’s (BEE) nationwide energy conservation movement. Experts highlighted the urgency of climate action, urging stronger energy efficiency initiatives to drive economic growth and combat climate change. BEE’s energy efficiency measures contribute over 40% to climate change mitigation efforts. As of January 2024, its Standard & Labelling (S&L) Program covering 35 energy-efficient appliances has saved 81.64 billion units of energy, translating to ₹54,324 crore in cost savings and a reduction of 58 million tonnes of CO2 emissions. Andhra Pradesh and Telangana have played a key role in promoting star-rated energy-efficient appliances in the domestic sector. To accelerate efforts, BEE has set a national target of saving 150 million tonnes of oil equivalent (Mtoe) by 2030. Experts at IEFK-2025 stressed that with the energy sector responsible for 75% of global greenhouse gas emissions, immediate intervention is necessary to prevent temperatures from surpassing the 1.5°C limit set by the Paris Agreement. The festival also saw global experts commend Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi for launching the LiFE (Lifestyle for Environment) movement at COP26, aimed at promoting sustainable consumption. India’s climate action strategy has been strengthened with two key guidelines under BEE—the Detailed Procedure for Compliance Mechanism and the Accreditation

Procedure and Eligibility Criteria for Carbon Verification Agencies. These are part of India’s effort to reduce its GDP’s emission intensity by 45% by 2030 and achieve net-zero emissions by 2070. BEE has organized stakeholder workshops in Hyderabad, Bhubaneswar, Mumbai, Chandigarh, and Visakhapatnam to engage industries like steel, cement, textiles, and paper in the carbon credit market. The festival highlighted India’s Carbon Market Framework, including the Carbon Credit Trading Scheme (CCTS), compliance and offset mechanisms, and regulatory oversight through the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (CERC). These initiatives aim to establish a low-carbon, sustainable economy by expanding India’s carbon credit market. IEFK-2025 commended the Kerala government’s commitment to becoming a carbon-free state by 2050. Additional Chief Secretary K.R. Jyothish outlined the state’s roadmap for achieving 100% renewable energy by 2040 and introduced the Kerala GHG Inventory and GHG Portal, developed with the Vasudha Foundation and the Directorate of Environment and Climate Change (DoECC). Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan launched the portal at a state-level event. Jyothish also detailed Kerala’s rapid adoption of electric vehicles (EVs) and its Vehicle-to-Grid (V2G) technology, which enables EV charging during off-peak hours through built-in sensors. Director of Energy Management Centre (EMC), Hari Kumar, thanked BEE for supporting Kerala’s energy conservation efforts, underscoring their role in climate action and sustainable development.

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# Bengaluru Metro Fare Hiked by 50%

fare for Bengaluru Metro has been increased from ₹60 to ₹90, while the minimum balance required on smart cards has also been raised from ₹50 to ₹90. Under the revised fare structure, the cost for a journey varies based on distance: ₹10 for 0-2 km, ₹20 for 2-4 km, ₹30 for 4-6 km, ₹40 for 6-8 km, ₹50 for 8-10 km, ₹60 for 10-12 km, ₹70 for 15-20 km, ₹80 for 20-25 km, and ₹90 for journeys exceeding 25 km. In a first, BMRCL has also introduced peak and non-peak hour pricing. A 10% discount will be available for smart card users traveling during off-peak hours, including early mornings, noon to 4 PM, and post 9 PM on weekdays. Additionally, a 10% discount will apply on Sundays and national

holidays.

Commuters Express Concerns Many metro users have criticized the fare hike, calling it unaffordable and unfair. Some commuters even stated that using personal vehicles has become a cheaper option. “I travel 70 km daily, and taking my bike is now cheaper than the metro. It’s ironic that public transport costs more than personal travel,” a commuter wrote on social media. Another user termed the fare hike “daylight robbery,” pointing out that their fare had nearly doubled. “I used to pay ₹33.25 for my trip from Kadugodi to Byappanahalli, but now it’s ₹60. That’s almost a 90% hike,” they said.

Some also questioned why metro fares are not uniform across the country, highlighting that Bengaluru now has one of the highest metro fares in India. “We pay the same taxes, so why is Bengaluru’s metro the most expensive?” a commuter asked. Despite the criticism, BMRCL defended the hike, stating that it was implemented based on recommendations from the Fare Fixation Committee. Officials also emphasized the discounts for smart card users and off-peak hour travel to encourage digital transactions. With this revision, BMRCL aims to increase its daily revenue by ₹80 lakh or more, adding to its current ₹2 crore earnings from metro operations.





## India Unveils AMCA Fighter Model at Aero India 2025

**TPN Correspondent | Bengaluru**  
India has taken a significant step in bolstering its air combat capabilities with the unveiling of a full-scale engineering model of the Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA) at Aero India 2025. Displayed at the India Pavilion, this marks the first public showcase of the indigenous fifth-generation stealth fighter, reinforcing the country's push for self-reliance in defence technology. The AMCA, a twin-engine, multi-role stealth fighter, is designed to meet the evolving operational needs of the Indian Air Force (IAF). Equipped

with cutting-edge features, including AI-powered avionics, advanced stealth capabilities, and super-cruise functionality, the aircraft is expected to play a crucial role in India's future aerial warfare strategy. Alongside India's indigenous advancements, the Aero India event also saw the United States displaying its F-16 and F-35 fighter jets, highlighting global interest in modern air combat technology. The unveiling of the AMCA signifies India's growing aerospace ambitions and its commitment to developing next-generation military assets.

## Karnataka IAF Officer Dies in Parachute Malfunction During Training

- IAF officer GS Manjunath dies after parachute fails during training in Agra.
- The 36-year-old had served in Jammu & Kashmir, Assam, UP, and Delhi.
- He was stationed in Agra for the past 15 months in the para jump division.
- Mortal remains will reach his hometown on Sunday morning.

**TPN Correspondent | Shivamogga**

A 36-year-old Indian Air Force (IAF) officer from Karnataka, Junior Warrant Officer GS Manjunath, lost his life during a para jump training session at the Paratrooper Training School in Agra, Uttar Pradesh, after his parachute failed to deploy. The fatal incident occurred between 7 and 8 am on Friday from a cargo aircraft at an altitude of approximately 18,000 feet.

Manjunath, a native of Sankuru village in Hosanagara taluk, Shivamogga district, had been serving in the IAF since 2005 and had previously been posted in Jammu and Kashmir, Assam, Uttar Pradesh, and Delhi. He had been stationed in Agra for the past one-and-a-half months in the para jump division. He is survived by his parents, Suresh GM and Nagaratna, wife Kalpitha Sakia, brother Yuvraj GS, and sisters Suvarna GS and Anusuya GS. Married in 2019 to Kalpitha from Assam, the couple was ex-



pecting their first child. During the training session, 11 other jumpers successfully completed their jumps, but Manjunath's parachute malfunctioned, leading to the tragedy. His mortal remains will be flown from Agra to Bengaluru and are expected to reach Mavinakoppa Circle in Hosanagara by 7:30 am on Sunday.

## Woman Arrested for Killing Husband Over Property Dispute

**TPN Correspondent | Bengaluru**

A 50-year-old woman, Shantamma, has been arrested for allegedly killing her husband, C Cheluvvaraju, following a dispute over property worth over ₹3 crore near Bidadi. The incident occurred on Thursday morning when she attacked him with a wooden log and locked him inside a cow shed, where he remained until the evening.

Cheluvvaraju's son discovered him unresponsive in the shed and rushed him to a private hospital, where he was declared dead on arrival due to exhaustion and bleeding. Suspecting foul play, the hospital registered a medico-legal case, leading the police to review CCTV footage, which showed Shantamma as-



saulting and dragging her husband into the shed. The couple had a strained relationship, with Shantamma previously filing two police complaints against her husband. Reportedly, Cheluvvaraju willed his property to his sister out of resentment, triggering the fatal confronta-

tion. The victim's sister later filed a complaint against Shantamma and her two children. Shantamma has been remanded in judicial custody at Mandya prison, while her children have not been arrested as their involvement is yet to be established.

## Two Sentenced for Cheating Investors With 84% Interest Promise

**TPN Correspondent | Bengaluru**

A special court in Bengaluru has sentenced two individuals for cheating a couple by promising an exorbitant annual interest rate of 84% under a fraudulent financial scheme. The court sentenced Mohammed Idhrees to five years of rigorous imprisonment along with a fine of ₹4 lakh, while Mohammed Ameer Basha received three years of rigorous imprisonment and a ₹3 lakh fine. They were convicted under the Indian Penal Code and the Karnataka Protection of Interest of Depositors in Financial Establishments (KPIDFE) Act, 2004.

Of the total ₹7 lakh fine, the court directed ₹6 lakh to be paid as compensation to the victim, Yashaswini, while the remaining amount was forfeited. The prosecution revealed that Idhrees, previously convicted in four similar cases, is accused in nearly ten such fraud cases, including some in Tamil Nadu. He was arrested in connection with another pending case in Ariyalur, Tamil Nadu. Basha was also convicted in three similar cases.

## Fake Cop Attacks, Robs BWSSB Worker in Bengaluru

**TPN Correspondent | Bengaluru**

A 35-year-old BWSSB contract worker, HC Nagesh, was attacked and robbed by an unidentified man posing as a policeman near Jayapura Gate on Mysuru Highway. The incident occurred between 7:30 pm and 7:40 pm when Nagesh was returning home in his car. The accused, riding a bike, stopped him under the pretext of checking vehicle documents. As Nagesh opened the door, the attacker kicked him, ensuring he

couldn't escape. The accused then robbed him of ₹14,000 in cash and a gold ring before forcing him to drive a short distance. He later abandoned the victim and fled on his bike. Nagesh, who suffered a fractured leg, is undergoing treatment in Maddur. The accused also threatened him with a knife, warning that he would be taken to the police station and locked up if he didn't comply. Police have recorded the victim's statement and launched an investigation.

## 75-year-old Bengaluru woman loses ₹2 crore in investment scam

**TPN Correspondent | Bengaluru**

A 75-year-old woman from Bengaluru was defrauded of ₹2 crore by cybercriminals promising high returns on stock market investments. The scam, which unfolded between December 9, 2024, and January 31, 2025, also saw the victim lose an additional 15% commission in a failed attempt to withdraw her funds.

The victim, a resident of Cooke Town, filed a complaint with the East CEN Crime Police, stating that Girivasan Iyengar and Aisha Sithika, posing as representatives of 'Hem Securities,' lured her into investing. They assured guaranteed returns and convinced her to transfer money across multiple bank accounts.

On January 31, when she attempted to withdraw her investment, the scammers demanded a 15% commission and transaction fees, promising a payout within two days. Trusting their claims, she complied, only to lose contact with them soon after. Realizing she had been scammed, she reported the fraud to the cybercrime helpline (1930) on February 3 and submitted payment receipts. However, in a panic, she mistakenly provided bank details of two unrelated individuals, leading to



the freezing of three accounts. Upon her request, police unfroze the accounts of the innocent parties and registered a case under the Information Technology Act and relevant sections of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita. Investigations are ongoing. Bengaluru Police have been actively warning citizens against rising cyber frauds, as similar scams have resulted in victims losing crores of rupees in recent months.

## Now Report Emergencies to 112 Helpline Anonymously in Karnataka

**TPN Correspondent | Bengaluru**

Residents in Karnataka can now report emergencies to the Namma 112 helpline while choosing to remain anonymous, according to a response from Bengaluru city police to an RTI query. The move is aimed at ensuring that individuals feel safe and empowered to report incidents without fear of their identity being disclosed. City-based RTI activist and NGO founder Dushyant Dubey filed an RTI on January 15, seeking clarification on anonymity options for callers. In response, the Bengaluru city police confirmed on

February 7 that individuals can request anonymity while making emergency calls to 112 by stating, "Please keep my data anonymous" or "I wish to stay anonymous." The police emphasized that it is mandatory for 112 operators to protect the caller's privacy when anonymity is requested. If a caller's identity is not safeguarded, they can escalate the issue during a feedback call after their complaint is closed by giving a one-star rating and raising their concern with the feedback team. The matter will then be reviewed by the deputy commissioner of



police (DCP) overseeing the Command Centre. The initiative is expected to encourage more people to come forward and report incidents, strengthening public safety and security in the state.





## Priyank Kharge accuses X, Meta, and YouTube of suppressing anti-Modi posts

TPN Correspondent | Karnataka

Karnataka IT Minister Priyank Kharge has accused social media platforms such as X (formerly Twitter), Meta, and YouTube of deliberately restricting the visibility of posts critical of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Home Minister Amit Shah, and the BJP government. He alleged that such actions suppress democratic discourse and distort public perception. In a post on X, Kharge stated, "I am increasingly convinced that @X, @Meta, @YouTubeIndia, and @Facebook are deliberately limiting/restricting the visibility/reach of posts critical of PM Modi, HM Shah, and the BJP regime. This suppression not only undermines democratic discourse but also skews public perception by silencing dissenting voices." He further argued that such content moderation practices erode public trust in social media platforms. "This trend of limiting critical content stifles free speech and distorts the democratic process by restricting access to diverse viewpoints. Such actions reduce public confidence in social media platforms, emphasizing the urgent need for transparency and accountability in content moderation," he added. Kharge's remarks come in the backdrop of BJP's landslide victory in the Delhi Assembly elections, where it ended a 27-year drought to reclaim power, while Congress failed to secure a single seat. His comments also coincide with Meta CEO Mark Zuckerberg's recent statement on global election trends. Zuckerberg claimed that government mismanagement during Covid-19 led to a loss of public trust, causing electoral defeats for many ruling parties worldwide. "This isn't just a US phenomenon. The way governments handled Covid—whether through economic policies, inflation management, or overall governance—led to a breakdown in trust. In 2024, many incumbent governments lost elections globally. This reflects a broader decline in trust, not just in the US but across democratic institutions worldwide," Zuckerberg said. The BJP dismissed Zuckerberg's views, stating that his claims were factually incorrect and asserted that the party retained power in the 2024 general elections.

## Pralhad Joshi: Delhi voters have given a 'tight slap' to Kejriwal

TPN Correspondent | Hubballi

Union Minister Pralhad Joshi on Saturday said that the people of Delhi have completely rejected the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) and delivered a "tight slap" to its leader Arvind Kejriwal by handing a thumping majority to the BJP.



Addressing the media in Hubballi, Joshi stated that Delhi voters have shown the door to those who are "anti-people, anti-development, and indulged in corruption", while backing Prime Minister Narendra Modi's governance. "After 27 years, the BJP is making a historic and unprecedented comeback in Delhi with a huge mandate," he said.

The Union minister asserted that voters have dismissed Kejriwal's arrogance and his attempts to create anarchy in the national capital. "Kejriwal, who rose to power through Anna Hazare's anti-corruption movement, eventually got entangled in corruption himself and ended up in jail. Now he is facing the consequences," he remarked.

Taking a dig at the Congress, Joshi said the party has been wiped out in Delhi, securing zero seats under Rahul Gandhi's leadership. "The party is now almost invisible, except in two or three states. If it continues like this, its existence as a national party will be at risk. The Congress should introspect," he added.

On Raj Bhavan returning the ordinance on microfinance firm regulation, Joshi said the governor's action should not be politicized, urging the state government to provide accurate details in response and hold discussions with the opposition.

# Delhi poll results a wake-up call for Karnataka Congress

TPN Correspondent | Bengaluru

The BJP's emphatic victory in Delhi is likely to impact Karnataka politics, providing momentum for the party to resolve internal rifts, while serving as a wake-up call for the Congress. The results indicate that welfare schemes alone, like AAP's guarantees, may not be enough to counter anti-incumbency and allegations of misgovernance.

The win is expected to boost BJP workers' morale, forcing different factions to align with the high command's strategy. While BJP state president BY Vijayendra stated that leadership changes in Karnataka would be settled by February 20, party insiders suggest the decision will be made by February 15. However, the central leadership is unlikely to make drastic changes, given the backlash faced when BS Yediyurappa was removed as Chief Minister.

The victory is also expected to silence dissenting voices within the party. Former CM DV Sadananda Gowda remarked that after BJP's loss in Karnataka, many leaders openly voiced their opinions, but success in Maharashtra, Haryana, and Delhi will now force them to fall in line. A senior BJP spokesperson added that only Vijayendra's confirmation as state president remains, as the party has already announced presidents for 23 organizational districts.

Meanwhile, a rebel group led by Basanagouda Patil Yatnal had planned a meeting during Union Minister of State for Railways



V Somanna's housewarming ceremony, but it is now unlikely to happen. Somanna clarified that he had invited 19 NDA MPs for the event and denied being an aspirant for the state BJP president's post.

On the impact of Delhi results on Congress, Karnataka Home Minister Dr G Parameshwara dismissed concerns, stating that assembly elections are fought on local issues, and that the Lok Sabha elections will have different dynamics, including alliance strategies.

**BJP's Delhi win a rejection of appeasement politics: HDK**  
Union Minister HD Kumaraswamy hailed

BJP's landslide victory in Delhi, calling it a clear rejection of appeasement politics. He credited the win to the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Home Minister Amit Shah, and BJP National President JP Nadda.

"The mandate reflects public trust in Modi's vision for Viksit Bharat and Atmanirbhar Bharat, emphasizing development-driven governance over appeasement politics," Kumaraswamy stated. He congratulated BJP's allies and newly elected legislators, asserting that the results reaffirm the people's faith in strong leadership, economic growth, and national security.

## Cop Protests at Station With Father's Body, Alleges Custodial Assault

TPN Correspondent | Belagavi

A police inspector staged a protest with his father's body in front of Harugeri police station in Belagavi district, alleging that his father died due to an assault by a police sub-inspector while in custody.

Inspector Ashok Sadalgi of Devadurga police station, accompanied by a large number of people, demanded that an FIR be registered against Harugeri police sub-inspector Mallappa Pujari, whom he accused of assaulting his father, Annappa Sadalgi. The protest took place on Friday evening, with the body placed in front of the station as part of the demonstration. According to sources, on January 10, a group of people allegedly entered Annappa's land near Harugeri, leading to a confrontation. Following this, both Annappa and the accused group were taken



to the police station. While in custody, Annappa was allegedly assaulted by police personnel, after which his health deteriorated. He was later admitted to a private hospital,

where he passed away.

Ashok had reportedly requested the Harugeri police and the Athani deputy superintendent of police to register an FIR against those who attacked his father, but his plea was allegedly ignored. Instead, an atrocity case was filed against his brother by Pujari. However, Belagavi SP Bhimashankar Guled refuted the allegations against Pujari, stating that there was no evidence of an attack on Annappa while in police custody. He cited CCTV footage and other evidence to support this claim. Guled also mentioned that Annappa had a history of heart issues, having undergone a procedure in 2017, and was admitted to a hospital in Belagavi with breathlessness before his death. The police are now awaiting the postmortem report to determine the cause of death.

## Rahul Jarkiholi elected Karnataka Youth Congress general secretary



TPN Correspondent | Belagavi

Rahul Jarkiholi, son of Karnataka PWD Minister Satish Jarkiholi, has been elected as the general secretary of the Karnataka Youth Congress. The 25-year-old won the office-bearers' election by a significant margin of 1.20 lakh votes, marking his formal entry into mainstream politics. With three MLAs, an MLC, and an MP already in the Jarkiholi family, Rahul's political debut further strengthens their influence in Karnataka politics. According to family sources, the Jarkiholi family had been preparing for his political launch and is likely to field him in the

2028 Assembly elections from one of the constituencies in Belagavi district.

Rahul's elder sister, Priyanka Jarkiholi, won the Chikkodi Lok Sabha seat last year. He actively campaigned for her and played a key role in her electoral success. Sources suggest that Rahul may contest the next Assembly elections from Hukkeri, a segment currently held by BJP MLA Nikhil Katti, son of the late minister Umesh Katti.

An engineering graduate, Rahul has been gradually increasing his involvement in politics, with this latest victory solidifying his position in the Congress party's youth wing.

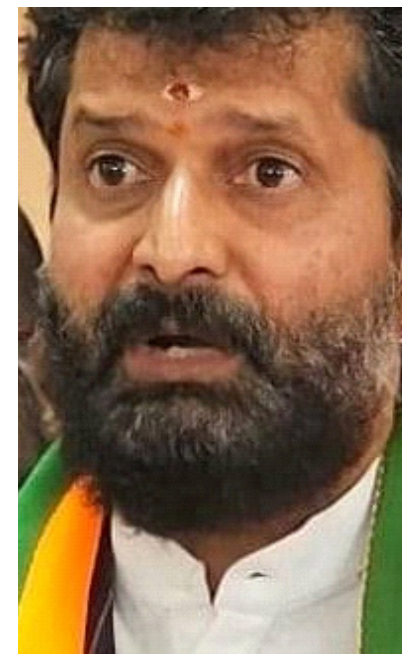
## CT Ravi Hails BJP's Delhi Win, Slams AAP and Congress

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

BJP leader CT Ravi hailed the party's "historic" victory in the Delhi Assembly elections, accusing the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) of corruption and asserting that the people of Delhi have placed their trust in BJP after more than two decades. The party secured a decisive win, claiming 48 seats and surpassing the majority mark in the 70-member assembly.

"The people of Delhi have blessed BJP. I want to congratulate and thank them for throwing out the corrupt AAP and showing faith in BJP," Ravi stated. He also criticized the Congress, saying, "Congress neither has 'neeti, neeyat nor neta'. If they do not have the trust of the people, they will keep losing elections." He further accused the Congress of being "anti-poor and anti-constitution," taking a swipe at Rahul Gandhi.

BJP's landslide victory marked its return to power in Delhi after 27 years, delivering a severe blow to the ruling AAP, which had dominated the last two elections. Several senior AAP leaders, including former Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, lost their seats, with only Chief Minister Atishi managing to retain her position.



The verdict came shortly after BJP's sweeping victories in Maharashtra and Haryana, further solidifying its dominance in national politics. Meanwhile, Congress continued its decline, failing to win a single seat for the third consecutive assembly election. Once the dominant party in Delhi, having ruled for 15 years from 1998, Congress registered another zero tally.

AAP had previously won 62 out of 70 seats in 2020 and 67 seats in 2015. The votes for this election were cast on February 5 and counted on Saturday.





## ISRO successfully completes ignition trial of indigenous cryogenic engine



TPN Correspondent | Bengaluru

ISRO has successfully completed the ignition trial of the indigenous CE20 cryogenic engine, which powers the upper stage of the Launch Vehicle Mark (LVM)-3. The test was conducted on February 7 at the High Altitude Test Facility in ISRO Propulsion Complex, Mahendragiri, Tamil Nadu. The trial, conducted under vacuum conditions, simulated engine ignition in space. During the test, the engine's ignition thrust chamber was activated using a multi-element igniter, under tank pressure conditions similar to those expected during a restart in flight. ISRO confirmed that the engine and test facility performed as expected.

Restarting a cryogenic engine in space is a complex process. As part of ongoing research, ISRO is exploring the use of bootstrap mode to initiate turbopumps, instead of the stored gas system. This approach is expected to enable both the thrust chamber and gas generator to reignite under tank head conditions. ISRO has planned a series of tests to validate this method, enhancing the engine's capability for multiple restarts during flight.

Previously, ISRO had conducted a similar ignition trial under ground conditions outside the vacuum chamber. The CE20 engine is already qualified to operate at thrust levels between 19t and 22t in flight with a single start and is approved for the Gaganyaan mission.



## Father of Shradha Walkar, Victim of Notorious 2022 Murder, Passes Away

TPN Correspondent | Bengaluru

Vikas Walkar, whose daughter Shradha Walkar was brutally murdered in 2022, passed away at his residence in Vasai city, Palghar district, on Sunday morning. According to a police official, Vikas was found unresponsive by his family members and was immediately taken to a nearby hospital, where he was pronounced dead.

Initial findings suggest that cardiac arrest might have been the cause of his demise, though the official cause of death will be confirmed once the postmortem results are available. No further details have been released by the authorities at this time. Shradha Walkar's case had gripped the nation after she was allegedly murdered by her live-in partner, Aaftab Amin Poonawala, in May 2022. The gruesome details emerged that Poonawala had not only strangled Shradha but also dismembered her body, storing the parts in a refrigerator before disposing of them across various locations in Delhi to evade detection.

The Delhi Police submitted a comprehensive 6,629-page chargesheet against Poonawala on January 24, 2023. The case continues to be a poignant reminder of the dangers of domestic violence, stirring widespread public discourse on safety and justice in personal relationships.

The community and those following the case have expressed their condolences, mourning the loss of Vikas Walkar, who had been vocal about seeking justice for his daughter. The family requests privacy as they navigate through this difficult time.

# President Murmu to Visit Maha Kumbh, Take Holy Dip at Sangam

TPN Correspondent | Prayagraj

President Droupadi Murmu will visit Prayagraj today to participate in the ongoing Maha Kumbh and take a holy dip at the Triveni Sangam. Her visit, lasting over eight hours, will highlight the spiritual and cultural significance of the event. She will offer prayers at the revered Akshayavat and Bade Hanuman Temple. Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath will also be present on the occasion. President Murmu will begin her day at the Sangam Nose, where she will take a ceremonial dip, reinforcing the deep-rooted faith in Sanatan Dharma. Notably, Dr. Rajendra Prasad, India's first President, had also taken a holy dip during the Maha Kumbh in the past. Following this, she will visit the sacred Akshayavat tree, considered a symbol of immortality in Sanatan culture, and offer prayers. The site holds immense religious significance and is mentioned in ancient scriptures. She will then visit the Bade Hanuman Temple, where she will pray for the well-being and prosperity of the nation. As part of her visit, President Murmu will also



explore the Digital Mahakumbh Experience Centre, an initiative integrating modern technology with religious traditions. This center provides detailed information about the Maha Kumbh Mela through advanced digital tools, enabling devotees from India and abroad to experience the event's gran-

deur more closely. In light of the President's visit, strict security arrangements have been put in place across the city. Her participation in the Maha Kumbh is seen as a historic and inspiring moment, further enhancing the religious, cultural, and spiritual significance of the event.

## Father Strangles 18-Year-Old Daughter With Rope For Refusing To Marry

TPN Correspondent | Bidar

A tragic incident unfolded in Bidar, Karnataka, where an 18-year-old girl was reportedly beaten and then strangled by her father after she refused to marry the man he had chosen for her. The incident occurred on Friday, resulting in the immediate arrest of the accused, identified as Motiram. The sequence of events began when the young woman eloped with a boy she loved, leading her parents to file a complaint. The couple was eventually located and returned to their families. However, the relationship between the girl and the boy subsequently ended. The father, Motiram, faced significant social humiliation due to his daughter's actions, which added to the family tensions. On the day of the incident, he attempted to persuade his daughter to marry a man of his choosing. Her refusal to comply led to a violent reaction from Motiram, who allegedly assaulted her with a wooden stick and then strangled her with a rope, causing her death. At the time of the incident, the victim's mother was away from home fetching water, leaving no immediate wit-



ness to the crime. The local police at Santhpur station have taken action, registering a murder case and arresting Motiram. A senior police officer confirmed the details of the case, stating, "We have registered a case of murder at Santhpur police station and arrested the accused father in connec-

tion with the incident." This horrific event highlights ongoing issues of forced marriage and domestic violence, prompting discussions on the need for stronger protective measures for individuals against familial coercion in marital decisions.

## FIR filed against con-woman Aishwarya in Karnataka

TPN Correspondent | Bengaluru

A fresh FIR has been registered against Aishwarya Gowda, who is already facing allegations of defrauding crores and falsely claiming to be the sister of former MP DK Suresh. The complaint was filed by Assistant Commissioner of Police (ACP) Bharath S Reddy of Byatarayanapura Sub-Division at the Byatarayanapura police station on Wednesday.

According to the police, Aishwarya had illegally obtained call detail records (CDRs) of

four individuals to threaten and extort money. The case has been registered under IPC Sections 120B (criminal conspiracy) and 409 (criminal breach of trust by a public servant), along with Section 72 of the IT Act and the Telecommunication Act. During the investigation, police seized five mobile phones from Aishwarya and two from her husband. After obtaining court permission, the devices were sent to the West Division CEN police station for data extraction. Upon examination, officials discov-

ered the CDRs of four individuals, including a complainant who had filed a case against her at Rajajinagar police station. The police confirmed that CDRs can only be accessed by law enforcement or investigative agencies for criminal investigations. Aishwarya, who had no such authorization, allegedly misused the information with the help of a public servant. Following the FIR, the case has been transferred to ACP Vijayanagar, and a notice has been issued to Aishwarya for questioning.

## NAAC Debars University for Five Years Over Bribery Case, Lifetime Ban for Peer Team

TPN Correspondent | Bengaluru

The National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) has taken strict action in the wake of the bribery scandal involving the Guntur-based Koneru Lakshmaiah Educational Foundation (KLEF). The university has been debarred for five years from applying for accreditation, while the entire peer team involved in the case has been banned for life from participating in NAAC activities. The move follows a CBI investigation into

allegations that the university bribed NAAC officials in exchange for an A++ rating. In response, NAAC's executive committee has decided to cancel the ongoing accreditation process of the university and take further corrective measures. Additionally, NAAC announced that it would critically review previous assessment visits conducted by the seven debarred members. The results of any institutions assessed by them, where accreditation has not yet been declared, will be withheld. A

special standing committee will examine these cases before releasing the results. Furthermore, NAAC will carefully scrutinize accreditation visits conducted in the past year, with the executive committee set to take further action if necessary. The stringent measures highlight NAAC's commitment to maintaining the integrity of the accreditation process and ensuring that higher education institutions in India meet the required standards without any malpractice.

## 31 Maoists Killed, 2 Security Personnel Dead In Chhattisgarh Encounter

TPN Correspondent | Chhattisgarh

Security forces gunned down 31 Maoists in an encounter in Chhattisgarh's Bijapur district today. The gunfight erupted deep inside the Indravati National Park area during an anti-Maoist operation. Two security personnel lost their lives, while two others sustained injuries but are out of danger and have been evacuated for treatment.

The encounter broke out when Maoists engaged a joint team of the District Reserve Group, Special Task Force, and Bastar Fighter Force. After the exchange of fire, security forces recovered the bodies of 31 Maoists in fatigues.

A significant cache of weapons, including AK-47 rifles, Self-Loading Rifles, INSAS rifles, grenade launchers, and explosives, was seized from the encounter site. Officials are in the process of identifying the Maoists killed. A search operation is ongoing, with additional forces deployed to the area.





## Factors Behind AAP's Defeat in the 2025 Delhi Assembly Elections

The 2025 Delhi Assembly elections have delivered a resounding defeat to the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), with party leader Arvind Kejriwal conceding defeat to BJP candidate Parvesh Sharma in the New Delhi constituency by a margin of 3,182 votes. AAP, which rose to prominence on the back of the 2011 Anna Hazare-led anti-corruption movement, has seen its political fortunes change significantly. Despite being seen as a champion of transparency and governance reforms in its early years, the party's internal issues, governance failures, and corruption allegations played a key role in the electoral outcome.

### 1. Anti-Incumbency and Governance Failures

AAP's decade-long rule in Delhi faced the inevitable challenge of anti-incumbency. Despite some welfare-oriented policies, the party struggled to address the key concerns of the people, particularly the middle class, which had been a loyal voter base. The promises made in the 15-point "Kejriwal Ki Guarantee," including freebies and waivers, were not enough to convince voters. The lack of concrete plans to address critical issues like air and water pollution, sanitation, waste management, and inflation eroded public confidence. Additionally, the party's constant finger-pointing at the Centre and refusal to take responsibility for governance failures were perceived

as excuses, further alienating the electorate.

### 2. Corruption Allegations and Damage to Kejriwal's Image

Kejriwal's carefully crafted image as a corruption-free, "common man" leader suffered a severe blow with the emergence of corruption allegations, including his involvement in the Delhi liquor policy scam and the "Sheesh Mahal" controversy. These scandals raised questions about his integrity and tarnished the party's image as an alternative to traditional politics. The public's disillusionment with Kejriwal's leadership was palpable, especially when it came to allegations of extravagance in the renovation of the Chief Minister's residence. This marked the collapse of the narrative that had made AAP a popular choice for voters seeking transparency and governance reform.

### 3. Internal Discord and the Congress Factor

The failure of AAP and the Congress to form an electoral alliance in Delhi played a role in the party's loss. The internal tensions within the opposition bloc, including the Congress's strategic decision to undermine AAP following its setbacks in Punjab and Goa, left the party isolated. This internal discord was exacerbated by Congress's focus on weak-

ening AAP rather than uniting against the BJP. This disunity, combined with the BJP's campaign strategies, made it difficult for AAP to maintain a strong opposition front.

### BJP's Strategy and the Shift in Delhi's Political Landscape

While AAP struggled to address these issues, the BJP capitalized on its aggressive campaigning strategy. The party effectively consolidated its voter base across various demographic and caste lines, while also winning over disillusioned AAP supporters. The BJP's extensive digital campaign, spearheaded by platforms like the NaMo app, and its ground-level outreach through key leaders, contributed significantly to the party's victory.

Ultimately, the defeat of AAP in Delhi is a reminder that no government, regardless of its welfare initiatives, can afford to ignore the pressing concerns of its citizens. Short-term political gains, such as freebies, cannot substitute for effective governance. As demonstrated by AAP's loss, failure to address real issues and connect with the electorate can lead to severe long-term consequences, as reflected in the Congress party's failure to secure even a single seat for the third consecutive election. Sreelakshmi Harilal is an Associate at the Centre for Public Policy Research, specializing in research and public policy.

## Delhi Elections: How BJP's Strategy of No CM Face Worked in Its Favor



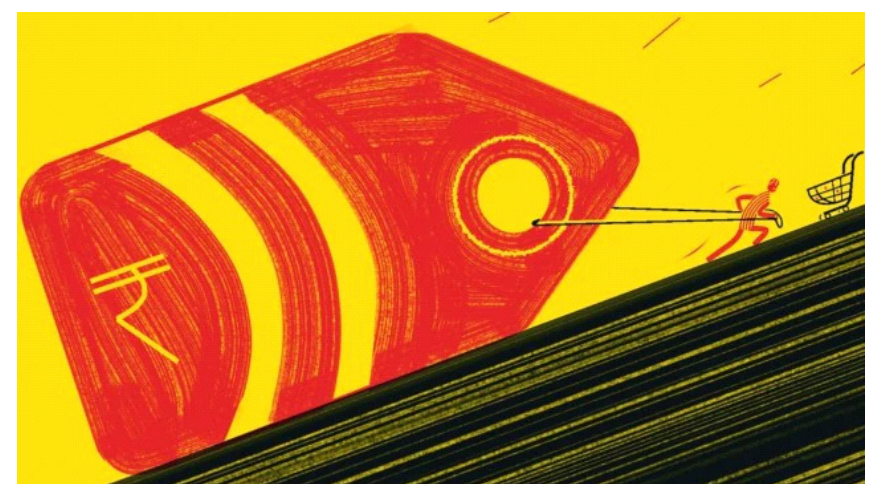
In the Delhi Assembly elections, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) achieved a remarkable victory, marking the third consecutive win for the party in 2023, following triumphs in Haryana and Maharashtra. These states were initially seen as tough battlegrounds for the BJP, but Prime Minister Narendra Modi's influence has only grown since the general elections. His leadership continues to shape the party's dominance, even in states once considered challenging.

The BJP's victory in Delhi is especially significant, not only because it marks a return to power after 27 years but also due to the scale of the mandate. From a mere eight seats in the previous Delhi assembly, the BJP surged to 48 out of 70 seats, turning a tough contest into a sweeping victory. In contrast, Arvind Kejriwal's Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), which had secured 62 seats in the previous election, plummeted to just 22. This outcome reflects the power of the BJP's campaign strategy, which resonated deeply with voters.

One of the most striking aspects of the BJP's victory was its ability to defeat Kejriwal in his own constituency, New Delhi. The BJP's Parvesh Verma triumphed over Kejriwal by over 4,000 votes. Kejriwal, who rose to prominence in 2013 by defeating Sheila Dikshit, had positioned himself as an alternative to PM Modi and campaigned across multiple states. However, this overextension, coupled with scandals like the alleged liquor scam, ultimately weakened his position. Kejriwal's defeat in New Delhi demonstrated that his political stature had taken a significant hit.

Additionally, Kejriwal's closest allies, including his former deputy Manish Sisodia, suffered defeats in constituencies once considered "safe" for AAP. The entire leadership of AAP, with the exception of Atishi, faced a crushing loss. Modi's ability to deliver on promises, including better governance and infrastructure, helped dismantle the belief that Kejriwal's promises of free services would guarantee loyalty from low-income voters.

One of the key factors in BJP's success was its strategy of not presenting a Chief Ministerial face for Delhi. While the absence of a strong local leader initially seemed like a disadvantage, the BJP effectively used Modi's national appeal to counter Kejriwal.



## RBI Begins Rate-Cutting Cycle Amid Economic Uncertainty

In its February 2025 policy review, the Reserve Bank of India's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) embarked on a rate-cutting cycle, driven by the evolving growth and inflation trends. The committee's decision to reduce rates comes at a time when global uncertainties loom large, reflected most notably in the depreciation of the Indian rupee against the US dollar. Despite the challenging global economic environment, the MPC saw a window of opportunity to initiate a rate cut, as domestic inflationary pressures have eased and economic growth shows signs of stabilization.

Looking back to the MPC's December 2024 meeting, the economic landscape was markedly different. At that time, India's Consumer Price Index (CPI) inflation had breached the 6% mark, surpassing the upper limit of the Reserve Bank's medium-term inflation target range of 2-6%. This high inflation rate made it clear that a rate cut was off the table in December, despite the country's GDP growth decelerating to a disappointing 5.4% in the second quarter of fiscal year 2024-25. With inflationary concerns still fresh, the outlook for the economy appeared precarious.

However, by February 2025, the economic situation had shifted. CPI inflation had receded significantly, and the outlook for inflation in 2025-26 appeared more moderate. High-frequency economic indicators also pointed to a potential recovery in domestic growth, especially following the economic downturn in the second quarter. This shift in inflation and growth expectations provided the MPC with the justification to start a rate-cutting cycle, signaling a move towards more accommodative monetary policy.

Despite this, analysts predict that the rate cut cycle will likely be gradual and shallow. With ongoing global uncertainties, including geopolitical tensions and external economic pressures, the RBI faces a balancing act in fostering growth while maintaining price stability. The depreciation of the rupee against the dollar further complicates the situation, potentially raising import costs and keeping inflationary pressures alive.

## Is Air Pollution Making India Age Faster?

The blanket of smog that envelops numerous cities worldwide, including India's capital, Delhi, is not just a health hazard that chokes our lungs but also a significant contributor to premature aging. Studies have shown that air pollution can accelerate biological aging, shortening our lifespans. India, with its vast population, faces this grim reality daily, as several major cities, including Delhi, Kolkata, and Mumbai, consistently rank among the most polluted cities globally, according to real-time data from IQAir.

Air pollution has long been a critical issue, particularly in urban areas, where concentrations of particulate matter (PM) and toxic gases such as sulphur dioxide, nitrogen dioxide, and carbon monoxide are dangerously high. Fossil fuel emissions, primarily from the energy and transportation sectors, are the primary culprits behind this problem. The health risks posed by air pollution are profound. A 2021 study estimated



Divyanshi Kaul and Abhiroop Chowdhury

that 10.2 million premature deaths occur globally each year due to particulate matter from fossil fuel emissions, with nearly 5 million attributed to outdoor air pollution alone. These numbers are expected to rise, with a projected 4.3 million urban deaths by 2050.

India, the world's most populous nation, bears a significant portion of this burden. The country ranks third globally in air pollution levels, and with 65% of its population under the age of 35, the long-term impacts on the younger population are particularly concerning.

The concentration of pollutants, specifically particulate matter like PM<sub>2.5</sub> and PM<sub>10</sub>, is linked to various diseases such as heart disease, stroke, hypertension, and neurodegenerative disorders. Exposure to these pollutants doesn't just affect immediate health but also accelerates the biological aging process.

A key biological factor in aging is telomere length. Telomeres are protective caps at the end of chromosomes, which shorten each time a cell divides. Over time, this shortening contributes to the aging process. Recent studies have shown a direct connection between air pollution exposure and shorter telomere length, effectively speeding up the biological aging of cells. As toxic substances like reactive oxygen species (ROS) generated by pollutants damage our cells, inflammation and stress follow, accelerating telomere degradation.





**CM Stalin slams Centre over US' treatment of Indian deportees, Mahakumbh deaths**  
TPN Correspondent | Delhi

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M K Stalin has sharply criticized the BJP-led central government for its handling of two major issues—the mistreatment of Indians deported from the US and the stampede deaths during the Mahakumbh festival in Uttar Pradesh.

Addressing a public meeting, Stalin condemned Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government for "betraying" Tamil Nadu. He accused the Centre of failing to release the state's rightful share of funds and neglecting the state during natural disasters. Stalin warned that if the central government did not amend its approach, it would lose the people's respect every day.

On the Mahakumbh stampede, Stalin expressed his concern over the deaths of at least 48 people, blaming the Uttar Pradesh BJP government for inadequate safety measures. While the BJP government reported 30 deaths, Stalin and others contested this figure. "The media reports suggest the death toll is 48, and some leaders believe the actual number could be higher," he said. Stalin also referenced claims by Samajwadi Party leader Akhilesh Yadav, who alleged that bodies were removed with earth movers, further emphasizing the lack of accountability in the incident. Stalin questioned the government's duty to ensure the safety of the devotees and criticized the refusal to discuss the issue in Parliament.

The CM also condemned the handcuffing and shackling of Indians deported by the US, calling it "cruel." He expressed deep emotional distress over the mistreatment of the 104 deportees, questioning External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar's response, which appeared to justify the US's actions.

## PM Modi Shares Teaser Of 8th Edition Of 'Pariksha Pe Charcha'

- PM Modi's eighth edition of PPC to take place on February 10, featuring expanded discussions.
- Guests include Deepika Padukone, Mary Kom, Avani Lekhara, and spiritual leader Sadhguru.
- 36 students from across India to participate, alongside 5 crore past attendees.



TPN Correspondent | Delhi

The much-awaited eighth edition of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 'Pariksha Pe Charcha' (PPC) will take place on Monday, February 10th, at 11 a.m., with a fresh, expanded format. This year, the event will feature an exciting line-up of distinguished experts and special guests, aimed at offering valuable advice to students on how to manage exam-related stress.

Ahead of the event, PM Modi shared a teaser video on social media, encouraging students and parents to tune in. In the video, he can be seen engaging in light-hearted discus-

sions with students, explaining how a top-class batsman focuses solely on the ball to perform at his best—an analogy for concentration during exams. The video also shows students demonstrating their talents, including a flower clapping technique and reciting a couplet, building excitement for the session.

"Let's help our #ExamWarriors overcome exam stress," PM Modi shared in his post, inviting everyone to join the event on February 10th.

This year's PPC will bring together prominent personalities from various fields. Among the notable

guests are spiritual leader Sadhguru, Bollywood stars Deepika Padukone, Vikrant Massey, and Bhumi Pednekar, as well as sports icons like Mary Kom, Avani Lekhara, and Suhhas Yathiraj. Renowned figures such as nutritionist Rujuta Diwekar, entrepreneur Radhika Gupta, and digital influencer Technical Guruji will also share insights on overcoming challenges in life and academics.

For the first time, 36 students from all states and Union Territories, including those from government schools, Kendriya Vidyalayas, Sainik Schools, CBSE, and Navodaya Vidyalayas, will participate in the program.



**Manipur CM's resignation 'belated', people now await visit by 'frequent-flier PM': Congress**  
TPN Correspondent | Delhi

The Congress party on Sunday termed the resignation of Manipur Chief Minister N Biren Singh as "belated," claiming that the people of the state were now awaiting a visit from Prime Minister Narendra Modi, whom they referred to as a "frequent-flier." The remarks came shortly after Singh submitted his resignation to Governor Ajay Kumar Bhalla at the Raj Bhavan in Imphal.

Jairam Ramesh, the All India Congress Committee (AICC) general secretary in charge of communications, stated that the Congress was prepared to move a no-confidence motion against Singh and his council of ministers in the upcoming session of the Manipur Assembly on Monday. Ramesh emphasized that the Congress had been demanding Singh's resignation since the violent unrest in the state began in May 2023, calling the resignation long overdue.

In a post on X, Ramesh remarked, "Sensing the climate, the Manipur chief minister has just resigned. This was a demand that the Congress has been making since early May 2023, when Manipur erupted." He further criticized Prime Minister Modi's lack of engagement with the crisis in Manipur, stating, "The chief minister's resignation was belated. The people of Manipur now await a visit by our frequent-flier prime minister who is off to France and the US now — and who has found neither the time nor the inclination to go to Manipur these past 20 months."

Ramesh's comments underscore the Congress party's ongoing dissatisfaction with the government's handling of the Manipur crisis. With the resignation of the chief minister, the political focus in the state shifts to the next steps, with the Congress pushing for greater accountability and the Prime Minister's attention to the ongoing issues in Manipur.

## Prayagraj Sangam Station Temporarily Closed Amid Rising Crowds for Maha Kumbh

TPN Correspondent | Mahakumbh

In response to the growing influx of pilgrims during the ongoing Maha Kumbh, the railway authorities have temporarily closed the Prayagraj Sangam station for the general public. However, train operations will continue as usual, with no disruptions in travel services. To manage the crowd efficiently, additional Railway Protection Force (RPF) personnel have been deployed across all stations in Prayagraj.

To further streamline the flow of devotees, a one-way travel system has been implemented at the station, and it will remain in place until further notice. Under this system, pilgrims will only be allowed entry into Prayagraj Junction from the city side at Platform No. 1, while exiting will be directed through the Civil Lines side, specifically at Platforms No. 6 and 10. The decision to



implement these measures aims to ensure the safety and smooth movement of passengers during this busy period, as confirmed by Amit Singh, the Public Relations Officer (PRO) of the Railway Division. In addition, pilgrims will need color-coded tickets to access the designated shelters at the station, with each shelter assigned based on passengers' desti-

nation stations. These shelters are equipped with essential services such as temporary ticket counters, toilets, and resting areas. To accommodate reserved ticket holders, access will be provided through Gate No. 5. Passengers are encouraged to arrive well in advance of their train's departure to avoid delays and ensure a hassle-free journey.

## Russia's Su-57, US' F-35 Fighter Jets To Take Part In Aero India

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

For the first time in history, the Aero India 2025 airshow will feature two of the world's most advanced fifth-generation fighter aircraft, the Russian Su-57 and the American F-35 Lightning II, marking a significant milestone in global defense collaboration and technological advancement, the Defence Ministry announced on Sunday.



Scheduled from February 10-14, 2025, at Air Force Station Yelahanka in Bengaluru, Aero India 2025 is set to be Asia's largest airshow to date. The event will span over 42,000 square meters, with over 900 exhibitors, including 150 international companies, confirming their participation.

The Su-57, Russia's premier stealth multi-role fighter, is designed for air superiority and strike missions. Equipped with cutting-edge avionics, supercruise capability, and stealth technology, the Su-57 will make its debut at Aero India 2025. Attendees can expect thrilling aerial maneuvers and tactical demonstrations showcasing its agility, stealth, and firepower.

The F-35 Lightning II, developed by Lockheed Martin, is hailed as the most widely deployed

fifth-generation fighter. Known for its advanced stealth, unparalleled situational awareness, and networked combat capabilities, the F-35 represents the flagship of the U.S. Air Force. Its inclusion in the airshow offers a unique opportunity for visitors to see firsthand the capabilities of one of the most advanced aircraft in the world.

Aero India 2025's theme, "The Runway to a Billion Opportunities," will provide a rare opportunity to compare Eastern and Western fifth-generation fighter technologies side by side, giving defense analysts, military personnel, and aviation enthusiasts valuable insights.

The participation of both the Su-57 and F-35 at Aero India underscores India's growing importance as a key hub for international defense and aerospace collaboration, solidifying its role in the global defense landscape.

## Silent rally in Kolkata on RG Kar victim's birthday, demanding justice

TPN Correspondent | Kolkata

On Sunday, February 9, doctors and residents of Kolkata took part in a silent rally to mark the first birthday of the RG Kar hospital medic who tragically lost her life last year. The rally, which aimed to demand justice for the victim, began at College Square near the Calcutta University campus and made its way toward RG Kar Medical College and Hospital in north Kolkata. However, it was halted at the hospital gate by security personnel.



A strong presence of Kolkata Police and CISF jawans was deployed around the hospital, with officers speaking to the rally participants. The marchers had hoped to reach a specific point inside the hospital premises, where a plaque in memory of the victim had been set up by her colleagues. The hospital has been under the protection of the CISF following the rape and murder of the post-graduate trainee, an incident that sparked widespread outrage and protests across the country.

The day also marked six months since the tragic crime occurred on August 9, 2024. The victim's parents took part in another rally in North 24 Parganas district to commemorate their daughter's birthday. They expressed dissatisfaction with the CBI's investigation into the case and reiterated their demand for the arrest of anyone else involved in the crime

and the initiation of further legal proceedings.

In a recent court ruling, Sanjay Roy, the sole accused in the case, was convicted and sentenced to life imprisonment. Despite this, the victim's family and supporters continue to call for justice, believing that there may be others who were involved.

The participants of the rally covered their mouths with black cloth and held placards demanding justice. The march, organized by 'Abhaya Manch,' was kept silent to respect the upcoming Class 10 West Bengal school board examinations. The rally served as a reminder of the ongoing quest for justice and the enduring impact of the tragedy on the community.



# Lebanon Forms New Government Amid US Pressure and Reconstruction Hopes

- New Lebanese cabinet formed after weeks of negotiations, limiting Hezbollah's sway.
- US welcomes government, stressing the need for financial reforms and stability.
- Priority set on implementing UN resolution and securing international reconstruction aid.

TPN Correspondent | Beirut

Lebanon's newly appointed Prime Minister, Nawaf Salam, unveiled a 24-member cabinet on Saturday, marking a pivotal moment for the country amid the aftermath of a devastating war between Israel and Hezbollah. The formation of the government follows more than three weeks of political negotiations, with the country's political factions, which traditionally allocate government posts along sectarian lines, navigating the delicate balance of power.

The cabinet's primary goals are to implement financial reforms, initiate the reconstruction of war-torn areas, and execute a crucial United Nations resolution related to stability along Lebanon's border with Israel. These objectives are seen as critical for restoring Lebanon's international credibility and securing much-needed financial assistance.

The process, however, was influenced by intense external pressure, particularly from the United States, which has been vocal in its opposition to Hezbollah's influence within Lebanon's political sphere. US Deputy Middle East envoy, Morgan Ortagus, labeled Hezbollah's involvement in the cabinet as a "red line" and thanked Israel for its successful military strikes against the group, sparking protests within Lebanon. Despite this, Hezbollah's ally Amal, led by Parliament Speaker Nabih Berri, secured four ministerial positions in the new cabinet,



net, ensuring Hezbollah and its allies do not have veto power in key decisions.

The new cabinet's formation is seen as an essential step toward implementing reforms that could unlock financial support from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and Gulf countries, vital for Lebanon's economic recovery. Lebanon has been grappling with a severe financial collapse, a catastrophic explosion at the Beirut port, and the aftermath of a prolonged war with Israel, all of which have devastated the country.

The United Nations has welcomed the cabinet formation, emphasizing the importance of implementing UN Security Council Resolution 1701, which calls for disarming

armed groups in Lebanon, a clear reference to Hezbollah. Prime Minister Salam emphasized that the government would prioritize this resolution, along with ensuring the withdrawal of Israeli troops from southern Lebanon and the deployment of the Lebanese army in the region by February 18. The newly formed government now faces the task of drafting a policy statement outlining its approach and priorities, after which it will need to secure a vote of confidence in Lebanon's parliament. The appointment of Prime Minister Salam, following the election of President Joseph Aoun, signals a significant shift in Lebanon's political landscape, especially in light of Hezbollah's weakened position due to recent military losses.

# Not Chomping At The Bit: Elon Musk On His Plans To Acquire TikTok



TPN Correspondent | Washington

Billionaire entrepreneur Elon Musk has stated that he has no interest in acquiring TikTok, the popular short-video platform currently embroiled in national security concerns in the United States. Musk's comments were shared online over the weekend after being made during a January conference hosted by The WELT Group, part of the German media company Axel Springer SE. The Tesla CEO joined the summit via video.

"I have not put in a bid for TikTok," Musk clarified, shortly after US President Donald Trump expressed openness to Musk purchasing the app, owned by the Chinese company ByteDance. Musk further explained that he does not use TikTok personally and is not familiar with its format. "I'm not chomping at the bit to acquire TikTok; I do not acquire companies in general. It's quite rare," Musk added, pointing out that his acquisition of social media platform Twitter, now known as X, was an unusual move for him. "I usually build companies from scratch," he emphasized.

The US government has raised national security concerns over TikTok, claiming that China could compel ByteDance to share data from American users. Despite these claims, TikTok has consistently denied that it has or would ever share such data with the Chinese government. In response to these concerns, former President Trump signed an executive order that set a deadline for ByteDance to sell TikTok's US assets by January 19 or face a potential ban. Apple and Google have refrained from reinstating TikTok on their app stores due to a US law in effect since the controversy began.



## Pakistan Army should return to its constitutional limits: Imran Khan

TPN Correspondent | Islamabad

Former Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan has penned an open letter to Army Chief Gen. Asim Munir, sharply criticizing the military's unlawful actions and its continued interference in politics. In his letter, Khan urged the military to "return to its constitutional limits," addressing his concerns over the growing involvement of the armed forces in national governance.

The letter, posted on X (formerly Twitter), follows Khan's previous correspondence from February 3, where he called for the military to reassess its approach toward national security and governance. In the new letter, Khan highlighted his mistreatment in prison, specifically detailing his 20-day confinement in a death-row cell, where he had no access to sunlight or electricity. He alleged that the treatment was part of a larger effort to break his resolve, describing it as inhumane and unlawful.

Khan's latest letter also expressed disappointment over the military's response to his earlier communication. He criticized the military's dismissive and irresponsible reaction, which he said reflected a lack of concern for the reputation of Pakistan's armed forces. He warned that the widening rift between the military and the public could have dangerous consequences for the country's future.

This ongoing criticism of the military comes amid a broader political crisis in Pakistan, with Khan's party, Tehreek-i-Insaf (PTI), facing increasing pressure from both the military and the government.

# Earthquake Of Magnitude 7.6 Shakes Caribbean, Tsunami Advisory Issued

TPN Correspondent | Washington

A powerful earthquake with a magnitude of 7.6 struck the Caribbean Sea on Saturday evening (local time), according to the US Geological Survey (USGS). The quake, which originated north of Honduras, occurred about 130 miles (209 kilometers) from the coast of the Cayman Islands. It was recorded at a shallow depth of 10 kilometers (6.21 miles), intensifying concerns over potential tsunamis in the region.

Following the earthquake, the US Tsunami Warning System issued alerts for the Caribbean Sea, particularly affecting the coastal areas of Honduras. The warning highlighted the risk of hazardous tsunami waves within 620 miles of the epicenter, extending along the coasts of the Cayman Islands, Jamaica, Cuba, Mexico, Honduras, the Bahamas, Belize, Haiti, Costa Rica, Panama, Nicaragua, and Guatemala.

Despite initial concerns, the US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) later clarified that tsunami waves were not expected to reach the US Atlantic or Gulf Coast. However, small sea-level changes were still anticipated. In particular, a tsunami wave of between

1 and 3 meters was forecast for parts of Cuba's coastline. Smaller waves between 0.3 to 1 meter were expected along the coasts of Honduras and the Cayman Islands.

The US government monitor later canceled most of its initial tsunami warnings but maintained alerts for three countries, including Cuba, Honduras, and the Cayman Islands. In light of the warnings, several Caribbean nations took precautionary measures, urging residents in coastal areas to evacuate. Honduras, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Puerto Rico, and the Cayman Islands issued evacuation orders for their citizens near the coastlines. The Cayman Islands government advised its residents in coastal areas to move inland to safer locations.

The earthquake and its aftershocks sent shockwaves throughout the region, and the earthquake's sudden impact served as a reminder of the seismic activity in the Caribbean. Local governments and authorities in the affected areas remain on high alert as they monitor potential aftershocks and the possibility of further tsunami waves. Despite the cancellation of some tsunami alerts, residents are still urged to stay vigilant and follow evacuation instructions to ensure safety.



## Monsters: Netanyahu Vows To 'Eliminate' Hamas Amid Ceasefire Deal

TPN Correspondent | Jerusalem

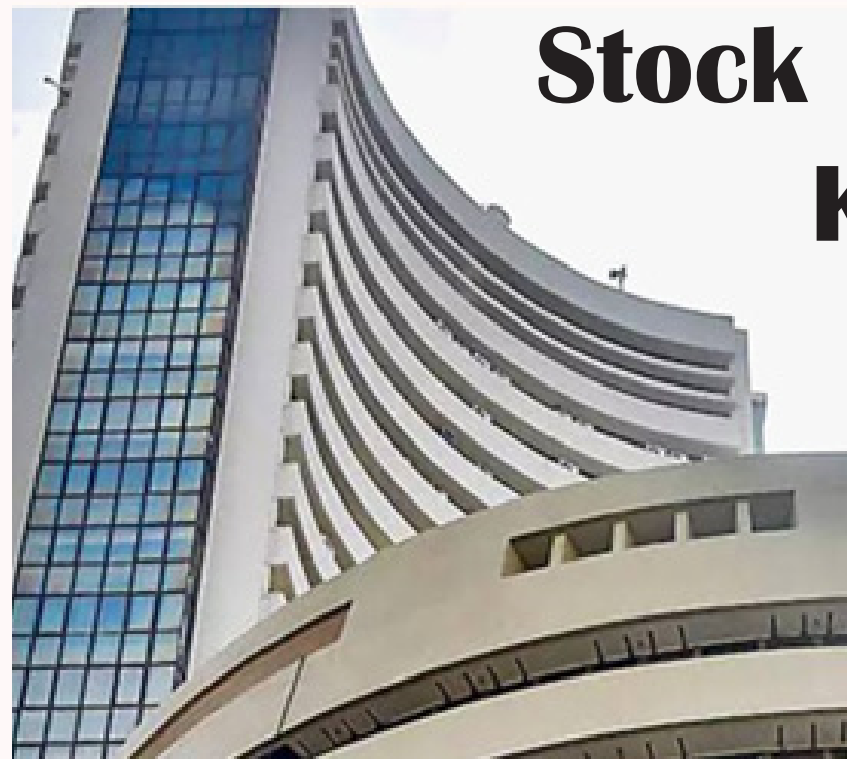
Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has pledged to destroy Hamas and secure the release of all Israeli captives held by the Palestinian militant group, following a fifth hostage exchange on Saturday. The exchange, which took place under a ceasefire agreement in Gaza, saw the release of three hostages who appeared visibly emaciated and were forced to speak on stage after being handed over by Hamas.

In a video statement, Netanyahu condemned Hamas as "monsters" and emphasized Israel's unwavering commitment to dismantling the group. "We will eliminate Hamas, and we will return our hostages," Netanyahu stated, reinforcing his government's resolve in the ongoing conflict. The handover of the three hostages marked a momentary pause in the conflict, but Netanyahu's rhetoric indicated that Israel's operations to neutralize Hamas would continue.

The recent hostage exchange was part of a broader ceasefire agreement aimed at de-escalating violence in Gaza. While the exchange provided some relief to the families of the hostages, the images of the captives — visibly weakened after their ordeal — underscored the brutal conditions they had endured. Their forced appearance on stage further highlighted the psychological and physical toll taken by their months in captivity.

Israel has long viewed Hamas as a significant threat, and Netanyahu's government has been adamant about its commitment to eradicating the group, which it holds responsible for the deaths of countless Israelis in previous conflicts. The Israeli military has launched multiple operations aimed at weakening Hamas's military capabilities, though the group has continued to launch attacks against Israel, fueling the ongoing cycle of violence.





# Stock Market Shows Signs of Recovery; Key Stocks to Watch This Week



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get price of ₹165, while maintaining a stop loss at ₹130.

### Hindalco

Hindalco shares have corrected 30% from their November highs and have twice found support at the crucial ₹560 level. With increased investor interest in the metal sector ahead of upcoming results, the stock closed at ₹607 last Friday. Investors are recommended to enter around



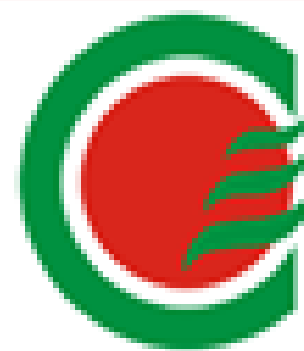
₹600 with target prices of ₹674 and ₹710, keeping a stop loss at ₹570.  
**SPIC Limited**  
SPIC Limited, which had been in a downtrend for months, has now entered the accumulation zone. The stock recently found support at ₹70 and broke through its immediate



resistance level of ₹80, showing increased momentum compared to Nifty. With a last closing price of ₹82, investors should consider taking positions around ₹80, targeting ₹96 and ₹100, while setting a stop loss at ₹77.

### Chambal Fertilizers

Chambal Fertilizers shares have been consolidating sideways since June last year. The stock showed resilience last week despite declines in benchmark indices, reaching the crucial ₹555 resistance zone. Investors are



Chambal Fertilizers and Chemicals

advised to enter at ₹520-540 with a target price of ₹655 and a stop loss at ₹490.

### Caffeine Technologies



Shares of Caffeine Technologies, which saw a 36% correction from their lifetime high, are now trading at attractive levels. The stock has gained 16% in the last four sessions and displayed strong momentum following its latest quarterly results. It closed at ₹1,224 last Friday, with investors recommended to take positions around ₹1,200 and target ₹1,550, setting a stop loss at ₹1,155. With improving sentiment and positive sectoral trends, investors will closely watch these stocks as the market gears up for a potential recovery.

The domestic stock market is poised for a potential rebound this week as international uncertainties subside, boosting investor confidence. Market sentiment is turning positive with stabilization in global conditions, and fundamentally strong stocks are now available at attractive valuations. Benchmark indices are showing signs of a turnaround, with finance, banking, auto, and consumption sectors performing well, while media, realty, and metal stocks are witnessing improvements. However, energy, pharma, and healthcare sectors are weakening.

### Key Stocks to Watch

#### Tata Steel

Tata Steel shares, which have declined 30% from their lifetime highs, are currently in the accumulation zone. Following the latest quarterly results, the stock has gained momentum and is showing strong relative performance. Investors are advised to take positions around ₹135 with a tar-



## India's Trade Set to Grow 6.4% Annually, Reaching \$1.8 Trillion by 2033

India's total trade is expected to grow at a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 6.4% through 2033, reaching USD 1.8 trillion annually, according to a report by Boston Consulting Group (BCG). This growth is primarily driven by India's rising appeal as a manufacturing hub, with companies increasingly looking to diversify supply chains away from China.

India's government has introduced significant incentives for manufacturing, combined with a vast low-cost workforce and rapidly improving infrastructure. These factors are positioning India as a key destination for foreign investment and trade collaborations.

Geographically, India's trade expansion will be diverse. Notably, trade with the United States is projected to more than double over the next decade, reaching USD 116 billion by 2033. This growth reflects deepening political and economic ties between the two largest democracies, particularly in the defense and technology sectors.

India's trade with the European Union, ASEAN, and Africa is also expected to increase by approximately 80%. Trade with Japan and Mercosur countries is projected to nearly double, while trade with Australia and South Korea will more than triple. Additionally, India's trade with



Russia is set to surge, driven by increased imports of discounted Russian hydrocarbons.

Europe's trade with India, Turkey, and Africa is anticipated to accelerate, further cementing India's role in global supply chains. Key sectors contributing to this trade expansion will include information technology, pharmaceuticals, and manufacturing.

As India grows more cautious about Chinese investments in sensitive

sectors, due to ongoing border disputes and economic tensions, the country is increasingly seeking trade partnerships with other regions. While India's trade growth with Western economies remains strong, China's trade with the US and EU is expected to slow. In response, China is focusing on strengthening economic ties with India, Russia, ASEAN, Africa, and Mercosur nations. However, China's trade surpluses may face resistance from India and its other trade partners.

### Stock Market Outlook

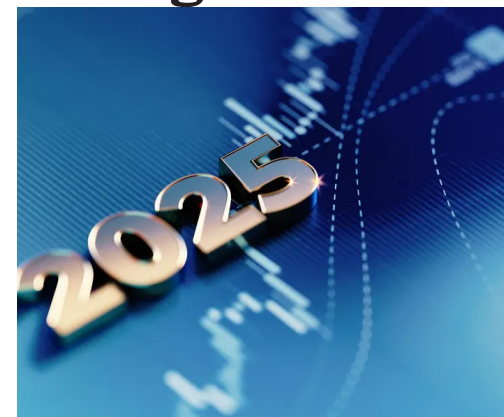
## Delhi Polls, Inflation Data, and Corporate Earnings in Focus

The stock market's outlook for the upcoming week will be shaped by several key events, including the outcome of the Delhi Assembly elections, inflation data, and quarterly corporate earnings.

The Delhi Assembly election results, in which the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) secured a strong victory with 48 out of 70 seats, are expected to have a positive impact on investor sentiment. Analysts believe that this political outcome could contribute to market stability and potentially boost investor confidence.

Macroeconomic data will also be a major focus for investors. Inflation and industrial production data, scheduled to be released on February 12, will provide key insights into the country's economic health. January inflation is expected to decline to 4.69% from 5.22% in the previous month, which could influence the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) next policy decision. Additionally, industrial production growth is projected to slow to 4.1%, down from 5.2% in the previous month.

Corporate earnings will play a crucial role in shaping market sentiment. Key companies such as Eicher Motors, Apollo Hospitals, Vodafone Idea, Hindustan Aeronautics, and Muthoot Finance are set to report their quarterly results. The financial performance of these companies will help determine the overall outlook for the stock market in the coming week.



Foreign institutional investors (FIIs) continued their selling spree last week, withdrawing Rs 8,852 crore from the market. However, domestic institutional investors (DIIs) provided some stability by investing Rs 6,449 crore. This has helped maintain a positive trend in the markets, despite the volatility.

The Nifty index managed to close positive for the second consecutive week, sustaining above the 23,450-23,500 zone, indicating potential for a bottom reversal. Market experts are maintaining a positive outlook, recommending a "Buy on Dips" strategy amid short-term volatility.

On the global front, the release of US inflation data on February 12 will be closely monitored. Any deviation from the expected figures could influence the Federal Reserve's future interest rate decisions. Other key data releases, including UK GDP and China's inflation numbers, will also affect global market trends.

## FM Sitharaman: Govt's Fiscal Policies Align with RBI's Decisions for Economic Growth

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman stated on Saturday that the government's fiscal and monetary policies are working in harmony, which would further boost India's growing economy. This, she highlighted, is backed by the robust Budget and the recent decisions made by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

Speaking at a post-Budget meeting in New Delhi with RBI Governor Sanjay Malhotra, FM Sitharaman emphasized the good coordination between the central bank and the government, noting that both institutions respect each other's space and responsibilities. She was accompanied by Union Minister of State for Finance Pankaj Chaudhary and Malhotra at the meeting.

The Finance Minister pointed out that industries are beginning to show signs of recovery in terms of consumption and capacity utilization. She saw this as a positive trend and suggested that the RBI's recent decision to cut the repo rate by 25 basis points would provide the necessary momentum for further growth.

"The industry is witnessing early signs of recovery, and this trend will strengthen with the combined efforts of fiscal policies and the RBI's actions," FM Sitharaman said. She acknowledged that the monetary easing from the RBI would help support consumption, improve liquidity, and encourage business investments.

While the government continues to support growth through its fiscal measures, the RBI's monetary policy decisions are also aimed at maintaining economic stability and fostering expansion. The synchronized efforts of both entities are expected to strengthen India's position as it recovers from global challenges and continues on a path of sustainable growth.

The post-Budget meeting was crucial to aligning policies and strategies that will fuel the next phase of India's economic growth, and both the Finance Minister and RBI Governor expressed confidence in the country's future prospects.







## Beef biryani for lunch at University? Viral notice reads 'Enjoy the new addition', triggers row



A notice announcing the substitution of chicken biryani with beef biryani for Sunday lunch at Aligarh Muslim University's (AMU) Sir Shah Sulaiman Hall has ignited significant controversy. The notice, reportedly issued by two authorized individuals, stated:

"Sunday's lunch menu has been changed, and beef biryani will be served instead of chicken biryani as per demand. We hope you enjoy the new addition to our menu."

The announcement quickly went viral on social media, leading to widespread uproar among students and the public. In response to the backlash, the AMU administration clarified that the notice was a "typing error" and assured that those responsible had been issued show-cause notices. An AMU official stated,

"The matter was brought to our attention. We found that the notice was regarding the food menu. However,

it contained a clear typing error. The notice was immediately withdrawn as it had no official signatures, raising doubts about its authenticity."

The incident has sparked heated discussions online, with some individuals criticizing the administration's handling of the situation and accusing it of encouraging radical elements. BJP leader Nishit Sharma remarked,

"The administration's role in this is shameful. A notice was circulated at the Sir Shah Sulaiman Hall stating that beef biryani would be served instead of chicken biryani. Such actions indicate that the administration is encouraging radical elements and covering up student misconduct."

The controversy highlights the sensitivity surrounding food choices and cultural practices within educational institutions. AMU's prompt clarification aims to address the concerns raised and maintain harmony within the university community

## Swiggy Instamart Users Report Receiving 4 to 5 Lakh 'Free Cash' Due to Glitch



India subreddit has sparked a wave of excitement and curiosity, as a Reddit user, @Technical-Relation-9, claimed that random Swiggy Instamart users had received between ₹4,000 to ₹5 lakh in free cash due to a glitch. The user titled their post, "Someone is definitely losing their job at Swiggy," revealing that many users unexpectedly got the huge sums of

money on the app. According to the post, these users were able to use the money to place orders, which were successfully delivered. However, some of them later received calls from Swiggy informing them of a system error and requesting that they return the items. The original poster (OP) shared screenshots of successful orders,

which fueled the discussions further.

The post quickly garnered attention, with Reddit users expressing disbelief and curiosity. One user asked if the money was truly received randomly, and OP confirmed that it was. Another user suggested the glitch could be related to a promotion that went wrong, explaining that instead of the usual ₹50-₹100 discounts, some users received thousands. Once Swiggy realized the issue, they fixed the offer's probability, leading to more typical discounts for others.

While many joined in the conversation, some users were skeptical, asking whether this was just a marketing gimmick. OP responded by insisting that the screenshots shared were genuine, showcasing actual orders from users who received the large sums. One Redditor even claimed that their friend had received ₹4,000, while they only got ₹50 in their account.

Livemint has reached out to Swiggy for confirmation of these claims, and the story will be updated with their response. For now, the mystery continues, leaving Swiggy Instamart users intrigued by what may have been a costly glitch.

## Mumbai Woman Receives Life Lesson from Coconut Seller

In the hustle of daily life, it's easy to overlook the simple joys and moments that truly matter. A recent encounter in Mumbai serves as a poignant reminder to pause and appreciate life's small pleasures.

Gargi, a resident of Mumbai, was on her way to an Uber ride when she stopped to purchase a coconut from a local vendor. In her haste, she requested the vendor to expedite the process. Instead of merely complying, the vendor offered a piece of advice that resonated deeply with her: "Why do you earn so much money? Work will always continue, but you should take time to eat and drink."

Gargi shared this interaction on social media, highlighting the vendor's wisdom. Her post quickly gained traction, with many users reflecting on the importance of balancing work with self-care. One user remarked, "The Uber driver would have surely waited for 2-3 minutes... so there wasn't any hurry actually." Another added, "Bhaiya ko kon btaye itne paise kafi nahi hai aur log toh itne se



bahot jayda kamate hai wo de pate hai time" (Who will tell him that this amount of money is not enough. Those who earn more than these can only afford the luxury of time). cite turn search.

This exchange underscores the value of mindfulness and the significance of taking time to enjoy life's simple pleasures, even amidst our busy schedules.

## Kerala Kid's Adorable Plea for Biryani Over Upma Wins Hearts Online



A heartwarming video from Kerala featuring a little boy, Shanku, has captured the hearts of people across the internet. In the video, Shanku expresses his deep desire for biryani, instead of the usual upma served at his anganwadi (government-run childcare center). His earnest and adorable plea, in which he mispronounces biryani as "birnani" and also asks for "poricha kozhi" (fried chicken), has gone viral, with social media users absolutely loving the sweet request.

The video shows Shanku, wearing a tiny helmet and in the middle of playing with his bike, making his food wish known. Despite the fun and excitement of his playtime, his love for biryani was undeniable. He insists, "I need 'birnani' and 'poricha kozhi' in the Anganwadi instead of upma,"

a statement that caught the attention of his mother. Amused by his sincere request, she decided to share the moment on social media, and it instantly went viral.

Social media users couldn't help but be charmed by Shanku's innocent and straightforward request. His genuine disappointment over not getting biryani, paired with his cute mispronunciation of the dish, quickly garnered attention. The video resonated with many people, as biryani is often considered the ultimate comfort food for food lovers across the world, especially in India.

Not only did the video win the hearts of netizens, but it also attracted the attention of the Kerala state government. Shanku's lovable plea has turned into a conversation starter, with many pointing out how children's straightforward desires can sometimes be more relatable and adorable than one might think. The video has sparked joy and smiles, making people reminisce about their own childhood food cravings.

Shanku's viral moment has proven that sometimes, a simple, genuine wish for something as beloved as biryani can capture the imagination of people far and wide.

## Chocolate Day Is Here And The Internet Is Having A Field Day



Chocolate Day, the third day of Valentine's Week, is a delightful occasion to indulge in everyone's favorite treat. Whether it's a rich truffle, a creamy bar, or a beautifully wrapped box, chocolate serves as the perfect token of affection. It's a go-to gift for loved ones, a mood booster, and often, a comforting companion during long days. From partners to parents, siblings, and best friends, this day is all about spreading happiness through this delectable delight.

While many are savoring their chocolates, others are celebrating in a uniquely 2025 fashion—by sharing humorous memes and jokes on social media. These lighthearted posts add a fun twist to the festivities, offering a blend of sweetness and laughter.

For instance, a popular meme features a playful comparison between the joy of receiving chocolates and the reality of indulging in them alone. Another humorous post showcases a witty take on the classic "I love you more than chocolate" sentiment, suggesting that, in

reality, no one loves you more than chocolate. These memes resonate with many, especially those who find solace in chocolate during the season of love.

Additionally, some memes humorously depict the contrast between couples sharing chocolates and singles enjoying their own stash, highlighting the universal appeal of chocolate. Others playfully exaggerate the lengths one might go to acquire chocolates, adding a comedic touch to the celebration.

These memes not only entertain but also foster a sense of community among chocolate enthusiasts, reminding everyone that, regardless of relationship status, chocolate is a source of joy and comfort.

In essence, Chocolate Day 2025 is a sweet reminder of the simple pleasures in life. Whether you're sharing chocolates with a loved one or enjoying them solo, the day encourages us to embrace the joy that this delightful treat brings. And with the added humor from these memes, the celebration be-





## “Felt Like Pakistan Was Away Team”: Ex-PCB Chairman’s Worrying Statement Ahead of Champions Trophy



Former PCB chairman Ramiz Raja expressed serious concerns over Pakistan’s performance after their 78-run loss to New Zealand in the ODI tri-series opener in Lahore. Pakistan’s bowlers, particularly pacers Shaheen Afridi and Naseem Shah, struggled to contain the Kiwis, with Shaheen conceding 88 runs despite taking three wickets, and Naseem going wicketless, leaking 70 runs.

Ramiz criticized the team’s performance, saying, “It felt like New Zealand was the home team. Players looked fitter, adapted better to the conditions, and played with clear roles.” He pointed out that Pakistan’s bowlers lacked variation and precision, unable to handle the batting-friendly conditions expected at the Champions Trophy. New Zealand set a daunting target of 331, with a

sensational 106\* from Glenn Phillips, who scored his last 77 runs in just 32 balls. Despite a promising start where Pakistan reduced New Zealand to 39/2, Phillips’ explosive innings turned the match in favor of the Kiwis, sealing a comfortable win. Ramiz’s remarks highlight the growing doubts about Pakistan’s ability to perform in high-pressure conditions ahead of the Champions Trophy.

## India vs England 2nd ODI Highlights: Rohit Sharma Century Helps India Ease Past England by 4 Wickets, Seal Series

India defeated England by 4 wickets in the second ODI on Sunday to seal the three-match series. England, opting to bat first, posted 304 all-out, with Ravindra Jadeja being the standout bowler, claiming 3 wickets for 35 runs. Despite the solid total, England’s hopes were dashed by a sensational century from Rohit Sharma. Rohit returned to form in style, scoring 119 runs off 90 balls, featuring 12 fours and 7 sixes. This century marked his 32nd in ODIs, surpassing Rahul Dravid in the list of India’s most prolific international century makers. Rohit now holds third place, behind Virat Kohli (81) and Sachin Tendulkar (100). Additionally, during his knock, Rohit surpassed Chris Gayle in the list of batters with the most sixes in ODIs. With a total of 332 sixes, he now sits at second place, just behind Shahid Afridi (351). Rohit’s explosive performance guided India to a comfortable victory, wrapping up the series with a 2-0 lead.



## India Shuttler PV Sindhu Pulls Out of Badminton Asia Mixed Team Championships 2025 Due to Hamstring Injury



Indian badminton star PV Sindhu has withdrawn from the 2025 Badminton Asia Mixed Team Championships (BAMTC) due to a hamstring injury. The tournament, set to take place in Qingdao from February 11-16, will proceed without the 29-year-old shuttler, who was a key part of the Indian squad that won bronze in the previous edition.

In a statement on social media, Sindhu explained that she felt a twinge in her hamstring during training in Guwahati on February 4. Despite trying to push through with heavy taping, an MRI revealed that her recovery would take longer than anticipated.

Sindhu has been battling injuries since claiming her first women’s singles gold at the 2022 Commonwealth Games. A left foot stress fracture during the event sidelined her for the remainder of the year, missing the World Championships and World Tour Finals.

India, placed in a tough Group D alongside South Korea and Macau, will begin their campaign on February 12 against Macau, followed by a challenging match against South Korea on February 13. Sindhu expressed her support for the team, stating that she would be “cheering from the sidelines.”

## Haryana in Control vs Mumbai, Tamil Nadu Struggling in Ranji Trophy Quarter-Finals



Haryana captain Ankit Kumar’s brilliant century put his team in a strong position against defending champions Mumbai on the second day of their Ranji Trophy quarter-final. Ankit’s 136 runs guided Haryana to 263/5, closing in on Mumbai’s first-innings total of 315. Despite Tanush Kotian’s valiant 97 for Mumbai, Haryana’s dominant performance with the bat left them just 53 runs behind,

with Ankit leading from the front and punishing the bowlers.

In contrast, Tamil Nadu’s batting woes continued against Vidarbha. Aditya Thakare’s four-wicket haul reduced Tamil Nadu to 159/6, still trailing Vidarbha by 194 runs after the latter posted 353 in their first innings. Young C Andre Sidharth’s 65 was the only highlight for Tamil Nadu, while veterans like Narayan Jagadeesan

and Vijay Shankar failed to make a substantial impact. Tamil Nadu will rely on Pradosh Ranjan Paul and captain R Sai Kishore to turn things around on Day 3.

Mumbai’s hopes of restricting Haryana lie with their seamers, while Vidarbha’s strong batting performance has them in a commanding position against Tamil Nadu.

## Three Indian Davis Cup Stars Granted Delhi Open 2025 Main Draw Wildcards

Three Indian Davis Cup players, Sasi-kumar Mukund, Ramkumar Ramanathan, and Kiran Singh, have been granted wildcard entries into the men’s singles main draw of the Delhi Open 2025. The wildcards were announced by the organizers of the ATP Challenger event on Saturday. Additionally, young talents Chirag Duhan, Aryan Shah, Aditya Govila, and Sidharth Rawat have received wildcards for the qualifying event.

The Delhi Open, an ATP Challenger 75 event, will return for its fifth edition at the DLTA Complex from February 10-16. Former World No. 31 Lloyd Harris from South Africa, seeded fourth, and 2019 junior Wimbledon champion Shintaro Mochizuki, seeded sixth, are among the top contenders. Czech player Vit Kopri-va, the top seed, aims to add to his five ATP Challenger titles, while the second and third seeds, Billy Harris from the UK and Australia’s Tristan Schoolkate,

bring in their recent successes to the event.

Rohit Rajpal, DLTA President and India’s non-playing Davis Cup captain, emphasized that the tournament is a significant platform for players to test themselves and climb the ATP rankings. The event offers valuable ranking points and continues to play a crucial role in shaping the careers of both experienced and emerging players.







## Chiranjeevi Praises Vishwaksen's Response, Talks About Unity Among Heroes in the Film Industry

At the pre-release event of *Laila*, featuring Vishwaksen in the lead role, Megastar Chiranjeevi shared his thoughts on the energy such events bring. He recalled a recent interaction with Vishwaksen, who gave a witty reply when asked about his relationships with other heroes. Vishwaksen humorously stated, "We have a compound at home, but there's no compound in the film industry," showing that despite industry rivalries, heroes can remain friendly. Chiranjeevi also reflected on the history of fan rivalry



and how, in the past, fans of different heroes often fought over their idols. He shared an incident from his childhood when two of his cousins, who were fans

support each other and attend each other's functions, irrespective of the competition.

He also mentioned his personal relationships with industry stalwarts like Nagarjuna and Balakrishna, stating that they often meet and maintain a friendly rapport. Chiranjeevi added that success in the industry should be celebrated collectively as it benefits the entire film fraternity, with many families relying on its prosperity. He urged the industry to maintain harmonious relationships and mutual respect.

## Naga Chaitanya's *Thandel* Continues Rampage at the Box Office

Naga Chaitanya and Sai Pallavi's *Thandel* is proving to be an unstoppable force at the box office, with audiences flocking to theaters in large numbers. The film, directed by Chandoo Mondeti, has struck a chord with viewers, resulting in phenomenal growth in ticket sales and collections.

On Day 2, the film witnessed a remarkable surge, selling over 260.15K tickets, a significant jump from its already impressive opening day. The total worldwide gross now stands at ₹41.20 Cr in just two days, reinforcing its status as a massive blockbuster in the making. With Sunday bookings soaring, trade

experts predict that Day 3 collections will be even bigger. If the momentum continues, *Thandel* is set to become the highest-grossing film of Naga Chaitanya's career by a considerable margin.

Internationally, the film is also making waves, particularly in the United States, where it has already crossed the \$550K mark. At this pace, *Thandel* is poised to enter the prestigious million-dollar club in North America very soon. With positive word of mouth and strong occupancy rates, *Thandel* is all set to dominate the box office in the coming days, further cementing Naga Chaitanya and Sai Pallavi's

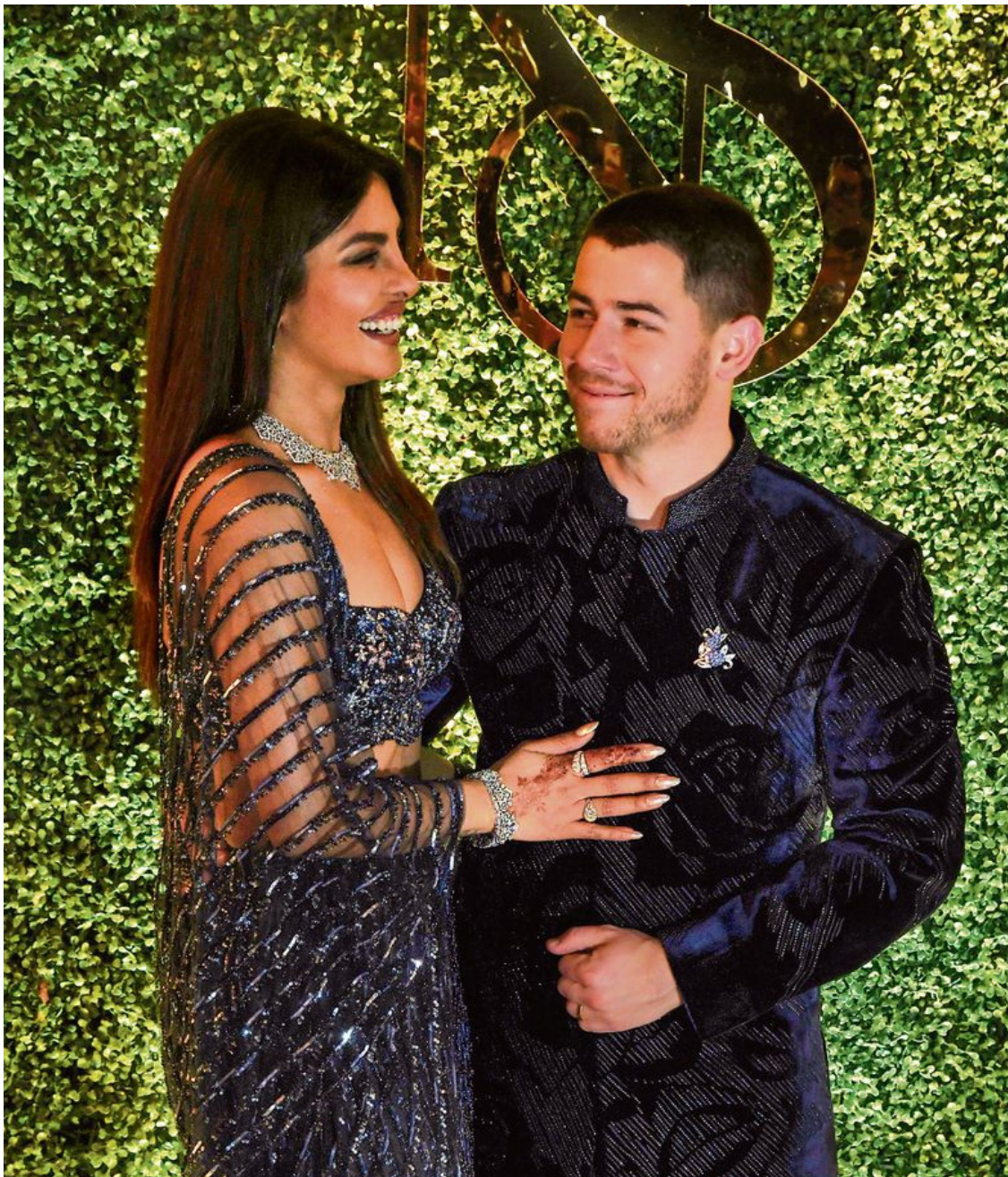


## Nick Jonas Embraces Indian Traditions at Brother-in-Law Siddharth Chopra's Wedding

Nick Jonas made a special appearance at his brother-in-law Siddharth Chopra's wedding to Neelam Upadhyaya, soaking in the vibrant Indian traditions. The wedding, which became the talk of the town, followed Hindu customs, including the haldi, mehendi, and baarat ceremonies. Priyanka Chopra's American singer-husband, who arrived from Los Angeles, embraced his role as the jiju (brother-in-law) and took part in the celebrations with enthusiasm.

In a heartwarming video shared by Dr. Madhu Chopra, Nick was seen carrying a pooja ki thali, with a varmala (wedding garland) for the bride and groom. He was dressed in a crisp white blazer suit, paired with a traditional padgi (headwear), adding a cultural touch to his outfit. The video showcased Nick fully immersing himself in the festivities.

The highlight of the celebration was when Priyanka and Nick took over the dance floor, setting it on fire with their energetic moves, bringing even more fun to the already joyous occasion. Nick's participation in the wedding highlighted his deep respect for Indian customs, making it a memorable family affair.



## Janhvi Kapoor Stuns in a Mesmerizing Silver Ensemble



Janhvi Kapoor never fails to impress, and this time, she traded the breezy summer vibe for pure glamour!

Draped in a dazzling silver corset top and a mermaid-style skirt, she exuded elegance and confidence. Her cascading hair, bold mascara, and a striking matching necklace added to the allure of her backless ensemble, making it an unforgettable fashion moment.

On the work front, Janhvi is gearing up for her much-anticipated Telugu debut alongside Ram Charan in "RC16." The film, directed by Buchi Babu Sana, promises to be a gripping entertainer, and fans are eager to see this fresh on-screen pairing. With back-to-back exciting projects, Janhvi continues to make waves in both fashion and cinema.

## Lisa Mishra to Perform with Ed Sheeran in Delhi's Biggest International Concert

Singer-actress Lisa Mishra is set to create history as she performs alongside global music icon Ed Sheeran in Delhi on February 15. This highly anticipated event is being touted as the biggest international show ever held in the capital.

Lisa Mishra, known for her chart-topping tracks and acting prowess, is stepping into the global music spotlight with this prestigious collaboration. Fans can also expect an exclusive treat, as she might unveil some of her unreleased music during the concert. Expressing her excitement, Lisa said, "Performing with Ed Sheeran is nothing short of a dream come true. He has been one of my biggest inspirations, and to share the same stage with him is surreal. This is a defining moment in my career, reinforcing my belief in the power of music and hard work." This collaboration marks a significant milestone in Lisa's career,



solidifying her place in the international music scene. With an electrifying atmosphere expected at the concert, fans are eagerly waiting for this historic musical moment in Delhi.