



Weather Forecast

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

Tensions in Punjab AAP?

Kejriwal to Meet Punjab MLAs

Kejriwal calls meeting with Punjab MLAs after Delhi poll loss.

Speculation grows over rift with Punjab CM Bhagwant Mann.

Opposition claims Kejriwal may try to replace Mann as CM.

Analysts see the meeting as a test of loyalty and damage control.



TPN Correspondent | Chandigarh

Amid claims that the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) is facing internal turmoil following its poor showing in the Delhi elections, party national convener Arvind Kejriwal has called for a meeting with all 92 of the party's Punjab MLAs, including ministers, in New Delhi on February 11. Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann will also be present at the meeting, which is set to take place at Kapurthala House, the official residence of the Punjab CM in Delhi.

The meeting, according to AAP's Punjab spokesperson Malvinder Singh Kang, is an organizational session designed to gather feedback from party leaders on the Delhi poll results, as the party plans its future strategy. However, many analysts believe that the gathering could signal deeper issues within the party. Political analyst Harjeshwar Singh suggested that the meeting may not just be a feedback session but also Kejriwal's effort to reassert his leadership within the party, especially after the Delhi assembly loss. Kejriwal's focus on keeping control over Punjab, given the opposition's efforts to exploit AAP's weakened position, adds further complexity to the situation.

Tensions between Kejriwal and Mann have been widely speculated, especially after Kejriwal reportedly removed Mann's close aides from the Punjab CM office post-Lok Sabha elections, replacing them with his own trusted personnel. This has fueled speculation of growing rifts, particularly with Kejriwal's personal defeat in the Delhi elections and the morale hit to the party.

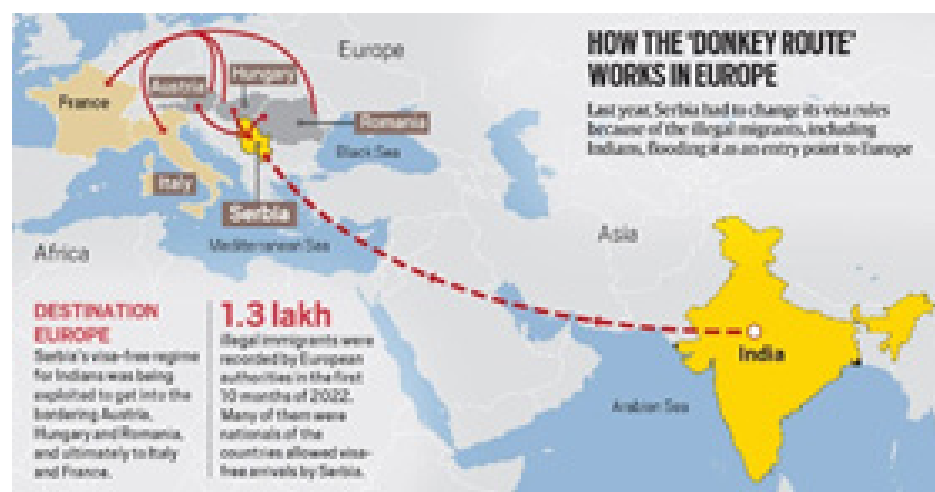
Political analyst Ashutosh Kumar pointed out that the upcoming meeting is crucial for assessing loyalty among Punjab MLAs and determining whether Kejriwal can main-

tain party unity. The session could serve as a damage control measure to address any potential issues that may arise within the party in the wake of the Delhi election loss.

Opposition leaders have been quick to stir the pot, with BJP Delhi leader Manjinder Singh Sirsa claiming that Kejriwal was plotting to remove Bhagwant Mann from the Punjab CM post. Sirsa alleged that Kejriwal intended to label Mann as incompetent and take over leadership himself, pointing to unfulfilled promises in Punjab, such as the ₹1000 for women and curbing drug abuse.

Senior Congress leader Sukhjinder Randhawa took to social media, suggesting that Punjab could face mid-term elections due to the growing dissatisfaction among AAP MLAs. He highlighted the lack of governance, citing a lack of cabinet meetings and the recent cancellations as a sign of instability.

2 PAGE



HOW THE 'DONKEY ROUTE' WORKS IN EUROPE

Last year, Serbia had to change its visa rules because of the illegal migrants, including Indians, flooding it as an entry point to Europe.

Why Deported Indians Used Dunki Routes to Enter the US

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

The recent deportation of 104 Indian nationals from the United States has once again highlighted the increasing use of Dunki Routes, a network of illegal migration pathways. These individuals reportedly spent up to ₹1 crore each on agent fees, fraudulent documents, and perilous travel through multiple countries, hoping to enter the U.S. undetected.

Many of these migrants began their journey in South America, traveling through countries like Ecuador, Colombia, Panama, and Mexico before attempting to cross the U.S. border. The high cost and difficulty of securing legal visas, along with the appeal of better job opportunities and living conditions, push many Indians to take these dangerous routes.

The U.S. has identified nearly 20,000 Indian illegal immigrants, with an estimated 7.25 lakh undocumented Indians currently residing in the

104 Indians deported for illegal U.S. entry via Dunki routes.

Many paid up to ₹1 crore for forged documents and travel.

7.25 lakh undocumented Indians in the U.S.

PM Modi to discuss immigration with Trump.

U.S. intensifies crackdown on illegal migration.

US Crackdown Amid Modi-Trump Immigration Talks

The deportation comes at a time when Prime Minister Narendra Modi is set to visit the United States for a high-profile meeting

country. This makes Indians the largest non-Latin American migrant group in the U.S. Many undertake treacherous journeys, often facing extreme weather, exploitation by human traffickers, and the risk of detention by authorities.

U.S. immigration enforcement has intensified its crackdown on unauthorized migration. Deportation proceedings are initiated against those who violate immigration laws, commit crimes, or pose security threats. Migrants caught at the border are held in detention centers before removal, while others are deported after overstaying visas or engaging in illegal activities.

2 PAGE

Delhi's Next Chief Minister A Woman? Buzz Amid Big BJP Brainstorm

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

After the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) secured a massive victory in the Delhi elections, ending the Aam Aadmi Party's (AAP) decade-long rule, there is still suspense over who will take over as the next Chief Minister of the capital. Although no official announcement has been made, sources indicate that the next Chief Minister will be chosen from the party's newly elected members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs).



One of the top contenders for the post is Parvesh Verma, a prominent figure who defeated AAP's national convener Arvind Kejriwal in the New Delhi constituency. Verma, who has previously served as a Member of Parliament from West Delhi, is the son of

the late former Delhi Chief Minister Sahib Singh Verma. Other potential candidates include Satish Upadhyay, the former Delhi BJP chief and newly elected MLA from Malviya Nagar, senior party leader Vijender Gupta, Ashish Sood, the new MLA from Janakpuri, and Pawan Sharma, the newly elected MLA from Uttam Nagar. However,

2 PAGE

Delhi HC Grants Two-Day Custody Parole to Jailed MP Engineer Rashid for Parliament Session

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

The Delhi High Court granted a two-day custody parole to jailed Jammu and Kashmir MP, Abdul Rashid Sheikh, also known as Rashid Engineer, allowing him to attend the ongoing Parliament session on February 11 and 13. Justice Vikas Mahajan approved the parole, stating that Rashid would be escorted by armed police personnel to and from the Parliament.

Rashid, who represents Baramulla, is currently facing trial in a terror funding case. He is accused of financially supporting separatists and terror groups in Jammu and Kashmir. As a condition of the custody parole, Rashid was prohibited from using a cellphone or speaking to the media. The court also directed that security within Parliament would be coordinated with the secretary general.

Rashid, elected to the Lok Sabha last year, had filed a plea for custody parole after being left in limbo by the NIA court, which could not decide his bail due to the absence of a special MP/MLA court. Senior advocate Sidharth Luthra, representing the NIA, opposed the plea, citing



security concerns over armed escorts entering Parliament. Luthra argued that custody parole is not a right for parliamentarians and raised complications regarding the presence of armed personnel.

In contrast, Rashid's counsel, senior advocate N Hariharan, argued that his constituency, Baramulla, was unrepresented during the budget session, particularly as the funds for J&K had decreased by Rs 1,000 crore. He urged the court to allow Rashid to participate, highlighting the importance of constituency representation.

Anurag Thakur Slams Rahul Gandhi Over Delhi's "Zero" Performance

- Anurag Thakur mocks Congress for repeated election losses in Delhi.
- Highlights BJP's income tax exemption up to ₹12.75 lakh.
- Calls Rahul Gandhi an "urban Naxal" over voter roll allegations.

TPN Correspondent | Delhi
BJP MP Anurag Thakur today took a jibe at Congress leader Rahul Gandhi and his party's continuous failures in Delhi elections, as Congress failed to win a single seat for the third consecutive time. Thakur also criticized Congress for its past record, referencing the "high" income tax rates during its time in power.



During a session in Parliament, Thakur held up a small poster that read, "zero tax till Rs 12 lakh income," emphasizing the government's income tax reforms. He mocked the Congress party, claiming they may feel bad about the "zero," but that millions of ordinary people are benefitting from the tax changes. "Rahul ji, check the zero," he quipped, referencing an internet meme that shows Gandhi as a fuel station attendant telling a customer to "check the zero."

The new income tax slabs, introduced by Union Fi-

nance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in Budget 2025, exempt those earning up to Rs 12.75 lakh from paying income tax.

Thakur's remarks come after his earlier comments calling Rahul Gandhi an "urban Naxal" over his allegations about an electoral expansion in Maharashtra. In today's Parliament session, Thakur further mocked the Congress party by listing its repeated electoral defeats and asking questions about the number of seats Congress had won in recent elections. Each time he asked, BJP members responded with "zero."

Thakur highlighted the Congress party's complete absence in Delhi's political scene, asking, "In the 2014 Lok Sabha elections, how many seats did Congress win in Delhi? Zero. In the 2015 Vidhan Sabha? Zero. In the 2019 Lok Sabha? Zero." He continued, pointing out that the same result was repeated in 2020 and 2024 elections. The BJP, in contrast, secured nearly 50 out of Delhi's 70 seats in the last elections, while the AAP won 22.

Thakur concluded by blaming Rahul Gandhi's leadership for Congress's dismal performance, saying that the party had established a "record of zeroes" under his direction.

Rocket Ammunition Found During Searches In Punjab's Patiala

TPN Correspondent | Patiala

At least seven rocket ammunition shells were discovered in a garbage dump on Rajpura Road in Patiala, Punjab, this afternoon, sparking panic among local residents. The police were alerted about the presence of suspicious materials in the area, prompting an immediate investigation.



According to Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Nanak Singh, the ammunition was found in a garbage pile after police received information about potentially dangerous items being discarded. "Preliminary investigation suggests that the ammunition was left behind by a scrap dealer, as it was found in a garbage dump," said SSP Nanak Singh, addressing the media.

Despite this initial theory, the police are not ruling out any other possibilities. The discovery of such hazardous materials has raised concerns regarding safety and security in the area. Authorities have cordoned off the area to ensure public safety and have begun an investigation to deter-

mine how the ammunition ended up in the garbage dump.

The police are continuing their inquiries to verify the origin of the ammunition and whether there was any malicious intent behind it. Local residents are on edge, as the discovery of such dangerous materials in a public area is causing widespread fear.

Patiala's police force has assured the public that measures are being taken to prevent any potential threats and ensure the safety of residents. The area will remain under heightened surveillance while the investigation continues.

President Droupadi Murmu Takes Holy Dip at Triveni Sangam

TPN Correspondent | Mahakumbh

On Monday morning, President Droupadi Murmu arrived in Prayagraj to participate in the Maha Kumbh Mela and took a ceremonial holy dip at the sacred Triveni Sangam. This significant event marked her deep-rooted faith in Sanatan Dharma and the spiritual significance of the Kumbh Mela.



On Monday morning, President Droupadi Murmu arrived in Prayagraj to participate in the Maha Kumbh Mela and took a ceremonial holy dip at the sacred Triveni Sangam. This significant event marked her deep-rooted faith in Sanatan Dharma and the spiritual significance of the Kumbh Mela.

President Murmu's participation in the Kumbh Mela was not only a display of personal faith but also a representation of her respect for India's rich spiritual heritage. The event further highlighted the deep cultural significance of the Kumbh Mela, which has been a centuries-old tradition in the country.

This visit comes as part of her ongoing efforts to connect with the diverse cultural and religious practices of India. As the first tribal woman to hold the office of President, her gesture was particularly meaningful, reflecting the unity in diversity that India upholds.

Her presence at such an iconic event underscores her commitment to preserving and honoring the country's spiritual traditions while embracing its modern democratic fabric.

The Triveni Sangam, where the Ganga, Yamuna, and the mythical Sarasvati rivers converge, is considered one of the holiest places in India. Taking a dip in its waters during the Maha Kumbh is believed to purify the soul and wash away sins. President Murmu's visit to the site was a gesture of reverence to the ancient tradition, symbolizing her connection to the spiritual heart of the nation.

The President was warmly welcomed by local authorities and spiritual leaders as she arrived at the Sangam. She was seen offering prayers and engaging in a moment of reflection at the holy confluence. The atmosphere was filled with de-

Delhi's New CM Likely to Reject 'Sheesh Mahal' as Official Residence

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

The newly elected Chief Minister of Delhi will not be taking up residence in the 'Sheesh Mahal', the Flagstaff Road bungalow in Civil Lines that served as the official residence of Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leader Arvind Kejriwal during his tenure, sources revealed.



The term 'Sheesh Mahal' (meaning "palace of mirrors" in Hindi) was coined by the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) to accuse Kejriwal of a "big scam" related to the renovation of his official residence. The controversy surrounding the opulent nature of the bungalow had been a point of contention in Delhi politics.

In the recently concluded Delhi Assembly elections, the BJP made a significant comeback, securing 48 out of the 70 seats, marking a

sharp increase from their 2020 tally of just 8. The AAP, which had won 62 seats in the 2020 elections, was reduced to 22, while the Congress failed to win any seats for the third consecutive time.

The suspense continues over who will be the next Chief Minister of Delhi, as the BJP has yet to announce its choice for the position. Parvesh Verma, the newly elected MLA from the New Delhi seat, is

seen as the frontrunner. Verma, a former two-time Member of Parliament (MP) from West Delhi, made headlines by defeating Kejriwal in the assembly elections from a seat that Kejriwal had previously won three times in a row.

Verma, the son of the late Sahib Singh Verma, former Delhi Chief Minister, told the media that the party leadership would ultimately decide who would take the oath of office. Other names in the mix for the Chief Minister position include Satish Upadhyay, Ashish Sood, Jitendra Mahajan, and Vijender Gupta.

Sources indicate that the oath ceremony for the new Chief Minister may take place after Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to the US, scheduled for February 12-13, 2025.

1st Page Cont..

Tensions in Punjab AAP?

Despite these claims, Ashutosh Kumar believes that mid-term elections are unlikely due to AAP's commanding majority in the state, holding 92 out of 117 seats. The opposition's efforts to destabilize AAP may be strong, but the party's significant legislative strength makes it difficult to bring about any

immediate change in leadership.

The upcoming meeting will likely clarify Kejriwal's strategy to navigate through these turbulent waters and reaffirm his dominance over AAP's Punjab chapter.

Delhi's Next Chief Minister A Woman? Buzz Amid Big BJP Brainstorm

BJP has a history of surprising its supporters with unexpected choices for key positions.

Sources have also suggested that a female MLA might be considered for the role, given that the BJP has four newly elected women legislators, including Neelam Pahalwan, the first woman MLA from Najafgarh, Rekha Gupta, a former Delhi University Students' Union president, Poonam Sharma from Wazirpur, and Shikha Roy, who defeated AAP's Saurabh Bharadwaj. Additionally, caste considerations could play a role, with BJP possibly selecting

an MLA from the Scheduled Caste category, as four of its newly elected MLAs belong to this group.

Discussions regarding the next Chief Minister have already begun within the BJP leadership. Prime Minister Narendra Modi, along with Home Minister Amit Shah and party president JP Nadda, have been in talks regarding government formation. The swearing-in ceremony for the new Chief Minister is expected to take place after Modi's return from the United States, with plans for a grand event attended by Chief Ministers from all NDA-ruled states.

Why Deported Indians Used Dunki Routes to Enter the US

with President Donald Trump. Immigration policy is expected to be a key topic during their discussions, as Trump has consistently pushed for stricter border controls and deportations. During his previous tenure, Trump had introduced policies aimed at curbing illegal immigration, affecting thousands of Indian migrants.

With Trump now back in office, his administration is expected to tighten immigration policies further. Many analysts believe that U.S. authorities will intensify their crackdown on illegal entries, and India, which now ranks above China in deportation figures, could see more such removals in the coming months.

According to the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) Fiscal Year 2024 Annual Report, while Honduras, Mexico, Guatemala, and El Salvador remain the top countries for deportations, India has now overtaken China and is nearly on par with Brazil. This shift indicates a rising trend of illegal migration from South Asia, despite severe risks and financial losses.

The Indian government has also expressed concerns over the increasing number of its citizens taking illegal migration routes. Authorities are urging stricter action against fraudulent immigration agents and raising awareness about the dangers of unauthorized travel. However, unless legal migration opportunities improve, many desperate individuals may continue to risk everything for a chance at a better life abroad.

Gold Prices Surge Amid US Tariff Threats, Hit Record Highs

On Monday, gold prices soared past the \$2,930 mark on the Chicago Mercantile Exchange, as the market responded to US President Donald Trump's threats of imposing a 25% additional tariff on steel and aluminum imports. While Trump did not specify which countries would be targeted, the uncertainty surrounding the potential trade war led to increased demand for gold as a safe-haven asset.

In the domestic market, these international price shifts will be reflected on Tuesday. However, on Monday, investors and traders in India pushed up local gold prices, with Delhi seeing a surge to Rs 88,080 per 10 grams, and Mumbai reaching Rs 87,990, up from Rs 87,300 on Saturday.

Abdul Nazar, director of the All-India Gems & Jewellery Domestic Council, confirmed that the new gold price levels will take effect on Tuesday in the Indian market. The price of \$2,931 per ounce marks the highest point for gold in history when adjusted for inflation. The all-time high for gold, as per adjusted figures, remains over \$3,300, a price reached during the 1980s following a crude oil price rally and record inflation.

Colin Shah, managing director of Kama Jewelry, highlighted that the surge in gold prices is primarily driven by Trump's tariff threats, which are pushing more investors toward safe-haven assets like gold. Additionally, the possibility of a US-China trade war is contributing to market volatility, further boosting demand for gold. Shah predicts that gold prices could reach \$3,000 per ounce internationally and Rs 88,000 per 10 grams in the domestic market.

According to Reuters, gold prices rose more than 1% on Monday to hit a record high as fears of a global trade war intensified. By 19:05 IST, spot gold had risen 1.4% to \$2,931 per ounce, marking its seventh record this year. The metal has already surged more than 10% in 2025, following a 22% rally in the previous year, as geopolitical tensions and economic uncertainties continue to fuel gold's appeal.

14 Crore Excluded From NFSA Due to Delay in Census: Sonia Gandhi



- Sonia Gandhi urges Census to expand NFSA benefits.
- 14 crore people excluded due to outdated 2011 data.
- Budget hints at further Census delay.

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

Congress MP and parliamentary party chairperson Sonia Gandhi raised concerns in the Rajya Sabha on February 10, highlighting that nearly 14 crore people are being deprived of benefits under the National Food Security Act (NFSA) due to the delay in conducting the decadal census. She urged the Union government to conduct the exercise as soon as possible.

During her address, Sonia Gandhi praised the NFSA, introduced by the United Progressive Alliance (UPA) gov-

ernment, calling it a crucial initiative for ensuring food and nutritional security for India's 140 crore citizens. She emphasized its role in safeguarding millions from hunger during the COVID-19 pandemic and as the foundation of the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY). Under the NFSA, 75% of rural and 50% of urban populations are entitled to subsidized food grains, yet the quota for beneficiaries is still determined by the 2011 Census, which is over a decade old.

"The Census, which was originally scheduled for 2021, has

been delayed for more than four years, and there is still no clarity on when it will be conducted," Gandhi noted. She further criticized the Union Budget allocations, which suggest that the updated census is unlikely to take place this year. As a result, she pointed out that around 14 crore eligible citizens remain excluded from essential benefits under the NFSA.

Gandhi emphasized that food security is a fundamental right, not a privilege, and called on the government to prioritize completing the census without further delay. Activists Anjali Bhardwaj and Amrita Johri from the Right to Food Campaign have also pointed out that had the 2021 Census been completed on time, an estimated 10 crore people would have been added to the food security net.

In the Union Budget presented on February 1, only Rs 574.80 crore were allocated for the Census, raising doubts about its completion this year. The government had initially approved the census at a cost of Rs 8,754.23 crore in December 2019.

Akhilesh Yadav flays Adityanath govt over traffic chaos in Prayagraj

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

Samajwadi Party (SP) chief Akhilesh Yadav on Monday strongly criticized the Uttar Pradesh government for the severe traffic congestion in Prayagraj, which he claimed has caused a shortage of essential commodities and worsened the plight of devotees visiting the Maha Kumbh Mela.

Yadav pointed out the worsening situation in the city, saying, "Due to the traffic jam everywhere in Prayagraj, essential items like food grains, vegetables, spices, medicines, and petrol-diesel are unavailable. As a result, the condition of crores of hungry, thirsty, tired, and exhausted devotees stuck in the Maha Kumbh premises and on roads leading to Prayagraj is getting worse every hour. This is a very serious situation."



The SP leader argued that the Uttar Pradesh government's failure to manage the situation during one of the largest religious gatherings in the world had led to chaos and inconvenience for millions of people. The traffic jams, combined with shortages of crucial supplies, have created a highly challenging environment for devotees arriving at the Maha Kumbh.

Yadav went on to suggest that, similar to how leadership is transferred when a constitutional system fails in certain states, a capable individual should be entrusted with the responsibility of managing the Maha Kumbh's logistics and ensuring the smooth flow of devotees. He remarked that the current government, which he deemed incompetent, was only contributing to false propaganda while failing to address the real issues.

Delhi will now benefit from central schemes : Haryana CM

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

A day after the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) secured a decisive victory in Delhi, clinching 48 out of 70 seats, Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini lauded the party's success, calling it a historic moment for the capital. He emphasized that residents of Delhi would now benefit from various welfare schemes introduced by the Centre under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership.

Speaking at a press conference at Haryana Bhawan in New Delhi, Saini pointed fingers at the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) government, accusing them of "spreading lies" and depriving Delhi residents of welfare programs. He specifically criticized AAP leader Arvind Kejriwal for his claims about water in

the Yamuna and other issues. "The AAP government deprived the residents of Delhi of key central schemes like Ayushman Yojana, which would have benefitted millions. For the last 10 years, Kejriwal's government focused more on making promises than actually delivering," Saini remarked.

Saini went on to claim that the BJP's victory reflected the public's approval of Modi's policies. "Now, Modi's welfare schemes will be implemented in Delhi. Poor people will receive Ayushman cards, farmers will get



fair prices for their crops, and clean, sufficient water will be provided," he said.

The Haryana CM also lashed out at Kejriwal for his past accusations against farmers and the Haryana government. "Kejriwal blamed farmers for stubble burning and falsely claimed Haryana was poisoning water sent to Delhi. But people have seen through these lies," Saini added.

In a lighter moment, the Haryana government served freshly fried jalebis from Gohana's Lala Mathu Ram, referencing Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's previous comment about selling these jalebis across the country. "Just like in Haryana and Maharashtra, jalebis are now being served in Delhi too," Saini quipped.

Priyanka Gandhi Calls Manipur CM's Resignation "Long Overdue"

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

Congress General Secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra on Monday expressed that Manipur Chief Minister N Biren Singh's resignation was long overdue, given the ongoing violence in the northeastern state for the past two years. Speaking to reporters, she emphasized that the situation in Manipur had been deteriorating for an extended period, and action was necessary.



Gandhi said, "It was long overdue... for two years, violence has been continuing in Manipur." Her remarks came in response to a question about the resignation of the Chief Minister, following intense unrest in the region. The violence in Manipur has led to widespread instability and concerns over the safety and well-being of the residents.

She reiterated that the prolonged unrest in the state demanded immediate attention from the government. The Congress leader further stressed

that leadership changes were necessary to bring about effective solutions to the ongoing crisis. Gandhi's comment highlights the dissatisfaction within political circles over the management of the situation by the state government.

The state of Manipur has been grappling with inter-ethnic violence and clashes between various groups, resulting in a significant loss of life and property. Despite multiple calls for intervention, the conflict has not been adequately addressed, leading to widespread criticism of the government's response.

As the unrest continues to escalate, the resignation of the Chief Minister is seen by some as an essential step toward restoring peace and order. The Congress party has long been critical of the handling of the situation in Manipur, with Gandhi's statement adding to the growing calls for change in leadership to resolve the crisis.

The political landscape in Manipur remains tense, with all eyes now on the government's next steps in handling the fallout from the violence and ensuring long-term stability in the region.

Bengal Assembly: Governor Bose praises CM Mamata, lauds state govt's achievements

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

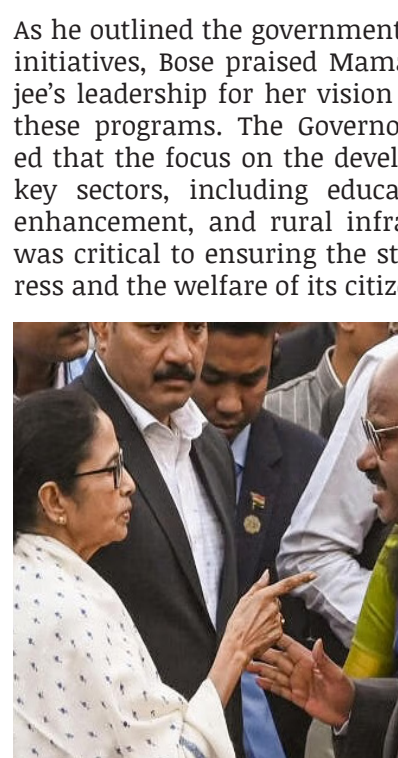
West Bengal Governor C.V. Ananda Bose on Monday lauded Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee as a "visionary, enterprising, and dynamic leader" while emphasizing the achievements of the state government over the past year. His remarks were made during the customary address on the first day of the state assembly's budget session.

In his address, Governor Bose referred to the recently concluded Bengal Global Business Summit, describing it as an "overwhelming success." He expressed confidence that the summit would significantly contribute to the state's economic growth and further enhance its position as a hub for business and investment.

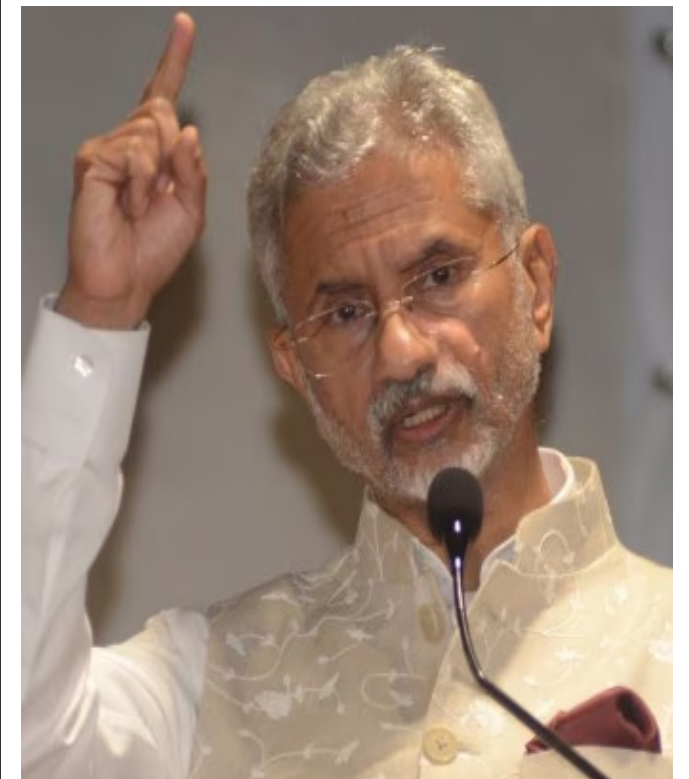
The Governor also highlighted several key initiatives undertaken by the state government under Mamata Banerjee's leadership. Over the past 13 years, he noted, the government has focused on addressing the needs of the minority population, particularly in the areas of education, modernization of madrasas, skill development, and the creation of sustainable livelihoods.

Bose acknowledged the challenges posed by financial constraints and the non-receipt of central funds but emphasized that despite these obstacles, the state government has remained steadfast in its commitment to employment generation and rural housing. The Governor emphasized that these efforts are aimed at empowering communities, improving living standards, and fostering inclusive growth in the state.

As he outlined the government's ongoing initiatives, Bose praised Mamata Banerjee's leadership for her vision in driving these programs. The Governor reiterated that the focus on the development of key sectors, including education, skill enhancement, and rural infrastructure, was critical to ensuring the state's progress and the welfare of its citizens.



Talks underway for meeting between EAM Jaishankar and Bangladesh foreign affairs advisor



TPN Correspondent | Delhi

Efforts are currently underway to arrange a meeting between India's External Affairs Minister, S. Jaishankar, and Bangladesh's Foreign Affairs Advisor, Touhid Hossain. The anticipated meeting is set to take place on the sidelines of the Indian Ocean Conference, which will be held in Muscat, Oman, from February 16 to 17.

This would mark the second encounter between Jaishankar and Hossain since August 5, when the Sheikh Hasina-led government in Bangladesh faced political turmoil. The two had previously met during the UN General Assembly session in New York in September of the previous year.

The upcoming meeting is expected to focus on strengthening bilateral ties between India and Bangladesh, particularly in the wake of recent political changes. The discussions could touch on a range of topics, in-

cluding regional cooperation, security issues, economic collaboration, and ongoing diplomatic relations between the two nations.

The Indian Ocean Conference, which brings together key players from the region, is seen as a significant platform for regional dialogue. Jaishankar and Hossain's meeting will provide an opportunity for both leaders to engage in detailed discussions about mutual concerns and explore avenues for enhanced cooperation in various sectors.

While the political situation in Bangladesh remains a point of interest, both India and Bangladesh have traditionally enjoyed close diplomatic ties, with collaboration in sectors such as trade, security, and infrastructure development. The upcoming meeting is seen as crucial for continuing and strengthening these relations, especially given the changing political landscape in Bangladesh.

India Open to Energy Imports ; Gas Prices to Drop in 2026: Minister Puri

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

India is open to importing energy from any source at the lowest possible prices, said Union Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas, Hardeep Singh Puri, on Monday. Addressing the media ahead of the Indian Energy Week (IEW) 2025, Puri reassured that the country remains flexible in sourcing energy and is continuously expanding its network of suppliers. The country has increased its number of energy suppliers from 27 to 39, adding nations like Argentina to the list. Puri emphasized that tenders for energy importation are open to all suppliers, with a focus on purchasing from the most cost-effective sources.



In his statement, the minister allayed concerns regarding the impact of US sanctions on Russia's energy supplies to India. He stated that despite global uncertainties, India's energy import portfolio continues to grow. Puri also highlighted that domestic oil marketing companies are looking to expand their natural gas purchases, and prices are expected to drop significantly by 2026. He projected a major increase in the availability of natural gas, with Qatar being a potential supplier.

Additionally, Puri addressed the growing demand for liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) in India, revealing that LPG supply is nearly saturated in the country. The government's next focus is to extend the reach of piped natural gas (PNG) to households, which is 30% cheaper than LPG.

In a key development, Puri mentioned that Indian Oil, Bharat Petroleum, and GAIL are exploring the possibility of purchasing liquefied natural gas (LNG) and crude oil from the United States, with long-term contracts in the pipeline. This aligns with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's upcoming visit to the US, where energy discussions are expected to be a significant part of the agenda.

IEW 2025, which will kick off in New Delhi, is expected to be the second-largest energy event globally, attracting top ministers and CEOs. The event will also host a Clean Cooking Ministerial to advance the global transition to clean cooking solutions.



Podcaster Allahbadia Who Received Award From PM Modi Now Facing Flak For His Remark

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

Ranveer Allahbadia, the popular social media influencer and podcaster known for his YouTube channel "BeerBiceps," has sparked controversy following an inappropriate remark made during an appearance on comedian Samay Raina's show, "India's Got Latent." Allahbadia's comment, in which he asked a contestant, "Would you rather watch your parents have sex every day for the rest of your life or join in once and stop it forever?" quickly went viral, receiving widespread criticism on social media. Many users expressed their disgust, with Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis warning against the misuse of freedom of speech. The National Commission for Protection of Child Rights also urged YouTube to take urgent action regarding the matter.

Allahbadia, who is also an entrepreneur, hosts "The Ranveer Show" and is the founder of BeerBiceps Media Private Limited. He runs 12 YouTube channels, which collectively have over 6 billion views. His main channel, "BeerBiceps," features interviews with celebrities, entrepreneurs, and athletes, while his "Ranveer Allahbadia (Hindi)" channel caters to a Hindi-speaking audience. He has also co-founded several ventures, including Monk-E, BigBrainco, and Level Supermind.

This isn't the first time Allahbadia's content has attracted criticism. In 2023, during a podcast with advocate J Sai Deepak, he asked who should leave India, leading to backlash. Additionally, in April 2024, he faced scrutiny for sharing an unverified claim about a village in Kerala enforcing Islamic law. Despite the backlash, Allahbadia has remained unapologetic, refusing to take down controversial videos.



Looking forward to meeting my friend Donald Trump: PM Modi

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, ahead of his two-nation tour to France and the United States, expressed his eagerness to meet his "friend" President Donald Trump during his upcoming visit to the US from February 12 to 14. Modi reminisced about the fruitful collaboration during Trump's first term, emphasizing the importance of further strengthening the India-US global strategic partnership.

In a statement released by the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) ahead of his departure, Modi highlighted the visit as a crucial opportunity to continue building on the successes of India-US cooperation. The agenda includes discussions on key areas such as technology, trade,

defense, energy, and strengthening supply chain resilience. Modi stated, "We will work together for the mutual benefit of the people of our two countries and shape a better future for the world."

Before heading to the United States, PM Modi will visit France, where he will attend the AI Action Summit from February 10 to 12. This summit will bring together world leaders and tech CEOs to discuss AI technology's collaborative approach for innovation, public good, and security.

Additionally, Modi will meet French President Emmanuel Macron to review progress on the 2047 Horizon Roadmap for India-France strategic partnership. During his visit, the leaders will also travel to the French city of Marseille to

inaugurate India's first Consulate there and visit the International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor project, a key initiative involving India's collaboration with France and other partner nations in advancing nuclear energy research.

Furthermore, PM Modi will pay his respects to Indian soldiers who lost their lives during World Wars I and II at the Mazargues War Cemetery in Marseille. Talks on potential India-France collaboration in the civil nuclear energy sector may also be explored following India's plans to amend the Atomic Energy Act to allow private sector participation.

PM Modi's visit to the US follows a highly anticipated diplomatic agenda aimed at strengthening ties with President Trump and the broader US government.

Devotees Stuck In Traffic Jam For 30 Hours In Maha Kumbh

TPN Correspondent | Mahakumbh

Ahead of the Magh Purnima festival, set for February 12, a massive influx of devotees headed towards Prayagraj for the Maha Kumbh has caused significant traffic disruptions. Long lines of vehicles have caused severe congestion on roads and highways, with traffic moving at a frustratingly slow pace.

Commuters are experiencing considerable delays, with many sharing their frustrations on social media. Some travelers attempted to bypass the jams by using village routes or the old Raebareilly-Prayagraj road, only to be stopped at the Bela Kachhar parking area, located about 18 kilometers from the city. From this point, a large number of passengers have been forced to continue their journey on foot, adding to the discomfort of the already weary pilgrims.

In the midst of the chaos, bike services in Prayagraj have witnessed a surge in demand. Local youths have been offering rides to help people navigate through

the city's traffic. While some are offering free rides out of goodwill, others are charging fares ranging from Rs 100 to Rs 500. Despite the cost, many travelers are willing to pay to avoid the long walk, highlighting the dire situation of the stranded devotees.

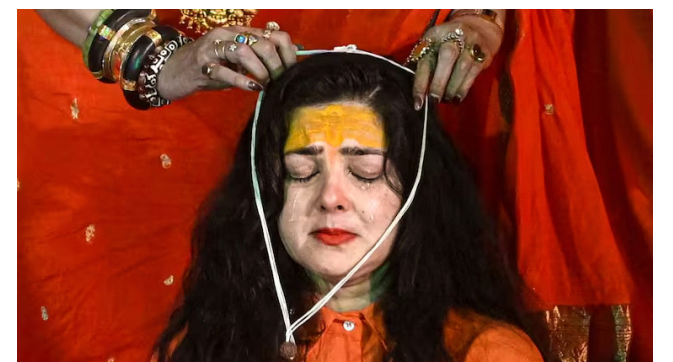
Samajwadi Party president took to X to express his concerns over the traffic situation, calling for urgent emergency measures to help the millions of devotees caught in the gridlock. In his post, he urged the authorities to view the distress of the pilgrims with empathy and take action to alleviate their suffering. He also highlighted the massive jams reported at Nawabganj, Gauhania, and the Varanasi side, adding that the situation was making life difficult for ordinary citizens as well.

As Prayagraj prepares for the auspicious day of Magh Purnima, authorities will need to address the ongoing traffic challenges to ensure the safe and smooth movement of devotees during the Maha Kumbh.



Mamta Kulkarni Resigns From Kinnar Akhara: 'Egoistic People Have A Problem With Me'

TPN Correspondent | Delhi



Actress Mamta Kulkarni, who recently made headlines for announcing her celibacy, has officially resigned from her position as Mahamandaleshwar of the Kinnar Akhara. While stepping down from the prominent post, Kulkarni made it clear that she will continue her spiritual journey and live as a "Sadhvi."

In a video shared on social media, the former actress stated, "I am resigning from the post of Mahamandaleshwar of Kinnar Akhara. I have been a 'sadhvi' since my childhood, and I'll continue to be so." Kulkarni's resignation comes after a period of turmoil within the Akhara, where she pointed out internal politics and ego-driven disputes. She criticized the members of the Akhara, stating, "These people are egoistic and disconnected from Brahma Vidya. They fight among themselves and have no understanding of true knowledge."

Mamta Kulkarni had embraced a new identity as "Shri Yamai Mamta Nandgiri" when she was appointed as Mahamandaleshwar on January 24 during the ongoing Maha Kumbh Mela in Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh. However, her induction sparked controversy among certain Hindu leaders, including yoga guru Baba Ramdev, who questioned the legitimacy of attaining sainthood "in a single day." Baba Ramdev also emphasized that the Kumbh Mela is a sacred festival and should not be tainted by inappropriate behavior.

Soon after Kulkarni's anointment, she was expelled from the Kinnar Akhara by its founder, Rishi Ajay Das, and Laskhmi Narayan Tripathi, who had initially inducted her.

Don't take exam stress: PM Modi turns friend to students at Pariksha Pe Charcha



TPN Correspondent | Delhi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi interacted with students from across the country on Monday during the eighth edition of his annual 'Pariksha Pe Charcha' program. In a refreshing departure from the traditional town hall format, the PM engaged with the students in a more informal and open setting, discussing critical issues like managing pressure, leadership, and the importance of effective time management.

Addressing the students, PM Modi emphasized that exams should not be seen as the defining factor of their lives. "Exams are not everything," he said, offering a sense of relief to those burdened by stress. He also advised the students to

manage their time in a structured and planned manner, underscoring the significance of time for effective learning and growth.

One of the most touching moments came when a specially-abled child, Vaibhav, raised several questions about handling exam stress, overthinking, and balancing time effectively. In response, the Prime Minister shared personal anecdotes and practical advice to help students cope with these challenges. The conversation turned heartwarming when the PM referred to a student from Ahmedabad, who was on the verge of being expelled due to poor academic performance. However, the boy went on to achieve great success in a robotics competition, a testament to his hidden talents and passion for innovation. PM

Modi encouraged students to recognize and nurture their individual strengths, no matter how unconventional they might seem.

In an environmentally conscious move, the PM also planted trees with the students, stressing the importance of environmental protection and sustainable living.

This edition of 'Pariksha Pe Charcha' served as an opportunity for students to connect directly with the Prime Minister, gaining valuable insights into handling academic pressures and life beyond exams. The initiative continues to be a source of motivation for students, offering them encouragement and practical advice for tackling challenges during exam season and beyond.

- PM Modi reassures students that exams don't define success.
- Encourages time management and self-confidence.
- Joins students in planting trees for environmental awareness.

Adani To Partner Mayo Clinic To Set Up Affordable, World-Class Healthcare Facilities



TPN Correspondent | Delhi

Gautam Adani, Chairman of the Adani Group, has announced the launch of Adani Health City (AHC), an ambitious project aimed at transforming healthcare and medical education across India. The initiative will be executed through the Group's not-for-profit healthcare arm, aligning with Mr. Adani's social philosophy of "seva sadhana hai, seva prarthna hai aur seva parmatma hai," emphasizing the Group's commitment to serving people from all socio-economic backgrounds.

The first phase of Adani Health City will see the development of integrated health campuses in Ahmedabad and Mumbai, with each campus featuring a 1,000-bed multi-specialty hospital, medical colleges, and cutting-edge research facilities. The hospitals will provide comprehensive healthcare services, while the medical colleges will train the next generation of doctors, offering annual intakes of 150 undergraduates and training over 80 residents and 40 fellows. Additionally, step-down and transitional care facilities will be incorporated.

The Adani Group has committed an

initial Rs 6,000 crore towards the construction of these campuses, and plans to expand the initiative to more cities and towns across India. Each campus will focus on offering affordable world-class medical care, medical education, and groundbreaking research in fields like artificial intelligence and biomedical informatics.

In a significant partnership, the Adani Group has teamed up with the Mayo Clinic, a globally renowned non-profit medical group, to provide strategic advice on clinical practices, organizational objectives, and the integration of advanced technology into healthcare operations. The Mayo Clinic's expertise will also guide the enhancement of digital technology and healthcare quality across the campuses.

Mr. Adani emphasized the importance of this initiative, stating that it marks the first of many projects supported by his family's commitment of Rs 60,000 crore towards improving healthcare, education, and skill development in India. The development of Adani Health City aims to elevate India's healthcare standards, particularly in complex disease care and medical innovation.

India committed to eliminating Lymphatic Filariasis by 2027: Nadda

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

Union Health Minister J.P. Nadda announced on Monday that the government is committed to making India Lymphatic Filariasis (LF)-free by 2027, calling for active community participation to achieve this goal. Speaking at the launch of the nationwide Mass Drug Administration (MDA) campaign via video conference, Nadda highlighted the importance of eliminating LF, which incapacitates people and deteriorates their quality of life.

The MDA campaign, which covers 111 endemic districts across 13 states, will focus on door-to-door administration of filaria prevention medications. From February 10, over 17.5 crore people in these districts will receive free medicines, aiming to prevent LF and protect families from the debilitating disease. Nadda em-

phasized the need for 90 percent of the eligible population in endemic areas to consume these medicines to ensure effective coverage.



To ensure the success of the campaign, the minister called for a five-pronged strategy that includes early diagnosis, state-level monitoring, and active involvement of political and administrative leadership. He also urged the participation of various ministries and departments to support campaign activities and foster intersectoral convergence.

Nadda emphasized the integration of Lymphatic Filariasis services in Ayushman Arogya Mandir (AAM) facilities to improve self-care and treatment access. Additionally, he mentioned that nearly 50 percent of lymphoedema cases currently receive Morbidity Management and Disability Prevention (MMDP) kits annually. The government is also providing hydrocelectomy surgeries under the National Health Mission (NHM) and the PMJAY scheme, with significant numbers of surgeries conducted in endemic states in 2024.

Through these efforts, Nadda stated that Arogya Mandirs will help reduce the burden of LF, allowing affected individuals to lead healthier lives. He reiterated India's commitment to eliminating Lymphatic Filariasis by 2027, marking a crucial step toward a disease-free future for the nation.

Paytm CEO's 4-Point Suggestions to PM Modi to Revitalize Yamuna River

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

Paytm CEO Vijay Shekhar Sharma has put forth four key suggestions to Prime Minister Narendra Modi to help rejuvenate the Yamuna River and transform the area into a major city attraction. In light of PM Modi's recent commitment to clean the river, Sharma proposed that the government collaborate with leading engineering institutes in Delhi, such as IIT Delhi and Delhi Technological University (DTU), under the Yamuna Clean Water Mission. He believes the partnership with these institutions will bring fresh insights and solutions to address the river's ongoing pollution issues.

Sharma shared his ideas on social media, including the creation of a "grand Yamuna waterfront park" that would feature natural landscapes, fountains, and evening light shows similar to those at The Pointe in Dubai. He also recommended con-

structing a giant observation wheel, akin to the iconic London Eye, offering panoramic views of both the river and the city. His fourth suggestion involved introducing point-to-point ferries, inspired by Hong Kong's Star Ferry, to ease traffic congestion in Delhi by providing an alternative mode of transportation along the river.

The Yamuna River has long struggled with pollution, with untreated sewage being released into the water daily. Despite substantial investments in sewage treatment systems through initiatives like the Yamuna Action Plan, the river's revival remains an ongoing challenge.

The Prime Minister had earlier pledged to clean the Yamuna as part of his campaign promise to the people of Delhi following the BJP's victory in the recent Delhi Assembly elections. Addressing the issue, PM Modi remarked that the Yamuna



holds immense cultural significance for Delhi, calling it the "lap of Mother Yamuna." He also assured the public that his government would work relentlessly toward restoring the river's health, emphasizing that with strong resolve, the task would not be difficult despite the challenges.

With these proposals, Sharma hopes to inspire innovative solutions and community engagement to not only clean the river but also transform its surrounding areas into vibrant, sustainable spaces for locals and visitors alike.

Fadnavis Addresses Remarks by Ranveer Allahbadia, Emphasizes Freedom of Speech



TPN Correspondent | Delhi

Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis on Monday voiced his concerns over the controversial remarks made by social media influencer and podcaster Ranveer Allahbadia, better known as "BeerBiceps." Fadnavis emphasized that while everyone is entitled to freedom of speech, it should not infringe upon the rights or freedom of others.

In response to a query about Allahbadia's recent objectionable comment on a comedy show, Fadnavis stated that he had heard about the incident but had not yet

seen it firsthand. "It seems that things were said and presented incorrectly," the Chief Minister remarked, suggesting that the context of the remarks might have been misrepresented.

Fadnavis also reiterated the importance of exercising freedom of speech responsibly. "While everyone has the right to freedom of speech, it should not come at the cost of disrespecting others or crossing boundaries," he said. His comments came in the wake of growing outrage over Allahbadia's controversial statement during his appearance on the comedy show 'India's Got Latent', where he asked a contestant

an inappropriate and offensive question. The incident quickly went viral, drawing widespread condemnation from social media users and public figures. Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis' statement reflects a call for more mindful speech, especially in public platforms where the impact of one's words can have far-reaching consequences.

Allahbadia, who has previously faced criticism for his content, has since apologized for the remark, but the controversy has sparked a broader debate about the limits of free speech and the responsibility of public personalities.

PM Modi's France Visit to Strengthen AI, Nuclear, and Strategic Ties

- PM Modi to attend AI Action Summit in Paris on February 11, focusing on AI.
- India and France to enhance cooperation in nuclear energy, trade, and strategic security.



TPN Correspondent | Delhi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will depart for Paris on Monday, February 10, for a three-day official visit, marking an important moment in strengthening India-France ties. A highlight of the visit will be the third edition of the Artificial Intelligence (AI) Action Summit, which PM Modi will co-chair alongside French President Emmanuel Macron. The summit aims to promote the responsible and ethical use of AI and is part of global discussions that began in the UK (2023) and South Korea (2024). The outcome of this summit could influence the future of AI technologies,

with key players from around the world in attendance.

The visit will also include significant bilateral engagements, with PM Modi meeting President Macron to discuss strategic and economic partnerships. A major focus will be on expanding trade, technology, and cooperation in areas like nuclear energy. Additionally, the leaders will address the India-France CEOs Forum to further enhance business relations between the two nations.

On February 11, PM Modi will travel to Marseille, where President Macron will host a dinner in his honor. The two leaders

will also pay tribute to Indian soldiers at the Mazargues War Cemetery, commemorating their contributions during World War I. In a significant gesture, they will jointly inaugurate the Consulate General of India in Marseille, further solidifying the diplomatic presence in France.

A visit to Cadarache is also on the agenda, where PM Modi and President Macron will tour the site of the International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor (ITER), a leading project in nuclear fusion energy, where India plays a crucial role.

After concluding his visit to

France, PM Modi will head to the United States on February 12-13, where he will meet President Donald Trump. This will be his first meeting with Trump since the latter's second term began, offering an opportunity to strengthen Indo-US relations and discuss areas of mutual interest.

India and France have long enjoyed a strong and multifaceted partnership, covering defense, nuclear cooperation, space exploration, digital security, and more. This visit is set to deepen these ties further, with both nations continuing to collaborate on global challenges and strategic interests.



Saudi Arabia Implements New Measures for Hajj 2025, Restricts Children

TPN Correspondent | Riyadh

Saudi Arabia has announced new regulations for the 2025 Hajj pilgrimage, including a ban on children accompanying pilgrims. This decision aims to safeguard the well-being of young ones, who may face risks from the intense crowding that occurs each year during the pilgrimage. The Ministry of Hajj and Umrah emphasized that the safety of children is a top priority, and this measure is designed to prevent harm to them during the event.

In addition to the ban on children, the Ministry is introducing several other safety initiatives to improve the pilgrimage experience. These measures include conducting public safety awareness campaigns, implementing advanced intelligent systems to better manage the movement of pilgrims in sacred areas, and enhancing the infrastructure of the pilgrimage sites. This includes modernization of tent camps and walking routes to ensure safer and more efficient pilgrimages for all attendees.

Saudi Arabia has also reiterated its commitment to prioritizing first-time Hajj participants for the 2025 season, as is the usual practice. This ensures that those who have not had the opportunity to perform the pilgrimage before are given the chance to do so.

The 2025 Hajj season is expected to take place between June 4-6, depending on the sighting of the moon. Performing Hajj is one of the Five Pillars of Islam, and every capable Muslim is required to undertake the journey to Makkah at least once in their lifetime, provided they have the physical and financial means to do so.

In addition to these domestic measures, Saudi Arabia has also announced restrictions on issuing multiple-entry visas for certain nationalities. Affected countries include Algeria, Bangladesh, Egypt, India, Indonesia, and several others. From now on, Saudi Arabia will only issue single-entry visas for tourism, business, or family visits, indefinitely suspending the previous one-year multiple-entry visas.

For Saudi citizens and residents, registration for Hajj 2025 is available via the official Nusuk app, which allows applicants to update their health details and submit necessary documentation for Hajj packages.

Shift Palestine To Saudi Arabia? Netanyahu Suggestion Draws 'Fantasies' Jibe



TPN Correspondent | Washington

Saudi Arabia has strongly rejected Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's recent proposal suggesting that the Palestinian state be established within Saudi Arabia's territory. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Saudi Arabia issued a statement on Sunday, February 9, condemning Netanyahu's remarks, which it claimed were aimed at diverting attention from Israel's ongoing actions in Gaza. The statement highlighted the "continuous crimes" committed by Israeli forces, including what it described as ethnic cleansing against Palestinians.

The Saudi government reaffirmed that the Palestinian people have an inherent "right to their land" and are not "intruders or immigrants" to be displaced at will by Israeli occupation forces. The statement emphasized that the Palestinian cause is a matter of justice and sovereignty, rejecting any suggestion that Palestinians should be resettled outside their homeland. The controversy began when Netanyahu, during a televised interview on February 6, discussed potential diplomatic normalization between Israel and Saudi Arabia. A misstatement by Israeli journalist Yaakov Bardugo initially suggested that no progress could be made without the creation of a Saudi state, which was later corrected to "Palestinian state" by Netanyahu. However, Netanyahu added, "Unless you want the Palestinian state to be in Saudi Arabia. They have plenty of territory."

Trump Announces 25% Tariffs on All Steel and Aluminium Imports

TPN Correspondent | Washington DC

In a significant escalation of his trade policy, US President Donald Trump revealed that the United States will impose a 25% tariff on all steel and aluminium imports, with additional metal duties expected to be announced later in the week. Speaking to reporters aboard Air Force One on Sunday en route to the NFL Super Bowl in New Orleans, Trump also confirmed that reciprocal tariffs would be introduced as early as Tuesday, with the new tariffs taking effect almost immediately.

While Trump did not specify which countries would be targeted by the reciprocal tariffs, he emphasized that the US would match tariffs imposed by other nations, applying this strategy to all countries. "Very simply, it's, if they charge us, we charge them," he explained. This move marks another step in his ongoing trade policy overhaul.

During his first term from 2016 to 2020, Trump imposed a 25% tariff on steel and a 10% tariff on aluminium, but he later granted several countries, including Canada, Mexico, and Brazil, duty-free quotas. Former President Joe Biden continued these exemptions, extending them to the United Kingdom, Japan, and the European Union. However, US



steel mill capacity utilization has declined in recent years, raising concerns about the effectiveness of these quotas.

Canada, Mexico, and Brazil are the largest sources of US steel imports, followed by South Korea and Vietnam. Canada is also the largest supplier of primary aluminium to the US, accounting for 79% of total imports in the first 11 months of 2024, while Mexico is a major supplier of aluminium scrap and alloys. Trump has long expressed dissatisfaction

with the European Union's 10% tariff on US auto imports, which he claims is much higher than the 2.5% tariff the US levies on European cars. The US maintains a 25% tariff on pickup trucks, a key product for Detroit automakers like General Motors, Ford, and Stellantis' US operations. The average US trade-weighted tariff rate stands at about 2.2%, according to World Trade Organization data, compared to higher rates in countries like India (12%), Brazil (6.7%), Vietnam (5.1%), and the EU (2.7%).

PTI Rules Out Dialogue with Sharif Government, Says Talks Are Closed

TPN Correspondent | Islamabad

Omar Ayub Khan, the Leader of Opposition in Pakistan's National Assembly and a key member of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party founded by jailed former Prime Minister Imran Khan, has dismissed the possibility of resuming talks with the government led by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif. Speaking to the media on Sunday, Ayub stated that the "chapter of talks is now closed," referring to the breakdown of political negotiations between the two sides.



Ayub further explained that political discussions cannot be based on mere wishes and require a firm commitment,

which he claims the government has failed to demonstrate. He criticized the Sharif ad-

its leadership and its relationship with the government.

ministration for not displaying the goodwill necessary for productive dialogue, making it clear that the PTI would not engage in any further discussions under the current circumstances.

The statement from Ayub reflects the growing tensions between the opposition party and the government, with both sides seemingly entrenched in their positions. The stalemate highlights the ongoing political crisis in Pakistan, as Imran Khan's PTI continues to face significant challenges, both in terms of its leadership and its relationship with the government.

Chance To Build On Our Collaboration: PM Modi On Meeting Trump In US



- PM Modi to visit for AI Action Summit, focusing on ethical AI development.
- Inauguration of India's first Consulate in Marseille
- Modi to meet US President Trump to discuss trade & defence, partnership.

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has expressed his eagerness to further strengthen the India-US partnership during his upcoming visit to the United States. The visit, which follows his trip to France for an AI summit, presents an opportunity to build upon the strong collaboration he had with former President Donald Trump during his first term. In a statement re-

leased ahead of his departure, PM Modi highlighted the successful cooperation between the two leaders in areas like technology, trade, and defense, and expressed his anticipation of reuniting with Trump during his two-day visit to the US.

Reflecting on his previous visit in 2019, when Trump was in office, PM Modi noted the warm relationship the two leaders shared, particularly in developing

the Comprehensive Global Strategic Partnership between India and the US. With Trump's re-election, PM Modi sees this visit as a chance to further advance their collaboration and discuss key issues such as trade, technology, defense, energy, and supply chain resilience. Both leaders are set to focus on mutual benefits and enhancing the partnership for the prosperity of their people, while also contributing to a better future for the world.

PM Modi's visit comes amid significant shifts in US policy under the Trump administration, including challenges related to Indian nationals in the US and concerns over trade imbalances. Last month, the two leaders discussed defense, trade, and the QUAD partnership during a phone call, addressing areas for further cooperation.

Before heading to the US, PM Modi will visit France, where he will co-chair the AI Action Summit. The event will focus on the collaborative approach to artificial intelligence technology, aiming for inclusive, secure, and trustworthy innovations. PM Modi will also review the progress of the 2047 Horizon Roadmap for India-France strategic partnership with President Macron, and visit the historic French city of Marseille to inaugurate India's first consulate there. His itinerary also includes a visit to the International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor project and paying tribute to Indian soldiers at the Mazargues War Cemetery.

Delhi's remarks unwarranted, Bangladesh on Demolition of Sheikh Mujibur Residence



TPN Correspondent | Delhi

Bangladesh has responded to India's recent remarks regarding the demolition of the residence of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, the founder of the country. The interim government of Bangladesh stated that India's comments were "unexpected and unwarranted." The foreign ministry of Bangladesh emphasized that the incident was a domestic issue, asserting that the destruction of the historic residence located in Dhanmondi 32 is a matter solely concerning Bangladesh's internal affairs.

The controversy erupted when India expressed its displeasure over the demolition of the residence, which held immense historical significance. On Thursday, India voiced

its anguish, calling the act a "vandalism" and urging that such actions be strongly condemned. The residence, which was a symbol of Bangladesh's independence and the legacy of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, had been a site of national importance.

In response, the Bangladeshi foreign ministry reiterated its position that the demolition is an internal matter and that Bangladesh does not comment on the internal affairs of other countries. A Bangladeshi official pointed out that the nation expects the same level of respect from other countries regarding its own domestic issues. The government's statement emphasized the importance of maintaining a diplomatic stance based on mutual respect for sovereignty.

India, France have shared interest focused on friendship: Macron



TPN Correspondent | Delhi

Ahead of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to France, French President Emmanuel Macron emphasized the strong and growing partnership between the two countries, highlighting their "shared interest" in fostering friendship and cooperation. Prime Minister Modi began his two-nation tour on Monday, which will first take him to France and then to the United States.

During his three-day visit to France, Modi will engage in a series of important activities. He will co-chair the AI Action

Summit with President Macron in Paris, participate in bilateral talks, and address a gathering of business leaders. The summit is expected to focus on the global impact of artificial intelligence (AI), with both leaders discussing the opportunities and challenges posed by the technology.

In a statement shared by the French news network France24, President Macron discussed the significance of artificial intelligence, as well as his views on the relationship between India and France. Macron praised India's technological and education-

al strengths, describing the country as a "training superpower." He pointed out that India produces over one million engineers annually, a number greater than the combined output of the United States and Europe.

Macron also took the opportunity to greet the people of India in Hindi, saying, "Bharat ke logon ko mera namaste," and concluded with a heartfelt "Bahut shukriya" (many thanks). This gesture was well-received, underscoring the warmth and cordiality between the two nations.

The visit, which is also being closely watched in diplomatic circles, aims to deepen the India-France partnership in areas such as technology, defense, and business. At a special briefing in Delhi on February 7, India's Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri outlined the broad itinerary for the prime minister's visit, emphasizing the importance of strengthening bilateral relations and addressing global challenges through collaborative efforts.

City of Earth: Saudi's USD 63 bn Diriyah project draws Indian investors

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

Diriyah, a massive USD 63 billion real estate and tourism development project in Saudi Arabia, has attracted significant interest from Indian companies, with prominent names like the Tatas and Oberoi's already onboard, said CEO Jerry Inzerillo. Located on the outskirts of Riyadh, Diriyah is set to become a major urban hub with homes for 100,000 people, office space for another 100,000, and world-class amenities including 40 luxury hotels, over 1,000 shops, 150+ restaurants and cafes, museums, a university, and an opera house.

The development aims to preserve the historic birthplace of Saudi Arabia and includes the UNESCO World Heritage Site of

At-Turaif. Inzerillo highlighted that India, which ranks as one of Saudi Arabia's largest trading partners with a trade volume of USD 52.8 billion in 2022-23, plays a key role in Diriyah's development strategy. Over 3,000 Indian companies already operate in Saudi Arabia, contributing to sectors like construction, IT, and energy.



The Diriyah project offers vast investment opportunities across various sectors, including urban development,

residential, hospitality, office, education, and healthcare. Inzerillo emphasized that Indian companies, especially in the hotel sector, have shown keen interest. The Taj Hotel group, for example, is set to open its 250th property in Diriyah, featuring 202 rooms. An Oberoi Hotel is also being developed near the equestrian and polo center, marking just two of the more than 40 luxury hotels planned for the area.

Diriyah is poised to play a central role in promoting Saudi Arabia as a top tourist destination, with its attractions like At-Turaif and the Bujairi Terrace already drawing millions of visitors. Inzerillo expressed confidence that Indian tourists will contribute significantly to the projected 50 million annual visits by 2030.

AAP MP Raises Alarm Over Drone Activities on India-Pakistan Border

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

Sandeep Pathak, Member of Parliament from the Aam Aadmi Party, submitted a Zero Hour notice in Parliament on Monday, urging the government to address the growing issue of illegal drone activities on the India-Pakistan border. Pathak raised concerns about the illegal supply of weapons and drugs to Punjab districts, facilitated by drones operating across the border from Pakistan.

In his notice, Pathak emphasized the alarming rise in drone activities, particularly the smuggling of drugs into Punjab. He called for urgent and stringent actions from the Centre to tackle the issue,

urging the deployment of advanced counter-drone technologies on the Indo-Pak border. Pathak pointed out that security forces have been seizing an increasing number of drones involved in illegal activities. In 2023 alone, 107 drones were confiscated along the Punjab border, and by November 2024, nearly 200 drones had been seized, many of which were found to be carrying drugs and weapons.

The AAP MP also highlighted Pakistan's role in fueling narcotics and violence in Punjab, revealing that drones are frequently detected near agricultural fields in Pakistan. He described the situation as a serious national security threat, asserting that the internation-



al community must be made aware of Pakistan's efforts to push Indian youth, especially in Punjab, into drug addiction.

Pathak further called for the deployment of the world's most advanced drone interception systems along the border to prevent drones from crossing into Indian territory. He urged that these efforts be highlighted on the global stage to expose Pakistan's conspiracy.

Sri Lankan Navy arrests 14 Indian fishermen, remands them till February 19

TPN Correspondent | Bengaluru

Fourteen Indian fishermen were arrested by the Sri Lankan Navy for allegedly crossing the maritime border and entering Sri Lankan waters near the North Mannar zone, officials reported. The fishermen, who had departed from the Ramswaram fishing harbour, were intercepted by a Sri Lankan naval patrol vessel. Following their arrest, the fishermen were taken to Kilinochchi, Sri Lanka, where they were handed over to the Fisheries Depart-

ment authorities. They were later produced in court and remanded in judicial custody until February 19.

This incident has reignited concerns regarding the ongoing disputes over fishing rights in the Palk Strait, a waterway connecting the Indian state of Tamil Nadu to Sri Lanka's Northern Province. The recurring arrests of Indian fishermen in the region have led to criticism of both the central and state governments for their inability to resolve the long-standing issue. Fishermen's associations have ex-

pressed their dissatisfaction with the lack of concrete action to address the problem.

Emerald, president of the Fishermen's Association, condemned the routine nature of such arrests, stressing the hardships faced by Indian fishermen who risk their livelihoods to make a living at sea. He pointed out that over 100 Indian fishermen remain imprisoned, and more than 200 boats have been seized by Sri Lankan authorities. He criticized both the central and state

The Vital Role of Ideology in Political Alliances: The Case for the INDIA Bloc

OPPOSITION PARTIES MEET UNITED WE STAND

17-18 JULY BENGALURU, KARNATAKA



In the wake of election results, it is tempting to rush to conclusions about the fate of political alliances, especially in the context of India's evolving political landscape. However, a hasty evaluation can be misleading. While media and social media may thrive on instant reactions, serious political analysis requires patience and context. This is particularly important when it comes to assessing the significance of coalitions like the INDIA bloc, which has gained attention leading up to the 2024 Lok Sabha elections.

The INDIA bloc was conceived as a strategic alliance to challenge what many saw as authoritarian governance. Its formation was not an arbitrary decision but a calculated effort to unite parties sharing a common vision for India's future. While the bloc's cooperation has occasionally led to intra-coalition competition at the state level, it has nevertheless proven effective as a platform for national coordination, as seen in parliamentary floor management. Electoral politics can be analyzed at three levels: tactical, strategic, and foundational. Tactical politics is about

winning at all costs, sometimes compromising core beliefs for short-term gains. This approach weakens voter trust in the long term. On the other hand, strategic politics focuses on long-term goals and alliances based on shared principles. It is about working together for the greater good without sacrificing core values. Finally, foundational politics refers to the bedrock principles of democracy, transparency, justice, and development, which should never be compromised for immediate electoral success.

A party's ideological commitment plays a central role in its identity. The clear ideological stance helps define its values and vision, guiding policy decisions and uniting its members. Parties that deviate from their core principles for tactical advantage risk losing their credibility and alienating their base. The recent Delhi elections serve as a reminder of the importance of ideological consistency in retaining voter loyalty. Voters are keenly aware of whether parties stand by their principles or change their stance to appease the whims of the moment.

Why the Delhi Result Matters Beyond Delhi

The Congress Party may argue that the Delhi election is not a validation of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership but a rejection of Arvind Kejriwal's deceitful politics. There's some truth to this assertion, yet the BJP has its own reason to celebrate, claiming that Modi's charisma and Amit Shah's strategic prowess remain intact. However, the AAP, while conceding the Delhi seat to the BJP, can take pride in the fact that its influence remains strong, as evidenced by its 42% vote share.

Kejriwal and his colleagues can claim that they forced the BJP to change its approach in several significant areas. Firstly, the BJP had to abandon its usual Hindu-Muslim rhetoric. During the early stages of the Delhi campaign, BJP ticket aspirants used divisive slogans, such as "ek hai to safe hai," which were first seen in Maharashtra. But, as the election progressed, the BJP shifted its focus, criticizing the AAP government's governance rather than playing the communal card. The BJP's restraint in this regard was likely due to Kejriwal's influence, signaling that the middle-class electorate in Delhi had little appetite for polarizing politics.

Secondly, Kejriwal's policies forced the BJP to



adopt its own version of populism. Once critical of AAP's "revdi" culture, the BJP now promises a range of welfare schemes, including Rs 2,500 per month for women, free LPG cylinders on major festivals, free education from KG to PG, and insurance for gig workers. This shift towards populism indicates that the BJP is now committed to maintaining similar welfare measures, which AAP introduced, underlining that Modi's government is aligning with the welfare-driven policies that Kejriwal pushed.



Restoring the Balance: Women as Messengers of Peace

Women have long been the cornerstone of society, embodying wisdom, nurturing, and resilience. They have given life, shaped cultures, and upheld peace throughout history. However, the balance between feminine and masculine energies has been distorted over time. While femininity is inherently tied to motherhood—a creative, sustaining force that shapes life itself—societies have often relegated women to secondary roles, failing to recognize their power and influence in the world.

Ironically, those who once suppressed women have later positioned themselves as advocates for their empowerment, framing it as a gift rather than a rightful restoration of what has always been theirs. This empowerment, however, has often been defined within patriarchal limits, preventing true change and reinforcing traditional power dynamics.

A Call for Balance

True progress is not about granting women controlled freedoms but about reclaiming what is inherently theirs. Women must not ask for permission to lead or shape the world; they must reclaim their rightful space. This is not a call for dominance but for balance—one where the feminine energy is restored as an equal force that nurtures, leads, and co-creates a peaceful future for all.

A Multidisciplinary Approach

Addressing the suppression of women and restoring balance requires a multifaceted approach. This issue is not confined to any single domain—it is interwoven with spirituality, philosophy, social structures, and religion. Understanding the interconnectedness of these dimensions will guide us toward deeper, systemic transformation, dismantling outdated paradigms and building new systems of equity and harmony.

Spiritual and Philosophical Perspectives

Historically, many spiritual traditions revered the feminine as a force of creation and wisdom. From the Shakti in Hinduism to the Yin energy in Taoism, the feminine was central to spiritual understanding. However, patriarchal interpretations diminished women's roles, sidelining them from leadership in spiritual traditions. Restoring this balance means honoring the feminine as a guiding force in healing and transformation, acknowledging that every girl child carries the divine essence of motherhood.

Philosophically, thinkers have long argued that society cannot progress by suppressing half its population. The exclusion of wom-

en from leadership and decision-making leads to cycles of conflict, greed, and environmental destruction. True progress can only be achieved when the feminine is recognized as essential to ethical governance and societal advancement.

Social and Religious Dimensions

Women have always been central to communities, yet their leadership has often been undermined. Studies show that societies with equal representation of women in decision-making processes tend to be more peaceful and prosperous. Yet, cultural norms and laws continue to hinder their full participation. Breaking down these barriers is essential for collective growth and flourishing.

Religiously, all major faiths honor the mother as a sacred figure, central to creation and moral guidance. From the veneration of Mother Mary in Christianity to the reverence of female figures in Buddhism and Hinduism, the divine feminine has always been central. Returning to these core truths is vital for spiritual and societal restoration.

A Call to Action

Restoring balance requires immediate, deliberate action. To build a peaceful world, we must:

1. **Ensure equal access to education and leadership roles for women.**
2. **Promote women's participation in peace processes and community development.**
3. **Challenge oppressive cultural norms and replace them with narratives of empowerment.**
4. **Encourage men to become allies in women's progress.**
5. **Recognize women's wisdom in governance and decision-making.**

Most importantly, we must instill in every girl child the truth that she is not an object in a man's world but a creator of the world itself.

Women as Messengers of Peace

The future of our world depends on restoring the balance between feminine and masculine energies. Women must reclaim their rightful place, and men must stand as allies—not gatekeepers—alongside them. A world that fully embraces the feminine will be one where peace, creativity, and life itself can flourish. This restoration is not a distant dream. It is happening now, in our homes, communities, and within ourselves. The time to act is now—to break cycles of exclusion and build a world rooted in justice, compassion, and collaboration. Let us not wait for change; let us become it.

Biren Singh's Resignation: The End of a Populist Era in Manipur



On February 9, Biren Singh resigned as the Chief Minister of Manipur, seemingly the only honourable option left to avoid an inglorious exit and maintain some dignity for the BJP. Unlike his earlier resignation drama on June 30, 2023, when he skillfully diverted national media attention to Rahul Gandhi's visit, this time his resignation was swiftly accepted by the Governor. This marked a stark contrast to the past, highlighting the erosion of his populist appeal and the BJP's national leadership's growing recognition of his political liability.

Singh's resignation came after intense political pressure, including an open revolt from several BJP members in the valley areas, and the with-

drawal of support by the National People's Party (NPP) in November 2024. The impending threat of a no-confidence motion in the upcoming session of the Assembly, scheduled for February 10, made it clear that Singh and the BJP could no longer afford to face the political fallout. The resignation reflects the culmination of the internal tensions within his leadership, which had been building for some time.

During his tenure, Singh's leadership was defined by his efforts to reinvent his image and position himself as a father-like figure to the Meitei ultranationalists. Early in his first term (2017-2022), he used his political acumen to co-opt influential hill tribal leaders, stabilizing his position despite

significant internal opposition within the BJP, particularly from figures like Biswajit Singh and Konthoujam Govindas. However, with the BJP's comfortable majority in the 2022 assembly elections, Singh's political fragility persisted, leading him to adopt a more aggressive populist approach.

Singh's attempt to rejuvenate Meitei indigenous politics, particularly through the revival of Sanamahism, became a central aspect of his leadership. This initiative, aimed at appealing to Meitei ultranationalists, was seen as a way to strengthen his political base. However, the revival of indigenous cultures, while a populist move, was never considered a threat to the broader Hindutva agenda of the BJP and the Sangh Parivar.

Action to be taken if gold auction norms violated by banks, NBFCs: Sitharaman

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Monday assured that strict action would be taken if banks or Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs) violate the established processes for auctioning gold when a borrower defaults on their gold loan payments. Speaking during the Question Hour in Lok Sabha, Sitharaman emphasized that both NBFCs and Scheduled Commercial Banks (SCBs) are governed by similar rules regarding gold loan auctions.



Sitharaman explained that the auction process is well-regulated, with clear guidelines to ensure fairness and transparency. When a borrower fails to repay their gold loan, both banks and NBFCs follow a defined process. This includes sending several notices to the borrower informing them about their default status and providing adequate time for repayment.

The Finance Minister further clarified that in cases where a borrower still does not pay, the institutions are required to follow strict procedures before proceeding with the auction. The goal is to ensure that the borrower has been given every possible opportunity to settle the loan before the gold is auctioned.

quate time for repayment. The goal is to ensure that the borrower has been given every possible opportunity to settle the loan before the gold is auctioned.

India to prioritize energy infrastructure in capex shift from FY25-30

India's capital expenditure (capex) from FY25-30 is expected to shift focus from public-led transport infrastructure to a more balanced investment in energy infrastructure, including electricity generation and the integration of power grids for efficient transmission and distribution, according to a BNP Paribas report. This transition reflects India's commitment to sustainable development and energy security.



tional disruptions.

Despite global trade uncertainties and shifting monetary policies, India's economy is projected to remain resilient. Unlike smaller, trade-dependent nations, larger economies such as India, China, and the US are less reliant on external trade, which provides some insulation from the economic risks posed by tariff wars and interna-

The report highlights India's inward-focused economy, which is expected to experience lower volatility in trade compared to more export-reliant nations. The US 10-year bond yield has surged from 3.7% in September 2024 to 4.5%, while India's 10-year yield has remained stable, fluctuating between 6.7% and 6.9%. This narrowing of the yield gap has led to a 3% depreciation

of the Indian Rupee (INR) since September 2024.

BNP Paribas economists predict that US inflation will face continued upward pressure, likely preventing any rate cuts in 2025. In contrast, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) may adopt a dovish stance and implement rate cuts to support domestic economic growth, which could further compress the yield gap and apply downward pressure on the INR. In the Indian stock market, sectors like consumer staples and industrials are trading at a premium compared to historical valuation averages. While industrials have benefitted from India's strong manufacturing momentum, the consumer staples sector is expected to undergo a period of time correction.

India Launches EFTA Desk to Strengthen Economic Ties with Europe

India has launched a dedicated desk to foster deeper economic engagement between India and the European Free Trade Association (EFTA) countries, namely Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, and Switzerland. The formal launch took place at Bharat Mandapam, with Union Minister for Commerce and Industry, Piyush Goyal, representing India at the event.



The newly established EFTA Desk aims to assist businesses from the four EFTA countries in preparing for the opportunities created by the EFTA-India Trade and Economic Partnership Agreement (TEPA), signed on March 10, 2024. The desk will act as a central point of contact for EFTA businesses looking to expand into India, offering support and guidance on market entry, investment opportunities, and resolving potential issues.

While the TEPA is still in the process of being ratified, businesses across the EFTA nations are already exploring investment opportunities and strengthening their commercial ties with Indian partners. Over 100 EFTA businesses are visiting India this week to explore potential collaborations, an outcome of ongoing efforts by EFTA countries to raise awareness about the benefits of the agreement.

India Energy Week 2025 Set to Strengthen Global Energy Ties



India Energy Week (IEW) 2025, the much-anticipated annual energy event, is all set to take place from February 11-14, 2025, at the Yashbhoomi in New Del-

hi. Petroleum and Natural Gas Minister Hardeep Singh Puri is expected to address a press conference on Monday, where he will unveil details about the event. IEW

2025 is poised to be a major platform for global energy discussions, bringing together Ministers, CEOs, and industry leaders from across the world.

This third edition of IEW is set to expand significantly, with a 65% increase in exhibition space, covering a total of 28,000 square meters. The number of conference sessions will rise to 105, while the event is expected to draw over 70,000 global delegates. Energy ministers from more than 20 countries, including major energy producers, advanced economies, and nations from the global south, will be in attendance.

India Energy Week 2025 is building on the success of its previous editions and is fast becoming a crucial meeting point for the global energy sector. The event will offer a platform for deepening collaborations, exchanging knowledge, and showcasing innovations within the energy industry.

Ahead of the event, global commodities information provider S&P Global Commodity Insights highlighted India's growing role in the global energy market. According to their report, India's refined crude demand will peak later than in other major economies, placing the country at the forefront of driving global demand.

Markets Slump as Trump's Tariff Move and Weak Rupee Shake Investor Confidence



Domestic stock markets were in turmoil on Monday. Donald Trump's tariff announcement hit them hard. He said that tariffs of 25% will be imposed on aluminum and steel products imported from other countries. Investors were worried that this would affect the supply chain worldwide. On the other hand, the results of companies were not promising, the rupee reached a new lifetime low against the dollar, and the dollar index and US bond yields increased, which damaged the positive sentiment. With this, the Nifty fell by 178 and the Sensex by 548 points.



The BSE Sensex, which closed at 77,860 in the previous session, opened at 77,789 on Monday. It touched an intraday low of 77,106. It reached an intraday high of 78,849. Finally, it closed at 77,311, with a loss of 548 points. The NSE Nifty, which opened at 23,543, touched a low of 23,316 and a high of 23,568. It closed at 23,381, down 178 points. The Nifty Bank fell 177 points to settle at 49,981.

In the Nifty50, 11 companies gained while 39 lost. Kotak Bank, Bharti Airtel, Britannia, Tata Consumer, HCL Tech were the top gainers. Trent, Power Grid, Tata Steel, Titan, ONGC were the biggest losers. Auto, media, metal, pharma, realty, PSU bank, consumer durables shares were mixed. India Vicks rose 5.55% to 14.45.

The market breadth on the NSE today completely shifted in favour of sellers. 2955 stocks traded while 2257 lost. 627 gained. Shares of 30 companies touched 52-week highs. Shares of 153 companies reached 52-week lows.

Escorts Kubota's net profit in the third quarter rose 8.5% to Rs 323 crore from Rs 298 crore. Nykaa's net profit rose 60.6% to Rs 26 crore from Rs 16.2 crore. Power Mech Projects' net profit rose 33.3% to Rs 82 crore from Rs 61.5 crore. The rupee weakened 6 paise against the dollar to settle at 87.48. It had touched 87.90 earlier. Avanti Feeds' net profit rose 86.5% to Rs 135 crore from Rs 72 crore. UBS has given a buy rating to Apollo Tyres with a target price of Rs 525. Jefferies has given a buy rating to Thermax with a target price of Rs 4835. All shares of Adani Group closed in losses today. Engineers India's net profit rose 78% to Rs 93.8 crore from Rs 52.7 crore. Sarigama India's net profit rose 19% to Rs 62 crore from Rs 52.5 crore.

1. Gulf Oil Lubricants :

Gulf Oil Lubricants is a leading player in the Indian lubricants market, specializing in automotive and industrial lubricants. The company has a strong brand presence and strategic partnerships with major automobile manufacturers. Strong demand for automotive lubricants. Expanding distribution network and tie-ups with OEMs. Growing presence in industrial lubricants. Positive, driven by rising vehicle sales and increasing industrial demand.



2. GODFRYPHLP

Godfrey Phillips is one of India's leading tobacco and FMCG companies, producing brands like Four Square, Red & White, and Marlboro (licensed from Philip Morris). Strong brand portfolio in the tobacco industry. Expansion into FMCG and confectionery segments. Consistent dividend payouts and stable cash flow. Stable, with strong margins and high cash flow, but faces regulatory risks in the tobacco sector.



3. GREENLAM

Greenlam Industries is a leading producer of laminates, decorative veneers, and interior surfaces in India. It has a growing export market presence and strong brand recall. Increasing demand for premium interior and home décor products. Expanding global presence in exports. Capacity expansion and new product innovations. Strong growth potential due to rising urbanization, premium housing trends, and increasing exports.



4. ANANTRAJ

Anant Raj is a real estate development and infrastructure company with a strong presence in North India. It focuses on residential, commercial, and IT parks. Rising demand for real estate in North India. Expansion in commercial real estate and IT parks. Government infrastructure push boosting demand. Positive, driven by real estate recovery, increased commercial leasing, and infrastructure development.



5. V-Mart

V-Mart is a leading value retail chain in India, primarily catering to Tier 2 & 3 cities. It offers affordable fashion, home essentials, and general merchandise. Strong presence in Tier 2 & 3 cities with affordable pricing. Expansion of store network across rural India. Growing demand for value-based fashion retail. Moderate growth potential, but faces competition from organized retail giants like Reliance and DMart.



7 Epic Food Festivals You Can't Miss in 2025



The year 2025 promises to be a foodie's dream, with a variety of festivals celebrating everything from beer to chocolate. These global culinary events offer an unforgettable experience of local flavours, heritage, and creativity. Whether you're a street food fan or a gourmet enthusiast, here are seven food festivals you can't miss in 2025.

1. Oktoberfest - Munich, Germany

Oktoberfest in Munich is the world's largest beer festival, running from late September to early October. This event is a celebration of Bavarian culture, with beer halls serving up fresh lager, bratwurst, and other traditional foods. The lively parades, carnival rides, and festive atmosphere make it a must-visit for beer lovers and foodies alike.

2. Pizzafest - Naples, Italy

Naples, the birthplace of pizza, hosts Pizzafest, an annual festival where top pizzerias showcase their culinary skills. The festival features pizza-making competitions, live music, workshops, and a wide array of pizza variations—perfect for anyone who loves Italian cuisine.

3. Maine Lobster Festival - Maine, USA

Set in the picturesque New England coastline, the Maine Lobster Festival celebrates everything lobster. This seafood extravaganza includes cooking contests, live music, and plenty of lobster in various styles. Originally a way to support local fishermen, this event has grown into an international favorite for seafood lovers.

4. Salon du Chocolat - Paris, France

For those with a sweet tooth, Salon

du Chocolat in Paris is a paradise. The world's largest chocolate festival features the finest chocolatiers and pastry chefs, offering live cooking demos, chocolate tastings, and even a fashion show with outfits made entirely of chocolate.

5. Melbourne Food & Wine Festival - Australia

Melbourne's Food & Wine Festival is a celebration of global cuisine, renowned chefs, and top wineries. The highlight is the "World's Longest Lunch," where guests dine on exquisite food and drink. Whether you enjoy fine dining or casual street food, this festival offers something for every food lover.

6. Fête du Citron - Menton, France

The Fête du Citron (Lemon Festival) in Menton is a vibrant celebration of citrus. Visitors can admire massive sculptures and parade floats made entirely of lemons and oranges, enjoy street performances, and taste citrus-infused delicacies. The festival's sustainable focus ensures all fruit is sold at discounted prices afterward.

7. Tokyo Ramen Show - Tokyo, Japan

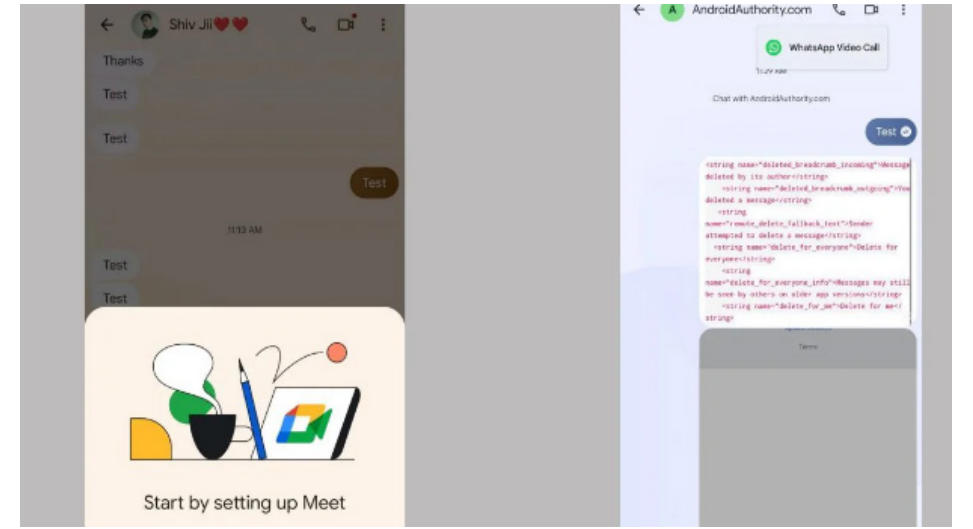
Japan's love for ramen takes center stage at the Tokyo Ramen Show. This event features top ramen chefs from across the country, each presenting their unique bowls of noodles. Whether you're a fan of tonkotsu, shoyu, or miso ramen, this festival is a must-attend for ramen lovers.

Make sure to add these top food festivals to your 2025 travel list for a delicious and unforgettable adventure!

Google Messages Could Soon Integrate WhatsApp Video Calling

Google Messages is reportedly working on a new feature that will allow users to make video calls via WhatsApp directly from the app. According to an Android Authority report, this feature is still in development and not yet active for users. The discovery was made within the code of Google Messages version 20250131.

The feature is said to activate when the caller does not have Google Meet installed on their device, offering an alternative option for making video calls. In the current version of Google Messages, video calls are only possible through Google Meet, and users are prompted to install it if it's not already on their device. However, with the upcoming WhatsApp integration, users will be able to initiate video calls via WhatsApp without leaving the Google Messages app. The call will open directly in full-screen mode, saving time and reducing clicks, especially for those who primarily use Google Messages



for communication.

It's important to note that this feature will only work in individual chats. For group chats, video calls can still only be initiated through Google Meet. Additionally, if the recipient doesn't have WhatsApp installed, the feature won't be triggered.

Along with this new feature, there's

another update to Google Messages. The camera viewfinder and gallery picker have been merged when opening the camera option, streamlining the photo-taking process. While this WhatsApp video call integration is not yet available, it's expected to make video communication through Google Messages much more convenient in the near future.

Find Out How Much It Costs To Get A Passport Made Right Away For International Travel



website or download the mPassport Seva app. The application process involves registering on the website, selecting the Tatkal option, and completing the online form. After paying the required fees, you can print the receipt and schedule an appointment at your nearest passport service center.

When applying for a Tatkal passport, you'll need to provide essential documents such as your Aadhar card, PAN card, birth certificate, ration card, or voter ID card, among others. Typically, you will need two or three of these documents to complete your application.

The fees for a Tatkal passport are higher than for a regular passport. A 36-page Tatkal passport costs ₹3500, and a 60-page Tatkal passport costs ₹4000. While there are no discounts for Tatkal applications, children under 8 years old and senior citizens can avail a discount for regular passport applications. Despite the higher fees, the Tatkal service ensures that applicants receive their passports in a much shorter time frame compared to the traditional process.

The Tatkal Passport service is designed to help individuals who need a passport urgently, especially when time is limited. Normally, obtaining a passport takes between 20 to 45 days, but the Tatkal system allows for faster processing. If you need a passport quickly due to emergencies such as medical reasons, education, or sporting events, the Tatkal service can ensure that you receive your passport within 7 to 14 days, depending on the circumstances.

Unlike the standard passport application process, which begins with police verification, the Tatkal process skips this initial step. Instead, the passport is issued promptly, and police verification occurs afterward. Once your application is marked as "granted," your passport is shipped within three working days. The rest of the process, including police verification, takes place after the passport has been issued.

To apply for a Tatkal passport, you can use the official Passport Seva

Man shares grocery hacks claiming 'quick commerce is cheap': Sparks internet debate

Haldiram Aloo Bhujia
200 g - 1 unit **₹29.8**
₹52

Relish Chicken Plain Salami
200 g - 1 unit **₹60.92**
₹199

Britannia 100% Whole Wheat Bread (No Maida)
₹25.17
₹44

A Reddit post offering money-saving strategies for online grocery shopping has gone viral, sparking an active debate among users on the pros and cons of popular quick-commerce apps like Blinkit, Zepto, and Instamart. The post quickly garnered numerous comments, as users shared their personal experiences and insights.

The original poster (OP) listed several tips to help users score the best deals while shopping for groceries online. Among the suggestions were comparing prices across different platforms and using cashback credit cards for extra discounts. The OP also recommended BigBasket for its competitive prices, despite its "outdated interface," pointing out that it often provides the best value even when delivery charges are factored in.

Zepto, in particular, received a special mention, with the OP describing it as offering "mind-blowing" deals on inactive accounts. The poster advised users to maintain two phone numbers to take advantage of offers on defunct accounts, which quickly caught the attention of others.

On the other hand, Blinkit received criticism for being "useless" due to its tendency to overprice items and limited stock availability. This drew sharp responses from some users, including one who warned, "Bro, it's just a customer acquisition process. See after 5 to 7 orders, everything will be overpriced." However, the OP defended their experience, replying, "You definitely didn't read my post. Been shopping since 2023 like this." Despite the differing opinions, the post served as a useful resource for shoppers looking to optimize their grocery spending and explore alternatives to traditional shopping.

The viral discussion highlighted how consumers are increasingly turning to quick-commerce apps for convenience but remain cautious of price hikes and other pitfalls. It also pointed to the growing trend of using multiple platforms and strategies to get the best value for money. As the debate continues, many are left questioning the long-term value of these apps as the market for online grocery shopping becomes increasingly competitive.

Red Lipstick 4,000 Years Ago: The Discovery of the World's Oldest Cosmetic

The world's oldest known lipstick dates back an astonishing 4,000 years, to the Bronze Age, which lasted from 3300 BC to 1200 BC. The red cosmetic was found in the Jiroft region of Kerman province, south-eastern Iran. According to a study published in Scientific Reports, the lipstick was likely a lip-colouring paint or paste made from natural materials like hematite, manganite, and braunite, which were darkened with galena and anglesite. These minerals were then mixed with vegetal waxes and other organic substances to create the cosmetic mixture. The lipstick was stored in a small chlorite vial and was likely a highly prized item in the Bronze Age.

The discovery of this ancient cosmetic provides fascinating insights into the beauty practices of early civilizations. While makeup and cosmetics today are common and widely used, this find suggests that even in the distant past, people were experimenting with natural resources to enhance their appear-



ance. The red hue of the lipstick also reveals that the color red has been associated with beauty and adornment for millennia. The use of materials like hematite, a red iron oxide, indicates that early humans had a deep understanding of the natural world and its potential uses.

Interestingly, the Bronze Age was a time of significant cultural and

technological development, and the existence of such a sophisticated cosmetic product shows that appearance and personal care were important even in ancient societies. It's amazing to think that the concept of makeup, especially red lipstick, dates back so far, linking modern cosmetic traditions to their ancient origins.

Team India Launches 'Donate Organs, Save Lives' Campaign Ahead of 3rd ODI vs England



Ahead of the third ODI between India and England at the Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad on February 12, Team India players, including former captain Virat Kohli, have united to support the 'Donate Organs, Save Lives' campaign. Announced by ICC Chairman Jay Shah, the initiative aims to raise awareness about organ donation. In a video shared by the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI), Indian players urged people to take the pledge to donate organs. Kohli emphasized, "Score the ultimate century, your organs can help others live beyond your lifetime. Register as a donor and make every life count."

Shubman Gill encouraged fans, saying, "Be the captain of life. Just like a captain leads the team to victory, you can lead someone to life by pledging to donate your organs." Other players like Shreyas Iyer, KL Rahul, Axar Patel, and Hardik Pandya also shared powerful messages, urging people to take the step and make a difference by donating their organs. The campaign has received support from several Indian cricketers, including Ravindra Jadeja, Arshdeep Singh, Washington Sundar, Varun Chakravarthy, and Rishabh Pant. India currently leads the three-match series 2-0 and is gearing up for the final ODI.

Rashid Khan Breaks T20 World Record, Becomes Highest Wicket-Taker in History



In a thrilling encounter in the ODI Tri-Series, Kane Williamson's brilliant century helped New Zealand secure a spot in the final with a dominant six-wicket win over South Africa on Monday. South African opener Matthew Breetzke set the stage alight with a record-breaking performance, scoring 150 runs on his ODI debut. This remarkable knock was the highest score ever made by a debutant in ODI history, helping South Africa post a challenging 304/6 at Gaddafi Stadium in Lahore. However, it was Williamson's class that stole the

show. The New Zealand captain anchored his side's chase with an unbeaten 133, guiding his team past the target comfortably. His match-winning knock, combined with steady contributions from his teammates, ensured New Zealand's smooth entry into the final of the tournament. This win not only highlighted Williamson's batting mastery but also overshadowed Breetzke's historic debut performance, securing New Zealand's dominance in the series.

Vidarbha Takes Commanding Lead in Ranji Trophy Quarter-Final Against Tamil Nadu



Vidarbha's dominant performance in the ongoing Ranji Trophy quarter-final has put them on the brink of victory against Tamil Nadu. On Day 3 of the match, Vidarbha pacer Aditya Thakare starred with a five-wicket haul, claiming 5/34 to help bowl out Tamil Nadu for 225 in their first innings. This effort gave Vidarbha a strong 128-run lead, following their total of 353. In reply, Vidarbha overcame early struggles and finished the day at 169/5, with a commanding lead of 297 runs. Yash Rathod played a crucial knock of 55* off 119 balls, while Harsh Dubey remained unbeaten on

29*. Tamil Nadu, who had struggled at 159/6 on Day 2, saw their captain Sai Kishore dismissed early for just 7 runs. Vidarbha, unbeaten in the current season, will now look to extend their lead further and put Tamil Nadu under pressure on Day 4. Tamil Nadu's top order, including players like Narayan Jagadeesan and Vijay Shankar, will need to deliver a strong response to defend their chances in the match. Meanwhile, Gujarat continued their impressive run, reaching 511 in their first innings against Saurashtra, and Jammu & Kashmir built a solid lead against Kerala.

Without PV Sindhu, India Faces Tough Challenge at Badminton Asia Mixed Team Championships



India's hopes for a gold medal at the 2024 Badminton Asia Mixed Team Championships, starting in Qingdao, China, on Tuesday, have been dealt a significant blow with the absence of star player PV Sindhu due to injury. The world-renowned shuttler sustained a hamstring injury during a training camp in Guwahati on February 4, forcing her withdrawal from the prestigious event. India's previous campaign in 2022 saw them claim a bronze medal, with Sindhu playing a pivotal role in their success. Without her this year, the responsibility falls on world No 29 Malvika Bansod to step into the women's singles spot. India, placed in Group D, will kick off their campaign against Macau on Wednesday, followed by a tough match against South Korea on Thursday. A top-two finish in the group will secure a quar-

terfinal spot, but advancing further will require exceptional performances from the team. India has never won the gold in the Asia Mixed Team Championships but has had notable successes in team events, including Thomas Cup gold in 2022 and a silver at the 2024 Badminton Asia Team Championships. Key players like HS Prannoy, Lakshya Sen, Ashwini Ponnappa, Satwik-sairaj Rankireddy, and Chirag Shetty are expected to carry the team's hopes, along with rising stars in women's doubles, Gayatri Gopichand and Treesa Jolly. With the tournament's last three editions dominated by China and Japan, India will have to overcome a challenging field to make history in this prestigious competition.

Denis Shapovalov Clinches ATP Dallas Title, Stuns Casper Ruud in Final

Canada's Denis Shapovalov completed a stunning run to the 2024 ATP Dallas title on Sunday, defeating fifth-ranked Casper Ruud 7-6 (7/5), 6-3 in the final. The unseeded Shapovalov claimed his third career ATP title, marking the biggest win of his career after his previous victories in Stockholm (2018) and Belgrade (2023). Shapovalov's triumph came after a series of giant-killing performances, making him only the fifth player since 2020 to defeat the top three seeds

en route to an ATP title. Earlier in the tournament, he overcame world No. 4 Taylor Fritz in the second round and toppled ninth-ranked Tommy Paul in the semifinals. The win is particularly significant after Shapovalov's battle with knee injuries, which sidelined him for much of 2023. He credited his team for helping him return to form, saying, "These titles wouldn't be possible without them." Shapovalov's victory also propels him

22 spots up the ATP rankings to No. 32, a significant rise from his position of 127th at this time last year. In the final, Shapovalov fired 12 aces in the first set and won a tense tie-breaker before breaking Ruud early in the second set and never looking back, sealing the match after an hour and 40 minutes with an overhead smash. This marks Shapovalov's first win over Ruud in three meetings, denying the Norwegian his 13th career ATP title.



Workout, Breathe, Repeat: Alia Bhatt's Journey to Fitness and Upcoming Projects



Alia Bhatt, known for her versatile performances on screen, is also inspiring fans with her fitness journey. This past Sunday, the actress took to Instagram to share a glimpse of her intense workout routine. In the video, Alia is seen performing flying push-ups with a resistance band tied around her waist for extra support. Dressed in a blue gym top and black yoga pants, she sported a bun, fully focused on her rigorous session. She captioned the video, "The struggle is important," reminding her followers of the dedication and hard work required to achieve their goals. On the professional front, Alia is set to headline Alpha, a spy thriller alongside Sharvari. Directed by Shiv Rawail, the film will add to Yash Raj Films' growing spy universe. Additionally, Alia will reunite with renowned filmmaker Sanjay Leela Bhansali for Love and War, which stars Ranbir Kapoor and Vicky Kaushal. Officially announced in January 2024, the film is scheduled for a Christmas 2025 release. Fans are eagerly anticipating her next moves on and off the screen as Alia continues to balance fitness with her exciting career.

Nayanthara to Reunite with Mammooty for Upcoming Film 'MMMN'



Tamil cinema star Nayanthara is set to reunite with Mammooty for the upcoming Malayalam film, tentatively titled MMMN. Directed by Mahesh Narayanan, known for acclaimed works like Malik and Take Off, the film will also feature Mohanlal, marking the long-awaited collaboration between Mammooty and Mohanlal after more than a decade. The film's production is being handled by Anto Joseph Film Company, who recently announced Nayanthara's casting in a video posted on Instagram. This project also sees Nayanthara reunite with Mammooty after their previous collaboration in the 2016 film Puthiya Niyamam. The cast includes Fahadh Faasil and Kunchacko Boban in pivotal roles. Nayanthara, who made her Bollywood debut alongside Shah Rukh Khan in Jawan (2023), was most recently featured in the Netflix documentary Nayanthara: Beyond the Fairytale (2024). She will next star in the Telugu film Kannappa, led by Vishnu Manchu.

Vicky Kaushal, Rashmika Mandanna Promote 'Chhaava' in Amritsar



Actors Vicky Kaushal and Rashmika Mandanna are on a promotional tour for their upcoming historical action drama Chhaava. The duo recently landed in Amritsar, where they interacted with fans and explored the city. Rashmika shared an Instagram story with a picture of herself and Vicky in front of an aircraft, captioning, "Amritsar... Ki haal aaaaa!!!" Dressed casually, she wore a cream T-shirt and blue denim, while Vicky opted for a black sweatshirt and matching sweatpants.

Earlier, Vicky promoted the film in Patna, where he indulged in Litti Chokha, a local delicacy, sharing his experience on social media. He began the tour with a visit to the Grishneshwar Jyotirlinga in Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar. Chhaava, directed by Laxman Utekar, is an adaptation of the Marathi novel Chhava by Shivaji Sawant. Vicky plays Chhatrapati Sambhaji Maharaj, with Rashmika as Maharani Yesubai. The film releases on February 14, 2025.

Jacqueline Fernandez Highlights Fitness and Career at Blender's Pride Fashion Tour



At the Blender's Pride Fashion Tour in Chandigarh, actress Jacqueline Fernandez shone as the showstopper, showcasing both her stunning presence and evolution from model to Bollywood star. Dressed in a glamorous ensemble, Jacqueline captivated the audience with her radiant smile, symbolizing her love for both fashion and film. In a heartfelt conversation, Jacqueline shared her early career journey, revealing that she started modelling at the age of five and was walking the ramp by 12. Despite her success in

modelling, acting was always her true passion. "Modelling was something I knew, but deep down, I wanted to be an actor," she said. Her transition to acting was a challenge, as she had no formal training, but her passion for movies helped her navigate the journey. Her breakthrough came with Aladin, which she called a dream come true. Jacqueline also emphasized the importance of a fitness routine, showcasing her commitment to well-being alongside her professional growth.

Brazilian Cello Player Diego Carneiro Performs with Indian Musicians in Chandigarh



Brazilian cello virtuoso and Rotary Peace Fellow Diego Carneiro recently performed with Indian classical musicians at the Tagore Theatre in Chandigarh. The concert, organized by the city's Rotarians with the Rotary Club Chandigarh Midtown, was part of his peace mission across India.

Hailing from the Amazon region, Diego initially learned piano before discovering his deep connection with the cello. During the concert, he jammed with musicians from the 'Arohi' group, delighting the audience with a fusion of Brazilian and Indian classical sounds.

Diego shared his admiration for Indian classical music, particularly its meditative qualities, saying, "I am learning Indian classical music and am falling in love with it." His work merges music and humanitarian efforts, spreading messages of peace across various regions. "We aim to use music to build communities and address issues like medicine, education, the environment, and conflict zones," he explained, underlining the transformative power of music in fostering a compassionate, connected world.

Ed Sheeran Surprises Fans with Telugu Song 'Chuttamalle' at Bengaluru Concert

Ed Sheeran delighted fans at his Bengaluru concert by performing the Telugu song "Chuttamalle" alongside Indian singer Shilpa Rao. The song, featured in the 2024 film Devara starring Jr NTR and Janhvi Kapoor, was composed by Anirudh Ravichander and written by Ramajogayya Sastry. Sheeran, who has

previously charmed audiences with hits like "Shape of You" and "Perfect," shared a video of himself singing the Telugu lyrics, expressing his admiration for Rao's voice.

On Instagram, he praised Shilpa Rao, calling it a privilege to perform with her and to learn a new language. Rao, who

has also sung hits like "Malang" and "Besharam Rang," was equally thrilled by the collaboration. Jr NTR and Janhvi Kapoor also reacted to the performance, highlighting the beauty of music transcending boundaries.

Sheeran's Indian tour will conclude with a performance in Delhi on February 15.

