



**Weather Forecast**

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



# Modi-Trump Meeting

## Key Issues on the Table

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to the US on February 13 is set to mark a crucial moment in India-US relations, as he becomes the fourth foreign leader to be hosted at the White House since President Donald Trump assumed office. This visit, occurring just weeks into Mr Trump's second term, is expected to focus on trade, immigration, and strategic cooperation.

During his two-day official working visit on February 12-13, Mr Modi will engage with Mr Trump on pressing issues, including the recent deportation of Indian immigrants, trade tariffs, and defense agreements. With the US imposing strict trade measures and deporting undocumented immigrants, India's concerns are expected to be addressed at the highest level.

### Key Discussion Points

#### Immigration and Deportation

The treatment of Indian deportees is likely to be a key agenda item. The US has already sent back 104 Indian immigrants, with another 800 facing deportation soon. India has sought assurances regarding the humane treatment of its citizens. Currently, 7.25 lakh Indian immigrants reside in the US, with around 20,000 identified for deportation. The meeting is also expected to focus on ensuring smoother legal pathways for Indians traveling to the US for work, study, and tourism.

#### Trade and Tariffs

Trade tensions remain a significant concern, especially with

**PM Modi to visit the US for key talks with President Trump.**

**India seeks humane treatment for deported Indian immigrants.**

**Discussions expected on high US tariffs and India's trade policy.**

**Talks on expanding defense ties and increasing LNG imports.**

**Visit aims to reaffirm India-US relations early in Trump's second term.**

Mr Trump's stance on tariffs. The US President has described India as a "tariff king" and has imposed a 25% tariff on aluminium and steel imports. Indian businesses are closely watching developments, as these tariffs could impact steel prices and exports. In response, India has already reduced tariffs on high-end motorcycles and electric batteries ahead of the visit. Talks may explore a more balanced trade deal benefiting both nations.

#### Defense and Energy Cooperation

India and the US are also expected to discuss expanding defense ties, with potential new defense equipment deals on the horizon. Indian companies are in talks to increase imports of American liquefied natural gas, and trade negotiations could extend to agricultural goods such as bourbon and pecans, which are significant to Republican-led states.

#### India's Position in US Foreign Policy

India maintains a unique position in US foreign policy—neither a direct rival like China nor a traditional ally like the UK or Japan. While Mr Trump's administration has taken a hard stance on China, it has been more accommodating towards India. Officials such as National Security Advisor Mike Waltz and Senator Marco Rubio have been vocal supporters of stronger US-India defense cooperation.

Mr Modi's visit is primarily aimed at reaffirming ties with Washington at the start of Mr Trump's new term. While long-term policy differences remain, the meeting is expected to reinforce the strategic partnership between the two nations.

# PM Modi Departs for US after wrapping France Visit

**India to host next AI Summit, reinforcing global AI leadership.**

**France reaffirms support for India's UNSC permanent membership.**

**Stronger defense ties, including Eurodrone and submarine projects.**

**India's UPI payment system expands to France.**

**France joins India's Mangrove Alliance for Climate.**

**Nuclear cooperation advances, including Jaitapur project.**

**Focus on maritime security and Indo-Pacific stability.**

**Record trade growth in 2024 with plans for further investment.**



Prime Minister Narendra Modi embarks from Marseille, France, for Washington, DC, USA, on Wednesday. French President Emmanuel Macron accompanies him to the airport as he departs.

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi concluded a successful visit to France from February 10-12, 2025, at the invitation of French President Emmanuel Macron. The visit marked significant advancements in bilateral relations, spanning artificial intelligence, defense, trade, and global governance.

During the visit, India and France co-chaired the Artificial Intelligence Action Summit, reinforcing their commitment to ethical AI development. France welcomed India as the next AI Summit host, underscoring their leadership in global AI policy.

Modi and Macron reaffirmed their strategic partnership, reviewing progress on the Horizon 2047 roadmap and emphasizing cooperation in multilateral forums. France reiterated its support for India's permanent membership in the UN Security Council and called for UNSC reforms.

In defense, both leaders praised ongoing collaboration, including the commissioning of INS Vag-

sheer and discussions on missile systems, jet engines, and submarine technology. France also invited India as an observer in the Eurodrone MALE program and expressed interest in India's Pinaka MBLR system. The leaders also endorsed enhanced military exercises and defense R&D partnerships. Bilateral economic ties saw record trade levels in 2024, with both sides aiming for increased investment. India's UPI payment system was expanded in France, boosting financial connectivity. Additionally, France joined India's Mangrove Alliance for Climate, reinforcing environmental commitments. Both nations emphasized nuclear energy cooperation, including progress on the Jaitapur Nuclear Power Plant and Small Modular Reactor research. Maritime security, Indo-Pacific stability, and counterterrorism efforts were also prioritized. The visit reinforced India-France ties across multiple domains, setting the stage for deeper engagement in the coming years.

## Karnataka's Revamped Single Window System to Boost Investments

**Simplifies approvals and reduces compliance burdens**

**Fast-tracks industrial investments with transparency**

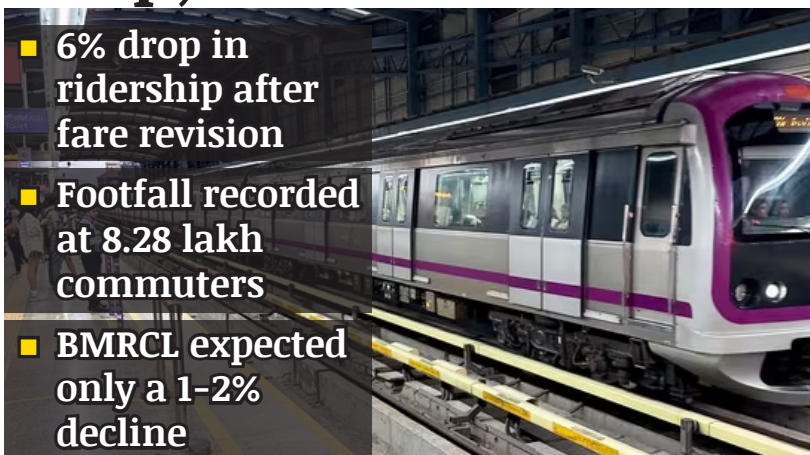
**Integrates 150 services across 30 departments**



TPN Correspondent | Bengaluru, Feb 13  
Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Tuesday launched the state's revamped Single Window System to enhance the ease of doing business. The initiative aims to simplify

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## Bengaluru Metro Fare Hike Triggers Ridership Drop, Political Criticism



**6% drop in ridership after fare revision**

**Footfall recorded at 8.28 lakh commuters**

**BMRCL expected only a 1-2% decline**

TPN Correspondent | Bengaluru, Feb 13

The first Monday after the Bengaluru Metro fare hike saw a 6% decrease in ridership, with to-

tal footfall at 8,28,149, as reported by Deccan Herald. Bengaluru Metro Rail Corporation

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## Karnataka Governor Approves Micro Finance Ordinance, Directs Legislative Discussion

- Karnataka Governor approves the Micro Finance Ordinance after reviewing suggestions.
- Ordinance aims to introduce new regulations in the micro-finance sector.
- Governor directs the ordinance to be discussed in the next Legislative Assembly session.



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## PM Should Have Asked Trump About Inhumane Treatment To Indian Migrants: Mallikarjun Kharge



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## TVS Motor to Invest ₹2,000 Crore in Karnataka for Capability Centre, Production Expansion



TPN Correspondent | Bengaluru, Feb 13

- ₹2,000 crore investment over the next five years
- Establishment of a Global Capability Centre
- Expansion of production and engineering capabilities

TVS Motor Company has announced a significant investment of ₹2,000 crore in Karnataka over the next five years. The company aims to set up a Global Capability Centre, expand production at its Mysuru facility, and enhance engineering capabilities. The investment will also fund a test track and new office infrastructure in the state. Speaking at the Global Investors Meet (GIM), Invest Karnataka 2025, TVS Motor Company Managing Director Sudarshan Venu highlighted the company's vision for the capability centre. We envision a centre that will draw top talent, foster innovation, and serve as a research hub for next-generation two-wheelers," he said. The new office infrastructure will bring together engineers, designers, and technology

experts to shape the future of mobility. Venu stated that TVS Motor's growth aligns with its 2030 vision of delivering impactful mobility solutions. The company is committed to setting new benchmarks in the industry while leveraging Karnataka's innovation ecosystem. TVS Motor operates a large manufacturing facility in Mysuru, which plays a crucial role in both domestic and international markets. The facility produces two-wheelers for the Indian market and exports, generating ₹7,600 crore in total revenue, with ₹1,200 crore from exports alone. With this new investment, TVS aims to double its export and overall revenue from Mysuru operations. The company also operates two additional factories in India, located in Hosur (Bengaluru outskirts) and Nalagarh (Himachal Pradesh). This strategic expansion will further strengthen TVS Motor's position as the world's fourth-largest two-wheeler manufacturer, serving 58 million users globally.

## Bengaluru Metro Fare Hike Triggers Ridership Drop, Political Criticism

Limited (BMRC) had estimated only a 1-2% decline, but the impact was sharper than anticipated. Despite this, BMRC hopes to generate ₹55-60 lakh in additional daily revenue. Bengaluru South MP Tejasvi Surya strongly criticized the steep fare increase while addressing the Lok Sabha. He argued that the Bengaluru Metro is now the most expensive urban transit system in the country, contradicting its goal of providing affordable public transport. He also pointed out that fares at several stations have nearly doubled, hitting short-distance commuters the hardest. Additionally, the minimum balance for smart cards has been raised from ₹50 to ₹90, adding further strain on passengers.

### Revised Metro Fare Structure

- Short-distance fares

increased significantly

- Long-distance fares now ₹90 max
- Higher minimum balance for smart cards
- Up to 2 km: ₹10
- 2-4 km: ₹20
- 4-6 km: ₹30
- 6-8 km: ₹40
- 8-10 km: ₹50
- 10-12 km: ₹60
- 15-20 km: ₹70
- 20-25 km: ₹80
- Beyond 25 km: ₹90

Officegoers and students worry about costs. Alternative transport options may be considered. Uncertainty over long-term ridership trends. Regular metro users, particularly officegoers and students, have expressed concerns over rising travel costs. With the fare increase, many commuters may seek alternative transport options. It remains to be seen whether ridership will stabilize or continue to decline in the coming weeks.

## High Court Stays Traditional Dress Ban at Kattemadhu Mahamrityunjaya Temple

TPN Correspondent | Bengaluru, Feb 13

- Large-scale protests from Gowda and Kodava communities
- Legal battle initiated by Kodava Samaj director C.A. Sanju

The State High Court has temporarily stayed the ban on traditional dress at Kattemadhu Temple in Madikeri Taluk, Kodagu District. The ban, implemented a year ago, had become a source of significant controversy and tension between two powerful communities. The temple was undergoing renovations for its anniversary on December 28, 2024, when the issue escalated. Thousands of people from the Gowda and Kodava communities staged massive protests in response to the dress restriction. Around five to six thousand Gowdas demonstrated in Madikeri, followed by a march of over 30,000 Kodava and Kodava-speaking individuals from Kutta to the district headquarters. C.A. Sanju, the director of Madikeri Kodava Samaj, filed a legal challenge against the temple's bylaw that restricted traditional dress. The application was submitted with the Deputy Registrar of cooperative societies listed as



the respondent. In response, the High Court ruled that there should be no restriction on traditional attire at the temple. Madikeri Kodava Samaj President M.P. Muthappa expressed satisfaction with the High Court's decision, emphasizing that the fight was not against any community but rather for cultural harmony. "We believe that no one will defy the court order. We will soon hold a meeting of the Kodava communities to

decide when we will visit the temple in traditional dress," he stated. The controversy over the traditional dress ban remains a major issue in the district, and the legal battle could shape future temple regulations. As the situation unfolds, community leaders and temple authorities will have to navigate cultural sensitivities while ensuring adherence to legal directives.

## Four Police Teams Deployed to Track Bengaluru Knife Attacker



TPN Correspondent | Bengaluru, Feb 13

- Accused involved in a series of late-night biker ambushes
- Five separate FIRs registered in connection with recent knife attacks
- Bengaluru police form four teams to seize the accused

A 21-year-old man, Kadamba S, accused of a spree of knife attacks

in Bengaluru's Indiranagar, has a history of robbery and assault, police sources revealed. Kadamba, who has six cases registered against him since 2022, allegedly targeted bikers late at night along with his associates. He was released on bail or anticipatory bail in earlier cases. Following the violent incidents on the night of February 8-9, where

five individuals were injured, the Bengaluru police have intensified efforts to track him down. "We are making all efforts to find the accused. We are confident he will be found soon. The deputy commissioner of police (east) is supervising this investigation," said Bengaluru Police Commissioner B Dayanand in a press conference on Tuesday. Police sources stated that Kadamba's criminal background is linked to his family. His father, Suresh, has a history of offenses in east Bengaluru, while his elder brother, Vishnu S, has six cases of robbery and assault dating back to 2018. Additionally, Kadamba's mother, brother, and sister were implicated in a 2022 house burglary case. Kadamba's method typically involved ambushing bikers on deserted roads, brandishing a weapon, and robbing them. Among the crimes attributed to him are a mobile phone robbery and a

motorbike theft in 2024, another motorbike theft in 2023, two separate assault cases, and a house burglary in 2022. On the night of February 8-9, Kadamba, allegedly in an inebriated state, attacked five individuals. The victims included two pani puri vendors, a security guard, a delivery agent, and a 19-year-old man who refused to give him a ride. The victims suffered slashes on their necks and hands. The attacks culminated with the robbery of a scooter and a mobile phone from a delivery agent around 2:30 AM. As news of the attacks spread, concerns among Indiranagar's resident welfare groups escalated, with some speculating about the possibility of a serial killer being on the loose. The Bengaluru police are continuing their intensive search for Kadamba as public concern grows.

## Karnataka Governor Approves Micro Finance Ordinance, Directs Legislative Discussion

TPN Correspondent | Bengaluru, Feb 13

The Governor of Karnataka has officially signed the Micro Finance Ordinance, marking a significant step toward introducing new regulations in the microfinance sector. This decision was made after considering multiple suggestions and recommendations from various stakeholders. The ordinance is expected to establish a structured framework to regulate microfinance operations in the state. While granting approval, the Governor has directed that the ordinance be thoroughly discussed in the upcoming Legislative Assembly session. The discussion will allow lawmakers to deliberate on key provisions, address potential concerns, and ensure that the ordinance is in line with the state's financial policies. The approval of this ordinance signals a shift in microfinance governance, aimed at enhancing transparency, borrower protection, and operational efficiency. The introduction of new rules is expected to benefit microfinance institutions (MFIs), self-help groups (SHGs), and small borrowers, ensuring fair lending practices. The ordinance is likely to bring about structured guidelines for

loan disbursement, interest rates, and debt recovery processes. By implementing stronger regulatory measures, the government aims to curb financial exploitation and streamline microfinance operations across Karnataka. Additionally, the proposed regulations may include provisions for monitoring microfinance institutions, ensuring they operate within legal and ethical boundaries. The focus is also on strengthening consumer rights and preventing predatory lending practices. With the Governor's approval, the ordinance will now move to the Legislative Assembly for discussion. Further amendments and refinements may be made before it is formally enacted as a law. The GOVT is expected to frame detailed implementation guidelines following legislative discussions, ensuring that the new framework is effectively enforced. This development is seen as a major regulatory shift in Karnataka's financial landscape, aimed at making microfinance more accessible, fair, and transparent. The upcoming Assembly session will play a crucial role in shaping the final version of the ordinance.

## Karnataka's Revamped Single Window System to Boost Investments

approvals, reduce compliance burdens, and ensure transparent and efficient industrial investments. The system offers real-time status updates, enabling investors to track approvals, amendments, and renewals without delays. A key feature is the Affidavit-Based Clearance (ABC) mechanism, allowing investors to start construction and preparatory activities without waiting for multiple approvals. Land search, selection, and allotment in one portal. Building plan approvals streamlined. GIS-based Industrial Information System introduced. The system now incorporates several KIADB services, such as land search, selection, allotment, and building plan approvals, making it easier for investors to navigate the process. Additionally, a GIS-based Industrial Information System helps investors verify compliance for land usage. A wizard-based discovery tool will assist investors in determining necessary State and Central approvals, NOCs, and clearances at different project stages. The Incentive Wizard & Calculator enables investors to check eligibility for incentives, concessions, and

rebates under various policies. Additionally, an AI-powered chatbot provides multilingual, instant responses on policies and compliance. Forms simplified and duplicate data eliminated. Integrated with 40+ systems via APIs. Online grievance redressal for quick issue resolution. The system is designed to streamline approvals by simplifying forms, eliminating redundant information, and integrating with over 40 systems via APIs. A grievance redressal mechanism ensures that investor concerns are addressed quickly and transparently. Strengthening Karnataka's position as a top investment hub. Fostering an efficient and business-friendly ecosystem. Expedited approvals and reduced bureaucratic hurdles. CM Siddaramaiah reaffirmed the government's commitment to boosting investments, expediting approvals, and reducing bureaucracy. He emphasized that the revamped Single Window System will reinforce Karnataka's status as one of India's leading investment destinations by creating a transparent and efficient business environment.



# Aero India 2025: Foreign Fighter Jets Showcased in Bengaluru



F-16



Su57e



Sukhoi Su-57E

TPN Correspondent | Bengaluru, Feb 13

The Aero India 2025 show in Bengaluru has become a global stage for cutting-edge aviation technology, with aircraft from Sweden, Germany, Brazil, the US, and Russia drawing the attention of aviation enthusiasts. For the first time, US and Russian aircraft are displaying their capabilities on the same platform, marking a historic moment in military aviation. Among the highlights of the biennial event are stealth fighters, multi-role combat jets, and military transport aircraft, each demonstrating superior technology and combat capabilities. Developed by Lockheed Martin, the F-16 Fighting Falcon is one of the world's most widely exported fighter jets, serving in over 25 countries. The Sukhoi Su-57E, developed by Russia's Sukhoi, is a fifth-generation stealth fighter designed to rival the F-22 Raptor

and F-35 Lightning II.

- **Speed & Range:** Can cover over 3,500 km.
- **Technology:** Features AI-assisted combat systems, sensor fusion, and electronic warfare capabilities.
- **Export Potential:** Russia has expressed interest in selling it to India and China. The Embraer C-390 Millennium, built by Embraer Defense & Security, is a multi-mission military transport aircraft designed to replace the C-130 Hercules.
- **Speed & Payload:** Faster and carries more cargo than older transporters.
- **Capabilities:** Used for troop transport, air-to-air refueling, medical evacuation, and humanitarian missions.
- **Global Orders:** Operated by the Brazilian Air Force, with Portugal, Hungary, and the Netherlands placing orders.

Developed by Sweden's Saab Group, the JAS 39 Gripen is a fourth-generation multi-role fighter known for its agility, cost-effectiveness, and advanced avionics.

- **Speed & Range:** Can fly at 2,400 km/h with a range of 3,200 km.
- **Runway Flexibility:** Can take off and land on short runways and highways.
- **Global Presence:** Used by the Swedish Air Force, with exports to Brazil, Hungary, Czech Republic, Thailand, and South Africa. The Gripen has been displayed at Aero India 2025, where a select group of attendees has the chance to experience its cockpit firsthand through invitation-only access. With cutting-edge aircraft from multiple nations on display, Aero India 2025 is reinforcing Bengaluru's status as a global hub for aviation technology and defense partnerships.

# Six Arrested for Pilfering ₹90 Lakh from ATMs

TPN Correspondent | Bengaluru, Feb 13

- Six arrested, including five employees and a cab driver, for siphoning off ₹90 lakh.
- Police recover ₹51 lakh and seize three four-wheelers, including two SUVs.
- Fraud went undetected for months as suspects manipulated ATM cash deposits.

In a major crackdown, Bengaluru police arrested six individuals, including five employees of a private cash management firm and a cab driver, for allegedly pilfering nearly ₹90 lakh from ATM kiosks over the past two months. The police recovered ₹51 lakh and seized three four-wheelers, including two SUVs, from the accused. The arrested individuals have been identified as Sameer S Babu (26), K Manohar (29), S Girish (26), S Jaggesh (26), and Shivu K (28), all residents of Nandini Layout, along with VR Jaswant (27) from Laggere. Shivu, a taxi driver, assisted the five employees, who had been working with the cash management firm for the past two years. The ATM fraud came to light on January 24, when officials from

the cash management firm conducted an audit and found discrepancies in cash deposits across five ATMs located at Majestic, KR Circle, Kasturba Road, near M Chinnaswamy Stadium, and Cubbon Road. The audit revealed a shortfall of ₹44 lakh, prompting the firm to file a complaint with the Mahalakshmi-puram police. Investigations revealed that the five employees were responsible for loading cash into the kiosks. During interrogation, they admitted to withholding ₹44 lakh from deposits. Further probing exposed that they had been siphoning funds since November. "Initially, they would pilfer ₹3-4 lakh from select ATMs. A week later, they would withdraw cash from other ATMs to replenish the kiosks they had stolen from, attempting to bypass audit detection," an investigating officer stated. With the fraudulent operation spanning two months, authorities believe the total amount misappropriated could be much higher. The police are continuing their investigation to determine whether additional suspects were involved.

# HSR Layout Flyover Closure for Metro Work Causes Severe Traffic Disruptions in Bengaluru



TPN Correspondent | Bengaluru, Feb 13

- BMRCL metro construction forces closure of HSR Layout flyover.
- Bengaluru Traffic Police issues advisory, urging commuters to take alternative routes.
- Commuters' express frustration over lack of planning and sudden disruptions.

The HSR Layout flyover in Bengaluru has been closed for metro construction work, leading to massive traffic congestion on the Outer Ring Road (ORR). The closure, enforced by the Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL), has significantly impacted vehicular movement, prompting the Bengaluru Traffic Police to issue an advisory recommending alternative routes. According to officials, the

closure was necessitated due to a tilt in the BMRCL sliding girder at the 14th Main of HSR Layout. Traffic heading towards Silk Board is now being diverted via the 19th Main. Authorities have urged commuters to cooperate and plan their journeys accordingly to avoid long delays. Many commuters took to social media to express their dissatisfaction over the unplanned disruption, questioning why the metro construction work was not scheduled for weekends or off-peak hours. One user on X highlighted the impact on employees commuting to ORR and ITPL areas, stating, "This should have been scheduled for the weekend or late at night. Traffic is already chaotic in the middle of the week, and this closure has become unbearable." Another commuter echoed similar concerns, questioning the lack of foresight by authorities. "Why can't the authorities plan this better? Many employees are expected to work from home on Wednesday!" Several social media users reported heavy congestion at the Silk Board flyover and demanded that authorities provide advance notifications for major road closures to help commuters plan their travel effectively. Adding to the city's traffic woes, northern Bengaluru is also experiencing severe congestion due to the ongoing Aero India exhibition at the Yelahanka Air Force Station. With the upcoming Global Investors Summit expected to bring an influx of visitors, traffic conditions are likely to deteriorate further. To manage the increasing congestion, the Bengaluru Traffic Police have deployed additional personnel at key junctions to facilitate smoother vehicle movement. However, commuters continue to demand better planning and coordination from authorities to prevent such disruptions in the future.

# Bengaluru Woman Booked in Fresh FIR for ₹15 Crore Air taxi to launch in Karnataka in 2027, attracts everyone's attention

TPN Correspondent | Bengaluru, Feb 13

Bengaluru police have registered a fresh FIR against 32-year-old Aishwarya Gowda, accused of duping individuals of gold and money worth over ₹15 crore by promising high returns. The new case was filed after investigators found private call detail records (CDRs) on a phone seized during their probe into earlier fraud cases. Gowda, who has been described by police as a "confidence trickster," is facing fresh charges under multiple legal provisions, including criminal breach of trust and conspiracy under the Indian Penal Code (IPC), breach of confidentiality under the Information Technology (IT) Act, and unauthorized data access under the Telecom Act. She was previously booked in four other cheating cases between 2024 and 2025. According to police, Gowda frequently posed as the sister of Karnataka Congress leaders D K Suresh and D K Shivakumar to gain access to wealthy businessmen and doctors.

Bengaluru Police Commissioner B Dayanand confirmed that the discovery of private call data on her seized mobile phone prompted the fresh FIR. "Considering the seriousness of the crime, an ACP-rank officer has been assigned to investigate how the CDRs were obtained," he stated. Police sources revealed that the records were found during an investigation into a complaint filed on December 23, 2024, by jeweler Vanitha Aithal, who alleged that Gowda took gold and cash worth over ₹8 crore under false promises. During the probe, authorities confiscated five mobile phones from Gowda and two from her husband, K N Harish. Among them, an iPhone 11 Pro Max contained CDRs of private individuals, including some of Gowda's alleged victims. Investigators are now probing whether these records were leaked by someone with authorized access. Police say Gowda built an image of wealth and influence by staying in luxury hotels, employing bodyguards, and using a fleet of high-end cars. She allegedly

targeted wealthy professionals and businessmen, convincing them to invest by misrepresenting her connections. Among those linked to her is Congress MLA Vinay Kulkarni, whom she reportedly gifted a luxury car. However, Kulkarni has denied accepting any gifts, stating that their acquaintance was limited to a request she made regarding access to a temple. Apart from the jeweler, other victims include two doctors operating a plastic surgery center, an obstetrician, and a businessman's family from Mandya. In some instances, she allegedly had an associate impersonate D K Suresh over the phone to build trust with her victims. Gowda and her husband were arrested last year in connection with one of the fraud cases but were later granted bail by the Karnataka High Court, which ruled that the police had not provided valid reasons for their immediate arrest. With the new FIR and the discovery of private CDRs, authorities are intensifying their probe into potential breaches of confidential data and further fraudulent activities linked to Gowda.

# Bengaluru girl dies by suicide after mother scolds her for using mobile phone

TPN Correspondent | Bengaluru, Feb 13

A 15-year-old girl in Bengaluru allegedly died by suicide on Wednesday after her mother scolded her for excessive mobile phone use and not focusing on her upcoming Class 10 board exams, police said. The deceased, identified as Avantika Chaurasia, was a student at Delhi Public School in Whitefield. She was a resident of Assets' Marq on Whitefield-Hoskote Road. According to Shivakumar Gunare, Deputy Commissioner of Police (Whitefield), investigations are ongoing to ascertain if there were other contributing factors to the incident. The Kadugodi police have reg-

istered a case of unnatural death and sent the body for postmortem. The police were informed about the incident around 11:30 AM. Reports indicate that Chaurasia's board exams were scheduled to begin on February 15. Chaurasia's mother, a homemaker, had urged her to focus on her studies and reduce mobile phone usage, which reportedly left her distressed. Following the conversation, she went to her room, locked it from inside, and ended her life, police stated. Her father, an engineer, was at work when the incident occurred. The family hails from Madhya Pradesh. Authorities are continuing their investigation into the case.

# Air taxi to launch in Karnataka in 2027, attracts everyone's attention

TPN Correspondent | Bengaluru, Feb 13

- Air taxi showcased at Invest Karnataka, drawing huge public interest.
- Developed by Sara Aviation, it is fully battery-powered with a 250 km/h speed.
- Expected to launch in India by 2027, pending defense approval.

The concept of air taxis has captured significant attention at the ongoing Invest Karnataka conference, with visitors flocking to witness the latest innovation in urban mobility. Currently available only in the United States, Europe, China, and the UK, air taxis are now set to make their debut in India, pending approval from the Department of Defense. If all goes as planned, these futuristic electric helicopters will take flight in Bengaluru by 2027. Sara Aviation, the company behind this air taxi, has developed a fully battery-powered aircraft designed to enhance urban transportation. The air taxi is expected to drastically cut travel times, allowing passengers to reach Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) within minutes from key locations like Jakkur, Electronic City, and HAL. The electric-powered air taxi is

designed to function similarly to a helicopter but operates on battery power, making it an eco-friendly alternative to traditional air travel. Here are some of its key features:

- **Seating Capacity:** 7 people, including the pilot.
- **Charging Time:** A 20-minute charge is sufficient for short-haul flights.
- **Speed:** Capable of reaching 250 km/h.
- **Range:** Covers 180 km on a single 3-hour charge.

With electric scooters, cars, and buses already on Indian roads, the introduction of electric air taxis is expected to revolutionize urban transportation. The exhibition at Invest Karnataka has generated tremendous excitement, with visitors eagerly clicking selfies with the prototype and discussing the potential impact of air taxis on Bengaluru's notorious traffic congestion. While the final regulatory approval is still pending, industry experts believe that the launch of air taxis in India could redefine mobility, providing a fast, efficient, and eco-friendly alternative to ground transportation. If successful, this project could position India as a leader in next-generation air mobility.





## This is the only way to reduce metro fares: Tejaswi Surya gives important advice to



TPN Correspondent |  
Bengaluru, Feb 13

- BMRLC increases metro fares, triggering passenger backlash.
- Congress and BJP engage in blame game over fare revision.
- MP Tejaswi Surya suggests state government write to the Centre for a possible fare reduction.

Bengaluru Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRLC) has come under heavy criticism following a steep hike in metro fares, with passengers expressing frustration over the increased cost of travel. Many commut-

ers argue that the fare hike has made metro travel more expensive than auto-rickshaws or two-wheelers, defeating the purpose of promoting public transport.

Adding to the public discontent, the issue has also led to a political tussle between the Congress-led state government and the BJP-led central government. While the BJP has accused the Karnataka government of requesting the fare revision, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah has denied responsibility, stating that the decision was made by the Centre.

Reacting to the controversy, BJP MP Tejaswi Surya has countered the CM's statement, claiming that the state

government had initially written to the Centre seeking a fare revision. He advised the state government to now write another letter requesting a price reduction, which could prompt the Centre to form a new committee to review the fares.

"If the state government officially requests a fare revision, the Centre will set up a new committee to reconsider the pricing," Surya stated, adding that he had raised this issue in the Lok Sabha.

The fare hike, which has seen an increase of 50% to 100% on some routes, has hit middle-class commuters the hardest. Many people who relied on the metro due to Bengaluru's traffic congestion are now considering shifting to personal vehicles, potentially worsening the city's already severe traffic problems. Surya also criticized the previous fare revision committee, alleging that it used international pricing models after visiting countries like Singapore, leading to unrealistically high fares for Bengaluru commuters. The BJP MP has urged the state government to prioritize problem-solving over political blame. He stressed that reducing metro fares is crucial for maintaining public transport accessibility in Bengaluru.

While legal intervention remains uncertain, Surya insisted that writing a fresh letter to the Centre is the only viable solution for rolling back the fare hike.



## Storm in Karnataka Congress: Change in KPCC President Post Imminent

AICC President Mallikarjun Kharge has signaled impending changes in state Congress units, indicating a major organizational reshuffle. Meanwhile, KPCC President DK Shivakumar's cryptic tweet has fueled speculation about the leadership transition. In the race for the coveted post, SC and ST leaders have adopted a new strategy, choosing to meet the high command separately rather than as a group.

The storm of change within the Karnataka Congress has reached its peak, with speculation rife about a leadership shuffle. Alongside the ongoing discussion about a potential change in the Chief Minister's chair, the race for the Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee (KPCC) President post has intensified.

AICC President Mallikarjun Kharge strongly hinted at a leadership reshuffle, stating, "We will change the presidents of all the states soon."

This statement has set off a flurry of activity among aspirants, particularly SC and ST leaders who are vying for the KPCC President post.

Amidst this political maneuvering, leaders have adopted a new strategy. Instead of making group visits to Delhi, they are meeting top Congress leaders individually.

Adding fuel to the political fire, current KPCC President and Deputy CM DK Shivakumar posted a cryptic tweet that has sparked intense speculation.

He further revealed that he participated in the Kumbh Mela at T. Narasipura, performed the Ganga Aarti, and took a holy dip. The timing of his statement, right after Kharge's remarks, has deepened the intrigue within the Congress ranks.

As Karnataka Congress leaders make their moves, all eyes are now on the high command's decision in the coming days.

## Congress Chief Kharge Targets PM Modi Over US Deportations, Questions Diplomatic Ties

TPN Correspondent |  
Bengaluru, Feb 13

- Mallikarjun Kharge questions PM Modi's close ties with Trump amid deportations.
- Congress raises concerns over the inhumane treatment of deported Indian migrants.
- Kharge claims Modi's US visit was arranged after diplomatic efforts.

On the heels of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to the United States, Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge has raised serious concerns about the deportation of Indian migrants from the US, questioning whether Modi's friendship with former US President Donald Trump has benefited India.

Speaking to reporters in Kalaburagi, Kharge alleged that Modi's much-publicized close friendship with Trump has not translated into any real diplomatic gains for India. He questioned why Indian migrants were deported in an inhumane manner, despite Modi's claims of strong ties with the US.

"If Trump is truly PM Modi's friend, why are Indians being deported in such a manner? Instead of sending them on a passenger flight, they were put on a goods flight. This means Modi's friend is treating our people like slaves," Kharge tweeted after addressing the press.

Kharge also claimed that PM Modi did not



receive an invitation to visit the US initially. According to him, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar had to intervene and make diplomatic efforts before Modi received an invitation.

"Modi keeps boasting about his influence in global affairs, but if the US is truly our friend, why are our people being treated like this?" Kharge questioned.

The Congress president emphasized the importance of national interests over personal friendships, arguing that while leaders may have personal relationships, it is the strength of bilateral ties that truly matters.

Kharge's remarks have intensified the political debate over India's foreign policy, with Congress demanding a clear response from PM Modi on the treatment of Indian migrants in the US and whether his diplomatic ties have genuinely benefited the country.

## Siddaramaiah Heading a Taliban GOVT: BJP's Prathap Simha Reacts to Attack on Mysuru Police Station

TPN Correspondent |  
Bengaluru, Feb 13

- Simha calls the incident a failure of Siddaramaiah's administration.
- Labels the government as Taliban and questions its control over law and order.
- Claims anti-social elements are being allowed to act freely.

**Mysuru:** Former Member of Parliament (MP) Prathap Simha on Tuesday launched a scathing attack on Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah over the recent stone-pelting incident at the Udayagiri Police Station in Mysuru. Addressing the media in the Chief Minister's home district, Simha termed the attack a "shame on a civilized society" and a reflection of the administration's failure to maintain law and order.

"The stone-pelting is a reflection of the Siddaramaiah administration. This shows how weak he is as a Chief Minister. The law and order have collapsed in Siddaramaiah's home district itself," Simha stated, holding the Congress-led government responsible for the situation.

Simha further alleged that the state is no longer governed by a "Kannadiga government" but by a "Taliban government" under Siddaramaiah. According to him, the Chief Minister has lost control over governance, allowing anti-social elements to act as they please.

"The incident happened because Siddaramaiah has no control over the administration. He has given a free hand to anti-social elements, letting them do whatever they want," Simha claimed.

The attack on the Udayagiri Police Station has



sparked widespread concern, with opposition leaders questioning the government's ability to ensure public safety. The incident has also intensified political debates, with the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and other opposition leaders blaming the Congress government for deteriorating law and order in the state.

Simha also questioned the reaction of certain groups to the defeat of Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leader Arvind Kejriwal, hinting at possible communal motivations behind the unrest. Meanwhile, authorities have yet to release an official statement on the incident.

Law enforcement agencies are currently investigating the matter, and security has been tightened in sensitive areas to prevent further violence.

With political tensions escalating, all eyes are now on the government's response to the situation and the steps it will take to restore order in the state.

## BJP Slams Karnataka Government Over Mysuru Police Station Attack

TPN Correspondent |  
Bengaluru, Feb 13

- BJP accuses Congress government of emboldening fundamentalists through appeasement policies.
- Mob attacks Udayagiri police station over a provocative social media post.
- Several arrests made following the stone-pelting incident.

The Opposition BJP in Karnataka has accused the ruling Congress government of encouraging fundamentalist elements through its alleged appeasement policies. This comes after a mob attacked the Udayagiri police station in Mysuru, demanding that a social media user—detained for a provocative post—be handed over to them.

Addressing a press conference, Leader of the Opposition R. Ashoka condemned the incident, stating that fundamentalists carried stones in bags and attacked the police station over a social media post featuring Rahul Gandhi and Arvind Kejriwal. "They have not only attacked the police but also threatened Hindus, creating an atmosphere of fear in Mysuru," Ashoka alleged. He further claimed that the law-and-order situation in Karnataka had deteriorated under the Congress government. The BJP leader linked the incident to the state government's earlier decision to withdraw cases against those involved in the Hubballi riots, arguing that such actions have emboldened extremist groups. The violence erupted over a social media post by a resident of Kalyan Nagar,

Mysuru. The post allegedly morphed the faces of Rahul Gandhi, Arvind Kejriwal, and Akhilesh Yadav onto a semi-naked image, adding a skull cap, alongside derogatory remarks about the Muslim community. In response, a crowd of around 200 people gathered at the Udayagiri police station and demanded the accused be handed over to them. When the police refused, the mob resorted to stone-pelting, damaging property and escalating tensions. Several individuals have since been arrested for their involvement in the attack. BJP state president B.Y. Vijayendra claimed that the attack highlights a growing pattern of violence in areas with a Muslim-majority population.

"Fundamentalists in Udayagiri have grown strong enough to attack the police. There have



been multiple murders of Hindu activists in this region before," Vijayendra said, demanding strict action against the culprits. BJP leaders have called for urgent GOVT intervention to restore law and order and prevent further communal tensions in Karnataka.





## Five Arrested After Mob Attacks Mysuru's Udayagiri Police Station

TPN Correspondent | Mysuru, Feb 13

A day after a violent attack on Udayagiri police station in Mysuru, authorities have taken five individuals into custody for their role in the incident. The violence, which broke out late Monday, left seven policemen injured as a mob gathered outside the station, demanding the handover of a man accused of posting derogatory content on social media.

According to police reports, tensions escalated after the accused was detained at the Udayagiri police station. As the crowd grew and insisted on his handover, the situation turned violent. The mob allegedly damaged police vehicles and attempted to storm the station premises.

In response, the police resorted to baton charges and fired tear gas shells to disperse the crowd. Senior officers, including Additional Director General of Police (ADGP) R Hitendra and Mysuru Police Commissioner See-

ma Latkar, rushed to the scene to restore order.

Karnataka Home Minister G Parameshwara, addressing the media on Wednesday, assured strict action against those involved. "All those who took the law into their hands have been identified using CCTV footage. Five to six people have already been taken into custody. We will not spare anyone involved in such incidents," he stated.

Meanwhile, the Karnataka BJP criticized the Congress-led government, posting on X:

"Mysuru's Udayagiri police station under attack! Police vehicles torched, cops assaulted, and even the DCP's vehicle attacked. If the police aren't safe, what about common Kannadigas? Congress has surrendered Karnataka to rioters!" Authorities continue to analyse CCTV footage to identify further suspects. Security has been heightened in the area to prevent further disturbances.

## Pawan Kalyan Embarks on Temple Tour in Kerala, Tamil Nadu as Part of 'Sanatan Dharma' Mission



TPN Correspondent | Andhra Pradesh, Feb 13

Andhra Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister and Jana Sena Party President Pawan Kalyan on Wednesday commenced a three-day pilgrimage to Kerala and Tamil Nadu as part of his 'Sanatan Dharma Parirakshana' (protection of ancient dharma) mission. The actor-politician landed at Kochi Airport and headed to Sri Agastya Maharshi Temple.

After offering prayers there, he will proceed to the Meenakshi Sundareshwara Temple in Madurai, Tamil Nadu. His itinerary includes several other prominent temples such as Sri Parashurama Swamy Temple, Agastya Jeeva Samadhi, Kumbeshwara Temple, Swamimalai, and Thiruthani Subramanya Swamy Temple.

Initially planned as a five-day pilgrimage, Pawan Kalyan's trip was shortened to three days due to health concerns. He had been recovering from a viral fever and severe spondylosis.

His absence from a ministerial meeting with Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu on Tuesday was noted. Jana Sena leader Nadendla Manohar informed officials that Pawan Kalyan was unwell and would resume official duties within a few days. Naidu also inquired about his health, mentioning his attempts to contact him.

Pawan Kalyan has been vocal about protecting 'Sanatan Dharma,' particularly after concerns about adulteration in the ghee used for Tirupati laddus. He undertook a 'Prashchita Deeksha' over the issue and has demanded legislation and a national board to safeguard religious traditions.

During a public meeting in Tirupati on October 3, 2024, he stressed the importance of upholding secularism in a way that ensures equal protection for all religions.

His visit to Tamil Nadu is expected to stir political discussions, given that Tamil Nadu Deputy Chief Minister Udhayanidhi Stalin has previously voiced strong opposition to 'Sanatan Dharma.' The DMK leader's controversial remarks on the subject in 2023 had sparked national debates.

Tamil Nadu BJP president K. Annamalai is also likely to join Pawan Kalyan during his visit, adding further political weight to the tour.

## Wayanad Sees Second Fatal Elephant Attack in Two Days; Locals Protest Over Safety Concerns

TPN Correspondent | Wayanad, Feb 13

A 27-year-old tribal man was killed in a suspected wild elephant attack in Wayanad, Kerala, sparking fresh protests over the increasing threat of human-wildlife conflicts in the region. The victim, identified as Manu, was a resident of a tribal settlement in Attamala under the Meppadi police station limits.

Manu's body was discovered on Wednesday morning with severe injuries, including a smashed head, indicating a violent attack. According to local resident Balakrishnan, Manu had taken an alternate route while returning from a shop on Tuesday night. When he did not return home, a search was launched, leading to the grim discovery.

Forest and police officials arrived at the scene to investigate the circumstances of the attack.

Following the incident, locals staged protests, highlighting the lack of basic amenities and safety measures. Many tribal set-

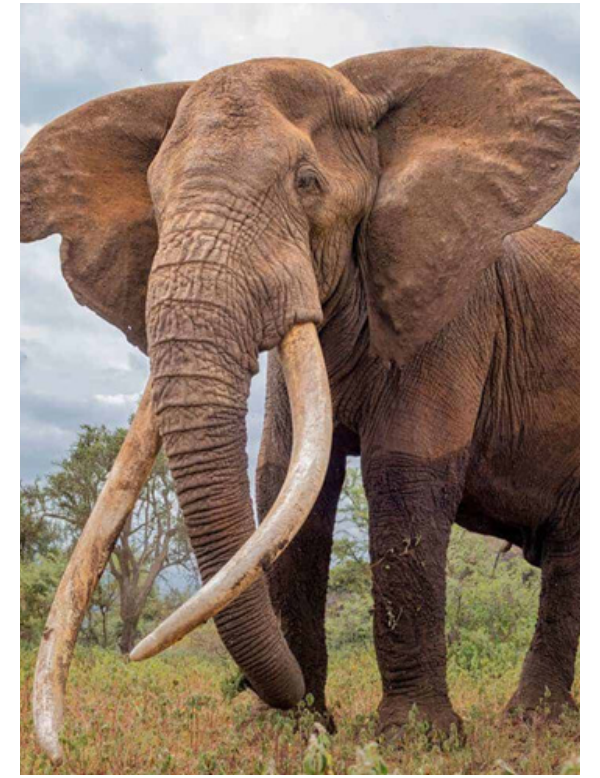
tlements in the region lack access to clean water, forcing residents to venture into risky areas where wild animals roam freely.

Residents claim that frequent elephant sightings have made it dangerous to step out of their homes, and authorities have failed to take effective measures to mitigate the risk.

The attack comes just a day after another man, 45-year-old Sivaraman, was killed by a wild elephant in Noolpuzha village near the Kerala-Tamil Nadu border. That incident also led to protests by residents demanding urgent intervention from the government.

Wayanad, known for its rich biodiversity, has seen a rise in human-wildlife conflicts as deforestation and habitat encroachment drive animals closer to human settlements.

Despite repeated incidents, locals argue that authorities have done little to prevent such tragedies. The protests have intensified calls for stricter wildlife management policies and improved infrastructure to protect vulnerable communities.



## Chennai & Bengaluru to Face Power Cuts on Feb 13



TPN Correspondent | Chennai/Bengaluru, Feb 13

The Tamil Nadu Generation and Distribution Corporation Limited (TANGEDCO) has announced a scheduled power shutdown across multiple areas in Chennai on Thursday, February 13, 2025, for maintenance work. The outage is expected to last from 9 AM to 2 PM, though officials have assured that electricity supply may be restored earlier if work is completed ahead of schedule.

### Power Shutdown Areas in Chennai

A total of 40 locations will be affected, including major areas such as Porur, East Mogappair, and Redhills. Key localities impacted include:

- Porur & Surroundings:** Iyyappanthangal, RR Nagar, Katupakkam, Pushpa Nagar, Venugopal Nagar, Anna Indira Nagar, Valasaravakkam (part), Porur Garden Phase 1 & 2, Ramasamy Nagar, Urban Tree, Arcot Road (part), MM Estate, GK Estate, Chinnapoor, Vanagaram (part), Baraniputhur, Karambakkam, Samayapuram, Ponni Nagar, Chettiyar Agaram, Poonamallee Road

(part), Periya Kolathuvancheri, Maduram Nagar, Thelliaragar.

- East Mogappair:** Elango Nagar, Moorthy Nagar, Sathiyavathy Nagar, Officers Colony, Pink Avenue, EB Colony, Rathinam Street.

- Redhills:** Eswaran Nagar, Pammadukulam Colony, Indira Nagar, T.H. Road, Solaiamman Nagar, Gandhi Nagar.

### Bengaluru Power Outage on Feb 13

Meanwhile, Bengaluru will also experience power disruptions on February 13 due to infrastructure upgrades under the Atal Bhujal Yojana, managed by the Bengaluru Electricity Supply Company Limited (BESCOM).

- Affected areas in Bengaluru include:** Hanumantapura, Kuvempu Nagar, Adarsha Nagar, Anetota, Jagannathapura, Sharadadevi Nagar, Ganesh Nagar, Nirvani Layout. A These planned shutdowns are part of essential maintenance and infrastructure improvements aimed at ensuring better power distribution in both cities.

## Telangana Hikes Beer Prices by 15%, Aims for ₹ 36,000 Crore Revenue from Liquor Sales

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad Feb 13

The Telangana government has implemented a 15% hike in beer prices, raising the lowest price to ₹120 and the highest to ₹370, depending on the brand and size. This revision affects 48 different beer variants, with case prices also increasing. The move is expected to boost the state's liquor revenue, with officials estimating an additional ₹300 crore in monthly earnings. The Telangana Excise Department has enforced a 15% increase in local beer prices, effective Tuesday. The lowest-priced beer bottle now costs ₹120, while premium variants are priced as high as ₹370. The Price Fixation Committee had recommended a hike between 15% and 19%, and the government finalized a 15% increase, impacting 48 different beer brands. However, the



price hike applies only to beer sold in cases of 12 to 24 bottles. Single-bottle purchases remain unaffected, with case prices now ranging from ₹1,200 to ₹1,800. With this hike, the Telangana government expects to generate a total of ₹36,000 crore from liquor sales in the 2024-25 financial year. In the first half of the fiscal year alone, ₹18,000 crore had already been collected. "The state's monthly income

from liquor sales ranges between ₹1,700 crore and ₹2,100 crore, depending on seasonal demand. On average, daily revenue is around ₹90 crore. With the new price revision, we anticipate an additional ₹300 crore in monthly earnings," sources said. On Tuesday, conflicting price lists created confusion among distributors and retailers. However, by evening, the excise department issued

an official price list, clarifying the updated rates. Additionally, officials have instructed that existing stock in depots be relabeled and sold at revised prices. Despite the hike, several companies expressed dissatisfaction, arguing that a higher increase was necessary to offset rising production costs. United Breweries, one of the leading suppliers, had requested a 33% hike and temporarily halted supply in protest. "We have long awaited a price revision, and we welcome the government's decision. However, a slightly larger increase would have helped us better manage our losses, especially given rising production costs," a company representative stated. With companies pushing for further increases, the impact of this price revision on beer sales and consumer demand remains to be seen.





# Understanding Oral Cancer: Causes, Symptoms, and Risk Factors



**Dr. Mehaboob Shaik**  
 Professor & HOD, Maxillofacial Surgery | CARE Institution of Medical & Dental Sciences, Guntur

Oral cancer remains a significant global health concern, ranking among the top ten causes of cancer-related deaths. The condition, predominantly affecting men, is strongly linked to tobacco and alcohol consumption, as well as environmental and dietary factors. Dr. Mehaboob Shaik, Professor and Head of the Department of Maxillofacial Surgery at CARE Institution of Medical & Dental Sciences, Guntur, provides an in-depth analysis of oral cancer, its causes, and risk factors.

The Origins and Definition of Cancer  
 The term "cancer" originates from the Latin word for crab, reflecting how the disease adheres to tissues in an aggressive and persistent manner. Cancer is a general term for malignant neoplasms, and according to Willis, a neoplasm is defined as "an abnormal mass of tissue, the growth of which exceeds and is uncoordinated with that of normal tissues and persists in the same excessive manner after the cessation of the stimuli which evoked the change."

## Oral Cancer: A Growing Concern

Oral cancer accounts for a significant number of cancer-related fatalities worldwide. More than 90% of oral cancers are squamous cell carcinomas, and the disease exhibits a slight male predominance, with a male-to-female ratio of 1.7:1. The peak incidence occurs in men during their fifties, while women are more commonly affected in their sixties.

The incidence of oral cancer among women saw a nearly 50% rise from the late 1940s to the 1980s. This increase has been attributed to changes in smoking and alcohol consumption patterns among women, along with

other contributing nutritional and lifestyle factors.

## Key Risk Factors: Tobacco, Alcohol, and Environmental Exposure

Tobacco use, both in smoked and smokeless forms, remains one of the leading causes of oral cancer. Tobacco products contain harmful carcinogens such as nitrosamines, polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons, nitrosodichthanolamine, nitrosoproline, and polonium. Additionally, tobacco smoke itself contains toxic substances like carbon monoxide, thiocyanate, hydrogen cyanide, and nicotine.

Common forms of smoked tobacco include bidis, cigarettes, hookahs, and chillum, while smokeless tobacco products include khaini, gutka, paan, and zarda. These products contribute significantly to oral cancer incidence.

Apart from tobacco and alcohol use, environmental factors such as prolonged exposure to sunlight can increase the risk of lip cancer. Nutritional deficiencies and a lack of protective nutrients found in fresh fruits and vegetables have also been linked to cancer development.

## Clinical Features and Symptoms

Oral cancer commonly affects individuals between the fourth and sixth decades of life, with a male-to-female ratio of 4:1. The most commonly affected sites include the tongue, lips, and the floor of the mouth.

### Early Manifestations:

- Persistent red or white patches in the oral cavity
- Non-healing ulcers
- Progressive swelling or enlargement of tissues
- Sudden tooth mobility without an apparent cause
- Unusual oral bleeding or nasal bleeding (epistaxis)
- Late Manifestations:
- Hard, indurated areas in the oral cavity
- Numbness or paresthesia in the affected area
- Airway obstruction
- Difficulty opening the mouth (trismus) and swallowing (dysphagia)
- Enlargement of cervical lymph nodes (lymphadenopathy)

## Additional Risk Factors: Dental and Oral Health Issues

While the role of dental factors in oral cancer development is debated, some studies suggest that conditions like sharp teeth, ill-fitting dentures, faulty restorations, and changes in bite patterns may contribute to the risk. However, the evidence remains inconclusive.

Identifying Oral Cancer: Lesions and Staging

## Oral cancer often presents as distinct lesions, which may appear in various forms:

- Patches or plaques (red, white, or mixed red-and-white)
- Ulcerations
- Black or brown pigmented lesions
- Exophytic growths (abnormal outward-growing masses)

The TNM staging system is used to determine the severity and extent of the disease. Staging plays a crucial role in treatment planning and prognosis assessment. It provides a standardized way for medical professionals to classify cancer cases and communicate about patient care.

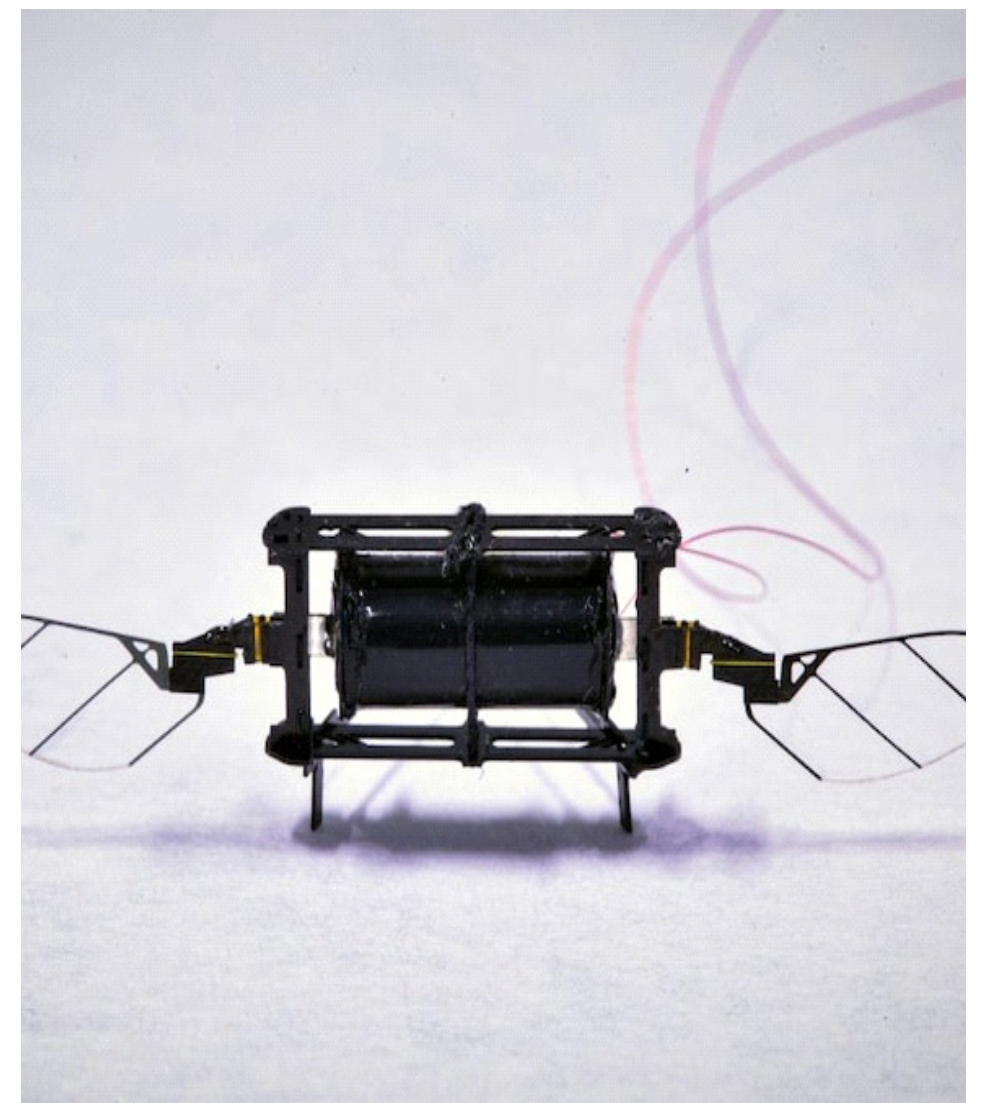
## Cancer Awareness and International Maxillofacial Surgeon's Day

Raising awareness about oral cancer is crucial for early detection and prevention. International Maxillofacial Surgeon's Day, observed on February 13, serves as an important occasion to highlight the role of maxillofacial surgeons in diagnosing and treating oral cancers. Public awareness campaigns, early screening programs, and lifestyle modifications, such as quitting tobacco and alcohol, can significantly reduce oral cancer cases.

The general public is encouraged to prioritize oral health check-ups, recognize early warning signs, and adopt preventive measures, including a balanced diet rich in fruits and vegetables. Efforts to increase awareness and accessibility to healthcare can improve survival rates and enhance quality of life for affected individuals.

## Survival Rates and Future Outlook

The overall five-year survival rate for oral cancer stands at approximately 52.5%, with females having a slightly higher survival rate (58%) compared to males (50%). Early detection and prevention strategies, including reducing tobacco and alcohol use, improving dietary habits, and maintaining good oral hygiene, are critical in reducing the burden of oral cancer. As research continues, efforts to enhance public awareness and early diagnosis remain vital in combating this life-threatening disease.



# MIT's Robotic Insect Drones Achieve 100x Longer Flight Time

MIT researchers have made a groundbreaking advancement in robotic insect technology, developing drones capable of flying 100 times longer than their previous models. This significant improvement in endurance and efficiency is expected to revolutionize artificial pollination, offering a potential solution to declining bee populations and enhancing agricultural productivity.

The latest robotic insects have been engineered with a streamlined design that enhances flight dynamics while minimizing energy consumption. Unlike earlier prototypes that suffered from limited flight time and instability, these new drones incorporate structural modifications that allow for sustained operation in real-world agricultural settings.

## Breakthrough in Flight Capabilities

A study published in Science Robotics details the advanced structural adjustments that have enabled these robotic insects to remain airborne for extended periods. Previously, robotic insect models struggled with lift and control due to excessive wing numbers and inefficient motion. The new design replaces the older eight-wing system with a more efficient four-unit structure, each equipped with a single flapping wing. This reduces airflow resistance and optimizes power usage, making the drones more stable and responsive during flight.

Kevin Chen, Associate Professor of Robotics at MIT, emphasized the significance of this breakthrough, stating that the demonstrated flight time in this research surpasses all previous attempts combined. The refined wing mechanism has not only improved endurance but also reduced mechanical stress, allowing the drones to carry integrated power sources essential for field deployment.

## Challenges in Replicating Natural Flight

Despite these advancements, researchers continue to face challenges in mimicking the precise wing movements of real insects. Natural insects rely on finely tuned muscle-like contractions for flight, whereas early robotic versions lacked this level of precision. The MIT team is now focusing on refining signal transmissions within the robotic structure to closely replicate natural insect motion.

Another major hurdle is achieving the right balance between weight and battery capacity. While the latest iteration has made significant strides, further enhancements are required to ensure the drones can operate autonomously and navigate complex environments without human intervention.

## Future Applications in Agriculture

Looking ahead, the team aims to integrate advanced sensors and computational systems into the robotic insects, improving their navigation and decision-making capabilities. Over the next five years, research will focus on refining these systems to allow the drones to function independently in agricultural settings. If successful, this technology could play a crucial role in supplementing natural pollinators, supporting food production, and mitigating the impact of environmental changes on agriculture.

With continued innovation, robotic insects may soon become a vital tool in global efforts to enhance crop yields and ensure food security.



**Dr. Nadella Koteswararao**  
 Past President, AP Chapter HOD, Drs SNDS, Gannavaram



**Dr. P.L. Vasundhar**  
 President, AOMSI-AP Chapter

## Contributions to Oral Cancer Awareness:

Dr. P.L. Vasundhara, President of AOMSI-AP Chapter, and Dr. Nadella Koteswararao, Past President of the AP Chapter and Head of the Department at Drs SNDS, Gannavaram, have been actively working towards promoting awareness and early detection of oral cancer. Their contributions in this field continue to make a significant impact in cancer prevention and treatment.

# Surajkund Mela 2025: Dates, Attractions, and Ticket Details

The much-awaited 38th edition of the Surajkund International Crafts Mela is set to bring a vibrant display of culture, art, and heritage to the Delhi-NCR region. Held annually in Faridabad, Haryana, this grand fair showcases India's rich craftsmanship and traditions while hosting artisans from across the globe. With over 648 artisans from 42 countries participating this year, the event promises a unique experience for visitors. Odisha and Madhya Pradesh have been chosen as the theme states for 2025. The Surajkund Mela 2025 will take place from February 7 to February 25 at Surajkund, Faridabad. Organized by the Haryana Tourism Department, the fair attracts artists, craftsmen, and cultural performers from India and beyond, transforming the venue into a bustling cultural hub.

## Major Attractions at Surajkund Mela 2025



## Authentic Handicrafts and Artworks

The mela is a paradise for handicraft lovers, featuring a vast collection of handmade treasures, including Phulkari embroidery, Madhubani paintings, Channapatna toys, Kashmiri Pashminas, and Dhokra metal art. Visitors can buy directly from artisans, ensuring authenticity and fair pricing. The Hunar Haat and Food Court sections offer a variety of regional delicacies from across India. Popular dishes include Rajsthani kulchas, and Bengal's rosogolla.

## Cultural Performances and Folk Dances

Every evening, folk dancers, musicians, and theatre groups from different states showcase their talents. Performances include Rajasthan's Ghoomar, Maharashtra's Lavani, and Assam's Bihu, along with international acts. The open-air stage creates a lively atmosphere, immersing visitors in a cultural extravaganza. The fair offers various entertainment options, including Ferris wheels, camel rides, puppet shows, pottery-making, and interactive art sessions, making it enjoyable for visitors of all ages.



# India 1st G-20 nation to meet Paris pact goals: PM Modi

- India first G-20 nation to meet Paris goals.
- Solar capacity up 32x; ethanol blending at 19%.
- Biofuels Alliance boosts sustainable energy

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday declared that India was the first country among the G-20 nations to meet the goals outlined in the Paris Agreement, a key international treaty aimed at combating climate change. The Paris Agreement, adopted in 2015, strives to limit global warming to well below 2°C, with efforts to cap it at 1.5°C, while focusing on reducing greenhouse gas emissions and aligning financial flows with low-emission development.

In his virtual address at the opening ceremony of India Energy Week 2025, which was held in France, PM Modi highlighted India's impressive strides in renewable energy and climate action. "In the last decade, India has moved from being the 10th to the 5th largest economy globally. In this time, we have increased our solar energy generation capacity by 32 times," Modi said.

The Prime Minister emphasized India's leadership in renewable energy, revealing that the country is now the third-largest solar power producer in the world. "Our non-fossil fuel energy

capacity has tripled, and we are the first among G-20 nations to achieve the Paris Agreement goals," he noted.

Modi also credited initiatives like ethanol blending for India's environmental progress. "India has achieved 19% ethanol blending, which has significantly reduced CO2 emissions, saved foreign exchange, and boosted farmer incomes. We are on track to reach a 20% ethanol blending target by October 2025," he explained.

In addition, PM Modi spotlighted the growth of India's biofuel industry, which is gaining momentum with the support of the Global Biofuels Alliance. Established during India's G-20 presidency, the alliance now includes 28 countries and 12 international organizations. "We have a sustainable feedstock of 500 million metric tonnes, and the Global Biofuels Alliance is turning waste into wealth, establishing centres of excellence," he added.

India's achievements in renewable energy and climate action reflect its commitment to sustainable development and global environmental leadership.



## Kerala CM denies UDF allegation of failure of law and order, criminalisation of police

TPN Correspondent | Thiruvananthapuram

Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan on Wednesday responded to opposition allegations of police criminalization and law and order failures in the state. The Chief Minister denied claims that criminals, or "goondas," were being shielded by the police, stating that appropriate action had been taken against errant officers.

Vijayan's remarks came in response to a notice moved by the Congress-led UDF seeking an adjournment of the House to discuss the failure of law and order in Kerala. The opposition had raised concerns following the recent Palakkad double murder case, where a 72-year-old woman and her 53-year-old son were allegedly hacked to death by their neighbor. The accused, identified as Chenthamara, had been out on bail after being involved in a previous murder case in 2019, where he had killed the elderly woman's daughter-in-law.

In his reply, Chief Minister Vijayan acknowledged the failure of the police in handling the situation. He revealed that the Nenmara police station's inspector had been suspended pending an investigation. The inspector had failed to take appropriate action on complaints made by the victims' family, who had alleged that they were being threatened by the accused prior to the murders.

Vijayan emphasized that strict action had been taken against police officers found neglecting their duties. He reassured the House that the government was committed to ensuring the safety of the public and that measures were in place to prevent such incidents from recurring.

The Chief Minister's response sought to address concerns over the state's law and order situation, asserting that the government was taking the necessary steps to ensure accountability and transparency within the police force.



## Eknath Shinde Receives Mahadji Shinde Award

TPN Correspondent | Maharashtra

Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Eknath Shinde was honored with the Mahadji Shinde Rashtra Gaurav Puraskar on Tuesday at the 98th Akhil Bharatiya Marathi Sahitya Sammelan in Delhi. The award was presented to Shinde by Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) chief Sharad Pawar, in the presence of Union Ministers Jyotiraditya Scindia, Muralidhar Mohol, and writer Dr. Sadanand More.

In his acceptance speech, Shinde expressed his appreciation for the good relations he shares with Pawar, recalling that the NCP leader is the son-in-law of Sadas Shiv Shinde, a famous spin bowler known for his googly deliveries. He humorously added that while Pawar "bowls googly deliveries" in politics, he has never been caught off guard by them. Shinde further praised Pawar for his frequent calls and for showing interest in the development works being carried out in Maharashtra, emphasizing the importance of maintaining relationships beyond political divides.

However, Shinde's remarks and the award presentation stirred controversy in Maharashtra politics. Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Sanjay Raut criticized Pawar for presenting the award to Shinde, highlighting the political context in which the two leaders find themselves. Raut expressed disappointment, stating he did not expect Pawar to honor Shinde, especially given that both the Shiv Sena (UBT) and NCP-SP are part of the Maha Vikas Aghadi alliance. Raut, making a jab at Shinde's "googly" comment, suggested that those who play such tricks often end up "getting out by hit wicket." The Mahadji Shinde Rashtra Gaurav Award is named after the renowned strategist of the Maratha Empire, Mahadji Shinde, and recognizes individuals who have made significant contributions to society.

## India's Fighter Aircraft Development: A Generation Behind Global Powers



TPN Correspondent | Delhi

India's ambitious goal of developing the Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA), a fifth-generation multirole stealth fighter, faces a significant delay, with its expected induction into the Indian Air Force not set to occur until 2035. By this time, global air forces, including those of Russia, the US, and China, will already be operating sixth-generation fighter jets, marking India's lag in the race for advanced aerial capabilities.

The AMCA, developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), was displayed for the first time at the Aero India-2025 event in Bengaluru, generating significant attention. The aircraft, designed to be a twin-engine, medium-weight fighter, represents India's leap towards building cutting-edge military technology. However, it is set to enter service a decade after other major powers have begun developing sixth-generation fighters.

The development of these more advanced fighters is already underway globally. In August 2013, Russia announced its plans for the Mikoyan PAK DP, a sixth-generation fighter, which has since entered the development phase. Meanwhile, the United States launched its Next Generation Air Dominance (NGAD) Program, with a prototype already flown in 2020, although details remain classified. The first sixth-generation fighters from the US are expected to be fielded by 2030, developed by aerospace giants like Boeing, Lockheed Martin, and Northrop Grumman.

China, too, has begun research on sixth-generation fighter jets, with plans to bring their programme to fruition by 2035. Concepts of Chinese sixth-generation jets have already been shared publicly, and there have been reports of a new tailless aircraft being test-flown.

India's reliance on a fifth-generation aircraft for its future defense strategy places it behind these global powers, especially as advancements in sixth-generation technology promise to offer superior capabilities. As a result, India's AMCA program may face challenges in maintaining strategic parity with these rapidly evolving air forces.

## J&K Legislative Assembly Holds First Full Session After Seven Years

TPN Correspondent | Maha Kumbh

On the occasion of Maghi Purnima, nearly 1.6 crore devotees took part in the sacred ritual of taking a holy dip at the Triveni Sangam in Prayagraj, marking a significant event during the ongoing Maha Kumbh Mela 2025. The ritual bath, which began early on Wednesday, saw an overwhelming turnout of people from across the country, in a religious observance that is integral to the Kumbh Mela festivities.

As the spiritual significance of Maghi Purnima draws pilgrims seeking purification and blessings, the Uttar Pradesh government reported that by noon, a staggering 1.59 crore devotees had bathed in the Sangam and other ghats. The event also marks the end of the month-long Kalpavas, where nearly 10 lakh 'Kalpavasis' (those who observe the month-long ritual) conclude their stay at the holy city and begin heading back to their respective destinations.



Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has been closely monitoring the event from Lucknow, ensuring that the administration is prepared for the large-scale congregation. The

local administration had made extensive arrangements for the smooth flow of pilgrims, urging them to follow traffic rules and park only in designated areas for safety.





## PM Modi's France Visit: New Indian Consulate, Nuke Project Tour On Agenda

- PM Modi visits Marseille, recalls Veer Savarkar's 1910 escape attempt.
- Opens India's second consulate in France, boosting diplomatic ties.
- Tours ITER project with Macron, strengthening nuclear cooperation.

TPN Correspondent | France

Prime Minister Narendra Modi arrived in Marseille, France, on Wednesday, marking the final day of his three-day visit to the country. Speaking to the media, Modi recalled the valiant efforts of Indian freedom fighter VD "Veer" Savarkar, who had attempted a "courageous escape" from British custody in 1910. Modi's remarks were part of a wider focus on India's historic ties with France during British colonial rule.

The PM's visit to France is packed with initiatives aimed at strengthening India-French relations. On the agenda for the day is the opening of India's second consulate in France, following the Indian Embassy in Paris. This new consulate is expected to further enhance diplomatic



and cultural ties between the two countries. Modi will also visit the Mazargues War Cemetery to honor soldiers who died in the First and Second World Wars, paying tribute to their sacrifices.

Another key engagement includes a tour of the International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor (ITER) project, a global nuclear fusion collaboration. Modi and French President Emmanuel Macron will visit the ITER site as part of ongoing efforts to strengthen bilateral cooperation in science and technology.

Modi also took the opportunity to thank the people of Marseille and French activists for their support during India's freedom struggle, particularly when they opposed Savarkar's extradition to British custody. Savarkar had attempted to escape

British captivity in 1910 while being transported aboard the Morea ship but was later captured by French authorities and handed back to the British. He was subsequently sentenced to life imprisonment at the infamous Cellular Jail in Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

On Tuesday, Modi and Macron addressed the AI Action Summit and the 14th India-France CEOs Forum in Paris. The summit saw the participation of leading business and innovation leaders from both nations. Modi emphasized the strategic partnership between India and France, highlighting their shared democratic values, trust, and commitment to global problem-solving.

Following the France visit, Modi is scheduled to travel to the United States on February 13.

## Zelensky Willing to Swap Land with Putin, On Condition of US Mediation



TPN Correspondent | Ukraine

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky has expressed readiness to swap land with Russian President Vladimir Putin under one condition – if US President Donald Trump facilitates negotiations between the two nations. This development comes after Russia released at least one American prisoner, which Trump described as a gesture aimed at fostering peace in the ongoing Russia-Ukraine war.

Zelensky has historically rejected ceding any Ukrainian territory after Russia's invasion in February 2022. However, in a recent interview with The Guardian, he stated that Ukraine would consider trading territories, including the Kursk region of Russia, which Ukraine had seized following a surprise offensive last year. Zelensky remained noncommittal on which areas Ukraine might request in return but emphasized the importance of all

Ukrainian territories.

Zelensky also emphasized that Ukraine's security guarantees could not be fulfilled by European partners alone, asserting that security without the involvement of the United States would not be viable. He warned that a deal lacking firm military commitments, such as NATO membership or peacekeeping forces, would allow Russia the opportunity to regroup and potentially attack Ukraine again.

Furthermore, Zelensky sought to involve US businesses in Ukraine's reconstruction, offering lucrative deals to firms that contribute to rebuilding the war-torn nation. He stated that companies supporting Ukraine's defense would be integral in its post-war recovery, working alongside Ukrainian businesses to restore the country.

Trump has long advocated for ending the war in Ukraine, possibly using US financial aid as leverage to push Ukraine into making territorial concessions. Meanwhile, a recent visit by US envoy Steve Witkoff to Russia resulted in the release of Marc Fogel, an American imprisoned on drug charges, signaling potential diplomatic progress.

## Nothing To Buy, Will Take It: Trump Doubles Down On Gaza Takeover Plan

TPN Correspondent | Washington DC

US President Donald Trump has doubled down on his controversial proposal to "own" the Gaza Strip, asserting that the United States will take control of the region and manage its redevelopment, which would involve displacing the 2.2 million Palestinians living there. The plan was discussed during a meeting with Jordan's King Abdullah II in the Oval Office on Tuesday.

"We're going to have Gaza. We don't have to buy it. There's nothing to buy. We will have Gaza... We're going to take it, we're going to hold it, we're going to cherish it," Trump said, while also denying any personal involvement in real estate development in the region. He emphasized that the redevelopment would benefit the broader Middle East, creating jobs for the region's people.

Trump suggested that Palestinians in Gaza would be willing to leave, citing the dire



living conditions in the enclave following the ongoing conflict. "Look at the way they're living now. Nobody's living like that in the entire world," he stated, referring to the destruction caused by over a year of fighting following the October 7 terror attacks by Hamas.

While Trump has presented his proposal to take over Gaza as a potential solution, Jor-

dan's King Abdullah expressed opposition, emphasizing the Arab world's position against the displacement of Palestinians. He affirmed the importance of rebuilding Gaza without forcing Palestinians to leave and prioritizing the region's humanitarian needs. Abdullah added that Egypt was working on a plan that could align with Trump's vision without displacing Gaza's residents.

## Sunita Williams and Butch Wilmore to Return to Earth on March 12



TPN Correspondent | New York

NASA and SpaceX are expediting the upcoming crew rotation missions to the International Space Station (ISS), aiming to bring astronauts Sunita Williams and Butch Wilmore back to Earth. The two astronauts have been stranded in space since June 2024 due to technical issues with Boeing's Starliner spacecraft, which had originally brought them to the ISS.

The Crew-10 mission, previously slated for a late March launch, is now targeting March 12, pending final mission readiness and the completion of NASA's flight certification process. NASA made the announcement on Tuesday, signaling that preparations are progressing ahead of schedule.

Williams and Wilmore are currently part of the Crew-9 mission, which also includes NASA astronauts Nick Hague and Roscosmos cosmonaut Aleksandr Gorbunov. The Crew-9 team will return to Earth after a few days of handover activities with the Crew-10 astronauts, who are set to arrive at the ISS.

The Crew-10 mission will carry NASA astronauts Anne McClain and Nichole Ayers, Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency astronaut Takuya Onishi, and Roscosmos cosmonaut Kirill Peskov to the space station. This accelerated launch was made possible after a decision to use a previously flown Dragon spacecraft, named Endurance, rather than a new Dragon spacecraft that was originally planned. SpaceX's teams are now conducting additional assessments of the spacecraft's hardware to ensure it meets NASA's Commercial Crew Program safety standards.

The decision to speed up the return of Williams and Wilmore comes after US President Donald Trump personally asked SpaceX CEO Elon Musk to help bring the astronauts home as soon as possible. Musk has expressed his frustration with the prolonged stay of the astronauts, calling it "terrible" that they have been stranded on the ISS for so long, despite NASA's coordination with SpaceX for their return.



## Netanyahu Warns of Renewed Military Action If Hamas Fails to Release Hostages

TPN Correspondent | Tel Aviv

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has issued a stern warning to Hamas following the group's recent announcement that it will not release Israeli hostages, citing a violation of the ceasefire-hostage agreement. Netanyahu emphasized that Israel will resume intense military action if Hamas fails to meet the Saturday deadline for releasing the hostages.

The Prime Minister's office released a statement on X (formerly Twitter) on Tuesday, indicating that Netanyahu had instructed the Israeli Defense Forces (IDF) to mobilize inside and around the Gaza Strip. The military buildup is intended to prepare for a resumption of military operations, which Netanyahu said would focus on the "final defeat" of Hamas if the group fails to uphold the ceasefire.

"I have instructed the IDF to amass forces inside and surrounding the Gaza Strip. This action is underway and will soon be completed," Netanyahu's office stated. The post also clarified the government's position: "If Hamas does not return our hostages by Saturday noon, the ceasefire will end, and the IDF will resume intense fighting until the final defeat of Hamas."

The growing tensions come after Hamas broke the terms of the ceasefire agreement, which was intended to facilitate the release of hostages held by the militant group. The hostages' release had been a key element of the agreement, but Hamas now refuses to honor it, prompting Netanyahu's firm response.

Earlier, U.S. President Donald Trump also weighed in on the situation, advising Israel to take a tough stance on Hamas in order to secure the release of the hostages.



# Markets Witness Volatility as Global Uncertainty Sparks

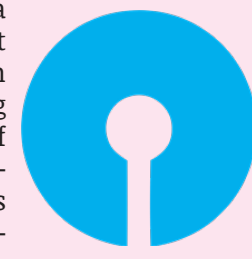


## Sell-Off, Followed by Strong Recovery

5.22 percent in December to 4.31 percent in January. The rupee has depreciated slightly against the dollar and settled at 86.88. Krasna Diagnostics' net profit has increased by 50% from Rs. 12.9 crore to Rs. 19.4 crore. Techno Electric's revenue has increased by 95.8% and EBITA by 60%. Man Industries has received an order worth Rs. 250 crore to supply various types of pipes. Kaveri Seed's net profit rose 36.4% to Rs 15 crore from Rs 11 crore. Kirloskar Brothers' net profit rose 44.5% to Rs 118 crore from Rs 82 crore. Hindustan Aeronautics' net profit rose 14% to Rs 1,253 crore from Rs 1,432 crore. Revenue rose 14% to Rs 6,957 crore from Rs 6,061 crore. HUDCO approved raising Rs 2,910 crore through private placement of bonds. Vijaya Diagnostics' net profit rose 36.4% to Rs 35.2 crore from Rs 25.8 crore.

significantly to its revenue streams. The company's prudent risk management practices and diversified portfolio have bolstered its financial stability.

**2.SBI Cards and Payment Services Ltd. (SBICARD):** SBI Cards is a leading credit card issuer in India, offering a wide range of credit card products to various customer segments. The company has shown robust growth in its cardholder base and spends per card. Recent analyst upgrades highlight improving asset quality and declining credit costs. For instance, Nuva-ma upgraded SBI Cards to 'Buy', citing these positive trends.



**4. UltraTech Cement Ltd. (ULTRACEMCO):** UltraTech Cement is the largest manufacturer of grey cement, ready-mix concrete, and white cement in India. The company has a strong market presence and has been focusing on capacity expansion and cost optimization to maintain its leadership position. Analysts have identified UltraTech Cement as a promising stock poised for growth, especially in light of infrastructure development initiatives.



**5. Tata Consumer Products Ltd. (TATACONSUM):** Tata Consumer Products is a key player in the food and beverages sector, with a diverse brand portfolio including Tata Tea, Tetley, and Tata Salt. In the fiscal year 2023-24, the company reported a 9% year-on-year increase in total revenue, surpassing ₹12,000 crore. This growth is attributed to innovation, brand development, and an expanded distribution network. The company also announced a dividend of ₹8 per share for the fiscal year, reflecting its commitment to rewarding shareholders.



**1.Bajaj Finserv Ltd. (BAJAJFINSV):** Bajaj Finserv is a prominent financial services conglomerate in India, operating across various sectors including lending, insurance, and wealth management. The company has demonstrated consistent growth in its loan book and maintains a strong presence in both the retail and corporate lending segments. Its subsidiaries, such as Bajaj Finance and Bajaj Allianz, contribute



**3. Ashok Leyland Ltd. (ASHOKLEY):** Ashok Leyland is a major player in the commercial vehicle sector in India. In the recent quarter, the company reported a 31.3% increase in profit, reaching ₹7.63 billion, driven by a significant rise in exports which offset domestic market challenges. Revenue from operations also saw a 2.2% uptick, amounting to ₹94.79 billion.



Domestic stock markets have been in a major turmoil today. They resembled a roller coaster ride. Benchmark indices collapsed in the early hours due to negative signals from global markets and Trump's tariffs. Nifty 200 and Sensex fell by 600 points. Investors took buying in heavyweights, and metal, finance and bank shares stood firm, leading to a sharp recovery in the indices. They covered losses and went into profit. They ended with minor losses as profit-taking took place in the end.



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of 23,144. It closed at 23,045, down 26 points. The Nifty Bank rose 76 points to settle at 49,479. In the Nifty50, 28 companies gained while 22 lost. Bajaj Finserv, SBI Life, Shriram Finance, HDFC Life, and Tata Steel were the top gainers. Mahindra & Mahindra, Eicher Motors, BEL, Power Grid, and IndusInd Bank were the biggest losers. PSU bank, finance, and metal indices rose. Auto, IT, pharma, realty, healthcare, and oil and gas indices rose.

Market breadth is more in favor of sellers on NSE today. Out of 2925 stocks traded, 1154 gained and 1685 lost. Shares of 18 companies reached 52-week highs while 611 reached 52-week lows.

India's retail inflation has reached a 5-month low. It has declined from

The BSE Sensex, which closed at 76,293 in the previous session, opened at 76,188 on Wednesday. It touched an intraday low of 75,388. It reached an intraday high of 76,454. It finally closed at 76,171, down 122 points. The NSE Nifty, which opened at 23,050, touched a low of 22,798 and a high

## Nirmala Sitharaman to Introduce Income-Tax Bill 2025 in Lok Sabha Today



**TPN Correspondent | New Delhi** Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman will introduce the Income-Tax Bill 2025 in the Lok Sabha today, aiming to replace the six-decade-old Income Tax Act of 1961. The new Bill seeks to simplify and consolidate existing tax laws without introducing any new taxes. If passed, the new law is expected to come into effect from April 2026. According to the official list of parliamentary business, Sitharaman will move for leave to introduce the Bill, which is designed to eliminate obsolete provisions, reduce litigation, and enhance compli-

ance. Experts believe the revamped law will make tax regulations more transparent and taxpayer-friendly. **Key Changes in the Income-Tax Bill 2025:** The Income-Tax Bill 2025 introduces a simplified tax structure by replacing complex terminologies with clearer language. It eliminates the distinction between 'assessment year' and 'previous year,' introducing a single 'tax year' starting from April 1 each year. Additionally, redundant provisions like the Fringe Benefit Tax have been removed, and excessive legal jargon has been streamlined

to improve clarity and compliance. The Bill also focuses on making tax laws more transparent and easier to understand. It removes lengthy explanations and provisos, ensuring straightforward provisions. Furthermore, commonly used legal terms like 'notwithstanding' have been replaced with 'irrespective' to enhance readability and interpretation for taxpayers. The move comes as part of the government's effort to modernize tax laws and create a simpler and more efficient tax system for individuals and businesses.

## Massive Crackdown on GST Fraud

- ₹1.89 lakh crore GST evasion detected across multiple cases.
- ₹1,196 crore ITC scam busted by DGGI Pune Zonal Unit.
- Over 90,000 fake GST registrations identified in special drives.
- 132 arrests made, with ₹20,128 crore recovered.

**TPN Correspondent | New Delhi** Authorities have intensified their crackdown on Goods and Services Tax (GST) fraud, uncovering tax evasion cases amounting to ₹1.89 lakh crore through multiple operations. These include a nationwide investigation by Central GST (CGST) officers and a ₹1,196 crore fraudulent Input Tax Credit (ITC) scam unearthed by the Pune Zonal Unit of the Directorate General of GST Intelligence (DGGI). Between April and December 2024, CGST officials detected tax evasion worth ₹1.88 lakh crore across 72,393 cases, leading to 132 arrests and a recovery of ₹20,128 crore. Minister of State for Finance Pankaj Chaudhary informed the Lok Sabha that extensive operations in 2023 and 2024 revealed over 90,000 fake GST registrations, exposing tax fraud of nearly ₹50,000 crore. In the previous fiscal year (2023-24), ₹2.30 lakh crore in tax evasion was identified, with 223 arrests and ₹31,758 crore recovered.

In a separate case, the Pune Zonal Unit uncovered a complex network of shell companies involved in fake invoicing and fraudulent ITC claims worth ₹1,196 crore. A Muzaffarnagar-based director of a private firm, identified as the mastermind, allegedly created bogus firms and manipulated records to evade taxes. Investigators have seized crucial financial documents, company stamps, and digital evidence while freezing a linked bank account. Additionally, in Maharashtra's Thane district, authorities arrested Kapadiya Mahamad Sultan, who orchestrated another ITC fraud by setting up 18 fictitious firms to generate fake invoices. Officials confirmed that these fraudulent entities had no legitimate business operations. The government remains firm on curbing GST fraud through stringent enforcement measures, ensuring compliance with tax regulations nationwide.

## Bharat Forge Q3 Profit Falls 16% to ₹212.78 Crore

- Bharat Forge's net profit declined by 16% to ₹212.78 crore.
- Revenue for the third quarter stood at ₹3,475.55 crore.
- EBITDA fell 8% YoY to ₹609.7 crore, with a slight margin dip to 29.1%.
- Bharat Forge declared an interim dividend of ₹2.5 per equity share.
- IFCI reported a net loss of ₹59 crore, rising 486% YoY.

**TPN Correspondent | Mumbai** Bharat Forge Ltd (BFL) and IFCI Ltd announced their third-quarter financial results for the fiscal year 2024-25, showing a mixed performance across the corporate sector. While Bharat Forge witnessed a decline in net profit and revenue, IFCI reported a significant widening of net losses. Bharat Forge Ltd reported a 16% drop in its net profit for the quarter ending December 2024, with earnings at ₹212.78 crore compared to the previous year. The company's total revenue stood at ₹3,475.55 crore, reflecting a decline from the year-ago period. Despite lower total expenses of ₹3,165.37 crore against ₹3,529 crore in the corresponding quarter last year, profitability took a hit. The company's operational performance saw a decline as EBITDA (earnings before interest, tax, depreciation, and amortization) dropped 8% year-on-year to ₹609.7 crore from ₹663 crore. The EBITDA margin for the quarter slightly fell

to 29.1% from 29.3% in the same period of the previous fiscal year. BFL's board declared an interim dividend of ₹2.5 per equity share of face value ₹2 each, at a rate of 125%. The company has scheduled the payment for March 12, with February 18 set as the record date. The announcement came after market hours, with Bharat Forge shares closing at ₹1,105.55 on the BSE, down by ₹6.85 or 0.62%.

**IFCI's Net Loss Widens to ₹59 Crore** Meanwhile, IFCI Ltd, a PSU-NBFC, reported a sharp increase in its net loss for the October-December quarter. The company's standalone financial results revealed a net loss of ₹59 crore, marking a 486% surge compared to a net profit of ₹10.06 crore in the same quarter last year. The financial strain was evident in its net interest income (NII), which dropped 21% to ₹80 crore from ₹101 crore in the year-ago period. Net interest income is a crucial revenue source for non-banking financial companies (NBFCs) and institution-



al lenders. Additionally, the company's total revenue from core operations declined 10% to ₹193 crore from ₹215 crore in the same quarter last year, reflecting a weakened financial performance. Despite the loss, IFCI Ltd's share price saw a marginal gain of 1.26%, closing at ₹48.98 on Wednesday, compared to ₹48.37 in the previous session. The company released its results after market hours. IFCI shares have fluctuated significantly, hitting a 52-week high of ₹91.39

on July 25, 2024, and a 52-week low of ₹35.87 on March 14, 2024. The company's market capitalization stood at ₹12,801.37 crore as of the latest market close. While IFCI shares have delivered over 700% returns to investors in the last five years, they have dropped nearly 16% over the past year and are down 20.20% on a year-to-date (YTD) basis. As both companies navigate financial challenges, investors remain watchful of further developments in the coming quarters.



## Samsung Galaxy F06 5G and Galaxy S25 Edge: Latest Updates

TPN Correspondent, New Delhi

Samsung has launched the Galaxy F06 5G in India as an affordable 5G smartphone, featuring a MediaTek Dimensity 6300 chipset and a dual-camera setup. The phone, available in Bahama Blue and Lit Violet, will be sold via Flipkart, Samsung's online store, and select offline retailers. It is priced at ₹10,999 for the 4GB+128GB variant and ₹11,499 for the 6GB+128GB model, with a ₹500 bank cashback offer available. The Galaxy F06 5G sports a 6.7-inch HD+ display with 800 nits brightness and runs on One UI 7.0 based on Android 15. Samsung promises four years of Android OS updates and security patches. The rear camera setup includes a 50MP primary sensor and a 2MP depth sensor, while the front has an 8MP selfie camera. A 5,000mAh battery with 25W fast charging powers the device, and it supports 12 5G bands, along with security features like Samsung Knox Vault.



Meanwhile, another Samsung smartphone, the Galaxy S25 Edge, has appeared on the GeekBench database with the model number SM-S937B. Expected to launch alongside the Galaxy S25 series, it is reportedly thinner than other models in the lineup. The

GeekBench listing reveals a single-core score of 2,806 and a multi-core score of 8,416. The device is powered by the Snapdragon 8 Elite chipset with CPU cores clocked at up to 4.47GHz and comes with 12GB of RAM. It runs on Android 15 and is expected to launch in April.

## Katra-Srinagar Vande Bharat Set for Inauguration Expected to Begin Operations Soon

TPN Correspondent, Srinagar The eagerly awaited Katra-Srinagar Vande Bharat Express is set to enhance connectivity between Jammu and Kashmir, marking a significant milestone in railway infrastructure. Though an official announcement from Indian Railways is awaited, multiple reports indicate that the train is likely to be inaugurated on February 17 by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The launch is expected to coincide with the inauguration of the Sangaldan-Riyasi track, which will enable direct train services from Katra to Srinagar.



The train will operate on the Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Rail Link (USBRL), significantly reducing travel time between Jammu and Srinagar. It will pass through the iconic Chenab Bridge, the world's highest railway bridge, and make stops at key stations such as Udhampur, Banihal, Qazigund, Anantnag, and Awantipora. The train's introduction follows a successful trial run of the specially designed Vande Bharat for the region, conducted by Indian Railways last month. While the official ticket prices have not yet been announced,

early estimates suggest that fares for the AC Chair Car will range between ₹1,500 and ₹1,600, while the Executive Chair Car tickets may cost between ₹2,200 and ₹2,500. The train is expected to depart from Katra at 8:10 AM and reach Srinagar at 11:20 AM, while on the return journey, it will leave Srinagar at 8:55 AM and arrive in Katra at 12:05 PM. The Katra-Srinagar Vande Bharat Express is equipped with advanced safety and passenger comfort features, including the KAVACH anti-collision system, modern ergonomic seating, automatic plug doors, fully sealed gangways, and a mini pantry with hot cases and freezers. The

train has been specifically designed to withstand extreme weather conditions, capable of operating in temperatures as low as -20 degrees Celsius. The onboard bio-toilets are equipped with technology to prevent water from freezing in harsh winter conditions. As of January 2025, Indian Railways operates 136 Vande Bharat train services across the country, with almost full occupancy, according to Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw. The launch of the Katra-Srinagar Vande Bharat is expected to provide a major boost to connectivity in Jammu and Kashmir, offering passengers a faster, more comfortable, and reliable travel option.

## Hypervelocity Star With a Planet Spotted Racing Through the Galaxy



**Key Observations:** The system moves at an estimated 1.2M mph, possibly exceeding the Milky Way's escape speed. Microlensing data suggests a star-planet or rogue planet-moon system. Follow-up studies from Keck and Gaia confirmed a fast-moving host star. NASA's Roman Space Telescope will provide clearer insights into such planetary systems. Astronomers have identified a potential record-breaking exoplanet system moving at a staggering speed of 1.2 million miles per hour (540 km/s). If confirmed, this would mark the first known case of a planet orbiting a hypervelocity star, nearly doubling the speed of

the solar system's movement through the Milky Way. The discovery, published in The Astronomical Journal, was made using microlensing observations from the MOA project, which detected a significant lensing event in 2011. Researchers inferred the presence of two celestial bodies with a mass ratio of approximately 2,300 to 1. However, due to the system's unknown distance, the exact masses remain uncertain. David Bennett, Senior Research Scientist at the University of Maryland and NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center, stated that while the mass ratio is clear, further observations are required to confirm whether the system consists of a low-mass star with a large planet or a

rogue planet with a smaller moon. Follow-up studies using data from the Keck Observatory in Hawaii and ESA's Gaia satellite revealed a potential host star about 24,000 light-years away in the galactic bulge. Its movement between 2011 and 2021 confirmed its extraordinary speed, raising the possibility that it may be traveling fast enough to eventually leave the Milky Way. Sean Terry, a postdoctoral researcher at NASA Goddard, emphasized that future high-resolution imaging will be crucial in confirming the system's nature, eliminating the need for multiple observatories.

## Mahindra Scorpio N Pickup Spotted Testing in India



TPN Correspondent, New Delhi

The Mahindra Scorpio N pickup has been spotted testing on Indian roads, capturing attention with its single-cab and twin-cab versions. This marks the first time the single-cab model has been seen, indicating Mahindra's plans to expand its utility-focused lineup. The test mule was spotted in Manali, suggesting the vehicle is undergoing trials on challenging terrains

to assess its off-road capabilities. The heavily camouflaged prototype offers glimpses of the final production design while keeping key details under wraps. The overall silhouette of the Scorpio N pickup closely resembles the existing SUV but with several notable changes. The flat bonnet and revised styling appear to prioritize practicality over a sporty look. The rear design hints at similarities with the previous

Scorpio Getaway, with halogen tail lamps replacing LED units. The tailgate design also contributes to a more utilitarian stance, moving away from the aggressive styling of the concept version unveiled in Cape Town. One major change is the rollbar, which has been modified from the concept version. The new test model features a taller rollbar, diverging from the original design aligned with the cabin's roofline. Additionally, the single-cab variant comes equipped with diamond-cut alloy wheels, differing from the concept version's wheel design. Inside, the cabin layout appears to draw from the Mahindra Scorpio N, hinting at a premium interior aimed at providing comfort and convenience. The presence of advanced features similar to those in Mahindra's SUV range is also anticipated, making the pickup more appealing to a broader audience.

## 2025 Vespa Scooters Launched in India With Updated Features



Vespa has introduced its latest range of scooters in India, featuring subtle design updates and advanced technology across its lineup. The newly launched models include the Vespa 125, Vespa S 125, Vespa 150, Vespa 150 S, Qala 125, Vespa Tech 125, Vespa S Tech 125, Vespa Qala 150, Vespa Tech 150, and Vespa S Tech 150. Additionally, a special edition Vespa S Oro with a

gold-tinted design has been unveiled.

Diego Graffi, Chairman and MD of Piaggio Vehicles Pvt Ltd, emphasized Vespa's cultural significance, stating, "Vespa has always been more than just a mode of transport. It is a cultural icon, a symbol of self-expression for many generations, and an inspiration for artists and creators." He highlighted that the 2025 lineup marks a new era for Vespa in India, focusing on a vibrant color palette and futuristic features to attract younger riders.

The Vespa and Vespa S have received design refinements to enhance their youthful appeal, with the Vespa lineup now available in seven new colors and the Vespa S in eight dual-tone options. The Vespa S Oro, a premium gold-tinted variant, further adds to the exclusivity of the range.

**Pricing Details:**

- Vespa 125 – ₹1,32,500 (ex-showroom)
- Vespa S 125 – ₹1.36 lakh (ex-showroom)
- Vespa Tech 125 – ₹1.92 lakh (ex-showroom)
- Vespa S Tech 125 – ₹1.96 lakh (ex-showroom)

The new Vespa Tech and Vespa S Tech models introduce advanced features such as keyless ignition, TFT Smart Dash, Bluetooth connectivity, and navigation. Vespa has also launched the special edition Qala variant, inspired by the celebratory motifs of Mehendi, catering to Indian aesthetics.



## National Equestrian Championship Showjumping 2025 Begins in Meerut



The National Equestrian Championship (NEC) Showjumping 2025 commenced Tuesday at the Modi Equestrian Academy, Meerut, marking a major event in India's equestrian calendar. With over 250 participants, riders will compete in five categories: Preliminary Tour, Novice Tour, Young Horse Championship, Medium Tour, and the Championship Tour, which will determine the National Champion for the 2024-25 season. The event features top riders, including Sehaj Singh Virk, Tejas Dhingra, Kirat Singh Nagra, Ashray Butta, and Yashaan Zubin Khambat-

ta. Notably, 15-year-old M Krishna Sahithi is competing in the Medium Tour, highlighting the championship's commitment to nurturing young talent. EFI Secretary General, Retd. Col. Jaiveer Singh, emphasized that the NEC serves as a crucial stepping stone for Indian riders aspiring for international competition. The tournament features varying jump heights, with the Championship Tour reaching 150cm obstacles. The event is set to showcase the best of Indian equestrian sports over the coming days.

## Sonam and Neeraj Shine at Rifle/Pistol National Selection Trials



Railway shooter Sonam Uttam Maskar and Army shooter Neeraj Kumar claimed victories on day four of the Rifle/Pistol National Selection Trials (Group A) at Dr. Karni Singh Shooting Range, Delhi. Sonam, a three-time ISSF medallist, dominated the Women's 10m Air Rifle T1 final, shooting 253.2 to defeat national champion Ananya Naidu of Maharashtra, who finished 1.3 points behind. Earlier, Sonam topped the qualification round with 633.9, surpassing Olympians Elavenil Valarivan (632.6) and Ayonika Paul (630.4). She maintained her lead throughout the final, pulling ahead decisively after the

16th shot. Maharashtra's Arya Rajesh Borse secured third place. In a stunning performance, Neeraj Kumar clinched the Men's 25m Rapid-Fire Pistol (RFP) T2 final, defeating Paris Olympics duo Anish and Vijayveer Sidhu, who settled for silver and bronze, respectively. Anish topped the qualification with 590, but Neeraj delivered an exceptional final, hitting four perfect 5s in six series, finishing three points ahead with 31. Meanwhile, Manu Bhaker, double Olympic bronze medallist, showcased her form in the Women's 25m Pistol T2 event, leading the first precision round with 297 out of 300.

## India Thrash Macau 5-0 to Seal Quarterfinal Berth at Badminton Asia Championship

India made a dominant start to their campaign at the Badminton Asia Mixed Team Championship, defeating Macau 5-0 in their opening Group D match on Wednesday. With the victory, India, who won bronze in the previous edition, secured a spot in the quarterfinals. The mixed doubles duo of Sathish Kumar Karunakaran and Aadya Variyath set the tone, beating Iok Chong Leong and Weng Chi Ng 21-10, 21-9. In men's singles, 2021 World Championships bronze medallist Lakshya Sen delivered a solid performance, outsmarting Pang Fong Pui 21-16, 21-12, giving India a 2-0 lead. Malvika Bansod then sealed the tie with a clinical 21-15, 21-9 victory over Hao Wai Chan in women's singles. India will face Korea in their second and final group tie on Thursday, aiming to continue their strong form ahead of the quarterfinals.



## Delhi Open: Niki-Courtney Secure Hard-Fought Victory in Opener



India's Niki Kaliyanda Poonacha and Zimbabwe's Courtney John Lock kicked off their Delhi Open 2025 doubles campaign with a hard-fought 2-6, 7(7)-6(5), 10-6 victory over the Czech duo Marek Gengel and Dalibor Svrčina at the DLTA Complex on Wednesday. The second-seeded pair fought back from a tough

opening set, clinching the second-set tiebreaker before sealing the win in the decisive match tiebreak. With top seeds Blake Ellis and Tristan Schoolkate withdrawing, Poonacha and Lock are now the highest-ranked pair in the draw. However, their replacements, Parth Aggarwal

and Sidharth Rawat, suffered a first-round exit against Enzo Couacaud and Kelsey Stevenson. In singles, Mukund Sasikumar bowed out in the Round of 16, losing 6-4, 6-3 to Belgium's Michael Geerts. Meanwhile, third seed Tristan Schoolkate survived a three-hour battle to defeat Valentin Vacherot 7-6, 3-6, 6-4. Qualifier Andre Ilagan impressed with a commanding 6-2, 6-3 victory over eighth seed Timofey Skatov, while Kyrian Jacquet eased past Jay Clarke 7-5, 6-3. In doubles, third seeds Clarke and Johannes Ingildsen dominated Siddarth Banthia and Parikshit Somani, while Shintaro Mochizuki and Kaito Uesugi edged past Ramkumar Ramanathan and Karan Singh 3-6, 6-1, 10-7. Michael Geerts and Kimmer Coppejans also secured a win over August Holmgren and Elmer Moller, while Kris Van Wyk and Eric Vanshelboom wrapped up the day's action with a 6-4, 6-3 victory over wild cards SD Prajwal Dev and Sai Karteek Reddy Ganta.

## 3rd ODI: Gill, Kohli, and Iyer Power India to 356 Against England



In the third and final ODI against England, India set a daunting target of 357 runs, finishing their innings at 356 all-out. Shubman Gill was the

standout performer, scoring a fluent 112 off 104 balls, marking his seventh ODI century. His knock, which included 14 boundaries and 3 sixes, was

instrumental in consolidating India's innings, with crucial partnerships alongside Virat Kohli (52) and Shreyas Iyer (78). Gill's century helped push his average past 60 in ODIs and made him the only player to score a century in all three formats at the Narendra Modi Stadium. He was eventually dismissed by Adil Rashid, who took 4 wickets for 64 runs. Kohli's knock of 52 saw him struggle against Rashid but showcased his classic stroke play, including a beautifully timed drive off Mark Wood. Iyer's 78 ended when he edged a Rashid delivery behind. Hardik Pandya (17) and KL Rahul (40) added late runs but Rashid's brilliance in the middle overs limited India's progress.

## NorthEast United FC Aim to Complete League Double Against Jamshedpur FC in ISL

Football superstar Cristiano Ronaldo has spoken candidly about the Ballon d'Or awards, acknowledging that he used to feel frustrated when Lionel Messi won the prestigious honor more times than him. However, he now believes the award has lost its credibility, stating that Real Madrid's Vinicius Jr. deserved to win in 2024 over Manchester City's Rodri. In an interview with Spanish outlet La Sexta, Ronaldo admitted that while he used to be angry when Messi edged him in the Ballon d'Or race, he has now come to terms with it. "There is no credibility, Vinicius should be the Ballon d'Or winner. I have felt it many times and I felt angry. Over time I understood it, these are battles that you cannot win," said Ronaldo. Despite winning the Ballon d'Or five times, Ronaldo trails Messi, who has won the award eight times, further intensifying the long-standing rivalry between the two legends.



**Ronaldo: "I Am the Most Complete Player"**

When asked about his position in football history, Ronaldo confidently declared himself the "most complete" player ever, despite fans debating between Messi, Pele, and Maradona. "Taste is one thing, whether you prefer Messi, Pele, or Maradona, I hear it and I respect

it. But to say that Cristiano isn't complete is a lie. I'm the most complete. I don't see anyone better than me, and I say that with all my heart," he stated. At 39 years old, Ronaldo continues to play at the highest level with Al Nassr in Saudi Arabia, proving his longevity in football. His comments have reignited discussions on the GOAT debate, with fans and pundits weighing in on his legacy compared to Messi's.





## Vijay Deverakonda's New Movie Gets a Powerful Title, 'Kingdom' – Teaser is a Hit!

Vijay Deverakonda's upcoming film, directed by Gautam Tinnanuri, has recently revealed its official title – Kingdom, and the teaser has created a huge buzz. The movie, which was previously working under the title VD 12, has now been officially named Kingdom, and the teaser, voiced by NTR (Jr NTR), makes it even more powerful. The teaser showcases Vijay's new look, which is different from his previous roles, highlighting intense action sequences and

emotional moments that are sure to captivate the audience. After the success of Jersey, Gautam Tinnanuri's direction in this film promises to offer something special.

The music for Kingdom is composed by Tamil star music director Anirudh Ravichander. The movie is set to release worldwide on May 30 this summer, adding to the excitement surrounding it. Fans are eagerly awaiting what promises to be a thrilling cinematic experience.

## Tensions in the Mega Family? Ram Charan Unfollows Allu Arjun Amid Growing Speculation

The Mega family, one of the most influential families in the Telugu film industry, has always been known for its close-knit ties, with celebrated figures like Megastar Chiranjeevi, Ram Charan, Varun Tej, and Sai Dharam Tej. Similarly, the Allu family, led by producer Allu Aravind and actor Allu Arjun, holds a significant place in Tollywood. However, recent developments have sparked speculation about tensions between the two families.

Fans were taken aback when Ram Charan unfollowed Allu Arjun on Instagram, following a similar move by Dhruva Tej, another member of the Mega family. This has led to questions regarding the relationship between the two stars.

Some believe that the tension might stem from the differing fortunes of their recent projects. Allu Arjun's



Pushpa 2 was a massive hit, grossing over Rs. 1300 crores, while Ram Charan's Game Changer faced a major setback. Additionally, a controversial remark by Allu Aravind about Game Changer fueled speculation, though he later clarified that there

was no ill intent. As no official statement has been made, fans are left wondering if this marks the beginning of a rift or a temporary misunderstanding in the Mega family. Time will reveal whether the issue is resolved or leads to a deeper

## Nora Fatehi Begins Shooting for 'Kanchana 4' in Hyderabad

Bollywood actress and dancer Nora Fatehi has officially begun shooting for the much-anticipated Kanchana 4 in Hyderabad. Known for her mesmerizing dance performances, especially in hits like Dilbar, Nora is set to surprise audiences with her new role in this popular horror-comedy franchise.

The actress, eager to take on a new challenge, will be seen in a comic avatar, which marks a departure from her usual performances. Kanchana 4 is the fifth installment of the Kanchana series, directed by Raghava Lawrence, who also stars in the lead role. The franchise, which started with Muni in 2007, has gained a massive fan following over the years, with Kanchana 2 and Kanchana 3 being major successes. Joining Nora in this in-



stallment is Pooja Hegde, while speculations regarding Mrunal Thakur's involvement were recently dismissed by Raghava Law-

rence. Nora was last seen in the dark comedy Madgaon Express, where she showcased her comedic skills.

## Baba Nirala's Return in Aashram Season 3 Part 2 Teaser Promises Darker Drama

The much-awaited Ek Badnaam Aashram Season 3 Part 2 teaser has been unveiled today, sending excitement through the fanbase. The gripping teaser hints at Baba Nirala's resurgence to power, accompanied by growing tensions within his loyal followers and the sinister secrets lurking in his inner circle.

Bobby Deol, who portrays the iconic character of Baba Nirala, expressed his enthusiasm, stating, "The journey has been incredible, and the love from fans is overwhelming. This time, the stakes are higher, and the drama bolder."

Amogh Dusad, Head of Amazon MX Player, praised the series for redefining digital storytelling, promising an even more explosive chapter ahead. Producer Prakash Jha emphasized that



this season will explore deeper psychological themes of power, control, and exploitation, exposing the darker side of faith. With suspense, betrayal, and re-

venge at its core, Aashram Season 3 Part 2 is set to deliver another thrilling, edge-of-the-seat experience for viewers.

## Khushi Kapoor Shares Heartwarming Post for Sister Janhvi Ahead of Loveyapa Release

Khushi Kapoor's latest Instagram post has captured the hearts of fans, showing off her cozy, homey vibes and a sweet message for her older sister, Janhvi Kapoor. Sharing a mirror selfie, Khushi humorously apologized for borrowing Janhvi's shorts, writing, "Sorry I wore your shorts I will keep them back."

The carousel post also featured a bouquet of roses in appreciation for Loveyapa and some adorable pictures with her pet dogs. This comes just ahead of the release of her first theatrical film Loveyapa, where she stars opposite Junaid Khan.

In a heartwarming gesture, Janhvi posted a message on Instagram, expressing pride in Khushi's achievements and wishing her the best for her movie debut. She also teased Khushi with a playful caption, saying, "You better wear a t-shirt with my face on it when my movie releases." Fans are eagerly awaiting Loveyapa, a rom-com that releases tomorrow.



## Mohammad Kaif and Ram Charan's Photo Breaks the Internet

A picture of former Indian cricketer Mohammad Kaif and Bollywood star Ram Charan has gone viral after Kaif shared it on social media. The duo met at the Indian Street Premier League (ISPL) event in Mumbai, where Ram Charan was supporting his team, Falcon Risers Hyderabad, which he announced he owned in December 2023. Kaif took to X (formerly Twitter) to share his thoughts on meeting the actor, writing, "You meet him and you want to do a Naatu Naatu step. Such a global superstar but so down to earth. You made all of us proud. Best wishes for many more hits. #ramcharan."

Ram Charan's presence at the event highlighted his support for street cricket in India. His recent film Game Changer faced disappointing box-office results, but he's now focusing on his upcoming project, RCI6, directed by Buchi Babu Sana, starring Janhvi Kapoor and others.

