



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.

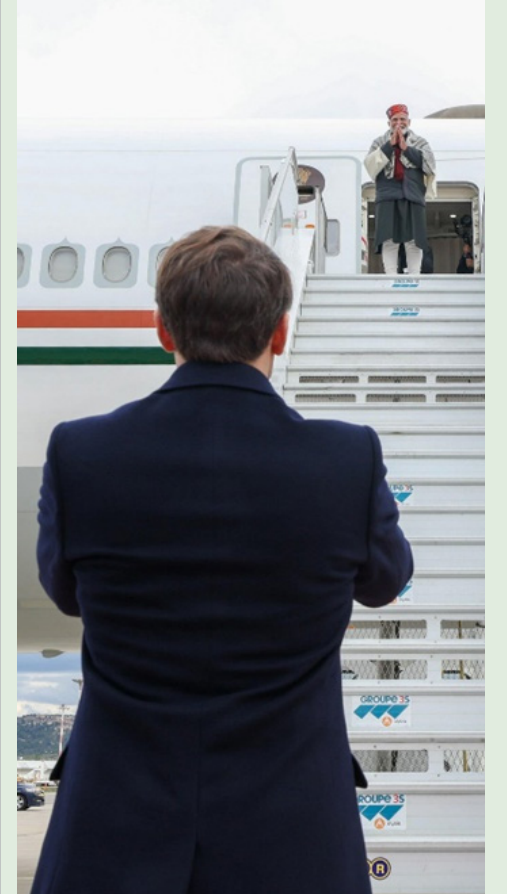
India's UPI payment system expands to France.

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.

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



3 PAGE

BJP Yet to Name Biren Singh's Successor

Manipur Faces Prospect of President's Rule

BJP yet to decide on Biren Singh's replacement.

Manipur missed the Assembly session deadline.

Governor Bhalla awaits BJP's decision.

TPN Correspondent | Imphal

Three days after N. Biren Singh resigned as Manipur's Chief Minister, the BJP leadership has yet to finalize his successor, raising concerns over a possible constitutional crisis. With the deadline to convene the Assembly expiring on Wednesday, the state faces the prospect of President's Rule under Article 356.

As per Article 174(1) of the Constitution, a state Assembly must convene within six months of its last sitting. Manipur's last session was on August 12, 2024, making February 12 the deadline. However, Governor Ajay Bhalla canceled the Budget session scheduled for Monday after Singh resigned on Sunday.

BJP's northeast in-charge, Sambit Patra, has been in Imphal, holding discussions with MLAs. Despite signs of progress on Tuesday, no final decision was reached. Patra and other BJP leaders met Governor Bhalla twice, informing him that the party was still working on selecting a new chief minister.

With no resolution in sight, all eyes are on the Governor, who must decide whether to place the Assembly in suspended animation and recommend President's Rule. A final decision on the next chief minister is expected after Prime Minister Narendra Modi returns from the US.



Opposition Criticism and BJP's Response

The Congress has slammed the BJP for failing to select a leader and reconvene the Assembly. Former Manipur Assembly Speaker Thokchom Lokeshwar accused Sambit Patra of deliberately stalling the process.

2 PAGE

Delhi HC Sends Ex-Judge's 'Freebies Are Corruption' Plea To Top Court

- Delhi HC declines to hear election freebies case, directs plea to SC.
- Justice SN Dhingra argues cash promises violate election laws.
- SC questions long-term impact of freebie culture on governance.



TPN Correspondent | Delhi

The Delhi High Court on Wednesday declined to hear a petition filed by former judge Justice SN Dhingra, challenging the promises of freebies made by political parties in the lead-up to the recent Delhi Assembly elections. Dhingra had argued that such promises by the AAP, BJP, and Congress amounted to "corrupt practices" under the Representation of People Act. He sought the Election Commission's intervention to investigate these promises, declare them unconstitutional, and prevent parties from collecting personal data of voters for third-party use.

The High Court advised Dhingra to approach the Supreme Court, citing a similar case already pending there. The Election Commission had informed the court that the matter was being addressed in the top court.

Justice Dhingra's complaint centered around the parties' promises of direct cash transfers to women voters, with the AAP offering Rs 2,100 per month, while the BJP and Congress promised Rs 2,500 each. Dhingra contended that these promises were tantamount to bribery, violating electoral laws.

As political parties campaigned heavily for women voters, they also made a range of other promises,

including special payments to pregnant women and free travel on city buses. These moves were seen as key strategies to attract voters in the fiercely contested Delhi election.

At the same time, the Supreme Court was hearing a case related to the practice of political parties offering freebies during elections. Justices BR Gavai and Augustine George Masih noted the widespread nature of these promises, observing that they contributed to a culture where people expect free benefits without work. This issue came up during a hearing concerning the right to shelter for homeless individuals in urban areas. The court also expressed concerns over the long-term sustainability of such policies.

In December, the Supreme Court had questioned the viability of offering continued freebies, especially after the Covid-19 pandemic, and urged the government to focus on creating job opportunities for migrant workers who have been receiving free rations.

Meanwhile, the BJP triumphed in the 2025 Delhi Assembly elections, securing 48 seats, while AAP won 22 seats, and Congress failed to win a single seat.

Supreme Court to Hear CEC Appointment Law Challenge on Feb 19



TPN Correspondent | Delhi

The Supreme Court is set to hear petitions challenging the 2023 law on the appointment of the Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) and Election Commissioners on February 19. The current CEC, Rajiv Kumar, is scheduled to retire on February 18, which has added urgency to the matter, as the government may appoint a successor under the contested law.

Advocate Prashant Bhushan, representing the NGO "Association for Democratic Reforms," told the bench of Justices Surya Kant and N Kotiswar Singh that the case was originally scheduled for Wednesday, but it had been rescheduled to February 19 due to Justice Kant's illness. Bhushan emphasized the need for an expedited hearing, citing the imminent retirement of CEC Rajiv Kumar and the possibility of the government appointing his replacement under the provisions of the 2023 law, which is being challenged.

The bench acknowledged the urgency of the matter, stating, "If anything happens in the interregnum, the consequences are bound to follow." This statement under-

lined the potential repercussions if the government proceeds with the appointment before the legal challenge is addressed.

The 2023 law, which alters the process for selecting the CEC and Election Commissioners, has drawn significant criticism. Under the new law, the Centre has gained a dominant role in the appointment process. Previously, the Selection Committee for the CEC and Election Commissioners included the Chief Justice of India, alongside the Prime Minister and the Leader of the Opposition. However, the new law allows for the inclusion of a Union Cabinet Minister, a move critics argue undermines the neutrality of the process and increases government influence over the Election Commission.

Notably, retired bureaucrats Gyanesh Kumar and Sukhbir Singh Sandhu were appointed as Election Commissioners under the new law just before last year's Lok Sabha elections. Critics contend that this shift, which strengthens the government's control over the appointment process, risks compromising the independence of the Election Commission.

NDMC Kicks Off Third Edition of Tulip Festival in Delhi

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

The third edition of the annual Tulip Festival, hosted by the New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC), began on Tuesday with the planting of 350,000 tulip bulbs at several locations, predominantly at Shanti Path in Chanakyapuri. The event was inaugurated by Lieutenant Governor VK Saxena and Dutch Ambassador Marisa Gerards.



This year, of the total bulbs planted, 325,000 were imported from The Netherlands, while the remaining 15,000 were locally produced in Palampur, Himachal Pradesh. An NDMC official stated that their goal is to reduce dependence on imports over the next four years. The tulips, named 'maitri' in recognition of the bond between India and The Netherlands, symbolize the friendship between the two nations.

The festival will run until February 23, and visitors are flocking to Shanti Path to admire the vibrant colors of the tulips in hues of red, yellow, white, purple, and orange, creating a picturesque scene. The tulips have been planted in vari-

ous areas, including 20 Delhi Development Authority (DDA) parks, the Central Park at Connaught Place, the NDMC Convention Centre lawn, and notable gardens like Lodhi Garden and Talkatora Garden.

NDMC has also placed 100,000 potted tulips for sale to the public. Visitors can purchase a single potted tulip for ₹89 or a pot containing three flowers for ₹217. In addition, an exhibition showcasing the history of tulips, their various varieties, and the historical significance of the monuments around Shanti Path has been organized.

Ambassador Marisa Gerards remarked on the event's significance, stating, "We are planting the tulips to celebrate the friendship between our two countries. We are pleased to see Delhi doing so well in growing tulips, and our collaboration spans many important sectors like agriculture, health, water management, and innovation."

The Tulip Festival in Delhi has grown in prominence since its trial run in 2017-18, attracting both locals and tourists alike to experience the beauty of these international blooms in the heart of the capital.

Gold Prices Decline Amid Weak Global Trends, Silver Prices Rise

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

Gold prices fell by Rs 340 to Rs 87,960 per 10 grams in the national capital on Wednesday, following weak global market trends, as reported by the All India Sarafa Association. The price of 99.9% purity gold had closed at Rs 88,300 per 10 grams on Tuesday.



Gold of 99.5% purity also saw a decrease of Rs 340, dropping to Rs 87,560 per 10 grams, compared to the previous session's price of Rs 87,900.

On the other hand, silver prices saw an uptick of Rs 600, rising to Rs 97,200 per kg on Wednesday.

In futures trading on the MCX, gold contracts for April delivery saw a drop of Rs 659, or 0.77%, settling at Rs 84,864 per 10 grams.

Jateen Trivedi, VP Research Analyst at LKP Securities, explained that gold experienced a breather after its recent strong rally. The weakening prices in both Comex and MCX markets suggested some short-term pressure on the precious metal. Trivedi also

noted that the upcoming US Consumer Price Index data would be crucial in determining the interest rate trend, which could impact gold prices moving forward.

Internationally, Comex gold futures dropped by USD 26, falling to USD 2,906.60 per ounce. Analysts pointed out that gold prices were weighed down by reduced expectations of aggressive interest rate cuts, after Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell indicated no immediate urgency for further rate reductions during his testimony before the US Congress. Powell's comments led to an increase in US Treasury yields, further pressuring gold prices.

1st Page Cont..

BJP Yet to Name Biren Singh's Successor

However, BJP MLA Karam Shyam dismissed concerns over President's Rule, stating that the Centre and MLAs would resolve the issue.

Resignation Amid Political Uncertainty

Biren Singh resigned on Sunday, a day before his government was set to face a no-confidence motion and floor test. His exit came nearly two years after ethnic violence erupted in May 2023, with the Opposition demanding his removal. A petition was also filed in the Supreme Court, citing leaked audio tapes allegedly linking Singh to the unrest. As Manipur awaits a resolution, the Governor's decision in the coming days will determine whether the state remains under an elected government or moves towards central rule.

No Guarantee You'll Return: Indrani Mukerjea Cannot Travel Abroad

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

The Supreme Court on Wednesday dismissed the petition of Indrani Mukerjea, accused of murdering her daughter Sheena Bora, challenging the Bombay High Court's decision that denied her permission to travel abroad. Mukerjea had sought to visit Spain and the United Kingdom for a 10-day period over the next three months.

A bench consisting of Justices MM Sundresh and Rajesh Bindal directed the trial court to complete the proceedings in the case within a year. The plea for travel permission was opposed by the counsel for the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), citing the sensitivity of the case, with 96 witnesses already having been examined.



Mukerjea's counsel argued that she had been granted bail by the Supreme Court, and there were still 92 witnesses to be ex-

amined. The defense also highlighted that the trial court had been vacant for the past four months, potentially delaying the proceedings further.

This travel request had originally been approved by a special court on July 19, which permitted Mukerjea to travel abroad. However, the CBI challenged this order, and on September 27, the Bombay High Court quashed the special court's ruling, prompting Mukerjea to approach the Supreme Court.

Indrani Mukerjea, a former media executive, is one of the prime suspects in the high-profile Sheena Bora murder case, which has garnered significant media attention. The trial has been ongoing, with multiple delays over the years.

I have not fled anywhere': AAP MLA Amanatullah on FIR against him



- AAP MLA Amanatullah Khan denies fleeing, calls case false.
- Police allege he helped a wanted man escape in Jamia Nagar.
- BJP claims Khan acted under AAP's political agenda.

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

AAP MLA Amanatullah Khan has denied fleeing from the authorities, following an FIR registered against him for allegedly leading an attack on a Delhi Police team in Jamia Nagar. In a letter to the Delhi Police Commissioner on Wednesday, Khan stated, "I am in my assembly constituency, I have not fled anywhere." This comes amid a hunt for the MLA, who is accused of helping a proclaimed offender

escape custody during a police operation.

According to the police, Khan was allegedly involved in obstructing the Crime Branch's attempt to arrest Shabaz Khan, a wanted individual in an attempted murder case. Police claim that the situation escalated when Amanatullah Khan and his supporters confronted the officers, allowing Shabaz to flee. Amanatullah Khan, however, maintains that the accused individual had already been granted bail

and that he is being wrongly implicated in a fabricated case to cover up police errors. Khan further accused the Delhi Police of fabricating the case to deflect from their own mistakes, pointing to the fact that Shabaz Khan had bail papers that should have cleared him of suspicion. In his letter, Khan asserted that his involvement in the incident is being misrepresented.

Meanwhile, BJP spokesperson Pradeep Bhandari accused Amanatullah Khan of acting at the behest of AAP leader Arvind Kejriwal. Bhandari claimed that Khan's actions, including threatening a reporter and inciting an attack on the police, were not isolated but part of a larger political agenda orchestrated by the AAP leadership.

Amanatullah Khan, who recently won his third consecutive term in the Okhla constituency in the 2025 Delhi Assembly elections, defeated BJP's Manish Chaudhary by a significant margin of 23,639 votes. Despite these allegations, Khan remains defiant, asserting his innocence as the investigation continues.

Congress prez Kharge asks PM Modi to raise tariff, deportation issues with Trump

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge on Wednesday called on Prime Minister Narendra Modi to raise two critical issues during his meeting with US President Donald Trump—India's concerns over tariffs and the treatment of Indian immigrants in the United States.

Kharge pointed out the US administration's decision to impose a 25% tariff on steel and aluminum imports, stressing that this measure would have significant consequences for India's manufacturing sector. "A 25% tariff on aluminum and steel imports, with no exemptions or exceptions, has serious repercussions for India's manufacturing. We must build closer trade ties between both countries with a mutually beneficial framework, given that the US is one of our biggest trading partners," Kharge wrote on X.

This move by President Trump, announced on Monday, dramatically increased the import



tariff on steel and aluminum by 25%, without exceptions for any country. The White House framed the decision as a response to unfair trade practices and the global dumping of steel and aluminum. This decision has prompted a strong global backlash, with the European Union vowing to implement countermeasures and Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau calling the tariffs "entirely unjustifiable," pledging a firm response.

In addition to the tariffs, Kharge raised concerns over the recent deportations of Indian immigrants from the US, which he described as

"traumatic." The deportation process, he noted, involved handcuffing individuals and chaining their legs, a practice that has understandably raised strong concerns among Indian citizens. The Congress president expressed hope that Prime Minister Modi would address these issues in his discussions with President Trump.

Kharge's statements highlight the ongoing trade tensions and the challenges faced by Indian immigrants in the US, underscoring the importance of PM Modi addressing these matters to safeguard India's interests on the global stage.

Supreme Court criticises election freebies: 'People not willing to work'

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

The Supreme Court on Wednesday strongly criticized the practice of announcing election freebies before elections, suggesting it has led to a disincentive for people to work. During a hearing on a case related to homeless people's right to shelter in urban areas, the bench comprising Justices B R Gavai and Augustine George Masih expressed concerns about the impact of such policies.

Justice Gavai remarked, "Un-

fortunately, because of these freebies... the people are not willing to work. They are getting free rations. They are getting amounts without doing any work." The observation was made in the context of the broader issue of urban poverty and the need for effective measures to address home-



lessness.

The bench also emphasized the importance of integrating homeless individuals into mainstream society. "We quite appreciate your concern for them, but would it not be better to make them a part of the mainstream of society and permit them to contribute to the development of the nation?" the bench stated, underscoring the significance of providing homeless people with opportunities to contribute to national growth.

Kejriwal puts chatter to rest: Mann to remain Punjab CM

TPN Correspondent | Punjab

AAP chief Arvind Kejriwal met with Punjab legislators on Tuesday to address growing speculation regarding a change in leadership in the state. After the meeting, Kejriwal put to rest any rumors about replacing Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann, affirming that Mann will continue in his role as CM.

The meeting, convened by Kejriwal, included key figures from the Aam Aadmi Party's Punjab leadership, such as CM Mann, Cabinet members, MPs, and MLAs. The gathering followed the AAP's disappointing performance in the recent Delhi Assembly elections, which prompted discussions within the party about its leadership and strategy moving forward.

Following the meeting, CM Bhagwant Mann publicly denied any truth to the reports suggesting a rift within the



party. He reassured party members and the public that there were no issues between him and the leadership and confirmed that he would remain in office as Punjab's Chief Minister.

The meeting served to strengthen the party's resolve in the face of setbacks and to maintain stability within its leadership ranks. Kejriwal's decision to clarify the situation publicly was seen as an effort to quell any uncertain-

ties regarding the future of AAP's governance in Punjab.

With speculation about a leadership change now put to rest, both Kejriwal and Mann emphasized their commitment to continuing the work they had started in Punjab. The AAP, which made significant inroads in the state with Mann's election as CM, remains focused on its long-term goals of reform and development, despite the electoral challenges faced in Delhi.

Money looted from Punjab now coming to Delhi? Swati Maliwal slams Kejriwal



TPN Correspondent | Delhi

Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) MP Swati Maliwal has lashed out at party chief Arvind Kejriwal, accusing him of massive corruption in Punjab, particularly in sand mining and transfer postings. She claimed that "some people have started considering Punjab as their personal ATM" and warned that Kejriwal could lose Punjab just as he lost Delhi if the issues were not addressed.



In her statement, Maliwal also accused the Punjab government of being under the control of sand mafias and alleged corruption at every level, particularly in the state's transfer posting system. She further claimed that real estate developers were being extorted for money.

Maliwal questioned the timing of an urgent meeting called by Kejriwal with AAP legislators from Punjab, following the party's poor performance in Delhi. She stated that many Punjab legislators felt confused and angry, suspecting that Kejriwal might now be eyeing Punjab after his defeat in Delhi.

As a result, Maliwal noted, there was growing anger among the people and MLAs of Punjab. She asked, "When Punjab has given the mandate to Arvind Kejriwal, what has he done for Punjab?"

BJP Weighs Two Deputy CM Posts for Delhi

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

As discussions intensify over the appointment of Delhi's next chief minister, the BJP is exploring the possibility of appointing two deputy chief ministers as part of its broader political strategy. This move, aimed at strengthening its foothold in the AAP-ruled Punjab and upcoming elections in Bihar, is being seriously considered while finalizing the new cabinet.

A group of newly elected BJP MLAs met with party president JP Nadda in the national capital on Tuesday to deliberate on potential candidates and cabinet structures. While the final decision on the new cabinet is expected to take shape after Prime Minister Narendra Modi's return from his international trips to France and the US, the party is already considering its options.



Though Delhi is not a full-fledged state, political developments here have far-reaching consequences across the country. By appointing two deputy chief ministers, the BJP could appeal to a broader spectrum of constituencies, leveraging this political move for maximum impact.

Punjab, in particular, has been a challenge for the BJP. The

AAP government, led by Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann, currently enjoys a significant majority, with Congress serving as the primary opposition. The BJP's efforts to regain influence in the region have been hindered by the aftermath of the farmer's protests and its fractured relationship with the Akali Dal. The party currently lacks a solid core constituency or a reliable ally in the state.

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 Sadasiv 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.

India Aims To Add 500 GW Of Renewable Energy Capacity By 2030: PM Modi



- Modi invites global investors to India's energy sector at IEW'25.
- Highlights 500 GW renewable energy and 5M tonnes green hydrogen goal.
- India leads in carbon reduction, solar expansion, and energy innovation.

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday urged global investors to explore the vast investment opportunities in India's energy sector, emphasizing the country's ambitious renewable energy goals for the next five years. Addressing the India Energy Week 2025 (IEW'25) virtually, the Prime Minister highlighted India's target of achieving 500 GW of renewable energy capacity and producing 5 million tonnes of green hydrogen by 2030.

"India offers many possibilities for investment in these sectors. There are new opportunities with the launch of fresh bidding rounds for oil and gas assets," said PM Modi, adding that these efforts align with the nation's broader en-

ergy ambitions. The Prime Minister described the energy sector as one of the key pillars of India's growth in the 21st century, stating that India's economic strength, political stability, and strategic geographical position make it an attractive destination for energy investments.

PM Modi also noted that India's commitment to global sustainability is opening up new avenues for the country's energy future. "Our energy goals are aligned with the deadline of 2030," he said, reiterating targets for India's green energy transformation, including the goal to make Indian Railways net-zero by 2030 and increase solar power generation capacity.

The Prime Minister pointed out

the significant progress India has made in the energy sector over the past decade. From becoming the world's fifth-largest economy to increasing solar generation capacity by 32 times, India's energy transformation is on track. India is also the first G20 country to meet its carbon emission reduction target set at the Paris climate conference.

IEW'25, which will feature energy buyers and producers engaging in key discussions in the national capital, is expected to be the second-largest global energy event in terms of participation. It will also showcase India's success with the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana, which aims to provide clean cooking energy to households and serve as a model for global adoption.

INDIA bloc still strong but internal discussion required: Kapil Sibal



TPN Correspondent | Delhi

Indian security agencies are preparing to hand over a list of the country's most wanted gangsters to their American counterparts in the coming days, according to sources. The list is expected to include at least 10 notorious criminals, some of whom are believed to be residing in the United States.

Among the individuals named in the list are Goldy Brar and Anmol Bishnoi, both of whom have been involved in organized crime and high-profile cases in India. The move is part of a bilateral agreement between India and the United States, signed last year, aimed at enhancing cooperation to combat cross-border crime and fugitive extradition.

Sources revealed that over the past year, senior officials from both nations have held multiple high-level meetings to discuss the issue, with efforts now at a decisive stage. This initiative reflects a broader strategy to curb criminal activities by targeting individuals who have sought refuge abroad to evade justice.

Though the handover of the list coincides with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's upcoming visit to the U.S., sources clarified that the move is not directly linked to his visit. The agreement had been reached previously, and the submission of the list is part of executing the terms of the pact.

The exchange of intelligence and enhanced security cooperation between India and the U.S. highlights the growing partnership between the two nations in tackling transnational crime. With this new step, both countries aim to expedite legal proceedings against the listed criminals and ensure they face justice.

Anmol Bishnoi, the brother of gangster Lawrence Bishnoi and a key suspect in the alleged plot to assassinate former Maharashtra minister Baba Siddique, was arrested in the U.S. last November. Meanwhile, Goldy Brar, accused of orchestrating the murder of Punjabi singer Sidhu Moosewala, is considered a significant figure in the Bishnoi gang and remains a key target for extradition.

RG Kar case: HC says corruption in high places has serious impact on public confidence

TPN Correspondent | Kolkata

The Calcutta High Court on Tuesday emphasized the importance of a prompt trial in a case involving financial irregularities at R G Kar Medical College and Hospital. The court was hearing an appeal by Sandip Ghosh, the former principal of the institution, seeking a postponement of the framing of charges. Ghosh, along with four others, was arrested by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) for alleged financial misconduct during his tenure.

A division bench, comprising Justice Joymalya Bagchi and Justice Gaurang Kanth, observed that corruption at high levels has a severe impact on public trust in government affairs. "Corruption in high places has serious impact on public confidence in the affairs of the state," the bench stated, highlighting the need for swift judicial

action to maintain public faith in the justice system.



The court further pointed out that a prompt trial would not only reinforce public trust but also ensure the accused, currently in judicial remand, receive a fair and timely trial. "A prompt trial of persons accused of corruption would reinforce the faith of the people in the justice delivery system," the bench remarked.

As the hearing began, the CBI submitted a report to the court, outlining its progress in the investigation, which was initiated following a directive from the high court. The bench noted that the CBI had agreed to provide electronic or scanned copies of relevant documents to the accused by Wednesday, ensuring transparency in the legal process. The accused would have the opportunity to verify the documents and request the CBI to submit a report to the trial judge.

The division bench also directed the special court handling the case to set a date for the trial before the next hearing in the high court, underscoring the urgency of addressing the serious charges involved. The court's comments reflected a commitment to ensuring justice is served efficiently while upholding the rights of both the accused and the public.

1.6 crore people take holy dip during Maha Kumbh on Maghi Purnima

TPN Correspondent | Mahakumbh

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.

A unique gesture for the devotees was the showering of flower petals from a helicopter above the Sangam, adding to the grandeur and spiritual significance of the occasion. The event was a display of the deep faith and reverence associated with the Kumbh Mela, one of the largest religious gatherings in the world.

As the Kalpavasis prepare to leave, authorities have taken additional steps to manage the large crowds, ensuring a safe and organized departure. The Maha Kumbh continues to attract millions of people, with Maghi Purnima serving as one of the most pivotal days in the month-long religious event.



India's missiles centre of attraction for world: Rajnath

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh highlighted India's growing prominence in the global defence sector, stating that the country's missile systems, fighter jets, and naval vessels are not only safeguarding national borders but also becoming a major focus of international attention. Speaking at the indigenisation event and the valedictory ceremony of Aero India 2025 in Bengaluru, Singh emphasized that India is undergoing a transformative and revolutionary phase in its defence capabilities.

Singh acknowledged the significance of

Aero India, calling it "historic" and "unparalleled" in its success. The event, which showcased India's indigenous aerospace and defence innovations, saw participation from global leaders, entrepreneurs, and startups. Rajnath Singh expressed immense pride in witnessing the event firsthand for the past three days, remarking on the palpable energy and enthusiasm that filled the air at the Yelahanka Air Base.

The Defence Minister underscored the remarkable enthusiasm not only among Indian participants but also among international exhibitors, entrepreneurs, and innovators. He applauded the immense con-

tributions from Indian startups, which he described as commendable, reflecting the country's growing strength in innovation and technology.

Singh further stated that Aero India has solidified India's position as a global player in the defence sector, with its state-of-the-art missile systems, fighter jets, and naval technologies drawing attention from the world over. The successful indigenisation of defence equipment is a testament to India's increasing self-reliance and technological advancements, he added.

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.

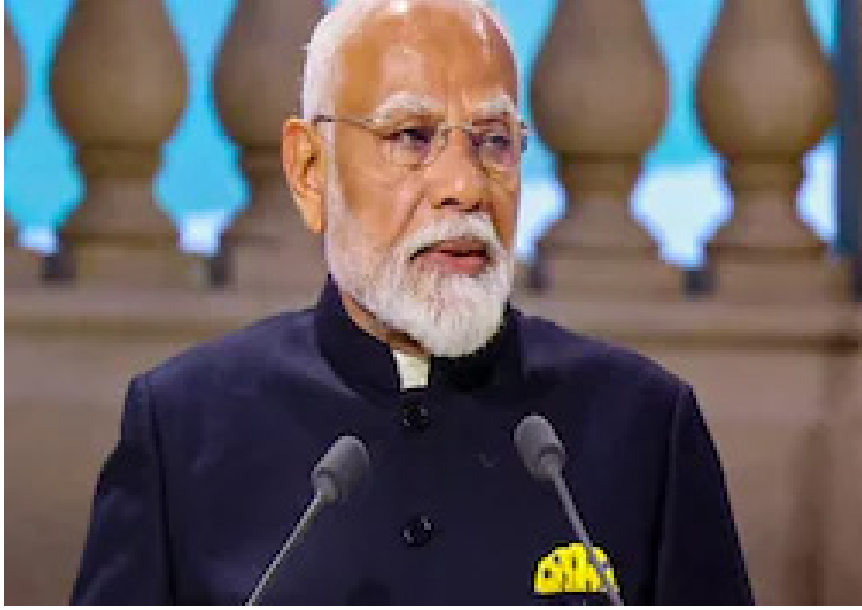
The Prime Minister's office released a statement on X (formerly Twitter) on Tuesday, indicating that Netanyahu had instructed the Israeli Defense Forces (IDF) to mobilize inside and around the Gaza Strip. The military buildup is intended to prepare for a resumption of military operations, which Netanyahu 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.

PM Modi Announces India's Development Model at AI Summit



- India developing its own large language model
- Modi emphasizes AI for human superiority over machines.
- India leads in AI adoption and data privacy solutions

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

India is developing its own large language model through a unique public-private partnership (PPP) model, Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced at the AI Action Summit in Paris. The prime minister emphasized that the initiative aims to pool resources like computing power and make them accessible to startups and researchers at an affordable cost, supporting India's AI growth.

"We are building our own large language model considering our diversity. It's a model where resources are pooled together, making them available to startups and researchers at an affordable cost," PM Modi stated. He further highlighted India's readiness to share its expertise and experiences to ensure the future of AI benefits everyone.

Co-chairing the summit alongside French President Emmanuel Macron, PM Modi also addressed concerns about AI, assuring that while India is at the forefront of the AI age, machines will never surpass human intelligence. "Machines may evolve, but humans will always hold the key to our collective future," he said.

The prime minister also discussed India's digital public infrastructure, which is designed to serve over 1.4 billion people. Citing the success of programs like the UPI network, Modi emphasized how India has created an open and accessible digital framework that has modernized the economy, reformed governance, and transformed citizens' lives.

He highlighted how the data from these projects forms the foundation of India's National AI Mission. "India is leading in AI adoption, data privacy solutions, and AI for public good, and has one of the largest AI talent pools in the world," Modi added.

During his visit to France, PM Modi is also set to tour the International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor (ITER) project, a major global nuclear fusion collaboration. Additionally, he will honor Indian soldiers at the Mazargues War Cemetery, reflecting on the historical ties between the nations.

After concluding his stay in France, PM Modi will travel to the US for a two-day visit at the invitation of President Donald Trump.

Israel's largest business delegation concludes visit to India

TPN Correspondent | Israel

A significant Israeli business delegation, led by Minister of Economy and Industry Nir Barkat, wrapped up a two-day visit to India on Wednesday. This delegation, the largest of its kind, featured over 100 top Israeli CEOs spanning key sectors such as healthcare, cybersecurity, high-level security, energy, automotive, retail, logistics, and high-tech industries. The goal of the visit was to showcase Israel's strengths and explore new avenues of economic cooperation between the two nations.

The delegation's packed agenda included high-level meetings with Indian business leaders and policymakers, discussions tailored to specific industries, and visits to key sites in sectors such as advanced manufacturing, fintech, MedTech, agritech, renewable energy, and cybersecurity. A key highlight was the delegation's meeting with Indian Minister of Commerce and Industry, Piyush Goyal.

Minister Barkat emphasized the historic nature of the visit, stating, "This historic delegation marks a new era of economic collaboration between Israel and India. We are here not just to do business, but to forge lasting strategic partnerships that will drive mutual growth." He further expressed confidence that this visit would lead to tan-



gible success stories and pave the way for a more prosperous future for both countries.

Israel and India share a longstanding partnership across various domains, including agriculture, defense, water technology, and high-tech industries. The visit marked a new chapter in enhancing bilateral economic collaboration, with both nations committed to expanding their joint efforts.

Israel's Ambassador to India, Reuven Azar, noted that the size and profile of the delegation underscored Israel's growing interest in India's economy. He explained that this reflects the rise of India as a global power, opening new opportunities not only as a market but also as a key partner in production and supply chains. This delegation has widened the scope for business partnerships in sectors such as innovation, infrastructure, and high-tech industries.

Indian-Origin Woman Racially Abused On UK Train By Drunk Passenger

TPN Correspondent | Washington

A disturbing incident of racial abuse occurred on a train traveling from London to Manchester, where Gabrielle Forsyth, a 26-year-old woman of Indian origin, was subjected to a vicious racist attack by an intoxicated man. The incident took place on Sunday as Forsyth was heading home and engaged in a casual conversation with a fellow passenger, mentioning her charity work supporting immigrants.

The situation escalated when a man, reportedly drinking from a can, overheard her comment and began a threatening and abusive tirade. According to Metro, the man launched into a racist and xenophobic rant, which was recorded in a now-deleted video. In the footage, the man aggressively shouted at Forsyth, making derogatory remarks about her background and England's colonial his-

tory. He boasted about England's past conquests, including the colonization of India, and made insulting remarks towards other passengers, labeling them as "immigrants."



"You're in England, you are claiming something. You would not be in England if you weren't claiming something. English people conquered the world and gave it back to you. We conquered India, we didn't want it, we gave it back to you," the man said in the video. His

rant continued with further offensive comments, "A lot of countries like that. Sorry about your f***ing sovereignty or whatever it is you are. Record me cause I'm recording you."

Towards the end of the video, the man made a disturbing remark, claiming, "I am not gonna hit you, I have a girl there that lives to get hit. She ain't getting hit right now." This comment added a chilling element to the abusive encounter.

The video of the incident sparked outrage, highlighting the disturbing presence of racism and xenophobia in public spaces. The train company and local authorities are investigating the matter, but the incident has brought attention to the persistent issues of racial abuse that continue to affect many individuals across the UK.

Anmol Bishnoi Likely Names On The Most Wanted List India Is Set To Hand Over To US

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

Indian security agencies are preparing to hand over a list of the country's most wanted gangsters to their American counterparts in the coming days, according to sources. The list is expected to include at least 10 notorious criminals, some of whom are believed to be residing in the United States.

Among the individuals named in the list are Goldy Brar and Anmol Bishnoi, both of whom have been involved in organized crime and high-profile cases in India. The move is part of a bilateral agreement between India and the United States, signed last year, aimed at enhancing cooperation to combat cross-border crime and fugitive extradition.

Sources revealed that over the

past year, senior officials from both nations have held multiple high-level meetings to discuss the issue, with efforts now at a decisive stage. This initiative reflects a broader strategy to curb criminal activities by targeting individuals who have sought refuge abroad to evade justice.



Though the handover of the list coincides with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's upcoming visit to the U.S., sources clarified that the move is not directly linked to his visit. The agreement had been reached previously, and the submission of the list is part of ex-

cuting the terms of the pact.

The exchange of intelligence and enhanced security cooperation between India and the U.S. highlights the growing partnership between the two nations in tackling transnational crime. With this new step, both countries aim to expedite legal proceedings against the listed criminals and ensure they face justice.

Anmol Bishnoi, the brother of gangster Lawrence Bishnoi and a key suspect in the alleged plot to assassinate former Maharashtra minister Baba Siddique, was arrested in the U.S. last November. Meanwhile, Goldy Brar, accused of orchestrating the murder of Punjabi singer Sidhu Moosewala, is considered a significant figure in the Bishnoi gang and remains a key target for extradition.

Too much for me to handle': Samay deletes India's Got Latent videos from channel

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

In the wake of controversy surrounding Ranveer Allahbadia's remarks on the comedy show India's Got Latent, host Samay Raina has decided to delete all the episodes from his channel, citing the overwhelming nature of the situation. The move comes after the show faced severe backlash for comments made by Allahbadia during the latest episode, leading to widespread criticism across social media platforms.

On X (formerly Twitter), Raina addressed the issue, explaining that his intention was never to offend anyone, but solely to provide entertainment. He emphasized that the goal of the show has always been to make people laugh and have a

good time. "Everything that is happening has been too much for me to handle. I have removed all *India's Got Latent* videos from my channel," he wrote. He also assured his followers that he would "fully cooperate" with the authorities investigating the matter.



The controversy erupted when Allahbadia made certain remarks during his appearance on the show, which were deemed inappropriate and offensive by some viewers. His

comments quickly gained attention on social media, triggering a wave of criticism. People called for accountability, and some even demanded the show be pulled down. As the backlash continued to mount, Raina decided to take down the videos as a gesture of addressing the growing concern.

The comedian also reiterated that his only objective was to entertain and bring joy to people, and he never intended for any comments to be misconstrued. Despite the controversy, Raina's decision to remove the videos reflects his commitment to resolving the issue and cooperating with the relevant agencies, signaling a desire to move forward in a responsible manner.



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.

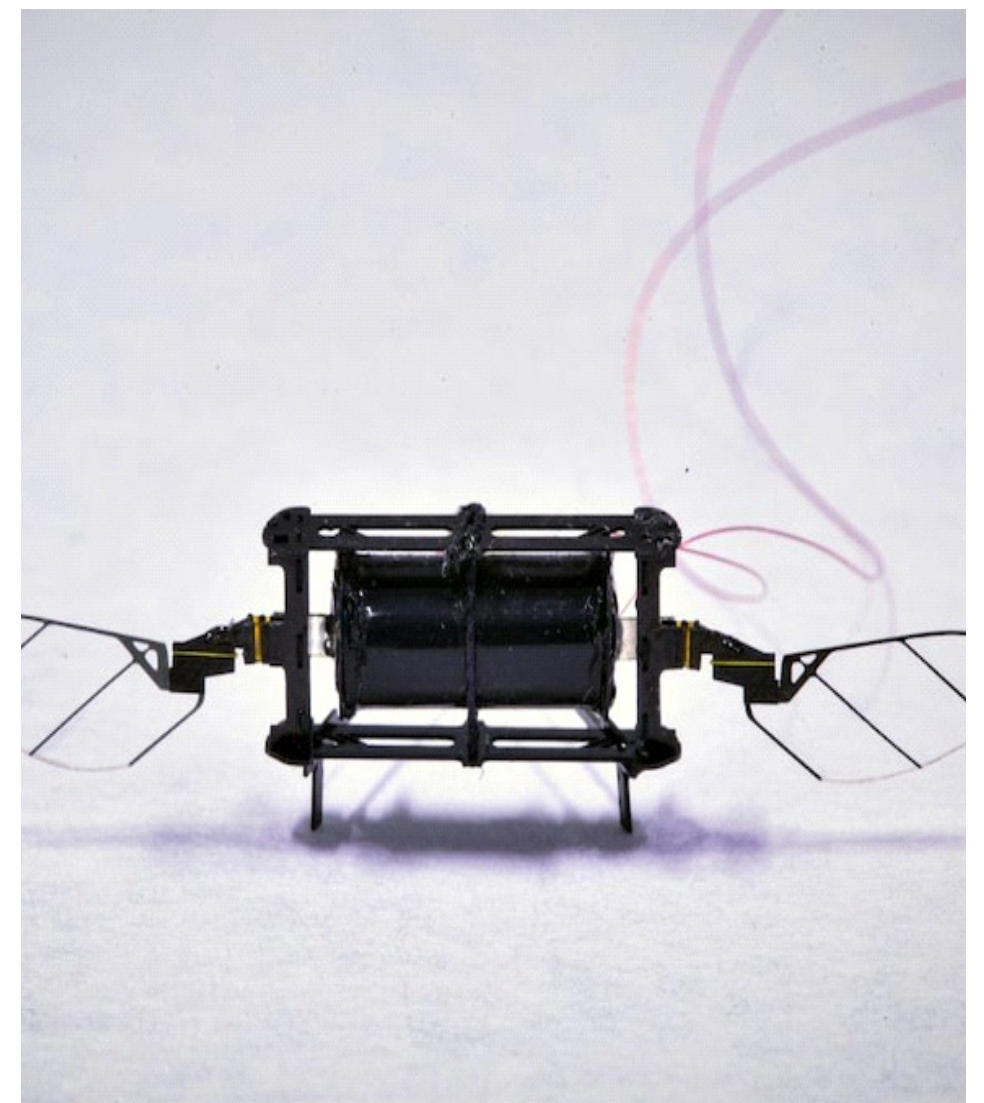
Cancer Awareness and International Maxillofacial Surgeon's Day

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



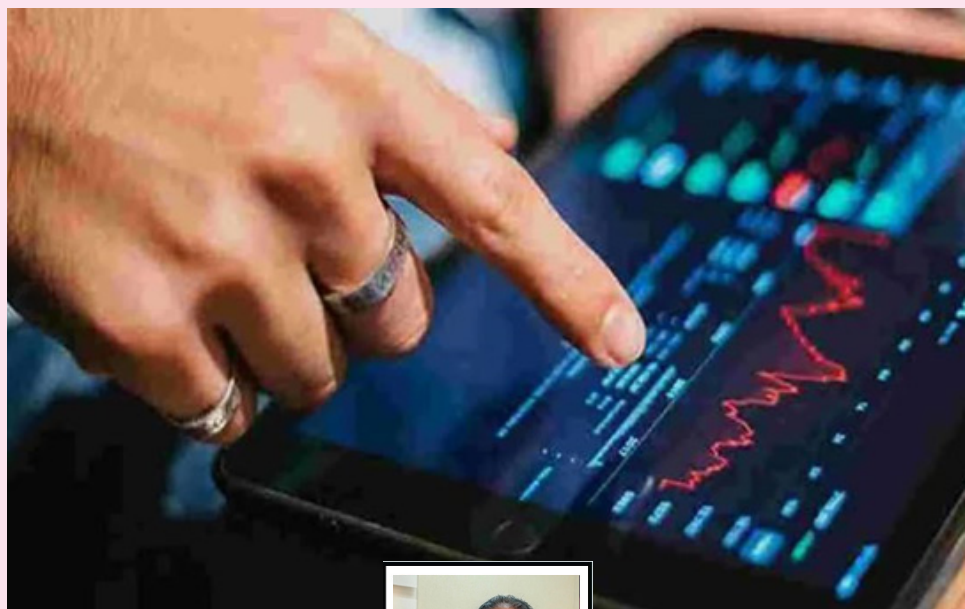
Authentic Handicrafts and Artworks

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.

Markets Witness Volatility as Global Uncertainty Sparks



Sell-Off, Followed by Strong Recovery

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.



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

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.

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

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, Nuvama upgraded SBI Cards to 'Buy', citing these positive trends.

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.

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.



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.

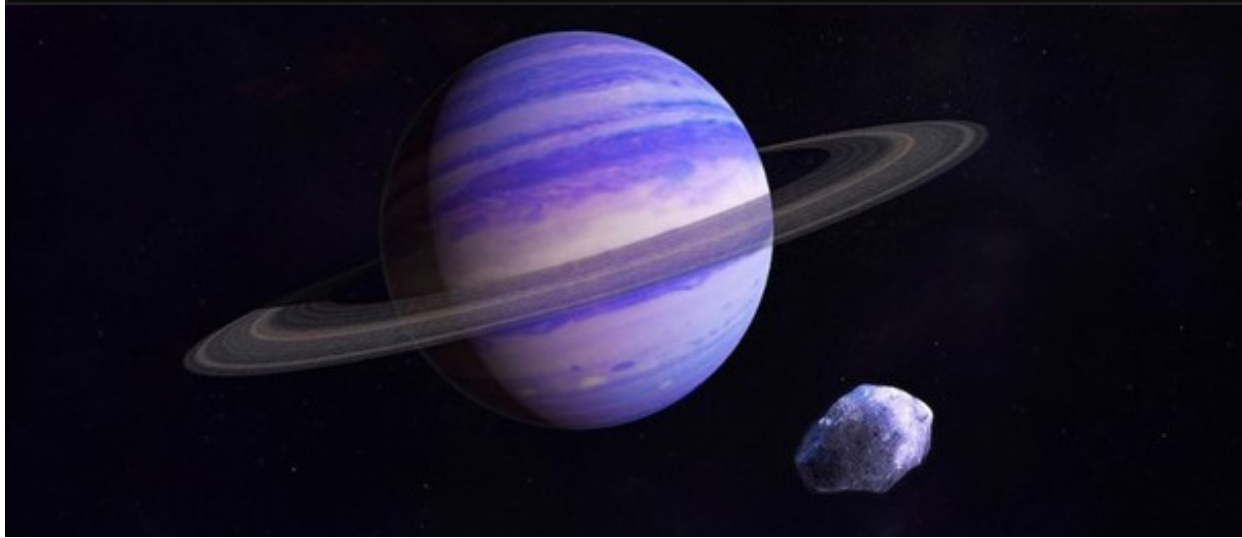


The train will operate on the Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Rail Link (USBRL), significantly reducing travel time between Jammu and Srinagar. It will pass through the iconic Chenab Bridge, the world's highest railway bridge, and make stops at key stations such as Udhampur, Banihal, Qazigund, Anantnag, 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.

