



Weather Forecast

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

BJP to pick new Delhi CM

Modi to attend key party meeting.

BJP wins 48 seats, ending AAP rule.

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

The wait for the new Chief Minister of Delhi is expected to come to an end tomorrow as the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) prepares for its legislative party meeting on Monday. The meeting, scheduled for 3 PM, will be a significant step in the process of naming the new leader, who will take the reins of the national capital. Sources close to the BJP have confirmed the meeting, with all 48 newly elected BJP Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs) gathering at the Delhi BJP office to make their decision.

On Friday, BJP spokesperson Ajay Alok confirmed that Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who is returning from his foreign trip, would be present for the meeting, followed by the announcement of the new Delhi CM. Alok emphasized that the newly elected Chief Minister would be unveiled before the public soon after the meeting concludes.

The Bharatiya Janata Party secured a resounding victory in the recent Delhi Assembly elections, winning 48 out of 70 seats. This victory marked a decisive blow to the ruling Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), which had been in power in the city for more than a decade. In contrast, the AAP only managed to secure 22 seats, a significant drop from the previous elections, where it had held a dominant position.

The BJP's victory is seen as a testament to the growing support for the party

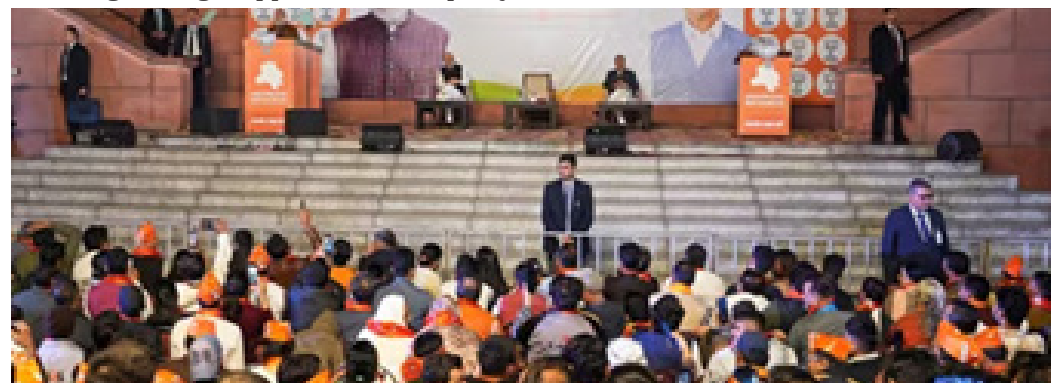


Who will be New Delhi Chief Minister?

in Delhi, with BJP supporters celebrating Prime Minister Modi's leadership during the party's victory celebrations on February 8. The celebrations saw a large turnout of supporters, who expressed their confidence in the BJP's ability to bring change and address key issues facing the city.

BJP's success in Delhi is noteworthy not only for the political implications but also for the symbolism it carries. For the first time in years, the BJP has managed to wrest control of the Delhi Assembly, ending the AAP's long-standing dominance. The BJP's focus now shifts to governance, with promises to address issues like infrastructure development, healthcare, and education.

The new Chief Minister is expected to play a crucial role in implementing the BJP's vision for Delhi's future, with the party emphasizing a commitment to transparency, accountability, and inclusive growth. As Delhi looks to a new political chapter, all eyes will be on the BJP's legislative meeting and the announcement of its new leader.



NIA team ready to go to US for custody of Tahawwur Rana, awaits final nod



TPN Correspondent | Delhi

A day after US President Donald Trump announced the approval of Tahawwur Rana's extradition, sources confirm that the National Investigation Agency (NIA) is on standby to travel to the United States to secure his custody. Rana, a key accused in the 26/11 Mumbai terror attacks, has long been wanted by India for his role in orchestrating the deadly assault that killed over 170 people.

The Indian government has reportedly sent a fresh set of documents to the US administration to expedite the process, which is now being coordinated by the US State Department and Secretary of State. This includes facilitating the issuance of a 'surrender warrant,' a critical step that legally binds the US to hand over the fugitive to India.

Tahawwur Rana, who is linked to Pakistan-based terror group Lashkar-e-Taiba, was arrested in 2009 for his involvement in providing logistical support to the terrorists who carried out the attacks in Mumbai. His extradition has been a longstanding demand by India, and his eventual return is expected to provide further insights into the planning and execution of the attacks, which were masterminded by fellow conspirator David Coleman Headley.

The decision to approve the extradition is seen as a significant step in strengthening counterterrorism cooperation between India and the United States. It reflects the increasing commitment of both nations to combat global terrorism and bring justice to the victims of the 26/11 attacks.

Congress Accuses Modi of Ignoring Shackling Issue with Trump

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

The Congress party on Sunday criticized Prime Minister Narendra Modi for not raising the issue of the shackling of Indians being deported from the United States with his "good friend" Donald Trump during his recent visit. The party pointed to reports of Indians being shackled during deportation flights, highlighting growing outrage over the treatment of deportees.



shackled during their flight, calling it a serious matter. He stated, "It is abundantly clear that the PM did NOT convey to his good friend our country's outrage at the manner in which these deportations are being conducted."

This month, two US military planes have already landed in Amritsar, India, bringing back Indians as part of the Trump administration's ongoing crackdown on illegal immigration. Another deportation flight is scheduled to arrive in Amritsar on Sunday night, further intensifying concerns about the conditions faced by those being sent back.

Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh referred to reports that many deportees were

The Congress leader's comments point to a broader discontent over the treatment of Indian nationals being deported from the US, and the party's accusation that Prime Minister Modi failed to raise the issue with President Trump during their discussions. The allegations have sparked debates about the diplomatic relationship between India and the US, particularly regarding the treatment of Indian citizens.

Indian Army retaliates to Pakistani firing across LoC in J&K's Poonch sector

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

On Sunday, February 16, the Indian Army opened retaliatory fire across the Line of Control (LoC) in the Poonch sector of Jammu and Kashmir after Pakistani troops launched small arms fire at an Indian post. The exchange took place around 11 AM, but fortunately, no casualties were reported from either side, as confirmed by officials.



According to a statement from the Indian Army, Pakistan troops initiated the small arms fire targeting an Indian post along the LoC. In response, the Indian Army retaliated appropriately to the attack. "At about 11 AM today, Pakistan troops opened small arms fire on our (Indian) post across the LoC in Poonch Sector, J&K. The fire was retaliated appropriately by the Indian Army. No casualty to own side," an Army official told ANI.

This incident comes days after the Indian Army had reaffirmed that despite occasional minor firing incidents, the ceasefire agreement along the LoC between India and Pakistan remains intact. The exchange of fire is a reminder of

the delicate security situation along the border, where such skirmishes are not uncommon, even amidst efforts to maintain peace.

Simultaneously, in the Poonch district, a joint search operation was launched in the dense forests of Mendhar town by the Romeo Force and the Special Operations Group (SOG) of Jammu and Kashmir Police. The operation was initiated to track suspicious terrorist movement in the forest area, which is known to be a frequent hideout for militants operating in the region. The search operation indicates continued vigilance by the Indian security forces to neutralize potential threats in the area.

Gujarat Local Body Elections: BJP Secures 215 Seats Unopposed

TPN Correspondent | Punjab

Voting for the Gujarat local body elections began at 7 a.m. on Sunday and will continue until 6 p.m., with the results set to be counted on Tuesday. These elections encompass Junagadh Municipal Corporation, 68 municipalities, and three taluka panchayats. This marks the first local body election since the Gujarat government announced a 27% reservation for Other Backward Classes (OBC) in municipalities and panchayats in 2023.



Even before the voting began, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) had already secured 215 seats unopposed, representing almost 10% of the total contested seats. Reports suggest that in these cases, only one candidate remained in the running after all other nominees withdrew their nominations, thus eliminating the need for a contest. As a result, 5,084 candidates remain in the race across the state.

Of the 215 unopposed seats secured by BJP, 196 belong to municipalities, 10 to district and taluka panchayats, and 9 to Junagadh Municipal Corporation. These uncontested wins occurred after rival candidates withdrew, making way for the BJP to claim the seats without opposition.

To ensure a peaceful and fair election, the Election Commission and local authorities have implemented strict security measures. Police personnel have

been deployed at polling stations, and enhanced monitoring systems have been established to ensure the smooth conduct of the voting process.

Gujarat has a long-standing electoral history, with its first elections held in 1934, when the region was part of the Bombay Presidency. Ahmedabad's election of Ganesh Vasudev Mavalankar, who later became the Speaker of the Central Legislative Assembly, marked a significant milestone in the state's political legacy.

Since its formation in 1960, Gujarat has held regular local body elections to empower grassroots governance. The State Election Commission of Gujarat oversees these elections, ensuring that the process remains free, fair, and transparent. In the 2021 local elections, over 8,235 seats were contested, with 237 candidates being elected unopposed.

Nuclear Technology Helps Maintain Hygiene at Maha Kumbh: Jitendra Singh

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

As the Maha Kumbh Mela continues in Prayagraj, with millions of devotees bathing at the confluence of the Ganga, Yamuna, and the lost Saraswati river, India's Science Minister, Dr. Jitendra Singh, has highlighted how nuclear technology is helping maintain hygiene and prevent disease outbreaks at the event.



With over 500 million people having already bathed at the sacred site—more than the combined populations of the USA and Russia—Dr. Singh assured that there have been “no signs of any disease outbreak” despite the massive crowds. He credited the success to the deployment of advanced sewage treatment technologies pioneered by India's nuclear institutions.

Dr. Singh, who also serves as the Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office, noted that the use of innovative sewage treatment plants developed by the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC), Mumbai, and the Indira Gandhi Centre for Atomic Research (IGCAR), Kalpakkam, has been a key factor in ensuring hygiene.

The sewage treatment system, known as Hybrid Granular Sequencing Batch Reactors (hgSBR), utilizes bacteria-laden granules, or bio-beads, to treat wastewater efficiently. This technology was developed by Dr. Venkat Nanchaiah from the Department of Atomic Energy (DAE). The plants, set up on the banks of the Ganga by Stellarin Venture Pvt. Ltd., Raipur, can

treat nearly 1.5 lakh liters of sewage per day.

One of the major benefits of the hgSBR system is its cost-effectiveness. It significantly reduces land footprint, operational costs, and infrastructure requirements, making it a sustainable solution for wastewater treatment. The technology also accelerates the treatment process, helping bridge the gap between sewage generation and treatment capacity in the country.

In addition to the sewage treatment plants, the Uttar Pradesh government has set up 1.5 lakh toilets and installed over 200 automatic water dispensing machines at the mela site. These efforts are in stark contrast to the cholera and dysentery outbreaks that were common in past Kumbh Melas, ensuring that this year's gathering remains safe and hygienic for millions of devotees.

Inauguration of Vande Bharat train service to Kashmir Valley postponed

TPN Correspondent | Jammu

The inauguration of the Vande Bharat train service connecting the Kashmir Valley has been postponed, as confirmed by officials on Sunday. The long-awaited service, which was expected to be inaugurated on February 17 by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, will now face an undisclosed delay. While earlier reports had suggested the date, the authorities did not specify a new date for the inauguration, citing the postponement as the reason for the change.

The Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Rail Link (USBRL), a part of this ambitious railway project, has been one of the most challenging railway undertakings in India. It stands out not only as a massive infrastructure endeavor but also as a technologically advanced project that ranks among the most difficult railway constructions worldwide. The project aims to enhance connectivity to the Kashmir Valley, a region that has long been deprived of efficient and modern transportation infrastructure.

Among the significant features of the project is the world-renowned Chenab Railway Bridge. Standing at a remarkable 359 meters above the riverbed, it is the tallest railway bridge in the world, surpassing even the height of the Eiffel Tower. The bridge, along with the other structural marvels like the Anji Khad Bridge, demonstrates the cutting-edge engineering that has gone into building this rail link. The route also features over a dozen tunnels, making it a significant feat in overcoming the difficult terrain of the Kashmir Valley.

The Vande Bharat trains, designed for extreme weather conditions, are equipped with state-of-the-art facilities. Capable of operating in temperatures as low as minus 20 degrees Celsius, the trains come with fully air-conditioned coaches, electric outlets, reading lights, and bio-vacuum toilets. The trains are also equipped with advanced security measures, including CCTV cameras, automatic doors, and a Passenger Information System. The trains' driver cabins are fitted with an advanced defrost system for clear vision in moist and high-humidity conditions.

The distance between Udhampur and Baramulla will be covered in approximately two and a half hours, offering faster and more efficient travel. Additionally, once the Jammu railway station is upgraded by August 15, the need for passengers to swap trains at Katra will be eliminated.

While the commercial trial of the USBRL has been successfully completed, the formal inauguration by Prime Minister Modi remains the final step in realizing this 70-year-old dream of the people of Kashmir. As the inauguration date awaits confirmation, this project continues to symbolize both hope and progress for the region's residents.

7 Suspected Kuki National Army, 4 Meitei Militants Arrested In Manipur

TPN Correspondent | Imphal

In the last two days, authorities in Manipur arrested 11 militants, including seven suspected members of the Kuki National Army (KNA), a group that is a signatory to the controversial Suspension of Operations (SoO) agreement. The arrests took place in two separate operations. The first occurred on Friday in the Old Khaokual area of Churachandpur, where seven suspected KNA militants were apprehended. The second operation, on Saturday in Huikap village, led to the arrest of four members of the Meitei militant group Kangleipak Communist Party (People's War Group), or KCP(PWG), including two women. The KCP(PWG) members were found with AK assault rifles, pistols, ammunition, and incriminating documents.

Since the imposition of President's Rule in Manipur, security forces have intensified operations across the state to dismantle militant bunkers and disarm individuals who are part of local volunteer groups. These groups, which both Kuki and Meitei factions claim to support their respective communities, are under scrutiny as they are often armed with military-grade weapons. Both sides have accused each other of harboring militants under the guise of volunteer groups.

The Kuki tribes have called for the arrest of Arambai Tenggol leader Korounganba Khuman, alleging he heads a radical Meitei organization. Meanwhile, the Meiteis have pointed to Kuki youths carrying assault rifles under various volunteer banners, claiming they are trained militants.

Amid these tensions, police sources emphasized that civilians, regardless of their affiliation, should not be carrying assault rifles under the guise of volunteering. Under the newly enforced President's Rule, the government is determined to disarm all unauthorized militias.

The Kuki and Meitei communities have been embroiled in ethnic violence since May 2023, primarily over land rights and political representation. While the Kuki National Organization (KNO) and the United People's Front (UPF) represent a collective of Kuki-20 militant groups that signed the SoO agreement with the central and state governments, the validity of this agreement is being questioned. The state government has called for the termination of the SoO deal, citing the involvement of SoO-linked militants in the ongoing violence.

Jaishankar Calls for Coordinated Maritime Partnership at Indian Ocean Conference

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar emphasized the importance of the Indian Ocean as a global lifeline during his address at the 8th Indian Ocean Conference in Muscat. Jaishankar highlighted the need for countries in the region to collaborate, share strengths, and coordinate policies to achieve collective aspirations related to development, connectivity, maritime security, and regional stability. “The Indian Ocean is veritably a global lifeline. Its production, consumption, contribution, and connectivity are central to the manner in which the world runs today,” Jaishankar stated, underscoring the centrality of the region to global trade and commerce. He stressed the necessity of a coordinated approach, stating, “Our voyage to new horizons is best done as a coordinated flotilla of the Indian Ocean.” He acknowledged the region's diversity in terms of history, geography, politics, and culture, but emphasized the unifying factor of a shared commitment to the well-being of the Indian Ocean region. Jaishankar also touched upon the volatile global landscape, draw-



ing attention to the ongoing conflicts in the Middle East and West Asia, which have disrupted global shipping and affected economies. He noted that tensions in the Indo-Pacific region are also intensifying. In this context, Jaishankar urged Indian Ocean nations to look out for one another and work together to enhance regional security and prosper-

ity. The minister highlighted common challenges faced by nations in the Indian Ocean, such as resource constraints, economic difficulties, and struggles to meet Sustainable Development Goals. He also pointed to concerns over debt, illegal trafficking, and terrorism, all of which have significant maritime implications. Jaishankar further emphasized the importance of transparent and consultative connectivity initiatives, as well as addressing issues related to monitoring Exclusive Economic Zones and securing fishing interests. He reiterated that India is committed to strengthening its own maritime capabilities and forging partnerships to address these regional challenges, contributing to shared development and security efforts in the Indian Ocean.

Tweet Is Proof : Lt Governor Slammed For Post On Delhi Stampede

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

A political controversy has erupted over Delhi Lieutenant Governor VK Saxena's edited social media post regarding the tragic stampede at New Delhi Railway Station, which resulted in the deaths of 18 people, including five children, and left many others injured on Saturday night. Initially, Lt. Governor Saxena shared a post on X (formerly Twitter) expressing his condolences and acknowledging the “tragic loss of lives and injuries” due to the “disorder and stampede” at the station. The post offered sympathy to the victims' families and conveyed the government's concern over the incident. However, within minutes, the post was edited, removing any mention of the fatalities and softening the language used to describe the incident. The updated post now refers to the event as merely “unfortunate” rather than acknowledging the loss of life or the severity of the situation. The change in wording has sparked criticism and raised questions about the handling of the tragedy. Opposition leaders quickly

seized on the issue, accusing the Delhi Lieutenant Governor of downplaying the severity of the stampede and attempting to minimize the gravity of the situation. The alteration of the post has fueled further debate on social media, with many questioning the motives behind the edited statement.



The stampede occurred as crowds gathered at the railway station to board trains for the Maha Kumbh Mela in Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh, with millions of devotees traveling to the event. The incident has highlighted ongoing concerns about crowd management at major transport hubs, especially during large religious gatherings. While the edited social media post remains a point of contention, the Delhi government and local authorities are focused on investigating the cause of the stampede and ensuring that such incidents do not recur in the future.

True successor of BSP, its movement would be one like Kanshi Ram's disciple: Mayawati



- Mayawati stresses loyalty in BSP.
- Expels Akash Anand's in-law for factionalism.
- Calls BSP the "only ray of hope."

TPN Correspondent | Delhi
Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) Chief Mayawati reaffirmed her commitment to the party and its movement, stressing that the true successor of the BSP must embody the dedication, sacrifice, and discipline shown by Kanshi Ram, the founder of the party. Her remarks come shortly after she expelled Ashok Siddharth, father-in-law of her nephew Akash Anand, from the party, citing factionalism and an-

ti-party activities.

Mayawati's strong stance on party loyalty and discipline highlights her vision for the future of the BSP. She pointed out that the true successor to the party's leadership is someone who, like Kanshi Ram's disciples, dedicates their entire life to the movement, overcoming every obstacle and hardship in the process. She emphasized that the BSP, founded on the principles of Dr. B.R. Ambed-

kar, exists to empower the Bahujan community and to fight for their upliftment, prioritizing the party's cause over personal interests.

In a series of posts on X, Mayawati shared her commitment to the movement, stating, "I too will continue to struggle and make sacrifices till my last breath so that the Bahujan Samaj can stand on its own, free from political slavery and social helplessness."

She further urged BSP office-bearers and workers to stay true to the party's core values, focusing on accountability, loyalty, and honesty. She called for a renewed effort to strengthen the organization at the grassroots level and expand the party's support base in order to secure future electoral success.

Mayawati also underscored the importance of maintaining party discipline and remaining focused on the broader mission of empowering the Bahujan community, stating that the BSP remains the "only ray of hope" for them in Indian politics.

Kumbh is meaningless: Lalu Prasad blames Railways for New Delhi stampede

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) chief Lalu Prasad Yadav sparked controversy on Sunday by labeling the Maha Kumbh as "meaningless" while blaming the Indian Railways for the tragic stampede at New Delhi Railway Station that claimed 18 lives. The stampede, which occurred late on Saturday night, also left over a dozen people injured, many of whom were from Bihar.



Yadav, a former Union minister, criticized the inadequate arrangements made by the central government to manage the massive crowds traveling to and from the station. He pointed the finger at the Railway Minister, demanding their resignation over what he described as a complete failure of the Railways.

"The stampede episode is very disturbing. It has exposed the inadequate arrangements made by the central government. The railway minister must resign after this incident... it's a complete failure of the Railways," Yadav said in a statement. His remarks high-

light the growing frustration with the government's handling of public safety during high-traffic events.

The tragic incident at the New Delhi railway station raised concerns about crowd management and safety protocols, especially during peak travel times. Authorities have yet to confirm the exact number of casualties and injuries from Bihar, but the situation remains tense as further investigations are underway.

When questioned about the mass gatherings heading to Prayagraj for the ongoing Maha Kumbh, Yadav did not hold back. He dismissed the religious gathering, stating, "The

Kumbh has no meaning... It is just meaningless." This statement has already drawn criticism from various religious and political quarters, adding fuel to the ongoing debate surrounding the event's significance.

Yadav's remarks on the stampede and the Maha Kumbh have further intensified the political discourse, with opposition parties and the public demanding accountability for the mishandling of the situation. As the investigation continues, the focus now shifts to ensuring better crowd management and safety measures at transportation hubs across the country.

Ajit Pawar claims Maharashtra contractors submitting bills without work



TPN Correspondent | Delhi
Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar raised serious concerns over contractor fraud in the state, alleging that several contractors are submitting bills and receiving payments for development works without actually executing them. Speaking at a program in Partur, Jalna district, on Saturday, Pawar warned that such practices would not be tolerated and vowed to take action against anyone engaging in such fraudulent activities.

The remarks were made during an event where former MLA and Congress leader Suresh Jethliya joined the Na-

tionalist Congress Party (NCP). Pawar, who also holds the portfolio of Finance Minister in Maharashtra, expressed his dismay over the "substandard" quality of development work despite significant government expenditure.

"Contracts are being awarded, bills are being submitted, and money is being withdrawn without any work being done," Pawar said. He further emphasized that contractors involved in such malpractice would not be welcomed into his party. His firm stance against such corruption indicates a broader push for greater accountability in the state's development initiatives.

The Deputy Chief Minister also directed his criticism at government officials, urging them to perform their duties with more sincerity. He pointed out the contradiction between the hefty salaries and pensions paid to government employees and the subpar quality of work being delivered.

"The government spends crores of rupees on salaries and pensions, yet the quality of work remains poor," Pawar remarked. He referred to the implementation of the Seventh Pay Commission and the upcoming introduction of the Eighth Pay Commission, questioning why such high levels of compensation did not result in better performance.

Pawar's comments reflect the ongoing scrutiny of development projects in Maharashtra, with a focus on improving both the execution and accountability in the state's administrative processes. His warning to contractors and government officials underscores his commitment to transparency and the efficient use of public funds.

AAP Accuses Centre of Covering Up New Delhi Railway Station Stampede Incident

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) on Sunday accused the central government of attempting to cover up the tragic stampede incident at New Delhi Railway Station, which left 18 dead and several others injured. At a press conference in New Delhi, AAP Rajya Sabha MP Sanjay Singh condemned the government's response and questioned the official account of the incident.

Singh raised concerns about the discrepancies in the reported number of casualties, suggesting that some individuals believe the death toll could be higher than what has been officially acknowledged. "They are trying to deny that such an incident happened. How long will the government's tendency of dilly-dallying and insensitivity continue?" Singh said. He further demanded accountability from the government and the Railway Minister, emphasizing the need to fix responsibility for the tragedy.

The stampede occurred late



on Saturday night at the overcrowded New Delhi railway station, causing widespread panic and chaos. Although authorities have confirmed 18 deaths, the full scale of the disaster is still unclear, with some speculating that the number of casualties could be higher. Singh's remarks reflect growing concerns over the handling of the incident, particularly regarding the government's communication and its ability to manage such situations.

The AAP has been vocal about the government's lack of accountability, calling for immediate action to address the

failures that led to the stampede. The party has demanded that the Railway Minister take responsibility for the incident, urging the government to stop downplaying the severity of the tragedy and ensure proper investigations and safety measures for future incidents.

The incident has raised serious questions about the safety and preparedness of railway stations, particularly during peak travel times. As the investigation continues, there is increasing pressure on the central government to provide clarity and take concrete steps to prevent such incidents from recurring in the future.

Government focusing on ensuring cancer care across country: Nadda



TPN Correspondent | Delhi

Union Health Minister JP Nadda emphasized the government's commitment to providing comprehensive cancer care across the country during his address at the oncology conclave organized by the National Cancer Institute (NCI), AIIMS, Jhajjar, on Saturday. He highlighted the ongoing efforts to improve cancer treatment accessibility through various initiatives, ensuring that cancer care is available to all citizens.

Nadda noted that under the Ayushman Bharat insurance scheme, cancer treatment is being facilitated through 219 pack-

ages, making healthcare more affordable and accessible. The scheme has been instrumental in covering a wide range of treatments for cancer patients, allowing them to avail services at lower costs.

Further strengthening the cancer treatment infrastructure, Nadda also praised the role of AMRIT pharmacies, which are playing a crucial part in making oncology drugs more affordable. These pharmacies offer 289 oncology drugs at discounts of up to 50% of their market prices, significantly easing the financial burden on patients.

The Union Health Minister also visited the newly inaugurated Nuclear Medicine Tar-

geted Treatment Ward and Bone Marrow Transplant Unit at the Jhajjar campus. These advanced treatment facilities aim to address the specific needs of patients with thyroid and blood cancers, further enhancing the country's cancer care capabilities.

The government's efforts to improve cancer care are part of a broader strategy to enhance healthcare services across India, ensuring that even those in remote areas have access to quality medical treatment. As India continues to face rising cancer cases, these initiatives are expected to make significant strides toward providing timely and effective treatment for millions of patients.

Stampede at New Delhi Railway Station: PM Modi says 'distressed'



- 15 killed in Delhi station stampede.
- Crowds surged for Maha Kumbh trains.
- Railways orders high-level inquiry.

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

At least 15 people, including three children, were killed, and several others injured in a stampede at New Delhi Railway Station on Saturday night. The tragic incident occurred around 10 p.m., as a large number of passengers gathered to board trains heading to the Maha Kumbh in Prayagraj, leading to chaos at platforms 14 and 15.

According to officials at the LNJP hospital, 15 people lost their lives in the incident, while at least 10 others were reported injured. Eyewitnesses and videos circulating on social media highlighted the massive crowd at the station, with many pointing out that there were insufficient measures in place to control the influx of passengers.

As the situation worsened, panic spread through the station, with several passengers reportedly fainting due to the sudden surge in people. Railway authorities later clarified that the stampede-like situation was triggered by the confusion and overcrowding, exacerbated by passengers fainting, which created a widespread sense of panic.

erated by passengers fainting, which created a widespread sense of panic.

In response to the situation, Northern Railways took immediate action by running four special trains to help manage the crowd and alleviate the pressure at the station. The injured passengers were swiftly taken to nearby hospitals with the help of the Railway Protection Force (RPF) and Delhi Police.

The Railways have since ordered a high-level inquiry into the incident to investigate the circumstances that led to this tragic event. The officials are expected to look into the lack of crowd control measures and the overall preparedness of the station during such large gatherings.

This incident highlights the risks associated with handling large crowds at major transportation hubs, especially during events like the Maha Kumbh. As investigations continue, the authorities are under pressure to ensure better crowd management in the future to prevent such disasters.

New Delhi railway station still crowded day after stampede leaves 18 dead

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

The New Delhi railway station remained overcrowded on Sunday, just a day after a tragic stampede claimed the lives of 18 people, including 14 women and four children. The incident occurred on Saturday night as passengers, primarily Maha Kumbh pilgrims, rushed to board trains to Prayagraj.



According to Northern Railway's Chief Public Relations Officer Himanshu Upadhyay, the stampede was triggered when some passengers slipped while descending the stairs from a foot overbridge, leading to a domino effect. The stampede occurred at platform numbers 14 and 15, where the Patna-bound Magadh Express and the New Delhi-Jammu Uttar Sampark Kranti Express were stationed.

As thousands of passengers crowded the station, confusion ensued when there was a sudden platform change for some trains. This panic, coupled with overcrowded platforms, led to a dangerous bottleneck near an escalator, causing the tragic loss of life.

The Indian Railways has set up an inquiry committee to investigate the incident. Narsingh Deo, Principal Chief Commercial Manager, Northern Railway, and Pankaj Gangwar, Principal Chief Security Commissioner, Northern Railway, have been appointed as members of the committee. The railways have instructed officials to secure all video footage of the station to aid in the inquiry.

In response to the tragedy, the Indian Railways has announced compensation for the victims. The families of the deceased will receive Rs 10 lakh each, while those with serious injuries will receive Rs 2.5 lakh

and those with minor injuries will receive Rs 1 lakh.

The stampede occurred around 9:55 pm on Saturday when a sudden rush of passengers, many heading for the Maha Kumbh, led to an uncontrollable surge on platforms 12, 13, and 14. Security personnel struggled to manage the crowd, which resulted in the deadly chaos.

As families gathered at the Lok Nayak Jai Prakash Hospital to identify their loved ones, political leaders including President Droupadi Murmu, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, and Defence Minister Rajnath Singh expressed their condolences over the tragedy.

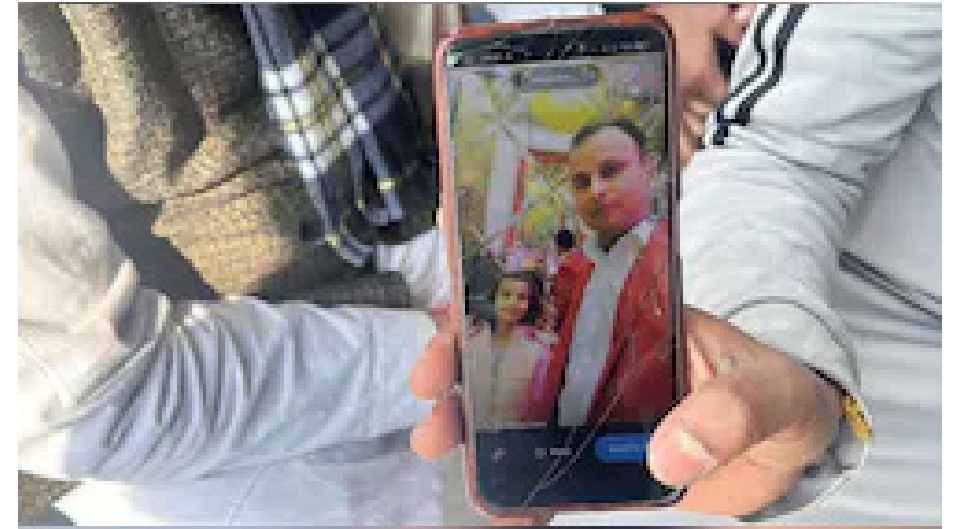
Tragedy Strikes at New Delhi Railway Station as Stampede Claims 18 Lives

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

A heartbreaking tragedy unfolded at New Delhi Railway Station on Saturday night when a stampede broke out, claiming the lives of 18 people, including a 7-year-old girl. The stampede occurred as surging crowds scrambled to board trains bound for Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh, for the ongoing Maha Kumbh Mela, the world's largest religious gathering.

One grieving father, Opil Singh, described the horrifying moment when his daughter became caught in the crush of people. "We got down from platform number 14, but seeing the crowd, we decided to turn back. I told my family that the crowd was too large and that we should go home. We shouldn't bring the children along; they have nothing to sleep on," Singh recounted. Despite his concerns, tragedy struck moments later.

As the crowd moved toward the trains, Singh's daughter was caught in the chaos. "We started climbing up, there were just six more steps left when my daughter got stuck in



the middle. Around 5,000-6,000 people began coming down from above. People started falling over each other. A nail pierced my daughter's head," Singh said, his voice breaking. He demonstrated with his finger where the nail had punctured her head, as words failed him.

The stampede occurred when two trains were stationed at platforms 14 and 15, with passengers from both attempting to board. Northern Railway's Chief Public Relations Officer Himanshu Upadhyay confirmed that at the time of the

incident, the Patna-bound Magadh Express was at platform 14 and the New Delhi-Jammu Uttar Sampark Kranti Express was at platform 15.

The Kumbh Mela, which attracts millions of devotees every 12 years, has been a major event in Prayagraj, with this year's gathering expected to conclude on February 26. The tragic incident highlights the overwhelming pressure on transport systems during such massive events, where overcrowding can lead to devastating consequences.

Man Arrested for Smuggling Rs 6 Crore Diamond Necklace at Delhi Airport



TPN Correspondent | Delhi

A man was arrested at Delhi's Indira Gandhi International (IGI) Airport for attempting to smuggle a diamond necklace worth approx-

imately Rs. 6 crore. The arrest was made by the Customs Department after the man, an Indian passenger, arrived from Bangkok on Air India flight AI 356.

According to officials, the suspect was identified and stopped for questioning as part of routine profiling by the Customs officers at the airport. Upon a detailed examination of his baggage, authorities discovered the valuable necklace concealed within his belongings.

The confiscated necklace is a luxurious piece, featuring a delicate chain adorned with oval and rectangular diamonds. The centerpiece of the necklace is a square-shaped pendant, which boasts a prominent yellow diamond surrounded by multiple layers of clear diamonds, showcasing its immense value and craftsmanship.

The total value of the recovered jewelry was assessed to be Rs. 6,08,97,329 (Rs. 6 crore eight lakh ninety-seven thousand three hundred twenty-nine only), marking it as a significant case of smuggling at the airport.

In accordance with the Customs Act, 1962, the necklace was seized under Section 110, which allows for the confiscation of smuggled goods. The arrested man is now facing legal proceedings as per the provisions of the Customs Act.

Further investigation into the case is ongoing, with authorities working to uncover additional details regarding the smuggling operation and to identify any potential accomplices. This arrest highlights the vigilance of airport security and the Customs Department in curbing illegal smuggling activities at the country's major airports.

Hitesh Mehta, GM of New India Co-Operative Bank, Arrested for ₹122 Crore Fraud



TPN Correspondent | Mumbai

A holiday court in Mumbai has remanded Hitesh Mehta, the General Manager and Head of Accounts of New India Co-operative Bank, in police custody until February 21. Mehta, 57, stands accused of misappropriating a staggering ₹122 crore from the bank's Prabhadevi and Goregaon branches. The fraud, which allegedly took place over an extended period, was uncovered earlier this week during an audit conducted by a team from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

Mehta, who has reported-

ly confessed to the crime, is said to have been withdrawing cash from the bank's safes since the pandemic. The police allege that he took advantage of his position to embezzle funds, which were withdrawn in large sums over time.

The fraud was first discovered when RBI auditors visited the bank's Prabhadevi head office on Wednesday. During the audit, the senior officers, including Mehta, were present. The auditors asked for the keys to the bank's safes and carried out an inspection, which eventually led to the discovery of discrepancies in the bank's

accounts. As the head of accounts, Mehta and his team were responsible for filing Tax Deducted at Source (TDS), Goods and Services Tax (GST), and maintaining the cash flow of the bank.

The auditors' investigation revealed significant gaps in the bank's records, prompting further scrutiny and an eventual police investigation. According to sources, Mehta's involvement in the embezzlement has been confirmed through his own admission, although the full extent of the fraud is still under investigation.

Tripura CM Manik Saha meets PM Modi and Amit Shah in New Delhi



- Tripura CM meets Modi for development.
- Invites PM to open Tripureswari Temple.
- Seeks AIIMS, IIT, IIM for state growth.

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

Tripura Chief Minister Manik Saha met Prime Minister Narendra Modi in New Delhi to discuss various development issues and present key demands for the state's progress. The meeting focused on vital infrastructure projects, economic growth, and the promotion of higher education in Tripura.

During the discussion, CM Saha invited the Prime Minister to inaugurate the redeveloped Mata Tripureswari Temple at Matabari in Gomati district. The temple is a prominent religious and cultural landmark in the state, and its redevelopment is expected to boost tourism and the local economy.

In addition to the temple inauguration, Saha raised several critical demands aimed at enhancing the state's infrastructure and improving employment opportunities for the people of Tripura. One of the major requests was for the establishment of prestigious educational institutions, including an All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), Indian Institutes of Technology (IIT), and Indian Institutes of Management (IIM). These institutions are seen as key to driving skill development and providing quality education to the youth of the state.

Saha also highlighted the urgent need for better connectivity within Tripura and with neighboring regions. He specifically called for the con-

struction of a 150-km national highway connecting Kamalpur in North Tripura to Santirbazar in South Tripura. The proposed highway would pass through Ambassa, Ganda Twisa in Dhalai, and Amarpur in Gomati district, significantly improving transportation, trade, and accessibility across the state.

These initiatives are part of the state government's broader vision to accelerate development and improve the quality of life for residents. CM Saha's meeting with PM Modi marked a significant step in garnering support for these projects, which are expected to contribute to Tripura's growth and prosperity in the coming years.

President Murmu Attends Change Of Guard Ceremony Held In New Format



TPN Correspondent | Delhi

The Change of Guard ceremony at Rashtrapati Bhavan has undergone a transformation, with the introduction of a new format featuring an elaborate visual and musical performance. This update, announced on Sunday, includes intricate military drills performed by the President's Bodyguard, along with personnel from the Ceremonial Guard Battalion and the Ceremonial Military Brass Band. The ceremony will now take place over a larger area, creating a more expansive and captivating display for those in attendance.

President Droupadi Murmu had the honor of witnessing this inaugural ceremony in its revamped format on Sunday at the forecourt of Rashtrapati Bhavan, as confirmed by an official statement from her office. Beginning February 22, the event will be open to a wider audience, allowing more citizens

to experience this historic occasion. The Change of Guard ceremony, which began as a military tradition in 2007, became a public event in 2012. This shift provided the public with the unique opportunity to observe the formal transition of duties between the outgoing and incoming guards. Initially held between Jaipur Column and Gate Number 1, the ceremony has now been relocated to the forecourt of Rashtrapati Bhavan, significantly increasing its capacity to over a thousand spectators.

The weekly ceremony remains an important symbol of the discipline and pride of the Indian armed forces. Sunday's ceremony featured a stunning display of synchronized movements by the Ceremonial Guard Battalion, precision drills by the President's Bodyguard (PBG), and a remarkable performance by the Ceremonial Band. These activities showcased the strength, heritage, and history of the Indian military.

"Not Happy": Shashi Tharoor On US Deporting Indians On Military Aircraft

TPN Correspondent | Thiruvananthapuram

Reacting to the deportation of a second batch of Indian nationals from the US, Congress MP Shashi Tharoor expressed dissatisfaction over the use of military aircraft for their return. Speaking to ANI, Tharoor stated, "I am not happy about the Americans choosing to send a military aircraft." He also questioned whether the returnees were shackled or handcuffed, adding that if they were, it would be a matter for protest.

Regarding the US selecting Amritsar in Punjab as the destination for the deportations, Tharoor explained, "They usually choose the destination that is most convenient for the majority of the people on the flights.

I believe the largest group was from Punjab and Haryana, which is why this airport was chosen."



The deportation flight carrying Indian nationals, allegedly living illegally in the US, landed at Amritsar's airport early on Sunday. The migrants were primarily from the northern states of Punjab and Haryana.

Union Minister Ravneet Singh Bittu

also weighed in on the matter, criticizing Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann's comments regarding the deportations. Bittu asserted, "It is not good to politicize every issue. If the migrants are from UP or Gujarat and are landing in Punjab, what's wrong with it? They will be welcomed and sent to their respective states." He further accused CM Mann of being part of the "tukde tukde" gang, implying that Mann sought to divide the nation.

A family member of one of the deported migrants shared a heart-breaking account, revealing that the individual had spent around Rs 50-55 lakh, including selling family land, to migrate to the US with the help of agents. The family learned of his deportation through news reports.

Sports Minister Urges Youngsters To Use Cycles As Commuting Option

TPN Correspondent | Mumbai

Union Sports Minister Mansukh Mandaviya on Sunday encouraged the youth of the country to adopt cycling as a regular mode of commuting, emphasizing the dual benefits of improving personal health and contributing to a healthier environment. Mandaviya led the Fit India Movement's flagship program, "Sundays on Cycle", with a focus on raising awareness about the importance of fitness and reducing pollution.

The cycling event kicked off from the iconic Gateway of India, with more than 500 cyclists, including wellness experts, cycling clubs, and fitness enthusiasts from across India, participating in the ride. Mandaviya urged people, particularly young individuals, to incorporate cycling into their daily routines. "I

urge everyone, especially younger people, to use cycles to commute whenever possible. This will not only make them healthy but also improve the overall health of our environment," he stated.

The central theme of this week's "Sundays on Cycle" event was #FightObesity, highlighting the importance of physical activity in combating obesity and promoting a healthy lifestyle.

Simultaneously, a similar cycling event was held at the Dhyanchand National Stadium in New Delhi, with over 170 participants, including notable athletes such as Shivani Pawar, a bronze medalist at the 2024 Senior Asian Wrestling Championship and a gold medalist at the 2025 National Games. The event was aimed at encouraging more people to prioritize physical fitness and



embrace cycling as a sustainable and healthy option.

Launched on December 17 of last year, the "Sundays on Cycle" initiative has already reached over 3,500 locations across India, furthering its mission to encourage a fitness culture and reduce pollution. Through such initiatives, the government hopes to inspire a nationwide movement towards a healthier, more active lifestyle, while also addressing environmental concerns.

Kumbh-Bound Rush In UP Cities, Train Stations On Alert After Delhi Stampede

TPN Correspondent | Mahakumbh

Uttar Pradesh's Prayagraj and nearby cities are facing severe traffic congestion as thousands of vehicles continue to pour in for the ongoing Maha Kumbh. The religious event, which has drawn more than 50 crore devotees since its commencement last month, is causing significant delays in the region. In Prayagraj, routes near Balsan, Bairhana, Sobtiabagh, and Darbhanga are heavily congested, with a 15-minute journey now taking nearly three hours for locals.

The traffic jam is also extending into Madhya Pradesh's Rewa, which borders Prayagraj, where the number of vehicles bound for the Kumbh has surged in the

past 24 hours. Despite the completion of three significant 'Amrit Snans' (holy dips) on Makar Sankranti, Mauni Amavasya, and Basant Panchami, the roads remain choked as devotees continue to head towards the city.

This traffic crisis comes just a day after a tragic stampede at New Delhi Railway Station, which claimed the lives of 18 people. The stampede was caused by a sudden surge in passengers trying to board trains bound for the Maha Kumbh. Following the incident, railway stations across Uttar Pradesh and Bihar have been placed on high alert to prevent similar incidents.

In response to the overwhelming number of devotees on the roads,

Samajwadi Party (SP) chief Akhilesh Yadav called on the Uttar Pradesh government to extend the duration of the Maha Kumbh. Yadav pointed out that previous Kumbh Melas lasted up to 75 days, whereas the current schedule is significantly shorter.

The footfall at the Maha Kumbh has already surpassed 50 crore devotees, with more expected to join the sacred event before its conclusion on February 26. The gathering, considered the largest religious congregation in the world, has far exceeded initial estimates of 40-45 crore attendees. Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath hailed the event as a "living symbol of India's spirituality, unity, equality, and harmony."



For Manipur to Have a Real Shot at Peace, BJP Must Let President's Rule Stay

The imposition of President's Rule in Manipur has been met with mixed reactions, signaling a critical juncture for the state's future. While the Kuki-Zo-Hmar community welcomed the declaration, viewing it as a much-needed reprieve, the Meitei community, through civil society group COCOMI, has strongly opposed it, calling it "undemocratic" and "unjustified."

The ongoing conflict between the Meitei and Kuki communities has left Manipur in turmoil since May 2023, resulting in over 250 deaths and 60,000 displacements. Violent clashes, along with shocking images of brutality, have scarred the state. The resignation of Chief Minister N. Biren Singh, triggered by a no-confidence vote, led to the imposition of President's Rule, which has temporarily suspended the state assembly.

For Manipur to heal, President's Rule must remain in place long enough for neutral governance. The central paramilitary forces, alongside a politically neutral administration, can restore stability free from interference. However, the BJP's challenge lies in determining whether this is a genuine effort to address the violence or merely a political stopgap. The decision to prolong President's Rule will have a significant impact on the state's



peace prospects.

The Kuki community, which has faced severe displacement, demands a separate administration, and the creation of buffer zones between the hills and valley for protection. They remain concerned about the growing threat of Meitei youth militia groups, such as the Arambai Tenggol, who have looted weapons during the conflict. On the other hand, some Meitei residents privately welcome President's Rule, as it could curb extortion by underground el-

ements. Despite this, the Meitei community feels that the imposition aligns with the agenda of Kuki separatists, adding to their suspicions of a military-driven governance plan. The window for dialogue between the warring communities is now open. With massive security forces in place, President's Rule offers a chance for talks. However, the true success depends on how the BJP in Delhi handles this delicate situation, balancing the region's needs with its political priorities.



In AAP's Provenance Lies the Reason for Its Defeat

The Aam Aadmi Party's (AAP) defeat in the Delhi assembly elections is being seen by many as a setback for the dream of alternative politics. However, what exactly was this "alternative politics" that AAP promised? A closer look at the party's origins and actions reveals that its defeat may not be surprising.

AAP emerged from the India Against Corruption (IAC) movement, which, despite its anti-corruption rhetoric, often used Hindu nationalist symbols and sentiments to gather support. Arvind Kejriwal's leadership in the movement, alongside figures like Baba Ramdev and Sri Sri Ravi Shankar, already hinted at the party's soft Hindutva leanings. This communal undertone was overlooked at the time, but it became evident as AAP made questionable moves, such as supporting the abrogation of Article 370 and making statements against Muslims during the pandemic.

AAP's governance in Delhi faced significant challenges, especially with the BJP-led central government blocking the state government's initiatives through the office of the lieutenant governor (LG). This stalemate led some voters to shift support towards the BJP, believing that it was the only party capable of breaking the deadlock. AAP's promise of good governance and public services like education, water, and electricity was overshadowed by the inability to address larger issues.

Furthermore, AAP's engagement with "strategic communalism" became apparent during the election campaigns. The party adopted policies against Muslims, such as refusing admission to Rohingya and Bangladeshi children in Delhi schools. These actions blurred the line between AAP and BJP's tactics of using communal politics to garner Hindu votes.

AAP's promise of an alternative to traditional politics was undermined by its gradual shift towards the same divisive rhetoric and politics that it had once opposed. Though the party continued to promote "clean governance," its embrace of communal issues and lack of clarity on its ideological stance suggested that it was not the true alternative it claimed to be.

Government Response to Delhi Stampede: LG's U-Turn and Vaishnav's Delay in Acknowledging Deaths



The official response to the deadly stampede at New Delhi railway station, which resulted in at least 18 deaths and numerous injuries, has been marred by confusion, lack of clarity, and deflection. The tragedy, which unfolded on the night of February 15, prompted a series of conflicting statements from Union Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnav, Delhi's Lieutenant Governor V.K. Saxena, and the Northern Railways.

Chronology of Events

Initial reports of the stampede began circulating around 11:30 pm, with Vaishnav calling it a "sudden rush" in his first post on X (formerly Twitter). In this early communication, he downplayed the situation, claiming that the rush had been controlled with special trains to manage the crowd. Within minutes, Vaishnav posted again to state that four special trains had been deployed, and the situation was under control.

Shortly after Vaishnav's posts, the Delhi LG was the first official to acknowledge the deaths, initially confirming that lives had been lost in a stampede. However, just 30 minutes later, the LG edited his post to remove any mention of the stampede or casualties, offering a vague statement about an "unfortunate incident." This editing raised concerns of a potential cover-up.

It wasn't until around 1:00 am, after a condolence message from Prime Minis-

ter Modi, that Vaishnav issued a more formal acknowledgment of the stampede and the loss of lives, expressing condolences for the tragedy.

Railway's Mismanagement and Contradictory Statements

The Northern Railways' response further compounded the confusion. On the night of the incident, the Chief Public Relations Officer (CPRO) of Northern Railways dismissed reports of a stampede, claiming it was a "rumour." However, the next day, the CPRO released another statement attributing the tragedy to a passenger slipping on the stairs of the foot-over bridge, causing a chain reaction that led to the stampede. The confusion surrounding the stampede's cause, coupled with the delayed and inconsistent responses, triggered strong criticism from opposition parties. Congress demanded Vaishnav's resignation, accusing him of failing to take responsibility for the incident and of minimizing the tragedy by calling it a "minor incident." The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) and the Trinamool Congress (TMC) also criticized the government for attempting to whitewash the incident and hide its severity.

Opposition's Outcry

Opposition leaders, including Supriya Shrinete from Congress and Sanjay Singh from AAP, condemned the Union government's response, demanding account-

ability for the deaths. The response of the railway ministry, especially the denial and the delay in acknowledging the scale of the tragedy, led to accusations of a cover-up, with critics arguing that the government's first instinct was to protect itself rather than show empathy for the victims.

RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav expressed outrage at the repeated mismanagement, pointing out that the poor continue to suffer the most from the failures of the system. He called for accountability, questioning who would be held responsible for the deaths.

Broader Context of Stampede Tragedies

This tragic incident comes just weeks after another deadly stampede during the Maha Kumbh in Prayagraj, which claimed at least 30 lives. The recurrence of such tragedies raises questions about the government's preparedness and its failure to manage large crowds safely.

In summary, the official response to the Delhi stampede has been marked by indecision, conflicting statements, and deflection of responsibility. The initial efforts to downplay the scale of the disaster, followed by contradictory explanations, have left the public and opposition parties accusing the government of attempting to cover up the truth rather than addressing the tragedy with transparency and accountability.



'Inaccessible' After BJP Complaints Over Modi-Trump Cartoon

The Tamil media group Vikatan has reportedly faced issues with its website becoming inaccessible, just hours after a cartoon published in its digital magazine sparked controversy within the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). The cartoon, which was published on February 10, depicted Prime Minister Narendra Modi shackled next to former US President Donald Trump, a visual commentary on the mistreatment of Indian deportees by US authorities.

The Controversial Cartoon

The cartoon quickly became a point of contention after being criticized by BJP supporters, particularly Tamil Nadu BJP president K. Annamalai. The cartoon's portrayal of Modi in shackles alongside Trump appeared to upset BJP members, prompting Annamalai to lodge a formal complaint with the central government. The Tamil Nadu BJP's strong objections led to widespread discussion, and the digital publication faced backlash on social media. As a result, several users on the platform X (formerly Twitter) reported being unable to access the Vikatan website, leading to suspicions that the site may have been blocked.

Vikatan's Response

Vikatan denied receiving any official communication from the Union government regarding the website's alleged blockage. In an official statement, the media group acknowledged the widespread reports from users stating they couldn't access the site, but emphasized that no formal notice had been issued by the central government. The group also reassured that it would continue to uphold the principles of free speech and freedom of expression, values that have been central to its operation for nearly a century. "We are still trying to ascertain the reasons behind the blocking of our website and are in the process of taking up this matter with the ministry," said Vikatan in their statement.

Political Reactions

The situation drew immediate political reactions, with Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin condemning the alleged blocking of the website. In a post on X, Stalin described the action as an example of the "fascist nature" of the BJP and expressed his concerns over the impact on democracy. He called for the immediate restoration of access to the website, stressing that blocking media outlets for expressing opinions was harmful to democratic values.

Free Speech Concerns

The issue has reignited concerns about the state of free speech and media freedom in India, especially in light of previous instances where media outlets and content critical of the government faced repercussions. The blocking of Vikatan's website, whether government-directed or otherwise, has raised questions about the government's response to dissenting voices and the implications of such actions on the broader media landscape.

PM Modi Meets President Murmu After 'Productive' US and France Visit

- Talks focus on diplomacy, governance.
- Govt formation in Delhi underway.

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi met with President Droupadi Murmu on Sunday evening at the Rashtrapati Bhavan, following his return from a "productive visit" to the United States and France. The meeting comes ahead of the anticipated government formation in Delhi.

The President's office shared pictures of the meeting between the two leaders on the social media platform X. A post from the President House's official handle stated, "Prime Minister Shri @narendramodi called on President Droupadi Murmu at Rashtrapati Bhavan."

Modi's visit to the US and France was hailed as success-

ful by the Indian government, with discussions focusing on strengthening bilateral relations, economic ties, and various global challenges. The visit was seen as a significant diplomatic step for India, enhancing its strategic partnerships with two key Western nations.

This meeting between the Prime Minister and the President holds particular importance as the Indian government is set to undergo a transition, with the formation of the new administration in Delhi expected soon. While specifics of the discussion have not been made public, such meetings are often routine, focusing on matters of national and international importance.



The photos shared by Rashtrapati Bhavan depicted a cordial exchange, with both leaders seen engaged in conversation. Prime Minister Modi's return and the subsequent meeting with the President underscore the importance of continued governance as the country prepares for new develop-

ments on the political front. This interaction between Modi and Murmu continues a series of regular engagements between the country's top political leaders, underscoring the collaborative nature of India's political system as it works to address both domestic and international concerns.

Prashant Kishor's Meeting with Vijay Sparks Speculation of Political Alliance



TPN Correspondent | Tamilnadu

A recent meeting between political strategist-turned-politician Prashant Kishor and actor-turned-politician Vijay in Chennai has set Tamil Nadu's political circles abuzz, leading to speculation about a potential collaboration. With assembly elections approaching in 2026, questions are now being raised about whether this was a casual meeting or the beginning of a strategic alliance between Kishor and Vijay's party, Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK).

Kishor, who has advised multiple political parties through his Indian Political Action Committee (I-PAC), recently launched his own party, Jan Suraaj Party (JSP). However, JSP faced a setback in the 2024 Bihar bypolls, with three out of four candidates losing their deposits. This has raised doubts about Kishor's political future, prompting speculation that he may return to his consultancy roots after his party's underwhelming performance. The meeting with Vijay, who has a massive fanbase in Tamil Nadu, adds fuel to the idea that Kishor could be preparing to work with the TVK to reshape the state's political dynamics.

Vijay, having launched TVK, is positioning himself as a serious political figure, mirroring the political journeys of cinema icons like M.G. Ramachandran (MGR) and N.T. Rama Rao (NTR). His mass appeal could make the TVK a significant force in Tamil Nadu's politics, traditionally dominated by the DMK and AIADMK. However, whether Vijay's popularity can be translated into electoral success remains uncertain.

There is also speculation about a potential alliance between the TVK and the AIADMK, which has been struggling since the death of its leader J. Jayalalithaa. An alliance could potentially challenge the ruling DMK, with the BJP possibly joining as a third ally. However, for such a coalition to succeed, the AIADMK would need to offer the TVK substantial space within the partnership, which could be a point of contention.

As Tamil Nadu prepares for the next election, the Kishor-Vijay meeting marks a significant moment in the state's shifting political landscape.

India pledges collective action at Indian Ocean Conference in Oman



TPN Correspondent | Delhi

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar called on countries across the Indian Ocean to collaborate and coordinate policies to ensure regional security and stability, particularly amid ongoing geopolitical tensions in West Asia and the Indo-Pacific. Speaking at the 8th Indian Ocean Conference in Muscat, Jaishankar emphasized the importance of mutual cooperation to navigate the region's challenges and uncertainties.

Jaishankar highlighted India's pivotal role in addressing var-

ious regional issues, including stabilizing economies under stress, responding to emergencies, and fostering connectivity across the Indian Ocean. His keynote address underscored the need for a united approach among nations in the region to secure stability and overcome economic and political challenges. "We seek stability and security as the baseline... They will be easier reached when we look out for each other, supplement our strengths and coordinate our policies," Jaishankar said, describing the cooperation as a "coordinated flotilla" for navigating the future. He stressed that, in to-

day's volatile era, nations must come together to achieve their collective goals.

The conference, which is supported by the foreign ministries of India and Oman, was attended by foreign ministers from several countries, including Iran, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Bangladesh, and the Maldives. Representatives from China and the UK also participated. The event is occurring amid significant geopolitical shifts, spurred by the policies of the Donald Trump administration in the US and the Israel-Hamas conflict.

Jaishankar also discussed the region's resource constraints and the challenges countries face in meeting their Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). He alluded to the impact of China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and its assertive policies in the South China Sea, which have contributed to financial pressures and regional instability. Highlighting the importance of transparency and collaboration in tackling these challenges, Jaishankar reinforced that a coordinated effort will be key to overcoming the obstacles facing the Indian Ocean countries in the coming years.

Nitish Announces Ex Gratia For Delhi Station Stampede, Lalu Says Faltu Hai Kumbh



TPN Correspondent | Delhi

Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar expressed deep sorrow over the tragic stampede that occurred at the New Delhi Railway Station on Saturday night, which claimed 18 lives, including 14 women and four minors, and left many others injured. In a statement issued by the Chief Minister's Office (CMO), Nitish Kumar announced an ex gratia of Rs 2 lakh for the families of the deceased who hailed from Bihar. The injured will receive compensation of Rs 50,000 for minor injuries and Rs 2.5 lakh for those seriously hurt.

The stampede occurred at a crowded New Delhi railway station, with several individuals still unaccounted for. Bihar officials are awaiting confirmation of the exact number of people from the state affected by the tragedy. Earlier, the Indian Railways had also announced compensation for the victims' families, with Rs 10 lakh for the deceased, and varying amounts for the injured.

Bihar Deputy Chief Minister Samrat Choudhary also expressed his condolences, criticizing the central government's handling of the situation. He pointed out the "inadequate arrangements" by the railway authorities, which he believed contributed to the disaster. Choudhary suggested that Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw should take responsibility and resign for the incident. RJD supremo Lalu Prasad Yadav, who served as the Union Railway Minister, also blamed the railway's mismanagement for the stampede. He described the incident as "unfortunate" and demanded that the railway minister be held accountable. "The Railway Minister should take responsibility for this," he stated, adding that the mismanagement led to unnecessary loss of life.

Agreement reached on 38 of 54 recommendations: Himanta on Assam Accord

TPN Correspondent | Assam

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma announced on Sunday that the state government, in collaboration with the All Assam Students Union (AASU), has reached an agreement to implement 38 out of the 54 recommendations made by the high-level committee on Clause 6 of the Assam Accord. The Clause 6 provisions aim to provide greater protection to the indigenous people of Assam.

Sarma, speaking in Guwahati following a meeting with AASU representatives, explained that 52 of the committee's 54 recommendations fall under the purview of the Assam government. Of these, 38 recommendations will be implemented on a time-bound basis, as part



of the upcoming state budget and through future legislations and ordinances. He expressed hope that discussions in March and April will lead to an agreement on the remaining 14 recommendations.

Among the key recommendations being implemented is the mandatory inclusion of the As-

samese language as a subject in all schools in the Brahmaputra Valley. Similarly, Assamese and Bodo will be taught in all schools in the Bodoland Territorial Region (BTR). Additionally, all schools will be required to teach Assam's history and geography up to Class 8. These steps are seen as crucial to preserving the state's culture

and heritage. In another significant move, the state government will identify blocks in Assam where only individuals who have lived there for at least three generations or since 1951 will be allowed to purchase land. However, this restriction will not apply to urban areas, ensuring flexibility in land transactions in cities.

The Chief Minister also revealed that the state government has requested the central government to hold tripartite talks to address recommendations that fall outside the state's jurisdiction. This development marks a significant step towards fulfilling the promises made under the Assam Accord and ensuring greater protection and rights for the indigenous people of the state.



Trump Team To Meet Russian, Ukrainian Negotiators, Hold Talks On Ending War

- US team heads to Saudi for Ukraine talks.
- Trump, Putin agree to ceasefire talks.
- Kyiv, EU wary of sudden negotiations.

TPN Correspondent | Washington

A senior delegation from US President Donald Trump's administration will soon begin discussions in Saudi Arabia with Russian and Ukrainian negotiators to seek an end to the ongoing war in Ukraine, US officials confirmed on Saturday. The team will include Secretary of State Marco Rubio, White House National Security Advisor Mike Waltz, and Trump's Middle East negotiator Steve Witkoff.

This diplomatic move follows Trump's recent announcement that he had held his first conversation with Russian President Vladimir Putin since returning to office. The two leaders agreed to initiate talks aimed at negotiating a ceasefire in Ukraine. While details re-

garding the timing of the talks remain scarce, Rubio's planned visit to Saudi Arabia as part of his Middle East tour is expected to play a pivotal role in these discussions.

Rubio had a telephone conversation earlier with Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov, during which he reiterated President Trump's commitment to resolving the conflict in Ukraine. Rubio's trip to Israel, which marked the start of his Middle East tour, was part of broader efforts to engage with regional leaders on the Ukraine situation.

Steve Witkoff, a former property developer with a history of involvement in international negotiations, has been deeply involved in efforts to negotiate prisoner

exchanges, including the recent deal that facilitated a phone call between Trump and Putin. Witkoff's role underscores the Trump administration's focused approach to seeking resolution through direct negotiations.

In a social media post earlier this week, Trump emphasized that Rubio, Waltz, Witkoff, and CIA Director John Ratcliffe had been assigned to work swiftly on a deal with Russia to halt the war. However, this sudden shift in diplomatic strategy has taken Kyiv and its European allies by surprise. Both Ukraine and its Western supporters fear being sidelined in the discussions concerning the future of Ukraine after what has been the most significant land invasion in Europe since World War II.

Amid 'Deep State' Charges, US Cuts Bangladesh "Political Landscape" Funds



TPN Correspondent | Washington

In a bid to reduce US taxpayer spending, the Donald Trump administration's Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE) has cancelled several overseas funding projects, including a controversial \$29 million initiative aimed at "strengthening the political landscape" in Bangladesh. The funding, which had been allocated to the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), was intended to support political party capacity-building and foster better relationships between political parties and their constituents in Bangladesh.

The program, known as the Strengthening Political Landscape (SPL) project, also worked to reduce political violence and promote peaceful conflict resolution. According to Democracy International (DI), the program aimed to support political activists, citizens, and students in developing leadership skills and advocating for inclusive policies.

This funding cancellation comes just days after President Trump dismissed claims of US involvement in the political turmoil that led to the ousting of Bangladesh's former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. Speaking alongside Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Trump denied any role of the US in the 2024 regime change in Bangladesh, stating that the issue had long been managed by India.

Trump's remarks come amid growing tensions between Bangladesh and the US, following Hasina's ouster in August after massive protests, and the subsequent rise of an interim government led by Nobel laureate Muhammad Yunus. The interim government has faced criticism for failing to protect religious minorities, especially Hindus, from attacks by radical Islamist elements. In addition to the cancellation of the SPL project, DOGE also slashed other foreign aid funding, including \$22 million intended for "voter turnout" initiatives in India and \$39 million allocated for "fiscal federalism" and "biodiversity conservation" programs in Nepal. These cuts are part of DOGE's broader efforts to reduce unnecessary government spending, which the administration says will benefit US taxpayers.

Muhsin Hendricks, World's First Openly Gay Imam, Shot Dead in South Africa



TPN Correspondent | South Africa

Muhsin Hendricks, renowned as the world's first openly gay imam, was tragically shot and killed near the southern city of Gqeberha, South Africa, on Saturday. The imam, who dedicated his life to creating a safe haven for marginalized Muslims, particularly queer individuals, was targeted while in a car with another person. According to South African police, a vehicle suddenly blocked their path, and two assailants with covered faces exited and began firing multiple shots at the vehicle.

Hendricks, who was seated in the back of the car, was fatally shot. The driver managed to escape, and authorities later confirmed the authenticity of a video circulating on social media, which appeared to show the targeted attack. The police have not disclosed a clear motive for the murder, and the investigation is ongoing. They have urged anyone with information to come forward to assist with the case. Hendricks, who was a prominent figure in various LGBTQ advocacy groups, came out as gay in 1996 and later founded the Al-Ghurbaah mosque in Wynberg, near Cape Town. The mosque was known for offering a sanctuary where queer Muslims and marginalized women could practice Islam in a safe and inclusive environment. Hendricks was also featured in the 2022 documentary "The Radical," which chronicled his work and the challenges he faced as an openly gay religious leader.

The International Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans and Intersex Association (ILGA) condemned the murder, calling it a possible hate crime. ILGA World's executive director, Julia Ehrh, expressed deep shock over the killing, urging South African authorities to conduct a thorough investigation into the incident. South Africa, despite its progressive stance on LGBTQ rights, continues to grapple with high levels of violence, as evidenced by its staggering murder rate of approximately 28,000 in the past year. Hendricks had previously spoken of the threats he faced but maintained that the need to live authentically outweighed the fear of death. His death marks a tragic loss for the LGBTQ Muslim community and the broader fight for equality and acceptance.

Ex-Mauritius PM Pravind Jugnauth Arrested In Money-Laundering Case

TPN Correspondent | Port Louis

Pravind Jugnauth, the former Prime Minister of Mauritius, was arrested on Sunday in connection with a money-laundering investigation, marking a significant development in the ongoing probe into financial crimes on the island. Jugnauth, along with his wife Kobita Jugnauth, was initially detained on Saturday and questioned for several hours before his formal arrest in the early hours of Sunday.

Pravind Jugnauth, 63, who served as Prime Minister from 2017 to 2024, denied the allegations against him. His lawyer, Raouf Gulbul, stated that the ex-leader had provided his version of events and would appear before a judge later on Sunday. Kobita Jugnauth was released after questioning.

As part of the investigation, police conducted raids on the homes of other suspects, including a local leisure company employee and a real estate executive.



from leaving the country, citing their involvement in a money-laundering case.

Pravind Jugnauth is a member of a political dynasty that has dominated Mauritius since its independence from Britain in 1968. His leadership was marked by significant achievements, including a historic deal with Britain over the Chagos Islands, which had been a long-standing territorial dispute. Jugnauth's government oversaw Mauritius regaining sovereignty over the islands, although the UK and US continue to operate a military base there under a lease agreement.

The arrest comes after Jugnauth's party suffered a crushing defeat in the November elections, which saw his rival Navin Ramgoolam return to power as Prime Minister. Ramgoolam's government has reopened negotiations on the Chagos Islands issue, aiming to renegotiate the terms of the UK-US military base lease.

utive. In these raids, law enforcement officials seized various items, including luxury watches, stacks of cash, and documents bearing the Jugnauth family's name. These findings have raised suspicions about the scale of the money-laundering operation.

The Financial Crimes Commission had earlier issued a notice to prevent the Jugnauths and two other suspects

UAE Expands Visa-On-Arrival Facility For Indians From 6 More Countries

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

The United Arab Emirates (UAE) has expanded its visa-on-arrival program for Indian passport holders by including those with valid visas, residence permits, or Green Cards from six additional countries. This move will allow more Indian nationals to benefit from the visa-on-arrival facilities at UAE entry points, facilitating smoother travel for both tourism and business.

Under the new regulations, Indian nationals holding valid documentation from Singapore, Japan, South Korea, Australia, New Zealand, and Canada are now eligible for the visa-on-arrival facility. Previously, this privilege was

limited to Indian citizens with valid visas or residence permits from the United States, European Union member states, and the United Kingdom. The decision aims to streamline travel between India and the UAE, reflecting the strengthening of ties between the two nations.

To qualify for the visa-on-arrival program, Indian nationals must fulfill certain criteria, including holding a valid ordinary passport with at least six months' validity from the date of arrival. In addition, they must possess a valid visa, residence permit, or Green Card from any of the newly eligible countries. Once these conditions are met, travellers will pay the visa fee upon ar-

rival at UAE immigration checkpoints. The UAE has introduced three visa categories under the program, each with a nominal fee. The 4-day visa is priced at Dh100 (approximately Rs 2,270), while a 14-day extension costs Dh250 (approximately Rs 5,670). There is also a 60-day visa, which is also priced at Dh250.

Major General Suhail Saeed Al Khailli, Director General of the UAE's Authority for Identity, Citizenship, Customs, and Port Security (ICP), stated that this move aligns with the long-term strategic partnership between the UAE and India. The initiative seeks to facilitate travel for Indian citizens, enhancing opportunities for tourism, residency, and employment in the UAE.

Mcap of 8 of top-10 valued firms tumbles Rs 2 lakh crore; Reliance biggest laggard



The combined market valuation of eight out of the ten most valuable domestic firms saw a significant drop of Rs 2 lakh crore last week, largely due to a bearish trend in the broader stock market. Leading this decline was Reliance Industries, which saw the biggest hit, alongside other major companies such as Tata Consultancy Services (TCS), HDFC Bank, Infosys, State Bank of India (SBI), Hindustan Unilever, Bajaj Finance, and ITC.

Equity benchmark indices, including Sensex and Nifty, continued their downward trajectory for the eighth consecutive day on Friday. Over the past eight trading days, the BSE Sensex plummeted by 2,644.6 points, or 3.36%, while the Nifty shed 810 points, or 3.41%.

Reliance Industries experienced a sharp drop in its market capitalization (mcap), losing Rs 67,526.54 crore to settle at Rs 16,46,822.12 crore. Similarly, TCS saw a decline of Rs 34,950.72 crore in its valuation, bringing its mcap down to Rs 14,22,903.37 crore. HDFC

Bank also suffered a loss of Rs 28,382.23 crore, reducing its mcap to Rs 12,96,708.35 crore. ITC's valuation shrank by Rs 25,429.75 crore to Rs 5,13,699.85 crore.

In addition, Infosys' mcap fell by Rs 19,287.32 crore to Rs 7,70,786.76 crore, and State Bank of India's valuation dropped by Rs 13,431.55 crore to Rs 6,44,357.57 crore. Hindustan Unilever saw its mcap reduce by Rs 10,714.14 crore, closing at Rs 5,44,647 crore, while Bajaj Finance's mcap dipped by Rs 4,230.4 crore to Rs 5,20,082.42 crore.

On the flip side, Bharti Airtel and ICICI Bank were among the few gainers. Bharti Airtel's mcap surged by Rs 22,426.2 crore to Rs 9,78,631.54 crore, while ICICI Bank's valuation rose by Rs 1,182.57 crore to Rs 8,88,815.13 crore.

Despite the losses, Reliance Industries retained its position as the most valuable firm, followed by TCS, HDFC Bank, Bharti Airtel, ICICI Bank, Infosys, SBI, Hindustan Unilever, Bajaj Finance, and ITC.



Depreciating rupee may impact softened inflation in Q4 2024-25

A depreciating rupee could pose a significant risk to India's overall inflation, particularly by increasing the prices of imported goods, according to a report by financial services firm Centrum Broking. The rupee is currently trading near its all-time low, which typically makes imports more expensive and could contribute to higher inflationary pressures.

However, the report notes that steady progress in Rabi sowing and the softening of food prices are expected to help lower inflation in the fourth quarter of 2024-25. India's retail inflation stood at 4.3% in January, marking a five-month low and staying comfortably within the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) target range of 2-6%. This decline in inflation is largely attributed to a drop in food prices, particularly fresh produce, which has helped ease inflationary concerns.

The Centrum report highlights that with food inflation in check, the food basket is projected to play a significant role in keeping overall inflation lower in the

near term. The decline in inflation is also seen as a key factor that may give the RBI more room to focus on fostering economic growth. The central bank has maintained a neutral stance on interest rates, with any future rate cuts being dependent on incoming macroeconomic data.

Food inflation had been a major concern in India, particularly due to rising prices of vegetables, fruits, and oils. This trend seems to have eased, providing relief to policymakers who are working toward bringing retail inflation down to a sustainable 4%.

The RBI had kept the repo rate elevated at 6.5% for nearly five years to control inflation but recently reduced it by 25 basis points to support growth and consumption. Looking ahead, Centrum forecasts that inflation will average 4.8% in 2024-25, with the possibility of another 25 basis points rate cut. However, the firm cautions that the depreciating rupee must be monitored closely, as it could offset some of the gains made in controlling inflation.

Indian Steel Industry at Risk of Dumping Due to US Tariffs: JSPL Chairman



The Indian steel industry must be vigilant as countries exporting steel to the US may redirect shipments to India following the imposition of tariffs by the US, according to Naveen Jindal, Chairman of Jindal Steel and Power Ltd (JSPL). Speaking at the Global Business Summit (GBS) on Saturday, Jindal warned that the tariffs announced by US President Donald Trump on steel and aluminum imports could lead to a surge in unfair exports to India due to the country's large domestic demand.

"Countries sending shipments to the US may dump their products in India because of the massive demand in our market," Jindal cautioned, adding that the Indian steel industry would need to be protected from such unfair trade practices.

To address the issue, the Indian Steel Association has already filed an application with the Directorate General of Trade Remedies (DGTR), which is currently reviewing

the matter. Indian steel producers have long raised concerns over the dumping of steel products from certain countries, which has negatively affected their competitiveness in the domestic market.

Jindal expressed optimism that a positive decision would be reached soon to safeguard the interests of the Indian steel industry. Official data indicates a concerning trend: India's steel exports have fallen by 28.9% to 3.99 million tonnes in the April-January period of FY25, compared to 5.61 million tonnes during the same period last year. Meanwhile, steel imports into India have surged by over 20%, reaching 8.29 million tonnes during the same period.

The steel industry's struggles come amid the US imposing a 25% tariff on all steel and aluminum imports. India, which remains a net importer of steel, faces the risk of foreign steel flooding its market, putting additional pressure on local manufacturers.

Nifty Smallcap 100 Enters Bear Market Amid US Tariff Concerns

The Indian stock market witnessed significant turbulence on Friday, with the Nifty Smallcap 100 index officially entering a 'bear' market phase after it plunged around 22% from its peak of 19,716.20. The index closed nearly 4% lower, settling at 15,373.70. This decline was part of a broader market sell-off that also affected midcap stocks, as the Nifty Midcap 150 index dropped by almost 2.5%, closing at 18,325.40, according to NSE data.

Pharmaceutical stocks bore the brunt of the market sell-off on Thursday, largely due to growing concerns over potential reciprocal tariffs from the US. Stocks like Natco Pharma and Laurus Labs, which are part of the Nifty Smallcap 100 index, witnessed substantial declines, both falling over 9%. Other stocks within the same index, including IFCI, Glenmark Pharma, Finolex Cables, HFCL, BEML, and Apar Industries, also saw steep declines, losing over 7% on Friday.

The broader market sell-off came amid news of potential changes in US trade policy under President Donald Trump. On Thursday evening, Trump signed an order directing the US Trade Representative and the Commerce Secretary to devise new country-specific tariffs aimed at rebalancing trade relations. According to Howard Lutnick, Trump's nominee for Commerce Secretary, these changes may be implemented by April 1, 2025.

In addition to these country-specific tariffs, Trump also indicated that additional import



taxes could be imposed on goods such as cars, semiconductors, and pharmaceuticals, deepening concerns in the Indian market. The pharmaceutical sector, in particular, could be hit hard by such policies, as the US is a major market for Indian pharmaceutical exports.

In a meeting with Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Trump noted that India has some of the highest tariffs globally, but reassured that both leaders are committed to strengthening bilateral ties and improving trade policies between the two nations. This potential shift in trade dynamics added to the market's volatility, as investors grew increasingly cautious about the economic impact of rising tariffs.

With the Nifty Smallcap 100 index entering a bear market, and concerns mounting over the impact of US tariff policies, investors are closely monitoring developments for any signs of stabilization in the Indian stock market.

The “Happiness Factory: Parents In South Korea Are Locking Themselves

In a unique experiment in Gangwon Province, South Korea, parents are voluntarily participating in a confinement experience designed to help them understand the social isolation and anxiety that their children are facing. The experiment, known as the “Happiness Factory,” involves parents being shut into small rooms for three days with no access to TVs, phones, laptops, or even any form of communication. Their only connection to the outside world is a small feeding hole through which their meals are passed.



tense pressure from school or society.

The purpose of this intense and somewhat extreme experience is to give parents a first-hand insight into what their children, many of whom are “reclusive youths,” experience daily. These youths, often referred to as “hikikomori” in Japan and South Korea, spend most of their time alone in their rooms, avoiding social interaction and engagement with the outside world. The isolation is usually due to a range of factors, including anxiety, depression, and in-

Parents who join the program hope to better understand the emotional and psychological toll their children endure when they withdraw from the outside world. The isolation is often a cry for help or a reaction to intense social pressures, yet many parents struggle to relate to their children’s feelings and struggles. By voluntarily experiencing confinement, parents aim to gain empathy and create better strategies for supporting their children in overcoming their social anxiety and withdrawal.

The “Happiness Factory” is not just about the isolation experience itself; it’s also a form of therapy and education for parents, who engage in group discussions afterward. Through these conversations, parents share insights and emotional struggles, learning how to create more open and supportive environments for their children. The ultimate goal of this experiment is to equip parents with the tools to help their reclusive children reintegrate into society in a healthy, supportive way, allowing for better communication and understanding within families.

Instagram Tests “Dislike” Button for Comments

Instagram, owned by Meta, is currently testing a controversial new feature that allows users to “dislike” comments. Several users have reported seeing a downward arrow next to the usual like heart in the comments section of posts, including Feed posts and Reels. However, Instagram has not officially confirmed the feature’s broader rollout or provided details on when it might become available to all users.



The new “dislike” button gives users the ability to express disagreement with certain comments, functioning similarly to the downvote feature found on platforms like Reddit. This change could allow people to signal whether they agree or disagree with opinions shared in the comment sections, potentially adding a new layer of interaction to Instagram’s platform.

Despite its potential to offer users more ways to interact with content, the feature has faced significant backlash. Many people are concerned that the dislike button could lead to in-

creased negativity, bullying, and toxicity within comment sections. Critics argue that it could open the door to a more hostile environment, as users may misuse the feature to downvote comments in a vindictive or hurtful manner. Some users have even shared screenshots of their comments sections with the newly added down arrow, expressing their discontent with the button’s presence.

its benefits in promoting more nuanced discussions or highlighting comments people strongly disagree with, its potential for encouraging online hostility has many worried. Instagram’s move to test the dislike button has reignited debates about how social media platforms can balance user expression with maintaining a positive and supportive environment. For now, it remains unclear whether the feature will be fully rolled out or scrapped due to user feedback.

While the feature may have

Youtuber Gets Stuck On Mobile Tower After Climbing It To Boost Channel Views

A YouTuber from Uttar Pradesh, identified as Nileshwar, found himself stranded and needing rescue after attempting a daring stunt for online fame. Nileshwar, who runs the YouTube channel Nileshwar22, climbed a mobile tower in Tigri village, Greater Noida, in an attempt to attract views. His channel, which has around 8,900 subscribers, aimed to boost its popularity through the risky stunt, which was being recorded by his partner.



As Nileshwar climbed the tower, their activity started to attract attention, and soon, a large crowd gathered beneath the structure. However, when his partner noticed the growing crowd, he fled the scene, leaving Nileshwar stuck at the top of the tower. The situation quickly escalated, and local authorities were called in to help. A five-hour rescue operation ensued, with the police working tirelessly to bring Nileshwar down safely.

The incident highlights the growing trend of YouTubers and online personalities taking dangerous risks for the sake of gaining more views and followers. The police have since issued a warning against engaging in such perilous activities, urging individuals to avoid putting their lives at risk for online fame.

This incident is not isolated. Recently, a similar stunt took place in Pune, where a woman dangled from a tall building, holding onto the hand of a man lying on the roof. Both were arrested after the stunt, with the person filming the video still on the run.

In another case, a YouTuber from Kerala, Sanju Techy, tried a risky stunt inspired by a Malayalam film. He transformed his car into a makeshift swimming pool by lining it with a tarpaulin sheet and filling it with water. The stunt caused a traffic jam when the water seeped into the vehicle’s seats and engine, and authorities were forced to intervene. Sanju and his friends were fined for violating traffic rules, and the car’s registration was suspended, along with the driver’s license. These incidents serve as a stark reminder of the dangers of prioritizing online fame over personal safety.

** Apple Vision Pro Set for New Features, Including Apple Intelligence and Guest Mode**

Apple is preparing to enhance its Vision Pro headset with several new features, including the addition of Apple Intelligence, an updated guest mode, and a spatial content app. These upgrades are expected to be rolled out as part of a software update, with the possibility of a beta version for developers being available as soon as this week, according to a report by Bloomberg News on Saturday.



The Vision Pro, which costs around \$3,500, has already attracted attention for its innovative design and capabilities. The upcoming software update is poised to expand its functionality even further, offering users more personalized experiences and new features to interact with the headset. One of the major additions is the integration of Apple Intelligence, which will likely bring advanced AI-driven features to the device. Apple has been focusing heavily on AI and machine learning in its product lineup, and the Vision Pro headset will now benefit from

this expertise, making the device more intuitive and responsive to users’ needs. Additionally, the update will introduce an updated guest mode, which will allow users to share their Vision Pro headset with others without compromising their personal settings or data. This feature could make the device more accessible to multiple users in households or shared environments. Another exciting feature coming with the update is the spatial content app, which will likely expand the range of immersive experiences available on the Vision Pro. The app

could open new possibilities for entertainment, productivity, and other activities, taking full advantage of the headset’s immersive display and advanced technology. These new features will likely be part of an ongoing effort by Apple to improve the Vision Pro headset and solidify its position in the growing augmented reality (AR) and virtual reality (VR) market. With the software update expected soon, developers will have the opportunity to explore these new tools and help refine them ahead of the wider rollout to consumers.

Chennai Influencer Gives A Tour Of Etihad’s Ultra-Luxurious The Residence

When it comes to luxury in the skies, Etihad Airways is redefining what it means to fly in style. Recently, a Chennai couple with their child shared their lavish experience aboard the airline’s Airbus A380, booking “The Residence” suite, which offers an exclusive, private flying experience. With ticket prices ranging from Rs 3-4 lakh, this service is considered to be one of the most opulent ways to travel.

Content creator Keerthi documented the entire journey on Instagram, providing a rare glimpse into the extravagant services offered by Etihad. According to Keerthi, the luxury experience began even before they boarded the flight. Passengers who book The Residence are granted access to Etihad’s exclusive First Class Lounge at Abu Dhabi International Airport, which is a far cry from your typical airport experience. The lounge

offers a host of premium services, including a la carte gourmet dining, spotless shower suites, a dedicated children’s play area, and private cabins for families.

Once aboard, The Residence delivers an unmatched level of comfort and privacy. With features akin to a private jet, the suite includes a spacious living area, a separate bedroom, and a private bathroom with a shower. Passengers enjoy personalized service from a dedicated butler, ensuring every need is met, from meals to special requests. The cabin’s sophisticated design combines comfort with elegance, allowing families to travel in absolute luxury.

For those seeking the ultimate flying experience, Etihad’s The Residence is the epitome of lavish air travel. Whether you’re enjoying world-class



dining in the lounge or relaxing in your own private suite, the experience offers a level of

exclusivity and comfort that is unparalleled in commercial aviation.

IPL 2025: KKR vs RCB to Kick Off Tournament on March 22; Full Schedule Released



Match	Date	Time	Venue	Team 1	Team 2
1	22-Mar-25	19:30	Eden Gardens	Kolkata Knight Riders	Royal Challengers Bangalore
2	23-Mar-25	19:30	Wankhede Stadium	Mumbai Indians	Chennai Super Kings
3	24-Mar-25	19:30	Chennai Super Kings	Chennai Super Kings	Mumbai Indians
4	25-Mar-25	19:30	Wankhede Stadium	Mumbai Indians	Chennai Super Kings
5	26-Mar-25	19:30	Eden Gardens	Kolkata Knight Riders	Royal Challengers Bangalore
6	27-Mar-25	19:30	Wankhede Stadium	Mumbai Indians	Chennai Super Kings
7	28-Mar-25	19:30	Chennai Super Kings	Chennai Super Kings	Mumbai Indians
8	29-Mar-25	19:30	Wankhede Stadium	Mumbai Indians	Chennai Super Kings
9	30-Mar-25	19:30	Eden Gardens	Kolkata Knight Riders	Royal Challengers Bangalore
10	31-Mar-25	19:30	Wankhede Stadium	Mumbai Indians	Chennai Super Kings
11	01-Apr-25	19:30	Chennai Super Kings	Chennai Super Kings	Mumbai Indians
12	02-Apr-25	19:30	Wankhede Stadium	Mumbai Indians	Chennai Super Kings
13	03-Apr-25	19:30	Eden Gardens	Kolkata Knight Riders	Royal Challengers Bangalore
14	04-Apr-25	19:30	Wankhede Stadium	Mumbai Indians	Chennai Super Kings
15	05-Apr-25	19:30	Chennai Super Kings	Chennai Super Kings	Mumbai Indians
16	06-Apr-25	19:30	Wankhede Stadium	Mumbai Indians	Chennai Super Kings
17	07-Apr-25	19:30	Eden Gardens	Kolkata Knight Riders	Royal Challengers Bangalore
18	08-Apr-25	19:30	Wankhede Stadium	Mumbai Indians	Chennai Super Kings
19	09-Apr-25	19:30	Chennai Super Kings	Chennai Super Kings	Mumbai Indians
20	10-Apr-25	19:30	Wankhede Stadium	Mumbai Indians	Chennai Super Kings
21	11-Apr-25	19:30	Eden Gardens	Kolkata Knight Riders	Royal Challengers Bangalore
22	12-Apr-25	19:30	Wankhede Stadium	Mumbai Indians	Chennai Super Kings
23	13-Apr-25	19:30	Chennai Super Kings	Chennai Super Kings	Mumbai Indians
24	14-Apr-25	19:30	Wankhede Stadium	Mumbai Indians	Chennai Super Kings
25	15-Apr-25	19:30	Eden Gardens	Kolkata Knight Riders	Royal Challengers Bangalore
26	16-Apr-25	19:30	Wankhede Stadium	Mumbai Indians	Chennai Super Kings
27	17-Apr-25	19:30	Chennai Super Kings	Chennai Super Kings	Mumbai Indians
28	18-Apr-25	19:30	Wankhede Stadium	Mumbai Indians	Chennai Super Kings
29	19-Apr-25	19:30	Eden Gardens	Kolkata Knight Riders	Royal Challengers Bangalore
30	20-Apr-25	19:30	Wankhede Stadium	Mumbai Indians	Chennai Super Kings
31	21-Apr-25	19:30	Chennai Super Kings	Chennai Super Kings	Mumbai Indians
32	22-Apr-25	19:30	Wankhede Stadium	Mumbai Indians	Chennai Super Kings
33	23-Apr-25	19:30	Eden Gardens	Kolkata Knight Riders	Royal Challengers Bangalore
34	24-Apr-25	19:30	Wankhede Stadium	Mumbai Indians	Chennai Super Kings
35	25-Apr-25	19:30	Chennai Super Kings	Chennai Super Kings	Mumbai Indians
36	26-Apr-25	19:30	Wankhede Stadium	Mumbai Indians	Chennai Super Kings
37	27-Apr-25	19:30	Eden Gardens	Kolkata Knight Riders	Royal Challengers Bangalore
38	28-Apr-25	19:30	Wankhede Stadium	Mumbai Indians	Chennai Super Kings
39	29-Apr-25	19:30	Chennai Super Kings	Chennai Super Kings	Mumbai Indians
40	30-Apr-25	19:30	Wankhede Stadium	Mumbai Indians	Chennai Super Kings
41	01-May-25	19:30	Eden Gardens	Kolkata Knight Riders	Royal Challengers Bangalore
42	02-May-25	19:30	Wankhede Stadium	Mumbai Indians	Chennai Super Kings
43	03-May-25	19:30	Chennai Super Kings	Chennai Super Kings	Mumbai Indians
44	04-May-25	19:30	Wankhede Stadium	Mumbai Indians	Chennai Super Kings
45	05-May-25	19:30	Eden Gardens	Kolkata Knight Riders	Royal Challengers Bangalore
46	06-May-25	19:30	Wankhede Stadium	Mumbai Indians	Chennai Super Kings
47	07-May-25	19:30	Chennai Super Kings	Chennai Super Kings	Mumbai Indians
48	08-May-25	19:30	Wankhede Stadium	Mumbai Indians	Chennai Super Kings
49	09-May-25	19:30	Eden Gardens	Kolkata Knight Riders	Royal Challengers Bangalore
50	10-May-25	19:30	Wankhede Stadium	Mumbai Indians	Chennai Super Kings
51	11-May-25	19:30	Chennai Super Kings	Chennai Super Kings	Mumbai Indians
52	12-May-25	19:30	Wankhede Stadium	Mumbai Indians	Chennai Super Kings
53	13-May-25	19:30	Eden Gardens	Kolkata Knight Riders	Royal Challengers Bangalore
54	14-May-25	19:30	Wankhede Stadium	Mumbai Indians	Chennai Super Kings
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56	16-May-25	19:30	Wankhede Stadium	Mumbai Indians	Chennai Super Kings
57	17-May-25	19:30	Eden Gardens	Kolkata Knight Riders	Royal Challengers Bangalore
58	18-May-25	19:30	Wankhede Stadium	Mumbai Indians	Chennai Super Kings
59	19-May-25	19:30	Chennai Super Kings	Chennai Super Kings	Mumbai Indians
60	20-May-25	19:30	Wankhede Stadium	Mumbai Indians	Chennai Super Kings
61	21-May-25	19:30	Eden Gardens	Kolkata Knight Riders	Royal Challengers Bangalore
62	22-May-25	19:30	Wankhede Stadium	Mumbai Indians	Chennai Super Kings
63	23-May-25	19:30	Chennai Super Kings	Chennai Super Kings	Mumbai Indians
64	24-May-25	19:30	Wankhede Stadium	Mumbai Indians	Chennai Super Kings
65	25-May-25	19:30	Eden Gardens	Kolkata Knight Riders	Royal Challengers Bangalore

The highly anticipated IPL 2025 season is set to begin on March 22, with defending champions Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) taking on Royal Challengers Bangalore (RCB) at their home ground, Eden Gardens. This match will mark the opening of a thrilling ten-team tournament that will span 65 days, with 74 matches to be held across 13 venues.

The schedule was officially announced by the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) through broadcasters JioHotstar. After a break following the Champions Trophy, which ends on March 9, the IPL action will resume.

The opening weekend includes several exciting fixtures. On March 23, Sunrisers Hyderabad (SRH), who

were the runners-up in IPL 2024, will host 2008 champions Rajasthan Royals (RR) at the Rajiv Gandhi International Stadium. The same evening, Chennai Super Kings (CSK) will take on Mumbai Indians (MI) in a much-anticipated clash at the MA Chidambaram Stadium. These two teams, both with five IPL titles each, will also meet in Mumbai on April 20 for the reverse fixture.

Other key matches include Delhi Capitals (DC) facing Lucknow Super Giants (LSG) in Visakhapatnam on March 24 and Gujarat Titans (GT) opening their campaign against Punjab Kings (PBKS) in Ahmedabad on March 25.

Notably, KKR is also scheduled to host Qualifier 2 on May 23 and the IPL 2025 final on May 25, while Hyderabad will host Qualifier 1 and the Eliminator on May 20 and 21, respectively.

New captain announcements for several teams have also been made, with RCB naming Rajat Patidar as their new leader, and Shreyas Iyer and Rishabh Pant appointed as captains for PBKS and LSG, respectively. However, KKR and DC are yet to announce their captains.

The full IPL 2025 schedule promises a thrilling cricketing season for fans across the globe.

Delhi Dribblers End Mumbai Titans' Winning Streak in Thrilling Showdown



In a nail-biting InBL Pro U25 clash at the Thyagraj Indoor Stadium, the Delhi Dribblers handed the Mumbai Titans their first loss in four games, defeating them 88-84 in a thrilling contest. The Dribblers dominated the first half, putting up a staggering 59 points, but the Titans mounted a fierce comeback in the second half, setting up a dramatic finish.

Lachlan Barker once again led the charge for the Dribblers, scoring 25 points, while Daniel Poelsma played a pivotal role with 23 points, including several crucial three-pointers. Newcomer Piyush Meena made his debut for the Dribblers, adding to the team's depth.

The Dribblers were off to a strong start, with early baskets from Barker and James Montgomery, and an energetic offense that helped them establish an early lead. The Titans, led by Aaron Verghese Blessen's strong drives to the basket, kept pace, but the Dribblers capitalized on turnovers to maintain their edge. Barker hit a clutch four-point play toward the end of the first quarter, extending the lead to eight.

In the second quarter, the Dribblers' offense continued to roll. With the Titans' attack stalling, Poelsma knocked down several three-pointers, pushing the lead to 15 points. By halftime, the Dribblers had an impressive

25-point advantage, heading into the break with a commanding lead.

The Titans came out strong after halftime, intensifying their defense. Lokendra and Dalph Panopio led the charge with fast breaks and perimeter shooting, while Montgomery fought hard in the paint. The Titans exploded for 42 points in the third quarter, trimming the Dribblers' lead to just 11 points heading into the final quarter.

The fourth quarter saw the Titans continue their surge, with Kitto hitting a deep three and Durell McDonald converting a three-point play. The Dribblers struggled offensively, allowing the Titans to close the gap to just two points.

As the game reached its climax, the Titans, led by Judd and McDonald, tied the game. However, Barker and Pratyanshu Tomar responded with key shots to maintain a slim lead. With 18 seconds left, Barker sank crucial free throws to give the Dribblers a four-point lead. Montgomery then sealed the win with a powerful two-handed dunk, ensuring the Dribblers' victory.

The Dribblers' 88-84 win was a dramatic and hard-fought contest, marking a memorable end to the Titans' three-game winning streak.

FIH Hockey Pro League: India Captain Salima Tete Praises Team's Resilience Against England



India women's team captain Salima Tete praised her team's performance against England in the FIH Hockey Pro League, despite their narrow loss in the shootout. The match ended in a tense 2-2 draw, with both teams battling fiercely. India showed great resilience, holding their nerve to force the game into the shootout. However, England kept their composure during the shootout and managed to win the bonus point.

Tete expressed her satisfaction with how her team played, emphasizing their determination and resilience on the field. Although the loss in the shootout was disappointing, the captain acknowledged the positive aspects of her team's performance, highlighting their ability to stay strong under pressure. The match at the Kalinga Hockey Stadium on Sunday was an exciting contest, showcasing the competitive spirit of both teams.

Yashasvi Jaiswal Ruled Out of Mumbai's Ranji Trophy Semi-Final Against Vidarbha

Mumbai's preparations for the upcoming Ranji Trophy semi-final against Vidarbha have taken a significant blow with opener Yashasvi Jaiswal being ruled out due to a right ankle injury. Jaiswal sustained the injury during training over the weekend, just days before the semi-final clash, which is set to begin on Monday in Nagpur.

Initially part of India's Champions Trophy 2025 squad, Jaiswal was later replaced by spinner Varun Chakaravathy and was retained as a non-travelling reserve. However, following his injury, Jaiswal is expected to return home, and there will be no replacement named for him in Mumbai's semi-final squad.

Despite Jaiswal's absence, Mumbai's squad still boasts a wealth of experience with players like Ajinkya Rahane, Suryakumar Ya-

dav, Shivam Dube, and Shardul Thakur. Among them, Shivam Dube is also a non-travelling reserve for India's Champions Trophy squad and could potentially be called up if required.

Jaiswal, a regular member of India's Test squad, had recently made his ODI debut against England in Nagpur, stepping in for Virat Kohli, who was sidelined due to a knee injury. He scored 15 runs in that match. Jaiswal has only played one Ranji Trophy match this season, where he scored 4 and 26 in Mumbai's group-stage loss to Jammu and Kashmir.

This semi-final clash against Vidarbha is a rematch of last season's final. Vidarbha have been in exceptional form, winning seven out of their eight matches this season. They head into the semi-final on the back of a dom-



inant 198-run victory over Tamil Nadu in the quarter-finals. Mumbai will now look to rely on their experienced squad to carry them through to the final, despite Jaiswal's absence.

Tejas Dhingra Defends National Championship Title at NEC Show Jumping 2024-25



Tejas Dhingra of Beeya's Riding Facility successfully retained his National Championship title at the National Equestrian Championship (Show Jumping) 2024-25. The prestigious event took place at the Modi Equestrian Academy in Meerut on Sunday.

Dhingra, the reigning champion, triumphed with

an impressive 16 points in the Championship Tour, securing the top spot. He finished ahead of the joint runners-up, Amar Sarin of Tarc Equestrian Centre and Ashray Butta of EGC Stables, who shared second place. This victory marks another significant achievement in Dhingra's show jumping career.



Movie Review: "MAX" (Streaming on ZEE5)



Released on February 15, 2025, MAX is a Kannada action thriller starring Sudeepa and directed by Vijay Karthikeyaa. The movie, now streaming on ZEE5, revolves around a tough police officer named Max, who confronts political corruption and crime in a troubled region. The film follows Max as he navigates through a complex scenario involving powerful political families and their rebellious children, leading to a murder mystery that challenges the law enforcement system. While Sudeepa delivers a strong performance, the film's character development feels lacking, particularly in the antagonist roles. Varalaxmi Sarathkumar's introduction is intriguing, but her character

loses impact as the story progresses. The film's narrative closely resembles Karthi's Kaithi, which may evoke a sense of familiarity for some viewers. Despite impressive cinematography by Shekhar Chandra and a solid background score by Ajaneesh Loknath, the screenplay fails to fully capitalize on its potential. The film could have been more gripping with stronger villain arcs and sharper pacing. Ultimately, MAX remains an average action thriller, with its shortcomings preventing it from reaching its true potential. Rating: 2.75/5

Nicole Kidman Talks About Her Motivation to Work with Female Directors



Hollywood icon Nicole Kidman has shared her inspiration behind collaborating with female directors, including Sofia Coppola, Halina Reijn, and Lulu Wang. Reflecting on her career choices, Kidman expressed that she feels deeply connected to women's stories, as a "mother, daughter, wife, producer, and actress." She feels that her personal experiences allow her to understand and portray women's emotions authentically, which makes her gravitate toward working with talented female filmmakers. In an interview, Kidman explained, "I feel in tune with women's stories, obviously, I am a woman, and I can speak as a mother, daughter, wife, producer, actress; in short, I can move in different spaces and use a well of emotions and experiences to express my voice." She spoke highly of her collaborations with renowned directors, praising their unique perspectives, such as Susanne Bier, Lulu Wang, and Mimi Cave, the young director of Holland. Kidman also mentioned her upcoming project, Scarpetta, where she will work with the accomplished Franco-Swedish director Charlotte Brandstrom. While she remains committed to telling stories that resonate with her emotionally, she emphasized that she will not limit herself to only female-led narratives. Her primary focus will always be on the emotional impact and connection she feels with the story. As a fearless actress, she remains dedicated to embracing roles that challenge and inspire her.

Nandamuri Balakrishna's "Dakko Maharaj" to Stream on Netflix from February 21

Nandamuri Balakrishna's latest blockbuster, Dakko Maharaj, is set to stream on Netflix from February 21. The film, directed by Bobby Kolli and produced by Sitara Entertainments and Fortune Four Cinemas, was released in theatres on January 12 and quickly became a major hit. The movie garnered significant box office success with record-breaking collections from the first show itself, marking Balakrishna's fourth consecutive hit. The film features Balakrishna

na alongside Pragya Jaiswal, while Shraddha Srinath, Chandini Chowdary, Urvashi Rautela, and Bobby Deol play key roles. The music for the film was composed by Thaman. Balakrishna, who is currently busy shooting for the highly anticipated Akhanda 2 under Boyapati Srinu's direction, continues to maintain a strong presence in the industry. Fans of the actor and the film can now enjoy Dakko Maharaj on Netflix starting this week.



Ed Sheeran Ends India Tour with Electrifying Delhi-NCR Concert



British music sensation Ed Sheeran wrapped up his Mathematics Tour to India with an electrifying performance in Delhi-NCR on Saturday, leaving thousands of fans ecstatic. Performing at the Leisure Valley Ground, Sheeran, armed with just his guitar and a loop station, showcased why he's one of the world's most captivating live performers. Opening the evening, Indian singer-actor Lisa Mishra set the stage with her energetic performance,

getting the crowd hyped for the main act. After a short wait, Sheeran appeared wearing a 'Delhi' T-shirt, greeted by loud cheers. He began with 'Castle on the Hill', before addressing the audience, sharing how he wished to perform across various cities in India, unlike his previous tours which were confined to Mumbai. Sheeran's tour, which began in Pune on January 30, took him to Hyderabad, Chennai, Bengaluru, and Shillong before concluding in

Delhi. He shared his joy of exploring Delhi, mentioning his sight-seeing adventures in Old Delhi and expressing his gratitude for the warm welcome. During his performance, he demonstrated his impressive loop station skills, layering beats, harmonies, and guitar riffs in real time. Promising to return soon, Sheeran left his fans eagerly awaiting his next visit to India.

Kareena Kapoor Requests Paparazzi to Avoid Clicking Pictures of Kids at Randhir Kapoor's Birthday Bash

At Randhir Kapoor's recent birthday celebration, Kareena Kapoor made a special request to the paparazzi to refrain from clicking pictures of her children. The actress, who has always been protective of her family's privacy, reiterated her stance on keeping her kids out of the limelight. This came as she made her appearance at

the event, where she was seen in a stunning ensemble, maintaining her usual grace. Kareena, who was last seen in Singham Again, is a staunch advocate of her children's privacy. Her call for no pictures of her kids further reinforces her commitment to safeguarding their personal space.



Katrina Kaif Praises Vicky Kaushal's Stellar Performance in Chhaava

As Vicky Kaushal's historical action film Chhaava hit theaters, his wife, Katrina Kaif, took to Instagram to share her admiration for his performance. Posting a poster of the film, she described the experience as "what a cinematic experience" and praised the film's

portrayal of the glory of Chhatrapati Sambhaji Maharaj, directed by Laxman Utekar. She specifically highlighted the powerful impact of the final 40 minutes, admitting that she spent the morning wanting to re-watch the film. Katrina continued to shower love

on her husband, calling his performance "outstanding." She expressed awe at the intensity and transformation Vicky brings to every character, referring to him as a "chameleon" for his effortless portrayal of different roles. "Every time you come on screen,

every shot, the intensity you bring on screen, you are a chameleon," she wrote, proudly celebrating Vicky's talent. In Chhaava, Vicky Kaushal plays the role of Chhatrapati Sambhaji Maharaj, while Rashmika Mandanna stars as Maharani Yesubai.

