

Weather Forecast

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

Rekha Gupta Becomes Delhi's 4th Woman As Chief Minister

Parvesh Sahib Singh will be the Deputy CM



TPN Correspondent | N.Vyshnavi
Delhi

The BJP has officially announced Rekha Gupta as the new Chief Minister of Delhi following her selection at the party's legislature meeting on Wednesday. This marks a significant political shift as the BJP returns to power in Delhi after a 26-year gap, ending the 10-year reign of Arvind Kejriwal's AAP government. Gupta, a first-time MLA, emerged as the leader of the BJP legislature party after a decisive victory in the February 5 Assembly elec-

tions. The 50-year-old defeated AAP's Bandana Kumari by a substantial margin of over 29,000 votes in Shalimar Bagh. She will be the fourth woman to hold the chief minister's office in Delhi, following Sushma Swaraj, Sheila Dikshit, and Atishi, and the only female CM among BJP-ruled states.

Gupta's appointment, which comes 11 days after the poll results, will be formalized when she meets Lieutenant Governor VK Saxena to stake a claim for forming the government. She and her cabinet ministers will

take their oaths at a ceremony at Ramlila Ground on Thursday. Expressing her gratitude, Gupta thanked Prime Minister Narendra Modi for his trust and vowed to work with honesty, integrity, and dedication. "I am fully committed to taking Delhi to new heights," she posted on X.

Gupta, a former Delhi University Students' Union president and civic body councillor, has deep ties to the RSS and is known for her involvement in women's issues. She also serves as the national vice president of the BJP Mahila Morcha.

In Picking Rekha Gupta, BJP Puts Thrust On Women Empowerment

In appointing Rekha Gupta as Delhi's Chief Minister, the BJP aims to address a notable gender imbalance in state leadership, as none of its serving chief ministers are women. Last year, the party took steps toward correcting this in Odisha and Rajasthan by appointing Pravati Parida and Diya Kumar as Deputy CMs. Gupta's selection from a pool of strong contenders aligns with the



party's broader focus on women's empowerment, particularly following the passage of the

Women Reservation Bill in Parliament. Additionally, the BJP's manifesto included promises of financial aid to pregnant women and support for poor families in arranging their daughters' marriages. Gupta's appointment reflects the party's commitment to promoting women's welfare and leadership in political roles, further strengthening its appeal to female voters in Delhi.

IS CASTE PLAYED KEY ROLE IN DELAYING DECISION?

Several names have emerged as potential candidates for the chief ministerial post. Prominent contenders for the position of Delhi CM include- Parvesh Verma (New Delhi), Vijender Gupta (Rohini), Rekha Gupta (Shalimar Bagh), Ashish Sood (Janakpuri), Shikha Roy (Greater Kailash), Bansuri Swaraj (New Delhi Lok Sabha constituency), Manoj Tiwari (North East Delhi Lok Sabha constituency), Chandan Choudhary (Sangam Vihar) and Pankaj Kumar Singh (Vikasपुरi) But, recently parvesh verma's was strongly heard since past few days all over the state, but the party yet delayed its announcement for their cm candidate, even though Parvesh



Verma got huge Jaat Community's Support as he is one of them, But Surprisingly Rekha Gupta's Name a first-time won MLA for Shalimar bagh constituency is Announced as a Fourth Women Chief minister. Despite of having strong support for Parvesh Verma from other MLA's, Why Did the party delayed its announce-

ment, what made the party to choose Rekha Gupta's Name instead of Parvesh Verma. Is there any personal agenda is working on this? Or else the party is really trying to get an image of supporting women power in politics? Does the old tie-ups with RSS and ABVP Helped her to gain this? Or else the party haven't found the worthiness of Parvesh Verma? A Wednesday That Ruled Out Many Objections During Internal Meetings!, A Throne which chose the women to be its rightful owner after alot silent Chaos, Is there an internal conflict which was settled down, is parvesh verma profited by this decision? Or Party really thought she's the one?

Ready To support for development works: AAP leaders congratulate Delhi Rekha Gupta

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

Following the announcement of Rekha Gupta as Delhi's new Chief Minister, messages of support poured in from her predecessors, including AAP leaders Arvind Kejriwal and Atishi. Both leaders, former Chief Ministers of Delhi, expressed their willingness to work alongside Gupta for the development of the capital.

In their reactions, Kejriwal and Atishi conveyed their hope that the BJP would fulfill its promises to the people of Delhi. Atishi, in particular, reminded the ruling party of one of its major poll pledges - the Rs 2,500 monthly financial aid to women. She emphasized that the BJP must ensure that the funds are transferred to women's accounts on March 8, as promised during the election campaign.

While Kejriwal's statement was more focused on offering collaborative support, Ati-



shi's response highlighted the expectations surrounding the promises made by the BJP, urging immediate action. Her remarks reflect the anticipation from Delhiites, who are now looking for tangible results following the BJP's victory in the Assembly elections.

The BJP's new leadership under Rekha Gupta will face pressure to deliver on these promises and address the city's various concerns. Whether the new CM can meet these expectations remains to be seen, but the support and scrutiny from her political counterparts will continue to shape her tenure in office.

Delhi Pollution Control Panel Submits Yamuna Rejuvenation Plan To PM's Office



TPN Correspondent | Delhi

In a major step towards the rejuvenation of the Yamuna River, the Delhi Pollution Control Committee (DPCC) has submitted a detailed action plan to the Prime Minister's Office (PMO), outlining key measures to improve the river's health. The plan, which was presented last week, focuses on enhancing sewage treatment capacity, tackling pollution, and beautifying the riverfront. A central component of the plan is boosting the sewage treatment capacity of Delhi, which is set to increase from 792 million gallons per day (MGD) in 2023 to 964.5 MGD by December 2026. This will involve upgrading 37 existing sewage treatment plants (STPs) and constructing new ones, including a new STP at Delhi Gate and 40 decentralized STPs (DSTPs). Additionally, the plan aims to divert waste from 22 major drains flowing into the Yamu-

na, with a target of addressing five major drains by December 2025.

Efforts to tackle encroachments along the river are also part of the action plan. Over 1,500 acres of floodplain have been cleared, and drone surveys are being used to further assess and remove encroachments. The Delhi Development Authority (DDA) is working on restoring riverfront areas, including the development of biodiversity parks and wetlands covering around 1,600 hectares. The restoration of historical ghats is also a priority, with the Vasudev Ghat already developed.

The Delhi government's focus on cleaning the Yamuna was a prominent issue during the recent assembly elections, with the BJP highlighting the failure of the previous AAP government to address the river's pollution. As part of its commitment, the new government has made the cleaning of the Yamuna a top priority.

Always Exciting To Hear PM Modi's Vision For India": Ex UK PM Rishi Sunak



- Rishi Sunak calls PM Modi a "friend" and praises India-UK ties
- Sunak and Modi discuss strengthening bilateral relations in New Delhi
- Modi hails Sunak as a "great friend of India" after their meeting

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

Former UK Prime Minister Rishi Sunak praised Prime Minister Narendra Modi as a "friend" and expressed excitement about hearing Modi's vision for India during their meeting in New Delhi on Tuesday evening. Sunak and his family had a detailed conversation with PM Modi, covering a wide range of topics, reflecting the strong diplomatic ties between the two nations.

In a post on X (formerly Twit-

ter) on Wednesday, Rishi Sunak shared his appreciation for the warm reception he and his family received from PM Modi. He wrote, "Wonderful to catch up with my friend Narendra Modi. Thank you for so warmly welcoming my family, too! Always exciting to hear your vision for India, and so important the UK-India relationship goes from strength to strength."

PM Modi also took to social media to share his delight in meeting Sunak, calling the former UK Prime Minister a "great friend of India" who is deeply passionate about strengthening the relationship between the two countries. Modi wrote, "It was a delight to meet former UK PM, Mr. Rishi Sunak and his family! We had a wonderful conversation on many subjects. Mr. Sunak is a great friend of India and is

passionate about even stronger India-UK ties."

The meeting between the two leaders reflects the growing collaboration between India and the United Kingdom. Both countries have been working towards enhancing their bilateral relationship across various sectors, including trade, technology, and education. Sunak, who took office as the UK Prime Minister in 2022, has consistently supported efforts to further strengthen India-UK ties, emphasizing the importance of mutual cooperation and shared values.

Their conversation in New Delhi marks a continuation of the warm diplomatic engagement between the two nations, with both leaders committed to fostering even stronger bilateral relations in the future.

Jaishankar to attend G20 foreign ministers' meeting in South Africa on Feb 20-21

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar will travel to South Africa from February 20-21 to participate in the Group of 20 (G20) Foreign Ministers' Meeting, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) announced on Wednesday. The meeting, set to take place in Johannesburg, will see Jaishankar representing India at this crucial diplomatic event.

Jaishankar's visit comes at the invitation of South Africa's Minister of International Relations and Cooperation, Ronald Lamola. As part of his participation, the External Affairs Minister is expected to engage in discussions that will strengthen India's involvement with the G20 countries, while also advocating for the interests of the Global South, a region that holds significant importance in international diplomacy.

The G20 Foreign Ministers' Meeting is an important event for global cooperation on economic, political, and security issues. With South Africa assuming the G20 Presidency from December 1, 2024, to November 2025, this meeting will serve as a key platform for member countries to align their priorities for the coming year.

The G20 is a major international forum comprising 19 countries, including Argentina, Brazil, China, France, Germany, India, Japan,



Russia, Saudi Arabia, the United States, and others. It also includes two regional blocs—the European Union and the African Union.

In addition to participating in the main meeting, Jaishankar is expected to hold a series of bilateral meetings with his counterparts from other G20 nations, allowing for further diplomatic engagement on the sidelines of the event.

This visit underscores India's active role in global affairs and its commitment to strengthening ties with key international players. The G20 Foreign Ministers' Meeting is expected to further enhance India's diplomatic influence on the global stage.

Manish Sisodia Criticizes BJP Over Rising Crime in Delhi, Cites Recent Sexual Assault Case



TPN Correspondent | Delhi

Senior AAP leader Manish Sisodia on Wednesday lashed out at the BJP, blaming the party for the deteriorating law and order situation in Delhi. Sisodia cited the recent sexual assault of a minor girl in Tilak Nagar to highlight the growing concerns over crime and safety in the city.

Addressing the media, the former Deputy Chief Minister of Delhi condemned the BJP for its handling of law and order, pointing out that crimes against women have been on the rise. He argued that perpetrators of such crimes were no longer afraid of the law, as they knew they could act with impunity.

"I want to say to the BJP that the elections are over, and now it is time for them to focus on the law and order situation in Delhi, which has completely collapsed," Sisodia remarked during a press conference. He emphasized the urgent need

for the BJP to prioritize the safety of residents instead of continuing to focus on personal attacks against Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal and his Aam Aadmi Party (AAP).

Sisodia further alleged that criminals felt emboldened because the BJP's leadership had shifted its focus from addressing crucial issues like crime and security to engaging in political mudslinging. He criticized the party for its apparent lack of concern for the safety and well-being of the people of Delhi.

The remarks came just days after the BJP emerged victorious in the Delhi Assembly elections, defeating AAP, with the new government set to take office during a swearing-in ceremony at Ramleela Maidan on Thursday. Sisodia's statements reflect the ongoing political tensions in the capital, with both parties continuing to exchange barbs over governance and public safety.

Trump threatening existence of GST; will his 'good friend in New Delhi' stand up: Congress

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

Congress leader Jairam Ramesh on Wednesday expressed concerns over US President Donald Trump's remarks regarding reciprocal tariffs, which he claimed could jeopardize the existence of the Goods and Services Tax (GST) in India. Ramesh questioned whether Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who Trump often refers to as his "good friend," would stand up against these challenges when national sovereignty is at stake.

In a post on X, Ramesh stated that the Congress party has consistently advocated for a "GST 2.0" — a revamped version of the tax system that would fulfill its original promise of being a "Good and Simple



Tax." He emphasized the need for a GST system with the minimum number of tax slabs and reformed compliance procedures to simplify the tax structure for businesses and consumers alike.

Ramesh pointed out that while

GST is designed to apply to imports, it does not impose taxes on exports, a fundamental structure that has never been disputed. However, with Trump now proposing the idea of reciprocal tariffs, Ramesh warned that it could potentially threaten this framework,

causing disruptions to the tax system.

He further stressed that the proposed tariffs could disrupt global trade and undermine the existing GST structure, adding to the growing complexities faced by India's tax system. In his statement, Ramesh questioned whether the Prime Minister would speak out on this issue or continue to stay silent, despite the impact it could have on India's economic sovereignty.

As the situation develops, Congress continues to call for a reformed GST that ensures transparency, simplicity, and fair taxation, with a focus on protecting India's domestic industries from external disruptions.

Delhi HC asks Sandeep Dikshit to re-file defamation lawsuit against AAP leaders

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

The Delhi High Court on Tuesday directed Congress leader Sandeep Dikshit to re-file his defamation lawsuit against AAP leaders Atishi and Sanjay Singh, after refusing to grant him additional time to deposit the required court fees. The lawsuit, which claims Rs 10 crore in damages, was initially filed in January.

Dikshit, who contested the Delhi Assembly elections against AAP chief Arvind Kejriwal in the New Delhi constituency, had sought the court's intervention following what he described as defamatory allegations made by Atishi and Sanjay Singh. Dikshit alleged that the statements made by the two AAP leaders were baseless and had caused harm to his reputation.

During the hearing, Dikshit's counsel requested Justice Purushendra Kaurav for



two more weeks to arrange the court fees, explaining that the amount was significant. However, Justice Kaurav refused the request, pointing out that a previous hearing had been deferred for the same purpose. The judge emphasized that unless

the court fees were paid, the defamation case could not proceed. "Looking at the nature of the controversy, the court finds that until the plaintiff pays the court fees, the court will not be able to proceed and the court gives liberty to re-file the suit after payment of court fees," the judge ruled.

In addition to the civil defamation suit, Dikshit has also filed a criminal complaint for defamation against Atishi and Sanjay Singh. This criminal complaint is scheduled for a hearing on February 19.

The ruling reflects the court's insistence on procedural requirements, highlighting the importance of fulfilling financial obligations for the continuation of legal proceedings. Dikshit now has the option to re-file his lawsuit once the necessary court fees are deposited.

BJP members stage walkout from Bengal Assembly



- BJP walks out after Speaker rejects tea garden land motion
- Party raises concerns over 30% freehold land policy
- BJP accuses TMC of risking tea workers' livelihoods

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

BJP members staged a walkout from the West Bengal Assembly on Wednesday, protesting the Speaker's refusal to allow a discussion on an adjournment motion regarding the state government's proposal to make 30% of tea garden land freehold for tourism purposes.

The motion was brought forward by BJP members, with party legislator Vishal Lama taking the floor to read it out. However, Speaker Biman Banerjee declined to grant permission for an immediate discussion on the motion, stating that the issue could be addressed during the ongoing session without the need for an adjournment motion.

Lama, reading the motion, highlighted the recent announcement made during the Bengal Global Business Summit (GBBS), where the state government revealed plans to make 30% of tea garden land freehold to promote tourism-related activities. The BJP raised concerns about the impact of this decision on the state's tea industry and its workers, arguing that such a move could undermine the livelihood of tea garden workers and disrupt the industry's traditional land ownership structure.

The Speaker's refusal to allow the discussion sparked outrage among BJP members, leading them to stage a walkout in protest. They expressed their dissatisfaction with the Speaker's handling of the matter and accused the ruling Trinamool Congress (TMC) of not being transparent about the long-term consequences of the proposed policy.

While the Speaker assured that the issue would be discussed later during the session, the walkout signaled a deeper tension between the BJP and the ruling TMC over important policy decisions, particularly those affecting the state's tea gardens, a key part of West Bengal's economy.

The controversy over the tea garden land policy is expected to continue to be a point of contention as the session progresses, with both parties seeking to make their voices heard on the issue.

'Sangam water fit for drinking': UP CM Yogi calls faecal bacteria report propaganda



TPN Correspondent | UP

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Wednesday condemned the circulation of "fake videos" and baseless allegations targeting Sanatan Dharma, Maa Ganga, and the ongoing Maha Kumbh Mela in Prayagraj. He said such actions were an affront to the faith of millions of devotees who have gathered at the event.

CM Adityanath pointed out that such attempts to malign the revered event were "playing with the faith of crores of people" who had come to take a holy dip in the Sangam, the confluence of the Ganga, Yamuna, and Saraswati rivers. His comments came in the wake of controversy surrounding a report from the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), which had raised concerns about the water quality at several locations in Prayagraj during the ongoing Maha Kumbh.

The CPCB's report to the National Green Tribunal (NGT) revealed that the water at various spots in Prayagraj

did not meet the required standards for bathing, specifically regarding the levels of faecal coliform bacteria. These bacteria, found in the intestines of humans and warm-blooded animals, are often used to indicate the presence of harmful pathogens in water. Their presence can suggest that the water may also contain other harmful microorganisms, posing a risk to health.

In response to this report, CM Adityanath defended the purity of the Sangam water, claiming that it was not only suitable for bathing but also safe for drinking. He accused certain quarters of spreading propaganda to tarnish the image of the Maha Kumbh, a sacred event for millions of Hindus.

The Chief Minister's statements aimed to reassure devotees and the public of the safety and sanctity of the ongoing Mela, despite the concerns raised by environmental reports. He emphasized that the faith of millions cannot be undermined by such malicious attempts.

Centre Approves ₹1554.99 Crore in Additional Aid for Flood-Affected States

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

A high-level committee chaired by Union Home Minister Amit Shah has approved an additional ₹1554.99 crore in central assistance under the National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF) for five states impacted by floods, flash floods, landslides, and cyclonic storms in 2024.

The states set to receive this additional aid include Andhra Pradesh, Nagaland, Odisha, Telangana, and Tripura. As per the official statement, the distribution of funds will be as follows: ₹608.08 crore for Andhra Pradesh, ₹170.99 crore for Nagaland, ₹255.24 crore for Odisha, ₹231.75 crore for Telangana, and ₹288.93 crore for Tripura.

In a post on X, Amit Shah reaffirmed the Modi government's commitment to supporting disaster-affected populations, stating, "The Modi government stands like a rock in support of the disaster-affected people. Today, the MHA approved an additional central assistance of ₹1554.99 crore to Andhra Pradesh, Nagaland, Odisha, Telangana, and Tripura under the NDR fund. This is in addition to the ₹18,322.80 crore released by the Centre to 27 states under



the SDRF."

This decision comes after the central government had already released substantial funds under the State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF), which included ₹18,322.80 crore allocated to 27 states earlier in the year. The committee's approval for additional NDRF aid comes with the stipulation that 50% of the opening balance for the year in the SDRF of the respective

states should be adjusted.

The additional financial assistance aims to help the affected states recover and rebuild, providing much-needed support for relief operations and rehabilitation efforts. The allocation is a key step in ensuring that the states are equipped to handle the aftermath of these natural disasters and that the local population receives adequate aid during the recovery process.

Rahul Gandhi, Kharge Meet Congress Leaders to Discuss Party Revamp Strategy

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge and leader of opposition Rahul Gandhi are currently holding a crucial meeting with the party's state in-charges and general secretaries to discuss strategies aimed at revitalizing the party's organization across various states. This meeting, taking place at the party's newly constructed headquarters, Indira Bhawan, follows Kharge's recent reshuffle of party leadership in several states.

The Congress party has faced significant electoral setbacks in states like Haryana and Maharashtra, where it seemed poised for victory in the Assembly elections. The leadership is focused on avoiding similar defeats in upcoming elections, with key state elections scheduled in Bihar, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry,

Assam, and West Bengal. Congress is an ally in Tamil Nadu but is not part of the ruling government, while in West Bengal, the party's influence is waning, especially with questions about potential alliances in the state. In Bihar, where the party's organization is weak, Congress must improve its prospects against the ruling NDA.



In Assam, BJP leader Himanta Viswa Sarma has targeted Congress Deputy Leader Gaurav Gogoi, who is a key contender for Chief Minister if Congress wins. Sarma's campaign aims to damage Gogoi's standing by

linking him to the ISI.

Kharge had previously announced that 2025 would be dedicated to rebuilding Congress's structure and injecting younger leadership into the party. The reshuffle reflects this vision, including the appointment of Krishna Allavaru as in-charge for Bihar. Allavaru will soon visit Patna to assess election preparedness with senior leaders and party groups. Additionally, Kharge has been revamping party leadership in states like Himachal Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, and Odisha, naming Bhakta Charan Das and Ajay Kumar Lallu to key positions.

The Congress leadership hopes this renewed focus on rebuilding will enable the party to strengthen its presence in critical states and pave the way for future electoral successes.

Swati Maliwal Urges Kejriwal to Appoint Dalit Leader of Opposition in Delhi Assembly



TPN Correspondent | Delhi

Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) Rajya Sabha MP Swati Maliwal has called on party chief Arvind Kejriwal to appoint a Dalit Leader of the Opposition (LOP) in the Delhi Assembly, saying it would be a fitting tribute to Dr. BR Ambedkar. Maliwal made the request in a letter addressed to Kejriwal, emphasizing the significance of honoring Ambedkar's legacy.

In her message, Maliwal high-



lighted a promise made by Kejriwal three years ago regarding the appointment of a Dalit Deputy Chief Minister in Punjab, a commitment that has yet to be fulfilled. She expressed hope that this time, the AAP would live up to its word by appointing a Dalit Member of the Legislative Assembly (MLA) as the Leader of Opposition in Delhi.

Maliwal stated on social media platform X that such an appointment would be a

true tribute to Dr. Ambedkar, whose work continues to inspire the fight for justice and equality. She underscored the importance of ensuring that the Dalit community receives appropriate representation in leadership positions within the party and government.

Her appeal comes at a time when the political discourse around Dalit representation in mainstream politics has been gaining attention. By making such a demand, Maliwal is pushing for greater inclusivity within her own party, as well as emphasizing the importance of keeping promises made to marginalized communities.

As of now, there has been no response from Kejriwal or the party regarding Maliwal's letter. However, her call is likely to fuel ongoing discussions about Dalit representation in political parties across the country.

Delhi station stampede: Delhi HC asks why number of tickets sold exceed



TPN Correspondent | Delhi

The Supreme Court on Tuesday questioned why the number of tickets sold for trains traveling to Prayagraj exceeded the maximum capacity, following a deadly stampede at New Delhi Railway Station that resulted in at least 18 fatalities. The passengers were en route to attend the Maha Kumbh Mela in Prayagraj when the tragedy occurred.

The matter is being heard by a Supreme Court bench led by Chief Justice Devendra Upadhyay and Justice Tushar Rao Gedela. Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, representing the government, admitted that the incident was unfortunate and acknowledged that compensation could never truly make up for the loss of lives. Mehta assured

the court that an investigation was underway to determine the cause of the stampede.

Following the February 15 tragedy, which claimed 18 lives, the Ministry of Railways swiftly formed a two-member committee comprising senior officers from the commercial and safety departments of Northern Railway to probe the incident. The committee's primary task is to investigate the events leading up to the stampede and recommend measures to prevent similar occurrences in the future.

Railway ministry officials have suggested that the confusion among passengers might have contributed to the disaster. According to these officials, the passengers became disoriented after hearing announcements about

the "Prayagraj Express" and the "Prayagraj Special," two different trains. The confusion led passengers to rush to change platforms, causing overcrowding and ultimately triggering the stampede.

The Supreme Court's inquiry has raised important questions about the management of train services during peak periods, especially when large numbers of people gather for events such as the Maha Kumbh Mela. The court has asked the government to explain how tickets were sold beyond the station's capacity and how better coordination can be ensured to avoid similar tragedies in the future. The case highlights the urgent need for improved crowd management and safety measures at crowded transportation hubs.

- Supreme Court questions ticket sales exceeding capacity after stampede
- Government admits tragedy, investigation underway
- Confusion over train names may have triggered chaos

Delhi's Air Quality Improves to "Moderate" Category



TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

perature for this time of year.

Delhi's air quality improved on Wednesday, reaching the "moderate" category with an average Air Quality Index (AQI) of 181 recorded at 9 AM. This is a significant improvement from the previous day's 209, which had fallen under the "poor" category. The shift in air quality was aided by a drop in the minimum temperature to 10.4°C, which was 1°C lower than the previous day's 13.2°C.

Light rain, expected late on Wednesday night and continuing into Thursday, is likely to further dip the mercury by 1-2°C, bringing relief from the heat. The maximum temperature on Wednesday was forecasted to rise to 27-29°C, but the arrival of rain is expected to lower it slightly to 25-27°C on Thursday. On Tuesday, Delhi recorded a maximum temperature of 28.8°C, which was 4°C higher than the usual tem-

The rain is part of the weather system linked to a western disturbance, which is anticipated to cause light rain across the region. According to Mahesh Palawat, Vice President of Meteorology at Skymet Weather, the main spell of rain is expected on Thursday, with some isolated areas in the National Capital Region (NCR) possibly receiving moderate rainfall. These showers are expected to help maintain the AQI in the "moderate" zone until at least Friday.

Delhi has recorded just 0.5mm of rainfall so far this month, far below the monthly long-period average of 21.3mm. The Early Warning System for Delhi has predicted that the AQI is likely to remain between the "moderate" and "poor" categories for the next six days, although the rain may bring some temporary relief.

Delhi Police Announces Traffic Restrictions for Oath Ceremony on February 20

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

The Delhi Police has announced traffic restrictions and diversions for the oath ceremony of the newly elected government on February 20, scheduled to take place at Ramlila Maidan. The ceremony, which will see the Chief Minister and the council of ministers take their oaths, will be attended by several VVIPs around noon.

To ensure smooth traffic management during the event, several routes will face diversions. Traffic will be diverted from key points such as Subhash Park T-Point, Raj Ghat, Delhi Gate, ITO, Ajmeri Gate, Ranjeet Singh Flyover, Bhabhuti Marg, DDU Marg Red Light, and Jhandewalan roundabout, as per the advisory issued by the Delhi Police.

Additionally, the advisory highlights that traffic regulations will be enforced along BSZ Marg (from ITO to Delhi Gate), JLN Marg (from Delhi Gate to Guru Nanak Chowk), Aruna Asif Ali Road, Minto Road, Kamla Market roundabout to Hamdard Chowk, and several other nearby areas from 7 AM to 4 PM on Thursday.

Commuters are encouraged to use public transport to reduce congestion in the area and are advised to park vehicles only in designated parking areas. Roadside parking will be strictly avoided to maintain traffic flow.

In the advisory, the police have also warned the public to be vigilant for any unusual or suspicious individuals or objects. People are urged to immediately inform the authorities if anything suspicious is noticed. It is



also recommended that commuters heading to New Delhi Railway Station use the Paharganj side road and avoid Ajmeri Gate.

The oath-taking ceremony will mark the BJP's return to power in Delhi after 26 years, having won 48 out of 70 seats in the recent Delhi Assembly elections. The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), led by Arvind Kejriwal, secured 22 seats in the polls.

PM Modi, celebrities, BJP-state CMs will attend Delhi CM oath ceremony

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

The countdown to Delhi's new Chief Minister's oath ceremony has begun, with preparations in full swing at the iconic Ramlila Maidan. The event, scheduled for Thursday, is set to gather a significant crowd, though the identity of the new Chief Minister remains a mystery.

The oath ceremony will take place around noon and is expected to be attended by several prominent dignitaries, including Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union Minister Amit Shah, BJP President JP Nadda, and Delhi's Lieutenant Governor VK Saxena. In addition to union minis-

ters, the event will also witness the presence of Chief Ministers and Deputy Chief Ministers from BJP-ruled states, although some may skip due to ongoing budget sessions in their respective states.

According to sources, as many as 40 celebrities have been invited to attend the ceremony, alongside ap-



proximately 50,000 people, including party workers, residents of Delhi, and sections of society. BJP MP Yogender Chandolia shared that the event is expected to last around 25 to 30 minutes, and will feature participation from local RWAs, saints, and other significant figures.

The atmosphere surrounding the event remains filled with anticipation as the people of Delhi await to find out who will be sworn in as the new Chief Minister. While the details of the appointment are still unclear, the grand ceremony promises to be a major political and social event in the national capital.

Supreme Court Postpones Hearing on Plea Against CEC Appointment Act



TPN Correspondent | Delhi

The hearing on petitions challenging the Election Commissioner Appointment Act was postponed on Wednesday due to time constraints in the Supreme Court. Justice Suryakant, who was leading the two-judge bench, assured that the matter would be heard soon.

The petitions arise from the Supreme Court's 2023 ruling, where a Constitution Bench ordered that the committee responsible for appointing the Election Commissioner should include the Chief Justice of India (CJI), the Prime Minister, and the Leader of the Opposition. However, the government passed a new law that replaced the CJI with a minister appointed by the Prime Minister in the committee, sparking legal challenges.

The petitioners, including the NGO Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR), Lok Prahari, and Jaya Thakur, have questioned the legality of this new law. They have also raised concerns about the appointments of Gyanesh Kumar as Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) and Vivek Joshi as Election Commissioner, both of whom were appointed under the amended law.

During the hearing, a lawyer representing petitioner Jaya Thakur stressed the significance of the case and requested an urgent hearing. Justice Suryakant responded by acknowledging the importance of all petitions filed in the Supreme Court but clarified that a hearing on the matter would not be possible on Wednesday. He assured the petitioners that a new date for an expedited hearing would be set soon.

Advocate Prashant Bhushan, appearing for ADR, argued that the hearing would take at least an hour. In response, the bench indicated that the matter could not be addressed on the day but promised a swift hearing in the near future.

On Tuesday, Bhushan had informed the bench that the government's exclusion of the CJI from the appointment committee made a "mockery of democracy." ADR has challenged the exclusion, asserting that the Election Commission should remain insulated from political and executive interference to preserve the integrity of the democratic process.

The hearing follows the Centre's recent appointment of Gyanesh Kumar as the new Chief Election Commissioner, whose tenure is set to last until January 26, 2029.

Uttarakhand Approves Draft Law to Block Outsiders from Buying Agricultural Land in 11 Districts

TPN Correspondent | Dehradun

The Uttarakhand Cabinet on Wednesday approved a new draft law that seeks to ban people from outside the state from purchasing agricultural and horticultural land in 11 of the state's 13 districts. This move is seen as a significant step towards protecting the interests of local farmers and preventing outside influence in the state's agricultural sector.

The new draft law is set to be tabled during the ongoing Budget Session of the Uttarakhand Assembly. If passed, it will impose restrictions on non-residents from acquiring agricultural land in the specified districts, which are largely rural and agriculturally focused.

Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhama hailed the decision as a "historic step" for the state. In a tweet, Dhama expressed his belief that the law would not only safeguard the livelihoods of local farmers but also prevent the displacement of agricultural land to outsiders, ensuring the preservation of Uttarakhand's rural economy.

The proposed law aims to preserve local agricultural land for residents of the state, pro-



- Cabinet approves law restricting non-residents from buying farm land
- CM Dhama calls it a "historic step" to protect local farmers
- Law aims to prevent land speculation and preserve rural economy

tecting it from potential land speculation or large-scale corporate acquisition. It is expected to have a significant impact on the state's agricultural policy, particularly in areas where agriculture and horticulture play a key role in the local economy.

The 11 districts affected by this proposed law are predominantly rural and heavily reliant on agriculture. The move is seen as an effort to maintain local control over land resources and ensure that the

benefits of agricultural development remain within the hands of the state's residents.

While the law has garnered support from local farming communities, it may face opposition from those advocating for more open land markets and investment in the state's agricultural sector. As the law is debated in the coming days, its potential impact on land ownership, local economies, and the state's agricultural policies will be closely watched.

National Green Tribunal Criticizes UP Govt. for Inadequate Water Quality Reports in River Ganga



TPN Correspondent | UP

The National Green Tribunal (NGT) on Wednesday strongly criticized the Uttar Pradesh Pollution Control Board (UP-PCB) and the Uttar Pradesh government for failing to provide adequate details on water quality parameters, including faecal coliform levels and oxygen levels, in the river Ganga at Prayagraj. The court's rebuke comes amid concerns about the river's pollution, especially during the ongoing Maha Kumbh Mela, which sees millions of pilgrims gathering at the river's banks.

The NGT expressed dissatisfaction with the lack of detailed and timely information regarding the water quality at various points along the river, which is a critical issue given

the large number of devotees attending the religious gathering. The tribunal specifically pointed out that crucial data on faecal coliform, which is an indicator of water contamination, as well as other important water quality parameters like oxygen levels, had not been adequately provided.

In response to the NGT's observations, the state government was granted one week to submit the latest water quality analysis reports from multiple points along the river at the Maha Kumbh Mela site in Prayagraj. The tribunal emphasized the importance of ensuring that the water quality is closely monitored and improved to protect both the health of the public and the environment.

The NGT also instructed the

Uttar Pradesh government to take immediate action to address the issue and improve water quality monitoring systems, especially during major religious events like the Kumbh Mela, which attract massive crowds and put additional pressure on the river's ecosystem.

This development highlights the ongoing environmental concerns regarding the river Ganga's cleanliness and the challenges of managing water pollution during large-scale public events. The NGT's intervention serves as a reminder of the critical need for stringent monitoring and effective pollution control measures to preserve the health of the river and the well-being of those who rely on it.

Amritpal Singh Seeks Permission from Punjab High Court to Attend Parliament Session



TPN Correspondent | Punjab

Amritpal Singh, the incarcerated Lok Sabha MP from Khadoor Sahib and pro-Khalistani leader, has filed a petition in the Punjab High Court, requesting permission to attend the ongoing Parliament session. His absence from the House has raised concerns that his seat may be declared vacant due to his prolonged absence, as per Article 101(4) of the Indian Constitution.

Under Article 101(4), if a member is absent for more than 60 days without permission, their seat can be vacated. Singh, who has already been absent for 46 days, has only 14 more days before this constitutional rule could come into play. The hearing for his petition is expected to take place in the next two days, sources say.

Singh, currently jailed in Assam's Dibrugarh prison under the National Security Act (NSA), had previously petitioned on January 23, seeking permission to attend the Parliament session and participate in the Republic Day celebrations. In

his petition, he emphasized that his prolonged absence was preventing his constituents, numbering around 19 lakh, from having representation in Parliament. Singh further claimed that his detention was politically motivated, aimed at curbing his growing popularity.

The MP's detention, initially ordered by the Deputy Magistrate of Amritsar in March 2023, has been extended multiple times. Additionally, Singh's father, Tarsem Singh, has criticized the imposition of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) on his son, alleging it to be part of a larger conspiracy to hinder the family's political ambitions, particularly as they plan to launch a new political party.

Singh's family has also voiced concerns over what they perceive as an anti-Sikh agenda being pursued by Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann, accusing the authorities of defaming Amritpal without substantial evidence or investigation.

Over 30 Injured As Firecrackers Explode At Football Ground In Kerala

TPN Correspondent | Kerala

Over 30 people were injured in a firecracker explosion at a football ground near Areekode in Kerala's Malappuram district on Monday, police reported. The incident occurred just before the start of a local football match, when firecrackers were set off on the field.

According to Areekode police, the firecrackers exploded unexpectedly, causing them to scatter across the ground where spectators were seated. The explosion led to injuries as the firecrackers spread through the crowd.

The injured individuals were quickly transported to a nearby private hospital for medical treatment. Fortunately, no serious injuries were reported, though many were treated for burns and other minor injuries sustained during the explosion. Authorities confirmed that the situation was under control and that all necessary medical assistance was provided.

The incident has raised concerns over the



safety protocols surrounding the use of firecrackers in public events. While firecrackers are often a part of celebrations and sports events in the region, this incident highlights the dangers associated with their use in crowded areas.

Police are currently investigating the cir-

cumstances surrounding the firecracker explosion and are looking into whether proper safety measures were followed before the event. Local authorities have also issued a reminder to organizers of public events about the importance of safety when using firecrackers, particularly in areas where large crowds gather.

Delhi Police Detained in UP While Investigating Fraud, Released After Apology

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

In a surprising turn of events, a team of Delhi police officers who traveled to Uttar Pradesh's Lalitpur to arrest two constables were detained by local UP police. The incident, which occurred on Tuesday, involved five officers from the Delhi police force who were conducting raids in connection with a fraud case amounting to Rs 1.5 crore.

According to authorities, the Delhi police team arrived in Lalitpur to arrest three individuals, including two constables from the Lalitpur police force. However, they did not follow proper procedures, as they arrived without any written orders or prior permission from the UP police. The Delhi team was dressed in plain clothes, armed with weapons, and arrived in a private vehicle without informing the lo-

cal authorities. The team proceeded to arrest the two constables, Vishwajeet and Sachin Awasthi, from their official residences, along with another accused, Bikki Raja, from his home in Lalitpur. Once the Lalitpur police



were alerted to the arrests, they intervened and stopped the Delhi police team midway. This led to a heated exchange between the two parties, which eventually resulted in the detention of the Delhi po-

lice team, including Police Inspector Darshan Singh.

The team was questioned throughout the day by the UP police. After a tense standoff, the Delhi police officers were released only after they issued a formal apology for not following the proper procedures and not informing the UP police beforehand. A senior UP police official explained that the Delhi team had acted without informing the local authorities, violating protocol. It was also revealed that the tip-off that led to the arrest came from a person, Ankit Jain, whose sister had started a company. One of the accused, Vishwajeet, was a business partner in the company, and the dispute over financial matters had escalated into the fraud case. The investigation is ongoing, with further details expected as the case develops.

Green Buildings: Redefining Urban Sustainability and Cutting Carbon Footprints



Dr. Peteti Seshabala
(Environmental Expert)

Did you know that buildings account for nearly 40% of global energy use and a third of greenhouse gas emissions? While they symbolize modernity and progress, our towering malls, corporate offices, and high-rise complexes come with a hidden cost: massive energy consumption and environmental degradation. India, as one of the fastest-urbanizing nations, stands at a critical juncture. How we choose to design and build will determine whether our cities thrive sustainably or crumble under their ecological footprint. The solution? Green buildings. These structures are not just eco-friendly—they are transformative, reducing carbon footprints while redefining how we coexist with nature.

Green Buildings: A Sustainable Alternative

Green buildings are more than just environmentally conscious structures. They create healthier, cost-effective, and energy-efficient spaces without compromising aesthetics or comfort. Here's how they achieve this:

1. Energy Efficiency: Cutting Carbon, Saving Costs

Smart Design: Green buildings maximize natural ventilation and daylight, minimizing the need for air conditioning and artificial lighting.

Efficient Systems: With advanced HVAC systems, LED lighting, and automated energy controls, these buildings cut energy consumption by up to 30%, significantly reducing carbon emissions.

2. Harnessing Nature: Powering Buildings Sustainably

Solar Power: Rooftop solar panels generate clean energy, reducing electricity demand. For instance, a green office building in Bangalore offsets 40% of its energy needs through rooftop solar alone.

Geothermal and Wind Energy: Innovative systems tap into renewable sources to power operations sustainably, cutting reliance on fossil fuels.

3. Eco-Friendly Materials: Building Responsibly

Low-Carbon Alternatives: Mate-

rials like recycled steel, bamboo, and fly ash bricks drastically reduce emissions compared to conventional options.

Durability and Affordability: These materials are not only sustainable but also cost-effective in the long run, making them ideal for large-scale adoption.

4. Natural Carbon Sequestration: Turning Buildings into Carbon Sinks

Green Roofs and Vertical Gardens: These features absorb CO₂, cool the air, and mitigate urban heat, creating healthier environments for city dwellers.

Landscaping: Thoughtful tree planting enhances air quality and establishes cooler microclimates around buildings.

5. Waste and Water Management: Closing the Loop

Rainwater Harvesting: Green buildings capture and store rainwater, reducing dependency on municipal supplies.

Greywater Recycling: Treated wastewater is reused for irrigation and cleaning, slashing water waste by up to 50%.

Corporate Sustainability and ESG: The Added Value

Green buildings are not just an environmental necessity; they are also a strategic advantage in the age of ESG (Environmental, Social, and Governance).

LEED Certification: Globally recognized, LEED certification enhances a building's marketability while improving energy efficiency and lowering operational costs.

GRI Ratings: The Global Reporting Initiative framework provides transparency in sustainability efforts, building investor trust.

Demand in ESG Roles: As corporations prioritize sustainability, the demand for experts in ESG compliance, green building design, and sustainable urban planning has surged.

Business Benefits: Companies with green buildings report lower utility costs, improved employee productivity, and stronger reputations among eco-conscious consumers. By integrating sustainability into business models, organizations

not only fulfill environmental obligations but also strengthen their long-term profitability.

India's Role in the Green Building Movement

India is already showcasing its potential in sustainable construction. Iconic projects such as the ITC Green Center in Gurgaon, Infosys campuses, and the CII-Sohrabji Godrej Green Business Centre are leading the charge, demonstrating that sustainability and innovation go hand in hand.

However, the scale of adoption is still limited. To realize the true potential of green architecture, India must:

- **Incentivize Green Practices:** Governments can encourage adoption through tax benefits, subsidies, and low-interest loans for green construction projects.
- **Strengthen Building Codes:** Enforce the Energy Conservation Building Code (ECBC) to ensure all new constructions meet green standards.
- **Raise Awareness:** Educate builders, architects, and homeowners about the environmental and economic advantages of green buildings.

A Call to Action

Every building constructed today is an opportunity to combat climate change. By choosing green architecture, we can create urban spaces that are energy-efficient, resource-conscious, and environmentally friendly.

Imagine a city where buildings produce more energy than they consume, where green rooftops cool the air, and where clean water flows freely through innovative recycling systems. This vision is not a distant dream—it is a tangible future we can create together.

As India races toward modernization, green buildings offer a path to sustainable urban growth. They are not just structures; they are commitments to a healthier planet. The time to act is now. By prioritizing sustainable practices, we ensure a legacy of progress that benefits both people and the planet.



Reviving Heritage: Embrace Religious Tourism in the Himalayas

The Himalayas, often referred to as both a divine gift and a natural marvel, stand as a profound source of spirituality and inspiration. This majestic mountain range, known for its towering peaks, lush valleys, and serene rivers, is not only a geographical wonder but also a spiritual sanctuary. Home to numerous sacred sites, each steeped in history and reverence, the Himalayas serve as a treasure trove of cultural heritage. It is indeed a privilege for India to have such a magnificent landscape, offering solace and divine inspiration to countless pilgrims and travelers alike.

Despite its unparalleled beauty and spiritual significance, the potential of religious tourism in the Himalayas has been largely overlooked, especially since India's independence. Successive governments, particularly during Jawaharlal Nehru's tenure, downplayed the importance of temple and religious tourism, prioritizing pseudo-secular ideologies over the rich spiritual heritage of the country. The immense potential of sacred sites for promoting economic growth through religious tourism has been largely ignored, depriving the hill regions of vital development and recognition.

Now, it is time to reclaim our cultural heritage and actively promote religious tourism. This would not only honor India's traditions but also generate economic benefits for the region. By fostering temple tourism, the local communities in the hill regions can benefit through job creation, improved livelihoods, and infrastructure development. The Uttarakhand government has a unique opportunity to take the lead in this initiative, starting with the upcoming Saraswati Pushkaralu event, which is set to take place from May 15 to 26, 2025, in Mana village, near the revered Badrinath.

The Saraswati Pushkaralu, celebrated once every 12 years, honors the Saraswati River, revered as the goddess of knowledge, wisdom, and the arts. Devotees believe that bathing in the river's sacred waters during the festival cleanses sins and brings divine blessings. The festival holds immense spiritual significance, as it provides a chance for pilgrims to honor Goddess Saraswati, purify their souls, and seek blessings for knowledge and success. It is also a time for performing prayers, meditation, and sacred rituals, drawing pilgrims from all over India.

To ensure the success of the Saraswati Pushkaralu, the Uttarakhand government must implement a well-structured plan to accommodate the influx of pilgrims. This plan should include improving infrastructure, providing transportation and accommodation options, and ensuring smooth access to pilgrimage sites. Promoting the event through media channels, including newspapers, and establishing dedicated helplines at key travel points like New Delhi railway station and airports will further assist travelers. By taking these steps, the government can ensure a seamless and enriching experience for devotees, while simultaneously boosting religious tourism and the local economy.

With its cultural and spiritual richness, the Himalayas stand as an ideal destination for religious tourism. By embracing and promoting these sacred traditions, India can preserve its heritage, support local communities, and foster spiritual growth for generations to come.

Graduates' MLC Elections - The Future of the Government Education System!

A Time for Every Voter to Reflect

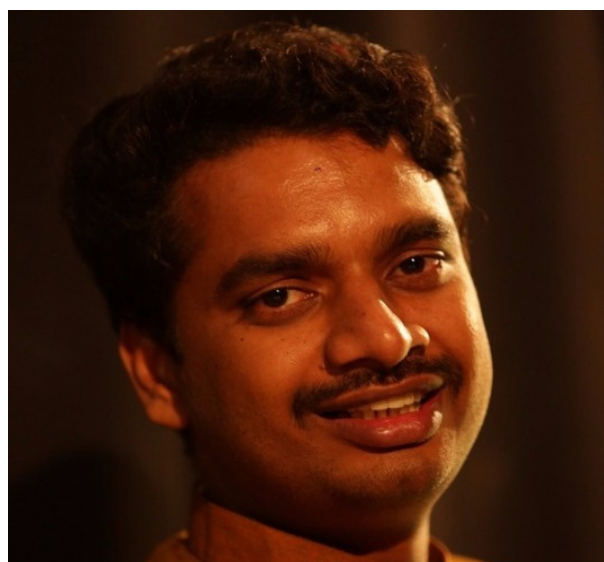
The ongoing Graduates' MLC elections are not just about voting; they are an opportunity to reshape the government's education policy. Over the past decade, governments have spent billions on the education system, yet why do ordinary people still prefer private schools? Why do the children of government officials and public representatives stay away from government schools? Do they not trust government schools themselves?

The Reality: High Costs – Low Results

Annual expenditure per student: It costs around ₹90,000 to ₹1,00,000 per student in government schools.

Why do parents lack trust? Quality issues, lack of facilities, doubts over teachers' efficiency – all these factors are pushing people away from government schools.

Do government officials and public representatives send their children to government schools?



If an ordinary citizen cannot trust government schools for their children's future, why don't those running the government send their children to these schools?



Graduates' MLC Elections In Telangana

Does this indicate a lack of confidence in the government education system?

If this continues, the government education system is bound to become ineffective.

Before voting for candidates in these MLC elections, ask these questions:

- **What is your plan to improve the standard of government schools?**
- **What steps will you take to strengthen**

- **the government education system? Will you make an effort to provide at least private school-level facilities in every government school?**
- **What measures will you take to improve the attendance and teaching quality of government teachers?**
- **What actions will you take to increase trust in government schools?**

What is our responsibility as graduates?

These elections should not be just about politics; they must shape the future of our children. If we elect incapable leaders again, the government education system will only deteriorate further. If a candidate does not clearly communicate these issues to the public, we should not support their candidacy. This time, graduates must think before casting their votes – let's choose a candidate who will bring change for the future of our children, not just with words, but with actions!



"If Forced, We Can Be Aggressive Too": Army Chief On Pakistan

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

Indian Army Chief General Uday Shankar has stated that India's stance toward Pakistan, particularly along the Line of Control (LoC), has become significantly more assertive since 2014. In an exclusive interview with ANI, General Shankar conveyed that India's communication with Pakistan now makes it clear that any provocation would be met with a robust response.

"We have been clear that we will be assertive in our communication and, if needed, aggressive," General Shankar said, emphasizing India's resolve in protecting its interests. The Army Chief underscored that both sides have understood India's commitment to its security and its intent to act when provoked.

A key point in General Shankar's interview was his assessment of the situation in Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) following the abrogation of Article 370 in August 2019. He noted that the revocation had significantly reduced the number of terrorists and local recruits in the region, while eliminating the confusion among the people about their identity.

"The recruitment has reduced. Local terrorist numbers have gone down," he explained. He further explained how the abrogation helped resolve the identity crisis, with children now clearly identifying as part of India, symbolized by their choice to draw the Indian flag in school.

General Shankar also highlighted the security forces' collaborative efforts, including the theme of "terrorism to tourism," which he sees as having brought success. With over five lakh pilgrims participating in the Amarnath Yatra, a figure previously unheard of, the Army Chief noted that efforts to foster development in the region are yielding positive results.



In First "Green Budget", Rajasthan Announces 1.25 Lakh Government Jobs

TPN Correspondent | Jaipur

Rajasthan Deputy Chief Minister and Finance Minister, Diya Kumari, has unveiled the state's first "green budget," placing a strong emphasis on climate change adaptation, environmental sustainability, and large-scale infrastructure development. The budget aims to steer Rajasthan toward becoming a \$350 billion economy by 2030.

In her 138-minute budget speech, Diya Kumari announced several key measures, starting with an ambitious plan to generate employment opportunities. The state plans to recruit 1.25 lakh government jobs in the coming year, with an additional 1.5 lakh jobs expected in the private sector. To further promote youth employment, Rajasthan will implement the Rajasthan Employment Policy 2025.

The budget also sets an estimated revenue receipt of Rs 2,94,536.49 crore for 2025-26, with revenue expenditure projected at Rs 3,25,545 crore, resulting in a revenue deficit of Rs 31,009.41 crore and a fiscal deficit of Rs 84,643 crore, equaling 4.25% of the state's Gross Domestic Product (GSDP).

Infrastructure development is another major focus. The Finance Minister announced the creation of a New Aero City near Kota Airport and the improvement of 29 airstrips across the state. Rs 250 crore has been allocated to improve Jaipur's traffic system, and Rs 12,000 crore has been earmarked for expanding metro services. An ambitious plan for developing 9 GreenField Expressways will receive Rs 60,000 crore in funding.

Rajasthan is also prioritizing renewable energy. Households installing solar plants will receive 150 free electricity units per month, and Rs 250 crore has been allocated for the Green Aravalli Development Project. To enhance energy production, the state will add 6,400 MW in 2025-26 and introduce new agricultural and domestic connections.

Water availability is a key concern, with new water connections planned for 20 lakh households. The budget also includes provisions for the industrial sector, including the establishment of the Rajasthan Mineral Exploration Company and the Center of Excellence for Mines and Minerals.

Oil-rich Qatar announces \$10 billion investment in India

- \$10 billion investment in India across key sectors
- QIA to open an office in India for smooth execution
- Leaders discuss Free Trade Agreement and condemn terrorism.

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

Qatar has committed to a significant \$10 billion investment in India, as announced in a joint statement following a high-level meeting between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Qatar's Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani on February 18, 2025, in New Delhi.

The investment, which amounts to approximately Rs 85,000 crore, marks a major step in strengthening the bilateral ties between the two nations. The two leaders also discussed potential collaborations on a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) between India and Qatar, signaling a further deepening of economic and trade relations.

The statement highlighted that the investment would be directed towards key sectors including infrastructure, technology, manufacturing, food security, logistics, and hospitality. To ensure smooth execution of these investments, the Qatar Investment Authority (QIA) will



open an office in India.

This collaboration is seen as a reflection of the growing economic partnership between the two countries, with Qatar seeking to enhance its

presence in India's rapidly expanding market. Both leaders also condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, underscoring their commitment to regional peace and stability.



Swara Bhasker Faces Backlash Over 'Fictionalised Torture of Hindus' Tweet on Chhava Film

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

Actor Swara Bhasker's recent post comparing the outrage over the fictionalized torture of Hindus in the film Chhava to the response to the Mahakumbh stampede has stirred controversy and invited strong criticism. In her post on X, Bhasker questioned why society seemed more enraged over a dramatized depiction of the torture of Maratha king Sambhaji in the historical film Chhava than the tragic deaths during the stampede at the Mahakumbh Mela in January. The stampede claimed at least 30 lives.

The movie Chhava, directed by Laxman Utekar and produced by Dinesh Vijan, is a historical action film about Sambhaji, Shivaji Maharaj's son. It portrays the brutal torture of Sambhaji by Mughal forces, based on historical accounts of his refusal to surrender forts or convert to Islam. Vicky Kaushal plays the role of Sambhaji, and the film is currently running successfully in theaters.

In her post, Bhasker wrote, A society that is more enraged at the

heavily embellished partly fictionalized filmy torture of Hindus from 500 years ago than they are at the horrendous death by stampede & mismanagement + then alleged JCB bulldozer handling of corpses - is a brain & soul-dead society.

Many social media users, however, found Bhasker's comparison offensive. Journalist Swati Chaturvedi responded, emphasizing that there was nothing fictional about the torture of Sambhaji, a historical event that has been widely documented. Lawyer Jai Anant Dehradai condemned Bhasker's post, accusing her of trivializing Sambhaji's sacrifice and deliberately insulting the sentiments of millions of Indians. Other users, including Rishi Bagree, also criticized Bhasker's post, defending the film's portrayal of historical events and stating that it didn't even capture the full extent of the torture that Sambhaji endured. Bhasker's remarks came at a time when "Chhava" had already been involved in controversy due to a scene featuring a folk dance that was later removed following objections.

Tamil Nadu Ready For Language War": Udhayanidhi Stalin Amid Row Over Hindi



TPN Correspondent | Chennai

The ongoing battle between Tamil Nadu's ruling DMK and the BJP escalated on Tuesday, fueled by the center's proposed three-language policy and accusations of Hindi imposition. Deputy Chief Minister Udhayanidhi Stalin sparked fresh tensions by stating, "States that accept Hindi lose their mother tongue," and declaring that Tamil Nadu was prepared for a "language war" over the issue.

Mr. Stalin's remarks were a direct challenge to Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan's stance, which had linked the state's eligibility for around Rs 2,400 crore in funding for the Samagra Siksha mission to its adoption of the National Education Policy (NEP), which includes the controversial three-language formula. This policy advocates the teaching of Hindi, along with regional languages and English, in schools across India.

Stalin also reiterated a criticism from Chief Minister MK Stalin, who had earlier accused Pradhan of "blackmail," pointing out that Tamil Nadu is merely seeking its due—both in terms of education funding from the central government and the fair share of tax devolution.

As Kashmir's Achabal Spring Runs Dry, CM Omar Abdullah Raises Alarm on Water Scarcity

TPN Correspondent | J&K

An emotional video of an elderly woman mourning the drying up of Achabal Spring in Kashmir's Anantnag district has struck a chord with many across social media. In the video, the woman is seen addressing the once vibrant spring, asking, "Oh divine spring, where have you disappeared, my dear?"

Achabal Spring, located in the famous Mughal Garden, was built in the 17th century by Emperor Jahangir's wife, Noor Jahan. For centuries, the spring has been a significant source of water and a symbol of the region's rich heritage. Locals say the spring has never run dry before, making its current condition all the more heartbreaking for those who have lived with its continuous flow.

In the video, the elderly woman cries out to the spring in despair, "Oh divine spring, why have you stopped giving us water? What have we done to you? Come back to life... Oh Allah, let the water gush forth once more." Her heartfelt plea, coupled with her emotional appeal, has resonated with countless people who are saddened by the loss of this natural treasure.

Trump Signs Executive Order To Expanding Access To IVF Treatments

- Trump expands IVF access with executive order.
- Move faces conservative backlash over embryo Use
- Aims to lower costs and improve availability



TPN Correspondent | Washington

President Donald Trump took a significant step toward increasing access to in vitro fertilization (IVF) by signing an executive order aimed at reducing the cost and improving availability of the treatment. The order directs his advisors to provide recommendations within 90 days on how to protect and expand access to IVF, while also focusing on lowering out-of-pocket and insurance costs for families seeking fertility assistance.

"My Administration recognizes the importance of family formation, and as a nation, our public policy must make it easier for loving and longing mothers and fathers to have children," the order reads. "Americans need reliable access to IVF and more affordable treatment options," it continued.

Trump expressed confidence in the support of families, saying, "I think the women and families, husbands, are very appreciative of it," during a press conference at his Mar-a-Lago estate in Florida. This move is seen as a surprising development from a president whose administration has been aligned with conservative policies on issues like abortion. While Trump made headlines for his role in the Supreme Court's 2022 decision that overturned federal abortion protections, which earned him strong support from the anti-abortion movement, his support for IVF has stirred controversy within conservative circles.

Though IVF is praised by some as a vital tool for family-building, others in the religious right oppose the procedure, as it often involves creating multiple

embryos, some of which may not be used. In the past, many Republicans, including a majority in the Senate, voted against guaranteeing IVF access.

The Supreme Court's 2022 abortion ruling raised concerns among reproductive rights advocates that IVF could be next on the chopping block, particularly after a court in Alabama ruled that frozen embryos could be considered people, leading some clinics to pause treatments temporarily.

With this executive order, Trump seems to be trying to balance his appeal to conservatives with an eye toward addressing broader voter concerns about fertility treatments. However, the move may provoke opposition from those within his own party who view IVF as inconsistent with pro-life principles.

Poll Gives Zelensky 57% Approval Rating Despite Trump's 4% Claims



TPN Correspondent | Kyiv

A recent poll conducted by the Kyiv International Institute of Sociology revealed that Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky enjoys an approval rating of 57%, contradicting claims made by former US President Donald Trump, who suggested Zelensky's approval rating was as low as 4%. Trump's comments, made on Tuesday, came amidst his call for presidential elections in Ukraine, a process that is currently banned under the country's martial law.

Trump's assertion that Zelensky's popularity had plummeted to just 4% was widely criticized, as the Kyiv International Institute of Sociology's poll, which surveyed 1,000 people, found that 57% of respondents expressed trust in the Ukrainian leader. Only 37% of those surveyed disapproved, with the remaining respondents being undecided. The poll also indicated a 5% increase in trust for Zelensky compared to December, despite the ongoing military challenges Ukraine faces due to the war with Russia.

Zelensky's approval ratings had skyrocketed to 90% in March 2022, shortly after Russia's invasion, as Ukrainians rallied behind their president during the early stages of the conflict. Despite setbacks, the poll's authors noted that Zelensky continues to retain a relatively high level of trust from the Ukrainian public.

Trump's remarks align with Russian President Vladimir Putin's assertions that Zelensky is not the legitimate president of Ukraine. However, the Ukrainian constitution, while restricting presidents to a five-year term, allows for an extension until a successor is elected, which has led to debates over Zelensky's term during the ongoing war. Zelensky himself has argued that holding elections is currently impractical due to the war, the large number of Ukrainians either fighting or living abroad, and the significant security risks involved.

The authors of the poll noted that most Ukrainians believe elections should be held only after the war concludes. Despite the contrast in approval figures, it remains unclear how Trump arrived at the 4% rating, with Russian political analysts speculating that it reflects Trump's disregard for factual accuracy.

Mumbai, Kolkata Vulnerable? NASA Says Chances Of 'City-Killer' Asteroid Hitting Earth



TPN Correspondent | Tel Aviv

NASA has increased the likelihood of asteroid 2024 YR4 colliding with Earth to 3.1 percent, tracking its trajectory as the asteroid continues its orbit. While the risk remains low, the potential impact corridor of 2024 YR4 spans several regions, including the eastern Pacific Ocean, northern South America, the Atlantic Ocean, Africa, the Arabian Sea, and South Asia. This trajectory puts some of the world's most popu-

lated cities at risk, including Mumbai, Kolkata, Dhaka, Bogotá, Abidjan, Lagos, and Khartoum, which together house over 110 million people.

Astronomers have labeled 2024 YR4 as a "city-killer" asteroid, meaning that while its impact would not threaten the planet as a whole, it could cause devastating damage to a city. NASA's predictions were updated from an earlier 2.3% chance of collision, with a revised risk probability for a potential

impact on December 22, 2032.

NASA has been monitoring the asteroid using ground-based telescopes from the International Asteroid Warning Network, and while it is visible through April, it will become too faint to observe until around June 2028. The asteroid's size is estimated to be between 130 and 300 feet wide, and its composition appears typical, without rare metals. If it does not hit Earth, experts predict it could explode mid-air with the force of approximately eight megatons of TNT, over 500 times the power of the Hiroshima bomb.

NASA's report noted that while the risk of impact is still extremely low, the asteroid's path will be better understood as more data becomes available. It is also possible that 2024 YR4 could be ruled out as a threat, as many objects in the past have been after further analysis. The asteroid was first identified on December 27, 2024, by the NASA-funded Asteroid Terrestrial-impact Last Alert System in Chile and quickly made it to NASA's Sentry risk list on December 31, 2024.

Hamas Proposes Large-Scale Hostage Release for Permanent Ceasefire with Israel

TPN Correspondent | Israel

Hamas has presented a significant proposal in the ongoing ceasefire talks with Israel, offering to release all remaining captives in the Gaza Strip in one large-scale exchange. This proposal is contingent on securing a lasting ceasefire and the complete withdrawal of Israeli forces from Gaza. Hazem Qassem, a spokesman for Hamas, emphasized the group's commitment to this plan, stating, "We are ready for a second phase in which the prisoners will be exchanged in one go, within the criterion of reaching an agreement that leads to a permanent ceasefire and a complete withdrawal from the Strip."

This offer represents a crucial development in the negotiations, as Hamas seeks not only the release of captives but also the end of Israel's military presence in Gaza. The group, however, rejected Israel's demand for its disar-



mament and removal from Gaza, dismissing such requests as part of a "ridiculous psychological war." Qassem further stressed that the withdrawal or disarmament of Hamas from Gaza is unacceptable.

In a move to demonstrate its commitment to the negotiation process, Hamas has agreed to increase the number of captives to be freed during the next exchange on Saturday, from three to six. The Hostages and Missing

Families Forum welcomed the decision, expressing profound joy at the return of Eliya Cohen, Tal Shoham, Omer Shem Tov, Omer Wenkert, Hisham Al-Sayed, and Avera Mengistu. Hamas made this adjustment in response to requests from mediators and to show their seriousness in upholding the terms of the agreement.

The proposal comes as U.S. President Donald Trump voiced opposition to a phased release of hostages, advocating for all captives to be freed simultaneously, a sentiment echoed by the families of the remaining hostages. Meanwhile, the humanitarian situation in Gaza continues to worsen, with the death toll surpassing 61,000, as reported by Gaza's Ministry of Health.

Elon Musk uncovers 'biggest fraud in (US) history': Is there any truth to it?

TPN Correspondent | Washington

Billionaire entrepreneur Elon Musk has once again stirred controversy, claiming that his Department of Government Efficiency (Doge) has uncovered massive fraud within the U.S. Social Security Administration (SSA). According to Musk, millions of payments are being made to individuals over 150 years old, which he dubbed "the biggest fraud in history."

Musk made these claims during a February 11 press conference in the Oval Office, where he stated that a " cursory examination of Social Security" revealed "crazy things." He specifically pointed to records showing individuals who appeared to be 150 years old. "Now, do you know anyone who's 150? I don't, OK. They should be in the Guinness Book of World Records. I think they're probably dead, or they should be very famous," Musk remarked.

His comments quickly went viral on social media, especially on his platform X, but have since been widely questioned by experts. A closer examination of the situation suggests that Musk's interpretation may be based on a misunderstanding of the SSA's aging technology systems.

The core issue lies with the outdated COBOL programming language used by the SSA, which has been in operation for decades. Experts in computer programming explain that COBOL lacks a built-in date type, which can cause errors in the recording of birthdates. Specifically, when SSA records are missing or incomplete, they are often assigned a default reference date of May 20, 1875. This leads to an anomaly where individuals with missing or incorrect birthdates appear to be over 150 years old.

Flat Close as Recovery Offsets Early Losses; Banking, Finance, and Realty Support Market Stability"

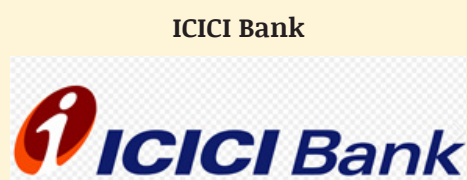


favor of buyers. 2879 stocks traded with gains of 2025. 800 lost. 19 shares hit 52-week highs. 361 shares hit 52-week lows.

Rupee settles at 96.95 against dollar. UPL, Kotak Mahindra shares hit 52-week highs today. StarHealth hits all-time high of Rs. 389. Intense Technologies Intelligence gets patent for data processing efficiency. Gujarat Ambuja Exports completes 25% stake acquisition in Mize Sitchem. Thomas Cook India signs MoU with Korea Tourism Organization. Arham Technologies gets order from Atal Nagar Vikas Pradhikaran. Sadhav Shipping Limited has received an order from Pradeep Port Authority.

Hindalco Industries

Hindalco remains a key player in India's metals sector, particularly in aluminum production. Despite global volatility and fluctuating commodity prices, the company's diversified product portfolio and operational efficiencies help maintain steady cash flows. Investors are watching input cost trends and global demand, keeping a cautious but moderately positive outlook for the long term.



ICICI Bank continues to be a leader in the private banking sector. It benefits from strong digital initiatives, an expanding retail loan portfolio, and improved asset quality. The bank's consistent profit growth and robust risk management have made it a staple blue-chip in the financial sector, with an optimistic medium-term outlook as credit demand recovers.

Zomato

Zomato, the leading food delivery platform, has shown robust revenue growth driven by increased market penetration and diversified offerings. However, high operating expenses and intense competition have kept profitability in check. The company's push into quick commerce and technology-driven efficiency improvements are expected to help it overcome short-term challenges, although investor sentiment remains mixed.



Wipro

Wipro has demonstrated resilience amid global IT spending uncertainties. With a diversified client base and strong execution in digital transformation and cloud services, Wipro continues to record steady revenue growth and improving margins. The company is well-positioned to benefit from the ongoing demand for digital solutions, despite potential short-term headwinds from macroeconomic factors.



BSE Ltd.

BSE Ltd., the operator of the Bombay Stock Exchange, is a critical bellwether for India's equity market. The company has leveraged technology to boost trading volumes and investor participation, and its strong balance sheet underpins future growth. As market liquidity improves and more investors turn to digital platforms, BSE is poised for stable long-term performance despite short-term market volatility.



The domestic stock market ended flat today. They recovered for the second consecutive day. The indices, which started with gains in the morning, soon went into heavy losses. They recovered again with better signals from global markets and heavyweights standing firm. Banking, finance, media, metal and realty shares stood firm and ended flat. Nifty may move at 23,000 and Sensex at 75,600 for a few more days.



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closed at 75,939, with a loss of 28 points. The NSE Nifty, which opened at 22,847, touched a low of 22,814 and a high of 23,049. It closed at 22,932, down 12 points. The Nifty Bank rose 482 points to settle at 49,570.

In the Nifty50, 25 companies gained while 25 lost. BEL, Hindalco, Eicher Motors, Axis Bank, IT were the top gainers. Dr. Reddy's, TCS, Infosys, Hindustan Unilever, Adani Enterprises lost the most. Bank, finance, media, metal, realty, consumer durables, O&G shares rose. IT, pharma, healthcare shares lost.

Market breadth in NSE today is in

The BSE Sensex, which closed at 75,967 in the previous session, started at 75,787 on Wednesday. It touched an intraday low of 75,581. It reached an intraday high of 76,338. It finally

Salaries in India to Increase by 9.2% in 2025 Amid Global Uncertainty



Salaries in India are projected to rise by 9.2% in 2025, showing a slight decline from last year's 9.3%, amid global economic uncertainty and slower growth, according to a report by global professional services firm Aon plc.

Aon's Annual Salary Increase and Turnover Survey 2024-25, which analyzed data from over 1,400 companies across 45 industries, suggests that while global challenges continue, India's economic outlook remains relatively stable. The survey reveals that salary increments in the country are expected to stabilize in 2025.

The report indicates that salary increases have been on a downward trend since 2022, when companies offered an average 10.6% increase, driven by the aftermath of the Great Resigna-

tion. As the economy adjusted, increments moderated in 2023 and are expected to continue at a similar pace in 2025.

In addition, the survey highlights a significant decrease in attrition rates within India's workforce. The attrition rate dropped to 17.7% in 2024, down from 18.7% in 2023 and 21.4% in 2022. This suggests that the talent pool in India is stabilizing, as fewer employees are leaving their jobs, and companies are able to retain workers more effectively than in the past.

The findings also emphasize the larger trend of stability within India Inc., as companies are increasingly able to manage turnover and offer more predictable salary increments, signaling a shift toward more sustainable employment practices in a volatile global economy.



SBI Research Predicts India's GDP Growth at 6.3% for FY25

SBI Research has revised India's GDP growth forecast for FY25 to 6.3%, slightly below the National Statistical Office's (NSO) projection of 6.4%. According to SBI's analysis, the country saw growth rates of 6.7% and 5.4% in the first and second quarters of FY25, respectively, with Q3 expected to show a growth range of 6.2% to 6.3%.

The research highlights positive momentum in the economy, with the majority of states showing improved capital expenditure (capex) in Q3. This development indicates a broader effort by regional governments to boost infrastructure investments and contribute to the overall economic performance.

SBI's findings also point to encouraging signs in manufacturing, with the Index of Industrial Production (IIP) for the sector showing

favorable growth. The bank's own SBI Index, which tracks various economic indicators, also indicates positive trends in both domestic and global contexts.

The growth estimates suggest that while India's economy is on track for moderate expansion, the slightly lower prediction by SBI compared to the official NSO forecast reflects challenges such as external economic pressures and domestic structural adjustments. Nevertheless, the report underscores a generally optimistic outlook, supported by both government spending and industrial growth.

India's economic performance in Q4 will be crucial in determining whether the GDP growth will meet or fall short of the NSO's expectations for FY25.

Rupee Depreciates 8 Paise to 86.96 Against US Dollar Amid Persistent Outflows



The Indian rupee fell by 8 paise to 86.96 against the US dollar in early trade on Tuesday, primarily due to sustained foreign fund outflows and a weak performance in domestic equities. This marks the ongoing negative trend for the currency, reflecting broader challenges in the domestic market.

Forex traders attribute the rupee's depreciation to persistent selling by foreign investors in the Indian stock market. This has been compounded by a gradual reduction in the support from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). Despite the central bank's interventions, the rupee faces pressure as

foreign investors continue to pull out funds.

The rupee opened at 86.94 against the dollar in the interbank foreign exchange market and soon slipped further to 86.96, showing an 8-paise decline from its previous close. Analysts say that while the RBI's actions and the absence of anticipated US tariffs have somewhat eased trade-related concerns, the domestic macroeconomic environment remains fragile.

India's economic outlook faces several hurdles, with exports continuing to decline for the third consecutive month. In January, Indian exports

fell by 2.38% year-on-year, reaching \$36.43 billion, a sign of weakening demand in global markets. Additionally, the trade deficit for the month widened significantly to \$22.99 billion, signaling ongoing challenges in balancing the nation's trade account.

The persistent pressure on the rupee and the macroeconomic issues reflect the complex economic environment in India, which faces rising concerns of capital outflows, trade imbalances, and subdued global demand. Analysts suggest that until there is a shift in these fundamental factors, the rupee is likely to remain under pressure in the near term.



WhatsApp Faces Stricter Rules Under EU's Digital Services Act After Surge in User Base



WhatsApp could soon face tighter regulations under the European Union's Digital Services Act (DSA) following an increase in its user base. The popular messaging platform, owned by Meta, recently reported a surge in usage, which may lead to the company being subjected to stricter oversight.

Meta's latest filing, dated February 14, reveals that WhatsApp Channels averaged approximately 46.8 million monthly active users in the second half of 2024. WhatsApp Channels function as feeds within the platform, most of which are operated by news outlets, public figures, and organizations to engage with their

audiences.

The surge in WhatsApp Channels' user base puts the platform under closer scrutiny, as the DSA applies more stringent rules to platforms with large user bases. Under the new regulations, companies like Meta are required to take additional measures to ensure user safety, prevent illegal content, and improve transparency, among other provisions. WhatsApp's growing influence, particularly through its Channels feature, signals a potential shift in the platform's role within the digital ecosystem. With increasing use, especially among media and public figures, WhatsApp could soon face higher levels of regulation to maintain its compliance with EU standards. The Digital Services Act, which came into effect in 2022, aims to make the internet safer and more transparent by imposing rigorous responsibilities on major online platforms. WhatsApp, alongside other large digital platforms, will need to navigate these new rules carefully to avoid penalties and ensure it operates in line with EU regulations.

Uber Ditches Commissions for Auto-Rickshaw Drivers Introduces Subscription Model

Uber has announced a major change for auto-rickshaw drivers in India, eliminating its commission fees and replacing them with a subscription model. In a blog post on Tuesday, February 18, the ride-hailing giant revealed that drivers will now keep 100% of the fares earned through the platform.

Previously, Uber charged a commission on each fare, which resulted in drivers receiving only a portion of the total fare. However, with this new model, drivers will no longer face deductions from Uber. Instead, the company will charge a subscription fee for using the platform, allowing drivers to retain the full fare amount paid by passengers.

The shift to a subscription-based structure is designed to offer more earnings stability for auto-rickshaw drivers, particularly during times of fluctuating demand. Uber's move comes as part of its broader efforts to improve relationships with drivers and enhance the overall driver experience.

Uber's decision to move away from com-



missions is seen as a positive step by many auto-rickshaw drivers who often struggled with the impact of commission deductions on their earnings. Now, they will benefit from a predictable cost structure that allows them to keep the entire fare for their services. The change is expected to have a signifi-

cant impact on Uber's presence in India's auto-rickshaw market, where it competes with local ride-hailing services. By giving drivers greater financial control, Uber hopes to foster better relations with its driver community while ensuring the platform's long-term growth in the Indian market.

Your Feet Reveal Hidden Health Issues: Expert Insights on Foot Health



Your feet are more than just a means of transportation; they can serve as an important indicator of your overall health. Just as your eyes are considered the mirror of your soul, your feet can reflect underlying health issues that may require immediate at-

tention. Dietitian Nidhi Gupta recently took to Instagram to highlight common health issues that can first be noticed through changes in the feet. Dr. Anup Khatri, senior consultant in orthopedics at Glenagles Hospital, Parel, Mumbai, concurs, emphasizing the

importance of recognizing the first signs of health problems through foot abnormalities. "It is crucial to evaluate the underlying cause of the issue and seek timely treatment," Dr. Khatri said. He further advises that proper attention to diet, coupled with following

prescribed treatment plans, is essential for maintaining healthy feet.

Common foot-related health issues that could signal more serious problems include swelling, discoloration, or pain in the feet, which may point to conditions such as diabetes, arthritis, or circulatory problems. For instance, diabetic patients often experience changes in foot appearance due to nerve damage or poor blood circulation. Additionally, persistent foot pain could indicate issues like flat feet, plantar fasciitis, or even heart and kidney problems. Experts agree that paying attention to the feet and noticing any changes is key to early diagnosis and treatment. It's essential to seek professional advice if unusual symptoms persist. Regular check-ups and maintaining a healthy lifestyle can go a long way in preventing long-term complications related to foot health. In conclusion, while we may often overlook our feet, they provide valuable insights into our health. Paying attention to them can help detect health problems before they escalate.

Retired IFS Officer Shares Striking Image of Tiger Guarding Anti-Poaching Camp



Big cats have always been a source of fascination for wildlife enthusiasts and social media users alike, thanks to their impressive strength, agility, and majestic presence. From their swift hunting tactics to their regal dominance in the wild, these apex predators never fail to capture the imagination of viewers. Recently, a retired Indian Forest Service (IFS) officer took to social media to share a captivating image of one such tiger, showcasing its natural prowess and unexpected role in the forest ecosystem.

On Tuesday, IFS officer Susanta Nanda shared a striking photo on X (formerly Twitter), featuring a tiger seated calmly at the entrance of an anti-poaching camp in the deep forest. The image shows the tiger in a relaxed yet vigilant stance, seemingly guarding the premises and keeping a watchful eye on its surroundings.

In his post, Nanda humorously referred to the tiger as the "original guard" of the forest, adding a lighthearted touch to the impres-

sive scene. The tiger's presence at the anti-poaching camp is both symbolic and practical—highlighting the role these animals play in maintaining the balance of their ecosystem and in safeguarding their own territories.

This captivating image of the tiger not only drew attention to the beauty and importance of wildlife conservation but also provided a unique glimpse into the often unnoticed interactions between big cats and the work being done to protect them. Nanda's humorous caption added a personal touch to the post, allowing social media users to appreciate the tiger's natural guard-duties while also reflecting on the broader conservation efforts underway in India's forests.

In a world where big cats often become symbols of power and mystery, this image is a reminder of their crucial role in preserving the wild, as well as the ongoing efforts to protect these magnificent creatures from poaching and habitat loss.

**Cat and Sheep Win "Couple of the Year" Contest At Ukraine Zoo



In a heartwarming twist, a cat and a sheep have won the coveted "Couple of the Year" title at the Odessa Zoo in Ukraine, beating out other contenders such as lemurs, tigers, and porcupines. The unexpected pairing of Masazhik, the cat, and Bagel, the lamb, was announced as the winners after a thrilling competition. The finalists were revealed earlier this week on YouTube, but the final victory was shared with the world through a Facebook post by the zoo.

The unique bond between the two animals stood out, with the zoo emphasizing the extraordinary companionship between the two different species. "The contest 'Couple of the Year - 2025' is over. The winners of this year are a pair of lambs, Bagel, and a cat, Masazhik," the zoo posted on

Facebook. "Such a combination of friendly relationships between completely different animals is possible only in the Odessa Zoo." The winners were honored during a special ceremony on Valentine's Day, further highlighting the love and affection that transcends species in the animal kingdom. The zoo's staff invited visitors to celebrate this delightful and unusual partnership, showcasing the beauty of unexpected friendships in nature.

Masazhik the cat and Bagel the lamb have certainly captured the hearts of zoo visitors and animal lovers around the world with their endearing relationship, proving that sometimes the most unlikely duos can form the strongest bonds.



Pakistan's Poor Start to Champions Trophy: New Zealand Won by 60 Runs



Pakistan's return to hosting an ICC event after almost three decades began with a disappointing 60-run defeat to New Zealand at the National Stadium in Karachi. The Kiwis, powered by centuries from Will Young (107) and Tom Latham (118*), posted a challenging total of 320/5. A late flourish from Glenn Phillips (61) further bolstered their score. In reply, Pakistan's chase faltered early, and despite a resilient 64 from Babar Azam and 69 from

Khusdil Shah, they were bowled out for 260. The Kiwi bowlers, led by Will O'Rourke (3/47) and Mitchell Santner (3/66), dominated, leaving Pakistan's top order struggling. The defeat marks New Zealand's fourth consecutive win over Pakistan in the Champions Trophy. The opening ceremony of the tournament was a spectacular affair, marking Pakistan's first ICC global event since 1996.

Bangladeshi Pacer Nahid Rana Eager for India Clash in ICC Champions Trophy



As Bangladesh prepares to face India in their opening match of the ICC Champions Trophy, 22-year-old pacer Nahid Rana is eager to make his mark. Known for his pace, capable of exceeding 150 km/h, Rana is gearing up for his first

ICC tournament with high hopes. Having played six Tests and only three ODIs, Rana is excited to compete against the world's best cricketers. "The opportunity to play against the best is the highest form of inspiration,"

Rana said in an interview with the ICC. Growing up in Rajshahi, known more for its mangoes than sport, Rana took up cricket later in his teens. Despite limited international exposure, he impressed in his Test debut, tak-

ing three wickets in his first innings and five in the match. As he continues to hone his skills, Rana is focused on improving both his bowling and athleticism, understanding that fitness and recovery are key to maintaining his pace.

India Men's Hockey Team Secures 1-0 Victory Over World Champions Germany in FIH Hockey Pro League



The India men's hockey team bounced back from their previous defeat to Germany with a hard-fought 1-0 victory in the FIH Hockey Pro League 2024-25 season at the Kalinga Hockey Stadium on Wednesday. Gurjant Singh scored the lone goal of the match early in the fourth minute, following a loose ball in Germany's circle after a failed clearance by goalkeeper Alexander Stadler. India played a disciplined defensive game, with captain Harmanpreet Singh leading the charge. Ger-

many threatened multiple times, with Thies Prinz and Gonzalo Peillat coming close to scoring, but Indian goalkeepers Krishan Bahadur Pathak and Suraj Karkera made crucial saves. India's defense held firm, thwarting multiple German penalty corner attempts in the final minutes to secure the win, and climb to seventh in the standings. This victory marked India's second win of the season after their earlier loss to Germany.

Jeevanji Wins Gold in Women's 400m T20 at National Paralympic Athletics Championship



The National Paralympic Athletics Championship, being held at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium in Chennai, has witnessed remarkable performances from India's top para-athletes. Organized by the Tamil Nadu Sports Development Authority and the Tamil Nadu Paralympic Sports Association, the event brings together 1,476 athletes from 30 states and union territories, competing across 155 events from February 18-20. Paralympics bronze medalist and reigning world champion, Deepthi Jeevanji, triumphed in the women's 400m T20 category, clinching gold with a time of

57.85 seconds. Pooja from Haryana won silver, clocking 1:08.21, while Bhuvni Agrawal of Haryana secured the bronze at 1:09.24. Other standout performances included Soman Rana, who claimed gold in the men's F57 shot put, defeating Paris Paralympics gold medalist Hokato Sema. Haryana's Vikas won gold in the men's long jump T45/T46/T47, while Nishad Kumar from Himachal Pradesh bagged multiple golds in the high jump and long jump events. The ongoing championship highlights the incredible resilience and excellence of India's para-athletes.

Hyderabad FC and Mumbai City FC Play Out Goalless Draw in ISL 2024-25

Hyderabad FC and Mumbai City FC shared the spoils in a goalless draw at the GMC Balayogi Athletic Stadium on Wednesday in the Indian Super League (ISL) 2024-25 season. Mumbai City started strong with Lallianzuala Chhangte coming close to scoring in the ninth minute, but his left-footed shot hit the woodwork. Both teams had several chances, with Chhangte and Jorge Ortiz threatening Hyderabad's defense, but goalkeeper Arshdeep Singh made crucial saves to keep the score level.

In the 36th minute, Hyderabad's Ramhlunchhunga tested Mumbai's keeper Phurba Lachenpa, who made a timely save. The second half saw more missed opportunities, including a saved shot from Mumbai's Jon Toral and Edmilson Correia's attempt for Hyderabad, blocked by the Mumbai defense. Mumbai City absorbed pressure towards the end and counter-attacked, but Chhangte's effort in the 83rd minute missed the target, and both teams had to settle for a 0-0 draw.



International Masters League 2025 Trophy Unveiled in Mumbai



The International Masters League (IML) revealed its much-anticipated trophy at a special event held at DY Patil University. The event, known as Captains' Day, saw cricket legends like Sachin Tendulkar, Kumar Sangakkara, Brian Lara, Eoin Morgan, Shane Watson, and Jonty Rhodes (representing Jacques Kallis) come together to unveil the trophy for the inaugural edition of the tournament. The IML promises a thrilling experience for cricket fans, featuring global cricket icons leading their respective teams. The opening match of the league will take place on

February 22, 2025, between India Masters and Sri Lanka Masters at the DY Patil Stadium. Cricket legends expressed their excitement for the upcoming tournament. Tendulkar shared his passion for the game, while Brian Lara and others highlighted their eagerness to reignite old rivalries and bring excitement to the fans in India, a nation known for its love for cricket. The tournament's start marks a major celebration of cricket's rich legacy, with global stars competing on Indian soil, setting the stage for an electrifying competition.



Allu Arjun Receives Rare Honour on Cover of The Hollywood Reporter India



Tollywood icon Allu Arjun has been bestowed with a rare honour, as he graces the cover of the inaugural edition of The Hollywood Reporter India. The popular Hollywood movie news magazine has launched its India edition, and Allu Arjun's striking face graces the cover, making it a significant milestone in his career. The magazine's feature on Allu Arjun is titled "Star of India," highlighting his remarkable achievements in Indian cinema. The cover story also emphasizes his recent film Pushpa-2: The

Rule, directed by Sukumar. The Hollywood Reporter India has recognized the film for rewriting Hindi cinema's history, showcasing Allu Arjun's significant contribution to Indian film. Pushpa-2: The Rule, part of the blockbuster Pushpa franchise, has set a new record by grossing ₹1,871 crore worldwide, marking a new benchmark in Indian cinema. Allu Arjun's groundbreaking success in Pushpa-2 has earned him widespread acclaim, further cementing his status as a global superstar.

Sudeep's 'Max' Creates Record with OTT Streaming



Kannada superstar Kichcha Sudeep's latest film Max has taken the OTT world by storm, setting a new record. The movie, which was released in theatres in December, began its streaming journey on Zee5 from February 15. Within just four days, Max has achieved unprecedented success on digital platforms, breaking records for the highest revenue in a short period. Directed by Vijay Kartikeya, Max tells the gripping story of a police officer named Max, who takes charge at a new police station. On his first night, the heirs of local political leaders are found dead under suspicious circumstances at the station, and a conspir-

acy unfolds where the police try to cover up the deaths. The film delves into Max's struggle as he uncovers a web of intrigue. Though the film had received average feedback upon its theatrical release, its OTT debut has been a game-changer. In a remarkable feat, Max surpassed the record previously held by the Malayalam movie Mrs. for the highest streaming earnings in its opening days. With this success, Max has firmly established itself as a digital hit and solidified Sudeep's reputation as a versatile actor with a keen choice for intriguing roles.

Ayesha Khan: From Glamour to Mystery, the Disappearing Beauty!



Ayesha Khan, who made her entry into the film industry with a small role, quickly made her mark with her stunning glamour and beauty. She caught the attention of audiences and soon found herself busy with Bollywood projects. However, her fans are still hoping to see more of her in Telugu films, where she started her career.

In many films, the heroine is the center of attention, with audiences unable to take their eyes off her. But there was one instance when a young woman appeared on screen, so mesmerizing that she overshadowed the heroine completely. That woman was none other than Ayesha Khan.

She made her Telugu film debut with the movie Mukhachitram and later gained popularity for her role as 'Rattalu' in Om Bheem Bush. In this role, her glamorous appeal stole the show. In a film about selling fish, her mesmerizing beauty captivated the young audience, who completely forgot about the plot as they were entranced by her presence.

Even after that, Ayesha's charm and allure left a lasting impact on the audience. Discussions about her beauty and potential as a heroine in Bollywood were widespread. There were talks about her future in item songs as well, with predictions that she would rule the glamour scene for some time.

Currently, Ayesha seems to be focused on her Bollywood career. Fans are left wondering if any new Telugu projects will bring her back to the industry, eagerly waiting for her return to the Telugu screen.

Rajinikanth's 'Jailer' to Release in Japan on February 21



After a massive success in India, director Nelson's blockbuster film Jailer, featuring Tamil Superstar Rajinikanth in the lead, is now gearing up for its release in Japan. The film will hit the screens on February 21, marking its debut in the land of the rising sun.

Social media has been buzzing with excitement as fans in Japan have been sharing that Jailer will release on a large scale, with additional screens being added across multiple locations. The anticipation for the film's release in Japan is growing, with fans expressing their eagerness to witness the action-packed drama. Jailer was a record-breaking success upon its release, grossing an astounding ₹650 crores worldwide. The film's opening day was particularly strong, with Ayngaran International, the overseas distributor, confirming that it earned ₹33 crores on its first day, setting a new career record for Rajinikanth.

In addition to Rajinikanth, Jailer also featured Malayalam superstar Mohanlal, Kannada superstar Shiva Rajkumar, Bollywood actor Jackie Shroff, Telugu actor Sunil, Ramya Krishnan, Vinayakan, Mirna Menon, Taman-

naah, Vasanth Ravi, Naga Babu, Yogi Babu, Jaffer Sadiq, and Kishore. The film boasted music by Anirudh and cinematography by Vijay Kartik Kannan.

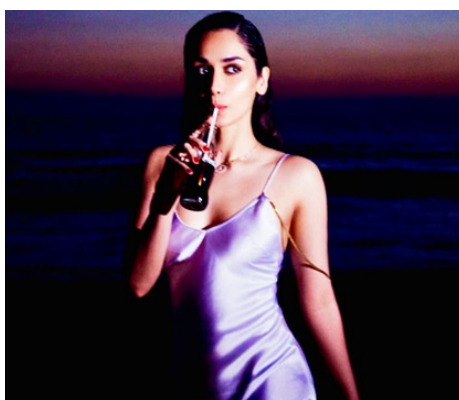
The producers, Sun Pictures, were so pleased with the film's success that they gifted Rajinikanth a BMW X7 and presented director Nelson Dilipkumar and music director Anirudh Ravichander with Porsche cars and cheques for an undisclosed amount. Given the film's extraordinary success, Sun Pictures has also announced a sequel, Jailer 2, with Nelson returning as the director and Anirudh composing the music.

A teaser for Jailer 2 has already been released, offering a glimpse of the intense action and excitement to come. The teaser starts with an announcement about an incoming cyclone, followed by a comedic conversation between Nelson and Anirudh in Goa, where they discuss the plot for the sequel. The teaser quickly escalates into explosive action, with Rajinikanth's iconic entry building the suspense. The sequel promises even more thrilling action, and fans are eagerly awaiting its release.

From Alia Bhatt to Richa Chadha, Here Are Actresses Who Are Making Waves with Their Own Fashion Labels

Bollywood actresses are not just dominating the silver screen but are also making their mark in the world of fashion with their own unique brands. Balancing successful acting careers with entrepreneurial ventures, these stars are reshaping the fashion industry, bringing flair, creativity, and a sense of purpose. Here's a look at some leading ladies who proudly own their own fashion labels, ranging from sustainable-wear to high-end fashion.

Island-Inspired Aesthetics



Kritika Kamra, Cinnabar

Actress Kritika Kamra has ventured into the fashion world with Cinnabar, a brand that supports and empowers artisans from Madhya Pradesh. Launched alongside her mother, Kritika's vision for Cinnabar is to revive the traditional Chanderi handloom craftsmanship, providing local weavers with a platform to showcase their exceptional skills while promoting the region's cultural heritage.

Empowering Local Artisans

Richa Chadha, Ehaab

Richa Chadha, along with husband Ali Fazal, co-founded Ehaab, a home-grown fashion brand that celebrates the cultural richness of Lucknow's heritage. The brand promotes handcrafted traditions, empowering local artisans while preserving India's artistic legacy. Ehaab stands as a testament to the craftsmanship that has been handed down through generations in India.

Passion for Sustainability

