



Om Namah Shivaya!

May Lord Shiva awaken the strength within you, guiding you to strive harder and achieve all that you aspire for. Wishing you a blessed and prosperous Maha Shivratri!

Note: There will be no newspaper on the 27th. Stay tuned for further updates.

CAG Report

Delhi Suffered ₹2,002-Crore Loss Due to Liquor Policy

- Excise rule violations led to favoritism.
- Wholesaler margin hike linked to kickbacks.
- Private shops sold more top liquor brands.
- AAP leaders jailed over liquor policy scam.

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

The Delhi government incurred a massive loss of ₹2,002.68 crore due to the controversial liquor policy implemented in November 2021 and scrapped in September 2022, according to a report by the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG). The report, tabled in the Delhi Assembly on Tuesday, flagged multiple financial and procedural irregularities, sparking uproar and leading to the suspension of several AAP MLAs.

The liquor policy has remained a contentious issue, leading to the arrests of several AAP leaders, including former Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal and ex-Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia. Allegations of corruption surrounding the policy are also believed

to have played a crucial role in AAP's defeat in this month's Assembly elections, allowing the BJP to return to power in Delhi after 26 years.

Breakdown of Losses

The CAG report detailed how various policy decisions and omissions led to the ₹2,002.68 crore revenue loss. The most significant loss of ₹941.53 crore resulted from liquor shops not being allowed to operate in non-conforming areas, which do not meet land-use norms for opening liquor vends.

Another ₹890.15 crore was lost due to tenders not being issued for 19 zones where licences had been surrendered. The report criticized the government for failing to put in place alternative arrangements to ensure continued li-



quor retail in these zones, leading to a complete loss of excise revenue from them.

Additionally, the Delhi government suffered a ₹144-crore revenue loss due to the waiving of fees for licensees under the pretext of COVID-19 relief. Another ₹27 crore was lost due to the incorrect collection of security deposits from zonal licensees.

Regulatory Violations and Favoritism

The report highlighted regulatory lapses, particularly the failure of the Delhi Excise Department to implement Rule 35 of the Delhi Excise Rules, 2010. This rule prohibits the issuance of multiple licences—wholesaler, retailer, and HCR (hotel, clubs, and restaurants)—to related parties. The lapse, according to sources, benefited certain businesses and led to monopolization.

One of the most controversial aspects of the liquor policy was the increase in the wholesaler margin from 5% to

12%. The Enforcement Directorate had previously claimed that half of this increased margin was meant to be recovered as kickbacks for AAP leaders. The report stated that the justification given for the increase—setting up government-approved laboratories at warehouses to check for sub-standard liquor and covering local transportation costs—was unconvincing, as these quality-checking labs were never made operational.

The policy also enabled monopolization, with just three wholesalers—Indospirit, Mahadev Liquors, and Brindco—accounting for 71.7% of liquor sales in Delhi. Of the 367 Indian-Made Foreign Liquor (IMFL) brands supplied by 13 wholesalers, Indospirit supplied 76 brands, Mahadev Liquors 71 brands, and Brindco 45 brands, giving them significant market dominance.

Revenue Loss Due to Private Retailers

The report further found that popular



whiskey brands were sold significantly more at private shops than at government-run liquor outlets, leading to a direct revenue loss for the Delhi government. For instance, only 9.25% of Royal Stag Reserve/Premier whiskey sales occurred at government shops, with the remaining 90.75% happening at private vends. Similarly, only 2.26% of "MCD No.1" (likely McDowell's No.1) whiskey sales took place at government-run stores.

The findings of the CAG report have further intensified the political controversy surrounding the liquor policy. The policy, which was introduced by the AAP government as part of excise reforms, has now emerged as a major factor in the party's electoral downfall and legal troubles for its top leaders. With key figures like Kejriwal and Sisodia behind bars, the issue continues to haunt the AAP as the BJP strengthens its hold on Delhi politics.

Did Right Thing: Atishi Defends AAP's Excise Policy After CAG Reports

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

Following the presentation of the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) report on Delhi's excise policy in the Delhi Assembly, Leader of Opposition and AAP leader Atishi came to the defense of the previous Arvind Kejriwal-led government. Atishi argued that the report highlighted the shortcomings of the old excise policy, which the AAP government had previously exposed and replaced with a new, revised policy.



In a press conference on Tuesday, Atishi stated, "The excise audit report presented today in the Assembly covers seven chapters on the excise policy from 2017-21, while one chapter focuses on the new excise policy. The AAP government was the first to highlight the flaws and corruption in the old policy to the people of Delhi."

She went on to point out that the previous policy led to the illegal sourcing of liquor from neighboring states, such as Haryana and Uttar Pradesh, resulting in financial losses for Delhi. She said, "This report is reiterating what we have been saying all along—that the old policy was causing financial harm to the people of Delhi. The decision to remove it was the right one."

Atishi further accused the previous excise policy of corruption, revealing that the report showed 28 percent of liquor sales were tainted by corruption. She alleged that con-

tractors involved in the liquor trade had manipulated pricing, leading to black market sales with profits lining the pockets of brokers. The AAP leader also suggested that the connections between liquor contractors and political parties were well known, raising questions about the policy's integrity.

The report, which was tabled by the BJP-led government in Delhi under Chief Minister Rekha Gupta, focused on the performance audit of the regulation and supply of liquor in the National Capital Territory from 2017 to 2021. According to the CAG's findings, the Delhi government lost over Rs 2,000 crore during the period under review due to the 2021-2022 excise policy. The audit also raised concerns about the "ineffectiveness of the Excise Department in monitoring and regulating liquor distribution."

The presentation of the CAG report comes as one of 14 pending reports concerning the previous AAP government's performance.

It will 100% Happen: Punjab Congress buzz over Kejriwal's possible Rajya Sabha entry

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

Amid growing speculation about Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) National Convenor Arvind Kejriwal's potential entry into the Rajya Sabha, Punjab's Leader of Opposition and Congress leader, Partap Singh Bajwa, asserted that Kejriwal's entry is certain. Bajwa revealed that Kejriwal initially considered entering the Rajya Sabha through the seat of the late AAP MLA Gurpreet Gogi, but backed out due to concerns that it would provoke a strong backlash in Punjab, where locals might not support an "outsider" taking the seat.

Bajwa, speaking to ANI, stated, "This will 100 per cent happen," when asked about the speculation surrounding Kejriwal's Rajya Sabha ambitions. He further explained, "Kejriwal initially wanted to come through Gurpreet's seat, but realized this would have a massive reaction in Punjab. So, he took a step back." Bajwa added that there could be some truth to the information suggesting that AAP's Rajya Sabha MP Sanjeev Arora may contest the Ludhiana West Assembly bypoll.

In another twist, Bajwa made explosive allegations against Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann, claiming he is secretly in talks to join the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). Bajwa accused Union Minister Ravneet Bittu of facilitating covert discussions between Mann and BJP leaders. "Bittu is pretending to protest outside the CM's residence while secretly arranging meetings between the CM and BJP leaders," Bajwa claimed.

Bajwa also predicted that the AAP government in Punjab might collapse within the next four to five months, drawing a parallel to the political upheaval in Maharashtra, where Shiv Sena MLAs defected to form a new government. He further claimed that 32 AAP MLAs are in touch with him



and ready to switch to Congress, likening this to the way people pre-book tickets for Diljit Dosanjh's concerts. "These MLAs are doing 'advance booking' to join Congress," Bajwa said.

As the Leader of the Opposition in Punjab, Bajwa emphasized that Congress is not attempting to destabilize the AAP government but rather that AAP MLAs are voluntarily seeking to join Congress, sensing no future within AAP. He added that once elections are called, these MLAs would be formally welcomed into the party.

In response, Punjab Minister Harpal Singh Cheema slammed Bajwa for engaging in "low-level politics" and accused him of trying to secure a position within the BJP. Cheema also reaffirmed AAP's unity, asserting that no MLA from the party is leaving.

Meanwhile, BJP leader Tarun Chugh also commented, claiming that leaders from both AAP and Congress are eager to join the BJP, further intensifying the political drama in Punjab.

India proud of its contributions to UN peacekeeping: EAM Jaishankar

- Jaishankar reaffirms India's commitment to UN peacekeeping
- Conference unites women peacekeepers from 35 nations
- India pushes for gender-inclusive global peace efforts

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar reiterated India's steadfast dedication to supporting Global South nations in strengthening their peacekeeping capabilities. Speaking at the two-day Conference on Women Peacekeepers from the Global South (Feb 24-25) at the Manekshaw Centre, Jaishankar highlighted India's continuous contributions to UN peacekeeping, emphasizing the importance of empowering nations through training and capacity-building.



Jaishankar underscored the role of the Centre for UN Peacekeeping (CUNPK) in these efforts, detailing India's ongoing commitment to offering specialized programs, including those focused on training women peacekeepers. India's collaboration with ASEAN countries in 2023 on such initiatives was also highlighted as an example of India's proactive approach to promoting gender-inclusive peacekeeping.

The conference, hosted by CUNPK in collaboration with the Ministry of External Affairs and the Ministry of Defence, brought together women peacekeepers from 35 nations. The event centered on the evolving role of women in peacekeeping operations and sought strategies to increase their involvement in these essential missions. Jaishankar, reflecting on India's peacekeeping philosophy, emphasized the

importance of dialogue, diplomacy, and cooperation in resolving conflicts. He further stressed that India's commitment to global peace is guided by the principle of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam—"the world is one family."

In addition, Indian Army Chief Lt Gen NS Raja Subramani commended India's pivotal role as a key partner in the Global South. He highlighted the country's vast experience, resources, and expertise, which have been integral to peacekeeping efforts worldwide. "As representatives of the Global South, we stand united in our strength, resilience, and unwavering commitment to global peace," said Raja Subramani, reinforcing India's ongoing leadership in fostering peace and stability across regions.

India's ongoing contributions to UN peacekeeping and its emphasis on gender equality in peace operations reflect its broader commitment to promoting international peace and security.

Essential to induct more women in UN peacekeeping missions: Prez Murmu

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

On Monday, a group of participants from the Conference on Women Peacekeepers of the Global South met with President Droupadi Murmu at Rashtrapati Bhavan. During the meeting, President Murmu stressed the importance of women's presence in peacekeeping missions, highlighting how their participation significantly enhances diversity and inclusivity within these operations.



She emphasized that missions with a higher percentage of women personnel are often more effective in reducing violence and achieving lasting peace agreements. "It is essential that we induct more women into UN peacekeeping missions," Murmu said, underlining the positive impact of their involvement in maintaining global peace.

Currently, India has 154 women peacekeepers deployed across six active UN missions, reflecting the country's long-standing commitment to contributing to peacekeeping efforts. Murmu recalled the legacy of Indian women peacekeepers, noting their exceptional professionalism in various global assignments. From their early deployments in Congo during the 1960s to their significant role in policing operations in Liberia in 2007, Indian women peacekeepers have set a high standard

in the international arena.

The participants of the conference are in New Delhi for the event titled "Women in Peacekeeping: A Global South Perspective," which is organized by the Ministry of External Affairs, in collaboration with the Ministry of Defence and the Centre for UN Peacekeeping. The conference brings together women peacekeepers and officials from the Global South to discuss the contemporary challenges they face and to explore strategies to improve the effectiveness of peacekeeping missions.

By fostering greater inclusion and representation of women in peacekeeping roles, the conference seeks to advance solutions that promote long-term peace and stability in conflict-affected regions worldwide.

Sajjan Kumar Sentenced to Life Imprisonment in 1984 Anti-Sikh Riots Case



TPN Correspondent | Delhi

Former Congress leader Sajjan Kumar was sentenced to life imprisonment by a special court on Tuesday in connection with the 1984 anti-Sikh riots, where he was convicted of involvement in a murder case. The court had previously found him guilty on February 12, and today's sentence marks a significant moment in the long-running legal proceedings related to the tragic events of 1984.

The case stems from the violence that erupted after the assassination of Prime Minister Indira Gandhi in 1984, which led to widespread anti-Sikh riots across India. Sajjan Kumar was accused of orchestrating and inciting violence against the Sikh community, particularly in the aftermath of Gandhi's death.

In accordance with a Supreme Court order, the court had sought a report from the authorities at Tihar Central Jail regarding Kumar's psychiatric and psychological evaluation. This was in response to the Supreme Court's directive, which applies to cases that could attract the death penalty. Although the minimum punishment for murder is life imprisonment, the court also considered the possibility of a death sentence before ultimately imposing life imprisonment as the penalty for Kumar's conviction.

Sajjan Kumar's conviction and sentencing represent a significant step in the pursuit of justice for the victims of the 1984 riots, a dark chapter in India's history. His role in the events has been a subject of intense scrutiny, and his conviction follows a prolonged legal battle that spanned several decades.

While the case has sparked mixed reactions, with some expressing satisfaction over the verdict, others believe more needs to be done to hold accountable all those responsible for the violence. The 1984 anti-Sikh riots remain a painful memory for many, and today's verdict serves as a reminder of the ongoing struggle for justice and accountability.

Assam's Economy Set to Reach USD 143 Billion by 2030: CM Himanta Biswa

Assam is on track to become a USD 143 billion economy by 2030, according to Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma. In his address at the inaugural session of the 'Advantage Assam 2.0 Investment and Infrastructure Summit,' Sarma called on investors to be part of the state's growth journey, highlighting its rapid transformation and future potential.

Sarma shared that Assam has made significant strides in the past few years, transitioning from being known as the "most disturbed" region to now being regarded as the "most peaceful" state. This shift, he said, is one of the key factors driving the state's investment-friendly environment and improving infrastructure. The Chief Minister emphasized Assam's economic potential, pointing to its abundant natural resources, strategic geographical location, and the significant improvements in connectivity and infrastructure. These factors, he ar-



gued, position the state as a prime destination for business and investment opportunities. He specifically mentioned that sectors such as agriculture, manufacturing, and infrastructure are key to driving Assam's growth in the coming years. At the summit, Sarma stressed the importance

of fostering an environment conducive to entrepreneurship and long-term development. He urged domestic and international investors to seize the opportunities that Assam offers, particularly in light of its plans to boost industrialization and enhance connectivity across the region.

The 'Advantage Assam 2.0' summit serves as a platform to showcase Assam's emerging economic landscape and attract both public and private investments to further accelerate the state's growth. By focusing on infrastructure development and business facilitation, the summit aims to position Assam as an economic powerhouse in the coming years.

Sarma's bold forecast for a USD 143 billion economy reflects the state's rapid transformation and its ambition to become a major economic player in India and beyond by 2030.

Clean Delhi, excellent education system: Delhi L-G unveils BJP govt agenda

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

On Monday, Lieutenant Governor (L-G) of Delhi, Vinai Kumar Saxena, presented a 10-point agenda for the BJP-led Delhi government during the opening session of the Delhi Assembly. The L-G's address set the tone for the government's priorities over the next five years.

The agenda focuses on several key areas, including promoting a corruption-free and efficient administration, empowering women, improving welfare for the poor, and enhancing health facilities. The government also aims to create a world-class education system, improve road transport, ensure a clean and pollution-free environment, and prioritize the revival of the Yamuna river. Additionally, the agenda includes ensuring clean water, regularizing unauthorized colonies, and providing affordable housing.

During his speech, the L-G stated that the "Viksit Delhi" resolution would be adopted as the guiding policy document for the government's work. This document will guide the government's efforts in fulfilling promises made to the public and meeting their expectations. To ensure progress, all department heads have been directed to prepare a 100-day action plan and a comprehensive devel-



opment strategy.

In his address, the L-G also highlighted that the Delhi government's first cabinet meeting had decided to table the reports of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) in the assembly. This move is seen as a step toward identifying and addressing shortcomings in the system. In the coming months, the government's primary focus will be resolving issues related to roads, drains, sewer lines, health services, and the provision of clean drinking water.

Amid some pandemonium in the assembly, the L-G emphasized that the government's approach would be practical and focused on the welfare of the common people. With the 10-point agenda, the Delhi BJP-led government has outlined a clear roadmap for development, with specific attention to public infrastructure and essential services.

SC Directs NCR States to Submit Waste Management Plans by March

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

The Supreme Court of India on Monday directed the states in the National Capital Region (NCR) to submit comprehensive waste management plans, emphasizing the importance of segregating waste at source for environmental protection. The court highlighted that such segregation is essential to ensure effective waste management and to meet sustainability goals.

In its order, a bench led by Justice AS Oka, with Justice Ujjal Bhuyan, questioned how cities could be considered "smart" without adhering to Solid Waste Management Rules. The bench underlined the need for proper waste management practices as a key component of urban development. It directed the NCR states to file affidavits by March, detailing their plans for waste management, including timelines and designated implementing agencies. The affidavits must cover all urban local bodies within the NCR.

The Supreme Court also instructed the states to outline the "best practices" they intend to implement in managing solid waste. These plans are expected to align with the national waste management regulations, which have been in place since 2016.



Additionally, the court called for a report from the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) regarding the environmental impact of waste-to-energy projects. This move aims to assess the efficacy and environmental consequences of these initiatives, which are often promoted as part of urban waste management solutions.

The order was issued as part of the ongoing case regarding the implementation of the Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016, in the NCR. The region includes Delhi and surrounding districts in Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, and Rajasthan. The Supreme Court's focus on waste segregation and effective management underscores its commitment to improving environmental standards and ensuring cleaner, smarter cities across the NCR.

AAP MLA Amanatullah Khan Granted Anticipatory Bail in Obstruction of Arrest Case



**- Court questions Delhi Police's handling of the arrest
- Khan denies wrongdoing; investigation continues**

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

AAP MLA Amanatullah Khan was granted anticipatory bail by a Delhi court in an obstruction of arrest case, after being accused of preventing police from arresting Shahwez Khan, a proclaimed offender. The court, presided over by Special Judge Jitendra Singh, set the bail amount at Rs. 25,000 along with one surety in a like amount.

The case stems from an incident that occurred on February 10, when the Delhi Police registered a case against Khan for allegedly obstructing public servants in the Jamia Nagar area. Khan had been granted interim protection from arrest earlier, which was extended until Monday. The court also extended the protection for a day after questioning the police's actions during the arrest attempt.

During Monday's hearing, Special Judge Singh raised questions regarding the police's handling of the situation, particularly the presence of Shahwez Khan inside a shop for 20 minutes after securing anticipatory bail. The judge inquired, "What were the police officers doing with him inside a shop for 20 minutes?" This raised concerns about the conduct of the

police and their actions during the attempted arrest.

The Delhi Police had sought Khan's custody to question him regarding his presence at the scene of the alleged attack, citing CCTV footage and witness statements as evidence. The police accused Khan of lying about his whereabouts during the incident and obstructing their duties by allegedly interfering with the arrest of Shahwez Khan.

Khan, on his part, denied any wrongdoing and maintained that he was not present at the location of the incident. His supporters also stood by him, claiming that he was being falsely implicated. Meanwhile, the Delhi Police insisted on interrogating Khan to understand his role and ascertain the full extent of his involvement in the case.

Khan has been booked under various sections, including Section 221 (obstruction of public servants while performing their duties) and Section 132 (criminal force or assault against a public servant). As the investigation continues, the case has sparked political debate and scrutiny over the actions of both the police and the legislator.

Delhi Speaker Expels Atishi And 12 AAP MLAs Amid Protests During L-G Address

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

Delhi Speaker Vijender Gupta expelled 12 Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) MLAs, including Leader of Opposition Atishi and senior leader Gopal Rai, from the Delhi Assembly for the day on Tuesday. The expulsion came after the MLAs raised slogans during Lieutenant Governor VK Saxena's address.

The expelled MLAs included Veer Singh Dhingan, Mukesh Ahlawat, Chaudhary Zubair Ahmed, Anil Jha, Vishesh Ravi, and Jarnail Singh, among others. The protest was sparked by AAP's allegations against the BJP-led administration in Delhi regarding the removal of BR Ambedkar's portrait from the Chief Minister's office.

Atishi, speaking to the press, accused the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) of disrespecting Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar by replacing his portrait with that of Prime Minister Narendra Modi in both the Delhi Secretariat and the Assembly. "The BJP has shown its true colours by removing Babasaheb Ambedkar's portrait. Does it believe Modi can replace Babasaheb?" she questioned, highlighting the perceived insult to the Dalit icon.



Atishi further argued that when AAP MLAs raised slogans in support of Ambedkar, they were suspended, but BJP MLAs who raised slogans in praise of PM Modi faced no such action. "This means the BJP hates Dr. Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar," Atishi said.

Meanwhile, Delhi's new BJP-led government, under Chief Minister Rekha Gupta, was set to present 14 reports by the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) during the assembly session. These reports, expected to highlight financial ir-

regularities under the previous AAP government, are seen as a key move by the BJP to hold AAP accountable for alleged corruption. Delhi BJP chief Virendra Sachdeva criticized the AAP government and emphasized that the CAG report would reveal the party's "black deeds" to the people of Delhi.

The heated exchanges reflect the ongoing political tensions between the AAP and BJP, with both sides accusing each other of disrespecting the legacy of Dr. Ambedkar and engaging in corruption.

Bihar CM Nitish Kumar meets BJP president JP Nadda in Patna

TPN Correspondent | Patna

Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar met with BJP president JP Nadda on Tuesday in Patna, where the two leaders engaged in discussions regarding political developments in the state. The meeting took place at the State Guest House, where Nadda had been staying after arriving in Patna.

The short yet significant interaction between the leaders was centered around the upcoming Bihar Assembly elections, which are scheduled to take place later this year. Although details of the discussions were not made public, the meeting highlighted the ongoing political activity in the state as parties prepare for the election season.

Nadda arrived in Bihar on Monday to attend a wedding hosted by a BJP leader in Gaya. Following the wedding, he continued his visit to the state and is expected to stay for the centenary celebrations of the Patna Medical College and Hospital. The event will be graced by President Draupadi Murmu, adding further prominence to Nadda's visit.



The meeting between Nitish Kumar and JP Nadda is seen as a part of the larger political discourse as various parties gear up for the upcoming elections, especially with the continued political dynamics between the ruling JD(U) and BJP in Bihar. Both parties, which were once in alliance, have since parted ways, leading to a more contentious political climate in the state.

Kumar and Nadda's brief meeting further fueled speculations on the potential strategies each party will adopt as they approach the polls. With the election season on the horizon, both the BJP and the ruling JD(U) will likely continue to engage in high-stakes political maneuvers.

SP govt aided only its own people; we work for every UP resident: Adityanath



TPN Correspondent | Delhi

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Tuesday criticized the Samajwadi Party (SP), accusing it of selectively distributing financial aid to individuals affiliated with the party during its rule and branding welfare initiatives under the party's name. In contrast, Adityanath asserted that the BJP government is committed to serving all residents of the state, emphasizing impartiality in its welfare programs.

Responding to opposition questions in the legislative council,

the Chief Minister highlighted several key government initiatives. He stated, "It is no longer difficult for any poor person to receive medical treatment in Uttar Pradesh." Under the Ayushman Bharat scheme and the Chief Minister's Jan Arogya Yojana, approximately 10 crore people in the state are provided with health insurance coverage of up to Rs 5 lakh per year, Adityanath said.

Further elaborating on healthcare accessibility, Adityanath mentioned that all government employees are eligible for free healthcare under the Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya

Cashless Health Scheme. He also pointed out that elected officials such as MLAs and MLCs can allocate funds from their annual budgets to assist those in financial need.

The Chief Minister also took the opportunity to underline the transparency and fairness of the BJP government's financial aid distribution. "Over the past seven-and-a-half years, funds from the Chief Minister's discretionary corpus have been allocated without any bias based on caste, region, or language," he stated. Adityanath emphasized that if a district magistrate submits a report within three days, the required funds are released immediately, ensuring timely support to the people in need.

Adityanath's remarks come amid growing political tension between the ruling BJP and opposition parties, particularly as the state gears up for future elections. His defense of the BJP's welfare schemes is seen as part of the party's strategy to consolidate its support base ahead of the polls.

Shashi Tharoor posts selfie with Piyush Goyal amid Kerala controversy

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

Senior Congress leader Shashi Tharoor recently shared a selfie with Union Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal and the UK's Secretary of State for Business and Trade, Jonathan Reynolds, following a significant meeting. Tharoor hailed the revival of long-stalled Free Trade Agreement (FTA) negotiations between India and the UK, expressing his enthusiasm for the renewed talks on social media. "It was good to exchange words with Jonathan Reynolds, in the company of Piyush Goyal. The revival of FTA negotiations is most welcome," Tharoor wrote on X (formerly Twitter).

While the post attracted attention for its content, it also sparked a political debate due to its timing. The selfie and Tharoor's positive remarks on the FTA came just days after the Congress leader's controversial article in an English-language daily. In the piece, Tharoor had praised the Left Democratic Front (LDF) government in Kerala for its efforts in improving the state's investment climate, which led to a backlash from some Congress leaders in Kerala.

Critics within the Congress



raised concerns over Tharoor's apparent praise for the LDF, with many questioning the article's tone and content. However, the Communist Party of India (Marxist) - CPI(M) welcomed Tharoor's views, viewing them as a positive endorsement of Kerala's entrepreneurial growth. Tharoor later clarified that his article was not intended to praise the ruling CPI(M)-led government but was instead focused on highlighting Kerala's progress in the start-up sector and its evolving business environment.

The controversy surrounding his article intensified as

the BJP seized the opportunity to comment on Tharoor's position within the Congress. BJP IT department head Amit Malviya suggested that Tharoor's marginalization within the party was inevitable, especially after he contested the Congress presidential election against the "Gandhi family nominee," Mallikarjun Kharge.

Despite the controversy, Tharoor's post on the FTA revival remains a reminder of his continued involvement in national and international discussions, even as debates swirl around his views on state politics.

Punjab Assembly Passes Resolution Against Centre's Draft Policy On Agriculture

- Punjab rejects Centre's farm policy draft
- Claims it revives repealed farm laws
- CM Mann defends APMC mandis



TPN Correspondent | Punjab

The Punjab Assembly on Tuesday unanimously passed a resolution rejecting the Centre's draft of the National Policy Framework on Agricultural Marketing, asserting that it seeks to reinstate provisions of the three controversial farm laws that were repealed in 2021 following widespread protests from farmers.

The resolution was introduced by Punjab's Agriculture Minister, Gurmeet Singh Khuddian, on the last day of a two-day assembly session. Notably, two BJP MLAs were absent when the resolution was passed.

The Centre had shared the draft of the National Policy Framework with the state government last year, seeking its feedback. The policy aims to "build a vibrant marketing ecosystem" that allows

farmers to find markets where they can achieve the best prices for their produce. However, the Punjab Assembly expressed concerns that the policy would reintroduce provisions that had sparked major unrest during the farm law protests.

The resolution stated, "The House feels that this draft policy is an attempt to bring back the contentious provisions of the three farm laws repealed in 2021 by the Government of India." It also stressed that agricultural policies should remain under the jurisdiction of individual states, in accordance with the Constitution, and that the Centre should not impose such policies on states.

Further, the resolution recommended that the Punjab government take a strong stance against the policy to protect and strengthen the state's Agricultural Produce

Market Committee (APMC) mandis. These mandis, which operate under a transparent regulatory framework, are seen as essential for safeguarding farmers' interests.

The resolution warned that the policy's push to promote private markets would lead to the dilution of APMC markets, putting farmers at the mercy of private market owners. Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann voiced his opposition to the draft policy, reiterating that his government had already rejected it and would not allow the rights of the states to be undermined.

The resolution also criticized the Centre for withholding Punjab's rural development fund, adding to the tension between the state and the central government.

Delhi Police Registers FIR After US Flight Diverted Due to Bomb Threat



TPN Correspondent | Delhi

Delhi Police have registered an FIR following the diversion of an American Airlines flight from New York to Delhi, which was forced to make an emergency landing in Rome, Italy, after receiving a bomb threat. The incident occurred on February 23 when an email containing the threat was sent to the airline, prompting immediate security measures.

According to Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP) Usha Rangnani, the bomb threat was communicated to the airline via email, prompting the airline to follow standard security protocols. As a result, the flight was diverted and successfully landed in Rome without incident. All passengers on board were safe.

"The flight was diverted and landed safely in Rome, Italy, and a complaint was later filed by the airline. An FIR has been registered in connection with the incident," DCP Rangnani confirmed.

The FIR was filed under Sections 217 and 351(4) of the BNS (Bomb Threats Act) as well as Section 3 of the Suppression of Unlawful Acts Against Safety of Civil Aviation Act. The case was registered at the IGI Airport police station in New Delhi.

While the flight's diversion was part of routine security procedures, the incident has raised concerns about the rising number of bomb threats and their impact on aviation safety. Authorities are currently investigating the matter, including tracing the source of the email and identifying the individuals behind the threat.

The case is being handled with priority, and Delhi Police are working closely with international law enforcement agencies to determine the origin of the threat and bring those responsible to justice. The safety of passengers and crew members remains the top priority for aviation authorities in the wake of such security breaches.

Delhi Court Summons Lalu Prasad, Family Members in Land-for-Jobs Scam



TPN Correspondent | Delhi

A Delhi court on Tuesday issued summonses to former Union Railways Minister Lalu Prasad, his son Tej Pratap Yadav, and daughter Hema Yadav in connection with the land-for-jobs "scam". Special Judge Vishal Gogne also directed the Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD)

supremo's younger son, Tejashwi Yadav, to appear before the court, issuing fresh summonses to the former Bihar deputy chief minister. All the accused have been ordered to appear in court on March 11.

The case pertains to alleged Group D appointments made in the West Central Zone of the Indian Railways, based in Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh, during Lalu Prasad's tenure as the Union Railways Minister between 2004 and 2009. It is claimed that these appointments were made in exchange for land parcels that were either gifted or transferred by the recruits to Lalu Prasad's family members or associates, according to officials.

The investigation into the scam began with the registration of a case on May 18, 2022, involving Lalu Prasad, his wife, two daughters, and several unidentified

public officials and private individuals. The case alleges that the appointments were illegal, as they were secured in exchange for land deals, raising serious questions of corruption.

The summonses mark an important development in the ongoing investigation, as Lalu Prasad, a prominent political figure and leader of the RJD, faces legal scrutiny over the alleged malpractice. The case highlights the intersection of politics and corruption, as high-profile individuals, including members of Lalu Prasad's family, are implicated in the scandal.

As the investigation progresses, the involvement of key political figures adds complexity to the legal proceedings, with the court's upcoming hearing on March 11 expected to shed further light on the case.

SC Suggests Change of Government May Resolve Yamuna Disputes

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

The Supreme Court suggested on Tuesday that the recent change of government in Delhi could potentially resolve longstanding disputes surrounding the Yamuna River, including pollution cleanup and ensuring Haryana provides a fair share of water to the national capital.

The court, which had taken suo moto cognizance of the Yamuna pollution issue in January 2021, has been periodically issuing orders. During the hearing, Meenakshi Arora, the court's amicus curiae (friend of the court), discussed the ongoing dispute between the Delhi and Haryana governments. In response, Justice BR Gavai remarked that the shift

in Delhi's government could pave the way for better implementation and resolution of these issues, including the cleanup of the river and water distribution.

Previously, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh were under BJP control, but now, following the BJP's decisive victory over the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) in Delhi, all



three states are governed by the BJP. This political change comes after years of public complaints about the state of the Yamuna and water disputes between Delhi and its neighboring states.

The BJP's Delhi election campaign had focused on criticizing AAP leader Arvind Kejriwal for failing to fulfill his promise of cleaning the Yamuna, a pledge he made in the 2020 election. The BJP also seized on Kejriwal's allegations that Haryana was poisoning Delhi's water supply by mixing harmful ammonia into the Yamuna. These claims led to public confrontations, including a dramatic response from Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Saini, who publicly drank the water to counter Kejriwal's allegations.

Supreme Court Dismisses PIL Seeking Regulation of Internet Prices in India

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

Supreme Court of India dismissed a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) seeking the regulation of internet prices in the country, reaffirming that India operates within a free market system. The bench, led by Chief Justice of India Sanjiv Khanna and Justice Sanjay Kumar, highlighted that there are multiple options available to consumers for internet

services. The petitioner, Rajat, who appeared in person, argued that the market share was largely controlled by companies like Jio and Reliance, which he claimed led to monopolistic practices. However, the Supreme Court dismissed his petition, stating, "It's a free market. You get LAN, you get wired internet and there is other internet... BSNL and

MTNL are also providing services." The court also advised the petitioner that if there were concerns about cartelization, he should approach the Competition Commission of India (CCI).

In response to the petitioner's claim that Reliance Jio held 80 percent of the market share, the bench said, "No, please... then go to the Competition Commission of India." The

court made it clear that it was not inclined to entertain the PIL under Article 32 of the Constitution and dismissed it, but also gave the petitioner the liberty to explore other statutory remedies available.

The dismissal of the PIL comes amid growing concerns about the increasing digital divide and market dominance in the country. However, despite such concerns,

India continues to have some of the lowest internet prices globally. According to the "Internet in India Report 2024," the country's internet user base reached 886 million in 2024, with rural India accounting for 55 percent of the total users. With the widespread adoption of Indic languages, India's digital footprint is expanding rapidly, and internet penetration is expected to exceed 900 million by 2025.

“People Have Given Their Mandate”: Delhi Lt Governor Slams Arvind Kejriwal



- Delhi LG criticizes Kejriwal's past remarks
- Highlights BJP's development plans for Delhi
- 21 AAP MLAs suspended for unruly behavior

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

Delhi Lieutenant Governor (LG) VK Saxena launched a strong attack on AAP National Convenor Arvind Kejriwal on Tuesday, accusing him of making negative remarks about Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Addressing reporters on the Assembly premises, Saxena referred to Kejriwal's controversial statement that if PM Modi wanted to win Delhi elections, he would need to be reborn. Saxena asserted, “The people of Delhi have given a strong response to Kejriwal's remarks.”

Saxena further reminded the media about a past comment from Kejriwal when AAP MLA Atishi was sworn in as Delhi's Chief Minister, replacing Kejriwal. The LG recalled Kejriwal's claim that Atishi was only a “temporary Chief Minister” and that he would return to the post later. Saxena remarked, “I won't say much, but the Supreme Court's order had already barred him from going to the Secretariat or signing any files. Now, the people have spoken, and I'll leave it at that.”

Reaffirming the commitment of the BJP-led govern-

ment, Saxena outlined the administration's agenda for Delhi, focusing on development, cleaning the Yamuna, resolving the landfill crisis, and providing better services for the poor. Saxena also emphasized the government's dedication to a corruption-free administration, pledging to follow the vision of Prime Minister Modi: “Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas, Sabka Prayas, aur Sabka Saman.”

The LG also criticized the previous AAP-led government for stifling meaningful debates in the Assembly and using the House to attack constitutional authorities. During the session, Chief Minister Rekha Gupta tabled the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) report, which led to a discussion among legislators.

The Assembly session saw a dramatic moment as 21 AAP MLAs, including Leader of Opposition Atishi, were suspended for unruly behavior during Saxena's address. The ongoing three-day session, which began with the swearing-in of newly-elected MLAs and the nomination of the Speaker and Deputy Speaker, will conclude on Thursday.

Three-Language Imposition Is Wrong: Ranjana Nachiyaar Resigns from BJP



TPN Correspondent | Bihar

Actor-turned-politician Ranjana Nachiyaar resigned from the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on Tuesday, citing opposition to the imposition of the three-language formula. In her resignation statement, she criticized the central government's push for the policy, which she described as a wrong move, particularly in the context of Tamil Nadu's linguistic preferences.

This resignation comes amid escalating political tensions in Tamil Nadu over the language issue. AIADMK Member of Parliament M Thambidurai accused the ruling Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) government of using the language debate as a political tool ahead of the upcoming elections. Thambidurai questioned the state government's stance on the New Education Policy (NEP), pointing out the contradiction between the government's opposition to Hindi and its approval of CBSE schools, which offer multiple languages, including Hindi.

“The current government allows numerous CBSE schools, which teach several languages, yet they raise concerns over Hindi. If Stalin is so committed to the language issue, he should insist on removing

all CBSE schools from Tamil Nadu. Then the language problem would be solved,” Thambidurai said, referring to Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M. K. Stalin.

The AIADMK MP suggested that the DMK's political stance on the language issue was merely a strategy to garner votes ahead of the elections. “The government is responsible for providing welfare and facilities to the people. The language issue is being used to divert attention from more pressing concerns,” Thambidurai added.

On Monday, DMK supporters organized a protest near the central bus stand in Tiruchirappalli, strongly opposing the three-language system. The protest saw party members distributing pamphlets to raise public awareness about their opposition to the policy.

The DMK has consistently opposed efforts to make Hindi more dominant in Tamil Nadu, arguing that such policies would undermine Tamil culture and identity. Party spokesperson TKS Elangovan had earlier expressed concerns about the NEP's potential impact on Tamil Nadu's education system, accusing the central government of attempting to impose religious ideologies through education.

15 Firearms Surrendered in Manipur After Governor's Appeal for Voluntary Disarmament

TPN Correspondent | Manipur

At least 15 firearms were voluntarily surrendered to the police in three districts of Manipur on Tuesday, following a recent appeal from Manipur Governor Ajay Kumar Bhalla for residents to hand over looted and illegally held weapons. This initiative came in the wake of ongoing ethnic violence between the Meitei and Kuki-Zo communities that has left over 250 dead and thousands displaced since May 2023.

According to officials, four firearms, including an SMC Carbine and a double-barrel gun, along with three hand grenades, were handed over at the Singjamei Police Station in Imphal West district. In Imphal East, a self-loading rifle was surrendered to the Andro Police Station, while five firearms were turned in at the Sagolmang Police Station. Additionally, one 9 mm pistol and ammunition were surrendered at Heingang Police Station, and four guns were given up in Churachandpur.

Governor Bhalla had made a public appeal

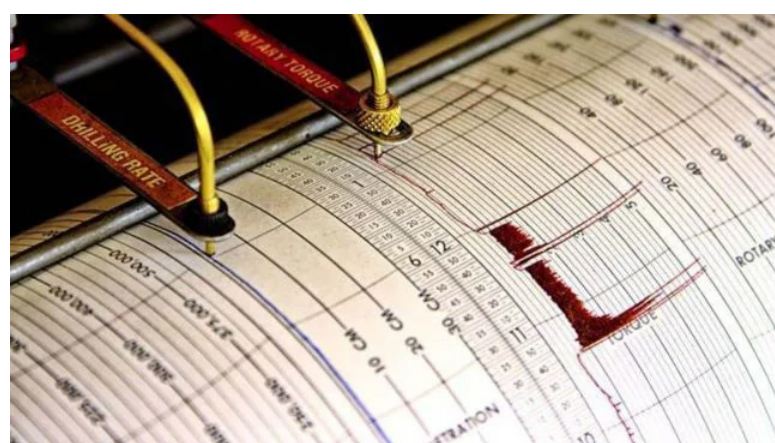
on February 20, urging the people of Manipur to voluntarily surrender any looted or unlawfully possessed weapons within a week. He assured that no punitive action would be taken against those who complied during this period. Authorities had set the deadline for February 27, after which security forces would begin taking action to recover any remaining illegal arms.

Manipur Chief Secretary PK Singh had earlier indicated that the seven-day window provided for voluntary surrender was sufficient for those wishing to give up their weapons. He warned that law enforcement agencies would take action if the deadline passed without further cooperation.

The ongoing conflict in Manipur, which erupted in May 2023, has led to widespread violence between the valley-based Meitei community and the hill-based Kuki-Zo groups. The situation remains tense, with both sides accusing each other of violence and intimidation, as the state grapples with efforts to restore peace and stability.



Magnitude 5.1 Earthquake Strikes Near Puri, Odisha



TPN Correspondent | Odisha

An earthquake with a magnitude of 5.1 struck near Puri, Odisha, on Tuesday morning, according to officials. The tremor was recorded around 6:10 am, with its epicenter located in the Bay of Bengal at a depth of 91 kilometers.

The earthquake's epicenter was situated off the coast of Odisha, and although it was felt in several areas, there have been no immediate reports of significant damage or casualties. Authorities are closely monitoring the situation and are in the process of

assessing any potential impacts.

The region has experienced occasional seismic activity due to its proximity to active fault zones, and while this earthquake was of moderate magnitude, it serves as a reminder of the importance of disaster preparedness. Local authorities, along with the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), have urged citizens to remain vigilant and follow safety protocols in case of aftershocks.

The Indian subcontinent is prone to various seismic

events, with certain areas more vulnerable due to their geological formations. Odisha, though not as frequently affected by major quakes as some other regions in India, has occasionally experienced moderate to strong tremors in the past.

Experts suggest that the tremor was felt more strongly in coastal areas, especially in places like Puri, which is a popular tourist destination. However, the epicenter's depth and location in the Bay of Bengal likely helped mitigate the impact on land.

Local disaster response teams are on alert, ensuring that resources are in place should further seismic activity occur. Authorities are also advising residents to stay informed through official updates and avoid panic. Further assessments will be conducted as part of the ongoing efforts to evaluate the earthquake's full impact on the region.

Delhi To Jaipur In 30 Mins? India's First Hyperloop Test Track Is Ready

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

India has taken a significant step toward the future of high-speed transportation with the completion of its first hyperloop test track at IIT Madras. This groundbreaking project, developed with support from the Ministry of Railways, features a 422-meter-long test track, marking a major milestone in the pursuit of hyperloop technology. The system, once fully operational, will enable travel between cities at incredible speeds, making it possible to cover a distance of 350 km in just 30 minutes. This means you could travel from Delhi to Jaipur, a journey of about 300 km, in less than half an hour.

Union Minister for Railways, Ashwini Vaishnaw, shared the exciting news on X (formerly Twitter), praising the government-academia collaboration for driving innovation in futuristic transportation. He expressed optimism about the potential of the hyperloop, stating, “The first pod of 422 meters will go a long way in developing technologies.” He also an-

nounced that after the initial two grants of one million dollars each, a third grant of one million dollars will be provided to IIT Madras to further develop the hyperloop project.

The hyperloop concept, often referred to as the “fifth mode of transport,” involves high-speed trains that travel within vacuum tubes. These trains use special capsules that levitate through electromagnetic forces, reducing friction and air drag, and enabling speeds of up to Mach 1.0 (around 761 miles per hour). This technology promises to revolutionize long-dis-

tance travel by offering speeds that exceed those of airplanes, while also being immune to weather disruptions and ensuring a collision-free commute.

The Ministry of Railways plans to launch India's first commercial hyperloop project soon, marking a significant leap toward futuristic, high-speed transport systems. With low power consumption, energy storage capabilities for 24-hour operation, and the potential for cutting-edge travel, the hyperloop holds the promise of reshaping how we commute in the future.





Happy Shivratri

Life of Lord Shiva is reflection of principles of Santana Dharma

- Santana dharma made a most simple god as supreme God.
- Which emphasis equality there is no caste hierarchy in Sanatana dharma
- Life of lord shivs is shared equally between the divine beings of the Himalayas and the cremators in graveyards.
- A common individual like god is elevated to the status of the supreme deity Layakarakudu.
- In Sanatana Dharma, there is no place for hierarchy or untouchability.

Lord Shiva embodies simplicity and strength, serving as a profound representation of the principles of Sanatana Dharma, which emphasizes accessibility and equality for all individuals, regardless of their social status or background. Unlike many deities who are often depicted with opulence and grandeur, Lord Shiva is portrayed in a manner that reflects humility and a deep connection to the natural world. He is not adorned with lavish jewels or surrounded by extravagant symbols of wealth; instead, he finds significance in the serene heights of the majestic Himalayas, where he meditates in solitude, as well as in the solemnity of graveyards, where he reminds us of the transient nature of life and the importance of embracing mortality.

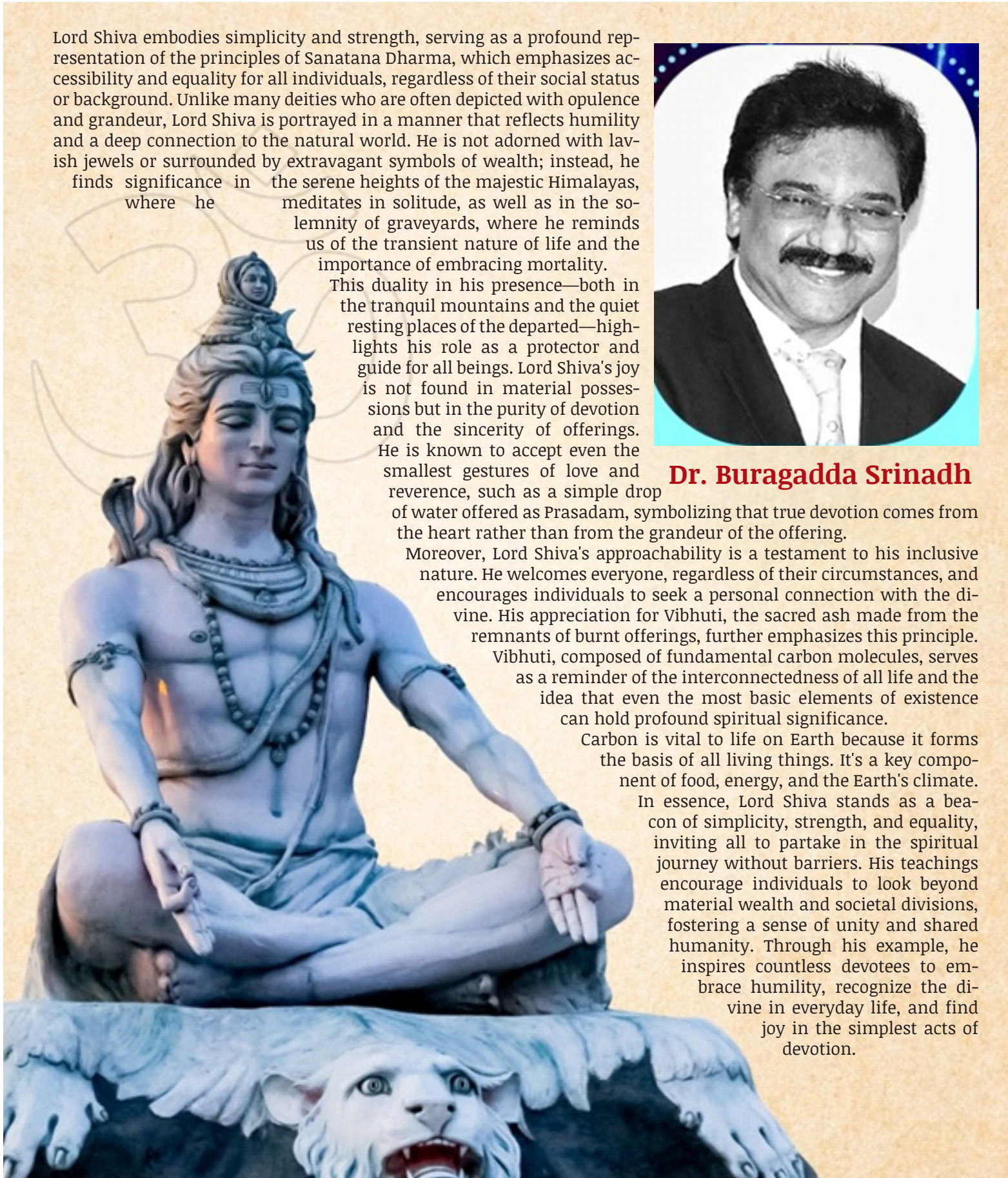
This duality in his presence—both in the tranquil mountains and the quiet resting places of the departed—highlights his role as a protector and guide for all beings. Lord Shiva's joy is not found in material possessions but in the purity of devotion and the sincerity of offerings. He is known to accept even the smallest gestures of love and reverence, such as a simple drop of water offered as Prasadam, symbolizing that true devotion comes from the heart rather than from the grandeur of the offering.

Moreover, Lord Shiva's approachability is a testament to his inclusive nature. He welcomes everyone, regardless of their circumstances, and encourages individuals to seek a personal connection with the divine. His appreciation for Vibhuti, the sacred ash made from the remnants of burnt offerings, further emphasizes this principle.

Vibhuti, composed of fundamental carbon molecules, serves as a reminder of the interconnectedness of all life and the idea that even the most basic elements of existence can hold profound spiritual significance. Carbon is vital to life on Earth because it forms the basis of all living things. It's a key component of food, energy, and the Earth's climate. In essence, Lord Shiva stands as a beacon of simplicity, strength, and equality, inviting all to partake in the spiritual journey without barriers. His teachings encourage individuals to look beyond material wealth and societal divisions, fostering a sense of unity and shared humanity. Through his example, he inspires countless devotees to embrace humility, recognize the divine in everyday life, and find joy in the simplest acts of devotion.



Dr. Buragadda Srinadh



The Ukraine Peace Talks: A Dangerous Game Played by Trump and Putin

This week, US-Russia peace talks over the fate of Ukraine have begun—but one glaring issue stands out: Ukraine itself has been notably excluded from the discussions. While this omission has rightfully drawn criticism, the underlying problem is far more complex. A peace deal could theoretically be brokered with an intermediary, but only if the talks acknowledge the harsh realities of the situation. The actual obstacles to peace—such as enforcing a ceasefire across a 1,000 km front line—are barely being addressed. What's unfolding is less a serious diplomatic effort and more a chaotic game of chess, where one side doesn't understand the rules, and the other is making them up as it goes along.

Donald Trump, the self-proclaimed "artist of the deal," has confidently declared that he could end the war in a single day. Meanwhile, Vladimir Putin and his inner circle are laughing behind the scenes. Humiliating the United States has long been a goal for the Russian leadership, and now, with Trump's assistance, they are enjoying just that. Pu-



tin is not negotiating in good faith; this is not his style. Whether in Georgia or Donbas, ceasefires have served as strategic traps in the past, and there's no reason to believe this time will be any different. Despite the mounting costs of the war, Putin remains steadfast in his demands: full control over Ukraine, either through annexation or by installing a puppet government. For Russia's conservative elites, Ukraine is seen as vital to Russia's imperial ambitions, while economic oligarchs covet its vast mineral resources and the potential for sanctions relief. Trump, amplifying Kremlin propaganda, helps legitimize the war in

the eyes of ordinary Russians.

While these talks may not result in Putin securing his ultimate goal of Ukraine, they are serving his broader objectives: easing sanctions, humiliating the US, and weakening NATO. With Trump's collaboration, Putin is getting exactly what he wants. The irony here is that Ukraine may not be the biggest loser in this situation. Kyiv has seen a decrease in US military aid, but it has also ramped up its own weapons

production and sought additional support from Europe. Today, Ukraine is in a much stronger position than it was three years ago, and it will continue to fight, with or without Washington's help.

The real casualty in these talks is the United States. Trump is willing to trade the country's global standing for the entertainment of Putin and the confusion of US allies. The world watches as the US president echoes the rhetoric of one of its greatest adversaries. The long-term damage to the US's reputation and to international security may be far greater than Trump realizes.



Tamil vs Hindi: The Unending Tussle Over NEP

The ongoing confrontation between the Tamil Nadu government and the Centre over the National Education Policy (NEP) is poised to dominate the political landscape in the state, especially with the 2026 elections on the horizon. At the heart of this dispute is the Centre's insistence on implementing a three-language policy, which the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) vehemently opposes. While the Centre maintains that there will be no imposition of Hindi, the DMK refuses to back down, citing concerns of linguistic and regional identity.

The History of Tamil Nadu's Two-Language Policy

The roots of this debate can be traced back to 1968 when the DMK, under the leadership of Chief Minister C.N. Annadurai, adopted the two-language policy. This policy rejected the central government's push for a three-language formula and emphasized Tamil and English as the primary languages of instruction in the state. Over the years, Tamil Nadu has steadfastly defended this policy, viewing the protection of Tamil as crucial to the state's identity.

Dravidian politics in Tamil Nadu has always been closely tied to the protection of Tamil. The strong opposition to Hindi, a symbol of North Indian dominance in the eyes of many in the South, has been one of the most defining features of the political narrative since the state's formation in 1949. The protests against Hindi imposition in the 1950s, culminating in the creation of linguistic states in 1956, set the stage for Tamil Nadu's unique relationship with language politics.

Language: Still a Defining Issue in Politics?

Given this historical backdrop, the current confrontation over the NEP's three-language policy is not surprising. The policy suggests that any Indian language could be taught as a third language, but the DMK remains suspicious. Its leaders argue that, in practice, Hindi would become the third language in most schools. This suspicion has been heightened by recent comments from Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan, who stated that the Centre might withhold funds from Tamil Nadu if the state refuses to implement the NEP. The DMK's narrative positions this as an assault on the state's linguistic rights, fueling the party's political stance in the lead-up to the 2026 elections.

The Three Dimensions of the Debate

The DMK's opposition to the NEP can be understood in three key dimensions. First, it sees the issue as a matter of federalism, arguing that education should remain under the state's control, not the Centre's. Since 1976, education has been placed on the Concurrent List, which allows both the Centre and states to legislate on the matter. The DMK contends that this has led to the gradual introduction of Hindi in Tamil Nadu schools, even though Tamil is the state's official language.

Second, the DMK frames this debate as one of Hindi imposition, alleging that the Centre is pushing Hindi onto non-Hindi speaking regions through its policies. Third, the confrontation is depicted as a broader ideological battle between Dravidian politics and Hindutva, which the DMK claims is being advanced by the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and its ideological partner, the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS).

BJP's Caution in Handling the Issue

As the DMK continues to project the NEP debate as a fight for Tamil identity, the BJP and the Centre must tread carefully. Any perceived coercion could bolster the DMK's position, especially with the party's narrative gaining traction in the state. The BJP must avoid turning the issue into a polarizing political battle, as this would only solidify the DMK's stance and alienate regional allies.

At the same time, the question arises whether the linguistic divide in Tamil Nadu still holds the same weight it once did. Can one truly advocate for the protection of Tamil while appreciating the cultural richness of Hindi and other languages? The intellectual discourse on language must evolve, moving away from political confrontations and instead focusing on the idea that the celebration of one language does not diminish the value of another.

As Tamil Nadu continues to grapple with this issue, one thing is clear: the emotional charge surrounding language in the state remains a potent force. Whether the debate will evolve or continue to fuel political campaigns remains to be seen. But one thing is certain—the tussle over the NEP will not die anytime soon.

Amid global uncertainty, there is certainty of India's economic growth': PM Modi

- Emphasized strong economic growth despite global uncertainties.
- Highlighted reforms attracting global investors.
- Assam's infrastructure and business potential were key points.

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

During the inaugural session of the Advantage Assam 2.0 Investment Summit, Prime Minister Narendra Modi emphasized India's robust economic growth, even amid global uncertainties. Speaking to a gathering of business leaders and investors, the Prime Minister expressed confidence that despite the current volatile global environment, India's economy continues to garner attention and trust from experts worldwide.

PM Modi acknowledged the challenges posed by global uncertainties but assured that India stands out as a beacon of growth. He emphasized that experts, both domestic and international, continue to have confidence in India's rapid economic progress. Modi pointed to India's growing role in the global economy and highlighted the positive



investment climate the country offers, which has attracted attention from businesses across sectors.

He further noted that India's economic resilience is driven by its reforms, strategic partnerships, and the ability to adapt to changing global dynamics. The Prime Minister remarked that

the country is positioned well to achieve even greater growth, thanks to its vast potential, young workforce, and a vibrant entrepreneurial ecosystem.

The Advantage Assam 2.0 Investment Summit is a significant platform for promoting investment in Assam and the northeastern region of India. Modi's

speech underscored the government's efforts to create an enabling environment for businesses, showcasing the region's potential for growth in sectors like infrastructure, manufacturing, and services.

The Prime Minister also reiterated that Assam, and the broader northeastern region, offer immense opportunities for businesses, driven by the government's focus on improving infrastructure, connectivity, and local industries. He assured that the government is committed to facilitating ease of doing business and fostering sustainable development in the region.

Modi's address reflects India's growing position on the global economic stage, highlighting its resilience and the increasing confidence of international stakeholders in its future growth prospects.



Preserve India's Glaciers: Sonam Wangchuk's Open Letter to PM Modi

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

Renowned climate activist Sonam Wangchuk, fresh from his recent tour of the United States, has penned an open letter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, calling for urgent action to address the rapid melting of glaciers in India. In his letter, Wangchuk stresses the critical need for India to take a leadership role in the global fight to preserve these vital sources of freshwater.

Wangchuk, who gained international attention by carrying a piece of ice from a glacier in Ladakh to highlight the dire situation, warned of the severe consequences of inaction. During a press conference in the national capital, he drew attention to the situation in the Himalayas, which are home to many of India's major rivers. These glaciers, which provide a steady flow of water, are now retreating at an alarming rate due to climate change.

The activist's message to PM Modi was clear: the preservation of these glaciers is vital for the future of millions who depend on the water they provide. Wangchuk pointed out that if immediate steps are not taken to restore these glaciers, India could face a catastrophic water crisis. He suggested that, in the future, the next Maha Kumbh, which occurs every 144 years, may be held on dry land, as the rivers could run dry if the glaciers continue to melt.

Wangchuk's warning highlights the urgency of preserving the Himalayas' glaciers and ensuring that India becomes a global leader in tackling climate change. With rivers that support agriculture, industry, and daily life for millions of people, the survival of these glaciers is crucial for India's environmental and economic stability. Through his letter, Wangchuk calls on PM Modi to take immediate, decisive action to protect these invaluable natural resources before it's too late.



Sword Over South States: MK Stalin Slams Delimitation, 'Hindi Imposition'

TPN Correspondent | Chennai

The upcoming delimitation exercise, which involves redrawing parliamentary constituencies based on population levels, has become the latest flashpoint in the ongoing tensions between Tamil Nadu's ruling DMK and the BJP-led central government. This exercise is expected to significantly alter the proportion of Lok Sabha MPs from southern states, and Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin has raised alarms over its potential impact on the state's representation in Parliament.

In a statement on Tuesday, Stalin called for an all-party meeting to discuss the issue, warning that the state's voice in the national legislature could be "crushed." He emphasized that Tamil Nadu, which has been successful in controlling its population growth, could either see minimal gains of only two additional seats or, more dramatically, lose up to eight seats if the centre opts for a redistribution of the 543 existing seats. Under such a scenario, the total number of Lok Sabha seats would increase, with Uttar Pradesh—a BJP stronghold—gaining additional seats, potentially making it easier for the BJP to win in the future.

Critics argue that this change could be skewed in favour of BJP-dominated states like Uttar Pradesh, leaving southern states like Tamil Nadu at a disadvantage. In response, Stalin reiterated that this issue is about Tamil Nadu's rights and asked all political parties to unite in defense of the state's representation.

Simultaneously, the state remains embroiled in a contentious debate over the National Education Policy (NEP) and the three-language policy, which the DMK has strongly criticized as an imposition of Hindi. This issue has sparked a renewed call for a "language war," evoking memories of fierce language riots in the 1930s and 1960s. Stalin's son, Udhayanidhi Stalin, has echoed the call, and the DMK has opposed any move to impose Hindi in Tamil Nadu's schools.

NSA Ajit Doval Attends An Exhibition On Bangladeshi Minorities' Plight

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

The Vivekananda International Foundation (VIF) recently organized an exhibition and panel discussion titled "The Never-Ending Persecution of Minorities in Bangladesh," highlighting the systemic discrimination and violence faced by religious and ethnic minorities. The event, held at the VIF Auditorium in Delhi, drew attention with the presence of India's National Security Advisor (NSA), Ajit Doval, KC



The exhibition, curated by FACT (Foundation Against Continuing Terrorism), presented visual documentation of human rights violations against Hindus, Buddhists, Christians and Ahmadiyya Muslims in Bangladesh. It showcased forced displacements, attacks, and persecution, emphasizing the increasing challenges these communities face.

The panel discussion, chaired by VIF Director Arvind Gupta, featured distinguished experts including Ambassador Satish Chandra, former Deputy National Security Advisor; Ambassador Veena Sikri, former High Commissioner to Bangladesh; Francois Gautier, correspondent for *Le Monde*; and Anirban Ganguly, Chairperson of the Syama Prasad Mookerjee Research Foundation. They provided insights into the historical, socio-political, and international aspects of the crisis, stressing the need for urgent intervention.

NSA Doval attended both the exhibition and panel discussion, reaffirming India's concerns over the situation in Bangladesh. The event underscored India's commitment to advocating for regional security and minority rights while also raising awareness on the escalating threats faced by these communities.

In response to remarks made by India's External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar regarding anti-India sentiments in Bangladesh, Bangladesh's Foreign Affairs Adviser Md Touhid Hossain reaffirmed his country's commitment to maintaining strong bilateral ties based on mutual respect and reciprocal interests.

The VIF event brought global attention to the continuing plight of minorities in Bangladesh, urging policymakers, human rights advocates, and international organizations to take meaningful action.

No Matter What: Mamata Banerjee's Takedown Of Yogi Adityanath On Kumbh

TPN Correspondent | Kolkata

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, who recently came under heavy criticism for her "Mrityu Kumbh" comment, today issued a strong rebuttal, specifically targeting Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath and his remarks. Banerjee defended herself, stating that her criticism had been "distorted" and turned into "complete lies."



"I will not get blisters from any abuses that Yogi Saheb hurls at me. I respect him as a Chief Minister," Mamata Banerjee said during a press conference. She also expressed concern about the lack of post-mortem certificates and death certificates for those who died in the incident in Uttar Pradesh. "We conducted post-mortems of the bodies that reached here. I don't know what happened in other states. And if you have announced compensation, you should give them the money," she added, referring to the deadly stampede at the Kumbh Mela, which led to at least 30

fatalities and more than 60 injuries.

Banerjee's remarks come after Yogi Adityanath's address in the Uttar Pradesh Assembly, where he had sharply criticized critics of the Kumbh Mela. He made a comparison, saying, "Vultures got dead bodies. Pigs got filth... whereas sensitive people got a beautiful picture of relationships, traders got business, devotees got clean arrangements." His comments were met with

applause from the members of the Uttar Pradesh Assembly.

The West Bengal Chief Minister also used the opportunity to highlight her state's handling of large crowds during festivals, drawing parallels to the preparation required for events in Bengal, such as the Gangasagar Mela and Durga Puja. "One should always consider one's capacity. How many can go, how many can stay... preparations that are necessary even for a wedding

feast," she stated, adding that the "hype" surrounding the Kumbh Mela was unnecessary.

Banerjee reiterated that her original remarks had been misrepresented. "What they have been saying are untruths. Complete lies. I have never disrespected any religion in my life and will never do that," she stressed.

The Chief Minister also referred to the tragic fire at a Kolkata hospital and the swift actions of her government in managing the aftermath. "We do not sleep for days. We keep an eye on things. We plan minutely, else the people suffer," she said, emphasizing the need for meticulous planning and quick response in handling such incidents.

Her controversial "Mrityu Kumbh" remark, made in reference to the stampede, had stirred significant backlash from the BJP, particularly as it came at a time when the Opposition had already been critical of the handling of the Kumbh Mela disaster.

Imran Khan orders PTI members holding govt jobs to relinquish party positions

- Ordered PTI members in government roles to step down.
- Junaid Akbar appointed as PTI's KP president, replacing Ali Amin Gandapur.
- Despite jail, Imran Khan continues to direct PTI's strategy.

TPN Correspondent | Islamabad

Imran Khan Orders PTI Members in Government Positions to Resign Imran Khan, the jailed founder of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), has directed all party members serving in government positions to step down from their roles. The instructions were communicated through the PTI Secretary General, Salman Akram Raja, earlier this week. This move marks a significant step towards reorganizing the party, particularly in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) region, where party leadership changes have been ongoing.

According to PTI's Secretary General, the decision is aimed at providing Junaid Akbar, the newly appointed president of PTI's Khyber Pakhtunkhwa chapter, the necessary space to restructure the party effectively. The party leader emphasized that this decision would grant Akbar a free hand in managing party affairs in the province,



which has been central to PTI's political operations.

The reshuffling of leadership began last month when Imran Khan made the decision to remove Ali Amin Gandapur, the former Chief Minister of KP, from his position as the provincial president of PTI. In his place, Khan appointed Junaid Akbar,

signaling a shift in the party's leadership dynamics at the provincial level. The move to reorganize PTI comes amid mounting challenges for the party, including internal disputes and external political pressures following Khan's imprisonment.

Imran Khan's instructions highlight his ongoing influence within the party, despite being incarcerated in Adiala jail. His efforts to realign PTI's leadership indicate his determination to maintain control over the party's direction during a turbulent period in Pakistani politics.

The development also sheds light on the strategic focus of the PTI leadership to stabilize and revitalize the party, particularly in regions where it has considerable support. The reshuffling in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa reflects Khan's long-term vision for PTI's future political engagements and his attempts to reinforce his party's influence ahead of future elections.

Donald Trump calls France 'Oldest Ally, Macron stresses shared vision for peace



TPN Correspondent | US

Former US President Donald Trump recently highlighted the deep-rooted historical ties between the United States and France, referring to France as "America's oldest ally." In a statement posted on X, Trump underscored the long-standing diplomatic relationship between the two nations, emphasizing their shared commitment to global peace, freedom, and prosperity. He acknowledged that France's support for the United States during the American Revolution marked the beginning of a cherished partnership that has been a force for good in the world.

Trump's remarks came at a time when global discussions around security, diplomacy, and economic collaboration are prominent. He reaffirmed the strength of the US-France alliance and its importance in addressing key global challenges. Trump's statement was a reminder of the historical significance of the relationship, which spans centuries of cooperation, including during world wars, diplomatic agreements, and economic partnerships.

French President Emmanuel Macron also reaffirmed the enduring bond between the two countries. In a statement, Macron expressed France's ongoing commitment to working with the United States in upholding peace and cooperation on the international stage. He emphasized that both nations share a long-standing dedication to global stability and continue to collaborate on key international issues such as NATO commitments, economic growth, and counterterrorism efforts.

The US-France alliance has its roots in the American Revolution, when France provided critical support to the American colonies. Over the years, this relationship has shaped global policies and reinforced democratic values. The two countries have stood together through wars, diplomatic negotiations, and economic ventures, with military cooperation and trade being central aspects of their partnership.

As the world faces evolving challenges, the US-France alliance remains a cornerstone of both nations' foreign policies. The recent statements from Trump and Macron serve to reinforce the commitment to maintaining a strong, peaceful, and prosperous relationship between the two countries. This partnership continues to be crucial in navigating the complexities of modern global affairs.

South Korea's Yoon Impeachment Trial Wraps Up: What's Next?



TPN Correspondent | Seoul

The impeachment trial of South Korea's ousted President Yoon Suk Yeol is nearing its conclusion, capping weeks of political upheaval following his controversial declaration of martial law. The Constitutional Court's eight judges will soon decide whether to uphold the December parliamentary vote that removed Yoon from office. The key issue is whether Yoon's martial law declaration violated the constitution, and whether he demonstrated a genuine commitment to upholding it.

Experts predict that a verdict could be delivered by mid-March, with some drawing comparisons to past cases. For instance, former president Roh Moo-hyun was reinstated after a 14-day trial, while Park Geun-hye, removed in 2017, had her verdict in just 11 days. This has led to speculation that Yoon's case could follow a similar timeline.

Legal scholars largely agree that the court will likely uphold the impeachment. Experts argue that Yoon's refusal to cooperate with prosecutors and his handling of martial law make it difficult to justify his commitment to the constitution. Unlike Park's case, which involved multiple corruption issues, Yoon's trial is relatively straightforward, focusing solely on his declaration of martial law.

However, Yoon's legal troubles don't end with the impeachment trial. He faces charges of insurrection for his martial law declaration, with the potential for life imprisonment or even the death penalty if convicted. His criminal trial could stretch on for one to two years, with a possible heavy sentence if he is found guilty.

If Yoon is removed from office, South Korea would be required to hold fresh elections within 60 days. The current frontrunner in the polls is Lee Jae-myung, leader of the opposition Democratic Party. However, analysts caution that the political landscape remains fluid, especially given Lee's own legal challenges, including a suspended prison sentence for election law violations.

As Trump Eyes Ukraine's Rare Metals, Putin Offers Him Russia's Reserve



TPN Correspondent | Washington, US

The United States and Ukraine are on the verge of finalizing a deal that would grant Washington a share of Kyiv's natural resource revenues, a proposal that has sparked significant tension between US President Donald Trump and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy. Trump announced that Zelenskyy might visit the White House soon to sign the agreement, which has been at the center of the rift between the two leaders.

The deal, initially proposed by Ukraine as part of Zelenskyy's "victory plan" in September, aimed to offer business incentives to Trump in exchange for continued US security support. However, the latest draft of the agreement reportedly asks for 50% of Ukraine's mineral revenue without providing the security guarantees Ukraine desperately needs in its fight against Russia. Zelenskyy rejected an earlier draft, fearing the long-term financial burden it would place on future generations. Negotiations

between US and Ukrainian officials have since focused on finding a middle ground.

Ukraine's Deputy Prime Minister, Olha Stefanishyna, confirmed that the two sides were in the final stages of discussions, with most key details settled. She emphasized the importance of completing the deal swiftly and hoped that both leaders would sign it soon. Despite more favorable terms for Ukraine in this version, the agreement still lacks the security commitments Kyiv has sought. The White House has made it clear that the deal would not guarantee future military aid or involve US personnel in the region. Meanwhile, Russia has proposed a similar offer to the US, suggesting that American companies could profit from Russia's vast natural resources, including rare earth metals in Russian-occupied Ukraine. President Vladimir Putin highlighted the opportunity for lucrative business in the region, further complicating the dynamics surrounding the natural resource deals in both Ukraine and Russia.

Canada's New Visa Rules May Become A Nightmare For Indian Students, Workers

TPN Correspondent | Canada

Canada's recent changes to its immigration policies are expected to negatively affect thousands of foreign students, workers, and migrants, particularly from India. These new rules, which took effect in February, grant Canadian border officials broad powers to alter the visa status of students, workers, and migrants at any time, potentially leading to the cancellation of permits, visas, and even residency.

The Immigration and Refugee Protection Regulations now give border personnel the authority to deny or cancel temporary resident documents, such as electronic travel authorizations (eTAs) and temporary resident visas (TRVs). This includes work permits and student visas. The new regulations also allow border



officials to cancel permits if they are not convinced that the individual will leave Canada when their autho-

rized stay expires, with the officer making the final judgment on the matter.

These regulations bring a level of uncertainty for tens of thousands of international students and workers in Canada, with Indians forming the largest group in both categories. Currently, over 420,000 Indian students are pursuing higher education in Canada. If a student, worker, or migrant is rejected at the port of entry, they will be sent back to their home country. If their permit is canceled while already in Canada, they will be required to leave by a specified date.

In addition to students and workers, Canada also experiences a significant influx of tourists from India, with more than 360,000 Indians having received travel visas in the first half of 2024 alone. These travelers are also subject to the new temporary permit regulations.

Indian Stock Markets End Flat Amid Mixed Signals



Domestic stock markets ended flat today, with benchmark indices starting the day with moderate gains before moving in a range-bound manner.

The volatility was primarily due to mixed signals from Asian markets, leading to profit-taking in several sectors. Despite some ups and downs

during the session, market sentiment showed signs of stabilizing, as the India VIX dropped sharply to 13.75%, indicating reduced uncertainty and suggesting that the markets might stabilize in the coming days.

The BSE Sensex, which closed at 74,454 in the previous session, opened at 74,440 and reached an intraday low of 74,400. It later climbed to an intraday high of 74,785 before closing at 74,602, marking a gain of 147 points. Meanwhile, the NSE Nifty opened at 22,516 and hit a low of 22,513 and a high of 22,625, ultimately closing at 22,547, down by 5 points. The Nifty Bank index fell 43 points, settling at 48,608.

Among the Nifty50 stocks, 19 companies recorded gains while 31 stocks



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faceted losses. Sectors such as auto, FMCG, and consumer durables performed well, while IT, metal, pharma, PSU bank, realty, and oil and gas stocks saw selling pressure. Airtel, M&M, Bajaj Finance, Nestle India, and Titan emerged as the top gainers. On the other hand, Dr. Reddy's, Hindalco, Trent, Hero MotoCorp, and Sun Pharma were the biggest losers of the day.

Market breadth on the NSE favored sellers, with 1,117 stocks gaining and 1,717 losing. Of the 2,914 stocks traded, 12 companies reached 52-week highs, while 181 stocks touched 52-week lows. In terms of circuit limits, 100 stocks reached their upper circuit, and 86 touched the lower circuit.

Mahindra & Mahindra shares gained

for the second consecutive day, bolstered by bullish ratings from brokerage houses. The rupee weakened by 50 paise against the dollar, settling at 87.20. Bharti Airtel shares saw a recovery after six consecutive days of losses, rising by 3% due to a deal with Ericsson. Jefferies issued a buy rating for Caffeine Technologies with a target price of Rs. 1310, and Motilal Oswal set a target of Rs. 1250 for 360 One.

Other notable movements included a rise in Vijaya Diagnostics' shares by 11%, while metal stocks like Hindalco, Nalco, and Vedanta faced selling pressure. Central Bank of India and Bank of Maharashtra received approval to raise funds, while the Adani and Ambani groups each announced investments of Rs. 50,000 crore in Assam, signaling further economic interest in the region.

India Imports €49 Billion Worth of Russian Oil in Third Year of Ukraine Invasion



India, the world's third-largest oil consumer and importer, purchased crude oil worth 49 billion euros from Russia in the third year of Moscow's invasion of Ukraine, according to a recent report by the Centre for Research on Energy and Clean Air. India, which traditionally relied on oil from the Middle East, significantly increased its imports of Russian crude after the invasion in February 2022.

This surge in Russian oil imports can be attributed to the steep discounts on Russian crude, a result of Western sanctions and some European nations halting purchases. As a result, India's imports of Russian oil grew

dramatically, rising from less than 1% of its total oil imports to around 40% in a short span of time.

The report highlights that Russia's dominance in new markets has solidified in the third year of the invasion. The three largest buyers of Russian fossil fuels—China, India, and Turkey—accounted for 74% of Russia's total revenues from fossil fuel exports. Specifically, China bought oil worth €78 billion, India €49 billion, and Turkey €34 billion.

India's imports of Russian oil showed an 8% year-on-year increase, underscoring the contin-

ued reliance on discounted Russian crude. Meanwhile, Russia's total global earnings from fossil fuels in the third year of the invasion reached 242 billion euros, adding to a cumulative total of 847 billion euros since the start of the war.

This trend marks a significant shift in global energy markets, with India emerging as a key buyer of Russian oil amid the ongoing geopolitical conflict. However, the growing reliance on Russian crude continues to raise concerns about the long-term implications for both global energy security and India's foreign policy.

ICRA Predicts 7-8% Revenue Growth for India Inc in Q4

Domestic rating agency ICRA projected that Indian companies are likely to see a 7-8% revenue growth during the March quarter of the current fiscal year, driven by a revival in rural demand and increased government spending. However, the agency also highlighted that the private capital expenditure (capex) cycle is expected to remain subdued due to geopolitical uncertainties and a relatively weak outlook on merchandise exports from India.

ICRA noted that despite these challenges, certain sectors, particularly those receiving government support through production-linked incentive schemes, will continue to thrive. These include sunrise industries such as electronics, semiconductors, and electric vehicles (EVs), which are set to see increased investments.

The agency further mentioned that the recovery in operating profit margins (OPM) for India Inc. observed in the past quarter is likely to be sustained, with expectations of margins staying between 18.2-18.4%. This growth will be supported by rising demand, bolstered by improved consumer sentiments.



ICRA also emphasized the outlook for rural demand, which is expected to remain robust in the first half of CY2025. This will be supported by strong output from the kharif crops and a favorable forecast for the ongoing rabi season. However, the outlook for agriculture will depend on the arrival of a normal and well-distributed monsoon in 2025.

Urban demand, which has been weak in recent quarters, is anticipated to improve. This recovery will be driven by factors such as the significant income-tax relief in the Union Budget for 2025, monetary easing by the Reserve Bank of India, and expectations of a moderation in food inflation, which would aid discretionary consumption, according to Kinjal Shah, Senior Vice President and Co-Group Head of Corporate Ratings at ICRA.

Adani Green Energy Secures 1,250 MW Energy Storage Project in UP

Adani Green Energy Limited (AGEL), India's largest renewable energy company, has received a Letter of Award (LOA) from Uttar Pradesh Power Corporation Limited (UPPCL) for the development of a 1,250 MW energy storage capacity through Pumped Hydro Storage Projects (PSP). This project, named Panaura PSP, will be located in the Sonbhadra district of Uttar Pradesh and is expected to be completed within the next six years. The project will have a minimum commitment period of 40 years, reinforcing AGEL's long-term focus on clean energy infrastructure.

This move is aligned with India's clean energy goals, which emphasize the need for large-scale utility storage projects to integrate renewable energy into the grid and provide consistent,

round-the-clock energy. The storage capacity will help manage the intermittent nature of renewable sources like solar and wind, making the grid more stable and efficient.

In line with this strategic goal, Adani Green Energy is expanding its portfolio to include energy storage solutions alongside its existing solar, wind, and hybrid projects. The company has ambitious plans to add over 5 GW of hydro PSP capacity by 2030. AGEL is already progressing with several pumped hydro storage projects, including a 500 MW project at the Chitravathi River in Andhra Pradesh, a 1,500 MW project at Tarali in Maharashtra, and an 1,800 MW project at Gandikota in Andhra Pradesh.

Hydro pumped storage is a mature,

cost-competitive, and scalable technology with significant potential. It works by using electricity generated from solar during the day to pump water to a higher elevation, which can then be released to generate electricity during peak demand at night. This process is not only sustainable but

also ensures grid stability and flexibility in energy management. Hydro PSPs are also known for their ability to provide frequency regulation and reserve generation, making them a key component of a resilient and robust energy infrastructure.



Adani Green Energy Ltd (AGEL) is currently the largest renewable energy company in India, with a portfolio of 11.9 GW of renewable energy projects across 12 states. The company aims to achieve a 50 GW renewable capacity by 2030, in line with India's decarbonization objectives. AGEL is also developing the world's largest renewable energy plant at Khavda, Gujarat, with a target capacity of 30 GW. This project, set to cover 538 square kilometers, is five times larger than Paris.

AGEL is committed to sustainable growth, with its operating portfolio certified as water-positive for plants over 200 MW, single-use plastic-free, and zero waste-to-landfill. These efforts underline the company's dedication to supporting India's clean energy transition.



Mahindra Scorpio N Carbon Edition Launched to Celebrate 2 Lakh Sales Milestone



Mahindra has achieved a major milestone with the record sale of 2 lakh units of its Scorpio N. To commemorate this achievement, the company has launched the new Scorpio N Carbon Edition, which offers a fresh look and premium features. Here's everything you need to know about the new variant:

Engine and Performance

The Scorpio N Carbon retains the same engine options as the original Scorpio N: - A 2.0-litre mStallion TGD1 petrol engine that generates 203 HP of power and 370 Nm of torque (manual) and 380 Nm (automatic). - A 2.2-litre mHawk CRDi diesel engine delivering 175 HP and 400 Nm of torque.

Exterior and Interior Features

-Exterior: The Scorpio N Carbon boasts a stunning metallic black theme complemented by one-on-tone dark treatment, smoked chrome accents, and black alloy wheels. It also gets dark Galvano-fin-

ished roof rails, enhancing its bold, stylish look.

Interior: Inside, the Scorpio N Carbon adopts a sleek blacked-out interior theme with premium upholstery and contrast deco stitching. Additionally, it comes with modern features like:

Wireless charging

- Auto-dimming IRVM
- Dual-zone climate control
- Ventilated front seats
- 7-inch digital instrument cluster
- 8-inch touchscreen infotainment system
- 12-speaker Sony audio system

Safety Features

The Scorpio N Carbon includes a comprehensive safety suite with features such as: Tyre pressure monitoring system, ISO Fix child seat anchorages, Hill hold and hill descent control, Driver drowsiness detection, Electronic stability control

Rear parking cameras and front/rear parking sensors

Variants and Pricing

The Scorpio N Carbon is available in the Z8 and Z8 L variants. The pricing for the model starts at Rs 19,19,400 (ex-showroom), while the top-spec Scorpio N Carbon 4WD AT is priced at Rs 24,89,100.

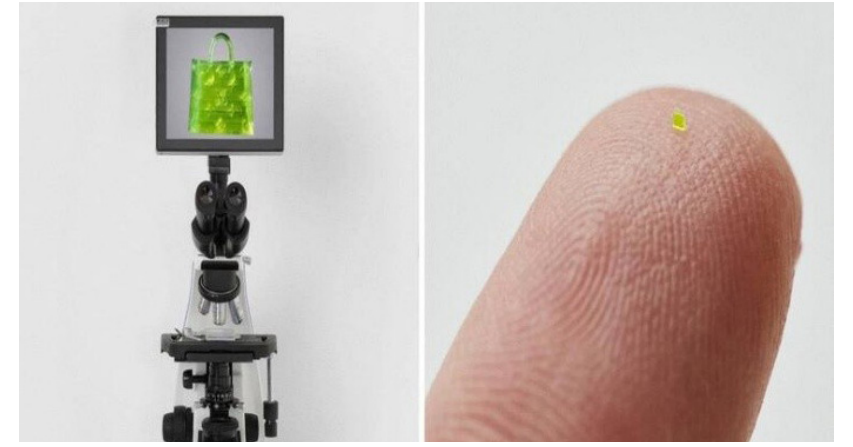
Rivals

The Scorpio N Carbon goes head-to-head with other SUVs in the segment, including:

Tata Harrier
Hyundai Alcazar
MG Hector
Tata Safari

With its striking design, powerful engine options, and premium features, the Scorpio N Carbon is poised to be a strong contender in the competitive SUV market.

MSCHF Auctions World's Tiniest Handbag, It Needs a Microscope to Be Seen



Fashion enthusiasts who follow high-end brands like Hermes and Jacquemus are no strangers to the trend of miniature handbags. However, one US artist collective, MSCHF, has taken the concept to a whole new level. In a groundbreaking move, MSCHF is auctioning off a bag so tiny that it is barely visible to the naked eye. In fact, the purse is so small, you'll need a microscope to see it clearly.

This neon green handbag, designed to resemble Louis Vuitton's OnTheGo collection, is smaller than a grain of sea salt. The miniature accessory features tiny pockets that are no larger than a speck of dust, rendering it practically invisible without a magnifying lens. To make sure potential buyers can admire the minuscule details, the bag comes with its own microscope.

MSCHF's description of the bag adds to the allure: "Smaller than a grain of sea salt and narrow enough to pass through the eye of a needle, this is a purse so small you'll need a microscope to see it." The collective

goes on to explain that the bag represents the final frontier of bag miniaturization, with its diminutive size making it more of a brand symbol than a functional object.

The tiny handbag has already created a buzz on social media platforms, attracting attention from fashion lovers and collectors alike. The Instagram post showcasing the handbag has garnered over 78,000 likes and sparked a flurry of comments. Some users expressed amazement at the level of detail, while others joked about the idea of displaying the bag in a magnifying glass cabinet.

One user commented, "Actually incredible. I'd love to see how the absolute tiniest details were done." Another humorously added, "Imagine getting arrested for shoplifting a microscopic purse." With its eye-catching design and surreal size, the microscopic handbag has become a sensation and is expected to fetch a hefty price during the Paris auction, coinciding with the excitement of fashion week.

Meet 'Protoclone The Synthetic Human That Walks, Moves And Can See Like Us



Clone Robotics, a Poland-based startup, has introduced its latest creation—a humanoid robot that moves with uncanny realism. The robot, named Protoclone, is designed with synthetic muscles beneath a transparent skin, allowing it to mimic human motion in a strikingly lifelike manner. The latest prototype was recently showcased in a chilling video that quickly captured the attention of social media users. In the video, Protoclone is seen hanging from the ceiling, its movements eerily fluid and human-like, resembling a character

straight out of a sci-fi film. The unsettling visuals are paired with haunting background music composed by Ludwig Göransson, which amplifies the robot's uncanny presence. The combination of the robot's realistic motions and the eerie soundtrack left viewers both fascinated and unnerved.

Protoclone's lifelike motion is achieved through a unique technology developed by Clone Robotics. The robot's frame and joints are designed to replicate natural human movement with extraordinary precision. At the core of Protoclone's design is the company's innovative artificial muscle system, Myofiber. Introduced in 2021, Myofiber uses musculotendon units that are strategically attached to anatomically accurate points on the robot's bones. This allows the robot to achieve highly realistic movement, closely resembling the motions of the human body.

The unveiling of Protoclone has sparked conversations about the potential of robots in mimicking human-like motions and their possible applications in various fields, including robotics, healthcare, and entertainment. However, the lifelike appearance of Protoclone also raises questions about the ethical and emotional impact of robots that resemble humans so closely. As technology continues to advance, the line between human and machine is becoming increasingly blurred, leaving society to grapple with both the potential and the unsettling consequences of such developments.

IIT Madras Creates Concrete To Help Build Homes On The Red Planet



A team from the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Madras, led by Dr. Piyush Chaunsali, Associate Professor in the Department of Civil Engineering, has made a significant breakthrough in extraterrestrial construction. The team, known as Extraterrestrial Manufacturing (ExTeM), has developed a unique type of concrete specifically designed for use on Mars. What sets this concrete apart is that it does not require water—a major challenge for future Mars colonization.

While studies have suggested that water may exist in small quantities in Mars' crust, no large, accessible sources have been found, making it difficult to plan long-term human settle-

ments. The new water-free concrete developed by ExTeM could be a game-changer in overcoming this limitation. The innovative concrete is strong, durable, and meets Earth's construction standards, thanks to a special compound that is mixed with sulphur—a material readily available on the Martian surface. Adithya Plato Sidharth, a postdoctoral researcher with ExTeM, explained in an interview with India Today that the team used sulphur-based compounds to create concrete that can withstand the harsh Martian environment. "We used a compound mixed with sulphur, which is abundant on Mars, to develop a concrete that matches Earth standards," said Sidharth.

This breakthrough could play a pivotal role in building sustainable infrastructure on Mars, as water-free concrete would eliminate the need for importing water or relying on scarce Martian resources. The development is part of ongoing research aimed at addressing the challenges of establishing human presence on Mars, focusing on utilizing local materials for construction. The innovative concrete is not only a technical achievement but could also pave the way for more efficient, resourceful colonization efforts on the Red Planet, allowing future generations to build habitats and other necessary structures without the constraints posed by the lack of water.

'Bahubali' Samosa Challenge, Offers Rs 71,000 For Eating A 12 Kg Samosa In 30 Mins



Chinese influencer Gu Xixi is making waves after revealing that she earned a staggering 3.03 lakh yuan (approximately Rs 35 Lakh) in a single day—all by simply lying in bed. The 25-year-old influencer, who operates a shop on Douyin (the Chinese equivalent of TikTok), shared the details of her impressive earnings between February 8 and 16. Over that period, Xixi raked in a total of 1.039 crore yuan (approximately Rs 12 Crore) on one platform, with a commission of around 27.9 lakh yuan (approximately Rs 3 Crore). On another platform, her sales reached 89.4 lakh yuan within a week. In a recent live stream, Xixi described her earnings as "hard-earned" and revealed an interesting twist—she claimed that

the more people criticize her, the more money she makes. "Today, I spent the entire day lying in bed, did nothing, and still made 11.6 lakh yuan in sales on my Douyin shop, with an estimated commission of 3.03 lakh yuan," she said. "The more you cannot stand seeing me doing well and the more you criticize me, the more I make."

Xixi, who has amassed a large following, made it clear that she doesn't just aim to earn a few hundred thousand yuan monthly. Her goal is far more ambitious: earning that much every single day. "It is not about earning hundreds of thousands of yuan per month; it is about earning hundreds of thousands of yuan per day. Understand?" she added.

Her unorthodox approach to business and success has garnered both admiration and criticism. While some are impressed by her entrepreneurial skills, others argue that such claims perpetuate unrealistic expectations. Regardless, Gu Xixi's rise in the influencer world demonstrates the growing power of social media platforms, where individuals can generate enormous income with innovative approaches.

Bruised England, Afghanistan Eye Victory To Stay Afloat In Champions Trophy



tournament opener, failing to defend a 350-plus total against an Australian side missing key pacers. Their bowling unit lacked penetration, allowing an under-strength Aussie batting line-up to chase down the target with ease.

Afghanistan, known for their spin prowess, will look to exploit England's weakness against slow bowlers. Rashid Khan, Noor Ahmad, and Mohammad Nabi pose a serious threat, especially with England's batters showing inconsistency against spin in recent outings. England suffered a setback with all-rounder Brydon Carse ruled out due to injury, replaced by leg-spinner Rehan Ahmed to bolster their spin attack. However, their main concerns remain the form of opener Phil Salt and middle-order batter Harry Brook, both struggling for consistency.

Meanwhile, Afghanistan will aim to bounce back from a heavy 107-run loss to South Africa. While they have the talent, their challenge lies in adapting to the demands of the ODI format and executing their plans effectively against a vulnerable English side.

England and Afghanistan will battle for survival in the Champions Trophy as they face off in a crucial Group B match in Lahore on Wednesday. With South Africa and Australia already securing two points each, a defeat here would put the losing side on the brink of elimination. England, once a dominant force in white-ball cricket, struggled in their

Vidarbha Eye 3rd Title, Kerala Seek Historic Win in Final

Vidarbha will bank on their dominant form and home advantage as they take on a spirited Kerala in the Ranji Trophy final starting Wednesday. While Vidarbha, two-time champions, are aiming to reclaim the title after five years, Kerala are eyeing their maiden triumph in the prestigious tournament.

Led by Akshay Wadkar, Vidarbha have been the team to beat this season, winning eight of their nine matches and drawing one. They cruised through the knockouts, defeating Tamil Nadu by 198 runs in the quarterfinal and Mumbai by 80 runs in the semifinal. Having lost to Mumbai in last year's final, they are eager to make amends.

Yash Rathod has led their batting with 933 runs, supported by Wadkar, Karun Nair, Danish Malewar, and Dhruv Shorey. On the bowling front, 22-year-old Harsh Dubey has been sensational with 66 wickets, nearing the record for most wickets in a Ranji season.

Kerala, led by Sachin Baby, have shown immense resilience, advancing through the knockouts with thrilling first-innings lead wins over Jammu and Kashmir (by one run) and Gujarat (by two runs). Salman Nizar and Mohammed Azharuddeen have been Kerala's batting pillars, with Azharuddeen's 177 in



the semifinal standing out. Jalaj Saxena leads Kerala's bowling with 38 wickets, while former Vidarbha player Aditya Sarwate has taken 30 wickets, adding depth to their attack. With Vidarbha's experience and Kerala's fighting spirit, the final promises an intense battle for the coveted title.

FIH Hockey Pro League Sam Ward's brace powers England to 3-2 win over India



England edged past India with a thrilling 3-2 victory in the FIH Hockey Pro League 2024/25 at the Kalinga Stadium on Monday, thanks to a brilliant brace from Sam Ward.

England struck first through James Payton (15'), but India responded quickly with an equalizer from Abhishek (18'). However, Ward took charge, netting twice

(19', 28') to put England ahead 3-1. Sukhjeet Singh (39') pulled one back for India, but England's resolute defense, led by goalkeeper James Mazarelo, denied them a late equalizer.

Despite India's relentless pressure in the final quarter and a last-minute penalty corner, England held firm to seal the victory.

Rachin Ravindra's century powers New Zealand into CT semis

Rachin Ravindra anchored New Zealand's chase with a brilliant century, guiding his team to a five-wicket victory over Bangladesh and securing a spot in the Champions Trophy semifinals. The win also confirmed India's progression while eliminating hosts Pakistan and Bangladesh from the tournament.

Chasing 237, New Zealand suffered an early setback, losing Will Young and Kane Williamson for just 15 runs. However, Ravindra steadied the innings with a crucial 112 off 105 balls, hitting 12 fours and a six. His 129-run stand with Tom Latham (55 off 76 balls) ensured the Black Caps completed the chase in 46.1 overs.

Earlier, Michael Bracewell was instrumental in restricting Bangladesh to 236/9, claiming 4/26 in 10 overs. Captain Najmul Hossain Shanto top-scored for Bangladesh with 77, but a slow middle-order



and 86 dot balls in the first 21 overs hurt their total.

Despite some early breakthroughs by Taskin Ahmed and Nahid Rana, Bangladesh couldn't prevent New Zealand's controlled chase. The result sees New Zealand and India advance to the semifinals, while Pakistan and Bangladesh bow out of the competition.

Praggnanadhaa Hot Favourite To Win Prague Masters



Fresh off his thrilling victory at the Tata Steel Masters, Grandmaster R Praggnanandhaa is the hot favorite to win the Prague Masters, starting Wednesday. The Indian prodigy, who recently edged out World Champion D Gukesh in a tiebreak battle, aims to continue his strong form in this nine-round all-play-all event.

Chinese GM Wei Yi leads the seedings, with Praggnanandhaa second, followed by Vietnam's Le Quang Liem and Germany's Vincent Keymer. Making his debut in elite chess, Aravindh Chithambaram is seeded fourth,

thanks to his consistent rise in ratings, currently standing at 2730 in live ratings.

Other top players include Dutch GM Anish Giri, Czech veteran David Navara, and American GM Sam Shankland. According to statistical analysis, Praggnanandhaa holds a 14.98% chance of winning, ahead of Wei Yi at 10.52%.

Meanwhile, Divya Deshmukh will compete in the Challengers' section, adding to India's strong presence. The tournament kicks off Wednesday after the drawing of lots on Tuesday.

IOA sets up Adhoc Committee to handle BFI, conduct elections

With the tenure of the Boxing Federation of India (BFI) office-bearers ending on February 2 and elections delayed due to legal disputes, the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) has constituted a five-member Adhoc Committee to manage its affairs and oversee the election process.

The committee includes senior boxer Shiva Thapa, along with administrators Madhukant Pathak, Rajesh Bhandari, Dr. D.P. Bhatt, and Virendra Singh Thakur. The panel has been tasked with addressing grievances with-

in the boxing community, ensuring athlete participation in international events, and expediting the BFI elections.

IOA President PT Usha stated that the delay in elections had created administrative instability, prompting numerous complaints from athletes and officials. She emphasized that the committee would operate independently, maintain transparency, and ensure due process in conducting the elections. The order has come into immediate effect.



Sophie Ecclestone shines as UP Warriorz beat RCB in WPL's first-ever Super Over

In a thrilling contest, UP Warriorz edged past Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) in the first-ever Super Over of the Women's Premier League (WPL) on Monday, thanks to a stunning all-round performance by Sophie Ecclestone.

RCB, after being sent to bat, posted a strong 180/6, driven by Ellyse Perry's unbeaten 90 off 56 balls and Danni Wyatt-Hodge's 57. Ecclestone, despite going wicketless with figures of 4-0-29-0, made a crucial impact with the bat, scoring 33 off 19 balls to take the match into the Super Over.

A dramatic finish UP Warriorz, chasing 181, lost wickets at regular intervals. Kiran Navgire (24) and Dinesh Vrida (14) gave them a promising start, but RCB's bowlers kept striking back. Deepti Sharma (25 off 13) and Shweta Sehrawat (31 off 25) kept UP's hopes alive, but Perry and Sneha Rana (3/27) ensured the

game went down to the wire. Needing 18 off the last over, Ecclestone smashed Renuka Singh for two sixes and a four, leveling the scores before getting run out on the penultimate ball. UP Warriorz were bowled out for 180, pushing the match into a Super Over.

Super Over showdown UP Warriorz managed just eight runs in the Super Over, bowled by Kim Garth. With RCB needing nine to win, Ecclestone stepped up with the ball, conceding only four runs to seal a historic win for UP Warriorz.





Kalyan's Inner Circle Actively Planning Akira's Debut



Speculation surrounding Akira Nandan's film debut continues to gain traction, especially with his frequent public appearances alongside his father, Pawan Kalyan. However, reports suggest that fans may have to wait a little longer before witnessing Akira's transformation into "Junior Powerstar."

Sources indicate that Pawan Kalyan's close associates, including Trivikram Srinivas, producer Naga Vamsi, and art director Anand Sai, are actively involved in planning Akira's debut. Interestingly, Pawan himself is reportedly the driving force behind these discussions and has influenced Akira's mindset regarding a career in cinema. Until recently, Akira was often seen with his mother,

Renu Desai, and had shown interest in pursuing a career in music. He had even enrolled in formal training for the same. However, his focus has now shifted toward acting, leading to intense preparation, including acting training under renowned coach Vizag Satyanand, with future plans for martial arts and dance. With uncertainty surrounding Pawan Kalyan's film commitments post-OG, Hari Hara Veera Mallu, and Ustaad Bhagat Singh, the actor-politician is said to be prioritizing his son's launch before shifting his full focus to politics ahead of the general elections. If all goes as planned, top production houses are expected to compete for Akira's grand debut. The film's release, with anticipation building over this

Aadar Jain and Alekha Advani's Wedding Kareena, Ranbir, and Alia's Heartfelt Moments Captured



Aadar Jain and Alekha Advani's fairytale wedding continues to make headlines, with new pictures from their intimate ceremony surfacing online. The couple, who tied the knot in a Christian ceremony on February 21, 2025, in Goa, has been sharing glimpses of their celebrations on social media.

In the latest set of pictures, Aadar is seen posing with Kareena Kapoor, Karisma Kapoor, and Saif Ali Khan, along with his parents, Reema Jain and Manoj Jain. Another snapshot captures Ranbir Kapoor, Alia Bhatt, and Neetu Kapoor, while Riddhima Kapoor Sahni and

Kareena are also seen sharing a special moment with the newlyweds. Aadar and Alekha, who began dating in 2023, got engaged in September last year, followed by a roka ceremony in November. Before Alekha, Aadar was in a relationship with actress Tara Sutaria, but the two eventually parted ways.

Aadar Jain, the son of Raj Kapoor's daughter Rima Jain, made his Bollywood debut with Qaidi Band in 2017 and was last seen in Hello Charlie (2021). Meanwhile, Alekha Advani is the founder of the wellness brand Way Well.



97th Academy Awards Star-Studded Performances and A-List Presenters Set the Stage

The 97th Academy Awards are gearing up for a dazzling night filled with electrifying performances and Hollywood's biggest stars gracing the stage. The Oscars, set to take place on March 2, 2025, will be hosted by comedian Conan O'Brien and broadcast live on ABC and Hulu.

Ariana Grande and Cynthia Erivo, stars of the Wicked film adaptation, will bring a touch of Oz to the ceremony with a special live performance. Global K-pop icon Lisa, from Blackpink and The White Lotus, is also set to perform, along with rap sensation Doja Cat, legendary actress-musician Queen

Latifah, and rising star Raye. Adding to the spectacle, the Los Angeles Master Chorale will deliver a grand musical segment.

This year's Oscars will take a unique approach by forgoing live performances of Best Original Song nominees. Instead, viewers will be treated to behind-the-scenes insights into the songwriting process, offering a deeper look at the creative minds behind the music.

An impressive lineup of presenters is also set to take the stage. Last year's acting winners—Cillian Murphy, Emma Stone, Robert Downey Jr., and Da'Vine Joy Randolph—

will return to present awards, joined by a star-studded roster that includes Joe Alwyn, Ana de Armas, Halle Berry, Penélope Cruz, Willem Dafoe, Lily-Rose Depp, Elle Fanning, Whoopi Goldberg, Selena Gomez, Goldie Hawn, Scarlett Johansson, John Lithgow, Connie Nielsen, Amy Poehler, June Squibb, Ben Stiller, Oprah Winfrey, and Bowen Yang.

With an exciting mix of performances, tributes, and Hollywood's biggest names, the 97th Academy Awards promise an unforgettable night celebrating cinema at its finest.

Yami Gautam in Talks for Multiple Projects Across Genres



Bollywood actress Yami Gautam, who is currently basking in the success of Dhoom Dhaam on Netflix, is reportedly in discussions for multiple upcoming projects spanning various genres.

A source close to the actress revealed that Yami's growing success has made her a preferred choice for filmmakers, as she continues to deliver powerful performances. "She has been very selective about her projects, ensuring strong scripts and compelling narratives. Currently, she is in talks for more than four films, all of which showcase her versatility," the source said.

Following the success of OMG 2 (2023), Article 370 (2024), and now Dhoom Dhaam (2025), Yami has solidified her reputation as a bankable star. Her performances in Bala (2019), Lost (2022), and A Thursday (2022) were widely praised, with critics lauding her ability to carry female-centric and socially relevant films.

Dhoom Dhaam, directed by Rishab Seth and produced by Aditya Dhar, was released on Netflix on February 14, 2025, and has been receiving positive feedback. As she gears up for her next ventures, fans can expect Yami to take on diverse and impactful roles once again.

NTR Begins Promotions for Devara's Japanese Release

After the massive success of RRR in Japan, Jr NTR is now gearing up to expand his stardom further with the Japanese release of Devara Part 1. The film is set to hit Japanese screens on March 28, 2025, and ahead of its release, NTR has already begun promotions. The actor, who gained significant popularity among Japanese audiences after RRR became the highest-grossing Indian film in Japan—surpassing Rajinikanth's Muthu—is currently giving interviews to Japanese media. He is also scheduled to visit Japan on March 22 to actively promote the film.

Directed by Koratala Siva, Devara features Janhvi Kapoor and Saif Ali Khan in key roles. The film, which was originally released on September 27, 2024, turned out to be a major box office success. Fans are eager to see if it can recreate the same magic in Japan.

On the work front, Jr NTR has a busy lineup with War 2, NTRNeel, and Devara 2. While War 2 is expected to release later this year, NTRNeel recently went on floors. The actor is likely to start Devara



2 after wrapping up his current commitments.

SC Grants Relief to Dil Raju in Mr. Perfect Copyright Case



Producer Dil Raju has received relief from the Supreme Court in the copyright case filed against his 2011 film Mr. Perfect. The apex court has put a stay on the City Civil Court's order, which had directed action against him over alleged copyright infringement.

The case was initially filed in 2017 by writer Mummudi Syamala Devi, who accused Dil Raju of copying the storyline of her novel Naa Manasu Ninnu Kore. Following her complaint, the Madhapur Police registered a copyright case against the producer. After hearing arguments and examining the evidence, the City Civil Court had

ruled in favor of the writer and ordered action against Dil Raju.

Challenging this decision, Dil Raju approached the Supreme Court seeking a stay on the lower court's order. On Monday, a bench comprising Justice JB Pardiwala and Justice R Mahadevan took up the case and, after hearing the arguments, stayed the City Civil Court's orders. The next hearing has been scheduled for two weeks later.

Mr. Perfect, directed by Dasarath, starred Prabhas, Kajal Aggarwal, and Taapsee Pannu in lead roles, with music composed by Devi Sri Prasad.