

Weather Forecast

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

ECI Never Wakes Up': Kejriwal's 'Kumbhakaran' Jibe As AAP Accuses BJP Of 'Hooliganism'



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India's Young Queens Dominate U19 T20 World Cup Again



India thrash South Africa by 9 wickets to retain U19 Women's T20 World Cup.

Gongadi Trisha shines with 3/15 and unbeaten 44 off 33 balls.

India win all matches, becoming first team to lift title undefeated.

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Another MBBS Doctor Found Dead in RG Kar Quarters

No suicide note, police suspect depression.

Mother discovered body after unanswered calls.

Case registered, post-mortem underway.

Incident revives RG Kar scrutiny.



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Trump Hits Canada, Mexico & China with Tariffs

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

US President Donald Trump has imposed fresh tariffs on Canada, Mexico, and China, triggering immediate retaliation from all three nations. The new trade restrictions include a 25% tariff on all imports from Canada and Mexico, along with an additional 10% duty on Chinese goods. The move, which took effect on Tuesday, comes under an economic emergency declaration, allowing the US to impose duties to protect domestic industries. Trump also included provisions to further raise tariffs if these countries respond with countermeasures.

tariffs, targeting \$30 billion in US exports, is effective immediately, while the second phase covering \$125 billion will be implemented in 21 days. The Canadian tariffs include a wide range of American products, such as alcoholic beverages, fruits, household appliances, and industrial materials like lumber and plastics. Trudeau also hinted at possible non-tariff restrictions, including policies affecting critical minerals and energy trade. He urged Canadians to prioritize domestic products and tourism to counter the impact of US economic pressure.

Mexico Hits Back with Trade Restrictions

Mexican President Claudia Sheinbaum Pardo strongly condemned the US tariffs, calling them unjustified and counterproductive. She announced the implementation of "Plan B," which includes tariff and non-tariff restrictions on US imports in response. Mexico's government has also rejected Washington's allegations of criminal ties, calling them an excuse to justify economic aggression. Sheinbaum emphasized the need for dialogue and diplomacy instead of escalating trade conflicts. With Mexico being one of the US's largest trading partners, these new barriers are expected to impact cross-border commerce significantly.

China to Challenge US Tariffs at WTO

China responded by declaring that it would challenge the US tariffs at the World Trade Organization (WTO). The Chinese Commerce Ministry described the US move as a violation of global trade norms and announced that China would take corresponding countermeasures. While Beijing has yet to specify the full extent of its response, it is expected that additional tariffs on American exports will follow. With the ongoing trade war between the two nations, this latest escalation threatens further economic disruptions and strained diplomatic ties.

As all three nations implement their countermeasures, the global trade landscape faces growing instability. The US tariffs, along with retaliatory actions from Canada, Mexico, and China, could lead to higher prices for consumers, disrupted supply chains, and uncertainty in global markets. With tensions rising, the possibility of negotiations remains uncertain, raising concerns over the long-term impact of this escalating trade conflict.

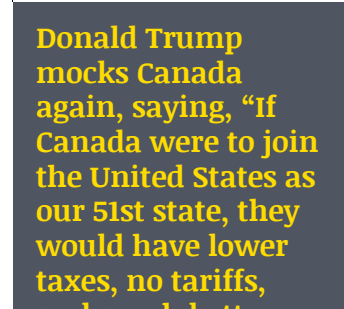
Trump imposes 25% tariffs on Canada and Mexico, 10% additional tariff on China.



China to challenge US tariffs at WTO and warns of countermeasures.



Mexico announces "Plan B" with trade restrictions in response.



Donald Trump mocks Canada again, saying, "If Canada were to join the United States as our 51st state, they would have lower taxes, no tariffs, and much better military protection. Think about it!"



Canada imposes retaliatory tariffs on \$155 billion worth of US goods.

Every Family Happy

PM Modi Highlights Budget Tax Relief at Delhi Rally

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

With the February 5 Delhi election approaching, Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressed a rally in RK Puram, emphasizing the 2025 Budget's benefits, particularly its tax relief for the middle class and special provisions for Bihar. Calling it a "people's Budget," he asserted that it represents the aspirations of every section of society.

"The country is witnessing economic growth, and corruption no longer eats up people's hard-earned money as it did in the past. BJP's honest governance has ensured welfare for all—be it the poor, middle class, rural, or urban citizens," he said. Highlighting the tax relief, he compared past taxation



under Congress governments, stating, "During Nehru's era, earning ₹12 lakh meant paying a quarter of it in taxes. Under Indira Gandhi, ₹10 lakh tax was due on ₹12 lakh income. Today, under

BJP, people pay zero tax at that level." Acknowledging that many RK Puram

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During Nehru's era, earning ₹12 lakh meant paying a quarter of it in taxes. Under Indira Gandhi, ₹10 lakh tax was due on ₹12 lakh income. Today, under BJP, people pay zero tax at that level.

- PM MODI

'Ramayana: The Legend of Prince Rama' to be Screened at Parliament



TPN Correspondent | New Delhi
The iconic 1993 Japanese-Indian animated film
Ramayana: The Legend of Prince Rama is set for a special screening at the Parliament of India on February 15. The event, organised by Geek Pictures, will be attended by Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla, Members of Parliament, and distinguished cultural figures. Expressing gratitude for the recognition, Geek Pictures co-founder Arjun Aggarwal stated, "This screening is not just a showcase of a film but a

celebration of our rich heritage and the timeless story of the Ramayana, which continues to inspire and guide us." The film, directed by Yugo Sako, Ram Mohan, and Koichi Sasaki, was released in India on January 24 in a 4K format with new dubs in Hindi, Tamil, and Telugu, alongside its original English version. Distributed by AA Films and Excel Entertainment, its initial October 18, 2024 release was advanced to ensure wider accessibility in theaters. In the film's earlier Hindi version, Ramayan actor Arun Go-

vil voiced Lord Ram, Namrata Sawhney played Sita, and the late Amrish Puri lent his voice to Raavan, with veteran actor Shatrughan Sinha as the narrator. Screenwriter V Vijayendra Prasad, known for Baahubali, Bajrangi Bhaijaan, and RRR, oversaw the creative adaptation of the new versions. The film was first screened in India at the 24th International Film Festival of India (IFFI) in 1993 but never saw a theatrical release. It later gained popularity through re-runs on Indian television in the early 2000s.

ECI Never Wakes Up': Kejriwal's 'Kumbhakaran' Jibe As AAP Accuses BJP Of 'Hooliganism'

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi
Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) National Convenor Arvind Kejriwal has lashed out at the Election Commission of India (ECI), accusing it of inaction amid alleged attacks on his party by BJP workers ahead of the Delhi Assembly elections. Drawing a reference to the Ramayana, Kejriwal posted on X, stating, "In the Ramayana, it is written that Kumbhakaran slept for six months and then woke up for the next six months. The Election Commission probably never wakes up." He also used the hashtag #amitshahkigundagardi. His remarks follow a series of alleged attacks on AAP members. Kejriwal has written to the Delhi Chief Election Officer, demanding immediate action over the alleged assault on AAP workers in the New Delhi Assembly constituency. AAP National Spokesperson Priyanka Kakkar accused the BJP of orchestrating violence out of fear of electoral defeat.

Kakkar cited an incident from January 18, when stones were allegedly thrown at Kejriwal, claiming that police have failed to act against accused individuals Rohit Tyagi and Shanky. She also alleged that the two men had previous murder charges against them but were being shielded by authorities. Meanwhile, tensions escalated when AAP's campaign van was attacked by members of the Maharashtra Valmiki Samaj and Dalit Mahapanchayat, protesting against Kejriwal. Kakkar blamed BJP supporters for the vandalism, stating, "The morale of BJP goons has risen so much that they are now openly attacking AAP's campaign van. The Election Commission remains blind to BJP's misdeeds." AAP leader Jasmine Shah condemned the attack, alleging that it occurred in the presence of the police. "BJP goons attacked and vandalized our campaign van in New Delhi. The same individuals who at-

tacked Kejriwal's car were involved. Shockingly, after the vandalism, the police officer told them, 'Now go, your work is done,' he claimed. The New Delhi Deputy Commissioner of Police, however, stated that no formal complaint had been received regarding the incident. "Thank you for bringing this to our notice. No PCR call or complaint was received at the police station. A formal complaint is required for legal action," the DCP's statement read. Responding to AAP's claims, Delhi BJP countered that the protest was a reflection of public anger against Kejriwal. "Today, the Valmiki community and the Dalit Mahapanchayat boycotted Arvind Kejriwal, burning his effigy. They said he betrayed them for ten years, and they won't trust him again. What Kejriwal calls BJP hooliganism is actually the public's anger, which will echo at every booth on February 5," the BJP stated.

Air India Express launches daily direct flights between Mangaluru and Delhi



TPN Correspondent | New Delhi
Air India Express has strengthened air connectivity in Karnataka by introducing a daily direct flight between Mangaluru International Airport (MIA) and Delhi International Airport. The new service aims to offer greater convenience and flexibility to travelers. The inaugural flight, IX 1552, departed from Mangaluru at 6:40 AM and landed in Delhi

at 9:35 AM on February 1, while flight IX 2768 took off from Delhi at the same time, reaching Mangaluru at 9:35 AM. The first flight was welcomed with a water cannon salute by the Aerodrome Rescue and Fire Fighting (ARFF) team at Mangaluru Airport. The maiden journey saw 167 passengers flying to Delhi and 144 arriving in Mangaluru. An MIA official emphasized that the new service will ben-

efit both business and leisure travelers while also improving connectivity for those transiting to domestic and international destinations. "Enhancing air connectivity remains a key priority to meet the region's growing travel demand," the official added. With this addition, passengers now have two daily flight options between Mangaluru and Delhi, complementing an existing evening service by IndiGo. The new route is expected to reduce travel time and provide more choices for commuters. Air India Express has been expanding its presence in Karnataka, recently launching weekend flights between Mangaluru and Pune. The new Delhi route is expected to boost trade, tourism, and education, contributing to the region's economic growth.

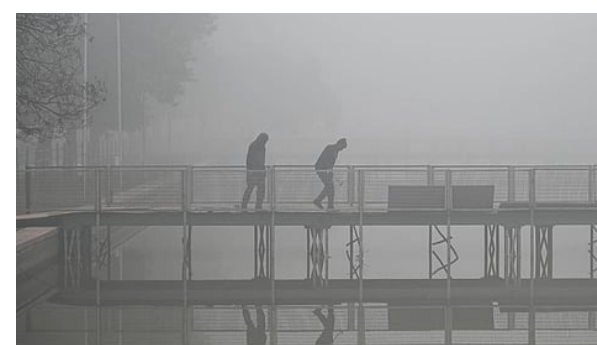
Another MBBS Doctor Found Dead in RG Kar Quarters 1st page continuation...

TPN Correspondent | Kolkata
A 20-year-old medical student at RG Kar Medical College in Kolkata was found hanging in her hospital quarters on Friday, in what police suspect to be a case of suicide linked to depression. The tragic incident has sparked concerns over mental health issues among medical students, especially amid mounting academic and professional pressures. The deceased, identified as Ivy Prasad, was a second-year MBBS student residing in the Kamarhati ESI Hospital quarters. Her mother, who is also a doctor, had repeatedly attempted to contact her on Friday night but received no response. Growing increasingly anxious, she rushed to the hospital quarters, only to find the door locked from the inside. "Despite multiple calls, she did not respond, which raised suspicion. When her mother reached the quarters and found the door locked, she forcibly broke it open, only to find her daughter hanging from the ceiling," a senior official from the Barrackpore Commissionerate stated. Prasad was immediately rushed to the hospital, but

doctors declared her dead on arrival. Police officials investigating the case confirmed that no suicide note was found at the scene. However, preliminary findings suggest she may have been battling depression. The authorities have registered a case of 'unnatural death' and launched an investigation into the circumstances leading to her demise. Her body has been sent for post-mortem examination at the College of Medicine and Sagore Dutta Hospital, and further details will emerge based on forensic findings. RG Kar Medical College Under Scrutiny Again The tragic death of Ivy Prasad comes at a time when RG Kar Medical College is already under scrutiny due to a series of alarming incidents. The institution made headlines in 2024 following the brutal rape and murder of a trainee doctor, a case that shook the medical fraternity and raised serious concerns about campus safety. On January 20, 2025, a Sealdah Civil and Criminal Court convicted Sanjoy Roy for the crime and sentenced him to life imprisonment. However, the verdict has been met with mixed reactions, with many doctors

and medical professionals demanding a harsher punishment, including the death penalty. Several activists and colleagues of the victim continue to push for a re-investigation, alleging that multiple perpetrators may have been involved and that some suspects have escaped justice. The recent death of Ivy Prasad has further intensified concerns over student well-being and safety within the institution. The case highlights the immense pressure medical students endure, often leading to mental health struggles that remain unaddressed. Authorities are now being urged to take proactive measures to support students and provide adequate mental health resources to prevent such tragedies in the future. As the investigation into Ivy Prasad's death continues, police officials are expected to question her family, friends, and colleagues to determine any underlying factors that may have contributed to her suspected suicide. The findings of the post-mortem examination will play a crucial role in shaping the course of the probe.

Dense Fog Covers Delhi as Cold Wave Continues; AQI Remains 'Very Poor'



TPN Correspondent | New Delhi
A thick layer of fog blanketed Delhi on Sunday morning, affecting visibility and intensifying cold conditions across the national capital. According to the India Meteorological Department (IMD), the minimum temperature in Delhi was recorded at 10°C, with cold winds adding to the chill. The weather department has forecast dense fog in isolated areas across Punjab, Haryana, Delhi,

and Uttar Pradesh. Additionally, light rainfall is expected in Delhi on February 3, which could bring slight relief from pollution levels. Meanwhile, Delhi's air quality remained in the 'very poor' category. As per the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), the Air Quality Index (AQI) was logged at 340 on Sunday morning. The Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) Stage 3 restrictions remain in effect across Delhi-NCR due to rising pollution levels. Residents, particularly those in vulnerable communities, continue to struggle with the harsh winter. Many were seen seeking refuge in night shelters across Nizamuddin and Lodhi Road on Saturday night, attempting to escape the biting cold. The persistent cold wave and poor air quality are being attributed to northwesterly winds bringing icy conditions from the Himalayas, further worsening the winter chill in the region.

Every Family Happy 1st page continuation...

residents hold government jobs, Modi assured that beyond tax relief, the 8th Pay Commission and consolidated pension schemes would further benefit them. He also noted that young couples would experience significant tax savings. Reaching out to the Purvanchali community, which holds political significance in Delhi, he highlighted Budget allocations for Bihar. "Purvanchalis made me an MP and the PM. They were neglected under Congress, but we have given them the respect they deserve," he said. Accusing the AAP government of undermining

their cultural traditions, he stated, "AAP is trying to drive the Purvanchali community out of Delhi and even stopping Chhath Puja celebrations. But BJP will always stand with them." Confident of a BJP victory, Modi asserted, "In a few days, a new spring of development will come to Delhi. AAP has wasted 11 years. Give us a chance, and I promise to remove every difficulty you face." Taking a swipe at AAP over six MLAs leaving the party before the elections, he quipped, "Even before voting, their broom is falling apart."

Kejriwal Accuses BJP of Attacks on AAP Workers, Writes to Poll Body



TPN Correspondent

New Delhi: Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) chief and Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal has written to the Chief Election Officer (CEO) of Delhi, alleging attacks on his party workers in the New Delhi Assembly constituency. He accused BJP workers, particularly those linked to BJP candidate Parvesh Verma, of targeting AAP volunteers and harassing a female party worker. Kejriwal has demanded that independent election observers be deployed in the constituency and that the Election Commission take strict action against those responsible. He also called for the immediate suspen-

sion of police personnel for allegedly failing to maintain security. AAP MP Sanjay Singh echoed these allegations, claiming that BJP supporters attacked AAP workers in the Chelmsford Club slum area on February 1. He named three victims, including a woman who was allegedly harassed. Singh further accused the police of inaction, stating that officers had orders not to act against Verma's supporters. With Delhi Assembly elections set for February 5 and results to be declared on February 8, the allegations have intensified the political battle between AAP and BJP.

AAP's Ram Pal Uppal elected Phagwara Mayor, defeats Congress candidate

TPN Correspondent
| Punjab

Aam Aadmi Party's Ram Pal Uppal has been elected as the new mayor of Phagwara, defeating Congress candidate Sanjeev Bugga. The mayoral elections also saw Tejpal Basra and Vipin Krishna elected as senior deputy mayor and deputy mayor, respectively. Uppal, who recently joined AAP after quitting Congress, secured the mayoral post, while Tejpal Basra, formerly with BSP, was elected senior deputy mayor. The Punjab and Haryana High Court had appointed retired judge Habans Lal as an independent observer for the elections. Following the results, Congress coun-

cillors staged a protest outside the Public Works Department Rest House, accusing AAP of undemocratic practices. However, Punjab AAP president Aman Arora praised the victory, stating that councillors chose development over party politics. Arora, accompanied by MP Raj Kumar Chhabewal, credited the win to the efforts of AAP workers and reaffirmed the party's commitment to fulfilling its promises. He assured that Phagwara's development would remain a priority and urged opposition councillors to work together for the city's welfare. He also reiterated AAP's commitment to implementing the five "guarantees" promised during the elections.

Raghav Chadha Jams With Mika Singh at Delhi Poll Rally



TPN Correspondent, New Delhi

Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) MP Raghav Chadha was seen jamming with popular singer Mika Singh during a

poll rally in Delhi, adding a musical touch to the election campaign. Chadha sang Mika Singh's hit song 'Something Something', which was

released in 2006 and has garnered over 18 million views on YouTube. Sharing the moment on X, he wrote, "Amidst the hectic political campaign, got a chance to jam with the celebrated singer Mika Singh on one of his tracks that I really like at a public meeting in Chandni Chowk Assembly Constituency, Delhi." Mika Singh had earlier performed at Chadha's engagement ceremony with Bollywood actor Parineeti Chopra in 2023. With the February 5 Delhi Assembly elections approaching, AAP, BJP, and Congress are actively reaching out to voters, focusing on welfare policies, including financial assistance for women, street vendors, and unemployed youth. The election results will be declared on February 8.

Parvesh Verma dubs AAP's Mohalla Clinics as 'Halla Clinics'



TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

BJP leader Parvesh Verma has attacked the AAP government's Mohalla Clinic scheme, calling it "Halla Clinic" and alleging that it misleads the public under the guise of providing healthcare. Contesting against Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal in the New Delhi Assembly seat, Verma has raised questions about the scheme's transparency and expenditure. In a letter to Kejriwal, Verma questioned the total funds spent on the initiative and demanded the disclosure of any scams linked to it. He also alleged that many Mohalla Clinics exist only on paper and called for a full list of clinics and officials managing

them. "Accurate data should be presented on how many patients have been treated in these clinics and how much was spent. Details should also be provided on how many AAP leaders' families benefited from these clinics," Verma stated. He accused the AAP government of failing to fulfill its promises to the poor and using welfare schemes as a tool for political and financial gains. "The people of Delhi now demand answers," he added. The Delhi Assembly elections will be held on February 5, with results declared on February 8. The BJP is looking to reclaim power in Delhi after nearly three decades, while AAP aims to retain its dominance.

Kejriwal Alleges Plot to Disenfranchise Slum Dwellers Ahead of Delhi Polls

TPN Correspondent
| New Delhi

AAP National Convener Arvind Kejriwal has alleged a conspiracy to suppress votes in Delhi's slum clusters, accusing the BJP of attempting to disenfranchise residents ahead of the assembly elections. In a public appeal, Kejriwal claimed that individuals linked to a rival party were offering Rs 3,000 to voters in servant quarters, dhobi ghats, and slum clusters in exchange for allowing election ink to be applied on their fingers—without actually casting their votes. Calling it a "dangerous conspiracy," he warned that those falling for such tactics could face legal consequences, including arrest and prolonged court battles. "Their party members are going door-to-door, telling people to take Rs 3,000 and that the Election Commission will come to their homes to cast their votes," Kejriwal alleged. "When I heard this, I was shocked. This is a massive plot against you. I couldn't sleep last night thinking about this." Kejriwal further claimed

that the BJP, if elected, would demolish Delhi's slum clusters within six months and hand over the land to private corporations, similar to the recent redevelopment of Mumbai's Dharavi. He also cautioned slum dwellers about potential repercussions, citing past incidents where individuals were jailed for 8-10 years due to involvement in fake voting scams. "The very people giving you money today will get you arrested tomorrow. This is a massive fraud, and you could end up in jail under charges of fraud (Section 420)," he warned. Advising residents to stay alert, Kejriwal stated that media and law enforcement officials would be monitoring JJ clusters before polling day, and anyone caught accepting money for fraudulent voting could face serious legal trouble. "Don't fall into this trap—absolutely do not! If they are giving you free money, take it, but do not get ink applied on your finger in exchange for it. It will create a lifelong problem for you," he cautioned.

Police Let Parvesh Verma's Goons Attack AAP Workers: Sanjay Singh



TPN Correspondent
| New Delhi

AAP MP Sanjay Singh has accused BJP workers of assaulting AAP members in the Chelmsford slum area near Parliament and blamed the police for inaction. He has written to the Election Commission, demanding the immediate suspension of the SHO of Parliament Street

Police Station for allegedly failing to take action despite repeated requests. In his letter, Singh detailed that the incident took place on February 1 at around 1 PM in the New Delhi Assembly constituency, just 100 meters from Parliament House. He alleged that BJP workers, wearing party caps and scarves, physically attacked AAP workers Gaurav Singh,

Suresh Acharya, and Pranali Rawat, and also misbehaved with Pranali Rawat. He claimed that AAP workers repeatedly sought police intervention, but officers ignored their pleas and sided with BJP workers. During the altercation, a TV channel's camera was also damaged. Singh alleged that when AAP workers asked for help, the police on-site stated that the SHO had instructed them not to act against BJP workers. Calling for strict action, Singh said that such incidents occurring near Parliament reflect the SHO's incompetence and demanded his immediate suspension. He also criticized the lack of action from the authorities, stating that the assault took place in violation of Election Commission rules, yet no steps were taken. Singh further alleged that when he reached the spot after learning about the attack, BJP workers continued shouting slogans in front of him. He said he lodged complaints with the police and election officials, but no action was initiated. He urged the Election Commission to intervene immediately, stating that failing to act would undermine the credibility of conducting free and fair elections.

Chirag Paswan confident of BJP victory in Delhi polls



TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

Union Minister Chirag Paswan on Sunday expressed confidence that the BJP would secure victory in the upcoming Delhi Assembly elections, attributing it to growing resentment against the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) and strong public support for Prime Minister Narendra Modi's policies. Addressing an election rally for BJP candidate Raj Kumar Chauhan in Mangolpuri, Paswan, whose Lok Janshakti Party (Ram Vilas) is a part of the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA), claimed that voters were increasingly favoring the BJP. "Wherever I go, I see people's enthusiasm for the NDA and the BJP, and growing resentment towards AAP," he stated. Paswan asserted that the BJP would form the next government in Delhi when results are announced on February 8, emphasizing that public trust in Prime Minister Narendra Modi's welfare and development policies was a key factor in the party's expected success. Addressing concerns about the BJP not naming a chief ministerial candidate, he pointed out that the party has often chosen its leader post-election based on the decisions of its elected MLAs. The elections for the 70-member Delhi Assembly are scheduled for February 5, with the results to be declared on February 8.

SC National Conference Stresses Judicial Reforms, Faster Case Disposal

- SC conference stresses judicial reforms and faster case disposal.
- Over 5.1 crore cases pending, 90% in district courts.
- Policy and Action Plan-2024 aims to bridge the case backlog gap.
- Sessions focused on staffing, technology, and accountability in judiciary.

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

The Supreme Court, under Chief Justice of India Sanjiv Khanna, hosted a national conference on Saturday, focusing on judicial reforms and strategies to expedite case disposal. The conference brought together Supreme Court judges, chief justices of high courts, district judges, and senior officials from the ministries of home affairs and law. Discussions centered on implementing the Policy and Action Plan-2024 formulated by the National Court Management Systems (NCMS) Committee, aimed at reducing judicial backlogs. With over 5.1 crore pending cases nationwide—90% of them in district courts—the conference emphasized the urgent need for systemic improvements. The conference featured four key sessions addressing critical judicial issues. The first session, chaired by CJJ Sanjiv Khanna, along with justices Abhay S Oka, BV Nagarathna, and Dipankar Datta, focused on strategies to reduce case backlogs and bridge the gap between case institution and disposal. The second session, led by justice Bhushan R Gavai with justices



PS Narasimha and KV Viswanathan, explored the feasibility of a uniform case categorization system and the integration of technology to streamline judicial processes. The third session, chaired by justice Surya Kant, with justices JK Maheshwari and Sudhanshu Dhulia, discussed judicial staffing challenges, the expansion of legal aid, and the need for a permanent IT cadre in courts to enhance efficiency. The final session, chaired again by CJJ Khanna, with justices Vikram

Nath, MM Sundresh, and Bela Trivedi, focused on the career progression, performance evaluation, and accountability of judicial officers, emphasizing the need for structured mentoring and standardized training programs. The conference underscored collaboration among all judicial levels to enhance efficiency. The adoption of Policy and Action Plan-2024 is expected to significantly streamline case resolution and strengthen the justice delivery system.



'Jhunjhuna, Not Special Package': Congress, RJD Slam Budget for Bihar

TPN Correspondent | Patna

Congress Rajya Sabha MP Pramod Tiwari has criticized the Union Budget, stating that Bihar was promised a special package but received only a "jhunjhuna" instead. He accused the Centre of reducing funds for key sectors like education, rural development, and MGNREGA while claiming to push for "Viksit Bharat."

Speaking to ANI, Tiwari argued that the budget failed to deliver meaningful relief. "They made income up to ₹12 lakh tax-free, but the same people will pay more through GST. The education budget has been slashed, yet they talk about development," he said. He also questioned the reduction in rural development and employment schemes, calling the budget a disappointment for Bihar.

In her budget speech, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced several initiatives for Bihar, including the development of Greenfield airports, expansion of Patna Airport, and construction of a brownfield airport in Bihta. She also highlighted the Western Kosi Canal ERM project in the Mithilanchal region.

RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav also criticized the budget, stating that it lacked clarity on Bihar's demands. "They did not mention a special package or special state status. The Greenfield airport proposal lacks specifics, and no budget allocation was provided. This is just another 'jumla'," he said.

Addressing a press conference in Vaishali, Yadav accused Bihar CM Nitish Kumar of failing to secure a better deal for the state despite his alliance with the BJP. "Today's budget was unfair to Bihar. Whatever was given in the last budget has just been repeated this time. Train fares are increasing, but no relief has been provided," he added.

While the Centre has announced infrastructure projects, opposition leaders remain skeptical about their execution and the overall benefits Bihar will receive from this budget.



200 New Vande Bharat Trains in Next 2-3 Years

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

Union Railways Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw announced that India will see the addition of 200 new Vande Bharat trains, 100 Amrit Bharat trains, 50 Namoo Bharat rapid rail, and 17,500 general non-AC coaches over the next two to three years. The minister's remarks came after the Union Budget 2025-26 allocated ₹2.52 lakh crore as gross budgetary support for the Indian Railways. Calling the budget "amazing," Vaishnaw said the new allocation will ensure faster, safer, and more comfortable rail travel. He emphasized that the new trains and modern coaches would benefit the low and middle-class population significantly. The total railway infrastructure projects outlined in the budget amount to ₹4.6 lakh crore, with a major focus on safety improvements. The reimbursement of losses on the operation of strategic lines has been set at ₹2,739 crore, while ₹706 crore is allocated for debt servicing of market borrowings for national projects. Vaishnaw highlighted that the railway budget's gross budgetary support is now nearly nine times what it was in 2013-14 when it stood at just ₹28,174 crore. The government also aims to develop 7,000 km of high-speed rail lines supporting speeds of up to 250 km per hour by 2047. On the sustainability front, the minister reiterated that Indian Railways will achieve 100% electrification by FY 2025-26, aligning with the budget's focus on small modular reactors as a clean energy source.

5 Killed, 17 Injured as Pilgrims' Bus Falls Into Gorge in Gujarat

TPN Correspondent | Gujarat

Five pilgrims lost their lives, and 17 others sustained serious injuries after a private bus plunged into a deep gorge in Gujarat's Dang district early Sunday morning. The incident occurred around 4:15 am near the Sapatara hill station when the driver lost control of the vehicle, officials confirmed. The bus, carrying 48 pilgrims, broke through a crash barrier and fell nearly 35 feet into the gorge. Among the deceased were two women and three men, who died on the spot, according to in-charge Superintendent of Police SG Patil. "Five pilgrims died, and 17 others suffered serious injuries. They have been rushed to a civil hospital in Ahwa. Some passengers sustained minor injuries. The rescue operation is nearly complete," the official said. The bus was traveling from Trim-bakeshwar in Maharashtra to Dwarka in Gujarat when the tragedy struck. The passengers were from Guna, Shivpuri, and Ashok Nagar districts of Madhya Pradesh.



Modi Backed Tax Cuts, Took Time to Convince Bureaucrats: FM Sitharaman

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman revealed that Prime Minister Narendra Modi was fully supportive of the idea of tax cuts, but it required time to convince bureaucrats. Speaking in an interview, she emphasized that Modi was clear about his intent, and the primary challenge lay in convincing the concerned officials. "The PM was very clear that he wanted to do something. The effort was more within the ministry to ensure that the tax board was convinced about efficiency in collection and the voice of honest taxpayers," Sitharaman stated. She highlighted that Modi has always been attentive to feedback from various sectors, engaging with industrialists, tribal communities, and vulnerable groups to understand their concerns. In the Union Budget 2025-26, presented on Saturday, Sitharaman announced a significant tax relief for the middle class. Under the new provisions, no income tax will be payable on annual earnings up to ₹12 lakh. "A tax rebate is being provided in addition to the benefit of slab rate reductions, ensuring that individuals with income up to ₹12 lakh pay no tax," she said in Parliament.

The announcement was met with strong approval from the treasury benches, with Prime Minister Modi leading the applause. Later, Modi described the budget as a "force multiplier," emphasizing its role in increasing citizens' savings and making them active participants in development. "This budget focuses on filling the pockets of the people rather than just the government treasury," he said in a video address.

Rahul Gandhi slams UP govt over woman's brutal murder



TPN Correspondent | Muzaffarnagar

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi strongly criticized the Uttar Pradesh government over the brutal murder of a 22-year-old Dalit woman in Ayodhya, calling it "heartbreaking and deeply shameful." He accused the BJP-led administration of neglecting the family's pleas and failing to act in time. The woman's unclothed body was found in a canal on Saturday morning. Her family claimed her eyes were violently removed, her body had broken bones, and authorities suspect she was gangraped. They alleged that despite filing a missing complaint on Friday, the police did not actively search for her.

Rahul Gandhi, in a post on X, said, "Had the administration paid attention to the family's pleas, which had been echoing for three days, her life might have been saved." He demanded the harshest punishment for the culprits and strict action against negligent police officials. "Please, for once, do not harass the victim's family, as is often the case. The daughters of this country and the entire Dalit community are looking to you for justice," he added.

Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav also condemned the crime and blamed the administration. He demanded strict action against the culprits and negligent police officers, along with ₹1 crore compensation for the victim's family.

Faizabad SP MP Awadhesh Prasad visited the family and expressed deep sorrow over the incident. Speaking to reporters, he said, "I will raise this issue in Parliament, and if justice is not served, I will resign."

As outrage grows, opposition leaders continue to question the Yogi Adityanath-led government's handling of the case.

"Sorry to Spoil Udda Assam Party" Says CM Himanta Sarma as Poppy Farms Worth ₹27 Crore Destroyed

TPN Correspondent | Guwahati

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Sunday announced that over 56 acres of illegal poppy cultivation, valued at more than ₹27 crore, were destroyed in Goalpara district as part of the state's intensified crackdown on drug-related activities. Taking to X, Sarma mocked those involved in the illicit trade, stating, "Dear Local Pablo Escobars, sorry to spoil your planned Udda Assam party! Because @Goalpara_Police destroyed 170 Bighas of poppy cultivation in the Char areas worth ₹27.20 crore in January." The Chief Minister also shared a video of a tractor uprooting the vast poppy fields under heavy police supervision. "So next time you

think of drugs, think of @assampolice first. #AssamAgainstDrugs," he added, reinforcing his government's commitment to eradicating drug networks in the state. Assam has been conducting extensive anti-drug operations in recent years, targeting illegal cultivation and trafficking networks. The latest action in Goalpara is part of a broader effort to curb the production and distribution of narcotics. Officials have warned of strict action against those involved in drug-related



offenses, with continued surveillance and enforcement measures in place.

Basant Panchami Snan

Officials on High Alert for Zero-Error Event at Maha Kumbh



TPN Correspondent | Prayagraj

Following the tragic stampede during the Mauni Amavasya Snan on January 29, which resulted in at least 30 deaths and left 60 injured, the Uttar Pradesh government has intensified preparations for the upcoming Basant Panchami Snan on February 3 at Maha Kumbh 2025. Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has directed officials to ensure a “zero-error” event, with strict crowd control measures in place.

The number of devotees continues to rise, with nearly 90 lakh people having taken a dip in the Ganga and Sangam by Sunday noon. Since January 13, Maha Kumbh has witnessed participation from over 33.61 crore pilgrims.

Security and Administrative Measures

To manage the massive influx of devotees, the state government has deployed two senior IAS officers, Ashish Goyal and Bhanu Chandra Goswami, who were instrumental in the 2019 Ardh Kumbh. They are working alongside Mela Adhikari Vijay Kiran Anand to oversee crowd control and coordination efforts.

Additional Director General of Police (ADG) Bhanu Bhaskar is monitoring security arrangements, including real-time surveillance at the Integrated Command and Control Centre (ICCC). On Sunday, he reviewed major intersections and ghats through large screens and issued instructions via loudspeakers to ensure smooth movement. He urged devotees to vacate the ghats promptly after bathing and avoid

eating or drinking near the riverbanks. The police force has been instructed to prevent overcrowding and facilitate a steady flow of pilgrims. Meanwhile, Mahant Ravindra Puri, president of the All India Akhada Parishad, appealed to devotees to spread out across the five-kilometer stretch of Prayagraj, assuring them that any dip between Phaphamau and Arail holds the same spiritual significance as bathing at the Sangam.

Amrit Snan: The Sacred Ritual

The Amrit Snan is considered the most sacred ritual of the Maha Kumbh, attracting millions of devotees who believe that bathing in the Triveni Sangam during this celestial period cleanses sins and leads to salvation. The event is marked by grand processions of saints, including the revered Naga sadhus.

The Amrit Snan dates are determined by the astrological alignments of the Sun, Moon, and Jupiter, believed to enhance the spiritual energy of the holy rivers. The first two Amrit Snans took place on January 14 (Makar Sankranti) and January 29 (Mauni Amavasya), with the next set for February 3.

PM Modi's Visit to Maha Kumbh

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is scheduled to visit Maha Kumbh Nagar on February 5. His visit is expected to bring further attention to the grand religious gathering, which remains a significant event in India's cultural and spiritual landscape.

FIR against Sonia Gandhi for 'poor thing' remark on President



TPN Correspondent | Muzaffarpur

A complaint has been filed before the Muzaffarpur Chief Judicial Magistrate's (CJM) court seeking an FIR against Congress parliamentary party chairperson Sonia Gandhi for her 'poor thing' remark on President Droupadi Murmu. The complaint, lodged by lawyer Sudhir Ojha, also names Congress MPs Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra as co-accused.

Ojha alleged that Sonia Gandhi's remark disrespected the highest constitutional authority. “Her comment is an insult to the President. A case should be registered under the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita,” he told reporters. The court has sched-

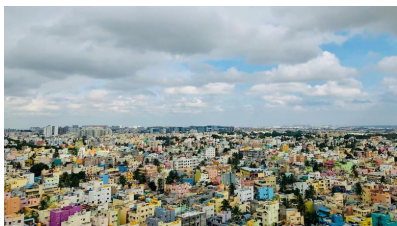
uled a hearing on February 10.

On January 31, after President Murmu's joint address to Parliament, Sonia Gandhi remarked, “The President was getting very tired by the end... she could hardly speak, poor thing.” Rahul Gandhi later described the speech as ‘boring’ and ‘repetitive,’ while Priyanka Gandhi Vadra defended their mother.

The Rashtrapati Bhavan strongly objected to the remarks, calling them ‘unacceptable.’ “Certain comments by Congress leaders hurt the dignity of the high office and are unacceptable,” it said in a statement, clarifying that President Murmu was not tired.

Indian Startups Raise \$240 Million in a Week

Bengaluru Tops Funding Deals



TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

Indian startups raised a total of \$240.85 million this week across 30 deals, with Bengaluru emerging as the top city for funding, securing 12 deals. It was followed by Delhi-NCR, Mumbai, Chennai, and Patna, according to an Entracker report. Among sectors, e-commerce startups led with five investment deals, while SaaS and fintech firms followed closely with three each. Foodtech, healthtech, and manufacturing startups also saw investor interest.

In the growth-stage category, edtech startup Leap secured \$65 million in a Series E round led by Apis Partners. B2B seafood startup Captain Fresh raised \$30 million in its pre-IPO round, while SaaS IT management firm SuperOps received \$25 million. A supply chain startup also secured \$12 million in Series C

funding from Evolve India and Mirabilis Investment Trust. Among early-stage startups, 20 companies collectively raised \$107.15 million. B2B SaaS firm Atomicwork led with a \$25 million Series A round, while other investments went to co-working firm Innov8, senior healthcare provider Geri Care, telecom company Astrome Technologies, and mobility startup VoltUp. D2C handloom clothing brand Dressfolk and road safety products manufacturer PrismoLine also raised funds but did not disclose the amounts. Weekly funding remained stable but dipped 3.22% from the previous week's \$248.87 million. Over the last eight weeks, the average weekly funding stood at \$349.53 million across 26 deals.

Additionally, several key acquisitions took place. Raise Financials acquired financial media startup Filter Coffee, logistics firm Shadowfax took over CriticaLog, and Nazara-owned NODWIN Gaming expanded by acquiring esports startup StarLadder. Digital navigation company MapmyIndia also acquired a stake in AI startup SimDaaS.

Swara Bhaskar's X Account Reactivated After Suspension

TPN Correspondent | Mumbai

Actor and political commentator Swara Bhaskar's X profile was reactivated on Sunday after being suspended over alleged copyright violations related to two images. Bhaskar had criticized the suspension, calling it an attempt to silence her, and urged the platform to reconsider its decision.

Following her return to X, Bhaskar posted, “AND WE ARE BACK LIKE A BAD PENNY Thank you everyone who helped! Her comeback sparked mixed reactions, with some netizens mocking her return while others expressed support. One user quipped, “I wish my Twitter account meant this much to me. If someone hacked it and I got it back, I'd be celebrating at 1 AM just like this.” Another wrote, “Hey Swara, your X account suspension made breaking news in mainstream media. I even got a notification on Bing! Glad you're back!”

Why Was Swara Bhaskar's X Account Suspended?

Bhaskar's account was suspended due to alleged copyright violations involving two specific images. Sharing her frustra-



tion on Instagram, she called the action “ridiculous and untenable.”

One of the flagged images featured a popular protest slogan in Hindi: “Gandhi, we are ashamed; your killers are still alive.” The other was a photo of her child waving the Indian flag on Republic Day, with the child's face concealed. Bhaskar questioned how these posts could violate

copyright laws and suggested that mass reporting led to her suspension.

She accused X of enabling targeted harassment, stating, “If these tweets have been mass reported, it is an effort to harass me and suppress my freedom of speech.” Her account was later reinstated, though X has not issued an official statement on the matter.

Five Nepalese Killed as SUV Overtakes to Avoid Stunt Biker in Bihar

TPN Correspondent | Muzaffarpur

Five Nepal nationals lost their lives in a tragic road accident in Bihar's Muzaffarpur district on Saturday after their speeding SUV overturned while trying to avoid a biker performing stunts. The victims were returning from Prayagraj after attending the Maha Kumbh when the vehicle hit a divider and flipped multiple times on the Madhubani four-lane bypass.

According to officials, the SUV overturned five times due to the impact, leaving five passengers dead on the spot and four others critically injured. The deceased have been identified as Archana Thakur, Indu Devi, Mantarni Devi, Bal Krishna Jha, and the driver. The injured—Manohar Thakur, Srishti Thakur, Kamni Jha, and Devtaran Devi—are currently undergoing treatment at Shri Krishna Memorial Medical College (SKMCH), where their condition remains critical. Eyewitnesses described a chaotic scene,



with screams of distress filling the air as bystanders rushed to help. Some men were reportedly performing stunts on a bike when the SUV, in an attempt to avoid hitting them, swerved into the divider. The bikers immediately fled the scene.

Officials noted that the airbags of the vehicle did not open, contributing to the severity of the injuries. “Locals helped rescue the injured and transport them to the hospital. We are coordinating with Nepalese authorities and trying to contact the victims' families,” a senior official stated.

Six Dead, Several Missing As Vehicle Falls Into Canal in Haryana

TPN Correspondent, Fatehabad

At least six people died, two were injured, and six others remain missing after a vehicle carrying 14 passengers plunged into a canal in Haryana's Fatehabad late on Friday night. The victims were returning from a wedding in Punjab's Fazilka when the accident occurred.

Sub-Divisional Magistrate Jagdish Chandra confirmed that six bodies had been recovered, while rescue teams were still searching for the missing individuals. Two survivors have been hospitalized. Among the deceased are a 1.5-month-old infant and a 10-year-old girl. Officials stated that the water level in the canal was lowered to aid the search efforts, with the NDRF and SDRF teams leading the rescue operation.

Authorities are now considering permanent barricades around the canal to prevent such accidents. The search operation for the missing individuals is ongoing.

Budget Allocates Rs 123.75 Crore for Supreme Court Building Expansion

TPN Correspondent, New Delhi

The Union Budget for 2025-26 has allocated Rs 123.75 crore for the expansion of the Supreme Court building, marking a significant increase from the Rs 46.63 crore earmarked for the project in the previous fiscal year.

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced the allocation during her budget speech on Saturday, stat-

ing that the provision is for the implementation of the central sector project aimed at expanding the Supreme Court's infrastructure.

The Supreme Court has been undergoing phased expansions to accommodate the increasing workload and enhance facilities for legal proceedings. The fresh allocation is expected to accelerate ongoing construction and modernization efforts.

Musk's DOGE Team Gains Access to US Govt's Payment System

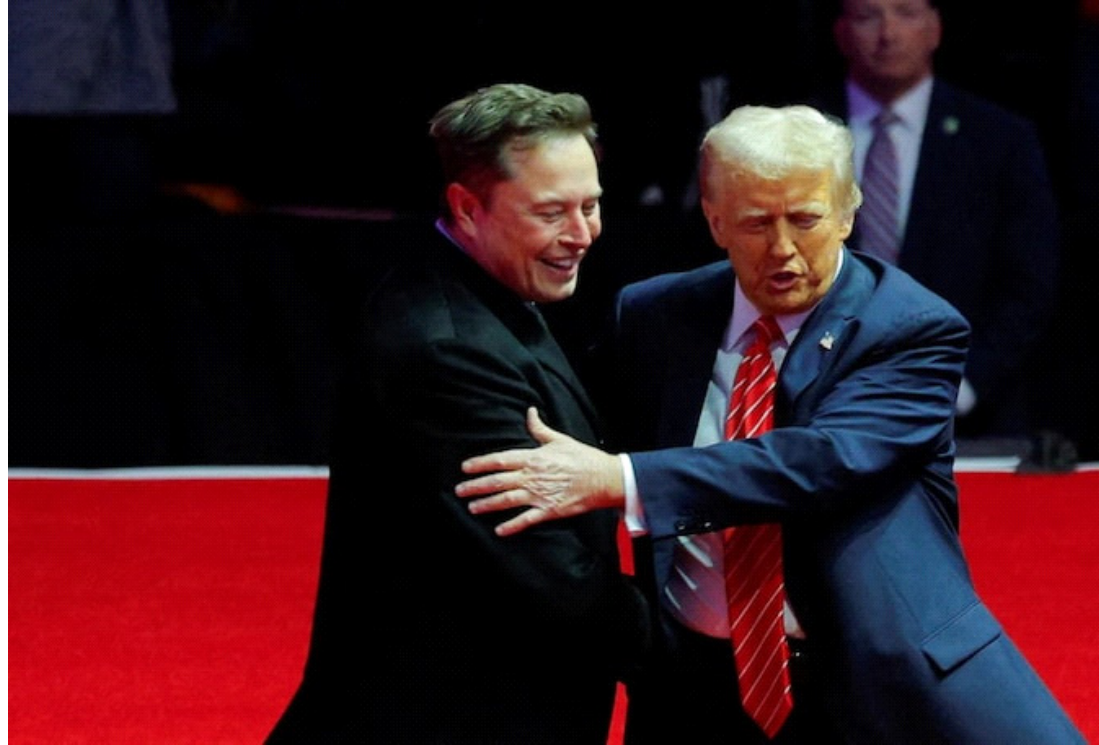
TPN Correspondent | Washington, D.C.

Elon Musk's Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE), an advisory group under the Trump administration, has reportedly gained access to the federal payment system, allowing it to monitor and potentially limit government spending. The New York Times, citing sources familiar with the matter, reported that the move aligns with President Donald Trump's directive for Musk and his team to implement spending cuts.

The development follows the resignation of David Lebryk, a top-ranking Treasury Department official, after a reported clash with Musk's allies over payment system access. According to the report, Musk's team members were made Treasury employees, cleared background checks, and obtained security clearances, though they currently lack operational control and have not blocked any government payments.

Musk claimed on X that his team discovered Treasury payment officers were instructed to approve payments "even to known fraudulent or terrorist groups," alleging that such approvals were never denied in the past.

Trump and Musk have previously suggested that cutting federal spending could save up to \$2 trillion. Initially, Trump had also appointed entrepreneur Vivek Ramaswamy to co-lead DOGE with Musk, but Ramaswamy later opted to run for gover-



nor of Ohio instead. Since assuming office on January 20, Trump has dismissed or sidelined hundreds of civil servants in an effort to downsize the federal workforce. Musk Aides Restrict Access to Federal Data Systems Meanwhile, Musk's aides overseeing the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) have reportedly locked career civil servants out of critical data systems containing the

personal information of millions of federal employees, according to a Reuters report. The restricted access includes a vast database known as Enterprise Human Resources Integration, which holds sensitive details such as Social Security numbers, home addresses, pay grades, and employment history. "There is no visibility into what they are doing with the systems," an official was quoted as saying, raising cybersecurity and oversight concerns.

Eyal Zamir Appointed as Israel's New Army Chief



TPN Correspondent | Jerusalem

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has appointed retired Major General Eyal Zamir as the new Chief of Staff of the Israel Defense Forces (IDF). Zamir replaces Lieutenant General Herzi Halevi, who resigned last month, taking responsibility for the military's failure to prevent the Hamas attack on October 7, 2023. A statement from Netanyahu's office confirmed the appointment, which was finalized in consultation with Defence Minister Israel Katz. Zamir, 59, previously served as the deputy chief of staff until 2021 and was the head of the army's Southern Command, overseeing security operations related to the Gaza Strip. He had been serving as the defence ministry's director general since 2023.

Halevi stepped down on January 21, just two days after a ceasefire took effect in Gaza, which led to the release of 18 hostages by Hamas and Islamic Jihad. In his resignation letter, he cited accountability for the military's failure but also highlighted the IDF's recent operational successes. Shortly after Halevi's resignation, Major General Yaron Finkelman, the wartime head of Southern Command, also stepped down, further shaking the Israeli military leadership. Zamir's past experience includes leading efforts to dismantle Hamas's tunnel networks that extended into Israeli territory. His appointment comes at a critical time as Israel continues its military operations in Gaza and faces security challenges on multiple fronts.

Ukraine Unveils Long-Range Drone With 2,000 Km Range, 250 Kg Payload



TPN Correspondent | Kyiv

Ukraine has introduced a new long-range unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) capable of flying up to 2,000 km, carrying a 250-kg bomb, and returning to base. The latest addition to Ukraine's drone arsenal could be the most potent reusable UAV deployed in the ongoing war with Russia, significantly enhancing Kyiv's ability to strike deep inside enemy territory.

The Ukrainian military's unmanned systems branch confirmed the development on Friday, calling it a "game-changing" innovation for the battlefield. Since the start of Russia's full-scale invasion three years ago, Ukraine has been developing drones capable of striking targets over vast distances. Recent attacks on Russian sites more than 1,600 km away hinted at the emergence of a reusable bomber drone, which was officially acknowledged with this announcement.

Unlike traditional one-way strike drones, this new UAV can drop its payload and return to base, enabling multiple missions until it is destroyed or rendered inoperable. This capability could allow Ukraine to sustain a higher frequency of deep strikes against Russian military infrastructure, including bomber bases and oil facilities.

Recent Ukrainian drone attacks have disrupted Russia's oil production and increased the cost of its bombing campaigns against Ukrainian cities. The Volgograd refinery, one of Russia's largest, was recently targeted by Ukrainian drones. Kyiv also claimed responsibility for strikes on a Lukoil refinery in the Nizhny Novgorod region and another refinery in Ryazan, southeast of Moscow, which was forced to halt operations.

While the exact airframe of Ukraine's new drone remains unclear, photographic evidence suggests it may be based on a modified civilian sport plane. Ukrainian forces have previously converted Aeroprakt A-22 aircraft into remotely piloted one-way attack drones, but this new UAV represents a shift toward a more advanced, reusable design.

One major challenge for reusable long-range drones is landing. While small UAVs can deploy parachutes, larger ones require a proper landing system. Advanced militaries integrate sophisticated landing technologies, but it is uncertain whether Ukraine has equipped its strike drones with similar capabilities, given their relatively low cost, estimated at a few hundred thousand dollars per unit.

As Ukraine continues its campaign targeting Russian industrial and energy assets, Moscow has intensified retaliatory strikes. On Thursday, a Russian drone attack on an apartment block in Sumy, eastern Ukraine, killed nine people, including three elderly couples.

Trudeau Slams Trump's Tariffs, Warns of Fallout in US-Canada Trade

TPN Correspondent, Ottawa

Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau has hit back at US President Donald Trump's sweeping 25% tariffs on Canadian imports, calling them an unjustified attack on one of America's closest allies. Speaking at a press conference in Ottawa, Trudeau reminded Americans of Canada's longstanding support in critical moments—from military conflicts to disaster relief efforts.

"From the beaches of Normandy to the mountains of the Korean peninsula, from the fields of Flanders to the streets of Kandahar, we have fought and died alongside you during your darkest hours," Trudeau said. "We've built the most successful economic, military, and security partnership the world has ever seen."

Trudeau acknowledged past tensions between the two nations but emphasized that Canada had always worked through its differences with the US. He urged Trump to rethink his approach, stating, "If President Trump wants to usher in a new golden age for the United States, the better path is to partner with Canada, not to punish us."

The tariffs, which take effect on Tuesday, will apply to nearly all Canadian exports to the US, with energy resources facing a slightly reduced 10% levy. In response, Canada is imposing 25% tariffs on CAD



155 billion (\$106 billion) worth of American goods, starting with CAD 30 billion worth of products in the first phase. The remaining tariffs will be implemented in three weeks.

"We're certainly not looking to escalate. But we will stand up for Canada, for Canadians, for Canadian jobs," Trudeau asserted. He warned that the trade conflict would impact not only Canadians but also American businesses and consumers, with potential shutdowns of auto manufacturing plants and increased costs for essential goods like food and gas.

Trump, citing concerns over illegal im-

migration and drug trafficking, defended the tariffs as necessary for protecting American interests. However, with the US-Canada border facilitating over \$2.5 billion in trade daily, the economic repercussions of the escalating tensions could be severe. In 2023 alone, Canada exported nearly CAD 550 billion worth of goods and services to the US, with energy and manufacturing making up a significant portion.

Trudeau stressed that these measures threaten to disrupt a critical economic relationship and urged the US to reconsider its stance before further damage is done.

Los Angeles Wildfires Fully Contained After Weeks of Destruction

TPN Correspondent, Los Angeles

Firefighters have fully contained the two massive wildfires that ravaged Los Angeles County for more than three weeks, killing about 30 people and displacing thousands. The Palisades and Eaton fires, which started on January 7, destroyed over 10,000 homes and burned more than 37,000 acres, making them the most destructive in the city's history.

Cal Fire, California's firefighting agency, confirmed on Friday that both fires were 100% contained, meaning their perimeters were fully controlled. While evacuation orders had already been lifted, officials warned of extensive rebuilding efforts ahead.

Los Angeles Mayor Karen Bass assured affected residents that recovery efforts were underway. "Our priority is to help people return home safely and start rebuilding," she stated. Meanwhile, police chief Jim McDonnell announced increased security in affected areas to prevent potential looting.

The fires, fueled by prolonged drought and strong Santa Ana winds, were worsened by climate change, according to a recent study. Researchers found that global warming made such extreme conditions 35% more likely, as reduced rainfall and dry vegetation set the stage for rapid fire spread.

The economic impact of the disaster is expected to be severe, with AccuWeather estimating losses between \$250 billion and \$275 billion. Authorities continue to investigate the exact cause of the blazes while focusing on recovery efforts for the thousands affected.

Ken Martin Elected DNC Chair, Vows to Rebuild Democratic Party

TPN Correspondent
Washington, D.C.

In a bid to recover from a significant electoral defeat, the Democratic National Committee (DNC) on Saturday elected Ken Martin, the longtime leader of the Minnesota Democratic Party, as its new chair. Martin will now be responsible for steering the party out of its crisis following its loss to Donald Trump in the 2024 presidential election, which also saw Democrats fail to secure control of either the House or Senate.

The Democratic Party has been struggling to counter Trump's sweeping executive actions, many of which overturned key policies implemented by former President Joe Biden. Martin, a veteran political strategist, wasted no time in launching an attack on Trump's proposed tariffs on Mexico, Canada, and China, arguing that they would ultimately hurt working-class Americans.

"Trump isn't going to make corporate billionaires pay for these tariffs—working families and small businesses will," Martin said in a statement. "He's using American workers as pawns in his petty political games."

Martin has vowed to restore and expand the Democratic Party's national infrastructure, ensuring it is equipped to contest elections across the country. He won the DNC chairmanship after defeating Wisconsin Democratic Chair Ben Wikler on the first ballot.

UN Must Be Fit for Purpose

Member States Must Commit to Security Council Reform



TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

As the United Nations marks its 80th anniversary this year, UN General Assembly President Philemon Yang has emphasized the need for the global body to adapt to modern geopolitical realities. Yang called on all member states to engage actively in reform efforts, particularly in restructuring the UN Security Council.

Yang, who will visit India from February 4 to 8 on his first official trip as UNGA President, underscored the urgency of making the UN more effective in tackling global challenges. "It is imperative for the United Nations to be fit for purpose, to better address the many pressing issues of global concern," he stated in an interview.

Security Council Reform a Key Priority

Acknowledging long-standing calls for reform, Yang pointed out that the Security Council remains a major focus. "The Pact for the Future provides us with political momentum to advance intergovernmental negotiations. We must address the historical injustice against Africa and improve representation for underrepresented regions," he said. India has been a vocal advocate for Security Council reform, arguing that the body does not reflect current geopolitical realities. India last held a non-permanent seat in 2021-22 and continues to push for a permanent position.

Ensuring Implementation of the Pact for the Future

Yang stressed that the 80th anniversary of the UN is a critical moment to evaluate achievements and identify areas requiring urgent action. He noted that the Pact for the Future, adopted at the 2024 Summit of the Future, offers a blueprint for a more responsive global system. "Nations and leaders must ensure that commitments in the Pact translate into tangible, transformative outcomes," he said, urging collaboration among member states, regional organizations, and the private sector to achieve Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

India's Strengthening Ties with Africa

Yang praised India's deepening engagement with Africa in trade, investment, security, and sustainable development. "India champions Africa's voice in global forums, advocating for reforms that reflect African interests," he noted, highlighting India's role in securing full G20 membership for the African Union.

Citing India's contributions, he mentioned the establishment of Africur Pharmaceuticals in Cameroon and increased Indian investments in African infrastructure and energy sectors. "India's outreach to Africa reflects a growing recognition of the continent's potential and a commitment to mutually beneficial partnerships," he added.

Rishi Sunak Visits Mumbai, Plays Cricket at Parsee Gymkhana



TPN Correspondent | Mumbai

Former British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak visited Mumbai on Sunday and took part in a game of tennis ball cricket at the Parsee Gymkhana. He expressed his delight at the experience, stating that no trip to Mumbai is complete without a game of cricket.

"Great to be with all of you at the Parsee Gymkhana Club at its anniversary celebrations. What an extraordinary achievement. So much history and so much exciting stuff to come. I managed not to get out too

many times this morning," Sunak told reporters.

Sharing his experience on X, Sunak wrote, "No trip to Mumbai is complete without a game of tennis ball cricket." He also mentioned that he looked forward to more such visits in the future.

The historic Parsee Gymkhana was founded on February 25, 1885, with Sir Jamsetjee Jejeebhoy as its first president and Jamsetjee Tata as chairman. The club moved to its current location along Marine Drive in 1887.

Pak Army Chief Visits Balochistan Amid Deadly Clashes



TPN Correspondent | Islamabad

Pakistan's Chief of Army Staff Gen Syed Asim Munir visited Balochistan on Saturday following intense clashes that left 18 security personnel and 23 militants dead in the last 24 hours. The visit comes as the province continues to witness rising violence from Baloch extremist groups.

Gen Munir was briefed on the security situation alongside senior intelligence and security officials, according to the Associated Press of Pakistan. Accompanied by Balochistan Chief Minister Sarfraz Bugti and Governor Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail, he attended the funeral of the slain soldiers and visited the injured at Combined Military Hospital in Quetta.

Reaffirming the army's commitment to combating terrorism, Gen Munir stated, "No matter what these so-called 'frenemies' may do, you will surely be defeated by the resilience of our

proud nation and its armed forces." He also praised the efforts of the army, Frontier Corps, and law enforcement agencies in fighting militants.

The military reported that 23 terrorists were killed in separate operations across Balochistan. In Harnai district, 11 militants were neutralized on Saturday, while a Friday night operation in Kalat's Mangocher area eliminated 12 terrorists. The army vowed to continue operations until all perpetrators are brought to justice. Balochistan, Pakistan's largest yet least developed province, has been a hotspot for separatist violence. The security situation has worsened since the banned Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) ended its ceasefire with the government, contributing to a surge in deadly attacks. In 2024 alone, Pakistan lost 685 security personnel in 444 terror incidents, making it the deadliest year in a decade.

Jaishankar Slams AAP Govt, Says Ashamed To Admit Delhi Lacks Basic Amenities

TPN Correspondent, New Delhi

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar launched a sharp attack on the Aam Aadmi Party-led Delhi government, accusing it of failing to provide essential services to residents. Addressing an event in the capital, he said he feels "ashamed" to admit abroad that people in Delhi still lack basic amenities under central welfare schemes. Speaking at an interaction with the South Indian community on 'Viksit Delhi-Viksit Bharat,' Jaishankar stated that despite being the national capital, Delhi lags in housing, gas cylinders, piped water under Jal Jeevan Mission, and healthcare under Ayushman Bharat. He blamed the Delhi government for not ensuring these benefits and urged voters to bring change in the upcoming as-

sembly polls on February 5.

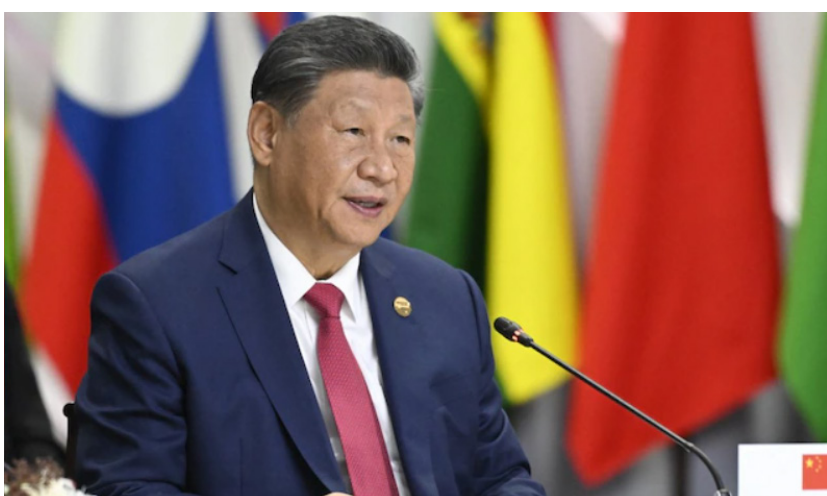
"It is unfortunate that in the last 10 years, Delhi has been left behind. If the government does not give you your rights, then on February 5, you should think about changing it," he said. Jaishankar also praised Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership, highlighting that India continues to maintain a six to seven percent economic growth rate despite global slowdowns.

With less than a week left for the elections, AAP MP Sanjay Singh dismissed BJP's criticism, asserting that the Arvind Kejriwal-led government will return with an absolute majority, winning over 60 of the 70 assembly seats.

The Delhi Assembly elections will take place on February 5, with counting scheduled for February 8.



China Constructs Massive Military Command Center



TPN Correspondent | Beijing

China is building a massive new military command center near Beijing, reportedly 10 times the size of the Pentagon, according to a Financial Times report citing US intelligence officials. Dubbed "Beijing Military City," the high-security facility is expected to serve as a fortified command hub for top Chinese leaders, including President Xi Jinping, in the event of conflict, including nuclear war.

Construction began in mid-2024, with satellite images showing extensive excavation across the 1,500-acre site, located 30 km

southwest of Beijing. The facility is believed to feature large buildings and hardened underground bunkers designed to protect senior Politburo officials. A Chinese military researcher described it as a "doomsday bunker" supporting Xi's ambitions to strengthen China's military capabilities.

Despite its scale, China has maintained secrecy over the project. The Chinese embassy in Washington claimed to have no details, while access to the site remains restricted. Signs prohibiting drone flights and photography have been placed around the

perimeter. Security personnel have reportedly turned away visitors and declined to comment on the facility.

The new command center is expected to complement China's existing military headquarters in the Western Hills, northeast of the site. Built during the Cold War, the Western Hills command has long served as the country's central military nerve center.

Former CIA China analyst Dennis Wilder noted that the new facility, if confirmed, would indicate China's ambitions to not only build a world-class conventional force but also advance its nuclear warfighting capabilities. The Pentagon has previously warned that China is rapidly expanding its nuclear arsenal, projecting that Beijing could possess 1,500 operable nuclear warheads by 2035, reaching parity with the United States.

The Pentagon, in comparison, serves as the headquarters of the US Department of Defense in Arlington, Virginia. It is one of the world's largest office buildings and a key center of Washington's military strategy.

Wanted Gangster Joginder Gyong Deported From Philippines to Delhi

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

Notorious gangster Joginder Gyong, wanted in multiple criminal cases across India, was deported from the Philippines to Delhi on Sunday, the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) confirmed. He was handed over to Delhi Police upon landing at the Indra Gandhi International Airport.

Gyong was wanted by Haryana Police in a case of criminal conspiracy and murder registered in Panipat. The CBI had secured an Interpol Red Notice against him on October 25, 2024, which led to his tracking and deportation. Officials stated that he was deported via Bangkok following India's request.

According to the CBI, Gyong was involved in the murder of a person he suspected of revealing the whereabouts of his gangster brother, Surender Gyong, who was later killed in a police encounter. He allegedly sought revenge by planning and executing the murder.

Gyong is also linked to criminal activities in Delhi and Punjab, including cases of rob-



bery, murder, extortion, and kidnapping for ransom. He was earlier convicted to life imprisonment in Haryana for illegal firearms possession but fled abroad while on parole after committing the Panipat murder in December 2017.

Delhi Police said he was apprehended by the Philippines Bureau of Immigration (PBI) from Bacolod City based on India's request. PBI officials identified him as an "Indian-Nepalese national" with alleged links to a separatist terror network. Authorities are now preparing further legal action against him.

Donald Trump Hits China With Fresh Tariffs, Beijing Vows Retaliation

TPN Correspondent

Former U.S. President Donald Trump announced on Saturday that Chinese exports to the United States will be subjected to an additional 10 percent tariff, escalating trade tensions between the world's two largest economies. The decision, aimed at countering China's trade practices and its role in America's fentanyl crisis, has drawn a sharp response from Beijing. China swiftly condemned the move on Sunday, declaring its "firm opposition" and warning of "corresponding counter-measures" to protect its interests.

The Scale of Trade at Stake

Trade between the U.S. and China remains substantial, surpassing \$530 billion in the first 11 months of 2024, according to Washington. Chinese exports to the U.S. alone accounted for over \$400 billion, second only to Mexico.

China plays a crucial role in supplying goods ranging from electronics to textiles, but the trade imbalance—standing at \$270.4 billion last year—continues to be a major concern in Washington. The U.S. has long accused China of unfair industrial subsidies, market restrictions, and mistreatment of American companies operating in its territory.

Trump's Trade War Legacy

During his first term, Trump aggressively imposed tariffs on hundreds of billions of dollars' worth of Chinese goods, sparking a trade war. China retaliated, particularly targeting U.S. agricultural exports. The conflict led to a "phase one" trade deal, where China pledged to purchase \$200 billion in U.S. goods, including \$32 billion in agricultural products. However, analysts note that China only



fulfilled 58 percent of its commitments under the agreement, failing to meet pre-trade war import levels.

Biden's Approach and Continued Restrictions

Trump's successor, Joe Biden, did not roll back his predecessor's tariffs but took a more strategic approach. His administration focused on curbing China's access to advanced U.S. technology, particularly in semiconductors, and imposed tariffs on \$18 billion worth of Chinese imports last year. This included quadrupling duties on electric vehicles to 100 percent and doubling semiconductor tariffs to 50 percent, targeting China's dominance in green energy and battery production.

Beijing's Response and Next Steps

Trump's latest tariff escalation signals

a serious move rather than a mere negotiation tactic. Additionally, he has linked tariff policies to the fate of TikTok, warning of possible action if the Chinese-owned app is not sold.

China has pledged strong countermeasures, with the commerce ministry confirming plans to take the issue to the World Trade Organization. While a WTO ruling could take time, China's foreign ministry has hinted at more immediate retaliation, warning that the new tariffs could impact future U.S.-China cooperation on drug control.

This raises concerns over counternarcotics efforts, especially regarding fentanyl precursor regulation, which had seen renewed engagement after Biden's 2023 meeting with Chinese President Xi Jinping in San Francisco. With both sides refusing to back down, the U.S.-China trade conflict appears set for another heated chapter.



Government Opens Nuclear Power Sector for Private Participation

TPN Correspondent, New Delhi

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced a significant policy shift in the Union Budget 2025-26 by proposing to open the nuclear power sector to private players. She also unveiled a Rs 20,000 crore Nuclear Energy Mission aimed at advancing research and development in the field, with a target to establish five small modular reactors (SMRs) by 2033.

Sitharaman emphasized that producing at least 100 GW of nuclear power by 2047 was crucial for India's energy transition. To facilitate private sector involvement, amendments to the Atomic Energy Act and the Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage Act will be introduced. The initiative marks a historic step in reforming India's nuclear industry, which has traditionally been restricted to state-controlled operations.

India currently generates 8.1 GW of nuclear power through 24 operational atomic power plants and aims to increase this capacity to 20 GW by 2032. The Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited (NPCIL), which currently holds a monopoly over nuclear power generation, has formed joint ventures with National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) and Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) to expand nuclear energy projects. However, private sector investment has remained absent due to legislative restrictions.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi hailed the decision as a "historic reform" that would enable nuclear energy to play a more significant role in India's development. Former Atomic Energy Commission chairman Anil Kakodkar welcomed the move, stating that a targeted approach was essential to achieving the vision of "Viksit Bharat." Kakodkar, who was instrumental in negotiating India's civil nuclear agreement with the United States, stressed that generating 100 GW of nuclear power by 2047 was critical to meeting India's net-zero emission commitments.

Union Science and Technology Minister Jitendra Singh had earlier highlighted nuclear energy's potential in securing long-term sustainable energy solutions. He stated that the government's nuclear expansion plan aims to increase installed capacity from 8,180 MW to 22,480 MW by 2031-32. Singh also pointed out that nuclear power serves as a reliable 24x7 source of clean electricity, crucial for India's energy security.

The NPCIL had previously invited private sector proposals to establish 220 MW Bharat Small Reactors as a replacement for coal-fired captive power plants in energy-intensive industries such as steel, aluminum, copper, and cement. Small Modular Reactors (SMRs), which are being developed globally, offer a scalable and cost-effective nuclear power solution. According to the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), more than 80 SMR designs are in various stages of development worldwide, with four advanced-stage SMRs under construction in Argentina, China, and Russia.

With these policy changes, India is set to embark on a new era in nuclear energy, leveraging private sector expertise to accelerate progress toward a cleaner and more sustainable power infrastructure.

Extreme Weather Events Fueling Food Inflation in India

The latest Economic Survey tabled in Parliament on Friday highlighted that frequent extreme weather events in India have significantly contributed to rising food inflation, particularly in horticultural commodities. The report pointed out that while global food inflation has remained stable or declined over the past two years, India's food inflation rate has remained firm due to climate-related disruptions and supply chain challenges.

According to the survey, major horticulture-producing states faced severe crop damage in 2023-24 due to extreme weather conditions, leading to inflationary pressure on essential food items. The decline in onion and tomato production in the past two years was partly attributed to such climate anomalies in key producing regions.

Extreme Weather Impact on Food Prices Citing data from the Centre for Science and Environment (CSE), the survey revealed that the total crop area damaged in 2024 was higher than in the previous two years due to erratic weather patterns. The government also referred to India Meteorological Department (IMD)

data, which indicated a sharp rise in the frequency of extreme weather events, especially heatwaves.

Between 2022 and 2024, heatwaves occurred on 18% of days, compared to just 5% in 2020-21. This rise in extreme weather conditions has had a direct impact on agricultural output, disrupting the supply chain and pushing up food prices.

"Over the past two years, India's food inflation rate has diverged from global trends. This can be attributed to supply chain disruptions exacerbated by extreme weather events and a reduced harvest of key food items," the Economic Survey stated.

Government's Response and Future Measures

The Economic Survey acknowledged that external shocks such as geopolitical conflicts and erratic weather patterns have caused price fluctuations in food commodities. However, the impact of these disruptions has now started to subside, leading to increased variation in prices rather than continuous inflationary pressure.

To ensure long-term price stability, the

report emphasized the need for proactive measures, including:

- **Developing climate-resilient crops to withstand extreme weather conditions.**
- **Strengthening data systems to closely monitor price trends and anticipate market fluctuations.**
- **Reducing crop damage through improved farming techniques and infrastructure.**
- **Minimizing post-harvest losses by enhancing storage and distribution systems.**

In a significant move, the government on Saturday announced a six-year mission to boost pulse production, aiming for self-sufficiency in three widely consumed varieties—tur, urad, and masoor. The initiative seeks to reduce India's dependence on imports while ensuring stable prices for pulses, a key component of the Indian diet.

With food inflation remaining a major concern, the government's focus is now on implementing climate-smart agricultural strategies to safeguard food security and stabilize market prices in the long run.

Over 90% of US Air Traffic Control Facilities Understaffed

TPN Correspondent, New Delhi

A new report has revealed that over 90% of air traffic control facilities in the United States are facing severe staff shortages, raising concerns about aviation safety. The issue came into focus days after a passenger jet and a military helicopter collided in Washington DC, killing all 67 people aboard.

According to The New York Times, 285 of the 313 air traffic control facilities in the US are operating below the Federal Aviation Administration's (FAA) recommended staffing levels. Among them, 73 facilities are critically understaffed, with at least a quarter of their workforce absent.

The issue gained attention after an American Airlines flight and a Black Hawk Army chopper collided near Reagan National Airport. At the time, only one air traffic controller was

managing helicopters and planes, a task usually requiring two individuals.

The US air travel system remains one of the safest globally, but persistent staff shortages and underinvestment in safety measures have increased close-call incidents. The shortage is particularly severe in New York, where two major facilities on Long Island operate with only 40% of required personnel. These facilities manage air traffic for some of the busiest US airports, including JFK, LaGuardia, and Newark, which handled 1.2 million flights last year.

FAA projections indicate that ongoing hiring and training efforts will still leave three-quarters of facilities below recommended staffing levels. Training a new air traffic controller takes over four years in some locations and nearly 16 months at Reagan National



Airport.

A CBS News report found that only 2% of air traffic control towers met the

2024 staffing targets for fully trained personnel. An analysis of 2023 data for nearly 200 airport towers revealed

that only 8% met the required staffing levels, even after considering trainees in the system.



Uncertainty Ends, Markets Set for Gains

The domestic stock markets are expected to move upward this week, breaking out of their recent range. With key economic events—such as the US Federal Reserve, European Central Bank, and Bank of Japan interest rate decisions—now concluded, and the Modi government having presented the Union Budget, uncertainty in the markets is easing. Moving forward, market trends may depend on geopolitical developments and the impact of Trump's proposed tariffs. Sectors like finance, defense, public sector enterprises, infrastructure, and agriculture are likely to rebound following the budget announcements. Last week, stocks in the realty, consumption, auto, tourism, and FMCG sectors performed well, while IT, pharma, media, and metal indices saw declines. Meanwhile, the India VIX Fear Index dropped by 15%, signaling reduced volatility.



Phoenix Mills

Currently available at attractive prices, Phoenix Mills shares offer a favorable risk-reward ratio despite weak recent results. The stock has shown relative strength, gaining 21% in the last six sessions. Closing at ₹1,764 last Saturday, investors should consider entering around ₹1,700 with a target of ₹1,950-₹2,000. A stop-loss at ₹1,650 is advised.

Kaveri Seeds

After hitting a lifetime high, Kaveri Seeds shares have corrected by 32% and are now gaining momentum after months of consolidation. Showing relative strength compared to Nifty, the stock is in an attractive zone. It closed at ₹965 last Saturday, and investors should consider entering at ₹940 with a target of ₹1,050. A stop-loss at ₹910 is recommended.



CarTrade



This stock has demonstrated strength

even in a weak market, rebounding with higher volumes after positive quarterly results. With stable performance post-IPO and strong EPS, net profit, and revenue growth, it remains promising. Closing at ₹1,766 last Saturday, investors should enter around ₹1,700 with a target of ₹1,950. A stop-loss at ₹1,660 is advised.

Emami Limited

The company's shares have rebounded following strong Q3 results. After falling 40% from its lifetime high, the stock has gained 17% in the last seven sessions. Closing at ₹625 last Saturday, investors should consider an entry at ₹610 with a target of ₹740. A stop-loss at ₹575 is essential.



Hero MotoCorp

Down 35% from its lifetime high, Hero MotoCorp shares have found support at the crucial ₹4,000 level and are showing a turnaround. The stock has been in profit for the last five sessions as quarterly results approach. Closing at ₹4,402 last Saturday, investors should enter at ₹4,375 with a target of ₹4,800. A stop-loss at ₹4,325 is recommended. With the

easing of economic uncertainties and favorable budgetary policies, analysts anticipate a positive trajectory for the markets in the coming weeks.



Income Tax Rebate Up to ₹12 Lakh: New Slabs Explained



TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

The Union Budget 2025 has brought a major relief for the middle class, with Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announcing that no income tax will

be payable for incomes up to ₹12 lakh under the new tax regime. However, the revised tax slabs still show applicable taxes for this range, leading to confusion among taxpayers.

New Income Tax Slabs (FY 2025-26)

Under this structure, the tax slabs indicate that individuals earning up to ₹12 lakh should pay tax. However, the government has introduced a rebate that cancels out the tax liability for these individuals.

Income Slab	Tax Rate
₹0 - ₹4 lakh	No Tax
₹4 lakh - ₹8 lakh	5%
₹8 lakh - ₹12 lakh	10%
₹12 lakh - ₹16 lakh	15%
₹16 lakh - ₹20 lakh	20%
₹20 lakh - ₹24 lakh	25%
Above ₹24 lakh	30%

How the Rebate Works

A person earning ₹12 lakh per year would have faced:

Income Slab	Tax Rate	Tax Amount
₹4 lakh - ₹8 lakh	5%	₹20,000
₹8 lakh - ₹12 lakh	10%	₹40,000
Total Tax Payable		₹60,000

But due to the rebate, this ₹60,000 gets eliminated, making the final tax liability zero for incomes up to ₹12 lakh.

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman clarified, "For taxpayers with income up to ₹12 lakh (excluding capital gains and special income), tax rebate is being provided, ensuring no tax is payable."

Tax on Higher Incomes

For individuals earning above ₹12 lakh, the rebate does not apply. Tax is calculated only on the income exceeding ₹12 lakh.

Example: If an individual earns ₹16 lakh, their tax liability will be

This structured reform is expected to ease the tax burden on middle-class taxpayers, leaving them with more disposable income. The Modi-led government aims to boost household consumption, savings, and investment while simplifying the tax process.

Income Slab	Tax Rate	Tax Amount
₹4 lakh - ₹8 lakh	5%	₹20,000
₹8 lakh - ₹12 lakh	10%	₹40,000
Total Tax Payable		₹60,000

Tata Power, Swiggy, Bharti Airtel Among Key Companies to Announce Q3 Earnings

Several major companies, including Tata Power, Swiggy, Bharti Airtel, Hero MotoCorp, Cochin Shipyard, Sula Vineyards, Torrent Power, and Info Edge India Ltd (Naukri), are set to announce their October-December quarter (Q3) results next week. The Indian stock market ended flat after investors reacted negatively to the Union Budget 2025 capex numbers, which fell short of expectations. The Nifty 50 index closed 0.11% lower at 23,482.15 points, down from 23,508.40 in the previous session. The BSE Sensex, however, saw a marginal increase of 0.01%, closing at 77,505.96 points compared to 77,500.57 earlier. Economists had anticipated a higher capex allocation, given concerns over India's slowing economic growth. Market participants are now keenly watching the opening session on Monday, February 3, for any further reactions.

Upcoming Q3 Results

Monday, February 3: Notable companies announcing results include Aditya Birla Capital Ltd, Castrol India, Bombay Dyeing & Manufacturing Co. Ltd, Barbeque-Nation Hospitality Ltd, Bajaj Steel Industries, Divi's Laboratories Ltd, Dredging Corp of India Ltd, Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers Ltd (GRSE), KEC International Ltd, Poly Medicare Ltd, Power Grid Corp of India Ltd, Premier Energies Ltd, Religare Enterprises Ltd, Tata Chemicals Ltd, and Thomas Cook India Ltd.

Tuesday, February 4: Companies reporting earnings include Asian Paints Ltd, Bajaj Electricals Ltd, Birla Corp Ltd, Ceigall India Ltd, Essar Shipping Ltd, Godrej Properties Ltd, JK Tyre and Industries Ltd, JSW Holdings Ltd, Lemon Tree Hotels Ltd, One Mobikwik Systems Ltd, Niva Bupa Health Insurance Company Ltd, Paisalo Digital Ltd, PC Jeweller Ltd, Quick Heal Technologies Ltd, Tata Power Co. Ltd, Titan Co. Ltd, and Torrent Power Ltd.

Wednesday, February 5: Key firms scheduled to release Q3 earnings include Abbott India Ltd, Avalon Technologies Ltd, Cummins India Ltd, Eveready In-



dustries India Ltd, Info Edge India Ltd (Naukri), Piccadilly Agro Industries Ltd, Skipper Ltd, Sula Vineyards Ltd, Swiggy Ltd, and Welspun Corp Ltd.

Thursday, February 6: Major announcements include those from Akums Drugs and Pharmaceuticals Ltd, Apollo Tyres Ltd, Aurobindo Pharma Ltd, Bharat Dynamics Ltd, BEML Ltd, Bharti Airtel Ltd, Bharti Hexacom Ltd, Bikaji Foods International Ltd, Britannia Industries Ltd, Cochin Shipyard Ltd, Emcure Pharmaceuticals Ltd, Hero MotoCorp Ltd, ITC Ltd, JK Lakshmi Cement Ltd, MRF Ltd, Orient Technologies Ltd, PVR Inox Ltd, Ramco Cements Ltd, Sai Life Sciences Ltd, Sapphire Foods India Ltd, and State Bank of India.

Friday, February 7: Companies concluding the week's earnings announcements include 3M India Ltd, Century Plyboards Ltd, Delhivery Ltd, Dreamfolks Services Ltd, Edelweiss Financial Services Ltd, Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC), Mahindra & Mahindra Ltd, Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Ltd, and Shipping Corp of India Ltd.

With multiple heavyweight companies set to declare their financial results, market sentiment in the coming week is expected to be influenced by these earnings reports along with broader economic and global market trends.

Historic Ripley Castle Up for Sale After 700 Years

Ripley Castle, a historic estate in England that has remained with the Ingilby family for over 700 years, is now on the market. The Grade I-listed property, located near Yorkshire Dales National Park, is being sold along with its 445-acre estate for £17 million (Rs 182.5 crore). The Ingilby family has owned the castle since the early 1300s, witnessing centuries of history, from royal visits to wartime events. Sir Thomas and Lady Emma Ingilby, the current custodians, decided it was time to move on. "We've been working seven days a week for so long, and we're nearly 70. Now it's time for us to travel and be impulsive," Sir Thomas told The New York Post.

Originally acquired through the marriage of Sir Thomas Ingilby to Edeline Thweng in the 14th century, the castle has survived wars, economic shifts, and changing times. Among its many legends is the story of "Trooper Jane" Ingilby, who allegedly held Oliver Cromwell at gunpoint while secretly protecting her brother.

The estate blends medieval architecture with Georgian-era additions. Its Knight's Chamber is known for oak paneling and a Tudor-style ceiling, while a hidden priest hole was discovered in 1963. The property also features a deer park, ornamental gardens, an 18th-century orangery, and a thriving commercial venture.

Mark Granger of Carter Jonas Christie's International Real Estate emphasized the castle's vast potential for commercial, agricultural, and

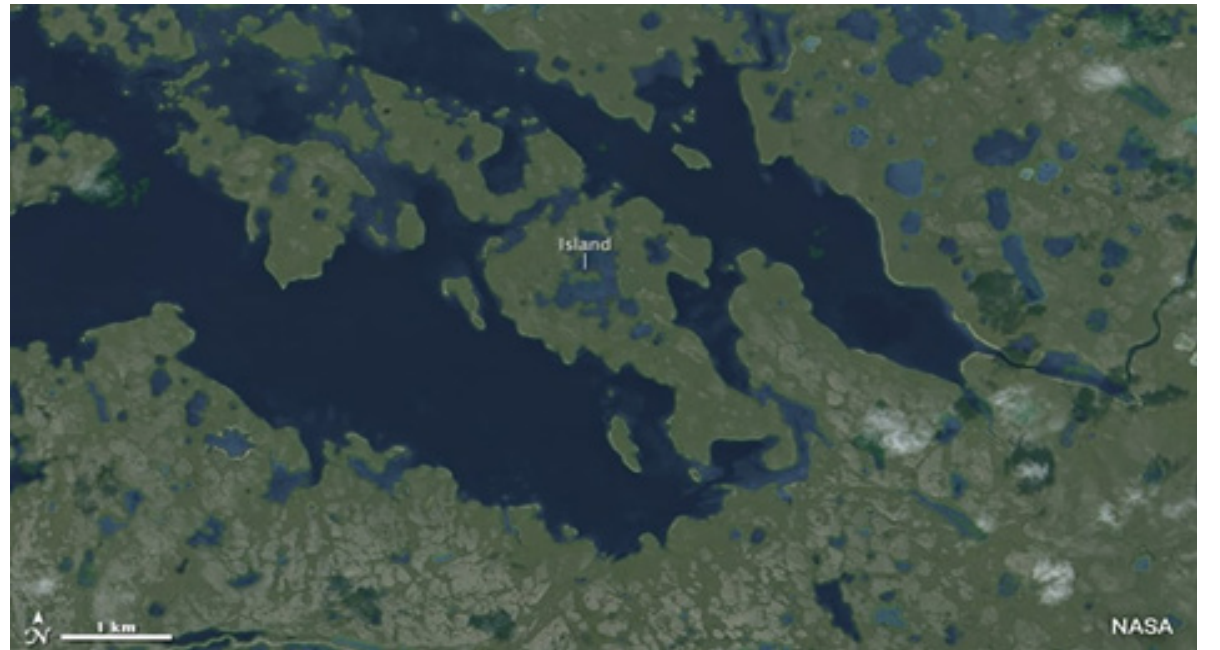


conservation projects. The Ingilbys have meticulously maintained the estate, including major restoration efforts.

Lady Emma Ingilby described their time at Ripley Castle as a privilege. "Some of the events we've hosted here have been incredibly moving. Walking around the gardens in the evening, with deer drinking from the lake, feels like something out of a fairy tale."

The decision to sell was made with the agreement of their children, who opted not to take on the estate's responsibilities.

World's Largest 'Island-In-A-Lake-On-An-Island' Confirmed in Canada's Arctic



TPN Correspondent | Nunavut, Canada

A nameless island within Victoria Island in Canada's Nunavut Territory has been officially recognized as the world's largest island-in-a-lake-on-an-island-in-a-lake-on-an-island, a rare geographical phenomenon confirmed through satellite imagery.

Satellite images captured by the Operational Land Imager (OLI) on Landsat 8 verified the existence of this unique landform. At its core, a seahorse-shaped island, approximately 1,000 feet wide, sits within a small unnamed lake. This lake itself is situated on a larger island, which is enclosed by a long, finger-shaped lake about 90 kilometers inland from Victoria Island's southern coast.

Guinness World Records has formally acknowledged this location as the largest landform of its kind. Victoria Island, known as "Kitlineq" by the Inuit, is the world's eighth-largest island and part of the expansive Canadian Arctic Archipelago. Given the region's vast and largely

unexplored landscape, experts believe similar undiscovered formations may still exist.

The Canadian Arctic is home to thousands of islands and millions of lakes formed after the Ice Age. Many recursive landforms—patterns of islands within islands or lakes within lakes—have been identified through satellite imagery. However, due to the extreme remoteness of this Arctic region, it is highly unlikely that any human has ever set foot on this particular island.

As mapping technologies and satellite capabilities continue to advance, geographers expect more unusual landforms to be discovered. In a separate instance, NASA satellites recently observed a temporary island emerging off Azerbaijan's coast in the Caspian Sea due to an eruption from the Kumani Bank mud volcano. The landmass, first spotted in early 2023, had completely eroded by the end of 2024, mirroring similar short-lived formations recorded in the area since 1861.

Google Pixel 9a Spotted on Certification Site, Hints at Android 15 Launch

Google Pixel 9a has appeared on the GEMVCo certification website, suggesting its launch could be imminent. The listing reveals the smartphone's model number as GTF7P, though its name is not explicitly mentioned. The upcoming device is expected to run on Android 15 out-of-the-box and could debut before Android 16's release in mid-2025.

Reports indicate that Google may launch the Pixel 9a in March, mark-

ing the first time a Pixel A-series device arrives before the annual Google I/O event in May. The smartphone is rumored to feature a 6.3-inch Actua display with a peak brightness of 2,700 nits and Gorilla Glass 3 protection. It is expected to be powered by Google's Tensor G4 chip, paired with 8GB of RAM and 256GB of internal storage.

The Pixel 9a is likely to come with a 48-megapixel primary camera and a 13-megapixel ultrawide sensor. It may

also retain an IP68 rating for dust and water resistance. The phone is expected to pack a 5,100mAh battery with 23W wired and 7.5W wireless charging support, alongside an in-display fingerprint scanner.

With its anticipated launch, the Pixel 9a could set a new precedent for Google's midrange smartphone lineup, offering flagship-like features at a competitive price.



Turkish Man Sets Guinness World Record for Longest Axe Throw

TPN Correspondent | Istanbul

Turkish national Osman Gurcu has set a new Guinness World Record for the longest axe throw, achieving a remarkable distance of 183 feet, 8.72 inches. The 43-year-old surpassed the previous record of 143 feet, held by American Jesse Rood, and even exceeded the length of an Olympic swimming pool (164 feet). This latest feat marks Gurcu's eighth Guinness World Record title.

Osman, a father of two, has long been passionate about record-breaking. He actively follows Guinness World Records updates and seeks new challenges to conquer. Reflecting on his achievement, he said, "It was an incredible feeling to break the record because the distance is very far, and you have to be able to get far. At the same time, the axe has to get stuck in the target board. I hit it many times, but it didn't get stuck, and I never gave up."

Overcoming Challenges

Despite his determination, Osman faced multiple challenges in his journey to the record. As a private security guard, he found it difficult to allocate time for rigorous training, especially given the cold and wet weather conditions. Additionally, while he was



attempting to break the record, another competitor raised the previous mark, increasing the distance he needed to surpass. However, Osman credits his natural throwing ability, which he developed in childhood, for helping him succeed.

Future Ambitions

Osman is not stopping at axe throwing. He now aims to set a record for hitting the bullseye on a dartboard from the farthest distance. Additionally, he plans to continue breaking basketball shooting records and explore other challenging feats. "Being a record holder makes me very happy," he said, expressing his desire to inspire others through his achievements.

Ahmedabad Auto Driver's Coldplay Rendition Wins Hearts Online

A video of an auto-rickshaw driver in Ahmedabad singing Coldplay's "Sky Full of Stars" while driving through the city's streets has gone viral, drawing admiration from social media users. The clip, shared by Instagram user Navendu, captures the driver passionately singing along to the popular song, creating a heartwarming moment for netizens.

The video showcases the driver immersed in the music, effortlessly belting out the lyrics while maneuvering through traffic. Navendu, who uploaded the video, captioned it, "Found this auto driver enjoying Coldplay tunes in Ahmedabad. Coldplay should invite him to their next performance. Getting on to the stage in his auto." The lighthearted remark sparked a wave of reactions, with many supporting the idea.

Social media users were quick to respond, with



many praising the driver's passion for music and his ability to spread joy. Some even suggested that Coldplay should invite him to their next concert. "This man should be performing in front of thousands," one user commented. Another added, "Coldplay needs to make him part of the show."

Many users appreciated the positivity of the moment, with comments like, "Such pure joy! I wish I could be as carefree as this driver," and "This is the kind of content we need in our feeds, heartwarming and full of energy." Others humorously suggested that the driver deserved a stage of his own. "He needs his own concert," a comment read, while another user added, "Let's get this guy a mic and a stage!" The uplifting video continues to gain traction online, proving that simple moments of joy can bring people together across the internet.

India's Young Queens Dominate U19 T20 World Cup Again

- India thrash South Africa by 9 wickets to retain U19 Women's T20 World Cup.
- Gongadi Trisha shines with 3/15 and unbeaten 44 off 33 balls.
- India win all matches, becoming first team to lift title undefeated.



TPN Correspondent | Kuala Lumpur

India's dominance in women's cricket continued as they secured their second consecutive U-19 Women's T20 World Cup title with a commanding nine-wicket victory over South Africa. The Indian team showcased their strength by completing the chase with 52 balls to spare, becoming the first side to win the tournament without losing a single game.

All-rounder Gongadi Trisha was the standout performer, delivering an impressive 3/15 with the ball before guiding the chase with an unbeaten 44 off 33 balls. Vice-captain Sanika Chalke (26* off 22) sealed the victory with a boundary, setting off celebrations among the Indian players draped in the Tricolour.

South Africa, opting to bat first, struggled against India's disciplined spin attack and were bowled out for just 82. Left-arm spinner Aayushi Shukla starred with figures of 2/9 in four overs, while Trisha further underlined her all-round ability with three wickets. Parunika (2/6) and right-arm seamer Shabnam Shakil (1/7) also contributed to South Africa's batting collapse.

South Africa's innings never gained momentum, with early wickets putting them on the back foot. Parunika struck early, dismissing opener Simone Lourens for a duck, while Shabnam Shakil removed the dangerous Jemma Botha. At 20/2 in four overs, the South African lineup struggled to find stability. Captain Kayla Reyneke (7) was dismissed while attempting to accelerate, and despite brief resistance from Mieke van Voorst (23)

and Fay Cowling (15), South Africa failed to post a competitive total.

In response, India started aggressively, with Trisha leading the charge. Kamalini G contributed before falling for 8, but Sanika Chalke provided the finishing touch as India cruised to victory. The win capped off a flawless campaign for the defending champions, who remained unbeaten throughout the tournament.

India's dominance was evident from the group stage, where they defeated West Indies, Malaysia, and Sri Lanka before securing wins against Bangladesh and Scotland in the Super Six stage. Their semi-final triumph over England ensured a perfect path to the final, where they reaffirmed their status as the best in the world.

India Secures Davis Cup World Group I Spot with Dominant Win Over Togo

India secured its place in the Davis Cup World Group I after N Sriram Balaji and Rithvik Choudhary Bollipalli delivered a commanding straight-set victory over Togo in the play-off tie at DLTA Complex on Sunday. The win handed India an unassailable 3-0 lead in the best-of-five contest.



With a 2-0 lead already in hand, India needed just one more win to seal the tie, and Balaji-Bollipalli got the job done in the opening match of the day, defeating M'lpa Tingou Akomolo and Hod'abalo Isak Padio 6-2, 6-1 in just 57 minutes. Togo's top player, Thomas Setodji, was replaced by Akomolo due to an arm injury, which severely weakened the visiting side. Akomolo struggled, failing to hold serve even once in the contest.

Balaji was outstanding with his serves, barely losing a point throughout the match. Bollipalli, making his Davis Cup debut, initially showed some

nerve but soon settled into his rhythm. India broke Akomolo's serve early in the first set and built a solid lead.

The second set followed a similar pattern, with the Indian pair breaking their opponents early and dominating the match. Togo's resistance crumbled as their serves came under relentless attack, with Akomolo committing crucial double faults.

India is now likely to give young player Karan Singh his Davis Cup debut in the dead rubber. Balaji and Bollipalli's dominant performance further strengthens India's standing as they move ahead to the next stage.

Virat Kohli Praises Railways Pacer Himanshu Sangwan After Being Dismissed in Ranji Trophy Match



Virat Kohli's much-anticipated return to Ranji Trophy cricket ended abruptly when he was dismissed for just six runs by Railways pacer Himanshu Sangwan in Delhi's match against Railways at the Arun Jaitley Stadium. Despite Delhi's dominant win by an innings, Sangwan's dismissal of Kohli made headlines.

After the match, the young Railways pacer approached Kohli to sign the ball that was used to dismiss him. Sangwan later revealed in a conversation with Dainik Jagaran that Kohli was impressed by the delivery, saying, "What a ball it was; it was a beautiful delivery. I really enjoyed that!" before signing the ball.

Kohli also acknowledged Sangwan's talent, as the bowler had previously played for Delhi at the under-19 level. "I've heard about you. You're a good bowler. Best wishes for the future," Kohli told him.

Meanwhile, Delhi's off-spinner Shivam Sharma took five wickets as the team secured a bonus point win over Railways. Delhi ended their campaign with 21 points but failed to qualify for the knockout stage. Despite Kohli's low score, his return to domestic cricket after 13 years was a major highlight of the match.

Two-Tier Test Format Likely Before India's Tour of England

The International Cricket Council (ICC) is reportedly considering revamping the World Test Championship (WTC) by introducing a two-tier format, potentially before India's tour of England in June this year.

England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) chairman Richard Thompson, who also heads the ICC's strategic growth committee, has been in discussions with ICC chairman Jay Shah regarding the restructuring of the Test format. With just five months left before England hosts India at Headingley from June 20, Thompson acknowledged the need for immediate changes.

"The current structure does not work as it should. We need a fairer, better competition, but at this stage, no recommendations have been finalized," Thompson told Telegraph Sport. He emphasized that the revamped format should encourage the best teams to reach the final while



also ensuring that nations outside the top tier continue playing Test cricket.

The two-tier system has gained traction following record-breaking attendance for Australia's recent series against India. However, cricketing legends, including West Indies great Clive Lloyd and Sri Lanka's Arjuna Ranatunga, have voiced strong opposition, arguing that it could sideline smaller teams.

Discussions are also underway about introducing four-day Test matches, which could make scheduling three-Test series around franchise leagues more feasible. However, marquee series like The Ashes and contests between top-tier nations will remain five-day affairs.

Critics argue that the two-tier system primarily benefits the "big three" (India, Australia, and England), leaving smaller cricketing nations like West Indies, Sri Lanka, and Bangladesh at a disadvantage.

Abhishek Sharma Sets Massive T20I Record in India's Dominant Win Over England



India's young batting sensation Abhishek Sharma scripted history on Sunday by smashing his second T20I century during the fifth and final game against England in Mumbai. Abhishek reached his century in just 37 balls, narrowly missing out on equaling the record held by Rohit Sharma and David Miller, who have the fastest T20I centuries (35 balls) among batters from Test-playing nations.

Despite missing the all-time record, Abhishek still made history by becoming the fastest player to reach a T20I century in terms of overs faced. He reached the milestone on the first ball of the 11th over, breaking Quinton de Kock's previous record of reaching a century in 10.2 overs.

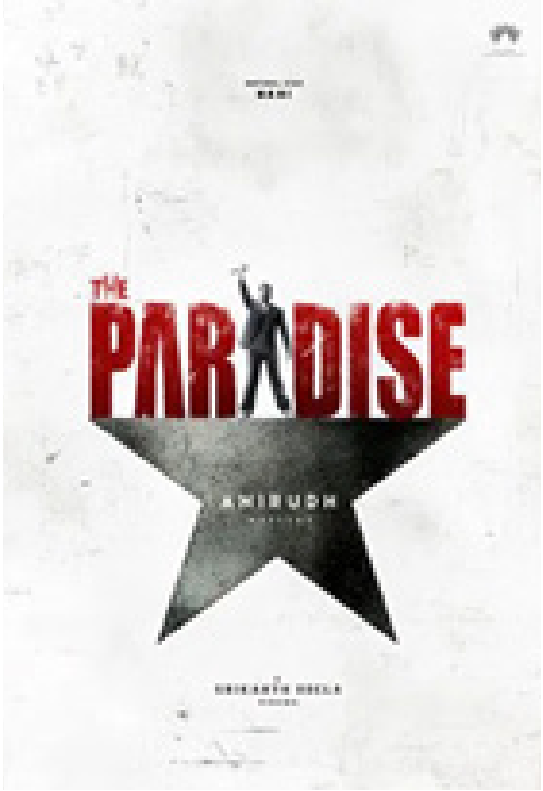
After India was put in to bat, Abhishek launched a brutal counter-attack, dismantling England's bowling attack. His aggressive approach began in the third over when he smashed Jofra Archer for a four and two massive sixes. He continued his carnage, reaching his half-century in just 17 balls with back-to-back sixes off Jamie Overton.

With Tilak Varma also joining the onslaught, India recorded their highest-ever Powerplay score in T20 internationals, posting an astonishing 95/1 in six overs.

Abhishek's innings further cemented his reputation as a dangerous T20 batter. In late 2024, he had already equaled the record for the fastest T20 century by an Indian, smashing a 28-ball hundred for Punjab in the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy.



Anirudh Ravichander Joins Nani's 'Paradise' as Music Director



Hyderabad: The highly anticipated film Paradise, marking the second collaboration between Nani and director Srikanth Odela, has officially onboarded Anirudh Ravichander as its music composer. The announcement was made by the makers on Sunday, creating a buzz among fans. This marks the third collaboration between Nani and Anirudh after Jersey and Nani's Gang Leader, both of which delivered chart-buster soundtracks. With Anirudh's proven track record of composing hit music, expectations for Paradise have skyrocketed. Fans eagerly await whether the composer can recreate his magic and add another blockbuster album to Nani's filmography. After the grand success of Dasara, which won multiple Filmfare awards and received critical acclaim, Nani and Srikanth Odela have teamed up once again. With Dasara becoming a milestone film in Telugu cinema, the duo aims to deliver another powerful cinematic experience. Nani, who was last seen in Saripodhaa Sanivaaram, has been on a winning streak with consecutive hits like Dasara, Hi Nanna, and Saripodhaa Sanivaaram. His upcoming projects include Paradise, HIT: The Third Case, and an untitled film with director Sujeeth. With his growing dominance in the Telugu film industry, expectations continue to soar for Nani's next venture.

February 2025 Movie Releases : A Diverse Mix of Action, Romance, and Thrillers

As the cinematic world steps into February 2025, audiences can expect an exciting line-up of films across multiple languages, spanning action-packed thrillers, heartwarming

romances, family dramas, and experimental cinema. After a mixed January, which saw some major releases like Game Changer and Daaku Maharaj underperform while Sankran-

thiki Vastunnam emerged as a surprise hit, February is expected to bring a fresh wave of excitement to theaters.

Major Telugu Releases in February 2025

February 7 Releases

1. Thandel - A much-anticipated action drama starring Naga Chaitanya and Sai Pallavi, directed by Chandoo Mondeti. The film is based on the real-life story of a fisherman from Srikakulam who gets captured by Pakistani forces. With intense action and an emotional storyline, this film has already created significant buzz.



2. Brahma Anandam - A special project starring comedy legend Brahmanandam in a lead role, sharing the screen with his son, Raja Goutham. The film is expected to be a laughter riot with a touch of family drama.



3. Sundarakanda - A family entertainer starring Nara Rohith. The film follows the life of a man born under Mula Nakshatra, facing constant misfortune in relationships.



4. Bhavani Ward 1997 - A musical horror drama where a romantic love story takes a terrifying turn after an evil spirit takes over, blending supernatural elements with intense emotions.



February 14 Releases

1. Laila - Vishwak Sen is set to surprise fans with a unique role, playing a character who disguises himself as a woman in this action-packed drama.



2. Captain America: Brave New World - The latest Marvel superhero film, releasing in multiple Indian languages including Telugu, Tamil, Hindi, and Kannada.

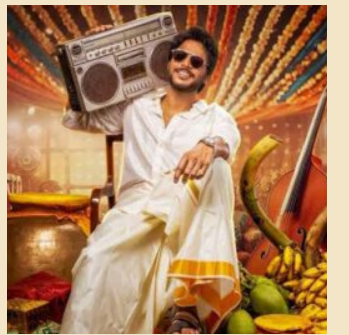


3. Dilruba



A romantic entertainer starring Kiran Abbavaram. However, there is still uncertainty surrounding its release date. February 21 Releases

4. Mazaka - A mass entertainer starring Sundeeep Kishan and Ritu Varma, directed by Thrinadha Rao Nakkina.



February 28 Releases

1. Thalli Manasu - A heartwarming family drama starring Adarsh Balakrishna and Kamal Kamaraju, focusing on a middle-class mother's struggles.



With a mix of mainstream entertainers and unique content-driven films,

2. Aghathiyaa - A fantasy thriller featuring Jiiva, Raashi Khanna, and Arjun Sarja, releasing in Tamil, Telugu, and Hindi.



February is shaping up to be an exciting month for movie lovers across India.

Ibrahim Ali Khan to Make His Digital Debut with Romantic Drama 'Nadaanian'

Bollywood star Saif Ali Khan's son, Ibrahim Ali Khan, is set to make his acting debut digitally with the young adult romantic drama 'Nadaanian', alongside Khushi Kapoor. The film, directed by Shauna Gautam, will premiere on Netflix, though the release date remains undisclosed. 'Nadaanian' revolves around Piya, a bold and spirited girl from South Delhi, and Arjun, a determined middle-class boy from Noida. As their worlds collide, they embark on a journey filled with mischief, heart, and the sweet messiness of first love.

The film boasts a stellar supporting cast, including Mahima Chaudhary, Suniel Shetty, Dia Mirza, and Jugal Hansraj. It is produced under Dharmatic Entertainment, backed by Karan Johar, Apoorva Mehta, and Somen Mishra.

Speaking about the film, the producers said, "Love has always been at the heart of our storytelling, and with 'Nadaanian', we're celebrating it in its purest, most youthful form." Director Shauna Gautam, making her debut, previously worked as an assistant director on 'Rocky Aur Rani Kii Prem Kahaani'.

Netflix India's Ruchika Kapoor Sheikh



shared, "Nadaanian captures the innocence and irreverence of young love. It takes audiences on an emotional rollercoaster while introducing a fresh, dynamic pairing." The first poster was shared by Netflix on Instagram, captioned: "Every love story has thodi si nadaani." Fans are eagerly awaiting the debut of Ibrahim Ali Khan and the chemistry between the two young stars.

Rapper Raftaar Marries Fashion Stylist Manraj Jawanda in Traditional Kerala Wedding



Indian rapper Raftaar has tied the knot with fashion stylist and fitness professional Manraj Jawanda in a traditional Kerala-style wedding in Thiruvananthapuram. The wedding was an intimate and elegant affair, embracing the rich cultural heritage of Kerala. This marks Raftaar's second marriage, following his divorce from Komal Vohra in 2022. Komal, the sister of actor Karan Vohra, and Raftaar had parted ways after a few years of marriage. For the wedding, Raftaar, whose real name is Kalathilkuzhiyil Devadasan Dilin Nair, donned a traditional Kerala mundu, while Manraj Jawanda looked stunning in a white and gold saree.

The couple's wedding pictures, shared on social media, captured the serene and elegant ambiance of the ceremony. Fans and friends from the entertainment industry showered them with love and best wishes. The ceremony was kept private with close friends and family in attendance, making it a personal and cherished celebration. Raftaar, known for his energetic rap and music, continues to make waves in the Indian music industry. With this new chapter in his life, fans are excited for what's next, both personally and professionally.