



Weather Forecast

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

“Committed Sin”: Amit Shah Slams Kejriwal Over “Poisoned Yamuna” Remark

Kejriwal insulted Haryana over Yamuna remark.

Shah targets AAP over liquor and other scams.

AAP failed Delhi on roads, water, and clinics



TPN Correspondent | New Delhi Union Home Minister Amit Shah launched a sharp attack on Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on the final day of campaigning for the Delhi Assembly elections, accusing him of committing a “sin” by alleging that the Haryana government had “poisoned” the Yamuna River. Addressing a rally in Bijwasan, Shah criticized Kejriwal for blaming Haryana after failing to deliver on his own promises. “He once called himself the ‘son of Haryana’ but is now insulting the state to cover up his failures,” Shah said.

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Kejriwal predicts AAP may win up to 55 seats

Says women’s votes could push AAP past 60

Delhi campaign ends with intense political exchanges

Kejriwal Predicts AAP Victory in Delhi

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) national convenor Arvind Kejriwal on Monday predicted a decisive win for his party in the upcoming Delhi Assembly elections, claiming AAP could secure up to 55 seats out of the total 70. Addressing a roadshow in the Kalkaji constituency, Kejriwal said the number could rise beyond 60 if women voters turn out in full force and persuade the men in their families to support AAP. “I appeal to my mothers and sisters to convince the male members of their families

that there is nothing in the BJP. It is the party of the rich. Only Kejriwal will be useful,” he urged during the rally.

Emphasizing the role of women voters, the Delhi Chief Minister asserted, “This election belongs to women. If they contribute, we will win more than 60 seats. The AAP will win New Delhi, Jangpura, and Kalkaji seats with a historic margin.”

The high-stakes election will be held on February 5, with results set to be announced on February 8.

Campaigning Ends as Parties Make Final Push

With just days left for polling, the election campaign in Delhi reached its peak before officially concluding at 5 PM on Monday, as per the Election Commission’s Model Code of Conduct (MCC). The code mandates a 48-hour silence period before voting begins, restricting any public rallies or election-related events.



The contest in Delhi has been marked by intense political exchanges between AAP, BJP, and Congress, with parties resorting to sharp jibes and high-decibel roadshows.

AAP has repeatedly targeted the BJP, branding it as the “Bharatiya Jhootha Party” and “Gali Galouch Party.” In response, Prime Minister Narendra Modi hit back, dubbing AAP as “AAP-Daa” (disaster) and calling Kejriwal “Ghoshna Mantri” (Minister of Announcements) for allegedly failing to deliver on promises.



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Rahul Gandhi’s Claim on Trump Invite Sparks Row in Lok Sabha

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi A heated exchange erupted in the Lok Sabha on Monday after Rahul Gandhi alleged that External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar was sent multiple times to secure an invite for Prime Minister Narendra Modi to attend Donald Trump’s inauguration as US President. The claim, made in the presence of PM Modi, triggered strong objections from BJP MPs.



“When we engage with the United States, we don’t send the foreign minister three-four times to get an invite for our PM. If we were leading in technology, the US

President would come here and invite him,” Gandhi said.

The remark sparked loud protests from the treasury benches, with Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijju demanding evidence.

“The Leader of the Opposition cannot make serious, unverified claims about foreign relations. If he has proof, he must disclose who informed him about the Foreign Minister’s visit for this purpose,” Rijju said.

Rahul Gandhi, responding with sarcasm, said, “I apologize if my question disturbed your peace of mind.”

Jaishankar Rejects Gandhi’s Trump Invite Claim, Calls It ‘Falsehood’

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Monday dismissed Rahul Gandhi’s claim that he was sent “three-four times” to secure an invitation for Prime Minister Narendra Modi to attend Donald Trump’s inauguration as the 47th US President. Calling it a deliberate falsehood, Jaishankar accused the Congress leader of damaging India’s global reputation.



“Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi deliberately spoke a falsehood about my visit to the US in December 2024. I went to meet the Secretary of State and NSA of the Biden administration, and also chaired a meeting of Consuls General. At no stage was an invitation for the PM discussed,” Jaishankar posted on X (formerly Twitter). The Minister stressed that India is typically represented by special envoys at such events, and it is common knowledge that the Prime Minister does not attend US presidential inaugurations.

BJP Slams Rahul Gandhi

Rahul Gandhi’s remarks in Parliament sparked a strong reaction from BJP MPs, with Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijju demanding proof.

“The Leader of the Opposition cannot make serious, unverified statements on foreign policy. He must provide evidence if he claims the Foreign Minister visited the US for this reason,” Rijju said.

Jaishankar also accused Rahul Gandhi of damaging India’s reputation with baseless claims.

“Rahul Gandhi’s lies may serve political interests, but they harm India’s global standing,” Jaishankar stated.

Delhi Metro to Begin Services at 4 AM on Election and Counting Days



TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

Delhi Metro will commence operations at 4 AM on February 5, the day of the Assembly elections, and on February 8, the vote counting day, to facilitate polling staff, officials said on Monday.

Trains will run at a 30-minute frequency on all lines until 6 AM, after which regular services will continue throughout the day.

To accommodate polling officials returning late after duty, metro services will also be extended on the night of February 5. The last train on the Red Line will run until midnight, while the Yellow Line will operate until 11:30 PM from Millennium City Centre Gurugram to Samaypur Badli and until 11:45 PM in the reverse direction.

On the Blue Line, services will be extended until 11:50 PM, while the Violet Line will operate until midnight. Some services will continue until 1 AM, the statement added.

Sonia Gandhi Faces Privilege Motion Over ‘Poor Thing’ Remark on President



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2 Crore Devotees Take Holy Dip at Maha Kumbh on Basant Panchami



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Securing the Vote: Delhi's Massive Security Blanket for Election Day



TPN Correspondent, New Delhi
As Delhi prepares for a pivotal election day, where voters will decide the political future of the national capital, a monumental security operation is underway. The clash between the incumbent Aam Aadmi Party and the BJP opposition has reached fever pitch, with Wednesday's polls set to be the decider. To guarantee a peaceful and fair electoral process, Delhi Police, backed by an extensive force, has orchestrated what could be described as the city's

most fortified election. Over 42,000 police officers, alongside 150 companies of the Central Armed Police Force and units from 10 different states, will be on high alert. Special CP (Crime) and Election Cell head, Devesh Chandra Srivastava, emphasized the commitment to a disturbance-free election, highlighting the comprehensive pre-poll measures. "We are all in to deliver a free, fair, and peaceful election," he told PTL. **Pre-Election Crackdown**

The police have been proactive, with significant seizures of contraband. Post-election announcement, they've nabbed 196 kg of drugs valued at Rs 78 crore and confiscated 1008 liters of illicit liquor. The crackdown also includes cash seizures, with nearly 3,000 sensitive polling stations identified for extra security. In a strategic move, last month's meeting of the Joint Coordination Committee with neighboring states led by Delhi Police Commissioner Sanjay Arora, resulted in a call for additional paramilitary support and cyber-focused officers for enhanced vigilance. **Preventive Measures**
The security force has not only fortified the polling locations but also taken preventive actions against potential troublemakers. Over 30,000 individuals have been flagged, and nearly 85% of pending non-bailable warrants have been addressed. As Delhi gears up to cast its votes, this robust security blanket aims to ensure that the voice of democracy is heard loud and clear, without the shadow of disruption.

SC Bars Centre, States from Reducing Forest Cover

TPN Correspondent, New Delhi

The Supreme Court on Monday barred the Centre and state governments from taking any steps that would reduce forest cover until further orders, issuing an interim protection amid legal challenges to the 2023 Forest Conservation Act amendments. A bench of Justices B R Gavai and K Vinod Chandran, hearing multiple petitions against the amendments, ruled that any reduction in forest land must be compensated. "We will not permit anything which leads to the reduction of forest area. Until further orders, no steps will be taken by the Union of India and any state that would reduce forest land unless compensatory land is provided," the bench stated. Additional Solicitor General Aishwarya Bhati, representing the Centre, assured the court that a response to the petitions would be filed within three weeks. A status report is also expected before the next hearing, scheduled for March 4. The petitions challenge the amended law, which redefines "forest" to



include only land notified as such or officially recorded in government records. This revision allegedly excludes nearly 1.99 lakh square kilometers of forest land from protection. The petitioners argue that this contradicts the Supreme Court's 1996 ruling in TN Godavarman Thirumulpad v. Union of India, which had provided a broader definition of forests. The Supreme Court also mandated that any proposal to establish zoos or safaris on forest land must receive its prior approval. It directed state governments and union territories to submit details of forest land within their jurisdiction to the Centre by March 31, 2024, with the Ministry of Environment required to publish this information online by April 15.

Uniform Toll Policy to Ease Burden on National Highway Travelers

TPN Correspondent, New Delhi
Union Minister Nitin Gadkari announced on Monday that the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways is developing a uniform toll policy aimed at providing relief to national highway commuters. In an interview with PTL, Gadkari emphasized, "We are working on a uniform toll policy. It will address the problem faced by the commuters," although he did not provide specifics on the policy's framework. This statement comes in response to ongoing public complaints regarding high toll fees and inadequate road experiences. Gadkari confidently stated that India's highway infrastructure now rivals that of the United States. The ministry plans to implement a barrier-less toll collection system using the Global Navigation Satellite System (GNSS) on national highways as a first step. The minister highlighted that the ministry takes commuter feedback, especially from social media, seriously, ensuring swift action against contractors where necessary. Despite private cars making up around 60% of highway traffic, their contribution to toll revenue remains between

20-26%, indicating a disparity in the tolling mechanism. India saw a significant increase in toll collection last fiscal year, reaching Rs 64,809.86 crore in 2023-24, a 35% jump from the previous year. This growth in collection coincides with an expansion in tolled highway stretches over the last decade, leading to increased user dissatisfaction.



Gadkari also shared ambitious construction goals, aiming to surpass the previous record of 37 km of highway construction per day from the 2020-21 financial year.

To date, 7,000 km of highways have been constructed in the current fiscal year, with peak construction typically occurring in February and March. The pace of project awards, however, has slowed due to the absence of a new scheme to replace the Bharatmala Pariyojana, which previously allowed the ministry to approve projects up to Rs 3,000 crore. Now, projects over Rs 1,000 crore require Cabinet approval, with Gadkari mentioning that projects worth Rs 50,000 to Rs 60,000 crore are awaiting clearance. To mitigate delays, cost overruns, and disputes, an inter-ministerial panel has advised the ministry to bid out projects only after securing 90% of the necessary land and all statutory clearances, which has somewhat impacted the pace of highway project awards. The Bharatmala Pariyojana, launched in 2017 to enhance connectivity and reduce logistics costs, has seen considerable progress with 26,425 km awarded and 18,714 km constructed by October 31, 2024. India's National Highway network, crucial for national connectivity, now stretches across 146,195 km, making it the second largest in the world.

Aaradhya Bachchan Moves Court Again Over Fake Videos

Seeks action as misleading content remains online



TPN Correspondent, New Delhi

Aaradhya Bachchan, daughter of actors Abhishek Bachchan and Aishwarya Rai Bachchan, has approached the Delhi High Court again, seeking the removal of fake and misleading content about her health from various websites. This fresh petition follows a previous court order directing Google, Bollywood Times, and other platforms to take down false information. However, with non-compliance by some websites and social media platforms, Aaradhya, 13, has

filed another plea. During the hearing, the court issued a notice to Google regarding the petition. The case is scheduled for the next hearing on March 17. In April 2023, the high court had instructed YouTube to immediately remove videos falsely claiming that Aaradhya was seriously ill or had passed away. It had emphasized that every individual, regardless of celebrity status, has the right to dignity, especially concerning their physical and mental health.

Prince Edward Visits British School, Discusses India-UK Ties



TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

Prince Edward, Duke of Edinburgh, visited the British School in Delhi on Monday, interacting with students and exploring school projects as part of his three-day India visit. Earlier, on Sunday, he met Maharashtra Governor C P Radhakrishnan in Mumbai, where they discussed education, trade, and vocational training. As Chancellor of the University of Bath, Prince Edward emphasized the need for stronger academic ties, while the Governor proposed MoUs between Maharashtra universities and UK institutions. They also discussed British expertise in hospital management, green energy, and the pharmaceutical sector.

Governor Radhakrishnan highlighted India's growing economic strength and stressed the need for an India-UK Free Trade Agreement (FTA). They also explored hosting a Commonwealth Festival of Business and Culture alongside sports events. Discussing sports, the Governor urged greater UK involvement in football development, while Prince Edward praised India's IPL-driven cricket growth and badminton achievements. This is Prince Edward's first visit to India since receiving the Dukedom of Edinburgh in 2023. After his India tour, he will join The Duchess of Edinburgh in Nepal. Accompanying officials included UK Deputy High Commissioner Harjinder Kang and Private Secretary Alex Potts.

"Committed Sin": Amit Shah Slams Kejriwal Over "Poisoned Yamuna" Remark
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The BJP leader also targeted Kejriwal over corruption allegations, citing scams in liquor, water, transport, and education sectors. "A liquor scam worth thousands of crores was committed. Shops were opened near temples, schools, and gurudwaras. He promised to fight corruption but became its face," he claimed. Shah also pointed to the recent exodus of AAP MLAs to the BJP. "More than 50% of AAP MLAs have left them. Kejriwal's party is collapsing," he said. Eight AAP legislators, denied tickets, recently joined the BJP. As campaigning ended, all major parties—AAP, BJP, and Congress—intensified their attacks. The elections will be held on February 5, with counting on February 8.

Kejriwal Predicts AAP Victory in Delhi
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AAP's Past Performance and Electoral Hopes
AAP has been the dominant force in Delhi's politics since 2015, when it won a staggering 67 out of 70 seats, leaving the BJP with just three and the Congress with none. In the 2020 elections, AAP maintained its stronghold, winning 62 seats, while BJP secured eight. Congress once again

failed to open its account. With the 2025 elections set to determine AAP's continued influence in the national capital, Kejriwal's latest prediction signals confidence in his party's ability to maintain a stronghold. The role of women voters, as he emphasized, could be a decisive factor in shaping the final outcome.

PM Modi Slams AAP Over Education Policy, Promises Welfare Reforms

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday strongly criticized the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) government in Delhi, accusing it of manipulating the education system to maintain its reputation. He claimed that the Delhi government prevents students who do not perform well from progressing beyond Class 9 to ensure better overall academic results.

"I have heard that in Delhi, they (AAP government) do not allow children to move ahead after Class 9 unless they are guaranteed to pass. Because if their result is bad, the government's reputation will be ruined. That is why dishonest practices are being followed," PM Modi said during an interaction with students.

His remarks come just days before the Delhi Assembly elections, where the BJP is making a strong pitch against the ruling AAP. Modi accused the Kejriwal-led administration of focusing on public perception rather than genuine welfare, alleging that the government has spent years misleading people with false claims of educational excellence.

At a rally in RK Puram on Sunday, the Prime Minister said that just like the arrival of Basant Panchami signals a change in season, Delhi is set to experience a "new spring of development" with



the BJP in power. He urged voters to give the BJP a chance, promising a governance model that prioritizes real development over propaganda.

Modi also announced a series of welfare measures, including a ₹5 nutritious meal scheme for slum dwellers and a welfare board for auto drivers and domestic workers, which will provide them with insurance coverage of up to ₹10 lakh. Additionally, he assured financial aid for children's education. Addressing con-

cerns over housing, Modi dismissed AAP's claims that slums would be demolished under a BJP government, stating that no existing welfare schemes would be discontinued.

With Delhi set for a high-stakes election on February 5, the BJP, AAP, and Congress are locked in an intense contest. The results, scheduled for February 8, will determine whether AAP retains power or if BJP can make a breakthrough in the national capital.

Will Rename Delhi's Talkatora Stadium After Valmiki: Parvesh Verma



TPN Correspondent, New Delhi

Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader Parvesh Verma on Monday announced that Delhi's Talkatora Stadium will be renamed as "Bhagwan Maharshi Valmiki Stadium" in the first meeting of the New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC) after February 8. The announcement comes ahead of the Delhi Assembly elections, scheduled for February 5.

Verma stated that multiple requests had been received from the Valmiki community for renaming the stadium after the revered saint, who authored the Hindu epic Ramayana and is considered the first poet of the Sanskrit language. He emphasized the need for uplifting

Scheduled Castes (SCs), Scheduled Tribes (STs), and Other Backward Classes (OBCs) for the country's progress.

Talkatora Stadium, named after the Mughal-era Talkatora Gardens, has hosted various sports and cultural events, including the boxing competitions of the 2010 Commonwealth Games.

Verma also criticized the Congress, accusing it of naming public infrastructure after its family members. He predicted a landslide victory for the BJP in the New Delhi constituency, where he is contesting against Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) national convenor Arvind Kejriwal and Congress leader Sandeep Dikshit. "We will win by a margin of more than 20,000 votes. It could be 25,000-26,000. Arvind Kejriwal will lose his deposit here and finish third," he claimed.

Delhi votes in a single-phase Assembly election on February 5, with results to be declared on February 8. The BJP is aiming to reclaim power after over 25 years, while AAP is seeking a third consecutive term, and Congress is attempting to regain lost ground.

Delhi HC Summons Shashi Tharoor in Defamation Case

BJP leader Rajeev Chandrasekhar seeks ₹10 crore damages

TPN Correspondent, New Delhi

The Delhi High Court on Monday issued summons to Congress leader Shashi Tharoor in a defamation case filed by BJP leader Rajeev Chandrasekhar, who has sought ₹10 crore in damages over alleged defamatory statements made by Tharoor.

Justice Purushendra Kumar Kaurav directed that the plaint be registered as a suit and listed the matter before the joint registrar on April 28. "Let the plaint be registered as a suit. Issue summons to the defendant (Tharoor). List before the joint registrar on April 28," the court stated.

In his suit, Chandrasekhar alleged that Tharoor made false and defamatory remarks in April 2024 at multiple public forums, causing severe damage to his professional and personal reputation. The defamation case stems from an interview in which Tharoor allegedly accused Chandrasekhar of offering money to voters during the 2024 Lok Sabha elections.

Chandrasekhar, represented by law firm Karanjawala & Co., has also sought a public apology from Tharoor, in addition to damages, and requested the court to restrain him from making any further defamatory statements.



Rahul Gandhi Alleges 70 Lakh Voter Additions in Maha Polls

TPN Correspondent, New Delhi

Congress MP Rahul Gandhi on Monday questioned the credibility of the Maharashtra Assembly election results, alleging that 70 lakh new voters were suddenly added to the state's electoral rolls after the Lok Sabha polls. He demanded that the Election Commission (EC) provide voter list data to the opposition Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) for analysis. Speaking in the Lok Sabha during the debate on the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address, the Rae Bareilly MP claimed, "The entire population of Himachal Pradesh was added to Maharashtra's voter rolls. After the Lok Sabha elections, 70 lakh new voters suddenly arrived in Maharashtra ahead of the Vidhan Sabha polls."

Gandhi insisted that the EC should share the voter list de-

tails with the Congress, Shiv Sena (UBT), and NCP (Sharad Pawar). While the poll body has not yet responded, it had previously dismissed allegations of arbitrary voter additions or deletions.

Shiv Sena MP Shrikant Shinde rejected Gandhi's claims as "false and baseless," stating that every voter list had been publicly uploaded by the EC.

In the Maharashtra elections held on November 20, the MVA won only 50 of 288 seats, while the BJP-led Mahayuti secured 235. Gandhi has repeatedly raised concerns over electoral transparency, accusing the EC of withholding voter data and alleging irregularities, including arbitrary deletions and additions of roughly 10,000 names per constituency.

The EC previously refuted these claims, calling them "factually incorrect and misleading."



Unnao Rape Convict Kuldeep Sengar Granted Interim Bail

Court directs him to surrender by February 5



TPN Correspondent, New Delhi

The Delhi High Court on Monday granted interim bail till February 4 to expelled BJP leader and Unnao rape case convict Kuldeep Singh Sengar for undergoing an eye surgery. A bench of Justices Yashwant Varma and Harish Vaidyanathan Shankar suspended his sentence, noting that his cataract surgery is scheduled for Tuesday at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS).

The court directed Sengar to surrender before jail authorities on February 5, making it clear that the bail was only for the medical procedure. "We are of the opinion that the sentence warrants suspension for the purpose of the applicant's medical procedure, which is fixed for February 4, 2025, subject to conditions identical to those set forth in the December 20, 2024, order. The applicant shall surrender

on February 5 before the jail superintendent," the bench stated.

Sengar's counsel argued that his surgery could not be performed earlier due to circumstances beyond his control and sought two more days for his hospital admission. The court had previously granted him interim bail for the same procedure.

However, the survivor's lawyer opposed the plea, stating that interim bail cannot be granted indefinitely. Sengar's request for an extension of bail is part of his appeal against the December 2019 trial court verdict, in which he was convicted and sentenced for raping a minor girl in 2017. He has sought the setting aside of his conviction and sentence.

The Supreme Court had earlier transferred the Unnao rape case and related cases from Uttar Pradesh to Delhi on August 1, 2019.

Opposition Submits Dissent Note on 281 Pages of JPC Report on Waqf Bill



TPN Correspondent, New Delhi

Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) Chairman Jagdambika Pal on Monday accused the opposition of attempting to push a political agenda against the Waqf (Amendment) Bill, 2024, stating that they have submitted a dissent note on 281 pages of the 428-page report.

Pal defended the JPC's report, emphasizing

that all relevant stakeholders—including the Waqf Board, Minority Commission, government officials, and Islamic scholars—were consulted before finalizing the amendments. He dismissed claims that the bill would take away Waqf properties, calling them misleading.

"In all JPC meetings, we heard from all parties. The final report was prepared after thorough discussions and a voting process on amendments. The opposition leaders, including Asaduddin Owaisi and Naseer Hussain, participated in the process and later submitted their dissent notes," Pal said.

The JPC had adopted the draft report and revised bill on January 29, clearing 25 amendments across 14 clauses and sections. However, opposition leaders object-

ed to the proposed changes and recorded their dissent before the report was presented to Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla on January 30.

The bill, which will not be tabled in Parliament on Monday, seeks to introduce reforms such as digitization of records, enhanced audits, improved transparency, and legal mechanisms to reclaim illegally occupied Waqf properties. Critics have argued that the changes could lead to government interference in religious trusts. Pal clarified that the report would be presented in the House once scheduled by the Speaker and the Business Advisory Committee. He reiterated that dissent notes from opposition members would be included in the final submission.

India, Indonesia share motto of 'unity in diversity': PM Modi inaugurates Murugan temple

- Modi praises acceptance of diversity as key to harmony in India and Indonesia.
- Stresses deep-rooted cultural and historical ties beyond geopolitics.
- Highlights common spiritual connections, including Lord Murugan, Ram, and Buddha.



TPN Correspondent | Delhi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi emphasized the deep cultural and spiritual connection between India and Indonesia, noting that the acceptance of diversity is a key reason why people of different faiths coexist harmoniously in both countries. Addressing the Maha Kumbabhishagam in Shri Sanathana Dharma Aalayam in Jakarta on Sunday, Modi underscored that the relationship between the two nations goes beyond geopolitics and is grounded in thousands of years of shared culture and history.

In his virtual address, Modi highlighted the profound historical and cultural ties that

have shaped the bond between India and Indonesia. He pointed out that this connection is not only about heritage but also extends to science, faith, shared beliefs, and spirituality. Modi further elaborated on the importance of this relationship, noting that it encompasses common reverence for figures like Lord Murugan, Lord Ram, and Lord Buddha, who are significant to both countries' religious and cultural landscapes.

The event was attended by Indonesian President Prabowo Subianto, who had recently visited India as the Chief Guest for the Republic Day celebrations. The participation of both leaders in such a significant religious and cultural event further symbolizes the

strong ties between the two nations. Modi's address at the ceremony emphasized how the cultural and spiritual exchanges between India and Indonesia have played a crucial role in fostering a deep and lasting bond between their peoples.

Modi's comments also reaffirmed the importance of shared values, such as respect for diversity and religious tolerance, which have been central to the harmonious coexistence of different faith communities in both countries. The Prime Minister's remarks reflect the broader vision of strengthening Indo-Indonesian relations, rooted not only in modern-day diplomacy but also in the enduring legacy of mutual respect and cultural affinity.



Did Manipur Chief Minister Stoke Violence? Supreme Court Seeks Government Lab Report

TPN Correspondent | Manipur

In a significant development, the Supreme Court of India has ordered the submission of a forensic report on audio clips that allegedly feature Manipur Chief Minister N Biren Singh instigating ethnic violence. The court has instructed that the forensic findings from the Central Forensic Science Laboratory (CFSL) be submitted in a sealed cover.

The request for the forensic examination follows the presentation of audio tapes by advocate Prashant Bhushan, who is representing the petitioner in the case. The tapes, which were verified by Truth Labs with over 93 percent certainty, purportedly feature Singh's voice. In the recordings, Singh is reportedly heard discussing the protection of Meitei groups and their involvement in looting the state armoury during the ethnic clashes in Manipur. The tapes are alleged to have been recorded during a private meeting and leaked afterward, with Bhushan suggesting that the Chief Minister may have been instigating and abetting the violence.

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, representing the state, raised preliminary objections, arguing that the petitioner should first approach the High Court. He also informed the court that an FIR had already been filed, and an investigation was underway. Mehta further stated that the investigating agency had contacted the Twitter accounts that uploaded the audio clips for verification and sent the tapes for forensic analysis. He also accused the petitioner of having a "separatist mindset" that could be influencing the case.

The Supreme Court bench, led by Chief Justice of India Sanjiv Khanna, pressed for the timely submission of the forensic report. However, Mehta suggested that the results might not be available immediately. The case highlights the ongoing ethnic tensions in Manipur, which have led to widespread violence, including the involvement of militant groups.

In a related development, a militant from the banned Kangleipak Communist Party (People's War Group) was arrested in Imphal West district for alleged extortion activities targeting government employees and the public. This arrest further underscores the volatile situation in the region.

BJP MPs' privilege motion against Sonia Gandhi for calling President 'poor thing'



TPN Correspondent | Delhi

BJP MPs in the Rajya Sabha have filed a privilege notice against senior Congress leader Sonia Gandhi for her controversial "poor thing" comment about President Droupadi Murmu. The MPs have called for exemplary action, accusing Gandhi of displaying an elitist and anti-tribal mindset. The notice, addressed to Rajya Sabha Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar, claims that Gandhi's remark shows a lack of understanding of the struggles faced by tribal communities and poor individuals.

The BJP MPs argue that such a statement is a violation of the established rules of conduct and Parliamentary ethics, which demand respect for constitutional offices. They emphasized that the Parliament, as the highest legislative body in India, holds the responsibility of maintaining decorum and respect for all constitutional authorities. Any deviation from this, they said, undermines the credibility and trust that citizens place in the institution.

The notice also stresses that Sonia Gandhi's comments undermine the dignity of the office of the President. The BJP MPs called her actions "disparaging" and "contemptuous," noting that they are inconsistent with the principles of mutual respect and decorum that are essential for the functioning of a healthy democracy.

India Reevaluates Cryptocurrency Stance Amid Global Shifts

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

India is reconsidering its position on cryptocurrencies, with the country's growing interest aligning with global trends as other nations adjust their approaches to virtual assets. A senior government official revealed this development on Sunday, noting that the shift in stance comes in the wake of crypto-friendly policy announcements, notably in the United States.

Ajay Seth, India's Economic Affairs Secretary, explained in an interview that the government is revisiting its stance on cryptocurrency, especially after witnessing changes in how various jurisdictions are embracing or regulating digital assets. As a result, the planned release of a discussion paper on cryptocurrencies, initially set for September 2024, may be delayed. Seth emphasized that cryptocurrencies, by their very nature, do not adhere to borders, meaning that India cannot adopt a unilateral approach toward the evolving global landscape of virtual assets.

Though Seth did not directly reference the United States, the timing of his remarks coincides with recent moves by U.S. President Donald Trump. Last week, Trump ordered the creation of a cryptocurrency working group to propose regulations for digital assets and explore the possibility of creating a national cryptocurrency reserve, signaling a more favorable regulatory environment for virtual currencies in the U.S.

Despite India's historically cautious stance toward cryptocurrencies, marked by high trading taxes and regulatory hurdles, the nation has seen a surge in crypto investment from its citizens. As the sector expands, the Indian government is increasingly forced to reevaluate its policies. In December 2023, the Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU) issued show-cause notices to nine offshore cryptocurrency exchanges for failing to comply with local regulations. In a related move, Binance, the world's largest crypto exchange, was fined 188.2 million rupees (\$2.25 million) in June 2024 after registering with the FIU to resume operations in India.

While some regulators in India have expressed openness to managing cryptocurrency trade, the Reserve Bank of India has consistently warned that private digital currencies pose a macroeconomic risk. This ongoing tension between government bodies signals the challenges India faces as it navigates its stance on the rapidly evolving world of digital finance.



Jharkhand Mukti Morcha Passes 50-Point Resolution, Rejects CAA, NRC, and UCC

TPN Correspondent | Jharkhand

The ruling Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM) passed a 50-point resolution during its 46th foundation day celebration at Gandhi Maidan in Dumka on Sunday night. Among the key points, the party strongly rejected the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA), the National Register of Citizens (NRC), and the Uniform Civil Code (UCC), stating that these measures should not be implemented in Jharkhand.

The resolution also called for the strict enforcement of the Chotanagpur Tenancy (CNT) Act and the Santal Pargana Tenancy (SPT) Act, both of which aim to protect tribal land rights. Additionally, the party demanded that the central government release the "Rs 1.36 lakh crore dues" owed to the state government immediately, emphasizing the need for financial justice for the state.

Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren addressed a large gathering during the event, where he lashed out at the Centre for allegedly ignoring the state's needs. He claimed that the people of Jharkhand had been "cheated" in the Union budget, as the state's concerns had been overlooked. Soren criticized those with a "feudal mindset," suggesting that they did not want the residents of the tribal-majority state to become self-reliant.

Soren also pointed out that despite Jharkhand contributing significantly to the nation's economy, particularly through its mineral resources, the state remains one of the most backward regions in the country. He voiced his frustration over the continued neglect of Jharkhand's development needs and emphasized the importance of financial justice for the state's growth and empowerment.

The resolution passed by the JMM and Soren's comments underscore the ongoing tensions between the state government and the central authorities, particularly regarding issues related to tribal rights, state finances, and the controversial national policies like the CAA, NRC, and UCC.



Rahul Gandhi's Remarks on Foreign Policy Spark Heated Debate in Lok Sabha

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

The Lok Sabha witnessed a tense exchange on Monday as Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's remarks on India's foreign policy led to strong objections from the ruling BJP benches. Gandhi, while addressing the debate on the Motion of Thanks to the President's Address, claimed that External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar was sent to the inauguration of US President Donald Trump to secure an invitation for Prime Minister Narendra Modi to visit the United States. This statement quickly provoked BJP MPs, including Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijju, who strongly objected, calling Gandhi's claim baseless and unfounded.

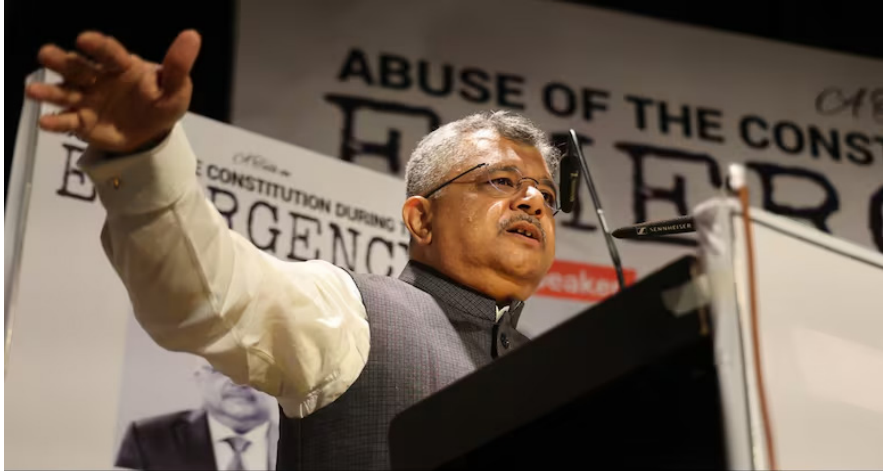
Gandhi began his speech by criticising the President's Address, claiming that it was repetitive, with the government listing the same achievements as in previous years. He also raised concerns about the rising unemployment in the country, asserting that neither the UPA government nor the current NDA administration has provided a satisfactory solution for the nation's youth regarding jobs.

On India's economic situation, Gandhi pointed out that despite the government's 'Make in India' initiative, the share of manufacturing in the country's GDP has decreased from 15.3% in 2014 to 12.6% today. He said that while the concept of 'Make in India' was a good one, the government has failed to implement it effectively. He further accused India of relying heavily on China for production, stating, "Every time we use a phone or wear Chinese products, we pay a tax to China."

In a controversial statement, Gandhi referenced the Trump inauguration, saying, "If we had a production system and were working on technologies, the US President would come here and invite the Prime Minister." This remark sparked protests from the treasury benches, with Rijju demanding an apology for such "unverified" statements. Gandhi responded sarcastically, apologising for "disturbing their peace of mind."

Solicitor General Hails Union Budget as Catalyst for Middle-Class Growth

praises the budget for boosting investments, job creation & economic transformation



- Budget amendments aim to strengthen middle-class finances and spur consumption
- Investment focus on AI, EVs, life-saving drugs, and traditional industries
- New initiatives for MSMEs position India as a future manufacturing superpower

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

The Maharashtra Home Department has constituted a Special Investigation Team (SIT) to probe allegations that the former Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) government, led by then-Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray, was planning to falsely implicate and arrest current Chief Minister Eknath Shinde and Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis when they were in the opposition. The move comes after claims surfaced that top police officials under the MVA administration were working on framing them in a fabricated case

The SIT, which will be led by senior Indian Police Service (IPS) officer Satyanarayan Chaudhary, was formally announced in the Maharashtra assembly on Tuesday by cabinet minister Shambhuraje Desai. He stated that the team has been given a strict deadline of 30 days to investigate the allegations and submit its findings

The controversy erupted after businessman Sanjay Punamiya alleged that a former police officer had admitted, in a telephonic conversation, that then-Mumbai

Police Commissioner was planning the arrests of Fadnavis and Shinde in connection with a case against him. Punamiya's claims gained traction after a sting operation aired on news channels purportedly backing his statements

Raising the issue in the legislative council, BJP MLC Pravin Darekar demanded an SIT probe into the matter, arguing that if true, it would expose a serious political conspiracy by the previous government. He presented a pen drive, claiming it contained video evidence from the sting operation that revealed the plot. Following this, the state government acted swiftly in setting up the investigation

The Opposition, however, has dismissed the allegations as a diversionary tactic. Opposition leaders have questioned why the Shinde-Fadnavis government, which has been in power for over three years, is only now setting up the probe. They argue that the move is politically motivated and intended to discredit the MVA ahead of the upcoming elections

Maharashtra sees 2.19 lakh financial fraud cases in 2024, Mumbai tops with 51,87



TPN Correspondent | Delhi

Maharashtra recorded 2,19,047 cases of financial fraud in 2024, with a staggering total loss of ₹38,872.14 crore, according to data shared by the state's Home Department. Among the various regions, Mumbai saw the highest number of such incidents, accounting for 51,873 cases and losses amounting to ₹12,404.12 crore.

Following Mumbai, Pune city reported 22,059 fraud cases with a financial loss of ₹5,122.66 crore. Pune district as a whole had 42,802 cases, including 16,115 in Pimpri-Chinchwad, with losses of ₹3,291.25 crore. Pune Rural recorded 4,628 cases, resulting in ₹434.35 crore in losses.

Thane district followed closely with 35,388 financial fraud cases, including 20,892 in Thane city, 13,260 in Navi Mumbai, and 1,236 in Thane Rural. The district faced a total loss of ₹8,583.61 crore. Mira

Bhayander and Vasai Virar areas also reported significant fraud, with 11,754 cases resulting in ₹1,431.18 crore in losses.

Other notable districts included Nagpur, which saw 11,875 cases in the city and 1,620 in Nagpur Rural, with total losses of ₹1,491.07 crore. Nashik district recorded 9,169 cases, including 6,381 in Nashik city and 2,788 in Nashik Rural, with a combined loss of ₹1,047.32 crore.

Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar district reported 6,090 fraud cases totaling ₹543.61 crore, while Amravati reported 2,778 cases with ₹223.05 crore in losses. Solapur district recorded 3,457 cases, leading to ₹394.54 crore in losses.

In smaller districts, Buldhana saw 1,531 fraud cases with ₹239.19 crore in losses, Chandrapur had 1,792 cases with ₹175.39 crore in losses, and Latur recorded 1,624 cases involving ₹240.45 crore.

Local Holiday Declared in Prayagraj for Basant Panchami Snan Amid Safety Concerns

TPN Correspondent | Uttar Pradesh

The District Magistrate of Prayagraj has declared a local holiday for all government offices in the district on Monday, February 3, in light of the large number of devotees expected to gather for the Basant Panchami 'Snan' at the Triveni Sangam during the Maha Kumbh. This decision has been made to maintain law and order as millions of pilgrims from across India and abroad arrive for the sacred bathing ritual.

In an official order, the District Magistrate's office explained that the influx of devotees, along with accompanying traffic restrictions, made it necessary to declare a local holiday to ensure smooth management and safety on the main bathing days. The announcement noted that the holiday was specifically declared to maintain peace and prevent any disruptions in the administration

of government offices in the district due to the large crowds.

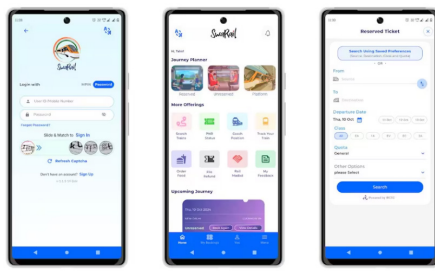
The Basant Panchami 'Snan' on February 3 is expected to be one of the most attended events during the Maha Kumbh, which has already witnessed over 330 million devotees partaking in the holy dip since the event began. As the world's largest religious gathering, the event attracts millions of devotees every year, with many international pilgrims also joining in the prayers and celebrations.



In preparation for the event, Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Rajesh Dwivedi assured that a robust three-tier system has been put in place to ensure smooth crowd management and safety. The police are monitoring crowd movements closely, and efforts have been made to address previous issues by identifying and securing potential crowd bottlenecks.

While the event has generally been praised for its organization, it follows a tragic stampede-like incident on January 29, during the Mauni Amavasya Shahi Snan, in which 30 people lost their lives, and 60 others were injured. The authorities are taking extra precautions to avoid a repeat of such incidents, ensuring that the event proceeds peacefully and safely for all involved.

Indian Railways Launches SwaRail Superapp to Streamline Train Services



TPN Correspondent | Delhi

The Ministry of Railways in India has introduced a new superapp called SwaRail, designed to serve as a one-stop platform for a range of public-facing railway services. Launched on Friday, the app integrates various services like ticket booking, food ordering on trains, and PNR status checks, all under one roof. Currently available in beta for both Android and iOS devices, the app aims to simplify railway-related tasks

by reducing the need for multiple apps, thus saving storage space and providing a more streamlined user experience.

Developed by the Centre for Railway Information Systems (CRIS), SwaRail brings together features from several existing Indian Railways apps. With the SwaRail superapp, users can book reserved, unreserved, and platform tickets, track train movements, enquire about parcel and freight deliveries, check PNR status, order food on trains, and seek assistance through the 'Rail Madad' customer support service. This integration is intended to provide greater convenience by consolidating various services into a single platform.

One of the key benefits of the SwaRail superapp is its unified approach. For instance, PNR enquiries now show not

just the status but also additional details about the associated train. The app also allows users to access all services with a single set of credentials, providing single sign-on functionality. Existing credentials from other Indian Railways apps like IRCTC RailConnect and UTS Mobile App can be used to onboard the new superapp, which supports multiple login options, including m-PIN and biometric authentication.

As the app is still in its beta phase, users are encouraged to provide feedback to help improve its performance. After thorough evaluation, the Ministry of Railways plans to release the SwaRail superapp to the public, offering a seamless and convenient way to manage railway services through smartphones.

Kuki Body Chief in Manipur Under Scrutiny After Mob Clashes With Security Forces

TPN Correspondent | Imphal

The chief of a prominent Kuki organization in Manipur faces potential legal action after a mob attacked a small team of security forces attempting to destroy illegal opium poppy fields in the Kangpokpi district on January 31. The operation, carried out by state police and the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), targeted poppy plantations in Lhungjang village, located 40 km from the state capital, Imphal.

Lhungjang is the native village of Ajang Khongsai, the chief of the Kuki Inpi, an organization that has supported the demand for a separate administration for the Kuki community in Manipur. According to the state government, the security team was confronted by a large mob armed with sticks while attempting to destroy the illegal poppy fields.

The Manipur government condemned the mob violence, stating that an FIR (First Information Report) had been filed at the Saikul police station for further investigation. Authorities expressed their firm stance on taking strict legal action against all involved, including Khongsai, due to his connections to both the village and the incident.

The poppy cultivation targeted by the operation is believed to be a significant source of illicit opium production in the region. Despite the law enforcement agencies' clear objectives to combat the drug trade, the destruction drive was met with violent resistance. The mob, taking advantage of the small number of police officers on site, vandalized three police vehicles and threatened the personnel to halt the operation.

The situation quickly escalated, prompting a reinforcement team led by the Superintendent of Police (SP) of Kangpokpi to intervene and restore order. The operation eventually succeeded in destroying 45 acres of illegal poppy fields.

2 Crore Devotees Take Holy Dip at Maha Kumbh on Basant Panchami



- Strict security measures were in place after the January 29 stampede.
- Grand akhara processions resumed, with rituals completed by 3 pm.
- Triveni Yog, a rare celestial event, makes this Kumbh highly auspicious.

TPN Correspondent | Prayagraj

An estimated two crore devotees took the ritual dip at the Triveni Sangam on Monday, marking the third 'Amrit Snan' of the Maha Kumbh on the occasion of Basant Panchami, according to figures shared by the Uttar Pradesh government. The sacred event proceeded smoothly, with authorities enforcing stringent crowd control measures following the January 29 stampede tragedy that claimed at least 30 lives.

After the tragedy on Mauni Amavasya, the state government, under Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, implemented zero-error safety measures, ensuring an organized and disciplined gathering. Unlike the overcrowding seen previously, many devotees chose alternate ghats instead of congesting the confluence area.

Security and Crowd Management Strengthened
Chief Minister Adityanath monitored the situation remotely from Lucknow since 3:30 am, officials said. DIG (Maha Kumbh) Vaibhav Krishna confirmed that additional force was deployed across key pressure points. He assured, "Everything is running smoothly today." Senior officials, including the DIG, patrolled the Mela area on horseback to oversee crowd management. By 4 pm, over 1.98 crore devotees had taken a dip, with the total footfall expected to touch 5 crore by the end of the day.

Grand Akhara Processions and Rituals
At dawn, seers from various akharas, including the Naga sadhus, embarked on their ceremonial journey to the Sangam. The sacred Amrit Snan

commenced at 4 am, starting with the Sanyasi akharas, followed by the Bairagi and Udaseen sects. Each akhara was allotted 40 minutes to complete their bathing rituals. By 3 pm, all akharas had completed their dip and returned to their camps.

Helicopters showered rose petals on seers and devotees as they performed their rituals. Akharas moved in grand processions, with their mahants and mahamandaleshwars leading on decked-up chariots, carrying sacred insignias and their Isht Dev (cherished deity). The Naga sadhus, covered in ash and adorned with marigold and rose garlands, marched toward the Sangam, reflecting an age-old tradition of the Kumbh Mela.

Spiritual Significance and Devotee Experiences

CM Adityanath extended his greetings to the saints and devotees on X, expressing his reverence for the spiritual gathering. Pilgrims from across the world shared their experiences. Sarthak from Delhi described a "deep spiritual connection," while Niranjana Mishra from Nepal praised the orderly arrangements. Crystal from Belgium expressed gratitude for being introduced to Sanatan Dharma, while Meenakshi Giri from Russia called the moment "the most sacred" of her life. The ongoing Maha Kumbh, occurring once in 12 years, is particularly auspicious due to the rare Triveni Yog, a celestial alignment that happens once in 144 years. The highest single-day turnout so far was on Mauni Amavasya (January 29), when 8 crore devotees took a dip.

Trump Slams Democrats for Delaying Nominees, Urges GOP to Act Tough

Trump claims Democrats are purposefully delaying his nominees, urging the GOP to respond.

- Trump accuses Democrats of deliberately delaying his nominees.
- Calls for Republicans to take swift action against confirmation delays.
- Claims nominee delays threaten national safety and governance.

TPN Correspondent | Washington

Former President Donald Trump has accused Democrats of deliberately delaying the approval of his nominees, claiming that they are holding up the process for political reasons at the expense of the country's safety and well-being. In a post on his social media platform, Truth Social, Trump voiced his frustration with the ongoing nomination process for his administration picks.

"Democrats are purposefully delaying virtually all of my nominees. No matter how good and well-qualified someone is, they are taking maximum time for approval — and laughing about it. They're having a good time at the country's expense and safety," Trump wrote, sharing a Fox News clip in which host Mark Levin discussed how Democrats were allegedly undermining the Constitution.

Trump further criticized Democrats, claiming that even if figures like George Washing-



ton or Abraham Lincoln were nominated, they would still be delayed until the last moment. He blamed their actions on their inability to accept the results of the previous presidential election, warning that their obstructionist tactics would only increase the Republican Party's strength. "Republicans must GET TOUGH —

AND MUST GET TOUGH VERY FAST. We need our nominees NOW, for the safety and good of our country!" he added.

As of now, only eight of Trump's 114 nominees have been confirmed by the Senate, with 68 still under consideration and 38 awaiting votes, according to The Washington Post. Among those confirmed are key figures like Marco Rubio as Secretary of State, John Ratcliffe as CIA Director, and Pete Hegseth as Secretary of Defense. Notably, other high-profile picks like Pam Bondi for Attorney General, Elise Stefanik for UN Ambassador, and Doug Collins for Veterans Affairs Secretary are still waiting for Senate votes.

In response to the delays, Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., defended the right to delay nominations for candidates lacking broad support in the Senate. Schumer cited concerns over certain nominees, including Ratcliffe's qualifications to lead the Office of National Intelligence.



Panama drops Belt and Road deal with China amid Donald Trump's warning

TPN Correspondent | Panama

Panama has officially announced its decision to withdraw from China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), signaling the country's intention not to renew the 2017 Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) that tied it to China's global infrastructure project. This decision comes as Panama reaffirms its sovereignty over the Panama Canal, rejecting any foreign influence or claims over the strategic waterway. President Jose Raul Mulino emphasized that Panama's control over the canal, the world's second busiest waterway, is non-negotiable.

The move comes amid growing tensions with the United States, as former President Donald Trump and US officials have voiced concerns over China's involvement in the region. Trump has repeatedly suggested that the US should regain control of the Panama Canal, a vital maritime route. "China's running the Panama Canal... that was given to Panama, foolishly, but they violated the agreement, and we're going to take it back, or something very powerful is going to happen," Trump said previously.

In response to these concerns, President Mulino clarified that Panama's neutrality treaty with the US, which governs the canal's use, remains intact. "Sovereignty over the canal is not in question," Mulino stated. The Panama Canal, which was originally built by the US in the early 20th century, was handed over to Panama in 1999. Since then, the canal has remained under Panama's control, despite ongoing disputes over its strategic importance.

Homes Blacked Out, Bridge Torn Into Two: Rising Floodwaters In Australia Wreak Havoc

TPN Correspondent | Australia

Rising floodwaters have wreaked havoc across northeastern Australia, forcing evacuations, cutting off communities, and causing extensive damage to infrastructure. Storms that began over the weekend have dumped more than a metre (39 inches) of rain in parts of Queensland, submerging homes, businesses, and roads under muddy waters.

In Townsville, a popular coastal tourist spot near the Great Barrier Reef, authorities have declared certain areas a "black zone" due to the severity of the floods. The state's premier, David Crisafulli, warned that the region could face additional rain and more flooding, including both flash floods and riverine flooding. "We remain prepared for the ongoing prospect of more rain," Crisafulli said during a news conference. Emergency services reported conducting 11 "swift water rescues" overnight.

More than 2,100 people were ordered to evacuate Townsville over the weekend, but about 10 percent of residents refused to leave, according



to emergency officials. Tragically, one woman in her 60s lost her life when a rescue boat capsized in the flood-hit town of Ingham, located about 100 kilometres from Townsville.

The floods also caused significant damage to infrastructure, including the collapse of a critical bridge over Ollera Creek, which severed the main coastal road, the Bruce Highway. "It's not every day you see a bridge torn in two," Cris-

afulli remarked, highlighting the scale of the destruction.

Nearly 11,000 properties remain without power across northern Queensland, with no immediate timeline for restoration, according to Ergon Energy. Townsville's acting mayor, Ann-Maree Greaney, said that communities were isolated due to road closures, and efforts were underway to deliver food and restore power.

Deadly Wildfires in Argentina's Patagonia Force Evacuations, Destroy 3,000 Hectares

TPN Correspondent | Argentina

A deadly wildfire has ravaged around 3,000 hectares of land near El Bolson, a popular tourist destination in Argentina's Patagonia region, prompting the evacuation of hundreds of residents. The fires, which broke out on Thursday in the Cajon del Azul hiking area in Amprale, have caused widespread devastation. High summer temperatures and strong winds helped the fire spread rapidly, leaving destruction in its wake.

The fire has claimed the life of one individual, who suffered a cardiac arrest from inhaling smoke while inside his residence, as reported by Bruno Pogliano, the mayor of El Bolson. "This disaster left one fatal victim, devastated thousands of hectares and caused enormous damage to our community," said Alberto Weretilneck, governor of Rio Negro province, where the fires are burning.

Over 800 people have been evacuated from the affected areas, as authorities work to contain the spread of the flames. The provincial government of Rio Negro has declared a state of emergency, imposing a ban on open fires and strengthening surveillance and prevention measures, which will remain in place until April 30.

Firefighters are facing a challenging task in battling the blazes, with the ongoing threat of the fires being fueled by dry conditions and unpredictable weather patterns. The region has been experiencing extreme summer temperatures, exacerbating the risk of wildfires in an already vulnerable landscape.

In response to the disaster, authorities are mobilizing resources to assist in firefighting efforts and support the affected communities. While the situation remains dire, officials are hopeful that these measures will help control the fires in the coming days.

Zelenskyy Warns Against Excluding Ukraine from US-Russia Talks on War

TPN Correspondent | Ukraine

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy warned on Saturday that excluding Ukraine from talks between the United States and Russia about the ongoing war would be "very dangerous." He stressed the importance of Ukraine being directly involved in any discussions aimed at ending the conflict, especially as both sides work toward a potential ceasefire.

Zelenskyy expressed concern over Russia's reluctance to engage in meaningful ceasefire talks, pointing out that Moscow views any form of concessions as a loss, particularly with the current military advantage on the battlefield. He argued that the Kremlin's stance has made negotiations difficult, and he emphasized that the war could not be resolved without Ukraine's active participation in the dialogue.

In the interview, Zelenskyy highlighted that US President Donald Trump could play a key role in bringing Russian President Vladimir Putin to the negotiation table by leveraging sanctions targeting Russia's energy and banking sectors, in addition to continuing military support for Ukraine. "I think these are the closest and most important steps," Zelenskyy said, referring to the need for a strategic and coordinated approach involving Ukraine, the US, and its allies.

Zelenskyy's comments came after Trump's remarks on Friday, in which the former president indicated that US and Russian officials had already begun talks about ending the war. However, Trump did not provide further details on the discussions. Zelenskyy expressed that while Russia may have its own diplomatic channels, excluding Ukraine from the conversation would be detrimental to global stability. "Talking about Ukraine without us — it is dangerous for everyone," he concluded, emphasizing the crucial role his country plays in shaping the outcome of the war.

Trump Threatens EU Tariffs, Cuts Funding to South Africa Amid Trade War Escalation

TPN Correspondent | Washington DC

US President Donald Trump has announced plans to impose tariffs on goods from the European Union, following his recent moves to target Canada, Mexico, and China. Trump said on Sunday that tariffs on the EU would be implemented "pretty soon," accusing the bloc of taking advantage of the United States. This statement adds to his ongoing criticism of the EU's trade practices, which he claims have been unfair to the US.

Trump's comments on tariffs come on the heels of his recent actions, including 25% tariffs on Mexican and Canadian goods and a 10% tariff on Chinese imports. While Trump has previously threatened to impose tariffs on the EU, this latest declaration marks a potential escalation of the trade war. He reiterated his grievances over the US trade deficit with the 27-nation bloc, stating, "The European Union has treated us so terribly."

The European Union has vowed to retaliate if Trump follows through on his tariff threat. A spokesperson for the EU stated that it would "respond firmly" to any unfair tariffs imposed by the US. In addition to the EU, Trump's trade war has sparked backlash from key allies, including Canada and Mexico, who have already pledged retaliatory measures. China has also said it plans to challenge Trump's tariffs at the World Trade Organization.

In a related development, Trump also criticized South Africa, accusing the country of "confiscating" land and mistreating certain classes of people. He announced that the US would cut off all future funding to South Africa, pending an investigation into these claims.

Ajit Doval Stresses Free Flow of Thoughts for Conflict Resolution

Highlights the need for open dialogue and introspection to prevent conflicts



- Ajit the free flow of thoughts is essential to avoid conflicts arising from religious identities.
- State and religion is not unique to Islam, citing historical governance models.
- Former Union Minister M.J. Akbar stressed that Sufism fosters non-hostile relationships

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

National Security Adviser (NSA) Ajit Doval on Sunday emphasized the importance of fostering a free flow of thoughts to prevent conflicts tied to religious identities. Highlighting the necessity of conflict resolution, he pointed out that introspection by both states and societies remains crucial in

maintaining harmony.

Doval's remarks were made during the launch of the Hindi edition of "Islam Authoritarianism: Underdevelopment - A Global and Historical Comparison", written by Turkish-American scholar Ahmet T. Kuru. The book, published by the Khushro Foundation, explores the intricate relationship between

state and religion. Addressing a packed audience at the New Delhi World Book Fair, Doval noted that such dynamics are not exclusive to Islam. He referenced the Abbasid period, where a clear distinction between the roles of the state and religious clergy was maintained, offering an example of structured governance.

The event also featured insights from former Union Minister M.J. Akbar, who underscored the relevance of Sufism in fostering peaceful co-existence. He described Sufism as a practical approach that nurtures relationships without hostility, aligning with the broader theme of resolving conflicts through intellectual and cultural engagement.

Doval's perspective sheds light on the larger global challenge of navigating religious and political intersections without fueling discord. His call for open dialogue and self-reflection aligns with a broader vision of ensuring social stability and preventing ideological rigidity from becoming a source of conflict.

ISRO's 100th Rocket Mission Faces Setback Due to Technical Glitch in Navigation Satellite

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) encountered a significant setback with its 100th rocket mission after the navigation satellite, NVS-02, launched on Wednesday, experienced a technical malfunction on Sunday. The satellite, which was meant to be positioned in a geostationary circular orbit over India, could not complete its orbit-raising operations due to an issue with the valves that control the oxidizer for firing the thrusters. This prevented the satellite from reaching its designated orbital slot.

ISRO updated the public on its website, explaining that the satellite's liquid engine is not functioning optimally, and as a result, efforts to place the satellite in its intended orbit have either been delayed or may be abandoned. However, the space agency assured that the satellite's systems are healthy, and it is currently in an elliptical orbit. ISRO also stated that it is working on alternative strategies to utilize the satellite for navigation



purposes while in this elliptical orbit.

The NVS-02 satellite, developed by the U R Rao Satellite Centre, was launched aboard the GSLV-F15 rocket from Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh, at 6:23 AM on Wednesday. This milestone marked ISRO's 100th mission and was also the first mission under the leadership of ISRO Chairman V Narayanan, who recently assumed office.

Experts have noted that the satellite will not be able to perform its designated tasks from its current highly elliptical orbit, which ranges from near-

ly 170 kilometers at its closest point to about 36,577 kilometers at its farthest point from Earth. The 2,250 kg satellite is part of the Navigation with Indian Constellation (NavIC), India's regional version of GPS.

NavIC, which was developed following the 1999 Kargil conflict, aims to provide India with independent positioning and navigation services. However, many of the NavIC satellites launched since 2013 have faced issues, with six of the 11 satellites experiencing complete or partial failures. The NVS-02's current technical challenges add to these ongoing concerns.

Trump Tariffs Offset Budget Boost, Rupee Hits Record Low, Markets Crash

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

Equity benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty faced significant losses in early trade on Monday, while the Indian rupee tumbled to a record low of 87.29 against the US dollar, following President Donald Trump's decision to impose hefty tariffs on Canada, China, and Mexico. The tariffs, announced over the weekend, ignited fears of a broader trade war, which shook investor confidence globally.

By 11 am, the BSE Sensex had dropped over 400 points, reaching 77,084, while the Nifty 50 was down by more than 160 points, falling to 23,320. Major blue-chip stocks such as Larsen & Toubro, NTPC, Tata Steel, Tata Motors, Reliance Industries, ICICI Bank, and TCS were among the worst performers. However, Titan, Maruti, Nestle, and Bajaj Finserv saw gains.

Despite a positive budget, market experts are attributing the pressure on the stock indices to Trump's tariffs and the increased global uncertainty they have triggered. VK Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist at Geojit Financial Services, highlighted the damaging impact of the tariffs on global economic growth, adding to the market's downward

pressure. Vikram Kasat, Head of Advisory at PL Capital of Prabhudas Lilladher, also expressed concern, saying that the market's near-term trajectory will depend on how investors react to these developments.

In other Asian markets, South Korea, Japan, and Hong Kong also experienced sharp declines.

Meanwhile, the rupee struggled, falling to an all-time low of 87.1450 per dollar, a 0.6% drop from Friday's value. Since October 2024, the rupee has lost nearly 4% of its value, largely due to persistent foreign fund outflows. Other Asian currencies, including the Korean won, Malaysian ringgit, and Indonesian rupiah, also depreciated by 0.9% to 1.2%.

President Trump's move to impose 25% tariffs on Canada and Mexico and a 10% tariff on China has sparked retaliatory measures. Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau announced retaliatory tariffs on US goods, while Mexican President Claudia Sheinbaum Pardo also criticized the move. China indicated it would challenge the tariffs at the World Trade Organization. Trump further threatened new tariffs on the European Union.

Rishi Sunak Watches India vs England T20I at Wankhede with Narayana Murthy

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

Rishi Sunak, the former Prime Minister of the United Kingdom, was seen enjoying the thrilling fifth and final T20I match of the series between India and England at the iconic Wankhede Stadium in Mumbai on Sunday. The event was made even more special by the presence of his father-in-law, Narayana Murthy, the co-founder of Infosys, who joined Sunak in watching the game.

As the match unfolded, Sunak had a few words with both Suryakumar Yadav and Jos Buttler, the captains of the two teams. He was seen greeting the skippers ahead of the match, further connecting with the cricketing world on this memorable occasion.

Taking to social media platform X after the match, Sunak shared his thoughts on the game. He acknowledged that it had been a challenging day for England but praised Team India for their massive 150-run victory. Sunak congratulated India on

their commanding win in the final T20I match, which saw them clinch the series with a 4-1 result. He also mentioned his father-in-law, Narayana Murthy, as a part of the experience, noting that they enjoyed watching the match together.



India's dominant performance in the final match was largely thanks to the all-round brilliance of Abhishek Sharma, whose exceptional contributions helped lead the team to victory. The 150-run win was a testament to India's prowess in the T20 format, as they delivered a resound-

ing performance against the visiting English team. With this victory, India not only secured the series but also reinforced their status as one of the top teams in T20 cricket.

Before heading to Wankhede, Sunak made a visit to the Parsee Gymkhana in South Mumbai, where he enjoyed a friendly game of cricket. His visit to the gymkhana highlighted his personal connection to the sport and provided a lighter moment ahead of the tense T20I series finale.

Rishi Sunak's presence at the match, accompanied by his father-in-law Narayana Murthy, was a significant event for both cricket fans and those following their respective journeys. The match concluded a thrilling series, and India's victory was celebrated by fans around the world. Sunak's visit added to the global connection between the two nations, blending sports, politics, and family in a memorable day at Wankhede.

'Love Unites' event: Maha Kumbh celebrates blend of Israeli and Indian music



TPN Correspondent | Mahakumbh

The "Love Unites" event, organized by Shaktidham Ashram in Varanasi, brought together diverse musical traditions and spiritual practices along the sacred banks of the Ganga, Yamuna, and Saraswati

rivers. The event, held a day before the Basant Panchami Amrit Snan, resonated with Indian classical melodies, Sanskrit mantras, and Hebrew spiritual chants, creating a unique blend of devotion and cultural unity.

Prominent musicians including Sandeep Mishra, Amit Mishra, Narayan Jyoti, Yaron Pe'er, and Maya Baitner graced the stage, delivering powerful performances that united the artistic traditions of India and Israel. Yaron Pe'er, an Israeli musician, explained that "Love Unites" brings together the wisdom of Hebrew and ancient Indian cultures, emphasizing that

while names may differ, God is one.

Narayan Jyoti, an artist from Israel, expressed how the musicians from both India and Israel inspired each other, discovering the sound currents that connect them through music. Israeli cellist and singer Maya Baitner shared that the event was not only a celebration of music but also a prayer for peace in the Middle East and gratitude for the support of Indian friends. Spiritual leader Jagadguru Sai Maa described the event as the beginning of a new era, one focused on love, truth, and compassion, aimed at raising global consciousness.

Russia's State Duma Chairman Vyacheslav Volodin Arrives in India for Official Visit



TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

Vyacheslav Volodin, Chairman of Russia's State Duma, has arrived in New Delhi for an official visit, ahead of a potential visit by Russian President Vladimir Putin later this year. The visit comes in anticipation of the annual India-Russia leaders' summit, with Putin expected to travel to India, although the exact dates are yet to be confirmed. This will be Putin's first visit to India since the onset of the Russia-Ukraine conflict in February 2022.

The Russian Embassy in New Delhi shared

the news of Volodin's arrival on the social media platform X, stating that the visit will focus on enhancing cooperation between Russia and India in various fields, including economics, culture, education, and technology. Additionally, discussions will cover the development of inter-parliamentary dialogue between the two nations.

During his stay in New Delhi, Volodin is expected to meet with Indian leaders and visit both houses of the Indian Parliament. The discussions will likely focus on strengthening bilateral ties and expanding areas of

mutual interest between the two countries. This visit is part of ongoing efforts to maintain strong diplomatic relations between India and Russia, particularly in the wake of global geopolitical changes.

Volodin's visit underscores the continued significance of Russia-India relations, with both nations looking to deepen cooperation amidst evolving international challenges. The potential visit of President Putin will further solidify the strategic partnership between India and Russia, which spans defense, energy, and economic sectors.

Ban Google Reviews!!

Open Letter to the Prime Minister – Ban Google Reviews?

A medical professional has written to the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, urging an immediate ban on Google Reviews. He alleges that the review system is being misused for blackmail and extortion, harming Indian entrepreneurs and professionals. Given his regular contributions to our publication, we are reproducing his letter in full.

– Editor

Sri Narendra Modi ji
Hon'ble Prime Minister of India
South Block, New Delhi

Subject: Urgent Request to Ban Google Reviews in India, Google is another east India company in hatching.

Respected Sir,

I write to seek your urgent intervention in banning Google Reviews in India. This platform is being exploited as a tool for manipulation, blackmail, and extortion, seriously harming Indian entrepreneurs and professionals.

For years, I have witnessed a disturbing pattern: individuals—often linked to Google representatives—post fraudulent negative reviews against businesses, only to later offer "package deals" to remove them in exchange for payment. This is nothing short of blackmail, allowing a foreign entity to exploit Indian professionals for financial gain.

As a medical professional, I have personally suffered due to these unethical practices. Fake reviews from people who have never visited my facility have damaged my reputation, causing financial loss and eroding public trust. Despite lodging complaints with both Google and the local cybercrime police, no action has been taken.

It is imperative that the Indian government does not remain passive while a multinational corporation engages in such misconduct within our borders. Furthermore, in light of these unethical practices, I urge the government to reconsider the Padma Bhushan award granted to Google CEO Sundar Pichai. Honoring corporations that engage in predatory tactics sends the wrong message about our nation's commitment to protecting its citizens and businesses.

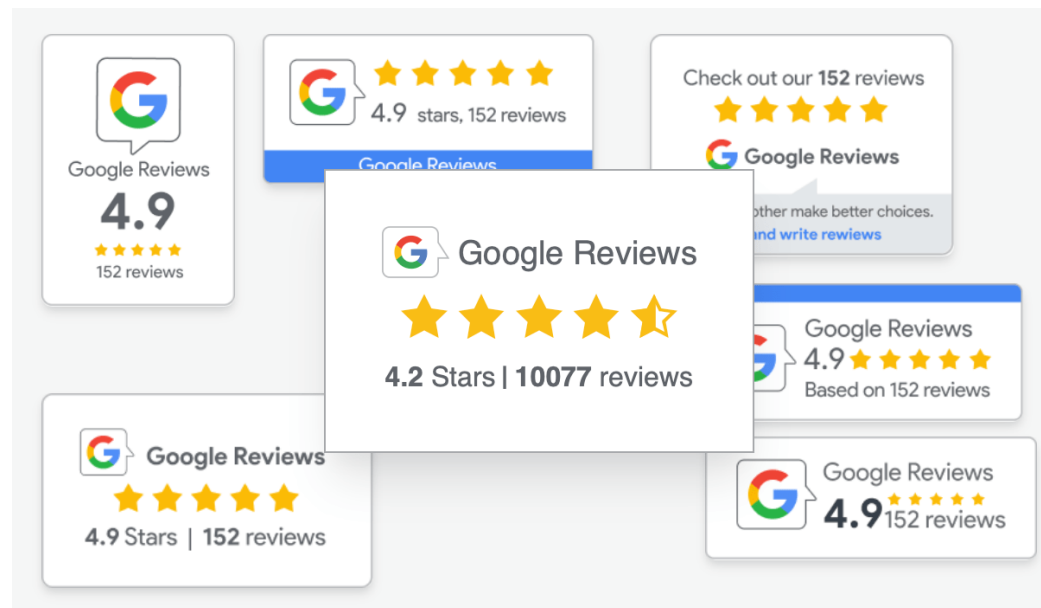
I urge you to take decisive action—either by banning Google Reviews or implementing strict regulations to prevent misuse. Protecting Indian professionals from exploitation should be a priority to maintain a fair and trustworthy business environment.

Google represents a multifaceted and intricate Frankenstein monster creation that, despite its vast capabilities and technological advancements, struggles to effectively control the misuse that arises from its fundamental elements. The platform, while designed to enhance connectivity and access to information, inadvertently becomes a breeding ground for various forms of cybercrime. Our nation is already grappling with the serious repercussions of these cybercrimes, which manifest in alarming ways, including digital arrests and fraudulent loan applications that exploit unsuspecting individuals.

Elon Musk and Donald Trump Target USAID, Sparking Controversy Over Government Oversight

Elon Musk and Donald Trump have launched a coordinated attack on the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), accusing the agency of corruption and overreach. Musk went as far as labeling it a "criminal organization," while Trump described USAID as being "run by radical lunatics." This marks a notable shift in the Trump administration's stance on government agencies, as the duo seeks to challenge what they perceive as wasteful and unchecked operations within the U.S. government.

Trump, speaking publicly on Sunday, criticized USAID's leadership, hinting at a potential overhaul of the agency. He suggested that the current leadership would be removed and that a future reassessment of USAID's role would take place, though he provided no specific details. This comment fueled speculation that Trump may be considering a significant restructuring or even



The consequences of these cybercrimes extend far beyond mere financial loss; they have devastating effects on mental health and community well-being. Tragically, we are witnessing an increasing number of young individuals who, overwhelmed by the pressures and challenges posed by the digital landscape, are taking their own lives. This heartbreaking trend highlights the urgent need for more robust safeguards and support systems to protect vulnerable populations from the darker sides of technology.

Moreover, families across the nation are facing severe economic hardships as a result of these digital threats. The financial strain caused by identity theft, scams, and other cyber-related crimes can lead to a cascade of difficulties, affecting not only individual households but also the broader economy. The emotional toll on families dealing with the aftermath of such crimes cannot be overstated, as they navigate the complexities of recovery and rebuilding their lives.

In this context, Prime Minister Modi's advocacy for the "Make in India" initiative aims to foster innovation, entrepreneurship, and self-reliance within the country. However, it appears that Google's pervasive influence and the challenges associated with its platform may undermine this vision from the outset. The reliance on foreign technology gi-

ants can stifle local innovation and entrepreneurship, as domestic businesses struggle to compete in an environment dominated by powerful multinational corporations.

Furthermore, the potential for misuse of technology can deter investment and growth in homegrown solutions, as entrepreneurs may hesitate to enter a market fraught with risks associated with cybercrime and data breaches. To truly realize the goals of the "Make in India" initiative, it is essential to create a balanced ecosystem that empowers local businesses while also addressing the challenges posed by global tech giants like Google.

In conclusion, while Google has revolutionized the way we access information and connect with one another, it is imperative to recognize and address the complexities and challenges that accompany its influence. As we navigate this digital age, we must prioritize the protection of individuals and families from cyber threats, support mental health initiatives, and foster an environment that encourages local innovation and entrepreneurship. Only then can we hope to build a resilient and thriving society that aligns with the aspirations of the "Make in India" Before independence, British entity, the East India Company, controlled Indian commerce. Today, once again we find ourselves under the control of foreign companies like Google, which now exerts significant control over Indian businesses. Are we to remain subservient to these profit-driven foreign companies? Google's overarching aim appears to control of the Indian enterprises, ranging from micro, small, and medium enterprises in villages to major businesses in urban centers.

We, Indians should not remain captive in hands of these profit making unethical companies

I trust you will consider the severe implications of this issue and take appropriate steps. I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

Dr. Buragadda Srinadh, MD
Director, Asian Institute of Fetal Medicine and Reproductive Genetics
Hyderabad

How China Allegedly Contributes To Fentanyl Crisis



The United States continues to grapple with a devastating opioid epidemic, and fentanyl—a synthetic opioid 50 times more potent than heroin—is at the center of the crisis. The drug, which is cheaper and easier to produce than heroin, has claimed tens of thousands of American lives each year. Fentanyl is now the leading cause of death among individuals aged 18 to 45, and its rapid spread has been a point of contention between Washington and Beijing.

The U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) has accused China of being the primary source of fentanyl-related substances trafficked into the U.S. While China tightened its controls on fentanyl production in 2019, U.S. authorities assert that this only shifted the trafficking methods. Chemical components required to produce fentanyl are shipped to Mexico, where the drug is manufactured and then smuggled into the United States. Many of these precursor chemicals are legal in China and have legitimate medical uses, complicating prosecution efforts.

In response, Beijing has denied responsibility, asserting that there is no illegal trafficking of fentanyl between China and Mexico. However, the Chinese government has vowed to strengthen its regulations, pointing to some of the world's harshest drug laws. Despite these efforts, U.S. authorities argue that drug manufacturers continue to develop new variants of synthetic precursors faster than Chinese authorities can identify and regulate them.

The Biden administration has ramped up its efforts to curb the fentanyl crisis by targeting Chinese entities and individuals allegedly linked to the trade. In October 2023, sanctions were imposed on over two dozen Chinese firms accused of facilitating the shipment of fentanyl precursors to the U.S. and Mexico. These actions include individuals from both mainland China and Hong Kong, with U.S. officials attributing a significant portion of fentanyl-related deaths to the global supply chain that begins with Chinese chemical manufacturers.

China's cooperation in addressing the fentanyl trade remains uncertain. While U.S. and Chinese leaders agreed to restart counternarcotics talks following a summit in 2023, the effectiveness of these negotiations is still in question. Analysts note that cooperation between the two nations often hinges on the state of bilateral relations, and Chinese authorities may be less inclined to cooperate with countries with whom they have strained relations.

Learning from Past: The Importance of Disaster and Mitigating Modern Catastrophes



The devastating wildfires that ravaged Southern California in 2025 echo the destructive power of the Great Fire of 1910, which consumed over 3 million acres across Montana, Idaho, and Washington. Descriptions from that historic fire—such as "The forests staggered, rocked, exploded, and then shrieked under the holocaust" and "Great red balls of fire rolled up the mountainsides"—are chilling reminders of the recurring nature of such natural disasters. Similarly, the tragic events of the Wayanad disaster in July-August 2024 resonate with the accounts of a 1924 landslide in the region, highlighting the vulnerability of isolated communities in the face of natural calamities and the historical struggles of rebuilding economies after disasters.

While history may seem to repeat itself, there are valuable lessons to be learned by examining past disasters closely. Analyzing specific cases and their impacts, both immediate and long-term, can shed light on effective strategies for future disaster management and recovery. It is especially important to study historical disaster patterns and their socio-economic consequences to improve preparedness in today's world.

Disaster history has long played a crucial role in shaping how regions and nations deal with calamities. Although it has been an essential aspect of human experience, the study of disasters from a historical perspective has not always been systematically pursued. Pioneering studies, such as those on the 1755 Great Lisbon Earthquake and the 1920 dynamite explosion in Halifax, Canada, have provided insight into the multifaceted impacts of disasters, including their religious significance, social dynamics, and recovery processes. These early works laid the foundation for modern disaster studies, which have gained momentum since World War II, especially in the context of Cold War tensions.

Stock Markets Decline on Global Uncertainty; IT and Healthcare Limit Losses



Domestic stock markets closed lower on Monday. The Nifty opened with a gap-down of 162 points in the morning on negative signals from global markets. Donald Trump's decision to stop funding to South Africa, preparations to impose tariffs on other countries, signals from those countries to impose tariffs in retaliation, and international uncertainty contributed to this. After that, there was a slight recovery as investors took up some buying. However, the further weakening of the rupee against the dollar increased the negative sentiment. Nifty ended with a loss of 121 points and Sensex 319 points on support from IT and healthcare shares.

The BSE Sensex, which closed at 77,505 in the previous session, opened at 77,063 today. It touched an intraday low of 76,756. It reached an intraday high of 77,260. It ended at 77,186, down 319 points. The NSE Nifty, which opened at 23,319 on Monday, touched

a low of 23,222 and a high of 23,381. It lost a total of 121 points and closed at 23,361. The Nifty Bank fell 296 points to settle at 49,210.

In the Nifty50, 16 companies gained while 35 lost. Bajaj Finance, Shriram Finance, M&M, Wipro, Bajaj Finserv were the top gainers. IT, Tata Consumer, Hero Moto, Coal India, BEL were the biggest losers. Today, all sectoral indices, except IT, healthcare, auto, pharma, and consumer durables, were in the red. Bank, FMCG, metal, oil and gas indices fell the most.

Market breadth on NSE today completely shifted in favor of sellers. Out of a total of 2928 stocks traded, 2063 lost. Only 787 gained. Shares of 34 companies reached 52-week highs



while 79 reached 52-week lows.

Rupee weakened by 58 paise to settle at 87.19 against dollar. Jefferies reduced GMR Airports target to Rs.92 from Rs.100. Nomura maintained buy rating with a target price of Rs.870 for Five Star Business Finance. Kamat Hotels and Sky Gold ended in the upper circuit. Railways, defense and infra shares were volatile today due to reduced capex spending. Stove Craft's net profit in the third quarter rose 79% from Rs 6.7 crore to Rs 12 crore. Alembic Pharma's net profit fell 23% to Rs 138 crore from Rs 180 crore. Poly Medicare's net profit rose 31% from Rs 65 crore to Rs 85 crore. The heads of the respective companies believe that India will register double-digit growth in the financial year 2026. Mahindra Life Space has won a project worth Rs 950 crore for the redevelopment of residential societies in Mumbai. Sky Gold's net profit rose from Rs 9 crore to Rs 37 crore. Hero MotoCorp's January exports rose 140.8%. Swan Energy won an order worth Rs 111 crore. Divis Laboratories' profit rose from Rs 358 crore to Rs 589 crore.

1. Bajaj Finance (BAJFINANCE) – NBFC Leader

Bajaj Finance is a market leader in the Indian non-banking financial company (NBFC) space, offering consumer loans, SME loans, and commercial lending. It has a strong digital lending platform



and a growing customer base. Bajaj Finance remains a strong long-term bet due to its consistent earnings growth, high return ratios, and leadership in digital lending. Valuations are on the higher side, but growth potential remains strong.

2. Wipro (WIPRO) – IT Services Giant

Wipro is one of India's largest IT services firms, providing consulting, cloud computing, and digital transformation solutions globally. It has a significant presence in the BFSI, healthcare, and manufacturing sectors. Wipro's growth has lagged behind peers like TCS and Infosys due to weaker deal wins and margin pressures. However, the company is focusing on improving execution efficiency and large deal acquisitions. Suitable for long-term investors seeking stability.

3. Bharti Airtel – Telecom & Digital Services Leader

Bharti Airtel is one of India's leading telecom providers, offering mobile, broadband, and enterprise solutions. It is expanding its 5G network and increasing ARPU (Average Revenue Per User) with premium offerings. Bharti Airtel is benefiting from strong subscriber growth, premiumization, and tariff hikes. Its high P/E suggests premium valuation, but



long-term growth potential remains strong due to rising data consumption and enterprise business expansion.

4. Cholamandalam Investment & Finance (CHOLAFIN) – Leading NBFC in Vehicle Finance



Cholamandalam is a Murugappa Group NBFC, focusing on vehicle finance, home loans, and SME loans. It has a strong rural and semi-urban lending presence. Cholamandalam is well-positioned to benefit from rising demand for auto and rural credit. While valuations are high, its consistent profitability and strong loan growth make it a solid long-term NBFC play.

5. TVS Motor Company (TVSMOTOR) – Two-Wheeler & EV Leader

TVS Motor is a leading two-wheeler manufacturer in India with a growing presence in electric vehicles (EVs) and premium motorcycles. It competes with Hero MotoCorp and Bajaj Auto. TVS is rapidly expanding its EV portfolio and premium segment motorcycles. Strong brand loyalty and international expansion support long-term growth. A good pick for investors looking for a blend of stability and growth in the auto sector.



Rupee hits an all-time low to go past Rs 87 against US dollar



The Indian rupee plunged to a record low of Rs 87.07 against the US dollar on Monday, following new trade tensions triggered by fresh tariffs imposed by US President Donald Trump. The rupee's sharp decline, which amounted to a 0.5% drop in early trade, reflects broader instability in the global currency markets as the US dollar strengthened significantly.

The rupee's weakness was largely a result of three executive orders signed by Trump over the weekend, which introduced new tariffs on major trading partners. These measures included 25% tariffs on imports from Mexico and Canada, along with a 10% tariff on goods from China, set to take effect on Tuesday. As the US dollar gained strength in response to these tariffs, it placed significant pressure on other currencies, particularly in Asia.

Traders anticipate continued pressure on the rupee throughout the day, with further weakness expected as global markets adjust to the news. The strengthening of the US dollar, spurred by the tariffs, contributed to the rise of the dollar index, which climbed 0.3% to 109.8. This stronger dollar has affected not only the Indian rupee but other Asian currencies as well.



Budget is By the People, For the People, Of the People: says Sitharaman

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, paraphrasing Abraham Lincoln, described the Union Budget as "by the people, for the people, of the people." In her remarks, she highlighted Prime Minister Narendra Modi's strong support for tax cuts aimed at easing the burden on the middle class. According to Sitharaman, while the idea for tax cuts was driven by the Prime Minister's vision, it took time to convince bureaucrats to implement the changes.

The newly introduced tax rates are designed to reduce the financial strain on the middle class, leaving more disposable income in the hands of households. This move is expected to stimulate household consumption and support the economy by encouraging spending. Sitharaman emphasized that widening the tax base is an ongoing process, and it is crucial for citizens to understand the importance of tax payment in sustaining government welfare schemes.

Sitharaman acknowledged the concerns of the middle class, which had long been expressing dissatisfaction about their unmet aspirations despite being honest taxpayers. She explained that the government's decision to provide tax relief was a response to their calls for assistance, especially amid rising inflation.

However, while Prime Minister Modi was quick to approve the tax cuts, convincing the officials in the Finance Ministry and the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT), responsible for ensuring revenue collection, required more effort. Sitharaman shared that the process took some time but ultimately led to the announcement of the tax relief, which has been in the works for several months.

Adani Power Plans Major Expansion to Boost Capacity by 1.7x by 2030

Adani Power Ltd (APL), India's second-largest thermal power generation company, is on track to significantly expand its power generation capacity. According to a report by Jefferies, APL aims to increase its capacity from 17.6 GW to 30.7 GW by 2030, marking a 1.7 times growth.

The company's strategic expansion plan comes with strong backing in terms of land acquisition and financing. APL is working closely with Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd (BHEL) for the delivery of necessary equipment. Additionally, APL's in-house engineering, procurement, and construction (EPC) team is ensuring that capital expenditure progresses according to schedule, driving the company's expansion forward.

Jefferies highlighted that India's peak power deficit situation, combined with APL's exposure to the merchant power market, provides a positive outlook for the compa-



ny. The report projects a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 10% in EBITDA between FY24 and FY27. As new power capacity comes online, EBITDA growth is expected to accelerate, with a 19% CAGR forecasted between FY27 and FY30. Overall, the report estimates a 2.2x increase in EBITDA from FY24 to FY30.

In terms of funding the expansion, APL will

require an incremental capital expenditure of Rs 1.6 trillion to add 13 GW of capacity. The company plans to manage this investment through operational cash flows of Rs 1.4 trillion between FY25 and FY30. However, APL's debt-to-equity ratio is expected to peak at 1.4x during FY26-FY27 before declining post-FY27 as new plants begin generating revenue.



Araku Chali Festival Concludes with Grand Success

TPN Correspondent | Araku

The three-day Araku Chali Festival concluded on a grand note, attracting large crowds who enjoyed the celebrations in the scenic valley. The festival, which featured trekking, cultural performances, traditional competitions, and adventure activities, showcased the rich heritage and natural beauty of Araku.

Trekking to Instill Enthusiasm in Tourists

Many youths enthusiastically participated in the trekking program organized to instill joy and courage in tourists. On the third day of the festival, participants trekked approximately three kilometers from the Sun-kara Metta Coffee Trail, experiencing the beauty of the region while also contributing to its preservation. In line with the District Collector's vision of making tourist areas plastic-free, trekkers actively removed plastic waste, spreading awareness about the responsibility of respecting nature. The trek was supported by the OP Agarwal team from Madhya Pradesh.

Under the guidance of Visakhapatnam District Judge M Giridhar, Divisional Forest Officer Sandeep Reddy, Sub-Divisional Forest Officer Umamaheswari, and Freedom Fighters Museum Curator P Shankar Rao, the trekking experience became a memorable one. Participants expressed their delight in witnessing diverse bird species, inhaling the fresh aroma of medicinal plants, and immersing themselves in nature's tranquility.

Muggula Competitions Add to the Festive Spirit
A major highlight of the festival was the muggula (rangoli) competitions, which attracted significant participation. Women from tribal and local communities enthusiastically displayed their artistic talents, creating vibrant and intricate rangoli designs. Several women officers also took part, adding to the festival's celebratory atmosphere.

The winners of the muggula competition were:

- **First Prize: B. Devi**
- **Second Prize: L. Madhu Sri**
- **Third Prize: U. Sunitha**
- **Consolation Prize:** Three-year-old Chinmayi, who impressed everyone with her participation.

District Collector S. Dinesh Kumar, while presenting the awards, lauded the enthusiastic response and highlighted the festival's ability to bring together locals and tourists in cultural harmony.

Government's Commitment to Tourism Development

Special Chief Secretary of the Tourism Department, Ajay Jain, addressed the festival's closing ceremony virtually, emphasizing the government's strong commitment to developing tourist destinations. He noted that after a five-year gap, the Araku Chali Festival was successfully

revived, setting an example for other districts. He announced that next year, a large-scale Alluri Tribal Destination festival would be organized to further promote tourism.

District Collector S. Dinesh Kumar revealed ambitious plans to boost adventure tourism in the region. He stated that nine key destinations had been identified for development, with 20 paragliding setups and cross-country flying planned for April next year. Additional tourism projects in Tajangi and Jolaput areas were also announced, with a focus on enhancing cultural experiences. Notable festival highlights included a 300-person marathon, a 20-member cycling event, and trekking expeditions, alongside mesmerizing performances by artists from Manipur, Nagaland, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, and Andhra Pradesh. The festival also featured food courts offering authentic tribal cuisine, adding a gastronomic delight to the event.

Celebrity Participation Adds to the Festivities

The Araku Chali Festival 2025 was further enlivened by the participation of notable personalities who added a special charm to the event. A standout moment was when IAS officer M.J. Abhishek Gowda captivated the audience with his rendition of the popular Telugu song Neeli Neeli Aakasam from the movie 30 Rojullo Preminchadam Ela. His performance, along with his participation in traditional dances, garnered widespread praise on social media.

Adding to the festival's allure, popular singer Mangli delivered an electrifying performance on February 2nd, energizing the crowd with her dynamic stage presence.

A Grand Conclusion with Promises for the Future

As the curtains came down on the Araku Chali Festival, it left an indelible mark on the visitors who cherished its cultural and adventurous experiences. The festival successfully brought together nature enthusiasts, adventure seekers, and cultural connoisseurs, setting a new benchmark for tourism events in the region. Officials reaffirmed their commitment to making the 2026 edition of the festival even more spectacular, transforming it into a must-visit event for both domestic and international tourists. With its blend of nature, adventure, culture, and tradition, the Araku Chali Festival has firmly established itself as a premier tourism attraction in Andhra Pradesh.

Anakapalle District Collector Vijaya Krishnan, Joint Collector Dr. M.J. Abhishek Gowda, ITDA Project Officer V. Abhishek, Sub-Collector Sooryaman Patel, Rampachodavaram Sub-Collector Kalpasri, DFO Sandeep Reddy, DRO K. Padmalatha, and other dignitaries graced the event, making it a grand success.



Telangana's Young Cricket Sensation Trisha

- A Journey of Sacrifice and Triumph

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad
Telangana's rising cricket star Gongidi Trisha has become a national sensation after her outstanding performance in the Women's Under-19 T20 World Cup. With her remarkable all-round skills, she played a crucial role in leading Team India to victory in the mega tournament, making her one of the brightest prospects in Indian women's cricket. However, behind Trisha's success lies an extraordinary tale of perseverance, sacrifice, and unwavering parental support, particularly from her father, Gongidi Ramireddy.

The Father's Sacrifice Behind Trisha's Success

Trisha's journey to international cricket is not just a story of talent and hard work but also of immense sacrifice by her father. Similar to fellow Telugu cricketer Nitish Kumar Reddy, Trisha's success was shaped by the dedication and relentless efforts of her father. Gongidi Ramireddy, a native of Bhadrachalam in the erstwhile Khammam district, was a fitness trainer in a private company. A sports enthusiast himself, he envisioned a career in sports for his future child even before she was born. On December 15, 2005, when Trisha was born, Ramireddy did not let the societal mindset about girls in sports deter him. Determined to nurture his daughter's sporting career, he took it upon himself to guide her every step of the way. Initially, he introduced her to different sports, including tennis and badminton, but it was cricket that caught Trisha's interest. She shared her father's passion for the game and often watched matches with him, strengthening his resolve to shape her into a professional cricketer.

Overcoming Hurdles and Relocating for Cricket

Despite facing skepticism from people around him and struggling with financial difficulties, Ramireddy never wavered. He made the life-altering decision to quit his job as a fitness trainer and dedicate himself entirely to his daughter's cricketing



journey. Realizing that opportunities in their hometown were limited, he took another bold step—moving his entire family to Hyderabad to provide Trisha with better training facilities. In Hyderabad, he enrolled her at St. John's Cricket Academy in Secunderabad, one of the finest cricket academies in the state. This shift came with its challenges—balancing her cricket training and education, financial constraints, and the pressure to prove that their sacrifices were not in vain. But Trisha, inspired by her father's dedication, put in relentless effort to hone her skills in both batting and bowling.

Trisha's Rise Through the Ranks

Trisha's hard work soon bore fruit as she began making waves in Hyderabad's cricketing circuit. She gained recognition as a talented all-rounder, earning a spot in Hyderabad's team for the 2017-18 Senior Women's T20 League. Her performances there led to her selection for India B in the Senior Women's Challenge Trophy held in Andhra Pradesh in 2021-22. By 2023, she had secured a place in India's

Under-19 Women's team and played a key role in the Under-19 World Cup that year. She showcased her batting prowess by scoring 24 runs in the final, contributing significantly to India's victory.

A Star Performer in the 2025 Under-19 Women's T20 World Cup

Trisha's defining moment came in the 2025 edition of the Women's Under-19 T20 World Cup, held in Malaysia. She emerged as the highest run-scorer in the tournament, playing a crucial role in India's dominant run.

In the final against South Africa, India chased down the target of 83 runs with ease, losing only one wicket in 11.2 overs. Trisha top-scored with an unbeaten 44, guiding the team to victory. Earlier in the match, she had also played a pivotal role with the ball, taking three crucial wickets to restrict South Africa to a meager total.

Her standout performances extended beyond the final. In the Super Six stage, she smashed a record-breaking 110 runs off just 59 balls against Scotland, hitting 13 fours and four sixes. This innings made her the first cricketer to score a century in the 2025 Women's Under-19 World Cup, further solidifying her reputation as an exceptional talent.

A Dream Yet to Be Fulfilled

Trisha's achievements have brought immense pride to Telangana and to her father, Ramireddy, whose sacrifices have finally paid off. Yet, his ultimate dream remains unfulfilled—seeing his daughter represent the senior Indian Women's team. With her current trajectory, it is only a matter of time before Trisha dons the India jersey at the highest level.

Her story is a testament to the power of perseverance, determination, and parental sacrifice. From a small town in Telangana to the global cricketing stage, Gongidi Trisha has become a beacon of inspiration for aspiring young cricketers across the country.

Praggnanandhaa Defeats Gukesh in Tiebreaker to Win Tata Steel Chess Masters Title



Chennai's chess prodigy, Grandmaster R Praggnanandhaa, triumphed over World Champion D Gukesh in a nerve-wracking tiebreaker to claim his first-ever Tata Steel Chess Masters title. The 19-year-old battled exhaustion and immense pressure to overcome his compatriot 2-1 in the final of the tournament's 87th edition on Sunday.

Both players ended the regular rounds with 8.5 points each, forcing a tiebreaker. Gukesh suffered a loss to Arjun Erigaisi, while Praggnanandhaa was defeated by Germany's Vincent Keymer. In the tiebreaker, Gukesh took the lead in the first game due to a blunder by Praggnanandhaa, but the latter bounced back in the second, employing the Trompowsky opening to level the score at 1-1.

The match then moved to sudden death, where Gukesh initially had an advantage, gaining a pawn. However, under pressure, he lost control, first giving away a pawn and later his last remaining knight. Praggnanandhaa capitalized on the errors with his impeccable endgame technique, securing victory.

With this win, Praggnanandhaa became the first Indian since Viswanathan Anand to win the Tata Steel Chess title. Gukesh, unfortunately, faced heartbreak for the second consecutive year, having lost the 2023 tiebreaker to Wei Yi.

After the victory, Praggnanandhaa expressed his excitement, calling it his most stressful day. "I didn't expect to win, but somehow things went my way," he said.

Sift Kaur Samra, Jonathan Anthony Win Gold at National Games 2025

Punjab's Sift Kaur Samra and Karnataka's Jonathan Anthony clinched gold medals in the women's 50m 3 positions and men's 10m pistol events, respectively, at the ongoing 38th National Games on Monday.

Samra, an Asian Games gold medallist, delivered a stellar performance, scoring 461.2 points at the Maharana Pratap Sports College. Her Punjab teammate Anjum Moudgil secured silver (458.7 points), while Telangana's Surabhi Bhardwaj Rapole took bronze (448.8 points).

In the men's 10m pistol final, Karnataka's Jonathan Anthony secured gold with a flawless performance, while SSCB's Ravinder Singh and Gurpreet Singh bagged silver and bronze, respectively.

Expressing her joy, Samra said, "This feels like a comeback after the Olympics. Winning gold today is special." Anthony added, "Competing against top shooters made this victory even more meaningful."



Indian Shuttlers to Attend Preparatory Camp in Guwahati Ahead of Asia Mixed Team Championship

The Indian badminton team, including top players like PV Sindhu and Lakshya Sen, will take part in a five-day preparatory camp in Guwahati from Tuesday, ahead of the Badminton Asia Mixed Team Championships scheduled in Qingdao, China, from February 11-16.

After securing a bronze medal in the 2023 edition, the Indian squad aims to better their performance this time. The team will depart for the tournament on February 8.

Badminton Association of India (BAI) Secretary General Sanjay Mishra emphasized that the camp at the National Center of Excellence would not only en-



hance players' technical skills but also provide exposure to young shuttlers by training alongside India's finest talents.

"In addition to technical training, the camp will focus on discipline, teamwork, and sportsmanship, ensuring a well-rounded preparation ahead of this major team event," Mishra said in a release.

The 14-member Indian squad will be spearheaded by PV Sindhu and Lakshya Sen, with support from Asian Games gold medalists Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty, and World Championship bronze medallist HS Prannoy. The preparatory camp is expected to boost team bonding and refine their strategies ahead of the high-stakes tournament.

La Liga: Lewandowski's Goal Secures Barcelona's Win Over Alaves, Keeps Title Hopes Alive



Robert Lewandowski's decisive second-half goal helped Barcelona secure a crucial 1-0 victory over Alaves on Sunday, narrowing the gap on La Liga leaders Real Madrid to four points. The win came after Real Madrid dropped points against Espanyol, giving Barcelona an opportunity to close in on their rivals.

The match at the Olympic Stadium saw Barcelona struggle to break down Alaves' strong defense in the first half. However, a brilliant cross from Lamine Yamal in the 61st minute allowed Lewandowski to net his 18th goal of the season, making him the league's top scorer.

Barcelona coach Hansi Flick praised Lewandowski, calling him "the best number nine in the box." The win places Barcelona three points behind Atletico Madrid, who face Real Madrid next weekend.

Despite Alaves' defensive resilience, Barcelona maintained composure. Substitute Ferran Torres nearly doubled the lead, but his curling shot was saved. With the victory, Barcelona remains in the title race, keeping pressure on their Madrid rivals. Meanwhile, Athletic Bilbao drew 2-2 against Real Betis, while Osasuna secured a 2-1 win over Real Sociedad.



Prabhas' First Look as 'Rudra' from 'Kannappa' Unveiled

The much-awaited first look of Prabhas as 'Rudra' from the epic film 'Kannappa' has been officially revealed. Starring Manchu Vishnu in the lead, the film is being made on a grand scale with a massive star cast.

Prabhas plays a crucial role in this ambitious project, which is produced by Manchu Vishnu under his home banner. The first look showcases Prabhas in a powerful and intense avatar, increasing anticipation for the film.

Directed by Mukesh Kumar Singh, 'Kannappa' is set to be a visual spectacle and will release worldwide on April 25, 2025. With its grandeur and star-studded lineup, the film is expected to be one of the biggest releases of the year.

'Coffee With a Killer' Movie Review: An Underwhelming Thriller Set in a Coffee Shop

'Coffee With a Killer', directed by CRP Patnaik, is a crime thriller that unfolds entirely in a coffee shop. Released directly on Aha, the film attempts to blend suspense with multiple subplots but struggles with its execution.

The story revolves around a coffee shop where people discuss personal and professional matters. Among them, a contract killer enters, waiting for instructions to eliminate a target. As the film progresses, multiple characters, including a cop, film producers, land mafia members, and lovers, contribute to the chaotic environment. The suspense builds around who the target is and how the events unfold.

Despite an intriguing premise, the film fails to maintain engagement. The screenplay feels disjointed, with subplots like hawala transactions and relationship troubles lacking depth. The humor track involving Srinivasa Reddy and Suresh falls flat, while the excessive number of characters dilutes the tension.

Performance-wise, Ravi Babu, Sathyam Rajesh, and Srinivasa Reddy deliver decent performances, but the weak narrative under-



mines their efforts. The cinematography and background score are passable, but the execution lacks finesse.

With a better screenplay and stronger character arcs, the film could have been a gripping thriller. Unfortunately, it misses the mark, making it a forgettable watch.

Rating: (2/5)

Beyonce Wins First Grammy for Album of the Year with 'Cowboy Carter'

Los Angeles: Beyonce won her first-ever Album of the Year award at the Grammy Awards 2025 on Sunday for her country album "Cowboy Carter." The music icon, who already holds the record for the most Grammy wins, finally secured the prestigious award, beating Taylor Swift, Billie Eilish, and others.

"I just feel very full and very honored. It's been many, many years," Beyonce said in an emotional acceptance speech. Rapper Kendrick Lamar won Record of the Year and Song of the Year for "Not Like Us." Meanwhile, Chappell Roan was named Best New Artist and used her stage time to call for better wages and healthcare benefits for musicians.

The Grammys also served as a fundraiser for victims

of the recent wildfires, which had displaced thousands, including many musicians. The night opened with an all-star performance of "I Love LA" by John Legend, Brad Paisley, St. Vincent, and Brittany Howard.

Hosted by Trevor Noah, the show directed viewers toward donation options while celebrating musical excellence.

Grammy 2025 Highlights

- **Album of the Year:** Cowboy Carter – Beyonce
- **Record of the Year:** Not Like Us – Kendrick Lamar
- **Song of the Year:** Not Like Us – Kendrick Lamar
- **Best New Artist:** Chappell Roan
- **Best Pop Vocal Album:** Short n' Sweet – Sabrina Carpenter
- **Best Country Album:** Cowboy Carter – Beyonce



Grammys 2025: Indian-Origin Chandrika Tandon Wins Big, Beats Ricky Kej and Anoushka Shankar

Indian-American vocalist Chandrika Tandon won the Best New Age, Ambient, or Chant Album award at the 67th Annual Grammy Awards for her album Triveni, held on Sunday at the Crypto.com Arena in Los Angeles.

Chandrika shared the honor with her collaborators, South African flautist Wouter Kellerman and Japanese cellist Eru Matsumoto. She triumphed over other notable nominees, including Ricky Kej (Break of Dawn), Anoushka Shankar (Chapter II: How Dark It Is Before Dawn), Ryuichi Sakamoto (Opus), and Radhika Vekaria (Warriors of Light).

The Consulate General of India in New York congratulated her via social media, stating: "Congratulations to Ms. Chandrika Tandon @chandrikatandon on winning the Grammy Award @RecordingAcad in the Best New Age, Ambient, or Chant Album category for Triveni! A mesmerizing fusion of ancient mantras, flute, and cello, Triveni bridges cultures and traditions through the universal language of music."

Apart from Tandon's historic win, the Grammy Awards 2025 had several headline-making moments. Kanye West and his wife Bianca Censori were escorted out by police, while Hollywood star Will Smith made his first major awards show appearance since the infamous 2022 Oscar slap incident. Smith participated in a tribute to Quincy Jones, introducing Herbie Hancock on piano and later welcoming Cynthia Erivo, who performed Fly Me to the Moon.

Tandon's victory marks another proud moment for Indian-origin artists on the global stage.



Ed Sheeran and Armaan Malik Set Stage on Fire with '2Step' at Hyderabad Concert

British pop sensation Ed Sheeran and Indian singer Armaan Malik set the stage ablaze during Sheeran's India Tour concert at Ramoji Film City, Hyderabad, on Sunday. The event witnessed a spectacular musical collaboration as the duo performed the Indian rendition of 2Step, followed by the original English version, leaving the audience in awe.

A video shared by BookMyShow captured the electrifying moment when Ed Sheeran welcomed Armaan Malik on stage, saying, "Can you please make some noise for Armaan Malik?" The crowd erupted in cheers as the two artists delivered a power-packed act.

In another special moment, Armaan Malik performed the hit Telugu song Butta Bomma from Ala Vaikunthapurramuloo, a song that Ed Sheeran had previously grooved to during his Mumbai visit in 2023. Malik took to Instagram to share a clip of his performance, captioning it, "Performing Butta Bomma in Hyderabad is always just 'perfect'."

Ahead of the concert, Ed Sheeran and Armaan Malik also enjoyed a day out in Hyderabad, which Malik documented in a series of Instagram posts.

Ed Sheeran's six-city India tour, which began in Pune on January 30, will continue with performances in Chennai, Bengaluru, Shillong, and Delhi in the coming days.

