



Weather Forecast

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

Basanagouda Yatnal Camp Pushes for Elections to BJP President



Yatnal demands elections for Karnataka BJP chief post

Accuses BY Vijayendra of sidelining senior leaders

Internal strife could impact BJP's preparations for Lok Sabha polls

TPN Correspondent | Vijayapura

The demand for internal elections to determine the next Karnataka BJP president has intensified, with Vijayapura MLA Basanagouda Patil Yatnal and his supporters advocating for a transparent and democratic selection process. Yatnal has been vocal in his opposition to BY Vijayendra, the current BJP state president and son of former Chief Minister BS Yediyurappa, accusing him of mismanaging party affairs and sidelining senior leaders.

Addressing his supporters, Yatnal alleged that Vijayendra's appointment as the Karnataka BJP chief was influenced by family politics rather than merit. He further stated that if the party fails to conduct an internal election, he would reveal details of alleged irregularities committed during Vijayendra's tenure.

The growing dissent within the party comes at a crucial time, as Karnataka BJP faces significant challenges in preparing for the upcoming Lok Sabha elections. Yatnal's demand for elections is seen as a direct challenge to the leadership of Vijayendra, who has been trying to consolidate his position since taking over as state president. Sources within the party indicate that Yatnal has been rallying support from other disgruntled leaders who feel overlooked in decision-making processes. While the BJP high command has yet to respond to his demands, the internal discord threatens to impact the party's unity ahead of the crucial elections.

Despite Yatnal's aggressive stance, Vijayendra's camp has remained largely silent, with close aides dismissing the allegations as baseless. Party insiders suggest that BJP's central leadership may intervene to prevent the situation from escalating further.

With the Lok Sabha elections approaching, the BJP leadership will have to navigate these internal rifts carefully to maintain its stronghold in Karnataka. Whether the demand for elections gains traction or remains a pressure tactic by Yatnal's camp remains to be seen in the coming weeks.

US Military C-17 Departs 205 Indians Under Trump Crackdown



TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

In a significant move under Donald Trump's immigration crackdown, a US military C-17 aircraft has deported 205 Indian migrants, marking an unprecedented use of military resources for deportation. A US official confirmed to Reuters that the aircraft departed on January 3, but the exact Indian destination remains undisclosed. Reports indicate that as many as 18,000 illegal Indian immigrants have been identified for deportation under Trump's immigration enforcement strategy. A US embassy spokesperson, responding to media inquiries, reiterated that the US is "vigorously enforcing its border" and "removing illegal migrants" to send a "clear message" against illegal migration. The official emphasized that the US government is tightening immigration laws and utilizing military resources,

We Gave Poor Real Development, Not Empty Slogans..

PM Modi Highlights Govt's Achievements in Parliament Address

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, during his reply to the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address, emphasized that his government has delivered real development to the poor rather than empty slogans. He contrasted his administration's performance with previous governments, asserting that 25 crore people have been lifted out of poverty. His speech targeted AAP chief Arvind Kejriwal and Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, emphasizing his government's commitment to real development over populist promises. Taking an apparent swipe at Kejriwal, he said, "Some political leaders focus on jacuzzis and stylish showers, but our focus is on providing tap water to every home. We have ensured tap water for 12 crore families." His remark was seen as a reference to allegations of Kejriwal's ₹45 crore expenditure on his official residence. PM Modi also attacked AAP for failing to fulfill its pre-election promises. "We focus on youth, but some betray them. This group makes promises before elections but doesn't fulfill them. This group is an 'AAP-da' on the youth's future," he quipped.

Congress in PM's Line of Fire

Pivoting to Congress, the Prime Minister mocked its long-standing 'Garibi Hatao' slogan, asserting that his government had actually lifted 25 crore people out of poverty. "For decades, we heard 'Garibi

Key Statements from PM Modi's Address:

- "We have done so much for the poor that the President had to mention it at length. Those who do photo ops in huts will find discussions on the poor boring."
- "Some leaders are focusing on jacuzzis and stylish showers, but our focus is on providing tap water to every home. We have ensured tap water for 12 crore families."
- "They used to ridicule our sanitation programme, but today, India has transformed."
- "We removed 10 crore fake beneficiaries from government schemes, ensuring benefits reach the needy."
- "Our model is 'Bachat bhi, Vikas bhi'—the people's money is for the people."
- Through direct benefit transfers, ₹40 lakh crore has been deposited directly into people's bank accounts."
- "A former PM was called 'Mr. Clean', but even he admitted that if ₹1 was sent from Delhi, only 15 paise reached the people."
- "According to a WHO report, due to 'Nal Se Jal', families who earlier spent heavily on diseases have saved crores of rupees."
- Announces new tax relief, raising exemption to ₹12.75 lakh.

Hatao' slogans, but nothing changed. In the last 10 years, we helped 25 crore people overcome poverty. We didn't just give slogans; we gave real development," he said.

He criticized opposition leaders for engaging in "photo ops in huts" while ignoring real issues. "We have done so much for the poor that the President spoke about it at length. Those who do photo ops in huts will find discussions on the poor boring," he remarked.

PM Modi also referenced former PM Rajiv Gandhi's statement that only 15 paise of every rupee sent from Delhi reached the people. "Today, under our government, we have transferred ₹40 lakh crore directly into people's accounts," he declared.

Tax Relief & Economic Measures

Highlighting his government's economic reforms, PM Modi reminded the House of a major tax relief announced in the Union Budget. "In 2014, there was no tax exemption beyond ₹2 lakh. Today, that number has increased to ₹12 lakh. With the standard deduction, the salaried class will not have to pay tax on ₹12.75 lakh from April 1," he stated.

PM Modi's remarks reinforced his government's welfare-driven policies while dismissing opposition criticisms as political rhetoric. His speech came in response to Opposition criticism, including Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's remarks against the government's "failed" Make in India policy. While NDA members highlighted government achievements, opposition leaders attempted to target the ruling party on various issues.

Activist Snehamayi Fresh Complaint Against Siddaramaiah's Family

On October 20, 2010, Mallikarjuna transferred the land to Siddaramaiah's wife, Parvathi.

Parvathi later gifted it to their son, Yathindra, on November 11, 2020.

Yathindra reportedly sold the land on March 23, 2011

But the buyer's details remain undisclosed



India vs Pakistan Champions Trophy Tickets Sold Out in Minutes

Over 1.5 lakh fans queued online, causing hour-long waiting times.

Grand Lounge seats costing over ₹1.8 lakh.

Champions Trophy 2025 to start from February 19.

Hospitality and travel sectors brace for increased demand.



Karnataka Hosts National Conclave of Higher Education Ministers

TPN Correspondent | Bengaluru

The Karnataka government is hosting the National Conclave of Ministers for Higher Education today, February 5, 2025, bringing together representatives from seven states to deliberate on key policy matters concerning higher education governance. The primary agenda includes discussions on the University Grants Commission's (UGC) draft regulations on the appointment of Vice-Chancellors and governance frameworks for state universities. The conclave, held in Bengaluru, has attracted education ministers, academic experts, and university representatives from Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, West Bengal, and Punjab. These states have raised concerns over the increasing centralization of education policies, particularly in the appointment process of Vice-Chancellors and the autonomy of state-run higher education institutions.

Concerns Over UGC's Draft Regulations

The UGC's proposed guidelines aim to standardize the selection of Vice-Chancellors across universities by introducing a common eligibility framework and appointment process. However, state governments argue that these rules infringe on their autonomy and weaken their ability to oversee educational institutions within their jurisdiction.

A senior Karnataka higher education official stated, "The draft regulations limit the role of state governments



in appointing Vice-Chancellors. Such centralization could diminish the unique academic priorities of individual states and affect the quality of higher education governance." The conclave will focus on key issues concerning state universities, particularly the balance between autonomy and centralization, as states deliberate on maintaining control over educational institutions while adhering to national guidelines. One of

the major topics of discussion will be the appointment of vice-chancellors, exploring alternative mechanisms that ensure both state authority and academic merit in the selection process. Additionally, funding and governance models will be examined to enhance financial support and improve academic standards in state-run universities. Another crucial aspect will be the implementation of the National Education Policy (NEP)

2020, as states work to align their policies with the national framework while safeguarding regional priorities and addressing local challenges. The conclave comes amid growing debates over the role of the central government in state education policies. With several opposition-led states participating, the discussions are expected to take a critical stance on recent UGC decisions. Education experts believe the outcomes of this

meeting could influence future policy negotiations between the Centre and states. Karnataka Higher Education Minister, while addressing the gathering, emphasized the need for a collaborative approach. "We support efforts to improve higher education quality, but not at the cost of state autonomy. We need a system that allows states to implement policies that best suit their academic and cultural landscapes," he said.

Minister Khandre Accuses HDK of Misleading Public on KIOCL, HMT Cases



Minister Khandre accuses Kumaraswamy of misleading public on KIOCL case. Claims KIOCL owes Karnataka over ₹1,400 crore in compensation. Alleges Kumaraswamy ignored violations during his tenure as CM.

TPN Correspondent | Bengaluru

Karnataka Forest, Environment, and Ecology Minister Eshwar B Khandre has hit back at Union Minister for Heavy Industries and Steel HD Kumaraswamy, accusing him of making false allegations regarding the Kudremukh Iron Ore Corporation Limited (KIOCL) case. He alleged that Kumaraswamy is trying to mislead people and cover up the violations committed by the company. Speaking to the media on Monday, Khandre defended the Karnataka government's stance, stating that while the state is committed to development, it is equally focused on protecting forests. He highlighted that the Central Empowered Committee (CEC) has already taken note of the severe environmental damage caused by KIOCL. "Irreparable damage has been done to forests by KIOCL. The company owes the state over ₹1,400 crore, apart from environmental damage costs and 1,334.33 hectares of forest land," he stated. Khandre further accused KIOCL of illegally increasing the height of Lakhya dam, resulting in large portions of forest land being submerged. He also questioned why Kumaraswamy, during his tenure as Karnataka Chief Minister, took no action to correct these violations. The minister alleged that Kumaraswamy has ignored crucial issues such as the compensation KIOCL owes the state government and the return of forest land parcels. "KIOCL has violated environmental regulations by failing to obtain proper permissions for using forest land for non-forest purposes," Khandre said. The controversy comes amid an ongoing debate over environmental conservation and industrial expansion in Karnataka, with both state and central governments clashing over regulatory compliance and financial accountability.

New Industrial Policy to Be Unveiled at Global Investors' Meet

Global Investors' Meet in Bengaluru from February 12

₹10 lakh crore investment proposals expected

New Industrial Policy (2025-30) to focus on export promotion

TPN Correspondent | Karnataka

Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar announced that the Global Investors' Meet - Invest Karnataka 2025 will be held in Bengaluru from February 12, with investors from 18 countries participating. The event, expected to attract ₹10 lakh crore in investment proposals, will be formally inaugurated on February 11 evening. Shivakumar revealed that over 2,000 investors have already registered, and more than 60 industry experts will address the meet. Nine of the 18 participating countries will have separate country pavilions. The



government plans to highlight investment opportunities and industry-friendly policies to attract global investors.

Industries Minister MB Patil, who has been working on GIM for several months, led delegations to the US, Europe, South Korea, and Japan, conducting roadshows and meetings with investors. Themed 'Reimagining Growth', the event will focus on four pillars: Tech-driven, Green, Inclusive, and Resilient growth. Inspired by the World Economic Forum (WEF) in Davos, it will also introduce new policies aimed at ensuring that three-fourths of the proposed investments materialize.

New Industrial Policy to Promote Backward Regions

A key highlight of the event will be the launch of Karnataka's New Industrial Policy (2025-30), with a strong emphasis on export promotion. The policy will offer enhanced incentives for industries in backward and most-backward regions, as per the Dr. DM Nanjundappa Committee report.

The government aims to attract large-scale investments in emerging sectors while ensuring regional development and employment opportunities through this policy.

DK Shivakumar Pushes for Better Compensation for Land Losing Farmers

TPN Correspondent | Karnataka

Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar on Monday directed Bengaluru Development Authority (BDA) officials to negotiate with farmers affected by the ₹27,000 crore Bengaluru Business Corridor (Peripheral Ring Road) project and offer a higher compensation package to resolve the ongoing dispute. Farmers have rejected the current compensation proposed by the state government and are demanding payments on par with market value. An official present at the meeting stated that BDA was willing to pay ₹1.5 crore to ₹8 crore per acre based on location, along with a 30% solatium. However, farmers insist on market value, which could

push the minimum price to ₹8 crore per acre. To break the deadlock, Shivakumar instructed officials to offer a 'Consent Award', ensuring a better deal than the current BDA proposal. The 73-km Peripheral Ring Road was proposed 19 years ago to decongest Bengaluru. It will connect Tumakuru Road to Hosur Road via Ballari Road, Old Madras Road, and Whitefield Road. A total of 2,560 acres spread across 67 villages has been acquired from nearly 4,000 farmers. Meanwhile, BDA officials faced delays as Shivakumar rescheduled a review meeting, making them wait for four hours before shifting the discussion to the BMRDA office, only to leave after 30 minutes for another meeting.

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US Military C-17 Deports 205 Indians Under Trump CRACKDOWN

including additional personnel at the US-Mexico border, military aircraft for deportation, and military bases to house arrested migrants. The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) has stated that India will accept deported migrants if proper documentation is provided to confirm their nationality. MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal emphasized that India remains firmly against illegal immigration, citing its links to organized crime. The Pentagon has already deported over 5,000 migrants from Guatemala, Peru, and Honduras using military aircraft, with a single flight reportedly costing at least \$4,675 per deportee.

Bengaluru Police Arrest Thief Who Built ₹3 Crore House for Girlfriend

Bengaluru Police arrest thief who built ₹3 crore house for girlfriend.

Panchakshari Swamy linked to a well-known film actress. Authorities seize stolen gold, silver, and burglary tools. Swamy had a history of arrests in Gujarat and Maharashtra. Crack team led by DCP Sarah Fathima nabbed the accused.



TPN Correspondent | Bengaluru

Bengaluru Police have arrested a notorious thief, Panchakshari Swamy, who built a ₹3 crore house for his girlfriend using money from burglaries. The 37-year-old, originally from Solapur, Maharashtra, has been linked to a well-known film actress, with whom he reportedly had a romantic relationship. Swamy, who began committing burglar-

ies in 2003 as a minor, became a professional thief by 2009, amassing wealth worth crores. In 2014-15, he came into contact with the actress and reportedly spent large sums on her, including building a luxury house in Kolkata and gifting her an aquarium worth ₹22 lakh. Arrested in Gujarat in 2016, Swamy served six years in Sabarmati Central

Jail. After his release, he resumed his criminal activities, getting arrested again in Maharashtra. Following his release in 2024, he shifted his base to Bengaluru, where he continued burglaries. On January 9, he burgled a house in Bengaluru's Madivala locality. Acting on intelligence, police arrested him near the Madivala market. Investigations revealed he used an iron rod and a fire gun to melt stolen gold and convert it into gold biscuits. Authorities seized 181 grams of gold biscuits, 333 grams of silver articles, and a fire gun from his Solapur residence.

Police also uncovered his tactics, including changing clothes on the road after committing crimes to avoid suspicion. Despite owning a house in his mother's name, the property was under an auction notice due to unpaid loans.

The case was cracked by a team led by DCP (Northeast) Sarah Fathima, ACP Laxminarayana K.C., and Inspector Mohammad M.A. of the Madivala police station.

BU student dies by suicide in women's hostel

TPN Correspondent | Bengaluru

In a heart-wrenching tableau at Bangalore University's Jnanabharathi campus, the silence of Monday morning was shattered around 11 AM when concerned roommates found no echo from their fellow student. HN Pavana, a 21-year-old Master of Arts student in Kannada, was discovered in room 124, where she had tragically chosen to end her life. She was in her third semester, pursuing dreams that were cut short by the silent whisper of despair. The scene was grim; Pavana was found hanging from a ceiling fan, her chamber sealed from the world outside, a veil being her final curtain. Dr. Jayakar Shetty, the Vice-Chancellor, expressed the collective shock, stating, "The exact melody of this tragedy remains to be composed. Only the guardians of law, the police, can illuminate the shadows of this event." Pavana, hailing from Hebbalaguppe in HD Kote, had left a note, a poignant script of betrayal by a trusted male friend, and an ode of love and apology to her parents. Her journey back to the hostel from a university event was her last known path. The Jnanabharathi police, now the stewards of this sorrowful narrative, have taken the body to Victoria Hospital's mortuary for an autopsy, piecing together the fragments of this life lost too soon. PC Nagesh, the Director of Students' Welfare, confirmed that Pavana's family has been notified, their world forever altered. In the wake of this loss, the university community stands in mourning, a reminder of the silent struggles many endure. If you or someone you know is wrestling with dark thoughts, remember, help is available. Reach out to Sneha Foundation at 04424640050, Tele Manas at 14416, or iCall at 02225521111 for a listening ear and support. This is not just a news story; it's a somber reminder of the fragility of life and the importance of compassion and vigilance in our communities.

30 Luxury Cars Seized in Bengaluru for ₹3 Crore Tax Evasion

TPN Correspondent | Bengaluru

The Bengaluru transport department has seized 30 luxury cars, including high-end models from Ferrari, Porsche, BMW, Mercedes, and Audi, for failing to pay road taxes amounting to nearly ₹3 crore. Officials launched the operation on February 3, targeting vehicles operating without proper tax payments. The crackdown was led by Transport Deputy Commissioner C Mallikarjun, assisted by 41 officials, including Regional Transport Officers (RTOs) B Srinivas Prasad, Deepak, Srinivasappa, and Ranjit. Authorities stated that notices had been issued to the owners of the impounded vehicles, demanding payment of the pending taxes.

Luxury Cars Among Seized Vehicles

The seized vehicles include models from Audi, Aston Martin, BMW, Ferrari, Mercedes, Porsche, and Range Rover. Transport officials confirmed that these vehicles had been operating in Karnataka without paying the required road tax, prompting the large-scale action.

A senior transport department official stated, "These cars were being driven in the state without paying the required taxes. We have issued notices to recover approximately ₹3 crore in pending taxes from the seized vehicles."

Karnataka imposes one of the highest road taxes in India, calculated based on multiple factors, including the vehi-



cle's age, cost, fuel type, engine capacity, weight, and seating capacity. The tax also varies depending on whether the vehicle is used for private or commercial purposes and if it was purchased in another state.

For four-wheelers, tax rates range from 13% to 93% of the vehicle's cost, depending on its age. However, electric vehicles (EVs) enjoy lower taxation, with a 4% tax

rate on EV four-wheelers.

Additionally, from December 2024, Karnataka imposed an additional vehicle registration cess, with ₹500 levied on two-wheelers and ₹1,000 on four-wheelers.

Authorities have warned that more seizures and legal actions will follow if vehicle owners fail to comply with Karnataka's road tax regulations.

Karnataka HC imposes ₹5 lakh cost on Union Bank of India

TPN Correspondent | Bengaluru

The Karnataka High Court has imposed a ₹5 lakh cost on Union Bank of India (UBI) for failing to honor bank guarantees in favor of a private firm. The court directed that the amount be paid to the Karnataka State Legal Services Authority and also ordered the bank to pay the guaranteed amount with 18% interest.

Justice Suraj Govindaraj delivered the verdict while allowing a petition by NHDPL South Pvt Ltd, which challenged the banking ombudsman's order rejecting its complaint against UBI. The dispute arose after UBI refused to pay ₹8.5 crore under two bank guarantees issued in favor of NHDPL by AI Fara'a Infraprojects, Mumbai, which had borrowed funds from the bank.

In 2019, NHDPL requested UBI to either renew or invoke the bank guarantees. However, UBI refused, arguing that the request was made via email instead of a physical letter, as required in the agreement. The bank maintained that it could only act on requests sent physically or by post within the specified period.

Rejecting the bank's argument, the court ruled that email communication is legally equivalent to a written letter. It criticized UBI's conduct as "dishonest", stating that the bank was trying to protect its own financial interests rather than honoring its commitment. The court directed UBI to release the guaranteed amount with 18% interest to the petitioner.

Bengaluru Power Outage Scheduled for February 5

TPN Correspondent | Bengaluru

The Bangalore Electricity Supply Company Limited (BESCOM) has announced a scheduled power outage across several parts of Bengaluru on February 5, 2025. The outage, which will last from 10 AM to 6 PM, is due to essential maintenance work being carried out at the Devanagundi Power Distribution Center in Hoskote taluk.

According to BESCOM officials, the maintenance work is part of an ongoing effort to upgrade power infrastructure, enhance supply stability, and prevent unexpected breakdowns. Residents in affected areas are advised to plan their daily activities accordingly, as the outage will impact households, businesses, and industries relying on BESCOM's power distribution network.

The planned maintenance by the Bangalore Electricity Supply Company Limited (BESCOM) is expected to cause power disruptions in several areas on February 5, 2025, from 10 AM to 6 PM. The affected regions include parts of Hoskote Taluk,

such as Devanagundi, Muthanalur, Nandagudi, and surrounding localities. Additionally, the Whitefield region, covering Kadugodi, Channasandra, Seegehalli, and nearby zones, will also experience outages. Areas under KR Puram, including TC Palya, Ramamurthy Nagar, and Bhattarahalli, will face temporary power cuts. Several industrial units in the Hoskote and Whitefield belt will also be impacted. BESCOM has assured residents that power will be restored as soon as the maintenance work is completed. However, minor delays may occur in certain areas due to unforeseen technical challenges. Officials have urged citizens to plan accordingly to minimize inconvenience.

The electricity board has urged consumers to use the BESCOM Helpline (1912) for any emergency assistance during the outage. Additionally, updates regarding the power restoration schedule will be available on BESCOM's official website and social media channels.

Kavach Safety System to Be Installed Across 1,144 km in Bengaluru Railway Division

TPN Correspondent | Bengaluru

The Kavach automatic train protection system, developed by Indian Railways' Research Design and Standards Organisation (RDSO), Lucknow, will soon be installed across 1,144 km of the Bengaluru railway division, ensuring enhanced safety and collision prevention.

Divisional Railway Manager Amitesh Kumar Sinha confirmed the implementation, stating that Kavach prevents overspeeding by automatically engaging emergency brakes if a train exceeds set speed limits or fails to respond.

Implementation in Two Phases

Additional Divisional Railway Manager Ashutosh Mathur said the first phase will cover 684 km at a cost of ₹329 crore, spanning the following key routes:

Baiyappanahalli to Penukonda
KSR Bengaluru City to Jolarpettai
KSR Bengaluru to Sampige Road
KSR Bengaluru to Yeliyur

The second phase will cover 460 km at ₹239 crore, including:



Dharmapuri to Omalur
Penukonda to Dharmavaram
Chikkabannavara to Hassan
Yelahanka to Bangarpet
Statewide Expansion
Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw stated that tendering has begun for installing Kavach across 1,672 km in

Karnataka. The project was initially sanctioned for 1,703 km across 132 stations in the state.

Mathur confirmed that both railway tracks and train locomotives will be equipped with Kavach, ensuring a safer railway network in Bengaluru and beyond.



Deve Gowda backs second Bengaluru airport as Tamil Nadu MP pushes for Hosur facility

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi
Former Prime Minister HD Deve Gowda has called for the establishment of a second airport in Bengaluru, citing growing congestion at Kempegowda International Airport. Speaking in the Rajya Sabha, he emphasized the need for additional aviation infrastructure to meet Karnataka's increasing air travel demands. Meanwhile, Tamil Nadu MP Thambidurai has proposed the development of an airport in Hosur, located just an hour's drive from Bengaluru. His suggestion has added to the ongoing debate about the region's aviation expansion. Union Civil Aviation Minister Ram Mohan Naidu acknowledged that Bengaluru's airport is reaching saturation and confirmed that discussions are underway. He assured that once a suitable site is finalized, further progress will be made. The Karnataka government has shortlisted seven locations for the new airport, with Tumakuru and Ramanagara emerging as top contenders. However, internal differences have delayed the final decision, and an official announcement is expected soon.

Satish Jarkiholi Prefers Local Rivers Over Maha Kumbh Dip



TPN Correspondent | Karnataka
Public Works Department and District In-Charge Minister Satish Jarkiholi on Tuesday said that he would not travel to Prayagraj for the Maha Kumbh but instead take a dip in local rivers in Karnataka. Speaking in Hukkeri, Belagavi, Jarkiholi stated that rather than visiting the confluence of the Ganga, Yamuna, and the Saraswati, he would perform his ritualistic dip in the Krishna, Ghataprabha, and Hiranyakeshi rivers within the state. "These rivers are equally sacred, and I see no need to travel all the way to Prayagraj when we have holy rivers here," he remarked, emphasizing the significance of Karnataka's water bodies. His comments have sparked reactions, with some supporting his regional pride, while others see it as a deviation from traditional beliefs associated with the Maha Kumbh.

Activist Snehamayi Fresh Complaint Against Siddaramaiah's Family

On October 20, 2010, Mallikarjuna transferred the land to Siddaramaiah's wife, Parvathi. Parvathi later gifted it to their son, Yathindra, on November 11, 2020. Yathindra reportedly sold the land on March 23, 2011 But the buyer's details remain undisclosed.



TPN Correspondent | Karnataka
Activist Snehamayi Krishna has lodged a fresh complaint with the Lokayukta police in Mysuru, alleging that Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's family members were involved in benami land transactions and concealed property ownership through manipulated government records. Referring to case number 11/2024, Krishna submitted documents on Monday claiming that Siddaramaiah's relatives had illegally acquired and transferred land while ensuring official records remained unchanged to hide their involvement. The complaint primarily focuses on a one-acre plot in Survey No. 113/4 of Alanahalli village. Records indicate that Siddaramaiah's brother-in-law, BM Mallikarjuna,

purchased the land in 1983. Despite multiple ownership transfers, the Record of Rights, Tenancy, and Crops (RTC) still lists Mallikarjuna as the owner. According to Krishna, a land conversion order was issued on June 22, 2006, yet the records were allegedly not updated. He further claimed that: Despite these transactions, official land records have not been updated, raising concerns about possible deliberate concealment. Krishna also presented a government gazette notification from July 11, 1996, which

states that the Mysuru Urban Development Authority (MUDA) had acquired the Alanahalli land. He questioned how land marked for government acquisition was later transferred through private deals. The activist demanded a thorough probe into whether political influence was used to reverse the land acquisition. He also pointed to discrepancies in public disclosures regarding the Siddaramaiah family's land holdings. While a 3.16-acre land transfer in Kesare village to Parvathi has been publicly acknowledged

Cow theft Accused will be Shot in Public: Minister M Vaidya

TPN Correspondent | Karnataka
Minister for Fisheries and Ports and Uttara Kannada district in-charge, Mankal S. Vaidya, has issued a stern warning against cow theft, stating that if such incidents continue, he will order the accused to be shot in public. His strong remarks come in the wake of rising concerns over cow theft and slaughter in the region, particularly after the recent killing of a pregnant cow near Honnavar. The minister, addressing reporters on Monday, expressed his determination to curb these crimes and said he had directed the police to take strict action against offenders. He emphasized that the government would not tolerate such acts under any circumstances and assured the public that all necessary measures were being taken to protect cattle and the interests of those who rear them. Vaidya stated that cow theft had been occurring for years, and despite the outrage, the problem had persisted. He revealed that he had personally instructed the Superintendent of Police (SP) to put an end to such activities, stressing the cultural and emotional significance of cows in society. "We worship cows and raise them with love. People grow up drinking their milk. This is unacceptable. I have told the police that cow theft should not happen at any cost," he asserted. The minister further warned that if such crimes were not curbed, the consequences would be severe. "Arrests have been made, but if these incidents continue, I will en-



sure that the accused are shot in public. There are enough jobs available in our district—people should work and earn their living, not engage in such acts. We will not support them in any way," he added. Vaidya also took aim at the opposition, particularly the BJP, accusing them of remaining silent on the issue while they were in power. He pointed out that similar incidents had taken place earlier, yet the opposition had failed to take effective action. "If we were supporting these activities,

how are FIRs being filed? How are arrests being made? The police department is actively working to control the situation, and the government is taking necessary steps. Neither the Chief Minister, the Home Minister, nor I will support anyone involved in cow theft," he said. The minister reassured farmers and cattle rearers that the government was fully committed to their protection. He urged them not to fear and promised that every possible step would be taken to safeguard their livestock.

BDA identifies encroachments in 730 of 837 Bengaluru lakes

TPN Correspondent | Bengaluru
A recent survey conducted by the Bangalore Development Authority (BDA) has revealed that 730 out of 837 lakes in Bengaluru Urban district have been encroached, covering an area of 4,554 acres. The findings come as authorities aim to remove illegal occupations and ensure unobstructed stormwater flow across water bodies. Reports from tahsildars of North, South, and East taluks, along with land surveyors, indicate widespread encroachments across different parts of the city. Officials from the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) and Revenue Department have committed to tackling these encroachments, particularly within BBMP limits. The survey was initiated following severe flooding in 2022, which submerged several low-lying areas. The previous BJP government had ordered an assessment of lakes and Rajakaluves (stormwater drains) to determine the extent of encroachments and restore water channels. According to the Deputy Commissioner's re-

port, the highest encroachments were recorded in Yelahanka and Bengaluru North taluks. In Yelahanka, 1,147 acres across 105 lakes were encroached, while 1,183 acres from 123 lakes were affected in Bengaluru North. Bengaluru South reported 825 acres of encroachments across 179 lakes, and Anekal taluk had 719 acres encroached from 223 lakes. In East taluk, 667 acres from 100 lakes were illegally occupied. Within BBMP limits, the problem remains severe, with 102 out of 187 lakes identified as encroached. BBMP Lakes Division Chief Engineer Vijaykumar Haridas stated that surveys were conducted for 167 lakes following complaints, revealing the widespread issue. Of the remaining lakes, 29 are free from encroachments, while another 29 are occupied by government agencies. BBMP officials stressed the need for better coordination with the Revenue Department to expedite the identification and removal of encroachments. They believe faster action from revenue authorities in marking illegal occupations could accelerate the eviction process and aid in the restoration of Bengaluru's water bodies.

BJP Targets Karnataka Minister Shivaraj Tangadagi Over Kannada Writing Struggle

TPN Correspondent | Karnataka
Kannada and Culture Minister Shivaraj Tangadagi faced sharp criticism from the BJP and netizens after he appeared to struggle while writing a Kannada word during an official event in Karatagi, Koppal district. The incident occurred while Tangadagi was inaugurating an Anganwadi building, where he hesitated while writing Shubhavagali (best of luck) in Kannada. The BJP swiftly took to social media, targeting the Congress government over its commitment to Kannada. **BJP's Attack on Social Media**
"On one side is Madhu Bangarappa, who cannot read and write in Kannada, and on the other is Shivaraj

Tangadagi, the Kannada and Culture Minister, struggling to write a simple word." It further accused the ruling Congress of sidelining Kannada, citing errors in KPSC question papers and the closure of Kannada-medium schools. Public Reactions and Minister's Background
Many netizens reacted strongly, questioning Tangadagi's proficiency in Kannada, given his ministerial role in charge of Kannada and Culture. A three-time MLA from Kanakagiri, Tangadagi hails from Bagalkot and holds a BSc degree. Though he eventually wrote the word correctly, his apparent struggle sparked widespread criticism.



Silent March of Kodava Community Gains Momentum



TPN Correspondent | Karnataka

The Kodava community's silent march has gathered significant momentum as thousands, dressed in traditional Kuppya Chale and Kodava sarees, march to assert their cultural and traditional rights. The protest, sparked by a recent ban on Kodava traditional attire at Kattemadu Mriyuntunaya Temple, has drawn widespread support from various Kodava organizations.

The rally, which began on February 2 from Kutta, reached Bittangala on Tuesday evening and is set to conclude in Madikeri on February 7. Organizers anticipate nearly 50,000 participants by the end, with over 15,000 people joining the march daily. The movement has also seen solidarity from the Muslim community, which welcomed the marchers at Hudikeri and extended its support for their cause. Along the route, participants were greeted with flowers and light as they entered different hoblis and village limits, further strengthening the unity among the locals.

To ensure environmental responsibility, rally organizers have arranged for a waste collection vehicle to follow the march, disposing of waste scientifically. Some participants have also engaged in cleanliness drives along the way.

Food is being served daily to the participants, and the march will culminate in Madikeri on Friday, marking a significant cultural assertion for the Kodava community.

Delhi Court Dismisses BJP Leader's Defamation Case Against Shashi Tharoor



TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

A Delhi court has dismissed a criminal defamation complaint filed by BJP leader and former Union Minister Rajeev Chandrasekhar against Congress MP Shashi Tharoor, stating that the allegations did not constitute defamation.

Additional Chief Judicial Magistrate Paras Dalal ruled on Tuesday that there were "no ingredients of defamation" in the complaint and refused to summon Tharoor, the MP from Thiruvananthapuram. Chandrasekhar had accused Tharoor of making false and derogatory statements on national television, alleging that the BJP leader bribed voters in the Thiruvananthapuram constituency during the 2024 Lok Sabha elections. Tharoor had defeated Chandrasekhar in the polls. The BJP leader claimed that the allegations were intended to tarnish his reputation and influence the election outcome. He also alleged that the interviews containing the remarks were widely circulated on news channels and social media, leading to a loss of reputation and his eventual electoral defeat. The Delhi court had initially taken cognizance of the complaint on September 21, 2024. However, after reviewing the case, it found no grounds to summon Tharoor. Meanwhile, in a separate case, the Delhi High Court on Monday issued summons to Tharoor in a ₹10 crore civil defamation suit filed by Chandrasekhar for loss of reputation. Justice Purushendra Kumar Kaurav has scheduled the matter for hearing on April 28.

Karnataka saw 1,652 km of new rail tracks laid since 2014

₹7,564 crore allocated for Karnataka Railways in FY 2025-26
 96.5% of Karnataka's railway network electrified

TPN Correspondent | Bengaluru

Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw on Monday announced that 1,652 km of new rail tracks have been laid across Karnataka since 2014, surpassing the total railway network of Sri Lanka. Addressing media in Karnataka, Kerala, and Tamil Nadu virtually, he highlighted the consistent increase in railway infrastructure development in the state.

Vaishnaw noted that Karnataka has witnessed an average of 150 km of new tracks laid annually, a significant improvement from 113 km per year between 2009-2014. Additionally, tenders have been initiated to install the Kavach safety system across 1,672 km in the state, enhancing railway safety measures. The minister further highlighted the electrification of 96.5% of Karnataka's railway network, covering parts of South Western Railway, South Central Railway, Southern Railway, and Central Railway. "Between 2014 and 2025, an average of 294 km per year has been electrified, which is 16 times more than the 18 km per year achieved



between 2009 and 2014," he added.

For the upcoming FY 2025-26, Karnataka has been allocated ₹7,564 crore in railway funds, a slight increase from ₹7,559 crore in FY 2024-25. As part of the modernization push, 61 Amrit stations are being developed with an investment of ₹1,981 crore, and 644 rail flyovers and underbridges have been constructed since 2014 to improve connectivity and reduce congestion. The minister also outlined passenger-friendly upgrades, including the installation of 61 lifts and 43 escalators, as well as Wi-Fi services at 335 stations across the state. Karnataka currently operates 10 Vande Bharat trains, covering

12 districts and 18 unique stoppages. In terms of infrastructure redevelopment, Tumakuru station is set to be revamped at a cost of ₹88 crore, with tenders to be finalized by March 31. Meanwhile, Yesvantpur and Bangalore Cantonment stations are undergoing major upgrades with investments of ₹367 crore and ₹485 crore, respectively. The Railway Minister also compared allocations for neighboring states, revealing that Kerala has been allotted ₹3,042 crore, Tamil Nadu ₹6,626 crore, and Goa (Konkan Railway) ₹482 crore in the latest budget. "These allocations are significantly higher than those made during the previous UPA regime," he emphasized.

BMC allocates ₹1,000 crore for financially struggling BEST in 2025-26 budget.

BEST's accumulated losses stand at approximately ₹9,500 crore.

₹128.65 crore set aside for 2,000 electric buses under state directive.

BMC allocates ₹1,000 crore for financially struggling BEST in 2025-26 budget.



TPN Correspondent | Mumbai

The Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) has allocated ₹1,000 crore for the financially struggling Brihanmumbai Electric Supply and Transport (BEST) in its 2025-26 budget, acknowledging the dire financial

condition of the city's second-largest public transport service. BEST, which operates around 3,000 buses and serves over 30 lakh commuters daily, has been facing severe financial losses, with an accumulated deficit of approximately ₹9,500 crore. Despite its own financial commitments, the BMC stated that it is prioritizing support for BEST to

ensure its continued operations. According to budget documents presented on Tuesday, the funds will be utilized for infrastructure development, capital equipment purchases, loan repayments, wet lease buses, pay revisions, daily operations, the Intelligent Transport Management System (ITMS) project, Diwali bonuses, pensioner dues, and electricity bills. Additionally, the BMC will contribute ₹128.65 crore—its 5% share—as per state directives towards the procurement of 2,000 electric buses for Mumbai. However, it remains unclear whether this amount is included in the ₹1,000 crore grant or a separate allocation.

Since 2012-13, the BMC has provided ₹11,304.59 crore in financial aid to BEST. The budget document also highlights that ₹992 crore has been sanctioned by the 15th Finance Commission for electric bus purchases, of which ₹493.38 crore has already been disbursed. The remaining ₹498.62 crore will be released once received.

Bengaluru CEO Shares Shocking Details of Nephew's Suicide

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

The tragic suicide of 15-year-old Mihir Ahammed of Kerala has sparked outrage after his uncle, Bengaluru-based CEO Musthafa PC, revealed horrific details of the relentless bullying Mihir endured at school. In a heart-wrenching Instagram post, Musthafa described how his nephew suffered extreme humiliation, including being physically assaulted, verbally abused, and forced to endure degrading acts before taking his own life on January 15. Mihir, who was reportedly bullied

over his dark complexion, was subjected to unimaginable cruelty. His tormentors allegedly forced him into a school washroom, made him lick a toilet seat, and pushed his head into the toilet while flushing it. Screenshots of messages exchanged after his death showed his bullies mocking him, referring to him with racial slurs. "After his death, we received shocking screenshots... Mihir was beaten, verbally abused, and humiliated even on his last day. His attackers messaged, 'Fk nga, he actually died.' I couldn't stop cry-

ing seeing those screenshots," Musthafa wrote, demanding justice. Mihir's mother, Rajna PM, accused the school of covering up the bullying and claimed that even the Vice Principal had harassed her son. She said that despite providing evidence, the school only stated that they had forwarded the matter to the police. Kerala Education Minister V Sivankutty has ordered an inquiry into Mihir's death, and the Kerala State Commission for Protection of Child Rights has taken note of the incident.

Two Drown as Car Plunges Into Canal in Mandya

TPN Correspondent | Karnataka

Two people lost their lives, and another is missing after a car plunged 30 feet into the Visvesvaraya Canal in Tibbanahalli village, Mandya on Monday afternoon. One person was rescued by locals, while search operations continue for the fourth occupant.

The incident occurred around 12:30 pm when the victims were returning to Mandya from Kalenahalli village in Pandavapura. The police said the driver lost control of the Indica car, leading to the fatal plunge.

Locals Rescue One, Search On for Missing Man

The victims have been identified as Nayaz (42), Fayaz (42) alias Battery, Peer Khan (40), and Aslam Pasha (45), all from Halahalli village in Mandya. Locals who witnessed the accident jumped into the canal and rescued



Nayaz, while authorities were alerted. Fire personnel and swimmers arrived with motorised dinghies and soon retrieved Fayaz's body from the canal. Cranes were later deployed to

pull out the submerged car, where Aslam Pasha's body was found trapped inside. Officials believe he drowned after failing to open the car door.

Driver Lost Control While Avoiding Sugarcane Field

SP Mallikarjuna Baladandi said the accident happened as the driver swerved to avoid falling into a sugarcane field but ended up in the canal instead. "The locals managed to rescue Nayaz, while Fayaz's body was retrieved shortly after. The fire personnel, using boats, ropes, and cranes, lifted the car, where Aslam Pasha's body was found inside. The search for Peer Khan is still ongoing," he added.

Authorities continue their efforts to locate the missing person, while the bodies were sent to MIMS Hospital for postmortem.

Debate Over Poverty in India: Government Claims vs. Rangarajan Method Findings

The release of the 2022-23 Household Consumption Expenditure Survey (HCES) sparked fresh debates around the extent of poverty in India. Following its release, B.V.R. Subrahmanyam, CEO of NITI Aayog, claimed that the poverty headcount ratio had dropped to as low as 5% of the population. This assertion was based on the adjustment of the 2011-12 poverty line (established by the Tendulkar Committee) for inflation, using the Consumer Price Index, and applying it to the latest HCES data.

Subrahmanyam's conclusion was widely celebrated as a testament to the success of government welfare schemes and rapid economic growth. However, an alternative analysis by C.A. Sethu, L.T. Abhinav Surya, and C.A. Ruthu, using the Rangarajan Method, painted a starkly different picture. According to their findings, a substantial 26.4% of Indians remain below the poverty line, a staggering 21 percentage point difference from the government's claims. The analysis revealed that 27.4% of rural Indians and 23.7% of urban Indians fall below the poverty threshold, based on updated cut-offs of Rs 2,515 and Rs 3,639 per capita per month, respectively.

The discrepancy between these two figures stems from differences in the methods used to calculate poverty. The government's approach, which adjusts



older poverty lines for inflation, fails to fully account for the rising costs of essential non-food items like healthcare, education, and housing. In contrast, the Rangarajan Method incorporates a broader consumption basket, including these essential non-food expenses, and uses updated nutritional norms, offering a more accurate reflection of current living standards.

The Rangarajan Method was developed by the 'Expert Group to Review the Methodology for the Measurement of Poverty', set up by the Planning Commission of India in 2012. Its goal was to address the limitations of the Tendulkar Committee's methodology, which estimated poverty based solely on calorie intake and per capita con-

sumption expenditure. While the Tendulkar Committee's approach faced criticism for setting poverty lines too low, the Rangarajan Method sought to improve upon this by accounting for a wider array of essential goods and services.

In light of these findings, questions about the accuracy and transparency of the government's poverty statistics are being raised. While the government continues to assert significant progress in poverty reduction, the Rangarajan Method suggests that a larger portion of the population still struggles to meet basic living standards. The ongoing debate highlights the challenges of measuring poverty accurately in a rapidly changing economy.

Bangladesh in Turmoil: Political Chaos and Foreign Influence



Turbulence in Bangladesh has become a common occurrence, with protests from various groups, including university students, madrasa teachers, and the general public, almost daily. The interim government, led by Chief Advisor Muhammad Yunus, has come under increasing criticism, especially from the Anti-Discrimination Movement. As Yunus and his team work to reverse the policies of former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, particularly regarding India, the sustainability of an unelected government's direction remains in question.

Pakistan Seeks Opportunities Amidst the Chaos

In an unexpected move, Pakistan has sought to capitalize on Bangladesh's political instability. Following the fall of Hasina's government, Pakistan's High Commissioner Syed Ahmed Maroof met Yunus and key Bangladeshi officials to discuss various issues. This interaction resulted in the restoration of direct flights and the first-ever direct cargo shipments between Pakistan and Bangladesh. These cargo shipments, including goods such as ceramics and raw materials, mark a significant development in bilateral trade, with a second consignment following soon after.

Moreover, Yunus met with Pakistani leaders, including Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif, in Cairo, discussing long-standing issues between the two countries, such as the repatriation of stranded Urdu-speaking Pakistanis. Pakistan's diplomatic activities have also extended to Bangladesh's military, with high-level visits and discussions on defense cooperation, including the potential supply of JF-17 fighter jets to Bangladesh.

China's Strategic Support Amid Bangladesh's Economic Crisis

On the economic front, Bangladesh has turned to China for support as it grapples with a severe economic crisis and inflation nearing 10%. Bangladesh's Foreign Minister Touhid Hossain visited Beijing, seeking reductions in interest rates on loans and extended repayment periods. China responded favorably, agreeing in principle to reduce interest rates, extend loan durations, and offer medical assistance, including hospitals in both Kunming and Dhaka. Additionally, Chinese companies are shifting their manufacturing bases to Bangladesh, strengthening bilateral economic ties.

Bangladesh's economic dependence on China has grown significantly under the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), with China investing around \$4.5 billion and another \$22.94 billion in construction contracts. However, this cooperation has raised concerns about Bangladesh's growing debt, including a \$251 million annual interest payment to China.

The Growing Triangular Influence

The increasing military and economic collaboration between Pakistan, China, and Bangladesh is creating a triangular link that could significantly impact the region's geopolitics. India faces a critical moment to act, especially concerning the Rohingya crisis, which could lead to diplomatic goodwill if handled properly. As Bangladesh navigates political and economic turbulence, the future direction of its foreign policies and internal governance remains uncertain. India's diplomatic efforts and the media's role in addressing the country's corruption and political turmoil will play crucial roles in shaping the region's future.

Uttarakhand's Uniform Civil Code: A Comprehensive Legal Reform

Uttarakhand's newly implemented Uniform Civil Code (UCC) is a significant legislative move, comprising 392 sections, seven schedules, and various forms. While a substantial portion of this legislation—nearly 80%—focuses on procedural matters such as the registration of marriages, divorces, and live-in relationships, as well as the administration of wills and deceased estates, its substantive provisions carry substantial implications for the state's legal landscape.

Key Provisions of the UCC

One of the major areas addressed by the UCC is matrimonial law. Drawing from the Special Marriage Act and the Hindu Marriage Act of 1955, the code introduces several changes, notably in the registration of marriages. The code replaces the Uttarakhand Compulsory Registration of Marriages Act of 2010, mandating that all marriages in the state be formally registered. Additionally, the UCC requires the registration of divorces granted through judicial proceedings, marking a significant innovation in the state's legal framework.

This shift ensures greater transparency and accountability, particularly in cases of divorce, which will now be officially recorded. It also aims to provide legal certainty to individuals regarding their marital status and to avoid legal disputes that may arise from unregistered marriages or separations.



The UCC also focuses on the "degrees of prohibited relationship," specifying the relatives between whom marriage is prohibited. This provision aligns with the broader objectives of standardizing matrimonial practices and ensuring that there are clear, uniform guidelines for the recognition of legal marriages within the state.

The Broader Implications

While the procedural changes introduced by the UCC are aimed at improving the administration of personal laws, its substantive elements could have far-reaching consequences. By consolidating various aspects of personal and family law, including marriage, divorce, and inheritance, the UCC seeks to create a more uniform legal framework across the state.

However, the law has raised questions

about its potential impact on the diverse religious and cultural practices in Uttarakhand, particularly with regard to personal laws governed by different communities. Critics argue that a one-size-fits-all approach could undermine the autonomy of religious practices and customs. On the other hand, proponents believe that the UCC will help streamline legal processes, promote gender equality, and ensure that all citizens are governed by a single set of laws, irrespective of their religion or personal beliefs.

As Uttarakhand moves forward with the implementation of this groundbreaking legislation, its impact on the state's legal and social fabric will be closely watched. The success of the UCC in balancing uniformity with cultural diversity could set a precedent for similar initiatives in other parts of India.

US Interest in Greenland: Geopolitical Implications and Arctic Dynamics

In August 2019, President Donald Trump sparked global intrigue when he proposed purchasing Greenland from Denmark. Although met with skepticism and amusement, the idea revived discussions about Greenland's strategic significance, highlighting its growing importance in global geopolitics. With Trump now returning to the White House, it's worth revisiting the reasons behind the U.S. interest in Greenland and its implications for international relations.



Greenland's geographical position and vast natural resources, including rare earth minerals, oil, and gas, make it a critical asset in the Arctic. Historically, the United States has recognized

Greenland's importance, with efforts to secure control of the territory dating back to 1868 when William H. Seward, U.S. Secretary of State, envisioned acquiring both Greenland and

Iceland. In 1946, the U.S. even offered Denmark \$100 million in gold to buy Greenland, although the proposal was declined. However, the U.S. was successful in establishing military bases on Greenland, including the strategic Pituffik Air Base (formerly Thule), integral to its Arctic strategy.

The appeal of Greenland has only grown in recent years due to climate change and the resulting opportunities for new shipping routes and resource extraction. As the Arctic ice continues to melt, the region's geopolitical significance continues to rise, drawing more international attention.

Under international law, acquiring Greenland presents complex challenges. Greenland, while an autonomous territory within the Kingdom of Denmark, governs its internal matters but remains subject to Denmark's authority over foreign affairs and defense. Any attempt by the U.S. to acquire Greenland would require the approval of both Denmark and Greenland's government, in line with international treaties and the principle of self-determination under the United Nations Charter. Greenland's indigenous Inuit population, roughly 56,000 strong, would also need to be consulted to ensure their rights and interests are protected.

Although Trump's 2019 proposal was swiftly rejected by Denmark, it underscores a longstanding U.S. recognition of Greenland's importance. Geopolitically, Arctic states like Canada, Russia, and Norway are cautious of U.S. ambitions in the region. Canada, with shared Arctic borders, emphasizes cooperation, environmental protection, and indigenous rights. Russia may view U.S. interest as a strategic challenge, while Norway values collaboration through the Arctic Council.

China, through its Polar Silk Road initiative, has invested heavily in Greenland's infrastructure and mining sectors, further complicating the geopolitical landscape.

PM Modi Recommends 'JFK's Forgotten Crisis' to Lok Sabha MPs

Calls out Nehru's handling of China crisis, Congress questions relevance

- Suggested MPs read Bruce Riedel's book on JFK's diplomatic challenges.
- Criticized Nehru's foreign policy decisions during the 1962 India-China war.
- Faced pushback from Congress MP Shashi Tharoor over book's relevance.

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday recommended that Lok Sabha MPs read JFK's Forgotten Crisis, a book by US foreign policy expert Bruce Riedel. The book delves into political and diplomatic crises during John F. Kennedy's presidency, including discussions involving India's first Prime Minister, Jawaharlal Nehru, and his foreign policy decisions during the 1962 India-China war.

The Prime Minister's recommendation came amid increasing political pressure over his government's handling of the ongoing China border dispute. Modi directed the suggestion at those questioning his leadership, particularly Congress MP Rahul Gandhi and Samajwadi Party leader Akhilesh Yadav, who had raised concerns regarding India's territorial integrity. He also used the moment to take a subtle dig at Nehru, often targeted by the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) for his foreign policy stance, especially in relation to China.

Modi stated that the book revealed "what games" Nehru had played with India's security, referring to the historical context of India's foreign policy during the 1962 border conflict with China. He suggested that MPs interested in foreign policy should read the book, as it includes details about Nehru's communication with JFK during the crisis. According to Modi, the book highlights the games played in the name of foreign policy during that time.

Congress MP Shashi Tharoor, however,



questioned Modi's recommendation, expressing confusion about how it was relevant to the discussion on the President's speech. Tharoor, who had read Riedel's book years ago, pointed out that it mentioned the US secretly helping India during the 1962 war. The book also revealed that India had asked for this assistance, acknowledging the dire situation it was facing during the conflict.

The Prime Minister's comment came in the wake of Rahul Gandhi's remarks on India's territorial loss to China. Gandhi had questioned the government about reports suggesting that over 4,000 square kilometers of Indian territory had been surrendered to China. This prompted a strong rebuttal from Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, who rejected Gandhi's claims.

Meanwhile, Modi's speech also targeted the opposition over corruption allegations, particularly against Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leader Arvind Kejriwal. The Prime Minister accused Kejriwal of spending taxpayers' money on luxury renovations for his official residence. Additionally, Modi criticized the Congress party for its failure to eradicate poverty despite decades of governance, claiming that his government had successfully lifted 25 crore people out of poverty in just 10 years.

The political attacks set the stage for the Delhi Assembly elections, with Modi using the opportunity to counter the opposition's claims and assert his government's achievements.

Centre Offers Land for Manmohan Singh's Memorial at Rajghat

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

The Indian government has offered land in the Rajghat complex to build a memorial for former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, who passed away in December 2024, according to government sources. The plot allocated is situated next to the memorial of Pranab Mukherjee, the former Congress leader and President, who served during Singh's tenure as prime minister from 2004 to 2014.

Sources have confirmed that the government is awaiting the formation of a trust by Singh's family before formally allocating the land. Once the trust is established, the government will also provide Rs 25 lakh for the construction of the memorial.

Manmohan Singh, widely credited with ushering in economic reforms as Finance Minister in 1991, played a pivotal role in transforming India's economic landscape, opening the country to global markets. His tenure as Prime Minister from 2004 to 2014 is seen as one of significant economic growth and international diplomacy.

Following Singh's death on December 26, 2024, the Congress party criticized the government for not finding an appropriate site for his memorial. In response, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) reminded the Congress that it had not built a memorial for former Prime Minister PV Narasimha Rao, under whom Singh had served as Finance Minister. This controversy was further amplified when the government, in January, allocated land for a memorial for Pranab Mukherjee, who passed away in 2020. Mukherjee's daughter, Sharmistha Mukherjee, expressed gratitude for the government's decision to create a memorial at the 'Rashtriya Samiti' complex in Rajghat, noting that the gesture was unexpected yet deeply appreciated. She also took a dig at the Congress, pointing out that the party had not even convened a condolence meeting for her father.



Engines Colliding? Akhilesh Yadav Uses BJP Slogan To Jab Yogi Adityanath

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav launched a strong critique of the Uttar Pradesh government in the Lok Sabha on Tuesday, accusing it of mishandling the recent stampede during the Mahakumbh in Prayagraj. Yadav questioned the Yogi Adityanath-led administration's failure to disclose the accurate number of casualties, criticizing the government's lack of transparency in the aftermath of the tragedy that occurred on January 29, 2025.

The stampede occurred during the rush for a holy dip on the banks of the Ganga, leading to tragic loss of life. The police initially reported 30 deaths and 60 injuries, but critics argue that the actual toll is likely higher. Yadav expressed his dissatisfaction with the delayed response of the administration, stating, "They gave a lot of numbers in the Budget, they should also give the numbers of the dead at Mahakumbh."

Yadav demanded that Parliament be provided with a detailed report on the incident and the government's arrangements for the event. He also called for an all-party meeting to address the tragedy and ensure that those responsible for concealing the truth are held accountable. "Hiding the truth is a crime. Who will serve the punishment for this?" he asked.

The SP chief accused the government of focusing on publicity rather than providing adequate arrangements for the millions of devotees who attended the event. He criticized the claims of a "Digital Kumbh" organized by the government, pointing out the irony that those behind such claims were unable to provide accurate numbers about the victims of the stampede. He also condemned the government's response to the aftermath, alleging that it involved superficial gestures like dropping flowers from a helicopter instead of addressing the victims' losses in a meaningful way. Yadav took further aim at Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, claiming that the CM did not express condolences over the deaths until both the President and the Prime Minister had done so. He also raised concerns over the handling of the religious practices, alleging that the government interfered with long-standing traditions and caused divisions among the akharas (spiritual groups).



West Bengal's Railway Funding Sparks Tensions Between BJP and TMC



TPN Correspondent | Delhi

The allocation of Rs 13,955 crore for railway infrastructure in West Bengal as part of the Union Budget 2025 has sparked a war of words between the ruling Trinamool Congress (TMC) and the BJP. Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw, in a statement on Tuesday, emphasized that the funding for the state was three times the amount allocated when Mamata Banerjee, the TMC leader, was serving as the Railway Minister. This comment was aimed at countering claims made by the TMC, which had previously alleged that the Union Budget had not done enough for the state.

Vaishnaw's remark was a pointed jab at the West Bengal Chief Minister, who had criticized the budget as being inadequate for her state. He further highlighted that the railway allocation under the current government was significantly higher than the funds allocated during Mamata Banerjee's tenure as Railway Minister during both the NDA and UPA governments. Vaishnaw noted, "When Mamata Banerjee was the Railways Minister, Bengal was given a lot of projects and funds too. But this year, the allocation has tripled."

However, the TMC was quick to counter Vaishnaw's claims. Party spokesperson Kunal Ghosh argued that the BJP's narrative was misleading, stating that during Mamata Banerjee's tenure, Bengal had received numerous railway projects, new trains, station renovations, and the establishment of new lines and factories. Ghosh criticized the current BJP-led government for not allowing proper paperwork for the ongoing projects, thus hindering progress in the state. He said, "Less funds are coming in for many projects, and in some cases, funds are not enough at all."

In response, Vaishnaw urged the West Bengal government to assist with land acquisition and law and order, emphasizing that such collaboration was crucial for the development of railway projects in the state. He also pointed out the impressive growth of the Kolkata Metro, citing that in the last decade, 32 kilometers of metro lines had been built, surpassing the total length constructed in the past 42 years.

Maharashtra Won't Forgive You: D Fadnavis On Rahul Gandhi's Poll Claim

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis has strongly rebuked Congress leader Rahul Gandhi following his allegations of voter manipulation in the state. Fadnavis's remarks came after Gandhi, Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha, claimed that around 70 lakh voters, roughly the population of Himachal Pradesh, were added to the electoral rolls in Maharashtra between the Lok Sabha and state elections.

Addressing the House during the debate on the Motion of Thanks to the President's address, Gandhi claimed that an unusually large number of voters were registered in Maharashtra ahead of the state elections, which raised suspicions regarding the fairness of the process. He alleged that more voters were added in just five months than in five years, particularly in constituencies where the BJP had emerged victorious in the 2019 state elections.

In response, Fadnavis accused Gandhi of insulting the people of Maharashtra and questioning the democratic mandate given to the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) in the state. He emphasized that Maharashtra, known for its legacy of prominent figures like Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj, Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar, Mahatma Phule, and Veer Savarkar, deserved respect. He condemned Gandhi for what he described as slanderous remarks and demanded an apology from the Congress leader. "The people of Maharashtra won't forgive you for this. Apologise, Mr. Rahul Gandhi!" Fadnavis said, asserting that the Congress leader's remarks were an attack on the state's democratic integrity.

Gandhi's comments come after the Congress performed poorly in the Maharashtra Assembly elections, securing only 16 seats, while the BJP achieved its best-ever performance with 132 seats. The Congress leader's claims of voter irregularities in Maharashtra have sparked a political uproar, with the BJP accusing him of undermining the electoral process.

In addition to the allegations about voter rolls, Gandhi had previously raised concerns over the transparency of India's electoral system. He suggested that the Election Commission needed to ensure greater clarity and accountability in its operations. He also claimed that the Congress and other opposition parties had sought voter lists from the Maharashtra and Haryana elections, which they were reportedly denied access to.



PM Modi Likely to Visit US on February 12

Visit follows Paris AI summit, amid trade and energy discussions

- Modi's first US visit after Trump's return to the White House.
- Talks to focus on trade, defence, and energy cooperation.
- India plans nuclear energy reforms ahead of the visit.

TPN Correspondent | Washington

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is expected to visit the United States on February 12, according to sources in the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA). This visit will be PM Modi's first to the US following President Donald Trump's return to the White House. Though the visit has yet to be officially confirmed, sources indicate that Modi will travel to Washington DC after his two-day trip to Paris, where he is scheduled to attend the Artificial Intelligence Action Summit on February 10-11.

PM Modi's visit to the US will place him among a select group of foreign leaders to visit Washington DC shortly after the Trump administration's return to power. This timing is significant, as it will come amid growing concerns in India over President Trump's policies on immigration and tariffs, which have raised tensions globally.

In recent days, President Trump announced a 25% tariff on Canadian and Mexican imports, alongside a 10% tax on Chinese goods. Although he later suspended the tariff on Mexican imports, there has been no relief announced for the other two. These moves are part of Trump's "America First" agenda, which has prompted mixed reactions internationally, especially in trade relations with India.

Despite these concerns, PM Modi and President Trump have already engaged in discussions. In a phone call on January 27, a week after Trump's inauguration, both leaders expressed a commitment to strengthening



India-US ties, particularly in trade, energy, and defense sectors. The White House also highlighted Trump's emphasis on India increasing its procurement of US-made security equipment and moving toward a fairer bilateral trade relationship.

Ahead of his visit, India has also signaled its interest in expanding energy cooperation with the US, particularly in clean energy. This includes India's recent announcement to amend its nuclear liability laws and set up a nuclear energy mission. These moves are seen as part of efforts to facilitate the

civil nuclear deal that both countries had initially agreed upon over 16 years ago.

India is also exploring collaboration with US-based Holtec International for small modular reactors (SMRs), a promising sector in nuclear energy. The Department of Atomic Energy is reportedly interested in working with Holtec to advance this technology. As PM Modi prepares for his visit, discussions around trade, energy, and defense are likely to dominate the agenda, marking a crucial moment in the growing India-US partnership.

India Contributes USD 37.64 Million to UN Regular Budget for 2025



TPN Correspondent | United Nations

India has made a significant contribution of USD 37.64 million to the United Nations Regular Budget for 2025, marking its place on the "honor roll" of 35 member states that have paid their assessments in full and on time. The payment was made on January 31, 2025, within the 30-day period specified in the UN's financial regulations.

As of January 31, 2025, thirty-five member states had settled their regular budget assessments in full, meeting the deadline set by the UN. The contributions are part of the UN's regular budget, which finances the organization's day-to-day activities, including peacekeeping, humanitarian efforts, and development projects.

Stephane Dujarric, the spokesperson for UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, acknowledged India's timely payment during a daily press briefing. He expressed gratitude for the contribution, noting, "We thank our friends in India." This continues a long-standing tradition of India fulfilling its financial obligations to the UN by paying its dues promptly and in full, strengthening its reputation as a reliable member state.

India's consistent commitment to paying its UN contributions was highlighted by UN General Assembly President Philemon Yang, who commended India's continued fulfillment of its obligations. Yang, who will visit India from February 4-8, mentioned in an interview that India "continues to fulfil its obligation as a member state of the UN by paying its dues in full and on time."

India's timely payment of its UN dues comes at a time when the country's role in global diplomacy is expanding. As a member of the UN, India has been actively involved in various international forums and peacekeeping efforts. This contribution reinforces India's status as a key player in multilateral diplomacy and strengthens its ties with other UN member states.

The "honor roll" for 2025 includes a number of countries that have consistently met their obligations to the UN. These payments play a crucial role in ensuring the smooth functioning of the organization, allowing it to carry out its work effectively. India's contribution is seen as part of its broader commitment to supporting the United Nations and its objectives.

China Launches Investigation into Google Over Anti-Monopoly Violations

TPN Correspondent | China

China has initiated an investigation into Google for suspected violations of its anti-monopoly laws, following the United States' decision to impose additional tariffs on Chinese goods. The probe was announced on Tuesday by Beijing's State Administration for Market Regulation, which stated that Google was "suspected of violating the Anti-Monopoly Law of the People's Republic of China."

The investigation comes amid escalating tensions between China and the US, particularly after Washington recently introduced a 10 percent tariff on Chinese imports. The Chinese government has made it clear that the investigation is part of its broader response to actions that it deems harmful to its national interests and economy.

In addition to the probe into Google, China also announced that it would add US companies PVH Corp. and Illumina to a list of "unreliable entities." PVH, which owns the brands Tommy Hilfiger and Calvin Klein, and Illumina, a major player in biotechnology, were accused of violating market transaction principles and engaging in discriminatory practices against Chinese businesses. The Chinese commerce ministry stated that these companies had disrupted normal transactions with Chinese enterprises, thus jeopardizing China's national sovereignty and security.



The investigation into PVH comes after the company was accused of boycotting cotton from China's Xinjiang region, a move linked to allegations of human rights violations in the area. China has long faced international criticism over its treatment of Uyghur Muslims and other minorities in Xinjiang, including reports of forced labor and mass detentions.

China's latest actions are viewed as part of a broader strategy to protect its domestic interests and assert its position in ongoing geopolitical tensions with the US. The move follows President Trump's imposition of new tariffs on Chinese goods, which he justified as necessary to counter illegal migration and the flow of drugs, particularly fentanyl, into the US.

Sri Lanka President Vows To Transform Country's 'Corrupt' Image

TPN Correspondent | Colombo

Sri Lanka's leftist president, Anura Kumara Dissanayake, marked the anniversary of the island nation's independence from Britain on Tuesday with a commitment to change its international image as a "corrupt" nation. The self-avowed Marxist leader opted for a subdued observance of the 1948 handover of power, foregoing the usual lavish military parades, including jet flyovers and horse processions, in favor of a modest military march. This was in line with his promise to reduce extravagant spending on government affairs.

In his address to the nation, Dissanayake reaffirmed his government's goal to steer Sri Lanka away from its reputation for corrupt governance. "We are committed to transforming Sri Lanka's global image," he stated. He also acknowledged the nation's deep-rooted issues, which stemmed from a flawed political system, but expressed confidence in the progress being made. "Despite countless obstacles and the deep-rooted flaws of the past corrupt political system, the people's government, built by the collective will of the citizens, is steadily progressing forward," he added.

Dissanayake's administration has made significant strides in addressing the country's economic crisis, which reached a peak in 2022 when Sri Lanka defaulted on its \$46 billion external debt. The economic collapse resulted in shortages of food, fuel, and medicines, leading to widespread protests and the resignation of then-president Gotabaya Rajapaksa. His successor, Ranil Wickremesinghe, secured a \$2.9 billion bailout loan from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to stabilize the economy.

Since his election last September, Dissanayake has continued many of the austerity measures introduced under Wickremesinghe's administration. His government finalized a long-delayed debt restructuring deal with both bilateral and private creditors, formally ending Sri Lanka's status as a bankrupt nation.

"We have laid the foundation for a stable economy and introduced a new political culture," Dissanayake said. He emphasized that the government's commitment to the four-year IMF bailout program would remain steadfast, ensuring the country's path toward recovery continues.

Marco Rubio Keeps Door Open for USAID Reform Amid Musk's Calls to Shut It Down

TPN Correspondent | Washington DC

US Secretary of State Marco Rubio clarified on Monday that the US Agency for International Development (USAID) will not be shut down, as previously suggested by Elon Musk. While Musk, head of the Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE), had raised the possibility of closing the agency, Rubio expressed the need for USAID to reform and align itself with the State Department's policies rather than operate independently.

Speaking to reporters in El Salvador, Rubio emphasized that the issue was not about ending USAID's programs but rather about how the agency operates. "This is not about ending the programs that USAID does, per se," Rubio stated. "There are things that it does that are good, and there are things that it does that we have strong questions about. It's about the way it operates as an entity." He criticized USAID for not following policy directions from the State Department, saying the agency had long adopted an attitude of independence that was not aligned with US foreign policy or national interests.

USAID, founded in the 1960s, is one of the largest US foreign aid agencies and is responsible for over half of the country's foreign assistance. It has a history of partnerships in countries such as India, helping support public-private partnerships and contributing to development goals. Rubio underscored that taxpayer dollars used in foreign aid should support the US's national interest. "Every penny that we spend in foreign aid needs to be in furtherance and aligned with the national interest and the foreign policy of the US," he added. Elon Musk, speaking as head of DOGE, previously stated that he had discussed shutting down USAID with President Donald Trump, receiving approval to do so. Musk even referred to the agency as "criminal," though President Trump has not made a public statement about Musk's comments. The controversy surrounding the agency deepened when two top USAID officials were removed after obstructing DOGE personnel from accessing rooms at the USAID headquarters in Washington, D.C.

Markets Soar as Sensex Jumps 1,397 Points; Nifty Breaks Key Resistance



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Domestic stock markets took a run today. The sky is the limit. They closed with huge gains on Tuesday. Trump's announcement that he is postponing tariffs on some countries filled positive sentiment in the market. Investors started buying as the dollar index fell, the rupee strengthened, and heavyweights were available at attractive prices. With this, Nifty 370 and Sensex rose by 1300 points. Nifty breaking the 200-day DEMA was a positive factor. Banking, finance, oil and gas stocks were the driving force behind this.

The BSE Sensex, which closed at 77,186 in the previous session, opened at 77,687 on Tuesday. It touched an intraday low of 77,402. It reached an intraday high of 78,658. It finally closed at 78,583 with a gain of 1397 points. The NSE Nifty, which opened at 23,509, touched a low of 23,423 and a high of 23,762. It closed at 23,739, up 378 points. The Nifty Bank rose 947 points to settle at 50,157.

In the Nifty50, 39 companies gained and 12 lost. Shriram Finance, LT, BEL, IndusInd Bank, Adani Ports were the top gainers. Trent, ITC Hotels, Britannia, Hero Moto, Nestle India were the top losers. Bank, Finance, IT, Metal, Pharma, Healthcare, Oil and Gas indices rose. Profit booking was seen in FMCG shares.

Market breadth on the NSE is in favor of buyers today. Out of a total of 2899 stocks traded, 1951 gained and 863 lost. Shares of 34 companies touched 52-week highs. Shares of 48 companies touched 52-week lows.

The rupee strengthened by 12 paise to settle at 87.07 against the dollar. Bank of America has given a buy rating to Aditya Birla Capitals with a target price of Rs 250. Nomura has maintained a buy rating on LIC Housing Finance, reducing its target to Rs 700 from Rs 795. Motilal Oswal has given a buy rating to Vinati Organics. Kalyan Jewellers shares rose by 14% today, the most in 19 months. SBI Research has predicted that a 25 basis point cut is likely in the February monetary policy meeting. It said it would cut by 75 basis points in tiers. Thermax's net profit fell 51% to Rs 116 crore from Rs 238 crore. 21 lakh shares changed hands in Bandhan Bank. WeMart Retail's net profit rose to Rs 71 crore from Rs 28 crore.

State Bank of India (SBI):

SBI is India's largest public sector bank, offering a comprehensive range of banking and financial services. The bank has demonstrated strong financial performance, with robust growth in net interest income and profitability. Its extensive branch network and significant market share in both urban and rural areas contribute to its solid fundamentals. Analysts consider SBI a strong performer in the banking sector, citing its solid fundamentals.



HDFC Bank:



HDFC Bank is one of India's leading private sector banks, known for its strong asset quality and consistent financial performance. The bank has maintained a healthy growth trajectory in its loan and deposit portfolios, supported by prudent risk management practices. Its focus on retail banking and digital initiatives has further strengthened its market position.

Divi's Laboratories:

Divi's Laboratories is a prominent pharmaceutical company specializing in the manufacturing of active pharmaceutical ingredients (APIs) and intermediates. The company has reported a 17% year-on-year increase in net profit for Q3FY2024, amounting to Rs. 358 crores, with revenue increasing by 8.6% to Rs. 1,855 crores. Divi's ongoing investments in expanding production capacities and diversifying its product portfolio underscore its commitment to growth.



Reliance Industries:

Reliance Industries is a diversified conglomerate with interests spanning petrochemicals, refining, telecommunications, and retail. The company's stock price has corrected by 22% from its 52-week high, presenting an attractive valuation. Brokerages highlight this correction as a favorable buying opportunity, citing growth potential across its diverse business verticals.

Adani Ports & SEZ:

Adani Ports & SEZ is India's largest private multi-port operator, managing a network of ports across the country. The company's share price has declined over 10% year-to-date and 30% in the past six months, which some analysts view as a potential buying opportunity. Despite recent stock performance, Adani Ports continues to play a crucial role in India's maritime trade and logistics sector.



India's Inflation Outlook: Projected Decline in FY25 and FY26

India's retail inflation is expected to see a significant decline in the last quarter (January-March) of the financial year 2024-25 (FY25), with projections placing it at 4.5%, according to a recent report by the State Bank of India (SBI). The report also forecasts that the average inflation for the entire fiscal year will hover around 4.8%.

This decline in inflation, particularly in the fourth quarter, indicates a positive shift in the country's inflationary trend. The report points out that inflation in January is expected to trend closer to the 4.5% mark, suggesting that the effects of various policy interventions and global economic conditions are beginning to take hold in stabilizing prices.

The decline in inflation can be attributed to several factors, including the moderation of food and fuel prices, which have been key drivers of inflation in recent months. The government and the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) have been working on managing supply-side disruptions, which have contributed to price hikes in essential commodities. Additionally, global inflationary pressures are easing, benefiting countries like India, whose domestic market has been impacted by fluctuations in international commodity prices. Looking ahead, the report also projected a further easing of inflation in FY26, with the expected



range falling between 4.2% and 4.5%. This suggests that India's inflation outlook is stabilizing, with moderate inflation becoming a more consistent trend in the years ahead.

The anticipated decline in inflation is expected to have a positive impact on household budgets, which have been strained by rising prices in recent years. A more stable inflation rate would also provide a favorable environment for economic growth, as consumers and businesses would face less uncertainty in their purchasing and investment decisions.

The SBI's report highlights that the tra-

jectory of inflation will depend on various factors, including monsoon performance, global commodity prices, and domestic policy actions. The RBI's monetary policy measures, particularly interest rate adjustments, will also play a significant role in determining the inflation path in the coming quarters.

In conclusion, India's inflation outlook for FY25 and FY26 is promising, with a steady decline expected over the next two years. This bodes well for the country's economic stability, as lower inflation can help support growth and enhance the purchasing power of its citizens.

India Increase in FDI limit in insurance sector to woo more foreign players: Moody's

India's insurance sector is set to receive a boost with the recent proposal to increase the foreign investment limit to 100% from 74%. According to Moody's Ratings, this move is expected to attract more global players to the rapidly growing Indian market, enhancing product innovation and improving the sector's overall financial health.

Currently, several foreign insurers operate in India through joint ventures. These foreign stakeholders may now look to increase their ownership stakes in their Indian affiliates following this regulatory change. Moody's views the increased foreign investment as a positive development for the sector, citing the potential for enhanced capital adequacy, financial flexibility, and improved governance standards. With foreign investors bringing their expertise, the market is expected to benefit from greater product diversification and more competitive pricing, ultimately boosting profitability.

Finance Minister Nirmala Sithara-

man announced the proposal during the presentation of Budget 2025-26, highlighting it as part of a broader initiative aimed at modernizing and reforming India's financial sector. The government's push to raise the foreign investment limit underscores its commitment to attracting more global capital and expertise into the insurance space.

The increased foreign investment could be particularly advantageous for health insurance, as rising awareness about health and well-being, especially in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, drives demand for comprehensive coverage. The middle class, India's largest target market for insurance products, is also experiencing an increase in disposable income, further expanding the potential customer base for insurers. These trends bode well for the future growth of the sector, particularly in health insurance.

In addition to the foreign investment reform, the Budget also introduced tax measures aimed at easing the finan-



cial burden on taxpayers. The personal income tax threshold was raised to Rs 12 lakh from Rs 7 lakh, benefiting many middle and upper-income earners. A revision of the tax brackets will allow those earning above the threshold to save up to Rs 1.1 lakh annually, further boosting disposable income. These reforms are expected to have a positive impact on overall economic activity, including in the insurance sector.

In conclusion, the decision to increase the foreign investment limit in India's insurance sector is expected to bring substantial benefits, fostering innovation and growth. With rising disposable income and growing demand for health insurance, the sector is poised for strong growth in the coming years.

India's Palm Oil Imports Fall Due to Shifting Preferences and Refining Margins

India's palm oil imports in January have sharply dropped to their lowest level in nearly 14 years, as refiners opted for cheaper alternatives like soyoil due to negative refining margins for palm oil, according to industry sources. The world's largest importer of vegetable oils, India saw a staggering 46% decline in palm oil imports in January compared to the previous month, with shipments totaling just 272,000 metric tons. This is the lowest level since March 2011, as reported by dealers.

The sharp decline in palm oil imports is attributed to the ongoing economic pressures faced by refiners, who have found refining palm oil increasingly unprofitable. Refining margins for palm oil have turned negative, compelling many refineries to pivot towards soyoil, which is more cost-effective in comparison. The shift in preferences towards soyoil has led to a rise in its imports, helping to offset the reduced demand for palm oil.

This dramatic drop in palm oil imports is likely to impact global markets, particularly Malaysian palm oil prices, which may face downward pressure due to lower demand from India. Malaysia is one of the top exporters of palm oil to India, and a reduction in Indian imports could dampen market expectations for the commodity. On the other hand, the increased demand for soyoil could provide some support to U.S. soyoil futures, as refiners seek cheaper alternatives.

India's reliance on vegetable oils, particularly for cooking, means that changes in import patterns can have significant effects on global vegetable oil markets. While palm oil remains a staple for many Indian consumers, fluctuating global prices and refining costs have led to a shift in buying habits. The impact of these trends on global palm oil markets will continue to unfold in the coming months, with dealers and analysts closely monitor-



ing how refiners adapt to market conditions.

The long-term outlook for India's palm oil imports will depend on several factors, including global prices, domestic demand, and the relative pricing of other edible oils. As the situation evolves, the palm oil market will need to adjust to the changing dynamics of one of its largest consumers.

OpenAI Introduces 'Deep Research' Mode for Enhanced Multi-Step Web Research

OpenAI has unveiled a new feature for ChatGPT called 'Deep Research,' designed to tackle more complex tasks that require multi-step web research. This marks the company's second AI agent, following the debut of Operator AI for browser-related tasks just last month.

What is Deep Research and How Does it Work?

Powered by OpenAI's latest o3 reasoning model, Deep Research is optimized for web browsing and data analysis. It can search, interpret, and analyze vast amounts of text, images, and PDFs across the web to generate comprehensive reports that approach the level of a research analyst. Deep Research goes beyond simple queries, providing users with more detailed insights into complex topics.

However, unlike regular search tasks in ChatGPT, Deep Research is time-intensive. Queries can take anywhere between 5 to 30 minutes to return results, with the AI notifying users once the research is complete. Currently, the feature only supports text output, but OpenAI plans to introduce images, data visualizations, and other analytical outputs in the near future.

Why Deep Research Has Limitations

Despite its promise, Deep Research is not without its flaws. OpenAI has acknowledged that, like other AI tools, the model is prone to 'hallucination,' meaning it can generate incorrect or fabricated information. Additionally, the system can struggle to distinguish between authoritative information and rumors, and it has difficulty accurately calibrating its confidence, sometimes failing to convey uncertain-



ty about its findings.

These limitations raise important questions about the reliability of Deep Research's outputs. While users can review citations to verify information, this process effectively undermines the purpose of using an AI tool in the first place. As the AI generates more detailed reports, users must still cross-check the data manually, which can be time-consuming.

Looking ahead, OpenAI plans to connect Deep Research to specialized data sources, including subscription-based or internal resources, to enhance the robustness and personalization of its results. While this may improve the tool's accuracy, the ongoing challenge of addressing the AI's reliability remains a key hurdle for its widespread use in critical research tasks.

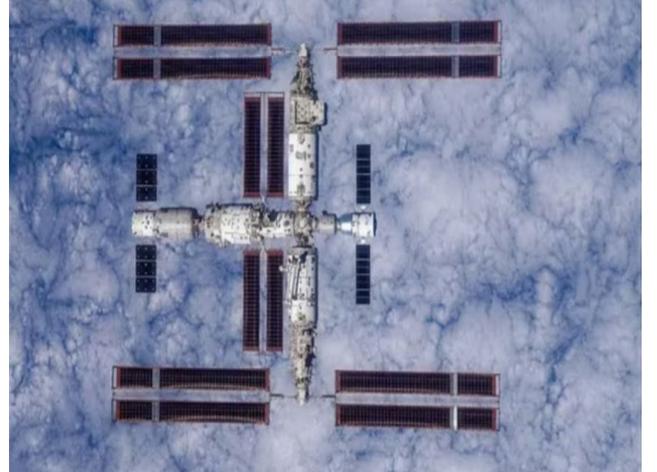
Chinese Astronauts Generate Oxygen and Fuel Through Artificial Photosynthesis in Space

Chinese astronauts aboard the Tiangong space station have achieved a significant milestone by successfully producing oxygen and rocket fuel through artificial photosynthesis. This groundbreaking experiment could play a crucial role in China's ambitious plans to establish a lunar base by 2035, as it allows for the generation of vital resources directly in space, reducing reliance on supplies from Earth.

Conducted by the crew of Shenzhou-19, the experiment utilized water and carbon dioxide to create oxygen and hydrocarbon fuel components, mimicking the natural process of photosynthesis found in plants. The system, which requires minimal energy, represents a promising step towards sustainable resource generation for future space missions.

The artificial photosynthesis system works through engineered physical and chemical reactions, with a semiconductor catalyst and a compact apparatus functioning as the key components. This technology converts carbon dioxide and water into oxygen and hydrocarbon-based fuels, offering flexibility to produce other fuels like methane or formic acid by simply changing the catalyst used.

This method presents a significant advantage over current technologies, particularly electrolysis, which is used on the International Space Station (ISS) to generate oxygen. Electrolysis, while effective, consumes up to a third of the ISS's power supply, making the new artificial photosyn-

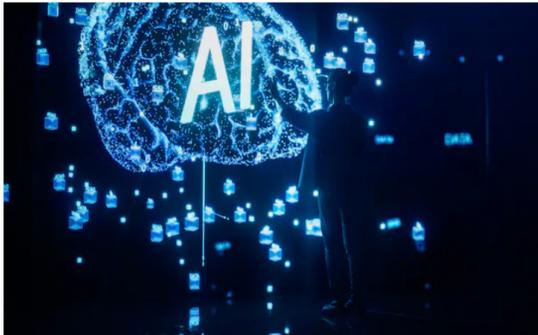


thesis system an energy-efficient alternative for long-duration space missions.

Looking ahead, China's lunar base plans are closely tied to this technology. The base, which aims to be established near the Moon's south pole by 2035, could benefit from this new approach to producing breathable air and fuel for return missions. In addition to artificial photosynthesis, China is also collaborating with Russia on a mini nuclear reactor to power the base. With astronauts expected to land on the Moon by 2030, ahead of NASA's delayed Artemis missions, this innovation could be key to supporting sustainable human presence on the Moon.

As space exploration continues to evolve, China's advancements in artificial photosynthesis may pave the way for more self-sufficient and efficient missions, marking a new era of space sustainability.

Treatment By AI? Bengaluru CEO Gets MRI Analysed By ChatGPT, Shares Result Online



As artificial intelligence (AI) continues to make inroads into various aspects of our lives, its applications in healthcare are garnering attention. Deepak Shenoy, CEO of Bengaluru-based CapitalMind, recently shared an experience that raised intriguing questions about AI's potential role in medical diagnostics. In a post on X, Shenoy detailed how he used ChatGPT to analyze his MRI report, sparking discussions about whether AI could eventually replace traditional healthcare professionals.

Shenoy recounted how, after experiencing knee issues, he consulted with a doctor who recommended an MRI scan. When he input the results into ChatGPT, the AI suggested avoiding deep squats, which was a relevant piece of advice as Shenoy had been training for them. Interestingly, the AI also identified a slight knee displacement and hypothesized that it could be related to a sports injury. Although Shenoy acknowledged the need for professional treatment, he found the insights provided by the AI to be intriguing and useful.

The response to Shenoy's post was mixed. While some users praised ChatGPT's ability to provide helpful health-related suggestions, others expressed skepticism. One user shared a positive experience, claiming, "I gave my ultrasound report to ChatGPT, and it gave me better advice than the doctor." However, others questioned whether AI, with its current limitations, could truly replace the expertise of trained medical professionals.

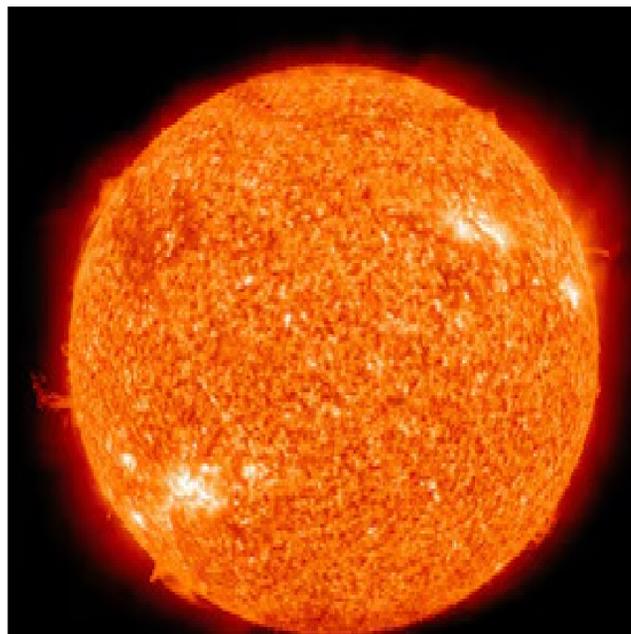
This conversation highlights the growing interest in the role of AI in healthcare, particularly in diagnostic support. While AI can process vast amounts of data and offer valuable insights, many believe it should complement, rather than replace, human expertise. In Shenoy's case, the AI's suggestions were interesting, but they will ultimately need to be validated by a doctor's expertise for accurate diagnosis and treatment. As AI continues to evolve, its integration into healthcare systems will likely continue to raise important questions about the future of medical practice.

AI Could Have Predicted May 2024 Solar Storm, Study Finds

A recent study claims that Artificial Intelligence (AI) could have predicted the powerful solar storm that impacted Earth in May 2024, which was triggered by the highly active region AR13664 on the Sun. The research, led by Sabrina Guastavino at the University of Genoa, suggests that AI could recognize patterns preceding coronal mass ejections (CMEs) by training on historical solar event data.

Traditionally, solar storm forecasts depend on human analysis of solar images and data, but these methods often provide less accurate and timely predictions. The study highlights that despite advances in technology and model development, uncertainties remain in flare forecasting and predicting the travel times of CMEs. Typically, the forecasted CME arrival time averages 12 hours, leaving little room for preparation.

AI's potential lies in its ability to process vast datasets from solar imagery and space weather parameters, including solar wind



speed, magnetic field changes, and solar flare patterns. The AI model can detect subtle signs in the solar atmosphere's behavior, offering an early warning system for space weather events.

The May 2024 solar storm, which was the most intense since 2003, serves as a reminder of how AI could refine space weather forecasting. The study suggests that

AI's precision in predicting CME travel times not only offers early warnings but can also act as a diagnostic tool for testing and enhancing existing models of CME propagation.

Coronal mass ejections are massive expulsions of plasma and magnetic fields from the Sun's corona. These high-speed gas clouds can cause significant disruptions to power grids, communication systems, GPS navigation, air travel, and satellites. The storm in May 2024 affected global communication networks and was particularly intense, underscoring the importance of accurate forecasting.

Solar activity follows an 11-year cycle, with peaks and lows corresponding to solar maximum and solar minimum phases. Currently, we are in Solar Cycle 25, which is expected to peak around July 2025. This cycle has shown unexpectedly high levels of solar activity, sparking further research to understand the Sun's behavior and improve prediction models.

I Am Single: Woman Flooded With Proposals After Unique Idea At Sporting Event

In today's digital world, predicting what will go viral can seem like an impossible task. Sometimes, content appears that leaves us baffled, while other times, it simply makes us laugh out loud. One such instance recently went viral, when a woman's inventive approach to finding a romantic partner at a sports event captured the attention of viewers around the globe.

Shilo, a single woman attending a sporting event abroad, became the center of attention when she held up a bold sign in the stands. The sign read "Single" with an arrow pointing downwards and included her Instagram handle, inviting potential suitors to connect with her. What happened next was nothing short of fascinating: the video of Shilo aired live on television, and within hours, her social media was flooded with messages and dating proposals from people worldwide.



As reported by the New York Post, Shilo's creative move led to an outpouring of interest, with individuals offering everything from

casual dates to serious romantic proposals. The surge in attention was so overwhelming that Shilo was left with no free time for the next two weeks, as her inbox was packed with messages from potential partners eager to connect. What was meant to be a lighthearted attempt to find a match turned into a viral sensation, showing just how much the digital world has changed the way we form relationships.

While this story is certainly an entertaining one, it also speaks to the power of social media in shaping modern dating dynamics. Whether or not Shilo finds her perfect match through this viral moment remains to be seen, but one thing is for sure: her creative strategy has captured the imagination of people everywhere, sparking a conversation about the evolving nature of romance in the digital age.

“Sri Lanka, Unfortunately...”: Tim Paine Predicts Australian Dominance in 2nd Test

Former Australian captain Tim Paine has made a bold prediction ahead of the second Test between Sri Lanka and Australia, stating that the hosts stand little chance of challenging the dominant visitors. The second Test is set to take place at Galle from February 6, with Australia already leading 1-0 in the series after their massive innings and 242-run victory in the first Test.

Australia, having secured a spot in the ICC World Test Championship (WTC) final, will aim to finish the series on a high. Sri Lanka, on the other hand, will be looking to salvage some pride after a promising WTC campaign.

Speaking to SEN, Paine praised Australia's clinical performance in the first Test, calling it “close to flawless.” He particularly lauded Steve Smith, Usman Khawaja, Travis Head, and debutant Josh Inglis for their batting contributions. Additionally, he highlighted the precision of bowlers Matt Kuhnemann, Nathan Lyon, Todd Murphy, and Mitchell Starc, who dismantled Sri Lanka's batting lineup.

“When you have players of that quality, playing as well as they do, there aren't too many teams that can match them,” Paine stated. “Sri Lanka, unfortunately, I cannot see them getting close to Australia on any surface.”

With the series on the line, Sri Lanka will need an exceptional performance to challenge Steve Smith's Australia and avoid a whitewash.



Squads:

Sri Lanka: Dhananjaya de Silva (c), Dimuth Karunaratne, Pathum Nissanka (fitness pending), Oshada Fernando, Lahiru Udara, Dinesh Chandimal, Angelo Mathews, Kamindu Mendis, Kusal Mendis, Sadeera Samarawickrama, Sonal Dinusha, Prabath Jayasuriya, Jeffrey Vandersay, Nishan Peiris, Asitha Fernando, Vishwa Fernando, Lahiru Kumara, Milan Rathnayake.

Australia: Steve Smith (c), Sean Abbott, Scott Boland, Alex Carey, Cooper Connolly, Travis Head (vc), Josh Inglis, Usman Khawaja, Sam Konstas, Matt Kuhnemann, Marnus Labuschagne, Nathan Lyon, Nathan McSweeney, Todd Murphy, Mitchell Starc, Beau Webster.

India vs Pakistan Champions Trophy Tickets Sold Out in Minutes



Tickets for the much-anticipated India vs Pakistan clash in the ICC Champions Trophy 2025 were sold out within minutes of going on sale, reflecting the massive demand for the high-voltage encounter. Over 1.5 lakh fans queued online, leading to waiting times of more than an hour, as they scrambled to secure seats for the February 23 match at the Dubai International Cricket Stadium.

Fans faced disappointment as tickets across nearly all categories, including the Dh2,000 (₹47,434) Platinum and Dh5,000 (₹1.8 lakh) Grand Lounge sections, were quickly snapped up. “I anticipated a long queue, but the speed at which tickets vanished was shocking,” said Dubai resident Sudhashree. The stadium, which has a 25,000-seat capacity, saw an overwhelming rush, underscoring the fix-

ture's popularity.

With the tournament being held on a hybrid model across Pakistan and the UAE, the India-Pakistan encounter is expected to drive a surge in hospitality and travel sectors. Experts predict increased hotel bookings and rising airfares as fans from both nations flock to Dubai.

The Champions Trophy 2025 will feature eight teams competing in 15 matches over 19 days. Group A consists of Bangladesh, India, Pakistan, and New Zealand, while Group B includes Afghanistan, England, Australia, and South Africa. Hosts Pakistan, the defending champions, will kick off the tournament against New Zealand in Karachi on February 19.



Ravi Shastri Warns: India's Champions Trophy Winning Chances Could Drop 30% Without Bumrah

As the ICC Men's Champions Trophy 2025 approaches, former India head coach Ravi Shastri and Australia's Ricky Ponting have raised concerns about India's chances in the tournament if pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah is not fully fit.

Bumrah, the 2024 ICC Men's Cricketer of the Year, played a key role in India's T20 World Cup triumph and delivered a stellar season across all formats. However, a back spasm sustained during the Sydney Test against Australia in January has kept him out of action. While he has been named in India's initial Champions Trophy squad, his absence from the upcoming ODI series against England has fueled speculation about his fitness.

Speaking on The ICC Review, Shastri strongly advised against rushing Bumrah back, stating that forcing him into the squad prematurely would be a “high risk” decision with India's packed cricket calendar ahead. “Bumrah not fit will reduce India's chances of winning the Champions Trophy by 30-35%,” Shastri said. “Ex-

pecting him to return and immediately dominate is unrealistic. If he plays, India gets guaranteed quality death overs, but if he isn't fit, the team loses a crucial edge.”

Ponting echoed these concerns, highlighting that Bumrah's increased workload during the Border-Gavaskar Trophy could have contributed to his injury. He also pointed out that the absence of Mohammed Shami as a backup forced Bumrah to bowl extra spells, possibly aggravating his condition.

With Shami back in the squad, all eyes will be on his performance in the ODI series against England, which will determine whether he can handle the demands of a 10-over spell in 50-over cricket.

India will kick off their Champions Trophy campaign against Bangladesh on February 20 in Dubai. If both Bumrah and Shami are fit, India will have a formidable pace attack, crucial for success in fast-bowler-friendly conditions.

Magnificent Maaya Shines as Indian Players Dominate Mumbai Open

India's rising tennis sensation Maaya delivered a spectacular performance at the Mumbai Open WTA 125, defeating Belarusian Iryna Shymanovich 6-4, 6-1 to storm into the Round of 16 at the Cricket Club of India. The 15-year-old prodigy displayed remarkable composure and precision, overpowering her experienced opponent with aggressive play and powerful serves.

Maaya set the tone early, breaking Shymanovich's momentum after a 2-2 tie and firing four aces to clinch the first set 6-4. Her baseline aggression kept Shymanovich on the defensive. The Belarusian tried to mount a comeback in the second set, engaging Maaya in long rallies, but the young Indian remained composed. With well-placed shots and impeccable timing, she pressured her opponent and sealed the match with a brilliant ace, drawing huge cheers from the home crowd.

Meanwhile, India's wildcard entry Ankita Raina show-



cased her class, defeating compatriot Vaishnavi Adkar 6-2, 6-2. Raina's tactical precision was evident as she broke Adkar twice in the first set and saved two crucial break points. Her controlled baseline play and aggressive returns proved too much for Adkar, who struggled to keep pace.

In other matches, third seed Anna Karolina Schmiedlova of Slovakia survived a tough battle against Australia's Tina Smith, coming from behind to win 6-7, 6-4, 6-1. Her resilience and tactical play helped her dominate the final set.

Adding to India's success, Shrivalli Bhamidipaty dominated Russia's Elena Pridankina, securing a 6-1, 6-0 victory. With powerful serves and relentless intensity, Bhamidipaty ensured a swift and emphatic win.

With homegrown players making a strong impact, the Mumbai Open is shaping up to be an exciting tournament for Indian tennis fans.

World Padel League Set to Debut in Mumbai from February 5

The World Padel League (WPL) is all set to make its debut in India, marking a significant milestone for the sport in the country. The tournament will be held at Nesco Center, Mumbai, from February 5 to February 8, bringing together 32 of the world's top-ranked padel players to compete in a high-octane league format.

Four teams—Sohail Khan Ent. Panthers, SG Pipers Cheetahs, Game Changers Lions, and Vernost Jaguars—will battle for supremacy, each featuring eight players (five men and three women) along with a coach/captain. The tournament will follow a round-robin format, with each team playing three league-stage matches. The top two teams will face off in the grand final on February 8.

The WPL promises intense action, with top-ranked players such as Carlos Daniel Gutierrez (World No. 19), Claudia Fernandez (World No. 3), Jon Sanz (World No. 9), and Alejandra Salazar (World No. 15) leading their respective squads. Matches will feature two men's

doubles, one women's doubles, and one mixed doubles, following a tennis-style scoring system.

The opening match on February 5 will see Vernost Jaguars take on Sohail Khan Ent. Panthers, followed by a clash between SG Pipers Cheetahs and Game Changers Lions. The final showdown will take place on February 8, where the two best teams will battle for the prestigious title.

With elite global talent, high-stakes competition, and a thrilling format, the World Padel League aims to revolutionize the sport in India and attract new fans.





Rishab Shetty's 'Kantara: Chapter 1' to Feature a Grand War Sequence with Over 500 Fighters

The much-anticipated 'Kantara: Chapter 1', produced by Hombale Films, is set to be a cinematic spectacle, promising to surpass the success of its predecessor. The film, directed by and starring Rishab Shetty, is a prequel to the 2022 blockbuster Kantara, which became a record-breaking success. The first look poster featuring Rishab Shetty has already created immense excitement, with his transformed appearance drawing attention. To elevate the action sequences, the filmmakers have incorporated a grand war sequence featuring over 500 skilled fighters, making it one of the biggest battle scenes in Indian cinema.

A source close to the production stated, "Hombale Films is going all out for 'Kantara: Chapter 1,' bringing together over 500 skilled fighters to create a war sequence like never before. With top action choreography experts, this will be a cinematic experience of epic proportions."

Set in the Kadamba period of Karnataka, the film will explore a pivotal era in Indian history, focusing on the cultural and architectural contributions of the Kadamba dynasty.

'Kantara: Chapter 1' is slated for a grand worldwide release on October 2, 2025.

Netflix India Unveils 14 Exciting Films and Series for 2025

Netflix India is set to deliver a power-packed lineup of movies and series in 2025, catering to a wide range of audiences with fresh stories, star-studded casts, and highly anticipated sequels. The streaming giant is focusing on both original content and returning fan-favorite series, ensuring an exciting year ahead for Indian entertainment lovers. With Bollywood debut projects, gripping thrillers, and heartwarming dramas, Netflix India's 2025 slate promises a diverse selection of content. One of the biggest highlights is Aryan Khan's directorial debut, "The Ba*ds of Bollywood," which explores an outsider's journey in the film industry. Adding to the excitement is "Jewel Thief: The Heist Begins," starring Saif Ali Khan and Jaideep Ahlawat in a high-stakes thriller.

Romantic drama fans can look forward to "Nadaaniyan," featuring Bollywood newcomers Ibrahim Ali Khan and Khushi Kapoor, while R. Madhavan and Fatima Sana Shaikh take the lead in "Aap Jaisa Koi," a mature love story. Comedy-action lovers will be entertained by "Dhoom Dhaam," starring Pratik Gandhi and Yami Gautam, while cricket fans can look forward to "Test," starring R. Madhavan, Nayanthara, and Siddharth. Crime thriller "Toaster," produced by Rajkumar Rao and Patralekhaa, rounds up the list of new films.

Returning Fan-Favorite Series

Netflix is bringing back some of its biggest hits with new seasons in 2025. "Delhi Crime Season 3" will see Shefali Shah's team tack-



ling a human trafficking case, while "Kohrra Season 2" promises another gripping investigation led by Barun Sobti and Mona Singh.

Rana Daggubati and Arjun Rampal return for "Rana Naidu Season 2," bringing more family drama and action. Additionally, the Bengali film industry takes center stage in "Khakee: The Bengal Chapter," starring Jeet and Prosenjit Chatterjee.

Another major highlight is "Akka," a powerful crime drama featuring Keerthy Suresh and Radhika Apte as gangster queens.

Exciting Reality Shows
Netflix is also tapping into Bollywood's charm with its reality show "Dining with the Kapoors," which explores the Kapoor family's history through food and personal stories. Meanwhile, Kapil Sharma returns with "The Great Indian Kapil Show Season 3," promising more laughter and entertainment.

With a mix of fresh faces, established stars, and engaging stories, Netflix India's 2025 lineup is set to dominate the streaming space.

Keerthy Suresh's Fierce Look in 'Akka' Takes the Internet by Storm

Keerthy Suresh, one of India's most beloved actresses, is making waves with her upcoming film 'Akka'. The recently released teaser has left fans in awe of her intense new avatar, with many praising her raw and powerful presence on screen.

Keerthy, who recently made her Bollywood debut with Baby John, continues to impress audiences with her versatility. In Akka, she embodies a fierce and unshakable character, radiating strength and intensity in every frame. Her transformation for the role has received widespread appreciation, with fans flooding social media with admiration.

One fan commented, "Keerthy flower nahi WILD FIRE hai!" while another wrote, "Gonna witness another raw Keerthy after Saani Kaayitham." Others expressed their excitement with remarks like "Definitely a blockbuster hit because Keerthy



Suresh is there!"

Her piercing gaze and rugged aura in Akka promise a performance that is bold, unfiltered, and unforgettable. This reaction highlights the immense love Keerthy enjoys nationwide, proving once again why she is one of the most admired stars in the industry.

With the teaser setting high expectations, Akka is shaping up to be another milestone in Keerthy Suresh's illustrious career.

Tabu Showcases Her 'Childhood Ties' with Beautiful 'Hyderabad Skies'

Bollywood actress Tabu, known for her stellar performances, is currently in Hyderabad after wrapping up the schedule of Priyadarshan's upcoming horror-comedy Bhoot Bangla, starring Akshay Kumar. The actress took to her Instagram stories to share a stunning picture of the sunset in Hyderabad. Alongside the image, she wrote, "Hyderabad skies, Childhood ties," hinting at her deep-rooted connection to the city.

Tabu recently joined the cast of Bhoot Bangla on January 11, announcing her involvement by posting a picture of the film's clapperboard on social media. She captioned it, "Hum yahan bandh hain (We are locked inside)."

The film also stars Paresh Rawal, Rajpal Yadav, and Asrani in key roles, promising a hilarious comedy of errors. This marks Priyadarshan's reunion with Akshay Kumar after 14 years, following their last collaboration in Khatta Meetha (2010).

On his 57th birthday, Akshay had shared a motion poster of Bhoot Bangla, revealing his excitement about reuniting with Priyadarshan. The duo has previously delivered blockbuster hits like Hera Pheri, De Dana Dan, Bhool Bhulaiyaa, and Garam Masala. The film is expected to bring another dose of classic comedy and entertainment.



'Kobali' Web Series Review: A Gripping Rural Revenge Drama on Hotstar

Kobali, the latest Telugu web series streaming on Hotstar, is an intense revenge drama set in a rural backdrop. Directed by Revanth Levaka, the series unfolds across eight episodes and is available in seven languages, including Telugu, Tamil, Malayalam, Kannada, Hindi, Marathi, and Bengali. Featuring Ravi Prakash in a lead role, the series explores family feuds, betrayal, and violence.

Storyline: The series is set in Mullakatta, a village on the Andhra-Telangana border, where

Sambayya and his three sons—Gopi, Seenu (Ravi Prakash), and Ramu—live a life of constant struggle. Seenu takes care of the family, while Gopi secretly marries another woman, Sujatha. However, Sujatha's criminal brothers, Ramana and Peeri, bring chaos and violence into their lives. The plot takes a dark turn when Gopi's actions spark a deadly feud, putting the entire family in danger. Seenu must fight to protect his loved ones and seek revenge.

Review: With intense action, deep emotions,

and high-stakes drama, Kobali successfully captures rural life, crime, and family disputes. Ravi Prakash delivers a powerful performance, and Rohith Bachu's cinematography brings a realistic feel. However, excessive violence and profanity may not appeal to all viewers.

Verdict: A gripping revenge drama with compelling storytelling and action, Kobali is a must-watch for fans of crime thrillers.

Rating: (2.75/5)

