



**Weather Forecast**

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

# Why Did PM Let This Happen?



- Priyanka Gandhi questions Modi over deported Indians in shackles.
- Opposition protests, calls it an "insult to India."
- Parliament adjourned amid uproar on the issue.
- Akhilesh Yadav questions govt's silence on inhumane deportation.

Opposition parties staged a protest outside Parliament, calling the deportation an "insult to India" and demanding accountability. Congress MP Gurbaj Singh Aujla symbolically held handcuffs, while leaders carried placards with slogans such as "Humans, not prisoners" and "India in handcuffs—We will not tolerate this humiliation."

Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav also criticized the government's silence. "Those who spoke of making India a Vishwaguru are now quiet. Indian citizens were deported like slaves in inhumane conditions. What is the external affairs ministry doing?" he said.

Both Houses of Parliament witnessed uproar over the issue, leading to adjournments. Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla urged MPs to avoid disruptions, stating that the matter falls under the Ministry of External Affairs, which has taken cognizance of it.

The deported Indians arrived in Punjab's Amritsar on a US Air Force plane on Wednesday.

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

Congress MP Priyanka Gandhi Vadra on Thursday questioned Prime Minister Narendra Modi over the deportation of over 100 Indian nationals from the United States, criticizing their alleged inhumane treatment.

"A lot was said about PM Modi and President Trump being good friends. Why did PM Modi let this happen? Couldn't we have sent our own aircraft to bring them back? Is this how humans should be treated—sent back in handcuffs and shackles?" she asked.

Jaishankar: Deportations not a new issue

Opposition slams govt over deportee treatment

US videos show Indians shackled on flight

Deportees claim denial of basic necessities

# Engaging With US to Prevent Mistreatment of Deportees

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar addressed the Rajya Sabha on Thursday, responding to opposition concerns over the deportation of Indian nationals from the US. He stated that deportations of illegal migrants have been occurring for years and are not a new development. Jaishankar, after consulting Prime Min-

2,000 in 2019.

"It is in our collective interest to encourage legal mobility and discourage illegal movement. Every country has the obligation to take back its nationals if they are living illegally abroad," he said.

Highlighting the need for humane treatment, he added, "US authorities did not restrain women and children. The needs



ister Narendra Modi, emphasized that India is engaging with the US to ensure that deportees are not mistreated. He cited statistics showing that the number of deported Indians has ranged from 530 in 2012 to over

of deportees, including food, medical emergencies, and other necessities, were attended to."

The statement came amid outrage over videos posted by US Border Patrol Chief Michael Banks, showing deported Indian citizens handcuffed and shackled aboard a C-17 military transport plane to Amritsar. Some deportees reported being restrained for long hours and denied toilet breaks, sparking opposition protests over possible human rights violations.

Trinamool Congress MP Saket Gokhale questioned why India did not arrange its own aircraft for deportees, citing Colombia's example of sending Air Force planes to bring back its citizens with dignity. The South American nation had previously objected to shackled deportations and refused to allow US military aircraft carrying deportees to land.

# AAP Alleges BJP Offered ₹15 Crore to 7 Leaders

AAP: BJP offered ₹15 crore to 7 candidates to switch sides.

BJP trying to poach before results, claims Sanjay Singh.

Delhi results on Feb 8; exit polls favor BJP.



TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leader Sanjay Singh has alleged that the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) attempted to lure seven AAP candidates ahead of the Delhi assembly election results by offering ₹15 crore each to switch sides. Addressing a press conference on Thursday, the Rajya Sabha MP claimed that BJP leaders had reached out to these candidates through phone calls and face-to-face meetings.

"This clearly shows that the BJP has accepted its defeat even before the results. That is why they are resorting to such tactics," Singh said. He added that AAP has advised its candidates to record such conversations and use spy cameras if approached with

such offers. The BJP has yet to respond to these allegations. Voting for Delhi's 70 assembly constituencies took place on February 5, with a voter turnout of 60.42%, according to the Election Commission of India (ECI). The results, scheduled to be announced on February 8, will decide whether AAP secures a third consecutive term or if the BJP ends its 27-year-long wait to return to power in the capital. Exit polls have given mixed predictions, with most suggesting the BJP could form the next government. Some forecasts indicate a BJP victory with 51-60 seats, while others predict an AAP win. Congress is expected to continue its poor performance in the assembly polls.



# J&K's Rajouri Seals All Pesticide Shops After 17 'Mystery' Deaths

TPN Correspondent | Jammu

Authorities in Jammu and Kashmir's Rajouri district have sealed all pesticide and insecticide shops as part of preventive measures following 17 'mysterious' deaths in Budhal village over the past nine weeks. Officials confirmed on Thursday that the action was taken amid an ongoing investigation into the cause of the fatalities.

In a late evening operation, joint teams from the agriculture department, food and drugs control organization, and police, led by an executive magistrate, conducted surprise inspections of pesticide, insecticide, and fertilizer outlets across the district. Following the inspections, all 250 such stores were ordered to shut until further notice.

The decision came after a five-member team of experts from AIIMS Delhi completed a three-day visit to Rajouri, where they examined affected patients, collected samples, and recorded clinical histories. The team included specialists in toxicology who are investigating the possibility of poisoning.

Meanwhile, 11 patients admitted to Government Medical College Hospital (GMCH) in Rajouri with symptoms of the 'mysterious illness' have fully recovered and were discharged on Tuesday. Dr. A.S. Bhatia, principal of GMCH, confirmed that all were treated with atropine, an antidote for organophosphorus poisoning.

Dr. Bhatia indicated that the symptoms of the deceased and affected patients suggest organophosphorus poisoning, but an anomaly in pupil constriction has raised further questions. Typically, such poisoning causes dilated pupils, but patients in Budhal village exhibited constricted pupils along with high fever, vomiting, excessive sweating, and unconsciousness. This unusual presentation is under investigation.

Officials assured that with the timely administration of atropine, all admitted patients have recovered, and no further fatalities have been reported. The authorities continue their probe to determine the source of the poisoning and prevent further incidents.

# New Income Tax Bill Likely to Get Cabinet Nod Today



TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

The Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, is expected to approve the new Income Tax Bill today, with its introduction in Lok Sabha likely on February 10, sources said. The bill aims to replace the Income Tax Act of 1961 and simplify tax provisions. Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced the plan in the Union Budget 2025, stating it would be "clear and direct." The Budget session, which started on January 31, will continue until April 4 in two phases. However, no official confirmation on the bill's introduction date has been given yet.

## HC Seeks NIA's Response on Engineer Rashid's Custody Parole



- HC seeks NIA's reply on Rashid's bail plea to attend Parliament.
- NIA opposes, citing security, witness influence risks.
- Rashid held since 2019 in a terror funding case.

TPN Correspondent  
| New Delhi

The Delhi High Court has sought the National Investigation Agency's (NIA) response on jailed MP Engineer Rashid's request to attend the ongoing Parliament Budget session on custody parole. Rashid, who is facing trial in a terror funding case, has sought interim bail or, alternatively, custody parole from January 30 to April 4. Justice Vikas Mahajan directed the NIA to clarify its position,

despite the agency's opposition on security grounds. "What is the difficulty in sending him in custody? He is an elected MP. Come back with instructions tomorrow," the judge told the NIA's counsel. Rashid, through his counsel, argued that his release would ensure representation of his constituency in Parliament. He also cited the President's summons for attending the session. However, the NIA opposed his plea, contending that

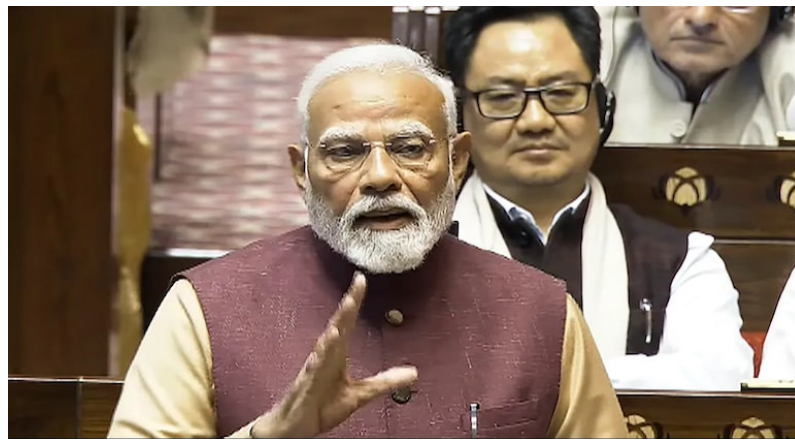
he could influence witnesses in Baramulla, from where he was elected. The agency also asserted that being an MP does not grant him a vested right to attend the session.

The MP had earlier moved the high court against a city court's refusal to decide on his bail application, citing jurisdiction issues. The court has also sought a response from its registrar general regarding the designation of a court to hear Rashid's bail plea, noting that the MP had been left without legal recourse.

Rashid was arrested in 2019 under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) for alleged involvement in terror financing. The NIA has accused him, along with Hafiz Saeed, Yasin Malik, and others, of channeling illicit funds to fuel unrest in Jammu and Kashmir. The Enforcement Directorate has also filed a money laundering case against the accused, stemming from the NIA's investigation.

The Budget session, which began on January 31, will run in two parts, concluding on April 4. The court will hear the matter further on Friday.

## 'Congress Hated BR Ambedkar, Rejected His Suggestions': PM Modi



TPN Correspondent  
| New Delhi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched a sharp attack on the Congress in the Rajya Sabha, accusing the party of rejecting BR Ambedkar's suggestions be-

cause they "did not like him." PM Modi alleged that Congress never considered Ambedkar "worthy" and even conspired to defeat him twice in the Rajya Sabha. "The Congress hated BR Ambedkar. Today, we are

realising Babasaheb Ambedkar's dreams through the PM Mudra Scheme," he stated.

His remarks follow BJP leader and Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma's claim that India's first Prime Minister, Jawaharlal Nehru, deliberately kept Ambedkar out of the Constituent Assembly. Sarma alleged that Nehru viewed Ambedkar as a "troublemaker" and did not want him in the committee that drafted the Constitution.

PM Modi's comments mark a renewed political offensive against the Congress, highlighting past decisions that allegedly sidelined Ambedkar's contributions.

## Class 9 Student Detained for Hoax Bomb Threats to Noida Schools



A 15-year-old Class 9 student has been taken into custody for allegedly sending hoax bomb threat emails to four Noida schools, police said on Thursday.

The student used Virtual Private Network (VPN) technology to hide his location and IP address, aiming to avoid attending school. The accused was traced by the cyber team and later presented before the Ju-

venile Court.

The threats were sent to Step By Step, The Heritage School, Gyanashree, and Mayoor School at around 12:30 am on Wednesday. Following the alert, police teams, bomb squads, and fire brigades conducted thorough checks, confirming that no suspicious items were found. Schools were briefly evacuated before resuming operations. An FIR was registered at Sector

126 police station under relevant sections of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) and the IT Act. Investigations revealed that the student had studied past incidents of fake bomb threats online before executing the hoax.

The accused, a resident of Delhi's Sarita Vihar, was detained and presented before the Juvenile Court for further legal proceedings.

## Defence Minister Rajnath Singh Dials US Counterpart Hegseth



TPN Correspondent  
| New Delhi

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and US Defence Secretary Pete Hegseth held a telephonic conversation on Thursday, discussing various aspects of bilateral defence cooperation. The high-level discussion comes just days ahead of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's scheduled visit to Washington.

Singh described the conversation as "excellent," stating

that both sides explored ways to further strengthen the India-US defence partnership. The two leaders agreed to set an ambitious agenda, encompassing operational, intelligence, logistics, and industrial collaboration to deepen strategic ties between the two nations.

"We reviewed the ongoing defence cooperation and explored ways and means to expand and deepen the India-US bilateral defence relationship," Singh posted on X. He added that both sides are committed to advancing cooperation in key areas of security and defence.

The dialogue marks another step in the growing defence ties between India and the

United States, with both countries increasingly aligning their strategies in the Indo-Pacific and other critical global security domains. As India seeks to enhance its indigenous defence capabilities, co-operation in defence-industrial sectors remains a key focus of the bilateral partnership.

Singh expressed optimism about working closely with Hegseth to implement the agreed agenda. The conversation comes at a time when defence collaborations between the two nations are at an all-time high, with joint military exercises, intelligence sharing, and technology transfers playing a significant role in bolstering regional security.

## SC Orders Protection to Discovery Officials After Threats Over Asaram Bapu Documentary



TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

The Supreme Court on Thursday granted interim police protection to Discovery Communications India officials following alleged threats from followers of self-styled godman Asaram Bapu over the release of the documentary series Cult of Fear: Asaram Bapu.

A bench comprising Chief Justice Sanjiv Khanna and Justice Sanjay Kumar issued notices to the Centre and the governments of Maharashtra, Karnataka, Haryana, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, West Bengal, and Delhi, directing them to ensure the safety of petitioners Shashank Walia and others, as well as their offices.

"Issue notice returnable in the week

commencing March 3, 2025. In the meanwhile, we request the police authorities to ensure that the petitioner gets to use the office and no threats of physical harm are extended to the petitioners," the court stated.

Senior advocate Abhinav Mukerji, representing the petitioners, informed the court that Discovery officials were facing threats from Asaram's followers, making it unsafe for them to travel freely across the country.

The plea detailed an incident on January 30, 2025, when a mob gathered outside Discovery's Mumbai office and attempted unauthorized entry. Although the police dispersed the crowd, no action was taken against those involved.

## Delhi-Dehradun Expressway: 3.5 Km Stretch Opens



TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

The Delhi-Dehradun Expressway has reached a major milestone with the opening of a crucial 3.5 km stretch between Daat Kali and Asharodi. This development ensures that all six lanes of the expressway are now operational, significantly improving travel between the two regions.

The expressway, spanning 212 km, is a six-lane Greenfield Access Controlled corridor constructed at a cost of ₹12,000 crore. According to the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MORTH), it is being built in four sections, beginning from

the Delhi-Mumbai Expressway near Akshardham in Delhi and passing through Shastri Park, Khajuri Khas, Baghpat, Shamli, and Saharanpur before reaching Dehradun in Uttarakhand.

In a major relief to commuters, the first 18 km of the expressway, from Akshardham Temple to Loni, will be toll-free. Authorities believe this will provide a seamless and cost-effective route for daily travelers.

The expressway is designed to enhance road safety and reduce travel time with its six-lane structure, spanning 31.6 km in the initial phase.

It includes seven underpasses, two Railway Over Bridges (ROBs), and 54 junctions—17 major and 37 minor—ensuring improved traffic flow and reduced congestion.

To further enhance safety, particularly for students, foot-over bridges will be installed at various locations, allowing pedestrians to cross without disrupting vehicular movement. Additionally, two 200-meter elevated sections have been constructed to improve connectivity and prevent travel disruptions.

# Triangular Contest in Okhla Turns Election Battle Fierce

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

The Okhla Assembly seat, historically known for favoring strong candidates over political parties, has become the center of a high-stakes three-way contest in the 2025 Delhi Assembly elections. While the race was initially projected as a direct fight between the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) and Congress, the entry of Asaduddin Owaisi's All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen (AIMIM) has dramatically altered the political equation.

As per the Election Commission's voter app, Delhi recorded a final polling percentage of 60.44%, marking a significant turnout. The elections in the National Capital Territory (NCT) have always been closely watched, given its unique administrative structure and shifting voter dynamics. While the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has dominated the Lok Sabha elections in Delhi since 2014, the AAP has maintained a stronghold over the assembly, winning in 2015 and 2020. The Congress, once a dominant force under Sheila Dikshit, has struggled to regain lost ground. However, the Okhla constituency remains an unpredictable battleground.

**Candidate Over Party: Okhla's Voting History**  
Okhla has traditionally voted based on the strength of individual candidates rather than party affiliations. Parvez Hashmi first won the seat on a Janata Dal ticket in 1993 before switching to Congress, securing victories in 1998, 2003, and 2008. His departure to the Rajya Sabha in 2009 led to a bypoll win for Rashtriya Janata Dal's Asif Muhammad Khan, who later joined Congress and won again in 2013. The 2015 and 2020 elections saw AAP's Amanatullah Khan

secure back-to-back victories, the latter with a record margin of over 1.3 lakh votes.

Despite Amanatullah's dominance, the political landscape in Okhla witnessed a shift during the 2022 Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) elections. AAP lost four of the five wards within Okhla's jurisdiction, two to the BJP and two to Congress, signaling potential voter dissatisfaction. The Congress capitalized on this by fielding Ariba Khan, daughter of former MLA Asif Muhammad Khan, to reclaim lost ground in the 2025 elections.

**The Entry of AIMIM: A Game-Changer**  
Just before the announcement of poll dates, AIMIM fielded Shifa Ur Rehman Khan, former president of the Alumni Association of Jamia

Millia Islamia (AAJMI), as its candidate. Currently an undertrial prisoner in connection with the 2020 Delhi riots case, Shifa Ur Rehman's candidacy has gained traction, particularly among Jamia alumni and local Muslim voters who perceive his arrest as unjust. Asaduddin Owaisi's campaign rally in the constituency, particularly in Zakir Nagar and Batla House, significantly boosted Shifa's support. His family's emotional appeal, particularly from his wife and children, resonated with many voters, especially women linked to Jamia Millia Islamia. The surge in AIMIM's popularity forced Congress's Ariba Khan to intensify her campaign against both AAP and AIMIM, accusing Owaisi's party of dividing Muslim votes to

benefit the BJP.

AAP, too, has been echoing a similar narrative, warning that a divided Muslim vote could allow the BJP to gain an unexpected victory in Okhla.

**The BJP Factor: A Possible Dark Horse?**

With AAP, Congress, and AIMIM splitting the Muslim vote, BJP candidate Manish Chaudhary could emerge as a surprise winner. While Okhla's most densely populated areas—such as Zakir Nagar and Abul Fazal Enclave—are Muslim-majority, the Madanpur area has a mixed population with past support for the Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP), though recent trends favor the BJP. Sarita Vihar, a Hindu-majority area, remains a BJP stronghold.

Adding to the BJP's potential advantage is the polarizing nature of the contest. If the three main contenders fail to consolidate votes effectively, the BJP could secure a victory through a solidified Hindu voter base.

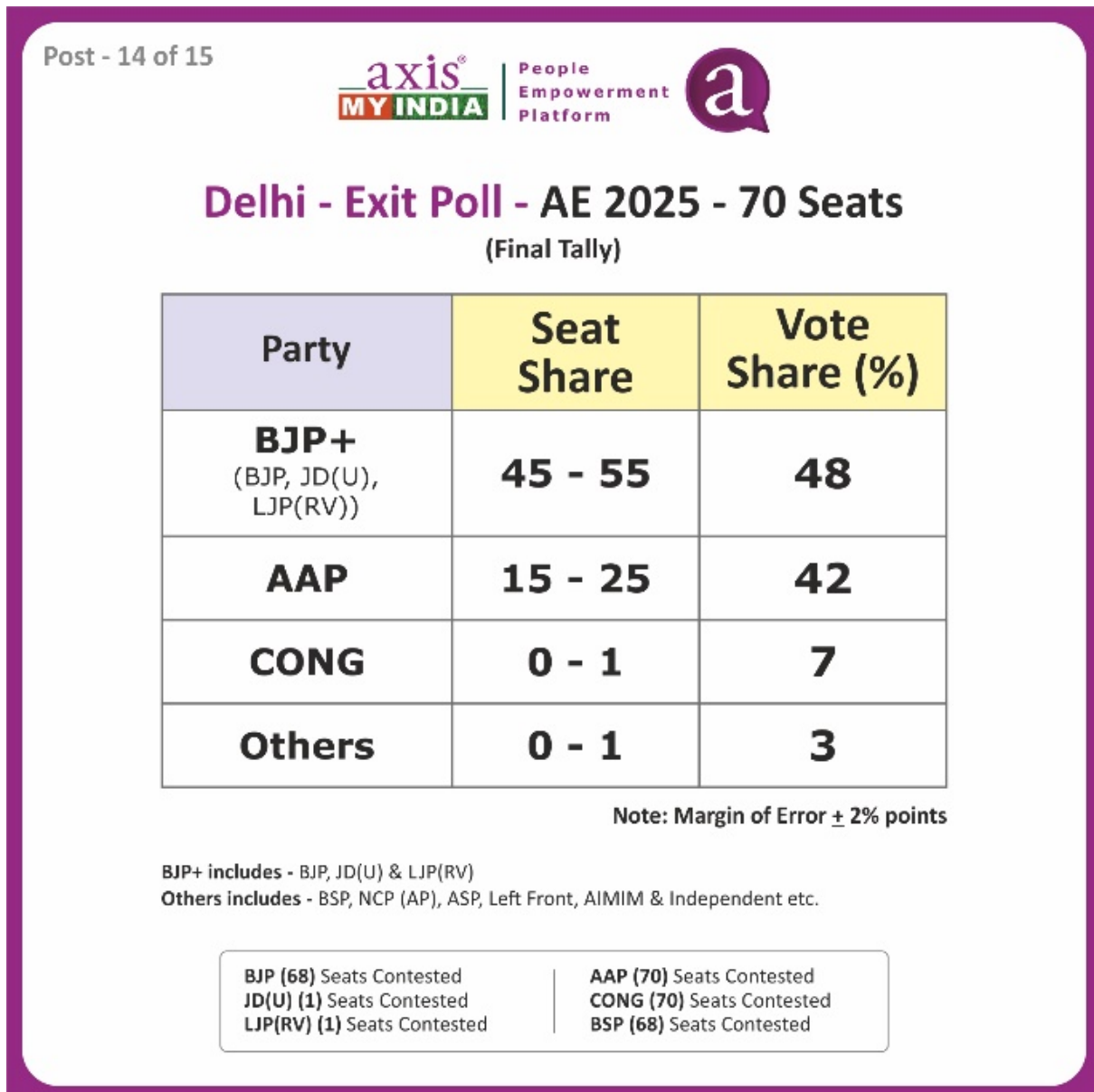
**What Lies Ahead?**

The final outcome for Okhla will be revealed on February 8, but the seat has already become one of the most intriguing battles in the Delhi elections. Initially seen as a Congress vs. AAP contest, it has turned into a three-way fight, with the potential for a four-way surprise if BJP capitalizes on the division.

Meanwhile, exit polls suggest a challenging road ahead for AAP in Delhi, with most predicting a BJP resurgence. While Congress is expected to secure a few seats, AIMIM remains an underdog in overall projections. However, in Okhla, the dynamics have shifted beyond party expectations, making it a crucial constituency to watch on counting day.



## Pradeep Gupta's Axis My India predicts BJP comeback in Delhi



TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

Pradeep Gupta-led Axis My India exit poll has predicted a strong comeback for the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in the Delhi Assembly elections, projecting the party to win 45-55 seats out of 70. If the prediction holds, the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), which is seeking a third consecutive term, will suffer a major setback, with projections suggesting it will secure only 15-25 seats. The Congress is expected to win a maximum of one seat.

According to Axis My India, AAP leader Arvind Kejriwal remains the top choice for chief minister among Delhi voters, followed by BJP leaders Parvesh Verma and Manoj Tiwari. In the New Delhi district, BJP is projected to secure seven out of ten seats, while AAP is expected to win three. In North East Delhi, the BJP is likely to win six seats and AAP four,

while in South East Delhi, both parties are predicted to get five seats each.

Most exit polls released on Wednesday also predict a clear victory for the BJP, ending AAP's decade-long rule in the capital. While two agencies, WeePreside and Mind Brink, have forecasted an AAP win, the majority of pollsters foresee a comfortable BJP majority.

Peoples Pulse exit poll has projected a massive win for the BJP with 51-60 seats, leaving AAP with only 10-19 seats, and Congress with none. The Chanakya Strategies exit poll predicts 39-44 seats for BJP, 25-28 for AAP, and up to three for Congress. Matrize is the only pollster suggesting a close contest, predicting 35-40 seats for BJP and 32-37 for AAP.

JVC's exit poll estimates BJP will win 39-45 seats, while AAP could secure 22-31, with Congress getting 0-2 seats. P-Marq

forecasts 39-49 seats for BJP, 21-31 for AAP, and 0-1 for Congress. People's Insight projects BJP to win 40-44 seats, AAP 25-29, and Congress 0-1 seat. Poll Diary predicts BJP's victory with 42-50 seats, AAP securing 18-25, and Congress getting 0-2. Delhi recorded a voter turnout of 60.10% on polling day, nearly matching the 62.59% turnout in the 2020 elections, where AAP secured a landslide victory with 62 seats, leaving BJP with eight and Congress with none. Allegations of malpractice, including vote-buying and fake voting, were exchanged between BJP and AAP during the election process.

The counting of votes will take place on Saturday, February 8, determining whether BJP will end its 27-year-long wait to reclaim power in Delhi or if AAP will defy predictions and secure another term.

## Rahul Gandhi Joins DMK-Led Protest Against UGC Draft Rules in Delhi



TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi and Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav joined a protest organised by the DMK's student wing at Jantar Mantar in Delhi on Thursday. The demonstration was held against the University Grants Commission (UGC) draft rules, which have drawn sharp criticism from opposition parties and student organisations.

The protest, held just a few hundred meters from the Parliament complex, witnessed participation from various

opposition-aligned student groups. Addressing the gathering, Rahul Gandhi accused the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) of trying to impose a singular cultural and historical narrative across the country through education policies. "I have been saying this for some time now that the aim of the RSS is the eradication of all other histories, cultures, and traditions in this country. That is their starting point and what they want to achieve," Gandhi said, as per PTI. "They attacked the Constitution because they want to impose one idea which is their idea, one

history, one tradition, one language in this country. This attempt with the education system of different states is just another effort to push their agenda."

Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav also strongly opposed the New Education Policy (NEP), calling it a "conspiracy" to hand over universities to industrialists. He reiterated his party's stance against the policy and extended full support to the protest.

"The Samajwadi Party supports this protest against the New Education Policy that the central government is bringing," Yadav said, as per ANI. "We will never back this policy."

The protest underscores growing resistance from opposition parties and student groups against the proposed changes in the education sector. While the central government has defended the UGC draft rules as necessary reforms, critics argue that they undermine federalism and academic freedom.

## Sending Out Citizens in Handcuffs, Shackles Shameful

-- Bhagwant Mann on Indians' Deportation

TPN Correspondent | Amritsar  
Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann on Thursday condemned the treatment of deported Indian nationals from the USA, calling the handcuffing and shackling of the deportees a matter of shame for the country. He also criticized the Haryana government for transporting them in prisoner vans upon their arrival in India.

The deportation involved 104 illegal immigrants from various states, who were flown back on a U.S. Air Force C-17 Globemaster aircraft that landed at Amritsar airport on Wednesday. According to reports, among the deportees, 33 were from Haryana and Guja-

rat, 30 from Punjab, three each from Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh, and two from Chandigarh.



Taking to X, Mann expressed his outrage, stating that instead of showing compassion to those who are mentally and economically devastated, the BJP-led Haryana government aggravated their suffering by transporting them in police

prisoner vans.

"What America did is deeply regrettable. It is a matter of great shame for our country that America sends our citizens in handcuffs and shackles. Instead of applying ointment to the wounds of Indians deported from America who are mentally and economically broken, Modi's Haryana government taking them in police prisoner vans is like rubbing salt in the wounds," Mann said in his post.

The U.S. action comes just days ahead of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's scheduled visit to Washington for high-level discussions with former President Donald Trump.

# PM Modi Slams Congress, Accuses Party of Prioritizing Family Over Development

## Hits back at opposition criticism, defends BJP's governance model



**TPN Correspondent | Delhi**  
Prime Minister Narendra Modi took a strong stance against the Congress party on Thursday, accusing it of not believing in 'sabka saath, sabka vikas' or 'development for all'. His remarks came in response to intense criticism of his government, particularly regarding the deportation of 104 Indians by the United States. During his address in the Rajya Sabha, Modi lashed out at the Congress, asserting that its model of politics prioritizes a single family over the nation's progress.

Modi dismissed the Congress' claim of supporting universal development, arguing that it does not align with the party's traditional agenda, which, according to him, is centered on "family first." "Expecting 'sabka saath, sabka vikas'

from the Congress is a huge mistake," Modi said. "It doesn't suit their roadmap because the party is dedicated to one family." He further criticized the Congress for indulging in appeasement politics during its tenure and contrasted it with the BJP's development model, which he said is not based on appeasement but rather on fulfilling the needs of all citizens, especially marginalized communities such as Other Backward Classes, women, and transgenders.

In an effort to highlight the Congress' past failures, Modi revisited the controversial 'Emergency' imposed by former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi in 1975. He accused the Congress of suppressing freedom of speech during that period and lamented how the party had previously attempted to undermine

the legacy of prominent leaders like Dr. BR Ambedkar. "There was a time when the Congress had a lot of hatred for Ambedkar," Modi remarked. "But today the Congress is forced to say 'Jai Bhim'."

The Prime Minister also revisited the era of Jawaharlal Nehru, claiming that during his leadership, prominent personalities like poet Majrooh Sultanpuri, actor Balraj Sahni, and singer Hridaynath Mangeshkar were jailed or censored for opposing the government. He argued that the Congress had stifled freedom of expression and creative voices throughout its tenure, and that it was only after the BJP came to power in 2014 that India witnessed a shift toward a politics of development and inclusion.

- Modi accused Congress of dynasty politics over national development.
- He criticized past Congress governments for suppressing free speech.
- His speech countered opposition attacks on the US deportation issue.

## Sheikh Hasina: History Cannot Be Wiped Out After Vandalism of Father's House



In her emotional address, Hasina questioned the motives behind the attacks. "Why do they fear a house? We live for those memories of Dhanmondi... Last time they set this house on fire, now they are destroying it. Have I not done anything for this country? Then why such disrespect?" she asked, her voice breaking with emotion. She further lamented, "The only memory that both my sister and I have clung to is being wiped out... I want to ask my people who is behind this. I want justice... A structure can be erased, but history cannot be wiped out."

Hasina also warned her opponents, stating that history has a way of taking its revenge. The protests reportedly erupted after news spread that Hasina, who faces an arrest warrant in Bangladesh over charges related to massacres, planned to address her supporters via a Facebook broadcast. She urged the people of Bangladesh to rise against the current regime, led by Nobel Laureate Muhammad Yunus, and defend the national flag, constitution, and the independence that was earned at great cost by the country's martyrs.

**TPN Correspondent | Dhaka**  
Hours after violent protests broke out in Dhaka, Bangladesh, in which demonstrators vandalized buildings linked to former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, she condemned the attacks and called for justice. Speaking virtually in an emotional address posted on her Awami League party's Facebook page, Hasina, who has been living in exile in India since fleeing Bangladesh in August 2024, expressed her grief and anger at the destruction.

The protests began late Wednesday when hundreds of demonstrators armed with hammers and iron rods tore down parts of the historic residence of Bangladesh's founder, Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, located in the capital Dhaka. The house, which has been converted into a museum, was previously set on fire during a student-led uprising that resulted in the ousting of Hasina after a 15-year rule. On Thursday morning, construction diggers were used to demolish the remaining walls of the fire-damaged structure, and protesters also set fire to and vandalized other properties associated with Hasina, including her late husband's residence in Dhaka. In the city of Khulna, additional properties owned by the Hasina family were also targeted and demolished by demonstrators.

## TVK Chief Vijay demands caste-based census, calls delay 'unacceptable'

**TPN Correspondent | Delhi**  
Actor-politician Vijay has expressed growing concern over the delay in conducting a caste-based population census in India, highlighting the intensifying demand for caste-based social justice. In a post shared on the social media platform X, Vijay emphasized the continued neglect of marginalized communities and the repeated calls for a caste census that remain unaddressed by the government.



"The failure to conduct a caste-based population census despite repeated requests highlights the neglect of marginalized communities," Vijay stated, calling the delay in implementing the census "unacceptable." He also pointed out that the 2021 national population census, which is a vital tool for understanding India's demographic and social dy-

namics, has still not been conducted, adding urgency to the matter.

Vijay's political party, the Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK), has long been a staunch advocate for conducting a caste-based census. He argues that such a census is necessary for ensuring equitable development for all social groups.

Drawing attention to the first caste census conducted in independent India in Bihar, Vijay noted that the results of the caste census provided crucial socio-economic insights into the condition of marginalized communities. This data, he believes, is essential for formulating effective policies aimed at ensuring social justice and fair development.

## Air Force's Mirage 2000 Fighter Jet Crashes Near Shivpuri In Madhya Pradesh

**TPN Correspondent | New Delhi**

A twin-seater Mirage 2000 fighter jet of the Indian Air Force (IAF) crashed today near Shivpuri in Madhya Pradesh while conducting a routine training sortie. According to official sources, both pilots managed to eject safely and are unharmed.

The IAF has launched a court of inquiry to investigate the cause of the crash. A statement issued by the IAF on X (formerly Twitter) confirmed the incident, mentioning that the aircraft encountered a system malfunction during the flight. "A Mirage 2000 aircraft of the IAF crashed near Shivpuri (Gwalior) during a routine training sortie today. Both pilots ejected safely. An inquiry has been ordered to ascertain the cause of the accident," the statement said.

The Mirage 2000 is a multirole



fighter jet designed and manufactured by France's Dassault Aviation. First introduced in 1978, the aircraft was inducted into the French Air Force in 1984. Dassault produced 600 units of the Mirage 2000, with half of them being exported to various countries, including India.

In India, the Mirage 2000 has been a prominent part of the IAF's fleet and has seen significant action in various op-

erations. It played a crucial role during the 1999 Kargil War, where it demonstrated its high accuracy by dropping laser-guided bombs on strategically important hilltops occupied by terrorists and Pakistani forces. The Mirage 2000 was also involved in the Bala-kot airstrike in February 2019, when Indian Air Force jets bombed a terrorist camp deep inside Pakistan, further cementing the aircraft's reliability and versatility in combat.

## Owaisi Criticizes Deportation of Indians from US, Links It to Unemployment Crisis

**TPN Correspondent | Delhi**

Amid growing protests over the deportation of Indian nationals allegedly living illegally in the United States, AIM-IM MP Asaduddin Owaisi has voiced strong concerns, calling on the government to address the issue. Referring to a Pew Research 2022 report, Owaisi highlighted that there are still 675,000 undocumented Indian immigrants in the US, with 18,000 individuals on the final list for deportation. He questioned the government's approach towards these people and warned of the potential economic impact, especially on remittances.

"According to the Pew Research 2022 report, there are still 6,75,000 undocumented Indian immigrants in the USA, and 18,000 people are still on the final list. When all these people return, it will impact remittances as well. The government must also address what it will do for them," Owaisi

stated, urging the authorities to clarify their stance on supporting these individuals.

Owaisi also criticized the government for its handling of the deportation process, pointing to the disrespectful manner in which Indian nationals were being brought back. "BJP leaders keep saying that Modi ji has elevated India's name and made it a superpower, but what is happening now? Why are they being brought back in such a disrespectful manner?" he questioned.



Further, Owaisi connected the deportation issue to the high levels of unemployment among India's youth, claiming

that a lack of opportunities is driving many individuals to seek work abroad, often in difficult and unsafe conditions. "This reflects the level of unemployment among the youth in India. 45 per cent of the youth are unemployed. This is why these people are lured by agents, endure hardships, and cross 8-10 countries to reach their destination. The government will have to answer why there is so much unemployment," Owaisi said.

In response to the matter, both houses of Parliament saw adjournments on Thursday as opposition MPs demanded a discussion on the deportation of over 100 Indian nationals from the US. Congress MPs Manickram Tagore, Gaurav Gogoi, and KC Venugopal had moved adjournment notices, urging the government to address the issue of the deportations and the treatment of Indian citizens by foreign authorities.

## S Jaishankar Meets PM Modi Amid Deportation Of 104 Indians From US



- 104 Indians, including women and minors, were deported from the US on a military aircraft.
- Opposition leaders condemned the deportation process as “humiliating” and “inhuman.”
- The issue adds tension ahead of PM Modi’s upcoming talks with US President Trump.

**TPN Correspondent | Delhi**  
External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar met with Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday amidst growing outrage over the “inhuman” deportation of 104 Indian nationals who were illegally in the United States. The incident, involving the deportation of these individuals, has sparked widespread condemnation, with many criticizing the manner in which they were treated.

In response to the uproar, Jaishankar is expected to make a statement in Parliament at 3 pm. However, before that, both

the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha were adjourned within minutes of convening, as the Opposition demanded an urgent discussion on the issue. The Opposition has condemned the deportation process as “deeply distressing and humiliating.”

Congress MP Shashi Tharoor also voiced his concern, expressing that while deportations have occurred before, they had never been conducted in such an “inhuman” manner. He pointed out that the handcuffing of Indian citizens during deportation was a disgrace. “This is never the manner in which Indians

were deported. Handcuffing of our people is an insult,” Tharoor said.

The deportation took place on a US military aircraft that landed in Amritsar on Wednesday, marking the first batch of Indian deportees under the Donald Trump administration’s crackdown on illegal immigrants. Among the 104 deportees, 33 were from Haryana, 33 from Gujarat, 30 from Punjab, three each from Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh, and two from Chandigarh. Notably, the group included 19 women and 13 minors, with some children as young as four, five, and seven years old.

Upon arrival in Amritsar, the deportees were questioned by various Indian authorities, including the Punjab Police and central intelligence agencies, to determine if they had any criminal records. Those from Amritsar were escorted to their homes in police vehicles, while those from Gujarat arrived at Ahmedabad airport the following morning.

The timing of the deportation has also raised questions, coming just days before Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s scheduled visit to Washington for talks with US President Donald Trump on February 13. The deportation incident has added tension to the upcoming diplomatic discussions, with the Indian government under pressure to address the concerns raised by its citizens.

## Handcuffed, Chained, Thrown Like Boxes: Indian Migrants’ American Nightmare

**TPN Correspondent | Delhi**  
The deportation of 104 Indian migrants from the United States has triggered widespread outrage in India, as the migrants were reportedly shackled and restrained during their journey back home. The US military aircraft carrying the deportees landed in Amritsar on Wednesday, marking the first mass deportation under President Donald Trump’s administration. The deportation was part of the Trump administration’s crackdown on illegal immigration, and the migrants, who had attempted to enter the US illegally, faced a difficult and dangerous journey across several countries before being detained by US Border Patrol.

Among the deportees, 33 were from Haryana and Gujarat, 30 from Punjab, and smaller numbers from Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, and Chandigarh. The group included 19 women and 13 minors, some as young as four years old. Many of the deported migrants had paid large sums to human traffickers in hopes of securing legal entry into the US, only to be led on a perilous journey that included long treks through mountains, jungles, and seas, with no guarantee of success.

Jaspal Singh, one of the deportees, described how he paid Rs 30 lakh to an agent for what he was told would be a legal passage to the US. However, he was forced to take the illegal “donkey route,” a dangerous path used by traffickers. After

months of travel, he was detained by US authorities and ultimately deported, handcuffed and shackled during the flight. “We had no idea we were being deported,” he said, describing the moment when he learned he would be sent back to India.

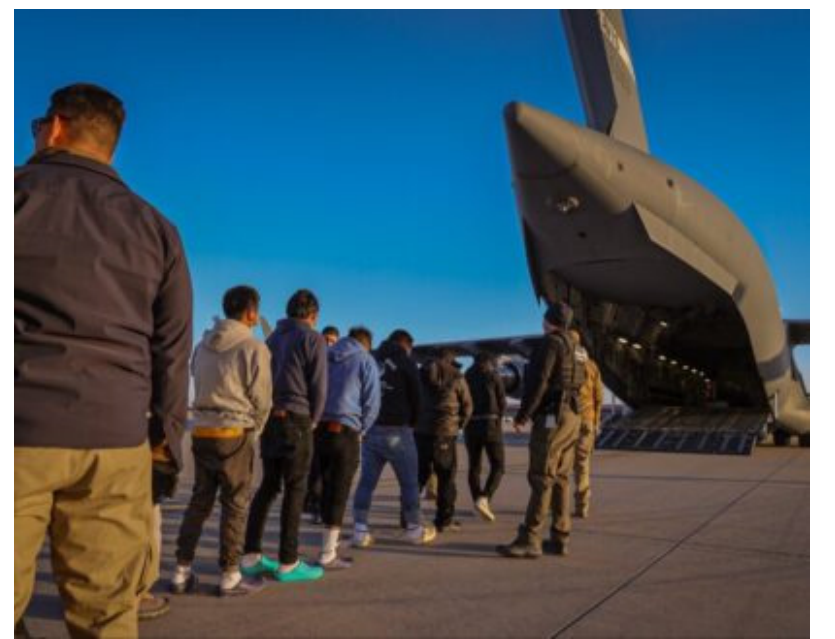
Harwinder Singh, another deportee, recalled the hardships he faced during his journey, paying Rs 42 lakh for passage through multiple countries. He shared that migrants walked for days through treacherous terrain, witnessing death along the way. “We saw dead bodies along the route,” he said, underscoring the extreme risks taken by those in pursuit of a better life.

The deportation has sparked political controversy in India, with both Houses of Parliament adjourning due to protests over the “inhuman

treatment of Indian citizens. The issue is expected to be raised by Prime Minister Narendra Modi during his upcoming visit to Washington, where immigration is likely to be a key topic in talks with President Trump.

The cost of the deportation, including the use of a military aircraft, has drawn attention to the financial burden of such operations. While the US typically uses commercial flights for deportations, President Trump’s administration has increasingly relied on military planes, emphasizing a hardline stance on illegal immigration.

As the deportees are questioned by Indian authorities upon arrival, their families face the painful consequences of their dreams of a better future turned into a costly and tragic ordeal.



## 9 Bangladeshis Enter India Illegally, Arrested In Meghalaya

**TPN Correspondent | Meghalaya**  
In a recent series of border-related incidents, nine Bangladeshi nationals were arrested in Meghalaya on Tuesday night for entering India illegally. According to police reports, the individuals were traveling in a van in the West Garo Hills region, close to the Bangladesh border, when they were apprehended during a routine check at Dalamgre village.

Along with the arrests, authorities seized several items from the group, including 12 mobile phones with various SIM cards, Indian currency, Aadhar cards, and incriminating documents. Two vehicles were also

confiscated in connection with the case. A photograph of the nine Bangladeshi nationals has circulated on social media, further highlighting the rising concerns over illegal immigration in the region.

The police have also arrested three Indian facilitators who allegedly helped the group in their illegal movement. This latest arrest comes just days after another similar operation in Mumbai, where nine Bangladeshi nationals were taken into custody for staying illegally in the city. Among them were three children, and authorities also recovered fake documents from their possession. A case

has been filed against the group.

In a separate border-related incident, tensions escalated at the India-Bangladesh border when an Indian national,



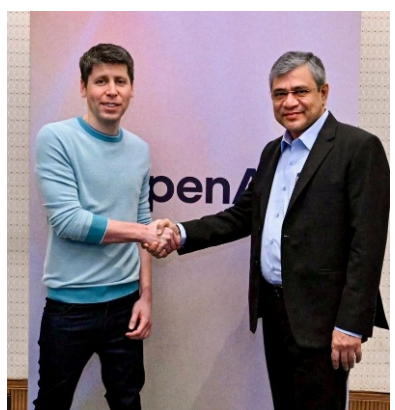
Akhtar Jamal Roni, was shot by Border Security Force (BSF) personnel. Roni had illegally crossed into Bangladesh to attend a religious event on Monday and was attempting to return to India on Tuesday. He was accompanied by a woman during the incident.

BSF officials reported that the duo approached the border fence from the Bangladesh side, ignoring repeated warnings from the security personnel. As they attempted to breach the border fence, a confrontation occurred between them and the BSF guards. The situation escalated when the duo allegedly attempted to snatch

an official’s Pump Action Gun (PAG). In accordance with Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for such incidents, the BSF personnel fired a warning shot, hitting one of the individuals.

The rise in border security incidents has put a spotlight on ongoing concerns regarding illegal immigration, human trafficking, and cross-border security breaches. As authorities continue to strengthen their measures to curb these issues, incidents like these underscore the growing complexities of managing India’s borders and safeguarding national security.

## Altman Sees India as Future AI Leader, Explores Collaboration



**TPN Correspondent | New Delhi**  
In a recent meeting in New Delhi, OpenAI CEO Sam Altman and India’s Information and Broadcasting Minister, Ashwini Vaishnaw, discussed potential collaborations to establish a comprehensive artificial intelligence (AI) ecosystem in India. The meeting, which took place shortly after China launched its AI software ‘DeepSeek’, underscored India’s

growing potential to become a global leader in AI technology.

Vaishnaw took to social media platform X, sharing that Altman expressed openness to partnering with India, recognizing the country’s achievements in technology. Vaishnaw highlighted India’s ability to execute cost-effective technological projects, drawing parallels to the success of the country’s low-cost space missions, such as the recent 2023 moon landing. This innovation, he suggested, could be leveraged to develop AI models at a much lower cost than seen in other parts of the world.

The discussions revolved around India’s vision for building a complete AI ecosystem, which would include essential components such as graphics processing units (GPUs), foundational models, and a broad

range of applications. Altman emphasized the importance of India as a key market for OpenAI, recognizing its potential as a future global AI leader.

The conversation also touched on the transformative power AI could bring to key sectors in India, including healthcare, education, agriculture, weather forecasting, disaster management, and transportation. Vaishnaw emphasized that AI could revolutionize these areas, driving economic growth and societal benefits across the nation.

Both Altman and Vaishnaw agreed that fostering a robust AI ecosystem in India could place the country at the forefront of AI innovation on a global scale, further cementing its role as a technological powerhouse in the coming years.

## Sharif Reiterates Support for Kashmir, Calls for Dialogue with India

**TPN Correspondent | Islamabad**  
Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif emphasized Pakistan’s desire to resolve all issues, including Kashmir, through dialogue with India. Speaking at a special session of the Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) Legislative Assembly in Muzaffarabad on “Kashmir Solidarity Day,” Sharif reiterated his unwavering support for the Kashmiri people.

“We want all issues, including Kashmir, to be resolved through talks,” Sharif stated. He urged India to move past its stance of August 5, 2019, when Article 370 was revoked, stripping Jammu and Kashmir of its special status and dividing it into two Union Territories. Sharif called on India to fulfill its promises made to the United Nations and engage in dia-

logue. Sharif referred to the Lahore Declaration of 1999, an agreement signed by then-Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee during his visit to Pakistan, and stressed that the only path forward for both countries was peaceful negotiations. He further criticized India’s increasing military buildup, warning that the accumulation of weapons would not bring peace or change the fate of the region. Sharif urged India to prioritize peace for progress and stated that Pakistan would continue to offer moral, diplomatic, and political support to Kashmiris until they achieved self-determination.

India has consistently stated its intention to maintain normal relations with Pakistan, provided it operates in an environment free of terrorism,



hostility, and violence. Additionally, India has affirmed that Jammu and Kashmir, along with Ladakh, will always remain an integral part of the country.

Sharif called on the international community to pressure India into allowing Kashmiris to determine their future freely, a step he believes is essential for lasting peace. PoK Prime Minister Anwarul Haq echoed Sharif’s sentiments, stating that peace in the region could only be achieved through resolution of the Kashmir issue.

## Family Movies Making a Comeback, Is South Cinema Finally Done With Violence?

The South Indian film industry seems to be witnessing a surprising shift in 2025, as family-oriented films have gained significant traction at the box office. One standout is the Telugu film *Sankranthiki Vasthunam*, which was released on January 14 this year and has grossed an impressive Rs 300 crore worldwide in just three weeks. Directed by Anil Ravipudi, this film has become the highest-grossing Telugu film for Sankranti 2025, surpassing even the highly anticipated *\*ame Changer*, directed by Shankar and starring Ram Charan. Notably, both films were produced by Dil Raju.

In Tamil cinema, director Sundar C's *\*Madha Gaja Raja\** has resonated with family audiences, grossing over Rs 55 crore since its release on January 12. Another family film, *\*Kudumbasthan\**, which debuted on January 24, has earned around Rs 18 crore, despite being a modest production. This raises an intriguing question: are family movies making a strong return in South Indian cinema?

### The Setback of 2024

The year 2024 was a challenging one for South Indian cinema, with the Malayalam and Tamil industries facing significant financial losses. The Malayalam film industry suffered Rs 700 crore in losses, while Tamil cinema saw a deficit of Rs 1,000 crore. Several big-budget films, such as *Indian 2*, *Kanguva*, and *Game Changer*, failed to meet box-office expectations, leaving the industry in a slump. Against this backdrop, the success of films like *Sankranthiki Vasthunam* and *Madha Gaja Raja* has been a surprise.

Notably, *Sankranthiki Vasthunam* did not feature an A-list cast, starring 64-year-old Venkatesh along-



side Meenakshi Dixit and Aishwarya Rajesh. Similarly, *Madha Gaja Raja*, which was completed in 2013 but delayed due to legal and financial issues, finally made its debut in January 2025. *Kudumbasthan*, starring actor-writer Manikandan, also attracted a significant family audience with its relatable content.

### Shifting Trends in Cinema

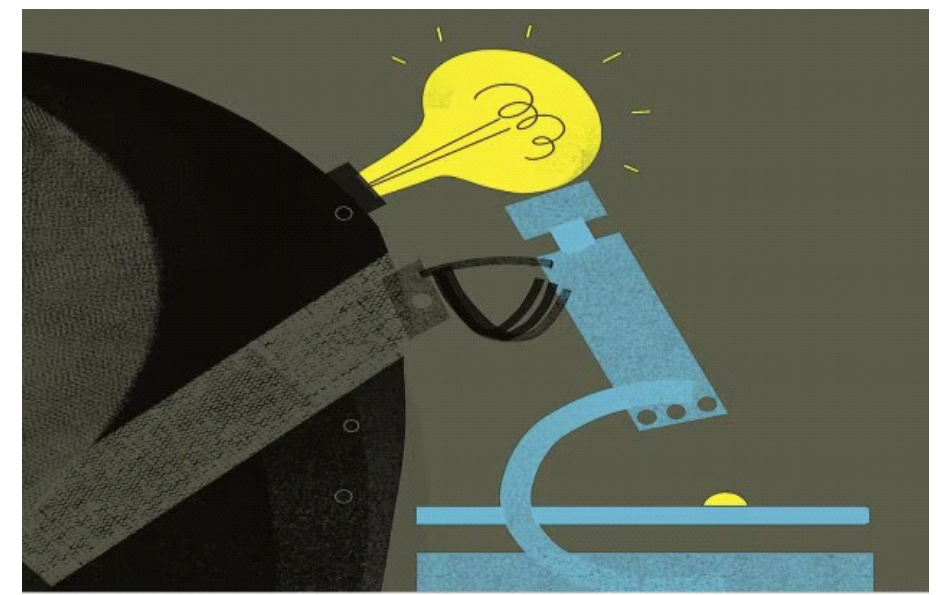
In 2024, Indian cinema leaned heavily toward action-packed films targeting younger audiences, with titles like *Raayan*, *Garudan*, *Captain Miller*, and *Devara: Part 1*. However, this trend shifted with the success of *Amaran*, a family film that grossed nearly Rs 340 crore globally in October 2024. According to film journalist Bharath Kumar, the industry had long focused on action films while neglecting family-oriented stories. However, the success of family films in January 2025 demon-

strates a growing demand for wholesome content that blends comedy, sentiment, and feel-good factors.

### A Promising Future for Family Film

Family films provide an alternative to darker genres like thrillers and action. They cater to group viewings, making it easier for families to attend theaters together. *\*Kudumbasthan\**, for instance, explores the struggles of a family man in the digital age with a humorous twist, earning praise for its relatable content.

With 2025 starting strong for family entertainers, it remains to be seen if this trend continues. The success of these films may inspire more producers to invest in similar projects, especially as action films show signs of waning popularity. The tide may indeed be turning in South Indian cinema.



## Reimagining Innovation: Empowering Indian Firms for National Growth

oversight. This collaboration produced notable outcomes, such as the successful nuclear test of 1974, showcasing India's growing technological prowess.

However, over time, the landscape of innovation policy—earlier termed Science and Technology (S&T) policy—has evolved to encompass a more inclusive, societal-wide approach. The true future of innovation lies not only in government-run institutions but also in the intellectual capabilities within the broader population. It's about fostering intellectual talent across diverse sectors, particularly in private firms, as well as educational institutions, creating an ecosystem of innovation that permeates all aspects of society.

For India to secure its economic future, a vibrant and knowledgeable workforce in both public and private sectors is essential. Intellectual capacity in Indian firms is a vital precursor to economic growth, ultimately contributing to an enhanced GDP. In the modern era, national power extends beyond just military strength or political influence—it is intricately linked to the nation's scientific and technological capabilities.

Take the engineers at the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), for instance, who successfully placed a spacecraft on the moon. While this achievement is a remarkable testament to India's technological progress, the real challenge is to ensure that such imaginative, ambitious, and knowledgeable minds are spread across a wide range of sectors. These engineers should not be confined to government agencies but should also thrive in universities and private organizations, where their expertise can stimulate innovation on a much larger scale.

## Trump stirs the Gaza pot



US President Donald Trump's recent remarks on Gaza have sparked widespread condemnation and confusion, with many questioning the legality and morality of his proposals. Speaking alongside Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on February 4, Trump declared that the US would "take over the Gaza Strip" and be responsible for its development, describing it as a "long-term ownership position." This statement, delivered in a formal White House press briefing, has been met with both diplomatic outrage and concern for its potential consequences in the Middle East.

Trump's comments were not entirely unexpected, as similar sentiments had been expressed in the days leading up to his announcement. However, his suggestion that Jordan and Egypt should absorb around 2.3 million displaced Palestinians from Gaza has drawn sharp criticism from Arab nations. On February 1, foreign ministers from Arab countries, including Jordan and Egypt, condemned any plan that would forcibly displace Palestinians from their land, warning it could destabilize the region and hinder prospects for peace. Saudi Arabia also issued a firm response, reaffirming its commitment to Palestinian sovereignty and rejecting any attempts to infringe on their rights.

The proposal has placed Egypt and Jordan in difficult positions. Both nations have long-standing relations with the US but now face the possibility of being asked to take in large numbers of Palestinian refugees. Egypt, which has already been involved in numerous ceasefire negotiations between Israel and Gaza, is particularly concerned that Trump's remarks could destabilize its economy and political situation. Similarly, Jordan, home to a significant Palestinian population, would find it difficult to absorb more refugees without exacerbating existing tensions.

Beyond these immediate concerns, Trump's statements raise a host of questions that remain unanswered. How would the US enforce such a proposal? Would it involve military intervention, and what impact would that have on American foreign policy? Moreover, Trump's focus on developing Gaza as a real-estate project has raised alarms, with some questioning whether his administration views the suffering of Palestinians as an opportunity for business development, rather than addressing the region's long-standing humanitarian crisis.

## Karnataka Excise Sector Reforms: Committee Proposes Lifting Liquor License Freeze



A committee led by retired IAS officer K P Krishnan has recommended significant reforms in Karnataka's excise sector, including lifting the 33-year-old freeze on new liquor licences for retail stores (CL-2) and bars/restaurants (CL-9), along with an increase in fees for existing licenses. According to the committee's interim report, these reforms could generate an additional Rs 2,200 crore in revenue for the state, offering a potential solution to Karnataka's fiscal challenges.

The freeze on new licences, which has been in place since 1992, has resulted in a market where the existing 3,995 CL-2 and 3,637 CL-9 licences have become highly sought-after assets. This scarcity has led to inflated prices, with licences often changing hands through informal and illegal transactions. As a result, the state has been deprived of substantial legitimate revenue, while an underground market flourishes. Lifting the freeze aims to break this monopolistic system and bring more transparency to the sector.

The growing population of Karnataka, especially in rural areas, has further escalated the demand for liquor outlets. Currently, many rural residents have

to purchase liquor in bulk from nearby towns, only to sell it unofficially at inflated prices, contributing to unregulated bootlegging. By allowing new licences, the government hopes to meet the increasing demand while curbing these illicit operations.

While the proposal may seem like a practical solution to address fiscal concerns, it must be approached with caution. Critics argue that the expansion of liquor outlets could exacerbate social issues, including alcohol abuse and its impact on public health and safety. The increased availability of alcohol might lead to more social and economic costs, potentially offsetting the financial gains from the reforms.

It is essential that the state carefully assesses the long-term effects of lifting the freeze on liquor licences, weighing the potential revenue boost against possible adverse outcomes. Transparent regulation, along with stricter enforcement of licensing rules, will be crucial in ensuring that the benefits of these reforms outweigh the risks. By addressing these concerns, the government can ensure that the excise sector reforms contribute positively to Karnataka's economy while minimizing any negative consequences.

# 'One Nation One Election' constitutionally unsustainable: Udayanidhi Stalin

TPN Correspondent |  
Thiruvananthapuram

Tamil Nadu Deputy Chief Minister Udayanidhi Stalin on Thursday voiced strong opposition to the Union government's proposal for the 'one nation, one election' process, describing it as an attack on federalism and constitutionally unsustainable. Speaking at the sixth edition of the Mathrubhumi International Festival of Letters (MBIFL), Stalin argued that the move undermines the principles of the Indian Constitution, which affirms federalism as a core value.



Stalin explained that under the 'one nation, one election' system, states would be forced to align their electoral cycles with that of the national elections. He pointed out that if a state government were to fall

due to party defections or a loss of confidence, the state would have to wait for the next national election cycle to hold fresh elections. This, he claimed, would significantly disrupt the functioning of state governments and their autonomy, making them sub-

ject to the whims of the national political landscape.

The Deputy Chief Minister also criticized the Centre's proposal to conduct a new delimitation of Lok Sabha seats based on the latest operational census. He highlighted that this move

would disproportionately affect southern states like Tamil Nadu and Kerala, which have made significant progress in population control programs. "This is the reward for states that have effectively implemented population control measures," he said. Stalin argued that the proposed delimitation would reduce the representation of these states in Parliament, effectively diminishing their political voice and influence at the national level.

Stalin also questioned the motivations behind the delimitation, suggesting that it was part of a broader agenda to weaken the southern states. If the new delimitation guidelines are implemented, Tamil Nadu and Kerala would lose their current number of seats in Parliament, further sidelining their interests in national decision-making.

# India to Launch Chandrayaan-4 in 2027: Union Minister Jitendra Singh

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

India is set to launch the Chandrayaan-4 mission in 2027, aiming to bring back samples of moon rocks to Earth, Science and Technology Minister Jitendra Singh announced. This ambitious mission will involve multiple launches of the heavy-lift LVM-3 rocket, which will carry five different components that will be assembled in orbit to execute the mission.



"The Chandrayaan-4 mission's goal is to collect samples from the moon's surface and bring them back to Earth," Minister Singh told PTI Videos in a recent interview. The mission is expected to mark a significant milestone in India's lunar exploration program.

In addition to Chandrayaan-4, India is gearing up for a number of other important missions. Next year, the country will launch the Gaganyaan mission, which will send Indian astronauts into space in a specially designed spacecraft for a low Earth orbit mission. Singh also announced that in 2026, India will launch the Samudrayaan mission, which aims to explore the deep ocean. This mission will take three scientists aboard a submersible to a depth of 6,000 meters to explore the seabed, further showcasing India's growing scientific capabilities.

tential to uncover valuable resources such as critical minerals, rare metals, and marine biodiversity, essential for the country's economic growth and environmental sustainability.

Another milestone for India's space program will be the first uncrewed mission of the Gaganyaan project, scheduled to take place this year. The mission will carry a robot named 'Vyommitra' as part of the preparations for future human space missions. Minister Singh noted that although the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) was established in 1969, it took more than two decades to set up the first launch pad in 1993. The space sector, however, has witnessed remarkable growth over

the last decade, with India now building a third launch pad to accommodate heavier rockets and expanding operations beyond Sriharikota. A new launch site is also being developed in Tamil Nadu's Tuticorin district for launching small satellites.

India's space economy, valued at USD 8 billion, is expected to reach USD 44 billion over the next decade. Singh emphasized that the recent reforms, including opening the space sector to private players, have led to greater innovation and international collaborations. With new infrastructure, increased private sector participation, and significant investments, India is poised for even greater achievements in the coming years.

# Defence Ministry Signs Over Rs 10,000 Crore Deal For Pinaka Rocket System

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

The Indian government has signed defence contracts worth over ₹10,000 crore to bolster the firepower capabilities of the Indian Army. These contracts, finalized on Thursday, focus on the procurement of advanced munitions, including Area Denial Munition Type-1 (ADM) and high-explosive rockets with enhanced range for the Pinaka Multiple Launch Rocket System (MLRS).



According to a statement from the Ministry of Defence, the contracts were signed with Economic Explosives Limited (EEL) and Munitions India Limited (MIL) to procure ADM Type-1 (DPICM) and High Explosive Pre-Fragmented (HEPF) Mk-1 (Enhanced) rockets. The total cost of these contracts amounts to ₹10,147 crore.

The HEPF Mk-1 (Enhanced) rockets are an upgraded version of the in-service HEPF rockets, offering an enhanced range to strike deep into enemy territory with precision and devastating impact. The ADM Type-1 of the Pinaka MLRS comes with a specialized warhead capable of dispersing sub-munitions over a larger area. This will target enemy

mechanized forces, vehicles, and personnel, denying specific areas to the enemy.

These advanced munitions are part of the ongoing modernization of India's artillery rocket regiments and will significantly enhance the Army's firepower by enabling long-range and accurate strikes. The procurement is a key milestone in modernizing India's defence infrastructure, empowering domestic industries, and advancing the government's "Aatmanirbhar Bharat" initiative. In addition to strengthening national defence, these projects will create direct and indirect employment opportunities, particularly by promoting the Indian

MSME sector through component manufacturing. Defence Secretary Rajesh Kumar Singh attended the contract signing event in New Delhi, underscoring the strategic importance of these procurements for India's defence preparedness.

The move also aligns with India's broader goal of self-reliance in defence manufacturing, allowing for greater control over critical military assets and reducing dependence on foreign imports. By investing in advanced military technologies, India aims to enhance its tactical capabilities while supporting the growth of indigenous defence industries.



# Saif Ali Khan's Attack: Two Staffers Identify Arrested Bangladeshi Man as Assailant

TPN Correspondent | Mumbai

In a significant development in the case involving the attack on Bollywood actor Saif Ali Khan, two staff members at his residence have identified Shariful Fakir, a Bangladeshi national, as the person who assaulted the actor last month. Fakir, 30, was arrested in connection with the incident and is currently in judicial custody.

The identification took place during an Identification Parade conducted by the Mumbai police at Arthur Road jail on Wednesday. Eliyamma Phillip (56), a staffer at Khan's house, and Junu, a househelp, both confirmed that Fakir was the individual responsible for the attack on Khan, according to police officials. Phillip is considered a key witness, as she was also reportedly attacked by the assailant during the break-in.

On January 16, Fakir allegedly broke into Khan's apartment in the Satguru Sharan building in the Bandra area. Once inside, he reportedly stabbed Khan six times before fleeing the scene. Authorities quickly launched an investigation, which included reviewing CCTV footage from the building. The footage was instrumental in identifying Fakir, and a subsequent facial recognition test confirmed that the man arrested in Thane was the same person seen in the CCTV.

Following the attack, Fakir was apprehended three days later in Thane, a neighboring city. The police revealed that Fakir had entered the apartment in the early hours of the morning and carried out the attack. Investigators have indicated that the motive behind the attack remains unclear, and they are continuing to probe the circumstances surrounding the incident.

The identification parade played a critical role in confirming Fakir's involvement in the attack. Both Phillip and Junu positively identified him as the assailant, which strengthens the case against the accused.

Saif Ali Khan, who sustained multiple stab wounds in the attack, was reportedly in a stable condition after the incident. His family and team members have refrained from commenting publicly on the ongoing investigation.

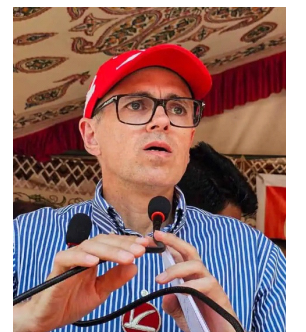
The police are continuing their investigation into the incident and are looking into Fakir's background to determine how he gained access to Khan's residence and if there were any connections that might have led to the attack.

# Budget will not be confined to government offices: Omar Abdullah

TPN Correspondent | Jammu

Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah assured on Wednesday that the upcoming budget would be a "people-friendly" one, emphasizing that it would not be limited to the bureaucratic framework but would cater to the aspirations of the public. Abdullah, who also holds the finance portfolio, made the announcement during his pre-budget consultations with legislators and chairpersons of District Development Councils (DDCs) in Jammu.

In a video conference with elected representatives from Anantnag, Budgam, Kathua, and Samba districts, the Chief Minister emphasized that the budget would reflect the hopes and needs of the people of Jammu and Kashmir, aligning closely with their expectations. Abdullah stated, "You have won your elections because people have placed their trust in you. Their expectations are tied to your leadership. Through this meeting, we aim to align budget priorities with the hopes of those who voted and participated in the democratic process."



The pre-budget discussions were not just aimed at presenting a financial framework, but at ensuring that the people's voices were heard and represented. Abdullah stressed that the budget would be created by the people, for the people, ensuring inclusiveness and transparency in the decision-making process. "We want to ensure that this budget is not just by the government but by the people, for the people. Your voices will be represented, as you represent the people of Jammu and Kashmir," he added.

The consultations, which involved discussions with public representatives, including Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs) and DDC chairpersons, were a significant step toward building a more collaborative and transparent approach to governance.

# US Secretary of State Rubio to Skip G20 Talks in South Africa

Rubio cites "anti-American" agenda, escalating tensions over land reform

- Marco Rubio announced he will boycott the G20 foreign ministers Talk
- US absence could impact G20 diplomacy, including talks on the Ukraine war.

TPN Correspondent | Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic

US Secretary of State Marco Rubio announced on Wednesday that he would be skipping the upcoming Group of 20 (G20) foreign ministers' talks in South Africa, accusing the host nation of pursuing an "anti-American" agenda. Rubio's decision follows a fiery response from US President Donald Trump, who recently criticized South Africa's land reform policies that aim to address inequalities from the apartheid era.

Rubio, echoing Trump's combative rhetoric, posted on X (formerly Twitter) that he would not participate in the foreign ministers' summit scheduled for February 20-21 in Johannesburg. In his post, Rubio condemned South Africa's actions, claiming the country was "expropriating private property" and using the G20 forum to promote agendas like "solidarity, equality, & sustainability." He accused the South African government of prioritizing initiatives related to diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) as well as climate change—both of which have become subjects of scorn for Trump and his supporters.

"My job is to advance America's national interests, not waste taxpayer money or coddle anti-Americanism," Rubio asserted in his post, signaling his frustration with South Africa's position on issues like land reform and international policy agendas.

The tensions over land ownership in South Africa remain high. Despite the



country's transition to democracy three decades ago, most of the nation's farmland is still controlled by white landowners. The South African government has been under growing pressure to implement reforms that would allow for the redistribution of land to rectify the racial disparities left by apartheid policies. These reforms have provoked backlash from critics, including Trump, who has condemned South Africa for what he perceives as "confiscating" land.

South African President Cyril Ramaphosa strongly rejected Trump's accusations, calling them misinformation. Earlier this week, Ramaphosa also reached out to Elon Musk, a prominent Trump ally, to express his concerns about what he described as disinformation circulating in the US media. Despite these efforts, the diplomatic rift between the two countries continues to widen.

The absence of the United States, the world's largest economy, from the G20 talks would deal a significant blow to the forum. The G20 is intended to represent the leading global economies, and such a high-profile boycott would undermine the legitimacy of the talks. This diplomatic snub also means that Rubio, a key figure in US foreign policy, would miss an opportunity to engage with Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov. Trump has expressed interest in fostering dialogue with Russia on issues such as the ongoing conflict in Ukraine, and this meeting could have offered a first opportunity for such diplomacy.

Overall, the growing tension between the US and South Africa highlights the challenges of navigating global policy while balancing national interests and diplomatic concerns.

## Netanyahu Supports Trump's Proposal to Displace Palestinians from Gaza



TPN Correspondent | Washington

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu defended former US President Donald Trump's controversial proposal to displace Palestinians from Gaza, despite widespread international condemnation. The proposal, which included suggestions for permanently displacing Palestinians and allowing them to return at will, was met with fierce criticism from rights groups, who labeled it as ethnic cleansing.

During an interview on Fox News, Netanyahu did not specifically address Trump's idea of a US takeover of Gaza but endorsed the concept of giving Palestinians in Gaza the option to leave. He stated, "What's wrong with that? They can leave, they can then come back, they can relocate and come back. But you have to rebuild Gaza."

Netanyahu further downplayed concerns, claiming that Trump's idea didn't involve sending US troops to Gaza or having Washington foot the bill for the region's reconstruction. He characterized Trump's proposal as "the first good idea" he had heard regarding the situation and called for it to be "examined and pursued." Netanyahu argued that the plan could bring about a "different future for everyone," reflecting his approval of the idea despite its controversy. Trump's proposal, first floated on January 25, suggests that Palestinians in Gaza should be resettled in neighboring Arab nations like Egypt and Jordan. This idea has been outright rejected by both Palestinian leaders and the Arab states in question. Trump's aides later attempted to clarify and distance themselves from aspects of the plan in response to the backlash.

This proposal emerged in the context of an ongoing and brutal military campaign by Israel against Gaza. Since the start of the conflict, Israel's airstrikes and ground assaults have resulted in over 47,000 Palestinian deaths, according to Gaza's health ministry. The violence has also sparked accusations of war crimes and genocide, which Israel has denied. Despite a fragile ceasefire, the human toll of the conflict continues to grow, with nearly all of Gaza's population displaced and widespread hunger exacerbating the crisis.



## Australia Passes Strict Anti-Hate Crime Laws in Response to Rising Antisemitism

TPN Correspondent | Sydney

On Thursday, Australia passed tough new anti-hate crime legislation aimed at combating the recent surge in antisemitism. The laws introduce mandatory minimum sentences for various hate crimes, including terror-related offences and the display of hate symbols. The new legislation mandates prison terms ranging from 12 months for less severe offences, such as publicly giving a Nazi salute, to six years for individuals convicted of terrorism-related crimes.

Prime Minister Anthony Albanese, who had previously opposed mandatory minimum sentences, voiced his strong support for the new laws, emphasizing the importance of holding those engaged in antisemitism accountable. "I want people who are engaged in antisemitism to be held to account, to be charged, to be incarcerated," Albanese stated in an interview with Sky News.

The government's hate crimes bill, which was first introduced to parliament last year, also creates new criminal offences for any acts of force or violence targeting individuals based on factors like race, religion, nationality, political opinion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, and intersex status. The legislation is designed to address a significant uptick in antisemitic incidents across the country.

In recent months, Australia has witnessed a disturbing rise in attacks on Jewish community sites, including synagogues, Jewish-owned businesses, and cars. One particularly alarming incident involved the discovery of a caravan loaded with explosives and a list of Jewish targets in Sydney.

## Panama Canal Denies Fee Waiver for US Vessels

TPN Correspondent | Washington DC

The Panama Canal Authority (PCA) has clarified that it has not made any changes to the fees for US government vessels transiting the Panama Canal, following a statement from the US State Department suggesting otherwise. The PCA took to social media platform X to refute claims that Panama had agreed to waive the tolls for US government ships, emphasizing that the Authority, which has the power to set tolls and fees, had not altered its fee structure.

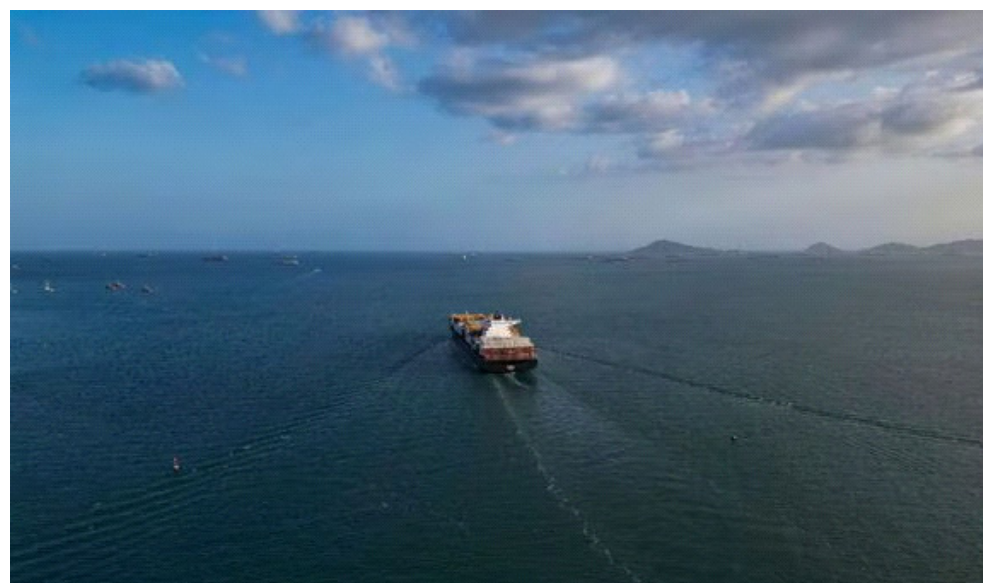
The official post from the Panama Canal Authority stated, "In response to a publication released by the United States Department of State, the Panama Canal Authority, which is authorized to set tolls and other fees for transiting the Canal, reports that it has not made any adjustments to them. The Panama Canal Authority, as it has indicated, is fully prepared to engage in dialogue with relevant United States officials regarding the transit of U.S. warships."

This clarification came after a US State Department announcement claimed Panama had agreed to waive the tolls

for US government vessels using the Canal. According to the statement, this move would save the US government millions of dollars annually. The announcement was made public following US Secretary of State Marco Rubio's trip to Panama on February 1, marking his first official visit to the country since assuming the role.

The US State Department's post on X read, "US government vessels can now transit the Panama Canal without charge fees, saving the US government millions of dollars a year." The decision was positioned as a significant financial relief for the United States, especially given the strategic importance of the Panama Canal for naval and commercial shipping.

However, the Panama Canal Authority's response casts doubt on the claim, insisting that no official policy changes had been implemented and that further discussions with the United States would be necessary to address the situation. The PCA's statement underscores the importance of transparent communication between the two governments, particularly when it involves a key international shipping route.



## DeepSeek Faces Global Scrutiny and Bans Over Security Concerns

TPN Correspondent | Italy

DeepSeek's rapid rise to prominence has sparked widespread concern among regulators and governments worldwide, leading to multiple countries imposing restrictions or outright bans on the Chinese AI app. Privacy watchdogs and national security officials have raised alarms about the app's data collection practices and potential security risks, prompting actions in several regions.

Italy was one of the first to act, banning the app after an investigation by the Italian Data Protection Authority (Garante) into DeepSeek's compliance with EU data protection laws. The authorities found the app's response to their inquiries "completely insufficient," leading to the removal of DeepSeek from the Apple and Google app stores in Italy. The Italian regulators also noted that the app claimed not to operate in Italy, further complicating its legal standing within the European Union. Taiwan followed suit, banning government agencies, state-owned businesses, and public schools from using DeepSeek. The Ministry of Digital Affairs expressed concerns over the app's potential to endanger national security, pointing out that it is a Chinese product with implications for cross-border data transmission. Taiwan's restrictions were particularly focused on the risk of information leaks, a concern amplified by the app's Chinese origins.

Australia also acted swiftly, prohibiting government workers from using DeepSeek. The country's Department of Home Affairs issued a directive that forbids the installation or use of DeepSeek products on any government systems or devices, citing unacceptable security risks. However, the ban does not extend to private citizens, though Australians have been urged to exercise caution regarding their online data usage and privacy.





## Markets Slip Amid Rate Concerns; Nifty Faces Resistance at 50-DMA

Domestic stock markets ended with moderate losses for the second consecutive session. They moved in a range-bound pattern throughout Thursday. The indices, which had gained initially, gradually fell due to mixed signals from international markets. Interest rate-related stocks were dealt a blow in the wake of the RBI monetary meeting. FMCG, realty, banking and finance shares fell as investors remained cautious and did not buy. Once again, the 50-day moving average became a resistance for Nifty. In the end, Nifty lost 90 points and Sensex lost 200 points.



**MURTHY NAIDU PAADAM**  
Stock Market Analyst  
+91 988 555 9709

The BSE Sensex, which closed at 78,271 in the previous session, opened at 78,513 on Thursday. It touched an intraday low of 77,843. It reached an intraday high of 78,551. It ended at 78,058, down 213 points. The NSE Nifty, which opened at 23,761, hit a low of 23,556 and a high of 23,773. It closed at 23,603, down 92 points. The Nifty Bank rose 39 points to settle at 50,382.

In the Nifty50, 21 companies gained while 30 lost. IT, pharma and private bank indices gained the most. Realty, consumer durables, media, metal and FMCG indices rose the most. Cipla, Adani Ports, ITC Hotels, Dr. Reddy's, HDFC Life were the top gainers. Trent, BEL, Airtel, Titan, ONGC were the top losers.

Today, the market breadth in NSE slightly favored sellers. Out of a total of 2905 stocks traded, 1334 gained and 1495 lost. Shares of 38 companies reached 52-week highs. Only 32 reached 52-week lows.

The rupee fell to a fresh low of 87.57 against the dollar. NMDC's net loss increased to Rs. 757 crore from Rs. 568 crore. REC's net profit increased by 23.2% from Rs. 3296 crore to Rs. 4029 crore. MQURE's net profit increased by 30% from Rs. 119 crore to Rs. 156 crore. Aarti Pharma's margin increased from 21.40 to 23.88 percent. Net profit increased by 39.6%. Bernstein has given an Outperform rating to Swiggy with a target price of Rs 575. Minda Corp's net profit rose to Rs 64 crore from Rs 52 crore. SBI's net profit rose 84% to Rs 16,890 crore. Chambal Fertilizers' profit rose 16.3% to Rs 534 crore from Rs 459 crore.

### 1. Axis Bank (NSE: AXISBANK)



Axis Bank is one of India's largest private sector banks, offering retail banking, corporate banking, and treasury services. It has a strong digital banking presence and a large customer base. Strong digital banking and fintech partnerships Expanding SME and corporate banking portfolio Stable loan book growth and improving asset quality Positive, driven by strong credit demand, digital expansion, and cost efficiency improvements.

### 2. Zydus Lifesciences

Zydus Lifesciences is a leading pharma company specializing in generics, biosimilars, specialty drugs, and vaccines, with a strong presence in India and the US. Strong US generics pipeline and biosimilars expansion Leadership in domestic formulations business High investment in R&D for new drug discovery Steady growth expected due to strong product pipeline, global expansion, and higher R&D spending.



### 3. HDFC Life Insurance (NSE: HDFCLIFE)



HDFC Life is one of India's top private life insurance companies, offering term insurance, annuities, and ULIPs. It benefits from a strong bancassurance tie-up with HDFC Bank. Increasing insurance penetration in India Strong digital insurance sales and bancassurance network Expanding annuity and pension products Long-term positive due to increasing demand for insurance and strong financial stability.

### 4. Cipla (NSE: CIPLA)

Cipla is a global pharma company with a strong presence in respiratory, chronic diseases, and US generics. It is a leader in inhalers and respiratory therapies. Leadership in respiratory and chronic therapies. Expansion in US generics market High-margin specialty drugs and biotech growth. Strong growth potential with consistent expansion in global markets and new drug launches.



### 5. Ujjivan Small Finance Bank (NSE: UJJIVANSFB)



Ujjivan SFB is a leading small finance bank focused on microfinance, affordable housing, and MSME lending, with a strong presence in rural India. Strong expansion in microfinance and SME lending Increasing focus on affordable housing loans Digital banking adoption for rural banking Strong growth expected, supported by rising credit demand and improving financial inclusion.

housing loans Digital banking adoption for rural banking Strong growth expected, supported by rising credit demand and improving financial inclusion.

## FM Sitharaman Stresses Commitment to Disinvestment and Privatisation Plans

After presenting the Union Budget on February 1, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman outlined the government's ongoing commitment to disinvestment and privatisation, emphasizing that these steps remain integral to the government's economic strategy. Speaking on the subject, Sitharaman asserted that there would be no reconsideration of the cabinet's decision regarding privatisation.

"Privatisation is a commitment given to the cabinet, and there is no rethink on this matter," Sitharaman said. "We are fully committed to moving forward with the privatisation agenda as planned."

She also highlighted the government's efforts in improving the valuation of public sector companies, a key factor in the success of the disinvestment process. According to Sitharaman, the government has worked



hard to bring in professional management, enhancing the performance of several companies that were previously underperforming. This has allowed these companies to achieve better market valuations, with many of them now performing well on the stock markets.

"The valuations of these companies have been a major focus. We have introduced professional management, and that has contributed significantly to the

improved performance and market valuations," she said. "Many of these companies, which were earlier struggling, are now delivering respectable results."

Sitharaman's comments come at a time when the Indian government is making strides in its disinvestment and privatisation efforts as part of a broader plan to reduce fiscal deficits, optimize public sector enterprises, and encourage private sector participation in the economy. The government's

approach includes selling stakes in state-run companies, thereby generating funds for infrastructure development and other priority sectors.

The government has already made progress in privatising various public sector units (PSUs), with several companies achieving success in their listing on the stock exchanges. These positive outcomes have bolstered confidence in the privatisation agenda, with experts noting that professional management and strategic changes have played a key role in improving the financial health of these entities.

As the government continues its disinvestment and privatisation drive, Sitharaman's statement reaffirms the administration's firm stance on this issue, underscoring its commitment to implementing reforms in public sector enterprises and strengthening the Indian economy.

## Clean Energy Transition with Amazon's Investments, Targets 50% Non-Fossil Fuel Power by 2030

Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw on Thursday praised India's growing role as a global leader in the clean energy transition, following Amazon's announcement of investments in three new wind energy projects across the country. Vaishnaw, who oversees the Ministries of Railways, Electronics and Information Technology, and Information and Broadcasting, emphasized the significance of such investments in accelerating India's clean energy journey under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

"Under the leadership of PM Narendra Modi ji, India is rapidly emerging as a global leader in the clean energy transition. Investments from companies like Amazon are accelerating this progress," Vaishnaw said, applauding Amazon's commitment to sustainable energy solutions.

Earlier in the day, Amazon revealed its investments in three wind energy projects in Karnataka, Maharashtra, and Tamil Nadu. The projects, which will add over 379 MW of clean energy, reinforce Amazon's pledge to power its operations using 100% renewable en-

ergy. The new wind farms — CleanMax Koppal (100 MW) in Karnataka, BluPine Solapur (99 MW) in Maharashtra, and JSW Energy Dharapuram (180 MW) in Tamil Nadu — will contribute to India's ambitious target of producing 50% of its electricity from non-fossil fuel sources by 2030.

"Clean energy is not only about sustainability; it is central to our goal of producing 50 percent of our electricity from non-fossil fuel sources by 2030. As we expand our digital and transportation infrastructure, renewable energy will play a crucial role in powering the next wave of connectivity and innovation," Vaishnaw added.

Shripad Yesso Naik, Minister of State for Power and New and Renewable Energy, also welcomed Amazon's continued investments in wind and solar projects, which he said are crucial for achieving India's renewable energy targets and ensuring energy security. He noted that these projects will not only help in creating a cleaner environment but also generate employment and boost local economies.



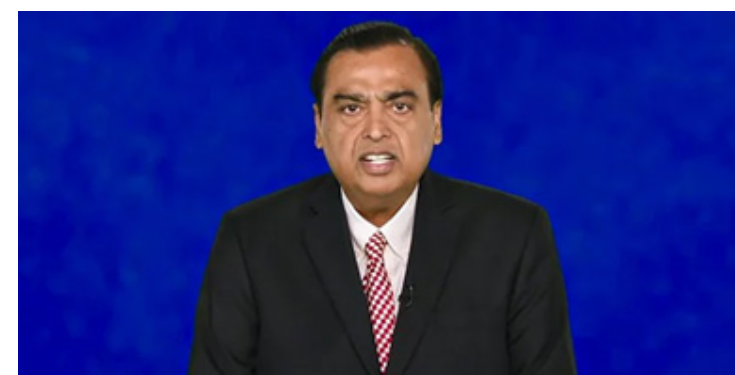
Amazon's commitment to renewable energy goes beyond its operations in India. Avinash Shekhar, Head of APJ Energy and Water Strategy at AWS, highlighted that Amazon has invested in over 600 solar and wind projects globally, including more than 50 in India, as part of its Climate Pledge to reach net-zero carbon emissions by 2040.

With these new projects, Amazon has now enabled 53 renewable energy initiatives in India, providing over 4 million megawatt hours (MWh) of carbon-free energy, enough to power over 1.3 million homes. These efforts further Amazon's goal of supporting sustainable development while creating new jobs and business opportunities within local communities.

## Jio building world's best AI infrastructure in India: Mukesh Ambani

In a significant statement made on Wednesday, Mukesh Ambani, the chairman of Reliance Industries (RIL), emphasized the company's strong commitment to advancing artificial intelligence (AI) in India. Ambani revealed that RIL's digital arm, Jio, is focused on constructing the best AI infrastructure in the world, right here in India. During his address, Ambani stated, "AI is indispensable for India's transformation into a Deep-Tech Nation with advanced manufacturing capabilities." This remark underscores his vision of leveraging AI to drive India's technological and industrial growth in the coming years.

Ambani highlighted the importance of AI as a central element in the global competition for technological dominance, specifically in the rapidly evolving landscape of AI. With this in



mind, Reliance's digital initiatives aim to place India at the forefront of the global AI revolution.

Jio, under Ambani's leadership, has been a pioneer in India's digital transformation. From building an extensive telecommunications network to venturing into a diverse array of technology and digital services, Jio's latest focus on AI is seen as a bold step toward advancing India's position in the digital ecosystem. Ambani envisions the development of AI technologies

that can empower Indian industries, facilitate innovations in healthcare, education, manufacturing, and infrastructure, and contribute to creating new job opportunities.

The initiative comes at a time when many global tech giants and governments are vying for leadership in AI, with countries like the United States, China, and the European Union investing heavily in AI research and development. With Reliance's deep resources and its ambitious goals for dig-

ital and technological innovation, Jio's AI-driven infrastructure could significantly enhance India's competitiveness on the global stage.

Ambani's announcement also aligns with India's broader push toward fostering advanced technological capabilities. Through initiatives like Digital India, the country aims to boost its position as a global leader in technology and innovation. By harnessing the power of AI, Ambani believes that India can revolutionize various sectors, ensuring that the nation's digital transformation is both sustainable and inclusive.

As Jio continues to evolve, this AI initiative could play a pivotal role in ensuring that India keeps pace with global tech advancements, solidifying its place as a powerhouse in the digital world.

## Mysterious Brain Disease Found in Dead Great White Sharks Along Atlantic Coast



A string of unexplained great white shark deaths along the North American Atlantic Coast has raised serious concerns among marine scientists. The first case was reported in August 2023, when a 500-pound juvenile male shark, measuring 8 feet 9 inches, was found dead on a beach in Prince Edward Island, Canada. The shark's carcass was sent to the Atlantic Veterinary College at the University of Prince Edward Island for examination. Initial findings revealed no external injuries, and starvation was ruled out due to a healthy liver. However, a necropsy revealed meningoencephalitis—an inflammation

of the brain tissue—as the cause of death, prompting further investigations. As additional shark deaths surfaced across the region, a study by the Canadian Wildlife Health Cooperative (C.W.H.C.) found similar brain inflammation in tissue samples from four other great white sharks. Dr. Megan Jones, a veterinary pathologist and regional director of C.W.H.C., noted that three of the five sharks examined showed signs of a potential infectious disease affecting the brain. In total, nine cases of great white sharks with brain swelling have been recorded since July 2022. While brain inflammation has

been linked to bacterial infections in other shark species, no such cause has been identified in these cases. The lack of baseline mortality data for white sharks in the western North Atlantic complicates the investigation. Dr. Alisa Newton, chief veterinarian for OCEARCH, a Florida-based shark research organization, pointed out that it is difficult to determine whether the deaths are an anomaly or a natural occurrence. Meningoencephalitis was first identified in a white shark in 2022 in Long Island, New York, and has since been found in sharks from South Carolina and Massachusetts. While investigations continue, experts are exploring various possibilities, including the potential role of viral or bacterial pathogens. Some, such as Tonya Wimmer, executive director of the Marine Animal Response Society (MARS), believe the rising number of beached sharks could be due to population growth, not a new disease. The cause of these deaths remains uncertain, and further research is needed to uncover the truth. A day for making promises, whether big or small, to ensure the relationship continues to thrive and grow.

## Viral AI Video Shows Tiny Construction Workers Building Food, Gets 18 Million Views

A viral AI-generated video is taking the internet by storm, showing tiny construction workers meticulously building food items as if they were constructing houses. The creative video, shared by AI video creator Pablo Prompt on Instagram, in collaboration with nutritionist Carlos Hugo Jimenez Dominguez, has gained an astounding 18 million views. The video imagines a whimsical world where miniature construction workers, dressed in hard hats and uniforms, are responsible for preparing dishes in a highly detailed and mechanical way. The scene begins with the tiny workers garnishing a piece of salmon, followed by an excavator placing lemon slices on top of a perfectly grilled fish. The surreal sight continues with a worker transferring an Indian gravy dish onto a bed of steaming rice,



showcasing a variety of food preparations, from pizza to prawn rice, and even a sunny-side-up egg. The workers are seen using various construction tools like cranes and excavators, adding a layer of quirky realism to the cooking process. Social media users quickly flocked to the comments section of the post, ex-

pressing a mix of awe and amusement. One user commented, "This is the weirdest thing I've ever seen but it's so good!" Another added, "Oddly satisfying to watch!" Many others admired the creative use of AI, with one user saying, "Now, this is the type of AI I can mess with." However, some expressed a more humorous, albeit slightly disturbed, reaction, with a comment saying, "I find this both delicious and disturbing." Despite the mixed reactions, the video's creative concept has captivated viewers, leaving them in awe of the potential AI has in blending art, food, and entertainment. With such a unique and imaginative take on food preparation, this AI video is certainly one for the books, showing just how far artificial intelligence can go in reshaping our understanding of food creation.

## OpenAI Expands ChatGPT Search Feature to All Users Worldwide



OpenAI has announced the global expansion of its ChatGPT Search feature, making it available to everyone, including those who have not signed up for the platform. This feature was initially introduced in November 2024 for paid subscribers and was extended to users on the free tier in December 2024. Now, it can be accessed by anyone visiting the ChatGPT website, offering users the ability to ask real-time queries and receive answers sourced directly from the web.

The official announcement was made on X (formerly known as Twitter) on Wednesday, where OpenAI confirmed that the search feature would be widely accessible. This change allows anyone worldwide to use ChatGPT's native search engine-powered functionality

to ask questions and receive up-to-date answers sourced from the internet. The rollout of this feature was initially observed on Android devices, though it has not yet appeared on the iOS app at the time of writing. However, it is expected to be available on iOS soon. For those who do not have an OpenAI account, the feature is powered by the GPT-4o AI model. Users will see a globe icon next to the "Attach file" icon in the text field within the ChatGPT interface. By tapping the globe icon, users can activate the web search mode, where the chatbot will exclusively pull information from the web to answer queries. An interesting aspect of the feature is that it provides transparency about the sources of the information. Each sentence in the response is followed by a

clickable icon that directs users to the original source of the information. Additionally, a full list of sources is displayed at the bottom of the response, and these can also be clicked for further details. OpenAI has yet to announce any rate limits for using the ChatGPT Search feature, even for users who have not registered. This means that users on the free tier can use the search feature without restrictions, a notable benefit for those seeking up-to-date web-based information. With this expansion, OpenAI is offering a more accessible, real-time way for users worldwide to interact with its AI-powered chatbot and receive information from the web, making ChatGPT a more comprehensive tool for knowledge seekers everywhere.

## New Study Reveals How Aliens Could Detect Earth's Technosignatures



Google is gearing up to unveil its budget-friendly Pixel 9a, slated to launch on March 19, marking the earliest release date in the Pixel A series history. The highly anticipated mid-range model is expected to come with some enticing offers and powerful features to attract buyers. According to a recent leak from Android Headlines, Pixel 9a buyers could enjoy several premium subscriptions as part of their purchase. The freebies include six months of free Fitbit Premium, three months of free YouTube Premium, and a three-

month subscription to 100GB of Google One storage. These offers resemble those provided with the Pixel 9 series, although the Pixel 9a will not come with the 2TB+ AI plan for Google One, and users will need to pay extra for any Gemini Advanced features. The Pixel 9a is expected to maintain the same Tensor G4 processor found in the flagship Pixel 9 series. The device is likely to feature a 6.3-inch Actua display with a peak brightness of 2,700 nits and Gorilla Glass 3 protection for durability. With 8GB of RAM and 256GB of internal storage, the Pixel 9a promis-

es a smooth and spacious user experience. It is also expected to have an IP68 rating, ensuring dust and water resistance. For photography, the Pixel 9a is rumored to include a dual-camera setup, consisting of a 48-megapixel primary camera and a 13-megapixel ultrawide camera. The phone is likely to be equipped with a robust 5,100mAh battery, supporting 23W wired and 7.5W wireless charging. Additionally, it is expected to feature an in-display fingerprint scanner for enhanced security and convenience.

## Nagpur Golegappa Vendor Offers Lifetime Supply for Rs 99,000: A Viral Deal

Golegappas, also known as pani puri or puchka in some parts of India, are a beloved street food across the Indian subcontinent. With their irresistible combination of spicy, tangy, and sweet flavors, golegappas have earned a special place in the hearts of food lovers worldwide. From weddings to local markets, these bite-sized treats are a common sight at street food stalls, offering a quick and satisfying snack for people from all walks of life. Recently, a golegappa vendor in Nag-

pur has captured attention and gone viral with a unique offer that has intrigued many social media users. The vendor has come up with an unconventional deal that allows customers to enjoy golegappas for free, for life, by paying a one-time fee of Rs 99,000. According to the offer, anyone who pays this amount will have unlimited access to golegappas from the stall for the rest of their lives—without needing to pay again. This extraordinary deal has sparked

considerable discussion on social media platforms, with users expressing a mix of amusement and curiosity. The concept of paying a large sum upfront for a lifetime of free food has caught the imagination of many who love golegappas and are willing to make a long-term investment in their favorite snack. The post has quickly gained attention, with people debating the value of such an offer and whether it's worth the hefty price tag.



## Real Madrid Edge Past Leganes with Last-Minute Winner to Reach Copa del Rey Semifinals



Young Real Madrid striker Gonzalo Garcia sealed a dramatic 3-2 victory for Los Blancos with a 93rd-minute header, securing a place in the Copa del Rey semifinals at the expense of Leganes. In a thrilling contest at Butarque Stadium, Juan Cruz's brace helped Leganes fight back after Luka Modric and teenage sensation Endrick put Madrid ahead early in the game. With the match seemingly heading to extra-time, Brahim Diaz delivered a superb cross, allowing 20-year-old Gonzalo to nod home the

winner. Despite missing Jude Bellingham and Kylian Mbappe due to minor injuries and dealing with a defensive injury crisis, Carlo Ancelotti's side showcased resilience, with Jacobo Ramon and Raul Asencio making key contributions. Madrid started strong, with Modric scoring in the 18th minute, followed by Endrick's close-range finish. However, Leganes responded, with Cruz converting a penalty after Jacobo handled the ball. In the second half, Madrid squandered multiple chances,

with Vinicius Junior missing two golden opportunities before Cruz equalized with a deflected shot. Just when extra-time loomed, Gonzalo's last-gasp goal kept Madrid's Copa del Rey hopes alive. Madrid will now face Atletico Madrid in La Liga on Saturday before a crucial Champions League encounter against Manchester City on Tuesday. Meanwhile, Atletico thrashed Getafe 5-0 to reach the semifinals, while Barcelona take on Valencia and Real Sociedad face Osasuna in the remaining quarter-finals.

## Italian Qualifier Mattia Bellucci Stuns Daniil Medvedev to Reach Rotterdam ATP Quarterfinals

Italian qualifier Mattia Bellucci pulled off a major upset at the Rotterdam ATP 500, stunning former world No. 1 Daniil Medvedev in three grueling sets on Wednesday. The 23-year-old, ranked 92nd in the world, secured a 6-3, 6-7 (6/8), 6-3 victory to register the biggest win of his career and reach his first ATP quarterfinal of the season.

"It was a three-hour battle, and I really enjoyed every moment of it," said Bellucci after the match. "I'm pretty tired but extremely happy. I went for serve-and-volley tactics, something I don't usually do, but today it worked perfectly."

The Italian held his nerve in the final set, saving six break points, after missing a match point in the second-set tiebreak against defending champion Medvedev.

Bellucci, who previously reached the Atlanta Open quarterfinals in 2024, will now face sixth seed Stefanos Tsitsipas or Dutchman Tallon Griekspoor for a place in the Rotterdam semifinals.

For world No. 7 Medvedev, it was another disappointing outing in early 2025, following his second-round exit at the Australian Open. The 2021 US Open champion had earlier defeated Stan Wawrinka in the first round but was un-



able to overcome Bellucci's aggressive game. With this stunning win, Bellucci continues his breakthrough run on the ATP circuit and will look to maintain momentum in Rotterdam.

## Marcus Stoinis Announces Surprise ODI Retirement Ahead of Champions Trophy

In a surprising move, Australian all-rounder Marcus Stoinis has announced his retirement from One Day Internationals (ODIs) with immediate effect, just days before the ICC Champions Trophy. His decision means Cricket Australia (CA) will now name a replacement in their squad for the tournament.

Stoinis, who played 74 ODIs for Australia, expressed gratitude for representing the national team and stated that he will now focus entirely on T20 cricket. "Playing ODI cricket for Australia has been an incredible journey, and I'm grateful for every moment in

the green and gold. This wasn't an easy decision, but I believe it's the right time for me to step away and fully focus on the next chapter of my career," said Stoinis in a CA statement.

Stoinis made his ODI debut in 2015 against England and became a key figure in Australia's limited-overs setup. His standout performance came in 2017 when he smashed 146 against New Zealand at Eden Park\* while also taking three wickets. He played a vital role in Australia's 2023 ODI World Cup-winning campaign in India. Australia's head coach Andrew McDonald praised Stoinis for his

contributions, calling him a natural leader and an exceptional team player. However, his retirement adds to Australia's growing concerns ahead of the Champions Trophy, with Mitchell Marsh ruled out due to a back injury and injury worries surrounding Pat Cummins and Josh Hazlewood. With Stoinis' exit, Cricket Australia's National Selection Panel (NSP) will finalize replacements after the Sri Lanka Test series. Australia, placed in Group B alongside England, South Africa, and Afghanistan, has until February 12 to submit its final 15-member squad for the tournament.

## India vs England 1st ODI Highlights: Shubman Gill, Bowlers Shine as India Clinch 4-Wicket Win in Nagpur

India took a 1-0 lead in the three-match ODI series with a convincing 4-wicket victory over England in the first ODI at the Vidarbha Cricket Association Stadium. Shubman Gill led the chase with a composed 87, while debutant pacer Harshit Rana and Ravindra Jadeja starred with the ball to restrict England to a below-par total of 248.

England Innings: Buttler, Bethell Shine Amidst Indian Bowling Attack

Opting to bat first, England started aggressively, with openers looking to capitalize on the batting-friendly conditions. However, India's disciplined bowling and sharp fielding turned the game around.

- Jos Buttler (64) and Jacob Bethell (57) were the only bright spots in England's batting order.
- Debutant Harshit Rana (3/53) impressed with a fiery spell, claiming three crucial wickets.
- Ravindra Jadeja (3/26) put on a stellar all-round show, breaking partnerships and maintaining control in the middle overs.
- England, who looked set for a big score at 180/4, collapsed to 248 all out in 45.3 overs.

**India's Chase:** Shubman Gill, Iyer, and Axar Deliver



- Chasing 249, India lost early wickets, but a brilliant knock from Shubman Gill (87 off 91) stabilized the innings.
- Shreyas Iyer (59 off 36) provided a counterattacking fifty, keeping India in command.
- Axar Patel (52 off 47) played a vital supporting role, ensuring there were no hiccups in the chase.

- Despite a few late wickets, India comfortably chased down the target in 38.4 overs, winning by 4 wickets.
- With this win, India take a 1-0 lead in the series. The second ODI will be played in Pune, where England will look to bounce back and level the series.

## Sachin Tendulkar Shares Hilarious Story About Virender Sehwag at Rashtrapati Bhavan Event

Cricket legend Sachin Tendulkar was the special guest at the Rashtrapati Bhavan Vimarsh Shrinkhala event, where he shared stories from his illustrious career. In attendance were President Droupadi Murmu, his wife Anjali, and daughter Sara. The former India captain presented a signed Indian Test jersey to the President as a token of his appreciation.

Speaking at the event, Tendulkar emphasized the importance of teamwork and trust, recalling how different players required different motivational tactics. He narrated a hilarious anecdote about Virender Sehwag, revealing how he had to manipulate Sehwag's mindset to get the best out of him. "Sehwag Would Do the Opposite of What I Said" Tendulkar explained how Sehwag, known for his aggressive style, would always do the opposite of what he was asked to do.

"If I wanted him to defend for a few overs, I would say, 'Viru, go



and blast the bowlers, hit sixes.' And he would reply, 'No paaji, I think I should defend for four overs first.' That was the way to get what I wanted from him." Tendulkar also recounted his 2011 World Cup chat with Yuvraj Singh, who looked low on energy before the tournament. "Yuvi told me he wasn't timing the ball well, so I advised him to focus on fielding instead. I

told him, 'Yuvi, you will matter when it matters.' That motivated him, and he went on to have a phenomenal World Cup," he added. During the event, Tendulkar reminisced about his journey in cricket and his past visits to Rashtrapati Bhavan, where he received multiple awards, including the Bharat Ratna in 2014.





## Ed Sheeran And A.R. Rahman's 'Shape of You' And 'Urvashi' Mash-Up Goes Viral!

It was a musical extravaganza in Chennai as two Grammy-winning artists, Ed Sheeran and A. R. Rahman, took the stage together for a sensational performance. The duo delivered a mesmerizing mash-up of Sheeran's global hit 'Shape of You' and Rahman's iconic 'Urvashi', blending Western pop and Indian beats seamlessly. Sheeran strummed his guitar while Rahman rendered the vocals, with the metronome of 'Shape of You' syncing perfectly with the lyrics of 'Urvashi'. The electrifying performance has now gone viral, captivating music lovers worldwide.

### Jonita Gandhi Opens the Show

The concert kicked off with a stunning performance by singer Jonita Gandhi, known for chartbusters like 'Gilehriyaan', 'What Jhumka', and 'Dil Ka Telephone'. Expressing her excitement, she shared, "I've been a huge fan of Ed's for quite a while! I love how seamlessly he crosses over into different genres. It's a dream come true to share the stage with him in Chennai."

### Sheeran's India Love Continues

This isn't the first time Ed Sheeran has collaborated with Indian artists. Last year, he



performed in Mumbai alongside Punjabi superstar Diljit Dosanjh, and their jam session went viral. The Chennai concert proved to be another

legendary musical moment, bringing together global music icons and showcasing the power of cross-cultural collaborations.

## Grammy Winner Chandrika Tan don Thanks PM Modi For His Appreciation

Indian-American vocalist Chandrika Tandon, who recently won a Grammy Award for Best New Age, Ambient, or Chant Album for her album Triveni, has expressed her gratitude to Prime Minister Narendra Modi for his appreciation and recognition.

Taking to social media, Chandrika shared a throwback picture with PM Modi, writing, "It is an extra special moment when the Prime Minister of India gives public appreciation to global artists from India -- such a gracious and encouraging gesture! Feel so honoured and proud. Thank you @narendramodi ji. Love Light Laughter." PM Modi's Congratulatory Message



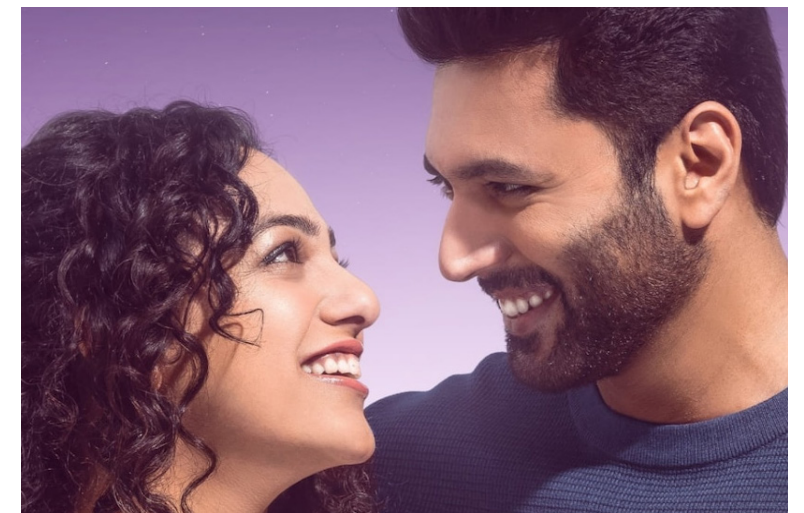
PM Modi had earlier extended his congratulations to Chandrika on X (formerly Twitter), saying,

"Congratulations to @chandrikatandon on winning the Grammy for the album Triveni. We take great pride in her

accomplishments as an entrepreneur, philanthropist, and of course, music."

Chandrika's Grammy-Winning Album Chandrika shared the Grammy honour with South African flautist Wouter Kellerman and Japanese cellist Eru Matsumoto. The category featured other prominent Indian nominees, including Ricky Kej, Anoushka Shankar, and Radhika Vekaria. Chandrika, an accomplished musician and entrepreneur, is also known as the elder sister of former PepsiCo CEO Indra Nooyi. Her Grammy win has been widely celebrated in India and among the global Indian diaspora.

## Kadhalikka Neramillai OTT Release Date Reportedly Revealed: When and Where to Watch Romantic Drama Online



The much-loved romantic drama Kadhalikka Neramillai, starring Ravi Mohan and Nithya Menen, is reportedly set for its OTT release on Netflix on February 14, 2025. The film, which hit theaters on January 14 during Sankranti and Pongal, received a warm response from audiences, and now, its digital release is anticipated to be a Valentine's Day special.

When and Where to Watch Kadhalikka Neramillai Online

According to reports, Netflix has secured the streaming rights for Kadhalikka Neramillai, and it will be available for subscribers starting February 14, 2025. However, an official announcement from the makers is awaited.

### Plot Summary

The film follows Shriya, an architect, who marries Karan through a registered marriage in 2017 but later discovers his infidelity. Seeking motherhood, she undergoes IVF with anonymous donor sperm, unknowingly using Sid's (a structural engineer from Bengaluru) sample due to a hospital mix-up.

Eight years later, Sid relocates to Chennai, unknowingly forming a deep bond

with Parthiv, Shriya's son. As Shriya and Sid cross paths professionally, their rivalry and growing interactions lead to emotional revelations. Parthiv embarks on a journey to uncover his father's identity, setting off a chain of unexpected events.

### Cast & Crew

Directed and written by Kiruthiga Udhayanidhi, Kadhalikka Neramillai is produced by Udhayanidhi Stalin under Red Giant Movies. The film boasts an impressive crew:

- Cinematography: Gaveemic U. Ary
- Editing: Lawrence Kishore
- Music: A. R. Rahman
- Reception & Expectations
- Critics and audiences have praised the film's engaging storytelling, lead performances, and emotional depth. While official box office figures remain undisclosed, the movie is said to have performed well during its theatrical run.

With its upcoming Netflix release, Kadhalikka Neramillai is expected to reach a wider audience, making it a perfect pick for Valentine's Day streaming.

## Ram Charan Starrer 'Orange' to Re-Release After 15 Years on Valentine's Day



The much-anticipated Tamil sci-fi horror thriller 'Black' has been released on Amazon Prime Video under the title 'Dark' in Telugu. Originally hitting theatres on October 11, 2024, the film gained widespread attention, grossing ₹50 crore worldwide against a modest ₹5 crore budget.

Directed by KG Balasubramani, 'Dark' seamlessly blends science fiction and supernatural horror. The story revolves around Vasanth (Jeeva) and Aranya (Priya Bhavani Shankar), who buy a luxurious villa near Chennai for a romantic getaway.

However, their dream vacation soon turns into a nightmare as they experience strange occurrences, eerie noises, and an unseen presence watching them. Their investigations lead them to a shocking mystery from 1964, connecting their fate to a gruesome double murder.

With stunning cinematography by Gokul Benoy, haunting music by Sam CS, and engaging performances, 'Dark' delivers a gripping thriller. Fans of sci-fi horror can now stream it on Amazon Prime Video.

Rating: \*\*\* (3/5)



## Huma Qureshi Dismisses North vs South Cinema Debate as 'Clickbait'

Actress Huma Qureshi has brushed off the ongoing North vs South cinema debate, calling it petty and irrelevant. Instead, she urged the Indian film industry to unite and focus on creating globally competitive content, akin to hit franchises like Avatar, Squid Game, and Money Heist.

Speaking at the recently concluded Kerala Literature Festival, Huma emphasized that India has one film industry, and any creative individual would recognize the importance of collaboration over division.

"It is such a silly debate; we are one country. A film like Drishyam is loved across India. Rather than engaging in these petty debates, we should ask: where is India's Squid Game? Why can't we make our own Avatar? The whole industry should come together for that."

Huma, who has worked in Tamil and Malayalam films, including Kaala (2018), Valimai (2022), and White (2016), said that cross-industry collaboration has always existed.

"I have been fortunate to work in the South, and I hope for more opportunities because you learn so much."

The actress, who debuted as an author last year with her fantasy fiction novel Zeba: An Accidental Superhero, continues to advocate for a unified Indian cinema that competes on a global scale rather than engaging in regional rivalries.