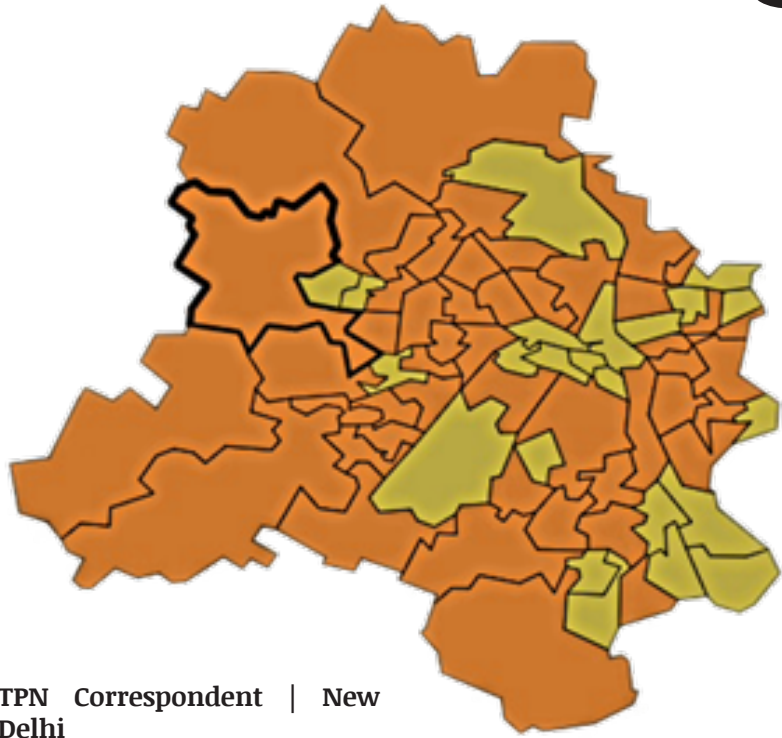


Weather Forecast

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

Capital Gain for **BJP**, **AAP**'s Stage Falls



BJP wins Delhi after 27 years.

AAP drops from 62 to 21 seats.

BJP's vote share rises to 45.76%.

Congress gains in vote share but got zero seats.

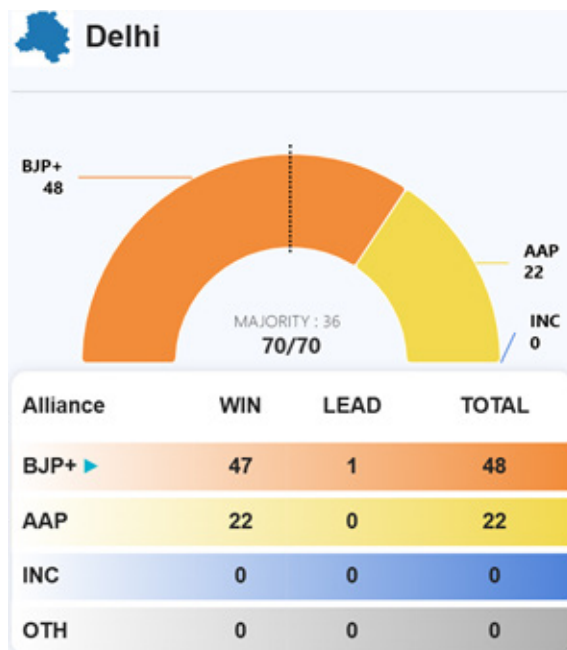
BJP wins Mustafabad as Muslim vote splits.

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

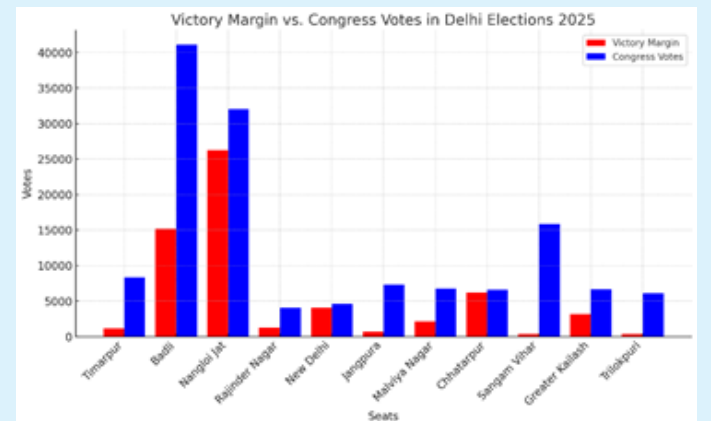
The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has secured a decisive victory in the Delhi Assembly elections, marking its return to power in the national capital after 27 years. According to the Election Commission trends by 5:50 PM, the BJP had won 44 seats and was leading in four others, securing a comfortable majority in the 70-member Assembly. The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), which dominated the previous two elections with massive mandates, was reduced to 21 seats and leading in one more. The Congress, once a formidable force in Delhi politics, failed to win a single seat.

ty had won 62 seats, but this time, a sharp drop of nearly 10 percentage points in vote share led to a major electoral setback. The BJP, on the other hand, made significant gains, adding around 40 seats to its tally from the last election when it had won only eight seats with a 38.51% vote share. A key factor in AAP's losses was the division of opposition votes, particularly among Muslim voters. Despite this, AAP managed to hold onto six out of the seven Assembly seats with a significant Muslim population. However, Mustafabad emerged as an exception, where a three-way split between AAP, AIMIM, and the Congress paved the way for BJP's Mohan Singh Bisht to secure a victory by a margin of 17,578 votes.

AAP's decline was particularly stark, as the party lost nearly 40 seats compared to the previous election. In 2020, the Arvind Kejriwal-led par-



The election results reflect a significant shift in voter preference, with the BJP gaining over seven percentage points in vote share compared to the 2020 elections. The party secured 45.76% of the total votes, compared to AAP's 43.55%, which marked a sharp decline from its previous 53.57%. The Congress, which had been largely sidelined in Delhi politics for the past decade, saw a minor resurgence, increasing its vote share from 4.26% in 2020 to 6.36% in 2025.



PM calls AAP 'corrupt', Cong 'parasite'

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, celebrating BJP's landslide victory in the Delhi Assembly elections, called it a triumph of "development, vision, and trust" while taking a sharp dig at the Aam Aadmi Party. Addressing party workers, he said the people of Delhi had rejected "corruption and lies in politics" and had shown they wanted governance, not theatrics. With the BJP winning close to 50 of the 70 Assembly seats, the party is set to form a government in the national capital after nearly three decades. Seen as the driving force behind this historic win, PM Modi assured the people of Delhi of comprehensive development under BJP rule. "It is my guarantee - Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas,

and development for all of Delhi," he said. The Prime Minister also highlighted BJP's growing influence in states like Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, and Haryana, attributing it to the party's governance model. "Law and order in UP was a concern, but we fixed it. In Maharashtra, we helped farmers fight drought with Jal Yukta Shivar," he said, emphasizing BJP's governance track record. He also acknowledged NDA allies Nitish Kumar and Chandrababu Naidu, stressing that the alliance guarantees development and good governance. "Bihar saw transformation under the NDA. Similarly, in Andhra Pradesh, Chandrababu Naidu has proven his track record. NDA's policies benefit not just the poor but also the middle class, which has strongly backed BJP," he added.



BJP's Last Delhi CM Served Just 52 Days Before Polls

After nearly three decades, the BJP is set to return to power in Delhi following a fiercely contested election. The party last governed the national capital between 1993 and 1998, with three different chief ministers in a span of five years. The BJP's tenure began with Madan Lal Khurana as the chief minister, but he was forced to resign within 27 months over corruption allegations. He was succeeded by Sahib Singh Verma, the father

of incoming BJP MLA Parvesh Verma, who remained in office for 31 months but stepped down amid rising public anger over soaring onion prices. Delhi's last BJP chief minister was Sushma Swaraj, who took charge for just 52 days before elections were called in 1998. Following that, the Congress dominated Delhi politics for three terms under Sheila Dikshit, before AAP emerged as the primary rival to the BJP. With the party now set for a comeback after 27 years, all eyes are on who will lead the new government in the capital.

Delhi awaits its next Chief Minister.

Who will take the top seat?

BJP's return to power in Delhi after 27 years.

Parvesh Verma, Virendra Sachdeva, Bansuri Swaraj among key contenders.

Party leadership to finalize the Chief Minister's name soon.

Who Will Be Delhi's Next CM? BJP's Top Picks

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi
After a resounding victory, the BJP is set to form the government in Delhi after 27 years. However, with no pre-declared CM face, the party has multiple contenders for the top post.

Top Contenders for Delhi CM

Parvesh Verma - The Giant Slayer

Two-time BJP MP Parvesh Verma has emerged as a frontrunner after defeating AAP chief and former CM Arvind Kejriwal in the New Delhi constituency. The son of former Delhi CM Sahib Singh Verma, he has built a strong base in West Delhi. Known for his aggressive campaign style, his win over Kejriwal significantly boosts his chances.



Virendra Sachdeva - The Party Strategist

Delhi BJP president Virendra Sachdeva played a crucial role in uniting party factions and strategizing the BJP's comeback. Trusted by the central leadership, his experience in managing grassroots politics makes him a strong contender.



Bansuri Swaraj - The Surprise Pick

Daughter of late Sushma Swaraj, Bansuri Swaraj has seen a meteoric rise, winning her first MP seat in 2024. With a legal background and a clean image, she represents a younger, fresh leadership option.



Arvind Kejriwal, Manish Sisodia Among 5 AAP Heavyweights Who Lost In Delhi



TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

As the BJP secured a landslide victory in Delhi, drastically improving its tally by nearly 40 seats, five key leaders of the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) faced crushing defeats. This includes AAP's national convener Arvind Kejriwal, the party's second-in-command Manish Sisodia, and prominent minister Saurabh Bharadwaj.

Key AAP Leaders Who Lost:

- Arvind Kejriwal:** The AAP chief, who once symbolized a movement against corruption, lost his New Delhi seat to BJP's Parvesh Verma. Kejriwal had led AAP to sweeping victories in 2015 and 2020, but his tenure was marred by controversies, including his arrest in the liquor policy case. After stepping down as Chief Minister, he declared he would only return to power if Delhi's voters gave him a fresh mandate, but the election results have proven otherwise.
- Manish Sisodia:** The former Deputy CM and Kejriwal's most trusted aide suffered defeat in Jangpura against BJP's Tarvinder Singh Marwah. A three-time MLA from Patparganj, Sisodia had shifted to Jangpura in this election. Like Kejriwal, he was also arrested in the liquor policy case and spent over a year in jail before

getting bail. His loss signals a significant blow to AAP's leadership structure.

- Saurabh Bharadwaj:** A seasoned AAP leader and a three-time MLA from Greater Kailash, Bharadwaj lost to BJP's Shikha Roy. As a minister in the Delhi government, he held key portfolios such as Home, Power, and Water Supply. His defeat in what was considered a safe seat for AAP highlights the party's declining support in strongholds.
- Durgesh Pathak:** A key strategist and senior member of AAP's political affairs committee, Pathak lost the Rajinder Nagar seat to BJP's Umang Bajaj. Pathak had won the seat in a 2022 bypoll, but failed to retain it amid BJP's strong resurgence.
- Avadh Ojha:** The IAS coach-turned-politician, known for his popular social media presence, joined AAP ahead of the elections and contested from Patparganj, a constituency previously held by Manish Sisodia. However, he lost to BJP's Ravinder Singh Negi by over 28,000 votes, marking another major setback for AAP.

With these defeats, AAP has lost its grip over Delhi, marking the end of its decade-long dominance. The BJP's comeback after 26 years signals a major political shift in the national capital.

“People Voted for Change, They Were Fed Up”: Priyanka Gandhi on Delhi Polls

TPN Correspondent | Wayanad

Congress general secretary and Wayanad MP Priyanka Gandhi Vadra reacted to the Delhi Assembly election results, stating that people voted for change as they were fed up with the existing situation.

Speaking to reporters during her visit to Kerala, Priyanka said that it was evident during Congress meetings ahead of the Delhi elections that voters were looking for a shift. “They were fed up with the way things were and wanted change. I suppose they voted for change. My congratulations to all those who have won,” she said.

She further added that for those who did not succeed, the results serve as a reminder to work harder, remain on the ground, and stay responsive to people's concerns.

As per the latest trends from the Election Commission of India (ECI), the BJP is leading in 45 out of 70 assembly seats, while AAP is



ahead in 21. The BJP and AAP have won two seats each so far. The Congress, however, is on track to face another setback, failing to secure a seat for the third consecutive assembly election.

Priyanka Gandhi is currently on a three-day visit to Kerala.

Delhi Polls: Six Candidates Get Single-Digit Votes in New Delhi Seat

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

Six candidates contesting from the New Delhi constituency in the Delhi Assembly elections received single-digit votes, reflecting the struggle of smaller political parties in the electoral race. Among them, Iswar Chand of the Bharatrastra Democratic Party recorded the lowest vote count, securing just four votes.

Other candidates who saw minimal support included Sangha Nand Baudhdh from Bhim Sena, Mukesh Jain from the Rashtrawadi Janlok Party, and Nitya Nand Singh from the Rashtriya Manav Party, each securing eight votes. Additionally, independent candidates Haider Ali and Pankaj Sharma received nine votes each. The election results saw the BJP making a resounding comeback in the national capital after 27 years, winning 47 out of 70 seats and leading in four more, as per the Election Commission data.

In a high-stakes contest from the New



Delhi seat, BJP's Parvesh Verma secured a significant victory over AAP supremo and outgoing Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal. Verma won by a margin of 4,089 votes, emerging as a giant-slayer in the election. He secured 30,088 votes, while Kejriwal managed 25,999 votes. Congress candidate Sandeep Dikshit finished third with 4,568 votes.

The AAP, which faced a significant electoral setback, managed to win only 21 seats, marking a sharp decline from its previous dominance in Delhi's political landscape.

Rahul Gandhi Accepts Congress's Defeat in Delhi, Vows to Continue Fight

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

After suffering a complete wipeout in the Delhi Assembly Election 2025, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi said the party accepts the public mandate with humility. He thanked party workers and voters, emphasizing that Congress would continue to fight for the capital's progress and the rights of its residents.

“We accept Delhi's public mandate with humility. I thank all Congress workers for their dedication and all voters for their support. Pollution, price rise, and corruption—the fight for Delhi's progress and Delhiites' rights will continue,” Rahul Gandhi posted on X.

The BJP registered a resounding victory, winning 48 out of the 70 Assembly seats, while the incumbent Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) secured 22. The Congress, however, failed to win a single seat, marking its third consecutive defeat in Delhi elections after similar results in 2015 and 2020.

Despite forming an alliance in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, the AAP and Congress contested separately in Delhi's Assembly polls due to local political rivalries. This division in Opposition votes played a crucial role in the BJP's victory. In at least 11 constituencies, Congress candidates secured more votes than the BJP's winning margin, suggesting that a united front might have altered the outcome. However, Congress leaders dismissed any responsibility for ensuring AAP's success in the election.

The Delhi debacle comes as a setback for the Congress, especially following its recent losses in the Haryana and Maharashtra Assembly polls, despite a strong performance in last year's Lok Sabha elections.



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Left Parties Poll Fewer Votes Than NOTA in Delhi Elections

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

The Left parties, which contested six seats in the 2025 Delhi Assembly elections, failed to make an impact, polling fewer votes than the “None of the Above” (NOTA) option in all constituencies.

Despite fielding candidates across key segments, the Communist Party of India (Marxist), Communist Party of India (CPI), and CPI(ML) Liberation collectively secured just 2,158 votes, while NOTA received 5,627 votes.

In Karawal Nagar, CPI(M) candidate and RTI activist Ashok Agarwal managed only 457 votes, whereas 709 voters opted for NOTA. BJP's Kapil Mishra, the winning candidate, secured a commanding 1,07,367 votes.

In Badarpur, CPI(M) candidate Jagdish Chand fared similarly, receiving 367 votes, while NOTA polled 915 votes. The seat was won by AAP's Ram Singh Netaji, who garnered 1,12,991 votes.

CPI(ML) Liberation candidates also struggled to gain traction. In Narela, Anil Kumar Singh of CPI(ML) received 328 votes, significantly lower than the 981 votes for NOTA. The BJP's Raj Karan Khatri won the seat with 87,215 votes.

The results highlight the diminishing influence of Left parties in Delhi's political landscape, as their candidates trailed even behind NOTA, reflecting a lack of voter confidence in their leadership.

1st Page Cont..

Who Will Be Delhi's Next CM? BJP's Top Picks

Dushyant Gautam & Manoj Tiwari – The Dark Horses



Dushyant Gautam, a National General Secretary and Dalit leader, could be BJP's choice for social representation. Meanwhile, Manoj Tiwari, a popular MP from

North East Delhi, has a strong Purvanchali voter base, making him a potential pick.

What's Next?

With the BJP's Parliamentary Board set to finalize the CM name, the decision is expected soon. The new leader will have the challenge of delivering on BJP's promises while facing a strong AAP opposition in the Delhi Assembly.

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TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

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'Sheesh Mahal' to Liquor Case: Key Factors Behind AAP's Delhi Defeat



TPN Correspondent | New Delhi
The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), which dominated the Delhi Assembly elections in 2015 and 2020, has suffered a major setback in the 2025 polls. With the BJP set for a landslide victory, several factors contributed to AAP's decline, ranging from anti-incumbency to corruption allegations.

Anti-Incumbency and Unfulfilled Promises

AAP's first two terms saw major initiatives in health, education, and subsidies on power and water, which kept voters loyal. However, over time, unfulfilled promises, particularly on issues like air pollution, started eroding public confidence. The party blamed the BJP-led Centre for obstructing its governance, but after a decade in power, voters saw these claims as mere excuses. Meanwhile, the BJP's promise of a 'double-engine government' gained traction, leading to a significant shift in voter sentiment.

'Sheesh Mahal' Controversy

One of the biggest blows to AAP was the BJP's sustained attack on Arvind Kejriwal's residence renovation, dubbed 'Sheesh Mahal'.

Reports from the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) revealed that the cost of the renovation skyrocketed from an initial estimate of ₹7.91 crore to ₹33.66 crore by 2022. The BJP used this to question AAP's claims of clean governance. While AAP countered with accusations of lavish spending by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the controversy damaged its credibility.

Liquor Policy Scandal and Arrests

The biggest setback for AAP was the liquor policy controversy, which led to corruption allegations and multiple arrests of its top leaders. The now-scrapped policy, which included 'Buy 1 Get 1 Free' liquor offers, was branded by the BJP as an attempt to turn Delhi into a "city of drunkards." Probes by central agencies resulted in the arrests of Manish Sisodia, Sanjay Singh, and ultimately Arvind Kejriwal, who spent five months in jail. With the party in crisis mode, governance took a backseat, affecting its public image.

With the BJP poised to return to power in Delhi after 26 years, AAP now faces a tough road ahead to rebuild its support base.

Setback for AAP, But Fight Against BJP Will Continue..

- Atishi on Delhi Defeat



TPN Correspondent | New Delhi
Outgoing Delhi Chief Minister Atishi acknowledged AAP's defeat in the assembly elections as a major setback but vowed to continue the fight against the BJP, which secured a decisive victory in the national capital after nearly three decades.

Speaking to reporters after retaining the Kalkaji seat, Atishi expressed gratitude to her constituents for their support. "We accept the people's mandate. I have won, but this is not the time to celebrate. The fight against the BJP will continue," she said.

Despite AAP's poor performance, Atishi managed to hold onto her South Delhi seat, while top party leaders, including Arvind Kejriwal and former Deputy CM Manish Sisodia, suffered shocking losses. She defeated BJP's Ramesh Bidhuri and Congress's Alka Lamba in the contest.

Atishi took over as Delhi's Chief Minister after Arvind Kejriwal stepped down following his bail in the corruption case linked to the now-scrapped liquor policy. As per the latest Election Commission trends, the BJP has won 17 seats and is leading in 30, marking its return to power in Delhi after 26 years. AAP, which once ended Congress's 15-year rule under Sheila Dikshit in 2013, has been reduced to just 11 seats. The Congress has again failed to secure a single seat, continuing its losing streak since 2015.

Turncoats in BJP Secure Big Wins in Delhi Assembly Election 2025

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) is set to secure a historic victory in the Delhi Assembly Election 2025, ending a 27-year-long wait. A major factor in the party's success has been the inclusion of turncoats from the Congress and Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), many of whom have emerged victorious in key constituencies.

Congress leader-turned-BJP candidate Arvinder Singh Lovely secured a significant win from Gandhi Nagar, defeating AAP's Naveen Chaudhary by a margin of over 12,000 votes. Former AAP minister Kailash Gahlot, who contested from Bijwasan on a BJP ticket, won

by over 11,000 votes against his closest AAP rival.

Three-term Congress MLA Tarwinder Singh Marwah, who switched to the BJP, pulled off a crucial victory against former Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia in a tightly contested race. In Chhattarpur, AAP defector Kartar Singh Tanwar, now with the BJP, defeated three-time BJP MLA Brahm Singh Tanwar, who had moved to AAP, by over 6,000 votes.

Another notable victory came in Rajouri Garden, where BJP's Manjinder Singh Sirsa, who left the Akali Dal, won against AAP's Dhanwati Chandela by a comfortable margin of over 18,000

votes. However, not all turncoats found success. Former AAP minister Raaj Kumar Anand, contesting from Patel Nagar on a BJP ticket, was trailing behind his AAP rival. Meanwhile, BJP MLA Jitender Singh Shunty, who had joined AAP, lost to the BJP candidate by around 5,000 votes.

More than 40 candidates had switched parties ahead of the election, with most of them contesting under the BJP banner. Their victories have played a significant role in the party's dominant performance in the Delhi Assembly polls.

"Rule of Lies Has Ended": Amit Shah on BJP's Delhi Victory



TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Saturday declared that the "rule of lies" in Delhi has come to an end as the BJP is set for a historic comeback in the national capital, defeating the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP). Expressing gratitude to Delhi voters, he credited Prime Minister

Narendra Modi's leadership for the party's massive mandate.

"PM Modi is in the heart of Delhi. The people of Delhi have made the city 'Aapda-free' by destroying the 'Sheesh Mahal' of lies, deceit, and corruption. This result will set an example for those who make false promises to the public," Shah said.

In a post on X (formerly Twitter), he termed AAP's defeat as a loss of "arrogance and anarchy." He assured that under Modi's leadership, the BJP would fulfill all promises and transform Delhi into the world's leading capital. "The public has answered the dirty Yamuna, broken roads, overflowing sew-

ers, and the uncontrolled spread of liquor shops with their votes," he said, taking a direct swipe at AAP's governance.

Congratulating BJP workers, Shah emphasized that Delhi will now become an "ideal capital" under Modi's leadership, ensuring safety for women, self-respect for unauthorized colony residents, and better employment opportunities.

As of 2:15 PM, the BJP has secured 48 seats, while AAP is trailing with 22. Among AAP's top losses, Arvind Kejriwal and Manish Sisodia were defeated, while Chief Minister Atishi retained the Kalkaji constituency.

Swati Maliwal's "Draupadi" Post Goes Viral as Kejriwal Loses Delhi Seat



TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

As AAP faces a crushing defeat in the Delhi Assembly elections, a cryptic social media post by Rajya Sabha MP Swati Maliwal has sparked widespread discussion. Maliwal, once a close ally of Arvind Kejriwal, posted an image of Draupadi's 'cheerharan' from the Mahabharata, hinting at betrayal.

Kejriwal lost his New Delhi seat to BJP's Parvesh Verma, marking the end of his decade-long rule. Verma, seen as a strong contender for the Chief Minister's post, played a key role in BJP's resurgence

in the capital after 26 years. Maliwal has been a vocal critic of Kejriwal in recent times. She accused his aide, Bibhav Kumar, of assaulting her in May 2024 at the CM's residence. The divide grew further during the Haryana elections, where she blamed Kejriwal for weakening the INDIA bloc.

Ahead of the Delhi polls, she was detained for protesting outside Kejriwal's house over issues like the Yamuna's pollution, garbage crisis, and clogged drains—problems AAP had promised to fix. Her latest post has added another layer of intrigue to AAP's dramatic

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TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

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12 Years Later, Kejriwal Faces His Sheila Dikshit Moment



TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

Twelve years after he ended Sheila Dikshit's political career in Delhi, Arvind Kejriwal has suffered a similar fate, losing the New Delhi seat to BJP's Parvesh Verma by 4,089 votes. Adding to the irony, former CM Sheila Dikshit's son, Sandeep Dikshit, finished third but played a crucial role in Mr. Kejriwal's defeat by securing 4,568 votes—a margin that could have altered the outcome had the Congress and AAP contested together.

The loss marks a major political shift for Mr. Kejriwal, who had

defeated Sheila Dikshit in 2013, ending the Congress' 15-year rule in Delhi. Back then, riding on the anti-corruption wave, he had emerged as a giant slayer. Now, 47-year-old Parvesh Verma, son of former BJP CM Sahib Singh Verma, has turned the tables on him.

The BJP's growing influence in the constituency is evident. In 2020, Mr. Kejriwal had won against BJP's Sunil Yadav by over 21,000 votes, while the Congress secured just 3,220 votes. This election, however, saw a massive swing, attributed to corruption

allegations against Mr. Kejriwal in the liquor policy case and the CM residence revamp scandal. Sandeep Dikshit, despite his distant third finish, had campaigned aggressively against Mr. Kejriwal, with his sister Latika Dikshit emphasizing their mother's lasting impact on Delhi's development. Meanwhile, the BJP's Parvesh Verma, backed by his family's political legacy, has emerged victorious, further consolidating the party's resurgence in the capital.

PM Modi Hails BJP's Historic Delhi Victory as Win for Development

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressed Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) workers at the party headquarters in New Delhi on Saturday, following the party's significant return to power in the city after a 27-year hiatus. The Prime Minister described the victory as historic and attributed it to the people's strong will for development and change.

Modi began his speech by chanting "Yamuna maayi ki jai," a reference to the river that holds cultural significance for Delhiites. He acknowledged the enthusiastic support from the electorate, expressing gratitude for giving BJP's 'guarantees' a chance to be fulfilled. The Prime Minister emphasized the importance of the 'double engine government'—a reference to BJP-led governments both at the center and in Delhi—which he promised would ensure accelerated development in the capital.

In his address, Modi declared, "Delhi is enthusiastic and relieved. Delhi is relieved to be free of 'Aapda,'" suggesting that the city had rid itself of the challenges and mismanagement faced under the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP). He further



hailed the victory as a win for development and noted that the people of Delhi had decisively rejected the previous government's approach.

Modi also took a sharp jibe at AAP, saying, "This is a historic win and not ordinary. The people of Delhi have ousted 'Aapda'... Delhi is free of a decade of 'Aapda.'" He pointed out that the electoral mandate had made it clear that there are no shortcuts in politics and accused AAP of employing 'shortcut politics' that the people

had outright rejected. According to him, the mandate reflected the people's desire for a government that treated Delhi as a resource for progress, rather than a personal asset.

As he concluded his speech, Modi reaffirmed that this victory was not just a political success but a victory for the people of Delhi who had chosen the path of development, ensuring that the city's future would be shaped by governance focused on growth and prosperity.

BJP's Delhi Win Due To "Magic" Of PM Modi's Guarantees: Eknath Shinde

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

As the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) looks poised to form the government in Delhi, Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Eknath Shinde has credited the party's impressive performance in the assembly elections to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership. On Saturday, Shinde expressed that the victory is a testament to the guarantees provided by PM Modi and declared that "falsehood" has been defeated.

In a post on X, Shinde, who is also the chief leader of the ruling Shiv Sena in Maharashtra, stated that after securing a win in Maharashtra, voters in Delhi have also placed their trust in the BJP's leadership. He attributed the party's success to PM Modi's promises, saying the results reflect the people's belief in the Prime Minister's vision.

The Deputy CM didn't miss the opportunity to target the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP),



led by Arvind Kejriwal, saying that the obstacles in Delhi's development have now been cleared. Shinde claimed that voters have sent a strong message to the AAP, which had made "false claims" about the Constitution being under threat.



No glitches in SpaDex, we are going step by step: ISRO chief

TPN Correspondent | Bengaluru

Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) Chairman V. Narayanan has addressed concerns about potential issues with the space agency's maiden space docking mission, SpaDeX. Speaking on the sidelines of the 15th Biennial Aero India International Seminar on Saturday, Narayanan clarified that there were no glitches in the mission and assured that ISRO is proceeding with a step-by-step approach.

"Right now, it is docked. We are going step by step, studying the data, and planning to conduct several experiments," Narayanan, who is also the Secretary of the Department of Space, stated. His remarks came in response to reports suggesting technical challenges during the mission.

The SpaDeX mission, which saw the successful docking of satellites on January 16, 2025, was hailed as a major achievement for ISRO. The NVS-02 navigation satellite was successfully placed into its intended Geosynchronous Transfer Orbit (GTO), marking a milestone for the agency.

However, on February 2, ISRO issued a statement revealing that the planned orbit-raising operations could not be completed due to malfunctioning valves, which hindered the firing of the thrusters. These technical difficulties led to speculation that the docking process may face delays. Despite these reports, Narayanan reassured the public that the space agency was still reviewing the undocking process and that any delays were part of the ongoing assessment.

Akhilesh Yadav Challenges BJP After Milkipur By-Election Win



TPN Correspondent | Delhi

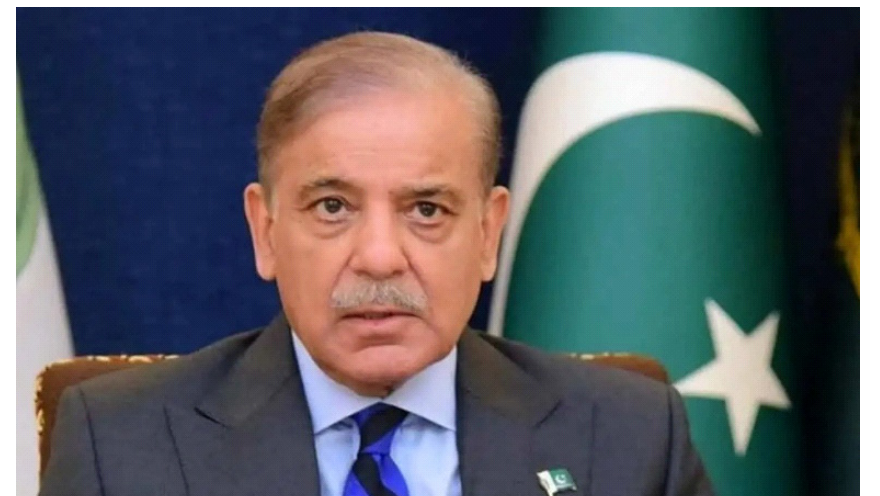
Samajwadi Party (SP) chief Akhilesh Yadav has raised concerns over alleged electoral malpractices following the BJP's victory in the Milkipur by-election in Uttar Pradesh. Yadav accused the BJP of misusing election machinery, claiming that such "fraud" could occur in a single Assembly seat but would not be possible across the entire state in the upcoming 2027 elections.

The Milkipur seat, which had been vacated after the sitting MLA, Awadhesh Prasad of the Samajwadi Party, was elected to Parliament, became a key battleground. The BJP fielded Chandrabhanu Paswan, who emerged victorious in the by-election, defeating the Samajwadi Party's candidate, Ajeet Prasad.

In a post on X, Yadav asserted that the BJP's win was a result of manipulation and alleged that such actions could be carried out in one constituency but would not succeed across the entire state in future elections. He described the BJP's victory as a "lie," claiming that the party would face consequences for their actions in the long term. Yadav further stated that those involved in such fraud would eventually face punishment, and that nature and the law would not spare them.

The Milkipur bypoll became a focal point of attention with both Akhilesh Yadav and Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath leading their respective parties' campaigns. Despite the loss, the Samajwadi Party had pushed hard to secure a win, especially with the stakes high in Faizabad, a region with significant political significance, including Ayodhya.

Following the BJP's victory, party MP Ravi Kishan took a dig at Yadav, commenting on the loss, and pointing out the work done by Yogi Adityanath in the region. The Milkipur by-election now remains a key talking point as the battle for the 2027 Uttar Pradesh elections heats up.



Shehbaz Sharif Calls for Pakistan's Victory Over India in ICC Champions Trophy

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has emphasized the importance of Pakistan's upcoming match against arch-rivals India in the ICC Champions Trophy, scheduled for February 23 in Dubai. Speaking at the inauguration of the newly renovated Gaddafi Stadium on Friday night, Sharif stated that while winning the Champions Trophy is a significant achievement, defeating India in the crucial match holds a special place for the nation.

The Prime Minister expressed his confidence in the strength of Pakistan's cricket team, noting their recent success. However, he underscored that the real challenge would be overcoming India. "We have a very good side and they have done well in recent times, but the real task now is to not only win the Champions Trophy but also defeat our arch-rival, India in the upcoming match in Dubai. The entire nation stands behind them," Sharif declared.

The rivalry between Pakistan and India on the cricket field is legendary, with India traditionally holding the upper hand in ICC events. Pakistan's last victory over India in an ICC tournament came during the 2021 T20 World Cup in Dubai, where Pakistan secured a historic win. With India opting not to send their team to Pakistan for the Champions Trophy due to strained relations between the two countries and cricket boards, the February 23 encounter is expected to be highly charged, with both teams looking to assert dominance. Pakistan will enter the Champions Trophy as the defending champions, having won the last edition in 2017 in England. Sharif expressed pride in the opportunity to host the prestigious event in Pakistan after nearly three decades. "It is a big occasion for Pakistan that we are hosting a big ICC event after nearly 29 years," he said, highlighting the significance of the event for the nation.

Aur lado aapas mein: Omar's jibe at Congress and AAP after rout

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, in a pointed social media post, took a jab at the Congress and AAP amid the BJP's strong lead in Delhi's Assembly elections. With early leads indicating a significant win for the BJP, Abdullah shared a GIF that read, "aur lado, jee bhar ke lado, samapt kar do ek durre ko" (fight some more, fight to your heart's content, finish each other off). He captioned the GIF with the message, "aur lado aapas mein" (fight each other some more), which many interpreted as a critique of the infighting between Congress and AAP.

The National Conference leader's post came after the BJP appeared poised to win nearly 50 of Delhi's 70 Assembly seats. The Congress and AAP, despite both parties being part of the larger INDIA alliance at the national level, had chosen to contest the Delhi Assembly elections separately. This decision had led to sharp attacks between the two parties, with both accusing the other of acting as a "B-team" of the BJP.

Omar Abdullah, who had earlier been critical of the INDIA alliance, had questioned its leadership and purpose. He

remarked that the alliance should be wound up if it existed only for the Lok Sabha elections. Referring to the confusion around the leadership and agenda of the INDIA bloc, Abdullah pointed out that no meetings were being held and there was a lack of clarity on the alliance's future.

Abdullah's comments also came at a



time when the Congress faced criticism from its allies following its disappointing performance in Haryana. Despite being expected to perform well in the state, the Congress's decision to not partner with AAP led to a poor showing. The Congress only managed to win 37 seats, falling short of expectations. Abdullah had previously stated that Congress should not take its leadership of the opposition alliance for granted, given the growing dissatisfaction among some of its allies.

Delhi election : BJP's triumph, AAP's rout, Congress's decline

Kejriwal's party suffers a major defeat as BJP strengthens its position



TPN Correspondent | Delhi

In the recent Delhi Assembly elections, the BJP emerged victorious, marking a decisive end to Arvind Kejriwal-led Aam Aadmi Party's de-

cade-long dominance. This historic verdict has far-reaching implications for all the major players involved, signaling shifts in the political landscape.

BJP and PM Narendra Modi

The BJP's triumph in Delhi, marking its first win since 1998, underscores the growing influence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi in shaping national politics. This victory is the third consecutive major win for the BJP, following successes in Haryana and Maharashtra. By securing a comprehensive win across various segments—community votes, women, first-time voters, rural areas, and Dalit communities—the BJP has further cemented its position as the preferred party in North India.

The result of the Delhi elections signals a significant shift in sentiment toward saffron politics, with anti-incumbency playing a role in undermining Kejriwal's long-standing rule. This win strengthens BJP's prospects in future elections, especially in Bihar, where the party is set to make inroads, and in Punjab, where AAP currently holds power. Additionally, the Delhi win bolsters PM Modi and

Home Minister Amit Shah's positions within the party, providing them the autonomy to steer party policies without heavy deference to their parent organization, the RSS. This will also likely influence the upcoming BJP president's election in March, allowing Modi and Shah to choose their preferred candidate.

AAP

The AAP, once a meteoric political force under Arvind Kejriwal, faced a crushing defeat in Delhi. The party, which rose rapidly since its inception in 2012, had become a key player in Indian politics with a presence in multiple states, including Delhi and Punjab. However, Kejriwal's leadership suffered significant blows due to corruption allegations tied to the Delhi excise scam, unmet promises, and his ongoing confrontations with the Delhi LG and the Centre.

Despite their early successes, the party's top brass—except for Delhi CM

Atishi and Minister Gopal Rai—suffered heavy losses, raising doubts about AAP's future in Delhi and beyond. This rout casts a shadow over the anti-BJP INDIA alliance, which AAP is a part of, and puts its prospects in the 2027 Punjab elections at risk. With Kejriwal's defeat, the question remains: who will lead the party and unify its cadres moving forward?

Congress

For the Congress, the Delhi election result offers little hope for recovery. Once again, the party failed to win a single seat, marking its third consecutive electoral loss in the capital. The Congress did manage to marginally increase its vote share, mainly at the expense of AAP, benefiting the BJP in the process. Despite this, Congress candidates across the board, including high-profile figures like Sandeep Dikshit and Alka Lamba, finished third in their respective constituencies.

Indian embassy organises curtain raiser for Startup Mahakumbh in Nepal

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

The Indian embassy in Nepal hosted the 2nd India-Nepal Startup Connect on Friday, marking the launch of the Startup Mahakumbh (SMK) 2025, a major three-day event scheduled to take place in New Delhi in April. The event aims to foster collaboration between Indian and Nepalese startups and highlight the growing opportunities in both countries' startup ecosystems.

Nepal's Minister for Communication and Information Technology, Prithvi Subba Gurung, served as the chief guest at the event. He discussed Nepal's strides in adopting cutting-edge IT technologies and emphasized how these advancements have created fertile ground for startups in Nepal. Gurung also highlighted the strong ties between Nepalese and Indian nationals and encouraged Nepalese companies to actively participate in SMK 2025.

The event included a round-table session with representatives from

India's Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), Startup India, the Federation of Nepal Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Kathmandu University, and other key stakeholders.

India's Ambassador to Nepal, Naveen Srivastava, spoke about the growth of India's startup culture, noting that it has become mainstream among the youth, largely driven by the expansion of digital public infrastructure. He pointed to the success of the interoperability between Nepal's FonePay and India's Unified Payments Interface (UPI), which resulted in over four lakh merchant transactions since its launch in March 2024.

SMK 2025 is expected to feature over 3,000 exhibitors, 10,000 startups, 1,000 investors, and attract more than 50,000 visitors from India and abroad, making it a key platform for innovation and collaboration in the region.

Change Of Guard Ceremony At Rashtrapati Bhavan To Be In New Format



TPN Correspondent | Delhi

In a significant development, the Rashtrapati Bhavan has announced a revamped format for the iconic Change of Guard ceremony, set to take place from February 22. The ceremony, which is a time-honored military tradition, will now feature an enhanced visual and musical performance, with a larger seating capacity for the public. This new format promises a more dynamic and engaging experience, showcasing the splendor of the Rashtrapati Bhavan as a backdrop.

The revamped ceremony will include a display of formal military drills performed by the President's Bodyguard and the Ceremonial Guard Battalion, complemented by a live performance from the Ceremonial Military Brass Band. The public will have the opportunity to witness these spectacular drills and musical performances, offering a unique and ceremonial spectacle that reflects India's rich military heritage.

The change of guard is an important weekly event held at the Rashtrapati Bhavan, traditionally allowing a

new group of the President's Bodyguards to take charge. It is one of the most watched and admired ceremonial events in India, embodying discipline, tradition, and honor. The President's Bodyguard, established in 1773, is the senior-most regiment of the Indian Army, and its soldiers are well-trained in horsemanship, tank operations, and parachuting.

The inaugural ceremony of the new format will be witnessed by President Droupadi Murmu on February 16, ahead of the official launch on February 22. This restructured event is designed to accommodate a larger audience, offering more citizens the chance to experience the grandeur of the change of guard firsthand.

The increase in seating capacity is expected to attract more visitors to witness this ceremonial display, which has long been a symbol of India's military and cultural traditions. The new format reflects the government's commitment to enhancing public participation in such prestigious events, allowing a wider audience to engage with the country's rich heritage and history.

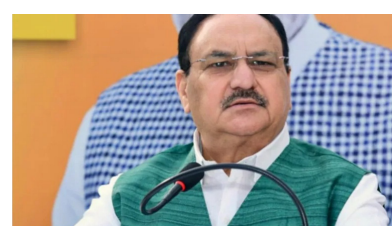
Over 14.6 Crore Women Screened For Breast Cancer In India: Health Minister

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

Union Health Minister J.P. Nadda has revealed that over 14.6 crore women across India have been screened for breast cancer, while more than nine crore women have undergone cervical cancer screenings. This data was shared in a written response to a question in the Lok Sabha, showcasing the government's extensive efforts to combat these prevalent cancers.

According to Nadda, the screening efforts have led to the diagnosis of 57,184 women with breast cancer, with 50,612 of them currently receiving treatment. Additionally, 96,747 women have been diagnosed with cervical cancer, with 86,196 undergoing treatment. These figures were cited from the National Non-Communicable Diseases (NCD) portal, which was launched by the government to monitor non-communicable diseases and ensure continuous care for those diagnosed.

The National NCD Portal was introduced in 2018 as part of the National Programme for Prevention and Control of Non-Communicable Diseases (NP-NCD). The program, which was launched in 2010, focuses on the prevention, control, and management of major NCDs like hypertension, diabetes, oral cancer, and the cancers of the breast and cervix.



Through the NP-NCD, the government has made significant strides in strengthening healthcare infrastructure and human resources, promoting health awareness, and providing early diagnosis and appropriate treatment referrals. As part of the program, 770 dis-

trict NCD clinics, 233 cardiac care units, 372 district day care centers, and 6,410 NCD clinics have been set up across the country.

The Department of Health and Family Welfare offers both technical and financial support to states and Union Territories under this initiative as part of the broader National Health Mission (NHM). The NHM aims to provide comprehensive healthcare services, focusing on the early diagnosis and treatment of non-communicable diseases.

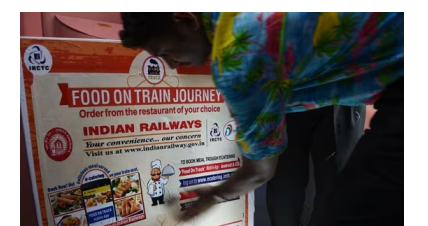
A key component of the program is the involvement of Accredited Social Health Activists (ASHA) who administer the community-based assessment checklist (CBAC) for individuals aged 30 and above. The CBAC identifies high-risk individuals, who are then referred for further screening for common NCDs, as part of a comprehensive approach to primary healthcare.

IRCTC new rules: Vande Bharat Passengers Can Now Buy Food Without Pre-booking

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

Indian Railways has made a major improvement to the Vande Bharat train services, allowing passengers to purchase food onboard even if they did not pre-book meal options when purchasing their tickets. The Railway Board announced this change on Friday, stating that passengers who did not opt for meals at the time of booking can now enjoy food options while traveling on Vande Bharat trains. In a circular issued to the Chairman and Managing Di-

rector of IRCTC (Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation), the Railway Board outlined that the sale and service of food items on Vande Bharat trains would be resumed, providing better catering facilities for both current ticket holders and those who did not pre-select food. The new system will offer both "Ready to Eat" (RTE) meals and, where available, freshly cooked meals. This decision follows numerous complaints from passengers who were previously told they could not purchase food



onboard simply because they had not opted for it while booking their tickets. Railway officials acknowledged that many passengers were frustrated by the lack of food availability despite their willingness to pay for it.

ED raids five locations in Mumbai in Eros fund diversion probe

TPN Correspondent | Mumbai

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) carried out searches at five locations in Mumbai on Wednesday as part of an ongoing investigation into alleged financial irregularities by Eros International Media Ltd and other associated entities of the Eros group. The raids, conducted under the provisions of the Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA) of 1999, are linked to allegations of fund diversion and misrepresenta-

tion of financial statements. During the searches, officials from the central probe agency seized several important documents, including records related to overseas entities, immovable properties, foreign bank accounts, and digital devices. These items are believed to be crucial to the investigation, which focuses on financial malpractices committed by Eros International and its promoters.

The investigation stems from a probe by the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI), which raised concerns about Eros's financial disclosures. SEBI's inquiry centers around allegations that the company misrepresented its financial statements and misappropriated funds amounting to approximately Rs 2,000 crore. The fund diversion is said to involve various overseas entities linked to the Eros group.

Trump Likely to Meet Zelenskiy Next Week Amid Ukraine Conflict

- Talks may focus on security, rare earth assets, and U.S. support
- Seeks discussions on Ukraine's security and rare earth minerals.
- U.S. envoy Keith Kellogg to visit Ukraine for further talks.



TPN Correspondent | Washington

U.S. President Donald Trump indicated on Friday that he would likely meet with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy in the coming week to discuss Ukraine's ongoing struggle to defend itself against Russian invaders. During a brief interaction with reporters in the Oval Office, Trump mentioned that the meeting could take place either in person or via video conference, but did not elaborate on the specifics of the format.

Trump was speaking to the press as he welcomed Japanese Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba to the

White House. While answering questions about Ukraine, Trump expressed a strong desire to see an end to the conflict, referring to the nearly three-year-long Russian invasion as "a ridiculous war" that he would like to see resolved on a humanitarian basis. He emphasized that the situation had dragged on for far too long, and his ultimate goal was to end the suffering caused by the war.

In addition to discussing the conflict itself, Trump also mentioned that he hoped to talk to Zelenskyy about securing Ukraine's valuable resources, such as rare earth minerals. He suggested that the U.S. might expect something in return for its continued

support of Ukraine in its fight against Russia. Trump noted that he wanted to "equalize" the situation, implying that both sides should come to a fair agreement on security and other matters related to the war.

Trump also reiterated his interest in meeting with Russian President Vladimir Putin, with whom he said he has always maintained a "good relationship." However, when asked about the possibility of a face-to-face meeting with Zelenskyy, Trump clarified that it would take place in Washington, as he would not be traveling to Ukraine.

As Ukraine continues to seek U.S.

support for its war efforts, Zelenskyy's administration is looking forward to a visit this month from Trump's special envoy for the region, Keith Kellogg. According to Zelenskyy's chief of staff, Andy Yermak, Kellogg's visit will include discussions on the battlefield situation, the safety of Ukrainian civilians, and potential meetings at the Munich Security Conference later this month.

This diplomatic activity underscores the ongoing international focus on Ukraine's struggle against Russian aggression and the complex geopolitical conversations surrounding U.S. involvement in the region.



Federal Judge Blocks Musk's Department from Accessing Treasury Data

TPN Correspondent | Washington

A federal judge has issued a ruling that prevents Elon Musk's Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE) from accessing sensitive records within the U.S. Treasury Department. The decision, made early on Saturday, came after 19 Democratic attorneys general filed a lawsuit against President Donald Trump's administration.

The lawsuit, filed in federal court in New York City, claims that Musk's team was given access to the Treasury Department's central payment system, which handles critical government operations such as tax refunds, social security benefits, and veterans' benefits. This system processes trillions of dollars each year and contains a vast amount of sensitive personal data, including social security numbers, bank account details, and other private financial information of millions of Americans.

US District Judge Paul Engelmayer's decision blocks Musk's team from accessing these records, which have been protected by strict federal privacy laws. The lawsuit argues that the Trump administration violated federal law by allowing DOGE to tap into these systems without appropriate safeguards in place to protect Americans' private information.

Musk's Department of Government Efficiency, also known as DOGE, was established to identify and eliminate what the Trump administration deems wasteful government spending. The department's efforts are part of a broader initiative to reduce the size of the federal government and streamline operations, a focus that has included proposals to shut down agencies like the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), which Musk has criticized as inefficient.

Despite the department's focus on cost-cutting, critics have raised concerns about its access to sensitive government data. The lawsuit filed by the attorneys general argues that the Trump administration's actions may not only violate privacy protections but also place the personal information of millions of Americans at risk.

In his ruling, Judge Engelmayer noted that the Treasury Department's data systems must be safeguarded from misuse, especially in instances where the potential for abuse or harm is high. While DOGE has been tasked with eliminating wasteful spending, the judge's decision emphasizes the need to balance efficiency with the protection of citizens' privacy and financial security.

The ruling is a significant step in the ongoing legal battles surrounding the Trump administration's push for government reform, highlighting tensions between reducing federal spending and ensuring adequate safeguards for sensitive personal data.

Meta To Start Layoffs Globally From Next Week

TPN Correspondent | Newyork

Meta Platforms, the parent company of Facebook, is set to carry out company-wide layoffs next week, while simultaneously focusing on expedited hiring for machine learning engineers, according to internal memos shared with Reuters on Friday. The layoffs, which are part of the company's restructuring efforts, will begin on Monday at 5 a.m. local time in most countries, including the U.S.



The memo, written by Meta's Head of People, Janelle Gale, informed employees that notices for job terminations would be issued on Monday. However, employees in Germany, France, Italy, and the Netherlands will be exempt from these cuts due to local labor laws. Employees in other regions, including parts of Europe, Asia, and Africa, will be notified of their status between February 11 and Feb-

ruary 18. Meta had previously announced that it planned to reduce its workforce by about 5%, targeting "the lowest performers" across the company. The layoffs are being referred to internally as "performance terminations." Gale's memo also stated that the company would continue to operate its offices on Monday and would not provide any further updates on the layoffs until after the notifications

have been made. The cuts come as part of Meta's ongoing efforts to streamline operations and refocus its priorities as it looks ahead to 2025. Despite these layoffs, the company is also pushing forward with its hiring initiative, specifically targeting machine learning engineers and other "business-critical" technical roles. This effort will be fast-tracked between February 11 and March 13, according to a sep-

arate memo from Peng Fan, Meta's VP of Engineering for Monetization. Fan's post emphasized the importance of this expedited hiring process in helping the company better align with its long-term goals.

The juxtaposition of layoffs and strategic hiring highlights the company's attempt to balance cost-cutting measures with the need to remain competitive in the rapidly evolving tech landscape. Meta's focus on hiring machine learning engineers reflects its commitment to staying at the forefront of emerging technologies, even as it reduces its overall workforce. While the layoffs may affect employees across various departments, Meta remains focused on its vision for the future, with a particular emphasis on critical engineering roles that are expected to play a major role in the company's growth over the coming years.

Japan and U.S. Agree to Leave Currency Matters to Finance Ministers: Ishiba

TPN Correspondent | Tokyo

Japanese Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba and U.S. President Donald Trump have agreed to leave matters related to foreign exchange rates in the hands of their respective finance ministers, maintaining a collaborative approach to currency policy. Following a meeting between the two leaders on Friday, Ishiba confirmed that discussions regarding currency exchange would continue to be handled by finance experts, as was the case during Trump's first administration.

Ishiba emphasized the importance of close coordination between the Japanese and U.S. finance officials, noting that both countries have consistently worked together on currency matters through their finance ministries. "As was the case during the first Trump administration, we decided to continue close discussions between the Japanese and U.S. finance leaders, who are the experts," Ishiba stated at a press conference following the meeting.

In line with this approach, Japanese Finance Minister Katsunobu Kato and U.S. Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent held a



video conference last month, where they agreed to continue cooperating on currency issues. This cooperation aims to ensure stability in the global financial markets and maintain transparency in the management of exchange rates.

Ahead of the summit, some analysts had speculated that President Trump might express concerns about the weakening yen. A weaker yen can push up the value of the dollar, making U.S. exports more expensive and less competitive in international markets. However, Japanese policymakers have been cautious about the potential for Trump to make public statements regarding the yen, fearing that such remarks could cause market volatility and negatively impact Japan's fragile economic recovery.

Trudeau Warns of Trump's Real Desire to Annex Canada Over Critical Minerals

TPN Correspondent | Canada

Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau has raised concerns over former U.S. President Donald Trump's persistent rhetoric about annexing Canada, warning that it is not merely idle talk but a serious issue tied to the country's vast natural resources, particularly its critical minerals.

Speaking at a business and labor summit in Toronto on Friday, Trudeau emphasized that Trump's focus on Canada is closely linked to the country's rich reserves of essential minerals, which are vital for modern technologies such as electric vehicles, batteries, and renewable energy systems. These minerals have become increasingly sought after as nations strive to secure resources for their technological industries. Trudeau suggested that the Trump administration is acutely aware of Canada's abundance of these minerals and that this could be a driving force behind the former president's repeated remarks about the possibility of making Canada the "51st state."

The prime minister's comments were a direct response to Trump's long-standing statements about the idea of annexing Canada, which Trump has brought up several times over the years. Though these remarks have often been dismissed as hyper-



bole, Trudeau's latest remarks underscore the gravity with which he views the issue. He indicated that the fixation on Canada's resources is not just about the minerals themselves but also about the geopolitical significance they hold for the future of global industries.

Trudeau's warning is a reflection of ongoing concerns in Canada about the increasing pressures on the country's sovereignty and its resources. The country's vast mineral wealth, including critical elements like lithium, cobalt, and nickel, is seen as crucial to the global transition to cleaner energy. The U.S. has long been a key trade partner for Canada, but Trudeau's remarks suggest that the current geopolitical environment is making Canada more vulnerable to potential external pressures, especially from a neighbor with significant political and economic power.

Lex Fridman to Visit India for Exclusive Interview with PM Modi

The podcaster plans a long conversation on India's history and leadership

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

US podcaster Lex Fridman is eagerly preparing for his upcoming visit to India, where he will interview Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Fridman, known for his thoughtful and in-depth podcast discussions, shared his excitement on social media, expressing his admiration for PM Modi. In a post on X (formerly Twitter), Fridman referred to the Prime Minister as "one of the most fascinating human beings" he has studied and mentioned how he eagerly anticipates the opportunity to engage in a multi-hour conversation on various topics, including India's rich history.



Fridman's podcast, The Lex Fridman Podcast, which began in 2018 and was rebranded in 2020, has featured a wide range of prominent figures from different fields. Past guests have included Tesla CEO Elon Musk, Amazon founder Jeff Bezos, former US President Donald Trump, Facebook co-founder Mark Zuckerberg, and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky. Fridman's conversations typically explore themes such as technology, science, history, philosophy, and the human experience, with a focus on intelligence, consciousness, love, and power.

In his announcement, Fridman also mentioned a personal element to his

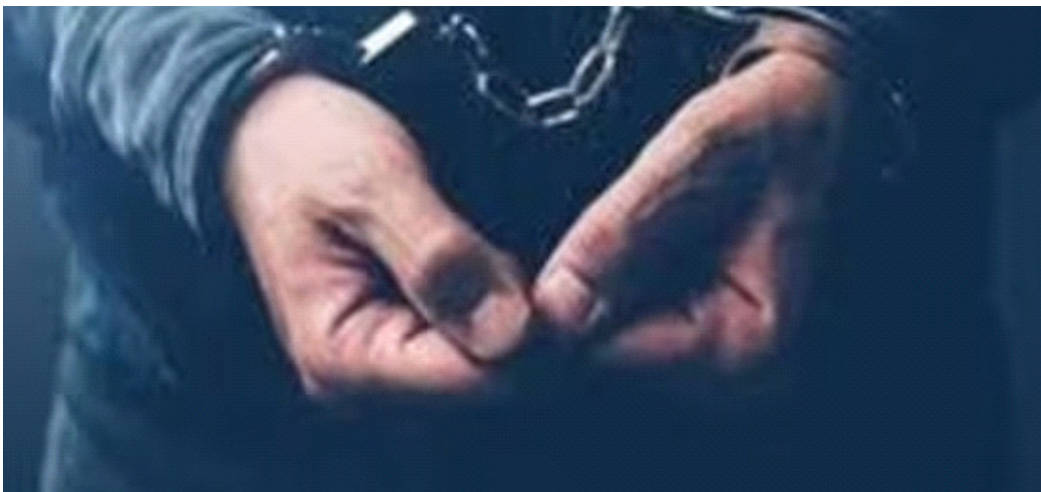
visit to India. Intrigued by the spiritual practice of fasting, which PM Modi has practiced for extended periods, Fridman revealed that he plans to embark on a 48-72 hour fast upon his arrival in India before his conversation with the Prime Minister. He expressed a deep respect for Modi's ability to fast for days, noting that it presents an opportunity for meditation and self-reflection.

Fridman's decision to fast mirrors his own interest in exploring the human side of Modi, in addition to his role in India's complex and multifaceted history. Fridman shared his thoughts on the experience of fasting, describing it as a

chance to reflect on life, the beauty of the world, and the love he feels in his own life. He sees it as a way to prepare mentally and spiritually for the profound discussions he hopes to have with PM Modi.

Fridman's visit to India marks a significant milestone, as it will be his first time in the country. He expressed his excitement about experiencing India's vibrant culture and interacting with its diverse people. The upcoming podcast promises to be a thoughtful exploration of both India's past and present, with a deep dive into the thoughts and experiences of one of its most influential leaders.

Indian Citizen Among Four Arrested by US Authorities Over Sexual Assault Charges



TPN Correspondent | Delhi

An Indian citizen, Jaspal Singh, is among four individuals arrested by US immigration authorities in connection with an assault involving sexual motivation. The incident, which took place in Tukwila, Washington, on January 29, adds to the growing list of arrests made by the US Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) under President Donald Trump's stringent anti-immigration policies.

Singh, a 29-year-old Indian national, was apprehended by ICE officials and charged with "assault with sexual motivation," according to a release issued by the Seattle branch of ICE. Three oth-

er individuals, one each from Mexico, Guatemala, and El Salvador, were also arrested as part of the same operation. All four detainees are now in ICE custody as they face the legal consequences of their actions. ICE officials emphasized that these arrests were part of the ongoing efforts to remove criminal threats from the United States. Drew Bostock, Director of ICE Enforcement and Removal Operations in Seattle, reiterated the commitment to public safety, stating that "protecting our communities, and preventing further victimization is of paramount importance." The ICE further warned that the presence of illegal criminal elements would not be tolerated in the country.

India in Touch with US for Extradition of 26/11 Attacks Accused Tahawwur Rana

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

India has confirmed that it is actively working with US authorities to facilitate the extradition of Tahawwur Rana, a key accused in the 2008 Mumbai terror attacks, after he has "exhausted all legal avenues" in the United States. Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri made this announcement during a special briefing ahead of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's upcoming visit to the US.

Misri clarified that the US Supreme Court had dismissed Rana's appeal, thereby clearing the path for his extradition. "We are now in touch with US authorities to work on the logistics of his surrender to Indian authorities," he said, adding that updates would follow as the process progresses.

Rana, a Pakistani-origin businessman, was convicted for his involvement in the 26/11 Mumbai terror attacks that killed 164 people. His co-conspirator, David Headley, had already pleaded guilty and cooperated with authorities against Rana. Rana's extradition has been a long-standing issue, with the US Supreme Court denying his petition on January 21, 2024, to block his transfer to India.

Indian Origin Man Gets Up To 25 Years Jail In Driving Crash Killing 2 Teens

TPN Correspondent | New York

A construction executive of Indian descent, Amandeep Singh, has been sentenced to up to 25 years in prison after causing a fatal crash while driving under the influence of alcohol and cocaine. The crash, which occurred in May 2023, resulted in the deaths of two teen tennis players, Ethan Falkowitz and Drew Hassenbein, both 14 years old.

Singh, 36, was sentenced to a minimum of eight years and four months in prison, with the possibility of parole after serving the minimum term. However, if he does not meet the conditions for parole, his sentence could extend to a maximum of 25 years. The sentencing took place in Mineola, Long Island, where the courtroom was filled with family and friends of the victims, who angrily denounced Singh for his reckless actions. The emotional atmosphere led to the opening of two additional courtrooms to accommodate the large crowd.



Before the sentencing, Singh, who worked as a project manager for a construction company, expressed deep remorse. "Your anger towards me is fully understood and totally justified," he told the victims' supporters. He continued, "This was all my fault. Losing a child is the greatest grief. I have committed the great sin. If anyone should have died, it should have been me."

The tragic incident occurred when Singh, driving a Dodge Ram truck, sped at 150 km/h in the wrong direction on a road with a 65 km/h speed limit. He collided with an Alfa Romeo carrying four teenagers. Two of the teens survived, while Falkowitz and Hassenbein, both budding tennis stars returning from a match victory, tragically lost their lives. Singh was later found hiding near a garbage dumpster after the crash.



Indian Students In US Quitting Part-Time Jobs Amid Trump's Deportation Threats

TPN Correspondent | Washington DC

For decades, the United States has been seen as a beacon of opportunity for young Indian students seeking top-tier education and promising career prospects. However, under the administration of President Donald Trump, increasingly stringent immigration policies have turned the American dream into a daunting challenge for many.

One of the most significant changes has been the rise in visa rejections, with fewer F-1 student visas granted to Indian nationals. From January to September 2024, the number of Indian students receiving visas dropped to 64,008, a 38% decrease compared to 103,495 during the same period in 2023. This marks the first major decline since the surge in student enrollments following the pandemic, leaving many students questioning their futures in the US.

Additionally, the tightening of work permits and the shrinking job market has added to the pressure. Under the Trump administration's emphasis on localization, visa sponsorships from employers have become increasingly difficult. Students, particularly those on F-1 visas, are feeling the impact. "Jobs have become elusive. I never thought things could turn this bad," said Sai Aparna, a student in Cleveland, Ohio, who has been struggling to find employment since completing her Master's in Information Systems.

The rise in scrutiny at workplaces is another challenge faced by Indian students. Several students have reported visits from law enforcement officers who inspect their work authorization documents, especially those on Optional Practical Training (OPT). While OPT allows students to work for up to a year after graduation, many are finding it hard to comply with restrictions, particularly for off-campus part-time jobs.

One student, studying cybersecurity in Atlanta, recounted a terrifying encounter with law enforcement officers who came to his workplace and questioned his visa status. "The experience was so petrifying that I resigned the very next day," he said. Other students have also shared similar experiences, fearing the consequences of even a minor breach in their work authorization status.



Israel's Economy Minister to Lead Largest-Ever Business Delegation to India

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

Israel's Minister of Economy and Industry, Nir Barkat, is set to lead the country's largest-ever business delegation to India next week, with the goal of strengthening economic and trade relations between the two nations. This visit will mark Barkat's third official trip to New Delhi, reflecting the growing importance of the bilateral ties between Israel and India.

The two-day visit, which starts on Monday, will see Barkat meet with India's Commerce and Industry Minister, Piyush Goyal, to discuss opportunities for enhancing trade in key sectors, including technology, agriculture, defense, and renewable energy. The delegation will include high-level business leaders and entrepreneurs from various industries, all focused on exploring new avenues for collaboration and investment in India's rapidly expanding market.

Israel has long been a leader in innovation, particularly in technology, cybersecurity, and agriculture, and Barkat's delegation aims to leverage these strengths to deepen commercial ties with India. The visit comes at a time when India is looking to enhance its technological capabilities and expand its international trade partnerships.

During his time in New Delhi, Barkat is also expected to engage in discussions around improving bilateral trade policies, fostering innovation-driven collaboration, and exploring joint ventures that can benefit both economies. His visit underscores the growing economic collaboration between the two countries, which has steadily strengthened in recent years.

Rahul and congress eclipse from Delhi electoral battle, penalty for Hindu bashing

The last emperor of the last Congress empire, Mr. Rahul Gandhi, has faced significant backlash for his criticisms of Hindu beliefs and deities, which have proven to be counterproductive to him and to the congress party's credibility in the minds of many voters.

His comments are disrespectful, have alienated a substantial segment of the electorate that holds these beliefs dear. This situation underscores the importance of sensitivity and respect in political discourse, particularly in a diverse nation like India, where religion plays a pivotal role in the lives of millions.

In view of this backlash, it is essential for Rahul Gandhi and the Congress party to start self introspection and soul searching and reconsider their approach to political communication and engagement with Hindus.

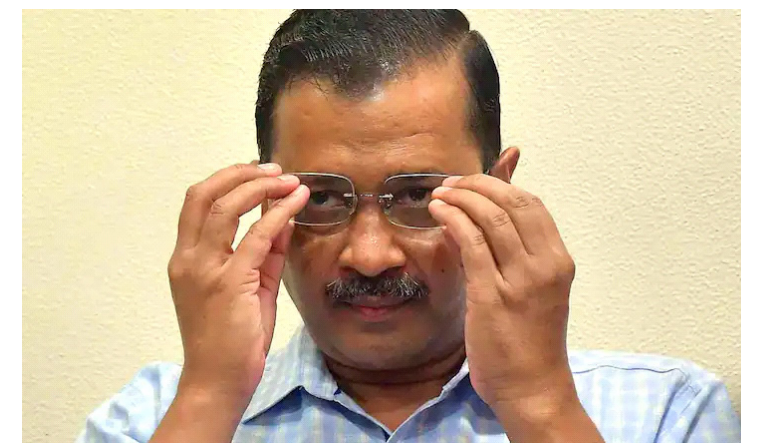
Acknowledging the significance of Hinduism and its followers is not merely a matter of political strategy; it is a fundamental aspect of fostering an inclusive and harmonious society. The Congress party must strive



to create an environment of equality, where all beliefs are respected and valued, and any disparagement of Hinduism or any other religion must be strongly discouraged.

Moreover, Rahul Gandhi and congress eclipse from the current political election landscape, particularly in the context of the Delhi elections, is notably felt. His leadership and presence could have provided a counterbalance to the dominant narratives and strategies employed by rival parties. The lack of his engagement raises questions about the Congress party's ability to connect with voters and present a compelling alternative to the ruling party. As the political dynamics evolve, it is crucial for the Congress party to reassess its strategies, embrace a more inclusive dialogue, and work towards rebuilding trust with the electorate, especially among those who feel marginalized by previous statements and actions.

In conclusion, the path forward for Rahul Gandhi and the Congress party lies in a commitment to respectful engagement with all communities, a willingness to learn from past missteps, and a proactive approach to addressing the concerns of a diverse electorate. Only through such efforts can they hope to regain relevance and support in the competitive political arena of India.



Delhi Elections: Is It Time to Write AAP's Obituary?

The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) has faced a massive defeat in the Delhi elections, leaving many wondering if it's time to write the party's obituary. While this outcome marks a dramatic shift for the party, it may be too hasty to declare its end. The loss reflects a journey from ambition to downfall for both the AAP and its leader, Arvind Kejriwal. However, it is also a result of self-inflicted wounds, and the responsibility lies with Kejriwal and his party to accept their mistakes.

Kejriwal, who once emerged as a radical reformist promising to change the country's politics, has been gradually transformed by politics itself. Twelve years in power have diminished his moral authority and charisma. His defeat from the New Delhi constituency, once considered his stronghold, is symbolic of the arrogance that often overtakes politicians who think they are bigger than their party.

Several factors contributed to AAP's defeat:

1. Same Old, Same Old: AAP, once known for its moral integrity and promises of change, gradually lost its unique edge. The party, which once stood as an alternative to traditional politics, sacrificed its core values, causing its most loyal supporters to drift away. In essence, AAP's moral capital, which played a key role in its previous successes, was eroded over time.

2. Losing the Moral Edge: Kejriwal's image suffered from corruption allegations, particularly the liquor scam that led to his arrest, along with other leaders like Manish Sisodia. Furthermore, the controversy surrounding his lavish home renovation, dubbed the 'Sheesh Mahal,' damaged his credibility. His attempt at damage control by resigning and moving to more modest accommodation came too late. The middle-class voters, who were once the AAP's core support, became disillusioned.

3. Policy Paralysis: The third term of the AAP government from 2020 to 2025 saw little progress. While the first term saw significant achievements in education, healthcare, and public services, the latter part of Kejriwal's tenure was marked by constant power struggles with the Lieutenant Governor and poor governance. Broken infrastructure and delayed policies alienated the electorate.

4. When Theatrics Don't Pay Off: After a decade in power, anti-incumbency inevitably set in, but the AAP failed to address it effectively. Rather than focusing on governance, Kejriwal indulged in theatrics, focusing more on drama than real solutions. This approach, while gaining attention, failed to win voter trust. **5. Volunteers Were Tired:** In its early years, AAP's selfless volunteer force was its biggest asset. However, over time, volunteers felt ignored, exploited, and disheartened. The lack of a solid organizational structure left AAP reliant on paid workers, which proved insufficient compared to the robust BJP organization.

Can Improved Connectivity Reduce Emotional Distance Between Delhi And Kashmir?

Leo Tolstoy's question, "How can one be well...when one suffers morally?" resonates deeply when considering the relationship between Jammu and Kashmir and the rest of India, particularly Delhi. The emotional and political divide between the two regions has long been complex, and while infrastructure projects aim to close this gap, the emotional disconnect remains significant.

True unity is not achieved solely through physical connections, such as roads or railways. While these advancements offer economic and practical benefits, they cannot heal the deep emotional rift that many Kashmiris feel towards Delhi. The historical trauma, emotional detachment, and a sense of being ignored by the Central government remain unresolved. This sentiment is powerfully echoed in the words of Kashmiris who have suffered: "How can we prioritize development when our emotions are disregarded?" said Wali Mohammad, a resident of Kashmir. His statement underscores how material progress cannot replace the need for emotional recognition and healing.

The relationship between physical connectivity and emotional distance in Kashmir is more nuanced than simply improving infrastructure. Noor-Din, 56, a local Kashmiri, voiced his frustration: "Do you think expanded railways and enhanced road networks can replace our losses?" This highlights the critical issue—emotional dissonance. The emotional scars from years of conflict and alienation cannot be erased by mere projects or policies. Kashmiris feel unheard and disconnected, leading to growing resentment and mistrust.



Furthermore, technology, particularly social media, plays a role in facilitating connections among the youth of Kashmir and India. Despite the ongoing trauma, these platforms allow for dialogue and the breaking of stereotypes. Mohd Furkan, 30, expressed the psychological burden faced by Kashmiris when traveling outside their region: "I often hide my identity out of fear." His experience illustrates how the emotional wounds of the past continue to shape the region's interactions with the rest of India.

Ultimately, the efforts to integrate Kashmir through infrastructure and digital connectivity must go hand in hand with addressing historical grievances and fostering inclusivity. Althusser's theory of ideology suggests that the imposition of government policies cannot foster unity without a deeper understanding of the region's emotional and cultural struggles. Only through genuine empathy, dialogue, and acknowledgment of Kashmir's history can the true distance both physical and emotional be bridged. True unity will only emerge when the hearts of Kashmir and Delhi are connected.

The China-Pakistan Fallout

China's long-touted "all-weather" partnership with Pakistan is now encountering significant hurdles, as the once-promising China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) faces mounting economic, political, and security complications. Initially envisioned as a cornerstone of China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), CPEC aimed to create direct access to the Arabian Sea and bolster both countries' strategic ties. However, Pakistan's deteriorating internal situation—including a collapsing economy, political instability, and a rising insurgency—has forced China to rethink its investments in the region.

CPEC's promise of transforming Pakistan's infrastructure and economy has been overshadowed by delays and security risks. Pakistan's political dysfunction and financial mismanagement have severely hindered the project's progress. Beijing's frustration grew after Pakistan's failure to meet its financial and security obligations, leading China to freeze funding in

2022. Pakistan's \$110 billion debt, including substantial commitments to Chinese firms in the energy sector, further complicates the situation.

The security landscape in Pakistan has become an even greater concern. Attacks on Chinese workers and interests in Balochistan, a key region for CPEC, have underscored Pakistan's inability to protect Chinese assets. Despite the establishment of a Special Security Division with 15,000 troops, the insurgency continues to target Chinese nationals. This failure has caused Beijing to reconsider its reliance on Pakistan's security apparatus.

Amid these setbacks, China has focused on securing Gwadar, a vital port city that offers significant geopolitical leverage. The port's proximity to the Persian Gulf, home to a significant portion of the world's oil reserves, makes it critical to China's energy security. Recently, China took control of Gwadar International Airport operations and declared Chinese as the



official language, signaling a stronger foothold in the region. China has also explored expanding its naval presence, with plans to establish a ship repair dock and submarine facility in Ormara.

However, Pakistan remains reluctant

to cede too much control to China, especially regarding security arrangements. Despite Beijing's pressure, Islamabad has resisted forming a joint security force, raising doubts about the long-term sustainability of their partnership.

Compounding the issue, Pakistan has

recently sought to rebuild ties with the United States. After years of strained relations, Islamabad recalibrated its foreign policy in 2022, securing military aid and loans from the US and international financial institutions like the IMF and World Bank. This shift has fueled further frustration in Beijing, which sees Pakistan's pivot to the West as a threat to its strategic interests.

As CPEC falters and China faces mounting security concerns, the future of the China-Pakistan relationship remains uncertain. China's strategic ambitions in the region may force it to deepen its hold over Gwadar and other key assets, but any aggressive moves risk damaging its already fragile relationship with Pakistan. For Islamabad, the challenge is existential: balancing its mounting debt obligations to China with growing domestic unrest and external pressure from the US. The "all-weather" friendship between the two nations is facing its most severe test yet.

RBI Poised for Potential Rate Cut in April Amid Stable Inflation Trends



The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) remains steadfast in its commitment to maintaining long-term price stability and fostering sustainable economic growth. Following a series of successful policy measures, analysts are now predicting the possibility of another interest rate cut as early as April, assuming inflation continues to show favorable trends. This forecast is based on research conducted by the State Bank of India (SBI), which has stated that "April could see the next rate cut again" if the inflationary conditions remain under control.

The RBI's monetary policy has consistently emphasized the importance of balancing economic growth with price stability. Its

data-driven approach and clear communication strategy have helped bolster market confidence while ensuring that regulatory scrutiny remains robust. Analysts have been closely monitoring inflation trends, and the recent positive data has encouraged expectations that further easing could be on the horizon.

A key aspect of the RBI's policy framework is its focus on flexible inflation targeting (FIT). The RBI has reiterated that the FIT approach strikes a balance between strict adherence to rules and the flexibility to make discretionary decisions based on real-time economic data. This allows the central bank to adjust its regulatory measures in response to chang-

ing economic conditions, ensuring that the policy remains both effective and adaptable to evolving circumstances.

The RBI's approach to inflation targeting has garnered praise for its ability to maintain stability in the face of shifting global and domestic challenges. By using a combination of clear guidelines and flexible decision-making, the RBI has been able to navigate periods of economic volatility while still keeping inflation within manageable levels. This policy framework has been a cornerstone of India's monetary strategy, allowing the RBI to respond quickly and effectively to changes in inflationary pressures.



Income tax relief, repo rate cut to boost recovery in consumption: Sitharaman

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman expressed confidence that the combination of income tax relief provided in the Union Budget and the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) repo rate cut will boost consumption and drive economic recovery. Addressing the media on Saturday after her post-Budget meeting with the RBI's Central Board of Directors, Sitharaman emphasized that industry is beginning to see signs of consumption recovery in the economy.

Sitharaman pointed out that her post-Budget discussions with business leaders and journalists had given her a positive outlook on the consumption sentiment. According to the inputs received from industry leaders, orders for fast-moving consumer goods (FMCG) for the April to June period are already being booked. This, she said, is a clear indication of potential recovery in consumption. Furthermore, she noted that several businesses are reviewing their capacity utilization, a sign that demand is picking up.

The Finance Minister also highlighted that the RBI's recent decision to reduce the repo rate by 25 basis points, from 6.5% to 6.25%, would further align with the positive trends in the economy. This rate cut, the first in about five years, is expected to lower lending rates and reduce equated monthly installments (EMIs), making borrowing cheaper for consumers and businesses alike.

Sitharaman also addressed the significant tax relief announced in the Union Budget for 2025-26, which includes raising the income tax exemption limit to Rs 12 lakh, up from Rs 7 lakh previously. This measure is expected to provide substantial relief to middle-income taxpayers, with an estimated one crore individuals no longer falling under the tax net. The government expects that the savings generated from the tax relief will be reinvested in the economy through consumption, savings, or investments. However, this tax relief will lead to a revenue foregone of about Rs 1 lakh crore in direct taxes and Rs 2,600 crore in indirect taxes.

Macro effects of proposed US tariffs are negative: S&P Global Ratings

A recent report by S&P Global Ratings' economics team has raised concerns about the potential negative impact of tariffs proposed by the Trump administration, warning of slower GDP growth, higher unemployment, and rising inflation. The report, titled "Macro Effects of Proposed U.S. Tariffs Are Negative All-Around," suggests that while the U.S. would experience some adverse effects, the consequences for trading partners would be far more significant.

The Trump administration has quickly moved to implement a 25% tariff on goods imported from Canada and Mexico, along with an additional 10% tariff on imports from China. However, last-minute negotiations have provided a temporary reprieve, granting a one-month delay in the tariffs for both North American trading partners. Despite the temporary pause, the report notes that uncertainty regarding the direction of U.S. policy remains high, with potential long-term impacts on decision-making by firms and households.

S&P Global Ratings highlights that the overall effects of these tariffs are expected to be overwhelmingly negative. While the U.S. economy may experience some immediate challenges, such as higher costs for imported goods and potential trade retaliation, the tariffs are expected to have more pronounced consequences for countries involved in global trade with the U.S. Specifically, the tariffs would reduce global trade



and slow economic growth, potentially leading to rising unemployment in both the U.S. and its trading partners.

The report also notes that the proposed tariffs could result in inflationary pressures, particularly if U.S. consumers face higher prices on a range of imported goods. This would further strain household budgets and reduce purchasing power. Additionally, the stronger U.S. dollar, which could result from these tariff measures, may negatively affect

the international competitiveness of U.S. exports, potentially limiting the benefits of these tariffs for American businesses.

In early February, just two weeks after taking office, President Donald Trump invoked the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (IEEPA) to announce sweeping new tariffs. The White House justified the move by citing the threat posed by illegal immigration and the importation of drugs, such as fentanyl, from foreign countries.

Union Bank of India sees lower inflation for FY25 and FY26 than MPC estimates



Union Bank of India (UBI) has forecasted that inflation in FY25 may be lower than the revised forecast of 4.4% set by the Monetary

Policy Committee (MPC), with the bank predicting Consumer Price Index (CPI) inflation to track at around 4% in Q4 FY25. For FY26,

UBI projects inflation to be slightly lower than the MPC's estimate of 4.2%, forecasting it at 4.0%. While these projections signal a more favorable inflationary environment, the bank has raised concerns about the risks to India's growth and inflation outlook in the coming years.

The bank highlighted that the MPC had revised its FY25 growth forecast down to 6.4% from an earlier 6.6%. Despite this, the MPC anticipates a recovery to 6.7% growth in FY26. UBI expressed caution regarding the FY25 growth projection, citing downside risks to the forecast. According to the bank, the MPC's growth assumption for the December 2024 quarter, which expects growth to surpass 6.5%, appears overly optimistic as current trends suggest growth is closer to 6%.

UBI further noted that it was still maintaining an FY26 growth estimate of 6.5%, slightly higher than the expected growth of 6% to 6.2% for the current fiscal year. However, the bank remains wary of the MPC's optimism about a 7% growth rate in Q2 FY26, especially in light of the ongoing global economic challenges. The international economic environment, including uncertainties regarding global trade, inflation, and geopolitical tensions, could have an impact on India's growth prospects, the bank cautioned.

New Hampshire man successfully receives Pig kidney in groundbreaking transplant



Tim Andrews, a 66-year-old man from New Hampshire, has become the second person known to live with a genetically-edited pig kidney transplant. On January 25, 2025, surgeons at Massachusetts General Hospital successfully transplanted the pig kidney into Andrews, marking a significant milestone in the field of xenotransplantation. Just a week after the procedure, Andrews was able to leave the hospital, signaling the transplant's early success. Andrews, who had been battling kidney failure for two years, had struggled with dialysis complications and heart is-

issues, which made his survival prospects grim. Although he had been on the kidney transplant list, the wait for a suitable donor could take upwards of seven years. Faced with limited options and a poor prognosis, Andrews volunteered to participate in a pilot study for a highly experimental pig kidney transplant. In preparation for the transplant, Andrews underwent extensive physical therapy to improve his overall health, losing 30 pounds and becoming healthier, which made him a suitable candidate for the procedure. His decision to pursue the experimental transplant has

already proven to be a life-changing one. After the transplant, doctors were thrilled to observe that the pig kidney began functioning immediately, producing urine and carrying out normal kidney functions without signs of rejection. Andrews, who had long struggled with diabetes and the complications of dialysis, is now free from the constant need for dialysis and recovering well. "When I woke up in the recovery room, I was a new man," Andrews said in an interview with The Associated Press. The success of this transplant is a significant achievement in the field of xenotransplantation, which involves transplanting animal organs into humans. Previous attempts with animal organs have had mixed results, with many transplants failing quickly. However, recent advances in gene editing have made animal organs more compatible with human bodies, providing hope for the future of transplants. Andrews' recovery is fueling optimism for patients who, like him, have little chance of receiving a human kidney transplant due to their poor health. This breakthrough is helping to pave the way for more research into animal-to-human transplants, a development that could one day solve the organ shortage crisis and save countless lives.

Milk And Paneer Are Non-Veg? Indian Doctor's Claim Makes Internet Angry



An Indian doctor's recent comments declaring paneer and milk to be non-vegetarian foods have sparked a heated debate online, especially among vegetarians. Dr. Sylvia Karpagam's claim that these dairy products are not vegetarian due to their animal origin has upset many social media users who adhere to vegetarian diets. The controversy began after a photo of a vegetarian thali, shared by another doctor, Sunita Sayammagaru, was posted on X (formerly Twitter). The thali included a variety of items such as unsweetened kheer, paneer, moong dal, and a salad with carrots, cucumber, onions, raw coconut, and walnuts. Sunita had captioned

the image, saying it was a "vegetarian meal" rich in protein, good fats, and fiber. The post quickly gained traction, with over 1.2 million views since its upload on February 4. Dr. Karpagam's response to the post took many by surprise, as she asserted that dairy products like paneer and milk should not be classified as vegetarian. She argued that since these foods come from animals, they do not meet the criteria of vegetarianism, which typically excludes all animal-derived products. Her comments have stirred a storm on social media, with many vegetarians expressing their disapproval. While some agree with her perspective, a majority of users have rejected the idea, emphasizing that dairy is an essential part of vegetarian diets in India. This debate underscores the ongoing divide in how vegetarianism is understood and practiced, with varying interpretations of what qualifies as "vegetarian food."

People in UK Using human ashes in community garden for a bizarre reason



A dedicated team of gardeners in Cornwall, England, is grappling with an unexpected and distressing issue—people scattering human ashes in the flower beds of a riverside spot they have been working to restore. The Friends of Sunny Corner, a volunteer group, has been focused on beautifying a scenic stretch along the River Truro since 2016. However, their efforts have unintentionally turned the area into a popular location for mourners seeking to lay their loved

ones to rest. Paul Caruana, the chairman of the organization, revealed that volunteers have encountered at least 15 incidents of human ashes being scattered without permission. The problem escalated when one volunteer, caught off guard by the wind, inadvertently swallowed a mouthful of ashes while tending to the area. "One volunteer actually got a level of mouthful of ashes because the wind

caught him, and suddenly when you get a mouthful of human ashes, it is quite distressing," Caruana, 71, shared. He emphasized how unsettling the experience was, stating, "It's not funny at all. People say 'well, it's only ashes.' Well, you get a mouthful yourself and tell me if it is a pleasant experience—it is an awful thing to happen."

In an effort to stop the growing problem, Friends of Sunny Corner has issued a public plea for people to respect their wishes and refrain from scattering human ashes across their flower beds. The group highlighted the issue in a recent statement, expressing their frustration upon arriving at the site to find a large area covered in ashes despite previous requests to cease the practice. This troubling situation has left the gardening volunteers disturbed, as they aim to maintain the beauty of the space for the community while respecting those who wish to memorialize their loved ones. The group is now appealing for understanding and cooperation from the public to preserve the sanctity of the site.

Viral Pic Of 95-Year-Old British Indian Passport Leaves Internet Amazed

A rare, almost 95-year-old British Indian passport has gone viral on social media, leaving the internet in awe. The post, shared by a user on X (formerly Twitter) under the handle features a picture of the old passport belonging to a person named Kartar Singh. The passport, though a little worn, is royal blue in color and prominently displays the monogram of the British monarch.

The vintage passport has captured the attention of thousands as it provides a rare glimpse into the colonial past of India before independence. According to the caption accompanying the post, this passport was discontinued after India gained independence in 1947.

The image has since garnered over 1.3 million views, with many social media users expressing their fascination with the historical document. As users on the internet have begun to share similar artefacts and documents from India's past, this British Indian passport has sparked conversations around history, heritage, and the evolution of the country's identity.

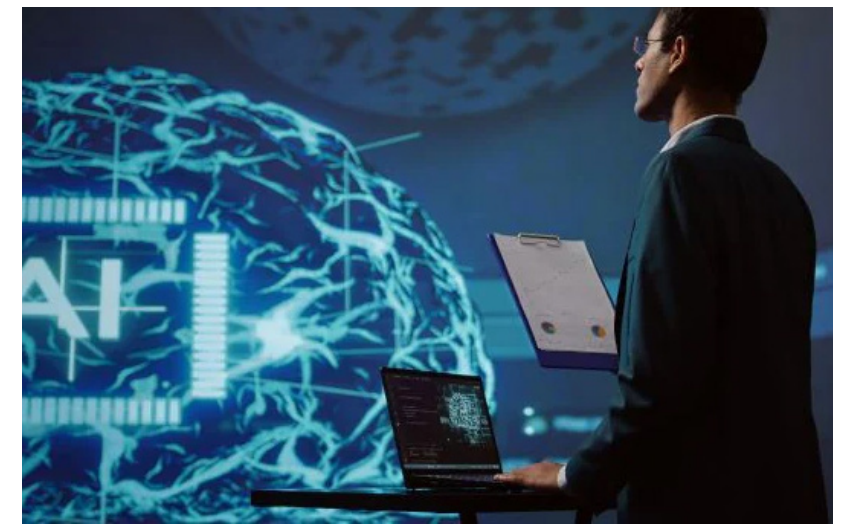
For many, such items serve as tangi-



ble links to a bygone era, offering valuable insight into the period before India gained independence from British rule. Collecting and preserving these pieces of history has become an important way for people to connect with their roots and learn about the experiences of their ancestors. The viral post has reminded

many of how much history is embedded in the objects we may overlook in our day-to-day lives. As social media continues to spotlight such fascinating relics, the post has reignited the trend of sharing historical documents that link present generations to their ancestors' lived experiences.

The AI Arms Race: Who Will Win the Race to Artificial General Intelligence?



Artificial Intelligence (AI) is evolving at an unprecedented pace, opening up new possibilities across industries and everyday life. The release of OpenAI's ChatGPT in late 2022 marked a turning point, sparking what can only be described as an AI arms race. Since then, major tech companies have raced to develop the most advanced AI systems, from sophisticated chatbots to APIs that can revolutionize numerous sectors. The competition has expanded beyond conversational AI, as tech giants like Google, Meta, OpenAI, and billion-dollar-backed startups are now setting their sights on a much larger goal: Artificial General Intelligence (AGI).

AGI refers to AI that can perform intellectual tasks at a human-like level, excelling across a wide variety of activities, much like how human cognition works. While the concept of AGI has generated heated discussions and speculation about its potential, it remains an elusive target. Despite significant advancements, no company has yet crossed the threshold to develop AGI.

This intense race, fueled by vast investments and cutting-edge research, raises several important questions: How close are we to AGI? What does the timeline look like for its development? And, perhaps most importantly, who will ultimately "win" this race?

While many companies are investing heavily in AGI, the reality is that this journey is filled with challenges. Developing an AI that mimics human-level intelligence requires breakthroughs in multiple areas, including reasoning, problem-solving, creativity, and learning adaptability. Each player in the field—whether it's an established tech giant or a nimble startup—brings a unique approach and expertise to the table.

At this stage, it's unclear which company or research lab will be the first to successfully develop AGI. But the race is on, and the stakes couldn't be higher. As AI continues to advance, the developments in this race will shape the future of technology and human interaction in ways we can only begin to imagine.

Virat Kohli Declared Fit for 2nd ODI Against England, Confirms Batting Coach Sitanshu Kotak



Team India received a massive boost ahead of the second ODI against England as Virat Kohli has been declared fit to play at the Barabati Stadium in Cuttack on Sunday. The veteran batter had missed the first ODI in Nagpur due to a sore right knee, but batting coach Sitanshu Kotak confirmed that Kohli has returned to full fitness and attended practice sessions. "Virat Kohli is fit to play. He has come for practice and is good to go," Kotak told mediapersons on Saturday. Who Will Make Way for Kohli?

With Kohli set to return, the biggest selection dilemma for captain Rohit Sharma and coach Gautam Gambhir is who to drop between Shreyas Iyer and Yashasvi Jaiswal.

- Shreyas Iyer, who replaced Kohli in the first ODI, impressed with a 36-ball 59, making it difficult to leave him out.
- Yashasvi Jaiswal, who opened the innings with Shubman Gill, had an underwhelming performance, which could see Gill reuniting with Rohit at the top, while Kohli slots in at No. 3.

Kohli Eyes Major Milestone
Kohli will be eager to regain form, especially after a low-scoring Ranji Trophy outing and struggles in Australia. The 36-year-old is just 94 runs away from joining the elite 14,000-run club in ODIs, a milestone only achieved by Sachin Tendulkar (18,426) and Kumar Sangakkara (14,234). With India leading 1-0 in the three-match series, Kohli's return could further strengthen the batting lineup as the hosts aim to seal the series in Cuttack.

Indian Athletes Rally Behind PM Narendra Modi's Call to Combat Obesity



Indian athletes and fitness influencers have come together to support Prime Minister Narendra Modi's call to fight obesity, made during the 38th National Games opening ceremony in Dehradun. Hockey legend PR Sreejesh emphasized the importance of dietary awareness, stating, "Eating well is the first step towards a healthier, happier life. Let's make Fit Food India a lifestyle, inspired by PM Modi ji's commitment to fitness." Table tennis star Manika Batra also promoted mindful eating, urging people to make nutritious choices a habit. "The food we eat shapes our health. Let's commit to Fit Food India and contribute to PM Modi ji's mission for a fitter India," she posted on X.

MMA champion Sangram Singh reinforced the urgency of prioritizing health. In a video message, he said, "At the end of life, wealth and luxuries won't matter—only our body will carry us forward. Let's stay fit and take the country ahead." The Fit India Sundays on Cycle initiative at Major Dhyanchand Stadium saw Union Sports Minister Mansukh Mandaviya lead a 250-member group of doctors and nutritionists, advancing the PM's call to action. With strong backing from athletes and fitness influencers, India's fight against rising obesity rates is gaining momentum across the nation.

Sanjay Bangar Advises Rohit Sharma to Revisit Old Success Amid Lean Patch

Former India batting coach Sanjay Bangar has urged Rohit Sharma to simplify his approach and avoid excessive technical analysis as he struggles with a prolonged dip in form. Bangar believes that rather than overcomplicating his batting or indulging in rigorous practice, Rohit should reflect on his past performances to regain his rhythm. Speaking on Star Sports, Bangar emphasized the importance of self-assessment, advising the India captain to watch old videos of his most successful innings and recall the habits and routines that worked for him in the past. "A phase has come in his career where he hasn't scored runs. Sometimes practicing too much isn't beneficial. He can probably spend a little time alone and watch the phase where he enjoyed a lot of success," Bangar said. Rohit's struggles continue. Rohit's struggles were evident once again in the first ODI against England in Nagpur, where he was dismissed for just two runs. This follows a disappointing Test season, where he managed only 164 runs in eight innings at an average of 10.93. With the Champions Trophy just weeks away, concerns over Rohit's form have grown, as India will need their skipper to fire in crucial matches. The second ODI



against England in Cuttack presents another opportunity for Rohit to break free from this lean patch and regain confidence ahead of the marquee tournament.

D Gukesh Begins Freestyle Chess Grand Slam with Mixed Results

- World Champion D Gukesh started his campaign at the Freestyle Chess Grand Slam with three draws and one loss, showing signs of adaptation to the new format.
- The Freestyle Chess format, introduced by Magnus Carlsen and German entrepreneur Jan Henric Buettner, is an evolved version of Fischer Random Chess (or Chess 960), where the starting positions of pieces are randomly generated. This format is seen as a challenge to FIDE, the world's governing chess body, sparking controversy in the chess world.
- Gukesh drew his first game against Nodirbek Abdusattorov of Uzbekistan, but suffered a loss to Alireza Firouzja of France in the second round. He then secured two more draws against Levon Aronian (USA) and Javokhir Sindarov (Uzbekistan).
- With five rounds remaining, Gukesh must finish in the top eight out of ten participants to qualify for the next stage.
- Meanwhile, Magnus Carlsen also struggled, scoring two points from four games (two wins, two losses), while Fabiano Caruana and



Sindarov lead with 3.5 points each.

- Amid the ongoing dispute between FIDE and Freestyle Chess promoters, the new format boasts a prize fund of \$750,000 per tournament—a rare figure in professional chess. Five-time world champion Viswanathan Anand withdrew from the event, possibly due to his role as FIDE Deputy President.

Kevin De Bruyne's Late Strike Saves Manchester City from FA Cup Upset

Manchester City narrowly avoided an FA Cup upset against third-tier Leyton Orient, securing a 2-1 victory to progress to the fifth round. Kevin De Bruyne, coming off the bench, scored the winner 11 minutes from time, ensuring Pep Guardiola's side dodged an embarrassing exit. The match saw Leyton Orient take a surprising early lead when Jamie Donley's powerful shot rebounded

off the crossbar and deflected in off City goalkeeper Stefan Ortega. The League One side held onto their 1-0 advantage until the 56th minute, when Rico Lewis' shot deflected off Abdukodir Khusanov for his first-ever goal in a City shirt. With City's struggles continuing, Guardiola turned to his star substitutes, bringing on Phil Foden and De Bruyne in pursuit of a winning goal. The Belgian maestro deliv-

ered in the 79th minute, finishing off Jack Grealish's pass to seal City's place in the next round. Despite the win, City's recent form remains a concern as they prepare for a crucial Champions League clash against Real Madrid at the Etihad on Tuesday. Guardiola's men, currently fourth in the Premier League, will need a significant improvement to maintain their European ambitions.





Critics Choice Awards 2025: Citadel: Honey Bunny Loses to Squid Game

New Delhi: The Critics Choice Awards 2025 proved to be a disappointing night for Indian fans as Varun Dhawan and Samantha Ruth Prabhu's highly anticipated series, Citadel: Honey Bunny, failed to win in the Best Foreign Language Series category. The high-stakes Hindi-language spy action series, created by Raj and DK, lost to the globally popular Korean show Squid Game.

The category featured several strong contenders, including Acapulco (Apple TV+), La Maquina (Hulu), The Law According to Lidia Poet (Netflix), My Brilliant Friend (HBO Max), Pachinko (Apple TV+), and Senna (Netflix). Despite high expectations, Citadel: Honey Bunny couldn't secure a victory. Adding to the disappointment, Payal Kapadia's All We Imagine As Light also lost in the Best Foreign Film category to Emilia Perez.

About Citadel: Honey Bunny

Citadel: Honey Bunny serves as both a prequel and spin-off to Amazon Prime Video's international hit Citadel, which starred Priyanka Chopra. The Hindi-language series focuses on the adventurous lives of Honey and Bunny, the parents of Nadia Sinh (Priyanka's character in the original



show).

Featuring Varun Dhawan and Samantha Ruth Prabhu in lead roles, the series also stars Kay Kay Menon, Simran, Sikandar Kher, Saqib Saleem, Soham Majumdar, Shivankit Singh Parihar, and Thalaivaasal Vijay.

Premiering on November 6, 2024, on Amazon Prime Video, the show explored the origins of key characters within the Citadel universe. Despite critical appreciation, it failed to clinch an award at the Critics Choice Awards 2025.

Shruti Haasan's The Eye to Open 5th Wench Film Festival in Mumbai



The British psychological thriller *The Eye*, starring Shruti Haasan, has been selected as the opening film for the 5th Wench Film Festival in Mumbai. The festival, founded by filmmaker Sapna Bhavnani, is India's first horror film festival and will take place from February 27 to March 2, 2025. Directed by Daphne Schmon, *The Eye* also features Mark Rowley in a pivotal role. The film follows Diana (played by Haasan), who visits an island where her husband Felix drowned and is tempted by a dark choice that could bring him back.

The festival will conclude with the screening of *Schirkoa*—In Lies We Trust, starring Iranian-French actress Golshifteh Farahani. A Platform for Women and Non-Binary Filmmakers

The 2025 Wench Film Festival will showcase 42 films, including 35 by women filmmakers. The event also features films created by LGBTQ women and non-binary filmmakers, emphasizing inclusivity in the horror genre. The festival will present films in three categories:

- Blood Thirsty (feature films, 60+ minutes)
- Dwarves (films of 10-40 minutes)
- Elves (short films under 10 minutes) The jury includes Chris Orgelt, Harini Laxminarayan, Aruna Raje Patil, and Carolyn Mauricette, who will evaluate films in their respective categories. With *The Eye* headlining the festival, Shruti Haasan continues to make a global impact in cinema.

Thandel Box Office Collection Day 1: Naga Chaitanya's Film Opens Strong

Thandel, starring Naga Chaitanya and Sai Pallavi, has made a strong impact at the box office on its opening day. The film, which was released on February 7, earned ₹10 crore on its first day, according to Sacnilk.

The Telugu version contributed ₹9.8 crore, with the remaining revenue coming from the Hindi and Tamil markets. Directed by Chandoo Mondeti, *Thandel* saw an impressive 53.58% occupancy in Telugu, while Hindi and Tamil registered 9.13% and 9.08% occupancy, respectively. Sobhita Dhulipala's Support for Naga Chaitanya

Ahead of the film's release, Sobhita Dhulipala extended her support to Naga Chaitanya by wearing a black hoodie featuring the film's title. Sharing the picture, Chaitanya wrote, "Giving me all the positive vibes I need!"

At a promotional event in



Vizag, Naga Chaitanya expressed his deep connection to the city, sharing, "Vizag is so close to my heart that I fell in love with a Vizag ammayi (girl) and married her. Now, there's a piece of Vizag at my home too. So, brothers, I have a small request... The box office collection of *Thandel* in Vizag should

be staggering; otherwise, I'll lose my honour at home." Film's Plot and Production Produced by Bunny Vasu, Allu Aravind, and Koppineedi Vidya, *Thandel* revolves around Raju, a fisherman from Srikakulam, played by Naga Chaitanya, who gets captured by Pakistan forces in international

waters. The film's emotional depth and gripping narrative are further elevated by Devi Sri Prasad's music, adding intensity to the survival drama. With a promising start, the film is expected to continue its strong performance in the coming days.

Shah Rukh Khan, Salman Khan Attend Screening of Aamir Khan's Son Junaid's Film 'Loveyapa'



Bollywood superstars Shah Rukh Khan and Salman Khan attended the special screening of "Loveyapa", the upcoming romantic-comedy featuring Junaid Khan, son of Aamir Khan. This marks Junaid's first theatrical release, following his debut in the Netflix film "Maharaj". The film, also starring Khushi Kapoor, is directed by Advait Chandan, known for "Laal Singh Chaddha" and "Secret Superstar". Aamir Khan hosted the special screening at Excel Entertainment's office for his close friends in the industry. Shah Rukh Khan arrived in a blue shirt and den-

im jeans, warmly embracing Aamir and praising his weight loss. He also congratulated Junaid before posing for pictures with the father-son duo. Salman Khan, dressed in a green polo T-shirt and ripped jeans, attended the event with his security team.

The screening also saw the presence of Ayushmann Khurrana and wife Tahira, Imran Khan, and rapper Honey Singh.

"Loveyapa", produced by Phantom Studios and AGS Entertainment, delves into modern-day relationships and is set to hit theaters this Friday.

Lisa Mishra to Perform with Ed Sheeran in Delhi's Biggest International Concert

Singer-actress Lisa Mishra is set to create history as she performs alongside global music icon Ed Sheeran in Delhi on February 15. This highly anticipated event is being touted as the biggest international show ever held in the capital.

Lisa Mishra, known for her chart-topping tracks and acting prowess, is stepping into the global music spotlight with this prestigious collaboration. Fans can also expect an exclusive treat, as she might unveil some of her unreleased music during the concert.

Expressing her excitement, Lisa said, "Performing with Ed Sheeran is nothing short of a dream come true. He has been one of my biggest inspirations, and to share the same stage with him is surreal. This is a defining moment in my career, reinforcing my belief in the power of music and hard work."

This collaboration marks a significant milestone in Li-



sa's career, solidifying her place in the international music scene. With an electrifying atmosphere expected at

the concert, fans are eagerly waiting for this historic musical moment in Delhi.