



**Weather Forecast**

| HYDERABAD          | VIJAYAWADA         | TIRUPATHI          |
|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| H 33° C<br>L 25° C | H 35° C<br>L 26° C | H 36° C<br>L 26° C |

# PM Modi Lauds India's 58th Tiger Reserve, Calls It a Win for Wildlife

### India Adds 58th Tiger Reserve, PM Modi Hails Conservation Efforts

### Madhav Tiger Reserve declared India's 58th tiger reserve

### PM Modi praises India's commitment to wildlife protection

### Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav lauds conservation efforts

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has hailed the declaration of Madhav Tiger Reserve in Madhya Pradesh as India's 58th tiger reserve, calling it a remarkable achievement in the country's ongoing conservation efforts.

Taking to social media platform X (formerly Twitter), Modi wrote, "Amazing news for wildlife lovers! India is blessed with wildlife diversity and a culture that celebrates wildlife. We will always be at the forefront of protecting animals and contributing to a sustainable planet."

Union Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav announced the development on Saturday, expressing his excitement over India's increasing commitment to tiger conservation and biodiversity protection. He emphasized that the addition of the Madhav Tiger Reserve further strengthens India's status as a global leader in wildlife conservation.

With this latest designation, Madhya Pradesh, often referred to as India's 'Tiger State', continues to lead the country in tiger population



and habitat conservation. The new reserve is expected to enhance eco-tourism, biodiversity protection, and local employment opportunities while reinforcing efforts to preserve India's national animal.

The announcement aligns with India's Project Tiger, which has played a crucial role in reviving and stabilizing the country's tiger popula-

tion. The government continues to expand protected areas and wildlife corridors to ensure the long-term survival of these majestic big cats. The addition of the Madhav Tiger Reserve reflects India's unwavering dedication to safeguarding its rich wildlife heritage, drawing praise from conservationists and environmentalists worldwide.

## Kharge Calls for Unity Between Siddaramaiah and Shivakumar Amid Power Struggle

### Kharge urges Siddaramaiah, Shivakumar to work together

### Speculation continues over power-sharing arrangement

### Kalyana Patha project launched at ₹1,000 crore

TPN Correspondent | Kalaburagi

Amid growing speculation over a power-sharing arrangement in Karnataka, Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge urged Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Deputy CM D.K. Shivakumar to set aside differences and work together for the state's development. Speaking at the launch of the Kalyana Patha project in Jewargi, Kharge emphasized that unity between the two leaders is crucial for governance. Praising Siddaramaiah's 16th budget presentation, Kharge described it as a "good budget", adding that the Congress Party always supports those who work for the people. He also lauded Shivakumar's contributions as an Energy and Irrigation Minister, acknowledging his dedication to the party and government.

"I compliment Siddaramaiah and Shivakumar. Together, you must focus on Karnataka's development. If they move in different directions, it will be difficult," Kharge remarked, making hand gestures to stress his point. His remarks come amid increasing speculation



about a rotational chief minister arrangement within the ruling Congress. While some leaders support Shivakumar's bid for CM, Siddaramaiah's camp insists he will serve a full five-year term. Shivakumar has openly expressed his ambition to become Chief Minister, further fueling political tensions.

Kharge, recalling his own political journey, hinted at his 2019 Lok Sabha defeat but reaffirmed his commitment to progress. "Some leaders rely on divine intervention, but I believe in working for the people," he said, indirectly referring to Shivakumar and former PM Deve Gowda.

With Karnataka's political landscape heating up, Kharge's call for unity within Congress highlights the party's attempt to maintain stability ahead of potential leadership changes.

## Karnataka Budget: Promises Seem Fine on Paper, But What About Implementation?

### ₹8,000 crore allocated for CM's Infrastructure Development Program (CMIDP)

### Bengaluru's infrastructure grant increased from ₹3,000 crore to ₹7,000 crore

### Film industry granted 'industry status'; OTT platform for Kannada films announced



TPN Correspondent | Karnataka

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's 16th Karnataka Budget has pledged significant allocations for infrastructure development, urban planning, and the film industry, but concerns remain about effective implementation.

A key highlight of the budget is the ₹8,000 crore Chief Minister's Infrastructure Development Program (CMIDP), aimed at minor irrigation, roads, and urban infrastructure across all assembly constituencies. Bengaluru's infrastructure grant has also been raised to ₹7,000 crore to address urban challenges.

However, citizens remain skeptical. Kochu Shankar, a resident of Horamavu, remarked, "These allocations sound good on paper, but actual implementation at the ground level remains poor." He added that metro construction delays and funds dependent on borrowings could ultimately lead to a higher tax burden.

In a boost to Sandalwood, the government has

granted industry status to the Kannada film sector. Karnataka Film Chamber of Commerce President M. Narasimhalu welcomed the decision, while Karnataka Chalanachitra Academy President Sadhu Kokila lauded the ₹200 price cap on multiplex tickets, saying it would attract more viewers. The state-backed OTT platform for Kannada films is also expected to benefit local filmmakers.

However, ASHA workers have expressed disappointment over the honorarium increase of just ₹1,000, demanding clarity on whether all 42,000 ASHAs would receive the promised ₹10,000 honorarium.

Environmentalists have also criticized the budget, citing the lack of focus on lake restoration and water body conservation. Anjaneya Reddy of Shashwatha Neeravari Horata Samiti called it a "setback for drought-hit districts".

While the budget outlines ambitious projects, concerns about execution, financial burden, and environmental neglect persist.

## Dy CM Shivakumar Defends Karnataka Budget, Accuses BJP of Spreading Misinformation

TPN Correspondent | Bengaluru

Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar has called the Karnataka Budget 2025-26 a "role model for the country," dismissing BJP's criticism as "false propaganda."

Addressing the media at his Sadashivnagar residence, Shivakumar stated, "What else can the BJP do? They are lying through their teeth. This budget caters to all sections of society, and other states will soon follow this model."

He highlighted key infrastructure initiatives, including:

- Tunnel roads to ease congestion
- Double-deck flyovers for future metro lines
- 300 km of roads in storm-water drain buffer zones
- He emphasized that these measures will benefit 1.4 crore Bengalureans under



### ₹5,000 crore allocated for Kalyana Karnataka development

### Tunnel roads, double-deck metro flyovers, and 300 km of new roads planned

### Bengaluru City University to be renamed after Dr. Manmohan Singh

the Brand Bengaluru initiative. Shivakumar also defended the government's decision to rename Bengaluru City University after Dr. Manmohan Singh, crediting the former Prime Minister for funding major Bengaluru flyovers, including the one leading to Kempegowda International Airport. "He was the architect of food, education, and information rights. What is the BJP's contribution?" he questioned.

Additionally, he announced ₹5,000 crore for Kalyana Karnataka, claiming its residents have "hit a jackpot" with upcoming development projects. He also hinted at new irrigation project announcements soon.

While the Congress government lauds the budget as transformative, the BJP continues to raise concerns over funding and execution.

## Karnataka Govt Announces Climate Change Mitigation Foundation

TPN Correspondent | Bengaluru

The Karnataka government has taken a significant step towards climate change mitigation with the announcement of the Karnataka Forest, Wildlife, and Climate Change Mitigation Foundation (KFWCCMF) in the 2025-26 state budget. This initiative aims to increase green cover, combat climate change effects, and reduce man-animal conflict.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, in his budget speech, emphasized that the foundation will be established with the involvement of corporate bodies and social reformers to facilitate environmental development through CSR contributions and donations. As part of its broader climate action strategy, the government will roll out the Karnataka State Integrated Climate Change Action Plan this year. This plan will focus on sustainable development,



afforestation, and carbon retention to mitigate climate risks.

To support farmers, the budget introduces agro-forestry and a carbon credit policy, encouraging the cultivation of high carbon-retention plant species. These measures aim to strengthen farmers' financial conditions while promoting ecological sustainability. With a renewed commitment to environmental conservation, the government continues its efforts to expand Karnataka's green cover and ensure long-term climate resilience.



# CM Siddaramaiah Assures Safety Measures After Koppal Rape Incident

- CM directs immediate action in Koppal rape case
- Two accused arrested; investigation continues
- Union Minister Shekhawat criticizes law and order situation



TPN Correspondent | Koppal

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah has reaffirmed the state government's commitment to public safety following the horrific assault and rape of an Israeli national and a homestay owner in Sanapur, Gangavati taluk, Koppal district. He assured that the government is taking stringent measures to prevent such incidents in the future.

"This is a deeply heinous crime. As soon as the incident was reported, I directed the police to take immediate action, conduct a thorough investigation, and swiftly arrest the culprits," Siddaramaiah stated. He confirmed that two accused

have already been arrested, and further investigation is underway. The Koppal incident, occurring near Hampi, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, has raised serious concerns about tourist safety. The state government has vowed to implement stronger security measures at key tourist destinations.

Union Minister Condemns Incident  
Union Minister for Culture and Tourism Gajendra Singh Shekhawat strongly condemned the attack, calling it a "terrifying reflection of law and order failure" in a Congress-ruled state.

"Appalled by the brutal gang-rape of an Israeli tourist and homestay owner and the tragic loss of life in Koppal. This horrific incident near a renowned tourist site like Hampi will severely impact Karnataka's tourism prospects. I urge CM Siddaramaiah to ensure strict action against the perpetrators," Shekhawat posted on social media.

With mounting pressure from opposition leaders and public outcry, the state government is expected to intensify safety measures and reinforce law enforcement in tourist areas.

# Karnataka Govt to Strengthen Security at Tourist Spots After Hampi Incident



- Israeli national among two women assaulted near Hampi
- Government to enhance security at tourist destinations
- Two suspects arrested; investigation ongoing

TPN Correspondent | Ballari

The Karnataka government has announced plans to enhance security at major tourist destinations, including Hampi, following the rape of two women, including an Israeli national, and the death of a foreign tourist near the Tungabhadra canal. Home Minister G Parameshwara on Sunday assured that authorities will strengthen security measures and issue safety guidelines for tourists visiting Karnataka. Speaking to reporters, he stated, "We are reassessing existing security measures and will take necessary steps to prevent such incidents in the future."

According to the minister, on the night of March 6, two foreign nationals, including an Israeli citizen, along with two

others, went out for stargazing near the Tungabhadra canal when three unidentified men approached them, pretending to ask for directions. When the tourists expressed their unawareness, the men robbed them and, following a heated argument, pushed them into the canal.

While three of the victims managed to escape, one tourist went missing, and her body was later recovered. The attackers allegedly raped two of the women before fleeing the scene. The incident has caused concern over Karnataka's image as a safe tourist destination, with Parameshwara acknowledging that such crimes could impact the state's tourism sector. Authorities have so far arrested two suspects, and police are continuing their search for others involved.

Meanwhile, the government is collaborating with resort and homestay owners near Hampi to ensure better surveillance and visitor safety.

# C Veeranna Among Karnataka Sahitya Academy Award Winners

- Academy announces awards for 2022 and 2023
- Honorary Award carries ₹50,000 cash prize
- Sahitya Sri Award presented to 10 writers



TPN Correspondent | Bengaluru

The Karnataka Sahitya Akademi has announced its prestigious awards for 2022 and 2023, recognizing outstanding contributions to literature. Academy president LN Mukundraj revealed the winners, stating that the award ceremony will take place at Ravindra Kalakshetra on March 24.

The academy's Honorary Award for 2023 will be presented to C Veeranna (Bengaluru), Dr. Srirama Itannavar (Bagalkot), Janagere Venkataramaiah (Tumakuru), AM Madari (Koppal), and Sabiha Bhoomi Gowda (Mangaluru). Each recipient will receive ₹50,000, a plaque, and a certificate.

under various categories, while nine writers have been chosen for endowment awards for 2022.

The Sahitya Sri Award for 2023 will be conferred upon MS Shekhar (Mysuru), GN Mohan (Bengaluru), TS Vivekananda (Tumakuru), Jayashree Kambara (Belagavi), Nijalingappa Yamanappa Mattihal (Dharwad), Balagurumurthy (Kolar), Prof. Shivagangarumma (Kalaburagi), Reeta Reeni (Bengaluru), Khaleem Ullah (Shivamogga), and Venkatagiri Dalavai (Ballari). These recipients will receive ₹25,000, a plaque, and a certificate.

# Deve Gowda Assigns Nikhil Kumaraswamy to Revive JDS in Karnataka



- Nikhil Kumaraswamy to lead state-wide rallies
- JDS aims to field 80 women candidates in the next Assembly elections
- Deve Gowda accuses Congress of taking credit for JDS initiatives

TPN Correspondent | Bengaluru

Former Prime Minister and JDS supremo HD Deve Gowda reaffirmed his commitment to reviving the party in Karnataka and entrusted his grandson, JDS Youth Wing President Nikhil Kumaraswamy, with the task of strengthening the party's base through rallies across the state.

Addressing an International Women's Day program at the JDS office, Gowda stated, "I will not rest until JDS regains its strength. Everyone must work together, and the youth should rally behind Nikhil's leadership." He empha-

sized the importance of women's participation, aiming for at least 80 women candidates from JDS in the next Assembly elections. He credited Prime Minister Narendra Modi for empowering women, citing the Women's Reservation Bill as a significant step. "We are with Modi, and there is no fear. At least 50 women's conferences must be held. If needed, I will personally fund them," he assured.

Gowda also criticized the Congress for taking credit for JDS-led initiatives, particularly the reservation for weaker sections in local body elections. Referring to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's 2025-26 budget, he remarked, "I will not comment now. But Congress is talking about social justice while reaping the benefits of our efforts." With JDS aligning with the BJP-led NDA, the party is gearing up for a strong electoral push under Nikhil Kumaraswamy's leadership.

# Forum Demands Additional Staff, Infrastructure for DCRE Special Stations

TPN Correspondent | Dakshina Kannada

The Confederation of SCs' and STs' Organisations has urged the government to strengthen the newly formed DCRE special police stations with adequate staffing, infrastructure, and resources to effectively handle atrocity cases.



Addressing the media, Confederation President Lolaksha welcomed the government's decision to convert the Civil Rights Enforcement Directorate (DCRE) into 33 special police stations across the state. However, he raised concerns about insufficient personnel in high-case districts like Dakshina Kannada.

According to the State DGP's order (dated January 21, 2025), each station is as-

signed one DySP, one Inspector, one SI, three Head Constables, and seven Constables. Lolaksha argued this is inadequate and demanded an increase to one DySP, two Inspectors, four SIs, six Head Constables, 20 Constables, two computer operators, and four police vehicles per station.

Poor Conviction Rates in Atrocity Cases  
Lolaksha highlighted low conviction

rates in cases filed under the Prevention of Atrocities Act: Mangaluru Police Commissionerate (since 2020):

- 127 cases filed
  - 91 charge sheets submitted
  - Only 2 convictions
- Puttur & Bantwal (under SP jurisdiction):**
- 213 cases registered
  - 141 charge sheets submitted
  - Only 3 convictions

The forum emphasized that district-level Atrocity Prevention and Monitoring Committees, headed by the Deputy Commissioner, must function properly and meet once every three months as per legal provisions. However, violations in this process were reported.

Lolaksha urged the Chief Minister to allocate a supplementary budget to ensure the success of the special police stations and strengthen the mechanism under the Prevention of Atrocities Act for better implementation.

# Kodagu DC, Forest Department Clash Over Land Diversion

TPN Correspondent | Kodagu

A dispute between the Kodagu district administration and the forest department over the diversion of reserve forest land for a school has escalated, leading to FIRs being filed against forest officials and warnings of legal action.

On January 9, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Venkata Raja issued an order granting one acre of land in Pattighat Reserve Forest near Sampaje village, Madikeri taluk, for a school. However, forest officials objected, stating the land was declared reserve forest in 1904 and cannot be diverted without proper clearance.

Following the DC's order, locals reportedly cleared the land on March 3 and allegedly attacked forest officials who tried to intervene. The police failed to reach on time, according to a forester who was assaulted. An FIR was later registered against 11 forest officials, including Deputy Conservator of Forests (DCF) Bhaskar B., naming him as Accused No. 1.

Bhaskar stated that the tahsildar conducted a survey on March 6, after which the DC's office declared the land as government property. In response, he held a meeting with the DC on March 4, urging

him to withdraw the complaint against forest officials. The forest department has warned of filing cases under the Wildlife Protection Act and Forest Clearance Act if the land is not safeguarded.

Principal Chief Conservator of Forests Meenakshi Negi reaffirmed that forest clearance is mandatory for land diversion. Meanwhile, Forest Minister Eshwar B. Khandre has directed officials to resolve the dispute. DC Venkata Raja defended his decision, stating the forest department delayed its response, and a final resolution is pending.



# Two Arrested in Koppal Rape and Murder Case; Odisha Tourist's Body Found

TPN Correspondent | Koppal

The Koppal police have arrested two suspects in connection with the rape and assault of two women, including a foreign national, and the murder of an Odisha tourist near the Tungabhadra canal in Sanapur village. The body of Bibash, a 22-year-old tourist from Odisha, who was pushed into the canal on Thursday night, was recovered near the power grid house on Saturday.

According to SP Ram Arasiddi, the arrested individuals have been identified as Mallesha alias Handi Mallesha (22), a mason from Sai Nagar, Gangavati, and Chetan Sai (21), a labourer. Police are searching for the third accused.

On the night of March 7, the victims—two foreign tourists and two Indian nationals, including a homestay owner—were attacked while stargazing near the canal. The accused, who were allegedly under the influence of alcohol, stopped their bikes and demanded money from the tourists. When the group refused, the attackers assaulted them, pushed the

- Odisha tourist's body recovered near Tungabhadra canal
- Two suspects arrested, search on for third accused
- Attack raises concerns over safety in Hampi



men into the canal, and raped the two women.

Police said Mallesha and Sai have confessed to the crime.

The attack has sparked concerns over tourist safety in Hampi, a UNESCO World Heritage site. Security measures in the area are being reviewed, and authorities have assured stricter law enforcement to prevent similar incidents.



## Five Killed in Car-Truck Collision Near Chitradurga

TPN Correspondent | Chitradurga

A devastating road accident claimed the lives of five people in a head-on collision between a car and a truck on the outskirts of Chitradurga on Sunday. The accident occurred near Sibar village in Chitradurga Taluk, leaving no survivors in the car.

According to police reports, the victims were traveling from Bengaluru when their vehicle collided with a truck under circumstances yet to be determined. The impact of the crash was severe, leading to the instant death of all five occupants. Upon receiving

the alert, local authorities and emergency services rushed to the scene. The bodies were retrieved and sent for post-mortem examination, while efforts are underway to contact their families. Police have initiated an investigation into the cause of the accident, including examining factors such as over-speeding, visibility conditions, and possible driver negligence.

The tragedy has cast a shadow over the region, with locals expressing grief over the recurring accidents on the highway. Authorities are expected to review road safety measures in the area to prevent such fatal incidents in the future.

## Kannada Actor Harshvardini Ranya Caught in DRI Gold Smuggling Trap at Bengaluru Airport

Smuggled 14.2 kg gold worth ₹12.56 crore from Dubai

Misused VIP protocol at airport for smooth passage

DRI seized assets worth ₹17.29 crore, including cash and gold

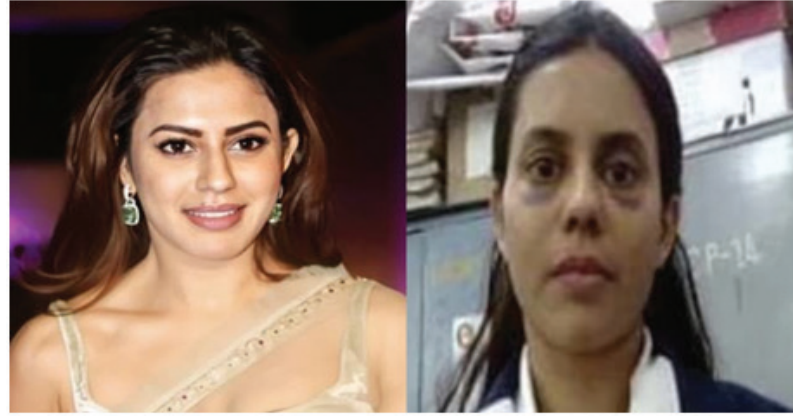
TPN Correspondent | Bengaluru

Kannada actor Harshvardini Ranya (33), stepdaughter of Karnataka State Police Housing Corporation Director General Ramachandra Rao, was arrested by the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) at Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) on March 3 for smuggling 14.2 kg of gold worth ₹12.56 crore. She arrived from Dubai on an Emirates flight and was intercepted at the arrival hall, where officials found 14 one-kg

gold bars strapped to her thighs with tape and bandages.

Her frequent international trips—25 in the past year, including four in the fortnight before her arrest—had put her under DRI's radar. She allegedly misused her stepfather's position, using VIP protocol to bypass mandatory security checks. Authorities are now investigating potential collusion within airport security and her links to a wider smuggling network.

Following her arrest, DRI



officials raided her residence on Lavelle Road, seizing ₹2.06 crore worth of gold jewelry and ₹2.67 crore in cash, bringing the total seizure to ₹17.29 crore, including assets worth ₹4.73 crore.

She was produced before the Economic Offences Court on March 4 and remanded in judicial custody until March 18.

In her statement, Ranya admitted to smuggling gold and traveling frequently to Europe,

America, the Middle East, and Saudi Arabia, though she refused to disclose the total number of trips.

A Sandalwood actress, Ranya debuted in 2014 with Maanikyaa and later acted in Tamil and Kannada films. She married Bengaluru-based architect Jatin Hukkeri in November 2024. Authorities are continuing investigations to determine the full extent of the smuggling network.



## Key Accused in Drug Trafficking Case Arrested in Dakshina Kannada

TPN Correspondent | Dakshina Kannada

Police have arrested Christo T John, the prime accused in a synthetic drug smuggling case, from Kallugundi in Dakshina Kannada district. He was taken into custody on Friday after investigators tracked his contacts and location.

Christo, a resident of Madikeri in Karnataka's Kodagu district, was allegedly involved in smuggling 20.01 grams of MDMA from Bengaluru to Ko-

chi. The contraband was seized in Thoppumpady last November.

Earlier, police had arrested four individuals, including a couple, in connection with the case.

Investigations revealed that Christo had supplied MDMA to two individuals in Bengaluru before his arrest.

The accused was produced before a court and remanded to judicial custody as further investigations continue.



## Nursing Student's Disappearance Sparks Tension in Belagavi

TPN Correspondent | Belagavi

A 19-year-old nursing student's disappearance has led to rising tensions between two communities in Santi Bastwad village, on the outskirts of Belagavi. The girl reportedly went missing on February 22, with her mother filing a complaint on March 8, alleging that she was kidnapped by a man from another community.

The family accused Sadruddin Bepari, a construction worker from the same village, of abducting their daughter 17 days ago. Police sources revealed that the two had been in a relationship for the past two to three years, and their disappearance followed objections raised by the girl's family.

The incident has triggered verbal clashes between the two communities, prompting the police to increase security in the village as a precautionary measure.

## Half of Bengalureans Sleeping Less Than Six Hours, Survey Finds

56% of respondents get less than six hours of sleep

Common sleep disruptors include washroom breaks and mobile notifications

Linked to higher risks of cardiovascular diseases and cognitive issues

TPN Correspondent | Bengaluru

A recent survey conducted by LocalCircles ahead of World Sleep Day (March 14) has revealed a worrying trend of sleep deprivation in Bengaluru, with over half the city's residents sleeping less than six hours per night.

Titled How India Sleeps 2025, the survey collected responses from 5,563 individuals across Bengaluru. Among them, 47% reported sleeping only 4-6 hours a night, while 9% managed even less than four hours. Alarmingly, only 3% of respondents received the recommended 8-10 hours of sleep. The most common reason for



interrupted sleep was waking up to use the washroom, followed by late bedtimes, early morning household routines, mobile notifications, and noise disturbances. Partner or child-related interruptions and uncomfortable bedding also contributed to sleep issues. Additionally, 17% of participants admitted they struggled to sleep for a full eight hours even without external disruptions.

To counteract sleep deficits, many respondents said they rely on afternoon naps, longer weekend sleep, or extra rest on holidays. However, 28% admitted they are unable to recover

lost sleep, leading to chronic sleep deprivation.

Health experts warn that inadequate sleep increases the risk of cardiovascular diseases, weight gain, type 2 diabetes, and cognitive impairment. The findings highlight the urgent need for better sleep habits and increased awareness of sleep-related health risks.

A similar pattern was observed across India, with 59% of respondents nationwide reporting less than six hours of uninterrupted sleep, according to the survey, which gathered over 43,000 responses from 348 districts.

## CID Hackathon in Bengaluru Advances Cybercrime Investigation Research

TPN Correspondent | Bengaluru

The Criminal Investigation Department (CID) launched the second edition of its 24-hour Hackathon in Bengaluru, aiming to advance research in cybercrime investigations. The event, held in collaboration with PES University, provided a platform for young innovators to tackle real-world digital security challenges.

Out of 850 registrations, 50 teams comprising 175 students were shortlisted for the competition. Participants worked on three key topics: Deepfake detection, blockchain-based digital evidence chain of custody, and Internet of Things (IoT) device evidence extraction.

For the Deepfake challenge, teams were required to develop tools to detect and combat manipulated media. The blockchain challenge focused on creating tamper-proof documentation for preserving digital evidence. The IoT task involved designing forensic methods to



extract evidence from connected devices.

The winners will be honored at the annual Cybercrime Summit on March 15. CID officials stated that exceptional participants may also receive opportunities to collaborate with the Cybercrime Investigation Training and Research (CCITR) unit.

CID Director General of Police M.A. Saleem emphasized the significance of the initiative, stating that CCITR is dedicated to bridging the gap between academia and real-world cybersecurity challenges. He highlighted the hackathon's role in fostering innovation and strengthening digital forensics capabilities.



## Karnataka Budget 2025, Vision Set, Implementation the Real Test



- Siddaramaiah presents his 16th budget
- Emphasis on welfare, infrastructure, and agriculture
- Key projects face hurdles in execution

TPN Correspondent | Karnataka

Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, in his 16th budget and third in the current tenure, attempted a balancing act between welfare schemes and infrastructure development. While the budget lacked a standout scheme, it aimed to address various socio-economic aspects, including minority welfare, drawing criticism from the opposition. Despite earlier criticism of the guarantee scheme-heavy approach, the government acknowledged infrastructure's role in economic growth and job creation. The introduction of a rain-fed agriculture policy was a key announcement, given that 64% of the state's cultivated land is non-irrigated. Even a one-quintal-per-hectare increase could significantly boost overall production and benefit small farmers. According to the Karnataka Economic Survey 2024-25, the average farm size is 1.36 hectares, with 80% of holdings being small or marginal, covering 44% of cultivated land. Agriculture, projected to grow at 4% in 2024-25 after a -4.9% decline in 2023-24, remains crucial to Karnataka's rural economy. The budget also reinforced Bengaluru's role as the economic

engine, with Karnataka contributing 20.5% to India's total exports, including 41% in software and services exports. Plans to boost agro-exports could further strengthen the state's economy. However, implementation challenges remain. The Mekedatu Balancing Reservoir project, a major political issue before the 2023 elections, has yet to progress, despite Deputy CM DK Shivakumar's repeated efforts with the Centre. The Congress leadership's engagement with its INDIA bloc ally DMK in Tamil Nadu could be crucial for breaking the impasse. The ₹40,000 crore Bengaluru tunnel roads project, for which the state has guaranteed ₹19,000 crore to BBMP, aims to address the city's traffic congestion. However, experts and civil society groups have raised concerns. The government must ensure public consultations and transparency in feasibility studies before proceeding. With a ₹4.09 lakh crore budget outlay, success depends on effective implementation. As Siddaramaiah stated, "The budget is not just numbers; it carries the responsibility of fulfilling promises made to seven crore people." The coming months will test whether the government can translate vision into action.

## Two Dead, Several Trapped as Dilapidated Building Collapses in Belur



TPN Correspondent | Hassan  
A tragic building collapse in Belur, Hassan district, claimed the lives of two people, with several others feared trapped under the debris on Sunday afternoon, according to police reports. The dilapidated structure, which housed a shop, gave way while customers were inside, leading to a major disaster. Witnesses stated that the sudden collapse left no time for those inside to escape. Upon receiving the alert, police, fire, and emergency services swiftly reached the site and launched an intensive rescue

operation. So far, two bodies have been recovered, while authorities continue efforts to locate and save those still trapped under the rubble. Officials have not yet determined the exact number of people inside the building at the time of the collapse. Meanwhile, rescue teams are using specialized equipment to clear the debris carefully and ensure survivors are safely evacuated. Further updates are awaited as officials continue relief efforts and investigate the cause of the collapse.

## BJP Accuses Karnataka Government of Diverting SC/ST Welfare Funds



TPN Correspondent | Bengaluru

BJP Leader of Opposition in the Legislative Council, Chalavadi Narayanswamy, has accused the Karnataka government of diverting ₹13,443 crore from the Scheduled Castes Sub-Plan (SCSP) and Tribal

- BJP claims ₹13,443 crore diverted from SC/ST welfare
- Dalit organizations to form awareness teams
- Party plans massive protest rally in Bengaluru

Sub-Plan (TSP) to fund its guarantee schemes.

Speaking to the media after meeting Dalit organizations, Narayanswamy stated that 10 teams will be formed to spread awareness across the state. He announced plans for a massive rally in

Bengaluru, expected to be attended by five lakh people, to protest against the alleged fund diversion.

The BJP leader also emphasized that the party will challenge the government's decision in court and continue its fight to ensure that SC/ST welfare funds are used for their intended purpose. He further asserted that the campaign has gained more strength with the participation of Dalit organizations.

The issue has sparked a political controversy, with the opposition intensifying pressure on the Siddaramaiah-led government to clarify its stance on the allocation of SC/ST welfare funds.

## BJP MLA Somashekar Opposes R. Ashok as Opposition Leader

- Dissent within BJP over leadership roles
- ST Somashekar questions Ashok's ability as opposition leader
- Ashok's 'Halal Budget' remark sparks controversy

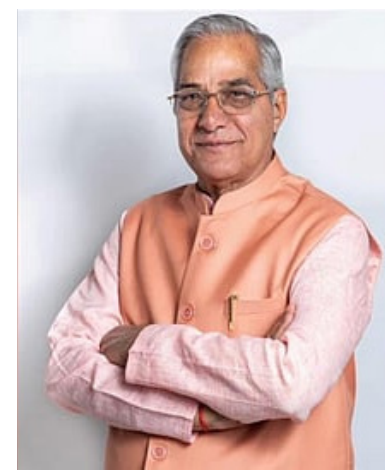
TPN Correspondent | Karnataka

Internal rifts within the Karnataka BJP have intensified, with several party leaders pushing for a change in state leadership. Amid calls for the replacement of state BJP president BY Vijayendra, demands have also emerged to reconsider R. Ashok's position as Leader of Opposition. BJP MLA ST Somashekar has openly voiced opposition to Ashok's leadership, stating that he is unfit for the role. Somashekar, while discussing the recently presented state budget, accused Ashok of making unfounded statements without a proper study of the 197-page budget document. He alleged that the BJP leadership has failed to analyze the budget comprehensively, leading to haphazard remarks. Ashok's characterization of the budget as a "Halal Budget" has also drawn criticism from within his party.



Somashekar argued that opposition leaders should highlight flaws in the budget through proper discussion in the Assembly, rather than provoking public sentiment. Ashok had earlier slammed Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's budget, calling it visionless, anti-development, and merely a political maneuver. He claimed that the people of Karnataka had little hope from the outgoing CM and were left disappointed by the lack of substantial welfare measures. The open dissent within BJP has sparked debates over party leadership and strategy as the opposition struggles to present a united front against the Congress-led state government.

## BJP MP Lahar Singh to Present Wakf Land Misuse Evidence to Centre



TPN Correspondent | Bengaluru

BJP Rajya Sabha MP Lahar Singh Siroya has alleged that Wakf properties in Karnataka have been misused by influential individuals, including Congress leaders. He announced that he will meet Union Minister Kiran Rijju and JPC Chairman Jagadambika Pal in New Delhi on Monday, where he will submit 40,000 pages of documents related to the issue. Siroya claimed that these documents, compiled from every district in Karnataka, were filed by respective deputy commissioners and presented to Justice N Anand, the then Upa Lokayukta. According to

him, this report clearly exposes large-scale irregularities in the handling of Wakf properties.

He accused former Chief Minister Siddaramaiah of deliberately ignoring the report in 2016 to protect certain leaders. He further urged the state government to table the Justice Anand commission report in the ongoing Assembly session, ensuring transparency on the matter.

Siroya also criticized the Congress government's plan to pass a resolution against the Centre's proposed Wakf legislation, arguing that the move was designed to shield powerful individuals rather than protect minority interests. "I only wish to seek justice for the community because I also belong to a minority community," Siroya stated, emphasizing that the issue should not be politicized. He expressed confidence that the evidence will assist the Centre in making informed legislative decisions on Wakf properties. With the BJP now pushing for greater scrutiny of Wakf land dealings, the issue is expected to escalate, potentially triggering a larger political showdown in the state.

## BJP MLC N Ravi Kumar Says Karnataka Budget Has Let Down Farmers, SC/STs

TPN Correspondent | Chikkamagaluru

BJP Chief Whip in the Legislative Council, N Ravi Kumar, has criticized the Karnataka Budget 2025-26, accusing Chief Minister Siddaramaiah of ignoring farmers and SC/ST communities while presenting a Rs 4.09 lakh crore budget. Speaking to the media in Chikkamagaluru, Kumar pointed out that despite a large population of farmers relying on agriculture, the government has failed to allocate funds for major irrigation projects, including the Upper Krishna Project, Tungabhadra, Bhima, and Yetinahole. He termed this as a serious lapse, which would adversely affect the

agricultural sector.

He further alleged that SC/ST communities have been betrayed, despite the CM's claims of being a supporter of Dalits. He noted that while Siddaramaiah had previously enacted a law ensuring Scheduled Caste Sub-Plan (SCSP) and Tribal Sub-Plan (TSP) funds remain untouched,



his government has now overruled it. Kumar accused the state of diverting Rs 13,913 crore out of the Rs 41,000 crore earmarked for SC/STs towards fulfilling the Congress' five guarantee schemes. He claimed that similar diversions occurred in 2023-24 (Rs 39,000 crore) and 2024-25 (Rs 11,144 crore), depriving these communities of their rightful benefits. BJP has been staging statewide protests demanding the return of the diverted SC/ST funds, he said. He also warned that when the Assembly session resumes on Monday, BJP members will raise the issue strongly and urge the government to reverse the diversion and restore the funds to SC/ST welfare programs.

## Deve Gowda Hints at Key Role for Nikhil Kumaraswamy in JDS

TPN Correspondent | Karnataka

Former Prime Minister and JDS supremo H.D. Deve Gowda has hinted at assigning a bigger responsibility to his grandson Nikhil Kumaraswamy, who is currently the state president of the JDS youth wing. Addressing a Women's Day event at the JDS party office, Deve Gowda stated that Nikhil will be entrusted with revitalizing the party across the state. Nikhil, who previously contested but lost the Mandya Lok Sabha and Channapatna by-elections, has been actively involved in the party's organizational activities. Deve Gowda emphasized that

at least 50 women's conferences should be conducted across Karnataka and urged party members to work towards women's empowerment. He also announced a target of fielding at least 80 women candidates in the next assembly elections.

Speaking on the occasion, Nikhil Kumaraswamy criticized Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's budget, likening it to serving "biryani to one community while giving only pickles to others." He accused the Congress government of presenting a discriminatory budget aimed at political gains, rather than ensuring equal justice for all backward communities.

He further pointed out that while the state government has allocated funds for Urdu schools and Waqf properties, it has failed to provide adequate support for universities that cater to students from all backgrounds. Mocking the ₹40,000 crore tunnel road project in Bengaluru, Nikhil questioned its feasibility, calling it an unrealistic promise. JDS leaders, including Suresh Babu, Anitha Kumaraswamy, Venkatarao Nadagouda, and Rashmi Ramegowda, along with hundreds of party activists, attended the event. The party has now set its focus on grassroots mobilization and women's leadership as part of its revival strategy.



# Karnataka State Police Run 2025 Draws Thousands in Mysuru



TPN Correspondent | MYSURU

The Karnataka State Police Run 2025, aimed at promoting physical fitness, raising awareness about cybercrime, and advocating for a narcotic-free society, saw an overwhelming turnout in Mysuru on Sunday. A total of 9,000 participants, including both police officers and the general public, participated in the 5K and 10K runs, making the event a grand success.

The event was flagged off from the Mysuru Palace premises by several distinguished guests, including Deputy Commissioner G. Lakshmikanth Reddy, Deputy Inspector General of Police (DIG), Southern Range, Boralingaiah, Mysuru City Police Commissioner Seema Latkar, and Superintendent of Mysuru district police N. Vishnuvardhan.

The 5K run participants started their

journey from Mysuru Palace and followed a scenic route that passed through key landmarks such as K.R. Circle, JLB Road, Ramaswamy Circle, and Thathaiah Circle, ultimately returning to the Balarama Gate of



Mysuru Palace. The 10K run, which featured a longer route, took participants through K.R. Circle, Metropole junction, Hunsur Road, and several other key points across the city, before also reaching the Mysuru Palace.

In the 10K race, Sumeet Pal clinched first place, while Deekshit Y.S. and Tanuj Kumar K. secured second and third positions, respectively. The police personnel competing in the 10K run saw Amarmulla take the top spot, with Prabhu Jamkhandi and Gopal N. taking second and third places.

In the 5K run, Sumanth won the first prize, with Doreswamy N. and Mahadevaswamy B. securing the second and third positions. Among police participants, Ravish N. bagged the first prize in the 5K, while Mallappa and Nagendra took the second and third spots.

Senior police officials, including Deputy Commissioners of Police M. Muthuraj and Jahnavi S., also participated in the event, further highlighting the community's involvement in the cause.

- Event promotes fitness, cybercrime awareness, and a drug-free society
- 5K & 10K races flagged off from Mysuru Palace, covering key city landmarks
- Winners include Sumeet Pal (10K) & Sumanth (5K) in general category

## Cyclonic Circulation to Bring Widespread Rain to Tamil Nadu from March 10 to 13



TPN Correspondent | CHENNAI

A cyclonic circulation is expected to bring widespread rain to Tamil Nadu from March 10 to 13, with heavy rainfall likely in southern districts on March 11. The Regional Meteorological Centre (RMC), Chennai, has forecasted that temperatures will rise by two degrees Celsius across much of the state until March 10, before dipping after March 11 due to the approaching weather system.

The day temperatures in several parts of Tamil Nadu are expected to be two to three degrees Celsius above average until Monday. However, the heat will subside as the weather system over interior Tamil Nadu moves closer to the region, bringing cooler temperatures. Coastal areas like Chennai, Puducherry, and Karaikal will start experiencing light to moderate rainfall from March 10.

According to P. Senthamarai Kannan, Director of the Area Cyclone Warning Centre at RMC, the cyclonic circulation is likely to cause widespread rain on March 11, continuing for two to three days. While many areas in Tamil Nadu will experience light to moderate showers,

12 districts in the southern and interior regions, including Tirunelveli, Thanjavur, Sivaganga, Kanniyakumari, and Ramanathapuram, are expected to receive heavy rainfall on March 11.

The wet spell is expected to taper off by March 13, with only isolated pockets of rainfall remaining. The weather patterns have also led to significant variations in day and night temperatures, especially in areas such as Karur and Paramathi, where dry weather has caused hot days and cool nights.

On March 8, Erode recorded the highest temperature in the state at 38.2 degrees Celsius. Chennai's Nungambakkam and Meenambakkam areas also reported above-normal temperatures of 33.4 and 35 degrees Celsius, respectively. There was no rainfall recorded across Tamil Nadu on Saturday.

Coastal cities like Chennai may experience mist or haze on Sunday, with the minimum temperature remaining between 23 to 24 degrees Celsius and high moisture levels in the atmosphere. Daytime temperatures are expected to reach 35 to 36 degrees Celsius.

## Ganga's water quality deemed safe for bathing at Maha Kumbh: CPCB report

TPN Correspondent | UP

A report by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), submitted to the National Green Tribunal (NGT), has confirmed that the water quality of the Ganga during the recently concluded Maha Kumbh in Prayagraj was deemed fit for bathing. The report, uploaded on the NGT's website on March 7, analyzed water quality data collected during the event and concluded that the river met the Primary Water Quality Criteria for bathing on the auspicious days of the Maha Kumbh 2025.

The CPCB conducted water monitoring twice a week starting from January 12, including on key bathing days, at five locations along the Ganga and two locations on the Yamuna. This exten-

sive monitoring helped assess water quality at different points in the rivers during the mega event. The report highlighted that, based on statistical



analysis, the water quality at these sites was suitable for bathing.

However, the CPCB report also noted significant "variability in data" across different days and locations. Water samples collected from the same lo-

cations on different dates and even from different locations on the same day showed varying results. Several factors, including the influence of sewage drains, tributary inflows, and fluctuating weather conditions, were cited as reasons for this variability.

Despite these variations, the report concluded that the water quality on the main bathing days met the required standards for safety and hygiene. The findings provide reassurance to the millions of devotees who participated in the Maha Kumbh, underlining the importance of ongoing water quality monitoring during large-scale religious events. The report also serves as a reminder of the challenges faced in maintaining consistent water quality, especially in areas where multiple environmental factors come into play.

## Olive Ridley Turtles Return to Odisha's Eakakulanasi Island After 33 Years



TPN Correspondent | Manipur

Endangered Olive Ridley turtles have returned to Eakakulanasi Island in the Gahirmatha marine sanctuary, Odisha, for mass nesting after an absence of 33 years. This rare and exciting development was hailed as an "exceedingly positive" sign for the turtle pro-

tection efforts being carried out by the Odisha Forest Department.

Assistant Conservator of Forests Manas Das shared that the island had previously experienced sea erosion, which caused the beach to shorten. However, since 2020, the beach has been naturally accreting, or growing, making it a more suitable environment for the turtles to nest.

The last recorded mass nesting on the island occurred in 1992, when around 300,000 turtles laid their eggs there. This year, the beach hosted approximately 170,000 turtles in just two days. The change in the beach's profile, which has extended from 4 kilometers to 8 kilometers due to natural

sediment accumulation, has contributed significantly to this positive shift.

The resurgence of nesting on Eakakulanasi Island adds to the list of vital nesting sites for the Olive Ridley turtles, alongside Nasi-2 beach. In total, over 263,000 turtles have already emerged on Nasi-2 beach to dig nests and lay eggs.

Every year, Olive Ridley turtles gather in the millions for mass nesting along Odisha's coast. The Gahirmatha beach in Kendrapara district is renowned as the world's largest-known nesting ground for these turtles. In addition to Gahirmatha, turtles also return to the Rushikulya river mouth and the Devi river mouth to lay eggs.

## Protester killed as clashes erupt with security forces in Manipur

TPN Correspondent | Manipur

One person was killed and at least 40 others, including women, were injured in violent clashes between protesters and security forces in Manipur on Saturday. The unrest followed the Centre's directive to open roads and highways in the state, which had been blocked by various groups in protest against the government's move.

The protests were primarily led by Kuki groups, who have been demanding a separate Union Territory (UT)

for tribal-majority areas in the state. These groups began blocking roads in Kangpokpi and Senapati districts on the morning of March 8, marking the first day of the Centre's initiative to restore free movement in the state. The police and security forces responded by firing multiple rounds of teargas shells and using lathicharge to disperse the crowds.

As protesters blocked state transport buses and raised slogans, violence escalated, with a bullet injury reported at Keithenmanbi village in Senapati district, where one person was killed

during a skirmish with security personnel. Tensions also increased in Kangpokpi as protesters continued blocking the National Highway-2 route, which disrupted essential transportation.



In response to the clashes, the Kuki-Zo Council, the apex body of tribal communities in the region, announced an indefinite shutdown in all tribal-dominated areas, demanding the formation of a separate Union Territory. The Centre has, however, firmly stated that such demands are non-negotiable.

The unrest was sparked by the resumption of inter-district bus services in Manipur, which had been suspended for two years due to ethnic violence. The resumption marked the

first attempt to restart public transport services since the violence broke out. The situation was further exacerbated when a mob pelted a state transport bus with stones in Kangpokpi district.

Meanwhile, a Meitei peace march was halted in Imphal West district, as it coincided with the Centre's initiative to restore free movement. Security forces were deployed to maintain control and prevent further disruptions.



# Grit and Glory.. India Clinch 3rd Champions Trophy Title

## A Historic Victory Led by Rohit Sharma



In a moment of sheer dominance, Team India lifted their record-breaking third ICC Champions Trophy title with a hard-fought four-wicket victory over New Zealand in Dubai on Sunday. Skipper Rohit Sharma led from the front with a scintillating half-century, ensuring India remained unbeaten throughout the tournament. With this triumph, India cemented their place in cricketing history, becoming the only team to win the Champions Trophy three times, having previously secured titles in 2002 and 2013.

### New Zealand's Resilient Fight

Despite India's control over the game, New Zealand did not go down without a fight. Daryl Mitchell's patient fifty and Bracewell's aggressive late burst helped them add 50 runs in the final five overs. However, their inability to break free from India's disciplined bowling attack proved costly. Mitchell Santner and Bracewell gave brief hope when they removed Iyer and Axar in quick succession during India's chase. However, KL Rahul's steady hand ensured there were no further alarms, and he took India home comfortably in 49 overs.



### KL Rahul's Honest Admission



After the triumph, the Indian team broke into joyous celebrations, with Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli seen performing a 'Dandiya' dance, encapsulating the team's spirit and camaraderie. This moment of euphoria was a testament to how much this victory meant to the squad. Meanwhile, KL Rahul, who played a calm and composed role in India's successful chase, made a candid admission about the tense finish. "Not sure I can say this on air, but I was s\*\*\*\*\* myself," he confessed, highlighting the pressure of finishing off such a crucial match.

### Rohit-Kohli's Celebration

One of the most talked-about moments post-match was the joyous celebration between Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli. The two senior players, often rumored to have had differences in the past, were seen breaking into a spontaneous dandiya dance, symbolizing the strong camaraderie within the squad. This light-hearted celebration reflected the unity and spirit within the team, an essential factor in India's success. For Rohit Sharma, this victory was more than just another title—it was a moment of redemption. Having faced criticism regarding his fitness and leadership, he silenced his detractors with an impactful captaincy and a match-winning knock. Despite missing out on finishing the game himself, his contribution in setting up the chase was invaluable.



### Rohit Sharma's Captaincy and Knock Sets the Tone

If there was any doubt over Rohit Sharma's leadership and ability to deliver in crunch situations, he put them all to rest in the final. The Indian captain played a pivotal role, smashing 76 runs off 83 balls, setting up a strong foundation for the chase. His early onslaught against pacer Nathan Smith, who replaced the injured Matt Henry, laid the groundwork for India's pursuit of 252. His knock, alongside an opening partnership of 105 runs with Shubman Gill (31), proved invaluable, though his dismissal later opened up a window of opportunity for the Kiwis.



### Kohli's Insightful Post-Match Reflections

Post-match, Virat Kohli summed up the team's journey, emphasizing how the squad has been groomed to perform under pressure. "These are the games you want to play – playing under pressure and putting your hand up when it matters the most," Kohli said. "When you leave, you want to leave the team in a better place, and I feel we've got a squad ready to take on the world for the next eight years." Kohli also praised New Zealand, calling them one of the best fielding units and lauding their ability to remain competitive despite a smaller talent pool. "They execute plans so well, and they keep playing the kind of cricket that keeps them in the game. That's what makes them such a tough opponent," he added.



### What This Victory Means for Indian Cricket

This Champions Trophy triumph is more than just another addition to India's trophy cabinet—it is a statement of their dominance in world cricket. With a blend of experienced players and young talents like Shubman Gill, Shreyas Iyer, and Varun Chakravarthy, India's future looks bright. The squad's ability to adapt, their composure under pressure, and the relentless spirit displayed throughout the tournament suggest that India is poised to continue ruling the cricketing world for years to come. As the dust settles on this historic triumph, one thing is clear—Team India's 'invincible' run in the Champions Trophy 2025 will be remembered as one of the greatest campaigns in cricketing history.





# India's Tariff Reduction Not an Extraordinary Step Part of Broader Trade Strategy

India clarifies tariff reductions as part of ongoing trade negotiations  
Talks underway with EU, UK, and US for similar trade agreements  
Bilateral Trade Agreement (BTA) with US expected to progress by fall 2025

**TPN Correspondent | Delhi**  
India's recent agreement to reduce tariffs has been described as a normal part of its ongoing trade negotiations with various countries, a government source told News 18 on Saturday. The source clarified that this move is not unprecedented, as India has previously engaged in similar tariff reductions with other developed nations such as Australia, the UAE, Switzerland, and Norway. Sources further revealed that India is also currently in discussions with the European Union and the United Kingdom regarding similar tariff reductions, underscoring a broader strategy to improve trade relations with

multiple partners. "The ongoing discussions with the United States should be seen in this context," the sources explained, highlighting that India's approach to tariff negotiations is consistent with its past actions in fostering stronger international trade ties. This statement came after US President Donald Trump claimed that India had agreed to cut its tariffs "way down." In remarks made from the Oval Office on Friday, Trump criticized India's high tariffs, calling them restrictive and asserting that they have made it difficult for the US to sell products in India. "India charges us massive tariffs, and you can't even

sell anything into India. It's almost restrictive," Trump said, before adding that India had agreed to lower these tariffs following international pressure. In response, sources indicated that India and the United States had already agreed in February to begin negotiations for a Bilateral Trade Agreement (BTA), with the first phase set to conclude by fall 2025. These negotiations aim to increase market access, reduce tariff and non-tariff barriers, and deepen supply chain integration between the two countries. Union Minister Piyush Goyal led an Indian delegation to Washington DC from March 3 to 6, meeting with



key US trade officials to advance discussions. The negotiations will continue with a focus on tariffs, market access, and other trade issues discussed during Prime Minister Modi's recent visit to Washington DC.

Both countries are working through their respective interests and sensitivities, which will form the basis of ongoing discussions in the coming months.

## High-Stakes Parliament Session: Govt, Oppn Battle Over Waqf Bill, Manipur, and US Tariffs

**TPN Correspondent | Delhi**  
The second part of the Parliament's Budget session will resume on Monday, with the government and opposition bracing for a high-stakes clash over several pressing issues. Key topics expected to dominate the discussions include the Waqf Amendment Bill, ongoing violence in Manipur, allegations of electoral roll manipulation, and India's response to US President Donald Trump's reciprocal tariff threats.



The government is focused on securing parliamentary approval for demands for grants, completing the budgetary process, and pushing for the passage of the Waqf Amendment Bill. Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman is scheduled to present the Manipur budget on Monday, while Union Home Minister Amit Shah will seek approval for President's Rule in Manipur, which has been under central rule since February 13 following the resignation of Chief Minister N Biren Singh.

The opposition plans to corner the government on electoral roll manipulations, particularly regarding claims of duplicate Electoral Photo Identity Cards (EPIC). The Trinamool Congress (TMC) has raised alarms about alleged electoral fraud, prompting the Election Commission (EC) to announce corrective measures. However, the EC denied claims of voter manipulation, stating that identical EPIC numbers did not indicate duplicate voters. The opposition bloc, including Congress, DMK, and Shiv Sena (UBT), is expected to demand a thorough investi-

gation into these allegations during the session. TMC leaders will also meet the EC on Monday to further press the issue.

The government is keen on the early passage of the Waqf Amendment Bill, which Union Minister Kiren Rijju argues will resolve issues facing the Muslim community. However, the opposition, particularly the INDIA alliance, is preparing to oppose the bill, calling for broader consultations to address its concerns. Other significant issues include fresh violence in Manipur, where tensions persist, and political disagreements over the delimitation of Lok Sabha constituencies. The opposition is also preparing to confront the government over Trump's reciprocal tariff threats, with Congress calling for a unified response to counter the US President's stance. The session will run until April 4, with both sides preparing for intense debates on these crucial topics.

## India adds 58th tiger reserve to its tally; PM Modi applauds the development

Madhav National Park Declared as Tiger Reserve in Madhya Pradesh



**TPN Correspondent | Delhi**

Madhav National Park in Madhya Pradesh has officially been declared a Tiger Reserve, marking a significant achievement for wildlife conservation in India. Union Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav made the announcement on social media, highlighting the importance of this addition to the country's growing list of tiger reserves. "Madhav Tiger Reserve is the 58th Tiger Reserve in India and the 9th in Madhya Pradesh," Yadav shared on X, expressing his excitement over the announcement. He praised the dedication of the forest officials and conservationists who have tirelessly worked to protect the wildlife and ecological diversity of the region.

This milestone is part of the country's larger efforts to enhance environmental protection and biodiversity restoration. The announcement came as part of India's ongoing commitment to wildlife conservation, following a historic focus on ecological diversity restoration under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership. Yadav acknowledged the critical role of forest officials in driving the conservation efforts. Prime Minister Modi also congratulated the development, sharing his thoughts on X: "Amazing news for wildlife lovers! India is blessed with wildlife diversity and a culture that celebrates wildlife. We will always be at the forefront of protecting animals and contributing to a sustainable planet."

Madhav Tiger Reserve, now the 9th tiger reserve in Madhya Pradesh, stands as a testament to the state's commitment to protecting tigers and other wildlife. The reserve adds to India's rapidly expanding tiger reserve network, reflecting the country's leadership in global wildlife conservation efforts.

With this new designation, the Madhav Tiger Reserve will benefit from enhanced protection and management measures aimed at ensuring the long-term survival of tigers and their habitats. The reserve's establishment will not only help safeguard the Bengal tiger population but also contribute to the overall conservation of the region's unique biodiversity. The news comes at a time when India continues to make significant strides in environmental conservation, reaffirming the country's commitment to wildlife protection.

## Nonsense: Tejashwi Yadav rejects possibility of pact with Nitish Kumar

**TPN Correspondent | Bihar**  
Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) leader Tejashwi Yadav, on Sunday, expressed strong displeasure when asked about the possibility of a realignment with Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar. During a press conference, Yadav dismissed any notion of a political alliance, saying, "Why would we join hands? Why are you trying to divert attention from the issue at hand?" His comments came in response to media reports speculating about the potential of Nitish Kumar being wary of his alliance partner, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), which is believed to be pushing for a leadership change after the upcoming Bihar assembly elections.



phased that any decisions related to alliances within his party were solely up to RJD President Lalu Prasad Yadav and himself. He went on to dismiss the questions as "nonsense," underlining the importance of not distracting from more pressing matters.

Yadav made it clear that no offers for an alliance had been made and em-

The deputy chief minister took the opportunity to criticize Nitish Kumar's recent actions, questioning his public con-

duct. Referring to the language used by Kumar in public, Yadav remarked that the chief minister appeared to be "no longer in his senses." He further pointed out Kumar's recent public gestures of deference to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, such as trying to touch Modi's feet, which Yadav found unbecoming for a state chief minister. "Does this behave the chief minister of a state?" Yadav questioned, adding that it might not be long before Kumar starts "falling at the feet" of his two current deputies, Vijay Kumar Sinha and Samrat Choudhary.

Tejashwi Yadav's comments signal a deepening rift between the RJD and Nitish Kumar's Janata Dal (United), further intensifying the political tension in Bihar as the state braces for upcoming elections.

## J&K LG Orders Probe into Killing of Three Civilians in Kathua; Protests Erupt

**TPN Correspondent | Jammu**

Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha has ordered a thorough investigation into the tragic killings of three civilians, including a 14-year-old boy, in Kathua district. The bodies of the victims—Varun Singh, Yogesh Singh, and Darshan Singh—were discovered on March 8, three days after they went missing while returning from a wedding in Billawar. The bodies were found near a waterbody in the upper reaches of Billawar, prompting widespread protests in the region. Sinha assured the public that a transparent investigation would be carried out and that necessary support would be provided to the families of the victims. "I assure the people that



the perpetrators will be brought to book at the earliest. Justice will be ensured, and accountability will be

fixed," he said in a statement. Union Minister Jitendra Singh, representing the Udhampur constituency, expressed concern over the killings, suggesting a possible terror angle behind the incident. "The brutal killing of three youth by terrorists in Bani area of district Kathua is extremely sad. There seems to be a conspiracy behind these acts to spoil the peaceful atmosphere," he said, adding that discussions were ongoing with officials to address the issue. The Union Home Secretary is expected to assess the situation on the ground. In response to the killings, locals in Kathua staged protests, demanding justice for the victims. Former Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti condemned the rising

violence in the region, describing it as "deeply alarming." She also criticized the police's focus on extracting false confessions rather than apprehending the real perpetrators. Mufti further raised concerns over the crackdown on locals, with many charged under the Public Safety Act (PSA) or Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (UAPA), often without sufficient evidence. She called for swift yet careful action to identify the culprits and maintain communal harmony. BJP leader Sunil Sharma, who met with protesters in Billawar, also condemned the killings, expressing concern over a possible conspiracy aimed at disturbing peace in the region. He assured the public that the authorities would ensure justice is served.



# Hamas Signals Positive Signs for Resumption of Ceasefire Talks as Negotiations Begin

Israeli delegation to visit Doha for truce talks on Monday

Hamas calls for accountability and a transition to permanent ceasefire

First phase resulted in hostage-prisoner exchanges, but tensions remain

Negotiations continue amid efforts to extend ceasefire into mid-April



TPN Correspondent | Cairo, Egypt

Hamas has indicated "positive" developments regarding the resumption of negotiations for the second phase of the ceasefire in Gaza, following a meeting between Hamas representatives and mediators in Cairo on Saturday.

Hamas spokesperson Abdel Latif Al-Qanoua confirmed that efforts from Egyptian and Qatari mediators were progressing, with the potential to continue implementing the ceasefire agreement. He described the indicators as "pos-

itive" but refrained from offering further details.

Meanwhile, Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's office stated that Israel would send a delegation to Doha on Monday for truce talks. The Israeli delegation's visit is in response to an invitation from US-backed mediators, aiming to push the negotiations forward.

The first phase of the ceasefire, which began in early February, came to an end on March 1. This phase saw a period of relative calm, including exchanges of hostages and

prisoners, but widespread hostilities have not fully resumed. However, while Israel has expressed interest in extending the current phase until mid-April, Hamas insists on moving forward with the second phase of the ceasefire, which they hope will lead to a permanent cessation of hostilities.

On Saturday, a high-level Hamas delegation held talks with Egyptian officials, with discussions focused on transitioning into the second phase of the ceasefire. Al-Qanoua emphasized the need for mediators to hold Israel accountable

for upholding the agreement. He also reaffirmed Hamas's commitment to beginning negotiations for the next phase in order to meet the demands of the Palestinian people.

Under the first phase, Gaza militants released 25 hostages and eight bodies in exchange for the release of approximately 1,800 Palestinian prisoners from Israeli custody.

Out of the 251 captives taken during the Hamas attack on Israel on October 7, 2023, 58 remain in Gaza, including 34 confirmed dead by the Israeli military.



## Musk calls Starlink 'backbone' of Ukraine army, brings up combat with Putin again

TPN Correspondent | Washington

Tech billionaire Elon Musk has once again sparked global debate over the ongoing war in Ukraine with a series of provocative tweets. Musk, the CEO of SpaceX, claimed that his Starlink system plays a critical role in supporting Ukraine's military operations, suggesting that the entire front line of Ukrainian forces could collapse if he chose to deactivate the service. His comments have raised concerns and reignited discussions about the role of private companies in conflicts.

In one tweet, Musk boldly stated, "I literally challenged Putin to one-on-one physical combat over Ukraine, and my Starlink system is the backbone of the Ukrainian army." He further claimed that the Ukrainian military's communications and operations would be severely disrupted without Starlink, a satellite internet system developed by SpaceX, which has been crucial in maintaining connectivity in Ukraine amid Russian attacks on the country's infrastructure.

Musk's comments have been met with mixed reactions, with some criticizing him for overly inflating the importance of Starlink in Ukraine's

military strategy. Others have expressed concern about the potential for Musk's actions to influence the outcome of the war. Musk, who has previously made headlines for his controversial views on the conflict, also suggested that imposing sanctions on Ukrainian oligarchs could help bring an end to the war. His remarks have added fuel to the ongoing debate over how private businesses and individuals should engage with international conflicts.

The billionaire's influence, particularly through his company SpaceX, has made him a central figure in discussions about the role of private companies in modern warfare. While Starlink has undoubtedly provided critical communication infrastructure for Ukraine, Musk's public statements have raised questions about the broader ethical and political implications of his involvement.

As the war in Ukraine continues to evolve, Musk's influence on global geopolitics remains a topic of increasing scrutiny. His comments further highlight the complex intersection of technology, business, and international conflict.

## "Reconsider": US Issues "Do Not Travel" Advisory For Pakistan Due To Terrorism



TPN Correspondent | Washington

The US State Department has issued a travel advisory urging American citizens to avoid traveling to specific regions in Pakistan, particularly near the India-Pakistan border, the Line of Control, and the provinces of Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. The advisory, issued on Friday, highlights concerns over terrorism and the poten-

tial for armed conflict in these areas.

The State Department advised Americans to "reconsider travel" to Pakistan, citing the persistent threat of terrorism and the risk of armed conflict. The advisory specifically warns against visiting Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, which includes the former Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA), due to ongoing

terrorism. These regions have witnessed frequent terrorist attacks, ranging from small-scale assaults to large-scale bombings, resulting in significant casualties.

The advisory further noted that extremist groups continue to plan and carry out attacks throughout Pakistan. Targets include transportation hubs, markets, shopping malls, military installations, airports, universities, and places of worship. In the past, US diplomats and diplomatic facilities have also been targeted. The security environment in Pakistan is described as unpredictable, with the situation often changing rapidly, particularly in the more remote regions.

Regarding the India-Pakistan border, the advisory cautioned travelers against going near the Line of Control, where militant groups are active. Both

India and Pakistan maintain a strong military presence in these areas, and the US strongly discouraged travel for any reason. The only official border crossing between India and Pakistan, in Wagah, requires an Indian visa for entry, and no visa services are available at the border.

Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa are also marked as high-risk areas. The advisory highlighted ongoing terrorist activities in Balochistan, including attacks by separatist groups. Similarly, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa has been a hotbed of terrorist and insurgent attacks, particularly targeting civilians, non-governmental organizations, and government officials. The US advised against all travel to these provinces due to the high security risks.

## Panama Frees Dozens of Migrants Deported From US, Give Them 30 Days To Leave

TPN Correspondent | Panama City

Following international criticism, Panama has released dozens of migrants deported by the United States, who had been held for weeks in a remote camp in the country. On Friday, Panama announced that 112 deported migrants, mostly from Asian countries, would be granted 30-day temporary permits to stay in the country while they determine their next steps.

The government's decision, made for humanitarian reasons, has drawn mixed reactions. While officials cited the importance of providing the migrants with temporary relief, human rights lawyers expressed concerns that the move could serve to absolve Panama of international scrutiny regarding the treatment of the deportees. They warn that this policy might also put the migrants at further risk.

Panama's Security Minister, Frank Abrego, explained that the temporary permits would last 30 days but could be renewed. He clarified that the migrants had chosen to handle their own affairs instead of accepting help from organi-



zations like the International Organization for Migration and the UN Refugee Agency. As the clock ticks down on their permits, the migrants now face the uncertainty of where to go next, without resources or support.

Many of the deported individuals were part of the larger immigration crackdown initiated by former President Donald Trump's administration. Since taking office, Trump's policies had sent hundreds of individuals, many of whom were families, to Panama and Costa Rica as transit countries while their deportations were processed.

For many migrants, like 29-year-old Hayatullah Omagh

from Afghanistan, the future is uncertain. Omagh fled Afghanistan after the Taliban's return to power, but was deported from the US after being denied asylum. Now in Panama, Omagh expressed his fear of returning home, stating that under the Taliban, his life would be at risk.

Others, such as 27-year-old Nikita Gaponov, who fled Russia due to LGBTQ+ persecution, are also in limbo, with few options available. As these migrants navigate their uncertain futures, human rights groups are stepping in to provide resources and assistance. However, many deportees remain stranded, with no clear path forward.

## India Pegged As Top Source Market For London's Ambitious New 'Growth Plan'

TPN Correspondent | London

London has launched a bold new 'growth plan' aimed at generating an estimated 27 billion pounds in extra tax revenue, which will be directed towards vital public services both within the city and across the UK. The plan, introduced by Mayor Sadiq Khan and growth agency London & Partners, aims to boost productivity by an average of 2% annually over the next decade, potentially making London's economy 107 billion pounds larger by 2035.

India is recognized as London's number one source market for foreign direct investment (FDI), having overtaken the US in 2022-23. The trend has continued into 2023-24, with India driving a significant portion of London's economic growth. According to Laura Citron, CEO of London & Partners, "Foreign direct investment from India has been the fastest growing and has been our number one market for the last two years." Indian tech companies, as well as students, have contributed to this rapid growth. Post-Brexit, Indian students have become the second-largest group of international students in London, with



over 38,600 students enrolled in the 2023-24 academic year, accounting for more than 20% of all international students.

In addition to the education sector, India has emerged as a key player in tourism, contributing significantly to London's growing number of visitors. Mark Hertli, Head of Global Engagement at St George's University, highlighted the increase in Indian student enrollment, emphasizing that Indian students act as lifelong ambassadors, strengthening ties between the UK and India.

Indian companies like Mphasis are also expanding their presence in London. Ashish Devalekar, Executive Vice

President at Mphasis, spoke about their London Innovation Hub, underscoring the city's role as a global hub for technology and innovation.

The 'Growth Plan' aims to boost productivity by nurturing talent, encouraging innovation, and improving infrastructure, including housing and transport.

The plan is projected to create 150,000 new jobs and improve the weekly income of the lowest-earning 20% of Londoners by 20%. This initiative underscores London's commitment to becoming a global leader in innovation, fostering opportunities for all its residents.



# Bullish sentiment in metals and Commodities Shares

The domestic stock market is expected to see mixed trends this week, with global developments playing a key role in driving indices. Markets, currently in the accumulation phase after reaching oversold positions, are showing signs of improving breadth. Market momentum will continue based on decisions made by US President Donald Trump. While quality stocks are available at attractive prices, significant buying activity is not expected. Investors should remain cautious amid market fluctuations.



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## Mazdock

Mazdock shares, which touched a lifetime high in July last year, have been in a downtrend and under accumulation for several months. These shares are currently taking support at the crucial ₹2,000 level and are showing signs of an uptrend. Last week, the stock rose by 9% compared to the Nifty index. Mazdock closed at ₹2,338 last Friday. Investors should consider taking positions at ₹2,320/2,300 with a target price of ₹2,550. A stop-loss should be placed at ₹2,285.



Friday. Investors should consider taking positions in the ₹1,300 range with a target price of ₹1,450. A stop-loss is advised at ₹1,280.

last week, they gained for four consecutive sessions, rising by 7% compared to Nifty. Trading volumes have started contracting. The stock closed at ₹219 last Friday. Investors should take positions at ₹200 with a target price of ₹225/240. A stop-loss should be maintained at ₹200.

## Bharat Rasayan

Bharat Rasayan has corrected by 35% from the ₹14,500 level, forming a solid base at ₹10,000. The stock closed at ₹11,140 last Friday with a 6% gain, breaking out from its base. Investors should enter at ₹11,100 with a target price of ₹11,500/11,600. A stop-loss should be placed at ₹11,000.



**Bharat RASAYAN LIMITED**

## JSW Infra



JSW Infra shares have corrected by 35% since the beginning of the year but are now displaying a V-shaped recovery. After taking support at ₹220, the stock gained 6% last week and 4% over the past month. It closed at ₹269 last Friday. Investors should enter at ₹260 with a target price of ₹310. A stop-loss should be placed at ₹245. Investors should remain vigilant and make informed decisions based on market trends and risk factors.

## Cochin Shipyard

Cochin Shipyard has seen a 60% decline from its lifetime high and has now started accumulating. It has found strong support at the ₹1,200 level. The stock displayed strength last week, gaining 5.5% relative to the Nifty benchmark. Cochin Shipyard closed at ₹1,335 last



## Rites



Rites shares have been in a downtrend for several months, losing nearly 50% of their value. However,

# New Income Tax Bill defines virtual digital space for searches, seizures: Sitaraman



The new Income-tax Bill proposes to grant tax officers enhanced powers to access digital accounts, including social media platforms, online investment and trading accounts, banking accounts, and email servers. The bill introduces a broad definition of "virtual digital space," empowering income tax authorities to gather information during surveys, searches, and seizures.

While the proposal is being positioned as a necessary step to curb tax evasion, it has sparked concerns about privacy and the potential for misuse of these expansive powers. Critics argue that it could lead to overreach, with tax authorities gaining access to private online communications and sensitive financial data without sufficient oversight.

According to the bill, "virtual digital space" is defined as "any digital realm that allows users to interact, communicate, and perform activities through computer technology." This sweeping definition grants authorities the ability to examine various online platforms where users engage in financial, social, and professional activities.

Proponents of the bill, however, contend that these measures are essential in a world where financial transactions and personal activities increasingly occur in digital spaces. The bill aims to make it easier for tax authorities to track hidden income, undeclared investments, and other forms of financial misconduct that may go undetected in traditional, offline auditing processes.

The proposed measure is part of the government's ongoing effort to tackle tax evasion and ensure greater compliance with tax laws in the increasingly digital world. The new powers would enable tax officers to gather data from online sources that were previously difficult to monitor or access, allowing for more thorough investigations into potential financial irregularities.

As the bill continues to be debated, the focus will likely be on striking a balance between enforcing tax laws effectively and protecting individual privacy rights in the digital age. The full implications of this proposed legislation remain to be seen, especially as it moves through the legislative process.

# Tata Capital Set to File \$2 Billion IPO After NCLT Approval for Tata Motors Finance Merger

Tata Capital, a leading financial services firm, is expected to file preliminary papers with the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) for a \$2 billion (over ₹17,000 crore) initial public offering (IPO) after securing final approval from the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) for its merger with Tata Motors Finance. The merger approval is anticipated by the end of this financial year (FY25), according to sources close to the development.



Once completed, the IPO is expected to value Tata Capital at around \$11 billion. The company, which is classified as an upper-layer non-banking financial company (NBFC) by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), has already received board approval to move forward with the share sale.

The IPO will consist of 2.3 crore equity shares, with a mix of a fresh issue and an offer for sale (OFS) from existing shareholders, as disclosed in a statement to stock exchanges. In addition to the IPO, Tata Capital is also planning to raise funds through a rights issue to strengthen its financial position before the listing.

The upcoming IPO, if successful, will be

one of the largest in the Indian financial sector, marking a significant milestone for Tata Capital. It also represents the Tata Group's second public market debut in recent years, following the successful listing of Tata Technologies in November 2023.

The IPO is part of Tata Capital's efforts to comply with the RBI's listing requirements for upper-layer NBFCs, which mandates that these entities must list on the stock exchange within three years of being categorized as such. Tata Capital was designated as an upper-layer NBFC in September 2022.

Tata Motors and Tata Motors Finance are also involved in the merger, which was approved by their respective boards in June 2024. The Competition Commission of India (CCI) cleared the proposed merger in September. Following the merger, Tata Motors will hold a 4.7% stake in the merged entity.

# India's Solar Capacity Set to Accelerate with 85-90 GW Expected in FY 2026-27

India's solar power sector is poised for substantial growth, with projections indicating the addition of 85-90 GW of new solar capacity in the Financial Years (FY) 2026 and 2027, according to a report by SBI Caps. This surge in solar capacity is expected to be driven not only by utility-scale solar projects but also by significant contributions from the residential rooftop solar sector.

The report highlights the resilience of India's solar industry, noting that solar capacity additions are reaching unprecedented levels despite fluctuations in demand. It predicts that solar additions could increase to 30 GW in FY 2025, doubling previous projections. Additionally, the demand for solar modules is forecasted to reach 100 GW annually.

However, the realization of these projections depends on several key factors. These include a reduction in the Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) and Power Sale Agreement (PSA) gaps, the successful completion of the PM-SGMBY (Prime Minister-Residential Solar Energy Scheme) by FY28, and improved compliance with Renewable Purchase Obligation (RPO) standards. The report also points out potential risks such as land acquisition constraints, challenges in the implementation of the Accelerated Land and Climate Management (ALCM) program, and restrictive state policies on net metering. On the positive side, timely implementation of schemes like PM-KUSUM (Pradhan Mantri Kisan Urja Suraksha evam Utthaan Mahabhiyan) could further boost demand.

India's solar sector has experienced an extraordinary 3,450% increase in capacity over the past decade, growing from just 2.82 GW in 2014 to an impressive 100 GW in 2025. As of January 31, 2025, India's installed solar capacity stood at 100.33 GW, with 84.10 GW currently under development and an additional 47.49 GW under tender.



Solar power continues to be the dominant source of renewable energy in India, accounting for 47% of the country's total renewable energy capacity. In 2024, a record 24.5 GW of solar capacity was added, reflecting a more than two-fold increase from 2023. The utility-scale sector saw the installation of 18.5 GW, nearly 2.8 times the capacity added the previous year. States like Rajasthan, Gujarat, Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, and Madhya Pradesh have emerged as leaders in utility-scale solar capacity.

The rooftop solar sector has also seen impressive growth, with 4.59 GW of new capacity installed in 2024, marking a 53% increase from the previous year. The PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana, launched in 2024, has played a crucial role in this growth, with nearly 9 lakh rooftop solar installations completed across the country.

India's strides in solar manufacturing are equally remarkable. The country's solar module production capacity has surged from just 2 GW in 2014 to 60 GW in 2024, establishing India as a global leader in solar manufacturing.





## Man Shot Dead After Being Removed from WhatsApp Group in Pakistan

In a shocking incident in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Regi area, near Peshawar, Pakistan, a man was shot and killed after being removed from a WhatsApp group. The tragic event took place on the evening of March 7, 2025, when Mushtaq Ahmed, the administrator of a WhatsApp group, removed Ashfaq Khan following some disagreements. This action reportedly led to a heated argument, which ultimately escalated into violence. According to reports from Arab News, Mushtaq Ahmed had removed Ashfaq Khan from the group, sparking a dispute between the two. The argument, which began over the digital platform, reportedly escalated when Ashfaq Khan became enraged by his removal. In an act of fury, Ashfaq opened fire on Mushtaq, fatally wounding him. Mushtaq died on the spot from the gunshot injuries. Humayun Khan, Mushtaq's brother, was a witness to the horrifying incident. Speaking to Arab News, he shared, "My slain brother Mushtaq and Ashfaq had developed some differences in a WhatsApp group, forc-

ing my brother to remove the latter. Ashfaq got infuriated and shot my brother dead." Humayun went on to explain that the family had no prior knowledge of any significant dispute between the two men. "It was a non-issue or a very trivial matter. No one in our family even knew about the dispute at all," he added. Local police officer Abid Khan confirmed that a complaint had been filed by Mushtaq's brother, and the police report revealed that both sides had been attempting to resolve the issue when Ashfaq suddenly pulled out a gun and shot Mushtaq. After the shooting, the suspect fled the scene, and the police are actively searching for him. The incident has sparked outrage on social media, where many expressed disbelief at how a simple disagreement over a digital platform could lead to such a violent outcome. Journalist Ghulam Abbas Shah posted on X (formerly Twitter), stating, "Pakistan: A man was shot dead in Peshawar after removing someone from a #WhatsApp group. The suspect,

enraged over the removal, allegedly opened fire, killing Mushtaq on the spot. Police have registered a case, but no arrest has been confirmed." Social media users were quick to comment on the shocking nature of the case. One user remarked, "Behind such cases, there is always a long story—rivalry, betrayal, and personal enmity on both sides. Small incidents, like being removed from WhatsApp, often become the tipping point where something tragic happens." Another user wrote, "People kill each other over very small issues. No fear of police law and punishments." Others expressed their disbelief at the situation, with one person saying, "Unbelievable! What have we come to? Taking lives over digital spaces? This is beyond madness!" Another commenter described the event as "very unfortunate" and "really scary." The incident has left the local community in shock, questioning the increasing role of digital spaces in escalating personal conflicts and the violence that can result from seemingly trivial matters.

## WhatsApp Beta Introduces AI-Generated Group Icons, Meta AI Widget



WhatsApp is testing two exciting features in its latest beta versions for Android, enhancing the user experience with AI-driven tools. One of the standout features is the ability to generate group icons using Meta AI. Beta testers can now tap on the pencil icon while viewing a group's existing icon and select the "Create AI Image" option. This will prompt Meta AI to generate multiple image options based on a prompt, allowing users to easily customize their group icon. This feature is expected to roll out to all users soon. In addition to the AI-generated icons, WhatsApp has also introduced a new widget, making it easier to access its Meta AI chatbot. With the update in WhatsApp beta for An-

droid 2.25.6.14, users can add a widget to their home screen, offering a shortcut to quickly access the Meta AI chatbot without opening the app. The widget shows an "Ask Meta AI" button, which directs users to chat with the Meta AI, where they can input queries or use voice or camera prompts for more interactive responses. These new features will provide users with more personalization and convenience, reflecting WhatsApp's continuous effort to integrate advanced AI capabilities into its platform. While these features are currently available in beta, they are expected to reach stable versions for both Android and iOS in the coming months.

## Harsh Goenka's 'One Dessert Per Week' Post Goes Viral Featuring Giant Ice Cream Sundae

Billionaire businessman Harsh Goenka recently shared a video on X (formerly Twitter) that has taken the internet by storm. Known for his engaging social media posts, Goenka's latest offering shows a dessert that is truly a dream come true for ice cream lovers. The video begins with a large cone-shaped glass filled with four scoops of chocolate ice cream. However, this treat quickly escalates into a towering dessert as more scoops of various ice cream flavours are added. To top it off, fruits, cream, and other indulgent toppings are piled on, turning the creation into a massive ice cream sundae. The video's caption, which mentions "one dessert per week," caught the attention of many, as it humorously showcases an over-the-top dessert, sparking conversations about indulgence and moderation. The extravagant sundae has left the internet in awe, with many expressing their thoughts and reactions to the sheer size of the dessert. Goenka's playful post has gone viral, with users across social media sharing their excitement and humor over the giant ice cream creation.



## iPhone 17 Air Dimensions Leaked; Slim Bezels and Ultra-Thin Design Expected

Apple is gearing up for the release of its next-generation smartphones, and rumors surrounding the iPhone 17 series are already making waves. Among the most anticipated models is the iPhone 17 Air, which is expected to be Apple's slimmest smartphone in years. According to a recent leak from the reliable tipster Ice Universe, details about the iPhone 17 Air's design and dimensions have emerged, providing a clearer picture of what Apple fans can expect when the device hits the market later this year. The iPhone 17 Air is expected to sport a design similar to the iPhone 17 Pro Max in terms of its length and width. As per the leak, the dimensions of the iPhone 17 Air will closely mirror the iPhone 16 Pro Max, with a height of 163mm and a width of 77.6mm. However, the key difference will be the thickness. The iPhone 17 Air is said to be just 5.5mm thick, making it considerably thinner than its counterparts in the iPhone 17 lineup, including the iPhone 17 Pro Max, which is expected to measure 8.7mm in thickness. This ultra-thin design would make the iPhone 17 Air one of the slimmest smartphones on the market, offering a sleek and lightweight alternative to the bulkier models. In terms of the display, the iPhone 17 Air is expected to feature a 6.9-inch LTPO AMOLED screen, which will be



Another significant change for the iPhone 17 Air is the rumored shift to a titanium frame. While the iPhone 17 Pro models are expected to continue using stainless steel, and the standard models will feature an aluminum frame, the iPhone 17 Air is reportedly adopting a more premium titanium frame. This would provide enhanced durability and a more refined finish without adding much bulk to the device. The iPhone 17 Air is also expected to have a smaller battery compared to its larger counterparts. This is likely a result of the slim design, which requires compromises in battery capacity. Additionally, Apple is rumored to remove the physical SIM slot, further contributing to the device's slim profile and possibly paving the way for eSIM technology to become more widely adopted. Overall, the iPhone 17 Air is shaping up to be a highly anticipated device, combining a sleek, slim design with cutting-edge technology. While the smaller form factor and reduced camera count may not appeal to every user, the combination of premium materials, a stunning display, and Apple's signature design ethos make the iPhone 17 Air a noteworthy addition to the iPhone 17 lineup. With more details expected to emerge in the coming months, the iPhone 17 Air will surely be one of the most talked-about devices later this year.

0.2mm larger than the iPhone 16 Plus. One of the most exciting aspects of this display is the slim bezels that will accompany it, similar to those found on the iPhone 16 Pro Max. This would result in an immersive viewing experience, with more screen real estate in a compact form factor. The slim bezels are expected to contribute to a more modern and premium aesthetic, making the iPhone 17 Air visually striking while still being extremely thin. While the iPhone 17 Air will offer a sleek design, it will come with trade-offs in terms of camera capabilities. Unlike the more advanced iPhone 17 Pro and iPhone 17 Pro Max models, which are expected to feature a triple-camera setup, the iPhone 17 Air will reportedly be equipped with just a single rear camera. This decision is likely a result of the device's slim profile, prioritizing a thinner design over additional camera sensors.



## Not Our Home Ground, But...

Rohit Sharma's Gratitude After India's Champions Trophy Triumph

India captain Rohit Sharma expressed heartfelt gratitude to fans after leading his team to a thrilling four-wicket victory over New Zealand in the final of the Champions Trophy 2025. Despite playing away from home, India found unwavering support in Dubai as they clinched their third title in the tournament's history.

Rohit played a pivotal role in India's chase of 252 runs, scoring a crucial 76 off 83 balls to set the foundation. Despite some tense moments towards the end, India held their nerve, reaching the target in 49 overs. KL Rahul's unbeaten 34 ensured the team crossed the finish line with six balls to spare.

Following the victory, Rohit acknowledged the immense support from fans, despite India's matches being held outside the country due to political tensions with hosts Pakistan.

"I want to appreciate everyone who came out and supported us. The crowd here has been magnificent. It is not our home ground, but they made it our home ground," Rohit said after the



match. "The number of people that came here to watch us play, to give them that win was satisfying." Earlier in the match, India's spinners dominated the New Zealand batting lineup, restricting them to 251. The bowling attack's disciplined effort ensured the target remained within reach. With this win, India secured their third Champions Trophy title, surpassing Australia's tally of two. India remained unbeaten throughout the tournament, cementing their status as the world's No. 1 ODI team. The victory adds to their previous Champions Trophy triumphs in 2002 and 2013, further solidifying their dominance in international cricket.

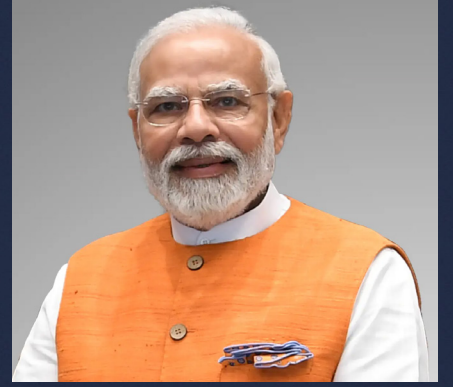
## Exceptional Game, Exceptional Result

PM Modi Congratulates Team India

Prime Minister Narendra Modi hailed Team India's remarkable victory in the ICC Champions Trophy 2025, calling it an "exceptional game" and an "exceptional result." India edged past New Zealand in a thrilling final, chasing down 252 with six balls to spare at the Dubai International Cricket Stadium.

Taking to X (formerly Twitter), PM Modi expressed his pride in the team's performance, stating:

"An exceptional game and an exceptional result! Proud of our cricket team for bringing home the ICC Champions Trophy. They've played wonderfully through the tournament. Congratulations to our team for the splendid all-around display."



Led by Rohit Sharma, India put up a commanding performance in the high-stakes match. The skipper's crucial 76 at the top provid-

ed the perfect foundation, while KL Rahul's composed unbeaten 34 ensured India's third Champions Trophy title.

## From Body-Shaming to 'Hats Off Rohit'

Congress Leader Shama Mohamed Praises India Captain

Congress leader Shama Mohamed, who recently faced backlash for body-shaming Rohit Sharma and questioning his captaincy, has now praised the Indian skipper after the team's Champions Trophy 2025 triumph. India defeated New Zealand by four wickets in the final, successfully chasing 251 with an over to spare at the Dubai International Cricket Stadium.

Shama took to X (formerly Twitter) to acknowledge Rohit's leadership and performance, writing: "Congratulations to #TeamIndia for their stupendous performance in winning the #ChampionsTrophy2025! Hats off to Captain @



ImRo45 who led from the front with a brilliant 76, setting the tone for victory. @Shreyasiyer15 and @klrahul played crucial knocks, steering India to glory!" This praise comes after Shama previously criticized Rohit's fitness during the semi-final stage,

calling him "fat for a sports person." She had also labeled him "the most unimpressive captain" in another post, which she later deleted. Her comments had sparked widespread criticism from fans and cricket analysts. However, Rohit let his bat do the talking, delivering a match-winning 76 off 83 balls in the final. His aggressive start put India in control early, paving the way for their third Champions Trophy title.

India remained unbeaten in the tournament, further cementing their dominance as the world's top-ranked ODI team.



## Punjab FC, Mohammedan SC Aim for Strong Finish in ISL 2024-25



Punjab FC will face Mohammedan SC in their final match of the ISL 2024-25 season at the Kishore Bharati Krirangan on Monday. Both teams, promoted to the top tier in the 2023-24 season, have had contrasting campaigns, with Punjab FC securing 27 points from 23 games and Mohammedan SC managing only 12 points. Punjab FC, coached by Panagiotis Dilmeris, started strong but faltered later in the season. In contrast, Mohammedan SC, under interim coach Mehrajuddin Wadoo, has learned valuable lessons from their debut season. Punjab FC will look

to secure a consecutive clean sheet against Mohammedan SC, having won the reverse fixture 2-0 and a 3-1 victory in their last away match against Hyderabad FC. Mohammedan SC has struggled at home, failing to score in six of their 11 home games and conceding multiple goals in recent matches. Punjab FC will exploit this weakness, aiming for a strong finish to the season. Both teams will look to end their campaigns on a high note, with pride and momentum at stake.

## Semi-finals Of 15th Hockey India Senior Women National Championship 2025

The 15th Hockey India Senior Women National Championship 2025 saw Hockey Jharkhand, Hockey Maharashtra, and Hockey Mizoram secure spots in the semi-finals with impressive quarter-final victories.

In the first quarter-final, Hockey Jharkhand defeated Hockey Madhya Pradesh 3-1, with captain Al-bela Rani Toppo (4'), Rajni Kerketta (41'), and Pramodni Lakra (59') on the scoresheet. Karishma Yadav (55') scored the lone goal for Madhya Pradesh.

Hockey Maharashtra dominated their match against Hockey Karnataka, winning 5-0. Akansha Singh

(41', 54') scored twice, while Priyanka Wankhede (30'), Kajal Sadashiv Atpadkar (44'), and Yogita Bora (59') added a goal each to seal the win.

The third quarter-final saw Hockey Mizoram defeat Hockey Bengal 1-0 in a tightly contested match. Deepika (50') netted the only goal in the final quarter to give Mizoram the win.

Earlier, Telangana Hockey triumphed 5-2 against the Hockey Association of Bihar, with Komal Gurjar scoring a hat-trick. Hockey Bengal also secured a 2-1 victory over Hockey Madhya Pradesh, with Selestina Horo (59') scoring the match-winner.



## Indian Army Dominates Day 1 of Khelo India Winter Games 2025 with 7 Medals



Defending champions Indian Army made a strong start to their Khelo India Winter Games 2025 campaign in Gulmarg, clinching four out of the 12 medals on offer on Sunday. The Army secured two golds, two silvers, and three bronzes. The Army dominated the Nordic skiing men's 10km event, winning all three medals, with Sunny Singh taking gold, Manjeet silver, and Raj Din bronze. In the Nordic skiing women's 5km event, Karnataka's Bhavani

Thekkada won gold. Rajeshwar Singh of the Indian Army bagged gold in the ski mountaineering men's sprint. In alpine skiing men's slalom, Himachal Pradesh's Yogesh Kumar won gold, while in snowboarding, local favourites Mehrajuddin Khan and Zubair Ahmad Lone finished 1-2 in men's slalom. With Day 1 results, UT of Ladakh leads the medal tally with four golds, while the Indian Army follows with three golds.





## Chiranjeevi Gifts Young Heroine Shreeleela on Women's Day



On the occasion of Women's Day, Megastar Chiranjeevi surprised young heroine Shreeleela with a special gift. While shooting for Vishwambhar, Shreeleela met Chiranjeevi on set, where he warmly greeted her with a hug and shared his Women's Day wishes. As a token of appreciation, Chiranjeevi gifted Shreeleela a beautiful Durga Devi idol. Overwhelmed with joy, Shreeleela posed for a mega selfie with the legendary actor, expressing her happiness. The heartwarming moments were captured in photos that showcase the lovely gesture of Chiranjeevi towards the talented young actress. Fans can now enjoy these special moments through the shared pictures.



## Guneet Monga Reflects on Anuja's Oscar Nomination and Disappointment

Producer Guneet Monga expressed gratitude for the recognition received by Anuja, a short film set in New Delhi, despite it not winning the Oscar in the Best Live Action Short Film category at the 2025 Academy Awards. The film, backed by Priyanka Chopra and Monga, was nominated alongside strong contenders like Alien, I'm Not a Robot, The Last Ranger, and A Man Who Would Not Remain Silent.

Although Anuja lost to the Dutch film I'm Not a Robot, Monga emphasized that simply being nominated was a huge achievement. "To be in the top five in the world is a big thing," she said. Monga, who has been nominated three times, including for The Elephant Whisperers and Period: End of Sentence, also shared her excitement about new opportunities for women producers.

## Celebrity MasterChef Delivers Intense Drama and High-Stakes Competition

Sony Entertainment Television's Celebrity MasterChef continues to captivate viewers with its perfect blend of flavors, drama, and fierce competition. Hosted by Farah Khan, along with renowned chefs Vikas Khanna and Ranveer Brar, the show's culinary battlefield is heating up. Each challenge pushes contestants to their limits, testing their strategies, alliances, and resilience. The latest twist, the Phool Aur Kaante challenge, has added an unexpected layer of intensity, shaking things up in



the competition. Contestant Rajiv Adatia reflected on the difficulty of the challenges, stating, "With so many talented chefs and celebs around, it just keeps getting harder. The Phool Aur Kaante challenge was no joke, but hope keeps us going." He emphasized the importance of creativity and perseverance, as contestants strive to prove they belong in the competition.

## IIFA 2025: Kriti Sanon Wins Best Actress Award

At the grand IIFA Awards ceremony in Jaipur, Kriti Sanon bagged the Best Actress award for her role in Do Patti. The star-studded event, which began on Saturday, also saw the recognition of several other talents. Vikrant Massey won Best Actor for his performance in Sector 36, while Amar Singh Chankila was awarded Best Film. Kriti's remarkable achievement was celebrated, as she also received accolades for her exceptional performance on OTT plat-

forms. Other notable winners included Best Director Intiaz Ali for Amar Singh Chankila, Best Supporting Actor Deepak (Sector 36), and Best Web Series for Panchayat Season 3, which also earned Jitendra Kumar and Faizal Malik Best Actor and Best Supporting Actor awards respectively. The award ceremony continues over two days with various categories celebrating excellence in both films and digital content.

## Chiranjeevi and Sisters Reflect on Mother's Lessons of Courage and Independence



In a heartfelt tribute to their mother, Anjanadevi, Megastar Chiranjeevi and his sisters, Vijayadurg and Madhavi, shared how she instilled in them valuable life lessons on courage and independence. On the occasion of International Women's Day, they recalled how their mother always encouraged them to stand on their own feet and face challenges without relying on others.

Vijayadurg mentioned how Anjanadevi taught them that true respect comes from facing adversity alone, without seeking help. Madhavi shared how her mother supported her during difficult times, offering unwavering reassurance. Chiranjeevi also reflected on how his daughter, Sreeja, found strength through his mother's advice during marital challenges. He emphasized the importance of following one's heart and living freely, regardless of external opinions. The siblings expressed immense gratitude for their mother's guidance in shaping their resilience and strength.

## Shahid Kapoor Reacts to Reunion with Kareena Kapoor at IIFA Press Conference



Bollywood stars Shahid Kapoor and Kareena Kapoor Khan shared the stage at the press conference for the 25th edition of the International Indian Film Academy Awards (IIFA) on Saturday. When asked about posing together at the event, Shahid casually responded, "It's nothing new, we keep running into each other here and there." He further added, "It's totally normal for us... If people felt nice, it's nice."

Social media users quickly called it a reunion of their iconic "Jab We Met" characters, Aditya and Geet, after the two shared a warm hug and chatted at the event. The former couple, who dated in the early 2000s, have remained friendly over the years. Both are set to perform at the star-studded IIFA Awards, alongside Shah Rukh Khan.