

Weather Forecast

HYDERABAD

t°

H 33° C

L 25° C

VIJAYAWADA

t°

H 35° C

L 26° C

TIRUPATHI

t°

H 36° C

L 26° C

Trump’s new policy could impose full or partial visa suspensions on multiple nations.

10 countries, including Iran and North Korea, face a complete visa ban.

26 nations, including Pakistan and Bhutan, have 60 days to improve security measures.

US Secretary of State Marco Rubio has yet to approve the final list.

TPN Correspondent | Washington

The Trump administration is considering a sweeping new travel ban that could impact citizens from 41 countries, according to sources familiar with an internal government memo. The proposed restrictions align with President Donald Trump’s latest immigration crackdown, aiming to tighten security screenings for foreigners entering the United States. The memo divides the countries into three categories. The first group of 10 nations, including Afghanistan, Iran, Syria, Cuba, and North Korea, could face a complete suspension of US visa issuance. The second group, comprising Eritrea, Haiti, Laos, Myanmar, and South Sudan, would see partial suspensions affecting tourist, student, and immigrant vi-

Pakistan, Bhutan Among 41 Countries On Trump’s Travel Ban List



sas with some exceptions. A third group of 26 nations, including Pakistan, Bhutan, and Myanmar, has been given a 60-day deadline to address security deficiencies. If they fail to comply, they too could face visa restrictions. A US official, speaking on condition of anonymity, stated that the list remains subject to change and still requires approval from the administration, including US Secretary of State Marco Rubio. The New York Times was the first to report on the list. The proposed move mirrors Trump’s controversial first-term travel ban on several majority-Muslim countries, which was upheld by the US Supreme Court in 2018. This new

directive follows an executive order signed by Trump on January 20, mandating stricter security vetting for foreign visitors to detect national security threats. The order instructed key cabinet members to submit a list by March 21 identifying countries with inadequate vetting procedures, recommending full or partial suspensions of travel. Trump’s October 2023 speech had already hinted at such measures, mentioning restrictions on travelers from conflict-prone regions like Gaza, Libya, Somalia, Syria, and Yemen. The US State Department has not yet responded to media requests for comment on the potential travel ban.

PWD Minister Directs Timely Completion of Drainage Project

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

Delhi Public Works Department (PWD) Minister Parvesh Verma on Saturday inspected the ongoing drainage construction project at Rohtak Road to assess its progress. The 18-km stretch from Peeragarhi Chowk to Tikri Border, a key corridor linking Haryana to Delhi, has been in

Minister Parvesh Verma reviews drainage project at Rohtak Road

₹115-crore project expected to be completed in 14 months

NHAI to handle road construction, PWD to manage drainage work

Contractors warned against compromising quality

poor condition, prompting repeated complaints from residents. During the visit, Verma confirmed that the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has been assigned the road construction work, while the PWD will handle drainage development. The ₹115-crore project is expected to be completed within 14 months. Given that the stretch passes near three Delhi Metro stations and Indraprastha Gas Limited pipelines, Verma directed officials to fast-track the approval process to prevent un-

necessary delays. “Delays in obtaining approvals lead to higher costs. This should be prioritized so that work continues without interruptions,” he emphasized. Criticizing previous governments for neglecting Rohtak Road, Verma said, “People often complained that no government representative ever visited this area. Now, drainage work has begun, and the entire road has been handed over to NHAI. PWD and the Flood Control Department are working together to ensure smooth execution.” The minister also issued a stern warning regarding construction quality. “We are building roads and drainage systems that should last for years. If there is any compromise on quality, the contractor will be blacklisted, and responsible officials will

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ATTEMPTS TO DISTURB PEACE IN PUNJAB

Bhagwant Mann After Amritsar Temple Blast

A blast occurred at Thakurdwara Temple in Khandwala, Amritsar.

Two bike-borne men threw an explosive at the temple.

Police suspect Pakistan’s ISI involvement and are investigating the case.



TPN Correspondent | Amritsar

Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann on Saturday condemned the blast at Thakurdwara Temple in Amritsar, stating that repeated attempts were being made to disturb the state’s peace. The explosion took place late at night when two unidentified bike-borne men lobbed an explosive at the temple. No injuries were reported, and a police investigation is underway. Speaking about the incident, Mann said, “There are always many attempts to disturb the peace in Punjab. Drugs, gangsters, and extortion are part of this, and there are efforts to portray Punjab as a disturbed state. However, law and order in Punjab remain strong.” Amritsar Commissioner GPS Bhullar confirmed that authorities were alerted around 2 a.m. and responded immediately. “The forensic team was called, and CCTV footage is being analyzed. Pakistan’s ISI is known to lure youth into creating disturbances in Punjab. We will track this case within days and take strict action,” Bhullar said.

Meanwhile, a separate case in Moga led to an exchange of fire between the police and suspects linked to the murder of Shiv Sena leader Mangat Ram. The joint operation by CIA Moga and CIA Malout took place in Angadpura Mohalla, Moga, where the police attempted to arrest three accused—Arun alias Deepu, Arun alias Singha, and Rajveer alias Laddo. As the police moved in, the suspects opened fire, prompting the officers to respond in self-defense. Two of the accused sustained gunshot wounds to their legs, while the third was injured while attempting to flee. All three were taken to Civil Hospital in Malout for treatment. Mangat Ram was shot dead on March 13 near a stadium after being chased and fired upon by multiple assailants. A saloon owner and a child were also injured in the attack. Police have registered an FIR based on the statement of Ram’s wife, naming six accused in total. Investigations are ongoing to determine the motive behind the killing.

Delhi Set to Roll out Ayushman Bharat with

Enhanced ₹10 lakh Health Coverage

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

The Delhi government is set to roll out the Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY), marking a significant shift in the city’s healthcare policy. The official memorandum of understanding (MoU) between the Centre and the Delhi government is likely to be signed on March 18 in the presence of Union Health Minister JP Nadda, according to sources. With this, Delhi will become the 35th state or Union Territory to implement the Centre’s flagship health scheme. Five families will be issued Ayushman Bharat e-cards during the signing event, symbolizing the formal adoption of the scheme. The move follows the first Cabinet meeting of the new government, where Chief Minister Rekha Gupta prioritized the approval of AB-PMJAY, fulfilling a key promise made by the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) ahead of the Delhi Assembly elections. The scheme will replace the previous Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) government’s insurance initiative, Delhi Arogya Kosh, potentially leading to reduced funding for the latter. As many as six lakh people in Delhi will be covered under the first phase of AB-PMJAY. This in-



Delhi government to sign MoU with the Centre on March 18

Six lakh people to receive health coverage in the first phase

Scheme to replace Delhi Arogya Kosh

cludes essential workers identified in the 2018 beneficiary list, Anganwadi workers, and citizens aged 70 and above. The eligible beneficiaries must register through an online portal or mobile app to avail of the benefits. While AB-PMJAY provides health insurance coverage of up to ₹5 lakh per family, the Delhi government has decided to enhance this amount to ₹10 lakh, with the state government bearing the additional cost. Officials revealed that multiple meetings were held over the past three weeks to finalize the scheme’s implementation. The National Health Authority and Delhi health department worked together to address key aspects, including beneficiary identification, claims processing, and a grievance redressal system. Training sessions were also conducted to streamline the creation of Ayushman Bharat cards and ensure a seamless claim submission process before the scheme’s official rollout.

PM Modi’s ‘epic 3-hour podcast’ with Lex Fridman to be out today

- Lex Fridman calls it “one of the most powerful conversations” of his life
- Podcast to cover a wide range of topics, releasing today
- Fridman marks his first visit to India for this special episode

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s much-anticipated three-hour conversation with renowned AI researcher and podcaster Lex Fridman is set to be released today. Fridman described the discussion as “one of the most powerful” of his life and expressed his excitement about the episode. Taking to social media, Fridman called it an “epic” exchange, saying, “I had an epic 3-hour podcast conversation with @narendramodi, Prime Minister of India. It was one of the most powerful conversations of my life. It’ll be out tomorrow.” The podcast is expected to cover a wide range of topics, shedding light on Modi’s perspectives on India’s growth, leadership, and global affairs. Fridman, known for hosting in-depth discussions with influential personalities, has previously interviewed figures like Elon Musk, Jeff Bezos, Donald Trump, Mark Zuckerberg, and Volodymyr Zelenskyy.



Earlier in January, Fridman had announced his podcast with PM Modi, expressing his excitement about visiting India for the first time. He also described Modi as “one of the most fascinating human beings” he has ever studied, referencing the Prime Minister’s deep connection with India’s history and spiritual practices. “To prepare for the conversation, I will do a 48-72 hour fast upon arriving in India,” Fridman had shared, noting Modi’s history of undertaking multi-day fasts for spiritual reasons. With anticipation building, the podcast is expected to provide unique insights into Modi’s vision and India’s evolving role on the global stage.

Justice Joymalya Bagchi to be sworn in as SC judge on March 17

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

Justice Joymalya Bagchi, a judge of the Calcutta High Court, will be sworn in as a Supreme Court judge on Monday, March 17. Chief Justice of India (CJI) Sanjiv Khanna will administer the oath at a ceremony on the Supreme Court premises, in the presence of other judges. With Justice Bagchi’s elevation, the Supreme Court will have 33 judges against its sanctioned strength of 34. He will serve in the apex court for over six years and is set to assume the office of Chief Justice of India upon the retirement of Justice KV Viswanathan on May 25, 2031. His tenure as CJI will continue until his retirement on October 2, 2031. Justice Bagchi’s appointment was cleared by the central government on March 10, following the Supreme Court collegium’s recommendation on March 6. The five-member collegium, headed by CJI Khanna and comprising Justices BR Gavai, Surya Kant, Abhay S Oka, and Vikram Nath, noted that no judge from



the Calcutta High Court had become the CJI since Justice Altamas Kabir’s retirement in 2013. Born on October 3, 1966, Justice Bagchi was appointed as a judge of the Calcutta High Court on June 27, 2011. He was later transferred to the Andhra Pradesh High Court on January 4, 2021, before being repatriated to the Calcutta High Court on November 8, 2021. With over 13 years of experience as a high court judge, he currently holds the 11th position in the all-India seniority list of high court judges. Justice Bagchi is known for his expertise in various fields of law, and his appointment further strengthens the judiciary at the highest level.

Survey on to Reduce Congestion in Delhi Roads

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

With several ministries and departments set to shift to the new Common Central Secretariat (CCS) buildings, the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) has initiated a study to improve mobility in the New Delhi area, particularly around Kartavya Path and Parliament House. The study aims to identify strategies for reducing road congestion, enhancing public transport, and integrating multi-modal connectivity at metro stations. It also plans to improve pedestrian infrastructure based on its findings. As part of this initiative, the ministry is conducting an online survey, seeking feedback from government employees working in Central ministries and departments. “Insights from the survey will help design better mobility solutions for a more efficient and sustainable urban environment. Government staff have been requested to participate in the survey, as their input is crucial in shaping practical commuting solutions,” an official stated. The survey seeks details such as employees’ starting locations, workplace destinations (like Shastri Bhawan or Rail Bha-



wan), daily travel distance, commuting costs, last-mile connectivity challenges, and preferred metro or bus boarding points. Common Central Secretariat project The CCS, part of the Central Vista Redevelopment Project, will consist of 10 office buildings and a Central Conference Centre. All Central Secretariat offices will be relocated to enhance coordination and efficiency. The Finance and Home Ministries, along with the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT), are expected to shift to the new CCS buildings (1, 2, and 3) by May. The new buildings will replace existing Central Secretariat offices, including North and South Blocks.

Delhi Police arrests accused in anti-CAA protests violence

- Police arrest Mohd Hanif, declared a proclaimed offender in anti-CAA protest case
- Hanif was co-accused with Sharjeel Imam and Aasif Iqbal Tanha
- A pistol and five rounds were seized from him during the arrest
- Fresh case under the Arms Act registered against him

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

Delhi Police on Friday arrested Mohd Hanif, an accused in the December 2019 anti-CAA protests that turned violent in the New Friends Colony area. Hanif, a resident of Shaheen Bagh, had been declared a proclaimed offender after failing to appear in court in connection with the case. According to Deputy Commissioner of Police Amit Kaushik, Hanif, along with his brother Harun, was actively involved in the violence. “He was arrested under multiple sections of the Indian Penal Code, including rioting and unlawful assembly, as well as the Arms Act. After securing bail, he failed to appear in court and was declared a proclaimed offender,” Kaushik said. Hanif was a co-accused in the case alongside Sharjeel Imam and Aasif Iqbal Tanha. A local court on March 7 ordered the framing of charges against Imam and Tanha. Additionally, Hanif had been evading arrest in a separate case under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic



Substances Act, registered against him in 2022. Based on intelligence regarding his presence near the Gazi-pur-Ghadoli Village Road, police set up a trap and arrested him. A pistol and five rounds were recovered from him, leading to a fresh case under the Arms Act. Originally from Cooch Behar district in West Bengal, Hanif studied up to Class 10 but dropped out due to financial difficulties. He initially assisted his father in the scrap business before moving into the chicken supply trade and later working as a driver between 2012 and 2015. Police revealed that in 2016, Hanif came into contact with an individual named Aslam from the Nizamuddin area, who introduced him to the narcotics trade. He was first arrested in 2006 for assault and trespassing and later by the Delhi Police Crime Branch in 2018 in a narcotics case. Further investigations into his activities and connections are ongoing.

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PWD Minister Directs Timely Completion of Drainage Project

face suspension,” he warned. Verma further highlighted that bad roads contribute to pollution due to dust and traffic congestion. Assuring the residents of Delhi’s commitment to infrastructure improvements, he stated, “Delhi’s roads will be built to the highest standards. If we are paying the full amount, there should be no compromise in construction quality.” Speaking about his personal connection to the area, Verma noted that his village, Mundka, is locat-

ed nearby. “This is the birthplace of my father and former chief minister Sahib Singh Verma. For years, people have complained about the dust and dirt on this road. Last week, we officially transferred this stretch to NHAI. PWD will handle the drainage work, while NHAI will construct the road,” he said. March 15 marks the 82nd birth anniversary of Sahib Singh Verma, making the project particularly significant for the minister.

Delhi records season’s highest temp at 36°C despite Holi showers

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

Delhi experienced its hottest day of the year on Friday, with temperatures soaring to 36.2 degrees Celsius—7.3 degrees above normal—despite light to moderate rain showers on Holi. The rainfall, in line with the India Meteorological Department’s (IMD) forecast, provided brief relief but did not prevent the temperature spike. The city started the day with a clear sky, recording a minimum temperature of 17.6 degrees Celsius, 2.5 degrees above normal. By the afternoon, clouds gathered, and light rain fell across parts of Delhi, Noida, and Ghaziabad. The IMD had predicted a generally cloudy sky with a possibility of very light rain or drizzle towards the evening or night. However, the maximum temperature exceeded expectations, rising to 36.2 degrees Celsius instead of the pro-



jected 33 degrees Celsius. Relative humidity in the morning was recorded at 80%. Delhi has been transitioning into the summer season, with temperatures gradually rising over the past week. On Tuesday, the mercury hit 34.8 degrees Celsius—6.4 degrees above normal—while Thursday saw a high of 34.4 degrees Celsius. Meanwhile, Delhi’s air quality declined on Friday. The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) recorded an Air Quality Index (AQI) of 201 at 4 pm, placing it in the ‘poor’ category. A day earlier, at 6 pm, the AQI stood at 170, classified as ‘moderate.’ AQI levels between 101-200 are considered ‘moderate,’ while 201-300 fall under the ‘poor’ category, indicating an increase in pollution levels despite rainfall. With rising temperatures and dust from construction activities, further deterioration in air quality is expected in the coming days.

Owaisi's Holi remarks trigger Political Storm; BJP, Congress React

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad
AIMIM chief Asaduddin Owaisi has sparked a fresh political controversy with his remarks on Veer Savarkar and former RSS chief Madhav Sadashivrao Golwalkar, alleging that they had "abused" Chhatrapati Sambhaji. His statements, coupled with his criticism of calls for Muslims to stay indoors during Holi, have drawn sharp reactions from both the BJP and Congress.

Targeting Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Owaisi questioned, "Savarkar and Golwalkar had abused Sambhaji. Then why does PM Modi praise the movie 'Chhaava' while considering Golwalkar as his teacher?" His comments were met with strong opposition from the BJP.

Congress MP Rashid Alvi backed Owaisi's stance, stating that Savarkar was not a religious person. "Savarkar's lifestyle is something the BJP wouldn't approve of. I don't want to open these pages of history," Alvi told IANS.

Meanwhile, Delhi Minister Manjinder Singh Sirsa countered Owaisi's statements, asserting, "Veer Savarkar made significant contributions to this country. His services should not be judged through a religious lens. Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj is the pride of our country and culture."

The controversy deepened further over the Waqf Amendment Bill 2024,



which Owaisi alleged was aimed at taking control of Waqf properties. Addressing a gathering in Hyderabad, he claimed, "The RSS is after the graves of the Mughals and Waqf properties. This new law will allow encroachers to claim ownership of Waqf land."

Alvi echoed Owaisi's concerns, calling the Bill "unconstitutional" and warning that it could lead to government control over mosques and dargahs.

Owaisi also hit out at those advising Muslims to remain indoors during Holi, declaring, "We will not run, we are not cowards. Those who were scared ran away to Pakistan. Some

say we should cover ourselves or stay inside, just like mosques are covered." Responding to this, Sirsa dismissed allegations of restrictions on Namaz while defending Holi celebrations. "No one is stopping anyone from offering Namaz—this is neither our culture nor our government's policy. But if someone has a problem with Holi, they can choose to stay indoors. This kind of extremism is not part of India's culture," he said.

The debate continues to escalate, with both political and religious angles fueling tensions.

3 Arrested In Shiv Sena Leader's Murder Case After Shootout In Moga

- Three suspects in the murder of Shiv Sena leader arrested.
- The accused fired at police during the operation.
- The encounter took place in Angadpura Mohalla, Moga.

TPN Correspondent | Moga
A joint operation by CIA Moga and CIA Malout led to the arrest of three suspects involved in the murder of Mangat Rai Manga, the district president of Shiv Sena, Moga. The accused—Arun alias Deepu, Arun alias Singha, and Rajveer alias Laddo—were cornered by the police at their hideouts.

As the police moved in, the accused opened fire, forcing the officers to retaliate in self-defense. Two shots were fired from a 0.32 pistol and three from a 0.30 pistol. In response, the police fired back, using a 9mm pistol and a 0.32 pistol. The encounter resulted in Arun alias Deepu being shot in the left



leg, Arun alias Singha in the right leg, while Rajveer alias Laddo was injured while trying to escape. All three were taken to Malout Civil Hospital for treatment.

Mangat Rai Manga was shot dead on Friday when three motorcycle-borne assailants attacked him while he was out to buy milk. Despite his attempts to dodge the bullets, he was

fatally shot. Two others, including an 11-year-old boy, were also injured in the firing.

Following the incident, Shiv Sena leaders called for a shutdown in Moga, demanding justice for Manga. The police have registered an FIR under Sections 103(1), 191(3), 190 BNS, and 25/27 of the Arms Act at PS City South, Moga, and investigations are ongoing.

Delhi HC seeks Centre on plea challenging VC appointment

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi
The Delhi High Court has sought responses from the Centre, Jamia Millia Islamia University, and other parties regarding a petition challenging the appointment of Professor Mazhar Asif as the university's Vice Chancellor (VC). The plea alleges procedural irregularities in the selection process, including flaws in the constitution of the search committee and the nomination of its chairperson. It also claims that the Union Education Ministry unduly influenced the President of India, who serves as the Visitor of the University, in selecting the search committee chairperson. The petitioner argues that such interference un-



dermines university autonomy and violates legal provisions and Supreme Court rulings.

Representing Jamia Millia Islamia, Additional Solicitor General Chetan Sharma and Centre's Standing Counsel Monika Arora argued that the petition lacks legal standing. They also questioned the petitioner's access

to confidential documents submitted to the President of India, invoking Article 74(2) of the Constitution, which shields ministerial advice from judicial review.

The petitioner's counsel, Dr. Amit George, countered that a writ of quo warranto does not require strict locus standi and that the documents cited in the plea are publicly available.

Justice Prateek Jalan has directed the inclusion of four Executive Council members as respondents and scheduled the next hearing for July 16, 2025. The plea contends that Professor Asif's appointment violated statute 2(1) of the Jamia Millia Islamia Act, 1988, and clause 7.3 of the UGC Regulations, 2018.

BJP plans to appoint advisers, DANICS officers to assist Delhi ministers

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi
The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) is planning to appoint six senior officials as advisers or officers on special duty (OSDs) to oversee the decision-making process of the Rekha Gupta-led Delhi government. In addition, each of the six cabinet ministers will be assigned a senior officer from the Delhi, Andaman and Nicobar Islands Civil Service (DANICS) to serve as their secretary.

The BJP considers these appointments crucial for effectively implementing its election promises and ensuring seamless governance. The Chief Minister's Office (CMO) has already been strengthened with key appointments. As per the Services Department's order issued on February 27, L-G V K Saxena appointed Madhu Rani Teotia,

a 2008-batch IAS officer, as the secretary to the CM. Additionally, Sandeep Kumar Singh and Ravi Jha, both from the 2011 IAS batch, have been designated as special secretaries.

This structured approach is a shift from the previous AAP government, where former CM Arvind Kejriwal had attached multiple party workers to each minister, often crowding the secretariat floors. The Congress government under Sheila Dikshit, by contrast, relied primarily on the bureaucracy without such additional appointments.

With the new system in place, the BJP aims to ensure efficiency and accountability in the Delhi administration while addressing governance challenges effectively.

President approves FIR against Manish Sisodia, Satyendar Jain in ₹1,300 crore classroom construction scam



TPN Correspondent | New Delhi
President Droupadi Murmu has given her approval for the registration of an FIR against former Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) ministers Manish Sisodia and Satyendar Jain in connection with the alleged ₹1,300 crore classroom construction scam in Delhi government schools. The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) conveyed the President's approval to the office of the Lieutenant Governor (L-G) of Delhi, granting the required permission to proceed with the probe.

The Delhi Directorate of Vigilance (DoV) had earlier recommended an investigation into the alleged irregularities and submitted a report to the Delhi chief secretary. The report pointed to financial

mismanagement in the construction of classrooms under the education department and the Public Works Department (PWD) during the tenure of Sisodia, who was the education minister, and Jain, who handled PWD.

The DoV's report also recommended identifying officials from both departments responsible for the alleged mismanagement and forwarding its findings to the Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) for further examination. The CVC, in a report dated February 17, 2020, had flagged multiple irregularities in the project.

With the President's approval, the case is now set for formal investigation, adding to the legal troubles of the former AAP ministers.

Delhi government cracks down on water connection corruption

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi
The Delhi government has launched a crackdown on corruption in the provision of new water connections, following a review meeting with officials from the Delhi Jal Board (DJB). Water Minister Parvesh Verma highlighted that high area-based connection charges were discouraging residents from obtaining legal water connections, leading to widespread unauthorised usage.

To tackle this issue, Verma directed officials to revise connection fees, making it easier for residents to opt for authorised connections. He pointed out that while Delhi has over 50 lakh electricity connections, only about 20 lakh water connections exist, revealing the scale of unregulated water consumption.

In preparation for the summer season, the minister emphasized the need for a comprehensive water distribution plan. He noted that many areas of Delhi receive an uneven supply, with some localities getting water for only a few minutes while others have access for hours. DJB officials

have been instructed to ensure a more balanced water distribution system so that every household receives an adequate supply.

Further, Verma has ordered the cancellation of all existing water tanker tenders, citing widespread corruption in the system. He alleged that a "water mafia" operated with minimal accountability under the previous AAP government. The minister revealed that many tankers lacked GPS tracking, making it difficult to monitor their movement. Under the new plan, water tankers will double their trips, operating in two shifts instead of one, while their movements will be tracked online via a central dashboard accessible to both the DJB and local MLAs.

Additionally, Verma called for a thorough assessment of revenue generation from the city's Underground Reservoirs (UGRs) to ensure better financial accountability and resource management. The government aims to reform Delhi's water supply system to reduce corruption, ensure fair distribution, and improve efficiency.

Delhi Metro Red Line services hit by cable theft

- Cable theft disrupts Red Line services between Seelampur and Welcome
- DMRC records 89 theft cases since June last year
- Anti-theft clamps, drone surveillance among new security measures

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi
Services on the Delhi Metro's Red Line were severely impacted on Thursday morning after a cable theft between Seelampur and Welcome stations disrupted the signalling system. The theft forced trains to operate at a restricted speed of 25 km/h between Mansarovar Park and Seelampur until 12:21 pm, leading to widespread delays. The Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) acknowledged the cascading impact of the disruption, which resulted in delayed passenger trips across the Red Line. "DMRC is in touch with the law enforcement authorities to address these recurring incidents," the metro operator stated. Since June last year, 89 cases of cable theft have been reported across different metro corridors, including 35 cases of traction ca-



bles, 32 cases of signalling cables, and 22 cases of electrical cables. To combat these thefts, DMRC is implementing preventive measures such as anti-theft clamps and is considering drone and CCTV surveillance in vulnerable areas.

"Any damage to the cables leads to delays in metro services as their replacement during operational hours is both risky and challenging. Despite this, DMRC ensures the fastest possible repairs," said DMRC Principal Executive Director Anuj Dayal.

Sprinklers, smog guns to tackle pollution in Delhi round the year: CM Rekha Gupta



TPN Correspondent | New Delhi
Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta has announced a year-round deployment of sprinklers and smog guns—except during monsoon—to combat air pollution in the capital. The decision was taken in a high-level meeting attended by Environment Minister Manjinder Singh Sirsa and senior officials from various departments, including Delhi Police, the Delhi Development Authority (DDA), and the Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM). Gupta emphasized the government's commitment to a cleaner and greener Delhi, stat-

ing, "We are dedicated to creating a clean, green, and healthy capital with the support of Delhi's residents." As part of the action plan, the CM directed an increase in enforcement teams at Delhi's borders to curb vehicle emissions, stressing that vehicles entering the city contribute significantly to pollution. Digital display boards will also be installed at border points to raise public awareness. In addition, Gupta ordered all road-owning agencies—including the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD), Public Works Department (PWD), and the DDA—to submit weekly reports on road repairs and cleanliness. "Regular maintenance and swift action against dust pollution are key priorities," she said. The meeting also reviewed other pollution sources, with Gupta instructing officials to submit a comprehensive action plan within a week for better coordination among departments. "Our government is committed to protecting Delhiites from air pollution. Regular inspections and immediate responses are crucial to improving air quality," she added. The Chief Minister highlighted that under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership, the Delhi government is working on the Viksit Delhi Sankalp Patra (Developed Delhi Resolution) to intensify pollution-control measures and ensure a cleaner city.

Parineeti Chopra calls herself 'Harvard wife' as Raghav Chadha completes leadership program



TPN Correspondent | New Delhi
Actor Parineeti Chopra expressed her pride and admiration for her husband, AAP MP Raghav Chadha, as he successfully completed a leadership training program at Harvard University. Taking to social media, she referred to herself as a 'Harvard wife' while

cheering for him. Raghav shared a series of pictures from his time at Harvard, featuring classroom sessions, interactions with professors, and discussions with fellow attendees. In his caption, he described the experience as "transformative," stating, "From intense

classroom teachings to insightful discussions with brilliant minds from across the world, the Harvard experience has been nothing short of transformative. My time at Harvard has made me gain fresh global perspectives, expanded my horizons, and reinforced my commitment to public service." Parineeti reshared Raghav's post on her Instagram Stories, writing, "My husband is a Harvard return." In another post, she humorously added, "Ahem, I'm a Harvard wife. Bye." She also commented on Raghav's post, reiterating the same phrase. The couple, who tied the knot on September 24, 2023, at the Leela Palace Hotel in Udaipur, continue to share glimpses of their personal and professional lives on social media. Their wedding was attended by prominent figures from the entertainment industry and politics. On the work front, Parineeti was last seen in Amar Singh Chamkila alongside Diljit Dosanjh. She is now gearing up for her next project, a Netflix series.

Drunk driving challans surge by 47% on Holi in Delhi

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi
The Delhi Traffic Police issued over 1,200 challans for drunk driving on Holi (Dhulendi) this year, marking a sharp 47.2% rise from last year, according to official data. In total, 7,230 challans were issued for various traffic violations on Friday. To ensure road safety and curb reckless driving, the police had set up 84 special drunken driving teams equipped with alcometers and 40 joint checking teams in collaboration with local police. These teams were stationed at major inter-sections, popular drinking spots, and high-risk areas. "Various teams prosecuted violators from 8 am to midnight. A total of 1,213 people were challaned for drunk driving. Additionally, 573 were fined for triple riding, 2,376 for riding without helmets, 97 for using tinted glass, and 2,971 for other violations," said Additional Commissioner of Police (Traffic Zone-II) Dinesh Kumar Gupta. Last year, Delhi Police had issued 824 challans for drunk driving, 1,524 for riding without helmets, and 1,241 for other offences, including using tinted glass, triple riding, and driving without seat belts.

Coffee firm salesman kills tea-seller after Holi celebration clash in Delhi



TPN Correspondent | Delhi
A tea-seller was brutally murdered in Delhi's Kalyanpuri area after a heated argument turned violent following a minor road accident on Holi. The incident occurred on Friday when the victim, Ashish Kumar, was returning home with a friend after celebrating the festival. According to police, Kumar's motorcycle collided with another bike, leading to an argument between the two parties. The altercation escalated when one of the men, identified as Pankaj Sinha, a 30-year-old salesman at a coffee firm, smashed a liquor bottle on Kumar's head and then slit his throat with a shard of glass before fleeing the scene. Upon receiving information, police from Kalyanpuri station arrived at the spot and rushed the injured man to Max Hospital, where doctors declared him dead. Taking swift action considering the gravity of the incident during Holi, Delhi Police formed four teams to investigate. The main accused, Pankaj Sinha, and his accomplice, Jeetu (27), an e-rickshaw driver, were arrested within hours. Their motorcycle was also seized. Police officials revealed that the arrests were made after a thorough analysis of CCTV footage, phone records of the victim and witnesses, and the examination of multiple suspicious vehicles in the vicinity.

23-Year-Old Arrested for Blackmailing Women With Morphed Photos

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi
A 23-year-old man from Amritsar has been arrested in Delhi for allegedly blackmailing women with morphed photographs and demanding money, police said on Saturday. The accused, identified as Madhav Singh, was caught in northwest Delhi after a woman filed a complaint alleging extortion and cyberbullying. According to police, he demanded ₹5 lakh from the victim, threatening to circulate her edited images online if she failed to comply. A mobile phone containing multiple manipulated photos was recovered from his possession. During interrogation, he reportedly confessed, stating that he indulged in the crime for "amusement." How the Accused Operated Deputy Commissioner of Police (Northwest) Bhisham Singh re-

vealed that the accused targeted women through social media, gradually gaining their trust and collecting their photographs. He then used fake social media identities to hide his real identity, making it difficult for authorities to track him. Singh avoided sharing personal details such as his phone number or address, further complicating efforts to trace him. However, police used digital forensics, technical surveillance, and manual investigation to track his online activities and locate him. Investigation Continues Following his arrest, police seized the phone used in the crime and are now working to identify other potential victims. Authorities are also probing whether Madhav Singh had any accomplices engaged in similar offenses.



Drunk Driver Crashes Thar Into Scooter in Delhi, Elderly Man Killed



TPN Correspondent | New Delhi
A speeding Mahindra Thar SUV crashed into a scooter at a traffic signal in Delhi's Mayur Vihar, killing an elderly man and critically injuring another. The accused, identified as Himanshu from Chilla village, was driving under the influence of alcohol. Victims Shyam Chand and Surajmal Verma were heading to the Chilla crematorium when their scooter was hit near Crowne Plaza hotel. Shyam Chand died on the spot, while Surajmal Verma is undergoing treatment at Max Hospital. A hit-and-run case has been registered, and police have launched a manhunt for the accused. In a similar incident earlier this week, another Thar SUV driver in Noida rammed multiple vehicles in the Sector 16 market after a dispute with a shop owner. He was later arrested.

Pawan Kalyan Slams Tamil Nadu's Hindi Stand, DMK Hits Back

TPN Correspondent | Andhra Pradesh

Andhra Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister and Janasena Party chief Pawan Kalyan has sparked a fresh language debate by accusing Tamil Nadu politicians of hypocrisy over their stance on Hindi. He questioned why Tamil leaders opposed the imposition of Hindi while their film industry continued to profit by dubbing movies into the language for a national audience.

The Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) swiftly responded, dismissing Kalyan's

argument as a “hollow understanding” of Tamil Nadu's linguistic policies. DMK spokesperson Dr. Syed Hafeezullah stated, “Tamil Nadu has never opposed individuals learning Hindi or any other language. What we oppose is the imposition of Hindi or any language on the people of our state.”

Pawan Kalyan's Remarks

Pawan Kalyan, a key NDA ally and strong supporter of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, criticized Tamil Nadu's long-standing resistance to Hindi, linking it to economic benefits derived from the Hin-

di-speaking market.

“I do not understand why some criticize Sanskrit. Why do Tamil Nadu politicians oppose Hindi while allowing their movies to be dubbed in Hindi for financial gain? They want money from Bollywood but refuse to accept Hindi—what kind of logic is that?” Kalyan remarked.

His comments come amid ongoing debates over the National Education Policy (NEP) and the Centre's push for Hindi education. Tamil Nadu has historically resisted these efforts, maintaining a firm stance on

linguistic autonomy.

DMK Defends Tamil Nadu's Position

DMK leaders countered Kalyan's argument, emphasizing that the state differentiates between business decisions and government-imposed language policies. Senior DMK leader TKS Elangovan reiterated Tamil Nadu's decades-long resistance to Hindi imposition, stating, “We have been opposing Hindi since 1938. Tamil Nadu follows a two-language policy based on expert recommendations, not the views of actors. The state assembly passed a bill in 1968,



long before Pawan Kalyan was born.” Elangovan also accused Kalyan of attempting to align with the BJP for political gains. “He wants to somehow support the BJP so that he can gain something out of the BJP government,” he added.

DMK leaders clarified that voluntary Hindi learning is

already facilitated through institutions like the Hindi Prachar Sabhas in Tamil Nadu. “If people want to learn Hindi, they are welcome to do so. The issue arises when the Central government mandates Hindi learning through policies like the NEP or PM SHRI schools,” Hafeezullah said.

BJP Leader Shot Dead Over Land Dispute in Sonipat

TPN Correspondent | Haryana

BJP leader Surendra Jawahra was allegedly shot dead by his neighbour following a land dispute in Sonipat's Jawahar village on the night of Holi, March 14. The incident occurred around 9:30 PM, as confirmed by Sonipat Police.

According to reports, the accused, identified as Manu, fired three bullets at Jawahra over a property-related disagreement. CCTV footage of the incident shows Jawahra running toward a shop, repeatedly



shouting, “Maar dega mujhe ye (he will kill me),” before being shot. Bystanders attempted to

intervene, but the BJP leader succumbed to his injuries on the spot.

Surendra Jawahra was the President of BJP's Mundlana Mandal in Sonipat. The police have arrested the accused, and an investigation is currently underway.

Speaking on the case, ACP Crime Rishikant stated, “We received information about the firing in Jawahra village, where 'nambardar' (village headman) Surendra Jawahra was shot. The accused, Manu, had a land dispute with him. He has been arrested, and interrogation is ongoing.”

Gujarat Police Thrashes Goons in Ahmedabad, Video Goes Viral

TPN Correspondent | Ahmedabad

A video of Gujarat police thrashing goons in Ahmedabad's Vastral area has gone viral on social media, drawing praise from netizens who called it a “satisfying” sight. The men were reportedly involved in attacking commuters and vandalizing vehicles with sticks and swords ahead of Holi celebrations.

The incident, which took place on March 13, was caught on camera and widely shared on X (formerly Twitter). The footage shows at least five accused being beaten by the police, with some struggling to walk after the punishment. The action came after a mob

of around 20 men was seen attacking an SUV owner and damaging multiple vehicles.

Following the police crackdown, social media users lauded the officers for delivering swift justice. “This is the kind of action needed across all states,” one user commented.

Others dubbed it “belt treatment” and urged similar measures in other states. However, some netizens also questioned the law-and-order situation, pointing out unresolved cases like the Vadodara accident, where a woman was killed.

According to Deputy Commissioner of Police Baldev Desai, the violence stemmed from a dispute between two individuals over setting up a food stall



near a commercial complex in Vastral. One of the accused, Pankaj Bhavsar, allegedly targeted his rival, Sangram Sikarwar, leading to the mob attack.

So far, at least 14 people have

been arrested in connection with the incident.

Authorities are continuing their investigation to ensure further action against those responsible.

Vadodara car crash accused brought to accident site for crime scene recreation

TPN Correspondent | Gujarat

Rakshit Ravish Chaurasia, the prime accused in the fatal Vadodara car crash that claimed the life of a woman and injured eight others, was brought to the accident site by police for crime scene recreation. The 23-year-old was seen limping and clutching his ears as he was escorted by officers, as captured in a video released by ANI.

The incident occurred in the early hours of March 14 when Chaurasia, driving a speeding car, collided with multiple two-wheelers, leading to the tragic death of a woman. Police arrested him on Thursday and have since been investigating the case. Vadodara Police Commissioner Narasimha Komar stated that more than three



vehicles were involved in the crash, including two active vehicles and one electric vehicle.

The Gujarat Police have invoked charges of culpable ho-

micide not amounting to murder, along with sections under the Motor Vehicle Act. A forensic team is gathering evidence to aid the investigation. Au-

thorities have also taken blood samples of Chaurasia and his co-passenger, Pranshu Chauhan, to determine whether they were under the influence of alcohol or any intoxicants.

Despite being booked under a drink-and-drive case, Chaurasia has denied consuming alcohol. He claimed that he had only attended a Holika Dahan celebration and was not at a party.

He insisted that he was driving at 50 km/h and expressed a willingness to meet the victim's family, taking responsibility for the accident.

Meanwhile, the police continue to track the movements of Chaurasia's co-passenger and recover additional evidence from the crime scene. Seven injured victims remain under medical treatment.

Signature Global to invest ₹4,000 crore in Gurugram

TPN Correspondent | Gurugram

Signature Global is set to invest approximately ₹4,000 crore in developing two new premium housing projects in Gurugram as part of its expansion strategy, Chairman Pradeep Kumar Aggarwal announced. The investment will cover land acquisition, construction, and other project costs.

In an interview, Aggarwal revealed that the company plans to launch more than 40 lakh square feet of space in these projects during the next quarter, focusing on the ₹2-5 crore price range, which has high demand but limited supply. Despite a slight cooling in the housing market compared to previous years, Aggarwal emphasized that demand remains strong for reputed developers. Signature Global reported property sales worth ₹8,670 crore during April-December of this fiscal year, a significant rise from ₹3,120 crore in the same period last year.

The company's average pre-sales realization increased to ₹12,565 per square foot in April-December 2024-25, compared to ₹11,762 per square foot

in the entire 2023-24 fiscal. With a target of ₹10,000 crore in sales bookings for the current fiscal year, Signature Global is confident of surpassing this goal, up from ₹7,270 crore in the previous year.

On the financial front, the company is working towards achieving zero net debt in the second quarter of this fiscal to ₹740 crore in the October-December quarter.

In terms of project delivery, Signature Global handed over 24.2 lakh square feet of housing space in the first nine months of this fiscal, compared to 20 lakh square feet in the same period last year. Since its inception, the company has delivered 120 lakh square feet of housing and has a pipeline of 350 lakh square feet of saleable area in upcoming projects, along with 158 lakh square feet in ongoing developments.

The firm continues to acquire land to fuel its expansion, reinforcing its position as a key player in the real estate market.

5 Injured as Man Attacks People With Iron Rod at Golden Temple

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

Five people were injured after a man attacked devotees with an iron rod inside Amritsar's Golden Temple complex, police said. The accused was arrested, and the situation was brought under control.



Panic spread near the community kitchen, Guru Ram Das Langar, as the attacker began assaulting people. Among the injured were two sewadars (volunteers) of the Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (SGPC). One victim has been hospitalized at Sri Guru Ram Das Institute of Medical Sciences and Research.

Eyewitnesses overpowered the attacker and his accomplice before handing them over to the police. Officials revealed that the accused had surveyed the area before launching the attack.

Police identified the main accused as Zulfan, a resident of Haryana, and stated he was

also injured during the incident. Investigations are underway to determine the motive, and authorities have urged people not to panic.

The attack has sparked outrage within the Sikh community, with the SGPC filing a formal police complaint against the assailant. Concerns over the security of devotees at the temple have been raised.

This incident follows a previous attack in December last year when a man opened fire at Shiromani Akali Dal leader and former Deputy Chief Minister Sukhbir Singh Badal near the Golden Temple entrance. The assailant in that case was swiftly taken into custody.

Modi's Global Rise India's Unstoppable Diplomatic Power

Modi's decade-long stable government, marked by exceptional law and order, has significantly enhanced his global reputation.

Jawaharlal Nehru once went to the UN seeking intervention in India's internal matters, whereas today, the UN itself is looking to PM to help resolve the Russia-Ukraine conflict.



President Vladimir Putin's recent praise for Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi marks a pivotal moment in India's rise as a global power. Under Modi's leadership, India has strengthened its role as a true Vishwa Guru—a global teacher and guiding force—while emerging as a key advocate for peace. His transformative foreign policy has significantly advanced India's diplomatic standing, positioning the nation as a formidable force in international relations.

Throughout the Ukraine-Russia conflict, Modi demonstrated a steadfast commitment to peace, resisting intense pressure from major global powers, including the United States and several European nations, to align with Ukraine. His independent stance was met with considerable pushback, both domestically and internationally.

Well, critics accused him of undermining India's democratic values by not taking a stronger stand against Russia, while Western allies sought to sway India toward their geopolitical agenda. Despite this, Modi remained resolute, advocating for dialogue and negotiation over military confrontation. His diplomatic efforts underscored India's commitment to neutrality and peace, reinforcing its non-aligned stance in global conflicts.

Three years later, the U.S. President Donald Trump echoed a similar call for peace, urging an end to hostilities between Ukraine and Russia. His remarks reflected a growing realization among global leaders that prolonged warfare was unsustainable. The convergence of Modi's early peace advocacy and Trump's subsequent position played a crucial role in shaping diplomatic discourse surrounding the conflict. Ultimately, President Putin acknowledged Modi's essential contribution to seeking a resolution, recognizing India's growing influence on global affairs. Modi's foreign



Dr. Buragadda Srinadh

policy has effectively positioned India as a Vishwa Guru, a nation capable of influencing even the world's superpowers.

India's rise as a global leader is in stark contrast to its position in the early years following independence. When India gained freedom from British rule in 1947, its first Prime Minister, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, sought the United Nations' intervention in the Kashmir dispute, a decision that many historians argue limited India's strategic options in the region. Today, however, India no longer waits for global bodies to dictate terms; instead, major powers within the UN increasingly acknowledge and value India's proactive engagement in global matters. Whether it is mediating between warring nations, championing climate change initiatives, or advocating for economic partnerships, India now commands a seat at the high table of international diplomacy.

Under Modi, India's foreign policy has undergone a fundamental transformation. His leadership has instilled a renewed sense of pride among Indians, reinforcing their country's stature on the world stage.

This shift is expected to have far-reaching consequences for India's relationships with neighboring countries, particularly as they begin to recognize India's true strategic and economic potential.

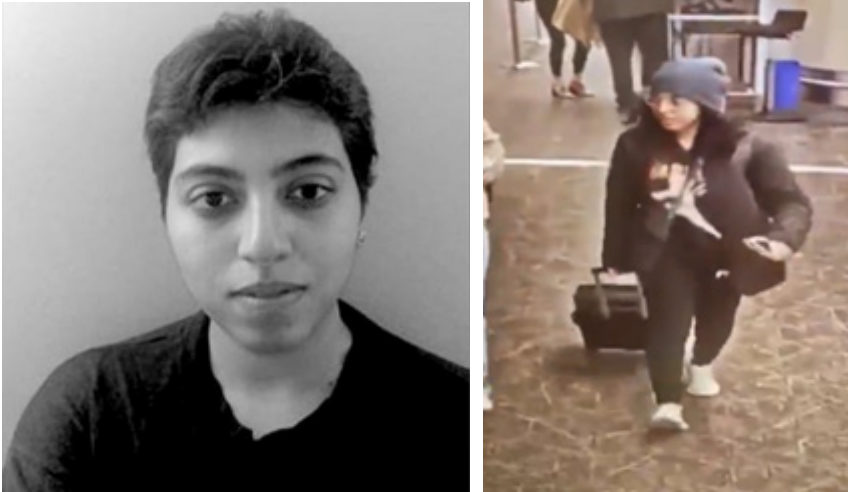
India's growing influence has not been without its detractors. Recent criticisms from the President of the Maldives appear to be diversionary tactics aimed at deflecting attention from his administration's shortcomings. However, such criticisms are unlikely to hold ground, as India's robust foreign policy continues to strengthen its alliances in the Indo-Pacific region.

Similarly, long-standing tensions with Pakistan and Bangladesh may see a shift, with the potential for reduced Pakistani support for terrorism. A stable and assertive India could encourage its neighbors to reconsider their approach, fostering better diplomatic relations and regional stability.

On the international stage, India's firm stance is also compelling global organizations to rethink their habitual criticisms. Organizations that have frequently passed comments on India's human rights record may find their narratives increasingly challenged by India's undeniable diplomatic and economic progress. The era where India was seen as a passive participant in global affairs is over. Today, India is setting the agenda rather than merely responding to it.

With its foreign policy now firmly on an irreversible path forward, India's transformation into a global power is evident. Modi's leadership has not only strengthened India's strategic position but has also reaffirmed the country's role as a champion of peace and diplomacy. As nations worldwide acknowledge India's growing influence, it is clear that Modi's vision of India as a Vishwa Guru is becoming a reality, solidifying the country's place in the annals of global history.

Price for Reckless Activism Columbia Student Loses Visa, Forced to Self-Deport



THE PONT DESK

Columbia University doctoral student Ranjani Srinivasan, an Indian national, was forced to leave the United States after her student visa was revoked for alleged support of Hamas. U.S. authorities took action on March 5, 2025, citing her participation in pro-Hamas protests at the university as grounds for "advocating terrorism." Rather than risk a forced military deportation, Srinivasan opted for self-deportation using the U.S. Customs and Border Protection mobile app, a rare but increasingly used method of voluntary departure.

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security documented her exit through video and images at the airport as part of its enhanced monitoring of foreign nationals linked to extremist ideologies. Alongside Srinivasan, another student, Leqaa Kordia, was arrested for immigration violations in connection with similar protests at Columbia University.

A Price for Reckless Activism

Srinivasan's deportation raises important questions about the consequences of engaging in politically charged activism, particularly when it involves sensitive global security issues. As an international student in the U.S., her primary focus should have been academic excellence. However, her involvement in protests supporting a U.S.-designated terrorist organization led to the abrupt end of her studies and the loss of her visa privileges.

Her case serves as a cautionary tale for students who, despite having little expertise in geopolitics, insert themselves into movements they do not fully understand. While freedom of expression is a fundamental right, it does not extend to supporting groups with a history of violent extremism.

When Activism Goes Wrong

Srinivasan's parents sent her abroad for higher education, expecting her to build a successful career. Instead, she engaged in protests that led to severe legal consequences, not only disrupting her academic journey but also leaving a permanent mark on her immigration records.

This incident highlights a growing trend of students being drawn into ideological activism without fully grasping its implications. Universities, particularly in the West, have become hotbeds for political movements, with many students using their academic platforms for activism rather than intellectual growth. While political awareness is essential, reckless involvement in extremist-linked protests can have life-altering consequences.

In contrast, if Srinivasan were to continue her education in India at institutions like Jadavpur University or Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), she would likely face no repercussions for similar activism. Unlike the U.S., where authorities strictly monitor visa holders, India has historically allowed a broad spectrum of political expression on university campuses.

Srinivasan's self-inflicted downfall is a stark reminder: education is an opportunity, not a privilege to be wasted on reckless political posturing.

The UN's Troubling Stance Siding with an Unelected Govt While Overlooking Minority Persecution

THE PONT DESK

The recent visit of United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres to Bangladesh has raised serious concerns about the UN's priorities and its silence on the country's worsening human rights situation. While Guterres and Bangladeshi Chief Adviser Muhammad Yunus spoke extensively about the Rohingya refugee crisis, the event glaringly ignored a more pressing issue—the systematic persecution of Bangladesh's Hindu and Christian minorities under an unelected government that continues to evade democratic accountability.

Backing an Illegitimate Regime

One of the most disturbing aspects of Guterres' visit was the implicit legitimization of Muhammad Yunus, who holds power without a democratic mandate. Since Sheikh Hasina's government was forced out earlier this year, Bangladesh has been governed without an election, effectively making Yunus an unelected leader with no public legitimacy. The UN, an organization that claims to uphold democratic values, has chosen

to ignore the fact that the current Bangladeshi administration has not held free and fair elections. Instead of pushing for democratic restoration, Guterres' visit signals that the UN is comfortable working with an autocratic setup, so long as it aligns with its own agenda.

The Forgotten Persecution of Hindus and Christians

While Guterres shared an Iftar meal with 100,000 Rohingya refugees, he failed to acknowledge the brutal persecution of Hindus, Christians, and other non-Muslim minorities in Bangladesh. Over the past decade, attacks on religious minorities have surged, with Hindu temples vandalized, Christian missionaries harassed, and entire villages torched under the pretext of religious extremism.

Organizations that track religious freedom, such as the US Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF), have repeatedly raised alarms over Bangladesh's deteriorating treatment of minorities. However, these voices find little space in UN-led discussions, which continue to prioritize refugees from



Myanmar while ignoring the suffering of native Bangladeshis who have been stripped of their fundamental rights.

Boasting About Harboring Illegal Migrants

Another alarming narrative pushed during the visit was the glorification of Bangladesh's role in sheltering illegal migrants. While Guterres praised the country's "solidarity" with Rohingya refugees, he made no mention of the impact this mass migration has had on neighboring India and Myanmar.

For years, illegal migration from Bangladesh has destabilized India's northeastern states, creating demographic shifts

that have led to ethnic tensions and resource conflicts. Indian intelligence agencies have repeatedly flagged security concerns arising from unchecked illegal migration, including the rise of extremist elements operating from within these refugee settlements. Yet, instead of addressing the geopolitical consequences of such movements, the UN continues to pressure India and Myanmar to accept more refugees, without holding Bangladesh accountable for failing to control its own borders.

Selective Outrage and the UN's Double Standards

Perhaps the most frustrating aspect

of the UN's stance is its blatant double standards. While it repeatedly criticizes countries like India for their policies on refugees and minority rights, it remains eerily silent when similar, or even worse, human rights violations occur in Bangladesh. The same UN that speaks out against religious intolerance in Western democracies has little to say when Hindus in Bangladesh face mob violence. The same UN that preaches about fair governance has no problem collaborating with an unelected administration that suppresses dissent and ignores calls for free elections.

This selective outrage is not just hypocritical; it actively undermines the credibility of international human rights institutions. By choosing to engage with an illegitimate government while ignoring its persecution of minorities, the UN is setting a dangerous precedent—one where political convenience takes priority over genuine justice.

Until these issues are acknowledged and acted upon, the UN's engagement with Bangladesh will remain one-sided, failing to address the real human rights crisis unfolding in the country.

BJP criticizes Karnataka's 4% Muslim Reservation



TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has strongly criticized the Karnataka government's decision to grant a 4% reservation for Muslim contractors in public tenders under the Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement (KTPP) Act. BJP leader and former Union minister Ravi Shankar Prasad accused the Congress of engaging in "vote-bank politics" and claimed the move was backed by Rahul Gandhi. Addressing a press conference in Delhi, Prasad alleged that Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah lacked the courage to make such a decision independently. "This reservation was introduced with the full patronage and approval of Rahul Gandhi. Siddaramaiah neither has the courage nor the political capital to announce it on his own," he said. Prasad further criticized Congress for setting what he called dangerous precedents in the name of reservations. "How far will this appeasement go? Will there be separate queues for Muslims in movies and train tickets?" he questioned. Referring to Congress' recent electoral setbacks, Prasad accused the party of failing to reassess its approach. He also cited former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh's controversial remark that Muslims have the "first right" over the nation's resources and claimed Rahul Gandhi has "surpassed that." "He called Congress a party of Muslims, went to America and called the Muslim League a secular party. Jinah is gone, but his politics remain," he remarked. The Karnataka cabinet had recently approved a 4% quota for Muslim contractors under the Category-II B classification. The decision, announced by Siddaramaiah on March 7 during the state budget presentation, is expected to be formalized through an amendment to the KTPP Act. Prasad also took a jibe at Rahul Gandhi's recent visit to Vietnam, questioning his absence during key political moments. "He visits Vietnam during the New Year and Holi but has not spent as much time in his Rae Bareilly constituency. He must explain his unusual fondness for Vietnam," he said.

Bhupesh Baghel Denies ED Notice To Son In Liquor Scam

- Baghel Alleges BJP is using agencies to defame opposition leaders.
- ED conducted raids at 14 locations, including Baghel's residence.
- Agency claims ₹2,161 crore illegal earnings from liquor trade in Chhattisgarh.

TPN Correspondent | Chhattisgarh

Former Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel has refuted claims that his son Chaitanya Baghel was summoned by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) in connection with an alleged liquor scam. Baghel accused the ED of creating a media spectacle and claimed that no official notice had been served.

"No notice has been received, so there is no question of appearing anywhere. We will certainly appear once we receive a notice. ED's job is to create deliberate media hype. Agencies are being misused to defame individuals. This is a conspiracy by the BJP to tarnish leaders," Baghel told ANI. The ED conducted searches at multiple locations on March 10, including Baghel's residence, his son's premises, and others across Chhattisgarh. Baghel condemned the searches, alleging they were conducted without the Election Commission's approval and aimed at damag-



ing his reputation ahead of elections. He also dismissed the alleged ₹33 lakh recovery from his home, stating it was an attempt to frame him. "We are an agricultural family with 140 acres of land. They found ₹33 lakh and created hype. If they had real evidence, why haven't they proven anything in four years?" he questioned. The ED claims that between 2019 and 2022, a cartel of government

officials, politicians, and liquor businessmen amassed around ₹2,161 crore through an illegal liquor distribution network. The agency has previously conducted raids on politicians and bureaucrats linked to the former Congress-led government. Baghel alleged that BJP is using investigative agencies to target political rivals, stating, "People now know that the BJP misuses CBI and ED to trouble opposition leaders."

Will Turn Into Best In India Amit Shah Inaugurates Police Academy In Assam

TPN Correspondent | Guwahati

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Saturday inaugurated the newly developed premises of the Lachit Barphukan Police Academy in Dergaon, Assam, emphasizing its transformation into one of the best police training institutions in India. Spread across 340 acres, the academy is being upgraded in two phases at an estimated cost of ₹1,024 crore. The first phase, worth ₹167.4 crore, includes a five-storey building equipped with smart classrooms, weapon simulators, research labs, administrative offices, a museum, and a modern parade ground. Honoring Lachit Barphukan's Legacy Speaking at the event, Shah highlighted the historical significance of the academy's namesake, the legendary Assamese general Lachit Barphukan, who



repelled Mughal forces. "I first learned about Lachit Barphukan when I was seven years old, but his contributions were never widely taught. Today, his story is being published in 23 languages to ensure his legacy is recognized nationwide," he said. Shah credited Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership for Assam's transformation from a state once plagued by insurgency to a hub of progress. "Over 10,000 youth have left insurgen-

cy and joined the mainstream due to peace accords. Assam, once known for unrest, will now be home to India's first semiconductor unit," he remarked. He also announced a ₹3 lakh crore investment in Assam's infrastructure, citing the need for job creation for both local and non-local youth. Targeting the Congress, Shah accused the party of failing to bring peace and development to Assam.



Barriers Should Not Come

Ashwini Vaishnaw Backs Tamil Amid Language Debate

TPN Correspondent | Chennai

Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw on Saturday hailed Tamil as a "sweet" and "ancient" language, emphasizing that it is not just an asset for India but for the world. Speaking at the inauguration of a manufacturing facility of Zetwerk Electronics in Sriperumbudur, he reiterated Prime Minister Narendra Modi's commitment to ensuring respect and recognition for all Indian languages.

Vaishnaw shared a personal anecdote about his exposure to Tamil through his professor, Sadagopan, at IIT Kanpur. Recalling how he learned about Tamil culture beyond common associations like 'masala dosa,' he expressed admiration for the language's depth and heritage.

Greeting the audience with "Vanakkam," he added, "Tamil is a very, very sweet language. All I know is three words—Vanakkam, Eppadi irukeenga, and Nandri." He stressed that linguistic diversity should be a source of unity, not division.

Citing an example of inclusivity, he highlighted how the Telecom and Data Protection Laws now mandate that notices be available in all Indian languages, inspired by Modi's vision. "Our Prime Minister asked why notices should only be in English and not in all Indian languages. That is the thought process of our leader," he said. His remarks come amid the ongoing language debate, with the ruling DMK alleging Hindi imposition through the Centre's National Education Policy. Addressing these concerns, Vaishnaw called for a collective focus on strengthening the nation. "Barriers should not come in the way of friendship and relationships among people. We should all work towards making India the third-largest economy," he said, concluding with "Romba rombha nandri" (Many, many thanks).

Tej Pratap Yadav Threatens Cop to Dance or Face Suspension



TPN Correspondent | Patna

Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) leader Tej Pratap Yadav stirred controversy after a video from his Holi celebration went viral, showing him ordering a policeman to dance, threatening suspension if he refused.

The Holi party, held at Yadav's residence in Patna, was attended by party workers. In the viral clip, the former Bihar minister can be heard telling the on-duty cop, "Ae Sipahi, ek gana bajayenge usme tumko thumka lagana hai. Bura na mano Holi hai. Thumka lagao nahi toh suspend kar diye jaoge." Moments later, Yadav started singing, and the policeman, seemingly pressured, joined in by raising his hands and dancing.

BJP Slams RJD Over Incident
The video drew sharp criticism from the BJP. Party spokesperson Shehzad Poonawalla accused RJD of fostering "jungle raj," comparing Tej Pratap Yadav's actions to his father, Lalu Prasad Yadav's tenure.

"Like father, like son. First, Lalu as CM made the law dance to his tunes. Now, his son, despite being out of power, is forcing law protectors to dance through threats. This is proof that RJD believes in lawlessness. If they return to power, they will turn Bihar into jungle raj again," Poonawalla said in a video statement.

Surge in Illegal Betting Raises Concern in India

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

Illegal betting and gambling have seen an alarming rise in India, with digital platforms recording 1.6 billion visits in just three months across four major sites, according to a report by Digital India Foundation. The findings indicate a thriving underground industry despite repeated government interventions, raising concerns over money laundering, terror financing, and regulatory inefficiencies. The report highlights that organic search traffic to illegal betting sites reached 184 million visits, far surpassing social media-driven traffic of 42.8 million visits. Additionally, mirror websites played a significant role in expanding the illegal market, with just three Parimatch mirrors accounting for 266 million visits.



Despite major digital platforms prohibiting betting-related promotions, the report points out that enforcement remains inconsistent. Facebook Ad Network, for instance, has reportedly witnessed a

sharp increase in gambling advertisements. Government agencies have attempted to crack down on illegal gambling by blocking websites and issuing public advisories, but operators continue to thrive through

advanced digital marketing, seamless payment systems, and mirror sites. The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Finance had earlier raised concerns over these platforms being used for money laundering and

terror financing. International experiences from countries like the UK, Norway, Denmark, Belgium, and the US show that merely blocking websites is ineffective. Instead, successful strategies involve a combination of website blocking, marketing restrictions, payment regulations, and the use of whitelists and blocklists. The report urges India to adopt a more comprehensive approach instead of a fragmented enforcement strategy. It suggests stricter controls on digital media channels that drive user traffic, tighter financial regulations to prevent illicit transactions, and enhanced enforcement mechanisms to curb illegal betting in the long run. With the rise of digital platforms fueling the gambling boom, experts warn that ignoring the issue could lead to far-reaching economic and social consequences.



Fanatical Mindset..

India Slams Pakistan Over Kashmir Remark At UN

TPN Correspondent |
United Nations

India strongly criticized Pakistan for its repeated and "unjustified" reference to Jammu and Kashmir at the UN General Assembly, asserting that such statements will not validate its claims nor justify its actions linked to cross-border terrorism.

India's Permanent Representative to the UN, Ambassador P Harish, issued a sharp response during an informal meeting of the UN General Assembly to commemorate the International Day to Combat Islamophobia. "As is their habit, the former foreign secretary of Pakistan today has made an unjustified reference to the Indian Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir," Harish stated.

He further accused Pakistan of harboring a "fanatical mindset" and engaging in bigotry, emphasizing that frequent references to Kashmir will not alter the reality that it remains an integral part of India. "Such efforts will not change the reality that Jammu and Kashmir was, is, and will always be an integral part of India," he said.

The remarks came after Pakistan's former foreign secretary, Tehmina Janjua, raised the Kashmir issue in her speech at the UN meet. India's firm stance reaffirmed its position against Pakistan's narrative on Kashmir in global forums.

Trump Orders DC Cleanup

Says Didn't Want PM Modi to See Potholes, Graffiti

TPN Correspondent |
Washington DC

US President Donald Trump has ordered the cleanup of Washington DC, stating that he did not want visiting world leaders, including Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, to see potholes, graffiti, and broken barriers in the capital.

Speaking at the Department of Justice on March 14, Trump emphasized his administration's commitment to making Washington DC safer and more presentable. "We are cleaning up our city. We're not going to have crime, and we're not going to stand for it. We're taking down graffiti, removing tents, and making this great capital the talk of the world," he said. Trump recalled his decision to ensure a well-maintained route when hosting world leaders, including PM Modi, French President Emmanuel Macron, UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer, Israeli Prime Minister Benja-



min Netanyahu, Japanese Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba, and Jordan's King Abdullah II. "I had the route run. I didn't want them to see tents, graffiti, or potholes. We had it looking beautiful," he stated.

He further vowed to make Washington DC a crime-free capital, ensuring that visitors would not

face threats such as mugging or violence. "It's going to be cleaner, better, and safer than ever before, and it's not going to take us too long," he assured. Since taking office, Trump has pushed for stricter law enforcement and urban improvements, positioning the DC cleanup as a major priority for his administration.

Russia Claims Control Over Two More Villages in Kursk

TPN Correspondent | Moscow

Moscow has announced that its forces have reclaimed two more villages in the Kursk border region, intensifying its efforts to regain control over territory previously seized by Ukraine.

The Russian Defense Ministry stated on Saturday that its troops had taken control of Zaoleshenka and Rubanshchina, located north and west of Sudzha, the key town that Moscow had recaptured earlier this week. This development marks a continued push by Russian forces to reclaim lost ground in the western part of the Kursk region.

A day earlier, Russian President Vladimir Putin called on Ukrainian forces in Kursk to surrender, offering assurances of safe treatment. "If they lay down



their arms and surrender, they will be guaranteed life and dignified treatment," Putin stated. Meanwhile, former U.S. President Donald Trump also urged the Kremlin to spare the lives of surrendering Ukrainian troops. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky acknowledged the mounting challenges, stating that the situation in Kursk is "ob-

viously very difficult." On Saturday, the Ukrainian army shared a map on social media indicating that its troops had retreated westward towards the border. This latest advancement in Kursk underscores Russia's increasing momentum in the ongoing conflict, with both sides preparing for further escalations in the contested border regions.



PM Modi to Visit Sri Lanka Next Month

TPN Correspondent | Colombo

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is set to visit Sri Lanka early next month to finalise agreements reached during Sri Lankan President Anura Kumara Dissanayake's visit to India last year, Sri Lankan Foreign Minister Vijitha Herath confirmed on Saturday.

Speaking during a parliamentary budget allocation debate, Herath emphasized Sri Lanka's strong diplomatic ties with India. "We have maintained a close relationship with our neighbor India. Our first diplomatic visit was to India, where we reached several agreements on bilateral cooperation," he said.

Herath revealed that Modi's visit in early April will see the signing of several new Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs), including agreements linked to economic cooperation and energy projects. One of the key events will be the opening of the Sampur solar power station, a 135 MW plant jointly developed by Sri Lanka's Ceylon Electricity Board and India's NTPC in Trincomalee.

The Sri Lankan minister credited the National People's Power (NPP) government's foreign policy for securing multiple Indian-backed projects. "We will remain neutral in our foreign policy without taking any sides while working to maintain national interest," Herath added.

This will be Prime Minister Modi's fourth visit to Sri Lanka since 2015, reflecting India's continued engagement with its island neighbor.

Trump Takes Credit for Killing Senior ISIS Leader in Iraq

"PEACE THROUGH STRENGTH!" He later shared the post on X

TPN Correspondent |
Washington DC

US President Donald Trump has taken credit for the elimination of a senior Islamic State (ISIS) leader in Iraq, Abdullah Makki Muslih al-Rufayi, also known as Abu Khadija. Iraqi Prime Minister Mohammed Shia al-Sudani announced that Iraqi security forces successfully carried out the operation.

Trump, in a post on Truth Social, praised the mission, stating, "Today the fugitive leader of ISIS in Iraq was killed. He was relentlessly hunted down by our intrepid warfighters. His miserable life was terminated, along with another member of ISIS, in coordination with the Iraqi Government and the Kurdish Regional Government. PEACE THROUGH STRENGTH!" He later shared the post on X.

The White House also released a video of the operation, showing collaboration between US and Iraqi forces. The operation, conducted on March 13, was described as a precision airstrike led by the United States Central Command (CENTCOM) with assistance from Iraqi intelligence and security forces.

Operation Details

CENTCOM, in a post on X, confirmed that Khadija and another



ISIS operative were killed in an airstrike in Iraq's Anbar province. "After the strike, CENTCOM and Iraqi forces moved to the strike site and found both dead ISIS terrorists. Both terrorists were wearing unexploded suicide vests and had multiple weapons. CENTCOM and Iraqi forces were able to identify Abu Khadija through a DNA match from a previous raid where he narrowly escaped," the statement read.

CENTCOM described Khadija as the "Emir of ISIS" most senior decision-making body" and a key figure responsible for ISIS's global operations, logistics, and financing. "Abu Khadija was one of the most important ISIS members in the entire global ISIS organization. We will continue to kill terrorists and dismantle their organizations that threaten our homeland and U.S.,

allied, and partner personnel in the region and beyond," said Gen. Michael Erik Kurilla, commander of US Central Command.

Khadija's Role in ISIS
Abu Khadija had a long history of involvement with extremist groups, initially joining al-Qaeda in 2009. He was imprisoned in 2011 but escaped and later resurfaced in 2014 during ISIS's territorial expansion across Iraq and Syria. Rising quickly through the ranks, he became security chief for Kirkuk province before assuming the role of "Wali of the Blessed Land," overseeing ISIS operations in Iraq and Syria.

Syria and Iraq Pledge to Fight ISIS
The operation coincided with a diplomatic visit by Syria's top diplomat to Iraq, during which both nations reaffirmed their commitment to combat ISIS.

US Influencer Apologizes for Wombat Video

Blasts Australian Government

TPN Correspondent |
Canberra

US influencer Sam Jones, who sparked outrage after posting a video of herself picking up a baby wombat in Australia, has issued a public apology. Facing backlash and possible immigration consequences, she clarified that her intentions were to help the animal, not to cause harm.

In a statement on Instagram, Jones explained that she had stopped her vehicle upon seeing the mother wombat and her joey on the road. Concerned that the joey was sick or injured after it failed to run away, she made a "snap judgment" to pick it up. However, after realizing the mother was nearby, she placed the joey back, ensuring their reunion.

Despite her explanation, the video, in which the joey can be heard hissing while its mother follows behind, drew heavy criticism. Online petitions called for her deportation, and Home Affairs Minister Tony Burke confirmed that her visa status was under review. Prime Minister Anthony Albanese condemned the act, calling it an "outrage" that caused clear distress to the mother wombat.

Jones later deleted the video and made her account private before reportedly leaving Australia. However, in her latest statement, she reopened her account and launched a scathing attack on the Australian government, accusing it of hypocrisy



in its treatment of native wildlife.

She claimed that while she was vilified for briefly holding a wombat, the government permits large-scale slaughter of wombats, kangaroos, and other animals. Jones alleged that thousands of wombats are shot or poisoned each year and that Australia spends millions on culling wild horses, deer, and pigs.

Highlighting the commercial killing of kangaroos, she stated, "In the last 20 years, approximately 90 million kangaroos and wallabies have been legally slaughtered." She criticized those who condemned her while supporting government policies on wildlife management, calling it "hypocrisy at its finest."

Jones also dismissed suggestions that she should have visited a zoo instead, arguing that keeping wild animals in captivity is a far greater injustice than briefly handling one in an attempt to help.

The controversy continues, with public opinion divided over Jones' actions and her broader criticisms of Australia's wildlife policies.

New India Co-operative Bank scam

Wanted accused Kapil Dedhia arrested
Probe reveals ₹12 crore credited to his account
Economic Offences Wing (EOW) arrests Kapil Dedhia in ₹122 crore bank fraud case
Mumbai court remands Dedhia to police custody till March 19

TPN Correspondent | Mumbai
The Economic Offences Wing (EOW) of the Mumbai Police has arrested Kapil Dedhia, a wanted accused in the ₹122 crore embezzlement case involving New India Co-operative Bank. Dedhia was apprehended in Vadodara on Friday as part of a coordinated operation and subsequently brought to Mumbai on Saturday. According to EOW officials, Dedhia was formally arrested at 11:30 a.m. and presented before the court, which remanded him to police custody until March 19, 2025. Investigators have uncovered that ₹12 crore was credited to his account, allegedly forming part of the misappropriated funds siphoned from the bank. Further inquiries revealed that a portion of this amount was transferred to Dedhia by Dharmesh Paun, the builder of Dharmesh Realty, while another segment was received from Arunachalam, another wanted accused in the case. Additionally, EOW sources confirmed that funds were also routed to Dedhia by Hitesh Mehta. The investigation into the New India Co-operative Bank scam continues, with authorities examining financial trails and identifying other individuals involved in the massive fraud.

"Monitoring Closely" says RBI
The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has assured depositors of IndusInd Bank's financial stability following concerns over a ₹2,100 crore accounting lapse. The central bank confirmed that the bank remains well-capitalised and is



being closely monitored to ensure financial soundness. In a statement, the RBI urged depositors not to react to speculative reports and highlighted that IndusInd Bank reported a Capital Adequacy Ratio (CAR) of 16.46% and a Provision Coverage Ratio (PAR) of 70.20% for the quarter ending December 31, 2024. The bank also maintained a Liquidity Coverage Ratio (LCR) of 113% as of March 9, 2025, surpassing the regulatory requirement of 100%. The RBI stated that IndusInd Bank has engaged an external audit team to review its financial systems and assess the impact of the accounting discrepancy. The bank's Board and management have been directed to complete all

necessary remedial actions within the current quarter (Q4 FY25) and ensure proper disclosures. The central bank reassured depositors by citing its track record in safeguarding financial institutions, referring to interventions in cases like Yes Bank (2020) and RBL Bank (2021). The RBI clarified that the issue at IndusInd Bank is not a crisis but a one-time accounting discrepancy related to its derivatives portfolio, impacting around 2.35% of its net worth as of December 2024. IndusInd Bank has already initiated corrective measures to resolve the issue and ensure transparency in financial reporting.

Elon Musk-Led DOGE Cancels Over 2 Lakh Govt Credit Cards

The U.S. Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE), headed by billionaire entrepreneur and White House advisor Elon Musk, has deactivated over 2 lakh federal government credit cards as part of an effort to streamline government spending. The move, announced recently on X (formerly Twitter), follows a broader push to curb administrative costs and overhaul government expenditure practices. According to DOGE, the department has been working since February 18 to simplify government credit card accounts and eliminate unnecessary expenditures. Government data estimates that around 4.6 million active credit cards facilitated nearly 90 million transactions in the 2024 fiscal year. A week after DOGE's announcement, U.S. President Donald Trump signed an executive order enforcing a 30-day freeze on agency employee credit cards, affecting several departments. In its latest update, DOGE revealed that after a three-week audit of 16 federal agencies, over 200,000 credit cards had been deactivated. Commenting on the decision, Musk said, "There are still almost twice as many credit/purchasing cards as people in the government, and the limits are \$10,000! A lot of shady expenditures are happening." Efforts to Streamline Federal Spending Trump and Musk have long advocated reducing government expenses. While the credit card freeze includes exemptions for employees involved in disaster relief and critical services, reports suggest that it has disrupted routine operations in several federal agencies. For instance, employees at the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) have faced difficulties



in procuring essential lab supplies, which are crucial for ensuring consumer safety. Civilian employees at the Department of Defense have also been affected, with their government travel credit card limits drastically reduced to just \$1, except for cases involving military operations or permanent station changes. Despite these measures, DOGE has not disclosed the projected financial savings from the cancellations, leaving many questioning the actual impact of the initiative. According to a report in Newsweek, similar cost-cutting measures in the past, such as large-scale layoffs within federal agencies,

have yielded little to no financial benefits. What is DOGE? Established through an executive order on January 20, the Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE) is a newly formed advisory body tasked with reducing inefficiencies in the federal government. Since its inception, the department has aggressively pushed for cost-cutting measures, including workforce reductions. As the federal government continues its spending overhaul, the long-term implications of these changes remain uncertain.



Wipro revamps business structure as CEO Srinu Pallia nears one-year mark

Wipro Ltd has announced a major restructuring of its global business divisions to align with client needs, marking another step in CEO Srinu Pallia's strategy to revive the company amid declining revenues and macro-economic challenges. The Bengaluru-based IT giant will now operate under four business arms—Technology Services, Business Process Services, Consulting Services, and Engineering. The restructuring takes effect from April 1, 2025. The leadership reshuffle also saw the exit of Jo Debecker, head of Wipro's FullStride Cloud Services. His departure marks the 10th high-profile exit since Pallia took over in April 2024, with seven of those roles being filled internally. Under the new structure, Technology Services will focus on cloud solutions, AI, cybersecurity, and enterprise applications, led by Nagendra Bandaru. Business Process Services, handling digital operations and customer support, will be led by Jasjit Kang. Consulting Services will be overseen by Amit Kumar, offering advisory and transformation services. The Engineering division, which focuses on R&D, will continue under Srikanth Rao. This is Wipro's second major restructuring in three years. The previous overhaul under former CEO Thierry Delaporte in April 2023 had introduced four business lines, including Wipro FullStride Cloud and Wipro Enterprise Futuring. However, despite these efforts, Wipro remains the only one among India's top four IT firms to register a revenue decline. In 2023-24, the company posted \$10.8 billion in revenue, down 2.2% year-on-year. In the first nine months of FY25, Wipro's revenue shrank by 4.2% to \$7.78 billion, and it is expected to post a second consecutive annual decline. As part of its cost-cutting strategy, Wipro has decided not to sign or renew deals below its 16% operating margin threshold and has shifted expensive team offsites to virtual platforms. With analysts forecasting slower growth for India's \$283-billion IT sector, Pallia's restructuring efforts are aimed at positioning Wipro for long-term stability amid uncertain market conditions.

Standard Chartered raises €1 billion via first social bond, commits 57% for India

Standard Chartered Plc has raised €1 billion (approximately ₹9,400 crore) through its first social bond, aimed at supporting sustainable development projects across emerging markets, with India being the primary beneficiary. Over 57% of the total funds raised will be allocated to India for financing small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), healthcare, education, and affordable infrastructure. The eight-year bond is designed to facilitate lending to SMEs, especially women-owned enterprises, ensuring access to finance, job creation, and economic empowerment. The proceeds will also be used for investments in essential services such as food security, healthcare, and educa-

tion, in line with Standard Chartered's Sustainability Bond Framework. Speaking on the issuance, Diego De Giorgi, Group Chief Financial Officer at Standard Chartered, stated, "Our first social issuance is an important milestone for the bank and demonstrates Standard Chartered's unique ability to raise capital in the world's largest financial centres and deploy it into markets where the need for sustainable finance is most acute. This highlights how the bank provides financial solutions to support the enduring growth of our markets." According to Standard Chartered, the bank's top five social asset locations include India (57%), Malaysia (10%), Bangladesh (6%), Mainland China (5%), and



Nepal (4%). The funds raised will be referenced in the bank's Sustainable Finance asset pool, which includes \$5.5 billion in social assets—99% of which are located in Asia, Africa,

and the Middle East. "Today, around \$4.2 trillion in annual investment is needed across emerging markets to facilitate sustainable development, build resilience, and drive long-term

prosperity. Mobilising private sector capital into these markets is crucial to bridging this gap," the bank noted. Marisa Drew, Chief Sustainability Officer at Standard Chartered, emphasized the bank's commitment to inclusive growth, stating, "This first social bond issuance underscores our commitment to people, communities, and businesses. The fact that 99% of our social assets are in Asia, Africa, and the Middle East is a key differentiator for us, allowing us to drive impactful change across our footprint." The move is expected to strengthen Standard Chartered's role in mobilising capital for social impact, ensuring that critical financing reaches markets with the greatest demand.

Redmi Note 14s Launched With 200MP Camera



Xiaomi’s latest 4G smartphone, the Redmi Note 14s, debuts with a high-resolution camera and fast charging. Redmi has unveiled the Note 14s, a new 4G smartphone featuring a 200-megapixel rear camera and a MediaTek Helio G99-Ultra processor. It sports a 6.67-inch AMOLED display with a 120Hz refresh rate

and runs on Xiaomi’s HyperOS. The device comes with an in-display fingerprint sensor, an IP64 rating for dust and splash resistance, and a 5,000mAh battery supporting 67W fast charging. The Redmi Note 14s is priced at CZK 5,999 (approximately Rs. 22,700) in the Czech Republic and UAH 10,999 (roughly Rs. 23,100) in Ukraine. It

is available in three colors: Aurora Purple, Midnight Black, and Ocean Blue. Specifications and Features The Redmi Note 14s features a 6.67-inch Full-HD+ AMOLED display with a 120Hz refresh rate and Gorilla Glass 5 protection. Powered by the MediaTek Helio G99-Ultra SoC, it comes with 8GB RAM and 256GB storage. For photography, the device boasts a 200MP primary rear camera, along with an 8MP ultrawide and 2MP macro lens, while a 16MP front camera handles selfies. It is backed by a 5,000mAh battery with 67W fast charging support. Connectivity options include 4G LTE, Wi-Fi, Bluetooth 5.2, NFC, and USB Type-C. Security is enhanced with an in-display fingerprint sensor, and the phone is IP64-rated for dust and splash resistance. Measuring 161.1×74.95×7.98mm and weighing 179g, the Redmi Note 14s combines performance with durability. The Redmi Note 14s is essentially a rebranded version of the Redmi Note 13 Pro 4G, offering similar specifications with a focus on camera performance.

Urban Company Launches ‘Insta Maid’ Service Faces Mixed Reactions Online



Home services platform Urban Company (UC) has launched ‘Insta Maids,’ a new offering that promises professional house help within 15 minutes. While some hailed it as a much-needed solution for urban households, others criticized it as exploitative and questioned the use of the term “maid.” The service, currently available in select areas of Mumbai, provides assistance with cleaning, cooking, and mopping at an introductory price of ₹49 per hour. UC stated that its ‘Insta Maid’ partners would earn ₹150-180 per hour and receive free health, life, and accidental insurance. Workers who complete 132 hours per month are assured a min-

imum monthly earning of ₹20,000. Urban Company Defends Initiative In a post on X, UC reiterated its commitment to fair wages and workers’ dignity. Co-founder Varun Khaitan described ‘Insta Maid’ as “the future of domestic work in India—a win-win for all.” UC also clarified that the ₹49 per hour rate is a limited-time offer, and prices will be adjusted to ensure sustainability. Online Debate Over ‘Insta Maids’ The launch triggered mixed reactions online. Supporters praised the initiative, with one user commenting, “India desperately needs a structured domestic help industry. This is a step in the right direction.”

Another user suggested expanding the service to include babysitting. However, critics accused UC of exploiting cheap labor. “This is a violation of human rights, stop calling exploitation ‘innovation,’” wrote one user. Others took issue with the name, calling ‘maid’ an outdated and gendered term. “Expected better from Urban Company. The name itself is problematic,” another user noted. Despite the backlash, UC remains confident in the service, emphasizing that it provides flexible employment opportunities while addressing a growing urban need.

Blinkit Faces Backlash Over Alleged Short-Weight Deliveries

A Reddit user’s claim that Blinkit delivered underweight grocery items has sparked a heated debate online, with multiple users sharing similar experiences. The controversy has raised concerns about the accuracy of product weights on instant delivery platforms. The user, posting under the handle @Jusklickin, shared an image of a grapes order, alleging that a 500g pack weighed only 370g. They initially dismissed it as a one-off issue but faced a similar situation with another order, which reportedly weighed just 395g, including packaging.

“Please don’t trust Blinkit blindly,” the

user wrote, accusing the company of deliberate malpractice. They also alleged receiving open pet food boxes with missing pouches, cheaper substitutes for ordered items, and overpriced products. Blinkit Responds to Allegations The post quickly gained traction, prompting Blinkit’s official Reddit account to respond. The company apologized and urged the user to share their order details for resolution. “We’re really sorry for the repeated issues and understand your frustration. Please share your order ID or registered mobile number so we can address the discrepancies,” Blinkit stated, providing

customer support links. Many users joined the discussion, with one urging, “File a complaint, make these companies pay up!” Others claimed they had suspected similar weight discrepancies but never verified them. A user shared their own experience: “Numerous times I’ve had one item missing in large orders. They replaced it after raising a ticket, but I found it too time-consuming and stopped using the app.” The controversy has reignited concerns over quality control in rapid grocery delivery services, with many urging customers to double-check their orders.



Vispy Kharadi’s Hercules Pillars Feat Gains Global Praise



Indian athlete Vispy Kharadi has set a Guinness World Record by holding the Hercules Pillars for two minutes and 10.75 seconds in Surat, Gujarat. His remarkable achievement has drawn global attention, with tech billionaire Elon Musk among those acknowledging his feat. Musk shared the video posted by Guinness World Records on X, where Kharadi can be seen gripping two massive pillars weighing 166.7 kg and 168.9 kg. The post has amassed over 10.9 million views and 86,000 likes, making Kharadi’s strength a widely discussed topic on social media. Reacting to Musk’s acknowledgment, Kharadi expressed his excitement, stating, “It was indeed a good surprise when I got to know that @elonmusk shared my Guinness World Record Video on X. Feeling so happy and on cloud 9. Moreover, it gives me immense pride that an Indian is being praised worldwide in the field of strength.”

Netizens Applaud Kharadi’s Achievement Social media users have hailed Kharadi’s world record, with many calling it an inspiration. One X user wrote, “That’s some achievement... WORLD RECORD... Making India Proud. Congratulations @VispyKharadi.” Another added, “Vispy Kharadi, also known as the Indian Man of Steel, makes a Guinness World Record of holding the Hercules Pillars for 2 minutes 10.75 seconds. Each pillar weighs 160 kg. This task is often taken by those who compete in World’s StrongMan.” Kharadi himself reshared the Guinness World Records video, commenting, “160kg in each hand—Hercules Hold! Grip strength isn’t just for giants. Martial artists, arm wrestlers, rock climbers—anyone with determination can achieve this. If an Indian believes, an Indian achieves!” Who is Vispy Kharadi? Kharadi, known as the “Steel Man of India,” is a multiple black belt holder, 16-time Guinness World Record holder, and an unarmed combat trainer for the Border Security Force (BSF). He is also a certified nutritionist, fitness expert, actor, and model. His previous records include crushing the most drink cans by hand in one minute and bending the most iron bars with his head. A report by Zee News mentions that Kharadi holds an MBA from IIM-B and is a specialist in Krav Maga, a form of close combat training. With global figures like Elon Musk recognizing his feat, Kharadi’s achievement stands as a testament to India’s growing presence in strength sports.

Fresh Snow in Gulmarg, Rainfall in Srinagar Brings Cold Wave to J&K

Fresh snowfall in Gulmarg and incessant rainfall in Srinagar have led to a significant drop in temperatures across Jammu and Kashmir. Srinagar recorded a minimum temperature of 2.6°C on Saturday morning, while Gulmarg witnessed sub-zero conditions with temperatures at 0.2°C and 100% relative humidity. The India Meteorological Department (IMD) had earlier predicted heavy rainfall and snowfall in Jammu and Kashmir for March 15, along with similar weather conditions in Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand on March 16. The ongoing weather disturbances are attributed to a cyclonic circulation arising from a Western Disturbance over Afghanistan and Pakistan, leading to widespread precipitation in the Western Himalayan region. According to the latest



forecast, weather conditions in Srinagar are expected to improve after March 16, with a mix of clear skies and partly cloudy conditions predicted over the next six days. The Meteorological Centre Srinagar stated on X, “Intermittent light to moderate Rain/Snow

(higher reaches) at many places till 16 morning & improvement thereafter. Dry weather likely during 17-26 March.” Residents can expect fluctuating temperatures, with the maximum and minimum ranging between 15°C and 1°C in the coming days.

Rohit Sharma to Continue as Test Captain for England Series



Rohit Sharma will remain India's Test captain for the upcoming five-match series against England, as confirmed by reports from the Indian Express. The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) has expressed confidence in Rohit's leadership, citing his tactical acumen and experience as key factors in their decision. Rohit's ability to manage pressure, rotate bowlers effectively, and set precise field placements has impressed the selectors, particularly his captaincy during the Champions Trophy, where he adeptly utilized spinners to challenge opposing batters. The board recognizes that succeeding

in England requires patience and adaptability—qualities Rohit has showcased in his recent white-ball successes. With India aiming for their first Test series win in England since 2007, stability in leadership is deemed crucial. The selectors noted the lack of viable alternatives, as young talents like Shubman Gill and Rishabh Pant are still gaining experience, and KL Rahul has faced consistency issues. Jasprit Bumrah, who led in Rohit's absence, is also struggling with injuries. Therefore, Rohit remains the best option to lead the team against England.

Tendulkar vs Lara: A Nostalgic Showdown in IML 2025 Title Clash



The stage is set for an epic finale as Sachin Tendulkar leads the India Masters against Brian Lara's West Indies Masters in the inaugural International Masters League (IML) title clash. This highly anticipated match will take place on Sunday, March 16, at the SVNS International

al Stadium in Raipur. The India Masters, one of the tournament favorites, have enjoyed a stellar run, bouncing back from their only league-stage defeat against Australia Masters by defeating Shane Watson's team in the semi-finals. Their journey included thrilling victories over Sri Lanka, England, and South Africa, solidifying their place in the final. Conversely, the West Indies Masters kicked off their campaign with strong performances against Australia and England but faced setbacks against Sri Lanka and India. A crucial win over South Africa secured their semi-final spot, where they narrowly edged out Sri Lanka by six runs. The IML final promises to be a captivating culmination of the tournament, celebrating cricket's golden era with iconic players. Fans can catch all the action live on JioHotstar, Colors Cinplex (SD & HD), and Colors Cineplex Superhits starting at 7 PM. Don't miss this nostalgic showdown!

Avani Prashanth Shines as Top Indian in Australian Women's Classic



In a challenging opening round at the 2025 Australian Women's Classic, rookie Avani Prashanth emerged as the top Indian competitor, finishing with a 2-over 72, placing her Tied-55th. Pranavi Urs followed closely with a 73, and Diksha Dagar posted a 74, placing them T-79th and T-88th, respectively. The players faced dif-

ficulties due to a lack of practice rounds at the Coffs Harbour Golf Club, which had been affected by Cyclone Alfred. Welsh rookie Darcey Harry, Sweden's Moa Folke, and Austria's Emma Spitz led the pack, each carding impressive 6-under 64s. Despite the adverse conditions and a reduction of the tournament to 54 holes, these players showcased remarkable skill. Avani, a multiple winner on the Hero Women's Pro Tour, has recently turned pro, finishing T-16 in her debut event in Morocco. She recorded two bogeys and no birdies on the par-70 course. Pranavi, who had two birdies but five bogeys, and Diksha, with one birdie and five bogeys, struggled to find their rhythm. Harry's impressive performance included four birdies on the front nine and another on the 14th, while Folke and Spitz demonstrated consistent excellence, making multiple birdies without a single bogey. The tournament continues to unfold, promising an exciting competition ahead.

India Shines with 15 Medals on Days 3 and 4 of Special Olympics World Winter Games



India's impressive performance at the Special Olympics World Winter Games continued on Days 3 and 4, with athletes adding 15 more medals to the country's tally. This achievement brings India's total medal count to 24, following the nine medals secured in earlier events, as reported by Special Olympics Bharat. In Alpine Skiing, Deepak Thakur and Giridhar showcased exceptional skills, clinching gold medals in the Intermediate Super G M04 and M05 categories, respectively. Abhishek Kumar earned a silver in the Novice Super G M01 category, while Radha Devi secured silver in the Intermediate Super G F03 event.

India also made its mark in short-track speed skating, with Ziara Porter claiming silver medals in both the 111M F1 and 222M F2 events. Tanshu added a bronze in the 777M M2 category and a silver in the 500M M3 category. In Cross Country Skiing, Akriti's commendable effort resulted in a bronze medal in the 50M Classical Technique Final F03. The Snowshoeing events further boosted India's medal count, with Vasu Tiwari winning gold in the 50M Race M03 category. Jahan-gir and Tanya took home silver medals in the 50M Race M04 and F02 categories, respectively, while Shalini Chauhan added a bronze in the 50M Race F03. Anil Kumar triumphed with a gold medal in the 200M Race M12 division, and Harleen Kaur secured silver in the F12 division. With around 1,500 athletes from 102 countries participating, the Special Olympics World Winter Games aim to promote inclusivity in sports, offering everyone a chance to shine. India's athletes continue to exemplify resilience, hard work, and sporting spirit on this global platform.

Lakshya Sen Exits All-England Open 2025 in Quarter-Finals



Indian badminton player Lakshya Sen was eliminated from the All-England Open 2025 after losing his men's singles quarter-final match to Shi Feng Li of China. The Commonwealth Games champion and Olympian faced the reigning Asian Games champion, ranked world No. 6, and lost in straight sets, 21-10, 21-16. Sen initially led 4-3 in the first game but quickly fell behind as Shi Feng Li secured nine consecutive points. Although Sen managed a brief comeback to lead 11-8 in the second game, Shi Feng Li's experience shone through as he dominated the match, concluding it in 45 minutes. This marked Sen's third defeat in seven encounters against Shi Feng Li. In women's doubles, Treasa Jolly and Gayatri Gopichand also bowed out, losing 21-14, 21-10 to the second-seeded Chinese pair Liu Sheng Shu and Tan Ning. The tournament has seen early exits for other Indian players, including PV Sindhu and Malvika Bansod.

India Dominates ODI Deaf Series, Clinches 3-0 Victory Against Australia



Spanish star Marc Marquez set a new lap record of 1 minute 37.295 seconds during practice for the Argentina MotoGP, showcasing his dominant form after winning the season opener in Thailand. Riding his factory Ducati, Marquez continued to impress at Termas de Rio Hondo, a track where he has previously triumphed three

times. Ducati claimed the top spots in practice, with Fabio Di Giannantonio and Marquez's brother Alex completing the top three. Alex, who took pole at the last MotoGP in Argentina in 2023, finished second in the season opener. Marquez expressed confidence, noting his comfort on the bike

and the need for further improvements ahead of qualifying. Meanwhile, reigning world champion Francesco Bagnaia faced challenges, crashing during his session but still securing a spot in the top ten. The Argentina MotoGP marks the second round of the 22-race season, with the absence of world champion Jorge Martin



Samantha Transitions to Producer with “Shubham



Samantha Ruth Prabhu is making her mark as a producer with her debut film, “Shubham,” under her banner,

Trulala Moving Pictures. Known for her stellar acting career, Samantha has taken a step back from on-screen roles to focus

on her health. Following her collaboration with Vijay Deverakonda in “Khushi,” she has not signed any new projects, but sources indicate she plans to return to acting once fully fit. “Shubham,” directed by Praveen Kandregula, features a compelling story by Vasanth Mariganti and promises a blend of comedy and thrilling elements. The film’s cast includes C. Malgiredy, Shriya Kontham, Charan Peri, Shalini Kondepudi, and Gavi Reddy Srinivas. Cinematography is handled by Mridul Sujit Sen, with Ram Charan Tej as the production designer. More details about the film’s release are expected soon.

First Look of David Warner from “Robinhood” Released!



The first look of Australian cricket star David Warner in the upcoming Telugu film “Robinhood” has been unveiled by the makers. Directed by Venky Kudumula and starring Nithiin, this film is set to release on March 28, generating significant anticipation, especially after the success of their previous collaboration, “Bheeshma.” The production company, Maitri Movie Mak-

ers, shared Warner’s poster with the tagline, “Welcoming Warner from the boundary to the box office.” Warner will appear in a special role, adding a unique flair to the movie. Nithiin’s co-star in the film is Sree Leela, with Rajendra Prasad and Vennela Kishore playing key roles. As promotional activities ramp up, fans are eager to see how this exciting blend of cricket and cinema unfolds.

Naga Chaitanya and Sobhita Dhulipala Enjoy a Day at the Race Track



Naga Chaitanya and Sobhita Dhulipala, who tied the knot in December at Annapurna Studios, Hyderabad, recently shared a delightful outing at the Madras International Circuit in Kanchipuram, Tamil Nadu. Sobhita posted snapshots of their fun day on Instagram, showcasing their affectionate bond. In the first image, Naga Chaitanya rested his hand on Sobhita’s shoulder as they posed together on the race track. Another snap featured Sobhita seated in a car, focused and ready to race, while Chay flashed a charming smile in yet another picture. Sobhita opted for a casual black crop top and khaki pants, while Naga Chaitanya looked effortlessly cool in a white T-shirt and sunglasses. Their outing has drawn attention from fans, especially after they were recently spotted at Rana Daggubati’s store in Hyderabad. On the work front, Naga Chaitanya was last seen in “Thandel,” and Sobhita starred in the Zee5 original “Love, Sitara.”

Aaditi Pohankar Reflects on “Dangal” Impact on “Ek Badnaam Aashram”



Aaditi Pohankar, known for her role in “Ek Badnaam Aashram,” recently shared how missing out on Aamir Khan’s “Dangal” shaped her character in the series. The highly anticipated Season 3 Part 2 of “Ek Badnaam Aashram” has just been released and is garnering rave reviews from viewers. Pohankar’s journey in the industry has been marked by challenges, including the disappointment of not landing a role in “Dangal.” However, she believes this experience pushed her to develop her character in “Ek Badnaam Aashram” with greater depth and conviction. The series, featuring Bobby Deol, continues to captivate audiences with its intriguing plot and strong performances. Aaditi’s resilience and dedication to her craft are evident in her portrayal, which has resonated well with fans. As the series gains popularity, she expresses gratitude for the opportunities that have come her way and looks forward to continuing her artistic journey.

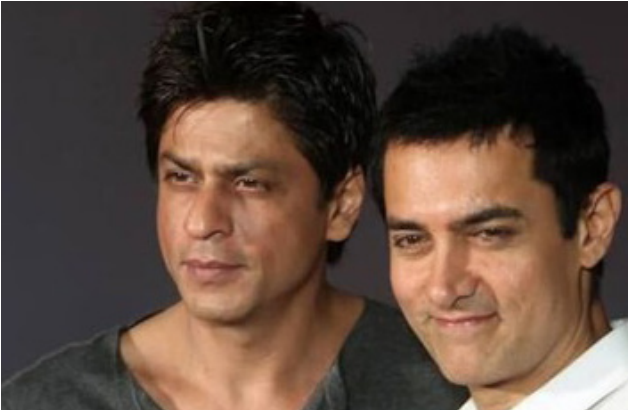
“Be Happy” Review: Abhishek Bachchan’s Film Misses the Mark



“Be Happy,” featuring Abhishek Bachchan, attempts to explore the poignant father-daughter dynamic and the pursuit of dreams, but ultimately falls short of delivering a compelling narrative. The film’s heavy reliance on melodrama and a predictable formula detracts from its potential to provide a fresh perspective on its themes. While Bachchan delivers a commendable performance, the script lacks depth and originality, often resorting to

clichés that weaken the emotional impact. The plot’s trajectory feels familiar, leaving little room for surprises or genuine moments of connection between characters. Despite its good intentions, “Be Happy” misses the bull’s eye by miles, failing to resonate with audiences who seek a more nuanced portrayal of relationships and aspirations. Overall, the film is a disappointing endeavor that could have explored its promising premise more effectively.

Aamir Khan Shares Lighthearted Moments with Shah Rukh Khan



In a recent conversation, Aamir Khan opened up about his latest catch-up with Shah Rukh Khan, revealing that the duo was engaged in some lighthearted gossip. Instead of discussing their film careers or industry challenges, they focused on something much more amusing. Aamir mentioned that their discussion revolved around amusing anecdotes and fun memories, showcasing the camaraderie and

friendship they share. The two icons of Bollywood, known for their illustrious careers, took a break from the spotlight to enjoy a more relaxed and jovial exchange, highlighting the importance of friendship amidst the pressures of the film industry. Fans of both actors were delighted to hear about their playful banter, which reminds everyone that even the biggest stars enjoy a good laugh together.