

Cabinet Approves 4% Tender Quota for Muslim Contractors, Amends KTPP Act

B' khatas to be issued for 90 lakh unauthorized rural properties under new bill.

₹96.77 crore approved for Bangalore Bio innovation Centre post fire incident.

Tejasvi Surya calls 4% tender quota for Muslims a threat to the Constitution.

BJP MP alleges vote bank politics, says move undermines reservation system.

TPN Correspondent | Karnataka
The Karnataka Cabinet, led by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, has approved an amendment to the Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement (KTPP) Act, granting 4% reservation in government tenders to Muslim contractors. The decision, taken on Friday, aims to provide better business opportunities for the Muslim community in state projects. Additionally, the Cabinet has passed the Karnataka Gram Swaraj and Panchayat Raj (Amendment) Bill, which seeks to regularize unauthorized rural properties by providing 'B' khatas—similar to urban property reforms. This move is expected to benefit about 90 lakh rural property owners who currently lack legal documentation.



In another key decision, the Cabinet approved ₹96.77 crore for reconstruction and equipment replacement at the Bangalore Bioinnovation Centre, which was affected by a major fire incident in January. Further, discussions were held regarding allocating 4.24 acres of Agriculture Department land in Hebbal to the International Flower Auction Bangalore (IFAB) on a rent-free basis for two years. The government is also considering major reforms in the Karnataka Public Service Commission (KPSC). It has been

decided to constitute an expert committee to propose revamp measures and set up a search committee for the appointment of KPSC members. On the higher education front, CM Siddaramaiah informed the Assembly that a decision on the closure or continuation of new universities established by the previous BJP government will be based on a report from the cabinet sub-committee led by Dy CM DK Shivakumar.

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Bengaluru MLAs 'Blackmailing Us' Over Garbage Crisis: DK Shivakumar

Bengaluru MLAs are demanding ₹800 crore in development funds.

DK Shivakumar calls them "blackmailers" in the Legislative Council.

Claims a "big mafia" controls the city's solid waste management.

Garbage contractors inflated rates by 85% and moved court against action.

Government's plan to transport garbage 50 km away faces legal hurdles.

TPN Correspondent | Bengaluru
Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar on Friday accused Bengaluru MLAs across political parties of "blackmailing" the government over the garbage crisis by demanding ₹800 crore in development funds. Speaking in the Legislative Council, he claimed that a "big mafia" is controlling the city's solid waste management, preventing effective reforms. The Deputy CM was responding to MLC M Nagaraju's concerns over garbage trucks being stranded due to a lack of disposal facilities, leading to waste accumulation across the city. Shivakumar stated that garbage contractors have

formed a cartel, quoting rates 85% higher than standard prices, and have approached the court to block government action. Shivakumar revealed that the government had planned to divide the city's garbage disposal into four zones and transport waste at least 50 km away, but legal and logistical challenges have stalled the initiative. He appealed to MLAs to help the BBMP acquire 100 acres of land in Kolar, Nelamangala, Kanakapura Road, or near forested areas to establish a permanent solution. Addressing concerns about alternative waste disposal methods, he stated that previous experiments to generate electricity from waste in Hyderabad and Chennai had failed, leaving gas-based waste management as the only viable option. He mentioned that locations have been identified in Doddaballapura and along the NICE Road for waste processing. Shivakumar admitted that successive governments, including Congress under Siddaramaiah and the BJP, had failed to find a sustainable and humane solution to the waste problem. He emphasized the need for a permanent arrangement and promised to present a detailed response on the issue in the Legislative Council on Monday.

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

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 visas 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.

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Govt Hints at 1 Paise Per Litre Water Tariff Hike

BWSSB had proposed a 7-8 paise increase

Govt is regulating private tankers amid complaints of overcharging.

Cauvery 6th phase drinking water project will be presented to the cabinet.

TPN Correspondent | Bengaluru

Deputy Chief Minister and Bengaluru Development Minister DK Shivakumar announced in the Legislative Council on Friday that the state government is considering a 1 paise per litre hike in water tariffs. This is the first proposed revision since 2014, despite a 7-8 paise hike suggested by BWSSB (Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board). The final decision will be discussed with city MLAs before implementation. Shivakumar highlighted that Bengaluru's water crisis is worsening

due to rising summer temperatures, with over 7,000 borewells drying up last year. In response, private water tankers were temporarily brought under municipal control. To address water shortages, the government will launch a one-month awareness campaign on water conservation from March 22, marking Water Conservation Day. The Deputy CM also criticized big apartment complexes for illegally obtaining water connections without paying deposits to BWSSB. Notices have been issued to violators. Additionally, he announced measures



to regulate private tankers following complaints of price gouging, stating that caps on tanker rates have been enforced. The government has also committed to refilling dried-up lakes to help recharge groundwater levels in urban Bengaluru. Looking ahead, Shivakumar revealed that plans for the Cauvery 6th phase drinking water project are ready and will soon be presented to the state cabinet and the public for feedback. The project aims to enhance water supply infrastructure to meet future demands in Bengaluru and surrounding areas.

Slapped 10-15 Times, Denied Food

Kannada Actor Ranya Rao Makes Shocking Claims

TPN Correspondent | Bengaluru

Kannada actor Ranya Rao, who was arrested at Bengaluru's Kempegowda International Airport with 14.2 kg of gold worth ₹12.56 crore, has made serious allegations against the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI). In a letter to the Addi-

tional Director General of DRI, she claimed that she was slapped multiple times, denied food, and forced to sign blank pages during her interrogation. Ranya Rao, the stepdaughter of Karnataka DGP K Ramachandra Rao,

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Minister Ramalinga Reddy Seeks Portfolio Change Over Transport Dept Losses

- Minister Ramalinga Reddy seeks portfolio change
- Transport department faces ₹5,200 crore losses
- Cabinet expansion expected after budget

TPN Correspondent | Bengaluru

Amid ongoing changes in the Karnataka Congress, including discussions on cabinet expansion and leadership shifts, Transport and Muzrai Minister Ramalinga Reddy is reportedly seeking a portfolio change. Sources indicate that he has already discussed the matter with Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, requesting a different department in place of transport. The demand for a portfolio switch comes in the wake of financial difficulties faced by the transport department, largely attributed to the Congress government’s Shakti Yojana, which provides free bus travel for women. Reddy had recently revealed that Karnataka’s four transport corporations have incurred losses of ₹5,200 crore over the past five years. Rising fuel prices, staff salaries, and maintenance costs have further strained the department, leading to a 15% hike in bus fares in January. Despite these financial pressures, the expected compensation for the transport department under



the Shakti Yojana has not been fully addressed in the state budget, leaving Reddy disappointed. Reports suggest that this shortfall has prompted his decision to relinquish the transport portfolio. Cabinet expansion is anticipated after the state budget session, with several MLAs aspiring for ministerial posts. Reddy’s request for a new portfolio has stirred speculation within Congress circles, raising questions about potential reshuffles within the government.

Karnataka Minister Orders Capture of Three Elephants in Belur

- Minister Eshwar B Khandre orders elephant capture
- Elephant Task Force (ETF) office to be set up in Belur
- Thermal drones, emergency teams deployed for monitoring



TPN Correspondent | Hassan

Following the tragic death of a woman in an elephant attack in Belur taluk, Karnataka’s Forest, Ecology, and Environment Minister Eshwar B Khandre has ordered the immediate capture of three aggressive elephants causing panic in Bikkodu, Arehalli, and nearby areas. At an emergency meeting in Vikas Soudha, Khandre directed forest officials to establish an Elephant Task Force (ETF) office in Belur and deploy a Deputy Conservator of Forests-rank officer to oversee the situation. Additionally, he sanctioned the procurement of two thermal camera-equipped drones to monitor elephant movements round the clock and issue timely alerts to residents. To strengthen response measures, the minister ordered the deployment of two additional jeeps and more forest personnel

to handle emergencies. Public awareness campaigns will be conducted for plantation workers and residents, educating them on elephant behavior, safety precautions, and emergency protocols during dawn and dusk movements. Khandre also stressed the need for better working conditions for ETF and outsourced staff, ensuring timely salaries, food allowances, uniforms, insurance, and walkie-talkies in areas with poor mobile connectivity. The meeting was attended by Additional Chief Secretary Anjum Parvez, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests Meenakshi Negi, and Chief Wildlife Conservator Subhash Malkhade, among other senior officials.

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Cabinet Approves 4% Tender Quota for Muslim Contractors, Amends KTPP Act

The sub-committee is yet to submit its findings, which will determine the fate of these universities.

Tejasvi Surya calls it a ‘threat to the Constitution’

BJP MP Tejasvi Surya has strongly criticized the Congress-led Karnataka government for granting 4% reservation to Muslim contractors in government tenders, calling it an attack on the Constitution and a move that promotes religious conversion. Surya argued that reservation in India has always been based on social and economic criteria, not religion, and accused the Congress of misusing public resources for electoral gains. “This deci-

sion distorts the very purpose of reservation and turns the economy into a playground for political opportunism,” he stated. The Karnataka Cabinet recently approved an amendment to the Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement (KTPP) Act, introducing a 4% quota for Muslim contractors under Category-II B. This decision was announced by CM Siddaramaiah in the state budget on March 7 and finalized in a Cabinet meeting held at Vidhan Sabha on Friday. Under this policy, government tenders up to ₹1 crore will have reserved quotas for SC, ST, Category-I, Category-II A, and Category-II B (Muslims). The government is expected to table the KTPP amendment bill in the ongoing Assembly session, with its presentation likely on Monday.

Slapped 10-15 Times, Denied Food

alleged that from the moment of her apprehension until her court appearance, she was physically assaulted by DRI officers. “I was slapped 10-15 times by officers whom I can identify. Despite repeated assaults, I refused to sign the statements they prepared,” she stated in her letter, as per reports. She further alleged that under duress, she was made to sign 50-60 typed pages and around 40 blank white pages. These claims come days after she initially stated that she was verbally harassed by DRI officials during a three-day interrogation before being sent to judicial custody. Contradictions in Allegations

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

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.

Livelihood Generation a Major Challenge for Karnataka: Economic Survey

- Economic growth must focus on livelihoods
- Regional disparities and rural poverty flagged
- Automation and climate change pose new risks

TPN Correspondent | Bengaluru

The Karnataka Economic Survey 2024-25 has highlighted the challenge of livelihood generation, stating that economic growth should go beyond job creation. Tabled in the Assembly on March 7, the report warns that technological shifts, geopolitical uncertainties, and climate change make this an increasingly difficult task. While Karnataka’s unemployment rate of 2.9% is lower than the national average of 3.5%, the survey pointed out that rural poverty and income inequality persist as major concerns. It also noted that despite the state’s GDP



growing at 7.4%—higher than India’s 6.4%—regional disparities remain a significant issue. Revenue Minister Krishna Byre Gowda, who represents Karnataka in the GST Council, stressed that livelihood generation is broader than just job creation. He highlighted the importance of agriculture, animal husbandry, and self-employment, stating that these sectors are critical for economic stability. While automation is reducing

employment in manufacturing and AI threatens salaried jobs, he noted that the gig economy is emerging as a key source of employment. The survey reported that 24.35 lakh people are currently employed in the organised sector, with most new jobs coming from the private sector. Experts suggested that Karnataka should measure District Domestic Product (DDP) to get a clearer picture of local economic conditions, citing Odisha’s successful millet mission as an example of livelihood-focused policy. The report also urged the government to address systemic inequalities, wage gaps, and cultural barriers to increase women’s participation in the workforce. As Karnataka navigates these challenges, policymakers are expected to focus on long-term, sustainable solutions rather than short-term interventions.

Karnataka Yet to Regain Pre-Covid Foreign Tourist Footfall, Koppal Sees Surge

- Foreign tourist numbers remain low
- Koppal sees unprecedented rise in visitors
- Infrastructure gaps hinder tourism growth

TPN Correspondent | Bengaluru

Karnataka’s foreign tourist arrivals have yet to return to pre-Covid levels, despite a steady rise over the last two years. According to the Tourism Department, only 4.85 lakh foreign visitors explored the state’s destinations in 2024—significantly lower than the numbers recorded annually before the pandemic. An exception to this trend is Koppal district, which has witnessed a sharp increase in foreign tourist arrivals. From just 760 foreign visitors in 2018, Koppal attracted over 50,000 in 2024, making it the third most visited district for foreign tourists after Mysuru (1.37 lakh) and Udupi (89,849). Notably, Bengaluru Urban recorded fewer foreign arrivals (45,782) than Koppal. Tourism officials attribute Koppal’s rising popularity to its proximity to the UNESCO World Heritage site Hampi. Additionally, improved data collection following the regulation of homestays has contributed to more accurate visitor records. Earlier, un-



authorized homestays in the Virupapura Gaddi and Aneundi areas hindered proper documentation. The establishment of licensed accommodations in Aneundi, Marlanahalli, and Basapur has helped streamline visitor tracking. Despite Karnataka’s diverse tourism offerings under the “One State, Many Worlds” tagline, the state has struggled to rank among the top 10 Indian destinations for foreign tourists. The Tourism Department acknowledges that gaps in infrastructure, accessibility, and limited availability of quality resorts and homestays continue to impact growth. However, focused efforts to promote lesser-known destinations, particularly in Kalyana Karnataka, are showing positive results. Officials remain hopeful that continued improvements in tourism infrastructure will help the state regain its pre-pandemic foreign visitor numbers.

Opposition Slams Karnataka Congress Govt Over Law & Order Failure

TPN Correspondent | Bengaluru

The BJP-JD(S) alliance strongly criticized the Congress government in the Karnataka Legislative Council, accusing it of failing to maintain law and order. The opposition alleged that criminals are being given a free hand while the police are restricted from taking necessary action.

During a debate on the mob attack at Mysuru’s Udayagiri police station last month, BJP MLC C T Ravi blamed the Congress for encouraging a culture of dropping cases related to past attacks on police stations, including incidents in Hubballi, DJ Halli, and KG Halli. He claimed that such policies embolden certain groups to target law enforcement. Leader of the Opposition Chalavadi T Narayanaswamy warned that continued leniency towards criminals could lead to a breakdown in governance. He asserted that if cases are withdrawn indiscriminately, criminal elements might start dictating their own law and order in the state. Responding to the criticism, senior Congress leader B K Hariprasad acknowledged that the police handling of Ravi’s case during the Belagavi winter session was inappropriate but rejected claims that Karnataka was descending into “Goonda Raj.” He urged the opposition not to compare Karnataka with states like Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, or Uttar Pradesh, arguing that law and order in Karnataka remains stronger than in many northern states. The heated exchange in the Council highlights the intensifying political battle over law and order, with the opposition vowing to keep the pressure on the government.





Four Schoolgirls Hospitalised After Being Sprayed with Chemical-Laced Colours in Gadag

TPN Correspondent | Gadag

Four schoolgirls were hospitalised after a group of youths sprayed chemical-laced colours on them during Holi celebrations at Suvarnagiri Tanda near Lakshmeshwara in Gadag district. The victims, students of Uma Vidyalaya High School, were on their way to school when the attack occurred.

According to sources, a group of boys, including some from the same locality, forcibly sprayed spurious colours on ten girls despite their protests. The girls, studying in Classes 8 and 9, pleaded with the youths to stop as they had to attend exams, but their requests were ignored. The assailants also threw water mixed with egg, manure, and an unknown liquid, causing a strong stench.

Unable to bear the foul smell, the girls began vomiting. The bus driver, realizing their distress, stopped another

bus and arranged for them to be taken to Lakshmeshwara. Upon reaching the town, four of the girls—Gauri Pujara, Divya Lamani, Ankita Lamani, and Tanusha Lamani—developed severe breathing difficulties, prompting their teachers to rush them to the government hospital.

Due to the worsening condition of Gauri Pujara and Divya Lamani, they were later shifted to Gadag District Hospital for further treatment. The incident sparked tension in Suvarnagiri Tanda, leading to a clash among locals. Police rushed to the area to restore order and detained two boys for questioning. Authorities are investigating the nature of the chemicals used in the colours and are considering legal action against the suspects. The incident has raised concerns over the safety of students during festival celebrations.

Karnataka Postal Department Shuts All ATMs Due to Cash Loading Issues

TPN Correspondent | Bengaluru

The Karnataka Postal Circle has shut down all 75 of its ATMs, including nine in Bengaluru, from March 12 due to persistent cash loading issues faced by its vendor. A notice has been placed outside the ATMs, informing customers of the closure.

According to a notification issued by the Department of Posts, the shutdown was caused by “technical issues attributable to the ATM vendor, M/s AGS Transact Technologies Ltd, which has failed to fulfill its service obligations.” The problem is not limited to Karnataka but is part of a nationwide issue affecting postal ATMs.

Chief Postmaster General, Karnataka Circle, S Rajendra Kumar confirmed the decision, stating, “This is in line with the nationwide directive. The cash loader was facing issues across the country, leading to the closure of our ATMs.”

To mitigate the impact, customers can still withdraw cash using postal department debit cards at bank ATMs. India



Post is expected to cover any withdrawal charges incurred beyond the free transaction limit. Additionally, customers are encouraged to use online banking, mobile banking, or visit the nearest post office for transactions.

The closure is expected to affect senior citizens the most, as they rely heavily on post offices and ATMs for cash withdrawals. Younger account holders are likely to switch to UPI and other digital payment methods. The postal department has assured customers that efforts are underway to restore services through alternate solutions.

JDS Urges Governor to Reject Greater Bengaluru Bill

- JDS alleges real estate scam behind the bill
- Massive protest held at Freedom Park
- Party warns of intensified agitation if bill is not withdrawn

TPN Correspondent | Bengaluru

JDS leaders and workers staged a large protest at Freedom Park in Bengaluru on Saturday, demanding that Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot reject the Greater Bengaluru Bill. The party accused the Congress government of splitting the BBMP into seven parts to facilitate a massive real estate scam and divide Kannadigas in the city.

Leading the protest, JDS Bengaluru city president H.M. Ramesh Gowda alleged that the government’s intention behind the bill was to manipulate

land dealings while ignoring critical civic issues. He claimed that despite Bengaluru’s population exceeding 1.5 crore, the city continues to struggle with drinking water shortages, poor sanitation, and pothole-ridden roads.

He criticized the government for failing to address Bengaluru’s worsening water crisis, noting that residents are already paying ₹5,000–₹6,000 for private water tankers. He accused the Congress of neglecting urban governance and imposing an additional ₹43,000 crore burden on citizens since taking office.



JDS leaders submitted a petition to the Governor urging him not to sign the bill, citing public opposition. The party warned that if the bill is not withdrawn, they would disrupt the programs of the Chief Minister, Deputy Chief Minister, and Congress MLAs across the

city.

JDS Legislative Council member T.A. Javarai Gowda, former MLC K.A. Thippeswamy, and several party leaders, including Shailaja Rao, Nagesh Rao, and Mangalamma Praveen Kumar, participated in the demonstration.

Drugs Worth ₹ 60 Lakh Seized in Bengaluru, 8 Arrested

TPN Correspondent | Bengaluru

Bengaluru police have arrested eight individuals in connection with drug peddling cases, seizing contraband worth nearly ₹60 lakh in multiple operations across the city. Bengaluru Police Commissioner B Dayananda announced the arrest during a press briefing.

In the largest seizure, Konanakunte police arrested two suspects near Doddakallasandra, recovering 1.122 kg of ganja, 3.44 kg of hashish oil, and a car—altogether valued at ₹46.10 lakh. The accused admitted to purchasing the drugs from an unidentified supplier



in Odisha and selling them at higher rates in Bengaluru. A probe is underway to identify the supplier.

The Central Crime Branch

(CCB) arrested a suspect near Ram Rao Layout in the CK Achukattu police station limits for peddling MDMA crystals and ganja. Officers seized 55.20

grams of MDMA, 1.905 kg of ganja, and a car, worth ₹10.50 lakh.

Near Nallurhalli Lake, Whitefield police arrested two individuals and confiscated 12.9 kg of ganja. A car valued at ₹1.80 lakh was also impounded. The accused revealed that they sourced the drugs from Odisha and Andhra Pradesh.

In another case, Devanahalli police arrested three suspects and recovered 3.2 kg of ganja, a two-wheeler, and two mobile phones, with a total value of ₹1.80 lakh.

Police are intensifying their investigation to dismantle the supply network.

80% of Borewells Fail Due to Unscientific Drilling, Says Hydrogeologist

TPN Correspondent | Bengaluru

Unscientific drilling methods have led to the failure of nearly 80% of borewells in Bengaluru, according to hydrogeologist Devaraja Reddy NJ. Speaking at the Jalapatha symposium at Cauvery Bhavan, he highlighted the alarming depletion of groundwater due to excessive borewell drilling.

“There was a rule that borewells shouldn’t be dug beyond 25 metres, but now they are being drilled as deep as 2,000 feet (approximately 600 metres),” Reddy said. He stressed the need to adopt sustainable water management techniques, such as rainwater harvesting and borewell recharge, to address the crisis.



Despite India receiving 1.12 lakh crore cubic metres of rainfall annually—far exceeding the 71,000 crore cubic metres

demand—very little rainwater is reused. Reddy pointed out that Bengaluru receives over 900 mm of annual rainfall,

which could significantly help replenish groundwater if properly harnessed.

“Of the total aquifers, 80% have already been depleted, and the remaining 20% are in areas with minimal human activity,” he warned. Reddy, who has overseen the digging of 25,000 borewells, is now working to restore water levels.

He also suggested that Karnataka explore desalination projects, similar to Chennai’s model. “Around 25% of North Chennai’s water supply comes from desalination, costing approximately 22 paise per litre,” he noted.

Experts at the symposium urged immediate action to prevent further groundwater depletion.

Karnataka Reports Over 1,500 Pediatric Cancer Cases Annually Experts Warn Against Ultra-Processed Foods

TPN Correspondent | Bengaluru

Karnataka records over 1,500 cases of pediatric cancer annually, with blood cancer being the most prevalent among both boys and girls, according to the Population-Based Cancer Registry in Bengaluru.

Medical Education Minister Dr. Sharan Prakash Patil presented the data in the Legislative Council, stating that chemotherapy is the primary treatment for childhood

cancers, used in 73% of cases. Radiation therapy, mainly for brain and nervous system cancers, is administered to 12% of patients, while 7% undergo surgical intervention. Emerging treatments such as targeted therapy and hypnotherapy are also being introduced.

While genetics and environmental factors contribute to pediatric cancers, experts warn that dietary habits, particularly the rising consumption of ultra-processed foods (UPFs), could be a major hidden cause. These foods—like chips, carbonated drinks, and processed

snacks—are high in refined sugars and unhealthy additives, which can trigger inflammation, disrupt hormones, and increase cancer risk.

Dr. Vishal Rao US, Group Director of Head and Neck Surgical Oncology at HCG Cancer Centre, emphasized the need for a detailed study to identify the most affected age groups and regions. He pointed out that factors such as microplastics in food and prolonged UPF consumption are contributing to rising cancer rates.

Dr. Niti Raizada, Principal Director of Medical and Hema-

tology at Fortis Hospital, highlighted leukemia as the most common childhood cancer, followed by brain tumors and lymphomas.

She stressed that while genetic factors play a significant role, prolonged exposure to unhealthy foods increases cancer risk.

Experts recommend policy interventions, such as pricing ultra-processed foods higher to make healthier options more affordable, thereby encouraging better dietary choices and reducing long-term health risks.





Burglars Shot, Caught After Police Gunfire in Hubballi

TPN Correspondent | Hubballi

Hubballi police opened fire on two burglars, injuring them in the legs, after they attempted to escape during a break-in near Karnataka Legislative Council Chairperson Basavaraj Horatti's residence early Saturday morning.

The suspects were caught trying to burglarize a house adjacent to Horatti's residence. When police arrived at the

scene and ordered them to surrender, the burglars attacked the officers in an effort to escape. In response, police fired at their legs to immobilize them.

Three police officers sustained injuries during the confrontation, authorities said. The injured officers and the two suspects have been admitted to the hospital for treatment.

Further investigation is underway, police added.

Karnataka Deputy Speaker Injured in Hit-and-Run on NH-48

TPN Correspondent | Chitradurga

Karnataka Deputy Speaker Rudrappa H Lamani sustained minor injuries in a hit-and-run incident on Pune-Bengaluru National Highway-48 near Javanagondanahalli village in Hiriyur taluk.

Lamani, who was traveling to Haveri after the Assembly session, made a brief stop near JG Halli to buy a tender coconut. As he was about to enter his vehicle, a speeding bike struck him and fled the scene.

According to Superintendent of Police Ranjit Kumar Bandaru, the impact caused Lamani to fall, resulting in injuries to his forehead, hands, and legs. However, he remained conscious throughout the incident.

Emergency responders rushed him to Hiriyur Taluk Hospital for initial treatment.



Later, he was shifted to SSIMS Davanagere for further medical care. Doctors attending to him confirmed that he is stable and has been advised rest.

Meanwhile, the police have identified leads on the biker involved in the accident and are working towards making an arrest soon. Authorities are investigating the case to determine the circumstances surrounding the hit-and-run.

CT Ravi Criticizes Jal Jeevan Mission, Minister Kharge Defends Progress



TPN Correspondent | Bengaluru

BJP MLC CT Ravi criticized the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) in the Upper House, alleging poor implementation and questioning whether the project is progressing as per plan. "90% of the bill has been paid, but is the work complete?" Ravi asked, raising concerns over the effectiveness of the scheme.

Responding to his allegations, RDPR Minister Priyank Kharge defended the government's approach, clarifying that JJM is a drinking water project that requires careful execution. He pointed out that ₹570 crore, which should have been provided by the Centre, was instead allocated by the state government to continue the work. Kharge explained that the Centre does not approve JJM projects without a water source, and detailed proj-

ect reports are necessary before work can commence. "It takes at least two years to complete a JJM project," he said, adding that ₹570 crore requested from the Centre is still pending release. BJP MLCs highlighted shoddy implementation across several regions, prompting Kharge to inform the Council that a review has been conducted across 1,550 villages. He assured that issues in places like Chikkamagaluru would be addressed.

Ravi further claimed that no work had been done in 21,000 villages, to which Kharge responded that out of ₹65,000 crore allocated, only ₹32,000 crore has been received. He also mentioned that in Chikkamagaluru, only ₹320 crore of the ₹1,000 crore grant for JJM has been released so far, with work expected to be completed by June 2026.

Karnataka BJP Chief Slams Congress for 'Price Hike Guarantee'

- Vijayendra accuses Congress of continuous price hikes
- Criticizes ruling party's absence during budget talks
- Questions Karnataka's support for Tamil Nadu's delimitation stance

TPN Correspondent | Bengaluru

BJP state president BY Vijayendra has strongly criticized the Karnataka Congress government, accusing it of implementing a "price hike guarantee" instead of fulfilling its promises to the people. Speaking to the media on Saturday, he alleged that the government has raised electricity tariffs, increased stamp duty, and now plans a second hike in water charges.

Vijayendra also expressed disappointment over the state budget discussions, claiming

that when he began addressing the issue, ruling party members and officials were absent, forcing him to cut short his speech. He vowed to continue his remarks in the Assembly on Monday or Tuesday.

He further accused the government of failing farmers and the poor, stating that rising prices are making life increasingly difficult for the common people.

Slams Tamil Nadu's Stance on Delimitation

Addressing Tamil Nadu's political developments, Vijayendra took aim at CM MK

Stalin's efforts to unite southern states against the delimitation proposal. He also criticized Karnataka CM Siddaramaiah for aligning with Tamil Nadu instead of prioritizing state issues like water-sharing disputes.

"The Karnataka CM should have focused on protecting our Cauvery water rights, instead of rolling out a grand welcome for Tamil Nadu's ministers," he said.

Vijayendra also reiterat-



ed Union Home Minister Amit Shah's stance on delimitation and PM Narendra Modi's vision for One Nation, One Election, stating that these policies would benefit the country's governance.

Congress Defends MLA Pradeep Eshwar Over Kaivara Tataiah Jayanti Controversy



TPN Correspondent | Karnataka

The recent altercation between Congress MLA Pradeep Eshwar and BJP workers at the Kaivara Tataiah birth anniversary event has sparked political tensions. The Congress has defended Pradeep Eshwar, stat-

ing that he was protecting the sanctity of a government program from turning into a political platform for the BJP.

Pradeep Eshwar, addressing BJP workers at the event, strongly objected to their attempts to use the occasion for political gains. In response to

- Congress justifies MLA Pradeep Eshwar's remarks
- Says BJP tried to politicize a government event
- BJP MP PC Mohan calls for Balija Development Board funds

BJP's criticism on social media, the Congress stated, "This was not a BJP or Congress event, but a government program honoring Kaivara Tataiah."

The ruling party further countered BJP's remarks, saying:

"Your corrupt former minister was rejected by the people, and they chose Pradeep Eshwar instead. Government programs have protocols, and those who ignore them should not be tolerated."

BJP MP PC Mohan, who at-

tended the event, clarified that he was officially invited and had addressed the Balija community's concerns. He also challenged Pradeep Eshwar to release ₹300 crore in pending funds for the Balija Development Board and appoint a chairman for it.

With both parties trading accusations, the political dispute over the event continues, raising questions about government program decorum and community development promises.

ONOE Will Encourage National Parties to Think Regionally – Annamalai

- Tamil Nadu BJP chief supports 'One Nation, One Election' (ONOE)
- Says it will boost voter participation, especially among youth
- Believes ONOE will save ₹4.5 lakh crore in election expenses

TPN Correspondent | Bengaluru

Tamil Nadu BJP President K. Annamalai has voiced strong support for the One Nation, One Election (ONOE) initiative, stating that it would push national parties to focus on regional issues and vice versa. Speaking at an interactive session in Bengaluru on Saturday, he argued that ONOE would

increase voter enthusiasm and engagement, particularly among younger demographics.

"Currently, elections are held frequently, discouraging young voters from participating. If we have a single election nationwide, it will create a festive atmosphere, encouraging more people to vote," Annamalai explained.

He further emphasized that

ONOE would significantly reduce election expenditure, estimating that its implementation could save ₹4.5 lakh crore, which could be redirected towards economic growth.

Dismissing concerns that ONOE would be an imposition, Annamalai asserted that it is instead a public welfare measure. He noted that if all necessary steps align, the system could be implemented by 2034.

Annamalai also shared financial insights, revealing that candidates collectively spent ₹1.75 lakh crore during the 2024



Lok Sabha elections.

The event was attended by Jayanagar MLA C.K. Ramamurthy, ONOE awareness committee convener Naveen Shivaprakash, Jain University VP Ravindra Bhandary, retired IPS officer Bhaskar Rao, and others.

BJP Slams Muslim Contractor Quota in Karnataka, Questions Rahul Gandhi's Vietnam Visits

- BJP calls 4% quota for Muslim contractors 'unconstitutional'
- Ravi Shankar Prasad alleges Congress engaging in appeasement politics
- Questions Rahul Gandhi's frequent visits to Vietnam

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

The BJP strongly opposed the Karnataka government's decision to reserve 4% of government contracts for Muslim contractors, calling it unconstitutional and a form of vote-bank appeasement. Senior BJP leader and former Union Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad al-

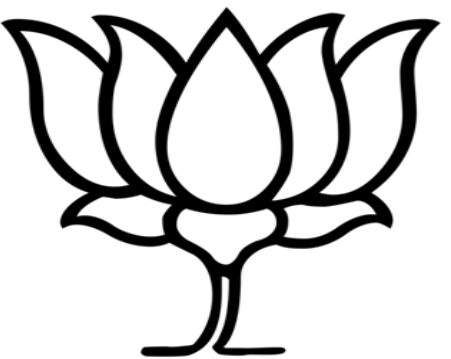
leged that such moves weaken national unity and set a dangerous precedent.

Addressing a press conference, Prasad also questioned Rahul Gandhi's frequent visits to Vietnam, claiming that the Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha is spending more time there than in his constituency. He pointed out that Gand-

hi was in Vietnam during New Year and now again during Holi, calling it a "curious pattern."

Prasad further argued that the Karnataka government's decision violates Supreme Court rulings against religion-based reservations. He expressed confidence that the move would be legally challenged, stating that reservation should be based on social and educational backwardness, not religion.

The Karnataka government recently amended the Karna-



taka Transparency in Public Procurement (KTPP) Act to implement the 4% quota for Muslim contractors in government tenders. BJP leaders warned that such policies could escalate into broader communal divisions.

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 Hindi-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

Hafeezullah said.

BJP Supports Pawan Kalyan

The BJP backed Pawan Kalyan’s stance, advocating for a stronger promotion of Hindi in South India. Party leader Vikram Randhawa remarked, “Hindi is our national language, and the government is working to ensure it reaches the masses. Unfortunately, previous governments have tried to suppress the culture of nationalism. The use of Hindi should be implemented strongly in the South as well.”

The controversy highlights the persistent divide between the BJP’s push for a unified national language policy and Tamil Nadu’s historical resistance to Hindi imposition. With the NEP debate ongoing, language politics remain a contentious issue in the southern state.

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.



Madras HC Upholds Conviction of Tamil Nadu MLA in Cheating Case

TPN Correspondent | Chennai

The Madras High Court on Friday upheld the conviction of Papanasam MLA M H Jawahirullah and four others in a cheating case related to foreign contributions. Justice P Velmurugan dismissed the criminal revision petitions filed by Jawahirullah, S Hyder Ali, and G M Sheik, challenging the 2011 order of the Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate (ACMM), Egmore.

Following a request from the petitioners’ counsel, the court kept its order in abeyance, allowing them to seek an appeal for a stay or suspension of the conviction.

Jawahirullah, a leader of Manithaneya Makkal Katchi (MMK), was found guilty along with four others in a case in-

vestigated by the CBI. The agency had registered the case in 2003, alleging that between December 15, 1997, and June 20, 2000, the accused conspired to form an association named the Coimbatore Muslim Relief Fund to receive foreign contributions without registering it or obtaining prior government approval.

The CBI stated that the accused had received ₹1.54 crore in foreign contributions illegally. Based on the charges, the ACMM had sentenced Jawahirullah and Hyder Ali to one year of rigorous imprisonment (RI), while Sayed Nizar Ahmed, G M Sheik, and Nalla Mohamed Kallanjim were sentenced to two years of RI.

Jawahirullah is currently serving as the MLA of Papanasam in Tirunelveli district.

One Nation, One Election will push regional parties to think nationally: Annamalai

TPN Correspondent | Bengaluru

Tamil Nadu BJP president K Annamalai has asserted that implementing ‘One Nation, One Election’ (ONOE) would compel regional parties to adopt a broader, national perspective. Speaking at an event titled ‘Youth for One Nation, One Election’ at Jain University in Bengaluru’s Jayanagar, he framed ONOE as an economic necessity that would streamline governance and reduce financial burdens caused by frequent elections.

Criticizing the DMK for replacing the Rupee symbol with

the Tamil letter ‘roo’ in the Tamil Nadu budget, Annamalai cited this as an example of regional parties’ narrow approach. “If ONOE is implemented, regional parties will be forced to rise above such symbolic politics and contribute to national progress,” he argued.

He highlighted that India successfully conducted simultaneous elections between 1952 and 1967, ensuring stable governance, and blamed frequent elections for policy paralysis and political instability. “This is not just about convenience—it is about compelling political parties to focus on India as a

whole while also ensuring that national parties address regional concerns,” he said.

Emphasizing the need for greater youth participation in democracy, Annamalai warned against political disengagement. “Many young people today do not even see their elected representatives. The only time they interact with democracy is once in five years, if at all. This disengagement weakens our system,” he said, urging students to take a more active role in shaping the country’s future.

He also framed ONOE as a means to boost economic

growth, citing estimates that it could add Rs 4.5 lakh crore to India’s GDP by eliminating the constant cycle of elections, which disrupts governance. “The Model Code of Conduct is imposed every few months due to elections somewhere in the country, delaying key policies and development projects,” he stated.

While acknowledging that implementing ONOE would require time, Annamalai said discussions are progressing toward a possible rollout by 2034. “It is a long-term, well-thought-out democratic reform,” he added.

Another Hampi horror Three youths ‘molest’ Israeli tourist; cops let them walk free

TPN Correspondent | Hampi

An alleged molestation incident involving an Israeli tourist has sparked outrage in Hampi, Karnataka, after three youths accused of the crime were let off with minimal consequences. The incident, which occurred during last week’s Hampi Utsav, has raised questions about the local police response and the safety of tourists in the popular heritage destination.

According to a witness, the Israeli woman was allegedly molested by a group of three youths while visiting the area. An autorickshaw driver, who

intervened to assist the woman, was reportedly assaulted by the group, leaving him with a bloody nose. The driver’s attempt to protect the tourist drew swift action from the Hampi police, who took the youths into custody. However, the police response has since come under scrutiny.

The Hampi police registered a case against the youths under Section 109 of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) for assaulting the auto driver but did not file any charges related to the alleged molestation of the Israeli woman. Both the victim and the driver were brought to the

police station, yet no formal complaint regarding the molestation appears to have been recorded.

The youths, identified as residents of nearby Hosapete, were produced before a local court. After admitting to the assault on the auto driver and providing a written undertaking promising not to repeat such offenses, they were released without further penalty. No action has been taken regarding the molestation allegations.

The Israeli tourist, shaken by the incident, reportedly informed the auto driver that she



intended to escalate the matter to her embassy and pursue legal action against the three youths. As of now, Hampi police have not received any official communication from the

Israeli embassy or any other diplomatic body.

A senior police officer from Vijayanagara district confirmed the incident and stated that patrolling has been inten-

sified in the area to prevent similar occurrences. “We are taking steps to ensure safety, and strict action will be taken against troublemakers,” the officer said. Police sources added that the youths were briefly detained alongside the victim and the auto driver, but the case remains limited to the assault charge.

The incident has cast a shadow over Hampi, a UNESCO World Heritage site known for its ancient ruins and vibrant cultural festivals like Hampi Utsav. With tourism being a vital part of the local economy, such events could deter international visitors if safety concerns persist.

Further developments are awaited as the Israeli woman’s potential appeal to her embassy may bring renewed attention to the case.

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.

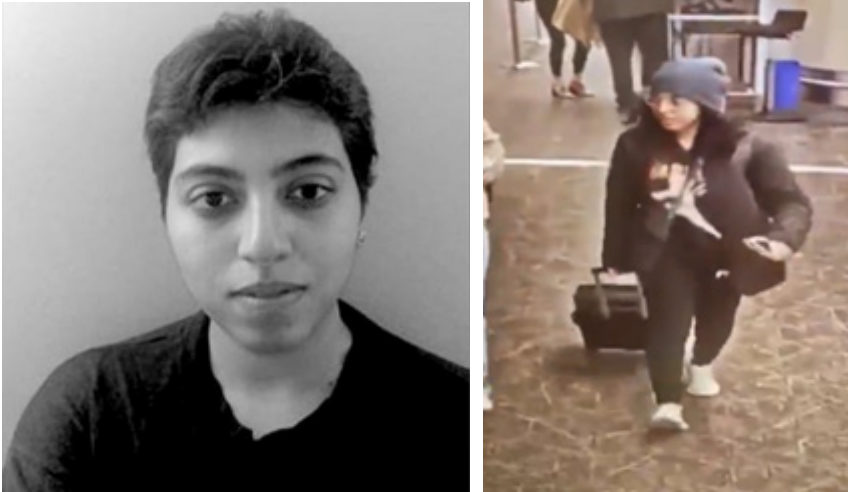
India's growing influence has not been without its detractors. Recent criticisms from the President of the Maldives appear to be diversionary tactics aimed at deflecting attention from his administration's shortcomings. However, such criticisms are unlikely to hold ground, as India's robust foreign policy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

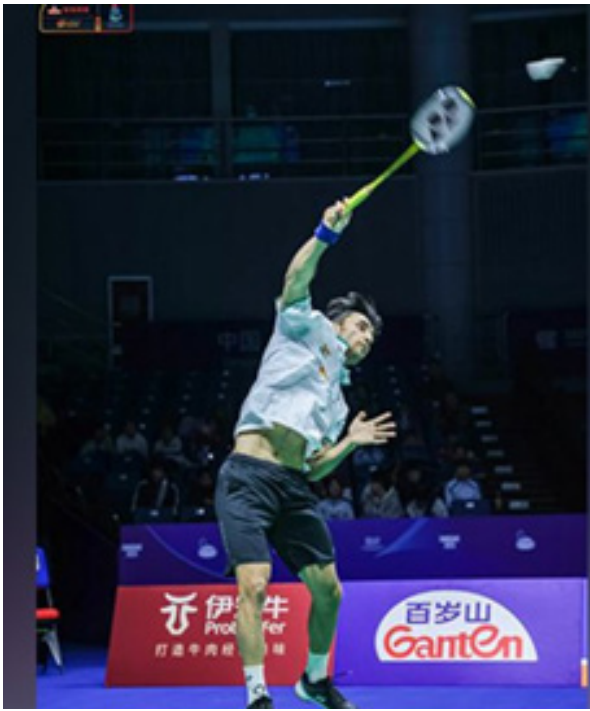
Rohit Sharma to Continue as Test Captain for England Series



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.

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

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 inau-

gural International Masters League (IML) title clash. This highly anticipated match will take place on Sunday, March 16, at the SVNS Internation-

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 Tech-

nique 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.



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.

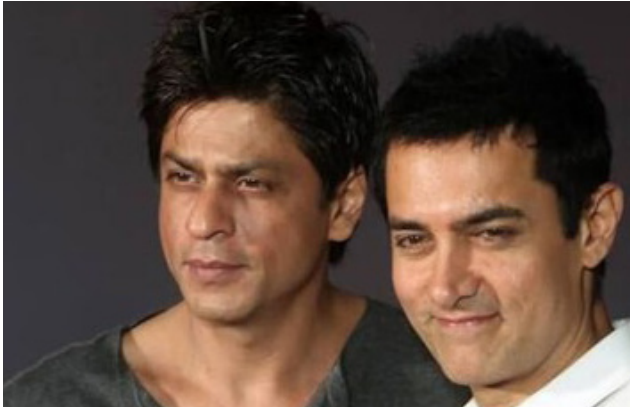
“Be Happy” Review: Abhishek Bachchan’s Film Misses the Mark



“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.