



Weather Forecast

HYDERABAD	VIJAYAWADA	TIRUPATHI
H 33 °C	H 35 °C	H 36 °C

My Personal Belief”: DK Shivakumar Amid Row Over His Meeting With Sadhguru

DK Shivakumar denies links to BJP, calls claims “false propaganda.”

Says visit to Isha Foundation was a personal choice, not political.

Reiterates commitment to Congress, dismisses criticism from party leaders.



TPN Correspondent | Bengaluru
Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar has hit back at speculation over his visit to the Maha Shivaratri celebrations at Isha Foundation, calling it a matter of personal belief. Speaking to the media on Thursday, he clarified that Sadhguru, who hails from Mysuru, personally invited him to the event, and it was not politically motivated. “I attended the Maha Shivaratri celebrations at Isha Foundation. It is my personal belief. I can’t reply to everyone who posts something on social media. I don’t want the BJP or anyone to welcome it. I don’t

want the media to discuss this either,” Shivakumar stated. The visit sparked criticism from within the Congress, with AICC Secretary PV Mohan expressing disapproval, saying it “damages the core” of the party. However, Shivakumar dismissed concerns, asserting that his faith is his own. “I often go to Nonavinakere mutt, and people ask me why I go there so often but not to my community mutt. I go where my faith is. I go where I feel reassured,” he said, adding that his political stance remains unchanged. Reaffirming his loyalty to the Congress,

he rejected reports linking him to the BJP. “I was born a Congressman, and I cherish it. The claims that I am getting closer to the BJP are false propaganda,” he said at a press conference from his Sadashivanagar residence. Shivakumar also emphasized the Congress party’s inclusive ideology, drawing from leaders like Mahatma Gandhi, Nehru, and Indira Gandhi. “I am Hindu, and I respect all cultures. The Congress party has the doctrine of taking everyone together. I have seen Sonia Gandhi celebrate Ugadi. She has adopted Indianity more than us,” he stated.



BJP, JDS slam Karnataka government over rushed budget session

Opposition accuses Congress of stifling debate in just 15-day session.

Claims financial mismanagement, unspent funds from last year.

Former CM Bommai calls it an attack on legislative democracy.

TPN Correspondent | Bengaluru

The BJP and JDS have criticized the Karnataka government for cramming the budget session into just 15 working days, calling it a blatant dismissal of legislative deliberation. With the budget scheduled for presentation on March 7 and Governor’s address on March 3, opposition leaders argue that only 10 days will be left for a thorough discussion of crucial policies and financial allocations. BJP state president BY Vijayendra accused the Congress government of avoiding accountability. “This government has no intention of holding proper legislative sessions. Bengaluru alone needs two to three days of debate. Belagavi has so many pending issues, but there’s no time! They don’t even have funds for development—what will they even talk about?” he questioned. Former Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai lashed out at the Congress, stating that last year’s budget funds remain unspent, exposing poor financial management. “The Congress preaches about democracy, but what kind of democracy avoids detailed discussion?” he said. JDS deputy floor leader TA Sharavana expressed frustration over the rushed schedule, saying North Karnataka’s issues were ignored in the Belagavi session as well. “They promised to address our concerns, yet they wrapped up a day early. Our questions remain unanswered. What we need is time—at least 30 days—to bring people’s issues to the floor,” he demanded. Former CM Jagadish Shettar also criticized the drastic reduction in legislative sittings. “The Council once met for 100 days a year. Then they cut it to 60. Now, even that’s impossible! We need at least 20-21 days to debate the budget effectively,” he said. Opposition leaders maintain that the Congress is trying to avoid scrutiny and debate, calling the move a cover-up for its failures in governance.

Centre Appoints Finance Secretary Tuhin Kanta Pandey as New SEBI Chief

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi
The Centre has appointed Finance Secretary Tuhin Kanta Pandey as the new chairman of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) for a three-year term, a government order confirmed on Thursday. He succeeds Madhabi Puri Buch, whose tenure concludes this month. Pandey takes charge at a crucial time when SEBI is working to expand regulated financial investment options for investors while also tackling market volatility and curbing malpractice in the derivatives segment. Appointed as Finance Secretary in September 2024, Pandey also managed the divestment department and was the longest-serving disinvestment secretary, holding the position for over five years. He oversaw the listing of Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC), the country’s largest insurer, and played a pivotal role in the government’s successful sale of Air India to Tata Group. As privatization efforts slowed, Pandey shifted focus towards enhancing value creation in state-run enterprises, ensuring better financial returns and accountability. In his recent role as



Finance and Revenue Secretary from January 2025, he advocated for lower import duties on high-end motorcycles as part of India’s broader efforts to move away from protectionist policies. Pandey holds master’s degrees in economics and business administration from Panjab University and the University of Birmingham. His leadership at SEBI is expected to influence regulatory strategies in India’s evolving financial markets.



BJP To Announce New Party Chief Before March 15

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi
The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) is expected to announce its new national president before March 15, sources said, as the party fast-tracks its internal election process. The move comes as JP Nadda’s extended tenure nears its end, with his induction into the Union government making way for a new leadership. For the election of a new BJP chief, organizational elections must be completed in at least 50% of states. So far, only 12 out of 36 states have completed the process, with at least six more needed. The BJP is prioritizing states like Tamil Nadu, West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh, Assam, and Gujarat.

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India Needs 7.8% Growth to Become High-Income Country by 2047: World Bank

India must sustain a 7.8% growth rate to achieve high-income status by 2047.

Reforms in financial, land, and labor markets are crucial for this goal.

India’s economy has grown nearly four-fold since 2000, with its global share doubling.

World Bank suggests an ‘accelerated reforms’ package for sustained growth.

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi
India will need to maintain an average annual growth rate of 7.8% to transition into a high-income economy by 2047, according to a World Bank report released on Friday. The report, titled Becoming a High-Income Economy in a Generation, highlights the necessity of reforms in the financial sector, as well as in land and labor markets, to sustain long-term economic expansion. Recognizing India’s strong economic performance over the past two decades, with an average growth of 6.3% between 2000 and 2024, the World Bank noted that achieving high-income status will not be possible under a “business-as-usual” scenario. India’s Gross National Income (GNI) per capita would need to increase nearly eightfold over the current levels. “To meet this target, given the less conducive external environment, India would need to not only maintain ongoing initiatives but also expand and intensify reforms,” the report stated. The World Bank acknowledged recent structural reforms aimed at transforming India into a global manufacturing hub, boosting infrastructure, improving human capital, and leveraging digitalization while maintaining macroeconomic stability. World Bank India Country Director Auguste Tano Kouame emphasized that lessons from Chile, South

Korea, and Poland show the importance of deepening global economic integration. The report outlined three potential scenarios for India’s economic trajectory over the next 22 years, emphasizing the need to invest in human capital, create better job opportunities, and increase female labor force participation from 35.6% to 50% by 2047. Since 2000, India’s economy has grown nearly four times in real terms, and its GDP per capita has almost tripled. India’s share in the global economy has doubled from 1.6% in 2000 to 3.4% in 2023, making it the world’s fifth-largest economy. The report also highlighted India’s success in reducing extreme poverty and

expanding essential infrastructure. The World Bank’s Country Economic Memorandum recommends four key areas for policy action to sustain long-term growth: increasing investments, promoting structural transformation, fostering job creation, and enhancing human capital. It further states that only an “accelerated reforms” strategy will enable India to achieve its ambitious economic goals by 2047.



Farmers furious over water release to Telangana, protest planned on February 28



Karnataka releases 1.24 TMC of water to Telangana despite objections.

Farmers fear summer shortage, demand immediate halt to release.

Protests planned outside DC's office on February 28.

TPN Correspondent | Vijayapura

Farmers in Karnataka's Krishna basin have strongly opposed the government's decision to release 1.24 TMC of water to Telangana, warning of a potential shortage during peak summer months. The move has sparked outrage, with farmer organizations planning a major protest outside

the District Collector's office on February 28. The state government released 1 TMC of water from the Almatti and Narayanpur reservoirs following Telangana's request for 5 TMC to meet drinking water needs. However, officials confirmed that Karnataka could only spare a fraction of the requested amount. "We released the water as per government orders. Telangana sought 5 TMC, but given the current storage levels, only 1 TMC was released," said Almatti Dam Chief Engineer D Basavaraj. Farmer unions, including the Bharatiya Kisan Sangh (BKS), have condemned the decision, accusing the government of disregarding local needs. "Water is crucial for Karnataka's farmers, especially in the summer months. Yet, Water Resources Minister DK

Shivakumar has shown undue interest in releasing it elsewhere," said BKS secretary Raghavendra Kamanatagi. Amid the growing discontent, Akhanda Karnataka Raita Sangha has announced a large-scale protest on February 28. Despite the backlash, the government has defended its stance, citing past instances of Maharashtra releasing water to Karnataka for drinking purposes. "Providing water for drinking needs is not a mistake. It's a matter of maintaining good relations with neighboring states," said AFMC Minister Shivanand Patil. According to official data, the Almatti reservoir currently holds 50.463 TMC of water, with a live storage of 32.843 TMC. As of Thursday, the total discharge stood at 10,475 cusecs.

Soon, tourists can explore Karnataka's backwaters in sea planes

TPN Correspondent | Bengaluru

In a bid to enhance tourism, the Karnataka government is planning to introduce sea planes to key destinations such as Hampi, Krishna Raja Sagara (KRS), and Almatti backwaters. Tourism Minister HK Patil announced the initiative on Thursday, stating that efforts are underway to strengthen infrastructure, including rail and road connectivity. The announcement follows Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's speech at the Karnataka International Travel Expo (KITE), where he emphasized the need for innovative measures to boost the state's tourism sector. Speaking at the KITE B2B meetings in Bengaluru, Patil said, "We are keen on providing all facilities to improve tourism and promoting lesser-known destinations, which we call the 'tourism gems.'" As part of the government's efforts to attract international visitors, discussions are ongoing



with the Ministry of External Affairs to create a multilingual website that will showcase Karnataka's tourism offerings in various countries. In a major digital push, the state has also launched its first-ever 3D virtual tours of heritage sites protected by

the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI). "We have developed short 3D films showcasing the heritage of 20-30 temples and historical locations," Patil said, highlighting the government's commitment to modernizing tourism promotion.

HC seeks govt response on guarantee scheme panel appointments

TPN Correspondent | Bengaluru

The Karnataka High Court on Thursday sought a response from the state government regarding the appointment of a committee overseeing the implementation of the state's five guarantee schemes. The court questioned the decision to grant cabinet minister status to the committee president and state minister status to the vice-presidents. A division bench comprising Chief Justice NV Anjaria and Justice MI Arun issued notices to the state government, Guarantee Scheme Implementation Committee president HM Revanna, and vice-presidents SR Patil Byadagi, Dr. Pushpa Amarnath, and Meharaj Khan. The notices were issued following a petition by former sub-inspector and social activist P Rajeev, challenging the government orders dated January 25, 2024, and July 24, 2024. Senior counsel Aruna Shyam, representing the petitioner, argued that the appointees were political workers who had been granted ministerial status despite not being elected representatives. He further pointed out that these appointments, which include salaries and perks equivalent to ministers, impose an unnecessary financial burden on the state exchequer. The court has sought a government response on the matter.

HC questions withdrawal of 43 criminal cases

In a separate case, the High Court issued notices to the Karnataka government over its decision to withdraw criminal cases against 43 influential individuals, including former ministers, MLAs, and heads of various organizations. A division bench of Chief Justice NV Anjaria and Justice MI Arun directed notices to the Departments of Home, Prosecutions and Government Litigation, and Law after hearing a petition filed by lawyer Girish Bhadraraj. The petition challenges an order dated October 15, 2024, which directed the prosecution to drop cases registered between 2008 and 2023. Advocate Venkatesh P Dalwai argued that forcing the withdrawal of these cases violates Section 321 of the CrPC, as the Supreme Court has ruled that such decisions must be taken on a case-by-case basis with the court's consent. The cases involve serious offences, including rioting, wrongful restraint, dacoity, and violations under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act and the Prevention of Destruction of Property Act. The High Court has sought an explanation from the state government on the matter.

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BJP To Announce New Party Chief Before March 15

which are set for assembly polls next year. However, Bihar, where elections are due later this year, will see no leadership change at the state level.

Party in-charges have been asked to submit prospective names for the top post. While speculation is rife, sources indicate that BJP's final choice will be someone acceptable to both the party and its ideological parent, the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS). Factors like caste representation, regional balance, and electoral strategy—especially in Uttar Pradesh—will play a crucial role in the decision. Nadda, who took over as BJP's working president in 2019 and was officially elected as party chief in 2020, had his tenure extended until June 2024 to oversee the Lok Sabha elections. With his transition to the Union Cabinet, the party is now working to finalize a consensus on his successor.

Fake marks card scam busted in Kalaburagi

TPN Correspondent | Kalaburagi

The Cyber Economic and Narcotics (CEN) Police Station in Kalaburagi has busted a large-scale fake marks card scam spanning multiple states and involving various universities. Authorities seized a massive cache of counterfeit certificates, along with equipment used to create them. Kalaburagi Police Commissioner Sharanappa S.D. stated that based on a tip-off, CEN police monitored 14U Glam Choice Cloth Shop in Asian Mall, where they found Mohammad Khan, a resident of Gousnagar Tarfile, involved in selling fake certificates under the name 'Elegance Technologies and Placement Bureau.' He provided fraudulent 10th, 12th, ITI, diploma, and B.Tech marks cards, charging between ₹10,000 and ₹50,000, depending on the institution's reputation. Customers were given options to obtain certificates from fake universities, private institutions, or even existing universities. Following the discovery, Assistant Police Commissioner Madolappa P.S. led a team to apprehend Khan, who



revealed his supplier—Rajiv Singh Arora, a resident of Dwarka Mor, New Delhi. A police team arrested Arora in Delhi and recovered a trove of evidence, including two laptops, hard drives, pen drives, a printer, 36 mobile phones, 522 fake marks cards from 28

universities, 1,626 blank certificates, 122 fake seals, and financial documents like cheque books, ATM cards, and ₹1.2 lakh in cash. Authorities are continuing their investigation to uncover further links in this widespread fraud network.

5,000-litre school water tank collapses in Athani, no casualties reported



TPN Correspondent | Athani

A major mishap was narrowly avoided on Wednesday when a 5,000-litre water tank at the Government Kannada and Marathi Primary School in Khilegaon village, Athani taluk, suddenly collapsed. The incident, which occurred around 11:30 am, caused structural damage, including the collapse of a part of the school's perimeter wall. However, no injuries or casualties were reported as no students were near the site at the time. Officials from the Education Department visited the school following the incident. A case has been registered at Athani Police Station, and an investigation is underway to determine the exact cause of the failure. Initial findings suggest that poor construction quality and contractor negligence may have played a role, with reports pointing to the use of substandard materials and lack of proper maintenance. The water unit was built four years ago with financial assistance from the Life Insurance Corporation (LIC). Authorities have assured parents and local residents that necessary measures will be taken to prevent similar incidents in the future.

Karnataka to establish India's first AVGC-XR Park

TPN Correspondent | Bengaluru

In a major push to India's growing animation, visual effects, gaming, and extended reality (AVGC-XR) industry, Karnataka IT/BT Minister Priyank Kharge announced the establishment of the country's first AVGC-XR Park. The initiative aims to position Bengaluru as a global hub for digital content innovation. Speaking at the inauguration of GAFX 2025, Kharge highlighted India's rise in the AVGC-XR sector, with a \$1.4 billion animation market and a gaming industry growing at 23% annually despite taxation hurdles. "India is no longer just catching up; we are setting the pace. This park will be a game-changer, integrating cutting-edge production studios, international collaborations, and research facilities," he said. The AVGC-XR Park will be part of a larger technology-focused ecosystem in Karnataka, offering infrastructure for start-ups, incubation centers, and training programs in col-

laboration with over 200 educational institutions and industry leaders. The government aims to train at least 50,000 professionals through specialized skill development programs. Bengaluru, already a leader in the gaming industry, hosts the highest number of gaming start-ups in India. The state is home to five institutes dedicated to animation, three focusing on digital effects, and 12 specializing in gaming, forming a crucial part of India's AVGC ecosystem. By 2029, Karnataka targets a 50% increase in operational efficiencies in this sector. A key highlight at GAFX 2025 was the collaboration between Zebu Animation and Tinkle, unveiled by actor Rana Daggubati, to bring India's beloved comic characters to life through advanced animation. Additionally, the Esports National Championship grand finale saw India's top four teams compete in Counter-Strike 2, further underlining the state's push into the digital entertainment space.



'Justice for Atul Subhash' Truck hoarding in Bengaluru demands action after suicide case

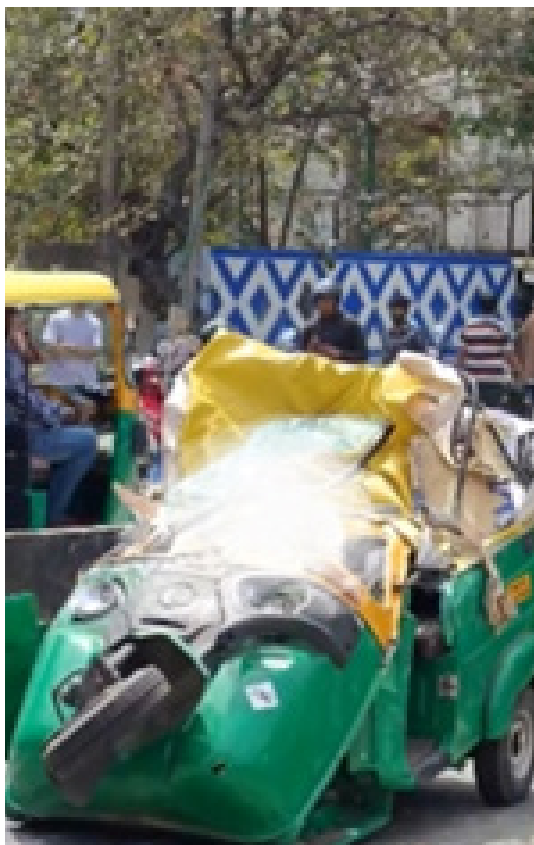


TPN Correspondent | Karnataka

A truck carrying a bold hoarding demanding justice for Atul Subhash, a 34-year-old automobile executive who died by suicide in December 2024, was seen on Bengaluru streets. The campaign, led by the Save Indian Family Foundation (SIFF), aims to highlight the alleged harassment he faced before his death. Subhash, originally from Uttar Pradesh, had been in a prolonged legal battle with his wife, Nikita Singhania, over their divorce and the custody of their four-year-old son. The couple, married in 2019, had been living separately for three years. On December 9, he was found hanging in his Marathahalli apartment, leaving behind a 24-page suicide note and an 81-minute video. In them, he accused his in-laws of harassment, claiming they filed

multiple police complaints and demanded ₹3 crore for the divorce settlement, along with ₹30 lakh for visitation rights to his child. Following his death, Bengaluru police arrested his wife, Nikita Singhania, along with her mother, Nisha Singhania, and brother, Anurag Singhania, on charges of abetment to suicide. The trio was granted bail in January 2025. Meanwhile, a city civil court has granted anticipatory bail to the fourth accused, Sushil Singhania, Nikita's uncle, who had earlier secured relief from the Allahabad High Court. The case remains under investigation as authorities probe the circumstances leading to Subhash's death. SIFF, known for advocating men's rights, continues to push for legal reforms and awareness regarding alleged biases in matrimonial disputes.

Auto-rickshaw trapped between BMTC buses in Bengaluru, driver and passenger killed



TPN Correspondent | Bengaluru

A tragic road accident in Bengaluru claimed the lives of an autorickshaw driver and his passenger after their vehicle was caught between two BMTC buses near Seetha Cir-

cle in Girinagar on 80 Feet Road, Banashankari. The victims have been identified as Anil Kumar, the auto driver, and Dr. Vishnu Bhat, 80. Anil Kumar, a resident of K.P. Agrahara, leaves behind his wife and two children. Dr. Bhat had celebrated his 80th birthday just a day before the accident. His son, who had traveled from abroad for the occasion, received the devastating news while returning to the USA. According to reports, the auto was moving downhill at high speed when it lost control and crashed into a BMTC bus before getting trapped between two buses. The impact of the collision was fatal, resulting in the immediate death of both occupants. The accident caused major traffic congestion in the area. Banashankari traffic police and local officials arrived at the scene, and the bodies were shifted to KIMS Hospital for further procedures. Authorities have launched an investigation to determine the exact cause of the accident. This incident follows another fatal accident in January, where a 26-year-old software engineer lost his life after his motorcycle skidded on ITPL Road in Brookefield. His bike's wheel got entangled in an abandoned optical fiber cable, leading to a fall, after which a BMTC bus ran over him. More details on the Banashankari accident are awaited.

Karnataka cracks down on plastic use in idli making Food safety department inspects 251 idli samples, finds 54 unsafe.

TPN Correspondent | Bengaluru

The Karnataka government has intensified its crackdown on the use of plastic sheets in idli preparation after food safety tests revealed that a significant number of samples were unsafe for consumption. The Food Safety and Standards Department inspected 251 idli samples across the state and found 54 establishments violating safety standards. These shops have been penalised for using plastic sheets during steaming, which contaminates food with harmful chemicals.

Health Minister Dinesh Gundu Rao stated that many vendors follow this method without awareness of its health risks. "Plastic use in food preparation is a serious public health hazard. Toxic chemicals leach into the food, making it unsafe. Hotels and vendors must



switch to safer alternatives like stainless steel or banana leaves immediately," he said. Officials explained that heating plastic releases dangerous chemicals such as bisphenol A (BPA), phthalates, and dioxins, which can disrupt hormones and in-

crease cancer risks. The government is expected to issue an official notification within two days, enforcing stricter regulations on food safety practices. The food safety drive will continue, with further inspections and penalties expected for violators.

Karnataka labour dept says Infosys layoffs not illegal



TPN Correspondent | Karnataka

The Karnataka labour department has stated that Infosys did not violate any labour laws in its recent terminations of trainees at its Mysuru campus. According to an official report submitted to the state government, the IT giant's decision was in line with regulations since the individuals affected were trainees and not full-time employees. Following a review led by additional labour commissioner (industrial relations) G Manjunath, on orders from Labour Minister Santhosh Lad, officials inspected both the Mysuru and Bengaluru campuses. The investigation found that the terminated individuals had

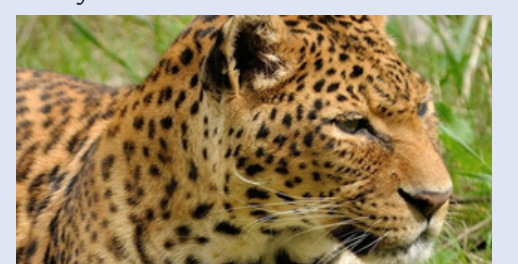
not been provided appointment letters and were part of a three-month apprenticeship programme with stipends, indicating there was no formal employer-employee relationship. A government official cited in the Economic Times report clarified that the government cannot intervene in a company's selection process. The inspection revealed that 329 trainees from the 2022 batch failed to pass the internal assessment, while over 600 others moved forward. Infosys maintains that its tests were not designed for failure and that no force was used in the layoffs. The final report is expected to be submitted by March 4 or 5, with a copy sent to the Union labour department for review.

Leopard captured after 20-day search near RBI currency printing facility

TPN Correspondent | Karnataka

A leopard that had been evading authorities for 20 days was finally captured near the Bharatiya Reserve Bank Note Mudran Private Limited (BRBNMPL) campus in Mysuru on Friday. The big cat was first spotted in mid-February when security personnel reviewing CCTV footage detected its movements within the campus vegetation. Following the alert, the RBI management informed the Karnataka Forest Department, which swiftly deployed a 30-member Leopard Task Force to track and capture the animal. The high-security facility, responsible for printing Indian currency, necessitated a discreet and well-coordinated operation. Officials strategically placed cattle pen cages at four different points on the campus, leading to the successful capture of the leopard in the early hours of February 28.

Deputy Conservator of Forests Prabhu Gowda confirmed that the captured leopard is an adult male. Wildlife veterinarians are currently assessing its health to determine whether it can be safely released back into the wild.





Is there no money in treasury, asks JDS' Nikhil over delay in Gruha Lakshmi payments

TPN Correspondent | Bengaluru
JDS Youth Wing state president Nikhil Kumaraswamy has criticized the Congress-led Karnataka government, alleging delays in the Gruha Lakshmi scheme payments. Speaking on Thursday, he questioned whether the state treasury was empty or if Chief Minister Siddaramaiah lacked financial management skills. He recalled that Congress leaders Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi had assured timely payments under the scheme but alleged that the money was not being credited as promised. "If they can't pay, let them at least announce the exact date. If not, we will mark the date on the calendar ourselves," he taunted. Nikhil further alleged that the government was depositing money based on political convenience, often releasing multiple months' payments before elections. He accused the Congress of deceiving people and using guarantee funds to secure votes. Demanding an official response from CM Siddaramaiah and Deputy CM DK Shivakumar, he said the government had failed to consistently deliver on its promises. "Women are now confused as the money is not coming regularly. If there is no money, at least admit it," he remarked, adding that the government was burdening people with tax hikes while claiming to support them through guarantees.

CM Siddaramaiah's official residence to get ₹2.6 crore revamp

TPN Correspondent | Karnataka
Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's official residence, Kaveri, is set to undergo major renovations, with the state government allocating ₹2.6 crore for the project. A finance department notification issued on February 10 has assigned the Public Works Department (PWD) to oversee the upgrades. The renovation includes the construction of a helper's room with an attached toilet, additional storage rooms, and the installation of storage racks. Kitchen essentials, crockery, and utensils will also be procured as part of the project. A significant portion of the budget—₹89 lakh—has been earmarked for electrical upgrades, including new internal wiring, lighting points, water heaters, air conditioning systems, and water points. The remaining ₹1.7 crore will be used for structural improvements. To expedite the process, the government has granted a 4(g) exemption under the Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement (KTPP) Act, allowing the PWD to carry out the work without a tender process. In a similar move, the government had earlier approved ₹61 lakh for electrical and furniture-related upgrades at the official quarters of Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar. This included ₹16 lakh for CCTV cameras, air conditioning, and other electrical work, and ₹45 lakh for furniture and renovations in the office of his personal secretary.

Dalit leaders push for G Parameshwara as Karnataka CM



TPN Correspondent | Vijayapura
Amid speculation over a leadership change in Karnataka, Dalit leaders have urged the Congress high command to consider Home Minister Dr G Parameshwara as the next chief minister if Siddaramaiah is replaced. At a press conference organized by the District Chhalavadi Mahasabha and Buddha Vihara Nirmana Samiti, Congress leaders and Dalit representatives emphasized the need for social justice. They pointed out that despite the Dalit community's consistent electoral backing for Congress, Karnataka has never had a Dalit chief minister. Citing statistical data and surveys, the leaders underscored the Dalit community's role as a key voter base. To strengthen their demand, they announced plans for a mega convention in March or April, likely in Belagavi or Hubballi.

Water released to Telangana for political gains, alleges LoP

BJP slams Congress government for releasing 1.24 tmcft water to Telangana. LoP R Ashoka accuses DCM DK Shivakumar of prioritizing political interests over farmers. Shivakumar defends decision, says

TPN Correspondent | Bengaluru
Telangana helped Karnataka in the past. The BJP has accused the Congress-led Karnataka government of compromising the state's interests by releasing 1.24 tmcft of water from Almatti and Narayanpur reservoirs to Telangana. Leader of Opposition R Ashoka alleged that despite warnings from officials and opposition from farmers, Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar authorized the release for political gains. Ashoka recalled that the Congress govern-

ment had previously released Cauvery water to Tamil Nadu during a severe drought and questioned whether the latest move was meant to appease the party high command. "Did you strike a secret deal with Telangana Congress for the CM's post? Self-respecting Kannadigas must teach this traitorous government a lesson," he asserted. In response, Shivakumar justified the release, stating that riverine states must support each other in times of distress. "They have helped us on many occasions, and we will help them. The Telangana irrigation minister personally requested 1 tmcft of water," he explained. The controversy has intensified political tensions, with the opposition accusing the government of neglecting Karnataka's farmers while prioritizing its political interests.



Top court shields Isha Foundation's Yoga Centre in Coimbatore

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi
In a significant relief to Sadhguru's Isha Foundation, the Supreme Court on Friday restrained the Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board (TNPCB) from taking coercive action against the spiritual organization's Yoga Centre in Coimbatore's Velliangiri hills. However, the court cautioned the foundation to ensure all future constructions comply with environmental regulations. A bench of Justice Surya Kant and Justice N.K. Singh ruled that the centre, which had come under scrutiny for undertaking construction without environmental clearance a decade ago, should not be sealed or demolished. "It goes without saying that if there is any need for expansion in the future, the respondent (Isha Foundation) will seek prior permission of the competent authorities," the bench stated. The Supreme Court noted that the Yoga Centre was entitled to an exemption from prior environmental clearance as it qualifies as an educational institution. The court also took into account a two-year delay in TNPCB's challenge against a Madras High Court ruling that had favored the Foundation. Earlier, the Madras High Court had quashed a show cause notice issued to Isha Foundation for constructions carried out between 2006 and 2014 without mandatory environmental approval. The TNPCB had issued this notice on November 19, 2021, citing violations under the Environment Impact Assessment Notifi-



cation, 2006. Senior Advocate Mukul Rohatgi, representing Isha Foundation, argued that the Yoga Centre's construction began in 1994, well before the central notification requiring environmental clearance was issued. Accepting this argument, the court dismissed TNPCB's appeal but clarified that this case should not set a precedent for regularizing illegal constructions in the future.

Dy CM DK Shivakumar, new face of Congress's soft Hindutva

TPN Correspondent | Bengaluru
Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar's participation in Mahashivratri celebrations at Sadhguru Jaggi Vasudev's Isha Yoga Centre, alongside Union Home Minister Amit Shah, has triggered political debate over Congress' evolving strategy on Hindutva. Shivakumar, who was welcomed with a saffron shawl in Coimbatore, has been making frequent religious visits, including a holy dip in Prayagraj and an

elaborate Lingabhisheka at Belagavi's Kapileshwar temple. His increasing public temple engagements, surpassing even some BJP leaders, have led to speculation that Congress is subtly embracing a soft Hindutva approach. While Chief Minister Siddaramaiah maintains a staunch secular stance, Shivakumar's outreach signals a potential ideological shift. "I am a Hindu, I will die a Hindu. Yet, I respect all religions," he asserted, dismissing

political motives behind his actions. Congress insiders acknowledge that religious symbolism resonates with a section of their Hindu voter base. A senior leader admitted, "The Hindu voter of Congress likes all this, and that is why DKS does it." Shivakumar is set to attend the inauguration of Basava Mandira at the Taralabalu Mutt on March 1 in Bengaluru and the Prathistapana ceremony of a Marigudi temple in Kaup on March 2, further reinforcing

this narrative. Political analysts argue that his religious presence under media glare marks a notable shift for a party that traditionally avoids such posturing. Prof. Kiran Gajanur of the Central University of Karnataka noted, "For a liberal party, public religious participation sends a strong message." Meanwhile, analyst BS Murthy speculated on the political implications of Shivakumar and Amit Shah attending the same event.

Priyank Kharge, Mohandas Pai clash over Bengaluru's infrastructure on X

TPN Correspondent | Bengaluru
A war of words erupted on X (formerly Twitter) between Karnataka Congress leader Priyank Kharge and former Infosys CFO Mohandas Pai over the state of Bengaluru's infrastructure. The exchange saw Pai questioning the city's deteriorating civic conditions, while Kharge accused him of targeting the Congress government selectively. The spat began after Kharge posted about Bengaluru's economic prominence, highlighting its status as a hub for Fortune 500 companies, Global Capability Centers, and unicorn startups. He noted that the city leads in multiple sectors, reinforcing its role in India's growth. Pai responded sharply, criticizing the government for neglecting basic infrastructure. "Minister @PriyankKharge, we know all this, but tell us—what have you done as our Minister to improve our lives? You have not



even ensured the city is clean, with no potholes and good footpaths! This is not rocket science but regular maintenance work. Please talk to Minister DK Shivakumar to give us at least a clean, walkable city! Is this too much to ask? Our lives have become more miserable over the last two years!" Kharge hit back, questioning Pai's silence when other governments were in power. "TV Mohandas Pai avare,

if it was not rocket science why didn't you enlighten your then Government? Looks like your woes have become painful after we got 135 seats. Why do you remain silent when you #Vishwaguru Narendra Modi treats Karnataka with utter disdain?" Pai continued his attack, accusing Kharge of failing to bring tangible improvements. "Minister @Priyank Kharge pl stop making excuses. I have con-

stantly promoted Karnataka/Bengaluru for 30 years+, more than you. You are in power ruling us. You are accountable. What have you done for the last 2 years to improve the city?" Kharge responded, suggesting Pai's stance was politically motivated. "Good for you, Mr. TV Mohandas Pai. Your tone, tenor, and stance are always quite clear whenever Congress is in power. Yes, we are accountable and we have never, and will never, shy away from our responsibility to build a thriving economic powerhouse that drives our nation forward. I hope that one day you will also advocate for the state's rightful share from the Central Government." The debate reflects growing concerns over Bengaluru's infrastructure, with critics questioning the government's handling of civic issues and ministers pointing to a lack of support from the Centre.

This Is The Last Opportunity: Manipur Governor Extends Deadline To Disarm



TPN Correspondent | Manipur

Manipur Governor Ajay Kumar Bhalla has extended the deadline for the voluntary surrender of looted and illegal arms until 4 PM on March 6, following requests from residents in both the hill and valley regions for more time. The original seven-day deadline, which was set for February 27, has been extended in response to these appeals, as per an official statement. The statement highlighted that, after the initial deadline passed, both valley and hill areas had requested additional time to comply with the surrender order. The Governor acknowledged these requests and decided to extend the deadline. It further reassured that no punitive action would be taken against individuals who voluntarily hand over their weapons within the extended period. The statement emphasized that this is the "last opportunity" for individuals to contribute to peace, communal harmony, the future of the youth, and the overall security of society. On February 20, Governor Bhalla had called on armed groups to return weapons looted from security forces and any other illegally possessed arms within a seven-day period. By the time the original deadline passed, over 300 weapons had been surrendered, primarily in the valley districts of Manipur. Since the onset of ethnic violence between the Meitei and Kuki-Zo communities in May 2023, the state has witnessed severe unrest, with more than 250 people killed and thousands displaced. The ongoing conflict has led to widespread insecurity and loss of life. In response to the escalating crisis, the Central Government imposed President's Rule in the state on February 13, following the resignation of Chief Minister N Biren Singh. The state assembly has been placed under suspended animation, and the situation remains tense. The extended deadline for the surrender of illegal arms is seen as a crucial step in restoring order and encouraging peace in the region, as the state seeks to recover from the ongoing ethnic violence.



Karnataka HC Allows Actor Darshan to Travel Across India Amid Murder Case

TPN Correspondent | Chennai

In a significant development for Kannada actor Darshan, who is accused in the high-profile Ranukaswamy murder case, the Karnataka High Court has granted him permission to travel across the country. This decision comes as a major relief for the actor, who had previously been restricted to Bengaluru and the jurisdiction of the session's court. Darshan's legal counsel argued that since the Supreme Court is also involved in examining the case, the actor needed to travel to Delhi and other locations for legal matters. Special Public Prosecutor Prasanna Kumar, however, contended that Darshan had sought bail on health grounds and questioned his need to travel across the country. Despite this, the court ultimately allowed Darshan to travel freely. The murder case dates back to June 11, 2024, when Darshan, his partner Pavithra Gowda, and 15 other individuals were arrested on charges of kidnapping and murdering Renukaswamy, a fan from Chitradurga. Renukaswamy allegedly sent inappropriate messages to Pavithra, which angered Darshan, who was in a relationship with her despite being married. The case escalated when Renukaswamy, who supported Darshan's wife Vijayalaxmi, publicly criticized Pavithra, leading to his tragic death. On February 25, 2025, Darshan, Pavithra, and the other accused appeared before the Bengaluru local court as per the conditions of their bail. However, during proceedings, other accused individuals claimed they were being coerced by the police to turn approvers. Advocate Sunil, representing these accused, expressed concern over the alleged pressure, stating that the case should be fought on its merits without any undue influence. The matter has been adjourned to April 8, and the Karnataka Police have filed an appeal in the Supreme Court to challenge the bail granted to Darshan and the others. Darshan had been granted bail on October 30, 2024, after spending 131 days in custody.

SLBC tunnel collapse: Day 7, South Central Railway joins rescue ops

SCR deploys metal-cutting experts with plasma cutters and Brocho cutting machines to aid rescue.

Two teams from Secunderabad are working on-site.

Eight workers remain trapped since February 22, including engineers and labourers.



TPN Correspondent | Telangana

South Central Railway (SCR) has joined the ongoing rescue efforts at the partially collapsed SLBC tunnel in Nagarkurnool, where eight workers have been trapped for six days. SCR has deployed metal-cutting experts equipped with plasma cutters and Brocho cutting machines to assist in clearing the iron and steel debris obstructing rescue operations. Nagarkurnool District Collector requested SCR's assistance, prompting a swift response. Two specialized teams have been sent, with the first led by Divisional

Mechanical Engineer S Murali, comprising a senior section engineer, 13 welders, and two technicians from Secunderabad. The second team arrived last night to support the ongoing efforts. Nagarkurnool Superintendent of Police Vaibhav Gaikwad confirmed that debris clearing and dewatering operations are progressing continuously. Telangana Irrigation Minister Uttam Kumar Reddy assured that rescue operations are in full swing and expected to conclude within two days. The trapped Tunnel Boring Machine (TBM) will

be cut into pieces using gas cutters to facilitate further rescue attempts by the Army, Navy, Rat Miners, and NDRF teams. The collapse occurred on February 22, trapping eight workers identified as Manoj Kumar (UP), Sri Niwas (UP), Sunny Singh (J&K), Gurpreet Singh (Punjab), and Sandeep Sahu, Jegta Xess, Santosh Sahu, and Anuj Sahau, all from Jharkhand. Among them, two are engineers, two are operators, and four are labourers employed by Jaiprakash Associates, the contracting firm for the SLBC tunnel project.

42 workers feared trapped in Uttarakhand avalanche Rescue efforts on..

TPN Correspondent | Uttarakhand

An avalanche struck Uttarakhand's Chamoli district near Mana village, close to the Indo-Tibetan border, reportedly burying 57 workers engaged in road construction. So far, 15 workers have been rescued and taken to an army camp in critical condition. Rescue operations are ongoing. The incident occurred around 3 km ahead of Badrinath Dham, near the Border Roads Organisation (BRO) camp. Authorities have deployed around 60-65 personnel for the rescue mission. However, heavy snowfall has delayed the arrival of ambulances at the site, BRO Executive Engineer CR Mee-



na informed.

A State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) team from Joshimath is en route, while the army is

working to clear blocked routes in Lambagad. Another SDRF team is on standby at Sahastradhara helipad, ready for aerial deploy-

ment once weather conditions improve. Drone operations are currently halted due to intense snowfall, SDRF Inspector General Ridhim Agarwal stated. Expressing concern, Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami posted on X (formerly Twitter), "I pray to Lord Badri Vishal for the safety of all the labour brothers." The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has issued an orange alert, predicting heavy rainfall of up to 20 cm in several hilly regions, including Uttarakhand, until late Friday night. The IMD warns of localised flooding, waterlogging, underpass closures, reduced visibility, and traffic disruptions.

Rameswaram fishermen begin indefinite hunger strike over arrests by Sri Lankan Navy

TPN Correspondent | Belagavi

In a bold move to protest the frequent arrests of fishermen and the seizure of their boats by the Sri Lankan Navy, members of various fishermen associations, along with their families, launched an indefinite hunger strike in Thangachimadam, Rameswaram, on February 28, 2025. The strike, which saw participation from around 1,000 fishermen and their families from Rameswaram, Pamban, Mandapam, and surrounding areas, condemns the repeated injustices faced by the local fishing community. Fishermen leader Jesu Raja highlighted that in the 2024-2025 period alone, Sri Lankan authorities had seized 82 fishing boats and arrested 107 fishermen from Rameswaram and nearby regions. He added that while 38 fishermen were convicted and currently serving sentences, many others remain imprisoned in Sri Lanka. Over the past 11 years, more than 500 boats have been seized, yet, according to Raja, no efforts have been made by the Indian government to recover even a single one. The protesters claim that the fishing community, which significantly contributes to India's foreign trade, has been left unprotected and without security assurances from either the Indian or Sri Lankan governments. Raja called for peace talks between India and Sri Lanka to resolve the maritime boundary dispute, which



has cost countless lives over the years. Rayappan, a leader from the country boat fishermen association, echoed the sentiment, emphasizing that all arrested fishermen are innocent. "For a meager income, we risk our lives, only to be imprisoned for years," he said. Suganya, the wife of a fisherman recently arrested by the Sri Lankan Navy, spoke of the struggle her

family faces without the head of the household. "I work tirelessly to support our children, but it is impossible without my husband," she said, urging the Indian government to either prevent such arrests or provide alternative employment for the fishermen. Selvi, another fisherwoman whose husband has been imprisoned in Sri Lanka for over two years, shared her distress.

"My husband was ill before his arrest, but he went to sea for one night, hoping to recover. Instead, he was captured by the Sri Lankan Navy," she said, adding that she has received no updates about him since. The protesters vowed to continue their hunger strike until the Indian government sends a minister to address their grievances and offer a solution.

Not Muslims Or Christians - Another Syrian Ethnic Group Caught In Crossfire



A Druze factions in Syria's southern Suwayda province formed the Suwayda Military Council, a coalition created to protect the Druze community from external threats and government oppression. This announcement came amidst uncertainty following the downfall of

former Syrian President Bashar al-Assad and the rise of interim President Ahmad al-Sharaa, who is linked to the Islamist group Hayat Tahrir al-Sham (HTS).

The Druze, a unique ethnic minority following a faith blending Islam, Hinduism, and Greek

philosophy, have long been wary of external threats. They have faced significant challenges in the past, including massacres at the hands of ISIS and the turmoil after Assad's regime fell. Despite this, they have maintained a cautious independence, particularly in the Suwayda region,

which was under partial control of the Assad regime since 2015.

The newly-formed Suwayda Military Council, led by Tareq Al Shoufi, aims to promote secularism, democracy, and decentralization as the foundation for a just and stable future. The council intends to safeguard civilians, manage public property, and work in cooperation with other security factions to ensure the region's stability. At the same time, they have expressed willingness to work with the Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) due to their shared opposition to terrorism and dictatorship.

However, the council's formation has not been without controversy. Syria's Druze spiritual leader, Sheikh Hikmat al-Hajri, rejected the council, accusing it of separatism and claiming it does not represent the Druze community as a whole. Despite these internal divisions, the Suwayda Military Council has garnered local support, with several factions in the region pledging allegiance.

The council's flag, reminiscent of the Kurdish SDF flag, carries a distinct Druze symbol, a five-pointed star, signaling both the community's resistance and its pursuit of independence from government oppression. Their leader, Tareq Al Shoufi, is a former Syrian Arab Army officer who has stood by the Druze community during protests against Assad.

While the formation of the Suwayda Military Council has provided a sense of protection for the Druze, many civilians have expressed uncertainty about the future. "It's a good step for pressuring the government and providing protection. But in the past, armed groups in Suwayda were disorganized, and no large force was ever formed," said Ahmed Al Shareef, a Druze from Suwayda.

Despite this, the growing presence of the Suwayda Military Council symbolizes a new chapter for the Druze in Syria, one focused on self-preservation and independence amidst an unstable political landscape.

The UK's Persistent Tolerance for Authoritarian Leaders: A Troubling Legacy



The UK has a long-standing history of cozying up to authoritarian regimes, a trend that continues despite its self-image as a bastion of democratic values. For more than a century, foreign strongmen have found allies, apologists, or a lack of criticism within British politics, even as the UK proudly stands as a supposed enemy of fascism. This paradox raises an important question: why does Westminster, the heart of British democracy, remain so welcoming to far-right governments? One reason lies in the pragmatic nature of foreign policy. As Britain navigates an increasingly multipolar world, it often cannot afford to alienate powerful nations. This is especially evident in the relationship between the UK and the Trump administration, where diplomacy often appears to overlook the authoritarian tendencies of

foreign leaders for the sake of strategic cooperation. However, darker impulses also play a role in the UK's tolerance for autocratic rule. For some British politicians, the regimes of strongmen offer a fascinating alternative to the compromises and slow progress of liberal democracy. In moments of disillusionment with democratic processes, autocrats can seem like leaders who "get things done." For instance, Kemi Badenoch, a prominent Tory figure, recently praised the fast-paced, result-driven nature of Trump's leadership, echoing a sentiment shared by other right-wing figures in the UK who admire the transgressive populism that Trump embodies. This admiration for foreign autocrats isn't new. In the 1920s and 1930s, many in Britain—including figures like Winston Churchill—warmly embraced Mussolini's fascist regime, seeing it

as a bulwark against communism. Similarly, during the Cold War, right-wing British leaders supported the brutal military dictatorship of Augusto Pinochet in Chile, viewing it as an ally in the fight against communism. Today, the fear of Islam and immigration fuels the right's admiration for leaders like Trump, whose aggressive stances on these issues resonate with their own increasingly illiberal policies.

British politicians and media figures have often sought to justify their support for autocrats by focusing on their supposed effectiveness in governance. In the case of Mussolini and Trump, their personal appeal and decisive rhetoric offered a tantalizing contrast to the perceived failures of liberal democracy. This admiration, however, has consequences. By softening the image of authoritarian leaders, British politicians and journalists inadvertently make them more palatable to the public, rather than influencing them to moderate their behavior.

When these authoritarian figures eventually lose power, as they often do, the UK's support may be remembered as a grave moral and strategic error, much like the post-World War II reckoning with fascist regimes. But for now, Westminster seems content to move forward, its admiration for strongmen providing a troubling glimpse into the underlying forces shaping British politics.

If you have money, borders are just a formality—Trump shows only rich can have American Dream

For many Indians, the United States, Canada, Australia, and Northern Europe have long been the ultimate destinations—a place to study, work, and, if fortunate enough, call home. The pursuit of a better life abroad has been relentless, with countless individuals attempting to migrate through both legal and illegal routes. This deep desire reflects a fundamental aspiration for better financial opportunities and the chance to be part of a system that often seems out of reach in India.

However, the reality of immigration is changing. The doors to these countries, once wide open, are now showing signs of closing. Increasing protectionism and rising resistance to immigration have led to more restrictive policies in these once immigrant-friendly nations. What was once seen as an opportunity for millions is now becoming a battle for access—and the rules are becoming harder to navigate. During Donald Trump's first term, immigration became a hot-button issue, especially for Indian migrants. The media buzzed with stories of illegal immigrants risking everything to pursue the American Dream. Many questioned why someone would undertake such perilous jour-



neys, especially if they had financial stability back home. The truth is, for many, the dream is not just about financial prosperity but about belonging to a system and culture that represents privilege, status, and a certain way of life. While the number of Indians pursuing legal routes remains high—over 331,000 Indian students were enrolled in US institutions as of 2024, a 23% increase from the previous year—there's growing anxiety among them. The once relatively predictable path from student visas to permanent residency is now filled with uncertainty. Students worry not just about getting in but what will happen once they arrive. Will opportunities for work and settlement continue, or are these doors closing too? Trump's immigration policies, which built

on the flawed "lump of labour fallacy," were aimed at limiting competition for jobs by reducing immigration. His administration blocked visa holders during the pandemic, made it more difficult for foreign-born professionals to work, and imposed additional restrictions on immigration. Despite campaign promises in 2024 to make it easier for international students to stay in the US, many Indian students remain skeptical, as history shows that promises often don't translate into policy changes. Even Canada, once seen as a more immigrant-friendly alternative, is tightening its borders. In 2024, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau announced a reduction in the intake cap for international student study permits for 2025. The termination of the

Student Direct Stream (SDS) initiative, which once simplified visa processing for Indian students, and stricter post-graduation work visa rules have made the path to staying in Canada more difficult. While the tightening of immigration policies is often associated with specific leaders, the underlying issue is larger: immigration systems around the world have always been more accessible to the wealthy. Whether it's the United States' "gold card" visa for the ultra-rich or Canada's once lenient policies for students, the pattern is clear: money often trumps the barriers of immigration. For those without financial means, however, the hurdles are growing, making the dream of a better life abroad increasingly elusive.

PM Modi Announces Free Trade Agreement with EU by Year-End



sion is undertaking such a comprehensive engagement with any country. He also noted that this was among the first international visits of the new European Commission regime, marking an important milestone in diplomatic relations.

"Over the past two decades, India and the European Union have built a strategic partnership that is both natural and organic, founded on trust and shared democratic values," PM Modi said. He added that the talks between the two sides have been sincere and productive, addressing various key issues. One of the outcomes of the discussions was the mutual commitment to conclude the Free Trade Agreement by the end of 2025.

The Prime Minister mentioned that teams from both India and the European Union have been tasked with working towards the completion of the agreement, emphasizing its importance in promoting mutual benefits and strengthening bilateral trade relations.

The FTA is expected to enhance economic cooperation between India and the EU, benefiting both parties in terms of trade, investment, and economic growth. The agreement will be a significant step towards deepening India's ties with the European Union, reflecting the growing strategic partnership and shared interests between the two regions.

With the announcement, PM Modi highlighted the potential of this trade deal to unlock new avenues of growth and prosperity for both India and the European Union.

- PM Modi confirms India-EU FTA by year-end
- Historic EU Commission visit deepens ties
- FTA aims to boost trade, investment, and growth

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced that the ongoing visit of the European Commission President and the College of Commissioners to India will lead to the conclusion of a long-awaited Free Trade Agreement

(FTA) between India and the European Union by the end of this year.

Speaking on the historic visit, the Prime Minister emphasized that this was not only the first-ever visit by the European Commission to India, but also the first time the Commis-

Don't determine parliamentary seats based on population and penalise south: CM Stalin



TPN Correspondent | Chennai

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M K Stalin has strongly opposed the Centre's proposal to base the determination of parliamentary constituencies solely on population, warning that such an approach would unfairly penalise southern states like Tamil Nadu. Stalin, also the president of the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK), made it clear in a video message that his party and the state would never accept such a move.

He emphasized that Tamil Nadu, having taken responsible steps to control population growth, should not be disadvantaged in the forthcoming parliamentary constituency delimitation exercise. "Our demand is clear—don't determine parliamentary constituencies based on population alone," Stalin asserted. He further warned that if this perceived injustice were implemented, it would face strong resistance from the people of Tamil Nadu and his party.

Stalin's message was delivered on the eve of his 72nd birthday, during which he reminded party workers of two crucial issues facing the state: the protection of the Tamil language and the fight

against the parliamentary delimitation plan. "We must take a pledge that we will never compromise on Tamil Nadu's welfare and future for anyone or anything. We must stand together and fight for our state's rights," he urged party cadres, calling for collective action to safeguard Tamil Nadu's interests.

While he refrains from grand birthday celebrations, Stalin's party often marks the occasion by distributing welfare assistance and engaging in public meetings to highlight the achievements of the DMK government. This year, Stalin used his birthday as an opportunity to highlight the critical challenges at hand, specifically emphasizing the impact of delimitation on the state's self-respect, social justice, and welfare schemes.

He also noted that solidarity was emerging from states like Karnataka, Punjab, and Telangana in opposition to the proposed changes, and insisted that the Centre should refrain from imposing such decisions on the states. Stalin cautioned that despite assurances, actions by the Centre hinted at increasing representation for other states at the expense of Tamil Nadu's interests.

ISRO to resume SpaDeX experiments from March 15: V Narayanan

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) is set to resume experiments on its SpaDeX mission in mid-March, with plans to separate and re-dock two satellites, SDX01 and SDX02, in space. These experiments aim to advance ISRO's capabilities in satellite docking technologies for future space projects. The SpaDeX mission, launched on December 30, 2024, successfully placed the two satellites into orbit, marking a significant milestone in India's space exploration.

On January 16, 2025, ISRO succeeded in docking the two satellites for the first time, a key achievement for the mission. Currently, the unified satellite is in an elliptical orbit, providing a 10-15 day window every two months to conduct various experiments. ISRO Chairman V. Narayanan shared this update during the National Science Day celebrations, stating that the next opportunity for experiments will open from March 15.

The upcoming experiments will focus on separating the satellites and re-docking them, an essential step in refining the docking technology. Narayanan

confirmed that the team has already begun simulation tests in preparation for the actual operations, which are slated to begin in mid-March. ISRO plans to further test electrical power transfer between the satellites before proceeding to undocking and separation.

The SpaDeX mission holds immense promise for ISRO's future projects, including Chandrayaan-4 and the development of the Bharat Antariksha Station. Both of these endeavors will rely heavily on advanced docking technologies, making the successful execution of SpaDeX's experiments crucial. Narayanan emphasized that the mission would also help in managing the significant propellant onboard the satellites, with additional experiments planned for the third window available in two months.

This project marks a crucial step in ISRO's continued efforts to enhance its space exploration capabilities and establish India as a leader in space technology. The successful outcomes of these experiments are expected to pave the way for more ambitious missions in the coming years.



Mumbai Police Investigate Threat to CM Fadnavis, Enhance Security Measures



TPN Correspondent | Mumbai

Mumbai Traffic Police recently received a threatening WhatsApp message targeting Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis' office. According to NDTV, the message, which was sent by an individual identified as Malik Shahbaz Humayun Raja Dev, came from a Pakistani number. The authorities have launched an investigation to determine whether the sender is an Indian national or a foreigner.

In response to the threat, security around Chief Minister Fadnavis has been bolstered, with heightened measures around his office and other critical government buildings. The police are carefully assessing the credibility of the threat as part of their ongoing probe.

This threat to Fadnavis follows closely on the heels of a similar situation involving Deputy Chief Minister Eknath Shinde, who received a death threat via email on February 20. The threat was directed to sever-

al locations, including Goregaon and JJ Marg police stations, as well as Mantralaya. Authorities swiftly responded to the threat, and the Mumbai Crime Branch, along with the Buldhana police, arrested two individuals in connection with the email threat. The arrested suspects, identified as Mangesh Wayal (35) and Abhay Shingane (22), residents of Deulgaon Mahi in Buldhana district, were taken to Mumbai, where an FIR was filed against them under various sections of the Indian Penal Code.

This isn't the first time Shinde has faced such threats. Earlier, in 2024, a college student had issued death threats to both Shinde and his MP son, Shrikant Shinde, through social media. This led to the arrest of a 19-year-old student who had sent the threatening messages on February 11, 2024.

As investigations continue into the latest threats, authorities remain vigilant, ensuring the safety and security of the state's leaders and the public.

Kangana Ranaut Appears in Court Over Defamation Case Filed by Javed Akhtar



TPN Correspondent | Mumbai

Bollywood actor and BJP MP Kangana Ranaut appeared before a special court on Friday in connection with a defamation case filed against her by veteran lyricist-screenwriter Javed Akhtar. Ranaut appeared in the special magistrate court designated to handle cases involving MPs and MLAs.

The defamation case was filed by Akhtar in 2020, accusing Ranaut of making defamatory comments about him during a television interview, which allegedly tarnished his reputation. In her interview, Ranaut had mentioned a "coterie" in Bollywood, and Akhtar's name was reportedly dragged into the conversation. The interview followed the tragic death of actor Sushant Singh Rajput, which had sparked widespread controversy in the industry.

Initially, the case was heard in a magistrate court in Andheri, Mumbai. However, after Ranaut was elected as a Member of Parliament from Mandi, Himachal Pradesh, in 2024, the matter was transferred to the special court that deals with cases involving MPs and MLAs.

In the previous hearing, Akhtar had requested the court to issue a non-bailable warrant against Ranaut. The court granted a final opportunity for the actor to appear, and as per the directive, she appeared before the court on Friday.

The case has attracted significant attention, given the high-profile nature of both the individuals involved. Details regarding the court's next steps and any potential developments are awaited.

The ongoing legal proceedings highlight the tensions in the Bollywood industry, with both Ranaut and Akhtar frequently in the news for their public statements and interactions within the industry.

Trump Boasts “BRICS Is Dead”, New De-Dollarisation Call Comes As A Jolt



Trump claimed BRICS “broke up” due to his tariff warnings.

Brazil’s President reaffirmed BRICS+ commitment to ending dollar dominance.

BRICS+ nations continue discussions on de-dollarisation despite US pressure.

TPN Correspondent | Vijayapura
Farmers in Karnataka’s Krishna basin have strongly opposed the government’s decision to release 1.24 TMC of water to Telangana, warning of a potential shortage during peak summer months. The move has sparked outrage, with farmer organizations planning a major protest outside

the District Collector’s office on February 28. The state government released 1 TMC of water from the Almatti and Narayanpur reservoirs following Telangana’s request for 5 TMC to meet drinking water needs. However, officials confirmed that Karnataka could only spare a fraction of the requested amount. “We released the water as per government orders. Telangana sought 5 TMC, but given the current storage levels, only 1 TMC was released,” said Almatti Dam Chief Engineer D Basavaraj. Farmer unions, including the Bharatiya Kisan Sangh (BKS), have condemned the decision, accusing the government of disregarding local needs. “Water is crucial for Karnataka’s farmers, especially in the summer months. Yet, Water Resources Minister DK

Shivakumar has shown undue interest in releasing it elsewhere,” said BKS secretary Raghavendra Kamanatagi. Amid the growing discontent, Akhanda Karnataka Raita Sangha has announced a large-scale protest on February 28. Despite the backlash, the government has defended its stance, citing past instances of Maharashtra releasing water to Karnataka for drinking purposes. “Providing water for drinking needs is not a mistake. It’s a matter of maintaining good relations with neighboring states,” said APMC Minister Shivanand Patil. According to official data, the Almatti reservoir currently holds 50.463 TMC of water, with a live storage of 32.843 TMC. As of Thursday, the total discharge stood at 10,475 cusecs.

Kash Patel Seeks UFC’s Help To Train FBI Agents: Report

TPN Correspondent | Washington D.C.
Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) Director Kash Patel is reportedly considering a proposal to train FBI agents in self-defense techniques with the help of the Ultimate Fighting Championship (UFC), according to The Independent. During a teleconference with the heads of the FBI’s 55 field offices, Patel suggested establishing a formal relationship with the popular mixed martial arts organization to enhance the physical preparedness of agents. While the FBI has not officially commented on the proposal, some agents described the idea as “surreal” and “wacky.” Patel’s incoming deputy, Dan Bongino, a well-known UFC fan, is believed to have inspired the move. The agency chief, who plays hockey himself, also expressed interest in joining the FBI’s hockey team. The move comes as Patel, who was recently sworn into office following a narrow 51-49 Senate confirmation vote, has



introduced sweeping changes within the bureau. He ordered the transfer of approximately 150 FBI employees from Washington D.C. to field offices, part of a broader restructuring plan. On Thursday, Patel took to X (formerly Twitter) to declare that the FBI was “entering a new era,” vowing integrity, accountability, and transparency. “There will be no

cover-ups, no missing documents, and no stone left unturned,” he stated, emphasizing that any attempts to undermine the agency’s mission would be “swiftly pursued.” Patel’s appointment and policy changes come amid growing scrutiny over the FBI’s internal operations and its handling of politically sensitive cases.

India, EU set year-end deadline for free trade pact

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

India and the European Union have set a year-end deadline to finalise a long-awaited free trade agreement, aiming to strengthen economic ties between the two regions. The announcement was made in a joint statement by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen during their meeting in New Delhi. PM Modi emphasised that the India-EU partnership goes beyond trade, stating, “We have prepared a blueprint for collaboration in trade, technology, investment, innovation, green growth, security, skill, and mobility.” He also confirmed that officials have been directed to conclude negotiations before the end of the year, with a formal roadmap set to be launched at the next India-EU summit.

Challenges in trade deal negotiations

Despite rapid trade growth—rising 90% since 2014, with total bilateral trade exceeding \$137 billion in 2023-24—previous attempts to finalise a trade pact stalled due to differences on tariffs and visa regulations. The EU has sought lower tariffs on automobiles, liquor, and other goods, while India is pushing for easier market access for its pharmaceutical and textile sectors.

New Delhi has also opposed Europe’s 20-35% carbon tax on industrial goods like cement, steel, and aluminum. Meanwhile, the EU remains hesitant to relax visa restrictions for Indian professionals.

Push for India-Europe connectivity

In a parallel development, India and the EU reaffirmed their commitment to the India-Middle East-Europe Corridor (IMEEC), a strategic infrastructure project aimed at enhancing trade routes through sea, rail, and road networks. PM Modi described the initiative as an “engine for global commerce and sustainable growth.” EU chief von der Leyen highlighted the corridor’s potential to strengthen economic integration and improve security, particularly in the Indo-Pacific and Africa. She also stressed the importance of joint naval exercises in securing global trade routes. With both sides prioritising economic and strategic collaboration, the coming months will be crucial in determining whether they can overcome existing barriers and finalise a historic free trade agreement.



Failed To “Imagine Scenario” Like Oct 7 - Israel Army Probe On Hamas Attack

TPN Correspondent | Tel Aviv

An internal probe by the Israeli army has acknowledged a “complete failure” in preventing Hamas’s October 7, 2023, attack, which led to the deaths of hundreds of Israelis. The report, released on Thursday, highlights intelligence lapses and overconfidence in assessing Hamas’s military capabilities. “October 7 was a complete failure; the IDF failed in fulfilling its mission to protect Israeli civilians,” a senior military official stated, briefing reporters anonymously. The probe, based on 77 investigations into various locations and military bases, revealed that the attack caught Israel completely off guard, both in scale and brutality. According to the report, Hamas’s attack unfolded in three waves. The first involved over 1,000 Nukhba (elite force) militants infiltrating under heavy fire. The second wave saw 2,000 additional fighters crossing into Israeli territory, followed by a third wave involving hundreds more militants and thousands of civilians. In total, approximately 5,000 attackers breached Is-



raeli defenses. The army admitted that it had not anticipated an operation of this scale, with a senior official stating, “We did not even imagine such a scenario.” The Gaza Division was overrun in the early hours of the assault, allowing militants to take control of

key areas and carry out massacres. The findings of the probe are now being presented to those directly affected by the attack. The report underscores the urgent need for military reforms to prevent such breaches in the future.

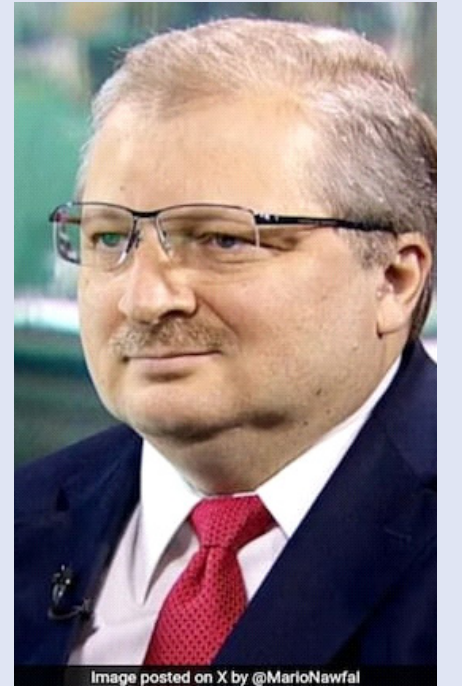
Russia fills US ambassador post after a year-long gap.

TPN Correspondent | Moscow

Russia has appointed Alexander Darchiev as its new ambassador to the United States, filling a position left vacant since last year. The appointment comes as both nations engage in fresh diplomatic talks amid strained relations over the ongoing Ukraine conflict. The Russian foreign ministry confirmed on Friday that the US had officially approved Darchiev’s appointment. “His departure for his place of service in Washington is expected in the near future,” the ministry stated.

Darchiev, a veteran diplomat with experience in Russian-US relations, previously served as director of the Russian foreign ministry’s North American department. His predecessor, Anatoly Antonov, was recalled by President Vladimir Putin last October without an immediate replacement.

The announcement follows recent talks in Istanbul, where Russian and US officials discussed diplomatic issues, including the reciprocal expulsion of embassy staff during US President Joe



Biden’s administration. This development also coincides with US President Donald Trump’s renewed efforts to re-engage with Moscow, including high-level discussions with Putin, marking the first significant dialogue since Russia’s military operation in Ukraine began in 2022.

Nifty Ends In Losses For 5 Consecutive Months, Breaks 28-Year Record



MURTHY NAIDU PAADAM
Stock Market Analyst
+91 988 555 9709

Domestic stock markets suffered a sharp decline on Friday as investor sentiment took a major hit following Donald Trump's announcement of fresh tariffs on Mexico, Canada, and China, set to take effect from March 4. The fears of disruptions in global trade sent shockwaves through markets, leading to a broad-based sell-off across sectors. The Nifty 50 closed down by 420 points at 22,124, while the Sensex plunged 1,414 points to settle at 73,198. The losses extended Nifty's negative streak to five consecutive months, marking its worst stretch in 28 years. The brutal sell-off wiped out ₹10 lakh crore in investor wealth in a single day. Markets opened with a significant gap-down

and remained under selling pressure throughout the session. The BSE Sensex, which closed at 74,612 in the previous session, opened at 74,201 and hit an intraday low of 73,141 before closing deep in the red. The NSE Nifty, which opened at 22,433, saw a day's low of 22,104 before closing at 22,124. **Sector-Wide Sell-Off** Metal, auto, FMCG, realty, and healthcare stocks bore the brunt of the sell-off. The Nifty Midcap and Smallcap indices declined by 2.5%, reflecting broad-based weakness. Market breadth on NSE tilted sharply in favor of sellers, with 2,416 stocks declining against only 489 advancers.

Among sectoral indices, auto, FMCG, IT, media, metal, pharma, realty, healthcare, oil & gas, and PSU banks all faced significant losses. Out of the Nifty50 stocks, only five closed in the green. Shriram Finance, HDFC Bank, Coal India, Trent, and Hindalco were the top gainers. On the losing side, IndusInd Bank, Tech Mahindra, Wipro, Airtel, and Mahindra & Mahindra were among the worst performers. Alkem Laboratories received a GST notice of ₹62.08 crore for FY21 and FY22, adding to regulatory concerns in the pharmaceutical sector. Meanwhile, the rupee weakened by 0.3%, closing at 87.51 against the dollar after a forex swap, reflecting pressure on the currency. Bharti Airtel suffered a sharp decline of 4.59%, ending the session at ₹1,574.

Among brokerage ratings, Jefferies issued a buy call for Crompton Graves with a target price of ₹480 and also recommended Jubilant Foodworks with a target of ₹1,000. Tata Steel witnessed heightened trading activity, with 18 lakh shares changing hands. India VIX, a key measure of market volatility, surged 5% to 14.11, signaling increased uncertainty. HSBC maintained a hold rating on HDFC AMC, setting a target price of ₹4,350. In corporate developments, Solar Industries secured an export order worth ₹2,150 crore, boosting its growth outlook. Bitcoin fell below \$80,000 as risk-off sentiment dominated global markets. TVS Motors expanded its international presence by launching new three-wheelers in Mexico. Fopler India reported a 13% increase in Q4 consolidated profit, with revenue rising 14%. The company also declared a dividend of ₹28 per share, while ITC saw 24 lakh shares change hands during the session. With global uncertainties weighing on investor sentiment, markets remain under pressure, and volatility is expected to persist in the near term.

India's Forex Reserves Surge by USD 4.758 Billion to Reach USD 640.479 Billion



India's foreign exchange reserves saw a notable increase of USD 4.758 billion, reaching USD 640.479 billion for the week ended February 21, according to the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) data released on Friday. This comes after a decline in the previous week, where reserves had dropped by USD 2.54 billion to USD 635.721 billion.

The recent uptick in reserves marks a positive shift after several weeks of decline. The decline had primarily been due to factors like revaluation of foreign currency assets and the RBI's market interventions aimed at reducing volatility in the Indian rupee. India's forex reserves had previously peaked at an all-time high of USD 704.885 billion in September 2024.

The latest increase in reserves was largely driven by a rise in foreign currency assets, which rose by USD 4.251 billion, bringing the total to USD 543.843 billion. These foreign currency assets are a major component of the country's total reserves, and their value can fluctuate based on the appreciation or depreciation of non-US currencies such as the euro, pound, and yen that are part of India's forex reserves.

In addition to foreign currency assets, India's gold reserves also saw a boost. The gold reserves increased by USD 426 million, bringing their total value to USD 74.576 billion for the week. This increase in gold holdings reflects India's strategy to diversify its foreign exchange reserves and provide additional stability to its financial standing.

The Reserve Bank also reported a rise in Special Drawing Rights (SDRs), which increased by USD 73 million to a total of USD 17.971 billion. SDRs are an international reserve asset created by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to supplement its member countries' official reserves.

India's reserve position with the IMF also saw a minor increase of USD 7 million, reaching USD 4.09 billion during the same period. This increase signifies India's ongoing contributions and its standing in the global financial system.

India's growing foreign exchange reserves are viewed as a crucial buffer for the economy, enabling the country to manage external shocks, sustain its import needs, and maintain financial stability. The current level of reserves also provides the central bank with the flexibility to manage currency volatility, especially in times of global economic uncertainty.

Sebi Mandates 30-Day Fund Deployment Timeline for Mutual Fund NFOs

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) has introduced new guidelines for mutual fund houses to deploy funds raised from New Fund Offers (NFOs) within 30 business days from the allotment of units. This decision, announced on Thursday, comes in response to concerns about the potential mis-selling practices by asset management companies (AMCs).



The new directive requires mutual fund houses to specify achievable timelines for fund deployment in the Scheme Information Document (SID) of a new offering. The SID must outline how the funds will be allocated as per the scheme's asset allocation and ensure that the funds raised during the NFO are in line with the deployment schedule. By doing so, Sebi aims to promote transparency and responsible fund management while discouraging any mis-selling of NFOs.

This move comes after rising concerns over the practice of collecting large amounts of money in NFOs without a clear and timely plan for investing the raised capital. Sebi's new rules will help AMCs align their fund-raising strategies with realistic deployment schedules, reducing the risk of mis-selling to investors who might be promised quick returns without proper execution.

With the deadline set at 30 business days, Sebi hopes to ensure that the funds raised through NFOs are invested promptly, which will in turn support the effective management of investor capital. This rule is expected to improve investor confidence, as it guarantees that mutual funds will operate within clear and practical timeframes.

The introduction of these guidelines is also a part of Sebi's broader efforts to enhance the governance of the mutual fund industry, en-

sure better accountability, and safeguard the interests of investors. AMCs now have to provide detailed timelines in the SID, which will be subject to scrutiny, ensuring that funds are deployed efficiently and in accordance with the stated objectives of the scheme.

By tightening these regulations, Sebi aims to create a more disciplined and transparent environment for mutual fund investments in India.

Adani Green Energy Surpasses 12,000 MW Operational Milestone in Renewable Energy

Adani Green Energy Limited (AGEL), India's largest renewable energy company, achieved a significant milestone on Friday by surpassing a 12,000 megawatt (MW) operational portfolio with the commissioning of an additional 275 MW solar capacity at the world's largest renewable energy plant in Khavda, Gujarat. This makes AGEL the first renewable energy company in India to reach such a milestone.

The total operational portfolio of AGEL now stands at 12,258.1 MW, which includes 8,347.5 MW from solar, 1,651 MW from wind, and 2,259.6 MW from wind-solar hybrid capacity. This remarkable achievement highlights AGEL's dedication to renewable energy and sustainable growth. The installed capacity will power over 6.2 million homes and help avoid approximately 22.64 million tonnes of

CO2 emissions annually, which is equivalent to the carbon sequestration achieved by 1,078 million trees.

This achievement marks AGEL's contribution as the largest greenfield expansion in India's renewable energy sector, representing about 10% of the country's installed utility-scale solar and wind capacity. It also accounts for over 13% of India's utility-scale solar installations. AGEL's operations and expansions are integral to India's renewable energy vision, including its goal to reach 500 GW of non-fossil fuel capacity by 2030.

A key component of AGEL's success is the development of the world's largest renewable energy plant at Khavda, Gujarat. Once fully operational, the 30,000 MW plant, spanning 538 square kilometers, will become the

world's largest power plant across all energy sources. The current operational capacity at Khavda stands at 2,824.1 MW.

The continued rapid progress at Khavda reflects AGEL's commitment to scaling up India's renewable energy capacity. AGEL is leveraging the project execution strengths of Adani Infra, the manufacturing capabilities of Adani New Industries Limited, and the operational expertise of Adani Infrastructure Management Services Ltd. to maintain growth momentum.

With AGEL recording the fastest greenfield renewable energy capacity addition in India, the company remains focused on sustaining its growth and contributing to India's clean energy future.





OpenAI has released a research preview of its new GPT-4.5 artificial intelligence (AI) model, marking an advancement over the previous GPT-4 model. This latest iteration is designed to improve performance in natural language conversations, reasoning, and coding tasks. OpenAI has touted GPT-4.5 as the company's "largest and best model for chat yet," highlighting its scaling of both pre-training and post-training techniques. The GPT-4.5 model was developed using cutting-edge techniques such as unsupervised learning alongside traditional supervised fine-tuning (SFT) and reinforcement learning from human feedback (RLHF). These innovations contribute to the model's enhanced conversational and problem-solving abilities. Currently available as a research preview, GPT-4.5 is being rolled out exclusively to ChatGPT Pro subscribers, with plans to extend access to Plus and Team users by next week. Enterprise and Educational users will likely gain access shortly thereafter. OpenAI is using this phase

to better understand the model's strengths and weaknesses. While GPT-4.5 supports several new features, including search, file and image uploads, and Canvas, it does not support multimodal functionalities like Voice Mode, real-time video, or screen sharing in ChatGPT at this stage. For developers, the model is being introduced in several paid tiers, including the Chat Completions API, Assistants API, and Batch API. Internal benchmarking reveals that GPT-4.5 performs better than the o3-mini model in areas such as multilingual tasks (MMMLU) and coding-related benchmarks. However, OpenAI CEO Sam Altman emphasized that GPT-4.5 is not intended to be a reasoning model designed to outperform its predecessors across all metrics. Instead, Altman noted that the model represents a "different kind of intelligence" and focuses on enhancing specific aspects of AI capabilities rather than achieving dominance in all areas.

How to Decode Food Labels : Expert Tips from Nutritionist Amita Gadre

Navigating the grocery store can be overwhelming, especially with the countless products claiming to be "sugar-free," "low-fat," or "multi-grain." While these claims might look appealing, they can sometimes be misleading. Nutritionist Amita Gadre offers expert advice on how to decode food labels and make healthier choices when shopping.

Here are four key tips to help you spot healthy vs. unhealthy foods using food labels:

Don't Fall for Nutrition Claims
Many products boast claims like "sugar-free," "low-fat," or "multi-grain," but Amita advises not to fall for these marketing tactics. While these labels may sound healthy, they often hide unhealthy ingredients. To get a clear picture of what you're consuming, always check the nutritional panel. Hidden sugars, artificial sweeteners, or unnecessary calories might be lurking, even in seemingly "healthier" options.

Check the Ingredients List
When shopping for food, always glance through the ingredients list. The first few ingredients are the most abundant in the product, so be wary if refined flour, added sugars, or hydrogenated oils appear at the



top. These ingredients are often linked to negative health outcomes. Instead, look for products that list whole grains, natural ingredients, and healthy fats at the beginning.

Watch the Serving Size
Serving size is a crucial factor that many overlook. The serving size listed on the package helps you understand the number of calories you'll consume in one portion. Amita suggests being cautious with small serving sizes, as they can often mislead you into thinking you're eating fewer calories than you actually are. Always be mindful of how much you're actually consuming to avoid unintentionally overeating.

Monitor Added Sugars, Sodium, and Fats

Be vigilant about the added sugars, sodium, and fats in a product. According to Amita, added sugar should not exceed 10g per serving, and sodium content should be under 120mg. When it comes to fats, avoid trans fats altogether and limit saturated fats. These ingredients can contribute to various health issues when consumed in excess.

By following these simple tips, you can make more informed choices and stay on track with your health goals while navigating the aisles of your local grocery store.



As winter comes to an early end in North India, February 2025 has become one of the warmest in Delhi in the last 15 years. This has led to widespread speculation that an early conclusion to winter could result in a scorching summer. However, a detailed analysis by *The Times of India* (TOI) of 54 years of temperature data suggests that a warm February does not necessarily lead to a hotter-than-usual April or summer. TOI examined the average maximum temperatures in north India from 1971 onward, specifically focusing on the 10 warmest Februaries recorded during this period. Interestingly, in half of these years, the following April was warmer or significantly warmer than usual. However, in the other half, April temperatures were either close to normal or even below average in one instance. This analysis focuses on February and April because February marks the end of

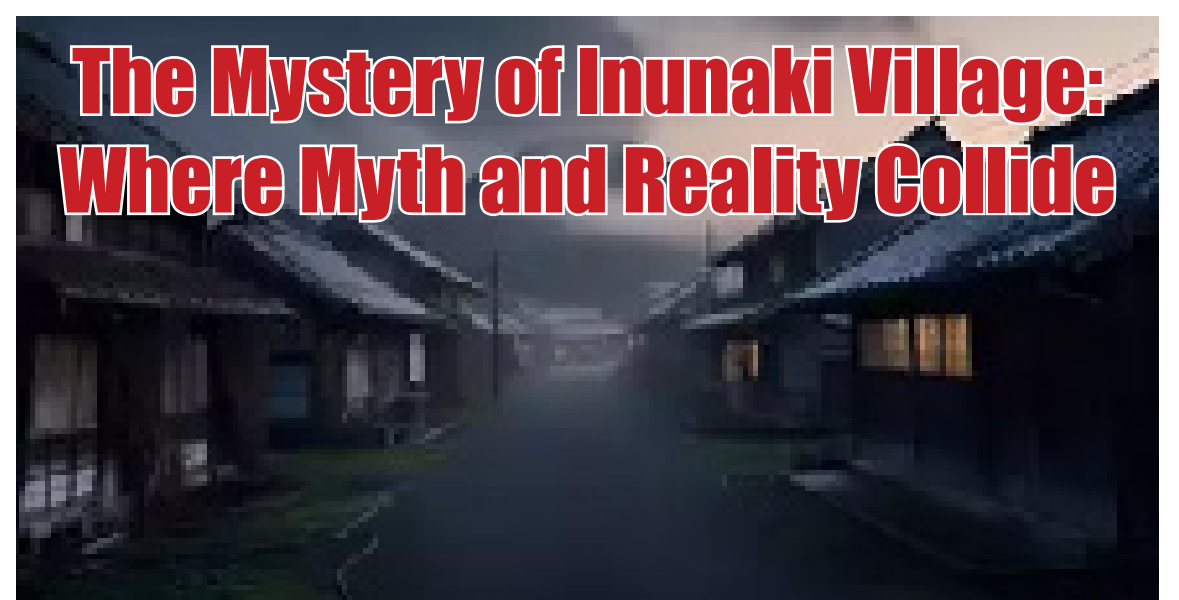
winter, while April signifies the beginning of summer in the region. March is typically a transitional month. Despite the early warmth in February, there is no clear, consistent pattern linking it to the subsequent heat of April. Experts explain that the temperatures in February and April are influenced by multiple factors. Large-scale climate phenomena such as El Niño or La Niña events, along with regional weather conditions like the frequency, intensity, and duration of western disturbances, play a significant role in shaping the weather in both months. Thus, while a warm February may seem to hint at a hot summer, it is not a reliable predictor on its own. In conclusion, the connection between a warm February and a scorching April is not straightforward, and other weather patterns and global climatic conditions must also be considered to predict the severity of the upcoming summer.

Russian man dumps Porsche in trash after wife refuses, leaving internet stunned



In a dramatic turn of events, a Russian man made headlines for discarding a luxury Porsche Macan, worth over a crore, in a dumpster after his wife rejected it as a Valentine's Day gift. The grand gesture, meant to repair their troubled marriage, ended in a shocking display of heartbreak and extravagance, sparking online debates about wasteful gestures and the role of material gifts in relationships. The incident unfolded when the man, hoping to salvage his marriage, purchased the expensive SUV as a symbol of reconciliation. However, his wife dismissed the gift as a mere materialistic offering, expressing that it was not a true gesture of love. Frustrated and hurt by her response, the man took a drastic step—he discarded the luxury car in a dumpster, still adorned with a large red bow. The Porsche remained there for 12 days, attracting the attention of passersby and the media. Onlookers were left astounded

by the sight of the pristine vehicle, once a symbol of wealth and affection, treated like refuse. The event quickly went viral, sparking widespread online discussions. Some people criticized the man's actions as an impulsive overreaction, pointing out the wastefulness of discarding such an expensive gift. Others speculated about deeper issues in the marriage, suggesting that the Porsche was more of a desperate attempt to fix underlying problems rather than an authentic expression of love. This bizarre act has reignited debates about the role of material gifts in relationships. While some believe that lavish presents are a poor substitute for genuine emotional connection, others argue that such extravagant gestures, when properly received, can be meaningful. The fate of the Porsche Macan remains unclear, but the story has certainly left a lasting impression, highlighting the complexities of love, materialism, and the lengths to which people will go to express or reject affection.



Inunaki Village, a place steeped in mystery and chilling legends, has long captured the fascination of thrill-seekers and horror enthusiasts. Located in Japan, this village has earned a notorious reputation, with some claiming that the government itself warns anyone who dares to enter that they may never return. As strange as it may sound, large signboards placed outside the village reportedly state that once you step inside, Japan's jurisdiction ends, and you are no longer within the country's borders. These eerie claims have sparked interest around the world, with stories circulating about the terrifying events that allegedly occur within the village. According to some accounts, no one who has ventured into Inunaki Village has ever returned to tell the tale. For years, the place has been a source of horror stories, urban legends, and speculation, attracting adventurers and curious onlookers eager to uncover the truth behind the rumors. What makes Inunaki Village so captivating

is its dark history, with whispers of gruesome events that have fueled its frightening reputation. One of the most disturbing rumors suggests that inside the village, humans are not only killed but tortured for the amusement of others. Some even claim that Satanic rituals take place within the village, where victims are subjected to unimaginable suffering. Those who have dared to venture into the village report hearing unsettling screams and eerie noises echoing from within, adding to its sinister allure. Despite these chilling tales, some still find themselves drawn to the village, compelled by the lure of the unknown. Whether it's the supernatural pull, the village's tragic past, or the sheer thrill of exploring an allegedly cursed place, Inunaki Village continues to intrigue and terrify. While no one can say for certain what happens within the boundaries of this mysterious village, the blend of myth and reality ensures that its dark legend will persist for years to come.

PCB Announces PSL 10 Schedule, Clashes with IPL 2025 Dates



The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) announced the schedule for the 10th edition of the Pakistan Super League (PSL), set to begin on April 11, 2025, with a match between defending champions Islamabad United and two-time champions Lahore Qalandars at Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium. The tournament will run until May 18, with Lahore's Gaddafi Stadium hosting 13 matches, including two Eliminator and the final. The PSL's timing clashes with the Indian Premier League (IPL), scheduled between March 22 and May 25. The PSL will feature 34 matches across Karachi, Lahore, Multan, and Rawalpindi, with three double-headers and high-profile international cricketers. PSL CEO Salman Naseer emphasized the tournament's global recognition and hinted at the expansion of the league by adding two more teams next year.

Shubman Gill To Captain India Against New Zealand?



Shubman Gill could step in as India's captain for the final Group A match against New Zealand in the Champions Trophy, as Rohit Sharma's fitness remains a concern. According to reports, Rohit, still struggling with a hamstring issue sustained in the previous match against Pakistan, might be rested for the game since India's progression to the semi-finals is already secured.

This move would give Gill, the vice-captain, a chance to lead, offering a glimpse into his potential future as captain. Rohit, who missed a training session on Wednesday, fueling concerns about his hamstring, could also lead to changes in India's batting lineup. KL Rahul may open with Gill, with Rishabh Pant potentially replacing Rahul as the finisher.

Real Madrid Legends vs Barcelona Legends: Historic Clash Set for April 6 in India



On April 6, football fans in India will witness one of the greatest rivalries in world football come to life as Real Madrid Legends face Barcelona Legends at the DY Patil Stadium in Navi Mumbai. This marks the first-ever clash of these iconic teams in India, offering fans a unique opportunity to see football royalty

in action. Confirmed participants include Luís Figo, Fernando Morientes, and Rivaldo, with more superstars to be announced soon. The match is not just a football event, but a celebration of the sport's history, highlighting the legendary players and teams that have captivated fans for generations.

John Zaidi, CEO of The Sports Front, highlighted the significance of the event for Indian football fans, who will get to witness this historic encounter on their home turf. Fans can register for early ticket access through the District app by Zomato, with the official ticket sales starting soon.

Phoebe Litchfield Praises Gujarat Giants' Bowlers After Dominant Win Over RCB



Gujarat Giants secured a commanding six-wicket victory over Royal Challengers Bangalore (RCB) in the Women's Premier League (WPL) on Friday, with their bowlers setting up the win. Chasing 126, Gujarat reached the target in just 16.3 overs, marking their second victory of the tournament. Phoebe Litchfield credited the Gujarat bowling attack for their strong performance, highlighting key breakthroughs

in the powerplay by Kashvee Gautam and Deandra Dottin. "Our bowlers have been outstanding, they won us the game today for sure," Litchfield said. RCB struggled early, losing three wickets in the first 25 runs, with Gujarat's bowlers – including Dottin and Tanuja Kanwar – taking control. In response, Gujarat's captain Ashleigh Gardner anchored the chase with a brilliant 58 off 31 balls, supported by Litchfield's 30* to seal the win.

Griekspoor Saves 4 Match Points to Defeat Medvedev and Reach Dubai Semifinals



Tallon Griekspoor pulled off an incredible comeback, saving four match points to defeat top-seeded Daniil Medvedev 2-6, 7-6 (7), 7-5 and reach the semifinals at the Dubai Championships. The Dutchman, ranked No. 47, admitted he was fortunate to still be in the tournament after his hard-fought second-set win. "I probably should have been on the plane to Indian Wells already," he said. Griekspoor's victory over Medvedev is his best-ranked win to date, following his earlier triumphs over Roman Safiullin and defending champion Ugo Humbert. He will now face fourth-seeded Stefanos Tsitsipas in the semifinals, after Tsitsipas defeated Matteo Berrettini 7-6 (5), 1-6, 6-4.

Griekspoor Saves 4 Match Points to Defeat Medvedev and Reach Dubai Semifinals

The Skyesports Souvenir 2025 National Esports Championship (NEC) made its debut at Bengaluru GAFX 2025 from February 27 to March 1. Backed by the Karnataka government and organized in partnership with ABAI, the tournament is a significant step towards establishing Karnataka as a competitive gaming hub. Headlined by Counter-Strike 2, a popular esports title, the championship features top teams such as Flashback Gaming, Big W, Victores Sumus, and

Gods Reign. The event, held at The Lalit Ashok in Bengaluru, offers a prize pool of INR 5 lakhs and serves as a Valve Ranked Event, giving players a shot at global Counter-Strike 2 leaderboards. Karnataka's support for esports, part of its long-standing leadership in the AVGC sector, was highlighted by Shri Priyank Kharge, Minister for IT & BT, emphasizing the state's focus on esports as a skill-based discipline.





Kiara Advani and Sidharth Malhotra Announce Pregnancy: "The Greatest Gift Of Our Lives"

Kiara Advani and Sidharth Malhotra, who celebrated their second wedding anniversary on February 7, 2025, have announced they are expecting their first child. The couple shared the exciting news with a heartwarming post on Instagram, captioning, "The greatest gift of our lives. Coming soon." Kiara marked their anniversary with a playful video, recreating a memorable wedding moment, while Sidharth shared two unseen wedding photos, expressing his love. The couple married on February 7, 2023, in a private ceremony in Jaisalmer. On the work front, Kiara is set to star in Toxic, War 2, and Don 3, while Sidharth's upcoming project includes VVAN: Force of the Forest, releasing in November 2025. Fans are excited for both their personal and professional milestones!

"Sankranti Ki Vastunnam" Premieres Simultaneously on ZEE5 and ZEE Telugu on March 1

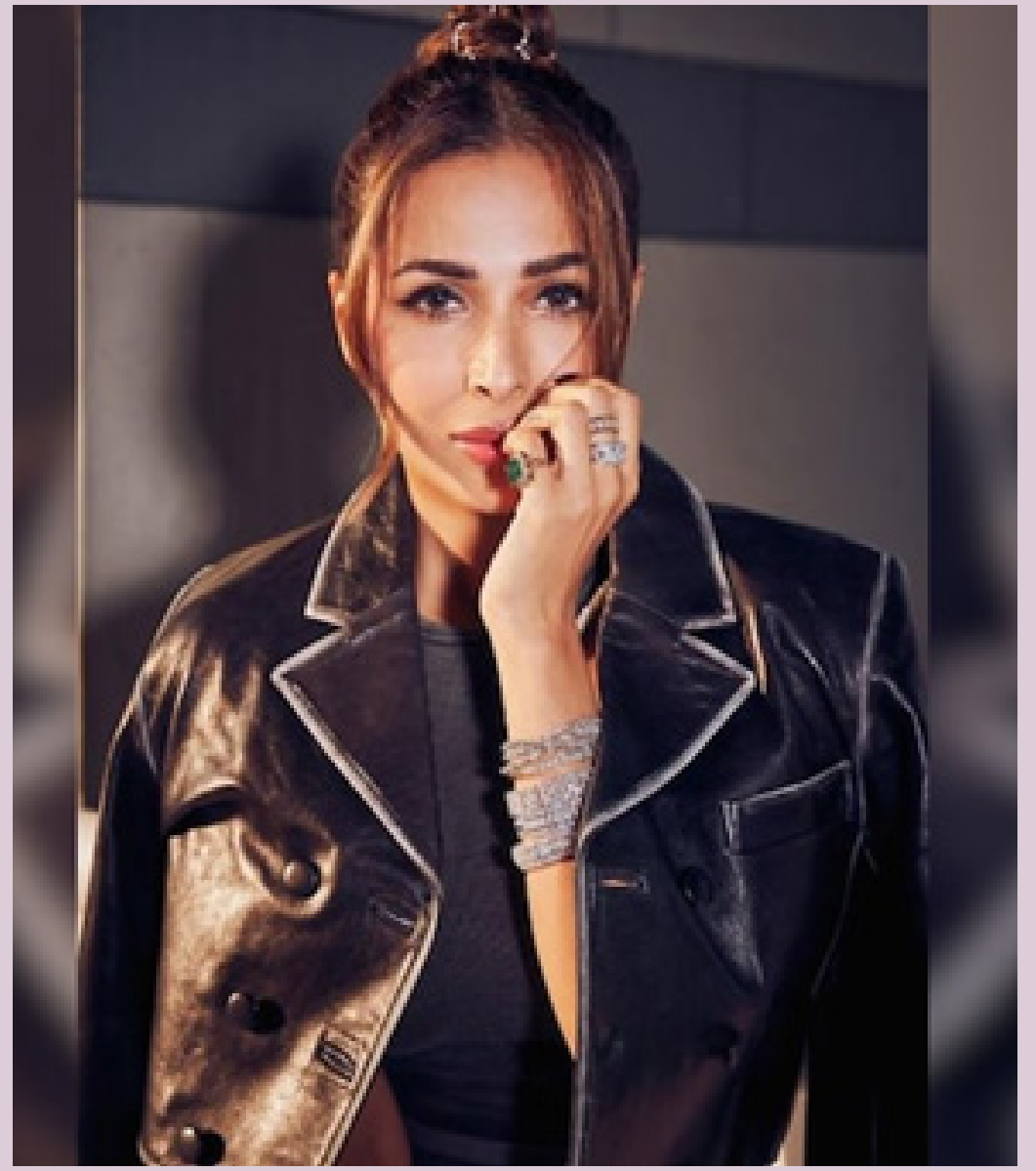


The much-anticipated comedy entertainer Sankranti Ki Vastunnam, directed by Anil Ravipudi and starring Venkatesh, is set to premiere on both ZEE5 and ZEE Telugu on March 1, 2025, at 6 PM. After its massive success in theatres, the film will be available in Telugu, Hindi, Tamil, Kannada, and Malayalam dubbed versions. Venkatesh, who plays the lead role of Raju, expressed his joy in portraying a character that brings laughter to the audience. Director Anil Ravipudi praised the film's stellar cast, including Aishwarya Rajesh and Meenakshi Chaudhari, highlighting its appeal. With an exciting dual release, Sankranti Ki Vastunnam promises to entertain audiences on TV and OTT platforms.

Malaika Arora Shares Cryptic Post on Love After Breakup with Arjun Kapoor

Malaika Arora's recent Instagram post has sparked interest, as the actress shared a cryptic quote about love being the "real luxury" in life. The quote emphasized the importance of time, health, meaningful conversations, and the people you love. Malaika's reflective post comes after her breakup with Arjun Kapoor last year. Arjun, during a recent interview, spoke about his views on relationships, highlighting

comfort, silence, and mutual understanding as key elements. Despite their split, the two were seen together recently on India's Best Dancer vs Super Dancer, where Arjun made a witty remark about Malaika's performance. Malaika and Arjun began dating in 2018, frequently making headlines for their public outings. Though neither has openly discussed their breakup, Arjun confirmed his single status at a Diwali party last year.



Shree Vishnu's 'Mrityunjay' Title Teaser Released on His Birthday



Actor Shree Vishnu, known for his unique style and versatile performances, has unveiled the title teaser of his 18th film, Mrityunjay, on his birthday. Directed by Sha Kiran, this investigative thriller is produced by Sandeep Guna and Vinay Chilakapati

under the Light Box Media and Picture Perfect Entertainment banners. Reba John stars opposite Vishnu in the lead role. The teaser hints at Vishnu's role as both an investigator and a prisoner, with the dialogue "Game over Jay" and "Until I say, the game isn't finished"

hinting at an intriguing character arc. The film's post-production is ongoing, with cinematography by Vidhyasagar and music by Kalabhairava. The release date will be announced soon, adding to the excitement surrounding this highly anticipated project.

Akshay Kumar on Reuniting with Madhoo After 20 Years in Kannappa: "She Hasn't Changed At All"



Akshay Kumar is excited to reunite with actress Madhoo after 20 years in the upcoming Telugu film Kannappa, which marks his debut in the Telugu film industry. During the trailer launch, Akshay reminisced about their past collaborations in films like Elaan and Zaalim and praised Madhoo for her timeless beauty. He humorously remarked, "It seems she goes into the fridge to sleep at night," adding that she hasn't changed at all. In Kannappa, Akshay plays the role of Shiva, while Vishnu Manchu stars in the titular role. Directed by Mukesh Kumar Singh, the film also features Mohan Babu, R. Sarathkumar, and others in supporting roles, with special appearances by Mohanlal, Prabhas, and Kajal Aggarwal.

Madhu Chopra Reveals Priyanka Chopra's Difficulties on Dostana Set: "If You Want Priyanka To Die On..."



Madhu Chopra recently shared an insightful story about Priyanka Chopra's challenges while filming Dostana in an interview with Leheren Retro. Priyanka, who was starring alongside John Abraham and Abhishek Bachchan, fell ill with a high fever during the shoot. When Madhu called director Tarun Manshukhani to request time off for Priyanka, he sarcastically replied, "How convenient." Madhu, upset by his response, fiercely defended her daughter, saying, "If you want her to die on your set, I'll send her. But if something happens, you'll be responsible." Madhu revealed that Tarun later teased her, recalling her strong remark each time they met. This candid conversation highlighted the difficulties Priyanka faced while working on Dostana despite her commitment.

Oscars 2025 to Celebrate James Bond Legacy with Tribute to Its Iconic Music

The 97th Academy Awards will pay tribute to the legendary music of the James Bond franchise, recognizing its timeless influence on cinema. The special segment will honor long-time producers Barbara Broccoli and Michael G. Wilson, who were awarded Honorary Oscars at the 15th Governors Awards. This tribute will celebrate the unforgettable theme songs that have become synonymous with the 007 franchise, showcasing the grandeur and cultural impact of Bond films. While details are still limited, it remains unclear whether the tribute will focus on Oscar-nominated and winning songs or feature all 26 Bond theme songs. The tribute promises to bring together the world of cinema and music in a spectacular celebration.

