



Weather Forecast

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

Amit Shah Reviews Delhi Law And Order In High-Level Meeting



Home Minister chairs crucial meeting on Delhi's security and governance.

"Illegal Migrants Should Be Deported": Amit Shah Told Delhi Police

CM Rekha Gupta highlights lack of cooperation from previous AAP govt.

Discussions focus on women's safety, PWD issues, and international gangs.



TPN Correspondent | New Delhi
Union Home Minister Amit Shah chaired a high-level meeting on Friday to review the law and order situation in the national capital. Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta, Delhi Home Minister Ashish Sood, and senior officials from the Delhi government attended the meeting. The Union Home Secretary, Intelligence Bureau (IB) Chief, and senior officers from the Ministry of Home Affairs were also present. The Union Home Minister stressed during the meeting that the issue of illegal intruders is directly linked to national security and should be dealt

with strictly. "The illegal migrants in the city should be identified and deported," was the clear direction. According to sources, Mr Shah was clear in his instructions to have a "top to bottom and bottom to top" approach in dealing with the illegal occupancy issue in Delhi. Talking to the media after the meeting, Delhi CM Rekha Gupta says, "... Whenever the Government of India sought details on small issues that were causing big problems to Delhi, the then (AAP) government of Delhi never cooperated on it... Detailed discussions were held on where and what things need to be fixed... Primary dis-

ussions were held in Delhi from the point of view of women's safety, and soon, work will be done on making policies on this... Solutions to issues related to PWD were discussed, and national security and international gangs, which are a problem for the security system of Delhi, there was also an in-depth discussion on that..." The meeting also covered infrastructural concerns related to the Public Works Department (PWD), along with a detailed assessment of national security threats. Officials examined the growing influence of international criminal networks operating in Delhi, with a focus on formulating strategies to counter their impact. Sources indicate that concrete policy decisions will be implemented soon to strengthen security measures, ensure better coordination between central and state agencies, and address pressing civic issues in the national capital.

Injustice to Opposition

Atishi writes to Speaker on AAP MLAs' suspension

Atishi calls suspension of 21 AAP MLAs an "injustice" and a "blow to democracy."

MLAs were suspended for three days for disrupting the LG's address.



TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

Leader of Opposition in the Delhi Assembly, Atishi, has written to Speaker Vijender Gupta, calling the suspension of 21 Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) MLAs "injustice to the opposition" and a "severe blow to democratic values." She questioned the fairness of the action and alleged that the ruling party was being protected while the opposition faced restrictions. The suspension came after the MLAs protested against the alleged removal of B R Ambedkar's portrait from the Chief Minister's office and disrupted Lieutenant Governor V K Saxena's inaugural address to the newly constituted House. While 21 out of 22 AAP MLAs were suspended, Okhla MLA Amanatullah Khan was spared as he was not present during the protest. The motion for suspension was moved by Minister Parvesh Verma.

Atishi accused the Speaker of selective action, claiming that while the ruling party MLAs chanted "Modi-Modi" during the session, the AAP legislators were punished for raising "Jai Bhim" slogans in Ambedkar's honor. She further alleged that suspended MLAs were stopped from staging a peaceful protest in front of the Gandhi statue inside the assembly premises, which she called an "insult" to democracy and the people's mandate. She reminded the Speaker that even when he was suspended in the past, he was allowed to enter the assembly premises and register his protest. Atishi highlighted that in Parliament, suspended MPs are still allowed to demonstrate at the Gandhi statue, and questioned why the same courtesy was not extended to the AAP MLAs. Following the BJP-AAP face-off in the Assembly, the House session has been extended by two days, until March 1.

Centre Appoints Finance Secretary Tuhin Kanta Pandey as New SEBI Chief



He replaces Madhabi Puri Buch, whose term ends this month.

Pandey played a key role in Air India's privatization and LIC's listing.

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.

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Who Will Head BJP After JP Nadda?

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, 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

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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 econ-

omy 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

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"No Toilets In 21 AAP Mohalla Clinics, Covid Fund Unused": CAG Report

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“No Toilets In 21 AAP Mohalla Clinics, Covid Fund Unused”: CAG Report

Underutilization of ₹787.91 crore Covid fund by AAP govt

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

A report by the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG), tabled in the Delhi Assembly on Friday, has exposed severe shortcomings in the city's health infrastructure under the previous AAP government. The findings indicate under-utilization of Covid relief funds, a shortage of hospital staff and beds, and critical deficiencies in medical facilities across government hospitals.

According to the report, the AAP government used only ₹582.84 crore out of the ₹787.91 crore released by the Centre during the Covid-19 pandemic, with ₹30.52 crore for human resources remaining unspent. Additionally, only ₹83.14 crore of the ₹119.95 crore allocated for medical supplies, including personal protective equipment (PPE), was utilized, despite a widespread shortage during the crisis.

The report also highlighted the alarming state of government hospitals, revealing that only 1,357 hospital beds were added between 2016 and 2021 against



the planned 32,000. Bed occupancy in some hospitals ranged between 101% and 189%, reflecting the strain on medical infrastructure. Staff shortages were also significant, with over 2,000 vacancies across five institutions, including Lok Nayak Hospital and Chacha Nehru Bal Chikitsalaya. At Janakpuri and Rajiv Gandhi Super Speciality Hospitals, 50% of doctor posts remain vacant, along with a 73% shortage in nursing staff. Patients requiring major surgeries, particularly burn victims, face extended waiting periods of six to 12 months due to these shortages. The report further noted that 14 out of 27 audited hospitals

lacked ICUs, 16 had no blood banks, and 12 did not have ambulances.

The AAP government's flagship 'Mohalla Clinics' also came under scrutiny, with the CAG stating that 21 clinics lacked toilets, 15 had no power backup, and 12 were not disabled-friendly.

With the report expected to spark fierce debates in the Assembly, the BJP has intensified its attack on the AAP leadership. The ruling party has vowed to use the findings to expose alleged corruption and mismanagement. Meanwhile, AAP leaders, led by ex-Chief Minister Atishi, staged a protest outside the Assembly against the suspension of 21 lawmakers.

As the political battle intensifies, the BJP is set to table more reports in the coming days, including one on the alleged liquor excise policy scam linked to former CM Arvind Kejriwal's arrest. The Assembly session is expected to be stormy, with both parties gearing up for heated exchanges.

SC Rejects Plea on Crowd Management Over Delhi Railway Station Stampede

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

Supreme Court of India dismissed a petition seeking directions for improved crowd management at New Delhi Railway Station following a tragic stampede that claimed at least 18 lives. The petition had claimed that over 200 people had died in the incident. However, a bench consisting of Justices B R Gavai and P K Mishra questioned the validity of this claim, asking the counsel whether there was any proof to substantiate such a high death toll.

The petitioner's counsel argued that several videos of the stampede had

been shared on X (formerly Twitter), and the Railways had issued notices to witnesses. The bench responded by stating that those witnesses could approach the court with their grievances if needed. It further inquired if the petitioner believed that the authorities were neglecting their duties in managing the crowd, to which the counsel said the petition was focused on ensuring proper implementation of the National Disaster Management Act and relevant crowd management rules.

Despite the counsel's arguments, the bench dismissed the plea and suggested that the petitioner could approach

the Delhi High Court with the issue. The counsel also pointed out that all states and Union Territories had been named as party respondents in the case. However, the Supreme Court found no need to intervene at that moment.

Earlier, on February 19, the Delhi High Court had directed the Railways to look into measures regarding the maximum number of passengers allowed on trains and the sale of platform tickets. This order stemmed from a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) filed in the wake of the stampede that occurred on February 15 at the New Delhi Railway Station. The incident had taken place amid a surge of passengers heading to Prayagraj for the Maha Kumbh festival, highlighting the urgent need for better crowd control systems at major transportation hubs.

India-EU Trade and Technology Council assesses digital, green, and trade sectors

- India-EU meet reviews digitalisation, green energy progress
- Talks cover semiconductors, AI, 6G, and EV collaboration
- TTC strengthens trade, tech, and investment partnerships



TPN Correspondent | Delhi

The second ministerial meeting of the India-EU Trade and Technology Council (TTC) took place on Friday, where both sides assessed the progress made on digitalisation, green energy, and trade, while exploring new opportunities in emerging sectors such as semiconductors, artificial intelligence (AI), and 6G telecommunications.

The TTC, established in 2022, aims to oversee cooperation between India and the European Union (EU) in key areas, including digital and green technologies, trade, investment, and resilient supply chains. The EU has created such a body only with India and the United States, highlighting the importance of the India-EU partnership.

The meeting in New Delhi was attended by Indian leaders including External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar, Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal, and Electronics and Information Technology Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw. The EU delegation was led by European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen and included senior EU officials like Technology Commissioner Henna Virkkunen, Trade Commissioner Maroš Šefčovič, and Innovation Commissioner Ekaterina Zaharieva.

In a statement on X, Jaishankar

highlighted the significant progress made in areas like digital partnerships, clean and green energy initiatives, and trade investments. Both sides also discussed promising opportunities in next-generation technologies, including semiconductors, AI, 6G telecommunications, electric vehicles (EVs), green hydrogen, and enhancing trade relations.

Jaishankar expressed confidence that the discussions would lead to concrete actions that would further strengthen the bilateral relationship. The ongoing collaboration aims to not only address the immediate concerns in the digital and green energy sectors but also to build resilience in supply chains and foster mutually beneficial trade practices.

This meeting is a significant step in advancing the India-EU strategic partnership, with both sides eager to capitalize on emerging technologies to drive innovation and economic growth. The focus on sustainable energy, advanced telecommunications, and high-tech manufacturing positions the TTC as a crucial forum for addressing global challenges and shaping the future of both economies.

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

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 macro-economic 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

ing the need to invest in human capital, create better job opportunities, and increase female labor 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.

Who Will Head BJP After JP Nadda?

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.

Centre Appoints Finance Secretary Tuhin Kanta Pandey as New SEBI Chief

Pandey holds master's degrees in economics and business administration from Panjab University and the University of Birmingham.

ham. His leadership at SEBI is expected to influence regulatory strategies in India's evolving financial markets.

Ashwini Vaishnaw Questions Rahul Gandhi's Stance On 3-Language Policy In TN

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw on Thursday challenged Leader of Opposition (LoP) Rahul Gandhi over his stance on the Tamil Nadu government's resistance to the three-language policy. In a post on X (formerly Twitter), Vaishnaw responded to Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin's criticism of the policy, which the state government sees as a push for a “monolithic Hindi identity.”

Vaishnaw, addressing Stalin's post, stated, “Poor governance will never be hidden by such shallow attempts to divide society. It will be interesting to know what the Leader of the Opposition, @RahulGandhiJi, has to say on this subject. Does he, as MP of a Hindi-speaking seat, agree?” Vaishnaw's remark comes amid growing tension over the proposed policy, which aims to promote Hindi alongside regional languages in educational systems.

The controversy intensified after Chief



Minister MK Stalin shared a post on X, in which he argued that the promotion of Hindi was endangering many regional languages. Stalin wrote, “My dear sisters and brothers from other states, ever wondered how many Indian languages Hindi has swallowed? Bhojpuri, Maithili, Awadhi, Braj, Bundeli, Garhwali, Kumaoni, Magahi, Marwari, Malvi, Chhattisgarhi, Santali, Angika, Ho, Kharia, Kortha, Kurmali, Kurukh, Mundari and many more are now gasping for survival.”

He continued, warning that the push for a “monolithic Hindi identity” was a threat to these languages, asserting that states like Uttar Pradesh and Bihar, once rich in diverse languages, now see them as relics of the past. Stalin emphasized that Tamil Nadu resists such central policies because the state is aware of where this could lead.

Tamil Nadu's political parties and various local organizations have voiced concerns over what they perceive as the imposition of Hindi by the central government, which they argue undermines the cultural and linguistic diversity of the state. However, the Union government has consistently clarified that it respects the Tamil language and is not attempting to force Hindi upon Tamil Nadu. The debate over the three-language policy remains a sensitive issue in the state, reflecting broader concerns about linguistic identity and cultural preservation.

Tharoor's Cryptic Post Amid Congress Rift, Praises LDF and Modi's US Visit

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

Thiruvananthapuram MP Shashi Tharoor has found himself under scrutiny recently due to his praise for the LDF government in Kerala and his comments lauding Prime Minister Narendra Modi's recent US visit. Tharoor, known for his independent views, is expected to remain unapologetic if his colleagues reprimand him during a crucial meeting of Congress leaders from Kerala, scheduled to take place later today. The meeting, which will include party top brass like Rahul Gandhi and Mallikarjun Kharge, is aimed at preparing for the Kerala Assembly election next year.

Tharoor's remarks, particularly his admiration for the LDF government's efforts to attract investment to Kerala and his photograph with Union Minister Piyush Goyal, have drawn criticism



from within his party. His praise for Modi's foreign diplomacy, which has also sparked debate, has further fueled tensions. However, Tharoor has made it clear that he stands by his views, asserting that his conscience is clear. In response to the controversy, Tharoor posted a cryptic message on X, quoting a line from Rudyard Kipling's poem “If”: “If you can keep your head when those about you are losing theirs, and blaming it on you...” Tharoor has long admired this poem, describing it as a

source of strength during times of adversity. In a 2008 piece, he explained how the poem resonated with him, emphasizing the importance of standing firm in one's beliefs, even when faced with criticism, distortion, or doubt.

Tharoor is set to attend today's meeting at the Congress headquarters, “Indira Bhavan,” at 4 pm, where he is expected to address his remarks about the Modi government and the LDF. The primary purpose of the gathering, however, is to assess the party's preparedness for the upcoming Assembly elections in Kerala.

Kerala Congress leader Ramesh Chennithala reiterated the importance of the meeting, stating that it was convened to ensure the party is well-prepared for the 2026 elections, with the AICC aiming to strengthen Congress' position in the state.

Rekha Gupta Reverses AAP Stand, To Sign Pact With Centre For Health Centres



- Delhi to join PM-ABHIM
- Govt withdraws SC petition
- 1,139 health centers planned

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

The Delhi government, under Chief Minister Rekha Gupta, is set to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Centre for the implementation of the PM-Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission (PM-ABHIM), marking a significant departure from the previous AAP government's opposition to the scheme.

This reversal became evident when the Delhi government withdrew a petition from the Supreme Court on Friday, where it had contested the Delhi High Court's direction to enter into an agreement with the Centre for the ABHIM scheme. A Bench of Justices B.R. Gavai and P.K. Mishra allowed the withdrawal after Delhi's counsel, Advocate Jyoti Mendiratta, confirmed that the government would proceed with the implementation of the scheme.

The High Court had earlier directed the Delhi government to implement the PM-ABHIM on a pilot basis, following a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) filed in 2017. The petition argued that the non-implementation of the scheme in Delhi was unjustified, especially as the scheme was already benefiting resi-

dents of 33 states and Union Territories.

Gupta's decision to work in close cooperation with Prime Minister Modi's government aligns with the BJP's promise to enhance healthcare services in Delhi. During her first Cabinet meeting, Chief Minister Gupta introduced a blueprint to activate 1,139 urban public health centers, also known as Ayushman Argya Mandirs (U-AAMs), under the ABHIM initiative. The Centre is set to invest Rs 2,406 crore into this project.

Additionally, the Health Department has been tasked with setting up 11 model U-AAMs, one in each district, within the next 30 days, under the supervision of District Magistrates. Plans also include constructing 413 new Urban Health Centres to complement the existing 553 Mohalla Clinics, which will be upgraded to U-AAMs.

The Gupta government is also focused on expanding health coverage in affluent areas and gated communities, aiming to enroll 1 lakh Ayushman Bharat beneficiaries within a month and increase the number of Accredited Social Health Activists (ASHA) for greater outreach.

'BJP's anti-Dalit mindset: Rahul Gandhi asks PM Modi to fill NCSC vacancies urgently



TPN Correspondent | Delhi

Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi, on Friday criticized the Narendra Modi-led NDA government for leaving key positions vacant in the National Commission for Scheduled Castes (NCSC), accusing the government of undermining the rights of Dalits. He claimed that this neglect was indicative of the BJP's "anti-Dalit mindset."

In a social media post, Gandhi highlighted that two critical posts in the NCSC had been vacant for over a year, leaving the commission unable to effectively protect the rights of Dalits. The Congress leader emphasized that this failure to fill vacancies was a direct reflection of the government's disregard for Dalit welfare. "Look at another proof of the anti-Dalit mindset of the BJP government! The National Commission for Scheduled Castes, which protects the rights of Dalits, has been deliberately neglected—two of its key posts have been lying vacant for the last year," he stated in a post on X.

The NCSC is a constitutional body tasked with safeguarding the interests of Scheduled Castes and addressing their grievances. Gandhi's criticism is focused on the weakening

of this important institution, which he argued is a direct attack on the constitutional and social rights of Dalits. He further stressed the urgency of filling the vacancies to ensure that the commission continues its work without any disruption. Gandhi's comments add to the ongoing political discourse on Dalit rights in the country and the role of the government in protecting vulnerable communities.

The Congress leader's allegations have drawn attention to what he perceives as the government's systemic neglect of Dalit issues, citing this as an example of the broader concerns regarding the BJP's stance on social justice. Gandhi has previously been outspoken on issues related to Dalit rights and has called for greater action to protect the marginalized communities within the country.

This statement comes amid growing scrutiny of the Modi government's policies and the opposition's efforts to rally support for social justice issues ahead of future elections. The failure to fill these vacancies has raised questions about the government's commitment to upholding the rights of Dalits and whether it reflects broader ideological concerns.

Himachal Asks Temples For "Contributions", BJP Fires 'Sanatan Dharma' Shot

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

Facing a severe financial crisis exacerbated by widespread landslides and flash floods over the past two years, the Himachal Pradesh government has turned to temples for financial assistance to fund key welfare programs. This move has sparked controversy, particularly among the opposition BJP, which has strongly criticized the use of temple trust funds for state schemes.

The state's Social Justice and Empowerment Department issued a notification on January 29, seeking contributions from temple trusts for two major programs: Mukhya Mantri Sukh Ashray and Mukhya Mantri Sukh Shiksha Yojana. These programs, introduced in 2023 and 2024, aim to provide welfare support to children and education initiatives. The notification stressed that any contributions from temple trusts must first be approved by the respective trusts, in compliance with the laws governing them.

BJP leaders, including former Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur, condemned the government's decision. Thakur accused the ruling Congress of hypocrisy, pointing to their earlier criticism of 'sanatan dharma' while now seeking financial help from temples. He described the use of temple funds for regular govern-

ment schemes as "shocking" and argued that such donations should be reserved for emergencies, like natural disasters or the pandemic.

In response, Chief Minister Sukhvinder Sukhu's government defended the move. Pratibha Singh, the state Congress chief, emphasized that donations were being sought from the public in general, not exclusively from temples. She highlighted the good intentions behind the schemes, aimed at supporting children and improving their lives. Revenue Minister Jagat Singh Negi also pointed out that the previous BJP government had accepted temple donations during the pandemic, including a Rs 25 lakh contribution from the Kali Bari Mandir.

Himachal Pradesh's financial woes have been further underscored by the state's need to defer salaries and allowances for its ministers and MLAs, as announced in August 2024. The state has also faced devastating flash floods and landslides, with the most recent disasters occurring in Kullu district in January 2025, amplifying the urgency for funding.

This financial struggle highlights the challenges the government faces as it seeks resources for critical welfare programs amid ongoing natural calamities.



Maha Kumbh Of Records": This 45-Day Festival Of Faith Set Multiple Guinness World Records



TPN Correspondent | Delhi

The Maha Kumbh Mela 2025, held from January 13 to February 26, has been dubbed the "MahaKumbh of Records" by the Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister's office after setting several remarkable Guinness World Records. This 45-day festival of faith not only surpassed expectations but also created new benchmarks in the history of this iconic event.

The festival, which is traditionally observed once every 12 years, achieved notable records including the largest simultaneous river clean-up, the

highest number of volunteers participating in a single-site cleanliness drive, and the most handprint paintings created in just eight hours. These achievements are a testament to the festival's immense scale and the collective spirit of the millions of participants.

Originally expected to attract 45 crore devotees, the Maha Kumbh Mela exceeded that number by attracting over 66 crore attendees throughout its duration. This spiritual gathering, held at Prayagraj, was one of the largest peaceful congregations in the world, with pilgrims coming together

to bathe in the sacred rivers to cleanse themselves of sins and seek spiritual liberation.

The Kumbh Mela, deeply rooted in Hindu mythology, rotates between four key locations in India: Haridwar, Ujjain, Nashik, and Prayagraj. Each location is situated on the banks of a holy river, such as the Ganges, Yamuna, Shipra, and Godavari, which hold immense religious significance. The confluence of the Ganges, Yamuna, and the mythical Sarasvati in Prayagraj is particularly sacred and is where the Maha Kumbh Mela takes place.

Beyond its religious significance, the Maha Kumbh Mela continues to be a vibrant celebration of unity, faith, and humanity, transcending modern challenges to bring together millions in a shared journey of spiritual cleansing and renewal. The 2025 edition not only highlighted the scale of this festival but also showcased the power of collective efforts to achieve extraordinary milestones.

No Rift": Congress After Kerala Meeting Amid Shashi Tharoor Row

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

The Kerala unit of Congress has sought to put an end to the controversy surrounding Thiruvananthapuram MP Shashi Tharoor's remarks praising the CPI(M)-led Left Democratic Front (LDF) government in Kerala, reaffirming that the party is united ahead of the upcoming Assembly elections. Congress' Kerala in-charge, Deepa Dasmunshi, made the statement after a comprehensive meeting with state leaders, including Tharoor, to discuss political strategies.

The controversy began when Tharoor clarified his earlier statement about having multiple "options to spend my time," which was misconstrued by the media as suggesting he had political alternatives outside Congress. In an interview with NDTV, Tharoor criticized media reports for misinterpreting his words. He also emphasized that no one in the Kerala Congress unit supports the LDF or the BJP, asserting that the party is united in its fight against both.

Dasmunshi further added that

action would be taken against anyone making statements against the party's position. She reiterated that the Kerala Congress unit stands together, with no one aligning with the LDF or BJP. Senior Congress leader Ramesh Chennithala echoed this sentiment, vowing to unite and challenge the Kerala state government's failure across various sectors. Chennithala affirmed that the United Democratic Front (UDF), led by Congress, would reclaim power in Kerala in 2026.

The meeting, which lasted for nearly three hours, included key leaders such as Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge, General Secretary KC Venugopal, Leader of Opposition Ra-

hul Gandhi, and Wayanad MP Priyanka Gandhi. Kharge expressed optimism in a post on X, stressing that the Congress would bring change to Kerala by defeating both the "oppressive and communal" fronts in the state.

Tharoor had previously sparked controversy by praising Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to the US and writing an article lauding the LDF government's performance, particularly in the startup sector. Tharoor clarified that he was acknowledging the transformation of Kerala's industrial landscape, which he credited to the Congress-led government under Oommen Chandy.



Delhi women to get Rs 2,500 monthly aid by March 8: CM Rekha Gupta

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

Delhi's Chief Minister-designate, Rekha Gupta, reaffirmed her government's commitment to providing Rs 2,500 monthly financial aid to women in the capital, assuring that the first installment would be credited by March 8, marking International Women's Day. Gupta, who is set to take oath as Delhi's fourth woman CM, emphasized the importance of fulfilling the promises made during the election campaign.

Before the grand ceremony at Ramlila Maidan later in the day, Gupta visited the Shri Marghat Wale Hanuman temple in Kashmiri Gate, reflecting on her deep connection to the city's culture and traditions. As part of her address, she assured women that they would begin receiving the promised financial support by the designated date, expressing her firm resolve to follow through on her commitments.

In her speech, Gupta took a swipe at the previous Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) government, criticizing its record of financial transparency. She asserted that the AAP administration would be held accountable for every penny spent during its tenure, underscoring her intention to restore fiscal discipline and efficiency in governance.

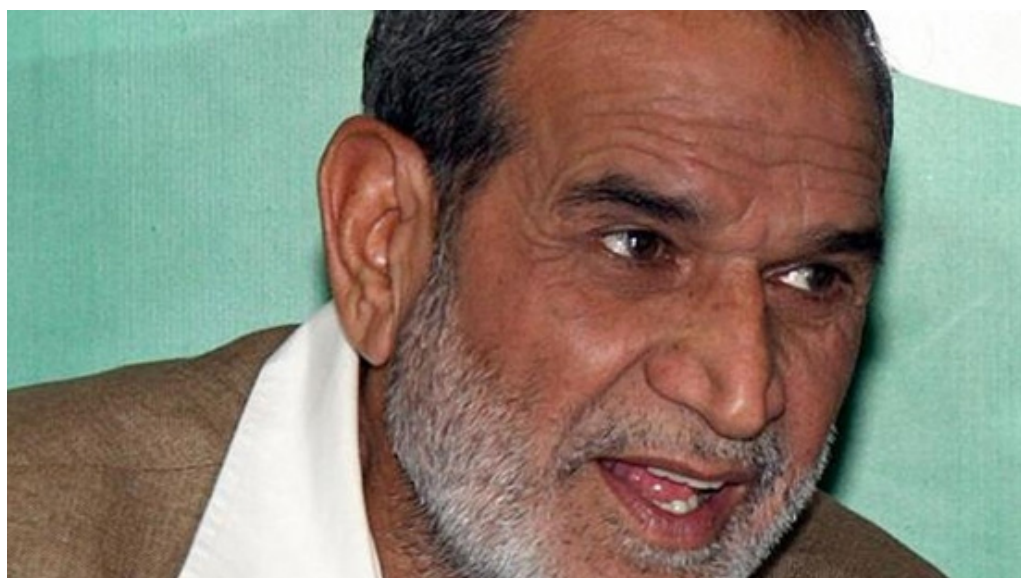


- Rekha Gupta pledges ₹2,500 aid for women
- Promises fiscal transparency, criticizes AAP governance
- BJP swiftly forming government after major electoral win

Highlighting the significance of the aid program, Gupta stated, "It is our responsibility to implement PM Narendra Modi's vision for Delhi. Women will receive financial aid in their accounts by March 8." The promise of Rs 2,500 per month to women by the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) outmatches the AAP's pre-poll commitment of Rs 2,100 per month, reflecting the BJP's focus on empowering women in the region.

The BJP, which secured a resounding victory in the Delhi Assembly elections by winning 48 out of 70 seats, is moving swiftly to establish its new government. According to a recent notification from the Union Home Ministry, BJP MLAs Parvesh Sahib and other key members are set to take prominent roles in the upcoming cabinet, reinforcing the party's goal of making tangible progress on its electoral promises.

Delhi HC Disposes Plea Against Bail Granted to Sajjan Kumar in 1984 Anti-Sikh Riots Case



TPN Correspondent | Delhi

The Delhi High Court on Thursday disposed of a petition challenging the bail granted to former Congress leader Sajjan Kumar in the 1984 anti-Sikh riots case, after learning that he had already

been convicted. Justice Vikas Mahajan dismissed the plea as "infructuous" following a submission from the Central government's standing counsel, who informed the court that Kumar had been convicted in the case and taken into custody.

Kumar was convicted on February 12 in relation to the murders of two individuals during the 1984 anti-Sikh riots in Delhi's Saraswati Vihar area. However, the trial court has yet to decide on his sentence.

Sajjan Kumar is already serving a life sentence for his involvement in another murder case related to the 1984 riots that occurred after the assassination of former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi. The Special Investigation Team (SIT) had previously challenged Kumar's bail, which was granted by the trial court on April 27, 2022. The SIT sought to have this bail order overturned, and the High Court had stayed the bail order on July 4, 2022, while issuing a notice to Kumar for his response.

With the conviction now in place, the petition challenging his bail has been rendered moot, leading the High Court to dispose of the case.

Delhi station stampede: Examine passenger limits and platform ticket sale, HC Tells railway

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

The Delhi High Court raised concerns over the sale of excess tickets beyond the capacity of train coaches during a hearing regarding a recent stampede incident at New Delhi railway station. A bench led by Chief Justice D K Upadhyay and Justice Tushar Rao Gedela expressed frustration, questioning why the number of tickets sold exceeded the passenger capacity if the railway authorities have fixed limits for each coach.

The court was hearing a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) that sought the implementation of existing provisions of the Railway Act, specifically sections 57 and 147, which deal with overcrowding. The PIL claimed that adherence to these laws could have potentially prevented the tragic stampede incident.

The bench highlighted that the Railways had failed to implement a key provision of the Railway Act—Section 57—which mandates that the maximum number of passengers allowed in each coach must be fixed. "If you fix the number of passengers to be accommodated in a coach, then why does the number of tickets sold exceed that number? That's the problem," the court stated, indicating a failure in the system that leads to overcrowding.

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, representing the Railways, assured the court that the Railways was committed to following the law and promised



that the issues raised in the PIL would be examined at the highest level. "There is an 'unprecedented' situation, but we will look into the lacunae and take necessary action," Mehta said.

Additionally, the court pointed out that the Railways' rules require the number of passengers allowed in each coach to be conspicuously displayed outside each compartment. The bench asked the Solicitor General to provide concrete steps on how the Railways would implement these regulations to prevent overcrowding and penalize unauthorized passengers.

The court has asked the Railways to file an affidavit detailing the measures being implemented to address the overcrowding issue, emphasizing the importance of ensuring public safety in railway travel.

Over 25,000 Security Personnel Deployed For Delhi CM's Oath Ceremony



TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

Ahead of the much-anticipated oath-taking ceremony for Delhi's new Chief Minister at Ramlila Maidan on Thursday, over 25,000 security personnel and more than 15 companies of paramilitary forces have been deployed to ensure a secure event, a senior police officer confirmed. The event is expected to be attended by key political figures, including chief ministers from BJP-led states.

To maintain order and security, the police have made "robust" arrangements. Over 5,000 police and paramilitary personnel are stationed around Ramlila Maidan, with additional deployment at more than 2,500 strategic points throughout the area. The security force has been meticulously organized to prevent any disruptions and to protect those attending the ceremony.

Rekha Gupta, a first-time MLA, will take the oath as Delhi's new Chief Minister, marking a historic moment after the BJP's return to power following a 26-year hiatus. The BJP's victory ends the 10-year rule of the AAP led by Arvind Kejriwal. Gupta was named Leader of the House during the BJP

legislature party meeting late on Wednesday. She later met with Lieutenant Governor VK Saxena to formally stake her claim to form the new government.

In preparation for the event, only authorized personnel will be allowed near Ramlila Maidan, and a detailed traffic plan has been set up to manage the flow of attendees and vehicles. The police have also put in place additional safety measures, including multiple layers of barricades and emergency response teams to ensure the security of dignitaries.

Approximately 50,000 attendees are expected, including Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Cabinet ministers, and chief ministers from states governed by the National Democratic Alliance (NDA). To ensure the highest level of security, commandos, quick response teams, and SWAT units are stationed at strategic locations. Snipers have been placed at high-rise buildings nearby, while AI-powered facial recognition CCTV cameras monitor every corner of the venue.

With extensive security measures in place, authorities are committed to maintaining a smooth and safe ceremony for all involved.

Govt Extends Chief Economic Adviser Nageswaran's Tenure Until 2027



TPN Correspondent | Delhi

The government has announced an extension of the tenure of Chief Economic Adviser (CEA) V Anantha Nageswaran until March 31, 2027. The Ministry of Finance issued the notification on Thursday, following the approval of the Prime Minister-led Appointments Committee of the Cabinet, which includes the Prime Minister and the Home Min-

ister as members.

According to the official notification, Nageswaran will continue in his position on a contract basis until March 31, 2027, or until further orders are issued, whichever comes earlier. This extension solidifies Nageswaran's role in shaping India's economic policies and advising the government on key financial matters.

V Anantha Nageswaran, a renowned economist, assumed the role of Chief Economic Adviser in 2022. Over the course of his tenure, he has been instrumental in offering guidance on macroeconomic issues, fiscal policies, and overall economic strategies. His work has gained attention for its emphasis on enhancing In-

dia's economic growth and managing challenges arising from global economic dynamics.

The extension of Nageswaran's tenure reflects the government's confidence in his leadership and expertise in navigating the country's economic policies. With this extension, Nageswaran will continue to play a crucial role in advising the government on matters related to India's economic development and the management of financial resources.

The government's decision to extend his tenure also indicates a focus on maintaining continuity in economic planning and policy-making at a time when India is seeking to strengthen its position in the global economy.

Physically tired, mentally retired: Prashant's swipe at Nitish ahead of Bihar elections



TPN Correspondent
| MANGALURU

Prashant Kishor, the political strategist-turned-activist, has launched a sharp critique of Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar as the state braces for upcoming assembly elections. Kishor, who now heads his own political outfit, Jan Suraj Party, has predicted that Nitish Kumar's party, Janata Dal (United) [JD(U)], will fail to secure any seats in the upcoming elections. Kishor described the veteran politician as "physically tired and mentally retired," hinting that Kumar's leadership is no longer effective.

Kishor's remarks come at a time when the political landscape in Bihar is heating up in anticipation of the assembly elections scheduled for later

this year. As part of his strategy to make a significant mark in the polls, Kishor revealed plans to hold a large rally in April, claiming it would "break all records in terms of turnout." His Jan Suraj Party, which will be contesting in the elections for the first time, is positioning itself as a viable alternative to the dominant political forces in Bihar.

Speaking in Patna, Kishor criticized Nitish Kumar for his ability to retain power despite frequently switching political alliances. Kumar's pattern of realignment—first leaving the BJP in 2013, returning to it in 2017, and then joining the RJD-led Mahagathbandhan in 2022 before rejoining the NDA in 2024—has sparked frustration among critics. Kishor pointed out that while Nitish

Kumar has managed to hold onto the Chief Minister's position through these shifts, JD(U) has been left with only a small number of seats. He argued that this political instability has undermined the state's governance.

Kishor's criticism of Nitish Kumar's repeated realignments went further as he urged the people of Bihar to break the cycle. He called for voters to reject JD(U) entirely, stating that "the only way to rid ourselves of a physically tired and mentally retired chief minister" was for the party to fail to win even a single seat. Kishor's words are a direct appeal to voters who are weary of the constant political maneuvering in the state, urging them to make a decisive break with the status quo.

As the elections approach, the battle for Bihar's political future is shaping up to be a defining moment for both Nitish Kumar and Prashant Kishor. While Nitish Kumar's leadership faces scrutiny from within his own party and opposition figures like Kishor, the Jan Suraj Party is positioning itself as the fresh alternative that Bihar voters have long awaited.

Talks between Centre, protesting farmers on March 19: Punjab Government informs SC

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

The Punjab Government informed the Supreme Court on February 28, 2025, that discussions between the Union Government and farmer leaders have taken place twice regarding key issues, including the Minimum Support Price (MSP) for crops. A third meeting is set for March 19, 2025, to further address the farmers' concerns.

Appearing before Justices Surya Kant and N.K. Singh, Punjab Advocate General Gurminder Singh stated that two State Ministers had been actively involved in these talks. The platform for these discussions has been facilitated by a committee appointed by the Supreme Court, led by former Punjab and Haryana High Court Judge Justice Nawab Singh. The Court's intervention was initially prompted by the hunger strike of farmer leader Jagjit Singh Dallewal, whose health concerns highlighted the urgency of resolving the standoff.

Dallewal had been on a hunger strike since November 2024 at the Kanauri border, joined



by over 110 other farmer leaders. After almost two months, he was shifted to a hospital for medical care following a meeting with Union Government officials. This shift led to an agreement to resume negotiations.

The protesting farmers are primarily focused on securing a legal guarantee for MSP to ensure fair pricing for their crops. Additionally, they are demanding measures to stabilize the agricultural market and protect their income. Since their march to Delhi in February 2024 was halted, farmers have been protesting at Shambhu and Kanauri borders in Punjab and Haryana.

The Supreme Court had earlier expressed concern over the Union Government's reluctance to publicly commit to addressing the farmers' "genuine grievances" and urged them to be more open in their approach. The Court also praised the efforts of the Justice Singled committee and ordered the Punjab Government to provide an honorarium for each meeting conducted by the committee.

The Court has kept the confidential status reports filed by the committee under wraps for now, while Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, representing both the Centre and Haryana, requested access to the reports.

Delhi minister Manjinder says CAG report on health sector to reveal Kejriwal's dishonesty



TPN Correspondent | Assam

Delhi Minister Manjinder Singh Sirsa on Friday accused Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal of being blatantly dishonest ahead of the tabling of the second Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) audit report. The report, focused on Public Health Infrastructure & Management of Health Services, is expected to highlight alleged mismanagement and misuse of funds under the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) government's rule, particularly in the health sector.

Sirsa claimed that the report will expose how funds allocated for hospitals and health services were misused during Kejriwal's tenure. He specifically pointed out issues like the lack of proper power supply in mohalla clinics, an essential part of the AAP's health initiatives. Sirsa further alleged that the findings will reveal extensive corruption and inefficiency under the current government.

This claim comes on the heels of a previous CAG report on the scrapped Delhi

liquor policy, which revealed a massive ₹2,002.68 crore loss to the exchequer. The BJP-led government referred this report to the Public Accounts Committee for further investigation, promising to table 14 additional CAG reports that the AAP government allegedly failed to submit.

Sirsa, speaking to ANI, expressed his confidence that the CAG's health infrastructure audit will shed light on the alleged corruption under Kejriwal. He stated, "How Arvind Kejriwal looted Delhi in the name of hospitals and health services will be clear... the pages of the CAG report will prove that Arvind Kejriwal is 'kattar beimaan' (blatantly dishonest)."

This remark further intensifies the political battle between the ruling AAP and the opposition BJP, especially over governance and accountability. The health sector, which was a key focus of AAP's promises, is now under scrutiny, with Sirsa and other BJP leaders demanding transparency and action.

The CAG reports, including those on health services, are expected to be a major talking point in the upcoming sessions of the Delhi Assembly. The AAP government's response to these allegations will likely shape the ongoing political discourse in the capital.

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 Bhal-

la 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.

57 labourers trapped under avalanche in Uttarakhand

TPN Correspondent | Dehradun

A major avalanche struck near the border village of Mana in Uttarakhand's Chamoli district on Friday, trapping 57 labourers working for the Border Roads Organisation (BRO), officials reported. As of now, 16 workers have been successfully rescued, with ongoing efforts to save the remaining trapped individuals.

Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami confirmed the rescue efforts and stated that comprehensive preparations have been made to continue the operation. "We have rescued 16 workers so far, and all necessary measures are in place to ensure the safety of the remaining 41. We are receiving assistance from the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP), and the district administration is coordinating with all

relevant authorities to expedite the rescue," Dhami said in a statement to ANI.

The avalanche struck the BRO workers' camp, located between the villages of Mana and Badrinath, which is at an altitude of approximately 3,200 meters on the India-Tibet border. Chamoli District Magistrate Sandeep Tiwari confirmed that the



workers had been trapped under the snow when the avalanche hit.

The National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) and the State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) have dispatched teams to the affected area, which continues to experience heavy snowfall and rain. The situation is being closely monitored as the rescue teams work tirelessly in difficult conditions.

Mana, known as the last village on the India-Tibet border, is situated in a region prone to harsh weather conditions, making the rescue operation even more challenging. Authorities have assured that all resources are being deployed to bring the trapped workers to safety as soon as possible.

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-

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.

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.



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.

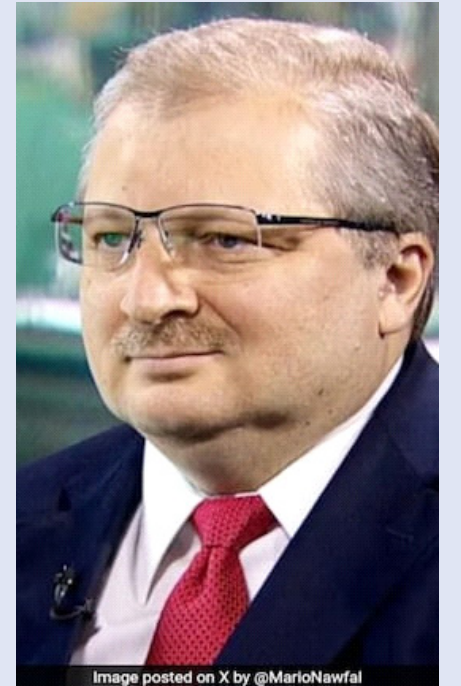
Russia fills US ambassador post after a year-long gap.

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



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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 Introduces GPT-4.5 AI Model in Research Preview, Its 'Best Model for Chat Yet'

GPT-4.5

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.

Does Early End to Winter Mean a Hotter Summer?



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 mar-

riage, 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.

The Mystery of Inunaki Village: Where Myth and Reality Collide



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.

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.

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

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 Lehren 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.

