

## Parents Sudiksha Konamki Urge Authorities to Declare Her Dead



TPN Correspondent | U.S.  
The parents of Sudiksha Konamki, a missing American student, have appealed to authorities to declare their daughter dead, fearing she drowned

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## CM Siddaramaiah Accuses BJP of Injustice to Karnataka

Siddaramaiah slams BJP for failing to secure central funds

Claims Karnataka receives only ₹51,000 crore out of ₹5 lakh crore tax contribution

Questions BJP's silence over lack of funds for Bhadra Upper River Project

TPN Correspondent | Karnataka

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah has accused the BJP-led central government of meting out financial injustice to Karnataka, stating that despite the state contributing ₹5 lakh crore in taxes, it receives only ₹51,000 crore in return. During a debate on the Governor's speech in the Assembly, Siddaramaiah criticized the previous BJP state government, alleging that it failed to demand rightful funds from the Centre. He pointed out that the 15th Finance Commission had recommended a special grant of ₹5,495 crore, which was ignored. "I met Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman three times, requesting her to rectify the injustice in tax distribution, but Karnataka did not receive even a single rupee of the ₹5,300 crore promised for the Bhadra Upper River Project," he said, adding that the project was never declared a national project. Taking a dig at the opposition, Siddaramaiah questioned, "Is the BJP only here to make speech-

es? Why did they remain silent when the Centre ignored Karnataka's rightful dues?" He also alleged that while Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government had accumulated a ₹16.35 lakh crore loan, it had only recovered ₹2 lakh crore so far. Highlighting his government's welfare measures, Siddaramaiah stated that 10,000 crore has been spent on pensions and welfare schemes, far exceeding previous allocations. He also reaffirmed his commitment to irrigation projects, claiming that in the past five years, his government has spent ₹56,000 crore on irrigation, including ₹5,000 crore for the Kalyana Karnataka region. He concluded by defending Congress's guarantee schemes, asserting that Shakti Yojana beneficiaries have availed 410 crore free bus rides since June 2023, dismissing BJP's claims that these schemes would be discontinued post-elections.

BJP taunts DK Shivakumar over delayed CM transition

Siddaramaiah insists he will present next budget, dismisses change talks

Opposition calls Congress infighting a setback for Karnataka's development

TPN Correspondent | Karnataka  
Amid ongoing speculation about a leadership change in Karnataka, the BJP has mocked Deputy CM DK Shivakumar, predicting that he will become Chief Minister only if power is handed over by October—otherwise, he should accept political asceticism.

Despite repeated warnings from the Congress high command, the power-sharing debate between Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and DCM Shivakumar refuses to settle. Siddaramaiah has once again dismissed the CM change buzz, asserting that he will personally present the next state budget. BJP leader R. Ashok ridiculed the ongoing tussle, claiming that Siddaramaiah has outmaneuvered Shivakumar and is tightening his grip on the CM's chair. He accused the Congress government of internal conflicts that are hindering Karnataka's development. "The CM post is a mirage for DK Shivakumar. Siddaramaiah is dealing him a fresh shock every day while strengthening his hold on power. Despite the earlier agreement, he shows no signs of stepping down," Ashok said. He further claimed that Congress's infighting is stalling governance, and Siddaramaiah's latest declaration about presenting the next budget himself is another move to push Shivakumar out of the race. The BJP continues to exploit the Congress's internal power struggle, calling it a farce and a major obstacle in the state's progress.

BJP Mocks DK Shivakumar's CM Ambitions, Calls Power Transfer a 'Mirage'

## BJP Slams Karnataka CM Over 'Halal Budget' Allegations

- BJP criticizes ₹4,000 crore allocation for minorities
- Araga Jnanendra warns of rising state debt
- Opposition questions ₹100 crore for Maulana Azad Public Schools



TPN Correspondent | Bengaluru  
The Opposition BJP legislators in the Karnataka Assembly lashed out at Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's budget, calling it a "halal budget" that allegedly prioritizes Muslim appeasement with a ₹4,000 crore allocation. Senior BJP leader Araga Jnanendra argued that the budget pushes the state into a debt trap, citing ₹1.16 lakh crore in fresh borrowings and an increase in total liabilities to ₹7.64 lakh crore. He claimed that most of the ₹4.09 lakh crore budget outlay is an illusion, with many announcements unlikely to be implemented. The debate intensified over the Action Taken Report (ATR) on the 2024-25 budget, with Congress legislators KM Shivalinge Gowda and K Shadakshari defending the government. They asserted

that the ATR is preliminary and a full report will be available after the financial year ends. Speaker UT Khader backed their statement, clarifying that the final ATR will present a clearer financial picture. Jnanendra criticized the ₹100 crore allocation for Maulana Azad Public Schools, arguing that education should not be divided based on religion or caste. "Why should there be separate schools based on religion when we aim for a harmonious society? This will further isolate Muslims instead of integrating them," he stated. Deputy Leader of Opposition Arvind Bellad also condemned the budget, claiming it alienates Muslims rather than

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## Court Commissioner Can Be Appointed After Judgment Reserved - Karnataka HC

Court commissioner appointment valid even after judgment is reserved

HC upholds civil court's discretion under CPC Order XXVI, Rule 9

Case involves property dispute in Mudhol



TPN Correspondent | Karnataka

The Karnataka High Court has ruled that a civil court can appoint a court commissioner even after a matter has been reserved for judgment, particularly in land and property disputes. Justice Suraj Govindaraj stated that under Order XXVI, Rule 9 of the Civil Procedure Code (CPC), courts have discretionary power

to appoint a commissioner suo motu, and such an appointment is not legally invalid even if made post-reservation of judgment. The ruling came in a case filed before the Principal Civil Judge and JMFC, Mudhol, where the plaintiff sought possession of a disputed property portion, alleging en-

croachment by the defendant. After evidence and witness cross-examination, the case was reserved for judgment. However, on July 22, 2024, the civil court appointed the Panchayat Development Officer (PDO) of Laxanatti village as Court Commissioner to submit a local investigation report for better appreciation of evidence. Challenging this, the opposing party argued that once a case is reserved for judgment, appointing a commissioner amounts to reopening proceedings and delaying case disposal, which contradicts the CPC amendments aimed at expediting trials. However, Justice Govindaraj ruled that the civil court acted within its rights, emphasizing that: "A reading of Order XXVI, Rule 9 CPC makes it clear that if the

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## BJP Opposes 4% Reservation for Minorities in Karnataka Assembly

TPN Correspondent | Bengaluru  
The Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurements (Amendment) Bill, 2025, introduced in the Assembly, has sparked controversy as BJP legislators strongly opposed the provision of 4% reservation for Muslims and other minorities under Category 2B of Backward Classes in government contracts. Law and Parliamentary Affairs Minister H.K. Patil tabled the Bill, stating that

the amendment aims to reduce unemployment among Backward Classes and encourage their participation in government projects. The proposal allows 4% reservation in civil contracts worth up to ₹2 crore and service contracts up to ₹1 crore for Category 2B communities. The move follows Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's budget announcement, despite resistance from Opposition parties, which have criticized it as



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## Public Awareness Key in Fight Against Drug Menace: DK MP Capt Brijesh Chowta

TPN Correspondent | Mangaluru

Dakshina Kannada MP Capt Brijesh Chowta has emphasized the need for a massive public awareness campaign involving parents to curb drug addiction among youth. He stressed that community participation, along with strict enforcement, is crucial in tackling the growing drug menace. Lauding the Mangaluru police for their recent crackdown on drug trafficking, where narcotics worth ₹75 crore were seized and two foreign nationals arrested, the MP reiterated the need for continuous efforts to eliminate drug networks. “As soon as I became an MP, I raised concerns about the drug mafia operating in Mangaluru and the coastal region in my first parliamentary session. Now, the recent police action proves how widespread this problem has become,” Chowta stated. The awareness campaign will be launched in collaboration with par-



ents, educational institutions, government departments, and the general public to strengthen preventive measures. The MP also called upon law enforcement agencies to continue their relentless crackdown on drug peddlers and ensure that young people do not fall prey to addiction. The fight against drugs in Dakshina Kannada is gaining momentum, with growing public support and stricter enforcement measures aimed at safeguarding the youth from the influence of narcotics.

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## BJP Slams Karnataka CM Over ‘Halal Budget’ Allegations

benefiting them. “You are borrowing ₹1.16 lakh crore just to feed biryani. This is a halal budget that serves no real purpose,” Bellad alleged. He also warned that Karnataka’s

revenue model—with ₹40,000 crore expected from excise duty and ₹36,000 crore from alcohol sales—burdens the poor and will have long-term economic consequences for the state.

## Court Commissioner Can Be Appointed After Judgment Reserved - Karnataka HC

court finds a local investigation necessary, it has full discretion to appoint a commissioner. The law does not require any formal request by parties—courts can use suo motu powers if deemed necessary.”

The judgment reaffirms that trial courts retain discretion to ensure effective adjudication by appointing commissioners for local investigations, even at advanced stages of a case.

## BJP Opposes 4% Reservation for Minorities in Karnataka Assembly

appeasement politics. **The Bill also provides:**

- 17.15% reservation for Scheduled Castes (SCs)
- 6.95% for Scheduled Tribes (STs)
- 4% each for Other Backward Classes (Category 1 and Category 2B)
- 15% for Category 2A

 Additionally, the Bill states that if no eligible candidates from these categories participate in the tendering process, the contracts may be awarded to others. When the Bill was introduced, BJP legislators voiced strong opposition, arguing that it was

unconstitutional and politically motivated. They accused the government of manipulating the reservation policy for electoral gains, leading to intense debate in the House. The government, however, defended the Bill, maintaining that the provision was necessary to address unemployment and ensure fair opportunities for all Backward Classes. The discussion is expected to continue in the coming days, with the Opposition likely to escalate its protests against the proposed amendments.

## Parents Sudiksha Konamki Urge Authorities to Declare Her Dead

near the RIU Republica resort in the Dominican Republic. Sudiksha went missing on March 6, and the last known person to see her was Joshua Reebe, who spotted her in the surf at 4:50 a.m. on the hotel’s beachfront. The strong waves in the area have raised concerns about beach safety, and her family now believes she may have been swept away. The Telugu community in the

U.S. has been deeply shaken by this tragedy, expressing their grief and solidarity with the family. Despite ongoing investigations, her parents are now seeking official confirmation of her presumed death to gain closure and move forward. This devastating loss has left a void in her family and the wider community. May her parents find peace in these difficult times.

## Court Rejects Bail Plea of Second Accused Tarun Raju on Ranya Rao Gold Smuggling Case

- Actress Ranya Rao arrested in gold smuggling case
- Court denies bail to second accused Tarun Raju
- ED raids house of Ranya’s husband, investigates illegal transactions



TPN Correspondent | Bengaluru

The Special Economic Offences Court has rejected the bail plea of Tarun Raju, the second accused in the gold smuggling case involving actress Ranya Rao. The court, presided over by Judge Vishwanath C. Gowda, ruled that Tarun must remain in judicial custody for 14 days, following the completion of his DRI custody period. Tarun Raju, who was born and raised in the U.S., comes from a wealthy business family. He had known Ranya

Rao since their college days, and they reportedly maintained close ties. Investigators revealed that after 2017, as Ranya’s film opportunities declined, the duo began frequent trips to Dubai under the pretext of business. By 2023, evidence suggests they were involved in smuggling gold between India and Dubai. Meanwhile, the Enforcement Directorate (ED) has expanded its probe

and raided the residence of Ranya’s husband, Jatin. He was interrogated for three hours, as investigators found that Ranya had used his credit card to book a flight to Dubai on March 1. Officials are examining whether Jatin was aware of or involved in the transactions. The case has now grown beyond gold smuggling, as ED officials have uncovered a broader network of hawala transactions and illegal money transfers. Authorities have identified ₹12 crore in suspicious transactions, links to jewelry shops, and the movement of unaccounted funds. With both Ranya and Tarun in judicial custody, the DRI and ED continue their investigation. Further arrests and revelations are expected in the coming days as officials trace the origins of the illegal operations.

## In Karnataka Only 13,689 Farmers Receive Zero-Interest Loans Despite Eligibility

- 1.73 lakh farmers eligible, but only 13,689 received loans
- NABARD slashed funds for subsidized farm loans by 58%
- Co-Operation Minister urges farmers to support cooperative banks



TPN Correspondent | Bengaluru

Although 1.73 lakh farmers in Karnataka are eligible for zero-interest farm loans, only 13,689 farmers have received them this financial year, according to Co-Operation Minister K. N. Rajanna. He attributed this shortfall to funding cuts by NABARD (National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development). Responding to a query by BJP MLC Prathap Simha Nayak, Rajanna revealed that last year, the state government disbursed ₹5,800 crore in such loans. However, due to NABARD reducing its financial support for subsidized

farm loans by 58%, the government could not extend the scheme to all eligible farmers this year. Official records presented in the House further indicate that, so far, only ₹290.51 crore has been disbursed to

6,744 farmers, raising concerns about the state’s financial capacity to assist its farming community. Rajanna also expressed disappointment over farmers choosing to deposit their money in commercial banks while seeking loans from cooperative societies. He emphasized that cooperative societies do not have unlimited resources, adding, “Farmers should understand that societies cannot print money. Due to fund shortages, we cannot meet the full demand for loans.” The decline in subsidized agricultural credit has led to growing uncertainty among farmers, with calls for the state government to seek alternative measures to support the cooperative banking sector and ensure financial assistance reaches more farmers.

## Karnataka HC Orders CBI Probe into Kolar ZP Ex-President’s Murder

- Court slams police, CID for flawed probe
- CBI directed to conduct a fresh investigation
- Final report to be submitted within three months

the 2024 Lok Sabha elections from Kolar, was brutally murdered on October 23, 2023, by an armed gang near Hugalagere Road.

TPN Correspondent | Bengaluru

The Karnataka High Court has ordered a CBI probe into the murder of former Kolar Zilla Panchayat president M Srinivas, citing serious lapses in the investigations conducted by both the local police and the CID. The court directed the CBI to conduct a fresh investigation from the beginning and submit a final report within three months to the trial court.



Justice M Nagaprasanna, while passing the order, strongly criticized the previous investigations, stating that the local police and CID had buried the truth due to their careless approach. The court deemed a de novo investigation imperative to ensure justice. The order came in response to a petition filed by Dr. S Chandrakala, wife of Srinivas, who alleged political interference in the probe. Srinivas, who was planning to contest

Following allegations of bias, the state government transferred the probe to the CID, which, however, relied only on the local police’s findings and filed a charge sheet on January 17, 2024, without further efforts. Dissatisfied, Chandrakala approached the High Court after her plea for a CBI investigation was ignored by the Chief Minister. Special Public Prosecutor C H Hanumantharaya admitted that the investigation was poorly conducted and failed to follow even basic criminal investigation principles. The court noted that such failures erode public confidence in the justice system and stressed that the CID lacked independence, as most officers were on deputation. The court concluded that only a CBI-led probe could ensure a free, fair, and thorough investigation into the high-profile murder case.

## Karnataka Faces Heavy Debt Burden Under Siddaramaiah: LoP Narayanaswamy

TPN Correspondent | Bengaluru

Leader of Opposition in the Karnataka Legislative Council Chalavadi Narayanaswamy has criticized Chief Minister Siddaramaiah’s financial management, stating that Karnataka’s debt has surged to ₹7 lakh crore, with each newborn inheriting a debt burden of ₹1 lakh. Addressing the state budget, Narayanaswamy alleged that the government’s economic policies had pushed the state towards bankruptcy, while development remained stagnant. He pointed out that in the last three years, Karnataka had taken loans amounting to ₹3.07 lakh crore, with the 2025-26 budget estimating another ₹1.16 lakh crore in debt. Citing financial statistics, he noted



that the 2023-24 revenue estimate was ₹1.75 lakh crore, but the actual collection fell short by ₹14,000 crore. Similarly, in 2024-25, the shortfall was ₹9,525 crore. Despite the revenue lag, the 2025-26 budget projects a 15% revenue increase, which Narayanaswamy called unrealistic.

He also accused Siddaramaiah of misleading the public by blaming the Union government for Karnataka’s financial woes. “The Centre actually provided more funds than promised—in 2023-24, ₹40,000 crore was received instead of ₹37,000 crore, and in 2024-25, ₹46,932 crore was received instead of ₹44,485 crore. The upcoming 2025-26 budget estimates ₹55,000 crore from the Centre,” he explained. Narayanaswamy further criticized the diversion of funds meant for Scheduled Castes Sub Plan (SCSP) and Tribal Sub Plan (TSP) towards government guarantee schemes. He called these schemes temporary relief measures, urging the government to focus on creating sustainable opportunities rather than mere financial handouts.



# Cab Fares Cheaper Than Auto Fares in Bengaluru Ride-Hailing Apps

TPN Correspondent I Bangalore

Bengaluru residents have been noticing an unusual trend in the past week, where ride-hailing cabs are cheaper than auto rides, even for short and long-distance trips. Passengers using Uber and Ola have been surprised to find that, on many occasions, sedan fares are lower than auto fares throughout the day.

For instance, Aradhana Agrawal, a communications professional, booked a cab on Uber from Yelahanka Railway Junction to Arakere BPL bus stop, a trip usually costing between Rs 600-700. To her surprise, the premier cab was priced at just Rs 340, while the auto fare for the same journey was Rs 470. Similar experiences have been shared by several other users, who initially thought the fare discrepancy

was an app glitch. However, this trend has persisted for over a week.

Another passenger, Sara (name changed), took a ride from Maruthisevanagar to M.G. Road for Rs 88, while the auto fare for the same trip was Rs 130. On March 17, Metrolife found that in several parts of the city, cab fares were indeed cheaper than auto rides. For example, the fare for a cab from Mahadevapura to M.G. Road ranged from Rs 179 to Rs 200, while an auto ride for the same distance was Rs 198. Similarly, cab rides between Mahadevapura and Orion Mall, Rajajinagar, were priced between Rs 245 and Rs 319, while the auto fare was much higher at Rs 386.

Despite this trend, auto drivers have expressed concerns, blaming the discounts on cabs for causing a decline in their rides. C Sampath, general sec-

retary of the Adarsh Auto and Taxi Drivers' Union, believes the low fares are a temporary gimmick to attract customers. He predicts that once passengers get accustomed to cabs, prices will eventually rise. Several auto drivers, like Arun P and Mohammed Magbool, reported fewer rides, with some struggling to meet daily targets.

On the other hand, cab drivers have also voiced concerns. Vasudeva (name changed), a driver in the Nagawara area, stated that it has become increasingly difficult to meet his earnings target due to the decline in demand, particularly from airport rides.

Industry experts suggest that the lower fares could be due to seasonal or festival promotions, such as discounts linked to the Holi festival. Some passengers believe regular customers or those booking



long-distance rides are benefiting from these promotional rates.

As of now, neither Ola nor Uber have responded to queries about the reason behind

the fare discrepancies, leaving many to speculate whether this trend will continue.

## National Conference on Composers and Choreographers



TPN Correspondent I Bangalore

Parishodhana 2025, a national conference focused on composers and choreographers, is set to take place on March 21 and 22. Organized by the Department of Perform-

ing Arts and Cultural Studies at JAIN (Deemed-to-be University), this conference aims to bring together academics, researchers, and artists to engage in discussions on Indian music and dance from the 19th and 20th centuries.

The conference will feature a range of topics, including the exploration of lesser-known composers, gender representation in music, regional influences in composition, and the thematic elements of Indian music. There will also

be sessions highlighting the contributions of pioneering choreographers and discussing choreography in cinema, commissioned works, and the impact of technology on choreography.

Additional discussions will delve into various genres such as gamaka, folk music, mellisai, gurubani, tappa, sugama sangeeta, and operas. Panels will also explore the contributions of musicians from royal courts and their influence on shaping Indian music.

Parishodhana 2025 will offer valuable insights into the rich and diverse landscape of Indian music and dance, serving as a platform for scholars and artists to share their knowledge and ideas.

The conference will be held at the Jain University Department of Performing Arts and Cultural Studies in J.P. Nagar.

## Free Buttermilk at Bengaluru Bus Depot

TPN Correspondent I Bangalore

A bus depot in Bengaluru has introduced a unique and refreshing initiative, offering free buttermilk to passengers and staff. The depot prepares 25 litres of buttermilk daily using RO water, costing less than Rs 1,000. This generous offering is available at no cost from 11:30 AM to 2:30 PM.

The buttermilk is served as a refreshing drink for those passing through the depot, providing a much-needed break during the day. It's a small but thoughtful gesture that enhances the experience of travelers and staff alike.

This initiative not only

offers comfort but also promotes the idea of hospitality, offering a taste of local culture and care to everyone at the bus depot. Whether you're a commuter or a worker, the buttermilk serves as a welcome treat and a symbol of the depot's warm hospitality.

By keeping the cost low and ensuring the drink is available for all, the depot has created a simple yet effective way to make everyone's day a little more pleasant.



## Bengaluru for Water, Energy Solutions and IT Collaboration

TPN Correspondent I Bangalore

A delegation from Cape Town, South Africa, recently visited Bengaluru to share their expertise in water and energy conservation, as well as to gain insights into Bengaluru's IT development. The two cities also discussed potential tourism collaborations during the visit.

Cape Town, which gained international attention due to its severe water crisis, is now being highlighted as a global example of successful water management. Alderman James Vos, the Mayoral Committee Member for Economic Growth and Tourism, shared during his visit that Cape Town had managed to reduce water consumption by half to tackle the crisis. He explained that the city implemented a dashboard to monitor water levels in real-time, with a benchmark set at 19%. If levels fell below that threshold, water supply would be stopped. This transparent approach, coupled with citizen involvement, was crucial in mitigating the crisis.

As Bengaluru faces its own water challenges, the city is

taking proactive steps to avoid a recurrence of the 2024 water crisis. The state government has allocated a significant budget for water management this year, focusing on replacing old pipes, ensuring zero leakage, developing new water extraction technologies, setting up wastewater treatment plants, and mandating rainwater harvesting.

In addition to water management, the delegation discussed potential collaborations in the IT and tourism sectors. Karnataka's IT-BT and RDPR Minister, Priyank Kharge, expressed interest in strengthening the partnership between Bengaluru and Cape Town under the Global Innovation Programs. He emphasized the potential for both cities to share best practices and innovative technologies, which could benefit their economic growth.

Cape Town's delegation, in-



cluding business partners like Cape BPO and Cape Town Tourism, explored opportunities for collaboration in technology, BPO, and tourism. Vos highlighted that these partnerships could create job opportunities and foster economic growth in both cities. With Cape Town's growing economy and Bengaluru's dynamic tech industry, the collaboration has the potential to boost investment and enhance trade and tourism ties between India and South Africa.

The meeting was organized by MoveInSync, a Bengaluru-based employee commute platform, and Moar Advisor, a strategic enabler.

TPN Correspondent I Bangalore

Bengaluru Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRL) has withdrawn its recent job notification for the recruitment of 50 experienced Train Operators (Loco Pilots). The announcement was made on March 17, 2025, after facing opposition from the Kannada Development Authority, which raised concerns over the inclusion of candidates without knowledge of Kannada in the recruitment process.

The notification, which was issued on March 12, 2025, called for candidates with a minimum of three years of experience to apply for the Train Operator positions. The decision was met with backlash from several groups, prompting Bengaluru Development Minister DK Shivakumar to intervene. The minister directed the BMRL to reconsider the notification and ensure that it aligns with the

## BMRL Withdraws Job Notification for Train Operators



principles of fair representation for Kannadigas.

In response to the controversy, a statement issued by the General Manager (HR) of BMRL confirmed the withdrawal of the notification, stating, "The recruitment notification dated March 12, 2025, for recruitment of 50 posts of Train Operators on a contract basis in BMRL is withdrawn."

Minister DK Shivakumar posted the update on social media, emphasizing the government's commitment to empowering Kannadigas and ensuring their rightful place in opportunities like those offered by the BMRL. He reiterated that the state government stands firm on justice and fair representation, supporting local talent.



# Speaker Refers Complaints Against Officials to Privileges Panel

TPN Correspondent | Karnataka

Speaker UT Khader referred two separate complaints by MLAs against government officials to the Privileges Committee, emphasizing that any disrespect to legislators is an insult to the House itself.

Kagwad Congress MLA Bharamgouda Kage moved a breach of privilege motion against Rajendra Kataria, the Principal Secretary in the Revenue Department, alleging that Kataria had insulted him when he approached him regarding a Praja Soudha building in his constituency. “I have been an MLA for 25 years, and no officer has ever spoken to me like this,” Kage stated, adding that 60 MLAs signed a complaint letter submitted to the Chief Minister, demanding Kataria’s transfer.

MLAs across party lines supported Kage’s complaint. Turuvekere JDS MLA MT Krishnapa called it an insult to all 224 MLAs, while BJP MLA CC Patil insisted that misbehavior by officials should not be tolerated. Meanwhile, Gulbarga Rural MLA Basavaraj Mattimud

- Congress MLA alleges disrespect by Revenue official
- Gulbarga Rural MLA accuses police officer of manhandling
- Speaker warns officials to respect elected representatives



accused Additional SP Mahesh Meghannavar of manhandling him in his constituency. Leader of Opposition R Ashoka warned that such incidents could happen to any MLA, reinforcing the need for action.

Law Minister HK Patil suggested summoning the officials to the Speaker’s chamber to resolve the matter, but MLAs rejected the proposal, demanding stricter action.

Speaker Khader declared,

“Disrespecting MLAs means disrespecting the House. Officers must learn to respect elected representatives.” He assured that both cases would be taken seriously and serve as a warning to others.



## Basavaraj Horatti Warns Breach of Privilege Motion Against Minister

TPN Correspondent | Karnataka

Legislative Council Chairman Basavaraj Horatti expressed dissatisfaction over the government’s failure to consider his nomination for the Board of the University of Horticulture Sciences in Bagalkot, despite eight months passing since his recommendation.

BJP MLC Hanumant Nirani raised the issue in the Council, questioning Horticulture Minister S S Mallikarjun on why Horatti’s nominee was still not appointed, while the candidate nominated by the Legislative Assembly Speaker had already assumed the role.

Responding to the concern, Minister Mallikarjun said, “The file is with the Chief Minister, and I will verify it after discussing it with my colleagues.” Unhappy with the response, Horatti asserted that as Chair-

man of the House, he had exercised his constitutional authority in making the appointment, and no further approval should be required. “You don’t need to consult the Chief Minister or the Governor. Once the Chair has made the appointment, an order should be issued immediately,” he stated.

Horatti warned the minister that if the government failed to act, he would move a breach of privilege motion against him. He also revealed that he had already written two letters and followed up over the phone, but there was still no action.

“I know very well that the Chief Minister did not interfere in this matter. You are unnecessarily bringing his name into this,” Horatti told the minister, demanding immediate implementation of his decision.

# BJP MLA Dheeraj Muniraj Criticizes Foxconn for Not Hiring Locals

TPN Correspondent | Karnataka

BJP MLA Dheeraj Muniraj has alleged that Foxconn, a key Apple supplier, is not providing sufficient employment opportunities to locals at its cell phone manufacturing facility near Bengaluru. Speaking in the Assembly on Wednesday, he stated that while the company has employed 25,000 people, less than 500 jobs have been given to individuals from Doddaballapur.

Foxconn’s Devanahalli plant, built on a 300-acre plot within the Information Technology Investment Region (ITIR) in Doddaballapur and Devanahalli taluks, has begun manufacturing iPhones with a capital investment of ₹21,911 crore. The Karnataka government has offered incentives



worth ₹6,970 crore to support the project.

Raising concerns over employment distribution, Muniraj questioned the number of jobs allotted to land-losing farmers whose lands were acquired for the project. He emphasized that Foxconn had promised up to one lakh jobs but is predom-

inantly hiring workers from other states.

He urged the government to introduce a policy mandating that industries established on Karnataka Industrial Areas Development Board (KIADB) land give priority hiring to local students from government colleges. He highlighted that

Doddaballapur’s government first-grade college produces 1,300 graduates annually, yet local youth struggle to secure employment in nearby industries.

Muniraj, who also serves as the Karnataka BJP Yuva Morcha president, pointed out that KIADB has acquired 6,000 acres, reserving 1,500 acres in Doddaballapur as an IT/BT zone. He stressed the need for new regulations ensuring job reservations for locals in industries operating on government-allocated land.

His remarks have intensified discussions on local employment policies, urging the government to prioritize job opportunities for Karnataka’s youth and land-losing farmers in major industrial projects.

## MLA Sharanagouda Kandkur Raises Concerns Over Industrial Pollution in Yadgir

TPN Correspondent | Karnataka

JDS MLA Sharanagouda Kandkur, representing Gurumatkal constituency, raised concerns over severe pollution caused by chemical industries in Yadgir district during the Karnataka Budget Session. He alleged that the toxic gases emitted from industrial units in the Kadechur-Badiyal industrial area were causing serious health issues among local residents.

Expressing frustration over the neglect of North Karnataka, Kandkur questioned the government’s priorities, stating that industries causing pollution are set up in North Karnataka, while major industrial projects are allocated to South

Karnataka.

“When it comes to good factories, they go to South Karnataka. But when it’s factories that emit toxic gases, they come to North Karnataka. Is this justice?” he asked.

He also criticized the lack of attention from other legislators, claiming that many in the Assembly fail to acknowledge the problems faced by the people of North Karnataka.

The MLA urged the government to immediately address the issue, take strict action against polluting industries, and ensure equal development opportunities across regions. His remarks have intensified the ongoing debate over regional imbalance in Karnataka’s industrial policies.

# JDS MLA A Manju Slams Government Over Encroachment

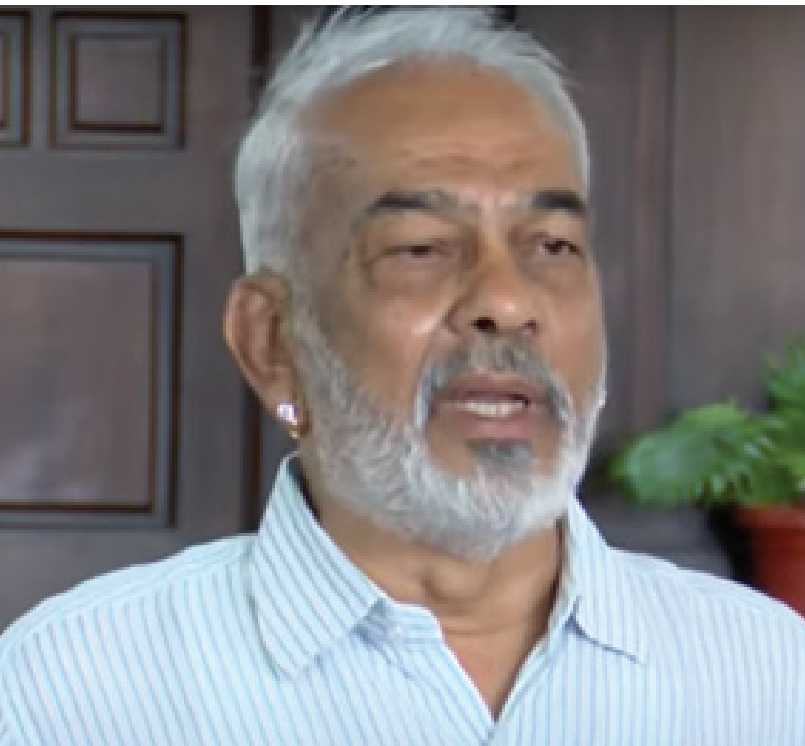
TPN Correspondent | Karnataka

JDS MLA A Manju has stated that encroachments on government land can be cleared without a court order, as the concerned department has the authority to take action directly. He emphasized that officials are empowered to remove encroachments without seeking legal intervention.

Speaking on the matter, Manju said, “If government land is encroached, it is the duty of officials to clear it immediately. No legal permission is required for this.”

However, the MLA accused the Siddaramaiah-led Congress government of misusing its power by forming a Special Investigation Team (SIT) to probe the land purchased by former Chief Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy. He claimed that this move was politically motivated and an attempt to harass opposition leaders.

“The Congress government talks about fairness but is clearly engaging in political vendetta. Instead of focusing on governance and public wel-



fare, they are targeting opposition leaders like Kumaraswamy,” Manju alleged.

He further stated that the ruling government is deliberately using official machinery to silence opposition voices. The JDS leader questioned the selective actions of the Congress administration, claiming

that similar scrutiny was not being applied to its own leaders.

The state government has yet to respond to these allegations. Meanwhile, opposition leaders continue to criticize the Siddaramaiah administration, accusing it of using state institutions for political gain.

# Yakshagana Guru B Gopalakrishna Kurup Passes Away at 90

TPN Correspondent | Mangaluru

Veteran Yakshagana guru B Gopalakrishna Kurup passed away on Tuesday night near Neeleshwara in Kasaragod at the age of 90. Originally from Kerala, he had settled in Shishila, Belthangady taluk of Dakshina Kannada district. He is survived by his wife, two daughters, and a son.

Kurup was a pioneer in Yakshagana’s Chende-Maddale tradition and the first to document its nuances in a textbook format. His journey in Yakshagana began in 1952 when he impressed Kudrekudlu Rama Bhat at Kudlu Mela’s ‘Poorvanga’ performance, leading him into the professional Yakshagana sphere.

Trained under senior artists like Balipa Narayana Bhagavata, Agari Srinivasa Bhagavata, Kudrekudlu Rama Bhat, Nambadi Subbaiah Shetty, and Nedle Narasimha Bhat, Kurup mastered Yakshagana’s Himmela aspects. He was also trained in Mridanga by T R Krishnan and later became a resource person in Yakshagana

workshops.

Kurup authored several scholarly works, including “Tenkutittu-Prathamika Yakshagana Patagalu,” “Tenkutittu Yakshagana Maddalevaadana Krama,” and “Tenkutittu Yakshagana Chendevaadana Krama”. His book “Tittittite,” exploring Yakshagana rhythm, was highly praised by Dr. Ra Sanyanarayana of Mysore. He also wrote his autobiography, “Chende-Maddalegala Naduve”.

Kurup performed with Dharmasthala, Karnataka, Ballambettu, Ira, and Karnataka-Kalavihara Yakshagana Melas and was a Himmela guru at the Dharmasthala Yakshagana Centre for three years. His deep knowledge of rhythm, tempo, and prosody made him an es-



teemed teacher.

He received prestigious honors, including the Karnataka Rajyotsava Award, Kerala’s ‘Gurupuja’ award, and the Yakshagana Kalaranga Award.

Yakshagana Kalaranga president M Gangadhar Rao and secretary Murali Kadekar have expressed their condolences on his passing.



# 70 Injured in Bee Attack at Kerala



TPN Correspondent | Thiruvananthapuram

Around 70 people were injured in a bee attack at the Thiruvananthapuram Collectorate on Tuesday afternoon, following a bomb scare that turned out to be a hoax. The incident occurred while the building was being inspected by police and the bomb squad after an email claimed that explosives had been planted in pipes inside the building.

According to authorities, the bomb threat was false, and no explosives were found. However, during the evacuation, a

swarm of bees attacked several people. Thiruvananthapuram District Collector Anu Kumari confirmed that many staff members were stung, and they were immediately taken to the hospital for treatment. Around 70 individuals, including police personnel, journalists, Collectorate staff, and members of the public, were stung, with five people being referred to the state-run medical college due to serious conditions. The police are investigating the source of the hoax bomb threat. Thankfully, no fatalities were reported in the bee attack.



## Ranya Rao Helped Co-Accused Smuggle Gold, DRI Claims

TPN Correspondent | Karnataka

Kannada actress Ranya Rao has been accused of helping her co-accused, Tarun Raj, smuggle gold into India by assisting him in purchasing flight tickets. According to the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI), Ranya Rao transferred money to Raj, which enabled him to buy flight tickets for a trip from Dubai to Hyderabad on the day of her arrest.

The actress was arrested on March 3 by the DRI at Kempegowda International Airport (KIAD) in Bengaluru in connection with a gold smuggling case. Rao is accused of smuggling 14.8 kilograms of gold from Dubai into India, a seizure that is said to be one of the largest in recent times. The gold was hidden in a sophisticated manner, and its value is estimated to be in crores.

The case took another significant turn when, following Ranya Rao's arrest, two foreign nationals were detained at Mumbai airport on March 6. These individuals were found attempting to smuggle 21.28 kilograms of gold, worth approximately Rs. 18.92 crore. This arrest has raised concerns about a possible larger international smuggling network operating between Dubai and India.

The DRI's complaint to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has highlighted the scale of the operation. The agency suggested that the gold smuggling operation might involve

more individuals and networks, both within India and abroad. The investigation is exploring the potential involvement of unidentified public servants and other individuals who might be part of this coordinated effort.

The DRI's complaint points to the need for a thorough investigation to uncover the full extent of the gold smuggling network. This case has caught the attention of law enforcement agencies due to the size and sophistication of the operation. Authorities are concerned that the operation may have international ramifications, and they are working to track down others involved in the illegal activity.

Ranya Rao, who was known for her work in Kannada cinema, is now facing serious charges related to smuggling. The arrest of the actress has raised questions about the involvement of individuals from various sectors in such illegal activities. With the discovery of additional gold seizures following her arrest, authorities are increasingly concerned about the scale of the smuggling operations.

As the investigation continues, the DRI and CBI are expected to work closely to dismantle the network and prevent further smuggling activities. The case serves as a reminder of the extent to which gold smuggling has become a global issue and the challenges authorities face in combating it.

# Heatwave Alert for Karnataka

TPN Correspondent | Bangalore

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has issued a heatwave warning for northern interior Karnataka, predicting high temperatures until March 20. Meanwhile, Odisha is expected to experience some relief from the scorching heat, as rain is forecasted over the coming days.

Kalaburgi, a city in northern Karnataka, recorded an intense temperature of 42.8°C on March 18, and at 10 AM on March 19, the region registered a temperature of 36.3°C. The IMD had earlier predicted heatwave conditions for Karnataka from March 18 to March 20, signaling the arrival of the summer season.

While some areas in Karnataka are experiencing severe heat, regions like Chikkamagaluru, Kodagu, and Chamara-janagar have witnessed light to moderate rainfall, providing some respite from the heat.

The Andhra Pradesh State Disaster Management Authority (APSDMA) has also issued a heatwave alert for 58 mandals in the state on March 19, indicating that heatwaves are not limited to Karnataka alone.



In Odisha, heatwave conditions have been severe, especially from March 16-18. On March 18, Boudh, located in western Odisha, recorded the highest temperature in the country at 43.6°C. The state capital, Bhubaneswar, saw a more moderate temperature of 34.6°C. To alleviate the hot conditions, the IMD has predicted rain, thunderstorms, and lightning between March 19 and March 21 in several parts

of the state. The districts likely to be affected by these weather conditions include Bhadrak, Kendrapada, Balasore, Jajpur, Jagatsinghpur, and Cuttack, where light rain or thunder-showers are expected.

Along with Odisha, several other parts of the country are grappling with heatwave conditions. In Jharkhand, seven districts recorded temperatures exceeding 40°C on March 18. Other regions affected by



high temperatures include West Bengal, the Vidarbha area of Maharashtra, northern Telangana, and Chhattisgarh.

Overall, while Karnataka continues to battle a heatwave, Odisha can expect some relief with the upcoming rain showers. The IMD's predictions suggest that heatwave conditions will ease in Karnataka after March 20, while Odisha looks forward to cooler weather as the rainfall arrives.

## Tamil Nadu Re-designates Additional Advocates General

TPN Correspondent | Tamilnadu

In a recent reshuffle, the Tamil Nadu government has re-designated its Additional Advocates General (AAGs) at the principal seat of the Madras High Court and the Madurai Bench. A Government Order (G.O.) issued on Tuesday announced the new appointments, with notable changes in the positions and responsibilities of the senior legal counsels representing the state.

Senior Counsel M. Ajmal Khan has now been appointed as Additional Advocate General-I (AAG-I), a significant position among the state's legal team. Along with this re-designation, J. Ravindran has been placed in the sixth position among a total of 11 AAGs. Ravindran has also been entrusted with the additional responsibility of acting as the liaison between the state government and the judiciary, a role crucial for improving communication and coordination within the legal and judicial systems.

The other senior counsels, who have been given new roles in the reorganization, include Veera Kathiravan, Haja Nazirudeen, P. Kumaresan, R. Baskaran, J. Ravindran, R. Ramanalal, K. Chandramohan, M. Suresh Kumar, R. Neelakandan, and P. Muthukumar. These individuals have been assigned positions as AAGs II



Senior Counsel M. Ajmal Khan designated as Additional Advocate General-I (AAG-I).

to XI, strengthening the legal representation of Tamil Nadu across various judicial matters. The re-designation of these positions aims to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of legal proceedings, particularly at the Madras High Court and its Madurai Bench.

The reorganization of the Additional Advocates General team comes as part of a recommendation made by the Advocate General P.S. Raman. In a letter addressed to the Tamil Nadu government on February 21, 2025, Advocate General Raman suggested the reshuffle to ensure that the legal team operates in a more streamlined and coordinated manner.

This move is seen as a step toward improving the state's legal framework and its interactions with the judiciary.

The Tamil Nadu government's decision to re-designate its AAGs underscores its commitment to maintaining a robust legal system and ensuring that the representation in the state's courts is well-organized. By assigning specific roles such as coordination between the government and judiciary, the government aims to strengthen the relationship between the legal system and its governance.

These changes are expected to have a positive impact on the state's legal processes, particularly in the way legal matters are managed and handled in the courts. With the new appointments, Tamil Nadu is looking to further improve its legal infrastructure and ensure that its legal teams work in sync with the judicial system.

## Rising Deep fake Cybercrimes in Karnataka

TPN Correspondent | Bangalore

In the past two years, Karnataka has reported 12 cases related to deepfake technology, highlighting a growing concern over the misuse of artificial intelligence (AI) in cybercrimes.

Deepfakes, which use AI to manipulate videos or images to depict false events or actions, have become a powerful tool for misleading social media users and spreading misinformation. These fake videos often target prominent individuals or public figures, causing reputational harm, and in some cases, leading to financial losses. The rise in such cybercrimes has prompted law enforcement agencies to pay closer attention to the issue. Authorities in Karnataka have expressed their alarm over the increased prevalence of deepfakes being used to deceive the public, particularly in the context of political campaigns, social unrest, and defamation cases. The technology allows for the seamless alteration of video content, making it difficult for viewers to differentiate between real and fabricated footage.

Cyber experts warn that deepfake videos are not just limited to politicians or celebrities. They can be used to target ordinary citizens, spreading false narratives or damaging personal lives. In some instances, these videos have been used to

blackmail individuals or extort money. Furthermore, the rise of social media platforms as primary sources of news makes it easier for deepfake content to go viral, amplifying its impact.

In response to the growing threat, the Karnataka police have been collaborating with tech firms and digital forensics experts to track and remove such content. The state government has also been working on drafting stricter laws to curb the misuse of AI and deepfake technology. While deepfake technology has legitimate uses, such as in entertainment and education, its potential for harm underscores the urgent need for vigilance, regulation, and public awareness.

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# AAP’s Governance: A Mixed Report Card, But Still Punjab’s Best Bet

Despite facing challenges, Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) remains Punjab's best hope, according to recent opinions. The Congress and Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD), former rulers, have failed to meet the state's needs. AAP, in contrast, is praised for showing political will to tackle key issues, though its execution leaves room for improvement. The party has taken bold steps to combat corruption and incompetence, even if some promises, like a drug-free Punjab within three months, may seem over-ambitious. With critical years ahead, Punjabis must decide whether to continue with AAP's intent-driven governance or return to the old, unfulfilled promises of past governments. While some view AAP's governance as underwhelming, others point out the party's ongoing struggle to meet public expectations. Initially brought to power on hopes of positive change, AAP has faced significant hurdles, including Punjab's rising debt. Critics argue that the government has been spending excessively on out-of-state election campaigns, while neglecting the state's immediate needs. However, after learning from its defeat in Delhi, the party is attempting to reorganize, and CM Bhagwant Mann is urged to focus on development to meet the state's



challenges. In other developments, various letters highlight the importance of the National Education Policy (NEP) in promoting multilingualism and the potential of Haryana's new 'Department of Future' to drive long-term development. Additionally, apple growers in

Himachal Pradesh are encouraged to embrace food processing initiatives to diversify their income, enhancing returns in both domestic and international markets. These diverse perspectives emphasize the need for strategic action and foresight in governance and economic planning.

## Modi Government’s Assurances: Unfulfilled Promises Erode Public Trust



Despite the Modi government's consistent claims of commitment to good governance, the reality on the ground tells a different story. The government has reaffirmed its dedication to providing a transparent and accountable administration, but the latest figures reveal that nearly 75% of the assurances made by Union ministers in Parliament in 2024 remain unfulfilled. This is not a new issue; a decade ago, during 2015 and 2016, two-thirds of the promises made were either dropped or left pending. To address this issue, the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs launched the

Online Assurances Monitoring System in 2018, aiming to track, monitor, and fulfill ministers' commitments. While the system's intention was to enhance accountability and efficiency, the actual implementation has been lackluster, with ministers failing to meet deadlines and follow through on their promises. Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju has assured that the government takes these assurances seriously, but the lack of accountability for erring ministers raises concerns. Why are ministers not being held accountable or replaced for their failure to fulfill commitments? The

Standing Committee on Government Assurances, which is responsible for overseeing the implementation of these promises, also seems to be ineffective in ensuring timely action. While promises made during election rallies are often met with skepticism, assurances made by elected representatives in Parliament should be taken more seriously. The government's failure to meet these promises undermines public trust and erodes the sanctity of parliamentary democracy. It is crucial for the government to restore credibility by ensuring that assurances are fulfilled promptly and effectively.

## Truce in Tatters: Israeli Strikes Push Gaza to the Brink

The recent Israeli airstrikes on Gaza, which have resulted in the deaths of over 400 people, signal the near collapse of a fragile ceasefire that had been in place to ease hostilities. Instead, the region is thrust back into turmoil, with civilians bearing the brunt of the violence. Israel defends the renewed assault as essential to secure the release of hostages still held by Hamas, while Hamas asserts it has adhered to the truce and is prepared for negotiations. However, the hostages remain trapped in a diplomatic deadlock as violence escalates. The humanitarian situation in Gaza has reached catastrophic levels. Hospitals are overwhelmed, aid is blocked, and each new airstrike only deepens the destruction. Civilian infrastructure—homes, schools, and entire neighborhoods—has been decimated, with military targets also suffering heavy damage. Israel's offensive risks not only further devastating Gaza but also the potential to draw in other regional actors, such as Iran, Hezbollah, and Yemen's Houthis, escalating the conflict into a broader regional war.



International responses to the violence have been notably weak. The United Nations has condemned the attacks, and Egypt has called for restraint, but these appeals have not been successful in halting the bloodshed. The United States, Israel's key ally, must do more to advocate for immediate de-escalation instead of simply reiterating its support for Israel's right to self-defense. Without meaningful international interven-

tion, the humanitarian crisis is likely to worsen. At the heart of this conflict lies the debate over security and survival. While Israel insists that Hamas must be dismantled for long-term peace, the relentless strikes are eroding the very possibility of peaceful coexistence. The collapse of the ceasefire highlights the grim reality: without a concrete political solution, this cycle of violence will only continue.



## Punjab’s Unfulfilled Aspirations: A Call for a Fair Constitutional Deal

The ongoing struggle of Punjab, a state deeply affected by Partition, continues to be overlooked within the Indian constitutional framework. While the state endured immense hardship during and after Partition, it did not receive the constitutional guarantees it deserved—unlike other states that were able to secure special provisions. The lack of a negotiated constitutional niche for Punjab, despite the immense sacrifices made by its people, remains a significant issue.

Punjab's unique plight began with the devastating Partition, which divided families and left many of its agricultural lands in Pakistan. As one of the major contributors to the British Indian Army, with over 360,000 soldiers, Punjab's contribution to India's security and economy was significant, but its representation in the armed forces and its economic status was severely affected after Partition. Despite this, the state was unable to secure the constitutional safeguards that other regions, like Jammu & Kashmir, were able to negotiate. The absence of these provisions, particularly in the areas of agriculture and military recruitment, left Punjab at a disadvantage compared to other states. While Jammu & Kashmir received Article 370, which gave it special provisions, Punjab failed to obtain any similar constitutional guarantees, even though it faced the same issues of territorial loss and economic hardships. This discrepancy raises questions about why the leaders of undivided Punjab did not demand a better deal for their state during the Constituent Assembly discussions.

Punjab's history, from Partition to wars and militancy, has left it politically, economically, and socially exhausted. The state's ongoing debt and struggles require a new economic and constitutional framework to ensure its future prosperity. To achieve this, Punjab's political parties and intellectual community must set aside partisan interests and unite for a common cause—securing a fair deal within the Indian Constitution. The time has come for a serious, scholarly examination of why Punjab was neglected and what can be done to rectify this oversight.



## Global Stock Market Turmoil: What India Needs to Revive Its Economy

Indian stock markets have been in a slump for the past six months, with the Bombay Stock Exchange falling 13% since September 2024. Experts suggest this decline may continue, with foreign investors pulling out \$25 billion from Indian stocks. This decline is sharper than the 2% drop in Asian and global emerging markets, highlighting India's unique position amidst global market turmoil.

The global stock market decline has been fueled by President Donald Trump's policies, which focus on "America First." His isolationist trade policies, including tariffs, have caused instability in global markets, yet they've inadvertently boosted European stock markets. While US stocks have fallen by 5% since Trump's reelection, European stocks have risen by 5-20%. This divergence has left India struggling, with Indian stocks remaining stagnant even as non-US markets advance.

To address its economic challenges, India is negotiating with the US to lower tariffs, a move that could benefit both nations. Lowering tariffs will introduce more reasonably priced goods, forcing Indian businesses to become more efficient, benefiting Indian consumers. Moreover, the US should reconsider its isolationist stance, as global cooperation is essential for long-term prosperity. For India's economy to recover, it needs to focus on its manufacturing sector, which has been sluggish. While India's software and AI sectors have brought in foreign exchange, the country's reliance on them is not enough. Additionally, the outflow of skilled workers, particularly healthcare professionals, is causing strain on India's public healthcare system. Better compensation for healthcare workers could improve the system and attract health tourists, providing a boost to India's economy. With strategic policy changes and focus on manufacturing and healthcare, India can regain momentum in the global stock market.



# India's First Trump-Branded Office

Tribeca Developers, the real estate development partner of the Trump Organization in India, has officially launched the first Trump-branded commercial real estate project in the country. The project, named "Trump World Center," will be developed in Pune, a major city in western India that has seen significant growth in the IT sector over the past decade. The launch marks a significant milestone in the Trump brand's expansion in India, which has become its largest real estate market outside of the United States.

The Trump World Center is expected to attract considerable interest, with sales projections exceeding \$289 million. The office development is scheduled for completion in about four years. Pune is known for being a hub of both global and local IT firms,



making it an ideal location for this premium commercial project. The project will be developed in partnership with Kundan Spaces, a local real estate compa-

ny, further expanding the collaboration between international and Indian developers. Kalpesh Mehta, the founder of Tribeca Developers, shared that

the company is also planning to launch three to four additional Trump-branded luxury residential projects in various parts of India over the next 4 to 6 weeks. These upcoming projects will be spread across both northern and southern India, contributing to the growth of the Trump brand's presence in the Indian market. Mehta forecasts that the combined sales potential from the Trump World Center office project and the upcoming residential projects will reach an impressive \$1.15 billion. This expansion further solidifies India's importance as a key market for the Trump Organization's real estate ventures. With the growing demand for luxury properties, the Trump-branded developments are poised to make a significant impact in India's real estate landscape.



## MEA Slams Pakistan's Comments on Kashmir

The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) on Tuesday strongly criticized Pakistan for its response to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's comments on Jammu and Kashmir during a podcast with American AI researcher Lex Fridman. The MEA demanded that Pakistan vacate the Indian territory it holds under "illegal occupation."

MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal accused Pakistan of actively promoting and sponsoring cross-border terrorism, which he referred to as the "biggest roadblock to peace and security in the region." He emphasized that the real issue at hand is Pakistan's continued support for terrorism, which hampers efforts for peace in the region. "The world knows that the real issue is Pakistan's active promotion and sponsorship of cross-border terrorism. This is the biggest barrier to peace and security in the region. Instead of spreading lies, Pakistan should vacate Indian territory under its illegal and forcible occupation," the MEA statement read.

Prime Minister Modi's remarks came during a podcast with Lex Fridman on Sunday, where he discussed various topics, including India's efforts to engage with Pakistan. Modi stated that "every attempt to foster peace with Pakistan was met with hostility and betrayal." He also expressed hope that "wisdom would prevail" among Pakistan's leadership, leading to improved bilateral ties between the two countries.

The MEA's response reiterates India's long-standing position on Jammu and Kashmir and condemns Pakistan's actions, which India sees as a significant impediment to regional stability and peace. The statement calls for a shift in Pakistan's approach, urging it to end its illegal occupation of Jammu and Kashmir and cease supporting terrorism.

# Adani Group Partners With PGTI for Invitational Golf Championship

The Adani Group has entered the world of Indian professional golf by launching the Adani Invitational Golf Championship 2025 in collaboration with the Professional Golf Tour of India (PGTI). The tournament, which offers a prize pool of Rs 1.5 crore, is set to be held from April 1-4, 2025, at the prestigious Jaypee Greens Golf & Spa Resort in Greater Noida. This marks the return of the PGTI to the venue after 11 years.

Aimed at promoting golf as a mainstream sport and increasing its accessibility in India, the Adani Invitational is designed to nurture the next generation of global champions. "This initiative reflects our commitment to broadening golf's appeal in India, enhancing participation, and providing world-class training opportunities," said Pranav Adani, Director of Adani Enterprises. Kapil Dev, the President of PGTI,



expressed his excitement over the partnership, highlighting the role the Adani Group will play in fostering the growth of Indian professional golf. "With Adani Group's support, we aim to produce more

champion golfers who will represent India on the global stage," Dev stated. He added that he anticipated a large turnout of fans at the tournament, eager to see their favorite players in action.

Amandeep Johl, CEO of PGTI, described the Adani Invitational Golf Championship 2025 as a watershed moment for Indian golf. He emphasized the significant impact of the partnership in elevating the stature of the tour. The event promises a top-tier field, an attractive prize purse, and outstanding playing conditions, making it an eagerly awaited occasion for golf enthusiasts. In preparation for the championship, a pre-tournament event will take place on March 29, 2025, at The Belvedere Golf & Country Club in Ahmedabad. The event will feature a golf clinic conducted by five leading PGTI professionals, where 50 children from The Adani International School will be introduced to the sport. Kapil Dev will attend the event to emphasize the shared vision of the Adani Group and PGTI to develop golfing talent in India.



## Delhi Police in Solving ₹80 Lakh Robbery Case

Delhi Police, with the help of Israeli facial recognition technology, solved a robbery case involving ₹80 lakh and arrested two accused persons. The incident occurred in the Chandni Chowk area on Monday when a trader's employee was robbed at gunpoint. The accused fired a warning shot before fleeing with the money. The arrested individuals have been identified as Md Ali (21) and Samir (19). Following the crime, police analyzed CCTV footage from nearly 500 cameras in areas including Chandni Chowk, Red Fort, Jama Masjid, and others. Israeli facial recognition technology was used to identify Md Ali as a prime suspect, linking him to a previous case. Using the technology, police matched a screen grab of the suspect to a database, which led them to Ali's residence in Daryaganj. Further investigation revealed that Ali had prior knowledge of the victim's cash movement and had conducted a recce before the robbery. Samir, his accomplice, was arrested after Ali revealed his identity during interrogation.

A raid at Samir's residence led to the recovery of ₹79.5 lakh, a semi-automatic pistol, and other incriminating materials. Both suspects have been booked under relevant sections of the law.

# Anand Mahindra Welcomes Sunita Williams Back From Space

Business tycoon Anand Mahindra expressed his relief and admiration after astronaut Sunita Williams returned to Earth following an extended stay aboard the International Space Station (ISS). Mahindra, the chairperson of the Mahindra Group, described Williams as "courage personified" and shared an old photograph from a chance encounter two years ago, recalling the moment with fondness.

In a post on X (formerly Twitter), Mahindra said, "When the SpaceX rescue mission was launched, I recalled this chance encounter almost two years ago with Sunita Williams in Washington. It was an enormous relief to see her and her colleagues' successful splashdown back on earth a few hours ago. She is courage personified, and it's good to have her back amongst us. Swagatam, Sunita."

The picture Mahindra shared, taken in Washington in 2023 during the India-US Hi-Tech Handshake, also featured tech entrepreneur Vrinda Kapoor and billionaire Mukesh Ambani. Mahindra humorously recalled how he and his colleagues missed their shuttle bus and bumped into Williams while trying to call an Uber. He joked that they asked if they could hitch a ride on her space shuttle instead.

Mahindra further remarked on the encounter, saying, "I suppose this was what they would call a 'Washington moment.' After the tech handshake meeting yesterday, Mukesh Ambani, Vrinda Kapoor & I were continuing a conversation with the Secretary of Commerce and missed the group shuttle bus to the next lunch engagement."

Meanwhile, the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) also welcomed Williams back, praising her successful mission. "Wel-



come back, Sunita Williams! Your safe return after an extended mission aboard the ISS is a remarkable achievement," ISRO posted on X. The space agency acknowledged the significance of her return as a testament to NASA, SpaceX, and the USA's commitment to space exploration. ISRO's statement further read, "Your resilience and dedication continue to inspire space enthusiasts around the world." ISRO also extended warm greetings to Williams and expressed its hopes of utilizing her ex-

pertise in space exploration to aid India's space program, under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Williams, along with NASA astronaut Butch Wilmore, had been stranded aboard the ISS for nearly nine months. Their scheduled week-long stay was extended due to technical glitches with Boeing's Starliner spacecraft. The astronauts finally returned safely to Earth following a soft splashdown of their Crew 9 Dragon Spacecraft off the coast of Florida on Wednesday.



# 286-Day Space Mission: Sunita Williams and Butch Wilmore return after a record-breaking stay

## The astronauts landed safely in SpaceX’s Dragon capsule at 3:27 am off the Florida coast.

TPN Correspondent | Wahington

Astronaut Sunita Williams, along with her fellow astronaut Butch Wilmore, has returned to Earth after an extraordinary 286-day stay in space. The duo, both former Navy pilots, initially launched aboard Boeing’s Starliner spacecraft on June 5 last year for what was planned to be an eight-day mission to the International Space Station (ISS). However, a series of unexpected delays and technical issues left them stranded in space for nearly nine months.

The astronauts returned home aboard SpaceX’s Dragon spacecraft, which splashed down off the coast of Florida early this morning. After completing a deorbit burn at 2:41 am, the spacecraft slowed down and made its way toward Earth, landing just 44 minutes later at 3:27 am.

Upon their return, a NASA team greeted Williams and Wilmore, assisting them out of the capsule and onto mobility aids. Williams was seen smiling,



waving, and giving a thumbs-up, a clear sign of relief after the long journey.

Their extended mission, which was initially planned as a brief stay, became a prolonged ordeal after Boeing’s Starliner capsule suffered propulsion problems, rendering it unfit for their return. As a result, they were reassigned to SpaceX’s Crew-9 mission, and after several delays, a

Dragon spacecraft was finally dispatched to bring them back.

Williams and Wilmore now face the challenging recovery process that astronauts undergo after long periods in space. Bone and muscle deterioration, radiation exposure, and vision impairment are common issues faced by astronauts returning from extended space missions. The lack of gravity in

space causes bone density loss and muscle weakening, while radiation exposure poses a significant health risk. Prime Minister Narendra Modi expressed his pride in Williams’ achievements in a letter made public during her return journey. In his letter, Modi conveyed that 1.4 billion Indians take great pride in her perseverance and fortitude, acknowledging her inspiring journey into space.

# Russia-Ukraine War Ceasefire Talks Set For Sunday In Saudi Arabia: US



TPN Correspondent | Washington

Negotiations for a potential ceasefire in the ongoing Russia-Ukraine war will resume on Sunday in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, US President Donald Trump’s special envoy, Steve Witkoff, confirmed on Tuesday. In an interview with Fox News, Witkoff revealed that the US delegation, led by Secretary of State Marco Rubio and National Security Advisor Mike Waltz, would engage in talks aimed at reaching a ceasefire agreement. However, he did not specify who they would be negotiating with.

The discussions are focused on reaching a temporary ceasefire, with particular attention to halting attacks on energy infrastructure and Black Sea targets. Witkoff indicated that the Russians have agreed to cease strikes on energy targets, expressing hope that the Ukrainian side would also agree to the proposal.

Despite this progress, Ukraine accused Russia of rejecting the full ceasefire proposal, pointing to continued attacks on civilian infrastructure. Hours after Moscow reportedly agreed to pause strikes on the energy grid, Ukraine reported further bombardments. The US has been pushing for a comprehensive, 30-day ceasefire as a starting point for a broader resolution to the war, which has now entered its third year.

In a 90-minute phone call with President Putin, Trump’s envoy was informed that Russia’s stance on a ceasefire was conditional. Putin insisted that any ceasefire deal would require Ukraine’s allies to halt all military support to Kyiv. The Kremlin also announced that Russian forces would pause strikes on Ukrainian energy targets for 30 days.

Witkoff, however, stressed that the ceasefire proposal encompasses broader infrastructure targets and noted that the consensus around energy and Black Sea objectives brings the two sides closer to a full ceasefire agreement.

The ongoing talks in Jeddah aim to secure a fragile peace after nearly three years of devastating conflict, but significant hurdles remain in bridging the divide between Russia and Ukraine.



## SpaceX to take humans to Mars in next 20-30 years? Elon Musk claims it’s possible

TPN Correspondent | US

In a recent exclusive interview with Sean Hannity on Fox News, SpaceX CEO Elon Musk shared his ambitious vision for the future of human space travel, stating that humans could journey to Mars within the next 20-30 years. Musk, who has long championed space exploration, emphasized that SpaceX’s ultimate goal is to make space travel accessible to everyone.

“We would be able to take astronauts to Mars. In fact, we want to take anyone who goes to Mars,” Musk declared, revealing that the long-term goal of SpaceX is to facilitate human colonization of the Red Planet. Musk expressed confidence that the mission could be achieved within two to three decades, which he described as a “realistic” timeline for interplanetary travel.

This statement comes at a time when SpaceX continues to push the boundaries of space exploration with significant advancements in rocket technology. Musk’s company recently made headlines with the safe return of NASA astronauts Sunita Williams and Butch Wilmore, who had been stranded aboard the International Space Station (ISS) for nine months. The astronauts were initially set to return in a Boeing spacecraft but were later brought back aboard SpaceX’s Dragon capsule after technical issues with Boeing’s vehicle.

Looking ahead, Musk reiterated his plans for Mars exploration, announcing that SpaceX’s Starship rocket will be launched to Mars by the end of 2026. Starship, the world’s largest and most powerful rocket, will carry Tesla’s humanoid robot, Optimus, as part of the mission. Musk has hinted that if these initial missions go smoothly, human landings on Mars could take place as early as 2029, with 2031 being a more realistic target.

Starship is critical to Musk’s vision of colonizing Mars, with plans for the vehicle to be fully reusable and capable of carrying humans on deep space missions. In addition to Mars exploration, NASA is working with SpaceX on a modified version of Starship to serve as a lunar lander for its Artemis program, which aims to return astronauts to the Moon.



## Israel Launches "Limited Ground Op" In Gaza Day After Missile Strikes

TPN Correspondent | Jerusalem

On Wednesday, the Israeli military announced the initiation of a “limited ground operation” aimed at retaking a strategic part of the Gaza corridor. This move deepens the Israeli offensive in Gaza, which has already led to the collapse of a ceasefire with Hamas that had been in effect since January.

The operation focuses on the Netzarim corridor, a crucial route that bisects northern Gaza from the southern parts of the territory. Historically, this corridor has been a military zone for Israel, allowing movement of troops and supplies. During the ceasefire, Israel had agreed to withdraw from this area as part of the broader agreement. The recent re-engagement in the corridor marks a significant shift, with Israel reasserting control over the area.

The ceasefire had created a fragile calm, and its breakdown signifies a sharp turn in the ongoing conflict. The military action in the Netzarim corridor, while described as “limited,” is seen as an escalation that could provoke further retaliation from Hamas and potentially escalate the situation across Gaza. The operation also appears to signal Israel’s intent to regain control over areas it deems vital to its security strategy.

The military spokesperson has emphasized that the operation aims to reclaim critical terrain that is central to Israel’s objectives in Gaza. However, the details of the operation remain somewhat vague, leaving room for speculation about its long-term impact on the broader conflict.

As Israel continues its offensive, the situation in Gaza grows increasingly volatile. The breakdown of the ceasefire has raised concerns about the potential for a wider military escalation, affecting both the security situation in Israel and the humanitarian crisis in Gaza.

The international community has expressed concern about the deteriorating situation, urging both sides to return to diplomatic negotiations to avoid further bloodshed. The outcome of Israel’s latest operation in Gaza remains uncertain, but it is clear that the path to peace remains fraught with challenges.



## Russia Accuses Ukraine Of Trying To 'Derail' Putin-Trump Peace Agreement

TPN Correspondent | Jakarta

The Kremlin on Wednesday accused Kyiv of undermining US-Russia efforts to end the ongoing conflict in Ukraine, claiming that Ukraine attempted to strike Russian energy infrastructure despite an agreement between Russian President Vladimir Putin and US President Donald Trump to halt such attacks.

Following a phone call between Trump and Putin on Tuesday, the Russian president announced a 30-day pause on strikes targeting Ukrainian energy facilities. This came after Putin rejected Trump’s earlier request for a complete cessation of hostilities. Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov expressed frustration, stating that there had been no reciprocity from Ukraine regarding the ceasefire and that Kyiv had attempted to strike Russian energy infrastructure.

Peskov noted that the Russian president had “immediately” commanded a halt to energy attacks and claimed that seven Russian drones were poised for strikes on Ukrainian infrastructure but were shot down by Ukrainian air defenses. Following the phone call, both countries launched drone strikes against each other.

The Kremlin sought to clarify any confusion between Russian and US reports, with Peskov confirming that Putin had agreed only to a ceasefire regarding energy infrastructure strikes, contrary to reports by US envoy Steve Witkoff suggesting a broader halt on all infrastructure attacks. Meanwhile, Kyiv had declared its own commitment to an unconditional ceasefire last week, though no specific agreement with Russia had been made.



# Markets Extend Gains for Third Straight Session; Nifty Nears 23,000



Domestic stock markets closed in gains for the third consecutive day. Consolidation continued in benchmark and sectoral indices. The indices started flat and continued in a range-bound mode due to mixed signals from global markets. Investors followed the 'buy on dips' approach and then gradually recovered. Bank, auto, finance, realty and metal shares were the winners. Investors are waiting for the US Fed meeting announcement on Thursday. This will affect the course of tomorrow's markets. Overall Nifty rose by 73 points and Sensex by 147 points. Nifty is another 100 points away from touching 23000.

The BSE Sensex, which closed at 75,301 in the previous session, opened at 75,473 on Wednesday. It touched an intraday low of 75,201. It reached an intraday high of 75,568. It finally

closed at 75,449, up 147 points. The NSE Nifty, which opened at 22,874, touched a low of 22,807 and a high of 22,940. It closed at 22,907, up 73 points. The Nifty Bank rose 388 points to settle at 49,702.

In the Nifty50, 31 companies gained and 19 lost. Shriram Finance, HDFC Life, Apollo Hospitals, Tata Steel, Power Grid were the top gainers. Tech Mahindra, ITC, TCS, Infi, Sun Pharma were the biggest losers. All sectoral indices rose today, except FMCG and IT. Bank, auto, finance, media, metal, pharma, PSU bank, realty, healthcare, consumer durables, oil stocks were the losers.

Market breadth on NSE today turned in favor of buyers. Out of 2990 stocks traded, 2345 gained. 568 lost. 42 stocks hit 52-week highs. 89 stocks hit 52-week lows. 244 stocks crossed the up-

per circuit and 43 stocks crossed the lower circuit.

Desko Infratech IPO public issue to start from March 24. Rupee strengthened by 12 paise against dollar to settle at 86.44. 19 lakh shares changed hands in Reliance Industries. Bajaj Electronics to set up subsidiary in United Arab Emirates. 14 lakh shares changed hands in ITC. HSBC reduces target price of Power Grid to Rs 250. Physics Wala submits draft papers for India IPO. 10 lakh shares changed hands in Tata Steel. TCS signs five-year deal with Air New Zealand. Nuwama maintains buy rating on Pdilde Industries with target price of Rs 3660. Momentum in banking stocks including Indusind and SBI gained as Bank Nifty rose for the fifth consecutive day. 48 lakh shares changed hands in NTPC. Tata Motors board approves Rs 2000 crore through NCDs. REC has declared an interim dividend of Rs. 3.60 for the fourth time for the financial year 2025.

**1. JSW Infrastructure Ltd**  
The company secured a ₹1,500 crore contract for port expansion in Maharashtra. Cargo handling capacity increased by 18% YoY, driven by rising



coal and container volumes. Jefferies maintained a 'Buy' rating with a target price of ₹380, citing strong infrastructure expansion.

**2. Housing and Urban Development Corporation Ltd (HUDCO)**



HUDCO sanctioned ₹5,000 crore worth of affordable housing and urban infrastructure projects across India. The government's push for smart cities and urban development is expected to drive further growth. Motilal Oswal gave a 'Buy' rating with a target price of ₹280, citing strong financial stability and growth prospects.

**3. Bharat Dynamics Ltd (BDL)**



BDL signed a ₹2,400 crore contract with the Indian Armed Forces for missile production. Export orders rose by 30% YoY, boosting revenue visibility. ICICI Securities upgraded

its rating to 'Buy' with a target price of ₹1,600, citing strong defense sector demand.

**4. NLC India Ltd**

The company announced ₹7,000 crore investment in renewable energy projects. It reported a 14% increase in coal production, ensuring steady power generation. HSBC maintained a 'Buy' rating with a target price of ₹325, expecting continued growth in the energy sector.



**5. Max Healthcare Institute Ltd**

Max Healthcare expanded its hospital network with the acquisition of three new hospitals in South India. Revenue per bed increased 15% YoY, reflecting strong patient demand. Morgan Stanley retained a 'Buy' rating with a target price of ₹1280, citing expansion and rising medical tourism.



## Fitch tweaks FY27 India growth aim to 6.3% and makes rate cut predictions

On Tuesday, a leading rating agency kept its economic forecast for India unchanged, projecting a growth rate of 6.5 percent for the fiscal year 2025-26. However, the agency slightly updated the growth estimate for FY26-27 to 6.3 percent, an improvement from the 6.2 percent forecast made in December. This revision comes amid challenges posed by the ongoing global trade tensions, particularly the trade war instigated by the United States.

In the March edition of its Global Economic Outlook (GEO), the rating agency emphasized that India's economy remains somewhat insulated from the global trade pressures due to its self-sufficiency and lower dependence on external demand. Despite the uncertainty caused by aggressive US trade policies, India's domestic consumption-driven growth model provides a buffer against potential shocks in global demand.

The report outlined that India's GDP growth for FY25-26 is expected to maintain the steady 6.5 percent pace, with a slight de-



celeration to 6.3 percent in FY26-27. While this forecast is mostly unchanged from the previous update in December, the report flagged the risks posed by the escalating US trade policies, which could potentially impact global supply chains and trade dynamics.

Additionally, the agency projected two further cuts in India's policy interest rate within the current calendar year. The policy rate is expected to decrease to 5.75 percent by December 2025,

down from the current 6.25 percent, following a 25 basis point reduction in February. These rate cuts are expected to support domestic economic activity and cushion any adverse effects of external factors.

As India faces global uncertainties, its relatively lower exposure to global trade makes it well-positioned to weather the storm, with the economy expected to continue its steady growth trajectory in the coming years.

## India to explore green shipping and digital business with Singapore

India's green fuel and digital shipping initiatives are poised to enter the global market through Singapore's robust marine and shipping industry, which supplies over 55 million tonnes of bunker fuel annually to internationally operating vessels. This makes Singapore one of the largest global hubs for marine fuel.

According to trade sources, both India and Singapore are exploring the creation of a "Green Digital Shipping Corridor" that would connect international ports and marine industries. This corridor aims to facilitate the movement of green fuels, such as green hydrogen and ammonia, while leveraging digital technologies to enhance efficiency in the maritime sector.

India's long-term focus on exporting green fuels aligns perfectly with Singapore's strategic position as a maritime hub. The country's maritime industry is well-positioned to help market and distribute India's green fuels to ships operating worldwide.

Next week, India's Minister of Port, Shipping, and Waterways, Sarbananda Sonowal, along with key industry stakeholders, will visit Singapore to formalize a working program with Singapore's maritime industries. Sonowal has a clear focus on advancing green shipping practices and digitizing Indian ports,



with the goal of making India a global leader in the maritime sector.

Meanwhile, Singapore is also exploring various opportunities to expand its industrial base, including the development of shipping capacity, port modernization, and shipyard upgrades. Sonowal's visit will coincide with Singapore Maritime Week, running from March 24 to 28, providing opportunities for the minister and his delegation to engage with over 20,000 attendees, including global maritime industry leaders.

This partnership is set to boost India's role in the global green shipping and digital trade landscape, enabling both countries to tap into new business prospects and solidify their leadership in the global maritime industry.

## India's auto parts & medical exports show robust growth Auto parts exports rise to \$7.7 billion in FY24

India's exports of auto components, along with medical and scientific instruments, have experienced significant growth over the past three years, according to a government official. The auto parts sector, in particular, saw a rise in exports to \$7.7 billion in the fiscal year 2023-24, up from \$6.88 billion in FY22. This growth reflects both the strong global demand for Indian auto components and the country's increasing competitiveness in the global supply chain.

Key export destinations for Indian auto parts include the United States, Turkey, Germany, Mexico, and Brazil, indicating a wide and diverse market for these products. The strong demand in these regions underscores India's ability to meet the needs of global automakers, offering high-quality components at competitive prices.

In addition to the auto sector, India has also made impressive strides in the export of medical and scientific instruments. These exports have sim-



ilarly shown resilience and growth, driven by global demand for India's high-quality, cost-effective healthcare solutions. As the global healthcare industry continues to expand, India is positioning itself as a reliable source of medical and scientific equipment, further bolstering its export portfolio.

This growth in both the auto and medical exports highlights India's evolving role as a key player in global manufacturing and trade. The country's competitiveness in these sectors can

be attributed to its robust industrial base, skilled labor force, and ongoing technological advancements.

Looking ahead, experts expect India's exports in these sectors to continue their upward trajectory, driven by sustained global demand and improvements in India's manufacturing capabilities. With a focus on expanding its global footprint, India is poised to remain a leading exporter of auto components and medical instruments in the coming years.



# Google Doodle Celebrates ‘Worm Moon’ with Interactive Lunar Game



On March 25, Google unveiled a creative and interactive Doodle to celebrate the Worm Moon, marking March’s final Half Moon. The Doodle invites users to engage in a unique card game that tests their knowledge of the lunar cycle. In the game, players must match the different phases of the moon to earn points and compete against the March Half Moon. Titled “Rise of the Half Moon in March,” the Doodle allows users to choose from cards, each representing a phase of the moon, as they learn more about the lunar cycle. With every stage of the game, players are rewarded with unique incentives, encouraging them to continue playing. Those who successfully complete the challenge can share their high scores, adding a competitive edge to the fun.

According to the Old Farmer’s Almanac, the Worm Moon is named after the time of year when frozen ground begins to thaw, and earthworms start reappearing, signaling the arrival of spring. In another interpretation, the moon’s name comes from the emergence of beetle larvae from tree bark. This interactive Doodle is available on both mobile and desktop devices, allowing users worldwide to participate in this lunar celebration while learning more about the phases of the moon.

## Chaitra Navratri 2025: Dates, Significance, and Rituals



Chaitra Navratri, one of the most significant festivals for Hindus, will be celebrated from March 30 to April 7, 2025. This nine-day festival, dedicated to Goddess Durga, is observed with great devotion across India and among Hindus worldwide. It marks the beginning of the Hindu New Year, particularly in North India, and is considered a time of spiritual renewal and celebration of feminine power.

Key Dates of Chaitra Navratri 2025:

- March 30: Pratipada (Ghatasthapana & Shailputri Puja)
- March 31: Dwitiya (Brahmacharini Puja)
- April 1: Tritiya (Chandraghanta Puja)
- April 2: Chaturthi (Kushmanda Puja)
- April 3: Panchami (Skandamata Puja)
- April 4: Shashti (Katyayani Puja)

- April 5: Saptami (Kalaratri Puja)
  - April 6: Ashtami (Mahagauri Puja & Kanya Pujan)
  - April 7: Navami (Siddhidatri Puja & Ram Navami)
- The festival symbolizes the triumph of good over evil, light over darkness, and knowledge over ignorance. Each day of Navratri is dedicated to worshipping a specific form of Goddess Durga, known as Navadurga. The nine forms, including Ma Shailputri, Ma Brahmacharini, and Ma Mahagauri, represent various virtues and aspects of the divine feminine energy.
- Rituals and Celebrations:
- Devotees observe fasting, prayer, and meditation during these nine days. Temples across the country witness grand celebrations, and special ceremonies are held to honor Goddess Durga. People also dress in vibrant colors, each corresponding to a specific day, as a form of reverence.
- Chaitra Navratri is a time to seek blessings, cleanse oneself spiritually, and celebrate the victory of righteousness. It is not just a religious event but also an occasion for cultural and spiritual rejuvenation across communities.

## 7-Year-Old Madurai Girl Sets Guinness World Record as Youngest Taekwondo Instructor

Seven-year-old Samyuktha Narayanan from Madurai has made history by becoming the “youngest Taekwondo instructor ever,” earning a Guinness World Record. Her remarkable achievement has garnered widespread admiration, with many praising her dedication and skill in the martial art.

Guinness World Records announced the feat in a social media post, stating, “Seven-year-old girl makes history as the youngest Taekwondo instructor ever, aged just seven years and 270 days old! Samyuktha Narayanan is an inspiration to fellow kids in Madurai, India, encouraging them to engage in sports!”

Her accomplishment has sparked a variety of reactions. Many users expressed awe at her talent and hard work, encouraging other children to pursue their dreams. One Instagram user congratulated Samyuktha, saying, “Your

hard work, determination, and incredible talent are truly inspiring.” Another added, “There’s always a child doing it better than you,” in refer-



ence to Samyuktha’s exceptional ability. However, not all reactions were positive. Some users expressed concerns about the potential risks of children practicing such physically demanding sports at a young age. One comment

cautioned, “A sprained ankle could impact her life in a flash.” Despite the mixed responses, Samyuktha’s success has

highlighted the potential for young athletes to achieve extraordinary feats. Her record not only makes her a source of inspiration in Madurai but also encourages children around the world to pursue their passions with dedication and perseverance.

## Surat’s Vispy Kharadi Sets World Record for Holding Hercules Pillars: “Proved Them Wrong”



Vispy Kharadi, an athlete from Surat, Gujarat, has etched his name in the Guinness World Records by setting the record for the “longest duration holding Hercules pillars (male).” Kharadi’s remarkable feat involved holding two Hercules pillars, each weighing over 166 kg, for an impressive two minutes and 10.75 seconds. This surpasses the previous record of 1 minute and 30 seconds, making Kharadi’s accomplishment a

historic achievement. In a video addressing his triumph, Kharadi boldly challenged the idea that Indians are genetically weaker than athletes from other nations. He said, “People say that Indians are weak because our genetics are not as strong as those from other countries. But I proved them wrong.” He further explained the difficulty of the challenge, stating, “The Hercules Hold is something a normal person can’t

even imagine attempting.” Kharadi’s feat has garnered global attention, with his achievement celebrated as a testament to the strength and resilience of Indian athletes. He emphasized that his success was not just personal but a victory for all Indians who have been labeled weak due to misconceptions about their physical capabilities. “Our strength is on par with world-class athletes,” Kharadi asserted.

His inspiring achievement was shared by Guinness World Records on social media and even caught the attention of Elon Musk, who reshare the video, further amplifying Kharadi’s victory. This world record not only challenges stereotypes but also serves as a powerful reminder that with determination and perseverance, extraordinary feats are possible.

## “I Regret Moving to Canada”: Student’s Viral Post Exposes Hardships Faced by Immigrants

A Reddit post titled “I Regret Moving to Canada” has gone viral, shedding light on the struggles that Indian students face when they move abroad in search of a better future. The post, authored by an anonymous individual currently living in Canada, criticizes the often-illusory promises of a prosperous life in the West, calling out the harsh realities that many students encounter.

According to the Redditor, Canada’s government and educational institutions have turned international students into a “business model,” exploiting them through exorbitant tuition fees for subpar education. The user claims that many students enroll in private or low-ranking colleges offering outdated curricula and barely functional degrees, which hold little value in the Canadian job market. After graduation, the post argues, many students are left struggling in survival jobs like Uber driving or retail, burdened by heavy student loans and with little career advancement.

The post also highlights the steep cost of living in Canada, including high rent, expensive groceries, and a lack of work-life balance. Students often find themselves

working long hours at minimum-wage jobs to make ends meet, while being exploited by employers who pay under the table for illegal wages.

Beyond financial struggles, the post touches on the emotional toll of living away from family and the isolation many students face. Despite Canada’s polite society, the author writes that building meaningful friendships is difficult, with many international students suffering from loneliness and depression.





# Indian Superbike League Launched to Revolutionize Motorsports

The Indian Superbike League (ISBL) was officially launched on March 17, 2025, marking a new era for Indian motorsports. Sanctioned by the Federation of Motor Sports Clubs of India (FMSCI), the league will offer professional motorcycle racing, with the inaugural season scheduled for the end of this year. The competition will span three rounds across Chennai, Bengaluru, and Pune-Mumbai. The ISBL aims to develop home-grown talent and provide a structured platform for riders to showcase their skills. The franchise-based league will feature Pro, Amateur, Female Riders, and Rookie classes. Key investors include the Dhuleva Group, and Ducati will supply motorcycles for the event. Director Pranav Bakre emphasized that the league would empower riders and technicians while elevating Indian motorsports on the global stage. With over 400 riders al-



ready signed up, the ISBL is set to fill the gap in India's motorcycle racing ecosystem and create a sustainable career path for aspiring racers.



## Yuva All Stars Championship: Wins for Yuva Mumba, Palani Tuskers, Warriorz K.C on Day 13

On Day 13 of the Yuva All Stars Championship in Haridwar, Yuva Mumba, Palani Tuskers, and Warriorz K.C. emerged victorious in their respective matches. The day began with a thrilling tie between Chandigarh Chargers and Sonipat Spartans, ending 29-29. Virender Singh's raids kept Chandigarh in the game, while Sonipat's Ankit Kumar Rana and Rahul Ahri contribut-

ed significantly. Warriorz K.C. defeated UP Falcons 43-34, with Shivansh Thakur's defense and Himanshu Yadav's points turning the tide in their favor. Palani Tuskers triumphed 41-37 against Yuva Yoddhas, with Kesavan Raja's excellent raiding. In the final match, Yuva Mumba defeated Yuva Paltan 40-31, securing a thrilling win through key moments and strong defense.

## Haryana, Odisha, Madhya Pradesh Win on Day 1 of National Women's Hockey League 2024-2025

The National Women's Hockey League 2024-2025 Final Phase began in Ranchi on Tuesday, with Hockey Haryana, Hockey Association of Odisha, and Hockey Madhya Pradesh securing victories in their respective matches. In the first match, Hockey Haryana triumphed 7-1 over Manipur Hockey, with Saavi and Kirti scoring braces. Odisha defeated Hockey Bengal 1-0, thanks to a goal by Dipika Barwa early in the match. In the final game of the day, Hockey Madhya Pradesh beat Hockey Maharashtra 2-0, with goals from Bhumiksha Sahu and Captain Soniya Kumre. The opening ceremony took place at the Marang Gomke Jaipal Singh AstroTurf Hockey Stadium before Hockey Jharkhand faced Hockey Mizoram. The tournament features eight teams and will be played in a single pool format, with the top team crowned champion.



## Khelo India Para Games 2025 Anthem, Mascot, and Logo Launched

The Khelo India Para Games (KIPG) 2025 anthem, mascot, and logo were officially launched by the Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports, Mansukh Mandaviya, at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium complex on Tuesday. The second edition of the games will be held in New Delhi from March 20-27, with over 1300 athletes competing in six para sports disciplines. The mascot, 'Ujjwala,' symbolizes resilience and perseverance, inspired by the house sparrow of Delhi. The logo features a dynamic athlete and Delhi's iconic landmarks, highlighting inclusivity and progress. The bilingual tagline "Champions Beyond Limits | Haunslon ki Udaan" reflects the spirit of para-athletes. The anthem, with its motivating lines "khelega khelega mera India, jeetega jeetega mera India," aims to inspire both athletes and fans. The games will take place at Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium, Indira Gandhi Stadium, and Dr. Karni Singh shooting range.



## DSC's U15 Table Tennis Tournament Opens with Top Performances

The Dream Sports Championship U15 Table Tennis Tournament kicked off on March 17, 2025, showcasing outstanding performances on Day 1. The event began with an orientation session featuring Table Tennis legend Sharath Kamal and key figures from Dream Sports Foundation. In the boys' category, K Akshay Bhushan delivered a dominant 3-0 win over Bhiwandkar Param, while Chakraborty Shrestho triumphed in a thrilling 3-2 match against Dhariwal Siddhanth. In the girls' competition, Dhar Shreya beat Dhimahi Kabrawala 3-0 with an impressive performance, and Jitnada Unjit secured a 3-0 victory over Singhal Akanksha. The tournament, filled with intense and exciting matches, continues to highlight the immense potential of young Table Tennis athletes.



## Sukant Kadam Climbs to World No. 2 After Stellar Spanish Para-Badminton Performance

India's para-badminton star Sukant Kadam has risen to World No. 2 in the SL4 category of the BWF Para-Badminton World Rankings, following an outstanding performance at the Spanish Para-Badminton International 2025. Sukant now has 53,650 points, just behind Indonesia's Fredy Setiawan (56,680 points). His rise is fueled by impressive showings in two Grade 2 tournaments and one Grade 1 tournament in Spain. Sukant clinched gold in the Grade 2 event by defeating fellow Indian Tarun 21-13, 21-10. In the Grade 1 tournament, he narrowly lost to Naveen Sivakumar in a tight match. Kadam expressed his joy over the achievement, emphasizing the importance of consistency as he looks forward to upcoming tournaments like the Asian Para Games and World Championships. His rise highlights India's growing dominance in para badminton.



## Stasya, Jaden, and Yashaan Win Gold at Mumbai Horse Show 2025

The Mumbai Horse Show 2025 (MHS 2025) concluded at the Mahalaxmi Racecourse with stellar performances from Stasya Pandya, Jaden Dsouza, and Yashaan Khambata in Show Jumping and Dressage. Organized by the Amateur Riders' Club (ARC), the event saw top competitors from across Maharashtra. On Day 1, Jaden won gold in the Show Jumping junior category, while Stasya clinched gold in the Show

Jumping children's category on Day 2. Yashaan also bagged multiple golds, including in the Show Jumping open category. Stasya was awarded the 'Best Rider in the Children category', Jaden earned the 'Rider in Junior category' title, and Yashaan was named 'Best Rider in the Open category.' ARC emerged as the winning team, with the competition highlighting the region's talent and dedication to equestrian sports.







## Aishwarya Rai Rejected ‘Kuch Kuch Hota Hai’ Role to Avoid Backlash



Aishwarya Rai Bachchan revealed she rejected the iconic role of Tina Malhotra in *Kuch Kuch Hota Hai* (1998) due to fears of being criticized for her portrayal. The actress shared in an interview with *Filmfare* that she did not want to be typecast or face harsh backlash for playing a glamorous character, as the film’s plot centers around Shah Rukh Khan’s character choosing a “real” woman over Tina, who is more modern and fashionable. Aishwarya was concerned that accepting the role would lead to negative comparisons to her modeling days, particularly her portrayal of a glamorous, pouting character. The role eventually went to Rani Mukerji, whose performance became iconic and remains one of her most beloved roles. Aishwarya’s career, however, continued to thrive, with her latest appearance being in *Ponniyin Selvan: II* (2023).

## SRK, Priyanka Chopra to Reunite at IPL 2025 Opening Ceremony



Bollywood fans are buzzing with excitement as Shah Rukh Khan and Priyanka Chopra will reunite at the IPL 2025 opening ceremony on March 22, 2025, at Eden Gardens, Kolkata. SRK, the owner of *Kolkata Knight Riders*, will support his team, while Priyanka’s role remains a mystery, adding to the intrigue. The event promises a blend of cricket and Bollywood glamour, featuring perfor-

mances by stars like Arijit Singh, Shreya Ghoshal, Varun Dhawan, Shraddha Kapoor, and Vicky Kaushal. Salman Khan will also promote his upcoming film *Sikandar*. The ceremony starts at 6:00 PM IST and will be broadcast live on Jio Hotstar and Star Sports Network. Don’t miss this star-studded spectacle where cricket and entertainment collide!

## Hollywood Director Arrested for Swindling Netflix Out of USD 11M



Hollywood director Carl Erik Rinsch, known for *47 Ronin*, has been arrested on charges of wire fraud and money laundering after allegedly swindling USD 11 million from Netflix. Rinsch had secured about

USD 44 million from the streaming giant for his unfinished sci-fi show *White Horse*. When requesting an additional USD 11 million to complete the project, Rinsch instead transferred the funds to his personal

brokerage account. Prosecutors claim that Rinsch lost about half of the money through failed investments, later channeling the remaining funds into cryptocurrency. He then spent USD 10 million on personal expenses, including luxury cars, furniture, and clothing. Rinsch, 47, was arrested in West Hollywood, California, and appeared in court on Tuesday, where he was released on a USD 100,000 bond. His court date in New York has not yet been set. Netflix has declined to comment.

## India’s Highest Tax-Paying Actor in 2025

Amitabh Bachchan, Bollywood’s legendary actor, has made headlines once again, this time for paying the highest tax in India for 2024-25. With an impressive earning of Rs. 350 crore, Bachchan paid a whopping Rs. 120 crore in taxes, surpassing even Shah Rukh Khan’s Rs. 92 crore, making him the top taxpayer in the industry. At 82, Bachchan remains one of the most popular figures in In-



dian cinema. His income comes from multiple sources, including his acting career, brand endorsements, and television appearances. Bachchan continues to captivate audiences with ma-

ajor film projects like *Kalki 2898 AD* and *Vettaian*, as well as hosting *Kaun Banega Crorepati* (KBC), one of India’s most-watched TV shows. Bachchan’s tax payment marks a 30% increase from last year, further solidifying his influence and success. Despite his age, he remains a key figure in entertainment, with upcoming movies like *Section 84* and the sequel to *Kalki 2898 AD* on the horizon.

## Niharika Konidela Announces Second Film Under Pink Elephant Pictures

Niharika Konidela, daughter of the mega family, is all set to produce her second film under the Pink Elephant Pictures banner. After the grand success of her debut production, *Committee Kurrollu*, Niharika is collaborating with female director Manasa Sharma for this new project. Manasa Sharma, known for her work as the creative director of *Oka Chinna Family Story* (ZEE5) and di-

rector of *Bench Life* (Sony Liv web series), will be helming this feature film as her third project under the Pink Elephant Pictures banner. The details regarding the upcoming film will be revealed soon, creating excitement among fans and industry insiders alike. Niharika’s journey as a producer is gaining momentum, and this new project promises to add another successful chapter to her career.



## Shalini Pandey Discusses Potential Roles



Shalini Pandey, who gained recognition for her role in *Arjun Reddy*, recently shared her thoughts on acting in films similar to the bold character she portrayed in the hit movie. In a recent interview, Shalini revealed that her role in *Arjun Reddy* was a bit weak, especially considering it was early in her career. Despite this, she expressed her willingness to take on a similar role in the future, but with certain modifications to her character, if the director agrees. Shalini emphasized her desire to portray strong, powerful female characters, a wish she feels was fulfilled with her role in the *Dabavala Cartel* series, where she plays a strong woman. Her growing versatility and choice of roles continue to earn her praise in the industry.