

Weather Forecast

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

PM Modi Pushes for Manufacturing Growth, Export Boost

- PM urges businesses to tap global trade opportunities amid supply chain shifts.
- Govt-backed reforms, stable policies to drive manufacturing, exports.
- PLI scheme attracts ₹1.5 trillion investment, generating ₹5 trillion in exports.
- MSMEs, entrepreneurs to get more support for growth and job creation.



TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has urged Indian businesses to take the lead in driving a manufacturing-led economic boom, emphasizing that stable policies and government-backed reforms have created a strong foundation for expanding India's role in global trade.

Speaking at a post-budget webinar hosted by the finance ministry on Tuesday, Modi described India as the "growth engine of the world" and encouraged industries to capitalize on emerging opportunities amid global political and economic instability. He assured businesses that the government's policies would remain stable and investment-friendly, facilitating long-term growth.

Modi highlighted how continuous reforms, financial discipline, and increased transparency have boosted business confidence, making India a more reliable global supplier. He reaffirmed the government's commitment to promoting manufacturing and exports through policy support and infrastructure development.

"Our government has shown consistency in reform initiatives, which has assured the industry and given it confidence to grow," the prime minister said.

With global supply chains facing disruptions, Modi stressed that India

has a unique opportunity to become a trusted manufacturing hub. He urged industries to take bold steps, innovate, and expand their production capacity. "I urge the industry to take big steps with confidence and open new avenues for manufacturing and exports. The government will support it through business-friendly policies," he said.

PLI Scheme's Success and Sectoral Growth

Modi pointed to the success of the Production-Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme, which has significantly boosted investment in key sectors. The 14 PLI schemes introduced by the government have already approved over 750 applications, attracting ₹1.5 trillion in investments, generating ₹13 trillion in production, and contributing ₹5 trillion to exports.

The prime minister encouraged businesses to identify high-demand products and leverage India's strengths in sectors such as toys, footwear, leather, and textiles. He also advocated for integrating traditional crafts with modern technology to create world-class exports.

Empowering MSMEs and First-Time Entrepreneurs

Recognizing the role of Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) in industrial growth, Modi reiterated the

government's support for small businesses. He highlighted the expanded MSME definition introduced in the 2025-26 budget, aimed at providing greater access to financial and infrastructural support.

"We want to give our MSMEs the necessary impetus to keep growing and generating large employment opportunities," he said.

He emphasized the need for better credit access and urged industry leaders to mentor first-time entrepreneurs, particularly women and marginalized groups. The government has already introduced loan facilities of up to ₹1 crore for small businesses, and Modi called for further initiatives to strengthen this sector.

State Governments' Role in Boosting Investment

Calling on state governments to simplify business regulations, Modi stressed their critical role in attracting investment and improving India's business environment. He urged states to enhance infrastructure, ease compliance processes, and facilitate smoother industrial operations.

With robust policy support, a thriving manufacturing sector, and rising global demand, Modi expressed confidence that India could emerge as a leading industrial and export powerhouse—provided businesses actively seize the opportunities ahead.

Arvind Kejriwal to attend 10-day Vipassana course in Punjab

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

AAP supremo Arvind Kejriwal is set to attend a 10-day Vipassana meditation course in Punjab starting Tuesday, AAP sources confirmed. He will join the session at a centre in Hoshiarpur from March 5 to March 15.

This marks Kejriwal's second Vipassana retreat at the Dhamma Dhaja Vipassana Centre in Anandgarh, Hoshiarpur, following his previous session in December 2023. His earlier meditation stint coincided with his summons by the Enforcement Directorate in a money laundering case related to the Delhi excise policy.

Since his party's defeat in the February 5 Delhi Assembly polls, Kejriwal has kept a low profile, engaging only in internal party matters without making any public appearances. The AAP, which governed Delhi from 2015 to 2024 with a strong mandate, suffered a major setback, winning just 22 out of 70 seats, while the BJP secured a decisive victory with 48 seats. Several top AAP leaders, includ-



Kejriwal to leave for Hoshiarpur for meditation from March 5 to 15

AAP's defeat in Delhi elections leaves party in crisis mode

Congress claims AAP MLAs in Punjab may defect, AAP denies

ing Manish Sisodia, Saurabh Bharadwaj, Satyendar Jain, and Somnath Bharti, lost their seats.

Following the election defeat, AAP's Delhi unit has been holding organizational meetings. The party's Delhi convenor, Gopal Rai, has stated that only leaders who performed well in the elections will be given responsibilities in the organization.

Meanwhile, Kejriwal's visit to Punjab gains significance amid Congress' claims that several AAP MLAs are willing to defect to its side. However, AAP has strongly denied any such rumors, including speculation about replacing Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann.

Delhi High Court Grants Bail to Christian Michel in AgustaWestland Case

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

The Delhi High Court granted bail to British arms consultant Christian James Michel on Tuesday in the money laundering case related to the AgustaWestland chopper scam, which was registered by the Enforcement Directorate (ED). This follows his bail granted earlier by the Supreme Court in February in a separate case filed by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) in connection with the same scam.

Justice Swarana Kanta Sharma approved Michel's bail application, citing that he had already spent over six years in jail. His counsel emphasized that his passport had expired, and under the Prevention of Mon-



ey Laundering Act (PMLA), the maximum punishment is seven years. Michel, accused of acting as a middleman in the scandal, was initially arrested in December 2018 after being extradited from Dubai.

In 2022, a Delhi HC bench had denied him bail in both the CBI and ED cases, but

the recent decision by the High Court marks a shift in his legal battle. Christian Michel is alleged to have facilitated illegal transactions worth ₹51 million in relation to the AgustaWestland deal, where kickbacks were allegedly paid to Indian officials and politicians to secure a ₹3,600 crore contract for 12 VIP helicopters.

In a previous petition to the Supreme Court, Michel argued that he had spent five years and three months in detention, while the maximum sentence in the case is five years, and the trial had not even started. He contended that his continued detention was illegal and violated his right to life and freedom.

The AgustaWestland scandal, which came to light in 2013, involved bribes paid to middlemen and Indian officials to secure the helicopter contract, altering specifications to favor AgustaWestland. Key figures, including senior Congress leaders and military officials, were implicated in the scandal, which led to the cancellation of the deal in 2014.

Olympian Sushil Kumar Granted Bail in Sagar Dhankar Murder Case

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

The Delhi High Court on Tuesday granted regular bail to Olympic medalist Sushil Kumar in the 2021 Sagar Dhankar murder case. Justice Sanjeev Narula allowed the bail on furnishing a bond of ₹50,000 along with two sureties of the same amount.

The detailed order is yet to be uploaded. Sushil Kumar, who had been in custody for over three and a half years, was represented by advocates R.S. Malik and Sumeet Shokeen. His counsel argued that despite his prolonged detention, only 30 out of 186 prosecution witnesses have been examined so far.

Kumar was arrested in connection with the death of junior wrestler Sagar Dhankar, who was allegedly beaten along with others at Delhi's Chhatrasal Sta-



dium on May 4, 2021. Dhankar later succumbed to his injuries. The Olympian was previously granted seven days of interim bail in July 2023 for knee surgery. Sushil Kumar remains one of India's most decorated wrestlers, having won a bronze medal at the 2008 Beijing Olympics and a silver at the 2012 London Olympics.

States have failed on affordable drugs: Supreme Court

- SC slams states for not ensuring reasonably priced medical care
- Private hospitals compelling patients to buy from in-house pharmacies.
- States directed to regulate private entities
- Centre asked to frame guidelines.



TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

The Supreme Court on Tuesday strongly criticized state governments for their failure to ensure affordable medical care and essential drugs, particularly for underprivileged sections of society. The bench, comprising Justice Surya Kant and Justice NK Singh, observed that this failure had led to the promotion of private hospitals, which often exploit patients by charging exorbitant rates for medicines and medical equipment. The court was hearing a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) that argued private hospitals were forcing patients to purchase medicines, implants, and other items from in-house pharmacies, even when the same products were available at lower prices elsewhere. The PIL also alleged that both the Centre and states had failed to implement proper regulatory measures, leading to widespread exploitation of patients. The bench acknowledged the concern and questioned how such practices could be effectively regulated. While recognizing the challenges of imposing strict mandatory directions, the court emphasized the need to

sensitize state governments to take corrective action. It directed states to ensure private hospitals do not force patients to buy medicines from in-house pharmacies when cheaper alternatives are available. The Centre was also asked to formulate guidelines to prevent medical institutions from exploiting citizens. The court had earlier sought responses from various states, including Odisha, Arunachal Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Bihar, Tamil Nadu, Himachal Pradesh, and Rajasthan. Many states argued that they relied on price control orders issued by the central government, which regulate the prices of essential drugs. They also highlighted government-run fair-price medical shops to provide affordable medicines. The Centre, in its reply, maintained that there is no legal compulsion for patients to buy medicines exclusively from hospital pharmacies. However, the Supreme Court reiterated the need for strict oversight and urged state governments to take immediate corrective measures.

President Droupadi Murmu Emphasizes Global Recognition for Indian Higher Education

- Inaugurated two-day event at Rashtrapati Bhavan.
- Stressed impactful patents and international academic leadership.
- Aims to position India as a hub for world-class education and research.



TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

President Droupadi Murmu on Monday outlined her vision for the future of Indian higher education, emphasizing the need for researchers, institutions, and students to gain global recognition. Speaking at the inauguration of the two-day Visitor's Conference at Rashtrapati Bhavan, she highlighted that the ultimate ambition should be for Indian researchers to be recognized worldwide, for patents emerging from Indian institutions to bring about global change, and for India to become the preferred destination for higher education students from developed countries.

The President, who serves as the visitor for 184 higher education institutions across India, made these remarks during the opening of the conference, which also included the presentation of the prestigious Visitor's Awards. These awards honor excellence in research and innovation at Indian universities and institutions.

Murmu stressed the importance of fostering an environment where Indian higher education institutions not only lead in academic achievements but also contribute significantly to solving

global challenges. She added that the strength of India's educational institutions lies in their ability to nurture global talent, generate impactful research, and offer world-class learning experiences.

The two-day conference is a platform for educational leaders and decision-makers to discuss the ways in which India's higher education system can evolve to meet global standards. With this initiative, President Murmu reinforced the government's commitment to creating an educational ecosystem that prioritizes research, innovation, and international collaborations, positioning India as a hub for world-class education and global thought leadership.

Her speech underscored the broader goals of national development through education, innovation, and research, aligning with India's vision of being a key player on the global education stage. The President's remarks reflect a commitment to boosting India's presence in the global academic and research communities.

India, Belgium explore defence cooperation in Indo-Pacific



TPN Correspondent | Delhi

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh recently met with Princess Astrid of Belgium and Belgian Defence Minister Theo Francken in New Delhi to explore opportunities for strengthening defence cooperation in the Indo-Pacific region. During their meeting, Singh emphasized the importance of regional security and discussed potential avenues for collaborative defence engagements. He also highlighted the need to enhance defence industrial cooperation between the two nations, further reinforcing their strategic ties.

Following the discussions, Defence Minister Singh took to social media platform X, where he shared details about the deliberations. He pointed out that the talks primarily focused on regional security issues and the possible expansion of defence relations between India and Belgium in the Indo-Pacific. The discussions were seen as a step toward closer military and technological collaboration.

In addition to the defence talks, the Belgian delegation engaged

in discussions with India's External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar. The focus of these talks revolved around advanced technologies such as semiconductors, artificial intelligence (AI), clean energy, and research and innovation. Minister Jaishankar underscored the opportunities for Belgian businesses in India, highlighting the country's key initiatives such as Make in India, Design in India, Research in India, and Innovate in India. He expressed confidence that the visit would not only strengthen bilateral relations but also open doors for more cooperation between the two countries, particularly in economic and technological sectors.

Princess Astrid, the sister of Belgium's King Philippe, is leading a high-profile economic delegation on her visit to India from March 2 to March 8. The delegation is expected to visit several states, including Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, and Delhi, as part of efforts to deepen bilateral ties. This visit marks an important step in fostering greater cooperation between India and Belgium, both in defence and economic spheres.

Sajad walks out of J-K Assembly: Lt Governor's address is not put up for discussion

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

On Tuesday, People's Conference MLA Sajad Lone staged a walkout from the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly after Speaker A R Rather rejected his motions. Lone had moved the motions seeking amendments to the address delivered by Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha to the House.

Lone's proposed amendments included critical issues such as the restoration of special status and the rights granted under Articles 370 and 35A of the Constitution. These provisions were abrogated by the government in August 2019, and Lone, who has been vocal on the matter, wanted the address to reflect the demand for the restoration of these constitutional safeguards for Jammu and Kashmir.



Despite his attempts to raise these concerns, the Speaker disallowed the motions, leading Lone to walk out in protest. His actions underscored his strong opposition to the removal of Jammu and Kashmir's special status and the ongoing political developments in the region.

Lone's decision to walk out was a significant demonstration of his stance on the matter, with the issues of Article 370 and 35A being central to the political discourse in Jammu and Kashmir since the constitutional changes in 2019. The opposition parties, including Lone's People's Conference, have consistently raised these concerns, calling for the reversal of these changes and the restoration of the region's previous status.

The walkout marked another episode in the ongoing political tension in Jammu and Kashmir, with legislators continuing to grapple with the consequences of the August 2019 revocation and the subsequent restructuring of the region's governance.

Delhi Traffic Challan: Clear Pending Dues on March 8 at Lok Adalat

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

Delhi vehicle owners have an opportunity to clear their pending traffic fines on March 8 during the National Lok Adalat 2025. This initiative, organized jointly by the Delhi Traffic Police and Delhi District Courts, aims to resolve traffic challans efficiently through Special Evening Court Sessions. According to reports, the challans can be downloaded from the official Delhi Police website starting March 3, 2025, from 10 AM onwards. However, a daily cap of 60,000 challans has been set, allowing a total of 1,80,000 challans to be processed until March 8. To settle the dues, vehicle owners must download their challan from the portal and review the details, including the fine amount and date. After selecting the challan, they can choose a preferred payment method to complete the transaction. A confirmation message will be sent to the registered



mobile number upon successful payment. Lok Adalat serves as an alternative dispute resolution forum where cases pending in courts or at the pre-litigation stage can be settled amicably. Multiple courts across Delhi, including those at Dwarka, Karkardooma, Pati-

ala House, Rohini, Rouse Avenue, Saket, and Tis Hazari, will be facilitating these settlements. Officials have urged vehicle owners to take advantage of this opportunity to resolve their pending fines conveniently and avoid legal complications.

"Mother on Wheels" Initiative Flagged Off in Delhi to Empower Mothers Worldwide



- Empowering mothers through a global car expedition.
- Five mothers will travel India to Southeast Asia to raise awareness.
- CM Rekha Gupta attended the flag-off event.

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

A special flag-off ceremony for the "Mother on Wheels" initiative was held today at the Chief Minister's Office in Delhi, marking the beginning of an extraordinary journey. Five remarkable mothers set out on a self-driven car expedition that will take them from India to Southeast Asia, and then on to Australia and New Zealand. The initiative serves as a powerful testament to the strength, resilience, and influence of mothers, aiming to inspire women around the world.

"Mother on Wheels" is an initiative by the Foundation for Holistic Development (FHD), designed to raise awareness about the pivotal role mothers play in raising children with

strong values. The campaign emphasizes the vital influence a mother has on a child's holistic development, spanning physical, emotional, and intellectual growth. The expedition will provide an opportunity for these mothers to not only share their personal journeys but also raise global awareness about the importance of nurturing future generations with values that shape a better world.

The event was attended by several prominent figures, including the Chief Minister of Delhi, Rekha Gupta, who graced the occasion as the Chief Guest. Padma Bhushan awardee Sonal Mansingh served as the Guest of Honour, and Dr. Dhurv Galgotia, CEO of Galgotias University, was the chief knowledge partner for the initiative.

In his address, Dr. Galgotia delivered a powerful speech on the importance of empowering women through initiatives like "Mother on Wheels." He highlighted how this project enables women to become self-reliant, giving them the opportunity to contribute positively to society. The initiative, he noted, plays a crucial role in showcasing the significant impact mothers have on society and encourages women to take bold steps towards self-empowerment.

As the expedition kicks off, it is expected to inspire countless mothers around the world, highlighting the power of women in shaping the future through their dedication, love, and values.

Rahul Gandhi Urges Government to Fill Vacancies in NCSC and NCBC



TPN Correspondent | Delhi

Leader of Opposition and senior Congress leader, Rahul Gandhi, has written a letter to Union Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment, Virendra Kumar, urging the government to promptly address the vacancies in the National Commission for Scheduled Castes (NCSC) and the National Commission for Backward Classes (NCBC). Gandhi emphasized the importance of filling these positions without further delay to ensure the effective functioning of these bodies.

In his letter, Gandhi specifically highlighted the prolonged vacancy of the Vice-Chairperson's position in the NCBC, which has remained unfilled for nearly three years. He pointed out that while the Chairperson and two members of the 7th NCSC were appointed on March 3, 2024, the Vice-Chairperson role has yet to be filled.

Posting the letter on his official X (formerly Twitter) account, Gandhi stated, "Thousands of Dalits and backward people are fighting for jus-

tice across the country. The demand for a caste census is echoing everywhere." He further criticized the government for its inaction, arguing that the delay in filling these key positions reflects a deliberate attempt to weaken the NCSC and undermines the fight for Dalit rights.

Gandhi emphasized that the NCSC plays a crucial role in safeguarding the rights of Dalits, and its weakened state could significantly impede the resolution of issues faced by the community. He expressed concern that the government's failure to act quickly on these vacancies not only damages the functioning of the commissions but also demonstrates an "anti-Dalit" mindset.

The Congress leader's call for immediate action comes at a time when discussions on the caste census and the rights of Dalits and backward classes are gaining momentum across India. Gandhi's letter underscores the importance of these commissions in addressing and resolving the long-standing issues that affect marginalized communities in the country.

'May seek Interpol's help': Himanta Biswa Sarma on ISI row involving Gogoi's wife



TPN Correspondent | Delhi

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma announced on Tuesday that his government may seek assistance from international agencies like Interpol to investigate the alleged involvement of Pakistani national Ali Tauqeer Sheikh in India's internal affairs. The investigation has raised serious concerns, particularly regarding the alleged links between Sheikh and certain political figures in India.

Sarma's comments come amid allegations that Gaurav Gogoi, a Congress MP and his former colleague, is linked to Sheikh through his wife, a British citizen who reportedly held UK citizenship for 12 years. The Chief Minister has also claimed that Sheikh is associated with an organization connected to Pakistan's Intelligence Service, the ISI.

The investigation is still in its early stages, according to Sarma, but he confirmed that he has briefed Union Home Minister Amit Shah about the developments in the case. "The matter is very sensitive. I have informed the home minister about the issue. The SIT is doing its investigation, but we can do our probe until a certain level only. We may have to take the help of agencies like Interpol at a certain stage," Sarma told reporters in

Guwahati.

He emphasized that while the investigation is in its initial phase, the Assam government will pursue it rigorously and take necessary steps moving forward. "The entire probe is at an initial stage now, and the government will take it forward as far as possible in the coming days," he said, signaling that the case could expand to involve international law enforcement agencies if required.

The claims made by Sarma have intensified the political battle between him and Gogoi, raising concerns about the involvement of foreign entities in internal political matters. As the investigation progresses, it is expected that further revelations will emerge, shedding light on the extent of the alleged connections.

Kumbh stampede downplayed to avoid panic among 8 crore devotees: Yogi Adityanath

TPN Correspondent | Uttar Pradesh

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Monday outlined his government's rapid response to control the situation following the January 29 stampede at the Maha Kumbh in Prayagraj, ensuring timely medical aid for victims and preventing widespread panic.

Speaking at a gathering of officials from the Indian Institute of Management (IIM) and Indian Postal Service in Lucknow, Adityanath explained how, despite the tragedy, the situation was handled effectively. "We ensured that the incident did not cause widespread panic, as over eight crore devotees were present at the Kumbh Mela at the time," Adityanath said, emphasizing the critical role of managing large crowds.

The stampede, which occurred at the Sangam Ghat on Mauni Ama-

vasya, killed 30 people and injured 60. Adityanath also highlighted the challenge of coordinating the 'Amrit Snaan' (holy dip) rituals, which involved millions of devotees and seers. "I personally requested the Akharas to delay the ritual to manage the situation, and by 2.30 pm, we had resumed the holy dip," he added.

The Chief Minister underscored the importance of patience, leadership, and effective crisis management. "True leadership is about handling adversity with composure," he said, referencing the successful handling



of the Maha Kumbh.

In his speech, Adityanath also emphasized improvements made since past editions, particularly in sanitation and crowd management. He credited the installation of one lakh well-managed toilets for preventing the issues faced in previous years. The government's investment in infrastructure, including better railway stations, helped manage the influx of devotees.

Reflecting on the economic and cultural impact of the Maha Kumbh, Adityanath noted that the event not only boosted tourism but also facilitated infrastructure development in Prayagraj and surrounding areas. The 2025 edition of the event, which ran from January 13 to February 26, attracted unprecedented numbers of pilgrims, reinforcing the success of the planning and execution.

Only 4 days left': AAP's reminder to Rekha Gupta government on BJP's ₹2500 promise



TPN Correspondent | Delhi

The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) has ramped up its pressure on the BJP-led Delhi government, urging it to fulfill its pre-election promise of providing ₹2,500 financial aid to women in Delhi. On Tuesday, AAP supporters, led by Leader of Opposition (LoP) Atishi, staged a protest outside the Mandi House metro station, demanding the first instalment of the financial aid by March 8.

Atishi, along with several AAP MLAs and party workers, questioned the delay in implementing the scheme and demanded clarity from the BJP government. "Four more days are left. The women of Delhi are waiting — when

will ₹2,500 come? Modi had guaranteed that on March 8, the first instalment would be credited to the accounts of all women in Delhi. Will this guarantee be fulfilled, or will it once again prove to be just a slogan?" she wrote on X in Hindi.

The AAP has been vocal about holding the BJP accountable for the promised ₹2,500/month financial aid to women, with several party members highlighting that the deadline set by Prime Minister Narendra Modi is fast approaching. They have also criticized the BJP for the lack of action on the scheme and demanded that Chief Minister Rekha Gupta clarify the situation.

Kuldeep Kumar, AAP MLA from Kondli, took a jibe at the BJP government, questioning whether the ₹2,500 promise would turn out to be another empty pledge, much like the earlier promise of ₹15 lakh. "PM Modi had said that on the occasion of International Women's Day on March 8, ₹2,500 would be sent to the accounts of women. Now, CM Rekha Gupta should clarify if this promise will be fulfilled or just turn out to be another 'jumla'," Kumar posted on X.

As the March 8 deadline nears, the AAP is intensifying its efforts to hold the BJP accountable for its electoral promises, putting pressure on the Delhi government to deliver the promised financial assistance to women.

Delhi Assembly session ends on a stormy note



- Ended in heated exchanges over the CAG report
- BJP attacked AAP, citing lapses in the Delhi Health Department
- Speaker Vijender Gupta ordered the PAC to review the report

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

The concluding day of the Delhi Assembly session on Monday witnessed a stormy exchange between the ruling BJP and the opposition AAP, marking a contentious end to the session. This heated debate came just days after the AAP returned to the Assembly following the completion of their suspension period.

The main issue dominating the session was the discussion

over the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) report on the state of public health infrastructure. BJP MLAs seized the opportunity to attack the previous AAP-led government, pointing to significant lapses and irregularities highlighted in the report. The CAG report, which had been tabled in the Assembly on February 28, drew attention to critical shortcomings in the Delhi Government's Health Department.

Amid the uproar, Speaker Vijender Gupta announced that

the Public Accounts Committee (PAC) of the House would prioritize the examination of the CAG report. He directed that the PAC submit its findings within three months. Speaker Gupta also ordered the Assembly Secretariat to immediately forward the report to the Health Department, which is required to provide an Action Taken Note (ATN) within one month.

The discussion in the House took a tense turn when verbal clashes escalated. In the heat of the moment, Speaker Gupta had to intervene, directing marshals to remove AAP MLA Anil Jha for using "unparliamentary" language. The tense atmosphere highlighted the friction between the ruling and opposition parties over the report's findings and its implications for the Delhi government.

The session, which had already been fraught with political tension, ended on a note of discord, with the BJP demanding accountability from the AAP government and the opposition continuing to challenge the findings of the CAG report. The developments are likely to shape the political discourse in the coming months as the PAC begins its examination of the health department's shortcomings.

Delhi's Temperature Rises to 15.6°C; Air Quality Remains 'Moderate'

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

On Tuesday, Delhi's minimum temperature rose to 15.6°C, a significant increase from 9.6°C recorded the previous day. The rise in temperature was accompanied by the city's air quality, which remained in the "moderate" category for the fifth consecutive day.



At 8 am, the city recorded an average Air Quality Index (AQI) of 153, which falls under the "moderate" range. This is a slight improvement from the previous day's AQI of 156 recorded at 4 pm. Due to this extended period of improved air quality, the Commission for Air Quality Management in the National Capital Region (NCR) has decided to lift the final Stage 1 of the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP).

According to the India Meteorological Department (IMD), the cold northwesterly winds from the mountains, where

fresh snowfall has been recorded, will lower the maximum temperatures in Delhi over the next few days. The winds are expected to bring cooler daytime conditions on Tuesday and Wednesday, which will further bring down the maximum temperatures.

For the rest of the week, minimum temperatures in the capital are forecasted to range between 14-17°C. On Tuesday, the maximum temperature was predicted to be between 26-28°C, significant-

ly lower than the previous day's high of 31.1°C. The IMD noted that clear skies and light winds, which were seen until Monday, would be replaced by colder winds blowing from the snow-capped mountains, contributing to the cooler days ahead.

While Delhi's air quality remains within a moderate range, authorities continue to monitor the situation closely as the weather conditions evolve and the impact of the cold northwesterly winds becomes more pronounced.

Delhi housing market saw 31% price surge in 2024



TPN Correspondent | Delhi

The housing market in India has witnessed a significant rise, with prices increasing by approximately 10% in the last quarter of 2024. According to a report from the Confederation of Real Estate Developers' Associations of India (CREDAI), alongside property consultants Colliers and Liases Foras, the top eight cities in India — Ahmedabad, Bengaluru, Chennai, Delhi NCR, Hyderabad, Kolkata, Mumbai Metropolitan Region (MMR), and Pune — all experienced price hikes. Delhi NCR emerged as a leader with a remarkable 31% year-on-year price increase, marking an average rise to ₹11,993 per square foot on a carpet-area basis.

The most notable price surge within Delhi NCR occurred along the Dwarka Expressway in Gurugram, where property

prices soared by 58%. Greater Noida followed closely with a growth of 52%. This upward trajectory in housing prices has continued for the 16th consecutive quarter, beginning in 2021, as demand for homes remains high.

Other cities also reported notable price increases. Bengaluru saw a 23% rise in housing prices, with the average price reaching ₹12,238 per square foot. Ahmedabad recorded a 15% annual increase to ₹7,725 per square foot, while in Chennai, prices rose by 6% to ₹8,141 per square foot. Hyderabad's rates grew by 2%, reaching ₹11,351 per square foot. Mumbai Metropolitan Region (MMR) saw a modest 3% increase, bringing prices to ₹20,725 per square foot. Pune also experienced a 9% appreciation, with prices reaching ₹9,982 per square foot. Kolkata had the smallest rise, with

only a 1% increase, reaching ₹7,971 per square foot.

CREDAI national president Boman Irani attributed the steady growth in housing prices to the strong confidence among homebuyers, who are increasingly looking for spacious living and lifestyle upgrades. Colliers India CEO Badal Yagnik projected that 2025 could see a similar increase in prices across major cities.

While the affordable housing segment remains the dominant force in sales, demand for luxury and ultra-luxury homes is expected to rise further in 2025. The Dwarka Expressway is being hailed as one of the most sought-after investment options in the country due to its remarkable price growth.

HC seeks Delhi Police response on bail petition in 2023 Parliament security breach case

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

The Delhi High Court on Monday directed the Delhi Police to file a reply to a bail plea filed by Neelam Azad, who was arrested in connection with the December 2023 Parliament security breach. Azad had challenged the city court's order from September 2024, which had denied her bail.

A bench comprising Justices Prathiba M. Singh and Rajneesh Kumar Gupta sought the police's response by April 16. However, the court expressed displeasure over Azad's delay in filing the appeal, as the application was made beyond the stipulated 90-day period set under the National Investigation Agency (NIA) Act, 2008. The bench questioned Azad's counsel, Balraj S. Malik, on the delay, asking, "What was she (Neelam) trying to do? In Parliament, was she throwing smoke canisters? What is this? You've come after six months. It's beyond 90 days. It's a clear



bar."

Section 21 of the NIA Act explicitly states that appeals against judgments or orders from special courts cannot be entertained after 90 days. This regulation seemed to pose a challenge for Azad's appeal, as her request was filed much later.

In its September 2024 order, the city court had noted that there were sufficient grounds to believe the allegations

against Azad were prima facie true. The court's 15-page ruling detailed the seriousness of the charges, stating that Azad's involvement in the Parliament security breach was based on substantial evidence.

As the case proceeds, the Delhi High Court's decision on whether to grant Azad bail will hinge on the police's response and the ongoing legal arguments about the timeliness of the appeal.

Delhi Man Arrested For Selling Fake Tickets To Diljit Dosanjh's Concert

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

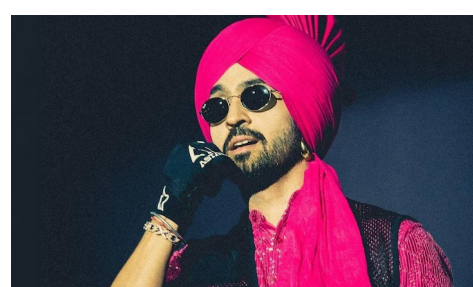
A man was arrested on Tuesday for allegedly creating a fraudulent website under the name of food delivery company Zomato and selling fake tickets for Diljit Dosanjh's concert. The accused, identified as Nitin, a resident of Rajiv Nagar in North West Delhi, was arrested by Gurugram police following a complaint from Zomato.

According to the police, Zomato filed

a complaint at the Cyber Crime police station (South) on September 17, claiming that fake websites impersonating the company were selling tickets for Diljit Dosanjh's concert. Zomato clarified that it was the only authorized platform for ticket sales. The complaint led to the registration of a case under relevant sections of law at the Gurugram Police Station.

During the investigation, a police team led by Inspector Naveen Kumar tracked down and arrested Nitin.

Upon interrogation, Nitin confessed to the crime, revealing that he had set up a fake website mimicking Zomato to sell tickets for the concert. The ac-



cused allegedly edited and sold fake concert tickets, deceiving customers who believed they were purchasing legitimate tickets.

The police further analyzed Nitin's bank transactions, which revealed that a total of Rs 7,998 (for two tickets priced at Rs 3,999 each) had been transferred into his bank account. The funds were used by Nitin to benefit from the fraudulent sales.

A police spokesperson, Sandeep Ku-

mar, confirmed the arrest and stated that the accused had confessed to his actions. The police are seeking to take Nitin into custody and will produce him in court for further interrogation. The case is still under investigation, and additional action will be taken as necessary.

This incident serves as a reminder of the growing issue of online fraud and the importance of verifying the legitimacy of ticket-selling platforms to avoid falling victim to scams.

Pakistani intruder shot dead by BSF in Amritsar



- BSF foils infiltration bid near Punjab's Kotrazda village
- Intruder ignored warnings, shot dead in self-defense
- Mobile phone recovered; legal formalities underway

TPN Correspondent | Amritsar

A Pakistani intruder was shot dead by Border Security Force (BSF) troops while attempting to cross the International Border (IB) in Punjab's Amritsar, the BSF's Public Relations Officer (PRO) confirmed on Monday. The incident took place on the morning of March 3 near Kotrazda village, where alert BSF personnel spotted the intruder moving towards the border security fence. Taking advantage of the undulating terrain and wheat crops, the individual attempted to infiltrate into Indian territory. BSF troops challenged the intruder, but he ignored warn-

ings and continued advancing. When he attempted to rush towards the border security fence, BSF personnel fired in self-defense, neutralizing him on the spot. A mobile phone was recovered from his possession during a search operation. The BSF stated that the incident was another successful effort in thwarting cross-border infiltration attempts. "Vigilant and dutiful BSF troops once again successfully foiled the nefarious intentions of the cross-border terror syndicate," the PRO said. The legal process of handing over the intruder's body to Ramdas police station is being carried out, officials added.

Abu Azmi Retracts Aurangzeb Remarks Amid Political Backlash



TPN Correspondent | Mumbai Samajwadi Party MLA Abu Azmi on Tuesday withdrew his controversial remarks on Mughal ruler Aurangzeb after facing sharp criticism from leaders across parties. He clarified that his statements were "twisted" and that he never intended to insult Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj or Chhatrapati Sambhaji Maharaj. Azmi sparked outrage by claiming that Aurangzeb was "not a cruel ruler," leading to accusations of insulting Maratha icons. In a video posted on X, he defended his remarks, stating they were taken out of context. He emphasized his respect for national figures and retracted his statements, urging focus on important Assembly matters. An FIR was filed against Azmi

at Thane's Wagle Estate Police Station based on a complaint by Shiv Sena MP Naresh Mhaske. He has been booked under Sections 299, 302, 356(1), and 356(2) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), with the case transferred to Marine Drive Police Station. The controversy erupted after Assam CM Himanta Biswa Sarma compared Rahul Gandhi and Mamata Banerjee to Aurangzeb. Responding to reporters in Mumbai, Azmi had claimed Aurangzeb built temples and took action against a priest in Varanasi for misconduct. He also asserted that power struggles in Aurangzeb's era were political, not religious, and highlighted the presence of Hindus in Aurangzeb's army and Muslims in Shivaji's forces.

PM Modi inaugurates Vantara in Gujarat's Jamnagar, feeds lion cubs, giraffes



- Includes MRI, CT scans, ICU units for animal care.
- Modi interacts with lion, leopard, and caracal cubs.
- Visit highlights India's commitment to animal welfare.

TPN Correspondent | Gujarat

Prime Minister Narendra Modi recently inaugurated and visited the Vantara animal rescue, conservation, and rehabilitation center located in Jamnagar district, Gujarat, showcasing his deep affection for animals. The inauguration ceremony saw the presence of prominent figures, including Reliance Industries Chairman

Mukesh Ambani, his wife Nita Ambani, their son Anant Ambani, and daughter-in-law Radhika Merchant.

During his visit, PM Modi explored several facilities at the center, which is dedicated to the rescue and rehabilitation of wildlife. He took a keen interest in the wildlife hospital at Vantara, where advanced vet-

erinary facilities are available, including MRI, CT scan machines, and ICU units to treat and care for the animals. The state-of-the-art infrastructure ensures that rescued animals receive the best possible medical attention.

PM Modi's interactions with the animals were particularly heartwarming. In a video shared on his official YouTube channel, he can be seen playing with and feeding a variety of animals, including Asiatic Lion cubs, White Lion cubs, Clouded Leopard cubs (a rare and endangered species), and Caracal cubs. These moments of bonding highlighted his personal connection with the creatures and his commitment to their conservation and welfare.

Vantara is an initiative aimed at preserving India's rich wildlife heritage, offering a safe haven for rescued animals and providing them with a chance to recover and be rehabilitated. The center's mission aligns with the broader conservation efforts across the country to protect endangered species and ensure their survival for future generations.

PM Modi's visit underscored the importance of wildlife conservation and the role of modern facilities in animal rehabilitation. His support for such initiatives aims to raise awareness and inspire greater commitment to wildlife preservation across India.

Mumbai NCB Busts ₹1,128 Crore Drug Cartel, Kingpin Based Abroad

TPN Correspondent | Mumbai Mumbai Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) has dismantled what is believed to be the largest drug cartel in India, arresting six individuals linked to the operation. The cartel, allegedly run by well-educated individuals, has trafficked drugs worth approximately ₹1,128 crore across the country over the last two years.

According to officials, the mastermind behind the network is Naveen Chichkar, a Navi Mumbai resident currently living abroad. Chichkar, who studied Criminal Psychology and pursued a course in Film and Television in London, has been orchestrating the trade remotely through his associates. He remains on the run. Authorities also revealed that three other individuals arrested in the case had studied abroad.

The cartel specializes in distributing cocaine and hybrid strain hydroponic weed, smuggling the drugs into Mumbai via air cargo from the United States before distributing them across India. Sources also indicated that a portion of the contraband was shipped to Australia.

How the NCB Cracked the Operation The bust followed an extensive investigation combining technical surveillance and human



intelligence, which led NCB officials to the smuggling source in Mumbai on January 1. Authorities found that the accused had distributed at least 80 to 90 kg of cocaine and 60 kg of hydroponic weed over the past two years.

Among those arrested is a 30-year-old Hawala operator, H Patel, and a trader, H Mane, both from Navi Mumbai. Officials said the duo played a crucial role in drug distribution, handling transactions through Hawala, an informal money transfer system that avoids physical cash movement. The proceeds from the trade were systematically funneled among various operators in the syndicate.

During the raids, NCB recovered 11.540 kg of high-grade cocaine, 4.9 kg of hybrid strain hydroponic weed, 200 packets (5.5 kg) of cannabis gummies, and ₹1,60,000 in cash from Navi Mumbai. Authorities continue their investigation to track down Chichkar and other potential associates involved in the massive drug syndicate.

Liquor Shops Near Religious Places In Uttarakhand To Be Shut Under New Policy

TPN Correspondent | Dehradun

The Uttarakhand government has approved a new excise policy for 2025-26, which introduces significant changes aimed at enhancing public sensitivity, providing economic opportunities for locals, and ensuring better regulation of the liquor industry.

A key provision of the new policy is the closure of liquor shops located near religious places across the state. Licenses for these shops will be reviewed, and those found in violation of the new rules will have their licenses canceled. The policy emphasizes the importance of exercising greater control over liquor sales, especially in areas where religious sentiments are at stake. "The decision to cancel the liquor licenses near religious places has been made keeping public sensitivities in mind," said Shailesh Bagauli, Secretary (Home), Uttarakhand.

The new policy also aims to provide more transparency in the allotment of liquor licenses. The process will be simplified to create self-employment opportunities for locals and promote local farming by offering new platforms to sell produce to distilleries. Furthermore, the

excise department will crack down on liquor shops selling alcohol above the Maximum Retail Price (MRP), ensuring consumers are protected. MRP will also apply to departmental stores.

To further boost local businesses, the policy specifies that bulk liquor licenses will only be issued to Uttarakhand residents, giving them an edge in the state's growing liquor industry. Additionally, a provision has been made to exempt wineries in hilly areas from excise duty for the next 15 years on fruits grown in the state, benefiting farmers and the horticulture sector.

The excise revenue target for 2025-26 has been set at Rs 5060 crore, a significant increase compared to the revenue generated over the past two years. In the previous year, the excise department earned Rs 4038.69 crore, surpassing its target of Rs 4000 crore.

The policy also includes efforts to raise awareness about the ill effects of alcohol through special public campaigns. The government aims to balance regulation, economic growth, and public well-being with this new excise policy.

Assam Police grapples with 60,000 kg of unclaimed betel nuts



TPN Correspondent | Assam

Authorities in Assam's Cachar district are facing a dilemma over the seizure of more than 60,000 kgs of unclaimed betel nuts, which have been stored at Lakhipur police station. Despite repeated efforts to trace the rightful owners, no one has come forward to claim the massive stockpile, raising concerns about the origins of the goods.

The betel nuts were confiscated during two separate operations. The first operation, on October 13, 2024, resulted in the seizure of 26,905 kg of betel nuts in 405 sacks. The second operation, conducted on December 26, 2023, led to the confiscation of an addition-

al 33,515.26 kg. Despite the large quantities of seized goods, no one has presented valid proof of ownership, leaving the police with a significant stockpile on their hands.

Local officials have expressed concern over the possibility that the betel nuts were intended for illegal activities, such as smuggling, due to the lack of any claims or legitimate documentation. While the police have made repeated attempts to identify the owners, the goods remain unclaimed, and questions are being raised about their potential illicit nature.

The authorities are now faced with the chal-

lenge of determining the next steps for handling the seized goods, as they continue to occupy significant space at the police station. The lack of accountability from any party claiming ownership adds to the complexity of the situation, and further investigations into the origin of the betel nuts are expected.

The case highlights the challenges faced by law enforcement in dealing with large-scale confiscations of goods that are suspected to be linked to smuggling or other illegal trade activities. Local authorities are working to resolve the issue while ensuring that any potential criminal activity is thoroughly investigated.

Modi Govt's Plan for the 'World's Largest Museum' Raises Many Red Flags

The Narendra Modi government's ambitious plan to create the "largest museum in the world," the Yuga Yugeen Bharat National Museum (YYBNM), in partnership with France has sparked significant debate. While details remain scarce due to a cloud of secrecy, early proposals and public statements suggest that the museum may serve as a platform to align India's history with the BJP's ideological agenda, which emphasizes Hinduism as eternal, portrays Muslim rulers as villains, and promotes 'Bharat' as the origin of modern concepts like democracy.



The YYBNM will be housed in the North and South Block buildings, part of the Central Vista Project, and will be a massive 1,55,000 square meters in size. This move has generated excitement due to the museum's scale and its collaboration with France. However, concerns have emerged about the lack of transparency surrounding the museum's design and curatorial direction. The Ministry of Culture has refrained from answering detailed queries, and there is little clarity about the budget, design plans, or how artifacts will be transported and stored.

through of the YYBNM at the International Museum Expo, which showcased 950 rooms organized into thematic sections like "Bharatiya gyan parampara" (Indian knowledge traditions) and "swatantrata andolan" (freedom struggle). However, it left unclear how artifacts would be displayed or what objects would be used to support these narratives.

Internal documents accessed by The Wire have revealed plans for 12 wings, spanning from the "pre-historic age" to Indian independence. The proposed document shows

a clear emphasis on presenting history through the lens of 'Bharat' and suggests a reframing of India's past to align with the ruling party's Hindutva narrative. This has raised alarm among critics, who worry that the museum might reduce India's rich, pluralistic history to a single ideological viewpoint.

The YYBNM's development continues to face scrutiny, particularly concerning the lack of public consultation and transparency in the curatorial process, prompting fears of a politically motivated distortion of history.

In May 2023, Modi unveiled a virtual walk-



Is China Driving Trump Towards Putin?

In a surprising turn of events, US President Donald Trump's foreign policy has been increasingly shaped by his focus on China, shifting away from traditional alliances and concerns about Russia. Trump's decision to abandon Ukraine and ease tensions with Russia has raised questions about his strategy, especially after his confrontation with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky at the White House. Despite European leaders pushing for stronger support for Ukraine, Trump remains angered with Zelensky, pausing military aid and refusing to commit to further support.

Trump's primary goal appears to be isolating China, which he considers the United States' main strategic threat. His administration's actions, including tariffs on Chinese goods and efforts to secure critical minerals from countries like Ukraine, reveal a clear pattern. China controls over 60% of vital minerals, such as lithium and cobalt, essential for modern technology and military applications. Trump is particularly concerned about China's dominance in these sectors and has been working to secure alternative sources of supply, including deals with Ukraine, which possesses large reserves of critical minerals.

Trump's stance on Russia also appears to be driven by his desire to wean Moscow away from China, reminiscent of the US strategy to split the Soviet Union and China in the 1970s. He aims to rebuild US-Russia relations, with discussions about potentially readmitting Russia to the G-7 once a peace deal with Ukraine is reached. However, European leaders remain cautious, viewing Russia as a persistent security threat.

As for China, Trump's policies are framed by national security concerns, including the exploitation of US technology and the destabilizing impact of Beijing's global economic practices. His administration has also ramped up actions to combat the import of fentanyl from China, further complicating the relationship.

For India, Trump's shifting foreign policy could be a double-edged sword. While the potential thaw in US-Russia relations could ease New Delhi's concerns over Moscow's growing ties with Beijing, India must navigate its own complex relationship with China.

The Challenges and Future of Manipur Under President's Rule



With President's Rule now in place in Manipur, it is crucial to assess the underlying forces that have shaped the state's political landscape and what this new development means for its future. The imposition of central rule, combined with the resignation of Chief Minister N. Biren Singh, has sparked both hope and skepticism regarding the resolution of the ongoing ethnic conflict that has plagued the state since May 2023.

What next after President's Rule?

While the removal of N. Biren Singh is seen by many as a necessary step toward peace talks, the Kuki-Zomi groups are skeptical that a new Chief Minister, regardless of their background, can bridge the deep divides. A non-Maitei Chief Minister is unlikely, and even then, such a leader may not be seen as a neutral party. The Kuki-Zomi communities have long felt marginalized by the Maitei-dominated government, and this tension traces back to historical grievances over territorial and cultural rights.



President's Rule underscore the ongoing divisions within the state.

The historical context is key to understanding the current unrest. In 2015, under N. Biren Singh's leadership, the government introduced controversial bills that bypassed

tribal consultations, fueling protests and violence. The fallout from these bills continues to impact the political landscape, with the Kuki-Zomi groups seeing the bills as a direct attack on their rights and autonomy.

For the central government, the path forward involves addressing conflicting narratives and reconciling deeply entrenched divisions. While talks and ceasefire agreements between the government and Kuki-Zomi groups provide a framework for dialogue, the government's challenge is to create a more inclusive solution. The possibility of granting greater autonomy to tribal areas under constitutional provisions is one option, but this will require careful consideration and input from all stakeholders.

Ultimately, the government's success in Manipur will depend on its ability to engage in meaningful dialogue and offer a politically viable solution that promotes peace and national integration.

Insiders, outsiders, and land, Uttarakhand closes off while J&K opens up



Uttarakhand has joined the growing list of states in India that have imposed restrictions on the purchase of agricultural land by outsiders. Following in the footsteps of states like Himachal Pradesh, Nagaland, and Sikkim, the Uttarakhand government has introduced the Uttarakhand (Uttar Pradesh Zamindari Abolition and Land Reforms Act, 1950) (Amendment) Act, aiming to protect the state's resources, cultural heritage, and identity. Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami heralded the move as a historic step to safeguard the region's "original identity."

However, the new legislation has sparked tensions between the hill districts and the plains, particularly in areas like Haridwar and Udham Singh Nagar, which have been excluded from the new law's scope. Critics argue that the law has deepened the divide between highlanders and plainspeople, with many in the plains opposing the provisions.

Uttarakhand's land ownership laws have evolved over time, reflecting the state's unique geography and history. Before it became a separate state in 2000, Uttarakhand was part of Uttar Pradesh, where landholdings were largely governed by the Zamindari system. Under British rule, the region saw a mixture of systems, with peasants in hill districts holding proprietary rights to land. After independence, the UP Zamindari Abolition Act, 1950, impacted these areas, leading to reforms in land ownership. Following the creation of Uttarakhand, there were demands for a law similar to Himachal Pradesh's, which restricts non-residents from purchasing land.

Very big step': India, Belgium aim to seal defence cooperation pact this year

India and Belgium aim to finalize a defence agreement
Proposed a task force to accelerate the agreement process.

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

India and Belgium are working towards finalizing a defence agreement by the end of this year to enhance cooperation between their armed forces and strengthen defence industrial collaboration. This announcement was made by Belgian Defence Minister Theo Francken on Tuesday during a media briefing in New Delhi.

urging both sides to finalize the agreement as soon as possible. "Your prime minister asked us to form the task force here in New Delhi and in Brussels to conclude the agreement before the end of the year," Francken shared. In addition, Belgium plans to appoint a defence attaché at its embassy in New Delhi, which will serve as a point of contact for India's military and defence industries.

Francken, alongside Belgian Foreign Minister Maxime Prévot, was part of a delegation led by Princess Astrid, which met with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi. During the briefing, Francken described the agreement as a "very big step" towards establishing structural cooperation between the two countries' armed forces and creating a framework for collaboration between their defence industries. Prime Minister Modi proposed the formation of a task force to expedite the process,

Francken emphasized the importance of mutual growth in defence capabilities between the two nations. He noted that both countries could learn from each other in terms of military technology, and he reiterated the need for "peace through strength" in today's geopolitical landscape.

Foreign Minister Prévot highlighted the evolving global situation, mentioning the shifting policies of the U.S. administration. He stressed the need to



strengthen ties between Belgium and India, calling India a powerful democracy and emphasizing the importance of reinforcing their bilateral relations.

The proposed defence agreement is expected to boost cooperation between India and Belgium in various sectors, including defence technology, military

training, and defence industry collaboration, aligning with both nations' shared interests in regional and global security.



Accused seen dragging suitcase with Congress worker's body inside

- CCTV footage shows accused hauling suitcase on deserted road
- Victim Himani Narwal was allegedly strangled by a friend over a dispute
- Accused arrested; police investigating monetary angle in the murder

TPN Correspondent | Haryana

Days after Congress worker Himani Narwal was found murdered and stuffed inside a suitcase, chilling CCTV footage has surfaced showing the accused dragging the luggage on a deserted road.

exact details are yet to be confirmed. "After strangling her, Sachin took her jewellery and laptop, rode her scooter to Jhajjar to hide these items, and later returned to her home," said Mr Rao. He then stuffed her body into a suitcase, took an auto-rickshaw, and dumped the bag near the Sampla bus stand to mislead investigators.

The footage, recorded at 10:16 pm on February 28, shows a masked man hauling a hard-shell black suitcase. The body of Narwal, who was in her late 20s, was found near the Rohtak bus stand on Saturday.

Narwal was cremated on Monday evening after her family initially refused to perform the last rites until the accused was arrested.

The accused, Sachin, believed to be a friend of the victim, was arrested earlier today. Police say he allegedly strangled Narwal with a mobile phone charger after a heated argument. Additional DGP K K Rao stated that there was a monetary issue between them, but the

Former Haryana Chief Minister Bhupinder Singh Hooda spoke to Rohtak's Superintendent of Police regarding the investigation. Congress MLA BB Batra described Narwal as an active party worker and demanded strict punishment for those responsible for her murder.

"Heard Inner Self": Minister Quits As Aide Is Arrested For Sarpanch Murder

TPN Correspondent | Mumbai

Maharashtra Minister Dhananjay Munde has resigned from his post after his close aide, Walmik Karad, was arrested in connection with the horrific murder of a sarpanch in Beed district. Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis accepted the resignation and forwarded it to Governor CP Radhakrishnan.



Munde, who held the portfolios of food and civil supplies, stepped down citing both political and personal reasons, stating that he had "heard his inner self" while making the decision. He also mentioned health concerns, saying his doctors had advised him to undergo treatment soon.

ing murder of Santosh Deshmukh, the sarpanch of Massajog village, who was abducted, brutally tortured, and killed on December 9. The Maharashtra Crime Investigation Department (CID) has filed a 1,200-page

chargesheet, invoking the Maharashtra Control of Organised Crime Act (MCOCA) against eight accused, including Karad. Seven of them have been arrested, while one remains at large.

The investigation revealed that Deshmukh was killed after attempting to stop an extortion bid against an energy company. He was beaten with iron rods, wooden sticks, and sharp weapons for over two hours, with his attackers recording videos of the brutality.

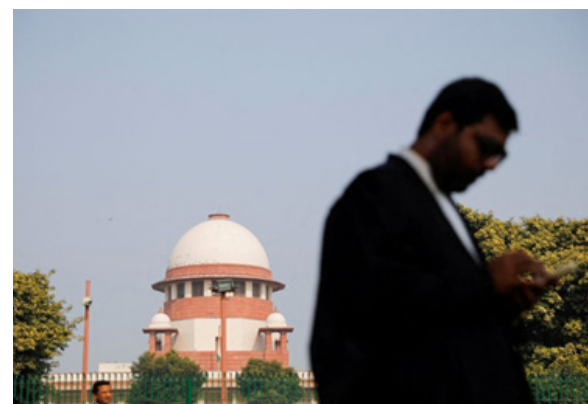
With the political fallout intensifying, Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar and Devendra Fadnavis held discussions before Munde's resignation was finalized. The case continues to shake Maharashtra's political landscape.

Calling someone 'Miyani-Tiyan' or 'Pakistani' not an offence

SC closes case, says remarks may be in poor taste but not illegal

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

The Supreme Court on Tuesday ruled that calling someone 'Miyani-Tiyan' or 'Pakistani' may be inappropriate but does not constitute an offence under the Indian Penal Code (IPC). A bench of Justices BV Nagarathna and Satish Chandra Sharma made the observation while quashing a case against a man accused of using the terms against a government servant in Jharkhand. The complaint was filed by an Urdu translator and acting clerk, who alleged that the accused had insulted



him based on his religion while he was furnishing information related to a Right To Information (RTI) application. The FIR against the accused

included charges under IPC Sections 298 (hurting religious sentiments), 504 (insult intended to provoke breach of peace), and 353 (assault or criminal force to deter a public servant from duty).

However, the Supreme Court overturned a previous Jharkhand High Court order, stating that while the remarks were in poor taste, they did not amount to hurting religious sentiments. The bench observed that there was no act on the accused's part that could have incited violence or a breach of peace.

With this ruling, the case against the accused has been dismissed.

"Bihar budget inflated, written with ink dipped in lies": Tejashwi Yadav

TPN Correspondent | Patna

RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav on Monday strongly criticized the Bihar Budget 2025-26, calling it "inflated" and drafted with "ink dipped in lies." He claimed that the BJP-led NDA government was misleading people with exaggerated figures and that the ruling alliance would be voted out in the upcoming elections.

He further termed the budget a "lost opportunity" for the NDA, stating that it failed to introduce pro-people measures. "We had urged the government to announce a ₹2,500 monthly stipend for women and 200 units of free electricity. They missed the chance, but the RJD will ensure these benefits when we form the next government," he asserted.

Shortly after Deputy Chief Minister Samrat Choudhary presented the budget, Yadav told reporters outside the Vidhan Sabha that the ₹3.71 lakh-crore budget was unrealistic. "Despite no revenue generation, the budget size keeps increasing. They could have made it ₹5 lakh crore as well, given the way they fabricate numbers," he said.

Yadav also took a swipe at Chief Minister Nitish Kumar for appreciating Choudhary inside the House. "This is his style. Whenever he is with younger leaders, he says in a self-effacing manner—'the future belongs to you.' But people have seen through his politics," Yadav remarked, recalling how Kumar had once called him his political successor before suddenly switching sides to the BJP.



Jaishankar to visit UK, Ireland for talks on Ties, Trade

Jaishankar to visit UK, Ireland for talks on Ties, Trade

- Jaishankar to meet UK Foreign Secretary in London
- Discussions likely on India-UK trade deal
- Visit to Ireland includes meetings with Foreign Minister and Indian community

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar will embark on a six-day visit to the United Kingdom and Ireland starting Tuesday to enhance bilateral cooperation across multiple sectors.

Jaishankar's visit to London will include talks with his British counterpart David Lammy on a range of bilateral, regional, and global issues. Their meeting comes amid geopolitical developments, including the recent exchanges between US President Donald Trump and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, as well as British Prime Minister Keir Starmer's

summit with European leaders to push for a Ukraine peace deal. Observers will be keen to see whether the ongoing conflict in Ukraine features in their discussions. Another key focus of Jaishankar's visit will be the long-pending India-UK free trade agreement. Negotiations on the deal were recently revived during British Trade Secretary Jonathan Reynolds' visit to New Delhi. Strengthening defence, security, trade, and economic partnerships will also be on the agenda, as India and the UK continue to expand their strategic ties.

During his stay in the UK, Jaishankar is also expected to meet other dignitaries and interact with the Indian community.



Following his engagements in London, Jaishankar will travel to Ireland from March 6-7, where he will meet Irish Foreign Minister Simon Harris, key officials, and members of the Indian diaspora. According to the Ministry of External Affairs, the visit aims to give renewed momentum to India's ties with both nations.

Turning War Into Graft Meat Grinder": Elon Musk Calls Zelensky "Evil"



TPN Correspondent | Washington

Billionaire entrepreneur Elon Musk has launched a sharp attack on Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky, calling him "evil" and accusing him of deliberately extending the war with Russia for personal and political gain. Musk's remarks came in response to a Truth Social post by former US President Donald Trump, who criticized Zelensky's handling of the conflict.

"Zelensky wants a forever war, a never-ending graft meat grinder. This is evil," Musk posted on X, echoing Trump's frustration. The statement coincided with Trump's decision to suspend military aid to Ukraine, further pressuring Kyiv to consider peace negotiations. Trump also warned that he would not tolerate Zelensky's stance much longer, stating that the Ukrainian leader should be more grateful for US support.

Reports suggest Trump is pushing Zelensky to enter peace talks, but diplomatic progress remains uncertain. Tensions between the two leaders have intensified, especially after a contentious White House meeting attended by US Vice President JD Vance. Zelensky's recent statement that an end to the war remains "very, very far away" further fueled the rift. Trump labeled the remark "the worst statement that could have been made," warning that US patience was wearing thin.

Musk, a long-time critic of Zelensky, reiterated his belief that the Ukrainian leader is rejecting opportunities for peace. "Two years ago, I said Ukraine should seek peace or suffer severe loss of life for no gains. The latter was Zelensky's choice. Now, he wants to do that again. This is cruel and inhumane," Musk wrote on X.

Musk has previously accused Zelensky of exploiting the war, alleging without evidence that he operates a "massive graft machine feeding off the dead bodies of Ukrainian soldiers." He suggested that Zelensky's reluctance to end the conflict stems from his desire to maintain international attention and financial support. A week earlier, Musk reignited criticism of Zelensky by mocking his 2022 Vogue photoshoot with First Lady Olena Zelenska. The photos, taken in war-ravaged Ukraine, were meant to highlight the country's resilience. "He did this while kids are dying in trenches on the war front," Musk commented on X, reacting to the resurfaced images.

India Sends 2 Tons Of Life-Saving Medicines To War-Torn Sudan

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

India has dispatched over two tons of life-saving medicines, including anti-cancer drugs, to Sudan as part of its ongoing humanitarian assistance efforts. The Indian Coast Guard Ship Sachet departed on Friday carrying the medical aid to the war-torn nation, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) confirmed.

Additionally, the ship is also transporting 20 haemodialysis machines and a reverse osmosis (RO) plant to Djibouti, further extending India's support to the region. The ongoing conflict between the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) has severely impacted food security in Sudan, South Sudan, and Chad. According to the World Food Programme, over 25 million people are at risk, with at least 17 million in Sudan facing severe hunger, making it one of the world's worst humanitarian crises.

India has remained committed to providing global aid in times of crisis. Last



month, the country sent 26 tons of humanitarian assistance to Honduras following Tropical Storm SARA, including medical supplies, surgical equipment, and hygiene kits.

On January 27, India also dispatched a relief consignment to the Kurdistan region

of Iraq, comprising bronchodilators, inhalers, and ventilators to aid those in need. Over the years, India has maintained its commitment to humanitarian efforts, including a \$20 million aid pledge to Iraq in response to the UN Secretary-General's appeal in 2003.

Russia lauds 'best contribution' by US as Trump freezes Ukraine aid amid war



TPN Correspondent | Moscow

Russia has welcomed the United States' decision to pause military aid to Ukraine, calling it a significant step toward ending the ongoing war. The Kremlin on Tuesday described the suspension as the "best contribution to peace," following escalating tensions between US and Ukrainian leaders.

The move, which went into immediate effect on Monday, impacts military supplies worth hundreds of millions of dollars that were in the process of being sent to Ukraine, according to The New York Times. Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov

stated, "If the United States stops (military supplies), this would probably be the best contribution to peace. It is a solution that could really push the Kyiv regime towards a peace process." He further noted that the US has been Ukraine's primary military supplier since Russia launched its offensive in February 2022. "We will see how the situation on the ground evolves," Peskov added.

The pause in aid comes amid a public dispute between former US President Donald Trump and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, highlighting growing uncertainty over continued Western support for Ukraine in its conflict with Russia.

FBI's "Most Wanted" Drug Lord, "Narco of Narcos," Handed Over to US by Mexico

TPN Correspondent | Washington, D.C.

In a significant move, Mexico has extradited some of its most notorious drug lords to the United States, including Rafael Caro Quintero, the infamous "Narco of Narcos." Caro Quintero, 72, was on the US Federal Bureau of Investigation's (FBI) list of 10 most-wanted fugitives until his capture in 2022. He is accused of ordering the kidnap, torture, and murder of US Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) special agent Enrique "Kiki" Camarena in the 1980s.

A total of 29 cartel figures were handed over to US authorities as Mexico seeks to prevent sweeping tariffs that former US President Donald Trump has linked to illegal migration and drug trafficking. The US Department of Justice stated that if convicted, Caro Quintero and several others could face the death penalty. Prosecutors are also considering terrorism charges against them.

The extradition of such a high number of suspects at once was described as "historic" by former DEA official Mike Vigil. "In the past, Mexico would extradite only a few suspects at a time," he noted, adding that the move was likely aimed at easing ongoing trade negotiations with the US. Major Cartel Leaders Among Those Extradited

The list of extradited criminals includes some of the most dangerous



figures in Mexico's drug underworld. Among them are Omar and Miguel Angel Trevino Morales, former leaders of the ultra-violent Zetas cartel, Vicente Carrillo, ex-boss of the Juarez cartel, and a brother of Nemesio Oseguera, head of the powerful Jalisco New Generation Cartel.

The DEA welcomed Caro Quintero's extradition with special enthusiasm, as his role in Camarena's killing had remained an unresolved wound for the agency. DEA acting administrator Derek S. Maltz called it an "extremely personal" moment for the organization.

US and Mexico Strengthen Anti-Drug Efforts

The extradition announcement came during a high-level visit by Mexican officials to Washington, where they met US Secretary of State Marco Rubio and other top American officials. According to the

Mexican government, both countries agreed to take coordinated actions to combat drug trafficking, particularly fentanyl smuggling, and illegal firearms trade.

Mexican President Claudia Sheinbaum has pledged to collaborate with the US on these issues while rejecting any "invasion" of her country's sovereignty. She has also expressed optimism that the two nations can avoid the tariffs imposed by Trump.

Trump's Tough Stance on Cartels Since returning to office in January, Trump has designated eight Latin American drug trafficking organizations as terrorist groups, including six Mexican cartels. He has signed an executive order labeling the cartels a national security threat, raising speculation about potential US military action against them.

Amid increasing US pressure, Mexico has recently carried out large-

Markets Tread Water Amid Tariff Turbulence; Late Buying in Banks and Metals Offers Partial Relief

Domestic stock markets suffered a slight loss. They moved within the range on Monday. Benchmark indices started the morning gap-down on negative signals from international markets. Trump's tariffs on Canada, Mexico and China coming into effect from today and those countries imposing retaliatory tariffs led to negative sentiment. After some time, the indices recovered as buying increased in bank, finance, media and metal shares. However, they could not cross the daily highs. Market breadth improved slightly compared to yesterday. In total, Nifty lost 36 points and Sensex lost 96 points.



The BSE Sensex, which closed at 73,085 in the previous session, opened at 72,817 on Tuesday. It touched an intraday low of 72,633. It reached an intraday high of 73,033. It ended at 72,989, down 96 points. The NSE Nifty, which opened at 21,974, touched a low of 21,964 and a high of 22,105. It closed at 22,082, down 36 points. The Nifty Bank rose 130 points to settle at 48,245.

In the Nifty50, 22 companies gained while 28 lost. SBI, BPCL, BEL, Shriram Finance, Adani Enterprises were the top gainers. Bajaj Auto, Hero Moto, Bajaj Finserv, HCL Tech, Eicher Motors were the biggest losers. Bank, finance, media, metal, PSU bank, consumption, oil and gas shares rose. Auto, FMCG, IT, and pharma indices lost.

Market breadth in NSE turned in favour of buyers today. Out of 2954 shares traded, 1658 gained and 1214 lost. Shares of 13 companies reached 52-week highs. 487 shares reached 52-week lows. Shares of 95 companies touched upper circuit.

Rupee settled at 87.30 against dollar. NLC India shares rose 11 per cent to Rs 226 today. 15 lakh shares changed hands in NMDC. Kotak AMC Nilesch Shah said that valuations are reaching normal levels and the shares can be accumulated with a long-term perspective. ICICI Securities



has given a buy rating to Adani Power with a target price of Rs 600. Nomura said it may buy shares of Ultratech, Ambuja and Ramco Cement companies. Morgan Stanley has given an overweight rating to Canfin Homes with a target price of Rs 885. Shares of Domes Industries rose 8.11 percent to Rs 2553. 11 lakh shares changed hands in Emami. SBI shares rose the most in 14 weeks today. The Trump administration has ordered the US to stop cyber operations against Russia.

1. Indigo (InterGlobe Aviation Ltd.)

Indigo is India's largest low-cost carrier, known for its operational efficiency, on-time performance, and extensive domestic network. It focuses primarily on short-haul flights and has maintained a



strong market share in the Indian aviation sector. Long-term prospects are positive if domestic travel demand continues to recover and cost management remains efficient.

2. Bluestar Ltd.



Bluestar is a leading manufacturer in the HVAC (heating, ventilation, and air conditioning) segment in India, offering air conditioners and commercial refrigeration solutions. It caters to both residential and commercial markets with a well-established brand and distribution network. Positive, as continued urban development and consumer demand for efficient and sustainable HVAC solutions drive growth.

3. Voltas Ltd.



Voltas, a Tata Group company, is a market leader in air-conditioning and cooling solutions in India. It serves both residential and commercial customers and is expanding its portfolio into engineering solutions. Long-term outlook remains positive, supported by sustained demand and brand strength in the cooling solutions market.

4. Power India Ltd.



Power India Ltd. is a public sector enterprise engaged in power generation and renewable energy initiatives. It benefits from government support and regulated revenue streams through long-term power purchase agreements. Stable, with long-term growth potential given the government's focus on expanding and modernizing power infrastructure.

5. State Bank of India (SBI)



SBI is India's largest public sector bank, boasting an extensive branch network, diversified loan portfolio, and significant presence in both domestic and international markets. It plays a pivotal role in financial inclusion and supports a wide range of banking services. Positive over the long term, given its dominant market position, continuous digital transformation, and strong backing from the government.

Bombay HC stays FIR against ex-SEBI chief Madhabi Buch



- HC grants relief in alleged market fraud case
- Special court's decision deemed "mechanical" and lacking specific attribution.
- SEBI calls complainant a habitual litigant.

TPN Correspondent | Mumbai

The Bombay High Court on Tuesday granted relief to former SEBI chairperson Madhabi Puri Buch and five others by staying a special court's order directing the registration of an FIR in an alleged market fraud case. The court observed that the lower court's order was passed mechanically without detailing the specific roles of the accused.

Justice Shivkumar Dige, presiding over the case, stayed the March 1 special court order for four weeks and granted time for the complainant, journalist Sapan Shrivastava, to file his affidavit in response to the petitions seeking quashing of the order. The petitions were filed by Ms. Buch, SEBI directors Ashwani Bhatia, Ananth Narayan, and Kamlesh Chandra Varshney, along with Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE) Managing Director and CEO Sundararaman Ramamurthy and former BSE chairman Pramod Agarwal.

The case stems from allegations of fraud related to a company's listing on the BSE in 1994. A special court had directed the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) to file an FIR, citing "prima facie evidence of regulatory lapses and collusion requiring a fair and impartial probe." The court noted that the allegations warranted an investigation due to the perceived inaction by SEBI and law enforcement agencies. On Monday, the High Court had already restrained the ACB from taking action until the hearing was concluded. Solicitor-General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the SEBI directors, argued that the special court's order was "manifestly erroneous, patently illegal, and beyond jurisdiction."

In response, SEBI reaffirmed its commitment to regulatory compliance and announced its intention to challenge the order. The market regulator dismissed the allegations as frivolous, pointing out that the complainant had a history of filing baseless litigation, some of which had previously been dismissed with penalties. Meanwhile, the BSE also rejected the allegations, calling them "frivolous and vexatious." The High Court will take up the matter again after four weeks.

Suzuki Motorcycle India's domestic sales dip, exports rise by 19%

Suzuki Motorcycle India Pvt. Ltd. (SMIPL) reported a mixed performance in February 2025, with domestic sales witnessing a 7.4% decline compared to February 2024, while exports surged by 19%.

The company recorded total sales of 90,206 units last month, comprising 73,455 units sold in the domestic market and 16,751 units shipped overseas. In contrast, Suzuki sold 97,435 units in February 2024, with 83,304 units domestically and 14,131 units in exports.

Commenting on the sales, Devashish Handa, Executive Vice President - Sales, Marketing, and After Sales at SMIPL,



said, "February sales reflect a mix of market dynamics with exports showing growth. Although the domestic sales witnessed a temporary slowdown, our focus remains on offering products that

align with customers' expectations while continuously improving the overall ownership experience."

Despite the slowdown in domestic demand, Suzuki remains optimistic about future growth, driven by its recent launches at the Bharat Mobility Global Expo 2025. The company introduced its first electric scooter, the e-Access, alongside the ICE variant of the Access 125. Suzuki also launched the Gixxer SF 250 Flex Fuel, India's first E85-compatible bike. These new models are expected to boost Suzuki's sales momentum in the coming months.

Tencent Raises Stake in FromSoftware Parent Kadokawa to 7.97%

Chinese tech giant Tencent Holdings has increased its stake in Kadokawa Corporation, the parent company of renowned game developer FromSoftware. According to reports, Tencent acquired an additional 1.11 percent of Kadokawa shares on Monday, raising its ownership from 6.86 percent to 7.97 percent. This move follows Tencent's initial investment in 2021, when it acquired a stake in the Japanese firm for JPY 30 billion (approximately Rs. 1,757 crore).

The share purchase was carried out through SixJoy Hong Kong Limited, a Tencent subsidiary, which submitted a large shareholding report to the Kanto Finance Bureau. According to a report from Nikkei, the acquisition is part of an ongoing capital and business alliance between the two companies.

Sony's Growing Influence in Kadokawa

Tencent's increased investment comes amid Sony's efforts to expand its stake



in Kadokawa. In December 2024, Sony raised its ownership from two percent to nearly 10 percent, making it the largest shareholder in the FromSoftware parent company. Sony invested JPY 50 billion (\$320 million or roughly Rs. 2,722 crore) to acquire new Kadokawa shares, aiming to strengthen its collaboration with the publishing giant and maximize the global impact of their intellectual properties (IP).

South Korean firm Kakao Investment currently holds an 8.44 percent stake, making it the second-largest shareholder

er in Kadokawa.

Kadokawa's Influence in the Gaming Industry

Kadokawa is a major player in the entertainment industry, serving as the parent company of FromSoftware, the acclaimed studio behind games such as the Dark Souls series, Bloodborne, Sekiro: Shadows Die Twice, and Elden Ring. The company has been in the spotlight recently due to its strategic partnerships and acquisition talks with major industry players like Sony and Tencent.

Tencent's increased stake in Kadokawa signals its growing interest in the gaming sector, reinforcing its position in the Japanese gaming market while competing with Sony for influence over the publisher's future. With both tech giants expanding their stakes, Kadokawa's role in shaping the gaming industry is expected to become even more significant in the coming years.

Scroll Smarter: Why Reddit is the Thinking Person's Social Media

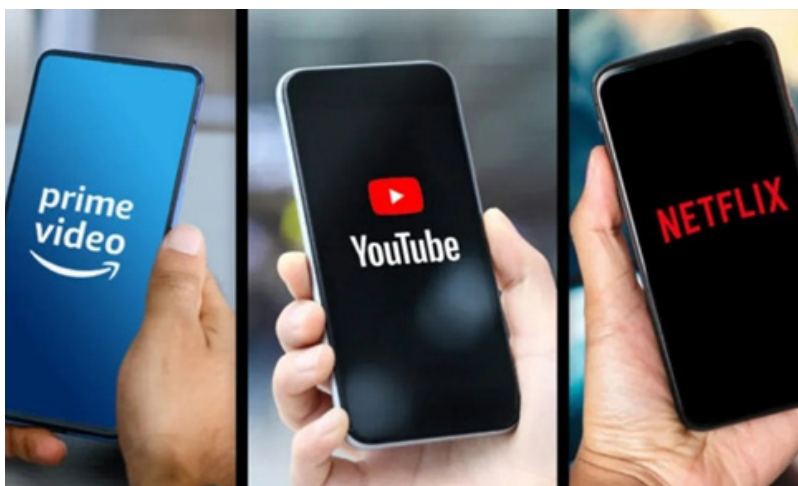


By Yansi Gopisetty
Tired of political debates that go nowhere and movie discussions that end at 'mass or class'? Maybe it's time you discovered Reddit - where the internet actually thinks. Reddit is the internet's best-kept secret and a goldmine for curious readers who love a good debate. If you've never heard of it, don't worry- you're not alone. Reddit quietly operates as a massive global forum where people discuss everything, from serious political issues to bizarre conspiracy theories. Think of it as a WhatsApp group, but without the "Good morning" messages. Instead of endless reels and one-sided debates - Reddit offers real conversations where people actually think before they comment, well, most of the time. The platform is made up of topic-specific communities called subreddits, where users post news, opinions, thoughts, questions, gossip, and memes while others respond with insightful or sometimes sarcastic comments.

Now, why should you, a reader interested in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana politics, care about Reddit? Because this is where real, unfiltered discussions happen - without paid promotions, screaming debates, or viral propaganda that often plague mainstream platforms. If politics feels too heavy, Reddit also happens to be a paradise for cinephiles. Unlike YouTube comments that just say "goosebumps", Reddit's film communities break down every frame, dialogue, and hidden meaning in a movie. **IN SEPARATE BOXXX** How to navigate Reddit: Lurk for a while, read posts, and observe how discussions flow. Upvote smart discussions, ignore the noise. To get started, check out these subreddits: r/india for national issues, r/andhra_pradesh and r/hyderabad for local updates, r/IndiaCricket for cricket fans, r/tollywood for all things Telugu cinema. It's not just for politics and movies.

Reddit has communities for everything under the sun - cricket debates, stock market trends, startup advice, space exploration, memes, or even niche topics like conspiracy theories and historical mysteries, there's a subreddit for you. But since anyone can post, be wise in choosing communities, fact-check before believing anything, and remember: upvotes don't always mean truth. Fact-check before believing. If you're tired of news that feels like a rerun and movie debates that never go beyond box office numbers, Reddit is your upgrade. It's where facts get more love than clickbait, where politics is discussed without panelists yelling, and where a simple movie thread can turn into a full-blown thesis, and one click can take you from serious policy talk to a heated debate on the best Maggi flavor. So jump in, explore, and stay curious—you might just find the most interesting conversations happening in the unlikeliest corners of the internet.

YouTube Working on Netflix-Like Redesign to Compete With Amazon Prime Video



YouTube is reportedly developing a redesigned version of its smart TV app that could resemble Netflix and Disney+, aiming to make it easier for users to discover paid content from third-party streaming services. This move is seen as an effort to compete with Amazon Prime Video, which already integrates external services like Apple TV+ and Paramount+ within its interface. According to a report from The Information (via The Verge),

the Alphabet-owned platform plans to spotlight paid content from third-party providers directly on the YouTube home page, offering users a more seamless content discovery experience. YouTube already allows US customers to subscribe to services like Max, Paramount+, and Crunchyroll through its "Primetime Channels" feature in the Movies and TV tab. However, the redesign could expand this integration significantly. Amazon's Prime Video currently highlights content from external platforms throughout its app and allows users to purchase subscriptions within the interface. YouTube appears to be following a similar strategy to boost engagement and make its app a more comprehensive entertainment hub. Kurt Wilms, Senior Director of Product Management at YouTube, confirmed that the company is working on a unified viewing experience. "The vision is that when you come to our app and you're looking for a show, it'll just blend away whether that show is from a Primetime Channel or that show is from a creator," he told The Information. The move comes amid growing competition among streaming services, with platforms like Netflix, Disney+, and Amazon Prime Video constantly refining their user experience. By enhancing its smart TV app to integrate third-party services more prominently, YouTube aims to position itself as a key player in the premium streaming market.

Microsoft unveils new AI assistant 'Dragon Copilot' How safe are AI tools in healthcare?



Microsoft has launched a groundbreaking voice-activated AI assistant, named Dragon Copilot, aimed at streamlining the administrative tasks of healthcare professionals. The new tool is designed to help doctors and healthcare workers efficiently transcribe clinical notes, draft essential paperwork, and swiftly search for information from medical sources. Integrated into the Microsoft Cloud for Healthcare platform, Dragon Copilot represents a significant step toward improving productivity and reducing the time spent on routine adminis-

trative work. Dragon Copilot utilizes advanced natural language voice dictation and ambient listening technology developed by Nuance, an AI voice company acquired by Microsoft in 2021 for \$16 billion. This acquisition enabled Microsoft to leverage Nuance's expertise in AI-driven voice recognition and transcription tools, which are already widely used in the healthcare industry. By using Dragon Copilot, healthcare professionals can dictate patient notes and other clinical documentation hands-free, improving both the speed and accuracy of their work. The tool can transcribe real-time conversations and adapt to medical terminology, ensuring that the resulting records are precise and compliant with industry standards. Additionally, Dragon Copilot can instantly search through vast databases of medical knowledge to provide relevant information or

suggestions, assisting doctors in making quicker and more informed decisions. The integration of Dragon Copilot into Microsoft Cloud for Healthcare offers significant advantages in terms of data security, scalability, and interoperability, ensuring that healthcare providers can access and manage their AI-powered tools securely. As part of the larger shift towards digitization in healthcare, this AI assistant is poised to reduce administrative burdens, allowing doctors and other healthcare professionals to focus more on patient care rather than paperwork. Dragon Copilot is a game-changer for the healthcare industry, enhancing efficiency, improving the accuracy of medical documentation, and allowing healthcare professionals to deliver better patient outcomes. By harnessing cutting-edge AI technology, Microsoft continues to push the boundaries of innovation in healthcare.

Apple Set to Launch MacBook Air M4 with AI Features This Week



Apple is ready to unveil its highly anticipated MacBook Air M4 this week, confirming the launch via social media on Monday. The new laptop will succeed the MacBook Air M3, which debuted only a year ago in March 2024. The MacBook Air M4 is expected to come in two sizes—13-inch and 15-inch models—and will be powered by the new M4 chipset. In a teaser shared on X (formerly Twitter), Apple CEO Tim Cook posted a video with the tagline, "There's something in the AIR," hinting at the arrival of the new MacBook Air. While the design of the new laptop is expected to remain largely unchanged from its predecessor, the major update will be the introduction of the M4 processor, which is expected to boost performance and efficiency. The MacBook Air M4 is rumored to offer two display sizes—13-inch and 15-inch—codenamed J713 and J715, respectively. The laptop will likely feature the same Liquid Retina display as the current model, though

there are speculations that Apple could introduce a new nano-texture coating, which it currently offers on the MacBook Pro (M4, 2024), to the MacBook Air M4. Additionally, the upcoming model may see an upgrade in connectivity, with Thunderbolt 4 ports replacing the Thunderbolt 3 ports found in the current MacBook Air. Another significant upgrade for the MacBook Air M4 could be the introduction of Apple Intelligence—Apple's suite of AI-powered features. This would likely require a minimum of 8GB of RAM, aligning with Apple's specifications for running its AI suite. This upgrade hints at a more powerful, AI-enhanced experience for users. The news of the M4 chip was first reported by Bloomberg's Mark Gurman in October 2024, and the launch of the MacBook Air M4 is expected to be followed by the release of an M4-powered Mac Studio, which may debut between March and June 2025.

Giving Up Your Phone For Just 3 Days Can Change Brain, Study Shows



A recent study has revealed that giving up your smartphone for just three days can lead to significant changes in brain activity. The research, conducted by scientists from Heidelberg University and the University of Cologne in Germany, involved 25 young adults aged 18 to 30. Participants were asked to limit their phone use to essential communication and work tasks for a period of 72 hours. Before and after the three-day "phone diet," participants underwent MRI scans and psychological tests. The aim of the study was to observe how restricting smartphone use would affect brain patterns, particularly focusing on addiction-related neurotransmitter systems. The results showed notable changes in brain activation associated with these systems, indicating that even short-term phone restrictions can influence neural responses. The researchers used a longitudinal approach to examine the effects of smartphone restriction, as detailed in their published paper. They found associations between changes in brain activation over time

and the neurotransmitter systems related to addiction. Participants were shown various images during the scans, including pictures of smartphones (both on and off) and neutral images like boats and flowers, to examine their brain responses. The study suggests that smartphone use has a profound effect on brain activity, even in the short term. These findings provide valuable insight into how digital devices shape our neural patterns. However, the researchers caution that their data does not fully distinguish between craving smartphone use and craving social interaction, two processes that are often closely intertwined in today's digital age. While the study reveals robust findings, the researchers highlight the need for future research to further explore these aspects, particularly to clarify how smartphone use affects both our craving for devices and the social connections we seek through them. This study adds to the growing body of evidence that points to the powerful influence of smartphones on our brains.

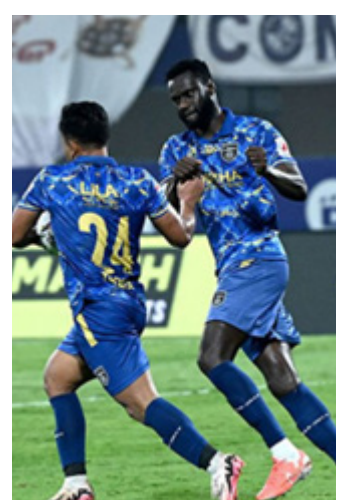
India Defeat Australia by 4 Wickets to Enter Champions Trophy 2025 Final



India booked their spot in the ICC Champions Trophy 2025 final after defeating Australia by 4 wickets in a thrilling semi-final at Dubai International Stadium. Chasing a target of 265, India reached 267/6 in 48.1 overs, with Virat Kohli leading the way with a composed 84-run innings. Shreyas Iyer (45), KL Rahul (42 not out), and Hardik Pandya (28) played key supporting roles in the successful chase. Earlier, India's bowlers restricted Australia to 264, with Mohammed Shami claiming 3 wickets for 48 runs. Varun Chakravarthy and Ravindra Jadeja each picked up two wickets. Steve Smith top-scored for Australia with 73 runs off 96 balls. India's clinical bowling effort and solid chase secured a spot in the final, where they will face the winner of the South Africa vs New Zealand match.

Odisha FC Eye Crucial Win Against Jamshedpur FC to Keep Playoff Hopes Alive

Odisha FC will face Jamshedpur FC at the JRD Tata Sports Complex in Jamshedpur on Wednesday in a crucial Indian Super League (ISL) 2024-25 match. Jamshedpur FC, already qualified for the playoffs, sit fourth in the table with 38 points from 22 matches, while Odisha FC are seventh with 30 points from 23 games. A win will take Odisha FC to 33 points, keeping them in contention for the final playoff spot. If Mumbai City FC, currently in sixth place, loses both of their remaining games, Odisha FC could still advance based on goal difference, with their current advantage of +6 over Mumbai's 0. Odisha FC have struggled recently, failing to



score in their last two matches, but are the fourth-highest scoring team this season with 41 goals. Jamshedpur FC, on the other hand, will aim for a strong performance at home, with their goalkeeper Albino Gomes making the most saves in the league.

Indian Dragflickers Sharpen Skills with Taeke Taekema Ahead of FIH Pro League 2024-25



The Indian Women's Hockey Team enhanced their penalty corner conversion skills in a specialized dragflicking camp held from February 10-16, 2025, in Bhubaneswar. Led by legendary Dutch dragflicker Taeke Taekema, renowned for his precision in penalty corners, the camp aimed to refine the team's technical abilities ahead of their home leg in the FIH Pro League 2024-25. Taekema, a former player with 170 goals in 94 appearances for the Netherlands, worked with senior

players like Deepika, Manisha Chauhan, and Sonam, focusing on body positioning, footwork, and shot release. Deepika, who scored two of her three goals through penalty corners during the Pro League, praised the camp's impact on her technique and mental resilience. Coach Harendra Singh expressed excitement about Taekema's contribution, emphasizing the need for continuous development in dragflicking for success in future competitions, including the 2028 LA Olympics.

India Paddle Festival 2025: National Champion Sekar Patchai to Lead India's Charge



The second edition of the India Paddle Festival is set to take place from March 7 to 9, 2025, at the scenic Sasi-hithlu Beach in Mangalore, Karnataka. This prestigious event, sanctioned by the Association of PaddleSurf Professionals (APP) World Tour, will showcase elite stand-up paddling (SUP) races, featuring a star-studded lineup. The festival will see world number two Christian Andersen, former World Champion Daniel Hasulyo, and defending Women's Champion Esperanza Barreras among the top

competitors. Leading India's charge is Sekar Patchai, the 25-time national champion and current titleholder. Patchai, alongside rising star Manikandan, will represent India against a strong international field, including athletes from Spain, South Africa, and Korea. The three-day event will feature sprint, technical, and distance races in multiple categories, with over 40 paddlers competing for supremacy. The festival will also feature cultural performances, making it a celebration of water sports and vibrant festivities.

World Para Athletics Grand Prix 2025 to Be Held in Delhi from March 11-13

The Paralympic Committee of India has announced the launch of the World Para Athletics Grand Prix 2025, which will take place at Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium, New Delhi, from March 11-13. The event will feature over 90 competitions, with participation from elite para-athletes across 20 countries, including Germany, Japan, Australia, Saudi Arabia, and Brazil.



The event's logo reflects India's rich cultural heritage and sporting excellence, incorporating elements like traditional musical instruments and para-athletic sports such as wheelchair racing, javelin throw, and running. The logo also celebrates India's connection to holistic well-being and fitness through motifs of yoga and athletic movements. Devendra Jhajha-

ria, President of the Paralympic Committee of India, emphasized that the Grand Prix is not just a competition but a celebration of resilience, inclusivity, and excellence. This event will provide Indian para-athletes with the opportunity to compete against top global talent, boosting the nation's growing reputation in para-sports.

India to Host 2nd Asian Yogasana Championship in March 2025

India will host the 2nd Asian Yogasana Championship from March 29 to 31, 2025, at the Indira Gandhi Arena in New Delhi, in collaboration with the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Sports Authority of India (SAI), and Yogasana Bharat. This event aims to promote Yogasana as a competitive sport globally while showcasing its rich cultural heritage. The championship will bring together top athletes from across Asia to compete in various Yogasana categories, emphasizing bal-

ance, strength, and flexibility. The event is supported by leading organizations, including the Olympic Council of Asia, World Yogasana, and Asian Yogasana, with the long-term goal of including Yogasana in the Olympics. Union Sports Minister Mansukh Mandaviya emphasized that the championship will highlight the transformative power of Yogasana, not only as a sport but as a practice that fosters physical and mental well-being. The event marks a major step in making Yogasana a mainstream global sport.



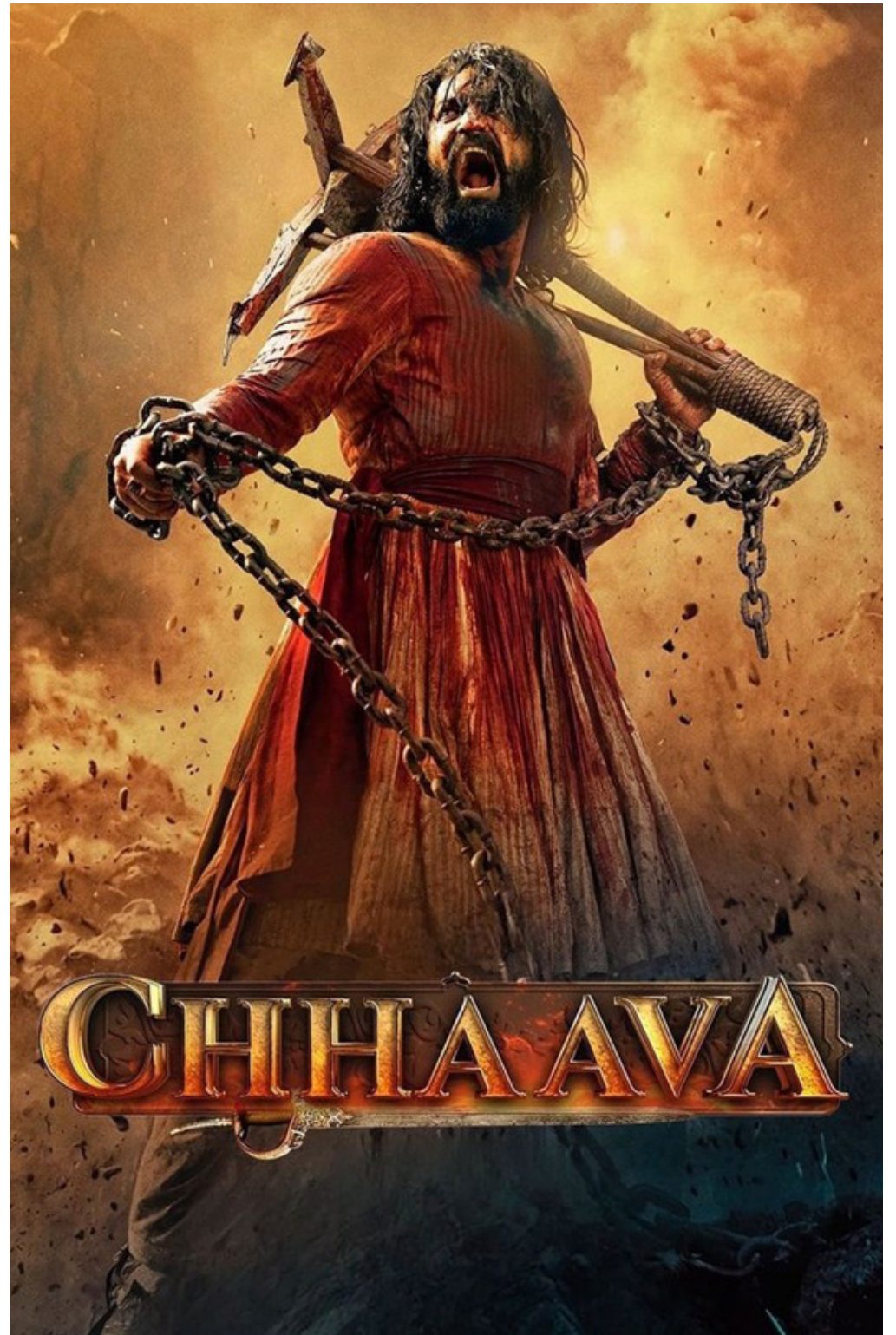


Samantha Reflects on Her Career Milestones and Cringe-Worthy Performances



Samantha Prabhukumar, celebrating 15 years in the industry, reflects on her journey in an interview with ETimes. The actress, who made her Telugu debut with *Ye Maaya Chesave* in 2010, admits there were moments in her early career that now make her cringe. "The performances that make me cringe are the ones where I was struggling to fit in," she shared, recalling how she once tried to mimic her peers. Despite those initial challenges, Samantha is proud of her growth. "I feel more mature and sure of myself now," she said. Looking ahead, she's excited for the future and finds immense joy in her work, which no longer feels like a job.

Vicky Kaushal's Chhaava Crosses Rs 450 Crore, Becomes 11th-Highest-Grossing Indian Film



Vicky Kaushal's *Chhaava* continues to shine at the box office, crossing a major milestone with Rs 467 crore in domestic earnings. Directed by Laxman Utekar, the historical drama has now become the 11th highest-grossing Indian film, surpassing the earnings of *Baahubali - The Beginning* (2015) and outgrossing films like *Salaar: Part 1 - Ceasefire* and 2.0. On day 18, it earned Rs 8.25 crore. The film, based on the Marathi novel *Chhaava* by Shivaji Sawant, depicts the life of Maratha ruler Chhatrapati Sambhaji Maharaj, played by Kaushal. *Chhaava* has received an emotional response from audiences, including a touching moment shared by Kaushal on Instagram, showcasing a fan moved by the film's story.

Alia Bhatt Hosts Heartwarming Meet and Greet with Fans in Mumbai



Alia Bhatt took a break from her busy schedule to connect with her fans in Mumbai at a special meet and greet event. The actress joined her admirers for lunch at a local restaurant, where she curated a menu filled with her favorite dishes, including french fries, mac & cheese, pizza, pasta, and more. Each fan was gifted a personalized goodies bag containing items like a hair straightener brush, perfume, makeup products, a customized Spotify playlist, a Rs 5K travel gift card, and chocolates. Attendees shared heartfelt moments on social media, showing Alia interacting, posing for photos, and signing autographs. On the work front, Alia will star in *Love & War* alongside Ranbir Kapoor and Vicky Kaushal, and has *Alpha* coming up with YRF.

Nagarjuna Reportedly Quits Bigg Boss Telugu 9: Vijay Deverakonda to Host?



Bigg Boss Telugu, one of the most popular reality shows in India, is set to return for its 9th season, but with significant changes. After hosting Seasons 3 to 8, Nagarjuna is reportedly stepping down, creating a buzz about who will take his place. To reignite the excitement, the show is considering Tollywood star Vijay Deverakonda as the new host. Sources suggest that Deverakonda has been offered a substantial amount and is contemplating the role, but no official confirmation has been made yet. In addition to the change in hosting, Bigg Boss Telugu Season 9 will feature a star-studded lineup of contestants. Unlike previous seasons, which included common people, only well-known celebrities will participate this time, including actors, comedians, singers, and choreographers. This shift aims to boost the show's appeal and engage viewers. Fans eagerly await the official announcement, hopeful that these changes will bring back the excitement.

Telugu Cinema Celebration: Iconic Films at Red Lorry Film Festival in Hyderabad



The Red Lorry Film Festival: Parallel Verse is set to debut in Hyderabad from March 21st to 23rd, 2025, at Prasads Multiplex, celebrating South Indian cinema with over 70 exceptional titles. The festival shines a special spotlight on Telugu cinema, featuring beloved classics and contemporary masterpieces. Key highlights include iconic films such as *Mayabazar* (1957), *Missamma* (1955), *Pushpaka Vimana* (1987), and *Aditya 369* (1991), all showcasing legendary directors and actors. *Pushpaka* Vi-

mana and *Aditya 369* will pay tribute to director Singeetham Srinivasa Rao's visionary storytelling, while *Manmadhudu* (2002) and *Kshana Kshanam* (1991) continue to captivate audiences with their humor and suspense. *Happy Days* (2007) and *Chandamama* (2007) will offer a nostalgic look at youth and love, while *Nene Raju Nene Mantri* (2017) explores political drama. The festival also features masterclasses and panel discussions with filmmakers, offering valuable insights into the evolution of Indian cinema. This celebration of Telugu and global cinema is organized by BookAChange, under the BookMyShow Foundation. With festival passes starting at Rs. 750/-, cinemaphiles can purchase them exclusively on BookMyShow and immerse themselves in this cinematic journey. Don't miss out on this spectacular event!