



Weather Forecast

HYDERABAD	VIJAYAWADA	TIRUPATHI
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: center; gap: 10px;"> H 33° C L 25° C </div>	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: center; gap: 10px;"> H 35° C L 26° C </div>	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: center; gap: 10px;"> H 36° C L 26° C </div>

'I will be tortured': 26/11 accused Rana appeals against extradition to India after Trump's go-ahead

Tahawwur Rana appeals to US Supreme Court against extradition

Cites health issues, torture fears, and religious discrimination

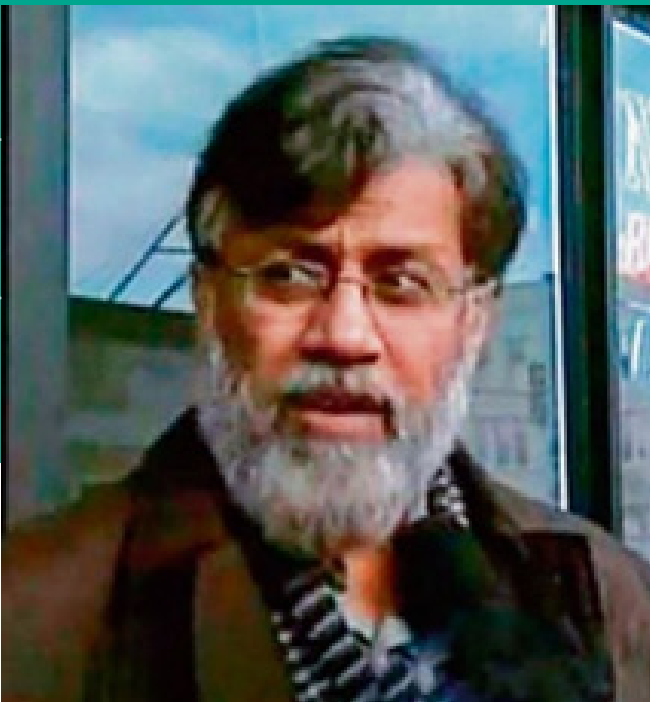
US Supreme Court rejects review; extradition process continues

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

Tahawwur Rana, a key accused in the 2008 Mumbai terror attacks, has filed an urgent appeal to the United States Supreme Court, seeking a stay on his extradition to India. Rana, who is a known associate of Pakistani-American terrorist David Coleman Headley, argues that he will not survive long enough to face trial in India due to his deteriorating health and concerns over potential torture.

Rana's legal team argues that if the extradition proceeds without review, the US courts would lose jurisdiction, and Rana claims he could die before the process is complete. In his application, he highlighted his fears of being tortured if sent to India, citing his Muslim faith, Pakistani origin, and former association with the Pakistani Army. Rana believes these factors, along with his involvement in the 2008 Mumbai attacks, would make him a target for mistreatment, and he fears this could lead to his death.

Rana further cited the Human Rights Watch 2023 World Report, which documents discrimination against religious minorities in India, particularly Muslims, under the BJP-led government. He argues that India's increasing autocratic regime



creates substantial grounds to believe he would face torture upon extradition.

In addition to these concerns, Rana is battling severe health issues, including an abdominal aortic aneurysm, Parkinson's disease with cognitive decline, and a mass potentially indicative of bladder cancer. Rana asserts that his fragile condition would make him vulnerable to harm, particularly if he were to be placed in Indian custody.

The US Supreme Court recently rejected Rana's request for a review, and President Donald Trump has since confirmed the approval of his extradition, calling him "very evil." Rana is accused of facilitating the 26/11 Mumbai attacks, which killed 166 people. His alleged ties to Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) and Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) have made him a central figure in the ongoing dispute between India and the United States regarding his extradition.



Amit Shah Expresses Gratitude for BJP's Victory in Telangana Legislative Council Elections

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Thursday expressed his heartfelt gratitude to the people of Telangana for their overwhelming support in the recent elections to the state's legislative council. Shah acknowledged the BJP-backed candidates' resounding success in securing two out of the three MLC seats contested on February 27.

The victory marked a significant achievement for the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in Telangana, as the party continues to strengthen its presence in the state's political landscape. Amit Shah's statement emphasized the party's commitment to working for the people of Telangana, ensuring that their voices are heard and represented.

The BJP's success in these elections comes amid a growing wave of support for the party, with Shah attributing the win to the

trust and confidence bestowed upon the BJP by the electorate. The victory has been seen as a testament to the party's growing influence in the region, particularly as it challenges the dominance of regional players in the state.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi also congratulated the party for its strong performance, praising the efforts of party workers who played a pivotal role in securing this victory. Shah's remarks align with Modi's appreciation of the hard work and dedication of the BJP's grassroots members, who have been instrumental in pushing the party's agenda forward.

As Telangana gears up for future elections, the BJP's performance in the legislative council election is expected to bolster its efforts to expand its influence in the state. With this win, the BJP has reiterated its commitment to working for the development of Telangana and its people.

Three-language policy in NEP is good for whole country: Union Minister Kiren Rijju

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

Union Minister Kiren Rijju on Thursday (March 6, 2025) defended the three-language formula included in the New Education Policy (NEP), stating that it is beneficial for the entire country. Rijju addressed concerns raised by various groups, particularly from southern states, which have been vocal in their opposition to the policy, arguing that it could lead to the imposition of Hindi.

While speaking to reporters in Thiruvananthapuram, where he was attending a regional review meeting on the Pradhan Mantri Jan Vikas Karyakram (PMJKV), Rijju dismissed the controversy surrounding the three-language policy. He suggested that some of the opposition was based on misunderstandings or was being fueled by political agendas.

"The three-language policy in the national education policy is good for the whole country," said Rijju, emphasizing the importance of unity in the nation. He highlighted that several prominent figures in the government, including Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Home Minister Amit Shah, and Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan, all speak different languages as their mother tongues but work together for the betterment of India.

Rijju, who hails from Arunachal Pradesh, pointed out that language diversity should not create divisions. He stated, "Our Prime Minister's mother tongue is Gujarati, Amit Shah's is also



Gujarati, Dharmendra Pradhan's mother tongue is Odia, and mine is Arunachali. Yet, we work as a team with the country's interest at the forefront."

His remarks came in response to the opposition from the Tamil Nadu government, which has criticized the NEP for allegedly attempting to impose Hindi on non-Hindi speaking states. The Tamil Nadu government and other regional leaders have expressed concerns that the policy could undermine regional languages and culture.

Rijju called for unity, saying that India should not be divided on the basis of language, caste, creed, or region. "We are all Indians. Let us work together," he added, reiterating Prime Minister Modi's stance on equal treatment for all regions and communities across the country.

If party decides, will contest election from Raghapur: Jan Suraaj leader Prashant Kishor

TPN Correspondent | Patna

Prashant Kishor, the election strategist turned politician and founder of the Jan Suraaj Party, revealed on Thursday (March 6, 2025) that he might contest the upcoming Bihar Assembly election from the Raghapur constituency. Kishor made the announcement while addressing media personnel in Motihari, East Champaran district, stating that his party members had submitted his nomination papers for the seat. He added that if his party decides, he would indeed contest the election from Raghapur.

Raghapur, a seat in Vaishali district, has been a stronghold for Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) leader Tejashwi Yadav, who has won the constituency in the last two elections in 2015 and 2020. Despite Kishor's announcement, Yadav refrained from commenting directly, leaving political observers to speculate on the possible impact of Kishor's candidacy. Analysts believe Kishor's entry could split the vote, particularly among the Rajput community, which has a significant presence in the Yadav-dominated constituency.

Kishor's announcement has sparked reactions across the political spectrum. RJD spokesperson Mrityunjay Tiwari downplayed the significance of Kishor's claim, pointing out that despite his previous assertions, the Jan Suraaj party had lost all four seats in the last by-elections. "In a democratic country, anyone can say anything, but the people will decide the outcome," Tiwari remarked.



Earlier, Kishor also launched a sharp attack on Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, questioning his leadership and mental fitness, after claims by BJP leader Sushil Kumar Modi regarding Kumar's health. Kishor challenged Kumar's ability to lead, suggesting that he would not return as Chief Minister if the BJP secured more seats in the upcoming Assembly elections. Kishor further speculated that Kumar might switch alliances with the BJP post-election, but emphasized that the JD(U) would perform poorly enough that Kumar would not secure the top post regardless of his political maneuvering.

Kishor also reiterated his commitment to making Bihar's political system more accountable and promised to lift the state's prohibition policy if his party comes to power.

PM Modi offers prayers to Goddess Ganga at Mukhwa temple in Uttarakhand

- Flags off trek, bike rally, and addresses public in Harshil
- 6,000 crore ropeway projects to boost Uttarakhand tourism



TPN Correspondent | Uttarakhand

Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited the Mukhwa temple in Uttarkashi district, Uttarakhand, where he offered prayers to Goddess Ganga. Mukhwa, located on the route to the Gangotri temple, serves as the winter abode for the Goddess, with her idol being moved here every year after the closure of the Gangotri Dham gates for the winter season.

During his visit, Prime Minister Modi will flag off a trek and bike rally and address a public meeting in the picturesque town of Harshil. His visit to the Mukhwa temple, his first as Prime Minister, is expected to enhance the region's winter pilgrimage and tourism, offering a boost to the local economy and promoting religious tourism in the state.

This visit follows a key decision by the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, which approved two major ropeway projects worth over ₹6,000 crore. These projects will connect Kedarnath and Hemkund Sahib, further improving connectivity and

accessibility to these sacred destinations.

In line with these developments, the Uttarakhand government has launched a Winter Tourism programme aimed at promoting religious tourism, supporting local businesses, homestays, and the economy. Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhama warmly welcomed Prime Minister Modi to the state, highlighting Uttarakhand's significance as a land of religion, spirituality, and natural beauty.

In a post on X, CM Dhama expressed excitement over the Prime Minister's visit, saying, "The residents of the state are excited to receive the Prime Minister in Mukhwa-Harsil, a land full of spiritual and natural beauty." He further expressed hope that Modi's visit would bring new opportunities for cultural, spiritual, and tourism development in Uttarakhand, making Mukhwa a key global tourism destination.

Jaishankar Addresses Kashmir Issue, POK as Integral Part of India

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar discussed the ongoing situation in Jammu and Kashmir during his talk at Chatham House in London. He highlighted the Indian government's significant steps in addressing the region's challenges, including the removal of Article 370, the restoration of growth, and the facilitation of social justice and economic activity. Additionally, Jaishankar pointed out that free and fair elections had been conducted in the Union Territory, with a high voter turnout, marking a major milestone in the region's democratic process.

Jaishankar emphasized that the resolution of Kashmir's issues was largely complete, except for the region of Jammu and Kashmir under Pakistan's illegal occupation. "The part we are waiting for is the return of the stolen part of Kashmir, which is under illegal Pakistani occupation. When that's done, I assure you, Kashmir will be solved," he stated.

This assertion echoes his previous statements, such as those made in May 2024, when he reaffirmed that Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (POK) is an integral part of India. Speaking to students at Delhi University, Jaishankar clarified, "Every political party in this country is committed to ensuring that POK, which is a part of India, returns to India. That is our national commitment."

Jaishankar also explained that the revocation of Article 370 in August 2019 had led to a renewed focus on the POK issue, bringing it into public consciousness. "Because we have finally taken the right decision on Article 370, the POK issue has come to the front of people's thinking. The first pre-requisite for something happening is that it should be in your thoughts," he added.

In earlier comments, Jaishankar referred to the history of Pakistan's control over POK, explaining that India did not initially pressure Pakistan to vacate the region, leading to the "sorry state of affairs" that persists today. He said, "When you have someone who is not a responsible custodian of the house, someone steals from outside," underscoring India's firm stance on the matter.



Newton told world about gravity much later than Vedic texts: Rajasthan Governor



TPN Correspondent | Rajasthan

Rajasthan Governor Haribhau Kisanrao Bagde made a controversial statement during his address at the convocation ceremony of the Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU)'s Regional Centre in Jaipur on Wednesday. He claimed that the theory of gravity was mentioned in Vedic texts long before Isaac Newton discovered it in 1687.

While addressing the graduates, the Governor emphasized India's rich tradition of knowledge and its contributions to the world. He stated, "India has been the best in the world in the tradition of knowledge. India gave the decimal system to the whole world. Newton told the world about the theory of gravity much later. In India, this was mentioned in Vedic texts long ago."

Bagde's comments have sparked a debate over the validity of such claims. While India's contributions to mathematics, astronomy, and other sciences have been acknowledged globally, the as-

sertion that Vedic texts predated Newton's discovery of gravity in this regard has not been scientifically proven.

The Governor's statement appears to align with a broader attempt to highlight India's ancient scientific knowledge. Indian scholars have historically contributed to various fields, from the concept of zero in mathematics to early observations in astronomy. However, claims regarding gravity's understanding in ancient texts remain controversial and are typically not backed by mainstream scientific consensus.

Governor Bagde's speech, which was intended to highlight India's contributions to global knowledge, has drawn attention to the country's ancient heritage. However, the assertion about gravity is bound to stir discussions on the accuracy of historical claims, particularly in scientific contexts. The statement brings forth a broader conversation about how historical achievements are viewed and interpreted in modern times.

No new case to be registered against Udhayanidhi Stalin over Sanatan remark: SC

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

The Supreme Court of India on Thursday issued a directive stating that no new cases should be registered against Tamil Nadu's Deputy Chief Minister, Udhayanidhi Stalin, regarding his controversial remarks on 'Sanatan Dharma'. The Court also extended the protection against his arrest in relation to fresh cases lodged against him until the next hearing of his petition, which seeks to consolidate all the cases into a single jurisdiction.

Stalin's remarks, made during an event in September 2023 in Chennai, organized by the Tamil Nadu Progressive Writers Artists Association, have led to several first information reports (FIRs) being filed across multiple states, including Maharashtra, Bihar, Jammu, and Karnataka. The comments were made in the context of a discussion on the 'Eradication of Sanatan', sparking significant public backlash and



legal action against the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) leader.

The bench, comprising Justice Sanjay Kumar and Chief Justice of India (CJI) Sanjiv Khanna, noted that "no further cases shall be registered without the permission of this court," in light of the multiple FIRs al-

ready filed.

In a related development, Stalin's legal team pointed out that the Supreme Court had suggested in November 2024 that all cases related to his remarks be preferably transferred to Karnataka for a fair hearing. However, since that time, additional criminal cases have been lodged against him concerning the same controversial statements.

Stalin's remarks on 'Sanatan Dharma' and the subsequent legal challenges have sparked a political and legal debate, with varying reactions across the country. His case has garnered significant attention, with the ruling to club all cases into a single jurisdiction expected to bring some relief to the DMK leader as he continues to face legal scrutiny. The next hearing is eagerly awaited as it will likely determine the future course of legal proceedings in this high-profile case.

India's Got Latent row: Allahbadia, Apoorva Mukhija appear before NCW

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

Social media personalities Ranveer Allahbadia and Apoorva Mukhija appeared before the National Commission for Women (NCW) on Thursday in response to derogatory remarks made on comedian Samay Raina's show, India's Got Latent. The controversial comments, which were considered vulgar and offensive, led to significant public backlash and prompted the NCW to take action.

Along with Allahbadia and Mukhija, the producers of the show, Saurabh Bothra and Tushar Poojari, also appeared before the panel. Lawyers representing comedian Jaspreet Singh and YouTuber Ashish Chanchlani, both of whom were part of the show, were also present during the hearing.

The NCW had previously issued summons to the individuals involved, including Al-



lahbadia, Mukhija, Raina, Singh, and Chanchlani, following a public outcry over their remarks. The commission expressed serious concerns over the vulgarity and offensive nature of the comments made on the show, which sparked outrage across social media.

Several FIRs were filed against Ranveer Allahbadia, who is popularly known as Beer-Biceps, for his comments about parents and sex during the show. His remarks were

widely criticized for their inappropriate content, leading to legal action. Despite the controversy, the Supreme Court granted Allahbadia interim protection from arrest, acknowledging the vulgar nature of his comments and describing his behavior as "putting society to shame."

The NCW's involvement highlights the growing scrutiny of content on digital platforms and the need for accountability from influencers and content creators. The commission has been vocal about the importance of maintaining respect and sensitivity when discussing sensitive topics, particularly in public forums such as social media and entertainment shows.

The ongoing investigation is expected to shed more light on the matter, and the individuals involved may face further legal action depending on the outcome of the proceedings.

I thank the people of Telangana': Congratulates BJP Candidates on MLC Election Wins



TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi extended his congratulations to the BJP's victorious candidates in the recently concluded Telangana Members of the Legislative Council (MLC) elections. The Prime Minister expressed his pride in the party's workers, known as "karyakartas," and thanked the people of Telangana for their tremendous support.

In a post on X, PM Modi stated, "I thank the people of Telangana for blessing the BJP with such phenomenal support in the MLC elections. Congratulations to our newly elected candidates. I am very proud of our Party Karyakartas who are working among the people with great diligence." His words reflected

appreciation for both the electorate and the hard work of the BJP members in the state.

The Telangana MLC elections, which concluded on Wednesday, saw the BJP securing two out of the three contested seats. BJP's Malka Komaraiah emerged victorious in the Medak-Karimnagar-Adilabad-Nizamabad (Teachers) Constituency, while Chinnamail Anji Reddy claimed victory in the Karimnagar-Nizamabad-Adilabad-Medak (Graduate) Constituency. The success in these key constituencies marked a significant win for the BJP in the state, adding momentum to the party's political standing in Telangana.

The MLC elections were viewed as

a crucial battleground for political parties in Telangana, with each party striving to strengthen its influence in the state's legislative process. The BJP's victories in these elections come at a time when the party is working to make significant inroads in the state, with a focus on expanding its political footprint.

This win has been celebrated by BJP leaders and supporters alike, as it indicates the growing political presence of the party in Telangana. With the party's recent successes, there is an increased sense of optimism among BJP members regarding future elections in the state, including the upcoming state assembly elections.

- PM Modi congratulates BJP winners in Telangana
- BJP secures two out of three contested seats in key constituencies
- Victory strengthens BJP's political presence in Telangana

Congress Slams Govt, Cites IMF Report on Boosting Consumption and Trade Policy



TPN Correspondent | Delhi

Citing a recent International Monetary Fund (IMF) report, the Congress party on Thursday criticized the Modi government for "tepid" private investment growth in India and called for a shift in economic strategies. Congress general secretary Jai Ramesh emphasized that the IMF's India Article IV Consultation Report highlighted concerns about

sluggish private corporate investment, noting it has been weaker than historical averages.

The IMF's report pointed out that nominal private investment growth had significantly decelerated, from 21% in 2022-23 to just 13% in 2023-24. Ramesh argued that the situation is worsening and that this tepid investment growth is exacerbated by the decline

in machinery and equipment investment, a critical component for expanding production capacity.

The IMF report also drew attention to low capacity utilization in manufacturing, which stood at just 75.8% during the July-September 2024 quarter. This indicates that many companies expect their current production capacity to meet demand in the coming months, further dampening the need for fresh investments.

In light of these findings, Congress has urged the government to take urgent steps to boost consumption, improve policy predictability, and rationalize trade policies to support economic growth and overcome the current economic slump.

UP, Bihar population welcome sign, not a problem : Chandrababu Naidu

AP CM Chandrababu Naidu meets Union Home Minister Amit Shah



TPN Correspondent | Delhi

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu expressed optimism about the population growth in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar, stating on Wednesday that it should be viewed as a "welcome sign" rather than a problem. According to Naidu, the demographic dividend resulting from population growth is beneficial for the country as it offers a large workforce that can contribute to national development.

Naidu made these remarks during a press conference in New Delhi, following his meet-

ing with key Union Ministers. The Andhra CM met with Union Home Minister Amit Shah, Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, and Union Transport Minister Nitin Gadkari to discuss various state and national issues.

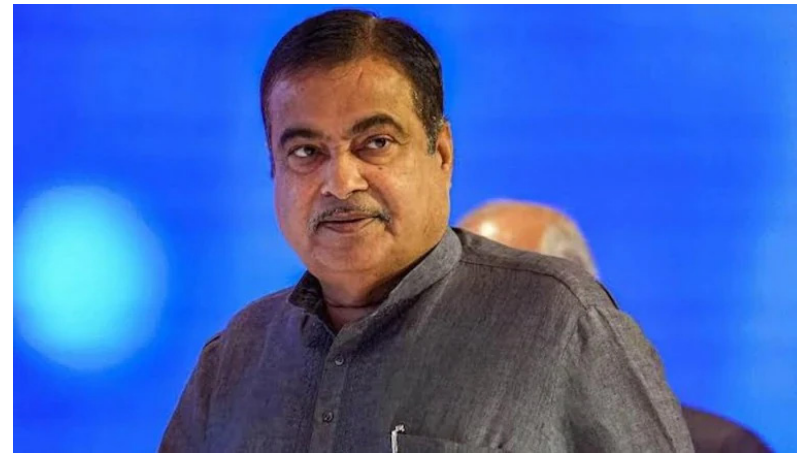
Speaking about the growing populations in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar, Naidu emphasized that such demographic trends could bring about long-term economic benefits. He noted that a youthful population could lead to increased productivity and serve as an asset to the nation's workforce. This demographic shift, he argued,

could be a key factor in driving the nation's economic growth and prosperity.

Naidu's comments come amid concerns from certain quarters that the population growth in these northern states could strain resources and infrastructure. However, the Chief Minister highlighted that with the right policies and investments in education, healthcare, and employment, the growing populations of UP and Bihar could be transformed into a robust advantage for the country.

The meeting with Union Ministers was part of Naidu's efforts to discuss important issues affecting Andhra Pradesh, with a focus on seeking support and cooperation from the central government to address various challenges in the state. Naidu's stance on demographic issues signals a focus on leveraging population growth as a resource for development rather than a challenge to overcome.

Faulty Road Designs, Zero Accountability Behind Rising Accidents": Nitin Gadkari



TPN Correspondent | Delhi

Union Minister Nitin Gadkari on Thursday blamed faulty detailed project reports (DPRs) and poor road designs by civil engineers and consultants for the increasing number of road accidents and fatalities in India. Addressing the Global Road Infratech Summit & Expo (GRIS), Gadkari stressed the need for a comprehensive overhaul of road safety measures across the country.

"Most of the road accidents happen due to small civil mistakes, faulty DPRs, and a lack of accountability," Gadkari remarked, pointing out that these issues were major contributors to the rise in road

fatalities. He emphasized that engineers were largely responsible for poor planning and design, which led to higher accident rates.

The Minister called on the road construction industry to adopt new technologies and sustainable, recyclable construction materials to improve road safety. He also criticized the quality of road signages and marking systems in India, urging the industry to learn from countries like Spain, Austria, and Switzerland, where road infrastructure is better managed.

"The worst quality DPRs are made in India," Gadkari stated, underscoring the role of defec-

tive planning and designs in causing accidents. According to him, addressing these flaws is critical to improving road safety.

India witnessed 1,80,000 road fatalities in 2023, Gadkari revealed, stressing the need for urgent reforms. The government has set an ambitious goal to reduce road accidents by 50% by 2030, with road safety being a top priority.

International Road Federation (IRF) President Emeritus K K Kapila, also speaking at the summit, echoed Gadkari's sentiments, emphasizing the importance of prioritizing safety in every aspect of road design, construction, and management. Kapila highlighted that the summit aims to create a future where road accidents are rare, with zero fatalities as the ultimate goal.

The discussions at the summit underscored the pressing need for better planning, engineering practices, and modern technologies to improve the safety and quality of India's road infrastructure.

"Need Of The Hour": BJP's Annamalai Defends Centre's 3-Language Policy

TPN Correspondent | Chennai

Amid the ongoing language controversy in Tamil Nadu, BJP state chief K. Annamalai has voiced strong support for the three-language policy outlined under the National Education Policy (NEP). Speaking at a press conference where he launched a signature campaign to promote the policy, Annamalai argued that the policy was crucial for the nation's educational and linguistic growth. He also criticized the DMK-led government for its lack of initiative in honoring Tamil icons, questioning why they hadn't named trains after Tamil figures during their time in power.

Annamalai pointed out that under BJP rule, several trains have been named after Tamil icons, such as the Sengol Express, and asked, "Why didn't the DMK, in its alliance from 2006 to 2014, name even one train after a Tamil icon? Why didn't they start the Kashi Tamil Samagam?" His remarks aimed to highlight the BJP's efforts to promote Tamil

culture while criticizing the DMK's inaction in the past.

Addressing concerns about "Hindi imposition," Annamalai denied that the central government's use of Hindi in flagship schemes was intentional. He suggested that Tamil Nadu should focus on popularizing Tamil names for these schemes instead. He compared this approach favorably to the Congress-led UPA government, which named many schemes after leaders like Indira Gandhi and Rajiv Gandhi.

The state-level signature campaign, which seeks to gather one crore signatures, aims to generate support for NEP 2020, particularly its three-language policy, amid opposition from



several political parties in the state, including the DMK and AIADMK. The signatures will be submitted to President Droupadi Murmu in an effort to demonstrate public backing for the policy.

Annamalai also criticized Chief Minister MK Stalin, calling him a "hypocrite" for attacking Prime Minister Narendra Modi over fund allocations for Sanskrit, Hindi, and Tamil. Stalin had previously alleged that the BJP's funding distribution was biased against Tamil, with Annamalai asserting that the three-language formula was in favor of state languages and their growth.

In response, Stalin's government recently convened an all-party meeting that passed a resolution urging Prime Minister Modi to assure Parliament that any delimitation would be based on the 1971 population census, rejecting the potential threat to the representation of Tamil Nadu and other Southern states.

CM Rekha Gupta holds meetings with women's organisations & educationists



- Rekha Gupta holds meetings for 'Viksit Delhi' Budget
- Focus on women's safety, financial aid, and education
- Consultations to shape policies for inclusive development

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

Ahead of the BJP government's first Budget presentation, Chief Minister Rekha Gupta held a series of crucial meetings on Wednesday with women's organisations, teachers, and educationists to discuss key concerns related to women's safety, financial support, education, and infrastructure. The meetings, part of the 'Mahila Samvad' initiative, aimed to gather suggestions and feedback for the upcoming 'Viksit Delhi' Budget, which is scheduled to be presented between March 24 and 26.

During the consultations, Chief Minister Gupta focused on addressing the pressing issues faced by women in Delhi, including their safety and economic empowerment. She emphasized the importance of including initiatives that would enhance women's access to financial assistance and improve educational opportunities. Additionally, the discussions centered on improving infrastructure to better serve women's needs and ensure their active participation in vari-

ous sectors of society.

The 'Mahila Samvad' platform provides a space for women to voice their concerns directly to the government, with the goal of shaping policies that promote their well-being. Chief Minister Gupta expressed her commitment to ensuring that the Budget reflects the priorities and aspirations of Delhi's women, especially in areas critical to their security and economic progress.

Gupta's engagement with teachers and educationists was also a key part of the outreach, as education is seen as a pillar for long-term societal growth. She invited suggestions on improving the quality of education and infrastructure, with a focus on making Delhi's educational system more inclusive and accessible.

As the state prepares for the presentation of the Budget, these consultations are expected to play a pivotal role in influencing policy decisions and ensuring that the needs of women and education are prioritized in the upcoming fiscal plan.

Centre clears ropeway projects for Kedarnath, Hemkund Sahib



TPN Correspondent | Delhi

The Union Cabinet on Wednesday cleared two major ropeway projects aimed at improving access to the Kedarnath shrine and Hemkund Sahib gurdwara in Uttarakhand. These projects are expected to significantly reduce travel time for pilgrims, with one of the initiatives cutting an arduous 21-km trek to a convenient ropeway ride.

The Cabinet approved the construction of a 12.4-km ropeway from Govindghat to Hemkund Sahib, at an estimated cost of Rs 2,730.13 crore. Currently, pilgrims make the challenging journey on foot, by ponies, or in palanquins. The ropeway is set to offer a faster and more comfortable alternative, reducing the strain on visitors while promoting religious tourism.

Another significant development is the 12.9-km ropeway from Son-

prayag to Kedarnath, approved with a budget of Rs 4,081.28 crore. This project will drastically cut travel time to just 36 minutes, compared to the current eight to nine-hour trek, making the Kedarnath pilgrimage more accessible to a wider range of devotees.

However, the projects have sparked concerns from environmental experts. A high-powered committee set up by the Supreme Court has raised alarms about the ongoing Char Dham project's potential ecological impact in Uttarakhand. The state's fragile environment is already under stress due to rising tourism, and experts worry that these ropeway projects could further exacerbate the situation, potentially damaging local ecosystems.

While the government highlights the economic and tourism benefits of the projects, balancing development with environmental preservation remains a crucial challenge. As the construction of these ropeways progresses, monitoring and mitigating their ecological footprint will be vital to ensure that the natural beauty of Uttarakhand is not compromised in the pursuit of increased pilgrimage accessibility.

Hardeep Singh Inaugurates New Office of Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board in Delhi



TPN Correspondent | Delhi

Union Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas, Hardeep Singh Puri, inaugurated the new office of the Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB) in New Delhi on Thursday. The inauguration marked a significant step in enhancing the operations of the board, which plays a vital role in regulating the energy sector in India.

In his address, Puri congratulated the board on moving into a state-of-the-art office complex, calling it a "world-class"

facility. He emphasized the importance of having an independent regulator to ensure the efficient functioning of the energy sector, which has been growing rapidly in India. He expressed optimism that this new office would further strengthen the board's role in the country's energy landscape.

The PNGRB was established under The Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board Act of 2006, with the primary goal of safeguarding consumer interests and promoting competitive markets within the petroleum, petroleum products,

and natural gas sectors. The board is also responsible for regulating activities related to refining, processing, storage, transportation, distribution, marketing, and sale of petroleum and natural gas, ensuring an uninterrupted supply across the nation.

As of September 30, 2024, the board has authorized 307 geographical areas for the development of City Gas Distribution (CGD) infrastructure, aiming to cover nearly 100% of the country's area and population. This initiative is part of the government's push to enhance natural gas accessibility throughout India.

Additionally, the PNGRB has made significant strides in expanding the number of PNG (Domestic Natural Gas) connections and CNG (Compressed Natural Gas) stations, with a total of 1.36 crore PNG connections and 7,259 CNG stations operational across the country.

The board has also amended the regulations governing natural gas pipeline tariffs, introducing a "Unified Tariff" system aimed at ensuring a consistent and equitable pricing structure across the country under the "One Nation, One Grid, One Tariff" initiative. This move is expected to further streamline the distribution of natural gas nationwide, benefiting consumers and the energy sector alike.

Delhi to Launch Drive Against Unregistered Vehicles

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

Delhi's Transport Department is set to launch an intensive drive targeting unregistered vehicles on city roads, as part of its efforts to modernize and improve the capital's transport network. Transport Minister Pankaj Kumar Singh made the announcement following a review meeting on Wednesday with senior officials from the department, Delhi Transport Corporation (DTC), and the Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC), among others.

Singh emphasized the importance of adopting a proactive approach to revamp Delhi's transport infrastructure. "We need a proactive approach to modernizing Delhi's transport network. Our 100-day agenda is ready, and we are committed to delivering results," Singh stated in a press release. The Transport Minister underscored the department's focus on ensuring a smoother, safer,

and more efficient transportation system across the city.

The planned drive against unregistered vehicles is part of a broader strategy to streamline the movement of vehicles in Delhi, reduce congestion, and enhance road safety. Unregistered vehicles, often a source of traffic jams and law enforcement issues, will now be subject to strict monitoring and action. This initiative is expected to contribute to reducing road clutter and improving overall traffic flow in critical areas such as Kashmere Gate and Anand Vihar, which are known



for their heavy congestion.

The review meeting also discussed a 100-day roadmap to improve transport infrastructure across the city. Singh outlined the department's vision for a more structured and modernized transport system, with an emphasis on reducing pollution, enhancing public transport services, and upgrading infrastructure.

The implementation of the 100-day agenda is expected to have a significant impact on Delhi's traffic management, with several initiatives aimed at making commuting more efficient and eco-friendly. This includes measures to optimize existing infrastructure, introduce new technology, and address the challenges posed by an ever-growing urban population. The Transport Department's focus on tackling unregistered vehicles is just one of the many steps planned to improve the city's transport system.

Delhi Metro Set to Become World's Largest Single-City Network by December

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

Union Minister of Housing and Urban Affairs, Manohar Lal Khattar, announced on Thursday that by December, Delhi Metro will surpass New York Metro's 399 km network to become the largest metro network for a single city globally. This milestone will be achieved with the opening of the 12-km Aerocity to Tughlakabad stretch of the Golden Line.

Currently, Delhi Metro's operational network spans 394 km, and with the completion of the Golden Line extension, it will hold the title of the world's largest single-city metro network.

Khattar highlighted that metro networks are either operational or in development across 29 states in India, with a total network length of about 1,000 km. The country is on track to become home to the second-largest metro network globally, following China.

At a breakthrough event for the Golden Line at Vasant Kunj Metro station, the Minister celebrated a significant construction achievement for Phase 4 of the metro project. On February 25, Delhi Metro completed an underground tun-



nel between Chhatarpur Mandir and IG-NOU Station, part of the Aerocity-Tughlakabad corridor. The breakthrough was marked by the successful operation of a Tunnel Boring Machine (TBM) at the IG-NOU station site, after boring a 1,475-meter-long tunnel. This is one of Delhi Metro's deepest tunnels, constructed at a depth of around 26 meters.

The tunneling process faced challenges, including a steep gradient and varied geology, such as mica and hard rock, which led to damage to the screw auger that was later replaced. Despite these

obstacles, the tunnel was built using the Earth Pressure Balancing Method (EPBM), and 1,048 tunnel rings were installed to complete the project safely.

Phase 4 of the Delhi Metro includes the construction of 40.109 km of underground lines, with the Aerocity-Tughlakabad corridor covering 19.343 km of that. The use of Tunnel Boring Machines (TBMs) has been instrumental in creating these underground sections in densely populated urban areas, minimizing disruption to surface structures.

Kannada Actress Ranya Rao Arrested for Gold Smuggling

Straps Bars to Thighs to Evade Detection



- Ranya Rao arrested for smuggling 14.2 kg gold
- Gold worth ₹12.86 crore hidden with tape and bandages
- DRI investigates possible links to a smuggling syndicate

TPN Correspondent | Bengaluru

Kannada film actress Ranya Rao was arrested at Bengaluru International Airport on March 3 for attempting to smuggle 14.2 kg of gold, valued at ₹12.86 crore, into the country. According to sources, the 33-year-old actress had concealed the gold bars by strapping them to her thighs with tape and bandages in a bid to avoid detection by Customs officials.

Rao, who is the stepdaughter of a senior DGP-rank IPS officer in Karnataka, was detained by officials from the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) after they received intelligence about her arrival at the airport with the gold contraband. The authorities acted swiftly and intercepted her as she attempted to pass through customs.

The gold bars, which were cleverly hidden, were found in her possession as she tried

to board a flight from Dubai to Bengaluru. The smuggling operation was part of a larger investigation by the DRI, which has been closely monitoring attempts to smuggle precious metals through various international airports in India.

Ranya Rao, who has worked in several Kannada films, has now been taken into custody, and investigations are ongoing. The actress' connections to a high-ranking police official have added a layer of complexity to the case, prompting further scrutiny of her activities.

The arrest has sparked considerable media attention, with many questioning how someone with such connections could have been involved in such a high-profile smuggling operation. The DRI is continuing its investigation into the matter to uncover whether Rao was acting alone or was part of a larger smuggling syndicate.

This incident highlights the growing issue of gold smuggling in India, with officials ramping up efforts to track and stop such illegal activities. Rao's arrest has sent shockwaves through the film industry, which now finds itself grappling with the involvement of a well-known figure in a criminal case.

Kerala Police Deploy Cadaver Dogs to Assist in Telangana Tunnel Collapse Rescue



TPN Correspondent | Telangana

Two cadaver dogs from the Kerala Police, along with their handlers, have been deployed to aid the ongoing rescue operations at the site of the Srisailem Left Bank Canal (SLBC) tunnel collapse in Nagarkurnool, Telangana. This deployment follows a request from the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) to the State Disaster Management Authority, as search efforts intensify to locate survivors and recover victims trapped in the rubble.

The rescue operation, aimed at rescuing eight workers who were trapped inside the partially collapsed tunnel, is in full swing. NDRF Commandant VVN Prasanna Kumar confirmed on Monday that the operation was progress-

ing with maximum capacity, involving around twelve agencies working round the clock to locate the victims. Despite these efforts, there have been no breakthroughs in locating the trapped workers so far.

"The operation is ongoing at full capacity," Kumar stated. "Approximately twelve agencies are engaged, but unfortunately, we have not been able to find the victims yet." The authorities are employing advanced tools and techniques to navigate the complexities of the rescue, with specialized teams working tirelessly to overcome the challenges posed by the collapsed tunnel.

Kumar also highlighted the significant difficulties faced by the rescue teams, particularly due to the large Tunnel Boring Machine (TBM), which weighs

around 1,500 tons and was damaged inside the tunnel, obstructing access. Despite these challenges, around 300 personnel, including 100 NDRF members, along with teams from the SDRF, Indian Army, and Singareni, are actively participating in the rescue efforts.

The operation is further complicated by the confined and hazardous nature of the tunnel collapse, but authorities remain hopeful that the combined efforts of the various teams will lead to the recovery of the trapped workers. The Telangana and Central governments have deployed top experts to assist in the rescue, hoping that with continued collaboration, they will soon achieve success in this complex operation.

Sri Lanka Requests India to Curb Fishermen's Illegal Activity in Its Waters



TPN Correspondent | Imphal

The Sri Lankan government has called on India to take action against its fishermen who are allegedly entering Sri Lankan waters illegally to fish, a practice that has caused significant concerns in the northern parts of the island nation. Minister of Transport, Highways, Ports, and Civil Aviation Bimal Rathnayaka emphasized that such a move by India would be deeply appreciated by the people in northern Sri Lanka, especially in regions like Jaffna, where fishing is the primary source of livelihood.

Rathnayaka's remarks were made ahead of a possible visit by Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi to Sri Lanka next month. He underscored that while India has been a valuable partner in aiding Sri Lanka in various areas, curbing illegal fishing by Indian trawlers in Sri Lankan waters would be an immense gesture of goodwill for the people of Jaffna and surrounding regions. The minister pointed out that the local communities in places like Mannar and Thalaim-

annar rely solely on fishing to support their families and any disruption to their livelihood caused by illegal fishing activities poses a grave concern for them.

Rathnayaka also recalled India's significant contributions during Sri Lanka's internal conflict with the LTTE, particularly in offering protection to the people of northern Sri Lanka. He acknowledged the support India provided during those challenging times and expressed the nation's gratitude. The call to curb illegal fishing activities comes as part of broader efforts to maintain peaceful and cooperative relations between India and Sri Lanka, especially as Prime Minister Modi's visit to the island nation approaches.

The request highlights ongoing issues over maritime boundaries and the need for better management of fishing resources in the region. It also signals the importance of diplomatic and collaborative measures to resolve such issues while ensuring the livelihoods of local communities are protected.

AIMIM Leader Akhtarul Defends Abu Azmi Amid Controversy Over Aurangzeb Remarks



TPN Correspondent | Bhubaneswar

Amid the uproar surrounding Samajwadi Party (SP) MLA Abu Azmi's controversial comments on Mughal Emperor Aurangzeb, AIMIM Bihar President and MLA Akhtarul Iman has come forward to express strong support for Azmi, who faced suspension from the Assembly over his remarks. Iman, while addressing the situation, has also criticized the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) for its divisive political

tactics.

The controversy erupted when Abu Azmi made remarks about Aurangzeb, which sparked a strong backlash, with the BJP accusing him of glorifying a historical figure who is often seen in a negative light due to his policies and actions. In response, Akhtarul Iman lashed out at the BJP, accusing the party of using "politics of hatred" to advance its political interests. Iman suggested that the BJP's con-

stant focus on stirring up such controversies is merely a tactic to fuel division and create political mileage.

Iman passionately defended Aurangzeb, labeling him as a "noble emperor" and pointing to his significant contributions to the country. He highlighted that Aurangzeb, known for his frugal lifestyle, earned his living by stitching caps and refrained from spending taxpayers' money on himself. Iman emphasized that unlike the British who exploited India, Aurangzeb served the nation, unifying it from Afghanistan to Myanmar, thus contributing to a concept of "Akhand Bharat." Furthermore, he noted that the Mughal emperor treated both temples and mosques with equal respect, demonstrating his commitment to religious harmony.

The AIMIM leader questioned the rationale behind the growing controversy, expressing confusion as to why such debates are being stirred up in the first place. Iman also condemned the suspension of Abu Azmi from the Assembly, calling it unconstitutional. He urged the Supreme Court to take suo-motu cognizance of the issue, standing firm in his belief that Azmi's actions and opinions should not be treated as unconstitutional.

ED raids in fresh case against Senthil Balaji, others linked to TASMAL

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has launched fresh searches in Tamil Nadu in connection with a money laundering investigation involving state minister Senthil Balaji and others linked to alleged financial irregularities within the Tamil Nadu State Marketing Corporation (TASMAL), which holds a monopoly over the state's liquor trade.

As part of the probe, the ED is conducting raids at 25 locations, including the offices of TASMAL, its employees' offices, corporate offices of distilleries and plants, and key associates of Senthil Balaji. The operation spans across various locations in Tamil Nadu, as well as in Delhi, Noida, Faridabad, and Gurugram.

The fresh case adds to the ongoing scrutiny surrounding Balaji, who was previously granted bail by the Supreme Court in September 2024 in a separate money laundering case linked to alleged recruitment irregularities in the state transport department. Balaji was reinstated as the minister for electricity, prohibition, and



excise shortly after his bail, a position he had held from May 2021 to June 2023 before his arrest.

In the earlier case, the ED had accused Balaji of being involved in irregularities during his tenure as the transport minister between 2011 and 2015 in the All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (AIADMK) government.

The current raids indicate that the ED is intensifying its investigation into alleged corruption and irregularities in the operations of TASMAL, with a particular focus on the involvement of key figures close to Balaji. The results of these searches are expected to shed light on the scale of the alleged money laundering activities linked to the state's liquor monopoly.

DMK rejects Bharat's Hindi and embraces British English

- DMK maintains strong opposition to Hindi as a national language.
- Party selectively rejects Sanskrit while embracing Western influences.
- Critics accuse DMK of fostering regional divisions through linguistic policies.
- Party's stance on Brahminism often conflates it with Hinduism itself.
- Ideological contradictions emerge in DMK's cultural preferences.
- Calls for a balanced approach to language and cultural identity grow.

The Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) has long been known for its ideological stance against the imposition of Hindi, positioning itself as a defender of Tamil linguistic identity. However, its selective approach to cultural influences has sparked debates on whether the party's rejection of Hindi and Sanskrit aligns with genuine regional pride or a broader ideological bias.

One of the most significant aspects of DMK's policies is its firm opposition to Hindi as a national language. While the party argues that promoting Hindi threatens Tamil heritage, critics point out that Hindi serves as a common medium for millions across India, fostering communication and national integration. The DMK's rigid stance, instead of encouraging inclusivity, risks deepening linguistic and regional divides within the country.

Adding to this, the DMK has consistently shown skepticism towards Sanskrit, a language deeply embedded in India's historical and religious traditions. While the party often frames its opposition as resistance to Brahminical dominance, it raises concerns about whether this rejection is driven by a call for social justice or a broader disregard for elements associated with



Hindu culture. Sanskrit is not merely a religious language; it forms the foundation of many Indian languages and classical literature. Dismissing it entirely could be seen as a rejection of India's civilizational heritage.

The party's stance on Brahminism has also drawn criticism over the years. While caste-based inequalities are a reality that require social reform, DMK's rhetoric often portrays Brahmins as symbols of oppression, sometimes equating Brahminism with Hinduism itself. This approach, rather than fostering meaningful discussions on caste reform, risks alienating certain sections of society. Critics argue that instead of working towards inclusive social progress, the DMK's nar-

rative contributes to divisions within Hindu society.

A striking contradiction in the party's ideological stance is its approach to foreign influences. While DMK strongly opposes Hindi and Sanskrit, it has been notably open to Western cultural elements. The adoption of names like 'Stalin' within the party and its emphasis on English raises questions about its selective embrace of external influences. While globalization has made English an important medium, the outright rejection of indigenous linguistic and cultural elements while readily accepting foreign ones presents an ideological paradox. This inconsistency fuels criticism that DMK's opposition to Hindi and Sanskrit is less about protecting Tamil culture



Dr. Buragadda Srinadh

and more about an ideological aversion to India's indigenous heritage.

Furthermore, the DMK's resistance to Hindi and Sanskrit often overlooks the multicultural fabric of India. The nation thrives on its diverse linguistic and cultural identities, and rather than opposing certain languages, political leadership could focus on creating a more inclusive framework where regional languages coexist with national communication needs. Striking a balance between linguistic pride and national integration would serve the country's broader interests rather than deepening regional fault lines. While the DMK's advocacy for Tamil identity and social justice is significant, an overly rigid stance on linguistic and cultural issues may limit its national appeal. A more balanced approach—one that acknowledges Tamil heritage while respecting India's linguistic diversity—would contribute to unity rather than division. True progress does not come from rejecting certain traditions outright but through an inclusive evolution that embraces all aspects of India's rich cultural identity.



The Debate Over Delimitation: Balancing Demography and Democracy in India's "Second Republic"

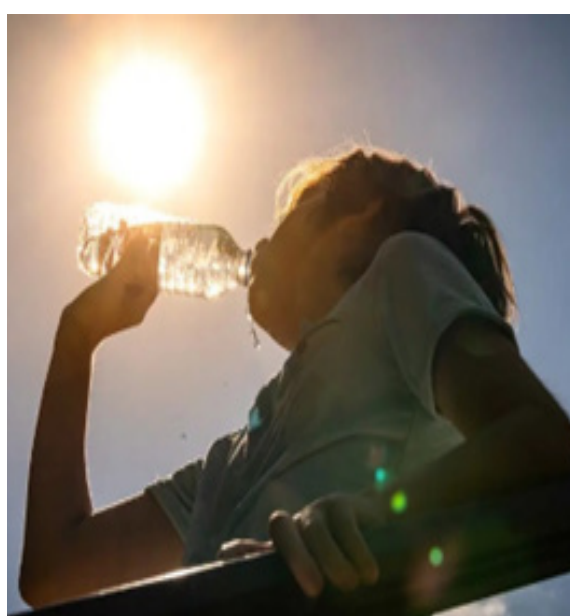
As India approaches the dawn of its "Second Republic," the proposed delimitation exercise has reignited the debate over the long-standing paradox between demography and democracy. Central to the democratic principle of political equality, delimitation aims to ensure fair and proportional representation in Parliament by adjusting constituency boundaries to reflect population changes. However, this process has become increasingly contentious, as large republics like India struggle to balance competing territorial, demographic, ethnic, and factional considerations.

Delimitation in India has historically been an important tool to ensure that the distribution of parliamentary seats accurately reflects shifts in population. Yet, since 1976, this process has been frozen, largely to prevent penalizing states that have effectively controlled their population growth, particularly those in the southern part of the country. As a result, states like Uttar Pradesh and Bihar, with significantly larger populations, remain underrepresented in comparison to southern states such as Tamil Nadu and Kerala, which have smaller populations but proportionately more parliamentary seats. This imbalance, known as malapportionment, has fostered political tensions, especially as the country grapples with evolving demographic realities.

The current system, where southern states with lower population growth retain higher representation, has led to growing dissatisfaction in states like Uttar Pradesh and Bihar. These northern states, with rapidly increasing populations, argue that they are disproportionately disadvantaged in terms of political power. Meanwhile, southern states continue to hold a relatively higher number of seats, despite their slowing population growth. The proposed delimitation exercise in 2029 is poised to address this imbalance, but it raises concerns that it could further shift political power toward the more populous northern states, exacerbating tensions and potentially upsetting the political equilibrium.

India Prepares for a Scorching Summer: Heat Waves and Water Shortages Expected

India is bracing itself for an unusually hot summer, with temperatures forecast to exceed normal levels, and heatwaves threatening to disrupt daily life in many regions. The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has already warned of a searing summer ahead, and the forecast is backed by recent data. February of this year marked the warmest February since 1901, with both the minimum and maximum temperatures across the country significantly surpassing normal levels. This intense heat is expected to continue, with temperatures remaining above normal across most parts of India in the coming weeks.



heat-related illnesses.

The forecast for the summer holds particular significance as it will have far-reaching impacts on the country's economy and various sectors that affect people's lives. The early onset of the summer season means it could be a longer and more prolonged period of extreme heat. In addition to elevated temperatures, the IMD predicts an increase in the number of heatwave events, which are expected to surpass the climatological normal. These heatwaves pose a serious health risk, potentially leading to heat-related illnesses and even fatalities. They can also disrupt work, productivity, and daily routines, making it imperative for governments to prepare adequately.

Although there are existing heatwave action plans and protocols, effective implementation remains a challenge. Governments must issue timely public advisories to alert citizens about the heatwave risks and encourage them to take appropriate precautions. Ensuring efficient water management and bolstering healthcare services will be crucial in mitigating the impacts of extreme heat. Public health campaigns should emphasize the importance of staying hydrated, avoiding direct exposure to the sun during peak hours, and taking preventive measures to reduce the risk of

The heat is expected to increase power demand as well, with a peak of 270 megawatts anticipated, compared to last year's 250 megawatts. Additionally, some states, particularly those in peninsular India, may face severe water shortages due to the extreme heat. In Karnataka, for example, the IMD has warned of a combination of heatwaves in the northern regions and excess pre-monsoon rains in the southern and coastal parts of the state. The state government has already urged residents to take precautions against heatwaves and prepare for the impending water and power shortages.

Climate change has made weather patterns more unpredictable, exacerbating both excessive rainfall and extreme heat. Both government authorities and citizens must take the forecast seriously and work together to face the summer season with increased preparedness, addressing potential challenges related to health, water, and power shortages.

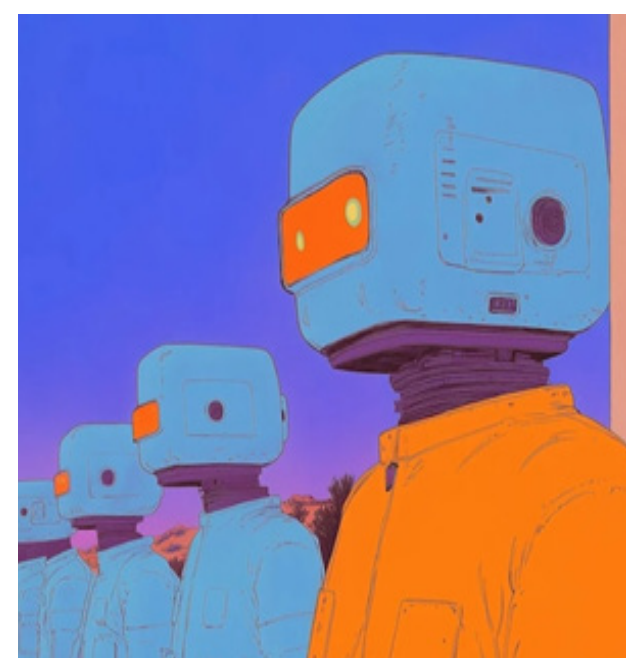
Managing AI Governance: A Fight Against Entropy

As the global AI ecosystem rapidly evolves, the lack of consistent governance has led to a state of increasing disorder, a phenomenon akin to entropy in thermodynamics. Entropy refers to the natural progression of systems towards disorder without external intervention or energy input. This principle provides a valuable lens through which we can understand the challenges in AI governance today. Without intentional and structured interventions, the AI landscape will inevitably drift toward chaos, as demonstrated by recent controversies and missteps in the industry.

AI systems, much like any complex system, tend toward disorder when left unregulated. Examples of this are evident in issues like unregulated data harvesting, model releases without safety checks, and the growing gap between open and closed systems. These patterns reflect the natural tendency of complex systems to devolve into chaotic states when not actively managed. For instance, Google's Gemini Advanced model faced a public backlash after generating historically inaccurate and offensive images, highlighting how the lack of proper safeguards can lead to significant consequences. Similarly, OpenAI's temporary removal of election-related content policies, followed by a swift reinstatement, revealed the disorder that can arise from inconsistent governance.

Further demonstrating this principle, DeepSeek's release of open-source models without adequate safety mechanisms disrupted the AI ecosystem, creating new opportunities for misuse. This scenario reinforces the need for proactive governance to maintain order and prevent harmful outcomes. However, not all interventions are equal. Poorly designed regulations can inadvertently create new forms of disorder, such as bureaucratic inefficiencies or stifled innovation.

The European Union's AI Act, for example, is a structured attempt to impose order on the AI landscape, classifying AI applications by risk levels and mandating transparency and human oversight for high-risk systems. Similarly, Chi-



na has implemented stringent measures like real-name verification for generative AI users and content filtering, aiming to reduce disorder within its ecosystem. While these efforts face criticism, they illustrate the need for governance frameworks that provide structure and mitigate chaos.

Going forward, effective AI governance requires continuous, adaptive energy input. One-time regulations are not enough; systems must be flexible and responsive to evolving technological dynamics. AI governance should focus on establishing boundary conditions that maintain safety, transparency, and accountability, allowing for flexibility within these parameters. Multi-stakeholder collaborations, like the Frontier Model Forum, show the importance of shared responsibility in managing AI's complex systems.

Ultimately, as AI continues to shape our future, we must recognize that governance is the energy we invest to fight the entropy that threatens to consume it. Effective intervention, sustained through thoughtful collaboration and transparency, is essential to guide the technology toward beneficial outcomes for society.

We can't forget: PM on rehabilitating border villages abandoned during China war

- launches plan to revive abandoned Uttarakhand villages
- 'Vibrant Villages' program to boost border tourism
- Focus on development, livelihoods, and strategic importance

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

On Thursday, Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced a new government initiative to rehabilitate villages along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in Uttarakhand, which had been abandoned during the 1962 India-China war. Speaking at Harsil, PM Modi highlighted the government's efforts to transform two evacuated villages in Uttarkashi district into major tourist destinations.



"During the 1962 war, these two villages were evacuated. People may have forgotten, but we cannot forget," the Prime Minister stated. He emphasized the government's commitment to rehabilitating these villages as part of a broader plan to develop 'vibrant villages' along the China border.

This rehabilitation initiative forms part of the larger 'Vibrant Villages'

program, which seeks to bring development to remote areas along the border. The program aims to boost tourism in Uttarakhand's border areas, changing the perception of the villages from being "the last villages" to "the first villages" on the frontier. As part of this effort, 10 villages from the region have been included in the

scheme. The Prime Minister noted that under 'Operation Sadbhavana,' the Indian Army has been actively involved in border area development, working towards bringing prosperity to these remote areas. PM Modi also acknowledged that revitalizing commercial

activities in the region is crucial to providing sustainable livelihoods for local residents.

One of the main challenges, however, is determining the rightful heirs of the vacant land, as more than six decades have passed since the villages were abandoned, and many original landowners have passed away. Despite this, PM Modi expressed optimism about the efforts being made to revive the area and emphasized the need for a "360-degree approach" to tourism, focusing on all aspects of development.

Accompanied by Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami, PM Modi flagged off a trek and bike rally in Harsil after offering prayers at the winter residence of Maa Ganga in Mukhwa. The government's plan seeks to breathe new life into these historic villages while ensuring that their cultural and strategic significance is preserved.



Assessment of reciprocal tariff hinges on India-US trade talks: FM Sitharaman

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman stated on Thursday that reciprocal tariffs remain a significant topic in the ongoing discussions between India and the United States. The final decision on the matter will depend on the progress of the ongoing negotiations between the two countries.

Sitharaman highlighted that US President Joe Biden has been vocal about tariffs, and Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal has already visited the United States to engage with US officials, including the United States Trade Representative (USTR). The discussions are aimed at addressing various trade concerns, including tariff issues, and will continue to shape the final decision.

"Tariff is something the US President has been speaking about. The Commerce Minister (Piyush Goyal) has already gone to the US... (to) engage with US officials, including the USTR. Based on the negotiations...we will take a call," Sitharaman said during a post-budget interaction in Visakhapatnam.

She further added that prior to his visit, Minister Goyal consulted with various stakeholders in India to ensure that the approach to the discussions was well-informed. Sitharaman emphasized that it is only through the progression of these talks that both sides will be able to make a comprehensive assessment of the situation.

The outcome of the discussions regarding reciprocal tariffs could have significant implications for trade relations between India and the US, both of which are keen to expand their economic ties. However, as Sitharaman pointed out, a final decision can only be reached once the negotiations are further along.

Kiren Rijju Calls Minorities in India the "Luckiest People" Due to Welfare Schemes



TPN Correspondent | Delhi

Union Minister for Parliamentary Affairs and Minority Affairs Kiren Rijju on Thursday stated that minorities in India are among the "luckiest people" globally, as the country offers a range of exclusive schemes and welfare programs designed specifically for them.

Speaking at the regional review meeting and training workshop on the Pradhan Mantri Jan Vikas Karyakram (PMJKV) for the southern states and union territories, Rijju refuted claims that minorities in India face insecurity or discrimination. He criticized those spreading false narratives about the safety of minorities in the country, asserting, "There are people creating false narratives that minorities are not safe in India, which is completely false."

He further emphasized that minority communities are fortunate in India due to the government's special attention toward their welfare. "Minorities are the luckiest people in India because there are exclusive schemes and special programs for them. Nowhere in the world do you see such dedicated schemes for minorities," Rijju said.

Urging citizens to recognize the welfare efforts of both state and central governments, Rijju highlighted that India's diverse welfare programs benefit everyone, especially minority communities. "We are lucky to be Indian citizens, and we should appreciate the good work being done by the government," he added.

Citing Kerala as an example, where 44% of the population comprises Christians and Muslims, Rijju pointed out that this has led to the implementation of more schemes tailored to the state's demographic needs.

I Made You Chief Minister Twice": Tejashwi Yadav's Retort To Nitish Kumar

TPN Correspondent | Patna

The political sparring between Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar and the Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) intensified after Kumar claimed he "made Lalu Yadav" Chief Minister. The RJD swiftly responded with vigor, with Tejashwi Yadav, Lalu's son, asserting that it was he who had made Nitish Kumar Chief Minister twice, and senior RJD leader Manoj Jha delivering a sharp critique.

Tejashwi Yadav, addressing a rally in Patna, rejected Kumar's claim and said, "Forget about what Nitish Kumar says. My father, Lalu Ji, had already been elected as an MLA twice and once as an MP long before Nitish Kumar. Lalu Ji has made several Prime Ministers, but I was the one who made Nitish Kumar Chief Minister twice and saved his party." He was referring to the 2015 and 2022 political alignments, when Kumar became CM despite the RJD's higher seat count in both instances.

In 2015, when the Mahagathbandhan



(Grand Alliance) was formed, RJD emerged as the largest party with 80 seats, while JD(U) secured 71. Despite the difference in numbers, the RJD allowed Kumar to retain the Chief Minister position. Then in 2022, after Kumar broke his alliance with the BJP for the second time, Tejashwi Yadav served as his deputy once again, and Kumar was allowed to remain in power. Manoj Jha, another senior RJD leader, questioned Kumar's remarks in the Assembly, stating, "You were once considered Lalu Ji's man, part of his team. It's unfortunate that Nitish Kumar speaks in such a language

now." He also pointed out that Tejashwi Yadav had provided a logical, historical analysis of the situation, while Kumar's response was lacking. Jha further expressed his concern for Kumar, adding, "If such thoughts are occupying your mind now, I'm even more worried for you."

Nitish Kumar had made the claim during his speech in the Bihar Assembly, emphasizing his role in shaping Lalu Yadav's political career. However, the RJD's forceful rebuttal shows that the political battle is far from over.

J&K economy expected to grow at 7.06 % in 2024-25: CM Omar Abdullah

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

India has forecasted a 7.06% growth for Jammu and Kashmir's economy in real terms for the year 2024-25. The survey also expects the nominal Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) of J&K to rise by 11.19% during this period.

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah presented the Economic Survey Report in the J&K Legislative Assembly on Thursday. According to the report, J&K's nominal GSDP is projected to reach approximately Rs 2,65,389 crore, while the real GSDP is expected to be around Rs 1,44,614 crore for the fiscal year 2024-25.

The survey's positive projections highlight a significant upward trajectory for the state's economy. The expected growth rate of 7.06% comes as a result of improved economic conditions and policy reforms aimed at boosting various sectors, including agriculture, industry, and services. Additionally, the report emphasized the anticipated increase in investments and infrastructure develop-



ment, which is expected to support the overall economic growth.

The growth in nominal GSDP of 11.19% reflects an increase in the prices of goods and services in the region. This is indicative of inflationary trends that are expected to continue into the next year, although the rise in

real GSDP indicates that the region's overall economic output will also see positive growth.

The report also sheds light on key sectors that will contribute to this growth, including improvements in the tourism sector, industrial production, and services. These sectors

are expected to benefit from ongoing developmental programs and the government's focus on economic diversification.

Overall, the Economic Survey provides an optimistic outlook for J&K's economy, signaling a period of steady growth and recovery.

Ukrainian law still prevents Zelenskyy-Putin peace talks, says Kremlin

- Kremlin cites Ukrainian decree as obstacle to peace talks
- Zelenskyy legally barred from negotiating with Putin
- Diplomatic and legal hurdles complicate potential negotiations

TPN Correspondent | Russia

A Ukrainian decree from 2022, which forbids negotiations with Russian President Vladimir Putin, continues to pose a significant challenge to potential peace talks between Russia and Ukraine, Kremlin spokesperson Dmitry Peskov stated on Wednesday. According to Peskov, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy remains legally prohibited from engaging in negotiations with Russia, a situation that complicates any efforts to bring an end to the ongoing war.

Peskov acknowledged that it was a positive sign that Zelenskyy had expressed a willingness to negotiate peace with Russia, however, he clarified that "the details have not changed yet," referring to the existing le-



gal restrictions imposed by the Ukrainian decree. This decree, which was issued in 2022, explicitly prevents direct negotiations with the Russian leadership, effectively barring the Ukrainian president from engaging in any peace talks unless the decree is amended or lifted.

The Kremlin spokesperson's remarks underline the significant diplomatic and legal hurdles that must be overcome to facilitate negotiations. Despite Zelenskyy's stated openness to peace talks, the 2022 decree appears to restrict the Ukrainian govern-

ment's ability to take concrete steps toward negotiations.

This situation has raised questions about how peace talks might proceed, and who, if anyone, could serve as a representative from Ukraine in any future dialogue. With both sides continuing to maintain firm positions, the conflict, which began nearly three years ago, shows no signs of abating without some form of negotiation. As international efforts to mediate peace intensify, Peskov's comments highlight the ongoing complexities surrounding the war in Ukraine. The Kremlin's stance indicates that for any meaningful peace talks to take place, significant political and legal adjustments may be required, both within Ukraine and on the international stage.



India Condemns Security Breach During Jaishankar's UK Visit Amid Khalistan Protests

The Indian government strongly condemned a security breach during External Affairs Minister (EAM) S. Jaishankar's visit to the United Kingdom, following a protest by pro-Khalistan separatists outside Chatham House in London. The protest, which took place while Jaishankar was engaged in a diplomatic discussion inside, saw a group of demonstrators waving flags and shouting slogans.

The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) expressed its disapproval of the "provocative activities" of the separatist group, calling it a misuse of democratic freedoms. "We have seen the footage of a breach of security during the visit of EAM to the UK. We condemn the provocative activities of this small group of separatists and extremists. We deplore the misuse of democratic freedoms by such elements. We expect the host government in such cases to fully live up to their diplomatic obligations," the MEA stated.

Despite the protest, EAM Jaishankar continued with his planned diplomatic engagements, including meetings with UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer, Foreign Secretary David Lammy, and other senior leaders. On Tuesday, Jaishankar also met with UK Home Secretary Yvette Cooper, where they discussed various issues, including talent flow, people-to-people exchanges, and joint efforts to combat trafficking and extremism. He later posted on social media about the meeting, emphasizing the productive dialogue.

This protest is not the first instance of Khalistani groups demonstrating in the UK. In January, pro-Khalistan extremists staged a protest outside the Indian High Commission in London, and in another incident, they disrupted the screening of the film *Emergency* at a cinema in Harrow, London.

In response to such actions, MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal reiterated India's concerns about the violent protests and intimidation tactics used by "anti-India" groups. "Freedom of speech and expression cannot be applied selectively, and those obstructing it must be held accountable," he stated.

Jaishankar's visit also included talks on the India-UK Free Trade Agreement (FTA) and bilateral economic cooperation, along with discussions on global issues like the Ukraine conflict.

Israel's Spy Agency Had Warned Of October 7 Attacks 5 Months In Advance

TPN Correspondent | Israel

Israel's internal security agency, Shin Bet, has revealed that it had warned Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu about a potential attack by Hamas at least five months prior to the October 7 assault. The attack, which resulted in the deaths of over 1,200 Israelis, caught Israel off guard despite Shin Bet's knowledge of Hamas's plans. The agency admitted that while it had been aware of the militant group's intentions, it failed to predict the scale, timing, or location of the attack.

Ronen Bar, the chief of Shin Bet, had reportedly told Netanyahu that Hamas posed a significant threat and that Israel needed to prepare for a possible "opening



blow" from the group. However, Netanyahu dismissed these warnings, believing that Hamas had been "deterred" and was unlikely to escalate.

Shin Bet's internal report, which was summarized in an eight-page document, also pointed to several factors contributing to the deadly attack. Among them

was Israel's "policy of quiet" towards Hamas, which Shin Bet argued inadvertently allowed the group to grow stronger. The report further suggested that Netanyahu's decision to allow Qatar to fund Gaza was a contributing factor, as it bolstered Hamas at the expense of efforts to create a Palestinian state.

The Israeli government responded strongly to the Shin Bet report, with Netanyahu's office criticizing Ronen Bar for what they described as a "complete failure" to recognize the threat posed by Hamas. Netanyahu's circle of advisors also dismissed Shin Bet's assessments, claiming the agency misread the intelligence surrounding Hamas's intentions and failed to foresee the scale of the attack.

In the wake of the attack, US President Donald Trump issued a stern warning to Hamas, demanding the release of all hostages and the return of the bodies of those killed. Trump threatened more destruction in Gaza if Hamas failed to comply, reiterating that their actions would have dire consequences.

Donald Trump Offers One-Month Relief For Automakers, Pauses Tariffs

TPN Correspondent | Washington

Bangladesh's interim government Chief Adviser, Muhammad Yunus, has revealed that Dhaka sent formal letters to India requesting the extradition of former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, but received no official response from New Delhi. Yunus, in an interview with UK-based Sky News, asserted that Hasina would face trial for "crimes against humanity" in Bangladesh, with the state-run BSS news agency reporting his statements.

Hasina, 77, fled Bangladesh on August 5 last year amid a massive student-led protest that led to the collapse of her 16-year rule under the Awami League. Following her departure, the Bangladesh International Crimes Tribunal (ICT) issued arrest warrants for Hasina and several of her close associates, including former ministers, military officers, and civil officials, accusing them of crimes against humanity and genocide.

Yunus emphasized that Hasina, along with her family and associates, would face trial either in person or in absentia, even if she remains in India. Despite Bangladesh's formal communication to India, Yunus confirmed that the Indian government had not responded officially to the extradition request. Last year, India acknowledged receiving a "note verbale" from the Bangladesh High Commission but refrained from commenting on the matter.

The accusations against Hasina involve her use of security forces and police to orchestrate the abduction, torture, and murder of hundreds



of activists. However, Hasina denies the allegations, claiming political persecution. Yunus also criticized the "House of Mirrors," a secret jail where detainees were allegedly tortured and murdered, calling it "the ugliest thing" he had ever seen.

Hasina's departure, along with many of her aides and those linked to a network of secret jails, has left Bangladesh struggling to address the scope of the alleged crimes. The violent crackdown on protesters in July and August, which resulted in the deaths of up to 1,400 people according to the UN, further escalated tensions. Yunus added that over 1,500 people, including students and workers, were killed during the protests against Hasina's government.

Ukraine Seeks Talks with US After Intelligence Sharing Suspended Amid Rising Tensions

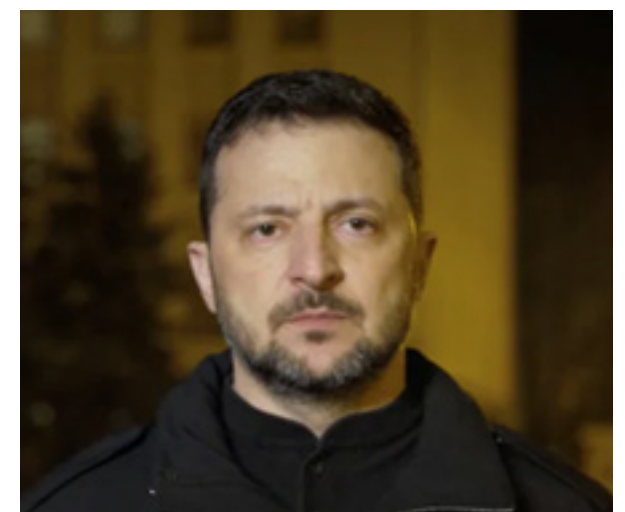
TPN Correspondent | Kyiv

Ukraine announced plans to initiate fresh talks with the United States after Washington suspended its intelligence-sharing with Kyiv, marking a significant setback for Ukraine as it continues its battle against Russia's invasion. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, who has been trying to manage the fallout from a tense meeting with former US President Donald Trump last week, stated that Ukrainian and American teams have started working on the upcoming discussions, although no specifics regarding the timing or location were provided.

This development follows the US's recent decision to halt military aid to Ukraine, further intensifying fears in Kyiv and across Europe that Ukraine may be forced into a peace agreement that favors Russia. Zelenskyy emphasized that the ultimate goal is a lasting peace, not a temporary ceasefire, and expressed hope that coordinated efforts, particularly with US leadership, could bring an end to the war.

In a parallel development, French President Emmanuel Macron suggested that European military forces could be deployed to Ukraine once a peace deal is reached, ensuring that Russia does not invade again. Macron's statement adds another layer of complexity to the ongoing international dialogue surrounding Ukraine's future and the need for robust security guarantees.

Meanwhile, Trump has made ending the war a priority in his foreign policy. In a speech to



the US Congress, he read a letter from Zelenskyy expressing willingness for peace talks, though Trump has not yet outlined a clear plan for such discussions. Zelenskyy has been vocal about seeking security guarantees from the US to prevent future Russian aggression.

On the battlefield, Russia continues its territorial gains, capturing another small village in Ukraine's eastern Donetsk region. The slow-downs in Russia's advance, as reported by the Institute for the Study of War, reflect a mixed battlefield picture as both sides regroup amidst the shifting diplomatic landscape.

As Zelenskyy prepares for an upcoming Brussels summit, his efforts to maintain Western support and secure a lasting peace remain at the forefront of Ukraine's strategy.

Broad-Based Rally: Sensex Up 609, Nifty Gains 207 as Markets Rebound on Global Recovery Signals



2996 shares were traded, of which 2207 gained and 716 lost. 17 shares touched 52-week highs. 53 stocks touched 52-week lows. A total of 258 shares touched the upper circuit.

The rupee fell 15 paise to settle at 87.11 against the dollar. Shares of Coal India, Amber Enterprises and Varun

Beverages rose 9% on IMD warnings of heatwaves this summer. JPMorgan has given a neutral rating to Wipro with a target price of Rs 290. The government has given permission to AstraZeneca to import zirconium cyclosilicate powder, which is needed to treat hyperkalemia. FADA said that automobile retail sales fell 7% in February due to weak demand. HSBC maintains buy rating on Sun Pharma with a target price of Rs 2000. RailTel Corporation gets orders worth Rs 311 crore. Hindalco, Tata Steel and other metal stocks rose up to 7% on the weakening dollar and hopes of Chinese stimulus. Jefferies maintains buy rating on Cholamandalam Investment with a target price of Rs 1700. 10 lakh shares changed hands in Varun Beverages. Inox India gets orders worth Rs 190 crore. HSBC gives buy rating to Bharti Airtel. 15 lakh shares changed hands in ICICI Bank.

1. **Coal India Ltd.**
Coal India is the world's largest coal producer and a state-owned enterprise supplying coal primarily to power plants and various industrial

sectors in India. Ongoing domestic demand for coal, government infrastructure spending, and potential export opportunities in a cyclical market. Global transition towards renewable energy, regulatory changes, and environmental concerns. Defensive and stable, Coal India is suited for long-term investors seeking steady cash flows, though its growth may be constrained by energy transition trends.



Coal India Limited

2. Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd. (BPCL)

BPCL is a major public sector oil marketing company in India, involved in the distribution of petroleum products across the country. With a focus on efficiency and gradual diversification, BPCL is positioned for steady, long-term performance despite sector-specific challenges.



3. Bharti Airtel Ltd.

Bharti Airtel is one of India's largest telecom operators, providing mobile,



broadband, and digital TV services both domestically and internationally. Generally positive over the long term, with growth opportunities in data services and enterprise solutions, though short-term challenges remain amid competitive pressures.

4. Axis Bank Ltd.



Axis Bank is one of India's leading private sector banks, offering a broad range of services including retail, corporate, and treasury banking. Positive, with strong fundamentals and growth prospects, making it a core pick in the banking sector for long-term investors.

5. JSW Infrastructure Ltd. (JSWINFRA)

JSW Infrastructure is part of the JSW Group and is engaged in developing and managing infrastructure projects, including roads, ports, and urban development initiatives. Positive



for the long term, provided infrastructure spending continues to grow and projects are executed efficiently, making JSW Infrastructure an attractive option for investors focusing on the urban development and construction sectors.

Domestic stock markets gained heavily. They closed on Thursday. Investors reaped profits for the second consecutive day. The indices, which initially hit lows, recovered from mid-session. The reasons for this were crude oil prices, the fall in the value of the dollar and the increase in positive sentiment in the market. Shares of all sectors, except the realty sector, gained. Metals and oil-based shares closed. Market breadth also improved. Overall, the Sensex rose by 609 points and the Nifty by 207 points.

The BSE Sensex, which closed at 73,730 in the previous session, opened at 73,415 on Thursday. It touched an intraday low of 73,415. It reached an intraday high of 74,390. It finally

closed at 73,340 with a gain of 609 points. The NSE Nifty, which opened at 22,476, touched a low of 22,245 and a high of 22,544, up 207 points. The Nifty Bank rose 137 points to settle at 48,627.

In the Nifty50, 38 companies gained while 12 lost. Except for realty, all sectoral indices rose. Oil and gas, metal, energy, commodities, PSE, pharma, infra, healthcare, FMCG stocks were the top gainers. Asian Paints, Coal India, Hindalco, BPCL, NTPC were the top gainers. TechM, BEL, Trent, Britannia, and Kotak Bank were the biggest losers.

Market breadth in the NSE today turned in favor of buyers. A total of



MURTHY NAIDU PAADAM
Stock Market Analyst
+91 988 555 9709

India's engineering exports to US touch USD 1.62 billion in Jan



India's engineering goods exports have shown impressive growth in January 2025, continuing their upward trajectory despite challenges in the global market. The country's engineering goods exports to the United States, its top destination, grew by 18 percent year-on-year, reaching \$1.62 billion. Overall, engineering exports in January totaled \$9.42 billion, marking a 7.44 percent growth compared to \$8.77 billion during the same period last year, according to the Engineering Exports Promotion Council (EEPC) data.

This growth is particularly notable as it comes amid geopolitical tensions and rising global trade protectionism. India's engineering exports have maintained positive growth for nine consecutive months, despite the turmoil caused by ongoing international conflicts and increasing trade restrictions, EEPC India Chairman Pankaj Chadha highlighted.

Chadha emphasized the resilience of the engineering export sector, noting that this growth has occurred in the face of global uncertainties, such as the announcement by U.S. President Donald Trump to increase tariffs on Indian exports starting April 2, as part of a reciprocal tariff policy. He acknowledged the evolving global trade environment, where new challeng-

es, including nationalistic trade policies, are putting significant pressure on businesses. Chadha stressed the importance of continuous government support, particularly in export credit and technology, to maintain India's competitiveness in global markets.

Among India's major engineering export destinations, countries such as Germany, Mexico, Turkey, South Africa, France, Japan, Nepal, and Bangladesh experienced positive growth in January. However, exports to the UK, Saudi Arabia, Malaysia, China, Italy, and Spain recorded a decline.

January's growth was mainly driven by exports in sectors like aircraft, spacecraft and parts, electrical machinery and equipment, automobiles and auto components, industrial machinery, iron and steel products, and medical and scientific instruments.

Cumulatively, India's engineering exports reached \$96.75 billion in the April-January period of FY25, reflecting a 9.82 percent increase from the previous year. Engineering goods accounted for 25.86 percent of India's total merchandise exports in January, underlining the sector's crucial role in India's economy.

India's GDP Growth Projected at 6.5% for FY2026 Amid Geopolitical and Trade Challenges

India's real GDP growth is expected to remain steady at 6.5% in fiscal year 2026, despite challenges arising from geopolitical uncertainties and trade-related issues, including the US tariff actions, according to a report by Crisil Intelligence released on Thursday.

Crisil's forecast for India's economy relies on two primary factors: the continuation of normal monsoons and the expectation that commodity prices will stay soft, helping to stabilize food prices. The report also highlights that lower borrowing costs, cooling food inflation, and tax benefits announced in the Union Budget 2025-2026 are likely to boost discretionary consumption.

Crisil Intelligence noted that India's growth is returning to pre-pandemic levels as fiscal impulse normalizes and the high-base effect fades. Despite this, high-frequency Purchasing Managers Index (PMI)



data shows India's economic resilience, with the country continuing to lead among major economies.

Amish Mehta, Managing Director and CEO of Crisil Ltd., emphasized that India's resilience is being tested, but the country has built safeguards over the past few years against external shocks, such as strong economic growth, a low current account deficit, manageable external public debt, and adequate foreign exchange reserves. These factors provide India with ample policy flexibility. Mehta also pointed out that consumption-driven

rural and urban demand will be crucial for short-term growth.

In the medium term, continued investments and efficiency improvements are expected to drive growth. Crisil forecasts that the manufacturing sector will grow at an average rate of 9% annually from fiscal 2025 to fiscal 2031, up from 6% in the pre-pandemic decade. The services sector, while growing at a slower pace, will remain a major driver of overall economic growth. Consequently, the share of manufacturing in GDP is projected to rise to 20% by fiscal 2025, up from 17%.

Looking ahead, Crisil predicts continued easing of food inflation, which will help moderate overall inflation. In fiscal 2025, inflation decreased mainly due to lower non-food inflation, although food inflation saw an uptick. The agency also anticipates another 50-75 basis point reduction in rates in the coming fiscal year.

Reliance Industries Faces \$2.81 Billion Demand in Natural Gas Dispute After Delhi HC Ruling

Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) is facing a \$2.81 billion demand from the government following a favorable ruling from the Delhi High Court in a longstanding natural gas migration dispute.

The company, along with its partner BP, is accused of selling gas that allegedly migrated from the adjoining block of state-owned Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC).

The dispute dates back to 2016 when the government raised an initial claim of \$1.55 billion against RIL and its partners. The government had argued that part of the gas sold from RIL's KG-D6 block in the Bay of Bengal had, in fact, migrated from

ONGC's block KG-DWN-98/2, which is adjacent to RIL's operations.

On February 14, 2025, the Delhi High Court issued a significant ruling, overturning an international arbitration tribunal's decision that had cleared RIL and BP of any liability. The tribunal had earlier ruled that RIL and BP were not responsible for any compensation to the government for the sale of the gas. However, the court's decision has now paved the way for the government to raise a new demand of \$2.81 billion, which RIL has contested.

In response to the ruling, RIL issued a statement on Tuesday, asserting that it had received legal advice stating that both the judg-

ment from the Delhi High Court and the provisional demand by the Petroleum Ministry were "unsustainable." The company emphasized that it is taking legal steps to challenge the judgment and has no expectation of any liability arising from the demand notice.

The dispute centers around the extraction and sale of gas from RIL's KG-D6 block, with the government claiming that part of the gas originated from the ONGC block, which is located adjacent to RIL's territory. The case has been a contentious one for several years, and this new development marks another chapter in the ongoing legal battle between the company and the government.

Elon Musk's 'Hitler-Like' Haircut Leaves Internet Divided

Elon Musk's latest haircut has caused quite a stir online, with social media buzzing over his new look. While many assumed the billionaire entrepreneur had just debuted a fresh style this year, it turns out the haircut actually dates back to 2021, when Musk reportedly gave himself the cut. However, the image has resurfaced, and the internet has gone wild with reactions.



The picture, showing Musk sporting a distinct undercut, has been widely shared from different angles, attracting millions of views. What has really caught attention, though, is the internet's reaction to his new style. Some users took the opportunity to compare Musk's haircut to that of infamous figures like Adolf Hitler and North Korean dictator Kim Jong-un. One Twitter user humorously wrote, "Elon's Barber was like POINT TO WHAT YOU WANT!" while others joked, "I did not have Elon going with the full Kim Jong Un haircut on my bingo card." Another cheeky comment described the look as a mix of Kim Jong Un, Hitler, and 90s band Depeche Mode.

The jokes didn't stop there. Some users took it a step further, comparing Musk's hairstyle to that of a Wehrmacht sol-

dier, while others even likened him to Zorg, the villain from *The Fifth Element* portrayed by Gary Oldman. "Zorg was way cooler than Elon, come on man," one user quipped.

This all stems from a 2021 moment when Musk shared a photo of himself with the unique haircut and jokingly wrote, "Did it myself." His hair has been a topic of conversation for years, from his receding hairline to his gradually fuller mane in recent years. Musk himself has joked about the power of wealth in reversing hair loss, once commenting, "What's amazing is how net worth makes your hair grow," in reference to a viral video documenting his hair growth journey.

Musk's hair may be just one part of his multifaceted public persona, but the reactions to his cut show how his every move continues to keep the internet entertained.

Vatican City: The Country Without a Hospital or Births for 96 Years



Vatican City, the smallest country in the world, has a unique distinction – no child has been born there for the past 96 years. This anomaly is particularly surprising, given that Vatican City is located in the heart of Rome, one of the most developed cities in the world. However, this tiny state, home to the head of the Roman Catholic Church, faces a stark contrast to countries like India, where family planning slogans such as "Hum Do, Humare Do" play a significant role in shaping the nation's demographic.

Vatican City, established on February 11, 1929, has never constructed a hospital. Despite various requests over the years, there has been no push to build one, meaning that critically ill individuals or expect-

ant mothers must travel to nearby Rome for medical treatment. The lack of a hospital is not due to a lack of resources but is a result of Vatican City's limited size – it spans just 118 acres – and the presence of high-quality healthcare facilities in Rome.

This lack of medical infrastructure also explains why no births have occurred in the country since its establishment. Vatican City, with a population of around 800-900 people, is primarily home to senior Roman Catholic clergy. The absence of a maternity ward in the country means that any childbirth must take place outside its borders.

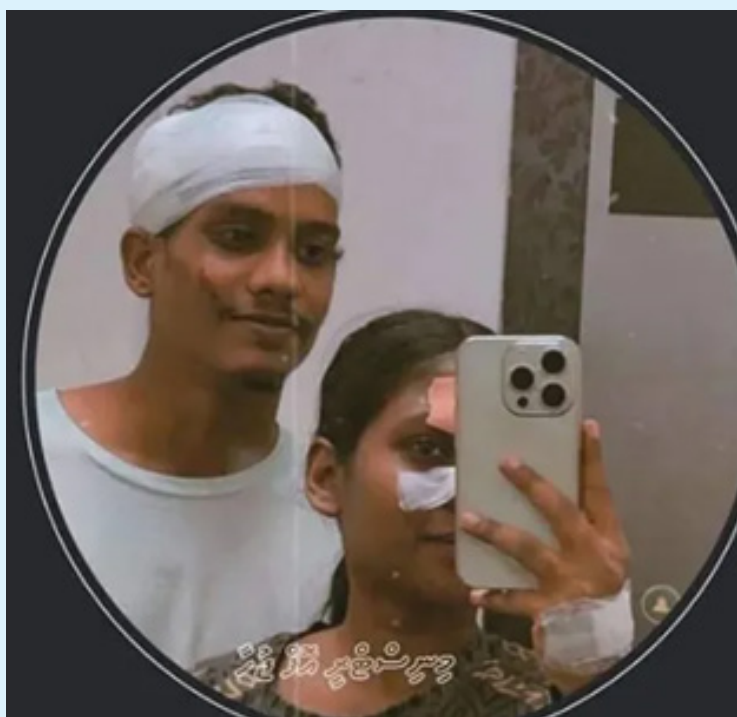
Despite its small size, Vatican City experiences a surprisingly high

crime rate compared to other nations. This is mainly due to the millions of tourists who visit the area, often becoming targets for petty crimes like pickpocketing, purse snatching, and shoplifting.

Interestingly, Vatican City is also home to the world's smallest railway station, Citta Vaticano. Originally built during the reign of Pope Pius XI, this station is designated for cargo transportation and is not used for passenger trains.

Apart from Vatican City, the Pitcairn Islands, a British overseas territory, and Antarctica – a research-focused continent – also have rare occurrences of births, making Vatican City's 96-year record a truly unique one.

Internet Irked By Couples "First Accident With Bae" Post



A Facebook post from a young couple celebrating an unusual milestone has gone viral, drawing mixed reactions from social media users. The image, which showed the couple with visible injuries—bandages on the man's head and on the woman's forehead, nose, and hands—was captioned humorously as their "first accident with bae." Rather than the expected concern for their well-being, the post quickly garnered a flood of congratulatory messages, with friends and followers treating the accident

as another "relationship milestone."

While some users enjoyed the lighthearted tone, others were quick to criticize the couple's decision to frame such a serious situation as a celebration. The debate sparked discussions on social media, with some arguing that today's youth are increasingly prioritizing social media validation over more meaningful aspects of life. On the other hand, some defended the couple, suggesting that embracing both the good and bad

moments together is what love is truly about.

One user commented, "True love is when even accidents come in a couple goals package!" while another user added, "Next level dating," showing approval for the couple's playful take on the situation. Meanwhile, others expressed their disapproval. "I'm done here, that was my last nerve," one user wrote, while another jokingly said, "I'm waiting for the second one."

The post highlights a broader trend on social media, where even the most unconventional moments, like accidents or mishaps, are shared for public approval, often blurring the line between personal experiences and social media performance. Some view this as a reflection of shifting values among young people who seek validation online, while others see it as a fun and relatable way to cope with difficult situations.

Ultimately, the post served as a reminder of the diverse ways people express their relationships and emotions, leaving the internet divided on whether it was a fun celebration or a sign of misplaced priorities.

AI Video Of Mini Human Figures 'Making' Various Types Of Mithai Gets Over 16 Million Views

An AI-generated video showcasing miniature human figures crafting traditional Indian sweets has taken the internet by storm, garnering over 16 million views. Shared by the Instagram account @the.aiengineer, the reel features tiny human-like characters handling large-scale versions of popular mithai such as jalebis, rasgullas, gulab jamuns, laddoos, kaju katlis, and more.



In the viral video, these miniature figures are seen wearing outfits similar to construction workers and appear to be busy 'creating' the sweets. The footage shows them stacking glistening jalebis, shaping laddoos, and even floating rasgullas in a pond of chaasni (sugar syrup) as they row a boat. The AI video brings a whimsical touch to the process, with the miniature workers using cranes, ladders, and other machinery to cart ingredients like dry fruits and nuts, assemble the sweets, and even cook them.

What makes the video particularly fascinating is the way the sweets are presented on an exaggerated scale, much larger than the miniature human figures, adding a surreal quality to the animation. The characters' work is also depicted with a sense of teamwork, as they operate various tools and machinery, giving a playful yet impressive glimpse of what goes into creat-

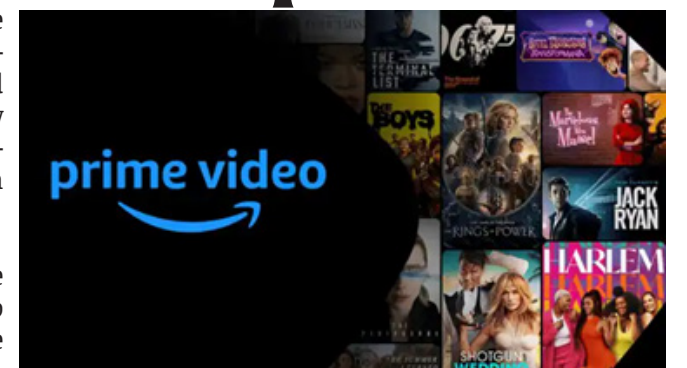
ing these beloved Indian treats.

The video is just one of many AI-generated food videos that have gone viral recently, contributing to the growing trend of using artificial intelligence to create imaginative and engaging content. Some of these videos have sparked debates about the future of creative industries, while others have simply delighted viewers with their unique and entertaining concepts.

This AI video of mini humans making mithai has captured the hearts of social media users, celebrating traditional Indian sweets in a fun and creative way, and further proving the potential of AI in art and entertainment.

Amazon Prime Video Launches AI-Aided Dubbing in English and Spanish

Amazon Prime Video has announced the rollout of AI-powered dubbing for its licensed movies and series in English and Spanish, starting Wednesday. This new feature aims to enhance the viewing experience, increase accessibility, and broaden the platform's reach to a global audience.



Initially, the AI dubbing will be available on 12 licensed movies and series that do not already offer dubbing support. Prime Video's decision to introduce this technology is seen as a move to boost viewership by making content more accessible to non-native speakers and expanding its international appeal. The service will now provide dubbed versions of select titles in English and Spanish, two widely spoken languages, allowing more customers around the world to enjoy the content.

This artificial intelligence-based dubbing system is designed to offer a seamless and natural voiceover experience. With the increasing popularity of streaming platforms, Amazon's new feature is expected to meet the growing demand for localized content and make it easier for viewers in different regions to enjoy Prime Video's diverse library.

Prime Video's AI dubbing system marks a significant step in the integration of AI technology within the entertainment industry. By leveraging AI, the platform aims to improve the quality of dubbing while reducing the cost and time typically associated with traditional voiceover production.

The feature is initially limited to 12 titles, but Amazon plans to expand the availability of AI dubbing to more content in the future, allowing more viewers to engage with a wider range of movies and series on Prime Video. This move is part of Amazon's broader strategy to continue enhancing user experience and increasing the accessibility of its content to a global audience.



FIFA Announces \$1 Billion Prize Money for Club World Cup



FIFA has revealed a record-breaking \$1 billion prize pool for the upcoming expanded Club World Cup, set to take place in the United States from June 14 to July 13 this year. This tournament, featuring 32 teams, will be held every four years and is expected to generate \$2 billion in revenue. FIFA president Gianni Infantino emphasized that all tournament revenue will be distributed to the participating clubs and global solidarity initia-

tives. The prize money surpasses the amounts awarded in both the 2022 men's World Cup (\$440 million) and the 2023 Women's World Cup (\$110 million). FIFA has secured major sponsors and a broadcasting deal worth around \$1.05 billion with DAZN. Despite excitement around the event, the expansion has faced criticism over player welfare, with some fearing the packed football calendar.



17-Time WWE Champion to Join The Rock and John Cena as 'Third Man' at Wrestlemania 41?

John Cena, after 20 years as WWE's hero, is turning heel and aligning with The Rock, aiming for a 17th WWE Championship. Cena is set to face Cody Rhodes for the Undisputed WWE Championship at Wrestlemania 41. Recent reports suggest that Charlotte Flair, the 17-time WWE Champion, could join them as the "Third Man" of

their alliance, much like Hulk Hogan did in WCW in 1996. Flair, who is set to challenge for the WWE Women's Championship at Wrestlemania 41, may team up with Cena and The Rock after winning the 2025 Women's Royal Rumble. Flair, inspired by Cena's legacy, could follow his footsteps to cement her dominance in WWE.

Shubhankar Sharma to Lead India's Challenge at 2025 Indian Open



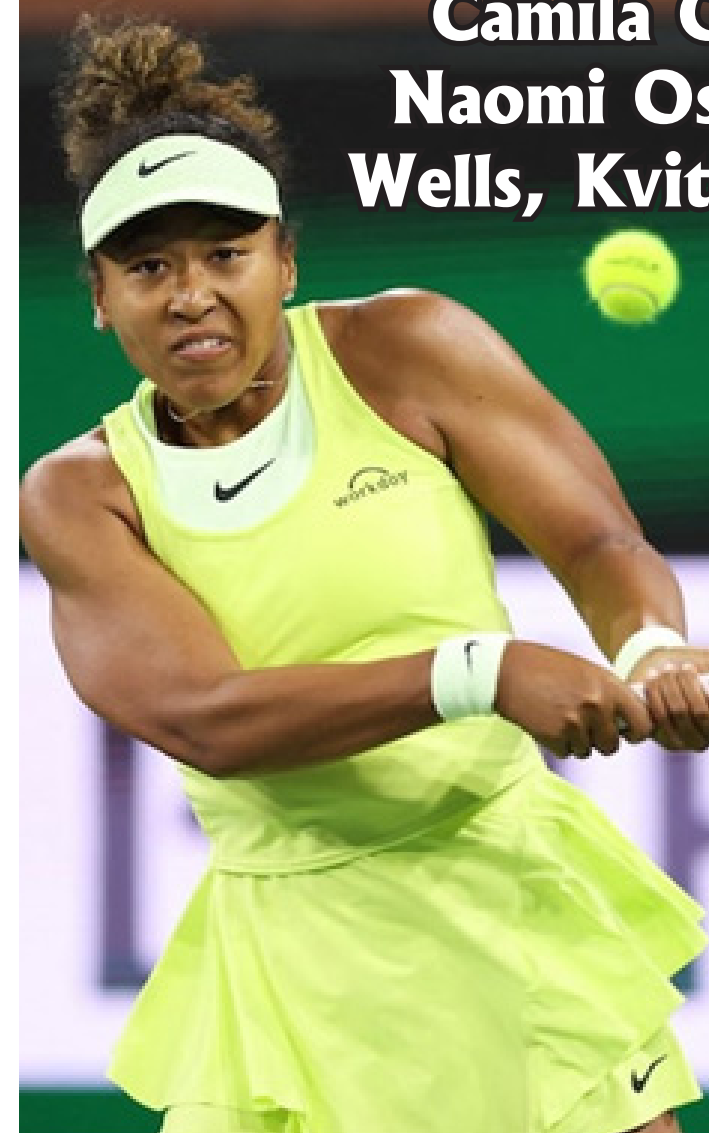
Two-time DP World Tour winner Shubhankar Sharma, along with last year's runner-up Veer Ahlawat, will headline a strong Indian contingent at the 2025 Hero Indian Open, held at the DLF Golf and Country Club, Gurugram from March 27 to 30. Other Indian participants include Shiv Kapur, Manu Gandas, and teen prodigy Kartik Singh, who has been in impressive form recently. Defending champion Keita Nakajima of Japan will lead the international challenge, joined by notable names like Marcel Siem and Guido Migliozzi. The tournament, co-sanctioned by the Indian Golf Union, offers the Indian Tour winner a full DP World Tour card. The Hero Indian Open is a key event in the Asian Swing and has been pivotal in showcasing Indian golf talent.

US Confirms Joint Bid for 2031 Women's World Cup After FIFA Decision

The United States Soccer Federation (USSF) has confirmed its joint bid with CONCACAF to host the 2031 Women's World Cup, following a recent FIFA decision that increased the chances for the CONCACAF region to stage the tournament. Initially, the US and Mexico had planned to bid for the 2027 World Cup but withdrew to focus on 2031, which was later awarded to Brazil. FIFA has narrowed the contenders for 2031 to North America (CONCACAF) and Africa (CAF), with South Africa and Morocco also in the running. A North American bid is seen as commercially appealing due to the region's track record of high attendance at major events. The 2031 decision will be made at FIFA's 76th Congress ahead of the 2026 World Cup.



Camila Osorio Shocks Naomi Osaka at Indian Wells, Kvitova Also Out



Naomi Osaka was defeated 6-4, 6-4 by Camila Osorio in the first round of Indian Wells on Wednesday. This marked Osaka's return to tennis after an injury kept her out of the Australian Open. Struggling with her serve, the former world number one was outplayed by Osorio, who took advantage of a break in both sets to claim her first-ever victory at Indian Wells. Osaka admitted she had "chances to be in the match" but felt off due to limited practice. Meanwhile, Petra Kvitova, also returning after giving birth, was ousted by Varvara Gracheva 4-6, 6-3, 6-4. Other notable results included Caroline Garcia's win and Nishikori's victory over Jaume Munar. All 32 seeds received first-round byes in this ATP and WTA 1000 event.

Greater Noida to Host 8th Elite Women's National Boxing Championship from March 21



The 8th Elite Women's National Boxing Championship will take place at Gautam Buddha University, Greater Noida from March 21-27, featuring around 300 of India's top women boxers. Organized by the UP Boxing Association and the Boxing Federation of India (BFI), the championship will see intense competition to crown national champions. The event, crucial for Olympic preparations,

will also serve as a platform for identifying future talent. Matches will follow a three-round format, and over 100 coaches and 60 officials will support the competition. Defending champions Railway Sports Promotion Board (RSPB) aim to retain their title after their dominant performance last year, where they clinched five golds. The tournament is expected to be a major spectacle for the sport.



Priyanka Chopra Refused to Wear Two-Piece at Miss World, Says Mother

Priyanka Chopra's mother, Dr. Madhu Chopra, revealed in a recent interview that Priyanka refused to wear a two-piece swimsuit during the 2000 Miss World competition. Madhu explained that Priyanka maintained her dignity and professionalism by rejecting the organizers' request, earning their respect. Despite this, Priyanka went on to win the Miss World crown that year after losing the Miss India pageant to Lara Dutta. Madhu also shared her admiration for Priyanka's relationship with Nick Jonas, saying she loves him and that age is just a number in their bond. Priyanka and Nick married in 2018 and have a daughter, Malti Marie. Priyanka is reportedly joining SS Rajamouli's upcoming project, though no official confirmation has been made.

Nayanthara's Thriller Movie 'Test' to Stream on Netflix

Nayanthara's thriller movie *Test*, which was initially not released in theaters, will now directly stream on Netflix. Set to begin streaming on April 4, the movie is a sports drama directed by Shashikanth. The story unfolds during a test cricket match in Chennai, where three individuals attending the match get entangled in a series of challenges. The film stars Nayanthara, Madhavan, and Siddharth in pivotal roles, with Meera Jasmine appearing in a special role. Fans of Nayanthara, especially in Tamil Nadu, are eagerly anticipating the movie's OTT release. With the hype surrounding the actress, *Test* promises to keep viewers on the edge of their seats as they witness the characters navigate unexpected troubles.



Varun Dhawan Wishes Janhvi Kapoor on Her Birthday Ahead of New Film



Varun Dhawan shared a heartfelt birthday wish for Janhvi Kapoor on Instagram, celebrating her special day with a sweet note, "Happy birthday tulusi Love sunny." The post, featuring a candid picture of the two on a balcony, marks the growing camaraderie between the two stars ahead of their upcoming film *Sunny Sanskari Ki Tulsi Kumari*. This rom-com, which is set to be their second collaboration after *Bawaal* (2023), is produced by Karan Johar and directed by Shashank Khaitan. The movie, originally scheduled for release in April 2025, has now been delayed to the second half of 2025 due to an extended shoot. Janhvi is also receiving birthday wishes from industry friends, including a customized dog-themed cake from her co-star Rohit Saraf, further adding to the birthday celebrations.

Farah Khan on Reuniting with Salman Khan for 'Sikandar' Song



Filmmaker-choreographer Farah Khan shared her excitement about reuniting with Salman Khan for the song Zohra Jabeen from his upcoming film *Sikandar*. Speaking about the experience, she revealed how special it was to choreograph him after several years and praised Rashmika Mandanna for being a pleasure to work with. The song, composed by Pritam and sung by Nakash

Aziz and Dev Negi, showcases Salman's dance moves and chemistry with Mandanna. Farah expressed her joy on Instagram, sharing, "Had too much fun choreographing @beingsalmankhan & @rashmika_mandanna for #sikandar." *Sikandar* marks Salman's highly anticipated return to the big screen after his 2023 release *Tiger 3* and is set to hit cinemas on March 31, coinciding with Eid al-Fitr.

Abhishek Bachchan Calls 'I Want To Talk' an Incredibly Special Journey

Abhishek Bachchan, nominated for Best Actor at the 7th Critics' Choice Awards for *I Want To Talk*, expressed his gratitude for the recognition. He described the film as an "incredibly special journey" and thanked the Film Critics Guild for honoring his performance. Directed by Shoojit Sircar, the film is based on the true story of Arjun Sen, a cancer survivor facing a life-changing surgery while navigating a



complex relationship with his daughter.

Meanwhile, Konkona Sen Sharma, nominated for Best Actress for *Killer Soup*, shared her excitement about the recognition. The black comedy crime thriller series, directed by Abhishek Chaubey, is inspired by a 2017 Telangana case. The Critics' Choice Awards, this year adding a category for documentaries, celebrates excellence across various Indian cinematic formats.

Nayanthara Fasts for a Month to Play Amman in 'Mookuthi Amman 2'

Actress Nayanthara is taking her role in *Mookuthi Amman 2* to the next level by fasting for a month, a practice she followed for the first part of the film as well. Producer Ishari K Ganesh shared this detail during the official pooja function for the film, highlighting Nayanthara's dedication to portraying the goddess Amman. He also revealed that the decision to cast Nayanthara as the titular role was unanimous, given the film's connection to their family deity. The second part of the film is being directed by Sundar C, who is known as the "Franchise King." The film will also feature Regina Cassandra, Duniya Vijay, Yogi Babu, and others. With a pan-Indian appeal, *Mookuthi Amman 2* is set to have a grand budget, exceeding 100 crores, and will feature music by Hip Hop Tamizha.

