



Weather Forecast

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

US SC Rejects Plea of 26/11 Attack Accused Tahawwur Rana Against Extradition to India

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

The US Supreme Court on Thursday rejected the plea of Tahawwur Rana, a key figure linked to the 26/11 Mumbai terror attacks, who sought to block his extradition to India. The decision comes just days after US President Donald Trump approved the extradition process during his meeting with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi.



Rana, 64, a former associate of Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) terrorist David Headley, has been accused of playing a crucial role in the 2008 Mumbai attacks, which killed over 170 people. He is currently serving time at a Los Angeles detention center after completing a 14-year sentence related to the attacks.

The US Supreme Court's ruling effectively clears the way for Rana's extradition to India. Despite this, Rana's legal team has raised concerns about his potential treatment in India, arguing that he could face mistreatment or even torture due to his background and associations, which include his links to LeT and the Pakistan Army. Rana had previously filed an emergency application seeking a stay on his extradition, but the court denied it, further solidifying the decision for his extradition.

Decision clears way for his transfer to India for 26/11 trial

Legal team cites health, torture concerns; court denies appeal

Rana's ties to LeT and Pakistan Army cited as concerns by his defense

Legal appeals exhausted as Supreme Court upholds lower court rulings

Rana's legal representatives had argued that his extradition would violate international laws protecting individuals from torture, and they also claimed that his deteriorating health might prevent him from surviving long enough to face trial in India. Despite these claims, the Supreme Court has moved forward with the extradition process, following earlier decisions from lower courts that had also ruled in favor of Rana's transfer to India.

Rana's case has garnered significant international attention, especially following the approval of his extradition by President Trump during his talks with Prime Minister Modi. The extradition is a major step in holding Rana accountable for his role in one of the deadliest terrorist attacks in India's history.

Fulfil promise to give Rs 2,500 to women: Atishi to Delhi CM



TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

Senior AAP leader Atishi wrote a letter to Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta on Friday, urging her to ensure the immediate transfer of Rs 2,500 to women's accounts, as promised by the BJP during the recent assembly elections.

In her letter, Atishi recalled the promise made by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who assured the women of Delhi that the scheme would be approved in the first cabinet meeting and that funds would begin reaching women's accounts by Women's Day. With only a day left until the occasion, Atishi emphasized that women across the capital were eagerly waiting for the fulfillment of this promise.

"Atishi stated that, 'They are hoping that the first installment will be credited to their accounts as assured by the BJP. To give the women of Delhi their

due, the funds should be transferred without delay. Every woman in the city is looking towards you with hope," the letter reads.

During the run-up to the February 5 Delhi Assembly polls, the BJP had promised Rs 2,500 per month for women, surpassing the AAP's offer of Rs 2,100. This pledge was a significant part of the BJP's campaign, which ultimately resulted in a decisive victory. The BJP secured 48 out of the 70 seats, while AAP was reduced to just 22.

As the Women's Day approaches, the demand for the immediate transfer of funds has gained momentum, with many hoping that the BJP government will deliver on its electoral promise. Atishi's letter reflects the anticipation of women in the city who are keen to see the government act promptly on its commitment.

Tharoor Slams JMI's Decision to Drop Thiruvananthapuram Exam Centre

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

Congress MP Shashi Tharoor has strongly criticized Jamia Millia Islamia (JMI) University's decision to drop Thiruvananthapuram, the only examination centre in the southern region, from its list of centres. Tharoor, who represents Thiruvananthapuram in the Lok Sabha, called the move "extremely short-sighted" and expressed concern over the inconvenience it would cause students.



Speaking to reporters on the sidelines of an event in Panaji, Tharoor highlighted the lack of explanation from JMI regarding the decision, pointing out that over 550 students appeared for exams in Thiruvananthapuram last year. He questioned the university's rationale for removing the southern centre, asking where students from Kerala and nearby regions would be expected to go now.

"No explanation has been given to anybody, least of all to the students. Where will this year's students go? Unless they (JMI) don't want students from the south. It is an extremely short-sighted decision," Tharoor remarked.

The MP's comments came after JMI's announcement to remove Thiruvananthapuram as an examination centre, leaving many students concerned about the added burden of traveling to distant cities for their exams. The decision has sparked criticism from local leaders and students alike, who argue that it further marginalizes the southern regions in the university's operations.

Tharoor's remarks underscore the growing frustration over the decision, with many questioning the university's commitment to providing equitable access to education for students across the country. The issue continues to raise concerns about how institutions of higher learning make decisions that impact students' academic journeys and future prospects.

Karnataka Budget balances between growth and welfare

₹1,56,117 crore allocated for women and children-centric programs

No new taxes introduced, but professional tax increased

Increased honorariums for guest lecturers, ASHA and anganwadi workers



TPN Correspondent | Delhi

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah presented Karnataka's 16th state budget in the Legislative Assembly on Friday, emphasizing a balance between economic growth and social welfare, particularly for women and children. The budget's central theme revolves around the Congress government's guarantee-led model, which aims to boost private sector investment while prioritizing resources for the underprivileged.

A significant ₹1,56,117 crore has been allocated to women and children-focused programs, accounting for 38% of the total budget outlay. The budget also provides ₹51,034 crore for five welfare guarantees, ensuring equitable wealth distribution.

Notably, the budget did not announce any new taxes, except for a slight increase in the professional tax for salary and wage earners from ₹200 to ₹300 per month to align with a maximum yearly limit of ₹2,500. Karnataka's budget size has crossed ₹4 lakh crore for the first time, reaching ₹4,09,549 crore.

While the budget revealed a revenue deficit of ₹19,262 crore and a borrowing estimate of ₹1,16,000 crore (28% of the total

budget size), it also highlights key developments, such as a 4% growth in the agriculture sector after a 4.9% decline the previous year. The industrial sector grew by 5.8%, while the services sector showed an 8.9% growth, contributing to the state's GDP growth of 7.4%, outpacing the national average of 6.4%.

To improve the welfare of the low-salaried class, the budget proposed increased honorariums for various workers, including guest lecturers, ASHA and anganwadi workers, and cooks in government schools. It also proposed initiatives to support women's SHGs, including the creation of Akka Cooperative Societies and Akka Cafes in local offices.

Karnataka's contribution to the national GDP stood at 8.4% in 2024-25, with exports growing by 11.17%. The budget also included allocations for minority, OBC, and tribal welfare, and a ₹1,000 crore Local Economy Accelerator Programme to stimulate entrepreneurship in smaller towns.

With a focus on fiscal discipline, the budget has kept borrowing and fiscal deficit within permissible limits, aiming for a revenue surplus in the coming year.

President Murmu to Lead India's International Women's Day Celebrations

- PM Modi invites inspiring women to share stories on NaMo App
- Theme: "For All Women and Girls: Rights, Equality, Empowerment"

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

India will mark International Women's Day on Saturday, March 8, with President Droupadi Murmu leading the national celebrations. The Women and Child Development Ministry has organized a significant conference under the theme "Nari Shakti Se Viksit Bharat" (Empowered Women, Developed India), which will include discussions with prominent women leaders from various fields, including STEM, business, sports, media, and governance.

Ahead of the celebrations, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has invited women to share their inspiring life stories on the NaMo App Open Forum. Numerous stories highlighting women's resilience and accomplishments across different sectors have already been submitted. To further amplify these voices, the Prime Minister has announced that selected women will take over his social media accounts on March 8, giving them the platform to share their experiences and insights with the nation.

International Women's Day is globally recognized on March 8 each year, celebrating women's achievements in all areas of life—nationally, ethnically, linguistically, culturally, economically, and politically. The theme for International Women's Day 2025, "For All Women and Girls: Rights, Equality, Empowerment," emphasizes the importance of securing equal rights, power, and opportunities for women and girls everywhere. The theme advocates for an inclusive future where no one is left behind.



This year's observance particularly focuses on empowering young women and adolescent girls, as they are seen as pivotal agents of change. By inspiring the younger generation, the goal is to ensure that the drive for equality and empowerment continues to grow and benefit future generations.

International Women's Day serves as a powerful reminder of the significant contributions of women in all aspects of society. Through celebrations, conversations, and campaigns, the day not only honors women's achievements but also pushes for action towards equality, justice, and continued progress for women across the globe.

Bengal Governor Calls Emergency Meeting After Violent Clashes at Jadavpur University

TPN Correspondent | Kolkata

In the aftermath of violent clashes at Jadavpur University, where Bengal Minister Bratya Basu was heckled by protesting students, West Bengal Governor Dr. CV Ananda Bose convened an emergency meeting with vice-chancellors to address the situation. The meeting, scheduled for Friday, comes after the Governor received detailed reports from the officiating Vice-Chancellor of Jadavpur University, as well as from students and faculty members.



Dr. Bose, who also serves as the Chancellor of Jadavpur University, stated that a fact-finding committee would be set up to investigate the events surrounding the clashes. The committee will look into all aspects of the issue, aiming to provide a comprehensive understanding of the incident.

The violence erupted on March 1 when members of CPI(M)'s student wing, SFI, and the Naxalite-affiliated AISA surrounded Minister Basu's convoy. During the protest, the protesters damaged the windscreen of Basu's vehicle while demanding the immediate announcement of student union poll dates in Bengal. As tensions escalated, the students blocked the vehicle,

deflated its tires, and prevented the minister from leaving the campus. Basu sustained injuries from shattered glass and was later rushed to the SSKM Hospital for treatment.

In connection with the incident, the Kolkata Police have filed an FIR against Basu, his car driver, and Trinamool Congress leader Om Prakash Mishra. The FIR was based on a complaint by an injured student who alleged that Basu's car caused his injuries during the protest. The Calcutta High Court also reprimanded the state police for their failure to control the violence during the clashes.

As of now, seven FIRs have been lodged, including one related to the ransacking and arson at the Sikkha Bondhu teachers' union office, which was set on fire during the protests. One individual was arrested on Sunday in connection with the incident and remanded in custody until March 12.

India-US trade deal aims to reduce barriers, enhance market access: MEA



TPN Correspondent | Delhi

The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) on Friday provided details about the ongoing India-US trade discussions, emphasizing the goal of reducing tariff and non-tariff barriers, improving market access, and enhancing the integration of supply chains between the two nations. The MEA spokesperson, Randhir Jaiswal, highlighted that the trade deal is aimed at fostering deeper economic ties between India and the United States by streamlining trade processes and making it easier for businesses in both countries to operate.

Jaiswal underscored the importance of this deal in promoting bilateral economic growth, stating that it would lead to better market access for Indian goods and services while also ensuring a more efficient supply chain integration. This agreement is expected to create new opportunities for businesses in both countries by addressing obstacles that currently limit the flow of trade and invest-

In addition to the trade deal, Jaiswal also addressed a separate issue concerning the recent visit of External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar to the United Kingdom. The spokesperson revealed that India had expressed its strong concerns to the UK authorities regarding a security breach that occurred during the visit. While the specifics of the breach were not disclosed, it was noted that India had taken the matter seriously and had communicated its concerns at the highest levels.

The MEA spokesperson reaffirmed India's commitment to protecting the safety and security of its officials while on official visits abroad and urged that such breaches should not be allowed to happen again. Both issues—strengthening India-US trade relations and ensuring the safety of its diplomatic personnel—are pivotal in shaping the future of India's foreign policy and its international relations.

EAM Jaishankar praises young Indians in address to community in Dublin

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar addressed the Indian community in Dublin, sharing insights on a range of topics, including India's technological advancements, the "can-do spirit" among young Indians, and challenges with Chinese aggression post-COVID.

Jaishankar praised the resilience and innovative mindset of young Indians, emphasizing the "can-do spirit" he observed during his travels across India. He highlighted that young people in India are increasingly defined not by their academic marks but by their contributions to innovation and patents. "I see the spirit, this can-

do spirit, very strongly in young people," he said, adding that universities are now introducing students based on the patents they hold rather than just their academic achievements. He noted this shift as a positive change in India's approach to education and innovation.

The Minister also spoke about India's progress in technology, particularly in telecommunications. Jaishankar noted that India, which previously relied on Europe and China for 2G, 3G, and 4G technology, has now developed its own 5G technology stack. He pointed out that India is witnessing the fastest 5G rollout globally and expressed confidence that the country would be a leading player in the devel-



opment of 6G technology. "We are very confident that when it comes to 6G, we'll be among the early movers rather than one of the laggards," he said.

Additionally, Jaishankar addressed the issue of Chinese aggression following the COVID-19 pandemic. He acknowledged the severity of the situation but emphasized India's strong stance. "We had a challenge on our borders with China... but the fact was we stood, our military was deployed. We stood our ground, and we were very patient and determined about it," Jaishankar stated, reinforcing India's resilience in dealing with external threats.

His remarks highlighted India's growing influence on the global stage, driven by technological advancements and a strong, innovative youth.

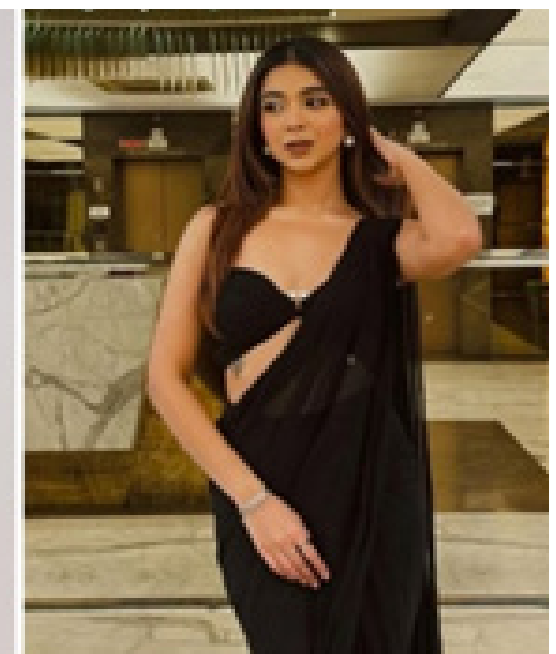
Ranveer Allahbadia apologises, 'vows to think before speaking' after IGL row

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

National Commission for Women (NCW) on Thursday, following backlash over inappropriate comments made during the show. The creators, including YouTuber-podcaster Ranveer Allahbadia, Apoorva Mukhija aka 'The Rebel Kid', and comedians Samay Raina, Jaspreet Singh, and Ashish Chanchlani, expressed regret for their remarks and pledged to be more careful with their language in the future.

The episode in question sparked outrage due to Ranveer Allahbadia's comments about parents and sex, as well as certain controversial statements made by Apoorva Mukhija. The show, which has a significant online following, became the subject of public criticism for using what many considered obscene language.

NCW Chairperson Vijaya Rahatkar addressed the situation in a press briefing, condemning the use of indecent language during the episode. "The language used in the show is absolutely indecent," Rahatkar said, adding that the commission would not tolerate such content. She emphasized that the creators had promised to think carefully before speaking in future episodes and expressed remorse over their



previous actions.

Producers of the show, Saurabh Bothra and Tushar Poojari, as well as the legal representatives of Jaspreet Singh and Ashish Chanchlani, also appeared before the NCW to discuss the issue. They assured the panel that the creators would be more responsible going forward and would strive to avoid any further controversies.

While the creators have now expressed regret, the incident has raised concerns about the responsibility of content creators in the digital age, particularly when their words and actions have a significant impact on their audience. The NCW's involvement highlights the growing importance of regulating online content, especially when it comes to language that could be deemed offensive or inappropriate.

Delhi BJP Government to Launch Mahila Samridhi Scheme on Women's Day



- BJP to launch ₹2,500/month Mahila Samridhi Scheme
- Registration begins on March 8, benefiting 15-20 lakh women
- Direct financial aid aims to boost women's economic independence

TPN Correspondent
| New Delhi

The newly formed BJP government in Delhi is all set to launch the Mahila Samridhi Scheme, fulfilling its electoral promise to provide Rs 2,500 per month to eligible women. Prime Minister Narendra Modi had given a one-month deadline for the implementation of the scheme after the government assumed office.

The registration for the scheme will begin on March 8, in celebration of International Women's Day. The initiative is expected to benefit 15-20 lakh women across the capital, with funds being transferred directly to their bank accounts through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT). Some beneficiaries will receive their first payments during the launch event at Chhatrasal Stadium in Delhi.

The scheme aims to provide financial support to women in Delhi who meet certain eligibility criteria. However, government employees and those already receiving government financial assistance will be excluded from the scheme. The initiative is designed to empower women financially and ensure their economic well-being through a reliable source of income.

By offering direct financial aid to women, the Mahila Samridhi Scheme is part of the BJP government's broader efforts to enhance the welfare of women in the city. The scheme is expected to play a crucial role in improving the financial independence of women, especially those in marginalized or underprivileged communities.

This launch marks a significant step in addressing the needs of women in Delhi, aligning with the broader national focus on women's empowerment and welfare. With the registration process starting on International Women's Day, the scheme emphasizes the government's commitment to supporting women's economic growth and providing them with greater opportunities for a better future.

I'm Not Uddhav Thackeray: Devendra Fadnavis On Staying Ongoing Projects



TPN Correspondent | Delhi
Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis took a sharp dig at Shiv Sena (UBT) president Uddhav Thackeray on Friday, stating that unlike Thackeray, he was not the type of leader to stop ongoing projects. Fadnavis, addressing the state legislature during a motion thanking Governor C P Radhakrishnan for his address, defended the decisions made by the previous Mahayuti government, emphasizing that they were collaborative efforts rather than the work of one individual.

"I am not Uddhav Thackeray to stay ongoing projects," Fadnavis remarked, pointing out that the decisions made during Eknath Shinde's tenure as chief minister were a

collective responsibility involving himself, Ajit Pawar, and other alliance leaders. He clarified that the Mahayuti government, a coalition of the BJP, Shiv Sena, and NCP, functioned in coordination, with all parties contributing to decision-making processes.

The chief minister also refuted criticisms aimed at him regarding the delay or halting of projects. He explained that sometimes divisional commissioners may stay schemes if they do not meet Central government guidelines, and it was wrongly attributed to him. Fadnavis also highlighted the significant electoral mandate the Mahayuti government received in the previous year's assembly elections, asserting that the public had reposed

trust in the coalition to fulfill their aspirations.

Fadnavis outlined the 100-day action plan for improving governance, emphasizing better office records and people-friendly services. The Quality Council of India (QCI) will evaluate departments on their performance, with top performers being felicitated on May 1. Additionally, he announced that the Metro 3 line in Mumbai, the longest underground metro line in India, would be fully operational by June 2025, with all metro lines expected to be functional by 2027.

The chief minister also targeted opposition parties for allegedly praising Gujarat's investment achievements, asserting that Maharashtra attracts three times the investment of its neighboring state. He further discussed the proposed 802-kilometer Nagpur-Goa Shaktipeeth Expressway, which aims to connect key regions of Maharashtra and boost economic development in Marathwada. Despite facing opposition in Kolhapur, Fadnavis reported that local farmers had shown support for the project.

Jairam Ramesh Criticizes PM Modi Over Tariffs and US Trade Policies



TPN Correspondent | Delhi
Congress General Secretary Jairam Ramesh on Friday took a sharp dig at Prime Minister Narendra Modi, accusing him of focusing more on receiving praise ("tareef") rather than addressing critical issues like tariffs. Speaking in an interview with PTI, Ramesh said that the Congress party would raise the issue of US President Donald Trump's reciprocal tariff threats in the upcoming Budget session of Parliament. He called for a "bipartisan collective resolve to deal with these threats."

Ramesh highlighted that the Prime Minister's obsession with praise was overshadowing the real issue of tariffs, particularly in light of Trump's recent statements. He remarked, "Our Prime Minister wants to hear only 'tareef', but he is not concerned about tariffs. 'Tareef kum, aur tariff pe baat kijiye' (talk about tariffs and less about praise)."

Referring to Trump's decision to impose reciprocal tariffs, Ramesh criticized the US President's approach to international trade, calling it "bizarre." He pointed out that the rules of international trade have been negotiated over years and agreed upon by 170 coun-

tries through the World Trade Organization (WTO) in 1995. Ramesh argued that Trump's "You tariff, I tariff" strategy is not how global trade functions and emphasized that the WTO is the governing body, not "World Trump Organization."

Trump recently criticized India and other countries for imposing high tariffs on US goods, announcing that reciprocal tariffs would be implemented starting April 2. Ramesh condemned this approach, asserting that India should not be subjected to such threats.

The Congress leader also took aim at Modi's handling of relations with the US. He questioned Modi's silence on the issue of Indian citizens being deported from the US, and accused the Prime Minister of being overly deferential to Trump. "The Prime Minister is busy hugging Trump, but where is his '56-inch chest' now?" Ramesh asked, referencing Modi's often-quoted statement about his strength.

Ramesh further criticized Modi for sending External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar to speak on behalf of the US, instead of addressing these pressing issues in Parliament himself.

Tamil Nadu does not need compulsory third language: Congress MP Chidambaram

TPN Correspondent | Chennai
Congress Lok Sabha MP Karti Chidambaram on Friday reiterated that Tamil Nadu does not need a compulsory third language, asserting that the state's current two-language curriculum—Tamil and English—is sufficient. Chidambaram's statement came in response to ongoing discussions surrounding the BJP's push for a third language in the educational system.

"Tamil Nadu is well served with a two-language (Tamil and English) formula curriculum... We don't need a compulsory third language," Karti Chidambaram was quoted as saying. He emphasized that whenever the BJP brings up the issue of a third language, it is essentially an attempt to impose Hindi, something that Tamil Nadu will staunchly oppose.

Chidambaram further warned that if Tamil Nadu were to accept Hindi as the third language, it could lead to a shortage of Hindi teachers within the state. "The BJP government will eventually claim a shortage of Hindi teachers and would bring in non-native speakers to work in Tamil Nadu's government schools," he added. This, according to Chidambaram, is part of the BJP's broader hidden agenda to distort the cultural fabric of the state.

He highlighted that English, as a second language, connects Tamil Nadu to the global world of science and commerce, further underscoring the importance of retaining the two-language system. According to Chidambaram, the imposition of Hindi would harm the state's linguistic integrity, ultimately undermining the cultural identity of its people.



The debate over the inclusion of a third language has been a contentious issue in Tamil Nadu, with the state's ruling parties and residents having long resisted any form of Hindi imposition. Chidambaram's remarks further fuel the ongoing opposition against the BJP's stance on the matter.

Amit Shah Urges Tamil Nadu to Introduce Courses in Tamil Amid Hindi Row

TPN Correspondent | Delhi
Hours after Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin accused the Centre of imposing Hindi on non-Hindi speakers, Home Minister Amit Shah urged the state government to introduce medical and engineering courses in Tamil. Shah claimed that Stalin had not done enough on this front and praised Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government for implementing key policy changes that promote regional languages.

Shah emphasized that the Modi government had allowed recruitment in Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF) exams to be conducted in 13 regional languages, including Tamil. "Prime Minister Modi decided that our youth will now be able to write their CAPF exam in all languages in the Eighth Schedule, including Tamil," he stated. Shah urged Tamil Nadu's Chief Minister to take immediate steps toward introducing medical and engineering courses in Tamil to further promote re-

gional languages.

This comes after the Centre approved the CAPF examination to be held in Tamil and other regional languages in 2023, shortly after Stalin had protested the Union government's initial move to conduct the exam only in Hindi and English.

Stalin, in a social media post, accused the Union government of attempting to impose Hindi through the National Education Policy (NEP) and criticized the BJP's push for a three-language formula.



He rejected the formula, asserting that Tamil Nadu's existing two-language policy, which includes Tamil and English, has been successful and that there is no need for additional languages. He also challenged the BJP to make the three-language formula a key issue in the 2026 Assembly elections.

Stalin further pointed to historical precedents where attempts to impose Hindi in Tamil Nadu were met with resistance. "Tamil Nadu will not tolerate Hindi colonialism replacing British colonialism," he said, criticizing the Union government for excessively using Hindi in official schemes, awards, and institutions.

In response, Tamil Nadu BJP President K. Annamalai dismissed Stalin's claims, accusing him of staging a "fake drama" over the issue. He claimed that the BJP's signature campaign for the three-language formula had received overwhelming support across Tamil Nadu.

Delhi CM Rekha Gupta inspects govt school in Shalimar Bagh



- Inspects Shalimar Bagh's civic infrastructure
- Focus on water supply, sanitation, and road conditions
- Directs officials to take immediate action on public grievances

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

On Thursday, Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta conducted an extensive inspection in Shalimar Bagh to assess the conditions of drinking water, sanitation, and road infrastructure in the area. The visit, which included a tour of key locations such as Shalimar Village Chowk, Max Road, Haiderpur Village Chowk, and Ward No. 55, was part of her initiative to evaluate the state of civic amenities in the constituency.

During her visit, CM Gupta also inspected a government girls' school, focusing on the availability of clean drinking

water and proper sanitation facilities. She directed officials to prioritize the resolution of water and sanitation issues in the school, ensuring that students have access to basic facilities.

In addition to the school inspection, Gupta interacted with local residents and traders, listening to their grievances regarding the area's deteriorating drainage system, damaged roads, and lack of civic maintenance. Residents in both small market complexes and major commercial areas of the constituency raised concerns about broken sewage systems and poorly maintained drains.

Addressing these concerns, CM Gupta stated, "People here are struggling due to broken sewage systems and neglected infrastructure. The previous government focused on advertising problems instead of solving them. My priority is to address these issues and bring about real change in the area."

Later, Gupta took to social media to reaffirm her commitment to improving the living conditions of residents in Shalimar Bagh. "I, along with officials, inspected various locations in Shalimar Bagh to assess water supply, sanitation, and road conditions. Based on public feedback, I have directed immediate action to resolve these issues," she posted on X, using the hashtag #ViksitDelhi.

With a clear focus on improving the area's infrastructure, CM Gupta emphasized that the goal is to ensure every citizen in Delhi receives proper civic facilities and to continuously work towards this objective.

Delhi Police Bust Gang Using Children in Wedding Thefts



TPN Correspondent | Delhi

In a major crackdown, the Delhi Police arrested four members of a gang, including a juvenile, that used children to steal cash and valuables at weddings. The gang, known as the "Band, Baaja and Baarat" gang, lured poor parents from Madhya Pradesh by offering substantial sums of money to allow their children, aged between nine and 15, to participate in thefts at weddings in Delhi and surrounding areas.

The wedding season in Delhi, occurring twice a year in February-March and November-December, serves as the prime time for the gang's activities, with multiple wed-

dings often occurring on the same day. The gang capitalized on this by targeting these venues and making off with gold, silver, and cash.

According to DCP (Crime Branch) Apoorva Gupta, after receiving a tip-off, the police arrested the gang members near Shastri Park Metro Depot, where they were preparing to leave for their village in Madhya Pradesh. The gang, originally from Gulheri in Rajgarh district, would travel to Delhi NCR and other metro cities during the wedding season to commit their crimes.

The gang members employed a well-orchestrated modus operandi. CCTV footage from wed-

ding venues revealed that they blended in with the guests, spending significant time at the venues and waiting patiently for the right moment to strike. They were dressed well to look like part of the crowd and made themselves comfortable, even having dinner at the weddings.

The police investigation uncovered the gang's recruitment process. Parents were offered ₹10-12 lakh for their children to work for the gang for a year. Once the deal was finalized, the children were trained for a month on how to steal discreetly at weddings without drawing attention.

Police recovered ₹2,14,000 in cash, silver anklets, toe rings, a waist chain, and a mobile phone from the gang members. The three adult members arrested—Aiju (24), Kuljeet (22), and Kalu Chhayal (25)—had their families in Madhya Pradesh but worked with fake identities in Delhi. The police investigation continues as authorities work to identify other members of the gang involved in thefts at various wedding venues.

Delhi govt free bus service boosted women's access to job, education: Study

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

A research paper released on Thursday by the World Resources Institute (WRI) India highlights the positive impact of Delhi's fare-free public transport (FFPT) scheme for women, introduced by the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) in October 2019. The scheme has significantly increased women's access to employment, education, and healthcare, while also enabling them to save money on travel across the capital.

According to the study titled Fare-free Bus Travel Scheme for Women: Lessons from Delhi, women passengers who opted for the free travel scheme reported saving up to 8% of their household income each month. The scheme allows women to travel for free on state-run buses by issuing them a pink single-journey ticket.

The research, conducted by WRI India researchers Harshita Jamba, Aravinda Devaraj, and Chaitanya Kanu-



ri, shows that the scheme particularly benefits women from low-income households. Half of the surveyed women reported saving at least ₹500 per month due to the fare waiver. The survey, which included 28% of respondents from economically weaker sections (EWS) with annual household incomes below ₹3,00,000 and 57% from households earning under ₹6,00,000, found a notable increase in female ridership. The share of women riders rose from 33% in 2019-20 to 42% in 2022-23, according to data from the state's planning department.

The study also highlights the

social benefits of the scheme. Women reported feeling less dependent on male family members for transportation, allowing them greater independence to travel alone or fund transport for other family members.

By providing women with affordable access to public transportation, the scheme has not only enhanced their mobility but has also contributed to empowering them economically and socially. The fare-free initiative has proven to be a vital step toward promoting gender equality and supporting the broader welfare of women in Delhi.

Delhi Mayor Orders Action Against Illegal Spas, Hotels, and Unlicensed Restaurants

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

Mayor Mahesh Kumar has instructed the Municipal Corporation of Delhi's (MCD) public health department to take stringent action against illegal spa centres, unauthorized OYO hotels, and unlicensed restaurants operating across the city. The directive was issued on Thursday following a meeting chaired by the mayor, attended by Deputy Mayor Ravindra Bhardwaj, Leader of the House Mukesh Goel, Municipal Health Officer Lallan Ram Verma, and the deputy health officers (DHOs) from all 12 MCD zones.

During the meeting, Kumar emphasized the need to address unauthorized commercial activities, pointing out that these establishments not only create health and safety risks for the public but also result in substantial revenue losses for the MCD. He stressed that the operations of illegal businesses hinder the corporation's ability to generate revenue, as many of these entities avoid paying licensing fees and obtaining the necessary approvals.

To tackle the issue, the mayor directed the public health department to develop and implement a clear action plan to shut down these unlawfully operating businesses. "The public health department must take strict action against illegal spa centres, unauthorised restaurants, and illegally operating OYO hotels across the city," Kumar said.

Additionally, Kumar highlighted the importance of boosting the MCD's revenue, noting that unauthorized businesses often bypass the legal channels required for proper registration and licensing. "Our priority is to enhance revenue and ensure that there are no financial obstacles in delivering welfare initiatives for the residents of Delhi," he said.

The Aam Aadmi Party-led MCD remains committed to improving civic services and making the corporation self-sufficient, the statement added. The mayor's directive underscores the administration's dedication to maintaining the safety, health, and economic stability of the city.



Delhi Government to Shut 250 Mohalla Clinics as Part of Health Revamp Plan



TPN Correspondent | Delhi

In a move aimed at overhauling Delhi's healthcare infrastructure, Delhi Health Minister Pankaj Singh announced on Thursday that around 250 mohalla clinics across the Capital will be shut with immediate effect. This decision is part of the current government's 100-day plan to revamp healthcare services in the city.

Addressing a press conference at the Delhi Secretariat, Singh criticized the previous Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) government, which established the mohalla clinics in October 2015 as part of its vision for affordable healthcare. He claimed that many of these clinics were "fraudulent" and only existed on paper. Singh alleged that the clinics were located on rented land, with the rent expenses being misused. He further stated that an order has been passed to close such clinics immediately.

At the time of Singh's announcement, there were 533 mohalla clinics operational in Delhi, according to data from August 2023. However, the Delhi government's move to shut 250 clinics marks a significant shift in healthcare policy in the city.

Singh also hinted at plans to revamp the concept of mohalla clinics, saying that the government intends to rename them as "Ayushman Arogya Mandir" and improve the healthcare services they offer. This rebranding is aimed at enhancing the scope and quality of healthcare provided to Delhi residents.

The AAP, which initially championed the mohalla clinic initiative as a model for providing primary healthcare to underserved communities, has not responded to requests for comment regarding the closures or the proposed changes.

All-Women Security Cover For PM Modi's Gujarat Event On Women's Day



- All-women police force to secure PM Modi's Gujarat event
- Over 2,100 female officers to manage security operations
- Historic first highlights women's role in law enforcement

TPN Correspondent | Gandhinagar

In a historic first, an all-women police force will be deployed to handle the security for Prime Minister Narendra Modi's mega event in Gujarat's Navsari district on March 8, marking International Women's Day. This unique initiative will see women police personnel managing the entire security arrangement for the Prime Minister's visit, from his arrival at the helipad in Vansi Borsi village to the event venue, according to Minister of State for Home Harsh Sanghavi.

This will be the first time in India's history that only women officers will oversee such high-profile security operations, showcasing a significant step towards gender empowerment and recognition of women's capabilities in leadership and law enforcement.

Harsh Sanghavi announced on Thursday that the Gujarat police are taking this unprecedented step to highlight the contributions of women in the state's safety and

security efforts. The security cover will include over 2,100 constables, 187 sub-inspectors, 61 police inspectors, 16 deputy superintendents of police, five superintendents of police, one Inspector General of Police, and one Additional DGP rank officer, all of whom will be women.

Senior IPS officer and Home Secretary Nipuna Torawane will supervise the security arrangements, ensuring a smooth operation throughout the event. The Prime Minister will be in Gujarat for a two-day visit, during which he will attend the 'Lakhpti Didi Sammelan' at Vansi Borsi village on March 8.

This initiative sends a powerful message globally on the occasion of International Women's Day, highlighting the role of women in securing the state and contributing to the safety of all its citizens. It also underlines how women in Gujarat are playing a crucial part in shaping a safer, more secure environment.

Sri Lankan Navy Arrests Indian Fishermen in Latest Operation

TPN Correspondent | Colombo

The Sri Lankan Navy arrested a group of Indian fishermen during a special operation conducted on Thursday night in the sea area south of Mannar. The fishermen, along with their seized boat, were brought to Talpadu Pier in Mannar. They will be handed over to the Fisheries Inspector of Mannar for further legal action, as stated by the Navy in an official release.

The Navy's ongoing patrols and operations in Sri Lankan waters aim to curb the illegal fishing practices by foreign fishing boats, which have significantly impacted the livelihoods of local Sri Lankan fishermen. These actions are part of Sri Lanka's efforts to protect its maritime resources and ensure the sustainability of its fishing industry.

This arrest follows a similar incident on February 23, when Sri Lankan authorities detained 32 Indian fishermen and seized five boats for allegedly entering Sri Lankan territorial waters. So far, the Sri Lankan Navy has arrested over 140 Indian fishermen this year for alleged illegal fishing in its waters.

In 2024, the Sri Lankan Navy reported that it had arrested more than 550 Indian fishermen in a series of oper-



ations. The fishermen issue remains a sensitive topic between India and Sri Lanka, with frequent incidents of confrontations at sea. On several occasions, Sri Lankan Navy personnel have fired at Indian fishing boats in the Palk Strait and seized their vessels for illegally crossing into Sri Lankan waters.

The ongoing disputes highlight the

growing tensions over fishing rights and territorial waters between the two countries, with Indian fishermen often accusing Sri Lankan authorities of excessive force and arbitrary arrests. Despite these tensions, both nations continue to grapple with finding a lasting solution to the issue that balances the interests of their respective fishing communities.

Karnataka budget outlay crosses ₹4 lakh crore for the first time

TPN Correspondent | Imphal

Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah presented the state's budget for the fiscal year 2025-26, marking a historic milestone as the budget outlay crossed ₹4 lakh crore for the first time. The total budget outlay for the upcoming fiscal year has been estimated at ₹4,09,549 crore.

Despite the substantial increase in the budget outlay, the state continues to face a revenue deficit. The budget announced a revenue deficit of ₹19,262 crore, a reduction from last year's ₹27,354 crore deficit in 2024-25. This indicates some improvement in the state's fiscal health, though the deficit remains a concern.



The state's revenue receipts for the year are projected to be ₹2,92,477 crore. Of this, ₹2,08,100 crore will come from the state's own tax revenues, while ₹16,500 crore is expected from non-tax revenues. The Government of India is expected to contribute ₹67,877 crore in receipts.

To manage its financial requirements, the state is expected to rely on gross borrowings amounting to ₹1,16,000 crore. This borrowing strategy, along with revenue generation from taxes and central transfers, will help support the state's developmental and welfare programs throughout the fiscal year.

While the budget has prioritized continued investment in infrastructure, education, and welfare schemes, the reduction in the revenue deficit offers a glimmer of hope for improving Karnataka's fiscal discipline in the coming years. The state government remains committed to ensuring financial stability while addressing the needs of its citizens through various initiatives and projects planned for the year.

Deadline To Hand Over Looted Firearms In Manipur Ends, Free Movement To Begin Next



TPN Correspondent | Imphal/Guwahati

Since February 20, when Governor Ajay Kumar Bhalla set a seven-day deadline for the return of looted and illegally held firearms, ammunition, and explosives in Manipur, significant progress has been made. The deadline was later extended until today. As of the last day of the surrender window, nearly 1,000 firearms have been handed over to security forces, according to police sources.

Mobs and militants had looted over 6,000 firearms and a substantial quantity of ammunition from police stations

and outposts during the ongoing ethnic strife in the region. While many of these weapons have now been recovered, officials have not disclosed the exact number.

The situation in Manipur remains tense following months of violence between the Meitei community and the Kuki tribes, which has left over 258 people dead and displaced more than 60,000 since May 2023. In response to the unrest, security forces, including the CRPF, BSF, Assam Rifles, and local police, conducted a flag march on Thursday evening in Moirang, Kumbi, and Nambol areas of Bishnupur district.

This march is part of efforts to restore order and ensure the free movement of vehicles on roads across the state, as ordered by the Centre starting March 8.

The flag march has received support from the Meitei civil society group COCOMI and women's organizations, who have called for strict enforcement against any disruptions. However, the Kangpokpi-based Kuki group CoTU has warned of consequences if the order is enforced without addressing their demand for a separate administration.

Under President's rule since February, Governor Bhalla faces mounting pressure to maintain law and order. On March 4, he held a security review with top officials, reiterating the need to implement Union Home Minister Amit Shah's directive. To ensure compliance, increased patrols and engagement with community leaders, including COCOMI and CoTU, will be essential in maintaining peace and preventing further violence.

24-Hour Avalanche Warning Issued for Uttarakhand and Surrounding Regions

TPN Correspondent | Dehradun

A 24-hour avalanche warning has been issued for high-altitude areas above 3,000 meters in Uttarakhand's Chamoli, Rudraprayag, and Pithoragarh districts. The warning, issued by the Chandigarh-based Defence Geoinformatics Research Establishment (DGRE), includes an 'orange' alert for these three districts and a 'yellow' alert for Uttarkashi district, which borders both Chamoli and Rudraprayag.

In addition, neighboring districts in Himachal Pradesh, including Chamba, Lahaul Spiti, and Kullu Kinnaur, are also under an 'orange' alert. Areas in Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh, such as Ganderbal, Baramulla, Kupwara, Rajouri, and Poonch in Jammu and Kashmir, as well as Kargil in Ladakh, have been issued a 'yellow' alert due to the potential for avalanches in



these regions as well.

The warning follows the tragic incident last week when an avalanche buried a Border Roads Organisation (BRO) laborers' camp in Chamoli, claiming the lives of eight workers. The camp was located at an altitude of 3,200 meters, where temperatures dropped as low as -12°C, complicating rescue and recovery operations. A total of 33 workers were rescued by February 28, with another 17 found on March 1.

The harsh weather and snow depths of over three

feet continue to pose significant challenges in the region, which is near the Tibet border. The area is also strategically significant, with the Army and Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) maintaining border outposts in Chamoli, Rudraprayag, and Pithoragarh, further increasing the risk of avalanches.

Given these conditions, authorities are urging residents, travelers, and workers in the affected regions to stay alert and take necessary precautions to ensure their safety during this critical period.



Ooha sees change beyond the system, TRANSFORMS ADIVASI LIVES



The Point Desk

In a world where success is often measured by power and prestige, just 27 years old, Visakhapatnam's youth Dr. Ooha Mahanathi chose a different path, one defined by service and social justice. Once aspiring to join the civil services, she realised that true transformation happens not behind a desk but at the grassroots level. As the Director of the Rural Development Welfare Society (RDWS), she has dedicated her life to uplifting Adivasi women and children in north coastal Andhra Pradesh and south Odisha.

Founded in 1991 by her grandfather, a philanthropist and former Sarpanch of Garudabilli village in Vizianagaram district, Mahanathi Ganapathi Rao, RDWS embodies his vision of rural development. Inspired by his legacy, Dr. Ooha expanded it into a force for justice. Initially drawn to policymaking, she realized true change required direct engagement. "I chose to work on the ground, understand their

struggles, and fight for their rights of Adivasi girls and women," she said.

Under her leadership, RDWS with 276 volunteers has prevented over 261 child marriages, reintegrated 6,489 child laborers into education so far, and conducted large-scale health awareness programs on HIV/AIDS, menstrual hygiene, and maternal health. She has led anti-human trafficking initiatives, rescuing vulnerable individuals from exploitation, and provided shelter and relief to families displaced by natural disasters and abandoned elderly individuals in need of care.

Dr. Ooha advocates for education, land rights, healthcare, and economic opportunities for Adivasi communities across Alluri Sitarama Raju, Vizianagaram, Parvathipuram Manyam, Anakapalli, and Visakhapatnam's urban slums. Through skill development, she empowers tribal women with financial independence via vocational training and entrepreneurship. She also creates safe spaces for

girls to learn, grow, and lead while ensuring healthcare reaches remote villages.

Her efforts earned her the International Wonder Book of Records Award, presented by Odisha Governor Kambhampati Hari Babu. She also received Honorary Doctorates in Social Work from Global International Foundation and Manam Foundation International. Her advocacy spans national and international platforms, addressing gender equality, tribal rights, and rural development.

The journey, however, has not been easy. "Working in remote forest regions was never easy. The lack of proper roads, communication barriers, and deep-seated social challenges made every step a test of resilience," Dr. Ooha reflected. "Winning the trust of Adivasi communities was the hardest part, as they had been let down by outsiders for generations. I had to prove my sincerity through actions, not words."

Isolation, poor healthcare, child marriages, trafficking, and bureaucratic delays hindered welfare access, requiring persistence to educate girls and secure aid. Despite these struggles, Dr. Ooha never backed down. She walked through dense forests, crossed rivers, and stayed in villages for days to understand their problems firsthand.

She credits her strength to her family, father Suresh Mahanathi, mother Sudha, and brother Vardhan. Her father, Suresh Mahanathi, said, "I hoped she'd become an IAS officer to serve the poor, but I respect her choice of a path closer to those in need."

Though her path differs from her father's vision, Dr. Ooha remains committed to uplifting disadvantaged communities. "My goal is the same, to empower them for a better future," she said. She noted that women now use menstrual pads comfortably. "Seeing this change makes my hard work worthwhile," she added.





Omar Abdullah Presents Jammu and Kashmir's First Budget Post-Article 370 Abrogation

TPN Correspondent | Patna

On March 7, 2025, Jammu and Kashmir's Chief Minister, Omar Abdullah, presented the Union Territory's first budget since the abrogation of Article 370, marking a significant step in the region's governance post-reorganization. Abdullah described the budget as a catalyst for a new era of peace and prosperity, highlighting the gradual return of normalcy after more than three decades of unrest.

In his budget speech, Abdullah expressed gratitude towards Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union Home Minister Amit Shah, and Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman for their support in various sectors, acknowledging their role in the region's development.

The last budget session for the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir took place in 2018, under the PDP-BJP coalition government. After the abrogation of Article 370 in August 2019, Jammu and Kashmir was reorganized into a Union Territory, with Ladakh being carved out as a separate UT.

Key highlights of the 2025-26 budget include a focus on youth and women empowerment, addressing regional disparities, and working towards the restoration of statehood. One of the major announcements was an allocation of ₹815 crore for the agriculture sector, aimed at generating 2.88 lakh jobs. Abdullah emphasized the promotion of a two-crop pattern in agriculture, alongside a strong push to expand the horticulture industry. Additionally, he proposed boosting the wool processing and leather tanning industries, which are expected to bolster the local economy.

PM Modi lays foundation stone of various development projects in Silvassa

- Inaugurates ₹2,587 crore projects in Silvassa
- 450-bed NAMO Hospital launched to boost tribal healthcare
- Infrastructure, job creation, and welfare schemes prioritized

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated and laid the foundation for several development projects worth ₹2,587 crore in Silvassa, Dadra and Nagar Haveli, on Friday, March 7, 2025. These projects aim to significantly enhance the infrastructure, healthcare, and public welfare in the Union Territory.

During his visit, Prime Minister Modi inaugurated the first phase of the NAMO Hospital, a 450-bed facility built at a cost of over ₹460 crore. This hospital will serve as a major healthcare hub, providing advanced medical care, particularly to the tribal communities in the region. Modi's focus on improving healthcare facilities across the country aligns with his broader goal to strengthen medical services in underserved areas.

In addition to the healthcare projects, PM Modi laid the foundation for various infrastructure initiatives, including village roads, educational institutions, health and wellness centers, and water supply and sewage systems. These projects are aimed at improving connectivity, promoting industrial growth, boosting tourism, and creating job opportunities in the region. At the event, the administra-



tor of Dadra and Nagar Haveli, Praful K Patel, felicitated PM Modi to mark the inauguration and foundation-laying of these key projects. The projects also include the construction of Panchayat and administrative buildings, Anganwadi centers, and other essential infrastructure to promote regional development.

The Prime Minister also distributed appointment letters under the Rozgar Mela and extended benefits to various beneficiaries under government schemes, including PM Awas Yoja-

na-Urban, Gir Adarsh Aajeevika Yojana, and Sylvan Didi scheme. The Gir Adarsh Aajeevika Yojana is aimed at empowering women from marginalized communities by supporting small dairy farms, contributing to their economic upliftment.

Following his visit to Silvassa, PM Modi is scheduled to travel to Surat at 5 p.m. to launch the Surat Food Security Saturation Campaign. On March 8, 2025, he will travel to Navsari for interactions and the launch of various other development schemes.



India Can Show Way To World By Virtue Of Its Cultural Heritage": RSS Chief

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) chief Mohan Bhagwat on Thursday emphasized that India's rich cultural heritage positions the country to guide the world in various aspects of life. He made these remarks in Supaul district of north Bihar after inaugurating a new building for the Saraswati Vidya Mandir school.

"Our civilization is ancient, and Bharat symbolizes values and a cultural heritage that can show the way (margdarshan) to the entire world," Bhagwat stated, underlining India's potential to be a beacon of knowledge and wisdom on the global stage. He also pointed out that Vidya Bharati, the RSS's educational wing, is committed to imparting both "knowledge and values" (gyan aur sanskar), urging parents to consider enrolling their children in schools run by the organization.

In his speech, Bhagwat recalled his personal connection with Bihar, mentioning his six years as a 'kshetriya pracharak' in the state. "Whenever I visit Bihar, I wish I could see more places, but time constraints often limit my ability," he said.

The RSS chief also lauded the people of Bihar, praising their hard work and dedication. He cited the example of Dashrath Manjhi, the famed "mountain man" from Gaya, who carved a path through a mountain over many years, showcasing the resilience and perseverance of the people of Bihar.

The event was attended by senior BJP leader and Bihar minister Neeraj Singh Bablu, among others. Bhagwat's visit to Bihar highlighted the importance of education, values, and dedication, reaffirming the RSS's ongoing mission to contribute to the cultural and educational development of the nation.

Railways Introduce Enhanced Crowd Control Measures at 60 Stations Across India

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

The Ministry of Railways has announced a new set of crowd control measures at 60 stations across the country, drawing on lessons learned from past experiences during events like the Maha Kumbh and festive seasons. The initiative, which was approved during a high-level meeting chaired by Union Railways Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw, aims to better manage overcrowding and ensure smoother passenger flow at key stations.

One of the key features of the plan is the creation of permanent waiting areas outside stations, where passengers will be allowed onto platforms only when their train arrives. This is expected to prevent crowding in station premises. Pilot projects are already underway at New Delhi, Anand Vihar, Varanasi, Ayodhya, and Patna



stations, serving as test cases for this new system. Additionally, the railways will implement strict access control measures, permitting only passengers with confirmed reserved tickets to enter platforms. Unauthorized entry points will be sealed to ensure that only legitimate passengers are allowed

to access the train boarding areas. As part of improving crowd management, the ministry will also install new foot overbridges (FOBs) at stations. These FOBs will be 12 meters (40 feet) and 6 meters (20 feet) wide and will be equipped with ramps to improve movement.

MK Stalin Raises Stakes Over Delimitation, Calls 7 State Leaders To Chennai

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin has called on seven state counterparts, including Bengal's Mamata Banerjee and Odisha's Mohan Chandra Majhi, to join a joint action committee to oppose the Centre's proposed delimitation exercise. Stalin has invited Kerala's Pinarayi Vijayan, Karnataka's Siddaramaiah, Telangana's Revanth Reddy, Andhra Pradesh's Chandrababu Naidu, and Puducherry's N Rangaswamy to a meeting in Chennai on March 22 to form a collective strategy.

In his letter, Stalin criticized the Centre's proposal, calling it an attack on federalism. He emphasized that the delimitation exercise would unfairly penalize states, like Tamil Nadu, that have successfully controlled population growth. The exercise, according to Stalin, would reduce the voice of states that have implemented effective population control measures while benefiting regions with rapidly growing populations, such as BJP-



ruled northern states.

The issue of delimitation is particularly sensitive in Tamil Nadu as the state has been a strong proponent of limiting population growth. Stalin warned that the new exercise, based on current census data, could lead to a reduction in Tamil Nadu's represen-

tation in the Lok Sabha, despite the state's long-standing efforts to manage population control. He cited the 2002 amendment, which froze changes to the number of Lok Sabha seats until at least 2026, and called for this freeze to continue.

Stalin also dismissed Union Home

Minister Amit Shah's assurances that southern states would not lose seats, pointing out that the minister did not address the possibility of northern states gaining more seats. The Chief Minister stressed that Tamil Nadu should not be penalized for its success in controlling population growth. The meeting planned for March 22 aims

to unite political leaders across the country to challenge the delimitation process, which Stalin argues could undermine the federal structure and negatively impact Tamil Nadu's interests. The controversy surrounding the exercise is expected to intensify as the state heads toward elections next year.

India, China Ties Made Positive Strides After PM Modi-Xi Meet

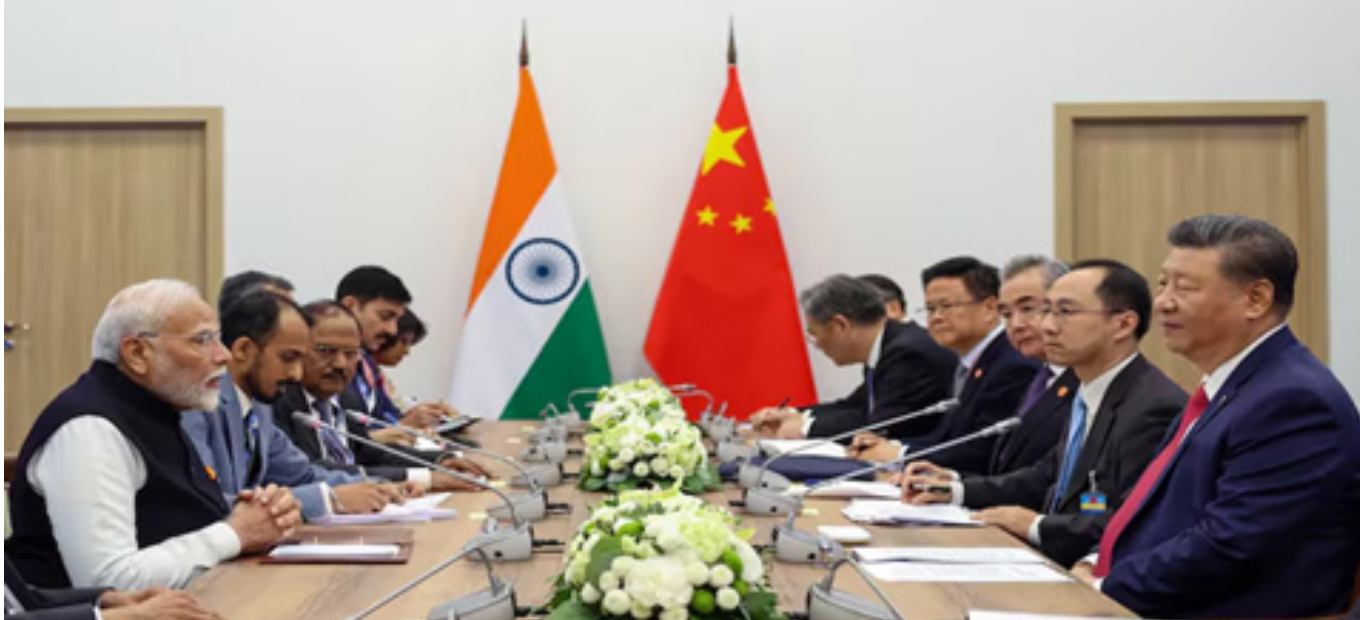
- China hails progress in India-China relations post-Ladakh resolution
- Wang Yi credits Modi-Xi talks for improved bilateral ties
- Calls for cooperation over competition between 'dragon and elephant'

TPN Correspondent | Beijing

Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi on Friday highlighted the positive progress in India-China relations, noting a series of encouraging developments since the breakthrough agreement last year that ended a four-year-long military standoff in eastern Ladakh.

Wang shared these remarks during his annual press conference, addressing questions about the trajectory of bilateral relations following the resolution of the prolonged standoff. He credited the successful meeting between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President Xi Jinping in Kazan, Russia, for providing strategic guidance to improve ties.

"China-India relations have made positive strides over the past year," said Wang, emphasizing that both countries had strengthened exchanges and cooperation at all levels, achieving significant outcomes. The breakthrough in Ladakh followed a pact that facilitated the withdrawal of troops from the last remaining friction points, Depsang and Demchok, marking the conclu-



sion of years of military tension.

Following the agreement, talks between Prime Minister Modi and President Xi in October 2023 led to the revival of various dialogue mechanisms. This was followed by key meetings between National Security Advisor Ajit Doval and Wang in December, and a subsequent meeting in January between Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri and Chinese officials in Beijing. Wang reiterated that while border issues

were important, they should not define or hinder the overall relationship between the two nations. "As two ancient civilizations, we have enough wisdom to maintain peace and tranquility along the border while seeking a fair and reasonable solution," Wang stated.

He further emphasized that both countries, as large neighbors, should be partners in each other's success, advocating for cooperation instead of competition. "A co-

operative partnership between the dragon and the elephant is the only right choice," he said, adding that both countries should work together to oppose hegemonism and power politics, particularly in the context of global affairs.

Looking ahead, Wang expressed China's readiness to work with India to further strengthen diplomatic ties, especially as 2025 marks the 75th anniversary of their diplomatic relations.

Saudi Arabia to Host US-Ukraine Talks in Jeddah Next Week



TPN Correspondent | Saudi

Saudi Arabia has expressed its readiness to host a meeting between US and Ukrainian officials in Jeddah next week, reaffirming the kingdom's commitment to facilitating peace efforts in the ongoing Ukraine-Russia conflict. The announcement came on Friday from the Saudi Ministry of Foreign Affairs, highlighting the kingdom's continued efforts to achieve a lasting resolution to the crisis.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy confirmed his visit to Saudi Arabia on Thursday, where he will meet with Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman on Monday. Following this, talks between US officials and Ukrainian representatives are scheduled for later in the week. The meeting will take place in the Red Sea city of Jeddah, a key diplomatic hub for the region.

A brief statement from Saudi Arabia's Foreign Ministry underscored the kingdom's commitment to helping resolve the Ukrainian crisis. "The foreign ministry confirms the kingdom's continued efforts to achieve lasting peace to end the Ukrainian crisis," the statement read.

Earlier, Donald Trump's special envoy, Steve Witkoff, announced that he was in discussions with Ukraine for a potential deal framework to end the war with Russia. He indicated that a meeting with Ukrainian officials would be held next week in Saudi Arabia. This comes after a meeting hosted by Riyadh in February between US and Russian officials to explore possible peace talks, though Ukraine was not involved, raising concerns in Kyiv and among its European allies.

Zelenskyy had previously met with Trump at the White House on February 28, but the encounter took a tense turn, with both leaders clashing over their peacemaking approaches. The fallout from this meeting resulted in Trump suspending military aid and intelligence-sharing with Ukraine.

Meanwhile, on Friday, Russian forces carried out a missile strike on Ukrainian energy and gas infrastructure, marking the first major attack on vital infrastructure since Trump's policy changes. This attack further escalates tensions, underscoring the urgency of continued diplomatic efforts to end the war.

Trump Criticizes India's High Tariffs, Announces Reciprocal Tariffs Starting April 2

TPN Correspondent | Washington

US President Donald Trump has once again criticized India for its high tariffs, reiterating that reciprocal tariffs on countries imposing levies on American goods will begin on April 2. In an Oval Office address on Thursday, Trump highlighted India as a "very high tariff nation" and emphasized that countries like China and Canada also impose hefty tariffs on US products. Trump expressed his frustration with Canada's trade practices, particularly the 250% tariff on American milk products and lumber. He noted that despite such tariffs, the US doesn't rely on Canadian lumber, claiming that the country has more lumber resources than Canada. Trump's remarks came as he signed executive orders in the Oval Office, ahead of the upcoming



tariffs.

Trump clarified that the current tariffs are temporary and relatively small but warned that the new reciprocal tariffs, which will take effect on April 2, will be "a big game changer" for the US. He stressed that under

his administration, the US would no longer allow countries to charge high tariffs while the US charges little to nothing in return. "Whatever they charge us, we're going to charge them," he said, signaling a shift in the US's trade approach.

This is the second time in as many days that Trump has criticized India's tariff policies. During his address to the joint session of Congress, Trump singled out India, calling the high tariffs imposed on US goods "very unfair." He also mentioned that countries like the European Union, China, Brazil, Mexico, and Canada charge the US significantly higher tariffs than what the US imposes on them. Trump has previously labeled India a "tariff king" and a "big abuser." He also noted that India's high auto tariffs are over 100%, making it difficult for American products to enter the Indian market. Last month, during a joint press conference with Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Trump acknowledged India's strength on tariffs but hinted at potential trade negotiations to address these issues.

Court orders South Korean President Yoon released from jail for his criminal trial over martial law

TPN Correspondent | SEOUL, South Korea

On March 7, 2025, a South Korean court ordered the release of impeached President Yoon Suk Yeol from jail, more than a month after his arrest and indictment for his controversial declaration of martial law. The Seoul Central District Court ruled that Yoon should stand trial while not being physically detained, a significant development in his legal battle.

Yoon's impeachment trial hearings concluded in late February, and the court is expected to rule soon on whether to formally remove him from office or reinstate him. The court accepted Yoon's request for release, noting that the legal period of his arrest had expired before his indictment in late January. The court also stated that the investigative agency that detained Yoon before his formal arrest did not have legal grounds to investigate the criminal rebellion charges against him. Yoon's defense team welcomed the ruling and called for



his immediate release. However, South Korean law allows prosecutors to hold a suspect temporarily while they pursue an appeal. Investigators accuse Yoon of inciting rebellion with his martial law decree, which involved deploying troops to the National Assembly. If convicted, Yoon faces severe penalties, including the death penalty or life imprisonment.

The decree, which lasted only six hours, was overturned after enough lawmakers managed to convene and vote against it. The incident has sparked memories of past military rule, which many

South Koreans associate with oppression. Yoon defended his actions, arguing that the decree was intended to highlight the threat posed by the opposition Democratic Party, which had undermined his policies and impeached key officials.

If the Constitutional Court upholds Yoon's impeachment, he will be officially removed from office, and a national election will be held within two months to select his successor. The ongoing legal proceedings and massive public rallies, both for and against Yoon, are intensifying South Korea's already deep political divisions.

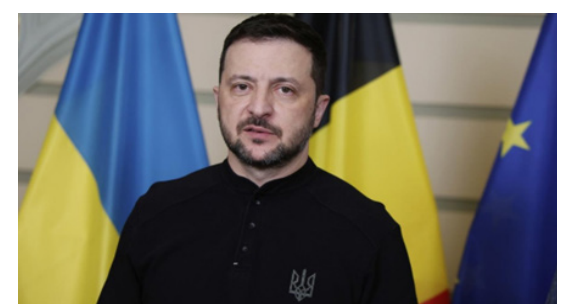
Ukrainian President Zelenskyy to Visit Saudi Arabia for Talks on Ending War with Russia

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy is set to visit Saudi Arabia next Monday, March 10, 2025, ahead of planned talks between senior Ukrainian and U.S. officials aimed at seeking a resolution to the ongoing war with Russia.

During his visit, President Zelenskyy will meet with Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman. The discussions are expected to focus on peace efforts amid the ongoing conflict in Ukraine. Following the meeting, Zelenskyy's team will remain in Saudi Arabia to collaborate with American officials on further diplomatic steps.

Zelenskyy emphasized Ukraine's strong desire for peace, stating that the visit would be crucial in advancing discussions that could lead to the end of the war. The diplomatic efforts are part of Ukraine's broader strategy to gain international support and seek peaceful solutions to the ongoing conflict, which has been devastating for the country and the region.

The talks in Saudi Arabia are expected to involve high-level discussions on various aspects of the war, with the aim of de-escalating tensions and exploring potential pathways for a peaceful resolution. The



meeting will also highlight the growing international involvement in the conflict, with Ukraine looking to strengthen its alliances and garner support from key global players like the United States and Saudi Arabia.

The visit comes at a critical time as both Ukraine and the U.S. continue to explore diplomatic options to end the war, which has seen widespread devastation in Ukraine since it began. The discussions are likely to have significant implications for the future of the conflict and the broader geopolitical landscape.

Zelenskyy's visit to Saudi Arabia underscores Ukraine's commitment to pursuing peace while strengthening its relationships with influential international partners in the pursuit of a peaceful resolution to the war with Russia.

Rupee falls 6 paise to settle at 87.12 against U.S. dollar



The Indian rupee ended its three-day rally on Thursday, March 6, 2025, with a loss of 6 paise, settling at 87.12 (provisional) against the U.S. dollar. The decline was attributed to uncertainty surrounding trade tariffs and persistent foreign fund outflows, which caused cautious investor sentiment. Forex traders noted that market participants were waiting for key data, including the U.S. weekly unemployment claims and the European Central Bank's monetary policy decision.

Despite the loss, the local currency was supported by a positive equity market, a weaker U.S. dollar in international markets, and easing crude oil prices. Initially, the rupee gained momentum following news that the U.S. had delayed implementing higher tariffs on Canada and Mexico. Additionally, the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) decision to infuse ₹1.9 trillion liquidity into the banking system further bolstered the currency.

During the day, the rupee opened at 86.96 and touched a high of 86.88 against the dollar. However, it became volatile and dropped to a low of 87.16 before settling at 87.12. On Wednesday, March 5, 2025, the rupee had registered its third consecutive gain, closing 13 paise higher at 87.06.

Anuj Choudhary, Research Analyst at Mirae Asset Sharekhan, explained that the rupee's early gains were eroded due to selling pressure by Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs). He also noted that the U.S. dollar had fallen to a four-month low, following the U.S. decision to delay higher tariffs on imports from Canada and Mexico. Choudhary added that the rupee is expected to trade within the range of 86.80 to 87.25, with positive domestic markets and U.S. dollar weakness providing support, but FII outflows could cap significant gains.

The dollar index, which measures the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, was trading lower by 0.15% at 104.12, while Brent crude rose slightly by 0.39% to \$69.57 per barrel.

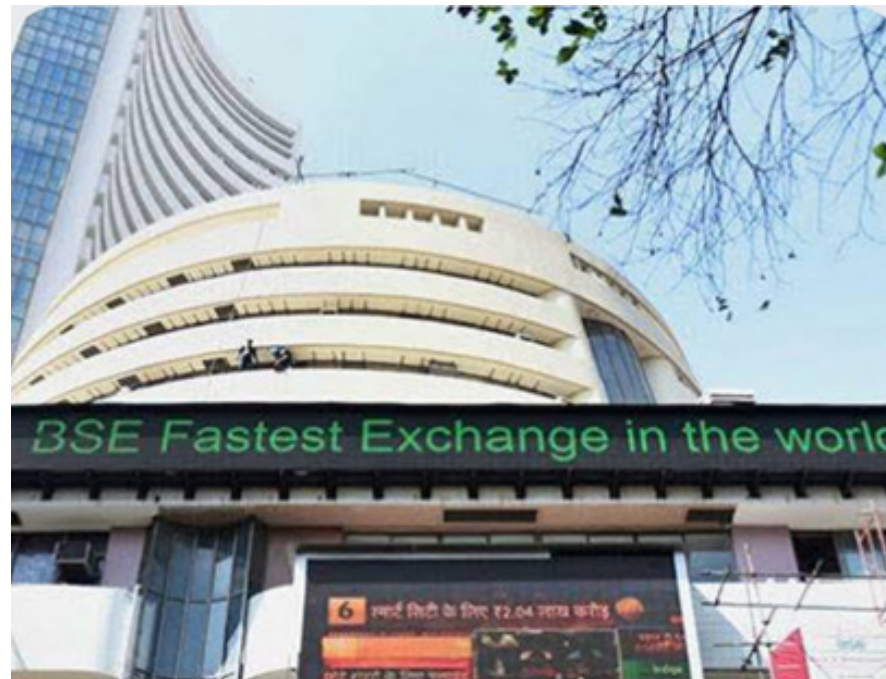
Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) offloaded ₹2,895.04 crore in equities on March 5, 2025, continuing a trend of net outflows. Meanwhile, the Reserve Bank of India's monetary policy and its measures to ensure liquidity in the system remain crucial for stabilizing the rupee.

"Markets End Flat: Range-Bound Rally, Sector Strength, and Rupee Recovery Amid Mixed Global Cues"

Domestic stock markets ended flat today. They moved in a range-bound pattern throughout Friday. The markets initially fell due to mixed signals from global markets and investors acting cautiously. Then, they reached highs as sentiment strengthened. Finally, they settled at yesterday's levels due to profit booking. Maintaining consecutive gains for two days is a good sign. Media, Oil and Gas, and Metals indices stood firm. Overall, Nifty settled at 22,552 (7), Sensex settled at 74,332 (-7).

The BSE Sensex, which closed at 74,340 in the previous session, opened at 74,347 on Friday. It touched an intraday low of 74,038. It reached an intraday high of 74,586. It ended at 74,332, down 7 points. The NSE Nifty, which opened at 22,508, touched a low of 22,464 and a high of 22,633. It rose 7 points to close at 22,552. The Nifty Bank lost 130 points to settle at 48,497.

In the Nifty50, 20 companies gained and 30 lost. Media, oil and gas, metals, commodities, infra,



auto, energy stocks rose. Realty, consumer durables, IT, PSE, consumption, bank, pharma stocks lost. Reliance, Nestle, Bajaj Auto, BEL, Hindalco were the top gainers. IndusInd Bank, NTPC, Shriram Finance, Infosys, HCL Tech rose the most.



Market breadth on NSE today is in favor of buyers. Out of 2988 stocks traded, 1818 gained. 1093 lost. 17 stocks reached 52-week highs. 37 shares reached 52-week lows. A total of 229 shares touched the upper circuit.

Rupee strengthened by 23 paise to settle at 86.88 against the dollar. Citi has announced that Phoenix Mill is its top pick in real estate. Citi has given a buy rating to Inter-globe Aviation with a target price of Rs. 5200. Nuama has maintained a buy rating for Zee Entertainment with a target price of Rs. 185. Goldman Sachs maintains buy rating on Adani Port with a target price of Rs 1400. Shares tumbled for the third consecutive day after Macquarie gave an outperform rating to Reliance with a target price of Rs 1500. Quality Power acquired 51% stake in Mehru for Rs 120 crore. Laurus Labs board approved an investment of Rs 83.3 crore in KRKA Pharma. JPMorgan gave an overweight rating to BEL with a target price of Rs 343. Data Patterns share price jumped 12.24% today, the highest in 18 weeks. Inox Wind received an order of 153 million watts from Tamil Nadu. Kalpataru Projects won orders worth Rs 2306 crore. Uday chief Neelakanta Mishra said that a ministry like Bharat Dose is needed. Biocon signs strategic partnership with Civica.

India's Inflation to Ease to 4.1% in February 2025, But Food Prices May Remain High

India's consumer price inflation (CPI) is forecasted to decrease to 4.1% in February 2025, according to a report by Bank of Baroda (BoB). However, the report cautioned that certain factors, including rising global edible oil prices, inflationary tariff policies, and an anticipated hotter summer, could keep food prices elevated.

The BoB report predicts a CPI of 4.1% but also warned of potential upward pressure on food inflation. It noted that global edible oil prices remain volatile and could contribute to increased food prices.

The BoB Essential Commodity Index (ECI), which tracks key household goods, showed a slowdown in February 2025, with the index moderating to 2.4% year-on-year. This decline was largely driven by falling prices of vegetables like tomatoes and potatoes. Additionally, inflation in pulses remained under control, thanks to better supply conditions, while a recent reduction in milk prices further contributed to easing inflation.

Despite these positive trends, several risks remain. Global asset price volatility, particularly in gold and base metals, has yet to significantly impact inflation. Energy prices have remained relatively low, but tariffs on metals could increase prices in the coming months. In February, rising demand pushed up prices for metals like copper and zinc.

A major concern highlighted in the report is the persistent rise in edible oil prices, which could



further drive food inflation. Moreover, extreme heat conditions, which have already been recorded in states like Maharashtra, Odisha, and Bihar—major producers of onions, tomatoes, and potatoes—could lead to supply disruptions for key crops.

The Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) has noted above-normal temperatures in various states, raising concerns about the impact

on wheat crops. However, government measures aimed at improving logistics and stabilizing prices for perishable goods are expected to provide some relief.

While inflation is projected to moderate, uncertainties related to global commodity prices and weather conditions could still influence price trends in the coming months.

India's Crude Oil Imports from Russia Decline Amid U.S. Sanctions



India's crude oil imports from Russia have dropped to their lowest level in over two years, reflecting the impact of recent U.S. sanctions targeting Russia's oil trade. The sanctions, announced by the Biden administration in January before its departure, have begun to hinder the flow of Russian crude to India. As a result, Indian refiners are being forced to diversify their sources of crude oil, turning to smaller suppliers from regions such as Africa and Latin America to make up for the lost Russian volumes, according to vessel tracking data.

The U.S. sanctions specifically targeted 183 tankers involved in the transport of Russian oil, a significant portion of what is known as the "shadow fleet," which had helped Russia continue its oil exports. Additionally, two Russian oil giants and several insurance companies linked to the Russian oil trade were also sanctioned. These moves have made it increasingly difficult for Indian refiners to

secure the necessary Russian crude cargoes, pushing them to find alternative suppliers.

Apart from Russia, India's key West Asian suppliers—Saudi Arabia and the UAE—also saw a sequential decline in their crude oil exports to India. However, Iraq, which remains India's second-largest crude supplier, did not follow this trend, maintaining a steady supply. This shift in sourcing is part of a broader strategy by Indian refiners to reduce reliance on Russian oil amidst the ongoing sanctions.

In response to the reduced Russian crude volumes, Indian refiners are exploring new avenues and seeking out supplies from less traditional sources, including nations in Africa and Latin America. The move highlights India's growing need to secure its energy supply amidst shifting global dynamics and the effects of international sanctions on Russia's oil industry.

Bengaluru Restaurant's "No Real Estate, Political Discussions" Rule Goes Viral

A Bengaluru restaurant's unusual rule banning discussions on real estate and politics has gone viral on social media, sparking mixed reactions among users. The rule, displayed on a board inside the eatery, urges diners to refrain from engaging in lengthy conversations about real estate or politics while they dine. "This facility is only for dine-in purposes, not for real estate/political discussions. Please understand and cooperate," the board reads.

The image was shared on X (formerly Twitter) by user Farrago Metiquirke, and it quickly caught the attention of social media users, amassing over 40,000 views and numerous likes. Many users in the comments pointed out that this rule is not unique to this particular restaurant, with several Bengaluru eateries reportedly displaying similar signs discouraging such discussions.

Some users expressed that these discussions, particularly around real estate and politics, can lead to diners lingering for hours, occupying tables without ordering enough food. "Very common sight in Bangalore restaurants," one user wrote, while another added, "Real estate is thriving, but giving restaurants only one-by-two business!!"

Others shared their personal experiences, with one user humorously noting that political discussions tend to drag on for hours, preventing others from finding a place to sit. "Typical BLR restaurant. No real estate discussion as people use it freely as an office..."



They bring parties, lawyers, and lots of papers and sit for hours sipping a Rs. 20 tea," another commented.

Despite the widespread support for the rule, some users disagreed, questioning why a restaurant should monitor what people discuss. One user asked, "Why does he have to police what people are talking? They are paying for the food they eat, no?" In response, the original poster explained that such discussions can become heated and lead to prolonged table occupancy, which can negatively impact business.

While the rule has sparked debate, it highlights a growing concern for restaurant owners in Bengaluru about balancing customer satisfaction with operational efficiency.

iPhone 17 Pro: Features and Design Changes

As the iPhone 17 series gears up for its official release later this year, the rumor mill is already buzzing with details about what Apple's upcoming flagship phones will bring to the table. While Apple has yet to confirm specifics, leaks and speculations have given us a glimpse into what we can expect from the iPhone 17 Pro.

One of the most significant changes expected is the iPhone 17 Pro's design. Apple has largely stuck to a similar design language since the iPhone 11 launch in 2020, but that could be set to change. According to well-known Apple tipster Jon Prosser, the iPhone 17 Pro will feature a larger camera island that spans the entire width of the device. This change marks a noticeable departure from previous models and could give the device a unique and distinctive look.

The new camera island will also feature rounded corners, which should provide a sleek and modern appearance. As for the camera setup itself, the iPhone 17 Pro will likely include three cameras on the left side of the island. On the right side, users can expect to find an LED flash, a LiDAR scanner, and a microphone. These upgrades are expected to further enhance the phone's photography and videography capabilities, which have been a hallmark of the iPhone lineup in recent years.



In terms of performance, the iPhone 17 Pro is expected to be powered by the A19 Pro chipset. While no official details have been confirmed, the A19 Pro is rumored to offer significant improvements in processing power and efficiency, making it a strong contender for handling the most demanding applications and tasks.

While we'll have to wait a few more months for the official launch, the iPhone 17 Pro is shaping up to be one of the most exciting upgrades in Apple's recent history. With potential design changes, an upgraded camera system, and enhanced performance, it looks like the iPhone 17 Pro will offer a more refined and capable experience for users.

Reddit Launches New Tools to Enhance Engagement and Content Performance



On Thursday, Reddit introduced a set of new tools designed to help users better adhere to community rules and gain a deeper understanding of content performance. This move is part of Reddit's ongoing efforts to improve user engagement and create a more informed user experience on the platform.

The announcement comes on the heels of a recent slowdown in Reddit's quarterly user growth, which was largely attributed to changes in Google's search algorithm. These changes had a significant impact on the traffic coming from the search engine. However, according to Reddit CEO Steve Huffman, the platform has since seen a recovery in traffic from Google, suggesting that the impact of the algorithm shift may have been temporary.

The new tools aim to address two main concerns: content moderation and content performance. For community rules, Reddit users will now have improved visibility into why certain content may be flagged or removed, allowing them to better understand and follow the platform's guidelines. This feature is particularly helpful for

new users or those unfamiliar with specific subreddit rules.

Additionally, the new tools will offer enhanced analytics for users, giving them insights into how their posts are performing across the platform. This feature will enable content creators to track engagement metrics such as upvotes, comments, and shares, helping them refine their content strategy to increase visibility and interaction with their posts.

These updates reflect Reddit's commitment to fostering a healthy and engaged community while also providing users with the tools they need to succeed. By focusing on both content moderation and performance metrics, Reddit hopes to encourage more active participation and ensure that content is in line with community standards.

Overall, this initiative highlights Reddit's dedication to improving user experience and engagement, especially in light of the recent challenges related to traffic fluctuations. As the platform continues to evolve, these tools may prove vital in sustaining long-term growth and user retention.

Would You Pay Rs 77 Lakh For A Cheeto? Someone Just Did!

In the world of collectible items, some enthusiasts go after rare Pokémon cards or vintage toys, but one lucky bidder has just secured a truly unique treasure—a Flamin' Hot Cheeto shaped like Charizard. The snack, dubbed "Cheetozard," attracted an astonishing \$88,000 (around 77 lakhs) at an auction, setting off a bidding frenzy that left many amazed.

This rare Cheeto was sold at the February 2025 Pop Culture Elite Auction hosted by Goldin, an online marketplace for rare collectibles. The auction began on February 10 with a modest starting bid of \$250. As the days progressed, the bidding war intensified, and by Sunday, March 2, the price had reached \$72,000. With the addition of Goldin's buyer's premium, the final price soared to \$87,840.



Measuring only three inches in length, the Cheetozard snack stood out for its bizarre dragon-shaped appearance, strikingly similar to the popular Pokémon Charizard. To further enhance its collect-

ability, the snack came with a custom Pokémon card.

The journey of this quirky item began between 2018 and 2022 when it was discovered and preserved by 1st & Goal Collectibles, a shop based in Holly Springs, Georgia. The shop specializes in curating rare and unusual items, and Cheetozard quickly gained popularity online, capturing the imagination of pop culture enthusiasts. Its online fame turned it into a unique piece of history, eventually becoming the subject of the auction that led to its hefty price tag.

While some may question the allure of a Cheeto commanding such a large sum, the Cheetozard's sale is proof that in the world of collectibles, anything—even a snack—can turn into a valuable and coveted item.

Karnataka bodybuilder flaunts muscles in bridal photoshoot, internet impressed

Karnataka-based bodybuilder and fitness trainer Chitra Purushotham has taken the internet by storm with a stunning bridal photoshoot video. While many initially assumed it was an announcement of her wedding, it was later revealed that the viral moment was simply a creative photoshoot.

In the video that has since gone viral, Purushotham elegantly combined fitness and tradition in a striking yellow and blue Kanjivaram saree. In a bold move, she chose to skip the blouse, allowing her toned physique to take center stage. She completed her bridal look with gold jewelry, including a kamar bandh, maang tikka, earrings, and bangles. Her makeup featured bold winged eyeliner and a deep red lip-



stick, while her hair was neatly plaited and adorned with fragrant jasmine flowers.

Purushotham shared the clip on Instagram, captioning it, "Mindset is everything," a phrase that resonates deeply with her audience. The video quickly gained traction, amassing over 7.5 million

views. Social media users flooded the comments, showering her with admiration for her unique fusion of strength and elegance.

One user praised her by saying, "Strength and beauty in perfect harmony—absolutely stunning!" Another commented, "A bride like no other! This is empowerment at

its finest." A third user remarked, "You've redefined elegance. Who says muscles and grace can't go together?"

While many were impressed by her distinctive take on a bridal look, some were initially surprised, with one person saying, "I genuinely thought this was a wedding announcement! You rocked it." Others applauded her confidence, with one user adding, "This is proof that a woman can be both powerful and graceful at the same time."

Purushotham's photoshoot has become a viral sensation, with people across the internet admiring her confidence, strength, and beauty—showcasing that a woman can embrace both power and grace effortlessly.



India Ready for Champions Trophy Final Against New Zealand

India, led by Rohit Sharma, is on fire heading into the 2025 Champions Trophy final against New Zealand, after an unbeaten run in the tournament despite losing four consecutive tosses. The team has excelled in all departments, with the bat, Shubman Gill and Virat Kohli in exceptional form, while the bowlers, led by Mohammed Shami and Varun Chakra-

varthy, have been impressive.

However, New Zealand, with their history of defeating India in past ICC knockouts, poses a strong challenge, especially with key players like Mitchell Santner, Kane Williamson, and Rachin Ravindra in form. India's chance to win their first Champions Trophy since 2013 will also be a sig-

nificant achievement for coach Gautam Gambhir, and a win will bolster their preparations for the 2027 ODI World Cup.

Yet, the threat of New Zealand's spinners, including Santner and Bracewell, alongside a potential fit Matt Henry, could prove to be pivotal in India's quest for the trophy.

Gill, Smith, Phillips Nominated for ICC Player of the Month

The ICC has shortlisted Australian batter Steve Smith, Indian opener Shubman Gill, and New Zealand all-rounder Glenn Phillips for the ICC Men's Player of the Month award for February 2025.

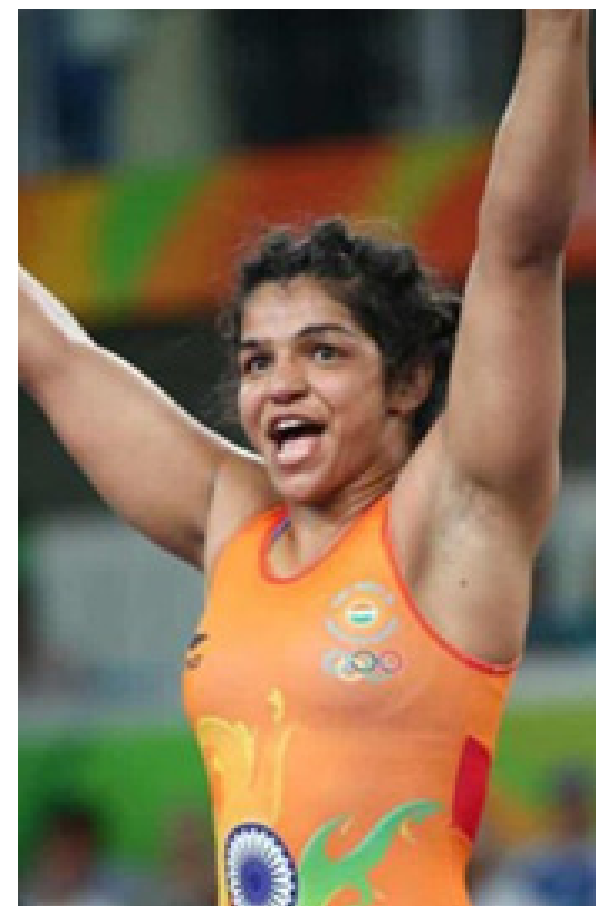


Smith's stellar performances during the Test series against Sri Lanka, including two centuries, earned him Player of the Series honors. Gill made a significant impact with 406 runs in five ODIs, including three crucial knocks against England, which helped him claim the number one spot in the

ICC ODI rankings. Phillips, known for his brilliance in the field, contributed 236 runs at a strike rate of 124.21 in the tri-series in Pakistan and the ICC Champions Trophy. The nominations highlight their exceptional contributions across various international formats.

Sakshi Malik's Empowering Message: "No Fear, Just Give Your Best"

Ahead of International Women's Day, Olympic bronze medalist Sakshi Malik shared an inspiring message on the resilience and strength of women. Reflecting on her own journey, from wrestling with limited facilities to becoming India's first female Olympic medalist in 2016, she stressed that women's achievements should be celebrated every day, not just on March 8.



Sakshi, now a mother and railway employee, emphasized that determination, focus, and discipline are key for women to break barriers. She also highlighted the progress in Haryana, where attitudes towards girls have changed, thanks to her success. Concluding, she urged women to embrace their struggles, giving their best in every field, and revealed her plans to stay connected to sports by teaching wrestling to children.

Record-Breaking Indian Contingent at WTT Star Contender Chennai 2025

The WTT Star Contender Chennai 2025 is set to feature a record-breaking 13 Indian players, marking the country's strongest-ever presence in the tournament. Scheduled to begin on March 25, the event will see India represented by top players like Sharath Kamal, Manika Batra, Sathiyan Gnanasekaran, and Sreeja Akula, among others. This marks a historic achievement for Indian

table tennis, with players earning direct entry into both men's and women's singles main draws. In-ternational stars like Japan's Tomokazu Harimoto and Hina Hayata will headline the tournament, which offers a prize pool of USD 275,000 and 600 ranking points for the champions. The competition promises an electrifying clash of talent as the Olympic year approaches.



Paralympic Champions Lead India's Charge at World Para Athletics Grand Prix New Delhi



India's top Paralympic champions, including Praveen Kumar, Navdeep Singh, and Dharambir, will headline the World Para Athletics Grand Prix in New Delhi from March 11 to 13 at Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium. The three-day event will feature over 90 competitions, with participation from over 250 athletes representing 20 countries. Praveen Kumar (Paris Paralympics gold medalist in High Jump, T64), Navdeep Singh

(Javelin, F41), and Dharambir (Club Throw, F51) will lead India's campaign. The event marks a significant milestone for para-athletics in India, as it hosts one of the largest gatherings of para-athletes, including 145 Indian and 105 international competitors. Praveen expressed excitement about competing at home, looking forward to a stellar performance for Indian fans.

"Indian Shooters are Brilliant, We Must Keep Focus": Manu Bhaker on Life After Olympic Glory

Manu Bhaker, reflecting on life after her historic double-bronze achievement at the Paris Olympics, shared her insights on the journey ahead. Speaking at the Trailblazers 3.0 Conclave in Kolkata, Manu emphasized the importance of maintaining focus, stating, "Indian shooters are brilliant. We are right there at the top, naturally good and



sharp mentally." Despite a longing for a third medal, Manu remains realistic, acknowledging the difficulty of finishing fourth. From her early setbacks at the Tokyo 2021 Olympics to making history in Paris, Manu's journey embodies resilience and the relentless pursuit of excellence. Her message is clear: stay focused and keep striving for greatness.

Harmanpreet Kaur Fined for Dissent in WPL 2025 Match

Mumbai Indians captain Harmanpreet Kaur has been fined 10% of her match fee for breaching the WPL Code of Conduct after showing dissent at an umpire's decision during the match against UP Warriorz. The incident occurred in the final over when MI was penalized for a slow over rate, enforcing fielding restrictions. Harmanpreet confronted umpire Ajitesh Argal, visibly displeased with the

call. This led to a heated exchange between her and England's Sophie Ecclestone. The situation was quickly de-escalated by the umpires. Harmanpreet admitted to the Level 1 offense under Article 2.8, which relates to showing dissent. Despite the incident, MI secured a six-wicket victory, with Amelia Kerr's five-wicket haul and Hayley Mathews' fiery 68 leading the charge.





Special Poster Released on Janhvi Kapoor's Birthday for RC16

On March 6, marking Janhvi Kapoor's birthday, the team of RC16 released a special behind-the-scenes poster featuring the actress alongside global star Ram Charan. Directed by Buchi Babu Sana, the film has already generated excitement with its star-studded cast, including Shiva Rajkumar, Jagapathi Babu, and Divyendu from Mirzapur. The poster, clicked during the first

schedule in Mysore, is not an official look but a casual shot from the set. Janhvi is set to continue filming the movie in Hyderabad, where key scenes will be shot over the next 12 days. Music by AR Rahman and visuals by cinematographer Ratnavelu are adding to the anticipation. RC16 is produced by Venkata Satish Kilari under the banner of Vrudhi Cinemas.

Movie Review: Baapu - A Tale of Family, Struggles, and Greed

Release Date: March 7, 2025

Platform: Jio Hotstar
Rating: 2.5/5

Baapu explores the dynamics of a rural family entangled in financial struggles and greed. Directed by Daya, the film is set in a village, where Mallanna (Brahmaji) and his wife Saroj (Aamani)



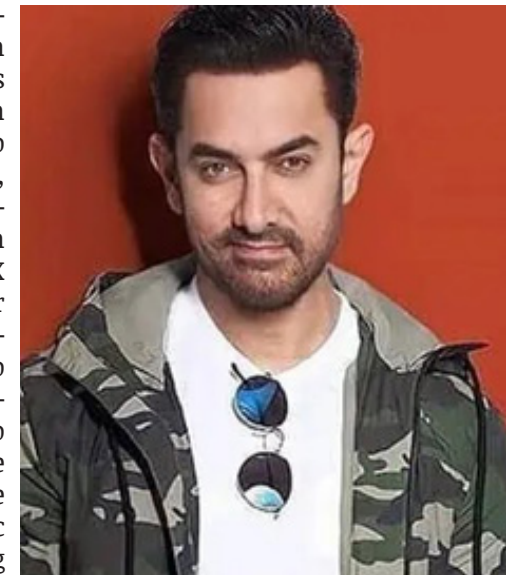
face dire circumstances. Mallanna contemplates a desperate act after accumulating debt, with his wife's suggestion leading them down a dark path. Meanwhile, the discovery of an ancient gold statue creates complications.

The film touches on themes of sacrifice, desperation, and the lengths one would go to for financial relief. Although the golden statue plot loses steam halfway, the family drama and the father's moral dilemma are compelling. Strong performances by Brahmaji and Aamani elevate the narrative. The film's portrayal of rural life and human emotions is commendable. However, the pacing and structure could have been better. Baapu is a thoughtful commentary on modern society's greed, though it may not resonate with everyone.

Verdict: A film about love, loss, and the darkness of greed, Baapu succeeds in some areas but falters in others. It's a reflective watch but lacks the depth to leave a lasting impact.

Aamir Khan to Be Honored with Special Film Festival on His 60th Birthday

Bollywood superstar Aamir Khan will celebrate his 60th birthday on March 14, and to mark this milestone, a special film festival will be held in his honor. PVR INOX is presenting "Aamir Khan: Cinema Ka Jadugar," a tribute to the actor's remarkable contributions to Indian cinema. The festival will feature some of his iconic films, showcasing his impactful journey in the industry.



marked.

Ajay Bijli, MD of PVR INOX, praised Aamir for his courage in choosing bold scripts and shaping the modern film industry. "Aamir's films convey powerful messages, and his success at the box office has set new benchmarks," he re-

Khan will also host a star-studded birthday party, with close friends Salman Khan, Shah Rukh Khan, Deepika Padukone, and other A-list celebrities. This marks Aamir's first large-scale celebration of his career.

L2: Empuraan Gets U/A Certificate Ahead of March 27 Release



The much-awaited political thriller L2: Empuraan, starring Prithviraj Sukumaran and directed by Prithviraj Sukumaran, has received a U/A certificate from the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC). The sequel to the hit film Lucifer, Empuraan delves deeper into the complex world of crime and power, expanding on the characters

and locations introduced in the first film. With Prithviraj reprising his role as Zayed Masood, the film is set to hit theatres on March 27. Produced by Antony Perumbavoor and Subaskaran, the film also features a screenplay by Murali Gopy, music by Deepak Dev, and cinematography by Sujith Vaassudev.

Rajinikanth's 'Jailer 2' Set to Begin Production Next Week

The highly anticipated sequel to the blockbuster Jailer, featuring Rajinikanth, is all set to kick off production next week. Directed by Nelson, Jailer 2 has created immense buzz, with rumors suggesting that the shooting will begin in Chennai, followed by locations in Goa and Theni.

There are also speculations about the involvement of Kannada superstar Dr. Shiva Rajkumar and Malayalam icon Mohanlal,

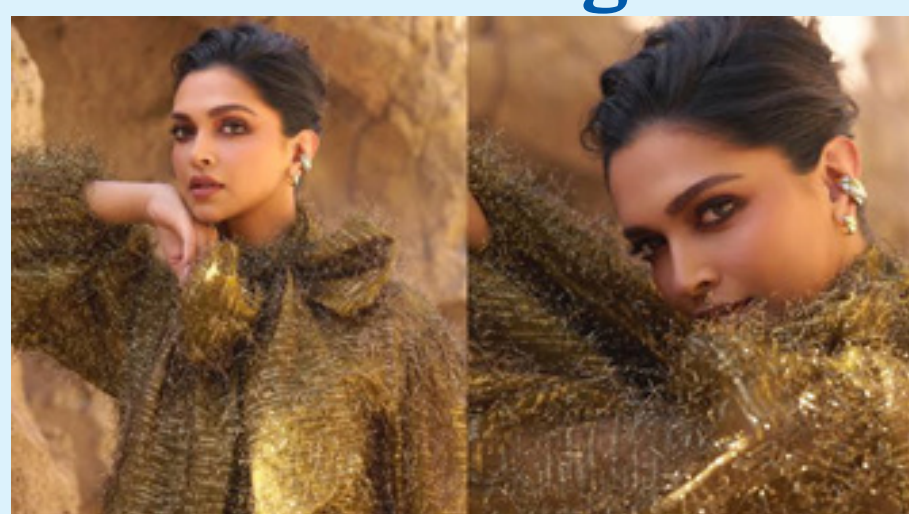
though no official confirmation has been made. The film's expectations have soared following the massive success of Jailer, which grossed around Rs 650 crores.

The excitement reached new heights when Sun Pictures released an intriguing teaser, blending humor with explosive action, and featuring a glimpse of Rajinikanth's iconic entrance. Fans are eagerly awaiting the next chapter of this thrilling saga.



Ranveer Singh Praises Deepika Padukone's Stunning Golden Look

Bollywood's power couple, Ranveer Singh and Deepika Padukone, have always shared adorable moments on social media, delighting their fans. Deepika recently posted a series of glamorous pictures, donning an oversized golden shimmery dress with black boots and subtle golden accessories. Her minimal makeup completed the striking look.



Ranveer couldn't hold back his admiration and com-

mented, "Phew!" Fans quickly joined the conversa-

tion, praising Deepika with titles like 'Empress,' 'Queen,'

and 'Golden Energy.' Some even said, "Face card never declines, Mother," and "She came, she saw, she conquered." The couple, who welcomed their daughter Dua in September 2024, are back to their work schedules. Deepika recently made an appearance at Sabyasachi's 25th Anniversary gala and starred in Kalki 2898 AD, while Ranveer is currently working on Aditya Dhar's Dhurandhar.