



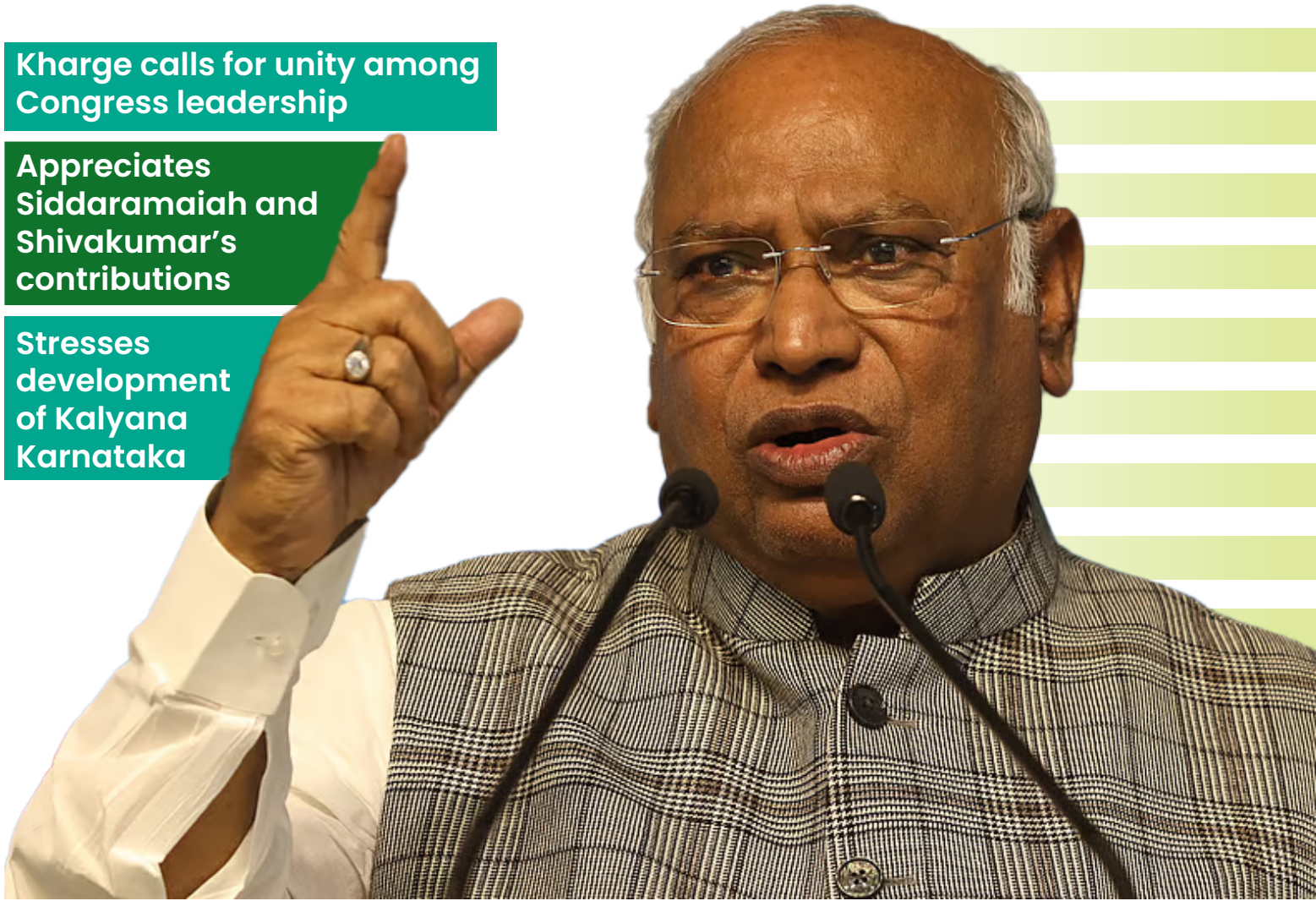
**Weather Forecast**

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

**Kharge calls for unity among Congress leadership**

**Appreciates Siddaramaiah and Shivakumar's contributions**

**Stresses development of Kalyana Karnataka**



# Kharge Urges Unity Among Congress Leaders, Warns Against Diverging Paths

**TPN Correspondent | Kalaburagi**  
In a veiled reference to Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Deputy CM D K Shivakumar, Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge advised party leaders to work together in parallel rather than moving in opposite directions. Speaking at the launch of the 'Kalyana Patha Project'—a rural road development initiative in Kalyana Karnataka—Kharge emphasized that elected leaders must fulfill public aspirations. "If leaders go in opposite directions, how can they face their own people?" he questioned. While Shivakumar attended the

event, Siddaramaiah, who was expected, was absent. Kharge lauded Siddaramaiah's record of presenting the state budget 16 times, recognizing his work for Dalits and marginalized communities. He also praised Shivakumar's leadership as KPCC President and Deputy CM, acknowledging his efforts. Development of Kalyana Karnataka Responding to Shivakumar's announcement of a ₹5,000 crore allocation for Kalyana Karnataka, Kharge stressed that the region had suffered from long-standing backwardness.

Thanking the people of Kalaburagi and Kalyana Karnataka for their continuous support, Kharge noted that their votes helped him become AICC President, though he expressed disappointment over his 2019 Lok Sabha defeat from the region. He urged Siddaramaiah and Shivakumar to prioritize Kalyana Karnataka, reminding them that the region has sent several Congress MLAs and MPs to the legislature. "Any schemes starting from Mysuru may stop at Bengaluru, but if projects begin from Kalyana Karnataka, they will benefit the entire state," he remarked.

## Mysureans Disappointed Over Lack of Special Grants for CM's Home District

**No special grant for Mysuru in Karnataka Budget 2025**  
**Concerns over heritage restoration, tourism, and infrastructure**  
**JD(S) MLA hints at supplementary budget allocations**



**TPN Correspondent | Mysuru**  
Mysureans have expressed disappointment over Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's budget failing to allot a special grant for Mysuru, his home district. While several projects received funding, many feel the budget lacks bold allocations for landmark initiatives. Local residents pointed out the absence of funds for the restoration of at least 10 heritage buildings, which require immediate attention. "We are not sure when a Mysurean will be CM again. Siddaramaiah should have announced a bigger project that people will remember," said P. Apoorva, citing past allocations for major institutions like Jayadeva Hospital and the District Hospital. S. Aarush noted disappointment over the lack of funding for the proposed leopard rescue and rehabilitation center, which was expected to be the largest in the country. Tourism stakeholders welcomed ₹8,000 crore for tourism de-

velopment, but Mysuru Hotel Owners' Association President C. Narayangowda urged the implementation of projects on a war-footing, including the expansion of the airport runway and an international convention center. Mysuru Industries Association President P. Vishwanath praised the new MSME policy but called for funds to develop Thandy and Hebbal as special investment regions and support the Mysuru Export Centre. Meanwhile, JD(S) MLA G. T. Devegowda suggested that a special grant may be allocated in a supplementary budget, covering Mysore City Corporation's upgrade to Bruhat Mysuru Nagara Palike and the peripheral ring road project. Despite the concerns, Congress leaders defended the budget, emphasizing allocations for social development programs in Mysuru as part of Siddaramaiah's commitment to his hometown.

### Suo Motu Case to be Filed Against Encroachment, Pollution of River Nandini



**TPN Correspondent | Mangaluru**  
Upa Lokayukta Justice B Veerappa announced that a suo motu case will be filed against those responsible for failing to prevent encroachment and pollution of the Nandini River near Mukka and Khandige. Following public complaints, Upa Lokayukta inspected the site on Saturday, accompanied by officials from Mangaluru City Corporation (MCC) and the Karnataka State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB). Expressing strong discontent, he

## Karnataka BJP, JD(S) Slam Budget for Liquor Revenue Focus, Minority Welfare

**BJP, JD(S) criticize budget for prioritizing minority welfare**

**Opposition slams ₹1.16 lakh crore borrowing and liquor revenue target**

**Lack of focus on Bengaluru, Kalyana Karnataka, and farmers' issues**



**TPN Correspondent | Bengaluru**  
The Opposition BJP and JD(S) have strongly criticized the 2025 Karnataka Budget presented by CM Siddaramaiah, alleging that it focuses on liquor revenue and Muslim welfare instead of economic growth and development. Former CM B.S. Yediyurappa accused the budget of being anti-development, stating that Kalyana Karnataka has been ignored with no concrete plans for progress. He also claimed that the government had failed to address Bengaluru's crumbling infrastructure and unmet promises from the previous budget. Leader of Opposition R. Ashoka called the budget "anti-people and Muslim-centric", highlighting the state's record debt of ₹7.81 lakh crore due to unprecedented borrowing of ₹1.16 lakh crore. He also pointed out that the excise department has been tasked with generating ₹60,000 crore, with new bars

being introduced to boost liquor sales. He sarcastically referred to Congress' policies as "Kuduka Bhagya" (alcoholic welfare), accusing the government of relying on liquor revenue over public welfare. Ashoka also criticized the ₹1,000 crore allocation for Minority colonies, ₹150 crore for the Wakf Board, and ₹30 lakh for Muslim foreign travel, contrasting it with a mere ₹2 crore for Gurudwaras. He claimed that Bengaluru's major civic issues, like potholes and waste management, remain unaddressed. Meanwhile, JD(S) leader and former CM H.D. Kumaraswamy echoed similar concerns, accusing the government of appeasement politics and ignoring the majority community's needs. With elections ahead, the budget has sparked a political storm, with Congress defending its welfare approach, while the Opposition brands it as biased and fiscally irresponsible.

**Karnataka budget hailed as a benchmark for other states**

**700-800 km of new roads planned, including tunnel roads**

**Double-decker flyovers and Metro expansion proposed**



## Karnataka Budget a Model for the Country, Boosts 'Brand Bengaluru': Dy CM DKS

**TPN Correspondent | Bengaluru**  
Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar on Saturday described the state budget as a model for the country, emphasizing its focus on infrastructure development in Bengaluru. He stated that the budget would strengthen "Brand Bengaluru" by tackling traffic congestion through initiatives like the tunnel road project. Shivakumar, who also oversees Bengaluru development, announced that 700-800 km of new roads would be added to the city. "The budget is not for us, but for the 1.40 crore people of Bengaluru. The tunnel road project will proceed as planned," he assured. Speaking to reporters, he highlighted plans to construct fly-

overs and double-decker flyovers, with new Metro projects being co-funded by the Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) and the city corporation. Additionally, 300 km of roads will be developed for ₹3,000 crore, utilizing canal buffer zones. "It may seem unimaginable, but the government has planned for it. Even if we take loans, our priority is to provide relief to the people," he added. Presenting the budget on Friday, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah announced that the government would act as a guarantor for ₹19,000 crore to help Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) execute the ₹40,000 crore



## Karnataka Introduces 'Adopt a Panchayat' Scheme to Boost Rural Development

- RDPR officials to adopt panchayats for development
- Focus on improving tax collection, infrastructure, and governance
- Technology-driven initiatives to modernize rural administration

TPN Correspondent | Bengaluru

In a first-of-its-kind initiative, the Karnataka government has introduced a scheme where Rural Development and Panchayat Raj (RDPR) officials will adopt a panchayat to improve its governance and development parameters. The state, which has around 6,000 Gram Panchayats (GPs), aims to push them towards self-sufficiency and better service delivery.

RDPR Minister Priyank Kharge announced that tax revenue from GPs has doubled to ₹1,200 crore this year due to consistent efforts by officials. The new scheme will take this further by assigning senior officials—from Panchayat Development Officers to Additional Chief Secretaries—to oversee and improve specific panchayats. Each panchayat will be assessed on nearly 100 parameters, including tax collection, MNREGA implementation, roads, health, education, social audits, and governance standards. The initiative aims to upgrade backward panchayats to average, average ones to good, and good ones to the best. Officials will push infrastructure projects,



strengthen public services, and monitor progress, ensuring sustainable development. Additionally, CM Siddaramaiah's budget emphasizes rural roads, the Jal Jeevan Mission, and infrastructure improvements in 38 Assembly constituencies of Kalyana Karnataka. The government is also promoting technology adoption, including decentralized digital libraries, solar microgrids under a PPP model, and solid waste management through women's self-help groups monitored via Panchatantra software. This initiative is expected to empower rural governance, enhance revenue generation, and create model panchayats across the state.

## Karnataka Govt to Begin 800MW Thermal Power Generation in Chhattisgarh

- 800MW thermal power plant to be set up at Godhna, Chhattisgarh
- State allocates ₹26,896 crore for the energy sector
- Investment Trust (InvIT) model to raise ₹5,000 crore for power projects



TPN Correspondent | Bengaluru

In a significant move to boost power generation, Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah announced that the state will start producing 800MW of thermal power at the Godhna Thermal Power Plant in Chhattisgarh. The ₹13,000 crore project, to be executed under the Tariff-Based Competitive Bidding Model, will help meet the state's rising energy demand.

Karnataka was allotted a coal block in Chhattisgarh nearly five years ago. Initially, the government explored coal transportation via rakes, but high costs led to the decision to establish a thermal power plant and supply electricity through the grid, an official explained. To strengthen the state's energy infrastructure, Karnataka Power Corporation Ltd (KPCL) will set up an Infrastructure Investment Trust (InvIT) to generate ₹5,000 crore for various power projects, modeled after Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITs).

The government also announced major allocations for renewable energy and power transmission, including:

- ₹16,021 crore for 33.84 lakh irrigation pump sets under the financial assistance scheme.
  - Decentralized solarization of irrigation pumpsets under Kusum-C Phase-2, with 1,192 MW of solar projects.
  - ₹752 crore under Kusum-B to support farmers.
  - 100 new sub-stations at a cost of ₹8,833 crore to improve transmission.
  - Electrification of 25,971 borewells, installation of 1.94 lakh transformers, and expansion of power lines.
  - ₹850 crore for streetlight installations in gram panchayats.
- Additionally, land conversion exemptions will be provided for renewable energy projects, further encouraging green energy initiatives. With these measures, Karnataka aims to balance conventional and renewable energy sources to ensure reliable and affordable power supply across the state.

## Siddaramaiah Will Present the 2026-27 and 2027-28 Budgets: Minister Rajanna

- Congress high command holds final authority on leadership changes
- Speculation continues over rotational CM formula with D.K. Shivakumar

TPN Correspondent | Karnataka

Amid ongoing speculation about a leadership change in Karnataka, Cooperation Minister K.N. Rajanna has reaffirmed that Chief Minister Siddaramaiah will continue in office and present the next state budget. However, he emphasized that any final decision rests with the Congress high command.

Speaking to reporters in Haveri on Saturday, Ra-



janna, a close associate of Siddaramaiah, dismissed doubts over the CM's tenure, stating, "He will present the next budget (2026-27) and the

one after that (2027-28). There is no doubt about it."

Political circles have been abuzz with speculation regarding a possible rotational Chief Minister formula, under which Deputy CM D.K. Shivakumar could take over the top post. However, the Congress has never officially confirmed such an agreement.

When asked about the next budget presentation, Shivakumar kept his response brief, saying, "Siddaramaiah is the Chief Minister."

Following the May 2023 Assembly elections, there was intense competition between Siddaramaiah and Shivakumar for the Chief Ministerial

post. The party ultimately convinced Shivakumar to accept the Deputy CM role, reportedly as part of a compromise deal.

While some Congress leaders continue to advocate for Shivakumar to become CM, ministers aligned with Siddaramaiah insist that he will serve the full five-year term. With Siddaramaiah's record 16th budget presentation on Saturday, his supporters view his continued leadership as a sign of stability.

For now, the Congress high command's decision will be crucial in determining whether Karnataka sees a leadership transition in the near future.

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## Karnataka Budget a Model for the Country, Boosts 'Brand Bengaluru': Dy CM DKS

North-South and East-West corridor (tunnel) projects. Additionally, a 40.5 km double-decker flyover will be built at ₹8,916 crore, alongside Namma Metro Phase 3 expansion.

Responding to the BJP's "Halal budget" criticism, Shivakumar dismissed the allegations, saying, "They have read the budget with their eyes and listened with their ears. They cannot lie to their eyes or ears, but they can lie with their mouths—so they are lying."

Regarding claims of reduced irrigation funds, he clarified that allocations had actually increased by ₹2,000 crore compared to the

previous budget. "We have plans for the irrigation sector, and further announcements will follow," he said.

On the renaming of Bangalore City University as Dr. Manmohan Singh Bengaluru City University, the Deputy CM questioned BJP's objections. "They named institutions after Deendayal Upadhyaya. Why shouldn't we honor Manmohan Singh? He was responsible for infrastructure projects like the Electronic City flyover, Nelamangala flyover, and major policy reforms like MGNREGA, RTI, and Food Security," he remarked.

## Suo Motu Case to be Filed Against Encroachment, Pollution of River Nandini

accused officials of failing in their institutional and constitutional duties.

A building under construction was found encroaching on the river. When questioned, officials were unable to provide a satisfactory response. "Encroachment of government land cannot be tolerated. This water body belongs to us, and it is our responsibility to protect it and its environment," Justice Veerappa stated.

Observing widespread pollution and excessive water hyacinth, he questioned officials about their lack of action. A KSPCB official informed him that notices had been issued to those responsible for discharging wastewater into the river. However, the Upa Lokayukta dismissed this as inadequate, stating that mere notices do not bring accountability and that action must be taken to ensure compliance and restoration. It may be recalled that Moodbidri

MLA Umanath Kotian had raised this issue during the Disha meeting chaired by DK MP Capt. Brijesh Chowta on March 1. On March 4, hundreds of villagers from the Moodbidri constituency, led by the Nandini Nadi Samrakshana Samiti, staged a protest at Khandige, condemning the pollution. The protesters alleged that untreated wastewater from an educational institution, an MCC-run Sewage Treatment Plant (STP), and other sources had contaminated the river. The pollution has even disrupted the annual ritual of fish catching, a centuries-old tradition held during the Khandige Dharmarasu Sri Ullaya Davasthana festival.

Flowing across 32 miles through 15 villages, the Nandini River has historically irrigated over 1,000 acres of farmland, provided drinking water for people and animals, and helped sustain groundwater levels.

## Dakshina Kannada MP Flags Off International Stand-Up Paddling Event at Sasihithlu Beach

TPN Correspondent | Mangaluru

The second edition of the Indian Paddle Festival, India's international Stand-Up Paddling event, was inaugurated at Sasihithlu Beach.

Speaking at the launch, Dakshina Kannada MP Capt. Brijesh Chowta emphasized the importance of public and community participation in promoting tourism along the coastal belt. He stated, "Government participation is essential in policymaking and granting permissions, but it is public involvement that truly enables tourism to thrive."

Highlighting the natural beauty of Sasihithlu Beach, Chowta described it as a gateway to Dakshina Kannada via the sea, surrounded by lush greenery and pristine waters. He urged ef-



orts to showcase the region's unique strengths, including temples, heritage, and adventure tourism. "Not all beaches are suitable for surfing and paddling, but Sasihithlu is among the few on the West Coast ideal for these activities," he noted.

The MP further announced that next year's event will be held on a larger scale, with at least one PSU adopting it as a flagship event. "Dakshina Kanna-

da is an ocean of possibilities, and tourism is one of its biggest opportunities," he added.

Former minister Abhayachandra Jain acknowledged the contributions of Surfing Swami, who established India's first surf club and introduced the sport to the region. He urged both central and state governments to support surfing infrastructure, warning that sea erosion has already affected half an acre of Sasihithlu Beach and calling for breakwater construction.

The festival is organized by the Surfing Swami Foundation and Mantra Surf Club, in partnership with WrkWrk, Incredible India (Ministry of Tourism, Government of India), and Karnataka Tourism.

The event's first day featured the Juniors Technical Distance Race and practice sessions by international athletes.

## Karnataka Budget 2025-2026 Major Infra Boost for Bengaluru

- Tunnel road project gets ₹19,000 crore government guarantee
- ₹27,000 crore for renamed Bengaluru Business Corridor (Peripheral Ring Road)
- Bellandur & Varthur lakes rejuvenation allocated ₹234 crore

TPN Correspondent | Bengaluru

Bengaluru's infrastructure received a massive boost in the 2025 Karnataka Budget, with Chief Minister Siddaramaiah announcing several key projects. Deputy CM and Bengaluru Development Minister DK Shivakumar's pet project, the ₹40,000 crore tunnel road, has received a ₹19,000 crore government guarantee for its north-south and east-west corridors. However, experts and citizen groups have called for public consultations before the project

proceeds. Acknowledging Bengaluru's role as the state's economic powerhouse, Siddaramaiah announced an increase in the city's annual grant from ₹3,000 crore to ₹7,000 crore. A Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) will be formed to implement major developmental works.

A 40.5 km double-decker flyover under Namma Metro Phase-3 will be built at ₹8,916 crore, alongside a 300 km additional road network at ₹3,000 crore by utilizing canal buffer zones. Additionally, ₹660 crore has been earmarked for developing 460 km of arterial and sub-arterial roads within BBMP limits. The long-pending Peripheral Ring Road project has been renamed the Bengaluru Business Corridor, with a ₹27,000 crore budget supported by HUDCO funds. To address environmental con-

cerns, ₹234 crore has been allocated to rejuvenate Bellandur and Varthur lakes, which have seen delays despite repeated National Green Tribunal (NGT) directives.

A three-year Comprehensive Health Programme for Bengaluru has been launched with ₹413 crore in funding. The Bengaluru Metro will be extended to Devanahalli, where a 407-acre Bengaluru Signature Park will also be developed.

Sources from the Chief Minister's Office (CMO) stated that the 2025-26 Bengaluru budget estimate stands at ₹12,917.80 crore, an increase of ₹5,000 crore over the previous year. The funds will support suburban rail, BWSSB, BMRL equity investment, and other urban infrastructure projects.



# Karnataka Govt Finalizes Three Sites for Bengaluru's Second International

TPN Correspondent | Bengaluru

The Karnataka government has finalized three potential sites for Bengaluru's second international airport and submitted the proposal to the Union Ministry of Civil Aviation for approval. The proposed airport aims to strengthen the city's aviation infrastructure and ease congestion at Kempegowda International Airport.

According to Infrastructure Minister M.B. Patil, two sites have been identified on Kanakapura Road near Harohalli, while the third site is on Kunigal Road in Nelamangala. The Kanakapura Road sites cover 4,800 and 5,000 acres, while the Kunigal Road site spans 5,200 acres. The state government has assured the Center that it is ready to allocate at least 4,500 acres at the final selected location.

Officials have emphasized the strategic advantage of the Kanakapura Road sites, with one located just 10 km from the last metro station on the Green Line. These sites were chosen to provide better connectivity and complement the existing airport in the northern part of

**Three locations identified for the second airport**  
**Two sites on Kanakapura Road, one on Kunigal Road**  
**Proposal submitted to Union Civil Aviation Ministry**



the city.

The government's proposal is expected to accelerate the approval process, paving the

way for the second airport's construction. Once approved, the project will play a crucial role in supporting Karnataka's growing economy and enhancing air connectivity.



## Metro Alert No Service on This Route in Bengaluru on March 9th

TPN Correspondent | Bengaluru

Bengaluru Metro passengers, take note! The Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) has announced changes to metro services on March 9 (Sunday) due to essential track maintenance work.

As per the notification, metro services between Magadi Road and MG Road will be unavailable from 7 AM to 10 AM. This will affect key stations, including Cubbon Park, Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Station, Vidhana Soudha, Sir M. Visvesvaraya Station, Central College, Nadaprabhu Kempegowda (Majestic - Purple Line), and Krantiveera Sangolli Rayanna

Railway Station.

Additionally, due to service disruptions at Majestic, passengers cannot switch between the Green Line and Purple Line. BMRCL has advised travelers not to purchase QR tickets or tokens for transfers between these lines until service resumes.

Metro services on the remaining sections of the Purple Line (Challaghatta to Magadi Road & MG Road to Whitefield Kadugodi) and the Green Line (Nagasandra to Silk Institute) will run as usual from 7 AM.

BMRCL has apologized for the inconvenience and requested passengers to plan their travel accordingly.

## 'Follow Law, Consult Experts Before Launching Projects': CIVIC-Bangalore Trustee

**BBMP's state grant increased from ₹3,000 crore to ₹7,000 crore**

**Concerns over ₹1 lakh crore road projects ignoring expert advice**

**Flood management gets ₹2,000 crore, drainage system upgrade planned**

TPN Correspondent | Bengaluru

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah has announced that Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) will receive an enhanced state grant of ₹7,000 crore, up from the earlier ₹3,000 crore. A Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) will be created to utilize these funds. However, experts argue that project planning should be under the Metropolitan Planning Committee (MPC), as mandated by the 74th Constitutional Amendment, rather than the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) under state

control.

Several large-scale projects under the Brand Bengaluru initiative, including tunnel roads, expressways, and flyovers, are estimated to cost ₹1 lakh crore. Kathyayini Chamraj, Trustee of CIVIC-Bangalore, criticized these projects for lacking approvals from the Metropolitan Planning Committee (MPC), Bengaluru Metropolitan Land Transport Authority (BMLTA), or the Comprehensive Mobility Plan. She emphasized that these projects prioritize private vehicles over public transport, which is the key to solving con-



gestion.

While the BMTC will receive 9,000 electric buses, increasing its fleet to 15,500, experts argue that at least 18,000 buses are needed for effective public transport. Additionally, there is no mention of Bus Rapid Transit System (BRTS) lanes or enhanced last-mile connectivity with smaller e-buses. The Bengaluru Suburban Railway Project has seen progress in only two of its four corridors, with calls for expedited completion of the remaining routes.

Recognizing Bengaluru's flood crisis, the budget allocates ₹2,000 crore for a flood management system. Additionally, ₹3,000 crore has been granted to BBMP and BWSSB for constructing a drainage network and sewage treatment plants (STPs). A wastewater treatment plant and sewage pumping system worth ₹1,070 crore are also planned. Experts stress that these critical infrastructure projects must take precedence over costly road projects favoring private vehicles.



## Visually Impaired Man Arrested for Smuggling Gold Worth ₹3.44 Crore at Bengaluru Airport

TPN Correspondent | Bengaluru

Bengaluru Air Customs has arrested a visually impaired man at Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) for allegedly smuggling gold worth ₹3.44 crore from Dubai. The suspect's identity has not been disclosed.

Acting on specific intelligence, customs officers intercepted the passenger upon his arrival on March 4. A thorough search led to the discovery of 3,995 kg of gold hidden under his shirt. Officials confirmed that the gold, valued at

₹3,44,38,796, was seized, and a case has been registered under anti-smuggling laws.

Authorities are investigating whether the suspect acted alone or was part of a larger smuggling network. The arrest follows a similar case at KIA, where the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) apprehended Kannada actor Ranya Rao on charges of smuggling 14.2 kg of gold worth ₹12.56 crore. Customs officials have intensified surveillance at the airport to curb gold smuggling activities.

## Traffic Restrictions in Place for Police Run in Bengaluru on Sunday

**Parking banned from 6 AM to 10 AM in key city areas**

**Traffic diversions around Vidhana Soudha and major junctions**

**Designated parking and auto/cab pick-up points announced**

TPN Correspondent | Bengaluru

In view of the second edition of the Karnataka State Police Run on Sunday, March 9, the Bengaluru Traffic Police (BTP) has imposed traffic restrictions and parking bans in central parts of the city. The restrictions will be in effect from 6 AM to 10 AM to ensure smooth conduct of the event.

**Parking Ban:**

Parking will not be permitted on Dr BR Ambedkar Road, Raj Bhavan Road, KB Road, Sankey Road, Nrupathunga Road, Queen's Road, Museum Road, and AG's office to Chalukya Circle.

**Police Run Route:**

The run will begin from the grand steps of Vidhana Soudha

and proceed through KR Circle, Nrupathunga Road, Kasturba Road, Siddalingaiah Circle, Queen's Circle, Queen's Road, CTO Junction, Police Thimmaiah Junction, before returning to Vidhana Soudha.

**Traffic Diversions:**

- Vehicles heading towards Vidhana Soudha from KR Circle, Balekundri Circle, and CTO Junction will be diverted.
- Vehicles going towards Old Madras Road and Old Airport Road will be rerouted via Devanga Road, Shanthinagar, and Richmond Circle.

**Auto/Cab Pick-Up & Drop Points:**

For commuters, designated pick-up and drop points have been arranged at:



1. CTO Junction
  2. AGS Junction
  3. Raj Bhavan Road (in front of Capitol Hotel)
  4. CID Junction
  5. Race Course Road
- Designated Parking Areas:  
Those attending the event or needing parking in the restricted zones can use designated spots at:
- MS Building Parking Area
  - Nehru Planetarium Premises

- High Court Parking Area
- Freedom Park Multi-Level Parking
- Kanteerava Stadium
- UB City (Paid Parking)
- Government Offices at KR Circle, Seshadri Road, and other locations

Commuters are advised to plan their routes accordingly and cooperate with traffic authorities to avoid inconvenience.

## Mother-Daughter Duo Killed in Accident Near Byatarayanapura Junction

TPN Correspondent | Bengaluru

A tragic accident near Byatarayanapura Junction in northern Bengaluru claimed the lives of a 40-year-old woman and her 16-year-old daughter.

The victims, identified as Nagamma and Prabhadevi, were walking on the pavement when a car driven by a man in his 70s lost control and veered off the road, fatally hitting them. The incident occurred at 12:15 PM.

Police revealed that the driver has a heart condition and a pacemaker and was in shock following the accident. Officers



from the Hebbal traffic police station have detained him and conducted medical tests, with results awaited.

Nagamma and Prabhadevi were natives of Challakere, Chitradurga, but had been residing in Byatarayanapura. A case has been registered, and further investigation is underway.





## CM Siddaramaiah Congratulates Shabana Azmi on Lifetime Achievement Award

Shabana Azmi honored at 16th Bengaluru International Film Festival

CM praises her contributions to Indian and Kannada cinema

TPN Correspondent | Bengaluru

Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Saturday extended his congratulations to veteran actress Shabana Azmi for being honored with the Lifetime Achievement Award at the 16th Bengaluru International Film Festival.

Taking to social media platform X, the CM hailed Azmi as a "great actress and multilingual artist of Indian cinema." He also recalled her debut in Kannada cinema with the 1977 film Kanneshwara Rama,

where she won the hearts of Kannada audiences.

"Shabana Azmi, who has acted in both South Indian and Hindi films, has become a household name. This honor, which comes after nearly 50 years of artistic service, enhances the prestige of the award," he stated.

The Bengaluru International Film Festival, which commenced on March 1, concludes this evening, marking the end of a vibrant celebration of global and Indian cinema.

## Karnataka MLC Urges Separate Directorate for Christian Community Development

TPN Correspondent | Mangaluru

Karnataka MLC Ivan D'Souza has urged the state government to establish a separate directorate for the Christian community, bringing the Christian Development Corporation (CDC) under its purview for better fund utilization. He noted that CDC currently functions under the Directorate of Minorities, and a dedicated directorate would streamline decision-making.

D'Souza thanked CM Siddaramaiah for allocating ₹250 crore for the CDC and appointing Dr. S Japhet as President, along with Vinish Nero and Sanjiv Kumar Jagirdar as Vice Presidents. The funds will be used for scholarships, self-employment loans, welfare programs, and renovation of churches and graveyards. He compared this to the previous BJP government, which allocated only ₹50 crore annually for the committee.

D'Souza also welcomed the announcement by Health Minister Dinesh Gundu Rao regarding the upgradation of Wenlock Hospital into a regional hospital.



The CM has allocated ₹650 crore for developing 10 hospitals, and D'Souza expects Wenlock Hospital to receive at least ₹250 crore since most of the other hospitals listed are taluk-level facilities. He also demanded the establishment of a super-specialty cancer wing at Wenlock Hospital to assist underprivileged patients.

D'Souza condemned the assault on a Congress worker during the Brahmakalashotsava event at Shri Krishna Bhajana Mandira in Padavu Shaktinagara on March 2. He accused MLA D Vedavyasa Kamath of repeatedly insulting and provoking Congress workers, alleging that Kamath instigated the attack. The MLC called on the MLA to stop misleading the public and urged him to represent all citizens, not just BJP workers.

## Udupi Electrician Loses ₹2.8 Lakh in 'Parcel Scam'

TPN Correspondent | Udupi

A 40-year-old electrician from Udupi, Madhukiran, has been defrauded of ₹2.8 lakh in a 'parcel scam', where fraudsters posed as customs and courier officials.

Madhukiran received a message from an Instagram user "reta\_wat" in December 2024. Over time, they became acquainted, leading him to share his home address.

Later, a man named Mafu Among called, claiming a parcel had arrived in his name and demanding ₹1.3 lakh for customs clearance and security charges. Madhukiran transferred ₹90,000 from his account and ₹40,000 from his SBI account to an individual

named Ilota P Jakha via Google Pay and PhonePe between January 22 and January 27.

Later, he received further calls from alleged courier offices in Delhi and Mumbai, requesting an additional ₹1.5 lakh to convert pounds into Indian rupees.

Madhukiran transferred ₹90,000 via cheque to Rohit Kumar Reang and ₹60,000 to his PhonePe number on March 1.

When another ₹60,000 was demanded, he realized the scam and lodged a complaint at Udupi Town Police Station under Section 318(2) of the BNS Act and Section 66(D) of the IT Act. Police have initiated an investigation into the fraud.

## Mallikarjun Kharge Attacks PM Modi, Lists '11 Big Lies in 11 Years'

Kharge criticizes Modi for 'failing to fulfill promises'

Alleges false assurances on black money, jobs, and fuel prices

Speaks at launch of Kalyana Patha project worth ₹1,000 crore

TPN Correspondent | Kalyanburagi

Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge on Saturday accused Prime Minister Narendra Modi of misleading the country with "11 big lies in 11 years", claiming that the government has failed to deliver on major promises. Speaking at the launch of the Kalyana Patha project in Jewargi, which aims to construct 1,166 km of roads across 38 rural constituencies

in Kalyan Karnataka, Kharge questioned Modi's credibility. The project, modeled after the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana, will be executed at a cost of ₹1,000 crore.

Kharge listed several promises that he alleged were never fulfilled, including:

1. Bringing back black money and depositing ₹15 lakh into citizens' accounts

2. Creating 2 crore jobs annually

3. Reducing petrol and diesel prices, which have instead risen by 40-50%

4. Cleaning the Ganga by 2022

5. Generating millions of manufacturing jobs under 'Make in India'

6. Providing pucca houses for all Indians by 2022

7. Doubling farmers' income



comes

He questioned why people continue to support Modi, saying, "Do they do it based on caste, religion, or conduct? I don't understand." Kharge urged voters to be cautious of "false promises", stating, "I have contested 12 elections and never lied. If you listen to Modi, you will suffer."

3. Reducing petrol and diesel prices, which have instead risen by 40-50%

4. Cleaning the Ganga by 2022

5. Generating millions of manufacturing jobs under 'Make in India'

6. Providing pucca houses for all Indians by 2022

7. Doubling farmers' income

## MSME Boost, Decriminalization of Compliance, and Job Creation



Violation of employment compliance to be decriminalized

₹200 crore allocated to create 5 lakh jobs

₹1,000 crore for innovation & entrepreneurship through LEAP

TPN Correspondent | Bengaluru

The Karnataka government has announced a series of pro-industry measures in the 2025 budget, including decriminalizing employer compliance violations, boosting MSMEs, and introducing a new Textile Policy to generate employment.

CM Siddaramaiah stated that the Karnataka Employers' Compliance Decriminalisation Bill and Karnataka Employers' Compliance Digitisation Bill would be introduced to simplify industrial compliance. This

will be the first initiative of its kind in India, shifting employer penalties to non-criminal liabilities while digitizing compliance.

A separate MSME policy will be framed to achieve Karnataka's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and address regional economic imbalances. Additionally, common facility centres will be set up under the MSME cluster development scheme.

To promote electric vehicle (EV) adoption, a state-of-the-art EV testing track and EV cluster

will be built in Bengaluru at a cost of ₹25 crore. Further, flat-ted factories with plug-and-play facilities will be developed in Thidagundi, Vijayapura, to promote industrial growth in North Karnataka. A Japanese Industrial Park is also planned in Tumakuru under the Chennai-Bengaluru Industrial Corridor Project.

Innovation & Employment Initiatives

The government has also announced the Local Economy Accelerator Programme (LEAP) with a ₹1,000 crore grant to stimulate innovation and entrepreneurship beyond Bengaluru. This year, ₹200 crore will be allocated to generate 5 lakh jobs.

Other key initiatives include:

- ₹300 crore fund for startups in Mysuru, Mangaluru, Hubballi-Dharwad, and Kalaburagi
- ₹100 crore corpus for deep tech development
- ₹50 crore Centre for Applied AI for Tech Solutions over the next five years
- ₹48 crore for Quantum Research Park Phase-2 in collaboration with IISc
- ₹57 crore for Bengaluru Bio Innovation Centre reconstruction

Industry leaders have welcomed the budget's focus on industrial growth and employment, with FKCCI Chairman M.G. Balakrishna stressing that implementation will be the key challenge.

## Karnataka IT Union Calls for Mass Protest, Demands Labour Law Reforms

TPN Correspondent | Bengaluru

The Karnataka State IT/ITES Employees Union (KITU) has called for a mass gathering of IT employees on March 9, demanding stricter enforcement of labour laws and better work-life balance. The protest, organized under the slogan "A Healthy Work-Life Balance is Every Employee's Right", aims to highlight issues like extended working hours, lack of overtime pay, and expectations of availability beyond official hours.

KITU stated that on March 13, 2024, they submitted a

memorandum to the Labour Minister, alleging that IT/ITES companies were violating labour laws by not compensating for overtime work. Despite multiple meetings and protests over the past year, the union claims there has been no concrete effort from the government to enforce regulations.

KITU has urged authorities to investigate actual working hours and ensure fair compensation for overtime. The protest aims to pressure the government into taking decisive action to regulate working conditions in the IT sector.

IT employees to protest on March 9 for stricter labour law enforcement

Concerns over excessive work hours and unpaid overtime

Union criticizes government inaction despite repeated complaints



## CT Ravi Slams Karnataka Budget, Calls It 'Muslim League's Agenda'

TPN Correspondent | Karnataka

BJP MLC and former minister C.T. Ravi launched a scathing attack on Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's budget, accusing the Congress government of following the Muslim League's agenda. Speaking to reporters

on Saturday, Ravi claimed that the budget promotes communal politics and could further divide society. "Jinnah must be happy with Siddaramaiah's budget," Ravi remarked, alleging that it grants special provisions for Muslims in government contracts, educational fee

concessions, and institutions, while ignoring poor Hindus.

He criticized the increased honorarium for Muslim clerics and the withdrawal of criminal cases against individuals involved in past riots, calling it a dangerous appeasement policy. Ravi also raised financial

concerns, stating that 55% of the budget estimates have already been spent, leaving just 23 days to utilize the remaining funds. He further accused the government of driving the state into a ₹10,000 crore revenue deficit, citing sharp tax hikes on property, vehicles, and other sectors.

Regarding internal BJP factionalism, he assured that the party's high command is monitoring the situation and will take necessary action.





## Over 100 cadets, including 24 women, graduate from Officer's Training Academy in Chennai

TPN Correspondent | Chennai

On Saturday, over 100 officer cadets, including women, were commissioned into the Indian Army at the Officers Training Academy (OTA) in Chennai, following a grand passing out parade. The ceremony, which took place at the renowned Parameswaran Drill Square, marked the successful completion of the training for cadets of the Short Service Commission and equivalent courses.

A total of 133 officer cadets, including 24 women, were commissioned into various arms and services of the Indian Army, embodying the spirit of duty, service, and sacrifice. Additionally, five foreign officer

cadets and seven foreign women officer cadets from five friendly foreign nations also successfully completed their training, strengthening international bonds and cooperation.

The passing out parade was reviewed by Lieutenant General Johnson P. Mathew, Chief of Integrated Defence Staff, New Delhi. During the event, he presented awards, including the sword and OTA Gold Medal, to outstanding cadets in recognition of their exceptional performance during the training.

In his address, the reviewing officer praised the cadets and OTA staff for their dedication and excellence. He urged the newly commissioned of-

## AF Jaguar Fighter Jet Crashes in Haryana; Pilot Ejects Safely

TPN Correspondent | Haryana

A Jaguar fighter jet of the Indian Air Force (IAF) crashed in Ambala, Haryana, on Friday (March 7, 2025), after experiencing a system malfunction during a routine sortie. According to an official statement by the IAF, the pilot successfully maneuvered the aircraft away from any populated areas on the ground before ejecting safely.

The IAF, in its social media post, assured that the pilot was unharmed and had been safely rescued. "The pilot manoeuvred the aircraft away from any habitation on the ground, before ejecting safely," the statement read. The IAF has also ordered an inquiry to investigate the cause of the accident and determine the factors that led to the crash.

The crash occurred on Friday morning in the Panchkula district of Haryana, which is near Ambala. The IAF has not yet disclosed further details regarding the incident, but the inquiry is expected to shed light on the technical malfunction that led to the crash.

This incident follows a string of air accidents involving military aircraft in India, raising concerns over the maintenance and safety protocols for aging aircraft in the IAF fleet. Authorities have yet to provide an official update on the investigation's progress or timeline.

The safety of personnel in the Indian Air Force remains a top priority, and the IAF has committed to conducting a thorough investigation into this accident. As the inquiry continues, the IAF has vowed to take any necessary steps to



prevent similar incidents in the future and ensure the safety of its pilots and aircraft.

## Gujarat: Massive fire breaks out, destroys over 15 scrap warehouses



TPN Correspondent | Gujarat

A major fire broke out early this morning in the Vapi area of Gujarat's Valsad district, engulfing over 15 scrap warehouses. The intense blaze triggered a swift response, with ten fire tenders rushed to the site to

combat the flames. Officials have confirmed that the fire is still being controlled as the dousing operation continues.

The incident in Vapi is the latest in a series of fire-related events in Gujarat. Just the previous day, a fire broke out at the Kamdhenu Gau Seva Trust

in Gandhidham, although there were no reports of casualties from that incident.

The fire in Vapi reportedly began in the early hours, quickly spreading through the warehouse area, which housed large quantities of scrap materials. The swift spread of flames posed significant challenges for the firefighters who worked tirelessly to prevent further destruction. Authorities have not yet provided a full assessment of the damage or the cause of the fire, but they are investigating the incident.

This fire follows another recent incident on March 4, when a fire broke out in an old building near Godhra railway station. The fire, which started around 1 a.m., caused extensive damage to several shops and nearby homes. Fire officers, in-

cluding Mukesh Bhai Chawara, reported that the fire was particularly fierce, affecting four shops on the front side of the building and up to six homes on the rear side. The fire was eventually brought under control after 5-6 hours of intense firefighting efforts, with five to six fire tenders deployed on the site.

The cause of the Godhra fire is still under investigation, with authorities speculating that flammable materials such as oil might have contributed to the rapid spread of flames.

The repeated fire incidents in Gujarat highlight the ongoing risk posed by industrial and residential areas, with authorities stressing the need for better safety measures to prevent such devastating blazes in the future.

## Five Attacked at Music Concert in Karnataka; One Missing After Being Pushed into Canal



TPN Correspondent | Karnataka

Five individuals, including two foreign tourists from Israel and the United States, were allegedly attacked by a group of three men during a music concert in Gangavati taluk, Karnataka, in the early hours of Friday. The incident occurred near the Saanapur Kere area in Koppal district, close to the Gangamma temple, around 1 a.m., as the group attended the concert, according to the superintendent of police (SP) of Koppal district, Ram Arasidi.

The victims included two women from Israel and Gangavati, who were molested during the attack. The three men — Daniel (23) from the United States, Pankaj (43) from Maharashtra, and D Boss, a local resident — were assaulted by the attackers and subsequently pushed into an irrigation canal near the concert venue. While Daniel and Pankaj were able to climb out of the canal, D Boss could not be located.

Rescue operations were quickly launched by fire and

emergency services to locate D Boss, who may have been swept away by the canal's strong current. Authorities have blocked sections of the canal, extending up to six kilometers downstream, to prevent the missing individual from being carried further away. Despite efforts, D Boss remains unaccounted for, and authorities are continuing the search.

The attack has sparked concern over the safety of concert-goers in the area and raised questions about the security arrangements at such public events. The police are investigating the incident, and further details regarding the identities of the attackers and their motives are yet to be confirmed.

As of now, the investigation is ongoing, and local authorities are working to provide updates on the status of D Boss and any further developments related to the attack. The event has raised serious concerns about safety and law and order at public gatherings in the region.

## Kuki Protesters Clash With Security Forces On Day 1 Of 'Free Movement' In Manipur

TPN Correspondent | Manipur

Civilian buses resumed travel across districts in Manipur today, escorted by security forces, amid ongoing protests by the Kuki tribes demanding a separate administration carved out from the state. The protests have been intensifying, particularly in the Kuki-dominated areas, where demonstrators have been blocking roads, clashing with security forces, and demanding a resolution to their grievances.

In Kangpokpi district, located 45 km from Imphal, visuals showed mine-resistant vehicles leading buses through roadblocks. The situation escalated when several Kuki women attempted to block the highways, resulting in injuries after security forces used lathi

charges to disperse the protesters.

The protests come in the wake of a decision by the Centre to lift roadblock restrictions, declaring that no road blockades should take place in the state from today onwards, following the resignation of Chief Minister N Biren Singh and the imposition of President's rule in Manipur.

Clashes have been reported from several Kuki-dominated regions, with protesters engaging in acts of defiance, including throwing stones at vehicles, digging up roads, burning tyres, and erecting barricades. Some demonstrators were also seen hurling insults and demanding that security forces leave the area.

The ongoing conflict between the Meitei community, which is dominant in the val-



ley, and the Kuki tribes, who primarily reside in the hill areas, has been ongoing since May 2023. The tensions have been centered around issues such as land rights, political representation, and ethnic identity. Over 250 people have lost their lives, and nearly 50,000 individuals have been displaced due to the violence.

The Kuki leaders, along with several militant groups

that have signed a suspension of operations agreement, are firm in their demand for a separate administration before allowing free movement across the state.

Meanwhile, Meitei organizations have questioned why the displaced individuals, many of whom are living in relief camps, are being prevented from returning to their homes, as discussions continue.

## Siddaramaiah's Budget Prioritizes Women and Children's Welfare



TPN Correspondent | Bengaluru

Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's 16th budget focuses on women and children, with massive allocations aimed at empowerment and social welfare. The Gender Budget received ₹94,084 crore, while the Child Budget was allocated ₹62,033 crore, reflecting the govern-

ment's commitment to inclusive progress.

The Women and Child Development Department alone secured ₹34,955 crore, an increase of ₹500 crore from last year. The Gruha Lakshmi Scheme, which provides direct financial assistance to 1.22 crore women heads of households, continues to be a key welfare initiative with ₹28,608 crore allocated. Meanwhile, the Shakti Scheme, offering free bus travel for women, remains a major highlight, improving mobility and indepen-

dence for women and students.

In recognition of anganwadi workers' contributions, their monthly honorarium has been increased by ₹1,000, while helpers receive ₹750 extra, benefiting over 1.5 lakh workers. Additionally, ₹175 crore has been allocated for upgrading 17,454 anganwadi centers under the Sakshama Anganwadi Scheme.

Financial aid for caregivers of individuals with autism, mental illness, and multiple disabilities has been introduced, with a monthly allowance of ₹1,000.

Special residential schools in Mysuru and Belagavi will be upgraded at a cost of ₹5 crore, while schools for deaf, mute, and blind children in Ballari and Hubballi will be elevated to high school level.

To support women entrepreneurs, the Akka Cooperative Society will provide quick credit access to Self-Help Groups (SHGs). The loan limit for SC/ST women SHGs has also been enhanced from ₹1 lakh to ₹2.5 lakh, further strengthening financial inclusion.





# 1953 Revisited

## Andhra's Unhealed Wounds-Stalin Must Answer

The Madras State was divided in 1953 when the Telugu-speaking regions were separated to form the new Andhra State, primarily due to the demands of the Andhra people who felt they were being neglected and treated unfairly within the larger Madras state, leading to accusations of "ill treatment" towards the Andhras by the Tamil dominated government of Madras; this division was a result of the strong linguistic state movement in India at the time.

Mr. Stalin is advocating for a united front among seven states where the majority of the population adheres to Sanatana Dharma. However, he, along with his son and political allies, is firmly opposed to Sanatana Dharma. It is essential for him to clarify his party's position on this matter.

**1953 Madras state division Andhra's Unhealed Wounds—Stalin Must Answer and Apologise before asking for southern states unity .**

The Telugu-speaking population of Andhra Pradesh carries a historical pain that should never be forgotten—the humiliation they endured in 1953 during the contentious division of the Madras state. This event marked a significant turning point in the region's political landscape, as the Andhras were abruptly and unceremoniously forced out of Madras state, facing a strict deadline to vacate. The separation was not just an administrative reorganization; it was a deeply emotional and distress-

ing experience for the Telugu-speaking community, who had long played an integral role in the development and cultural fabric of Madras. The sudden displacement left deep scars, creating a lasting sense of injustice that continues to resonate within the collective memory of the Andhras. The demand for a separate Andhra state was not a mere political manoeuvre; it was a struggle fuelled by cultural and linguistic identity, economic disparities, and the need for self-governance. The move-



ment gained momentum with the sacrifices of leaders like Potti Sriramulu, who undertook a fast unto death, ultimately leading to the creation of Andhra state in 1953. However, the manner in which the Telugu people were forced to leave Madras city added insult to injury. They were given a strict deadline to vacate, leaving many families and businesses in turmoil. This bitter memory has persisted through generations, serving as a reminder of the discrimination and disregard they faced. In light of this historical context, it is imperative for Tamil Nadu's Chief Minister, Mr. M.K. Stalin, to acknowledge this painful past and extend a formal apology to the people of Andhra Pradesh before advocating for unity among the southern states. Unity cannot be built on the foundation of

unresolved historical injustices; it requires mutual respect and understanding. An official apology would not only serve as an act of reconciliation but also help foster genuine cooperation between the two states. Without addressing these grievances, any call for unity remains superficial and lacks the emotional and moral foundation necessary for true solidarity. Furthermore, it is essential for Andhra Pradesh to remain vigilant and not fall under the influence of Tamil interests that may seek to overshadow its own cultural and political identity. Over the years, there have been instances where Andhra's interests have been sidelined in broader regional discussions, whether in matters of resource allocation, political representation, or economic collaborations. The

rich heritage and aspirations of the Telugu people must be preserved and prioritized in any discussions of regional cooperation. True unity among the southern states can only be achieved through a balanced partnership where each state's identity and interests are safeguarded. Mr. Stalin's recent actions and rhetoric raise concerns about his commitment to national integration. His apparent alignment with foreign entities and his stance on regional issues suggest a potential divergence from the broader goals of unity and cooperation that are vital for the progress of all southern states. While regional alliances can be beneficial, they should not come at the cost of national integrity or the marginalization of any state's interests. It is crucial for leaders to prioritize

the well-being of their own communities while fostering a spirit of collaboration that respects the unique identities of each state. Hence, the Telugu-speaking population of Andhra Pradesh deserves recognition and respect for their historical experiences. An apology from Mr. Stalin would be a significant step towards reconciliation, and it is essential for Andhra Pradesh to assert its identity and interests in the face of external influences. The scars of the past cannot be ignored, but they can be addressed through sincere gestures of acknowledgment and respect. True unity among southern states will only be possible when there is a genuine commitment to addressing past grievances and fostering a relationship based on equality, understanding, and mutual respect.

# YS Family Feud A Battle Beyond Business

**Avinash | TPN**  
**Hyderabad, Mar 09:** Family disputes over wealth and inheritance are not uncommon, but when such conflicts involve powerful political figures, they become matters of public debate. The ongoing legal battle between former Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy and his sister, YS Sharmila, over Saraswati Power shares is not just a family disagreement—it is a spectacle that reflects the deepening cracks within the YS family and the political ambitions that might be fueling the conflict. A Family Torn Apart by Wealth and Power  
At the heart of the issue is the alleged illegal transfer of shares, with Jagan accusing his sister of fraudulently seizing control of company assets. What makes this case even more sensational

is the claim that their mother, YS Vijayamma, is being used as a tool in this dispute. The involvement of a mother in a legal fight between her own children makes this conflict even more tragic. Jagan, who has always presented himself as a strong leader with full control over his political and financial empire, is now openly admitting that even within his own family, he is facing betrayal and opposition. On the other hand, Sharmila, who has long struggled to find her own political identity separate from her brother's influence, is now fighting back, showing that she is no longer willing to remain in his shadow. Political Rivalry or Business Dispute? While Jagan insists that the case is purely about financial transactions and not a family



dispute, the larger political context cannot be ignored. Sharmila's growing political ambitions and her strained relationship with Jagan have been evident for years. She has openly criticized her brother's leadership style, and her political moves—first in Telangana and now in Andhra Pradesh—suggest that she is carving her own path, independent of the YSR Congress Party.

Jagan's petition highlights the extent to which their relationship has soured. He has gone from once expressing affection for his sister and planning to transfer assets to her in the future to now calling her actions fraudulent and illegal. The dramatic shift raises questions—was the sibling bond always fragile, or did political and financial differences break it beyond repair? The Emotional Toll on Vijayamma  
Amidst this fierce battle, the role of YS Vijayamma is deeply unfortunate. As the widow of YS Rajasekhara Reddy, she was once the unifying force of the family, standing by both Jagan and Sharmila. But today, she

finds herself in a difficult position, caught between her son and daughter. Jagan's claim that Vijayamma is being used as a front by Sharmila to justify the alleged illegal share transfers is disturbing. If true, it points to a manipulation of family relationships for financial gain. If false, it suggests that Jagan himself is willing to bring his mother into a bitter legal fight to protect his assets. Either way, Vijayamma's position in this dispute is painful to witness. The Public Perception and the Legal Battle Ahead  
The case, now before the National Company Law Tribunal, is set for its next hearing on April 3. However, regardless of the legal outcome, the damage to the YS family's public image is already done. The YS family has always relied on the legacy

of YSR to maintain its political credibility. But now, with Jagan and Sharmila openly fighting over wealth, the idealized image of YSR's united family is quickly crumbling. For the people of Andhra Pradesh, this feud raises important questions—if a leader cannot keep his own family united, how can he be expected to manage a state? If political ambitions and financial greed can tear apart the most influential political dynasty in Andhra Pradesh, what does it say about the future of leadership in the state? As this legal battle unfolds, one thing is clear: this is not just about Saraswati Power shares. It is about power, political positioning, and the irreversible breakdown of a once-unbreakable family bond.



# Kambala Srinivasa Rao's Service Continues Uninterrupted After Political Entry

**TPN | SK Ghani**  
**East Godavari, Mar 9:** Kambala Srinivasa Rao, known for his unwavering service to the people and dedication to Hindu Dharma, has officially stepped into politics. Despite his political debut, his commitment to social service remains strong. A massive public meeting was held in Gokavaram, where BJP

leaders, including state BJP president and Rajahmundry MP Daggubati Purandeswari, welcomed him into the party by draping him with the BJP scarf. Over ten thousand people, including a significant number of Dalits, joined the party under his leadership, believing in his ideology and service-oriented approach. A Life Dedicated to Service

Hailing from Gokavaram in East Godavari district, Kambala Srinivasa Rao has always been at the forefront of humanitarian efforts. Unlike many political entrants, he is neither an industrialist nor from a political family. His journey has been one of pure service, focusing on the protection of Hindu Dharma and the welfare of society.

As the founder of the Vishwa Hindu Dharma Parirakshan Rama Sena, he has led various spiritual and welfare programs. He has actively contributed to temple development, renovating neglected temples and ensuring their maintenance. His contributions extend beyond religion, as he provides financial and material assistance to those in

need, regardless of caste or community. Unstoppable Service Programs  
Srinivasa Rao has launched numerous service programs that have positively impacted thousands of people. He regularly organizes fruit and roti distribution drives for patients in government hospitals and provides 25 kg of rice every month to widows and elderly individuals in need. His commitment to spiritual activities is evident through his prasad distribution at Kanakadurga Ammavari Temple in Vijayawada every Friday.



# Happy Women's Day, We bow to our Nari Shakti: PM Modi

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

On International Women's Day, March 8, 2025, Prime Minister Narendra Modi extended heartfelt wishes to women across the nation, praising their contributions and empowerment. To mark this significant day, PM Modi took a unique step by allowing women to take over his social media accounts, an initiative aimed at highlighting their achievements and inspiring others.

"Today, as promised, my social media properties will be taken over by women who are making a mark in diverse fields!" PM Modi announced on X. He further expressed his gratitude to the nation's "Nari Shakti," saying, "We bow to our Nari Shakti on Women's Day! Our Government has always worked to empower women, reflected in our schemes and programs."

The initiative, which was first announced on March 3, 2025, encouraged women from



all walks of life to share their inspiring journeys of empowerment, perseverance, and success on PM Modi's social media platforms. The aim is to shine a light on women who have overcome challenges and made

remarkable strides in their respective fields.

The first story shared on PM Modi's X handle was from Indian chess player Vaishali Rameshbabu, who expressed her excitement about being

part of the initiative. "Vanakkam! I am @chessvaishali and I am thrilled to be taking over our PM Thiru @narendramodi Ji's social media properties on #WomensDay," she wrote. As a proud representative of India

Move highlights women's achievements on Women's Day

Chess player Vaishali Rameshbabu shares first story

PM praises 'Nari Shakti' and government's empowerment efforts

Initiative aims to inspire women across all fields

in international chess tournaments, Vaishali encouraged women, particularly young girls, to follow their dreams and break barriers, regardless of the challenges they may face.

She also praised the growing support for women athletes in India, noting that the country is making significant progress in providing women with the

necessary training, exposure, and encouragement to succeed in sports.

This gesture from PM Modi underscores the importance of celebrating and empowering women across India, and it serves as a reminder of the country's commitment to creating opportunities for women in all spheres of life.

## Maiya Samman scheme starts reaching beneficiaries' accounts: Jharkhand CM Hemant Soren

TPN Correspondent | Ranchi

On the occasion of International Women's Day, Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren announced that Rs 7,500 would be credited to the accounts of women beneficiaries under the Maiyan Samman Yojana. The move is part of the state government's continued efforts to empower women and provide them with financial support.

The Maiyan Samman Yojana, a flagship initiative by the Jharkhand government, offers Rs 2,500 per month to over 50 lakh women across the state. This direct financial assistance is designed to alleviate financial burdens, particularly for women from economically disadvantaged sections, by providing them with consistent support.

In his statement, CM



Hemant Soren emphasized the significance of International Women's Day in highlighting women's contributions to society and reiterated the state government's commitment to ensuring their welfare. He also mentioned that the additional Rs 7,500 credited on this special

day is a token of appreciation for the efforts and resilience shown by women in the state.

The Maiyan Samman Yojana is aimed at providing financial security to women, encouraging them to contribute more actively to both household and community welfare.

By extending this support, the Jharkhand government aims to ensure that women are financially independent and empowered, thus fostering gender equality in the state.

The initiative also aligns with broader national goals of promoting women's economic participation and social inclusion. As the state celebrates Women's Day, the financial aid serves as a timely reminder of the importance of women's empowerment and the steps needed to bridge gender gaps in various sectors.

The move has been welcomed by the beneficiaries and local communities, who view it as a positive step toward addressing the needs and concerns of women, particularly in rural and underprivileged areas.

## DMK govt has failed to ensure safety of women in T.N: alleges TVK chief Vijay

TPN Correspondent | CHENNAI

Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK) president Vijay on Saturday (March 8, 2025) strongly criticized the DMK-led government in Tamil Nadu for its alleged failure to ensure the safety of women in the state. On the occasion of International Women's Day, Vijay expressed his concern over the growing insecurity faced by women in Tamil Nadu and vowed to challenge the ruling party in the upcoming 2026 Assembly elections.

In a video message, Vijay extended his greetings to women on International Women's Day and emphasized the importance of safety for women to

lead a happy and secure life. He stated, "Women can realize happiness only if they feel safe. When there is no safety for women, it is unlikely they will be happy. I can understand the feelings of women in Tamil Nadu." He further criticized the DMK government for what he described as a betrayal, noting that the people of Tamil Nadu had initially elected the government with high hopes, but now realized they had been "cheated."

Vijay called for change and urged the public to unite in removing the DMK government from power in the 2026 Assembly elections. He said, "Change is the only constant."

## India most likely undercounting heat-related deaths: former WHO Chief Soumya

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

India is likely undercounting the number of heat-related deaths, a problem that hampers the country's ability to effectively respond to the impact of extreme heat waves, according to Soumya Swaminathan, former WHO chief scientist and Health Ministry advisor. Swaminathan emphasized the urgent need for improved tracking, preparedness, and policy interventions as India braces for another extreme summer.

In an interview on the sidelines of TERI's World Sustainable Development Summit, Swaminathan explained that while official data suggests only a fraction of heatstroke cases result in fatalities, the real numbers are likely much higher. "For every death, there are probably 20 people suffering from heat-related illnesses like high blood pressure, exacerbated cardiac diseases, or heat exhaustion," she said. These illnesses can have significant long-term impacts, including economic losses and productivity reduction.

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) recorded



536 heatwave days last year, the highest in 14 years, and forecasts above-normal temperatures for the upcoming summer season. Last year, the country documented 41,789 suspected heatstroke cases and 143 heat-related deaths, but public health experts believe this underrepresents the true toll.

Swaminathan highlighted that heat impacts go beyond fatalities. Prolonged exposure to extreme temperatures leads to mental health issues, such as increased suicides, psychiatric illnesses, and domestic violence. She stressed the need for a coordinated response involving various sectors, including labor, housing, and urban planning, to address the chal-

lenges posed by heat.

Swaminathan also advocated for vulnerability mapping using technology to identify areas most affected by heat. She suggested low-cost solutions like shaded waiting areas at traffic signals, which many cities have already begun implementing.

As the country faces another sweltering summer, Swaminathan urged local governments, hospitals, and employers to take proactive measures to minimize heat-related health impacts. She called for better awareness, training, and preparation to ensure people can remain productive and safe during extreme heat.

## Omar Abdullah unveils J&K Budget: 200 units free power, other benefits

TPN Correspondent | Jammu

On Friday, Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah presented the Union Territory's first budget following its reorganization in 2019. The budget for 2025-2026 is a zero-deficit budget with a total outlay of ₹1.12 lakh crore. Aimed at addressing the needs of vulnerable sections of society, the budget includes several welfare initiatives designed to uplift the most disadvantaged.

One of the key proposals in the budget is the provision of 200 units of free electricity per month to all Antyodaya families, ensuring that the most marginalized groups in society can access basic utilities without financial strain.

Additionally, beneficiaries of the Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) will receive 10 kg of free ration each month, further bolstering food security for those in need.

The CM also announced free travel for women on all government-owned public transport, a move aimed at enhancing mobility and em-



powering women, particularly those from economically disadvantaged backgrounds. This initiative is expected to have a significant impact on the daily lives of women, especially in rural and underserved areas.

Furthermore, the budget outlines an enhanced pension scheme that will benefit over 10 lakh individuals belonging to the most vulnerable sections of society. This measure will help provide financial stability to senior citizens, widows, and differently-abled individuals.

Omar Abdullah highlighted that this budget, the first to be presented by a democrat-

ically elected government in Jammu and Kashmir post-reorganization, reflects the administration's commitment to the welfare of its citizens. The proposed budget emphasizes inclusivity and equitable development, with a strong focus on social security and basic services for those in need.

The government's fiscal responsibility and efforts to balance the budget with welfare provisions aim to ensure the continued growth and stability of the Union Territory, while addressing the needs of its most vulnerable populations.



# A Europe In Emotional Shock Grapples with a New Era

TPN Correspondent | Paris

For decades, the Soviet Union's primary goal was to "decouple" the United States from Europe, hoping to break the Western alliance that kept Soviet forces from advancing into Europe. Now, under President Donald Trump, the U.S. has seemingly achieved what the Soviets could not, aligning itself with Russian President Vladimir Putin and leaving Europe grappling with a sense of abandonment and alarm.

Europe, shocked and bewildered by this shift, finds itself in a precarious position. For generations, the United States was a foundational ally in defending democracy and liberty against tyranny. Trump's embrace of Putin has left the continent uncertain and fearful of what comes next. European leaders are now questioning their security and the future of the Western alliance that once symbolized unity against oppression.

Valérie Hayer, president of the centrist Renew Europe group in the European Parliament, expressed concern over this transformation, saying, "Trump mouths the propaganda of Putin. We have entered a new epoch." This marked change is deeply unsettling for a continent that has long depended on the U.S. as a cornerstone of peace and stability.

The emotional impact on Europe is profound, as the historical ties between Europe

**Trump's stance shifts U.S.-Europe ties**  
**Europe fears U.S. abandonment**  
**Leaders alarmed by Trump's Putin alignment**  
**Historical U.S.-Europe unity now uncertain**  
**Europe faces geopolitical isolation**

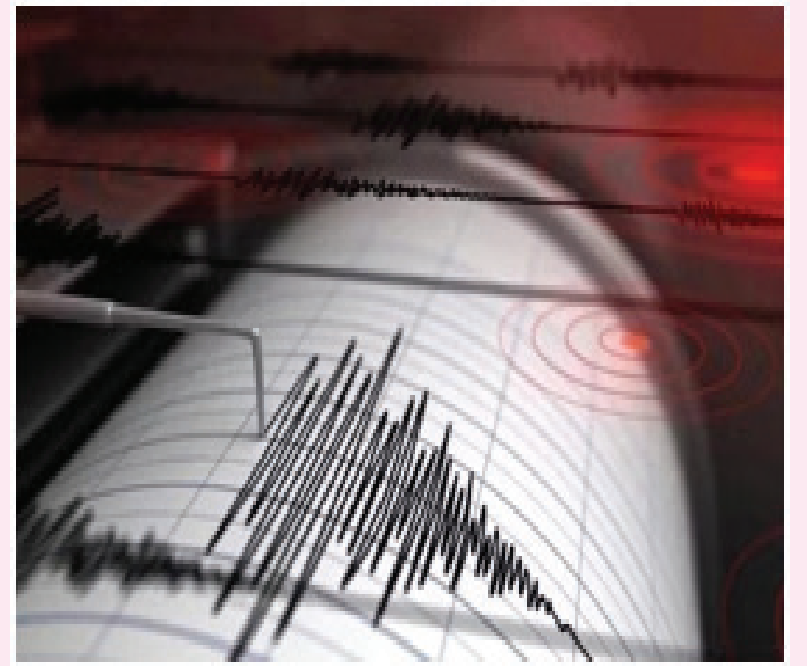


and America have shaped the continent's journey from the devastation of World War II to a prosperous and united entity. Iconic moments such as John F. Kennedy's 1963 "Ich bin ein Berliner" speech and Ronald Reagan's challenge in 1987 to "tear down this wall" at the

Brandenburg Gate, highlighted the shared ideals between Europe and the U.S. in promoting freedom and democracy.

However, the meaning of "the West" now appears uncertain. With the U.S. aligning more closely with Russia and China asserting its own influ-

ence, Europe finds itself increasingly isolated, unsure of its role in this reshaped geopolitical landscape. The future of Europe's relationship with both the U.S. and Russia remains uncertain, as the continent navigates a new, unfamiliar epoch in global politics.



## Twin earthquakes hit Nepal, no casualties reported

TPN Correspondent | Kathmandu

Nepal experienced two mild earthquakes on Saturday morning, with tremors reported in Baglung and Myagdi districts, according to the National Earthquake Monitoring Centre. Thankfully, no immediate damage or casualties have been reported from either of the tremors.

The first earthquake, measuring 4.1 on the Richter scale, struck Baglung district at 6:20 AM. The epicenter of the tremor was located in the Khukhani area, situated approximately 300 kilometers west of Kathmandu.

Earlier, at 3:14 AM, a second earthquake with a magnitude of 4.0 was recorded in Myagdi

district, around 40 kilometers from Baglung. The epicenter of this tremor was in the Muri area of Myagdi.

Authorities and local residents in both districts have reported no significant damage or injuries at this time. However, the situation is still being monitored, and further updates may follow. Nepal, which lies in a seismically active zone, frequently experiences mild to moderate earthquakes, but large-scale earthquakes like the devastating 2015 quake remain a concern for the region. The National Earthquake Monitoring Centre has urged residents in affected areas to stay alert and follow safety protocols in case of aftershocks.

## Major Terror Attack Foiled in Pakistan with Arrest of 10 TTP Militants

TPN Correspondent | Lahore

A significant terror attack was thwarted by Pakistan's Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) with the arrest of 10 terrorists from the banned Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP), including two of its most dangerous members. The arrests were made during a series of operations conducted across Punjab province, according to a CTD spokesperson on Saturday.

The two TTP terrorists identified as Riaz and Rashid were captured in Khushab and Rawalpindi. Along with the two terrorists, authorities seized explosives, including 2.69 kilograms of explosives, 19 detonators, 35 feet of safety fuse wire, and an IED bomb. Banned literature was also recovered from their possession.

The CTD Punjab carried out 73 intelligence-based operations across various districts of the province over the past few days. These operations led to the arrest of 10 militants who were reportedly planning to



target important buildings in Lahore. The spokesperson confirmed that cases have been registered against the arrested individuals, and further investigations are underway.

This operation comes amid an intensification of efforts by law enforcement agencies to combat the TTP, especially after the group launched several attacks on security forces. Just days before, the CTD announced the arrest of 20 terrorists in early March, including a Sikh militant, during 162 intelligence-based operations. Among those arrested were

three other highly dangerous TTP members: Manmohan Singh, Naqeebullah, and Riyaz, who were captured in Rawalpindi, Lahore, and Rahim Yar Khan.

The arrests of these militants have been hailed as a major success in the ongoing fight against terrorism in the region, with authorities focusing on dismantling the TTP's network in Pakistan. The investigation continues, as Pakistan's security agencies remain on high alert to prevent further terrorist activities.

## South Korea's Impeached President Yoon Released From Detention

TPN Correspondent | Seoul

Impeached South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol was released from detention on Saturday after a court annulled his arrest on procedural grounds. However, he remains under investigation for declaring martial law in December 2023, a move that led to charges of insurrection.

Yoon, who was detained in January following a raid on his residence, smiled and bowed deeply to a crowd of supporters as he walked out of the detention center. "I bow my head in gratitude to the people of this nation," Yoon said in a statement released by his lawyers.

A day earlier, a court had canceled his arrest warrant on technical and legal grounds. Prosecutors expressed dissatisfaction with the ruling, calling it "unjust." They chose not to appeal the decision, which focused solely on the procedural aspects of his detention, rather than the criminal charges he faces.

Yoon, who was impeached



in December 2023 over his declaration of martial law, faces a separate ruling from South Korea's Constitutional Court, which will decide whether to uphold his impeachment and officially remove him from office. The court's decision is expected soon, and should Yoon be removed, a new presidential election must be held within 60 days.

Yoon's legal team celebrated his release, claiming it marked a "restoration of the rule of law." The former prosecutor, who briefly suspended civilian rule and sent soldiers into par-

liament in a bid to assert control, has been charged with insurrection for his actions. The opposition, however, sharply criticized the court's decision, with Democratic Party leader Lee Jae-myung vowing to continue fighting "until the insurrection is over."

Despite his release, Yoon's legal battles continue. Even if the Constitutional Court upholds his impeachment, the criminal case against him will proceed, further intensifying the political turmoil in South Korea.

## Kamala Harris Mulls Run for California Governor in 2026 Election

TPN Correspondent | Washington

Former US Vice President Kamala Harris is reportedly considering a run for California governor in the upcoming 2026 election. According to sources, Harris, 60, is expected to make a final decision on her candidacy by the end of this summer.

Harris, who attended a pre-Oscars party last weekend, expressed her determination to "stay in this fight" during

the event, where she met with influential figures within the Democratic Party. Her comments have fueled speculation about her potential political future in California.

California Attorney General Rob Bonta, who spoke to Politico about the prospect of Harris running, indicated that her candidacy would be a powerful force in the race. He made it clear that he would not ask other Democrats to step aside if Harris decides to run but em-

phasized his support for her, stating, "They can run. I think they'll lose, and I will support her."

Kamala Harris's political career in California has been marked by significant achievements. She served as the state's attorney general from 2011 to 2017, after winning three state elections. In 2016, she transitioned to the role of U.S. Senator for California.

If Harris decides to run, she would seek to succeed current

Governor Gavin Newsom in the 2026 election. Other prominent Democrats have already announced their candidacy for the position, including Lt. Gov. Eleni Kounalakis, former California Senate leader Toni Atkins, former Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa, and California schools director Tony Thurmond. The election is set for November 3, 2026, with the primary race scheduled for June of the same year.

Harris, who previously



served as Vice President under President Joe Biden, lost her bid in the 2024 presidential elec-

tion to former President Donald Trump.



## Nifty valuations align with historical averages; HSBC MF bullish on India's growth outlook

Following the recent market correction, Nifty's valuations have returned to levels consistent with its 5-year and 10-year averages, according to a new report from HSBC Mutual Fund. Despite facing short-term challenges, the report maintains a positive outlook for Indian equities, supported by strong medium-term growth potential.

The report notes that Nifty valuations are now aligned with historical averages, which provides a more favorable environment for long-term investors. "Nifty valuations are now in-line with its 5/10-year average. We remain constructive on Indian equities, supported by the more robust medium-term growth outlook," the report stated.

While acknowledging a temporary slowdown in India's economic momentum, the report highlights that the long-term outlook remains promising. A key factor contributing to this optimism is the anticipated rise in India's investment cycle. The government's continued focus on infrastructure and manufacturing investments is expected to drive significant economic growth over the medium term.



Furthermore, the report forecasts an increase in private sector investments, which will likely provide an additional boost to economic activity. These factors collectively contribute to HSBC's positive outlook on Indian equities, despite short-term market fluctuations.

In conclusion, while the market has recently experienced a correction, the underlying fundamentals of the Indian economy remain strong. With a favorable valuation backdrop and robust growth prospects driven by infrastructure development and increasing private sector investments, Indian equities are poised to perform well over the medium to long term.

## Women's employment in India up, yet 89 mn urban women remain out of work

India's urban employment landscape has undergone notable changes in recent years, with women's employment rising by 10 percent, reaching 28 percent among working-age women in 2023-24, according to a new report. However, despite this growth, over 89 million urban women remained outside the labor market in the same year, a number greater than the combined populations of Germany, France, and the UK, and three times that of Australia.



The report, titled India's Gender Employment Paradox and released just before International Women's Day by the Great Lakes Institute of Management in Chennai, examines the visible progress in women's workforce participation alongside persistent systemic barriers. The analysis reveals that while some women have made strides in the labor market, many continue to face significant challenges.

The key obstacles hindering women's employment in urban areas include spousal violence, the need to relocate after marriage, and limited access to convenient transportation. The report highlights that in 2023-24, India failed to leverage the skills of over 19 million graduate-educated urban women due to personal constraints or social norms related to childcare, commuting, and demanding job requirements.

The report also sheds light on the gender disparity in employment, noting that 97 percent of urban men in the 30-49 age group were employed, indicating a strong "male breadwinner" norm. It further points out that highly educated women are less likely to face spousal violence, but those who are employed are paradoxically more likely to justify domestic violence compared to non-working women, suggesting internalized patriarchal norms.

Prof. Vidya Mahambare, an economics professor at the institute, noted that while wage disparity still exists, it is crucial to consider multiple factors like performance, experience, and age before drawing broad conclusions. She highlighted the issue of reverse discrimination, where women's employment can lead to the rejection of equally qualified men, a trend that may create challenges in the coming years as more women join the workforce but may leave due to marriage or children.

## India's industrial production growth likely at 3.7% in Jan, surge from 3.2% in Dec 24

India's industrial production, as measured by the Index of Industrial Production (IIP), is expected to increase by 3.7 percent year-on-year in January 2025, up from 3.2 percent in December 2024, according to a report by Union Bank of India. The rise in industrial activity is seen as the primary factor behind this improvement.

However, despite the monthly increase, the report notes that IIP growth in January 2025 is still likely to be lower than the 4.2 percent recorded in the same month last year, indicating a year-on-year decline. The report points out that although industrial production has shown some recovery, it remains below last year's

performance.

The report attributes the expected growth to the broad-based optimism observed across various industrial sectors in January. High-frequency indicators such as E-way bill generation, which tracks the movement of goods across states, rose by 23.1 percent compared to January 2024, signaling increased economic activity. Toll collections also saw significant growth in both volume and value, further supporting the positive



momentum in industrial activities.

While India's merchandise exports contracted by 2.4 percent on a year-on-year basis in January, the 10.3 percent growth in merchandise imports suggests strong domestic demand. The automobile sector showed signs of recovery as well, with wholesale vehicle sales growing by 2.5 percent year-on-year. The two-wheeler segment particularly saw a rebound, and tractor sales continued to post double-digit growth

for the second consecutive month. Additionally, vehicle registrations also increased in January.

Petroleum consumption, another crucial indicator of industrial activity, rose by 3.1 percent in January 2025 compared to the previous year, reflecting higher fuel demand linked to transportation and manufacturing.

In conclusion, while India's industrial production is expected to grow in January 2025 compared to December, the year-on-year growth remains lower than January 2024. Nevertheless, key economic indicators suggest strengthening industrial activity and provide optimism for future months.

## Good News For Zomato Investors: Blinkit Hikes Commission On Orders, Zepto Follows Suit Ahead Of IPO

Quick commerce companies Zepto and Blinkit are taking steps to improve their profitability by raising commissions on orders. According to a report by The Economic Times, Blinkit (owned by Zomato) has shifted to a variable commission model for brands and sellers, while Zepto is gradually increasing commissions on users and brands to lift its earnings.



The move comes as both companies aim to enhance investor sentiment amid challenges in the e-commerce sector. Zepto, which is preparing for an IPO later this year, has seen its valuations rise, currently standing at \$5 billion. Blinkit, on the other hand, is trying to boost investor confidence after experiencing a decline in its market capitalization over the past few months. Zomato's share price has also fallen from Rs 302 in December 2024 to Rs 223 by March 7, 2025.

In response to rising cash burns and market conditions, Zepto has increased its take rate to 22-23%, with expectations of further growth as it nears \$4 billion in annualized gross sales. Blinkit will introduce a new commission structure starting March 13, with rates now varying based on the selling price of items, even within the same category.

Despite these commission hikes, both companies remain aggressive in their pursuit of market share. "Zepto has secured the No. 2 rank, but Blinkit still holds the top spot and continues to be aggressive," the report stated.

However, their strategies have attracted attention. The All India Consumer Products Distributors Federation (AICPDF) has filed an antitrust case against major fast-delivery players like Zomato, Swiggy, and Zepto for alleged deep discounting practices. The investigation into such practices is ongoing, following scrutiny of e-commerce giants like Amazon and Flipkart in the past.

As the competition intensifies, both Zepto and Blinkit are adjusting their financial strategies to stay competitive while managing cash burn in a challenging market environment.

## Nestle India Receives Warning from SEBI Over Insider Trading Breach

Nestle India announced on Friday that it had received a warning from the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) for a breach of insider trading regulations involving a designated person within the company.

The Indian subsidiary of the Swiss food giant revealed that its compliance officer had received an administrative warning letter from SEBI on Thursday. However, the company did not disclose specific details about the findings of the letter or the identity of the individual involved.

Nestle India, known for its popular Maggi noodles, emphasized that the incident had no material impact on its financials, operations, or other business activities. The company reassured investors and stakeholders that the breach did not disrupt its day-to-day functions or cause any harm to its financial standing.

Insider trading violations have significant legal and regulatory implications in India, and SEBI has been increasingly vigilant in enforcing compliance with market conduct regulations.



Insider trading involves the buying or selling of securities based on confidential, non-public information, which can distort the fairness and transparency of financial markets.

Nestle India's prompt acknowledgment of the warning and assurance that operations were unaffected reflects the company's commitment to regulatory compliance. Despite the warning, Nestle India continues to operate as usual, with no visible disruption in its business activities.



## Bigger Bodies, Bigger Cancer Risk? New Study Challenges Decades-Old Assumption

For decades, scientists believed that large animals were no more likely to develop cancer than smaller ones, a theory grounded in Peto's Paradox, a concept from 1977. However, recent research has upended this long-standing idea. A team of researchers from the University of Reading, University College London, and Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine conducted an extensive study involving 263 species from mammals, birds, reptiles, and amphibians. The study, published on February 24 in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (PNAS), revealed a surprising finding: larger animals tend to have higher rates of cancer.



The research showed that, despite their larger size, some species—like elephants—have developed exceptional natural defenses against cancer. This challenges the earlier assumption that size had no impact on cancer risk. According to Professor Chris Venditti of the University of Reading, larger animals like elephants are more susceptible to cancer because they have more cells, which increases the chances of mutations. However, these animals, such as elephants, have evolved sophisticated mechanisms to keep their cancer risk in check.

The study analyzed the largest dataset of its kind, including veterinary autopsy records from 31 amphibians, 79 birds, 90 mammals,

and 63 reptiles. The findings consistently showed that larger species had higher cancer rates, yet species like elephants—who evolved to grow to large sizes—have developed stronger biological defenses.

Dr. Joanna Baker, co-author of the study, emphasized that as species grew larger, they also developed remarkable mechanisms to suppress tumors. This raises hope that by studying these species, scientists may be able to discover new methods to prevent or treat cancer in humans.

The research also uncovered unexpected exceptions, such as the common budgie, which had cancer rates 40 times higher than expected, and the naked mole rat, which seems almost immune to cancer. By understanding how certain animals manage to evade cancer, scientists are opening exciting possibilities for new treatments.

## iPhone 17 Pro: Features and Design Changes



Maggi noodles, a go-to comfort food for many in India, have long been a versatile snack, perfect for satisfying hunger quickly. Over the years, it has become the subject of some unusual culinary experiments, with foodies pushing the boundaries of what you can do with instant noodles. From Maggi milkshakes to coffee-infused Maggi, these wild concoctions have always stirred curiosity, but the latest trend has truly taken things to another level—Maggi chai.

Yes, you read that right—Maggi chai is the new food experiment taking social media by storm. The unusual pairing has caught the attention of food enthusiasts and the internet alike. Recently, food delivery platform Swiggy shared a post on X (formerly Twitter), featuring two images: one of a plate of Maggi with a cup of chai, and another of Maggi noodles dipped directly into the tea. The sight was nothing short of bizarre, leaving many to question if this combination was a culinary genius or just a bizarre mistake.

Swiggy's post sparked a flurry of reactions, with the company asking, "Maggi with chai or Maggi in chai?" The internet had a field day, with many foodies sharing their shock and disbelief at the new trend. Some found the idea intriguing and even entertaining, while others pointed out the potential waste of food and questioned whether these experiments were taking the love for Maggi a bit too far.

As more food enthusiasts experiment with new ways to enjoy Maggi, the combination of noodles and tea has divided opinions. Some users argue that the pairing is nothing more than a marketing gimmick, while others wonder if it could become the next big trend in the world of unconventional food pairings. Regardless of the outcome, Maggi chai is definitely causing a stir and leaving people talking about this unexpected mashup of flavors.

## Could Cockroach Milk Be the Future of Nutrition? Scientists Say It's More Nutritious Than Cow's Milk

The term "superfood" is typically associated with nutrient-rich foods like dark leafy greens, berries, and nuts, which are known to offer a variety of health benefits. However, a surprising contender has recently emerged in the world of superfoods: cockroach milk.



Though the idea may sound unappealing, scientists have discovered that the milk produced by the *Diploptera punctata* species of cockroach could be three times more nutritious than cow's milk. This revelation has sparked interest among nutritionists and researchers, who are intrigued by the potential health benefits of this unconventional substance. The milk, which is actually a nutrient-rich fluid produced by female cockroaches to feed their young, is found to be packed with proteins, fats, and sugars, making it one of the most nutrient-dense substances on Earth.

The discovery was first highlighted in a 2016 study published in the Journal of the International Union of Crystallography, which analyzed the milk-like substance. Researchers found that it contains a balanced combination of macronutrients, which are essential for energy and growth, along with other compounds that make it an attractive option for sustainable food sources.

While cockroach milk is not yet available for human consumption, its potential has sparked growing interest in the food science community. The idea of using insects for food, particularly as a source of protein, has gained traction in recent years as people look for alternative, more sustainable sources of nutrition. Insects, being rich in essential nutrients and requiring fewer resources to produce, could play a significant role in addressing global food security challenges.

Although the research on cockroach milk is still in its early stages, this discovery paves the way for future innovations in alternative nutrition. As scientists continue to study its benefits and develop methods for harvesting it, cockroach milk could soon find a place in the future of food science, offering a sustainable and highly nutritious option for the world's growing population.

## Can Soil from Banks Unlock Hidden Wealth? Chinese Vendors Claim It's the Key to Prosperity



A strange new trend in China has captured the public's attention, with vendors selling soil supposedly collected from outside major banks, claiming it can bring wealth and good fortune to those who purchase it. According to a report from the South China Morning Post, this "bank soil" can be priced as high as 888 yuan (approximately Rs 10,200) for a chunk, while smaller portions start at 24 yuan (around Rs 275). Sellers claim that the soil is collected from green spaces around financial institutions, potted plants in bank lobbies, and even dust from money counting machines.

The vendors offer various types of soil, which they assert are gathered from five of China's largest banks: Bank of China, Industrial and Commercial Bank of China, Agricultural Bank of China, China Construction Bank, and Bank of Communications. One seller explained that the soil is manually collected at night, with different merchants emphasizing unique selling points—some claim to only gather it at midday, while others boast a higher success rate in bringing financial prosperity.

To further build trust, some vendors share videos of soil being dug up from bank entrances to ensure authenticity. The soil is presented on golden plates, with paper slips attached containing the contact details of previous buyers. Many customers, including business owners, are purchasing the soil with hopes of boosting their fortunes, and some even claim that their friends are also buying into the trend.

Despite the growing popularity of this unusual product, the trend has raised legal concerns. Fu Jian, a lawyer from Zejin Law Firm, pointed out that selling soil with unfounded claims about its financial benefits could result in fraud charges. Furthermore, digging up soil from public spaces, including green zones around banks, is illegal in China, as it can lead to the degradation of urban environments. According to Fu, customers have the right to demand refunds from these sellers if the promises are not backed by proof.

Interestingly, the soil is also being sold online, expanding its reach to a wider audience across the country.

## Ghosts And Spirits, Scary Sounds': This Science College Is Hyderabad's Most Haunted Spot

Every city has its share of eerie locations, places shrouded in mystery and believed to be haunted. In Hyderabad, one such spot is the infamous Khairatabad Science College, a place that locals believe should be avoided, especially after dark. Once a vibrant institution where science was taught, the college is now regarded as one of the city's scariest and most unsettling places.



Local resident Umer shared with Local18 that many eerie tales surround the reputation of Khairatabad Science College. One of the most well-known stories claims that a part of the building collapsed while it was still operational, leading to the institution's eventual closure. Since then, the college has remained abandoned, with no one daring to step foot inside.

As night falls, locals claim that strange and eerie sounds can be heard emanating from the college, making it seem as though someone—or something—still resides within its walls.

Another chilling rumor about the college is linked to a disturbing practice that allegedly occurred when it was still functioning. It's said that unauthorized experiments were conducted on dead bodies in the college's science lab, a practice that was both illegal and unethical.

When the government discovered this, the lab was shut down, and the entire college was sealed. The unsettling belief is that the improperly disposed of bodies may have resulted in restless spirits that still haunt the area to this day.

Further adding to the spine-chilling atmosphere is the tragic tale of a security guard assigned to watch over the closed college. After the building was shut down, the guard was stationed at the site to ensure it remained undisturbed. However, one night, after hearing strange noises, he went inside to investigate but never returned. His lifeless body was discovered the following morning. This incident solidified the college's reputation as a place that should be avoided, and since then, Khairatabad Science College has become one of Hyderabad's most haunted locations.





## India Aims to Overcome New Zealand's Resilience in Champions Trophy Final

India faces a tough challenge in the Champions Trophy final against New Zealand, who have a 3-1 edge in ICC knockout matches. While India has the advantage of familiarity with conditions, New Zealand's extended stay in Dubai makes them a formidable opponent. India's spin quartet—

Varun Chakravarthy, Kuldeep Yadav, Ravindra Jadeja, and Axar Patel—will play a crucial role in countering New Zealand's batting, with Kane Williamson and Rachin Ravindra as their biggest threats.

The spotlight also shines on Virat

Kohli and Rohit Sharma, key figures in India's previous T20 World Cup win. India aims for a complete team effort, relying on support from players like Shubman Gill, Shreyas Iyer, KL Rahul, and Hardik Pandya to seal the title. The match begins at 2:30 pm IST.

## Gukesh Emphasizes Classical Chess, Reflects on Personal Journey

Reigning World Chess Champion, D. Gukesh, shared his thoughts on the evolving chess landscape during the 'India Today Conclave 2025.' While open to all formats, Gukesh asserted that classical chess, with its deep history, will always hold the greatest significance. He acknowledged the rise of freestyle chess but emphasized it wouldn't overtake traditional chess. Reflecting on his journey, Gukesh recalled the financial struggles his family faced in his early career, relying on friends to fund his tournaments. However, his recent success has alleviated these concerns, providing a comfortable life for his family. He credited India's growing



chess prominence to the legacy of Viswanathan Anand and the support from the government and sponsors. Gukesh's success marks a new era for Indian chess.

## Cadillac Receives Approval to Join F1 as 11th Team Starting 2026

Formula 1 and the FIA have granted final approval for Cadillac to join the sport as the 11th team, starting from the 2026 season. The US team, backed by TWG Motorsports and General Motors (GM), received the green light after securing a deal with F1 earlier this year. Cadillac's engines will initially be supplied by Ferrari, but GM plans to develop its own engine in the future.

This announcement comes after F1 previously rejected a bid from Andretti, which was linked to Cadillac, but GM's increased commitment to the venture helped sway F1 and the FIA. Stefano Domenicali, President and CEO of Formula 1, welcomed the team, highlighting their involvement as a significant step for



the sport. The new team will be a joint venture between GM and Dan Towriss, owner of Andretti Global, with Mario Andretti, the 1978 F1 World Champion, taking an advisory role.

## IPL 2025: Ticket Sales for Punjab Kings' First Home Match Begin on March 9

The Punjab Kings have announced that tickets for their first home match of IPL 2025 against Rajasthan Royals will go live on March 9 at 1:00 pm. The match is scheduled for April 5 at the New PCA stadium in New Chandigarh. Fans can purchase tickets via the District app, Punjab Kings app, and websites.

Punjab Kings will host seven home games, with four at the New PCA stadium and three at the HPCA stadium, Dharamsala. The New PCA stadium, with a seating capacity of 31,500, features 50 corporate boxes, three hospitality lounges, and 20 general stands. Ticket prices start at Rs 1,250 and can go up to Rs 6,500 for hospitality lounges.

Punjab Kings' IPL 2025 campaign begins with away matches on March 25 and April 1.



## Mainz Defeat Borussia Mönchengladbach 3-1 to Move to Third in Bundesliga

Mainz surged into third place in the Bundesliga with a 3-1 victory over Borussia Mönchengladbach on Friday. The win lifted Bo Henriksen's team to 44 points, two ahead of Eintracht Frankfurt, who are in fourth. Paul Nebel and Dominik Kohr scored before and after halftime to give Mainz a commanding lead. Despite Stefan Lain-

er pulling one back for Mönchengladbach, Nadiem Amiri quickly restored Mainz's two-goal advantage, securing their fourth win in the last five matches.

Kohr expressed satisfaction with the team's performance, saying, "We have 44 points, what a feeling. The way we play football, we be-

long up there."

With nine games remaining, Mainz is aiming to qualify for European football for the first time since the 2016-17 Europa League group stage. The defeat left Mönchengladbach in eighth place with 37 points, just behind Leipzig in the final European spot.



## Shubman Gill Dismisses Retirement Talks Ahead of Champions Trophy Final



Speculation has been swirling about the ODI future of India's veterans, Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli, after the Champions Trophy, but vice-captain Shubman Gill has dismissed any retirement talk in the dressing room. Speaking ahead of the final against New Zealand, Gill emphasized that the topic of retirement has not been discussed. "There is no talk about retirement in the dressing room, now," Gill

said during the pre-match press conference. Gill, who has been in stellar form in ODIs, praised India's batting depth, calling it the best lineup he has ever been a part of, which gives the top order more freedom. On the pressure of the final, he expressed confidence in the team's ability to perform under pressure, aiming to secure the trophy after missing out on the 2023 ODI World Cup.





## Madhuri Dixit Discusses Pay Disparity and Gender Inequality in Bollywood

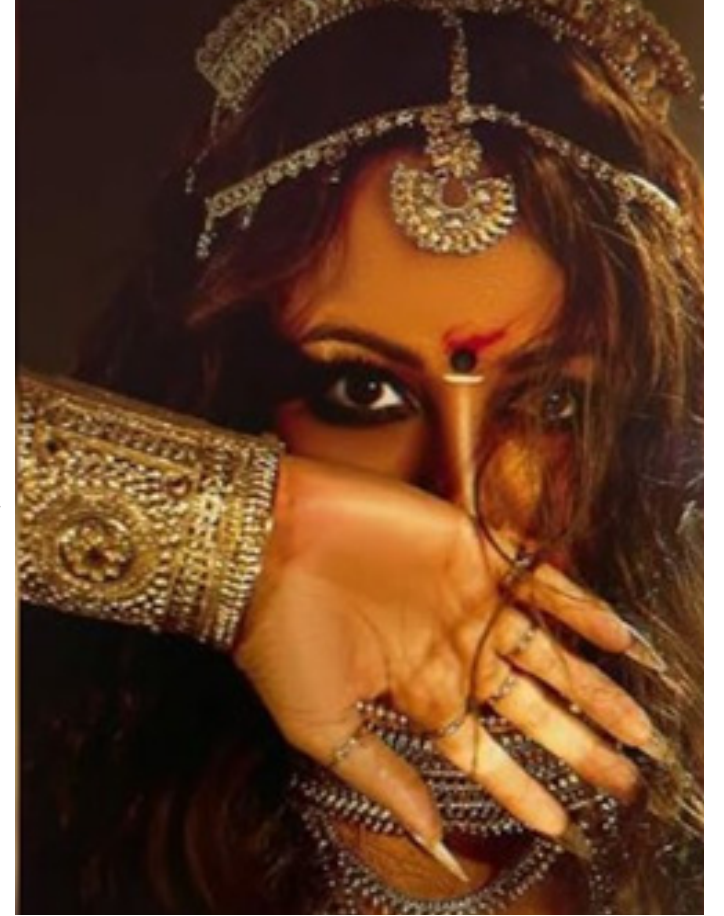
Bollywood actress Madhuri Dixit highlighted the ongoing pay disparity in the film industry, stating that women continue to prove their worth in every project. During the session titled The Journey of Women in Cinema at the 2025 IIFA Weekend, Dixit shared that women actors must constantly demonstrate their ability to draw audiences, unlike their male counterparts. She stressed the need for progress toward parity in Bollywood, though admitting the road is long. Oscar-winning producer Guneet Monga echoed these views, pointing out the significant challenges women face in the industry. Both emphasized the importance of providing more opportunities and breaking through gender biases to achieve real change. Dixit also discussed her strong roles in films like *Mrityudand* and the growing presence of women in all departments of filmmaking.

## Sonakshi Sinha's First-Look from Telugu Debut Film Jatadhara Unveiled

Sonakshi Sinha is set to make her Telugu debut with the supernatural fantasy thriller *Jatadhara*, directed by Venkat Kalyan. On the occasion of International Women's Day, the makers revealed her intense first-look poster on Instagram. In the captivating image, Sonakshi exudes goddess-like energy, adorned in heavy golden jewelry, with her face partially covered, revealing only her kajal-smudged eyes. Her fiery gaze adds a powerful depth to her character. The tagline reads, "Welcome aboard Sonakshi Sinha," while the caption states, "This Women's Day, a beacon of strength and power rises in *Jatadhara*."

The film, also starring Sudheer Babu, is produced by Zee Studios under the banner of Umesh KR Bansal, Prerna Arora, Aruna Agarwal, and Shivin Narang. The shoot is set to begin soon after a grand muhurat ceremony in Hyderabad.

Sonakshi was last seen in the Zee5 horror-comedy *Kakuda* and the Netflix period drama *Heeramandi*.



## Katrina Kaif, Sister Isabelle Turn Perfect Bridesmaids For BFF Karishma Kohli



Katrina Kaif shared beautiful moments from her best friend Karishma Kohli's wedding, looking as stunning as ever. In a heartfelt post, she expressed her admiration for Karishma, reminiscing about their 16-year-long friendship. Katrina wrote, "From the first day we met, your joy and madness grabbed my attention, and there's been no looking back since then. You've been by my side through thick and thin." The actress praised Karishma's kind and courageous soul, saying, "You truly are a gem of a person, always shining bright no matter what is

happening in your life." She also expressed her happiness for Karishma and her new husband Mikhail, saying, "In him, you have the most amazing life partner ever." The wedding, an intimate celebration, was attended by close friends and family. A viral video from Karishma's sangeet ceremony showed Katrina dancing to the iconic AR Rahman track "Sasural Genda Phool." Katrina and her sister Isabelle were the perfect bridesmaids, adding grace and charm to both the sangeet and wedding celebrations.

## Women's Day 2025: 5 Iconic Female-Centric Films To Watch

This Women's Day, celebrate the strength and resilience of women through these must-see, iconic female-centric films. Grab some popcorn and enjoy these cinematic gems:

### 1. Mother India - Prime Video

A classic in Indian cinema, this film tells the story of a mother's sacrifices to raise her sons amidst poverty. Nargis' unforgettable performance in this epic drama makes it a must-watch.

### 2. Arth - YouTube

This 1982 Hindi film follows Pooja (Shabana Azmi), who faces heartbreak and betrayal when her husband leaves her. As she navigates through personal challenges, she embarks on a journey of self-reliance and empowerment. A classic for the ages.

### 3. Kahaani - Prime Video

Starring Vidya Balan, this thriller delves into feminism and motherhood in a male-dominated society. The film won multiple National Awards and is a gripping portrayal of a woman's quest for justice.

### 4. Queen - Netflix

Kangana Ranaut delivers a career-defining performance as Rani Mehra, a woman who embarks on a solo journey of self-discovery after her wedding falls apart. This film is both empowering and entertaining.

### 5. Pink - JioHotstar

A hard-hitting film on consent and women's rights, *Pink* features Taapsee Pannu in a standout role. Amitabh Bachchan's powerful portrayal as a lawyer reinforces the film's vital message: "No means no." These films offer compelling portrayals of women's strength, independence, and resilience - perfect for celebrating Women's Day 2025.



## Shah Rukh Khan as Rajasthani Cop, Fans Go Gaga

Shah Rukh Khan's latest ad, where he plays a Rajasthani police officer, has taken the internet by storm. In the video for an engine oil brand, SRK dons the role of a stylish cop, chasing robbers on a bike. His swag is undeniable with his shirt unbuttoned, aviators on, and a fun Rajasthani accent, which has captivated fans across social media.

The ad has gone viral, with fans praising his performance and comparing it to his iconic roles in films like *Shakti* and *Jawan*. Many have even suggested he should be cast in *Dhoom 4*, as they believe he excels in action sequences. His effortless charm and screen presence continue to shine, even in a short advertisement. SRK's ability to make a simple com-



mercial feel like a blockbuster reaffirms why he remains the undisputed King of Bollywood. Looking ahead, SRK is set to star in *King*, an action film alongside his daughter Suhana Khan, and *Pathaan 2*. Fans are eagerly waiting for his appearance at the IIFA awards in Jaipur.

## Kajol Decides to Meet Her Younger Self This Women's Day

Kajol celebrated Women's Day 2025 in a truly heartfelt way by deciding to meet her younger self. The actress shared an adorable video compilation of herself on Instagram, narrating a beautiful conversation with her younger self. She wrote, "Met my younger self for coffee today... She ordered a latte, I ordered an americano... She had a book in her hand and one in her bag... I had a Kindle..." Kajol reflected on how she has grown over the years, emphasizing how

her younger self's loud and strong personality has evolved into a gentler version. The post highlighted her journey of self-realization and how, over time, she learned to appreciate herself.

A few days earlier, Kajol had also shared a loving birthday post for her sister Tanishaa Mukerji, wishing her the best for the future. On the work front, Kajol is set to star in *Kayoze Irani's Sarzameen* and *Maharagni-Queen of Queens*, both highly anticipated projects.

