



Weather Forecast

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

Parliamentary proceedings: Rahul Gandhi raises Opposition's demand for a discussion on voter lists

TMC alleges duplicate voter IDs and inflated voter numbers in key states

Opposition seeks accountability from the Election Commission

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi



Leader of the Opposition (LoP) in the Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi, raised concerns regarding the validity of voter lists across the country and demanded a discussion on the issue in Parliament. During the Zero Hour, Gandhi acknowledged that the government does not create the voter lists but stressed that questions regarding their accuracy are being raised nationwide. He specifically pointed to Opposition-ruled states where such concerns are more pronounced, including Maharashtra, and urged for a debate on the matter.

"The Opposition, in unison, is asking for a discussion on voter lists. We accept that the government doesn't make them, but you should accept our demand for a discussion," Gandhi stated in the Lok Sabha.

In the Rajya Sabha, Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge also voiced his concerns after being denied the opportunity to raise the issue in the Upper House. Kharge took to social media platform X, calling for a comprehensive discussion on the irregularities in voter lists, warning that such issues pose a serious threat to the free and fair conduct of elections in India.

The issue was initially raised in the Lok Sabha by Trinamool Congress (TMC) member Saugata Roy. Roy highlighted claims by West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee regarding duplicate Electoral Photo Identity Cards (EPIC) in constituencies such as Murshidabad and Burdwan, as well as in Haryana. Roy also expressed concerns about inflated voter lists in Maharashtra and raised the possibility of similar issues in West Bengal and Assam, where elections are scheduled in the coming year.

TMC's Kalyan Banerjee demanded action against the Election Commission for failing to maintain fair and transparent electoral processes. He specifically criticized the increase in the number of voters in West Bengal and raised concerns about voters reportedly coming from other states such as Gujarat and Haryana. Banerjee called the irregularities a violation of the Conduct of Elections Rules and emphasized the need for accountability from the Election Commission.



Amit Shah: Advocates Have a Sacred Duty to Protect Constitutional Rights

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

racy and ensuring the fair application of justice."

Union Home Minister Amit Shah emphasized the crucial role of advocates in strengthening the Constitution and democracy, as he addressed an event in Gandhinagar on Sunday. The event, organized by the Bar Council of Gujarat, was held to administer the oath to 11,000 newly enrolled advocates in the state.

Shah highlighted that the profession of law is not just a career but a "sacred duty" that carries the responsibility of safeguarding the rights of the nation's 140 crore citizens. He stressed that advocates must defend the constitutional rights of individuals, particularly in matters related to property, personal safety, and dignity.

"The profession of an advocate is one of great significance as it involves protecting the fundamental rights that our Constitution guarantees to each citizen," Shah said. "In doing so, advocates contribute to the strengthening of democ-

The Home Minister acknowledged the important role that legal professionals play in maintaining the rule of law and ensuring that justice is accessible to all. He underscored that the advocacy profession is essential for upholding the values enshrined in India's Constitution and securing the welfare of citizens.

The event in Gandhinagar was a significant moment for the newly enrolled advocates, as it marked the beginning of their legal careers. Shah's words served as both an encouragement and a reminder of the weight of responsibility they carry in the legal profession.

In conclusion, Shah urged the newly enrolled advocates to uphold the dignity of their profession and contribute positively to the legal system by ensuring that justice is served and constitutional rights are protected for all.

'EPIC' row in Parliament: Kharge leads walkout from RS

After demand to debate 'faulty' voter issue rejected

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

On Monday, Parliament witnessed intense demands from the opposition for a discussion on the alleged flaws in the voters' lists, with Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi raising the issue in the Lok Sabha. His Rajya Sabha counterpart, Mallikarjun Kharge, led a walkout after the demand for an immediate debate on the issue of Electoral Photo Identity Cards (EPIC) was rejected.



similar concerns about the validity of the voter lists.

a comprehensive revision of voter rolls.

Chairman Harivansh denied permission, stating that notices for the debate had been rejected. This led to the walkout led by Kharge, with opposition MPs shouting slogans in protest. Trinamool Congress MPs Saket Gokhale and Sagarika Ghose, along with Congress leaders like Pramod Tiwari and Ajay Maken, had submitted notices demanding a discussion on the alleged lapse by the Election Commission over the EPIC issue.

The controversy surrounding 'EPIC' stems from claims of multiple voter IDs with identical numbers, with opposition parties raising concerns about inaccuracies in the voter lists across various states. Rahul Gandhi emphasized during the Zero Hour that opposition leaders in every state, including Maharashtra, had raised

Trinamool Congress MP Saugata Roy highlighted the specific instance of duplicate EPIC numbers found in West Bengal, where voters with the same EPIC numbers were reportedly registered in multiple locations, including Murshidabad, Burdwan, and Haryana. Roy pointed out discrepancies in Maharashtra's voter lists as well and urged

Trinamool Congress Chief Whip Kalyan Banerjee also voiced concerns about the transparency of the electoral process, alleging that faulty voter lists undermine the integrity of elections in the country.

In Rajya Sabha, the opposition sought an immediate discussion on the issue, but Deputy

In response, Leader of the House JP Nadda condemned the opposition's actions, accusing them of trying to demean the institution of Parliament by continuously submitting notices without adhering to the House's rules. Nadda assured that the government was ready to discuss any issue, as long as it followed the proper procedures.

AAP to Contest Goa and Gujarat Elections Solo in 2027, No Alliance with Congress: Atishi

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

Senior Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leader Atishi announced on Monday that the party plans to contest the 2027 elections in Goa and Gujarat independently, without entering into an alliance with Congress. Atishi, who was visiting Goa for a day to inaugurate the party's office in Margao, made it clear that there have been no discussions regarding a potential alliance with the Congress.



Speaking to reporters, Atishi emphasized that AAP is preparing to contest the upcoming elections on its own. She highlighted the 2022 Goa election results, where the BJP won the majority but Congress secured 11 seats. However, eight of Congress's elected members later joined the BJP. Atishi noted that Congress, now the principal opposition in Goa, only holds three seats, while AAP has two legislators in the state.

Addressing speculation surrounding AAP's two winners in the 2022 Goa elections, Atishi pointed out that, despite rumors suggesting their

departure from the party, the two MLAs had remained loyal to AAP because their intentions were not driven by financial gain. She further questioned the credibility of alliances when such defections occur, referring to the Congress MLAs who joined the BJP.

When asked about AAP's stance on potential alliances with like-minded parties, Atishi said the party has no interest in political deals driven solely by the pursuit of electoral victories and wealth. "We are not interested in politics where winning elections and making money is the sole aim. Our interest in politics is to deliver for the people," she stated.

On the Delhi elections, Atishi said the focus should be on the well-being of the people of Delhi rather than AAP's loss. She criticized the BJP for its broken promises, particularly the unfulfilled assurance of providing Rs 2,500 to women in Delhi. Atishi claimed the BJP had not even initiated the registration process for the scheme, showing a lack of commitment to their electoral promises.

Assam Government Presents Poll-Oriented Deficit Budget to Benefit Key Voter Groups

TPN Correspondent | GUWAHATI On March 10, 2025, Assam's Finance Minister, Ajanta Neog, presented a ₹2.63 lakh crore Budget for the 2025-26 fiscal year, aiming to woo key voter groups ahead of the 2026 Assembly elections. The budget, with a deficit of ₹620.27 crore, includes several measures

targeting tea plantation workers, women, farmers, youth, government employees, and the lower-income groups.

A key highlight of the Budget was a one-time financial assistance of ₹5,000 each for



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Rajya Sabha clears Railways Bill 2024: Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw

- Bill introduces structural reforms for better decision-making and governance
- Repeals outdated 1905 Act to modernize railway management
- Aims to improve transparency, efficiency, and policy implementation



TPN Correspondent | Delhi

On March 10, 2025, Parliament passed the Railways (Amendment) Bill 2024, aimed at enhancing the functioning and independence of the Railway Board. The bill was cleared in the Rajya Sabha with a voice vote, following its passage in the Lok Sabha on December 11, 2024.

The key objective of this bill is to modernize and streamline the functioning of the Railway Board, which is responsible for overseeing the country's railway operations. By empowering the Board with greater autonomy, the bill intends to improve the decision-making process and enable more efficient management of the Indian Railways, which plays a crucial role in the nation's transportation network.

The amendments outlined in the bill include structural changes that will bolster the Board's independence in policy formulation and operational matters. This is expected to lead to enhanced accountability, transparency, and improved governance within the Indian Railways. The bill also aims to address long-standing concerns regarding the administrative setup and to bring Indian Railways in line with modern practices that em-

phasize professionalism and autonomy in decision-making.

Notably, the Railways (Amendment) Bill 2024 also repeals the outdated 1905 Act, which had been regulating the Railway Board's functions for more than a century. This move is seen as a necessary step toward reforming the sector, ensuring that the Railway Board is better equipped to handle the challenges of modern railway management.

The passage of the bill marks a significant step in the ongoing modernization efforts of Indian Railways, which is expected to play an even more vital role in the country's economic growth and infrastructure development in the years to come.

President Murmu to Attend Key Convocations in Haryana, Punjab, and Chandigarh

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

President Droupadi Murmu will embark on a three-day visit to Haryana, Chandigarh, and Punjab from Monday to Wednesday. Her visit will include several important events, including convocation ceremonies at prominent universities across the region.



On March 10, the President will begin her visit by attending the convocation ceremony of Guru Jambheshwar University of Science and Technology in Hisar, Haryana. On the same day, she will launch the state-level campaign "Spiritual Education for Holistic Well-being" by the Brahma Kumaris, Hisar, as part of their golden jubilee celebrations.

On March 11, President Murmu will participate in two more convocation ceremonies, at the Central University of Punjab in Bathinda and at AIIMS, Bathinda. Later in the day, she will attend a civic reception hosted by the Punjab government in her honor at Mohali.

The highlight of her visit will be on March 12, when she will grace the convocation ceremony of Panjab University in Chandigarh. This will be a significant event as it marks another

milestone in her efforts to engage with students and academia across the nation.

During her visit, the President will engage with various dignitaries, academic leaders, and students, underscoring the importance of education and holistic development. Her presence at these events also reflects the ongoing commitment of her administration to promote higher education and well-being across the country.

10-hour trip, 11 of 12 toilets clogged: Delhi-bound Air India flight returns to Chicago



TPN Correspondent | Delhi

An Air India flight traveling from Chicago to Delhi on March 6, 2025, was forced to turn back to Chicago due to a technical snag, an airline spokesperson confirmed on Monday, March 10, 2025. The flight, AI126, was en route when the issue arose, prompting the crew to make the decision to return to Chicago's O'Hare International Airport.

The airline spokesperson clarified that upon landing, all passengers and crew safely disembarked. In response to the inconvenience, passengers were provided with accommodation, and alternative arrangements were promptly made to ensure they reached their destination. "Passengers have also been offered full refunds or complimentary rescheduling of their flights," the spokesperson added.

Air India emphasized that the safety and well-being of its customers and crew remain the airline's top priority.

The situation became more complicated as passengers on the flight had reportedly endured a lengthy and uncomfortable journey before the return. While flying over Greenland, 11 of the 12 toilets on the aircraft malfunctioned, leaving just one working toilet in the business class section for approximately 300 passengers. This technical issue, which developed just five hours into the 14-hour flight, led to the aircraft's return to Chicago.

In an additional incident, passengers claimed difficulties in rescheduling or obtaining refunds for their disrupted flights. However, the airline confirmed that they were doing everything to accommodate those affected and provide adequate compensation options.

These ongoing issues highlight the challenges airlines face when dealing with technical malfunctions mid-flight, especially concerning critical amenities like onboard toilets. In such cases, airlines are required to make swift decisions for passenger comfort and safety, while managing the logistical hurdles of rescheduling flights or issuing refunds.

Ganga water was fit for bathing during Maha Kumbh: Government tells Parliament

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

The central government informed Parliament on March 10, 2025, citing a report from the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), that the water at Triveni Sangam in Prayagraj, where the Ganga, Yamuna, and Saraswati rivers meet, was fit for bathing during the recently concluded Maha Kumbh. This declaration came in response to concerns raised by various MPs regarding the water quality during the religious event.

Union Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav stated that the CPCB's report confirmed that the water at monitored locations met permissible limits for key water quality indicators such as pH, dissolved oxygen (DO), biochemical oxygen demand (BOD), and faecal coliform (FC). These indicators are crucial for assessing water safety, particularly in relation to human contact.

Despite initial reports from the CPCB in



February, which flagged concerns about high faecal coliform levels in water at several Prayagraj locations, a subsequent report submitted on February 28 showed that statistical analysis of the data indicated the water was, in fact, fit for bathing. The analysis addressed variability in data collected from the same and different locations at different times, which could have skewed the initial results.

In response to the National Green Tribu-

nal's (NGT) directive for regular monitoring, the CPCB conducted water quality checks twice a week at seven key locations along the river stretch between Shringverpur Ghat and Deehaghat, including at Triveni Sangam. This monitoring, which started on January 12, 2025, continued through the auspicious bathing days of the Maha Kumbh.

Additionally, the Uttar Pradesh government took significant steps to ensure water quality during the event. They installed 10 sewage treatment plants (STPs) and seven geo-tubes to treat wastewater from untreated drains. Advanced oxidation techniques were used to further purify the water and prevent untreated effluent from entering the Ganga.

The government also ensured the availability of sufficient sanitation facilities, including toilets, urinals, and dustbins, to accommodate the millions of pilgrims attending the events.

Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar Hospitalised Late Last Night, Stable Now

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar was admitted to the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) in Delhi early Sunday morning after experiencing chest pain and uneasiness, sources confirmed. The 73-year-old leader was rushed to the hospital around 2 AM for immediate medical attention.



Upon arrival, Vice President Dhankhar was placed under the care of the Critical Care Unit (CCU), with Dr. Rajiv Narang, the Head of the Department of Cardiology at AIIMS, overseeing his treatment. According to sources, his condition is stable, and he remains under observation by a dedicated medical team that is closely monitoring his health.

Union Health Minister J P Nadda also visited AIIMS to inquire about the Vice President's condition. The visit was part of the ongoing support and attention being provided to Dhankhar during this health concern.

Doctors at AIIMS have assured that the Vice President is receiving the best possible care, and his condition remains under regular assessment. Though specific details about the underlying cause of his discomfort have not been disclosed, sources have emphasized that his condition is stable at present.

As a prominent figure, Vice President Dhankhar's hospitalization has garnered attention, and officials are closely monitoring the situation. The incident has raised concerns, with many expressing their well wishes for his swift recovery.

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Assam Government Presents Poll-Oriented Deficit Budget to Benefit Key Voter Groups

Assam's 6.8 lakh tea garden workers, both casual and permanent. Neog emphasized the government's gratitude towards the tea garden community, noting the 200th anniversary of Assam's tea industry.

The state government also extended a tax holiday on green tea leaves under the Assam Taxation Act for two more years, to support the struggling tea industry. Furthermore, the Budget proposed expanding the 'Orunodoi' poverty alleviation program, which provides ₹1,250 monthly assistance to women, from 24 lakh beneficiaries to 37.2 lakh.

To ease financial burdens, the government announced an exemption on professional tax for individuals earning up to ₹15,000 per month, benefiting over 1.43 lakh taxpayers. The Finance Minister also introduced the 'Chief Minister's Jibon Prerana' program, which will offer ₹2,500 per month for a year to new graduates during their job search.

For the agricultural community, the Budget proposed support of ₹250 per quintal for paddy and maize, and ₹500 for mustard, over and above the Minimum Support Price (MSP). Dairy farmers would benefit from a ₹5 per litre subsidy, and a grant of ₹10 lakh would be provided to 500 better-performing farmer producer organizations under the Mukhya Mantri Utkarsh Yojana.

Additionally, the Budget introduced several other welfare initiatives, such as subsidized lentils, sugar, and salt, a special scheme for human-elephant conflict areas, and plans for a dedicated satellite, Assamsat, to aid critical socio-economic projects.

Yogi Adityanath Meets PM Modi

Ahead of Cabinet Expansion and BJP Reorganization in UP



- BJP likely to appoint new state and district presidents to strengthen party
- Reorganization seen as key move to maintain BJP's dominance in Uttar Pradesh
- Cabinet expansion expected to bring in new faces ahead of future elections

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath met Prime Minister Narendra Modi in New Delhi, sparking speculations about a potential expansion of the Uttar Pradesh Cabinet and a reorganization of the Bharatiya Janata Party's (BJP) state unit.

The meeting comes at a time when there are growing ex-

pectations that changes in the state leadership structure could soon be announced. Sources have indicated that the BJP is likely to appoint a new state president, as well as new district presidents, in an effort to strengthen the party's organization in Uttar Pradesh. These developments are seen as part of the party's broader strategy to maintain its dominance in the politically crucial state, which has a significant impact on national elections.

The likely cabinet expansion in Uttar Pradesh is expected to bring in new faces, aligning with the party's goal of addressing emerging political dynamics within the state. Adityanath's meeting with the Prime Minister signals that both the state and national leadership are working closely together to finalize these changes.

Uttar Pradesh is an essential battleground for the BJP, and the reorganization of the party's state leadership and the Cabinet expansion are being closely watched as the party prepares for future elections. The upcoming appointments will play a key role in consolidating the BJP's position in the state and ensuring its success in the next electoral cycle.

I.N.D.I.A. bloc MPs protest after girl from Bihar found dead in Varanasi

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

On March 10, 2025, Opposition Members of Parliament (MPs) from Bihar staged a protest outside Parliament demanding justice for a 17-year-old girl who was found dead in her hostel room in Varanasi. The MPs, including Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) members Misa Bharti and Manoj Jha, Communist Party of India (Marxist-Leninist) Liberation (CPI-ML) MPs Raja Ram Singh and Sudama Prasad, and Congress MP Manoj Singh, held placards and chanted slogans, seeking justice for the teenager.

The MPs raised serious concerns about the girl's death, alleging that she had been raped and murdered. Drawing

comparisons to the 2020 rape and murder case of a 19-year-old woman in Hathras, Uttar Pradesh, they demanded a thorough investigation into the matter. They also highlighted the fact that the incident occurred in Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Lok Sabha constituency, further intensifying the call for justice.

The girl, who hailed from Sasaram in Bihar, had been preparing for the NEET exams in Varanasi. She was found



hanging in her hostel room on February 1, 2025. Reports indicate that her family has raised concerns over the police's handling of the case, particularly alleging that the post-mortem was conducted and the last rites were performed without the family's consent. The incident has sparked outrage, with the family and Opposition leaders demanding a transparent investigation into the circumstances surrounding the teenager's death.

The protest outside Parliament marks the latest in a series of demands for accountability, with Bihar's Opposition lawmakers insisting that the authorities take immediate action and ensure justice for the deceased girl.

'Kursi ke jugaad mein': Tejashwi Yadav's jibe at Nitish Kumar over 'Holi' remark

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) leader Tejashwi Yadav on Monday criticized the Nitish Kumar-led Bihar government after a controversial statement by Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) MLA Haribhushan Thakur Bachaul, who suggested that Muslims should "stay indoors" during Holi to avoid taking offence if colours were smeared on them.

In his remarks, BJP MLA Bachaul had said, "I want to appeal to Muslims, there are 52 Fridays in a year, and this week's coincides with Holi. They should let Hindus celebrate the festival and not take offence if colours are smeared on them. If they have a problem, they should stay indoors. This is essential for maintaining communal harmony."

Tejashwi Yadav sharply condemned the statement, saying it was unacceptable. He took a dig at Bihar Chief Minister

Nitish Kumar, alleging that he was indifferent to the situation. Yadav remarked, "He doesn't care about anything. Sab koi jae bhaad mein, apan kursi ke jugaad mein" (Everyone can go to hell, he's busy securing his chair).

Yadav also criticized Kumar for not taking any action against the BJP MLA's statement. He asked, "Where is the Chief Minister? He is in an unconscious mode. When women raise their voices for their rights, he scolds them. Did he

have the courage to scold the MLA?" The RJD leader's comments underscored his frustration with the government's failure to act on communal tensions and allegations of inaction by the state leadership.

This incident has added fuel to the ongoing political tensions between the ruling coalition and opposition in Bihar, with RJD accusing Nitish Kumar of failing to address issues of communal harmony and protecting the rights of all communities in the state.



Not only Ramzan, govt would not have permitted it in any month

CM Omar Abdullah on Gulmarg fashion show



TPN Correspondent | Jammu

Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on March 10, 2025, addressed the controversy surrounding a fashion show held in Gulmarg during the month of Ramzan, stating that his government would not have permitted such an event in any month of the year. The fashion show, which has been criticized as "obscene," sparked protests in the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly, with lawmakers expressing concerns over the timing and nature of the event.

The Chief Minister clarified that the fashion show, which

took place on December 7, was a private four-day event organized by a private party in a private hotel. While the government had ordered an inquiry into the incident, Abdullah acknowledged that the event's timing, coinciding with Ramzan, had hurt the sentiments of many people in the region.

In a statement to the assembly, the Chief Minister explained that preliminary facts revealed the show was a private initiative, and while the government had no involvement, the concerns raised by the public were valid. He also reiterated that the govern-

ment would take appropriate action following the completion of the inquiry.

The controversy intensified after Kashmir's chief priest, Mirwaiz Umar Farooq, condemned the event on social media, calling it "outrageous" and an affront to the deeply religious culture of the valley. Farooq criticized the event for being held during Ramzan, a sacred month for Muslims, and expressed his outrage over the pictures and videos of the show that went viral.

In response, Abdullah acknowledged the public's anger and shock, noting that the images from the show displayed a disregard for local cultural sensitivities. He emphasized that those who organized the event failed to consider the public sentiment, the timing, and the appropriateness of the venue.

The Chief Minister assured the public that further actions would be taken based on the inquiry report, signaling his commitment to addressing the issue.

Stalin Slams Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan Over Remarks on PM SHRI Scheme



TPN Correspondent | Delhi

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M K Stalin on March 10, 2025, fiercely criticized Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan, accusing him of speaking with "arrogance" and behaving like a "king." Stalin's remarks came after Pradhan's comments regarding Tamil Nadu's rejection of the PM SHRI scheme, which aims to improve schools managed by central, state, or local bodies.

In a social media post, Stalin made it clear that the Tamil Nadu government would not implement the PM SHRI scheme, reiterating that no one could persuade the state government to change its stance. He further challenged Pradhan to answer

whether the funds meant for Tamil Nadu students, collected by the Centre, would be released.

Stalin also referred to Pradhan's letter that addressed Tamil Nadu's opposition to the New Education Policy, the 3-language policy, and the PM SHRI scheme. He defended the DMK government's position, emphasizing that they respected the views of the people, unlike the BJP, which he claimed was bound by directives from Nagpur.

The chief minister expressed frustration over what he described as Pradhan's insulting remarks about the Tamil Nadu government and MPs. Stalin questioned whether Prime Minister Narendra Modi accepted

Pradhan's behavior, accusing the minister of deceiving the people of Tamil Nadu by withholding funds.

Earlier in the day, Lok Sabha proceedings were briefly adjourned after DMK MPs protested Pradhan's accusations that the Tamil Nadu government was "dishonest" regarding the PM SHRI scheme. In response to the uproar, Pradhan withdrew his controversial remarks, and Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla directed that the objectionable words be expunged from the record.

The dispute reflects the ongoing tensions between the DMK-led Tamil Nadu government and the central government over key education policies and funding issues.

CM Rekha meets residents of slum clusters In Delhi, promises action against drug trade

TPN Correspondent
| New Delhi

On Sunday, Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta visited the slum clusters of Bhanwar Singh Camp and Nepali Camp in R K Puram as part of her ongoing engagement with the city's residents to gather suggestions for the upcoming state budget. The budget is expected to be presented in the Delhi Assembly between March 24 and 26. During her visit, Gupta interacted with the residents to understand their concerns and needs for the upcoming fiscal year.

Accompanied by Bansuri Swaraj and local MLA Anil Sharma, Gupta listened to the issues faced by the community, focusing on the pressing challenges that affect their daily lives. Following the discussions, Gupta took swift action to address some of the major problems highlighted by the residents.

One of the primary concerns was the ongoing drug trade in the area. Gupta directed the local police to take strict measures to combat the illicit activity and ensure the safety and security of the residents. She also emphasized the need to meet with the Delhi Police Commissioner to discuss fur-



- Visits Bhanwar Singh Camp, Nepali Camp for budget consultations
- Addresses concerns on drug trade, directs strict police action
- Orders civic authorities to resolve water supply, drainage, and road issues
- Budget expected between March 24-26, focusing on real community needs

strategies and actions to curb this issue.

Additionally, Gupta instructed the local civic department to address issues like the non-availability of water, improper drainage systems, and the need for road repairs in the area. She called for immediate attention to these concerns, ensuring that basic services are provided to improve the quality of life for the residents

of these slum clusters.

The visit reflects Gupta's commitment to engaging with the citizens of Delhi and taking tangible steps to address the issues that matter most to them. By prioritizing local concerns and directly engaging with the community, the Chief Minister is working to ensure that the upcoming budget addresses the real needs of Delhi's residents.

Delhi Court Rejects Engineer Rashid's Plea for Custody Parole



TPN Correspondent | Delhi

A Delhi court on Monday, March 10, 2025, dismissed the plea of jailed Jammu and Kashmir MP Engineer Rashid, who sought custody parole to attend the upcoming Parliament session. The plea was rejected by Additional Sessions Judge Chander Jit Singh, and the order was posted alongside Rashid's regular bail plea, which is scheduled for hearing on March 19.

Rashid, who has been in Tihar Jail since 2019 after his arrest by the National Investigation Agency (NIA) under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention)

Act (UAPA) in a terror funding case, filed the application on February 27. His advocate, Vikhyat Oberoi, argued that as a parliamentarian, Rashid had a public duty to attend the Parliament session, which begins on March 10 and ends on April 4.

Sheikh Abdul Rashid, popularly known as Engineer Rashid, had defeated Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections from Baramulla. However, Rashid has been in custody since October 2019, following his involvement in a 2017 terror funding case, which also saw the arrest of Kashmi-

ri businessman Zahoor Watali.

Rashid's regular bail plea remains pending before the court, and on March 3, the court had asked the NIA to respond to the petition. The court reserved its verdict on the matter after hearing both sides.

Rashid's case was transferred to a designated court to try lawmakers, following a December 2024 order from the Delhi High Court, which also directed the sessions judge to expedite the bail decision. Rashid's name came up during the NIA investigation into Watali's alleged funding of terrorist groups in the Kashmir Valley.

The NIA has filed charges against several individuals, including separatist leader Yasin Malik, Lashkar-e-Taiba founder Hafiz Saeed, and Hizbul Mujahideen chief Syed Salahuddin, in connection with the case. Malik was sentenced to life imprisonment in 2022 after pleading guilty to charges.

Delhi Weather Update: Temperature Rises, Air Quality Improves



TPN Correspondent | Delhi

Delhi's minimum temperature rose to 15.2°C on Monday, one degree above the normal, while the city's air quality improved to the "moderate" category. The Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) forecasted that temperatures would continue to rise through Wednesday, with light scattered rain expected on Holi, Friday.

The IMD predicts that the maximum temperature will hover between 33°C and 34°C on Tuesday and Wednesday,

before slightly dipping on Friday. On Sunday, the temperature reached 32.8°C, marking the highest temperature of the year so far, while the minimum temperature on Sunday was 13.5°C. The maximum temperature on Saturday was 31.1°C.

An IMD official attributed the rise in temperatures to clear skies and limited moisture, causing both daytime and nighttime temperatures to increase. "The minimum temperature is expected to range between 16°C and 18°C on Wednesday," the official said.

Private forecaster Skymet Weather's vice president, Mahesh Palawat, stated that some scattered rain is expected on Thursday night and Fri-

day morning. He added that the cloud cover could bring down the mercury slightly.

In terms of air quality, Delhi saw improvement on Monday, with the air quality index (AQI) recorded at 193 (moderate) at 8 a.m. The AQI had worsened to 209 (poor) on Sunday at 4 p.m., but improved further to 158 (moderate) the day before. The Early Warning System for Delhi indicated that the AQI would remain in the "poor" zone until Tuesday, with the situation improving to "moderate" by Wednesday as wind speeds increase.

Overall, while temperatures are rising, air quality in Delhi is expected to improve, offering some relief to residents ahead of the Holi celebrations.

Weather may dampen Holi celebrations in Delhi as rain predicted on March 14



TPN Correspondent
| New Delhi

This year's Holi celebrations may experience an unpredictable twist as weather patterns shift across the country. The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has predicted light rainfall in Delhi and other regions on March 14, coinciding with the festival of colors.

After several days of dry weather, significant changes are expected as a western disturbance moves across the Himalayas starting Sunday. This disturbance, typically active during winter, has continued to influence the weather into March, bringing heavy snowfall in the mountains and widespread rainfall in the plains. The latest system, arriving at the end of February and early March, will trigger

fresh snowfall in the upper Himalayan regions.

The effects of this disturbance will not be confined to mountainous areas. Between March 9 and 14, Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, and Uttarakhand are expected to experience snowfall in various areas. Rainfall is also forecasted in Punjab from March 12 to 14, while Delhi and Haryana could see showers on March 13 and 14. Western Uttar Pradesh is likely to experience rainfall on March 14, adding to the unpredictable weather during Holi.

In Delhi, the maximum temperature is expected to range between 31 and 33 degrees Celsius on Monday. The weather office has forecast misty conditions, with temperatures expected to settle at 33°C during the day and 15°C at night,

1.2°C above the seasonal average. Delhiites woke up to partly cloudy skies, with the minimum temperature recorded at 15.2°C.

Strong winds, with speeds up to 30 km per hour, are also expected in Delhi and neighboring regions on March 11 and 12, sweeping across the Indo-Gangetic plains. Meanwhile, heatwave conditions are predicted in parts of Gujarat, including Saurashtra and Kutch, ahead of Holi.

The IMD has issued a pre-Holi yellow alert for 13 districts in Gujarat, with intense heat expected to persist for the next 48 hours. Rising temperatures are also expected to affect Goa and the Konkan region, contributing to increased heat stress in these areas.

Delhi University Faces Backlash Over Rising Student Fees for 2025-26

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

Delhi University (DU) is projected to generate over ₹246 crore in revenue from student fees for the fiscal year 2025-26, a significant increase that raises concerns about further fee hikes. The university's decision to rely heavily on student fees as a primary revenue source, amidst rising operational costs, has sparked debates about the affordability of education, particularly in a city already known for its high cost of living.

Students have expressed growing frustration, citing the financial strain that continuous fee hikes impose on them. With the cost of living in Delhi already burdensome, many worry that the increased fees could make education less accessible, especially for those from lower-income back-

grounds. One student voiced their concern, stating, "I took admission in DU because of its affordable fees, but now it's getting costly."

The projected revenue surpasses earlier estimates, indicating that the fee hikes may be steeper than expected. The university justifies these hikes as necessary to maintain and improve its facilities. However, students and faculty argue that these increases are pushing education closer to being a luxury rather than a right, particularly for those who rely on public-funded institutions.



Abha Dev Habib, a faculty member at DU, criticized the university's trend of continuous fee hikes, highlighting the negative impact on students from economically disadvantaged backgrounds. "The continuous rise in fees is making education more of a luxury than a right," Habib stated, emphasizing that this shift is a consequence of the National Education Policy (NEP) implementation. She further questioned if DU, a public institution, should be operating like a private enterprise, a sentiment shared by many concerned about the accessibility of education.

As DU moves forward with these projected fee increases, both students and faculty are urging the university to reconsider its approach to ensure that education remains affordable for all.

Punjab MP Vikramjit Sahney demands anti-superstition law to curb conversions



- Sahney highlights deceptive religious practices exploiting vulnerable individuals
- Calls for a law similar to Maharashtra's anti-black magic legislation
- Seeks criminalization of fraudulent religious claims at the national level

Correspondent | Punjab

Rajya Sabha MP from Punjab, Vikramjit Singh Sahney, has urged the Indian government to introduce national legislation against superstitions and fraudulent practices that lead to religious conversions. Speaking during the Zero Hour in the Rajya Sabha, Sahney expressed concern over millions of people falling victim to so-called miraculous practices used to promote conversions.

Sahney highlighted that these de-

ceptive practices often exploit vulnerable individuals, leading them to change their religion under false pretenses. He pointed out that similar legislation had already been passed by the Maharashtra government, making black magic and superstitions punishable offenses. This law aims to curb exploitative practices and protect individuals from being misled by fraudulent religious claims.

"The Maharashtra Government has already taken a significant step by passing laws that make black magic and superstitions punishable,"

Sahney said. "It's high time that Parliament introduces a similar law to criminalize these practices on a national level, ensuring that no one is coerced or misled into religious conversion under the guise of miracles."

Sahney's call for a national anti-superstition law aims to safeguard the rights of individuals from manipulative practices that target their faith. He emphasized the need for strong legal action to prevent exploitation and uphold the sanctity of personal belief systems. The MP's remarks bring attention to the ongoing issue of fraudulent religious conversions, which he believes can be curbed through stringent national legislation.

By advocating for a nationwide ban, Sahney joins a growing movement calling for greater legal protections against superstition-based exploitation, seeking to ensure a safer and more transparent environment for all citizens.

Gujarat Slums Get 'Cool Roofs' To Combat Extreme Heat



TPN Correspondent | Ahmedabad

In an effort to combat rising temperatures and improve living conditions, hundreds of homes in the informal settlements of Gujarat have received a reflective white coating on their roofs over the past two months. This initiative, which involves 400 households in Ahmedabad, is part of a global scientific trial aimed at understanding the impact of indoor heat on health and economic outcomes in developing countries, and exploring how "cool roofs" can help mitigate these effects.

Aditi Bunker, an epidemiologist from the University of Heidelberg in Switzerland, leads the project, which is supported by the Wellcome Trust. She explained that traditional homes are designed to offer shelter, but in precarious housing conditions, they can inadvertently increase exposure to extreme heat. As climate change causes more intense summers in India, Ahmedabad has faced temperatures exceeding 46°C (115°F) in recent years.

In the Vanzara Vas slum in Ahmedabad's Narol area, where most homes are small, airless one-room dwellings, residents participating in the project are

already noticing positive changes. Nehal Vijaybhai Bhil, one of the participants, shared that after having his roof painted, his refrigerator no longer heats up, his house feels cooler, and his electricity bill has decreased.

The reflective white coating used in the trial contains pigments like titanium dioxide, which reflect more of the sun's radiation back into the atmosphere, reducing the amount of heat absorbed by the roofs. In many low-income homes, roofs often lack insulation, making them hotspots for heat transfer.

Before the cool roof experiment, Arti Chunara, another participant, used plastic sheets and grass to cover her roof. On scorching days, her family would spend much of their time outside to avoid the unbearable heat inside their home.

The trial will continue for one year, during which researchers will gather data on health and indoor environment conditions in homes with cool roofs and those without. Similar studies are underway in Burkina Faso, Mexico, and Niue, with promising results already showing that cool roofs can reduce indoor temperatures and improve residents' well-being.

ED Raids Premises Linked to Bhupesh Baghel's Son in Chhattisgarh Liquor Scam Probe

TPN Correspondent | Chhattisgarh

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Monday conducted raids at the premises linked to Chhattisgarh Congress leader Bhupesh Baghel's son, Chaitanya Baghel, as part of its investigation into an alleged liquor scam connected to a money laundering case in the state.

Sources informed PTI that the raids were carried out under the provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA). In addition to Chaitanya Baghel's residence in Bhillai, several other locations linked to individuals involved in the alleged scam were also searched.

Reacting to the raids, Bhupesh Baghel took to social media, dis-

missing the case as false. He stated, "When the false case that had been ongoing for seven years was dismissed by the court, today, ED guests entered the residence of former Chief Minister and Congress General Secretary Bhupesh Baghel in Bhillai this morning. If anyone is attempting to stop Congress in Punjab through this conspiracy, it is a misunderstanding," Baghel posted on X (formerly Twitter).

The ED has previously claimed that



the Chhattisgarh liquor "scam" led to a massive loss for the state exchequer, with over ₹2,100 crore of proceeds of crime being funneled into the pockets of those involved in a liquor syndicate. The investigation has already seen the arrest of several individuals, including state government bureaucrats and businessmen, with authorities linking them to the illegal activities.

The ongoing probe into the liquor scam is one of several high-profile investigations the Enforcement Directorate is conducting under the PMLA in a bid to clamp down on money laundering and corruption in the state. The ED's actions have sparked political controversy, with accusations of political motivations behind the raids.

Punjab Police Arrest International Drug Trafficker Wanted by FBI



TPN Correspondent | Punjab

In a significant breakthrough, the Punjab Police have arrested Shehnaz Singh, also known as Shawn Bhinder, a major international drug trafficker who was on the FBI's most-wanted list. Singh, a key figure in a global narcotics syndicate, is accused of smuggling large quantities of cocaine from Colombia into the United States and Canada.

The arrest was made by the Tarn

Taran Police, with Punjab Director General of Police (DGP) Gaurav Yadav confirming the news on social media. Yadav described Singh as a "Big Fish" and praised the Tarn Taran Police for their role in capturing this notorious transnational drug lord. Singh had been on the run after his associates were apprehended in the U.S. in late February, leading to significant drug seizures.

According to the U.S. Department of Justice, Singh and his co-conspirators had been operating a drug trafficking operation since October 2023. They were involved in importing cocaine from Colombia, which was then distributed in major U.S. cities and Canada. The operation also included a violent internal dispute, with Singh and his associates stealing cocaine from other mem-

bers of the syndicate and engaging in armed confrontations.

Following a major crackdown by U.S. authorities in February, which resulted in the seizure of 391 kg of methamphetamine, 109 kg of cocaine, and firearms, Singh fled to India. He was eventually tracked down by the Punjab Police and arrested.

Singh's arrest is part of the Punjab government's ongoing "Yudh Nashian Virudh" (War Against Drugs) campaign, which was launched on February 25. The state government, under Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann, is intensifying efforts to combat the drug crisis in Punjab, with a goal of making the state drug-free within three months.

Manipur Protest Triggers Indefinite Shutdown After Protestor's Death

TPN Correspondent | Manipur

A protestor's death on Saturday has led to an indefinite total shutdown in Kuki-dominated areas of Manipur, severely disrupting life in Churachandpur and Kangpokpi districts. The protests erupted in response to a government directive allowing unrestricted movement along the state's highways, which many in the Kuki community oppose.

Lalgouthang Singsit, a 30-year-old

protestor, was killed by gunfire during demonstrations in Kangpokpi district. Security forces had attempted to disperse protestors who were blocking a state transport bus, leading to the fatal confrontation.

The protests were sparked by Union Home Minister Amit Shah's March 1 order that allowed free travel on highways in Manipur starting March 8. The decision is part of the government's efforts to restore normalcy in a state that has been grappling with

ethnic tensions for nearly two years. Manipur is divided into two zones: the Kuki-dominated hills and the Meitei-dominated valley, with each community unable to enter the other's territory due to ongoing conflict.



In the wake of Singsit's death, the Kuki-Zo Council, supported by several other Kuki organizations, announced an indefinite shutdown in the Kuki-dominated areas, beginning at midnight. Protestors blocked key highways, including the Imphal-Dimapur road and the Tiddim Road, which connects Imphal to Mizoram. They used burnt tires and wooden logs to obstruct traffic, further escalating the situation.

The shutdown has crippled normal life in the affected districts, with markets, schools, and businesses closed. Security forces have been deployed to maintain order, but tensions remain high as both sides continue to demand greater control and influence over the state's governance.

The situation in Manipur remains tense, with authorities seeking to balance the demands of both the Kuki and Meitei communities, while ensuring public safety.



Regulating Speech

Balancing Accountability and Free Expression

The Point Desk

The debate over free speech and state intervention has intensified in India, particularly in the digital space. The recent controversy involving Ranveer Allahbadia and Samay Raina highlights the complex relationship between public outrage, legal interpretation, and regulatory oversight. While offensive remarks deserve criticism, the question remains—should they be treated as crimes?

The State's Response: Crime or Control?

Governments across the world often respond to legal ambiguities with overreach rather than measured regulation. Instead of clarifying existing laws, they resort to preemptive action, ensuring that potential disorder is controlled before it manifests. This tendency stems from a fundamental fear—not of crime itself, but of losing authority over unpredictable situations.

This pattern is evident in how authorities reacted to the Allahbadia-Raina episode. Multiple FIRs were lodged in different states under laws related to obscenity, prompting Allahbadia to seek legal relief. The Supreme Court granted him interim protection but imposed strict conditions, including the surrender of his passport. While the court's intervention prevented excessive legal harassment, its remarks during the hearing reflected a moralistic stance rather than a neutral legal evaluation.

Judiciary's Role: Upholding Law or Enforcing Morality?

The Supreme Court's sharp criticism of Allahbadia's statements extended beyond legal scrutiny, veering into subjective condemnation. Terms like "perverted mind" and "societal shame" framed the issue in moral



rather than constitutional terms. This raises concerns about the judiciary's role—should it adjudicate based on clear legal principles or enforce societal norms through personal interpretations? Indian free speech jurisprudence has long emphasized that restrictions must align with Article 19(2) of the Constitution, which permits limitations only on specific grounds like public order, defamation, and incitement to violence. If speech does not clearly violate these principles, treating it as a criminal offense risks creating a precedent where subjective morality dictates legal outcomes.

Regulating Digital Content: The Need for a Balanced Approach

The controversy has reignited discussions on digital content regulations, with lawmakers calling for stricter controls on online speech. However, heavy-handed regulation risks stifling creativity, innovation, and open discourse. Instead, a structured yet flexible approach can ensure accountability without suppressing expression.

1. Platform Responsibility Without Excessive Criminalization

Social media platforms should en-

force content policies aligned with Indian laws but retain some intermediary protections if they adhere to best practices. A system of graded accountability—where platforms are incentivized to self-regulate rather than penalized excessively—can be more effective.

2. Transparent and Reviewable Content Moderation

Platforms should establish clear, predictable takedown policies with user appeal mechanisms. Instead of arbitrary removals, an independent review process can prevent unfair censorship.

3. A Non-Intrusive Regulatory Body

A neutral industry-led body, similar to Ofcom in the UK, can oversee digital content moderation without direct government intervention. Its role should focus on guidance, compliance monitoring, and dispute resolution rather than enforcement. Regulating digital speech requires a nuanced approach—one that ensures accountability without enabling state overreach. A framework based on transparency, platform responsibility, and measured intervention will help strike the right balance between free expression and social accountability.

Empowering Women Legislatively Is A Must

March 8th, International Women's Day, is a strong reminder of the need to support women's rights and empowerment in our society. Under the leadership of Mr. Revanth Reddy, the Telangana Government has launched several schemes to uplift women. Adding to these efforts, the recent passage of the Women's Reservation Bill 2023, is a significant step forward for gender equality in India.

The bill, approved by both the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha, reserves one-third of the seats in the Lok Sabha, State Legislative Assemblies, and the Delhi Assembly for women. It also includes seats reserved for Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs). This important legislation aims to increase women's representation in politics, giving them a bigger role in shaping the nation's future. The Women's Reservation Bill 2023, also known as the Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam, has been passed by both the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha, marking a historic step towards gender equality in India. The bill, which is the 128th Constitutional Amendment, reserves one-third of the seats in the Lok Sabha, State Legislative Assemblies, and the Delhi Assembly for women. It also applies to seats reserved for Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs), promising a significant boost to women's representation in Indian politics.

Currently, women make up only 15.2% of the Lok Sabha and 13% of the Rajya Sabha. While this is an improvement from the 5% representation in the first Lok Sabha, it is still lower than many other countries. According to the United Nations, Rwanda (61%), Cuba (53%), and Nicaragua (52%) lead in women's representation.



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Even Bangladesh (21%) and Pakistan (20%) have better female representation in their parliaments compared to India.

The new bill introduces key changes by inserting Article 330A into the Constitution, reserving one-third of Lok Sabha seats for women, including those reserved for SCs and STs. It also adds Article 332A to ensure similar reservations in state legislative assemblies and amends Article 239AA to extend these provisions to the Delhi Assembly. The reservation will be in effect for 15 years, with the option to extend it based on a law made by Parliament. Reserved seats will rotate after each delimitation exercise.

However, there are some challenges. The reservation will only start after a fresh delimitation based on the next census, leaving uncertainty about when women will begin to benefit. Moreover, the bill does not provide reservations in the Rajya Sabha and State Legislative Councils, where women's representation is still low.

For the bill to make a real impact, the government must ensure that the census and delimitation process is completed on time. Extending reservations to the Rajya Sabha and Legislative Councils could also help achieve balanced representation across all legislative bodies.

On International Women's Day, this bill brings hope for a brighter future where women have a stronger voice in governance. It is not just about increasing numbers but enhancing the quality of democracy by bringing diverse voices to the forefront. As a society, everyone must contribute to empowering women not only through laws but also by creating an environment where women can thrive and lead.



India's Champions Trophy Triumph Exposes Pakistan's Decline

The Point Desk

As India lifted their third ICC Champions Trophy, a glaring absence loomed over the celebration—Pakistan, the official hosts, were nowhere to be seen. Beyond their logo on television screens, there was no Pakistani representation at the trophy ceremony. The stage was dominated by Indian officials, with ICC President Jay Shah leading the proceedings. The absence of any Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) official, including Chairman Mohsin Naqvi, was both baffling and telling. Despite being the official hosts, Pakistan failed to make their presence felt, either on the field or off it.

A Host in Name Only

Pakistan's hosting rights for the tournament were already a compromised affair, with all matches played in the UAE instead of their home soil. Yet, the total absence of PCB representatives at the final added to the embarrassment. An ICC spokesperson clarified that no PCB official was present in Dubai for the match. Naqvi, who also serves as Pakistan's Interior Minister, cited pressing commitments at home, but surely, a high-profile event like this warranted at least some representation? Hosting an ICC event after nearly three decades should have been a moment of pride, but Pakistan failed to seize the moment, further accentuating the widening gap between them and India.

The Diverging Cricketing Fortunes of India and Pakistan

India's journey to the title was one of absolute dominance—five wins in five matches, a flawless campaign that reflected their standing as the best limited-overs side in world cricket. In contrast, Pakistan's campaign was dismal, crashing out without a single victory. Once considered fierce competitors, the Pakistani team now struggles to keep pace with India, both in terms of skill and consistency.

The gulf between the two teams is not just about this tournament; it reflects the larger trajectories of the two nations. While India has evolved into a global powerhouse—both in cricket and beyond—Pakistan continues to grapple with internal turmoil, financial instability, and administrative chaos. The PCB reportedly spent PKR 12.8 billion on stadium renovations, yet the tournament saw underwhelming attendance figures, highlighting deeper structural issues within Pakistan's cricketing ecosystem.

India's Supreme Command of the Rivalry

Historically, Pakistan held the upper hand in ODI encounters, particularly in the '80s and '90s. However, the balance has tilted significantly in India's favor in recent years. The last bilateral ODI series between the two teams was in 2012-13, with India winning 2-1. Since 2010, India has claimed victory in 13 of the 17 ODIs against Pakistan, including a dominant six-wicket win in this very tournament. Legendary Indian cricketer Sunil Gavaskar even stated that Pakistan would struggle against India's second-string team—an assertion that no longer seems far-fetched.

Shahid Afridi, a former Pakistan all-rounder, summed it up aptly: "India has more match-winners. A match-winner is someone who knows how to win a game single-handedly. Right now, we don't have such players." This candid admission speaks volumes about Pakistan's cricketing struggles.

India's Imperious Run in ICC Tournaments

India's performance in the last three ICC white-ball tournaments has been nothing short of extraordinary—23 wins in 24 completed matches, with the sole defeat coming in the 2023 ODI World Cup final. Their Champions Trophy campaign was a textbook demonstration of control, with even their closest contest—the final—ending with an over to spare.

Gautam Gambhir, in his first major tournament as India's head coach, can take a sigh of relief, as this win silences critics questioning India's ability to finish ICC events on a high. Tactically, India was spot-on, including the bold decision to field five spinners, which paid rich dividends. Ravindra Jadeja's winning runs were a poetic conclusion, given his immense contributions over the years.

Pakistan's Search for Direction

As India basks in the glory of another ICC triumph, Pakistan is once again in a state of flux. In the wake of their Champions Trophy disaster, the PCB made sweeping changes, removing Babar Azam and Mohammad Rizwan from the T20I squad. A new captain has been appointed, but whether these changes will bring stability remains uncertain.

For now, the contrast between India and Pakistan in cricket is stark. Once a fierce rivalry, the contest has turned lopsided, with India miles ahead. The arch-rivalry remains a major attraction in global cricket, but its competitive edge is diminishing. Until Pakistan finds a way to address its structural deficiencies, the chasm between the two sides will only widen.

India, much like the dominant Australian teams of the past, has set a benchmark that others, including Pakistan, can only aspire to reach.

Visit to Mauritius, a key partner in Indian Ocean, will open new chapter: Modi

- **Modi to Visit Mauritius to Strengthen Ties and Celebrate National Day**
- **Visit highlights India's strategic engagement in the Indian Ocean region**
- **PM Modi to inaugurate India-funded civil service college and health centre**

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is set to embark on a two-day state visit to Mauritius on March 11, 2025, to attend the island nation's 57th National Day celebrations as the chief guest. During his visit, India and Mauritius are expected to sign several agreements aimed at enhancing economic, security, and cultural cooperation between the two countries.

PM Modi's visit comes at a time of deepening bilateral ties, with India and Mauritius having a strong partnership, especially in the areas of maritime security, trade, and development. The visit will be marked by significant events, including the participation of an Indian armed forces contingent, the Indian Navy warship, and the Akash Ganga skydiving team in the National Day celebrations.

Mauritian Prime Minister Navinchandra Ramgoolam welcomed PM Modi's visit, highlighting it as a testament to the close relations between the two nations. He expressed gratitude for Modi's presence despite his packed international schedule.

Key agreements to be signed include an MoU on maritime cooperation, enhancing white shipping information exchange to improve maritime security. Additionally, both nations will sign agreements in areas such as capac-



ity building, financial crime prevention, and promoting small and medium enterprises. India's Enforcement Directorate and Mauritius' Financial Crime Commission will also collaborate on combating money laundering.

During his visit, PM Modi and PM Ramgoolam will inaugurate a civil service college and a health centre built with Indian grants. Modi is also expected to meet with political leaders, dignitaries, and members of the Indian-origin community in Mauritius.

Mauritius, home to a large Indian-origin pop-

ulation, shares strong historical and cultural ties with India. The trade between the two countries has grown significantly, with India being one of Mauritius' largest trading partners. Both nations continue to work closely on issues of maritime security, with India aiding in the development of strategic infrastructure on Agalega Island.

PM Modi's visit to Mauritius underscores India's commitment to strengthening ties in the Indian Ocean region, balancing relations with Mauritius and its economic cooperation with China.



Maharashtra budget: 3rd airport in Mumbai, night landing in Shirdi

TPN Correspondent | Maharashtra

Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister and Finance Minister Ajit Pawar presented the state budget for the financial year 2025-26 in the state assembly on Monday, unveiling several ambitious proposals aimed at boosting the state's infrastructure and economic growth.

A significant proposal in the budget is the plan for a third airport in Mumbai, which is expected to be operational by 2030. This new airport will be located near Vadhvan Port, strategically positioned with the Mumbai-Ahmedabad bullet train station nearby. Additionally, domestic flights are set to commence at Navi Mumbai International Airport next month, with 85% of the construction already completed and successful trial runs carried out.

Pawar also announced the introduction of a night landing facility at Shirdi Airport, a major pilgrimage destination, which will enhance connectivity for travelers visiting the region.

In terms of infrastructure development, Maharashtra plans to invest in expanding its road network, with the construction of 1,500 kilometers of new roads and the upgrading of 7,000 kilometers of existing roads to cemented roads. These initiatives are aimed at improving transportation across the state and boosting economic activity.

The state's economy is projected to see substantial growth, with Mumbai's economy expected to grow from \$140 billion to \$300 billion. The Mumbai Metropolitan Region (MMR) is being developed as a major growth hub, and Pawar outlined the vision for MMR to have a USD 1.5 trillion economy by 2047.

Additionally, the state aims to generate 50 lakh new employment opportunities over the next five years. This will be supported by Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) worth ₹15.72 lakh crore, signed with 56 companies at the World Economic Forum in Davos.

Pawar also announced the upcoming metro service linking Mumbai's Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport with Navi Mumbai International Airport, enhancing connectivity between these key transport hubs. These budget proposals reflect Maharashtra's focus on long-term economic growth, infrastructure development, and improved connectivity.

Grape expectations: Italy sniffs wine opportunity in India

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

Italy is strategically focusing on the growing Indian market for its premium wines, with Vinitaly, the country's flagship wine roadshow, making its debut in New Delhi over the weekend. The event brought together a variety of exhibitors from Italy's top wine-producing regions, including Apulia, Tuscany, Veneto, Campania, and Abruzzo, aiming to establish business opportunities and forge collaborations with local distributors and wine enthusiasts.

The Italian wine industry sees immense potential in India, a market



that is rapidly growing in terms of demand for luxury and niche products. Despite the ongoing negotiations for an India-European Union (EU) Free Trade Agreement (FTA), which have seen wine tariffs emerge as a key sticking point, Italy remains committed to expanding its footprint in the Indian wine market. Vinitaly served as a

platform for showcasing Italy's renowned wines, which range from prestigious reds to unique white varieties, appealing to India's growing segment of affluent consumers and connoisseurs.

Italy's wine industry is betting big on India as a new hub for premium wines, with the event aimed

at educating the Indian market on the distinct characteristics of Italian wines. Participants were given an opportunity to explore the diversity of Italian wines through tastings and discussions, with a special focus on the craftsmanship behind Italy's wine-making heritage. The event also highlighted the significance of the FTA discussions, where wine tariffs remain a crucial issue for both India and the EU. The Italian government hopes to reduce these tariffs, making Italian wines more accessible and appealing to Indian consumers, ultimately boosting exports and strengthening bilateral trade relations.

Mumbai To Have \$1.5 Trillion Economy By 2047: Ajit Pawar



TPN Correspondent | Mumbai

In the state budget for 2025-26, Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar outlined ambitious plans aimed at significantly boosting the state's economy. Aimed at increasing Mumbai's economic value from USD 140 billion to USD 1.5 trillion by 2047, the state government has proposed the development of at least seven international-standard business centres across the city.

Pawar announced that business hubs will be established in strategic locations including Bandra-Kurla Complex (BKC), Kurla-Worli, Wadala, Goregaon, Navi Mumbai, Kharghar, and Virar-Bhoisar. These centres are set to transform the Mumbai Metropolitan Region into a thriving economic hub.

Another major announcement was the development of Vadhavan port, in which the state government holds a 26% share. This massive project, valued at Rs 76,220 crore, will have an annual cargo handling capacity of 300 million metric tonnes—three times the capacity of Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust (JNPT). Expected to start cargo operations by 2030, Vadhavan

port will be connected to the Mumbai-Nagpur Samruddhi Expressway and a third Mumbai airport, in addition to the Mumbai-Ahmedabad bullet train station.

Maharashtra is also working on enhancing its transportation network. Pawar revealed that a metro project connecting Mumbai's Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport to the Navi Mumbai International Airport is set to begin soon. Additionally, the newly developed Navi Mumbai airport, with 85% of its construction complete, will be ready to handle domestic flights by April and is expected to cater to 90 million passengers annually.

The state has also earmarked significant resources for expanding its metro network, with 64.4 km of metro lines planned for inauguration in Mumbai and Pune next year. Over the next five years, a total of 237.5 km of metro lines will be operational, further boosting connectivity.

The upgrades to Nagpur's Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar International Airport and the development of new airports in Amravati and Gadchiroli will further stimulate regional growth, particularly in Vidarbha.

India Imposes Anti-Dumping Duty on Chemical Imports from China and Japan



TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

India has imposed an anti-dumping duty of up to \$986 per tonne for five years on "Trichloroisocyanuric acid," a chemical used for water treatment, imported from China and Japan. The decision, announced through a Finance Ministry notification, aims to protect the domestic industry from the negative impact of cheap imports flooding the market.

The move follows recommendations from the Directorate General of Trade Remedies (DGTR), an investigative arm of the Commerce Ministry, which conducted a probe into the alleged dumping of the chemical by both countries. The DGTR concluded that the domestic industry had suffered material injury due to these below-cost imports, leading to the imposition of the duty.

According to the notification, the anti-dumping duty will be enforced for a period of five years, unless revoked or amended earlier. The two countries—China and Japan—are among India's

key trading partners, and the decision is expected to have a significant impact on trade relations.

The DGTR is responsible for investigating claims of dumping, while the Finance Ministry ultimately decides whether to impose the recommended duties. In this case, the duty was imposed within three months of the DGTR's recommendations.

Anti-dumping duties are typically levied when a country believes its domestic industries are being harmed by imports that are being sold at unfairly low prices. This practice, known as dumping, is seen as a threat to local businesses that cannot compete with cheaper goods, potentially leading to financial losses or even closures. India's decision aligns with global trade practices under the World Trade Organization (WTO) framework, which allows countries to impose such duties to ensure fair competition and provide a level playing field for domestic industries. Importantly, anti-dumping measures are not intended to restrict trade or arbitrarily increase costs but to counteract unfair trade practices.

"Don't Think Zelensky Is Grateful": Trump Jibe Follows Elon Musk's Warning

- Claims Biden administration made it too easy for Ukraine to receive funding
- Asserts Russia would not have invaded Ukraine if he were president
- Defends his tough stance on Russia and sanctions during his presidency

TPN Correspondent | Washington

Former US President Donald Trump has once again criticized Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky, accusing him of lacking gratitude for the billions of dollars in aid the United States provided to Ukraine under the Biden administration. In a recent interview with Fox News, Trump compared the US's \$350 billion aid to Ukraine to "taking candy from a baby," suggesting that it was too easy for Zelensky to accept such a substantial amount of support.

The remarks came after a series of tensions between the US and Ukraine, particularly following a contentious meeting in the Oval Office on February 28, where President Biden halted military funding to Ukraine. Zelensky later issued an apology for



the diplomatic fallout. Speaking to Maria Bartiromo on Sunday Morning Futures, Trump reiterated his frustration, stating that Zelensky's behavior was not reflective of the significant aid received by Ukraine since Russia's invasion in 2022.

Trump acknowledged Zelensky's intelligence and toughness but maintained that the Ukrainian leader's attitude towards US aid was one of entitlement. "He took money out of this country under Biden like taking candy from a baby. It was so easy with that same attitude," Trump re-

marked.

Trump also defended his own record on Russia, asserting that no one had been tougher on Moscow than him, citing his sanctions on Russia and the halt of the Nord Stream 2 gas pipeline during his presidency. He claimed that if he had been president in 2022, Russia would not have invaded Ukraine, and other global conflicts, such as Hamas' attack on Israel in October 2023, would not have occurred.

In response to questions about the US-Ukraine mineral deal, Trump said he believed it would still proceed. His interview follows a warning from Elon Musk, who suggested that Ukraine's defense system could collapse if he were to shut off his Starlink satellite services, which have been crucial for military communications.



New Zealand Prime Minister Christopher Luxon to visit India

TPN Correspondent | Auckland

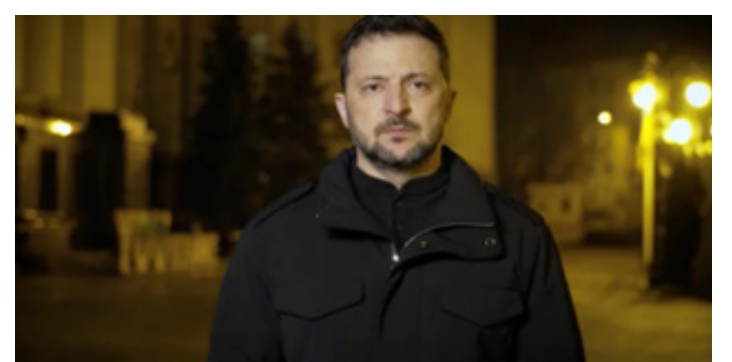
Tech billionaire Elon Musk has once again sparked global debate over the ongoing war in Ukraine with a series of provocative tweets. Musk, the CEO of SpaceX, claimed that his Starlink system plays a critical role in supporting Ukraine's military operations, suggesting that the entire front line of Ukrainian forces could collapse if he chose to deactivate the service. His comments have raised concerns and reignited discussions about the role of private companies in conflicts.

In one tweet, Musk boldly stated, "I literally challenged Putin to one-on-one physical combat over Ukraine, and my Starlink system is the backbone of the Ukrainian army." He further claimed that the Ukrainian military's communications and operations would be severely disrupted without Starlink, a satellite internet system developed by SpaceX, which has been crucial in maintaining connectivity in Ukraine amid Russian attacks on the country's infrastructure.

Musk's comments have been met with mixed reactions, with some criticizing him for overly inflating the importance of Starlink in Ukraine's military strategy. Others have expressed concern about the potential for Musk's actions to influence the outcome of the war. Musk, who has previously made headlines for his controversial views on the conflict, also suggested that imposing sanctions on Ukrainian oligarchs could help bring an end to the war. His remarks have added fuel to the ongoing debate over how private businesses and individuals should engage with international conflicts.

The billionaire's influence, particularly through his company SpaceX, has made him a central figure in discussions about the role of private companies in modern warfare. While Starlink has undoubtedly provided critical communication infrastructure for Ukraine, Musk's public statements have raised questions about the broader ethical and political implications of his involvement.

As the war in Ukraine continues to evolve, Musk's influence on global geopolitics remains a topic of increasing scrutiny. His comments further highlight the complex intersection of technology, business, and international conflict.



Ukraine Set For Crucial Talks With US On Ending War With Russia

TPN Correspondent | Washington

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky is set to arrive in Saudi Arabia on Monday ahead of high-stakes talks aimed at resolving the ongoing conflict with Russia. The talks, scheduled for Tuesday in the Red Sea port city of Jeddah, will bring together US and Ukrainian officials for the first time since Zelensky's tense White House visit last month.

Zelensky confirmed he would meet with Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman on Monday and then participate in discussions with the American team the following day. US Middle East envoy Steve Witkoff has emphasized that Washington hopes to establish a framework for a peace agreement and an initial ceasefire.

While Zelensky expressed Ukraine's commitment to constructive dialogue, he made it clear that Ukraine's interests must be prioritized. "We hope for results, both in terms of bringing peace closer and continuing support," Zelensky stated in his evening address.

The Ukrainian delegation will include key figures such as Foreign Minister Andriy Sybiga, Defense Minister Rustem Umerov, Chief of Staff Andriy Yermak, and military commander Pavlo Palisa. Zelensky mentioned Ukraine is in "constant contact" with the US team ahead of the talks.

Trudeau's Successor, Mark Carney, Signals Big Diplomatic Shift In India-Canada Ties

Mark Carney Plans to Rebuild Strained Ties Between Canada and India

TPN Correspondent | Ottawa

Mark Carney, the newly elected leader of Canada's ruling Liberal Party and future Prime Minister, has expressed his intention to "rebuild" the strained relationship between Canada and India. Under Carney's leadership, Canada aims to diversify its trade relations with New Delhi, which suffered under the leadership of his predecessor, Justin Trudeau.

Carney secured a decisive victory in the Liberal Party leadership race, receiving 85.9 percent of the votes. In his first statements as leader, he addressed the challenges Canada faces due to US tariffs and indicated that diversifying trade with like-minded countries, including India, would be a priority for his government. "There needs to be a shared sense of values around that commer-



cial relationship, and if I am Prime Minister, I look forward to the opportunity to build that," Carney said.

Carney's knowledge of economic ties between Canada and India gives him an edge. Having previously served as the Governor of both the Bank of Canada and the Bank of England, and as the head

of Brookfield Asset Management, Carney is familiar with the significant investments Canada has made in India, particularly in real estate, renewable energy, and infrastructure. He stepped down from his position at Brookfield in January 2025.

India, particularly, may welcome Ottawa's efforts to improve

bilateral ties, especially given the ongoing tariff issues with the US. Carney's efforts could provide an opportunity for India to raise concerns regarding Canada's immigration restrictions and tightened visa norms, particularly as Canada remains one of the top destinations for Indian migrants. The relationship between India and Canada hit a low point in September 2023, when Trudeau accused India of involvement in the killing of Khalistani terrorist Hardeep Singh Nijjar. India strongly rejected these allegations, calling them "baseless." In the aftermath, both countries expelled each other's top diplomats, and Ottawa paused the Early Progress Trade Agreement, which was supposed to be concluded in 2023. Carney's leadership offers a potential path forward to restore and strengthen ties.

Won't Negotiate Under "Intimidation": Iran Rejects US Talks Amid Tensions

TPN Correspondent | Tehran, Iran

Iran has firmly stated it will not negotiate under "pressure" or "intimidation," following US President Donald Trump's decision to end a sanctions waiver that allowed Iraq to purchase electricity from Iran. The waiver's termination is part of Trump's renewed "maximum pressure" campaign aimed at crippling Iran's economy, particularly its oil industry.

Iran's foreign minister, Abbas Araghchi, took to social media to reject any talks driven by external pressure, asserting that Tehran's nuclear program is purely peaceful. He stated, "We will NOT negotiate under pressure and intimidation. We will NOT even consider it, no matter what the subject may be."

Despite a previous statement



from Iran's mission to the United Nations suggesting potential openness to discuss US concerns over the "potential militarization" of Iran's nuclear program, Araghchi emphasized that such discussions were off the table unless they focused solely on Iran's peaceful intentions. Tehran made it clear that any talks aiming to dismantle Iran's nuclear program—an objective they say former President Obama failed to achieve—would be cat-

egorically rejected.

The US decision to end Iraq's sanctions waiver, which had been in place since 2018, is aimed at depriving Iran of economic relief, specifically in energy revenues. Iran supplies a significant portion of Iraq's gas and electricity, contributing to the Iranian economy. The US Embassy in Baghdad urged Iraq to reduce its reliance on Iranian energy imports, with the State Department

reiterating that the sanctions pressure is meant to curb Iran's nuclear and ballistic missile programs, as well as its support for terrorist groups.

The sanctions waiver for Iraq was introduced as part of a deal negotiated during Obama's administration, which lifted sanctions on Iran in exchange for limiting its nuclear program. Since Trump's withdrawal from the 2015 nuclear deal, Iran has gradually scaled back its commitments, leading US officials to estimate that Iran could produce a nuclear weapon in just a few weeks if it chose to.

The ending of the energy waiver is expected to exacerbate Iraq's power shortages, especially during the upcoming summer months, with experts predicting challenges in maintaining electricity supplies.

GST Tax Evasion Detection Hits ₹1.95 Lakh Crore in 25,397 Cases

Central GST officers have detected tax evasion of ₹1.95 lakh crore in 25,397 cases during the April-January period of the current fiscal year, according to data shared in Parliament on Monday. The total number of GST evasion cases detected by central officers over the past five years has reached 86,711, with the total amount of tax evaded surpassing ₹6.79 lakh crore.

In the current fiscal year up to January 2025, the total number of evasion cases detected stands at 25,397, with the total detection amount of ₹1,94,938 crore. During this period, a voluntary deposit of ₹21,520 crore was made in relation to tax evasion cases.

Additionally, there were 13,018 cases of Input Tax Credit (ITC) frauds detected in the current fiscal year, involving a total of ₹46,472 crore. As part of the investigation, a voluntary deposit of ₹2,211 crore was made to settle the fraud cases.

The GST Investigation Wing's data for the 2023-24 fiscal year revealed that 20,582 evasion cases were detected, amounting to ₹2.30 lakh crore in evaded taxes. These figures highlight the government's ongoing efforts to combat GST tax evasion and enhance compliance across the country.

The government's crackdown on tax evasion continues to focus on large-scale frauds and has led to significant voluntary deposits, indicating an increased willingness among businesses to settle tax issues proactively. The focus on ITC fraud cases also underscores the need for stricter monitoring of input tax claims to prevent fraudulent practices.

Overall, the detection of such a large number of GST evasion cases reflects the government's commitment to tackling financial irregularities, ensuring greater transparency, and securing vital revenue for the economy.



India's Thermal Coal Imports Drop for Sixth Consecutive Month

India's imports of thermal coal, primarily used for power generation, continued their downward trend in February, marking the sixth consecutive month of decline. According to ship tracking data, the drop in imports is attributed to slower growth in coal-fired power generation, which has been impacted by a slowdown in manufacturing activity. This marks the longest such streak since February 2022, when imports had declined for eight straight months.

India, the world's second-largest importer of coal, saw its thermal coal imports decrease by 15.3% to 12.16 million metric tons in February. This follows a broader trend, as the country's total thermal coal imports fell by 20% to 77.3 million metric tons in the six months leading up to February 28.

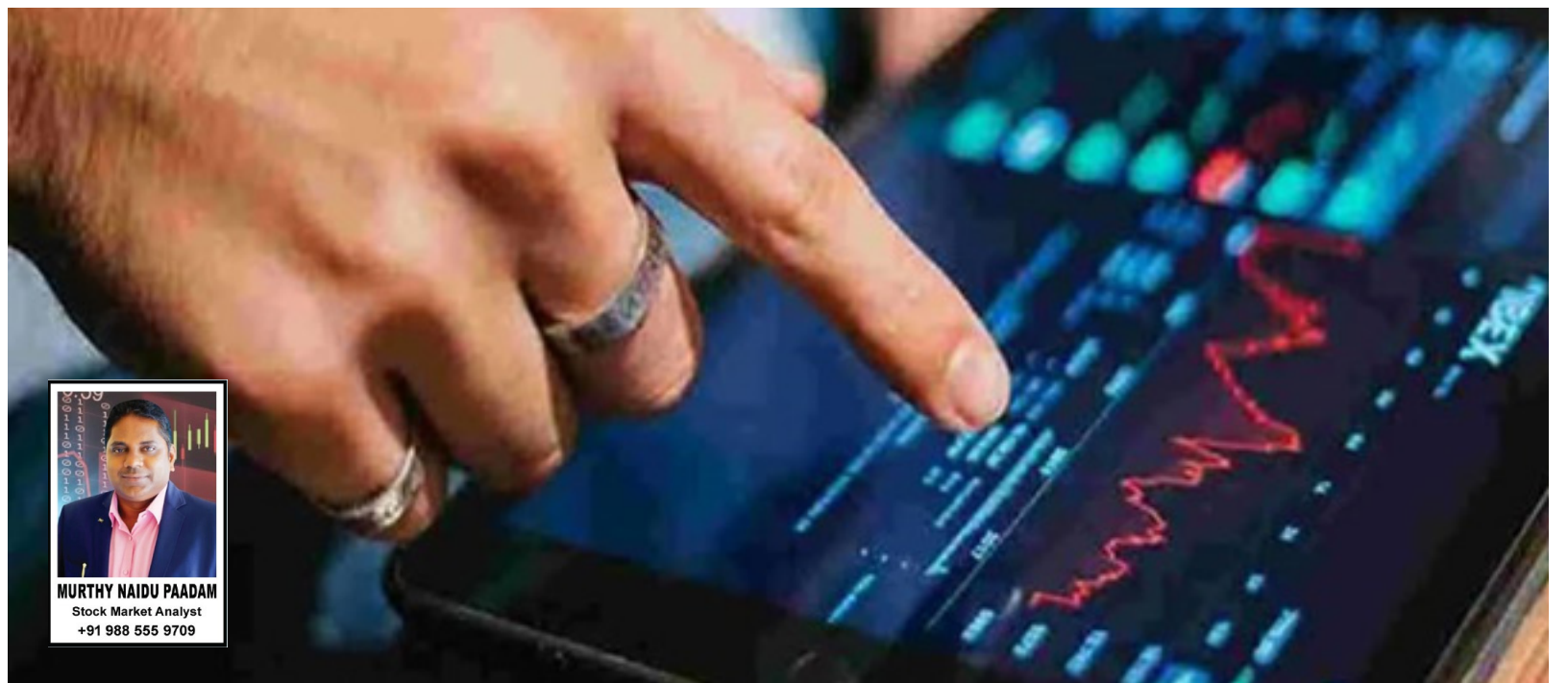
The slowdown in manufacturing activity in India has played a significant role in reducing the demand for seaborne coal. With industrial output cooling to its weakest pace in over a year, the country's need for coal has also diminished. The decline in thermal coal imports further contributes to the global trend of falling coal prices, exerting additional pressure on an already declining market.

India's reduced coal imports are part of broader efforts to cut dependence on imported fossil fuels. The country has increasingly turned to renewable energy sources, such as solar and wind power, which are expected to play a more significant role in meeting energy demands in the future.

Despite these efforts, coal still plays a crucial role in India's power generation mix, and the recent import decline highlights the ongoing challenges the country faces in balancing energy demand with its transition to cleaner energy sources. The trend also signals the need for sustained investment in renewable energy infrastructure and technology to reduce reliance on thermal coal imports in the long term.



Domestic Markets Slide on US Shutdown Fears Sensex Down 217, Nifty 92



Domestic stock markets fell on Monday. The indices, which started with huge gains in the morning, plunged into losses due to negative signals from international markets and negative sentiment. The reasons for this are concerns about the US economy and the shutdown situation. In addition to this, the market breadth turned red as investors started selling shares of all sectors. Except for FMCG, all sectoral indices fell. Nifty 92 and Sensex lost 217 points.

The BSE Sensex, which closed at 74,332 in the previous session, started at 74,474 on Monday. It touched an intraday low of 74,022. It reached an intraday high of 74,741. Finally, it closed at 74,115, losing 217 points. The NSE Nifty, which opened at 22,521, touched a low of 22,429 and a high of 22,676. It closed at 22,460, down 92 points. The Nifty Bank lost 280 points and settled at 48,216. The burden of medicines required by diabetes patients will decrease. Domestic pharma companies are preparing to produce the generic version of Empagliflozin soon. GR Infra Projects has declared an interim dividend of Rs. 12.50 per share.

In Nifty50, 9 companies gained while 41 lost. FMCG shares rose. Realty, PSU bank, oil and gas, consumption, energy, auto, manufacturing, metal, healthcare, pharma, and bank indices rose. PowerGrid, Hindustan Unilever, Infi, SBI Life, Nestle, Asian Paints were the top gainers. ONGC, Trent, IndusInd Bank, Bajaj Auto, Eicher Motors were the biggest losers. Market breadth on NSE today shifted in favour of sellers. Out of 2988 stocks traded, 607 gained and 2308 lost. 15 stocks touched 52-week highs. 90 stocks touched 52-week lows. 138 stocks touched the upper circuit and 162 touched the lower circuit.

Rupee weakened by 45 paise to settle at 87.33 against the dollar. Fitch has given a negative outlook rating to Adani Ener-

gy in the wake of the US probe. IndusInd Bank Jefferies maintains Buy rating, reducing target price from Rs 1200 to Rs 1080. 10 lakh shares changed hands in Infosys. Sun Pharma to acquire Check Point Therapeutics. Hudco declares second interim dividend of Rs 1.05 per share. Thermal coal imports fall for sixth consecutive month. HFCL gets Rs 44.36 crore order from Indian Army. RailTel gets Rs 28.29 crore work order from Northern Railway. 14 lakh shares changed hands in Varun Beverages. Zerodha Fund House launches Silver ETF. Tata Power signs MoU with AP Government.

Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd (POWERGRID)



Power Grid is India's premier electric power transmission company, responsible for managing and expanding the country's high-voltage transmission network. Poised to benefit from ongoing government initiatives in grid modernization and integration of renewable energy sources, offering long-term stability and moderate growth.

Emami Ltd (EMAMILTD)

Emami Ltd is a diversified FMCG company with a robust portfolio in personal care, health, and wellness products. It is known for its strong brand presence and innovative product offerings. With an expanding distribution network and growing consumer demand in both urban and rural markets, Emami is well-positioned for sustained long-term growth.



Zee Entertainment Enterprises Ltd (ZEEL)

ZEEL is a leading media and entertainment company in India, operating across television broadcasting, digital content, and film production.



It holds a significant market share in Indian TV and rapidly growing digital platforms. As digital consumption accelerates and international markets expand, ZEEL is set to benefit from the growing demand for high-quality content and new distribution channels.

Solar Industries India Ltd (SOLARIND)

Solar Industries is a prominent manufacturer specializing in industrial explosives, ammonium nitrate-based fertilizers, and other chemical products, serving both agricultural and industrial sectors. With sustained demand in both agriculture and industry, Solar Industries offers moderate growth potential, although it remains exposed to commodity price volatility and market cyclicality.



JSW Energy Ltd (JSWENERGY)

Part of the JSW Group, JSW Energy is involved in power generation through a mix of thermal and renewable energy projects. The company is actively expanding its renewable energy portfolio, particularly in solar and wind power. Benefiting from India's policy push toward renewable energy and environmental sustainability, JSW Energy is well-positioned for long-term growth, though short-term performance may be influenced by fuel price volatility and regulatory shifts.



India's Wheat Production Estimated to Reach Record 115.3 Million Metric Tonnes in 2024-25

India's wheat production is projected to reach a record 115.3 million metric tonnes for the 2024-25 season, marking a 2% increase from the 113.3 million tonnes produced in 2023-24, according to the Second Advance Estimates released by the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare on Monday.

This year's estimated production surpasses the 2022-23 production of 110.05 million tonnes and the 2021-22 output of 107.7 million tonnes, highlighting a steady increase in wheat yields over recent years. The record wheat output is crucial as the government aims to procure 31 million tonnes of wheat during the upcoming rabi marketing season (2025-26), ensuring adequate supply for both domestic consumption and strategic reserves.

Wheat is the second-largest crop in India after paddy, contributing significantly to the country's agricultural output. The expected rise in production reflects the ongoing improvements in farming techniques, the adoption of higher-yielding wheat varieties, and favorable climatic conditions in several wheat-growing regions of the country.



The estimates of bumper wheat production are welcomed by both the agricultural community and government officials, who see it as a crucial factor in addressing food security and ensuring stable wheat prices in the domestic market. Additionally, the expected rise in procurement during the rabi marketing season will further support India's wheat stock-

piles, helping to maintain the country's strategic reserves.

As India continues to play a vital role in global agricultural markets, the record wheat output is a positive development not only for the nation's food security but also for its position as a key exporter of wheat in the global market.

Best Hydrating Foods and Drinks for a 30-Day Fitness Challenge



Staying hydrated is essential for maintaining energy, muscle function, and overall well-being, particularly during a 30-day fitness challenge. While water is the primary source of hydration, consuming the right foods and drinks can enhance electrolyte balance, aid muscle recovery, and prevent dehydration-related issues. The World Health Organisation (WHO) emphasises the importance of adequate fluid intake for optimal physical performance and body temperature regulation. Similarly, the Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) highlight hydration's role in endurance, cardiovascular health, and preventing cramps.

Hydrating Drinks for Fitness

1. Coconut Water – A natural source of potassium and sodium, helping replenish lost electrolytes.
2. Lemon Water – Rich in vitamin C and electrolytes, aiding digestion and hydration.
3. Herbal Teas – Caffeine-free options like chamomile and hibiscus support hydration with added health benefits.
4. Aloe Vera Juice – Promotes gut health while providing a cooling, hydrating effect.
5. Homemade Electrolyte Drinks – A mix of water, salt, honey, and citrus juice creates a natural hydration booster.

Hydrating Foods for Fitness

1. Watermelon – Composed of 92% water,

offering hydration along with vitamins and antioxidants.

2. Cucumber – A high-water-content vegetable that helps balance electrolytes.
3. Oranges – Rich in vitamin C and fluids, enhancing hydration and immunity.
4. Leafy Greens – Vegetables like spinach contain water, fibre, and minerals essential for muscle recovery.
5. Yogurt – A probiotic-rich food that supports digestion and hydration.

Tips for Staying Hydrated During Exercise

- Drink water before, during, and after workouts to prevent dehydration.
- Consume electrolyte-rich foods like bananas and avocados to replenish minerals.
- Avoid excessive caffeine and sugary beverages that may contribute to dehydration.
- Monitor urine colour, as pale yellow indicates proper hydration.
- Eat water-dense foods to naturally supplement fluid intake.

Hydration is crucial in achieving fitness goals and maintaining endurance throughout a 30-day fitness challenge. Experts from WHO and CDC stress the importance of fluid balance for both physical and cognitive performance. By making mindful dietary choices, individuals can stay hydrated, energised, and healthy during their fitness journey.

Gill's Father Does 'Bhangra' With Rishabh Pant Viral Video Breaks The Internet

Amid India's celebrations after winning the ICC Champions Trophy, vice-captain Shubman Gill's father, Lakhwinder, was seen performing bhangra with wicketkeeper-batter Rishabh Pant. The joyous moment, captured in a viral video, has taken the internet by storm. India clinched their third Champions Trophy title on Sunday, March 9, defeating New Zealand by four wickets at the Dubai International Cricket Stadium. Despite not playing a single match in the tournament, Pant joined the post-match celebrations, dancing with Lakhwinder Gill. A video posted by the BCCI also showed Lakhwinder sharing a similar moment with his son, Shubman Gill, as pacer Arshdeep Singh joined in the festivities. Shubman Gill played a crucial role in India's campaign, starting the tournament with a century in the opening match against Bangladesh on February 20. However, his subsequent performances saw moderate scores of 46, 2, 8, and 31.

Following the victory, Gill reflected on India's triumph and praised captain Rohit Sharma's leadership and aggressive batting approach. "Felt amazing. For most of the time, I sat back and enjoyed Rohit's batting. He told me it doesn't matter how far ahead or behind we are; the goal was to bat till the end. We missed

out in 2023, so it feels great to win eight ODIs back to back. Seeing his intensity and approach is incredible. He keeps telling us to give it our all, and he backs it up," said Gill in the post-match presentation.

He also lauded New Zealand's competitive spirit, acknowledging their consistency and ability to execute plans under pressure.

"New Zealand are very consistent and execute their plans well. We know they give it their all, and they showed it tonight with their resilience," he added.

Meanwhile, speculation about Rohit Sharma's future was put to rest as the India captain clarified that he has no immediate plans to retire. "No future plans, jaise chal raha hain, chalta rahega (the way it is going, it will continue that way). One more thing—I'm not retiring from this format, just to ensure no rumours are spread moving forward," Rohit stated at a press conference.

With this victory, India became the most successful team in Champions Trophy history, surpassing Australia with three titles. The team previously shared the trophy with Sri Lanka in 2002 and won their second title under MS Dhoni in 2013.



iQOO Z10 Series May Launch in April; Key Features Leaked



The iQOO Z10 series is expected to launch in China soon, with reports suggesting multiple variants, including the iQOO Z10, Z10 Turbo, Z10 Turbo Pro, and Z10x. A recent leak has revealed key details about the upcoming smartphones, including processor choices and battery specifications.

Launch Timeline and Specifications
According to a now-edited Weibo post by tipster Digital Chat Station, the iQOO Z10 and Z10 Turbo could debut in April, while the Z10x variant may arrive in the third quarter of 2025. The previous iQOO Z9 series was introduced in

April 2024, making this a likely timeframe for its successor. The base iQOO Z10 is rumored to feature a Snapdragon 7 Gen 4 SoC and a 1.5K OLED display. Meanwhile, the Z10 Turbo may be powered by MediaTek Dimensity 8400, and the high-end Z10 Turbo Pro is expected to come with a Snapdragon 8s Elite chipset. While iQOO has yet to confirm the details, the rumored specifications indicate a performance-focused lineup with high battery capacities and fast charging capabilities. More information is expected to surface as the official launch approaches.

Seasoning vs. Flavouring: What's The Difference?



The taste of food is shaped by the ingredients and techniques used in cooking. While both seasoning and flavouring enhance a dish, they serve different purposes in bringing out its best flavors.

Have you ever followed a recipe precisely, yet something still felt off? You added all the right ingredients, but the dish lacked depth. Then, with just a pinch of salt or a dash of spice, the flavors suddenly came alive. That's the magic of seasoning and flavouring—but did you know they're not the same thing?

Many people use these terms interchangeably, but they play distinct roles in enhancing food. Whether you're new to cooking or just looking to refine your understanding, here's what sets them apart.

What is Seasoning?

Seasoning amplifies the natural taste of ingredients without altering their original flavor. It enhances, rather than transforms, the dish. The most common seasoning is salt—it doesn't add a new taste but brings out

the existing flavors. A bowl of dal or khichdi, for instance, tastes bland without salt but becomes instantly more flavorful with just the right amount.

Other examples of seasoning include pepper, cumin (jeera), and asafoetida (hing), which subtly boost a dish's taste without overpowering it. Seasoning ensures that food tastes its best without changing its inherent profile.

What is Flavouring?

Flavouring, on the other hand, introduces a new taste to a dish. Unlike seasoning, which enhances, flavouring transforms. For example, adding cardamom (elaichi) to chai gives it a distinct aroma and taste, while a few drops of vanilla extract completely alter the flavor of a plain cake batter.

Flavouring ingredients such as kasuri methi, ginger, garlic, tamarind, and saffron define a dish's signature taste. Can you imagine butter chicken without kasuri methi? It simply wouldn't be the same. These ingredients are strong and shape the final taste of the dish, making flavouring a

Hidden Supermassive Black Hole May Lurk in Large Magellanic Cloud

A hidden supermassive black hole may be lurking within the Large Magellanic Cloud (LMC), a satellite galaxy of the Milky Way, according to new research. Scientists believe the discovery of hypervelocity stars—stars moving at extraordinary speeds—may provide evidence of a massive, yet-undetected black hole in the LMC.

Evidence from Hypervelocity Stars

Using data from the European Space Agency's Gaia satellite, researchers tracked 21 hypervelocity stars at the edge of the Milky Way. While many were propelled by Sagittarius A* (Sgr A*), the black hole at the center of our galaxy, a significant number appeared to have originated from the LMC. This unexpected trajectory led scientists to theorize that a supermassive black hole within the LMC may have been responsible for accelerating these stars.

Jesse Han, an astrophysicist

at the Center for Astrophysics | Harvard & Smithsonian (CfA), called the possibility of another supermassive black hole so close to the Milky Way a striking revelation. He also noted that black holes are notoriously difficult to detect, making this discovery particularly significant. Potential Mass and Implications

Estimates suggest that this hidden black hole could have a mass of around 600,000 times that of the Sun—smaller than Sagittarius A* (4.3 million solar masses) but still within the expected range for supermassive black holes.

Scott Lucchini, another researcher at CfA, pointed out that these findings challenge the idea that the Milky Way is the only nearby galaxy ejecting hypervelocity stars due to a supermassive black hole. The results align with previous theories suggesting that the LMC could host a powerful, unseen gravitational force.



Rohit Sharma Clears Air on 2027 World Cup Plans After Champions Trophy Triumph



India captain Rohit Sharma has put to rest all speculation regarding his ODI future after leading the team to a historic unbeaten triumph in the ICC Champions Trophy 2025. Following the victory, Rohit categorically dismissed retirement talks, saying, "I am not going to retire from this format. Just to make sure no rumours are spread moving forward."

However, when asked about his participation in the 2027 ODI World Cup, the 38-year-old stated that he prefers to take things one step at a time. "Right now, I am taking things as they come. It wouldn't be fair for me to think too far ahead. At this moment, my focus is on playing well and maintaining the

right mindset," Rohit said on Jio Hotstar. Reflecting on India's flawless campaign in the Champions Trophy, Rohit took immense pride in the team's consistency. "We went undefeated despite losing all five tosses, yet we still won the trophy. Winning a tournament without a single defeat is a massive achievement," he said. Shifting the Mindset for Success Rohit credited India's triumph to a change in mindset, shifting focus from individual milestones to collective success. "Before the 2023 World Cup, we had discussions about not prioritizing personal achievements. I learned this the hard way in 2019—I

scored five centuries, but in the end, we didn't win the trophy. That's when I realized, it's all about the team's success." He also highlighted how preparation played a key role. "After the Australia tour, we had 20-25 days to analyze conditions. We studied T20 matches to assess the pitches and picked our squad accordingly." Looking ahead, Rohit made it clear that he wants India to be seen as an indomitable force. "I don't want to dictate how other teams should see us. The only thing I want is for them never to take us lightly. Even if we are five wickets down, we have the ability to fight back and turn the game around."

Barcelona vs Osasuna La Liga Match Called Off Minutes Before Kick-Off



Barcelona's La Liga match against Osasuna was postponed on Saturday, just 20 minutes before kick-off, following the sudden death of first-team doctor Carles Minarro Garcia. The tragic incident led the club to reschedule the fixture for a later date. "Barcelona is sorry to announce the sad news of the death of first-team doctor Carles Minarro Garcia this afternoon," the club said in a statement. "For this reason, the match between Barcelona and Osasuna has been postponed until a later date." Barcelona president Joan Laporta expressed his grief, calling the news

"heartbreaking and shocking." "We contacted his mother and his wife to express our condolences and support them in this incredibly painful time. It is our duty to stand by them," he said. The 53-year-old doctor leaves behind his wife and two children. Players and fans were stunned by the sudden development. Barcelona midfielder Pedri shared his disbelief on Instagram, writing, "I still can't believe it. A big hug to the family and friends of Carles." Osasuna president Luis Sabalza fully supported the decision to postpone the game. "Life is the most important thing.

You can't play a match when someone so close to the team is no longer there," he told DAZN. Osasuna also expressed their condolences on social media, writing, "Osasuna wishes to convey its deepest condolences to the family of doctor Carles Minarro Garcia and send a big hug to all the staff of Barcelona, as well as their fans. May he rest in peace." This is the second La Liga fixture to be postponed in recent days. On Monday, Villarreal's match against Espanyol was also called off due to a heavy rain alert in the region.

"India Would Have Won Anywhere" Wasim Akram Shuts Down Champions Trophy Debate

Pakistan cricket legend Wasim Akram has dismissed the debate surrounding India's Champions Trophy 2025 triumph, asserting that India would have won the tournament regardless of the venue. India played all their matches in Dubai, avoiding travel to Pakistan, which led to discussions about whether they had an unfair advantage. However, Akram made it clear that India's dominance was undeniable. "This Indian team would have won it anywhere in the world," Akram said on the Dressing Room show on Sports Central. "Yes, people talked about India playing in Dubai, but even if they had

played in Pakistan, they would have won there as well." Akram highlighted India's back-to-back ICC title victories, pointing out that they remained unbeaten in both the T20 World Cup 2024 and the Champions Trophy 2025. "Winning two global tournaments without losing a game shows their depth and leadership," he added. Despite setbacks in Test cricket—including series losses against New Zealand, Australia, and Sri Lanka—India stuck with their leadership duo of Rohit Sharma and Gautam Gambhir. Akram praised this decision, saying, "There was pressure to change the captain and

coach, but BCCI backed them. Now, they are champions of the champions."



Who Is RJ Mahvash? Mystery girl shares photos with Chahal after India's win



India's thrilling victory against New Zealand in the Champions Trophy 2025 final not only brought joy to cricket fans but also sparked online speculation surrounding cricketer Yuzvendra Chahal and YouTuber RJ Mahvash. Their joint appearance at the Dubai stadium has fueled fresh rumors about their relationship. Chahal, who is currently going through a divorce with his wife Dhanashree Verma, was seen enjoying the match alongside Mahvash. After India's win, Mahvash shared photos and videos from the stadium, captioning them, "Kaha tha na jita ke aungi (Told you I'd make India win) I am good luck for team India!" The post quickly gained traction, adding to the ongoing speculation. This isn't the first time the duo has been spotted together. In December, pictures of them celebrating Christmas together had already set social media abuzz. At the time, Mahvash dismissed the dating rumors as baseless, while Chahal requested fans to respect their privacy, stating that such speculations had caused emotional distress to

his family. **Who Is RJ Mahvash?** RJ Mahvash, a popular content creator known for her prank videos and humorous takes, hails from Aligarh. The 28-year-old, whose name means "Beautiful like the moon" in Persian, celebrates her birthday on October 27. She holds a Bachelor's degree from Aligarh Muslim University and a Master's in Mass Communication from Jamia Millia Islamia in New Delhi. Mahvash initially started as a radio jockey but gained massive recognition through her digital content. Despite receiving offers from Bigg Boss 14 and Bollywood, she chose to focus on her social media career. While neither Chahal nor Mahvash has confirmed any romantic relationship, their frequent public appearances continue to keep social media buzzing with reactions. One user humorously commented, "Hum jeet gye aur Chahal bhai v pighal gye (We won, and Chahal got impressed)," while another added, "Jindagi toh Chahal bhai jee rahe hai (Chahal is winning at life)."

Max Verstappen Eyes Fifth Title in F1's 75th Anniversary Season, Hamilton Joins Ferrari



The 2025 Formula One season promises high-intensity battles as the sport celebrates 75 years since its inception in 1950. With 24 races on the calendar, the competition is set to be fierce, with Max Verstappen aiming for his fifth consecutive title, while Lewis Hamilton's move to Ferrari adds a major twist to the championship. The season kicks off in Australia this Sunday, featuring six rookies eager to make their mark. Seventy-five years after Giuseppe Farina won the first-ever F1 title, Max Verstappen begins his quest to join Michael Schumacher as the only driver to win five consecutive world championships. The Dutchman dominated early in 2024 but suffered a 10-race winless streak, allowing McLaren, Mercedes, and

Ferrari to close the gap. Despite this, he clinched his fourth title in Las Vegas with two races to spare. However, Lando Norris is seen as a major threat in 2025, with betting odds placing him as the title favorite over Verstappen. Ferrari's Charles Leclerc and new signing Lewis Hamilton are also expected to challenge for the crown. Testing in Bahrain provided mixed signals, with Mercedes, Williams, and McLaren topping different days. Ferrari looked strong, while Red Bull's Verstappen showed promise on the final day. McLaren CEO Zak Brown believes the field is tighter than ever, stating, "I can see it being super competitive. Last year, four teams won multiple races—this year, it could be even more."



Rajinikanth's Jailer 2 Begins Filming "Muthuvel Pandian's Hunt Begins"



The highly anticipated sequel to Rajinikanth's blockbuster Jailer has officially gone on floors. Titled Jailer 2, the film marks the superstar's second collaboration with director Nelson Dilipkumar and is produced by Kalanithi Maran's Sun Pictures. Announcing the shoot, Sun Pictures unveiled a striking new poster on Instagram with the caption, "Muthuvel Pandian's hunt begins! #Jailer2 shoot starts today."

A Grand Sequel in the Making

The makers had previously confirmed Jailer 2 in January with an announcement teaser featuring Nelson Dilipkumar and music composer Anirudh Ravichander. The video, shot inside a Goa beach house, showed the duo discussing their next project, ultimately revealing the return of Rajinikanth as Muthuvel Pandian.

While the cast of Jailer 2 remains under wraps, the film is expected to continue the legacy of its prequel, which was one of Tamil cinema's highest-grossing films of all time. Released in 2023, Jailer followed the story of a retired jail warden who embarks on a deadly mission after his son goes missing.

The first installment featured Vinayakan, Ramya Krishnan, Vasanth Ravi, and Yogi Babu, with special appearances by Mohanlal, Shiva Rajkumar, and Jackie Shroff. Actress Tamannaah Bhatia, who made waves with her hit song Kaavaalaa, had previously praised Rajinikanth, calling him "the most humble superstar" in an interview. Apart from Jailer 2, Rajinikanth is also working on Coolie, directed by Lokesh Kanagaraj. He was last seen in Lal Salaam, directed by his daughter Aishwaryaa Rajinikanth.

"Blaming Women...": Dhanashree Verma's Cryptic Post



Choreographer and social media influencer Dhanashree Verma has once again grabbed attention amid her ongoing divorce case with Indian cricketer Yuzvendra Chahal. Following weeks of speculation and media reports, she posted a cryptic message on Instagram that read, "Blaming women is always in fashion." The post came just a day after Chahal was spotted at the Champions Trophy 2025 final in Dubai alongside YouTuber

RJ Mahvash. This has led to fresh speculation, with some social media users linking her statement to Chahal, while others believe it refers to the online trolling she has faced in recent times. Rumors of Chahal and Dhanashree's separation have been circulating for months, with reports suggesting that their divorce had already been finalized. However, Dhanashree's lawyer, Aditi Mohan, dismissed these claims, stating, "I have

no comments to make on the proceedings. The matter is currently sub judice. The media should fact-check before reporting, as a lot of misleading information is being circulated."

One of the most viral claims alleged that Dhanashree had demanded ₹60 crore as alimony. In response, her family issued a strong statement, completely rejecting these reports.

"We are deeply outraged by the baseless claims about the alimony figure. Let me be absolutely clear—no such amount has ever been asked, demanded, or even offered. Reckless reporting like this only causes harm, and we urge the media to fact-check before spreading misinformation and respect everyone's privacy," the statement read.

While neither Chahal nor Dhanashree has officially confirmed their divorce status, their cryptic social media posts continue to fuel public curiosity.

Chhaava Telugu Scores Big at Box Office Despite CT Final



Telugu audiences have once again proven their love for good cinema as Chhaava, the historical epic directed by Laxman Utekar and produced by Dinesh Vijan, continues its strong run at the box office. Released in Telugu by Geetha Arts, the film has performed exceptionally well despite competition from the Champions Trophy final.

While the opening two days saw impressive numbers, Day 2 surpassed Day 1, setting high expectations. Many predicted a dip on Sunday due to the cricket final, but Chhaava Telugu maintained its momentum, collecting nearly the same as Day 2. The film has grossed ₹9.46 crore in three days, proving that strong word of mouth is driving audiences to the-

aters despite being a dubbed release. Renowned production house Geetha Arts took up the challenge of completing the dubbing in record time, ensuring the film reached Telugu audiences with high-quality localization. Their dedication is now yielding big rewards at the box office. Viewers are showering praise on the performances of Vicky Kaushal, Rashmika Mandanna, and Akshaye Khanna, while the film's authentic portrayal of the unsung Maratha warrior king, Chhatrapati Sambhaji Maharaj, is earning widespread acclaim.

With its phenomenal box office numbers, Chhaava Telugu is poised to set new benchmarks for Hindi-dubbed films in the Telugu market.

When Roshan meets Sheela



The IIFA Awards stage witnessed a euphoric moment when Katrina Kaif made a rare appearance and joined Kartik Aaryan to perform the hookstep of the Bhool Bhulaiyaa title track. The moment turned even more special as Kartik

took on the role of a dance instructor, guiding Katrina through the iconic steps that have become a signature of the horror-comedy franchise.

Kartik, who won the Best Actor award for his performance in Bhool Bhulaiyaa

3, looked dapper in a midnight blue formal suit, while Katrina stunned in an ivory-hued outfit. Their electrifying stage presence and effortless chemistry left fans in awe, making it one of the most talked-about highlights of the event.

Samantha's New Pic With Raj Nidimoru Sparks Dating Buzz



Actress Samantha Ruth Prabhu is once again making headlines over her personal life after a picture of her with director Raj Nidimoru went viral on social media. The duo, who worked together on the Amazon Prime series Citadel: Honey Bunny, were seen attending a friend's birthday brunch, fueling fresh dating

speculation. In the widely circulated picture, Samantha is seen wearing a stylish green dress, while Raj Nidimoru keeps it casual. Their chemistry has become a talking point, especially after another viral moment from February 1, when Samantha shared photos from the World Pickleball League match. One of

the pictures showed her holding hands with Raj Nidimoru, adding to the rumors. Samantha was previously married to Naga Chaitanya, but the couple announced their divorce in 2021. Recently, Naga Chaitanya tied the knot with actress Sobhita Dhulipala on December 4, 2024, in a traditional Telugu ceremony, bringing

renewed attention to Samantha's past relationship. Samantha's Professional Front Samantha was last seen in Citadel: Honey Bunny, co-starring Varun Dhawan. On the big screen, she appeared in Kushi (2023) alongside Vijay Deverakonda.

Raj Nidimoru, best known as one half of the director duo Raj & DK, has helmed successful projects like The Family Man, Guns & Gulaabs, and Farzi. He has also directed films such as Shor In The City and Go Goa Gone. While neither Samantha nor Raj Nidimoru have addressed the dating rumors, their repeated public appearances have kept fans speculating.

Hrithik Roshan Injured During Song Rehearsals With Jr NTR

Bollywood superstar Hrithik Roshan has suffered a leg injury while rehearsing for a song in War 2, where he shares screen space with Jr NTR for the first time. The injury has forced the actor to take a four-week break, leading to a postponement of the song shoot to May 2025. Originally, the film's team planned to complete the song shoot before proceeding with the remaining talkie portions. However, with Hrithik's injury, the schedule has been altered. Despite the delay, the makers remain committed to releasing the film on August 14, 2025.

Sources reveal that Hrithik pushed himself beyond limits during rehearsals, leading to a niggle in his leg. After a medical evaluation, doctors advised him to rest for a month to ensure a full recovery. Though the setback is disappointing, fans can

expect Hrithik to return with renewed energy. Current Status of War 2 Most of the talkie portions have been completed, and the team is now focusing on marketing strategies ahead of the theatrical release. Directed by Ayan Mukerji, War 2 is one of the most anticipated films of 2025, bring-

ing together Hrithik Roshan and Jr NTR in a high-octane action spectacle. Yash Raj Films (YRF) is producing the sequel as part of its spy universe, following the massive success of War (2019). War 2 is scheduled for a worldwide theatrical release on August 14, 2025.

