

Weather Forecast

HYDERABAD

t°

H 33° C

L 25° C

VIJAYAWADA

t°

H 35° C

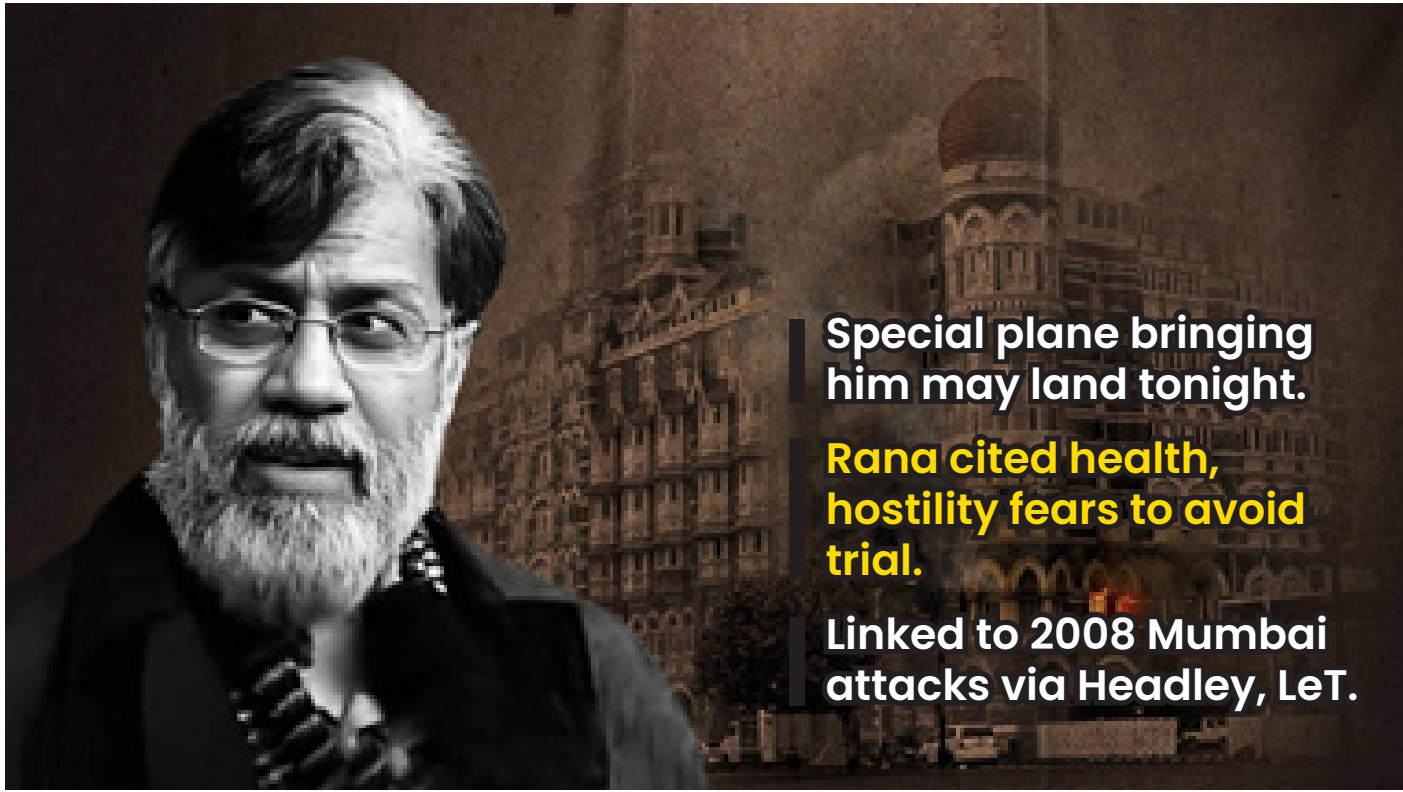
L 26° C

TIRUPATHI

t°

H 36° C

L 26° C



Special plane bringing him may land tonight.

Rana cited health, hostility fears to avoid trial.

Linked to 2008 Mumbai attacks via Headley, LeT.

Tahawwur Rana Extradition to India Approved After US Supreme Court Denies Stay

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

Tahawwur Rana, a key accused in the 2008 Mumbai terror attacks, is being brought to India after exhausting his legal options in the United States. Sources confirmed that a special plane carrying Rana will arrive in India either tonight or early tomorrow, with a scheduled refuelling stop along the way.

This development follows the US Supreme Court's decision on Monday to reject Rana's petition for a stay on his extradition to India. The court's order stated, "The application for stay addressed to The Chief Justice and referred to the Court is denied." A similar petition was denied by the Supreme Court in March, pushing Rana's extradition process forward.

Rana had previously claimed that he suffered from serious health issues, including an abdominal aortic aneurysm, Parkinson's disease with cognitive decline, and a mass suggestive of bladder cancer. He argued that he would not survive long enough to stand trial in India and also expressed concerns about facing hostility in India due to national, religious, and cultural animosity.

The extradition process was further solidified in February after a meeting between US President Donald Trump and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, where the US pledged that Rana would face justice in India.

Rana, a Pakistani-origin businessman and associate of Pakistani-American terrorist David

Coleman Headley, was linked to the planning of the November 26, 2008, Mumbai attacks. Headley, one of the primary conspirators, had connections with the terror group Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) and Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI). Although a US jury acquitted Rana of providing material support for the attacks, he was convicted of two other charges, leading to a more than 10-year prison sentence. He was released due to deteriorating health during the Covid-19 pandemic but was rearrested after India's extradition request.

With the US Supreme Court rejecting his final appeal, Rana's extradition to India marks a significant step towards ensuring justice for the victims of the 2008 Mumbai attacks.

Kangana Accuses Congress of Mismanagement After Receiving ₹1 Lakh Electricity Bill in Manali

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

Kangna Ranaut, the BJP Member of Parliament and actor-turned-politician, has raised concerns over the administrative situation in Himachal Pradesh, alleging that she received an electricity bill of ₹1 lakh for her unoccupied residence in Manali. Speaking to her supporters in Mandi, her parliamentary constituency, she accused the Congress administration of financial mismanagement and inefficiency.

"In Himachal Pradesh, the Congress has created such a miserable situation. This month, I received an electricity bill of ₹1 lakh for my house in Manali, where I don't even stay! Just imagine the condition here," said Ms. Ranaut, highlighting her frustration with the state's administration.

Her remarks quickly drew a response from the Himachal Pradesh Congress, who labeled her comments as "unfair" and "irresponsible." Congress officials dismissed the allegations, asserting that Ranaut should address such issues through the proper official channels rather than publicly accusing the administration.

"This is unfair on Kangana's part. She has a serious responsibility. This statement was made for cheap publicity. She should write to the officials concerned. There is no question of any deliberate action against her," the Congress party retorted.



Ranaut also criticized the Congress government's focus on "trivial matters" while the state faced serious challenges. "It is painful to watch Himachal Pradesh's condition. Their agencies are probing samosas. We feel embarrassed about what is happening," she said. She further emphasized the importance of focusing on progress and development for the state.

In response, Congress leader Mumtaz Patel ridiculed Ranaut's choice of words, calling her remarks "thoughtless." He said that the BJP MP has a "shoot out of mouth syndrome," making unfounded statements without considering the consequences. The exchange has added fuel to the ongoing political debate between Congress and BJP in Himachal Pradesh as both sides continue to clash over governance issues in the state.

US Bill Threatens to End Work Visa for Indian Students

Creating Uncertainty for 300,000

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Congress Adopts Special Resolution to Regain Power in Gujarat at AICC Session

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

In a landmark move, the All India Congress Committee (AICC) session in Ahmedabad adopted a special resolution aimed at bringing the Congress party back to power in Gujarat. This session, held on the banks of the Sabarmati River, marked a historic moment for the party as it was the first time a state-specific resolution was introduced at an AICC session. Gujarat Congress spokesperson Hiren Banker confirmed the adoption of the resolution, which is titled "Why Congress is Needed in Gujarat."

charge of communications, Jairam Ramesh, elaborated on the resolution during a press conference. He explained that the party's strategy for returning to power in the state is encapsulated in the motto "Nutan Gujarat, Nutan Congress" (New Gujarat, New Congress). Ramesh stated that the resolution highlights the party's plan to address key issues in Gujarat, ranging from economic policies to reforms for students, traders, farmers, laborers, the middle class, and industrialists.

Ramesh emphasized that while Congress

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FM Sitharaman Chairs India-UK Investor Roundtable In London

TPN Correspondent | London

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman led an India-UK Investor Roundtable in London on Tuesday, attended by around 60 UK investors representing prominent pension funds, insurance companies, banks, and other financial institutions. The event aimed to showcase India's growing economic potential and investment opportunities, with a focus on the government's efforts to foster a conducive environment for business and foreign investment.

Sitharaman emphasized India's expanding middle class and strong policy framework, positioning the country as a compelling growth opportunity for foreign investors, especially in the banking sector. She highlighted the government's commitment to reducing compliance burdens and simplifying regulations through process and governance reforms.

India's insurance market is projected to become the sixth-largest globally by 2032, with a 7.1% compound annual growth rate (CAGR) expected between 2024-2028, making it one of the fastest-growing insurance markets among the G20 nations.



Sitharaman also shared that India's securities market had adopted the T+1 settlement model in 2023, with market capitalization currently standing at USD 4.6 trillion, ranking fourth globally.

The Finance Minister also highlighted India's International Financial Services Centre (GIFT-IFSC) as a key driver of the country's financial services sector. The IFSC offers tax exemptions, skilled manpower, and a strategic location, fostering an ecosystem conducive to foreign investment. As of March 2025, over 800 entities from diverse sectors like banking, capital markets, insurance, and fintech have been registered with the International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA).

Sitharaman pointed out that India's digital economy, contributing 11.74% of GDP in 2022-23, has led the world in fintech adoption, with an impressive 87% adoption rate and 15% share of global fintech funding.

The roundtable also included discussions with investors about the ongoing reforms and feedback on the current policy framework. Sitharaman's visit to the UK coincides with the 13th Ministerial India-UK Economic and Financial Dialogue, where she is scheduled to hold talks with UK Chancellor Rachel Reeves. The ongoing India-UK Free Trade Agreement (FTA) negotiations are expected to be a key topic during the discussions.

India’s Strategy to Tackle US Tariffs: A Bilateral Trade Agreement by Fall 2025: Jaishankar

- Talks began after Trump’s reelection in February.
- India opts for early, constructive US engagement.
- BTA aims to ease tariff impact, boost ties.

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar on Wednesday outlined India’s strategy to address the impact of US President Donald Trump’s reciprocal tariffs, emphasizing that New Delhi plans to finalize a bilateral trade agreement (BTA) with Washington by the fall of this year. Jaishankar’s remarks come amid uncertainty regarding the long-term effects of the tariffs, which have triggered significant trade disruptions.

In his first detailed response to the tariff policy, Jaishankar pointed out that India is among the few countries that have reached an understanding with the Trump administration



to negotiate a trade deal after Trump’s second-term presidency began. “I don’t think it’s possible to speak about what the impact would be, because we don’t know. What is our strategy? I think that’s pretty clear,” Jaishankar said at the News 18 Rising Bharat Summit.

The minister further clarified that India has taken a cautious and diplomatic approach to the tariff issue. “We decided that we will engage the Trump administration early on this set of issues, and we were very open with them, very constructive

with them, as they were with us,” Jaishankar added. India’s plan is to negotiate the first tranche of the BTA by the fall of 2025, following discussions between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President Trump in Washington in February.

Jaishankar highlighted that India is possibly the only country to have reached such an understanding with the United States after Trump’s reelection, emphasizing the importance of constructive engagement between the two nations. He also acknowledged that countries around the world are shaping their own strategies in response to the US tariff policies, but India’s goal remains to establish a trade pact with the Trump administration that will benefit both nations.

With the ongoing tariff dispute, India remains focused on securing a trade deal that would mitigate the potential economic fallout from the tariffs and enhance bilateral relations between the two countries.

People Denied House Over Caste, Religion ‘Disheartening’: Maharashtra Governor

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

Maharashtra Governor C.P. Radhakrishnan expressed his concerns about the ongoing discrimination based on caste and religion, calling it “disheartening” that some people are denied housing because of their background. Speaking at the ‘Lokmat World Peace and Harmony Through Interfaith Dialogue’ event on Tuesday, the Governor emphasized the importance of ending such discrimination.

Radhakrishnan highlighted that interfaith dialogue is an age-old concept that can bridge divides and eliminate prejudices. He stressed that in a multi-religious and multi-cultural society, it is crucial to teach citizens to respect all faiths, starting from schools and colleges. He suggested that educational institutions should celebrate the festivals of all religions, fostering an environment of inclusivity and respect. He also encouraged parents to take their children to places of worship of different religions to cultivate empathy and understanding.

“In the name of secularism, we are preventing our students from celebrating the festivals of



all religions,” the Governor pointed out. He stressed that such actions hinder the growth of respect and peaceful coexistence among different communities.

Radhakrishnan further stated, “It is disheartening to hear that people are being denied housing based on caste or religion. This has to be ended once and for all.” He called for creating a society where every citizen is invested in peace and goodwill, advocating for the role of interfaith dialogue in fostering world peace and harmony.

Bihar Governor Arif Mohammad Khan, who was also present at the event, spoke about Indian culture, emphasizing that it is not defined by language, skin color, or faith. He reiterated that diversity is a strength, not a weakness, and should be respected. Khan also highlighted the concept of accountability in Indian culture, stressing that actions have consequences.

Vijay Darda, former Rajya Sabha MP, concluded by advocating for brotherhood, welfare, world peace, and compassion, underscoring the need for unity in the face of diversity.

Kapil Mishra Challenges Court’s Order for Further Investigation in 2020 Riots Case

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

Delhi Law Minister Kapil Mishra approached a Delhi court on Wednesday, April 9, 2025, challenging an order for further investigation in connection with the February 2020 riots in the National Capital. Mishra filed the application before special judge Kaveri Baweja, who is expected to take up the matter in the near future.

This move comes after additional chief judicial magistrate (ACJM) Vaidh Chaurasia passed an order on April 1, which indicated that a cognisable offence had been “prima facie” found against Mishra, necessitating further investigation. The court noted that Mishra was present in the area during the alleged offence and concluded that a deeper probe was needed.

The application filed by Mishra aims to challenge the magistrate’s decision, which came after arguments from a Yamuna Vihar resident, Mohammad Ilyas, who had sought the registration of an FIR against the Delhi Law Minister. The Delhi Police had opposed the registration of the FIR, claiming that



Mishra had no role in the riots.

The case has sparked significant political debate. Following the court’s decision for further investigation, the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) launched a scathing attack on the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), questioning why Mishra, despite the ongoing legal scrutiny, continues to hold his position as a minister. The opposition party has demanded accountability from the BJP in light of the legal proceedings.

The matter has also attracted attention due to the broader political context surrounding the 2020 Delhi riots. Mishra, who has been accused of inciting violence during the riots, has consistently denied any wrongdoing. The outcome of this legal battle will have significant implications for Mishra’s political future and could further influence the political climate in Delhi.

The Delhi Police had earlier contested the claims of Mishra’s involvement, but the court’s ruling for further investigation reflects the seriousness with which the allegations are being treated.

Indian Railways Rejects Loco Pilots’ Request for Breaks During Duty Amid Rising Accidents

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

Indian Railways has rejected a long-standing demand from Loco Pilots to be granted breaks for meals and attending nature’s call while on duty. The Railway Board, after reviewing recommendations from a high-level committee, concluded that legislating such breaks was operationally unfeasible. This decision comes at a time when human error has been frequently cited as the cause of increasing train accidents across the country.

The Railway Board defended its decision, stating that the installation of Crew Voice & Video Recording Systems in loco cabins was not a breach of privacy. These systems, the board explained, are intended to assist the crew and enhance operational effectiveness. They emphasized that the technology would not impose additional workloads on the crew but would instead improve the safety and efficiency of train operations.

In addition to this decision, the Railway Board has raised the high-speed train limit from 110 km/h to 130 km/h, following the recommendations of a multi-disciplinary committee. This change will also see the deployment of an Assistant Loco Pilot on Mainline Electric Multiple Unit (MEMU) trains



operating on routes longer than 200 km.

However, the All India Loco Running Staff Association (AILRSA) strongly condemned the Railway Board’s decision. The association argued that the committee had not considered the increased stress levels for Loco Pilots due to the higher speeds, nor had they assessed the physical and mental strain on crew members. AILRSA also criticized the lack of toilet facilities in locomotives, highlighting the difficulty Loco Pilots face during long, non-stop train journeys, especially on superfast trains.

The association pointed out that the demands of Loco Pilots are not being adequately addressed, including the lack of sufficient breaks during extended shifts. This, they argue, could lead to lapses in attention and increase the likelihood of accidents. They also criticized the Crew Voice & Video Recording System as an intrusion of privacy, claiming that it is used to penalize Loco Pilots for minor issues like posture or yawning during long shifts.

The ongoing debate highlights the need for better working conditions for Loco Pilots, including adequate breaks and facilities, to ensure both their well-being and the safety of train operations.

‘Young should now get chance’: Tejashwi appeals to people to make him Bihar CM

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) leader Tejashwi Yadav on Tuesday appealed to the people of Bihar, particularly the Musahar-Bhuiyan community, to elect him as the Chief Minister, comparing the current Nitish Kumar-led government to an outdated 20-year-old car that needs replacement. Addressing a conclave of the Musahar-Bhuiyan community, known to be one of the most backward groups even among Dalits, Yadav emphasized that it was time for the youth to take charge of the state.

Yadav, who was the Chief Ministerial candidate for the Mahagathbandhan alliance during the last assembly elections, promised that if he became the CM, the Musahar-Bhuiyan community, which he claimed lives on the streets, in night shelters, or in slums, would see significant benefits. “Once you make this son of yours the CM, he will eradi-



cate your poverty and provide you with pucca (permanent) houses. I need your support and love to fulfill this mission,” he said.

The RJD leader also compared his father, Lalu Prasad’s government, with the current leadership of Nitish Kumar, accusing the latter of being indifferent and even hostile toward the poor. “When our government is formed in the state, we will work for the betterment of the deprived, neglected, oppressed,

Dalits, and most backward classes in the state,” Yadav promised. He further added that under Lalu Prasad’s leadership, socially marginalized people were integrated into society with respect and justice.

Yadav took aim at the BJP-led central government as well, accusing Prime Minister Narendra Modi of making false promises to the people of Bihar. “Before every election, they say they will make Bihar the number one state in the country. But after over 10 years of Modi’s rule, the BJP-Nitish government has left Bihar as the most backward state,” he stated.

With the Musahar-Bhuiyan community’s vote being crucial in several constituencies, Yadav’s appeal was aimed at rallying support from this significant electorate ahead of future elections in Bihar.

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Congress Adopts Special Resolution to Regain Power in Gujarat at AICC Session

supports genuine businessmen, particularly small and medium enterprises, it does not align with a few crony capitalists who dominate the state. He also pointed out the negative impact of Chinese imports on Gujarat’s economy, particularly on the state’s stainless steel industry. Despite Gujarat being home to 80% of India’s stainless steel units, a third of them have shut down due to the lack of restrictions on Chinese imports, Ramesh claimed.

The Congress leader also drew attention to Gujarat’s lagging

performance in social sectors like education and health. He noted that, despite being a developed state, Gujarat lags behind states like Kerala, Tamil Nadu, and Karnataka in these critical areas.

This special resolution comes at a time when Gujarat, the home state of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has been under BJP rule since 1995. In the 2022 assembly elections, Congress secured only 17 of the 182 seats, which later dropped to 12 after the resignation of five MLAs.

BJP Govt Begins Reconstitution of Delhi's Statutory Bodies

Removes AAP-Appointed Members



- 16 non-officials' terms officially terminated.
- AAP ex-MLAs and current MLAs ousted from posts.
- BJP aims to align bodies with its governance agenda.

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

The BJP-led Delhi government has initiated the process of reconstituting several key bodies in the capital, removing chairpersons and members who were appointed during the previous AAP administration. The reorganization includes statutory and non-statutory bodies, as well as boards, academies, and committees related to Haj and Tirth Yatra, among others.

According to government sources, the terms of 16 non-official office bearers and members, who were appointed by the AAP government, have been terminated. The Delhi government's Services department has issued an order instructing all departments to remove the current members of these bodies and begin the reconstitution

process.

Many of the terminated members and chairpersons were affiliated with AAP, including former AAP legislators. Notable figures affected by the reshuffling include Abdul Rehman and Haji Yunus, both ex-AAP MLAs and non-official members of the Delhi State Haj Committee, and Kamal Bansal, the former chairman of the Tirth Yatra Vikas Samiti. Other key figures removed include F.Y. Ismailee, the chairperson of the Urs Committee, and Karnail Singh and Som Dutt, both serving as non-official members of the Delhi Building and Other Construction Workers Advisory Committee, with Singh and Dutt being current AAP MLAs.

Gopal Rai, an AAP MLA, who previously served as the chairperson of the

Delhi Agricultural Marketing Board, is among those whose terms have been terminated, along with six other non-official members.

The reorganization also affects other significant bodies, including the Tree Authority, Delhi Biodiversity Council, Delhi Village Development Board, and the Delhi Animal Welfare Board. In addition, memberships of various cultural and linguistic academies, including Hindi, Urdu, Sahitya Kala Parishad, Punjabi, Sanskrit, Sindhi, Maithili, and Bhojpuri, have been revoked as part of the shake-up.

This move is part of the BJP government's efforts to reorganize and refresh the structure of these bodies, with a focus on aligning them with the current administration's priorities.

"Waqf Act Won't Be Implemented In Bengal": Mamata Banerjee

TPN Correspondent | Kolkata

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee announced on Wednesday that the state would not implement the Waqf (Amendment) Act, addressing concerns raised by various community groups, including the Jain community. Speaking at an event in Kolkata, Banerjee reassured her audience that she would continue to protect the rights of minority communities and their properties in the state.

"I understand your concerns regarding the Waqf Act. Rest assured, nothing will happen in Bengal that would divide people or create a divide-and-rule situation," Banerjee said, expressing her strong stance against the controversial legislation. She also referenced the political situation in Bangladesh, implying that the enactment of such a law should

not have been pursued at this time.

The Waqf (Amendment) Bill, passed in the Lok Sabha on Thursday and later in the Rajya Sabha on Friday after lengthy debates, was approved by Parliament. President Droupadi Murmu granted her assent to the Bill on Saturday, marking its formal adoption. The Waqf (Amendment) Act seeks to amend provisions related to the management and regulation of Waqf properties across the country.

Banerjee's statement comes as the new law has sparked significant debate and controversy, especially in states like West Bengal, where concerns about its potential impact on the rights of minority communities and religious properties have been raised. The Chief Minister's firm commitment to not implementing the Act in her state is likely to



escalate tensions between the West Bengal government and the central government, led by the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), which has supported the Act.

As the political discourse surrounding the Waqf (Amendment) Act intensifies, Banerjee's position emphasizes her administration's efforts to protect the state's diverse communities from potential adverse effects of central legislation.

Congress needs positive narrative not negative criticism: Tharoor



TPN Correspondent | Delhi

Congress leader Shashi Tharoor on Wednesday called on his party to focus on creating a "positive narrative" rather than solely relying on "negative criticism." Speaking at the All India Congress Committee (AICC) session in Ahmedabad, Tharoor emphasized the importance of appealing to the youth by presenting a vision for the future rather than dwelling on the past.

"We have an illustrious history, but we are all too conscious that young voters today do not seem to place much importance on history. They want to know what we will do for them today and what kind of tomorrow we can offer them," Tharoor stated. His comments came as Congress leaders criticized the Narendra Modi government, with Tharoor seconding the political resolution at the session.

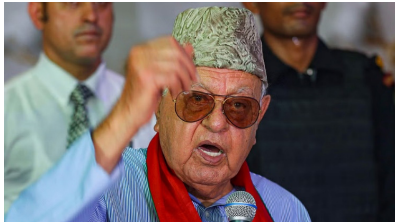
While some speakers praised Congress leadership, Tharoor refrained from offering such praise to Rahul Gandhi and Sonia Gandhi. Instead, he focused on commending the party workers.

"We are standing on your shoulders. Without you, the resolution will only remain as words," he remarked, acknowledging the crucial role played by party members.

Tharoor, who has previously stirred controversy within Congress, notably in February when his article praising the Left Democratic Front (LDF) government in Kerala sparked backlash, reiterated that the party must focus on hope and positivity. He described Congress as a party that should be centered on the future, not just criticism of the present. "Congress should be a party of hope, not of resentment; a party of positivity, not just negative criticism; a party for the future, not just the past," he emphasized.

Having lost to Mallikarjun Kharge in the 2022 Congress presidential election, Tharoor's views often ruffle feathers within the party. However, his latest call for a more forward-looking, hopeful Congress resonates with his desire to steer the party away from a cycle of negative rhetoric and towards a more inclusive, optimistic vision for the future.

J&K govt will work to take UT out of its difficulties: Farooq Abdullah



TPN Correspondent | Delhi

National Conference (NC) president Farooq Abdullah on Wednesday reaffirmed his commitment to working towards overcoming the difficulties faced by Jammu and Kashmir, despite ongoing criticism from opposition parties. Addressing reporters during his participation at a women's conclave at the SKICC, Abdullah responded to accusations regarding the ruling party's failure to bring a resolution on the Waqf Amendment Act, stating that "enemies will always be there," but the government would continue its efforts to improve the situation in the state.

Abdullah emphasized the importance of women's empowerment for the strength of the nation, noting that women constitute half of the population and deserve to receive their rights. He advocated for the immediate implementation of the Women's Bill passed by Parliament, underscoring that real progress in the country could only be achieved once women

are given their rightful place.

Regarding his earlier comments about establishing a center for women in Jammu and Kashmir, Abdullah stated, "We will establish a women's center. As this is the crown of India, we will start it from the crown." He added that he had instructed the authorities to identify suitable land for the center, and assured his full support for the initiative.

Addressing the issue of pending court cases involving women, particularly those related to domestic violence, Abdullah stressed the importance of increasing the representation of women in political bodies, including the assembly, District Development Councils, and panchayats, so that they can advocate for their own rights. "If our daughters enter these institutions, they can fight for their rights," he said. The former chief minister also expressed his commitment to expediting the hearings of such cases, ensuring timely justice for women who seek redress.

Abdullah's remarks reflect his ongoing efforts to tackle both the political and social challenges faced by Jammu and Kashmir, particularly in terms of advancing women's rights and addressing the state's ongoing difficulties.

Amit Shah Vows To Win Bihar Election, Calls On Youth To Uproot 'Politics Of Appeasement'



TPN Correspondent | Delhi

Union Home Minister Amit Shah expressed confidence on Wednesday that the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) will secure victory in the upcoming assembly elections in Bihar and Tamil Nadu. Speaking at News18 Rising Bharat, Shah acknowledged that the BJP faced a reduced voter turnout in the Lok Sabha polls, as many voters felt dissatisfied with the performance of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. However, he noted that this dissatisfaction led to a large voter turnout in BJP's favor in the Haryana and Delhi assembly elections.

Shah emphasized the need for India's youth to uproot the politics of appeasement, calling it a "poisonous ideology." He further criticized those engaging in appeasement, accusing them of working against the nation. He also targeted the Congress party, claiming that the party had altered

the Waqf Bill in 2013 to appease certain vote banks, just months before the 2014 general elections. He added that since the changes were made, the Waqf properties had expanded significantly, with an additional 21 lakh acres of land being added.

In a broader political statement, Shah assured the people of Southern India that their Lok Sabha seats would remain intact on a pro-rata basis, despite ongoing political noise. He questioned whether similar concerns about delimitation were raised in states governed by the INDIA bloc. Addressing the situation in Tamil Nadu, Shah stated that such rhetoric was being used to divert attention from issues like corruption and dynastic politics. He emphasized that the BJP would not engage in any unfair treatment regarding seat allocation in the region.

Delhi Government Allocates ₹700 Crore for Slum Development

CM Announces Housing for 52,000 Families



TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta announced on Tuesday, April 8, 2025, that the government has allocated ₹700 crore to the Delhi Urban Shelter Improvement Board (DUSIB) for the comprehensive development of slums in the city. This funding aims to improve living conditions and provide basic amenities to slum residents, ensuring better access to

essential services like water, sanitation, and healthcare.

During her visit to her constituency, Shalimar Bagh, where she inaugurated several new development projects, the Chief Minister criticized previous administrations for neglecting the needs of slum dwellers, accusing them of using these communities only for electoral gains. Gupta emphasized that the current

Delhi government is taking substantial steps to improve the lives of slum residents, highlighting the government's commitment to their welfare.

Speaking to the media, Gupta further revealed that the Delhi government is preparing to allot 52,000 flats to slum dwellers, making a significant stride towards providing them with permanent housing. She assured the public that the “acche din” (good days) that had long eluded slum dwellers have finally arrived, marking a new chapter in the city's approach to slum development.

These initiatives are part of the Delhi government's broader effort to uplift marginalized communities, ensuring that they no longer have to endure substandard living conditions. The allocation of funds and the proposed housing scheme are seen as key steps in addressing the challenges faced by slum residents, offering them a better standard of living and long-term stability.

The announcement has been met with praise from various quarters, with many commending the government's focus on providing for those most in need. This move is expected to improve the quality of life for thousands of families across Delhi, paving the way for more inclusive urban development.

Delhi's Draft EV Policy 2.0 Aims to Phase Out CNG Auto-Rickshaws



TPN Correspondent | Delhi

Delhi's upcoming Electric Vehicle (EV) Policy 2.0, expected to be unveiled soon, outlines ambitious steps to reduce fossil fuel dependency and combat air pollution in the capital. One of the key features of the draft policy is a proposal to phase out CNG-powered auto-rickshaws, along with other fossil fuel-driven vehicles such as those used for waste collection and city buses.

According to the draft policy, the Delhi government will cease registering new CNG auto-rickshaws starting August 15, 2025. Furthermore, existing CNG auto permits will not be renewed after this date, and they will be replaced with electric auto permits. The policy also mandates that CNG auto-rickshaws older than 10 years must either be replaced or retrofitted to run on electric batteries within the policy's time-frame.

In addition to auto-rickshaws, the policy targets other fossil fuel-driven vehicles, including two-wheelers and three-wheelers. From August 15, 2026, no new petrol, diesel, or CNG two-wheelers will be permitted, and from August 15, 2025, the registration of diesel, petrol, or

CNG-powered goods carrier three-wheelers will be prohibited.

The draft policy also outlines the transition of the municipal vehicle fleet to electric. It recommends that all garbage collection vehicles owned or leased by the Municipal Corporation of Delhi, New Delhi Municipal Council, and Delhi Jal Board be converted to electric vehicles, aiming for a 100% electric fleet by December 31, 2027. Public transport buses operated by Delhi Transport Corporation (DTC) and Delhi Integrated Multi-Modal Transit System (DIMTS) are also set to be converted to e-buses, with only electric buses to be procured for intra-city operations.

Additionally, private car owners will be required to purchase electric vehicles if they own two cars, with the policy coming into effect after its official notification.

The policy, currently under review by the Delhi Cabinet, is expected to be approved soon. It aims to tackle Delhi's severe air pollution problem by significantly reducing the number of fossil fuel vehicles on the roads. The government has also extended its previous EV policy for 15 more days, with the new draft nearing final approval.

Delhi Family Loses Rs 8 Lakh To 'Digital Arrest' Scam, 4 Arrested

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

The Cyber Police Station of New Delhi's North District has successfully dismantled a cyber racket that extorted Rs 8.10 lakh from a woman by impersonating officials from the Telecom Department, the CBI, and the ED. The accused allegedly held the woman, along with her family members, virtually hostage for 48 hours, coercing her into paying the money under threat of false legal charges.



As the scam unfolded, the accused sent forged documents from the CBI and ED, including fake stamps from the Supreme Court, between March 5 and March 7, further escalating the pressure on the woman and her family. These documents subjected her family to what was described as a 'digital arrest.'

Following a detailed investigation by the North District Cyber Police, which traced

the calls to Zamrudpur, East of Kailash, and Greater Kailash, police raided the locations and arrested three individuals on March 31. The arrested suspects were identified as Raja Mandal (27), who was the account holder, and Tushar Thapa (23) and Saurabh Tiwari (23), both account providers/agents. The police also seized four mobile phones during the raid.

Further investigation led to the arrest of another suspect, Anup Kumar Tiwari (23), in the Chanakyapuri and R K Puram areas. He revealed that he had received around Rs 18 lakh into his account from similar fraudulent activities. Tiwari had been directed to open bank accounts under other names and received commissions for his work as an account holder.

The investigation is ongoing, and police are working to apprehend other co-accused individuals involved in the scam.

Delhi Experiences Warmest Night of the Season, AQI in 'Poor' Category



TPN Correspondent | Delhi

Delhi recorded its warmest night of the season on Wednesday, April 9, 2025, with the minimum temperature reaching 25.6°C, according to the India Meteorological Department (IMD). The capital city is bracing for a prolonged heatwave, as the IMD has issued a yellow alert for heatwave conditions over the next six days.

The forecast predicts a partly cloudy sky throughout the day, with the maximum tempera-

ture likely to touch around 40°C. The relative humidity in the morning, measured at 8:30 a.m., was reported to be 51%, adding to the discomfort caused by the soaring temperatures.

In addition to the intense heat, Delhi's air quality has deteriorated, falling into the "poor" category. The Air Quality Index (AQI) stood at 233 at 9 a.m. on Wednesday, signaling a significant decline in air quality. The AQI is a measure of air pollution, and values between 201 and 300 are classified as

"poor," indicating potential health risks, particularly for sensitive groups like children, the elderly, and individuals with respiratory conditions.

The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) categorizes AQI levels as follows: 0-50 is considered 'good,' 51-100 'satisfactory,' 101-200 'moderate,' 201-300 'poor,' 301-400 'very poor,' and 401-500 'severe.' With the current AQI falling in the 'poor' range, residents of Delhi are advised to limit outdoor activities, especially in the afternoon, when the heat is expected to peak.

The combination of high temperatures, elevated humidity, and poor air quality highlights the increasing challenges posed by the early onset of heatwave conditions in the national capital. Authorities have urged people to take precautions, stay hydrated, and limit exposure to direct sunlight, particularly during peak heat hours.

Delhi RWAs, political parties unite against MCD's garbage collection fee

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

Residents' Welfare Associations (RWAs) have strongly opposed the Municipal Corporation of Delhi's (MCD) plan to collect a garbage user charge along with property tax, accusing the move of unfairly penalizing honest taxpayers. The new fee has raised concerns over its impact on the city's waste management system, with residents questioning whether it will lead to the redundancy of private door-to-door garbage collectors, who currently serve a large portion of Delhi, or force them to pay double.

The controversy has sparked political tension within the MCD, with both the ruling Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) and the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) criticizing the decision. AAP members have questioned the linkage of property tax to the garbage fee and accused the MCD commissioner of

bypassing the house in the decision-making process. In response, BJP leaders staged a protest at the MCD commissioner's residence, further intensifying the issue.

Sanjay Rana, General Secretary of the Greater Kailash-II Welfare Association, expressed concerns that the garbage fee was being imposed without first ensuring uniform, efficient, and segregated waste collection across the city. He argued that the MCD should address service quality and consistency issues before introducing any new fees. "The corporation should first streamline services, address gaps in collection, and only then consider a nominal and reasonable user fee, ideally after stake-

holder consultation," Rana said.

Rajesh Panwar, leader of the Vasant Kunj RWA Federation, echoed similar concerns, highlighting that private waste collectors already perform the service of collecting garbage from households and transporting it to designated dhalaos. He questioned why residents should be expected to pay both private collectors and the MCD for the same service.

Delhi generates over 11,000 tonnes of garbage daily from approximately 4.3 million households. While the MCD claims 100% door-to-door waste collection, residents frequently challenge this claim. The MCD's processing capacity is limited to 7,200 tonnes per day, leaving a significant gap in waste management that contributes to ongoing concerns about the system's efficiency.



Economic Gloom And Disillusionment With Leaders Fuels Royalists In Nepal

TPN Correspondent | Nepal

Nearly two decades after Nepal transitioned to a secular republic, a wave of pro-monarchy protests has swept the country, driven by economic frustration and disillusionment with current leadership. Thousands took to the streets last month in a royalist rally that turned violent, resulting in two deaths and over 100 arrests. This protest is part of a larger movement calling for the restoration of the monarchy, fueled by public dissatisfaction with political instability, corruption, and economic stagnation.

Nepal, a Hindu-majority nation, became a secular republic in 2008, following the abolition of the monarchy in a peace agreement that ended a decade-long civil war, claiming over 16,000 lives. However, recent protests reflect a growing sense of nostalgia for the monarchy, with royalists pushing for the return of a symbolic king to safeguard national pride and interests.

Rajendra Lingden, chairperson of the royalist Rastriya Prajatantra Party (RPP), emphasized that the monarchy should not rule but act as a protector against foreign influence. The RPP, Nepal's fifth-largest party, has gained traction with its pro-Hindu and royalist agenda, securing 14 seats in the 2022 elections, up from just one seat in 2017.



- **RPP gains popularity pushing Hindu-royalist agenda.**
- **Ex-King Gyanendra makes public appearances again.**
- **Politicians dismiss monarchy as outdated, stir debate.**

Many protesters, like teacher Rajindra Kunwar, cite the country's struggles, including high inflation, joblessness, and inadequate healthcare and education, as reasons for their desire to restore the monarchy. "That's why we need the king back," Kunwar said.

Former King Gyanendra Bir Bikram Shah, who was crowned in 2001 after a palace massacre, has largely remained silent on political matters since his monarchy was abolished in 2008. However, in recent months, he has made public appearances, advocating for national unity and urg-

ing support for the royal cause. His arrival in Kathmandu last month was met with thousands of supporters chanting, "Come king, save the nation."

Despite these movements, mainstream politicians, including Rajaram Bartaula of the Communist Party, dismiss the monarchy as an outdated institution. "Conscious Nepalis of the 21st century will not accept the return of the monarchy," he asserted. As Nepal faces ongoing economic challenges, the debate over the monarchy's role continues to divide the nation.

Man Arrested in Assam for Performing Dangerous Stunt on Railway Tracks

TPN Correspondent | Guwahati

A man in Assam's Hailakandi district was arrested for performing a perilous stunt involving a moving train, which he filmed and uploaded to social media. The individual, identified as Papul Alam Barbhuiya, deliberately lay between active railway tracks while a train passed over him, putting his life at extreme risk.

The shocking stunt, captured on video, quickly went viral after being posted on various social media platforms, drawing widespread attention and disbelief. Many viewers expressed astonishment at the lengths to which some individuals go for social media fame, disregard-

ing their safety in the process.

"We have arrested one person for attempting a dangerous stunt by making a reel while lying between rail tracks as a train passed over him. He has been forwarded to court. The person managed to get bail from court," said police officials, confirming the arrest. Although Barbhuiya was granted bail, legal proceedings against him are ongoing, with a case registered for his reckless behavior.



The incident has raised concerns about the growing trend of dangerous stunts being performed for social media engagement. It is not the first such case in the region. Recently, three men in Morigaon were arrested for performing car stunts on a public road that connects Morigaon to Nagaon. This increasing trend of unsafe activities for online content has prompted calls for greater awareness and stricter enforcement of laws to prevent such reckless acts.

Authorities are continuing their investigations, and they are urging the public to be more responsible with their social media activities, especially when it comes to stunts that endanger lives.

Bihar Minister Faces Criticism Over Blanket Distribution in Scorching Heat

TPN Correspondent | Bihar

Bihar Sports Minister Surendra Mehta has sparked controversy after distributing over 500 blankets to poor residents of Ahiyapur village in his Bachhwara Assembly constituency, despite temperatures soaring between 35 and 40 degrees Celsius. The event was held on the 46th Foundation Day of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP).



Mehta shared photos of the initiative on his official Facebook page, describing the event as part of the BJP's commitment to "Antyodaya" (uplifting the poor) and nation-building. "On the occasion of the 46th Foundation Day of BJP, the largest party in the world working with the spirit of Antyodaya and nation building, celebrated today at Ahiyapur village of Govindpur-2 Panchayat of Bachhwara Assembly constituency and honoured people with clothes," he wrote.

The distribution event, however, has faced widespread criticism due to its timing during the hot summer months. Videos of the event have gone vi-

ral on social media, with many mocking the gesture. Despite the large turnout, the distribution of blankets in such high temperatures has drawn the ire of local politicians.

Former CPI MLA from Bachhwara, Awadhesh Rai, expressed his disbelief, telling NDTV, "If the Sports Minister had distributed these blankets on Vajpayee ji's birthday (December 25), people might've found use for them. But I am shocked he chose to hand out blankets in this scorching sun." Rai also criticized the lack of development in the area, particularly in sports facilities for children, and sug-

gested that the blanket distribution was a political stunt aimed at the upcoming Bihar Assembly elections.

Critics have also pointed to the poor state of infrastructure in the constituency, with roads in disrepair and dust flying around in the absence of solutions. Mehta's office did not immediately comment on the matter, as the minister was attending a cabinet meeting in Patna. The controversy adds to the growing political tensions ahead of the upcoming elections, where the BJP, in alliance with Nitish Kumar's JD(U), is preparing for a tough battle to retain power in Bihar.

Ammonia Gas Leak at Madhya Pradesh Factory Triggers Panic, Affects Workers



TPN Correspondent | Ratlam

An ammonia gas leak at a factory in Jaora town, located in Madhya Pradesh's Ratlam district, caused panic and affected several people on Tuesday night. The incident, which occurred around 10:30 pm, prompted immediate action from local authorities, including the police, fire brigade, and administration, who swiftly managed to contain the leak.

The leak took place at Porwal Ice Factory in Jaora town. Sub Divisional Magistrate (SDM) Trilochan Gaud confirmed

that the gas leak was caused by ammonia, adding that the situation was promptly controlled. "The police and administration immediately sprinkled water, stopped the gas leak, and brought the situation under control," said Superintendent of Police Amit Kumar.

Some individuals were affected by the gas leak and were given medical treatment, although further details were not provided. Notably, police personnel stationed near the factory were the first to notice the leak during their routine night patrol. Acting quickly,

they became the first responders, alerting authorities to the issue.

The fire brigade played a critical role in managing the situation, controlling the leak by spraying water. "The gas leak was promptly detected, and it was not a big incident," SDM Gaud stated. Labourers working at the factory were evacuated immediately, ensuring their safety.

While the leak caused temporary alarm, authorities were able to prevent further harm, and the situation is now under control. The prompt response by local authorities, along with the cooperation of police and fire services, helped mitigate the potential risks of the ammonia gas leak.

The incident serves as a reminder of the importance of quick action and preparedness in handling industrial accidents, particularly those involving hazardous materials like ammonia.

Mumbai Police Files 1,000-Page Chargesheet In Saif Ali Khan Stabbing Case



TPN Correspondent | Mumbai

Mumbai's Bandra Police have filed a comprehensive 1000-page chargesheet in connection with the stabbing attack on Bollywood actor Saif Ali Khan. The chargesheet, presented in Bandra court, includes a wide array of evidence collected by authorities against the arrested accused, Shariful Islam.

The chargesheet details crucial forensic evidence, including the forensic lab report, which confirms that the knife pieces recovered from the crime scene, from Saif Ali Khan's body, and from the accused, all belong to the same knife. Additionally,

the chargesheet references a fingerprint report of Islam's left hand, which was found during the police investigation.

The stabbing incident took place on January 16, when the accused, identified as Shehzad, allegedly broke into Saif Ali Khan's Bandra residence, intending to rob him. During the altercation, the actor sustained severe injuries, including damage to his thoracic spine and other parts of his body. Saif Ali Khan was immediately rushed to Lilavati Hospital, where he received medical treatment for five days before being discharged on January 21.

The police investigation has

revealed that Shariful Islam, a Bangladeshi national, had entered India via Bangladesh and had stayed in several locations in Kolkata before eventually reaching Mumbai. Authorities have emphasized the meticulous efforts made during the investigation, which helped piece together the details of the crime.

While the chargesheet includes a detailed analysis of the physical evidence, the police continue their work to ensure that all aspects of the case are thoroughly examined. The case has garnered significant attention, with both fans and the film industry expressing concern over the actor's well-being and the nature of the attack.

WORLD HOMEOPATHY DAY APRIL 10

A Tribute, A Reflection, A Promise

April 10 marks World Homeopathy Day, observed in memory of the great visionary Dr. Samuel Hahnemann, the founder of Homeopathy. While it's a tribute to his contribution to the field of medicine, it is also a day for both practitioners and patients to pause and reflect on how this gentle yet powerful system of healing continues to quietly transform lives—especially in today's world where lifestyle disorders and chronic diseases are rampant.

What is Homeopathy?

Homeopathy is a holistic system of medicine based on the principle of "like cures like." It means a substance that causes symptoms in a healthy person can be used in minute doses to treat similar symptoms in a sick person. It focuses not just on the disease, but on the person as a whole—their physical complaints, emotional state, genetic tendencies, lifestyle, and environment. Like Ayurveda, Allopathy, Siddha, and Unani, Homeopathy is a complete medical science in its own right. Every system of medicine has its strengths and limitations. What makes homeopathy distinctive is its individualized approach, its deep philosophy of healing, and its potential to offer complete, lasting cures without suppressing symptoms.

Why Homeopathy?

There's a common saying among practitioners: "A homeopath may fail, but not homeopathy." This isn't just rhetoric—it's a reflection of the system's potential when practiced correctly. Homeopathy doesn't treat diseases; it treats people. Instead of chasing symptoms, it aims to find the root cause and restore balance within the individual. This unique approach ensures that treatment is customized, not generalized. Two people with the same diagnosis might receive entirely different remedies based on their personality, symptoms, lifestyle, and mental state. That's the beauty of homeopathy—it sees the person behind the disease.

What Does a Homeopath Really Do?

When you visit a homeopath, don't expect



Dr. Maruboina Ramakrishna
BHMS. MD. MCAH
(Asian Homeocare, Vijayawada World Homeopathy Day)

a 5-minute consultation. We dive deep. From your childhood history, stress levels, food cravings, fears, emotional state, sleep pattern—everything is considered. This helps the homeopath understand not just the 'what' of your illness but the 'why'. What triggered it? What's sustaining it? What needs to be addressed in you so that the disease leaves?

How Does Homeopathy Differ from Other Systems?

Homeopathy stands apart in several ways:

- **Case-taking:** Consultations are longer and more detailed.
- **Philosophy:** Focus is on treating the individual, not just the illness.
- **Medicine Preparation:** Remedies are derived from natural substances and potentized in a unique way.
- **Dosage and Dispensing:** No bitter pills or painful injections—just sweet, easy-to-take pills.

This method makes homeopathy especially friendly for children, elderly, and even pets. Is Homeopathy Only for Chronic Conditions? Absolutely not. Ho-

meopathy works beautifully for acute conditions too—colds, fevers, diarrhoea, injuries, allergies, and more. In such situations, remedies stimulate the immune system to respond quickly and naturally. So whether your issue is recent or long-standing, homeopathy has something to offer. Can I Take Homeopathy Along with Other Medicines? Yes. Homeopathy can complement conventional treatment. In fact, if you're dealing with a chronic disease—like diabetes, thyroid disorders, arthritis, allergies, or PCOS—and your current medication is only giving partial relief or your reports are not improving despite increasing doses, that's the right time to consider a homeopath. We aim to support recovery, reduce dependency, and in many cases, bring reports back to normal. How Long Should I Wait for Results? Healing takes time, and in homeopathy, patience pays off. Results vary based on how long the condition has been present, your age, lifestyle, and overall vitality. Allergies often require treatment over 4 seasonal cycles. Chronic conditions like asthma, PCOD, psoriasis, or arthritis may take 18–24 months to show significant and lasting improvements. But once cured, the chances of relapse are minimal. Common Myths About Homeopathy—Busted

- **"Homeopathy heats the body." Not true. The remedies balance your system, not overheat it.**
- **"I must stop all other medicines." No. You can continue your existing treatment alongside homeopathy under proper guidance.**
- **"Homeopathy pills are sweet—do they increase sugar levels?" No. The quantity of sugar in the pills is negligible and safe even for diabetics. On this World Homeopathy Day, let's not just remember the founder of this science, but also reflect on the way it has restored health to millions—gently, safely, and naturally. Whether you are a patient looking for lasting relief or a curious mind wondering what homeopathy truly is, take this day as an opportunity to explore, understand, and embrace this remarkable system of healing. Because homeopathy doesn't just treat diseases—it transforms lives.**



Global Boycotts of US Goods

Across the globe, American products are increasingly becoming the target of consumer boycotts as citizens of various countries protest U.S. foreign policy and political actions—particularly those tied to the Trump administration. These boycotts, while not coordinated under a single umbrella movement, reflect a rising wave of politically motivated consumer activism where purchasing decisions are shaped by geopolitical sentiments. From fast-food chains and tech giants to luxury fashion and entertainment exports, US brands are feeling the ripple effects of international frustration. Protesters in cities like London, Paris, Istanbul, and Kuala Lumpur have been vocal, with rallies targeting not just political leaders like Donald Trump but also high-profile figures such as Elon Musk, symbolizing corporate America's global dominance. At the heart of these boycotts lies a growing realization: consumer culture is inextricably linked to politics. Global consumers are not passive participants; they are politically conscious actors capable of reshaping market dynamics in response to perceived injustices. The call to "vote with your wallet" has grown louder, and it's gaining traction. For Trump, this trend could be a cause for concern. While his domestic base may rally behind protectionism and "America First" rhetoric, the global marketplace plays a critical role in the strength of the US economy. Exports, brand reputation, and cultural influence form key pillars of soft power, and sustained boycotts could erode these assets. Additionally, American corporations may find themselves navigating treacherous terrain—balancing domestic political alignment with international market expectations. In this environment, the Trump brand itself becomes a liability in foreign markets, not just in political spheres but in consumer perception too. This could also indirectly affect the U.S. economy, as declining international sales lead to layoffs, market pullbacks, and reduced investor confidence. What's clear is that these boycotts are more than fleeting gestures; they are part of a broader shift in global consumer behavior, where identity, ethics, and politics increasingly dictate how people shop and what they support. For American leadership, and Trump in particular, ignoring this shift could mean losing not just goodwill abroad, but valuable market ground as well.

Time to Retire Iran War Talk

The longstanding hostility between Iran and the United States remains entrenched, as both nations continue to navigate a volatile relationship marked by mutual distrust, strategic missteps, and ideological rigidity. Despite occasional openings toward diplomacy, the overarching narrative remains mired in threats and war talk that has dominated the discourse since the George W. Bush and Mahmoud Ahmadinejad era. During that time, the rhetoric was intensely confrontational, with Iran defying American might and the US listing Iran in its "Axis of Evil." These hostilities gave rise to persistent predictions of an impending war, a drumbeat that, although tiresome in its repetitiveness, still incites alarm. The idea of military action against Iran has never been far from the minds of US policymakers, especially within the Republican establishment, where calls for strikes have often been viewed as rational responses rather than radical measures. Activist groups like Code Pink have been marginalized despite their calls for diplomacy and peace. Even during Obama's tenure, fears of war persisted until more moderate Iranian leadership emerged. Still, the media's portrayal of Iran as an existential threat has fed into negative public perceptions—Americans rarely express favorable views of the country, which has deepened the divide be-



tween the people of both nations. The lesson from Iraq's devastating war, a campaign widely regarded as a strategic blunder, should have served as a deterrent. Yet Iran, with a far larger population and complex political landscape, remains under the shadow of similar saber-rattling. Internally,

Iran's leadership lacks a cohesive vision, increasingly seen as prioritizing ideological expansion over national welfare. The Revolutionary Guards' external adventurism, combined with disregard for cultural traditions and a worsening economic crisis, has alienated many Iranians. Power blackouts,

hyperinflation, and sanctions have left the public wondering about the true cost of Iran's nuclear pursuits. On the US side, foreign policy has taken a more eccentric tone. From suggestions of annexing Canada to speculation about military action in the Middle East, unpredictability defines Wash-

ington's posture. Despite this, former President Donald Trump has sought a diplomatic solution, even sending a personal letter to Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Khamenei via an Emirati intermediary. Khamenei responded by approving indirect talks, now scheduled in Oman, while also issuing a stern warning against aggression. A breakthrough seems possible but precarious, with Trump reportedly setting a two-month deadline for progress. The renewed direct military clash between Iran and Israel, triggered by attacks in April 2024, has shattered whatever restraint previously existed in their proxy conflict. Amid these tensions, figures like US envoy Steve Witkoff have attempted to reopen channels through cautious messaging, even briefly engaging with Iranian officials online over the JCPOA terms. While predictions remain speculative, and skepticism is warranted, even a limited agreement would be preferable to continued escalation. Iran's dire governance rankings reflect systemic dysfunctions that go beyond foreign policy. But any constructive engagement between Washington and Tehran could signal hope—not just for a reset in relations, but for the millions in the region who remain trapped in a cycle of conflict. The world stands to benefit whenever this overdue understanding materializes.

RBI Cuts Repo Rate by 25 Basis Points to 6% Amid Global Trade Uncertainty



TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reduced the repo rate by 25 basis points to 6%, with the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) voting unanimously in favor of the move. The decision, announced on Wednesday, is aimed at supporting economic growth and easing the interest burden on borrowers with home, auto, and other loans. However, this reduction is expected to lower the interest earned on savings for depositors.

This rate cut comes amid growing concerns over the global trade war, particularly the impact of U.S. President Donald Trump's tariffs. In light of these challenges, the MPC has also revised its growth forecast for India's GDP in 2025-26, lowering it from 6.7% to 6.5%.

This marks the second consecutive rate cut by the RBI, following a 25 basis point reduction in the previous policy meeting. The committee, led by RBI Governor Sanjay Malhotra, also shifted its policy stance from neutral to accommodative, signaling a more growth-focused approach. This change indicates the RBI's growing concern about the potential impact of the trade war on domestic economic growth, rather than inflation risks. The shift in stance suggests the possibility of further rate cuts in the future to stimulate the economy.

Governor Malhotra highlighted that global uncertainty, particularly the escalating trade tensions, could dampen investment and spending by businesses and households, negatively impacting domestic growth. Additionally, higher tariffs are expected to hurt India's exports.

On inflation, Malhotra noted that while global volatility posed some risks, including currency pressures and imported inflation, the domestic inflation outlook remained relatively stable. Inflation risks are seen as two-sided, with a slowdown in global growth potentially softening commodity and crude oil prices.

Looking ahead, RBI projects India's GDP growth for 2025-26 at 6.5%, with inflation expected to remain at 4% for the year. Despite ongoing global uncertainties, the RBI remains committed to using monetary policy to ensure a balanced and stable economic environment.

India ends transshipment facility for Bangladesh exports, cites congestion

- Bangladesh-Nepal/Bhutan trade routes unaffected.
- Yunus' China remarks add diplomatic tension.
- Visa, trade issues strain bilateral ties further.

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

India has withdrawn the transshipment facility extended to Bangladesh due to the significant congestion it was causing at Indian airports and ports, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) confirmed on Wednesday. MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal clarified that the decision, effective from April 8, 2025, is not intended to affect Bangladesh's trade with Nepal or Bhutan.

The transshipment facility, which had been in place since June 2020, allowed cargo from Bangladesh to transit through Indian land customs stations before being sent to their final destinations using Indian ports and airports. This move was essential for Bangladesh's exports, particularly ready-made items, to third countries such as Nepal, Bhutan, and Myanmar. However, over time, the facility had resulted in logistical delays and congestion, which hindered India's own exports and led to backlogs, prompting the decision to terminate the arrangement.

Jaiswal explained that although the transshipment facility was withdrawn, it would not disrupt Bangladesh's exports to Nepal or Bhutan through Indian territory. He also emphasized that the decision was a logistical one and not



related to any political developments.

The decision follows controversial remarks by Prof. Muhammad Yunus, the Chief Adviser to Bangladesh's interim government, who visited Beijing and advocated for stronger trade ties between China and India's northeastern states using Bangladeshi ports. Yunus' statements, made during a roundtable discussion in China, were met with criticism in India, with Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma calling them "offensive and highly condemnable."

While Indian officials have refrained from confirming whether Yunus' remarks influenced the withdrawal of the transshipment facility, the timing of the move, just days before the New Year festivities in Dhaka, has been perceived as a setback to bilateral trade. This development follows ongoing concerns over the limited issuance of Indian visas to Bangladesh's business community, further straining economic ties.

The issue highlights the ongoing complexities in India-Bangladesh relations, with trade, logistics, and diplomatic considerations all playing significant roles.

Congress Demands Caste Census, Rahul Gandhi Slams Waqf Bill and RSS

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Wednesday, April 9, 2025, denounced the Waqf (Amendment) Act, calling it "anti-Constitution" and a direct attack on religious freedoms. Speaking at the AICC session held on the banks of the Sabarmati River, Gandhi raised concerns that the BJP and RSS would soon target the rights of other minorities, particularly Christians and Sikhs, following the passage of the Waqf Bill.

Gandhi claimed that the new law undermines the constitutional rights of religious minorities in India, specifically accusing the government of orchestrating an agenda to curb religious freedoms. He cited an article in an RSS-affiliated magazine that allegedly suggested that the BJP and RSS are now focused on limiting the rights of Christians, with Sikhs potentially being next in line.

In his address, Gandhi also warned of an impending "economic storm," attributing it to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's subservience to U.S. President Donald Trump, especially regarding the imposition of tariffs. He criticized Modi for failing to challenge Trump's actions, referencing a recent meeting between the two leaders where Trump's decision to impose new tariffs on Indian goods went unopposed. "Did you see the photograph of PM Modi hugging Mr. Trump? This time he ordered Modi ji that 'we



will not hug but will impose new tariffs,'" Gandhi remarked. Furthermore, Gandhi took a jibe at Modi's recent interaction with Bangladesh's Chief Advisor Mohammad Yunus, suggesting that the Prime Minister's silence on Yunus' remarks was in stark contrast to his usual bold rhetoric. "Where is the 56-inch chest?" Gandhi quipped, mocking Modi's strength and resolve.

On the issue of caste-based reservations, Gandhi reiterated his support for a national caste census, calling for an expansion of the reservation system and mentioning that Telangana had already made strides in this area. He also emphasized that the Congress party would continue to fight for constitutional values against what he described as an RSS-led push to control India's institutions. "We have truth and the love of the people on our side," he concluded.



Gold Prices Spiked Amid Global Trade Tensions and US Tariffs

TPN Correspondent | Chennai

Gold prices have surged, driven by concerns over a potential global economic slowdown triggered by U.S. President Donald Trump's sweeping tariffs on Chinese imports. In India, the price of 24-karat gold has risen to ₹8,972 per gram, while 22-karat gold is priced at ₹8,224, and 18-karat gold stands at ₹6,729 per gram, according to Goodreturns.

The U.S. dollar weakened ahead of the tariff rollout, making gold, priced in dollars, more attractive to foreign buyers. Trump's administration imposed a significant 104% tariff on Chinese imports and outlined plans for a baseline 10% import duty on other goods. China responded defiantly, labeling the move as "blackmail" and vowing to "fight to the end."

Tim Waterer, Chief Market Analyst at KCM Trade, explained that the downward shift in the dollar due to tariff concerns allowed gold to reclaim the \$3,000 level. Despite some volatility, Waterer indicated that gold could reach new all-time highs, citing uncertainty around global growth and inflation as key drivers.

Gold reached a record high of \$3,167.57 on April 3, mirroring the surge in 1980 during the Iranian Revolution when political risks and inflation fears dominated markets. Investor appetite for gold remains strong, with gold-backed exchange-traded funds seeing the largest quarterly inflows in three years, according to the World Gold Council.

However, rising U.S. bond yields capped some of gold's gains, as the 10-year Treasury yield hit its highest level in over a week, reducing the appeal of non-yielding bullion. Looking ahead, market participants are awaiting the release of the U.S. Federal Reserve's meeting minutes and upcoming inflation data, including the Consumer Price Index (CPI) and Producer Price Index (PPI), later this week.

Analysts, including Rahul Kalantri, VP of Commodities at Mehta Equities, remain cautious, noting that while gold surged due to short-covering and bargain buying, it lost steam after the U.S. announced the tariff changes. Kalantri suggests that gold could face support at \$2,978-\$2,955 per ounce and resistance at \$3,040-\$3,065 per ounce in global markets, with similar levels for Indian gold prices. Analysts believe that gold's upward trajectory may continue as macroeconomic uncertainties persist.

India's naval aviation gets a boost: Rafale-Marine jets approved for acquisition

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

In a major boost to India's naval aviation, the Cabinet Committee on Security, led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has approved the purchase of 26 Rafale-Marine fighter jets from French aviation giant Dassault, at an estimated cost of ₹63,000 crore. This acquisition is aimed at enhancing the Indian Navy's offensive capabilities, especially for operations at sea. The jets will be deployed on India's indigenously built aircraft carrier, INS Vikrant, and are expected to significantly strengthen the Navy's ability to carry out longer-range precision strikes against both aerial and maritime threats.

The deal, which includes weapons, simulators, training, spares, and maintenance support, will also fea-



ture India-specific modifications. These additions include the integration of India's Astra missile system, setting up a maintenance, repair, and overhaul (MRO) hub, and sourcing components from local suppliers. The Rafale-Marine jets are equipped with advanced armament systems, including the SCALP-EG, a 650-km range cruise missile.

These fighter jets will consist of 22 single-seater and four twin-seater variants, designed to complement the Navy's existing aircraft fleet. The Rafale-Marine's operational features include reinforced landing gear and foldable wings, allowing efficient storage aboard aircraft carriers. This capability will be crucial, as the jets can operate in the constrained space of

a carrier's deck, unlike land-based aircraft that rely on long runways.

While the deal comes at a higher price compared to the IAF's 36 Rafale jets, which were purchased for ₹59,000 crore in 2016, the cost difference is attributed to inflation, the increased exchange rates of the dollar and euro, and a decade gap between the two deals.

Additionally, in case of an emergency, these jets can be deployed to Indian Air Force bases along the northern borders, bolstering the IAF's fleet of Rafale jets. This move represents a significant upgrade to India's naval aviation, as it replaces the Russian-origin MiG-29K jets, some of which have faced operational challenges since their induction in 2011.



Russia Invites PM Modi to Attend 80th Anniversary of Victory Day Celebrations

- **Event marks 80 years since Nazi Germany’s defeat.**
- **Putin accepted Modi’s earlier India visit invite.**
- **Ties grow stronger in defense and diplomacy.**

TPN Correspondent | Moscow

Russia has extended an invitation to Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi to attend the May 9 celebrations marking the 80th anniversary of victory over Nazi Germany in World War II, as confirmed by Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Andrey Rudenko. The invitation has been sent, and preparations for the Prime Minister's visit are currently underway.

Speaking to Russian news agency Tass, Rudenko stated, "Moscow is expecting the Indian Prime Minister at the May 9 parade. The invitation has already been sent, and the visit is being worked out. It should take place this year."

Victory Day, celebrated on May 9, commemorates the signing of the Act of Unconditional Surrender by Germany in 1945, effectively bringing an end to World War II. This year's celebrations will mark the 80th anniversary of that pivotal moment in history, and Russia has invited leaders from several friendly nations to join in the commemorations.

In July 2024, Prime Minister Modi visited Russia for the first time in nearly five years. During this visit, he also extended an invitation to Russian President Vladimir Putin to visit India, an invitation that Putin has accepted. However, the specific dates for Putin's trip to India have yet to be disclosed.

Prime Minister Modi and President Putin maintain a strong diplomatic relationship, characterized by regular communication through telephone calls and in-person meetings, especially during international events. The two leaders' ongoing collaboration underscores the close ties between India and Russia, particularly in areas such as defense, trade, and geopolitical cooperation.

The invitation to Modi to participate in the Victory Day parade reflects the deepening bilateral ties between the two nations and signifies the importance of their strategic partnership on the global stage.

US Bill Threatens to End Work Visa for Indian Students, Creating Uncertainty for 300,000

TPN Correspondent | US

A proposed bill in the United States Congress is poised to disrupt the Optional Practical Training (OPT) program, a vital work authorization initiative for international students, particularly those in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) fields. This development has caused major concern among the Indian student community in the US, with over 300,000 students potentially impacted.

The OPT program allows international students to gain practical work experience in the US for up to three years after graduation. Indian students are the largest beneficiaries of this program, with nearly 98,000 participants in the 2023-2024 academic year, according to the Open Doors 2024 report. The proposed bill could force these students to leave the US immediately after graduation, disrupting their careers and financial stability, as many rely on OPT to repay hefty student loans.

If passed, the bill would severely limit job opportunities for Indian students, compelling them to seek work in countries with more accommodating post-study policies, like Canada or those in Europe. This could also negatively impact the US job market, especially in STEM fields, where international students play a crucial role in addressing



skill shortages. In response, many students are rushing to secure H-1B work visas, which are sponsored primarily by large tech companies. However, these visas are highly competitive, with a limited number of slots each year. Students are now scrambling to secure job offers that would enable them to apply for an H-1B visa before any changes take effect.

Legal experts, such as Poorvi Chothani of LawQuest, have stressed the urgency of the situation. The OPT program provides stu-

dents up to three years of work experience, but if the bill passes, many may be forced to leave the US immediately after graduation, losing valuable career opportunities.

Amidst this uncertainty, many students have cancelled summer travel plans, fearing they may not be allowed to re-enter the country. Prestigious institutions like Cornell and Yale have unofficially advised international students to avoid traveling home during breaks, further exacerbating the sense of instability.

Girl Dies, 20 More Including Pawan Kalyan's Son Injured In Singapore School Fire

TPN Correspondent | Singapore

A devastating fire at a shophouse in Singapore's River Valley Road area resulted in the death of a 10-year-old girl and left 20 others injured on Tuesday. Among the injured was the seven-year-old son of Andhra Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan.

The fire broke out at a three-storey building that housed educational and enrichment classes for children, including cooking, theatre, and robotics schools. At the time of the incident, 16 children aged six to 10 and six adults were present in the building. The fire spread quickly through the second and third floors of the building, causing severe burns and smoke inhalation among the victims.

The police confirmed that the girl who died later in a hospital was among those rescued, though several others sustained significant injuries. Eyewitnesses described harrowing scenes, with some of the children unconscious, their eyes rolled back, and suffering from burns. Mark Shankar, Pawan Kalyan's



younger son, was injured with burns to his hands and legs and suffered from smoke inhalation but is currently receiving treatment.

The Singapore Civil Defence Force (SCDF) responded swiftly, extinguishing the fire within 30 minutes using three water jets. They evacuated around 80 people from the building and surrounding areas. Approxi-

mately 20 individuals were taken to nearby hospitals for treatment.

A group of construction workers nearby acted quickly during the fire, using scaffolding and a ladder to rescue the trapped children. One of the workers, Subramanian Saranraj, expressed his concern for

the children, saying, "I was scared for the children, because they were so small and couldn't climb out on their own."

The cause of the fire is under investigation, and authorities have not suspected foul play. However, the tragedy has deeply impacted the local community, with many parents anxiously awaiting news about their children's safety.

Fugitive Businessman Vijay Mallya Loses Appeal Against UK Bankruptcy Order

TPN Correspondent | London

Indian businessman Vijay Mallya lost his appeal against a bankruptcy order issued by London's High Court on Wednesday, concerning a debt of over £1 billion (\$1.28 billion) owed to several lenders, including the State Bank of India. Mallya, who resides in Britain, has been at the center of a prolonged legal dispute with both Indian authorities and financial institutions following the 2012 collapse of his now-defunct Kingfisher Airlines.

In 2017, a group of banks obtained a ruling in India that held Mallya responsible for the massive debt tied to Kingfisher Airlines, for which he had personally guaranteed the loan. The judgment, totaling more than £1 billion, was later registered in the UK. This led to a bankruptcy order being issued against Mallya in 2021.

Mallya appealed the bankruptcy order, arguing during a February hearing that the banks had already recovered enough assets to effectively settle the debt. However, Judge Anthony Mann rejected his appeal on Tuesday, stating in his written ruling that "the bottom line... is that the bankruptcy order stands."

Mallya's legal team did not immediately respond to requests for comment on the latest ruling.

In addition to the bankruptcy case, Mallya is also facing extradition to India to stand trial for



fraud charges linked to the collapse of Kingfisher Airlines. His appeal against extradition was rejected in 2020. Despite this, Judge Mann noted in his ruling that the extradition order "has still not been enforced," adding that Mallya continues to resist extradition on other legal grounds that remain unresolved.

Mallya, who was also a co-owner of the Force India Formula One racing team, has been living in the UK since fleeing India in 2016, following allegations of financial mismanagement and defaulting on loans. The legal battle continues as both India and the UK work through the complex proceedings surrounding his case.

Myanmar In Need Of Relief and Long Term Support After Quake: Thailand

TPN Correspondent | Myanmar

Myanmar remains in dire need of medical assistance, field hospitals, and shelter following the devastating 7.7 magnitude earthquake that struck the country on March 28. Thai Foreign Minister Maris Sangiampongsa highlighted the urgency of a coordinated regional relief effort and long-term support for Myanmar, which is still reeling from one of the strongest quakes to hit the region in a century.

The earthquake, which jolted a region home to 28 million people, caused massive destruction. Buildings collapsed, entire communities were flattened, and essential resources like food, water, and shelter became scarce. According to Myanmar's military government, the earthquake claimed 3,645 lives, left 5,017 people injured, and left 148 missing. Nearly 49,000 homes and over 2,100 government buildings were destroyed.

Maris, along with Malaysian Foreign Minister Mohamad Hasan, visited the quake-hit capital Naypyitaw on Saturday to assess the situation. In an interview, Maris emphasized the urgent need for field hospitals, as many existing medical facilities were unable to function at full capacity due to damage from the quake. Temporary shelters, mosquito nets, food, water filters, and clean water supplies are also crucial, with concerns rising about the spread of communicable diseases amid the intense summer heat. The United Nations Office for the Coordination



of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) commended the efforts of over 30 search-and-rescue teams from 13 countries who assisted in the immediate aftermath of the quake. While some teams have now departed, emergency aid continues to arrive, including a fifth batch from China, which brought 91 tonnes of supplies, including tents and mosquito nets.

The earthquake came at a time when Myanmar was already grappling with economic challenges and a civil war triggered by a military coup in 2021. The junta and rebel groups have declared temporary ceasefires to facilitate the relief effort, although tensions remain high.

Maris and his Malaysian counterpart are coordinating efforts for both immediate and long-term assistance, including reconstruction of the devastated areas. Thailand will focus on humanitarian work in Mandalay, while Malaysia will assist in the Sagaing region, both close to the earthquake's epicenter.

"Markets Rattle Under Global Tariff Tensions; Sensex Sheds 379 Points, Nifty Falls 136 Despite RBI Rate Cut"

Domestic stock markets suffered heavy losses on Wednesday. The escalation of the tariff war between the US and China, negative signals from global markets, and expectations of disruption to the supply chain worldwide have increased negative sentiment in the market. Investors remained cautious even after the RBI cut interest rates as it was not known how long the uncertainty would last. The selling spree continued in the finance, IT, media, metal and pharma sectors. Overall, the Nifty lost 136 points and the Sensex lost 379 points. The India VIX also reached 21.43.



The BSE Sensex, which closed at 74,227 in the previous session, opened at 74,103 on Wednesday. It touched an intraday low of 73,673. It reached an intraday high of 74,103. It finally closed

at 73,847, losing 379 points. The NSE Nifty, which opened at 22,460, touched a low of 22,353 and a high of 22,468. It closed at 22,399, down 136 points. The

Nifty Bank fell 270 points to settle at 50,240. Of the Nifty50, 18 companies gained while 32 lost. Nestle India, Hindustan

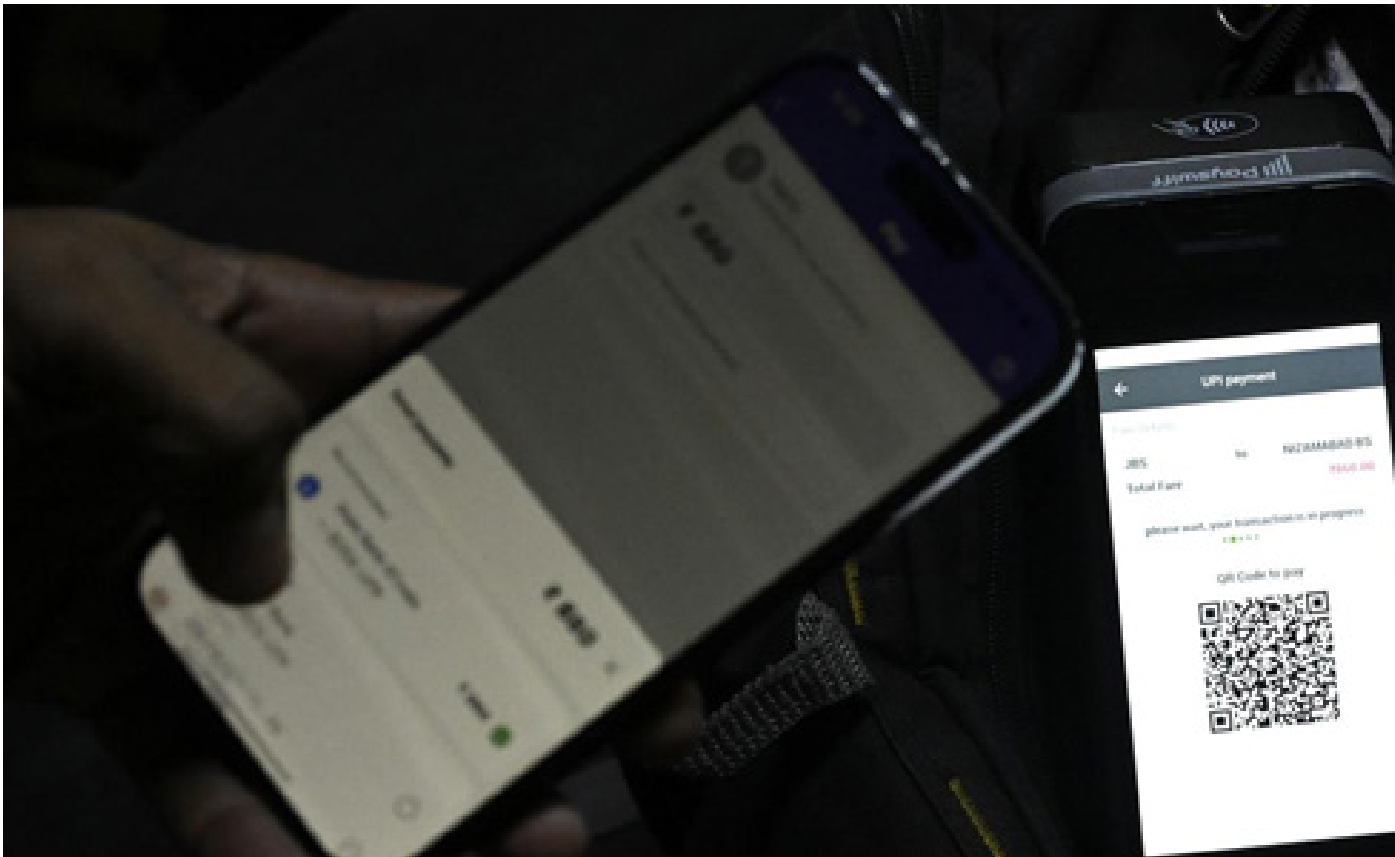
Unilever, Titan, Power Grid, Tata Consumer were the top gainers. Wipro, SBI, Tech Mahindra, LT, Trent suffered the most losses. Meanwhile, the Fear Index India Vicks rose 4.8% to settle at 21.43. Today, all sectoral indices, except FMCG and consumer durables, turned red. Finance, IT, media, metal, pharma, PSU bank, private bank, realty, healthcare and oil indices were volatile.

Market breadth on NSE turned in favour of sellers. Out of 2909 shares traded, 1083 gained and 1747 lost. 19 shares hit 52-week highs and 45 shares hit 52-week lows. 80 shares touched the upper circuit and 52 shares touched the lower circuit. Rupee weakened by 45 paise to settle at 86.69 against the dollar. 21

lakh shares changed hands in NICA. IDBI Bank shares rose after Deepam Secretary said that the disinvestment process is continuing steadily. APL Apollo Tubes issued commercial papers worth Rs 200 crore. ShilpaMedicare has been approved by the USFDA for Verinical tablets. William O'Neill has given a buy rating to Radico Khaitan. Investec has given a buy rating to Vedanta with a target price of Rs 510. 10 lakh shares changed hands in ITC. Shyam Metallic stainless steel sales grew by 13%. Home First Finance has launched a QIP with the aim of raising Rs 1250 crore. Dam Capital has given a buy rating to Affil India with a target price of Rs 1730. RBI has cut the repo rate by 25 basis points.



RBI Approves Revised UPI Transaction Limits for Person-to-Merchant Payments



Reserve Bank of India (RBI) announced that the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) has been permitted to increase transaction limits for Unified Payments Interface (UPI) payments between persons and merchants (P2M), based on evolving user needs.

UPI, a real-time payment system, enables seamless transactions between bank accounts via mobile apps. Currently, the transaction limit for UPI payments, including both Person-to-Person (P2P) and Person-to-Merchant (P2M) transactions, is capped at ₹1 lakh. However, certain P2M transactions already have higher limits, with some set at ₹2 lakh and others at ₹5 lakh, depending on the use case.

RBI Governor Sanjay Malhotra stated that NPCI will revise these limits in consultation with banks and other stakeholders in the UPI ecosystem to address the changing requirements of users. Appropriate safeguards will be introduced to mitigate risks associated with these higher transaction limits. It was emphasized that while P2M payments may see revised limits, P2P transactions will remain capped at ₹1 lakh.

In addition to the UPI update, Governor Malhotra outlined other key developments. The RBI is set to review guidelines related to loans against gold jewellery, aiming to harmonize regulations across regulated entities (REs) while considering their risk-taking capabilities.

Draft guidelines for public comment will be issued soon.

Furthermore, the RBI proposes to make the Regulatory Sandbox (RS) framework 'theme neutral' and available on-demand, promoting continuous innovation within India's rapidly evolving fintech space. The central bank also plans to introduce a draft framework for the securitization of stressed assets and expand the scope of co-lending arrangements among regulated entities.

The RBI's proactive approach to regulating the fintech and lending sectors aims to streamline processes and foster innovation while ensuring the stability of India's financial ecosystem.

IRDAI Imposes ₹1.06 Crore Penalty on Flipkart for Insurance Norm Violations

The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) has imposed a total penalty of ₹1.06 crore on Flipkart for violations related to insurance e-commerce and corporate agent regulations. The fine comprises ₹1 crore for breaching the Insurance E-commerce Guidelines, 2017, and ₹6 lakh for selling insurance policies without a valid certificate of registration.

The penalty stems from Flipkart's improper use of its Insurance Self-Network Platform (ISNP), which was initially approved for facilitating direct online solicitation of insurance policies with insurers. However, regulatory investigations revealed that when users clicked on the "buy insurance" button on Flipkart's website, they were redirected to a third-party insurance intermediary's page to complete their purchase. IRDAI found that this redirection was not merely a form of advertisement but an unauthorized method of insurance solicitation, violating regulatory norms.

While Flipkart argued that it only provided advertising space for the intermediary and had no referral agreement, the regulator determined that the financial ar-

rangement went beyond advertising and constituted a violation. Following IRDAI's notice, Flipkart discontinued the redirection.

Additionally, Flipkart faced a ₹6 lakh fine for continuing to sell insurance policies after applying for the renewal of its registration certificate. The IRDAI clarified that the filing of a renewal application does not automatically extend registration, and selling policies without valid registration violated specific regulatory provisions.

IRDAI has directed Flipkart to pay the ₹1.06 crore fine within 45 days and informed the company's board of the decision. Flipkart has the option to appeal the order before the Securities Appellate Tribunal.

Although IRDAI imposed penalties for other violations, including the procurement of a large number of policies by a single individual, it refrained from pressing charges related to governance issues. Flipkart has committed to reviewing the order, maintaining its commitment to regulatory compliance and high governance standards.



SEBI Forms High-Level Committee to Address Conflict of Interest in Securities Market Regulators



The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has established a high-level committee (HLC) to review and address conflicts of interest among the board members and employees of securities market regulators. This decision follows a directive made at SEBI's board meeting last month.

In its circular, SEBI outlined that the committee would thoroughly assess and recommend improvements to the existing framework for managing conflicts of interest, disclosures, and related issues. The goal is to ensure higher standards of transparency, accountability, and ethical conduct among SEBI officials and board members.

The committee will be chaired by Pratyush Sinha, a former Chief Vigilance Commissioner, and will include several distinguished former bureaucrats and experts. Notable members of the committee include Inejit Srinivas, former Secretary at the Ministry of Corporate Affairs; G. Mahalingam, former Whole-Time Member of SEBI; Sarit Jafa, former Deputy Comptroller and Auditor General; Uday Kotak, founder of Kotak Mahindra Bank; and R. Narayanaswamy, former professor at IIM Bangalore.

The committee's mandate includes reviewing SEBI's current policies, identi-

fying any gaps, and recommending a comprehensive framework to mitigate conflicts of interest. It will also explore mechanisms that will allow the public to raise concerns regarding potential conflicts of interest within the securities market regulators.

This initiative is part of SEBI's ongoing efforts to enhance the integrity of the securities market by ensuring that its regulators uphold the highest standards of ethical behavior. The committee's recommendations will be pivotal in shaping future regulations aimed at fostering greater transparency and accountability within the sector.

Teen Marries 41-Year-Old, Starts Family

In a story that’s both unconventional and heartwarming, a 19-year-old woman named Iyah from the United States has married a 41-year-old man, Rafah, defying societal norms and proving that love truly knows no age. The couple first met at a bar where Iyah was employed, leading Rafah to believe she was older due to her maturity and professional demeanor. It was only later that he learned she was just 19. Despite the 21-year age difference, their bond

grew stronger, culminating in marriage and the start of a family. The couple has since welcomed a child and actively shares their journey through their joint YouTube channel, “That’s So Raf & Iyah.” Their relationship has attracted significant attention online, sparking both criticism and praise. While some social media users have questioned the large age gap and raised concerns about compatibility and power dynamics, many others have come out

in support, celebrating their love and commitment. Supporters argue that as long as the relationship is built on mutual respect, understanding, and consent, age should not be a barrier to love. Iyah and Rafah have openly addressed the backlash, standing by the authenticity of their relationship and showing confidence in their decision to build a life together. Their story challenges traditional expectations that typically favor couples of similar age and highlights the

evolving nature of modern relationships. In an era where social media amplifies both admiration and scrutiny, the couple has embraced their journey with resilience and transparency. Whether viewed as controversial or inspirational, their union has certainly captured the attention of people around the world, reinforcing the idea that real connection often transcends numbers and that love, in its truest form, can emerge in the most unexpected ways.



Mumbai Tops Uber's List of Forgetful Cities



In a quirky yet revealing roundup, Mumbai has earned the distinction of being India's most forgetful city, according to Uber's latest Lost and Found Index for 2024. The report, based on data gathered from rides across the country, showcases not only the frequency but also the variety of items left behind by riders—and Mumbai's list is both amusing and astonishing. While expected items like mobile phones, wallets, bags, and keys featured prominently, the city's residents also managed to forget some truly unexpected belongings, including a wheelchair, telescope, hair wig, a dog bark control device, and even a hawan kund (a fire altar used in Hindu rituals). In one of the more surprising discoveries, a rider even left behind a gold biscuit, and another forgot their entire wedding saree. Someone managed to misplace 25 kilograms of cow ghee, while another left a cooking stove behind in the cab. These strange but true tales have put Mumbai at the top, displacing Delhi, which had held the title for the past two years. The report also notes that Hyderabad ranked as the least forgetful city in India. Aside from the bizarre items, the most commonly forgotten essentials nationwide include earphones, spectacles, clothing, and even important documents. Uber's annual index not only serves as a humorous reminder of how distracted or hurried people can be during their daily commute but also emphasizes the scale at which such lapses occur. The company encourages users to double-check their belongings at the end of each trip and also provides a lost item feature within the app for recovery assistance. While the findings may seem comical, they underscore how fast-paced life in urban India has become—where even gold biscuits and wedding attire can be left behind in a rush.



Retired Officer Attacked Over Waqf Bill

A retired Indian Army officer was allegedly attacked by a cab driver and his associates following a heated argument over the Waqf Amendment Bill during a road trip from Lucknow to Kanpur. The incident took place on April 5 in Unnao, Uttar Pradesh. The victim, Colonel Surya Prakash Singh (Retd), currently serving as the head of the District Sainik Welfare Board in Kanpur, had hired a private cab for the journey. According to Singh's complaint, the confrontation began during a political discussion with the driver, identified as Wasim from Begumpurwa in Kanpur. Singh said the situation escalated after he expressed support for the Waqf Amendment Bill, which appeared to provoke the driver. Following the argument, Wasim allegedly stopped the vehicle at the Azad Nagar intersection in Unnao and called his associates. A group of men arrived soon after and reportedly assaulted the retired officer along with the driver. Singh subsequently lodged a formal complaint with the local police against Wasim and the unidentified attackers. Authorities have registered a case and launched an investigation into the matter. The assault, believed to be fueled by ideological differences, has raised concerns over growing intolerance surrounding political and religious opinions. The Waqf Amendment Bill has been a topic of national debate, with strong sentiments on both sides, and this incident underscores the volatility such discussions can provoke. Police officials have confirmed that an inquiry is underway and assured that appropriate legal action will follow based on the evidence and testimonies gathered. No arrests have been made so far. As the investigation progresses, the case continues to draw attention as an alarming example of discourse turning into violence.

Wife Publicly Assaults Husband Over Joblessness

In a deeply unsettling incident that has gone viral on social media, a woman was captured on camera physically assaulting a man, reportedly her husband, in a public place. The video, which has stirred intense debate online, shows the woman holding the man aggressively by his collar and repeatedly slapping him while berating him for not earning. The altercation took place in front of a shop, and although a crowd gathered around the scene, no one stepped in to stop the violence or even question the woman's actions. The clip clearly captures her shouting that he doesn't contribute financially, using his alleged unemployment as a justification for the assault. The man, visibly passive and humiliated, did not retaliate, further intensifying public sympathy and concern. What shocked viewers even more was the complete lack of intervention from bystanders, raising questions about societal apathy and the perception of male victims in cases of domestic abuse. As the video spread rapidly across platforms like X (formerly Twitter), users expressed outrage, asking, “Who gave her the right?” and emphasizing that violence cannot be tolerated under any circumstance, regardless of gender. Many netizens condemned the



act, calling for accountability and urging that domestic abuse be recognized and addressed with gender neutrality. The incident has reignited conversations around men facing abuse in relationships—an often overlooked issue that remains largely unspoken due to social stigma. Legal experts and activists have

also weighed in, pointing out the urgent need for balanced discourse and protection for all victims of domestic violence. As of now, authorities have not made an official statement on the incident, but growing online pressure could prompt a formal response or investigation in the coming days.

Texas Lawyer's \$1M Birthday Giveaway



In a gesture that has left the internet stunned, prominent Texas attorney Thomas J. Henry has announced that he will be giving away \$1 million to strangers to celebrate his birthday. The well-known lawyer, often associated with high-profile cases and lavish parties, revealed on Instagram that he is

forgoing the usual extravagant celebrations this year. Instead, Henry said he wanted to mark his birthday—April 5—by doing something meaningful and giving back to the community. In a video message posted to his official social media accounts, he shared that this decision came from a deep sense of

gratitude toward those who have supported him throughout his life and career. The Instagram posts immediately caught fire online, with users praising his selfless act and calling it a rare example of generosity in a world often dominated by materialism and showmanship. While the exact mechanism for how the \$1 million will be distributed has not yet been made public, Henry's announcement sparked massive interest, with thousands of comments flooding in from people all over the country. Many lauded him not only for his charitable mindset but also for using his personal celebration to spotlight the value of kindness and giving. Social media users described the initiative as inspiring and uplifting, with some hoping this might set a trend among other wealthy public figures. Known for his philanthropic efforts in the past, this bold birthday gesture has only cemented Henry's reputation as a generous and socially conscious figure. As the details of the giveaway unfold, many are watching closely to see how this extraordinary promise will be executed. One thing is certain: Thomas J. Henry's birthday celebration has already made a mark far beyond cakes and candles.

US Woman Marries Andhra Man



In a heartwarming story that has captured the internet's imagination, a woman from the United States traveled all the way to a remote village in Andhra Pradesh, India, to marry the love of her life. Jaclyn Forero, a professional photographer, and Chandan, a young man from Andhra, first connected on Instagram when their relationship began with a simple “Hi.” Despite the cultural differences and a nine-year age gap—Jaclyn being older—the two bonded over genuine conversations and emotional connection. Their long-distance love blossomed over 14 months of virtual dating, filled with shared experiences, heartfelt chats, and growing admiration. What started as a casual conversation eventually turned into a deep and committed relationship. Touched by Chandan's simplicity and authenticity, Jaclyn made the bold decision to travel thousands of miles to meet him in person for the first time—and to marry him. Their meeting in Andhra Pradesh culminated in a beautiful and emotional moment, as they decided to begin their new journey together as husband and wife. Sharing

the news with her followers, Jaclyn posted on Instagram: “14 months together and ready for a BIG new chapter,” signaling their next step as a couple. Their story has since gone viral, winning hearts across the globe for its sincerity and fairytale-like essence. Social media users have been showering the couple

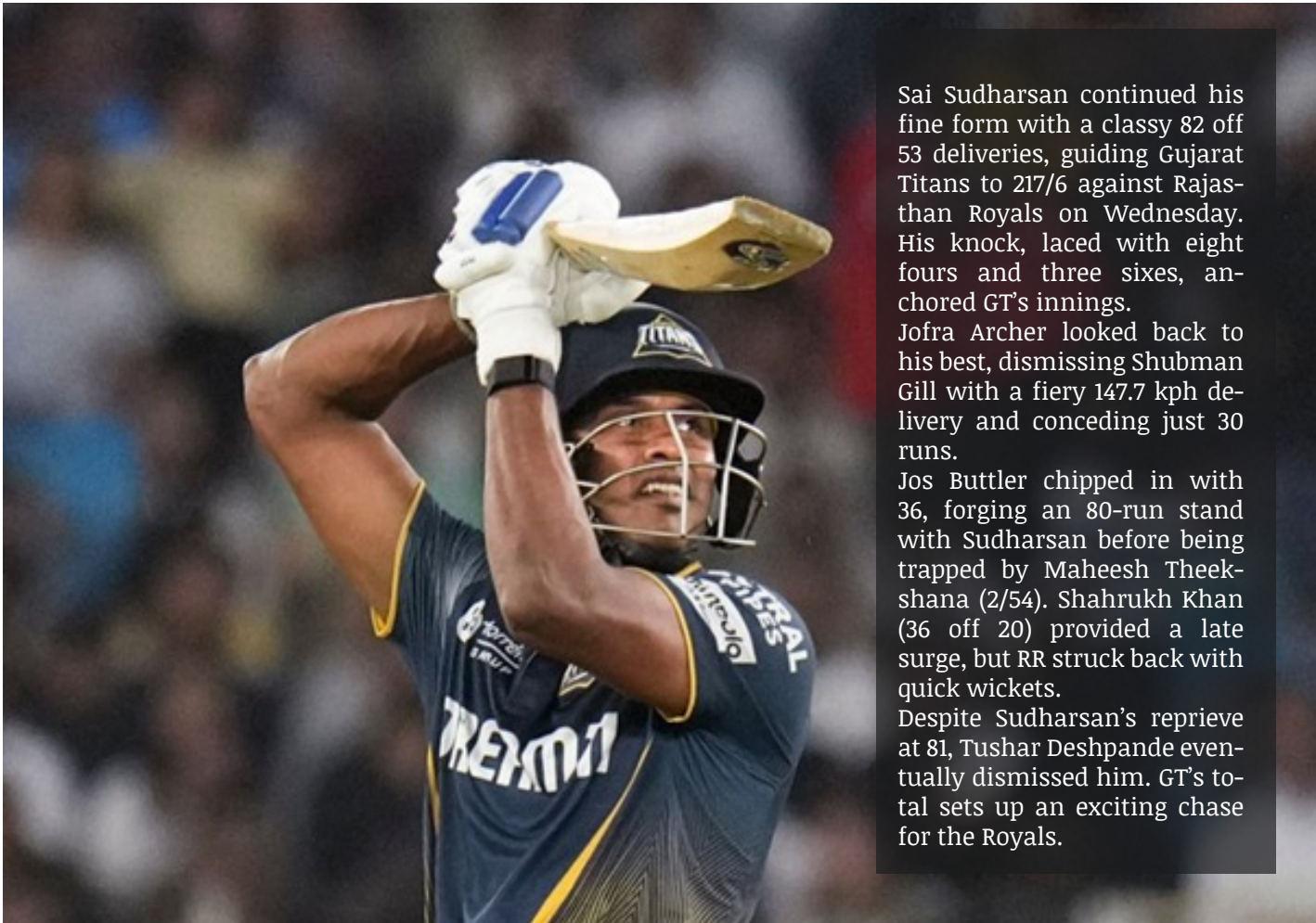
with love and well wishes, calling their bond an inspiring example of love that knows no boundaries—be it geography, culture, or age. The couple's journey has not only become a trending topic but also a reminder that true love can bloom anywhere, even between two people from opposite sides of the world.



Much-Awaited Pro Panja League Season 2 to Begin on August 5

The adrenaline-packed Pro Panja League is all set to make its much-anticipated return with Season 2 kicking off on August 5, right after the conclusion of India's Test series against England on August 4. The competition will once again be telecast on Sony Sports Network, bringing top arm wrestlers from across the country into the spotlight. Following a successful debut season, which saw Kochi KD's clinch the title in a nail-biting final, the Pro Panja League will follow a franchise-based IPL-style format across 17 action-filled days. With a strong base already established, the league aims to grow even further this year. According to BARC data, Season 1 attracted over 32 million unique viewers, outperforming many new sports leagues in India. The momentum is now set to continue, with fans eagerly awaiting the clash of power, skill, and strategy on the panja table. Parvinn Dabass, co-founder of the league, expressed enthusiasm over the response the league has garnered. "We were overwhelmed with the response to Season 1. Arm wrestling has grown immensely since then, and Season 2 is going to be even bigger. Athletes are more prepared, and fans can expect unmatched entertainment." He also highlighted the recent Mizoram Mega Matches, where attendance surged between 15,000 to 20,000, reflecting the sport's growing fan base. "This is no longer just a game played at tea stalls—it's now a full-fledged professional sport."

Sai Sudharsan's 82 Powers Gujarat Titans to 217/6 Against Royals



Sai Sudharsan continued his fine form with a classy 82 off 53 deliveries, guiding Gujarat Titans to 217/6 against Rajasthan Royals on Wednesday. His knock, laced with eight fours and three sixes, anchored GT's innings. Jofra Archer looked back to his best, dismissing Shubman Gill with a fiery 147.7 kph delivery and conceding just 30 runs. Jos Buttler chipped in with 36, forging an 80-run stand with Sudharsan before being trapped by Maheesh Theekshana (2/54). Shahrukh Khan (36 off 20) provided a late surge, but RR struck back with quick wickets. Despite Sudharsan's reprieve at 81, Tushar Deshpande eventually dismissed him. GT's total sets up an exciting chase for the Royals.



ISPL Sensation Abhishek Dalhor Joins KKR as Net Bowler for IPL

After two stellar seasons in the Indian Street Premier League (ISPL), all-rounder Abhishek Kumar Dalhor has been selected by Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) as a net bowler for the ongoing IPL season. Dalhor, hailing from Ambala, rose to prominence with Majhi Mumbai, the Amitabh Bachchan-owned team, and played a key role in their title-winning campaign in ISPL Season 2. He amassed 324 runs and took 33 wickets in just 19 games, earning accolades such as Player of the Tournament (Season 1) and Best Bowler (Season 2). His inspiring journey—from street tennis-ball cricket to becoming the most expensive player in ISPL history—reflects the league's impact on grassroots cricket.

Telangana Police Marksmen Bag 7 Medals at National Shooting Championship

Telangana Police shooting players brought pride to the state by winning 7 medals at the 18th All India Police Sports Shooting Championship held at Reoti Ranges, BSF, Indore, Madhya Pradesh, from March 24 to 29, 2025.

In the individual event, PC E. Raj Kumar from 8th Battalion TGSP, Kondapur, won a silver medal in the Big Bore 300 mts Rifle 3 Position (3P) Men's category with a score of 572/600. The women's team – WASI V. Suvarna (CP Warangal), WRHC M. Vijayamma (GRP Secunderabad), and

WPC Ch. Madhavi (CAR Nizamabad) – bagged 3 silver medals in the Big Bore 300 mts Rifle Prone Team Event.

In the men's team event, ARSI K. Srinivas Rao (RBVRR, TGPA), HC K. Shyam Sunder (ISW, Hyderabad), and PC K. Raj Kumar (DAR Kamareddy) secured 3 bronze medals in the same category.

DGP Dr. Jitender, IPS, congratulated and felicitated the medal winners. IGP (Sports) M. Ramesh and DSP (Sports) Ramarao were present



during the event, lauding the players' dedication and performance.



Uttarakhand CM Flags Off Team for Khelo Masters National Championship

Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami flagged off the state contingent for the fourth Khelo Masters National Championship from his Camp Office on Wednesday. The national-level tournament will take place in New Delhi from April 11 to 13 and features competitions across eight disciplines including athletics, football, basketball, hockey, shooting, badminton, table tennis, and volleyball. The Chief Minister extended best wishes to all participants and credited Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership for boosting sports culture and infrastructure across India. He noted that Uttarakhand's new sports policy is focused on supporting athletes through better facilities and opportunities. The Uttarakhand team will participate under the leadership of Dr. Virendra Singh Rawat, Vice President of the Khelo Masters Games Foundation of Uttarakhand. Athletes from three age groups—40+, 50+, and 60+—will represent the state in football, while athletics will include participants from the 40+ and 70+ categories. Several dignitaries and sports enthusiasts were present during the flag-off ceremony, expressing support for the team's success at the national championship.

Gloves Off, Legacy On: WLF Confirms Return of Bare Knuckle Fighting in Dubai this November



In a bold move that reshaped the global fight calendar, the World League of Fighters (WLF), in partnership with the Dubai Sports Council, successfully hosted Bare Knuckle Fighting Championship (BKFC) 71 and 72 at the Dubai Duty Free Tennis Stadium on April 4th and 5th. The back-to-back events featured 44 elite fighters in two electrifying nights of bare-knuckle action, marking the sport's official entry into the Middle East. Co-founders Rajesh Banga and Sunil Mathew called it a "new legacy for combat sports," as fans embraced the unfiltered brutality and authenticity that bare-knuckle fighting offers. UFC legend Conor McGregor's high-profile attendance gave the event a global boost. With the response exceeding expectations, WLF has now confirmed that Chapter 2 of BKFC in Dubai will return in November 2025. Backed by international icons and the Dubai Sports Council, WLF is on a mission to make the UAE the epicentre of combat sports' most explosive new chapter.

DSC Girls' U-17 Nationals: Jharkhand Score 6 in Goal Fest

The Dream Sports Championship Football 2025 Girls' U-17 National Finals kicked off on Wednesday with a flurry of exciting matches and standout performances. Jharkhand FA lit up the day with a resounding 6-2 victory over Goa FA at the Utorada Sports Complex. Rashmi Minz opened the scoring, while captain Alka Indwar, Sanjna Oraon, Anamika Sangga (brace), and Shaulina Dang added to the tally in a dominant display. At SAG Benaulim, Kerala FA secured a 2-0 win over Delhi SA with goals from Meenakshi and Anjana Rajesh. Odisha FA edged past Rajasthan FA 1-0, thanks to a 44th-minute strike by Kiran Deep. In the morning session, Assam FA defeated Karnataka FA 2-0. Karina Narah and Serbirika Terangpi were on target for Assam, sealing a strong start in the tournament.





NTR-Neel Film Enters Key Phase

The much-anticipated collaboration between Jr. NTR and director Prashanth Neel, famed for KGF and Salaar, is gaining momentum. Touted as a massive action drama, the film's production is progressing swiftly. While NTR hasn't been part of the initial shoot, the wait is nearly over—he will join the sets from April 22. This marks a crucial turning point in the project, with excitement peaking among fans eager to see this powerful duo in action. The film, mounted on a grand scale, is set for a pan-India release in multiple languages including Telugu, Tamil, Hindi, Kannada,



Malayalam, and more. With both star power and directorial flair in abundance, expectations are sky-

high for what promises to be one of Indian cinema's most explosive cinematic events.

Rajamouli Eyes RRR Date Again

Director S.S. Rajamouli is reportedly planning to release his highly anticipated film SSMB29, starring Mahesh Babu, on March 25, 2027—the same date his global blockbuster RRR hit theatres in 2022. The action-adventure, touted as India's costliest film with a massive ₹1,000 crore budget, began production in January 2025. Two major schedules have already been completed in Hyderabad and Odisha, featuring stars like Priyanka Chopra Jonas and Prithviraj Sukumaran. The team is currently on a short break, with filming set to resume in Hyderabad later this month. March 25, 2027, lands just ahead of the Good Friday holiday and the Telugu New Year, Ugadi, offering a lucrative extended weekend. While not officially confirmed, the release date speculation has already created buzz across the film industry and fans alike.

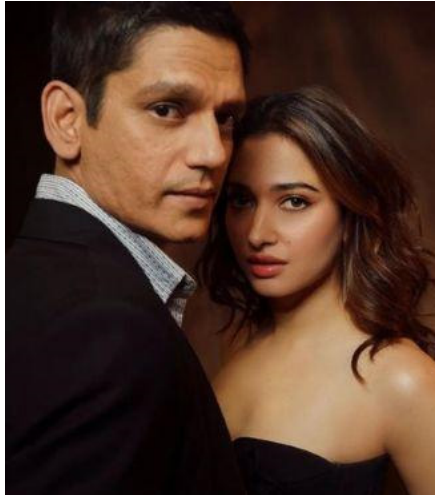


Dhanush, Mari Selvaraj Reunite For D56



Four years after the critically acclaimed Karnan, Dhanush and director Mari Selvaraj are reuniting for their next film, tentatively titled D56. Announced on April 9, the project marks a powerful comeback for the celebrated actor-director duo. The film is being produced by Ishari Ganesh under the Vels Films International banner. Karnan, released in 2021, was praised for its raw storytelling and intense social themes, with Dhanush delivering one of his finest performances. The news of their reunion has stirred excitement among fans and cinephiles, who expect another hard-hitting narrative. Currently, Dhanush is also filming Tere Ishk Mein with Kriti Sanon, directed by Aanand L. Rai, with music by A.R. Rahman. With D56, Dhanush is all set to add another milestone to his stellar filmography.

Tamannaah Opens Up on Tough Time



At the trailer launch of her upcoming Telugu film Odela 2 in Mumbai, Tamannaah Bhatia hinted at going through an emotional rough patch, possibly linked to her rumored breakup with Vijay Var-

ma. Though she didn't name anyone, her cryptic response about inner strength and self-reflection spoke volumes. "Jo bhi hume chahiye, woh humare andar hi hota hai," she said, implying that healing comes from within. Meanwhile, in another headline-making revelation, Om Puri's first wife shared that she left the veteran actor during her pregnancy due to his affair, adding a dramatic twist to the late actor's personal history. Both stories have sparked buzz, highlighting how deeply personal moments continue to unfold in the public eye of Indian cinema.

Raashii Khanna Cheers for Raid 2



Actress Raashii Khanna has joined the growing excitement surrounding Raid 2, starring Ajay Devgn, Vaani Kapoor, and Riteish Deshmukh. After the gripping trailer dropped on April 4, Raashii took to Instagram to share her reaction, calling it "intense and fierce" and added she's "looking forward" to watching it. Directed by Raj Kumar Gupta, Raid 2 is all set to release on May 1 and continues the legacy of its successful predecessor. With powerful visuals and a taut storyline, the film is already generating major buzz. Raashii, who recently starred in The Sabarmati Report, also tagged the lead actors in her post, giving a shoutout to the team as anticipation builds for the action-packed drama.

Urvashi Rautela just set the style bar sky-high as the stunning cover girl of Masala Magazine. Ditching filters for fierce realness, she rocked a glittering golden low-neck gown that shimmered with every move. Adding to the glam was a bold thigh-high slit, a sleek silver necklace, and a voluminous curly high bun that channeled retro diva energy with a chic modern twist. Her look was a perfect mix of elegance, edge, and full-on drama—turning heads and stealing spotlights effortlessly. With this sizzling photoshoot, Urvashi proves once again that she doesn't just follow trends—she creates moments.

Urvashi Rautela's Golden Glam Bomb

