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Tahawwur Rana's Interrogation Reveals Global Links in 26/11 Terror Plot: NIA

NIA I Plans to Collect Voice Sample

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

Tahawwur Rana, the accused in the 2008 Mumbai terror attacks, has been brought to India from the United States and is now in the custody of the National Investigation Agency (NIA). Upon his arrival, Rana was immediately detained by NIA officials and subjected to detailed interrogation, leading to the preparation of a crucial remand report.



The NIA's remand report has brought to light significant revelations about the international dimensions of the 26/11 terror conspiracy. According to the report, Rana's involvement goes far beyond mere logistical support, and investigators now believe he played a key role in facilitating the broader terror network linked to the attacks.

One of the most alarming findings mentioned in the remand report is the disclosure of a wider plan to target not only Mumbai but also Delhi and several other major Indian cities. The agency stressed the need for a deeper investigation into Rana's network of associates to uncover further critical information — including who else was involved, how and where the conspiracy was planned, and what additional targets may have been considered.

The report highlights that Rana's links with global terrorist organizations, including Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT), and his close association with David Coleman Headley — the Pakistani-American terrorist already convicted in the US — are central to understanding the full scale

of the attack planning.

The NIA also pointed out that Rana's immigration business served as a front for facilitating reconnaissance missions carried out by Headley, who scouted key locations in Mumbai before the attacks. These findings, the agency said, make Rana a pivotal figure in the execution of the 2008 attacks that claimed 166 lives.

Given the sensitivity and complexity of the case, the NIA approached the court seeking permission to further interrogate Rana in custody. The court has granted this request, allowing the agency to continue questioning him to uncover deeper layers of the international terror conspiracy.

The investigation is now focused on tracking Rana's Indian contacts, his travel history, and any potential links to foreign intelligence or extremist outfits. Security agencies believe this could be a major breakthrough in unraveling the global plot behind one of the deadliest terror attacks in India's history.

Says BJP halted AAP's education schemes in Delhi.

Claims BJP honors Ambedkar "out of compulsion," not conviction.

AAP leaders reaffirm commitment to Ambedkar's vision.



BJP bows to Ambedkar out of compulsion, AAP follows his path: Kejriwal

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

AAP national convener Arvind Kejriwal on Monday accused the BJP of paying tribute to Dr. B.R. Ambedkar "out of compulsion" while failing to uphold his ideals, particularly in the field of education. Speaking at a ceremony in New Delhi to mark Ambedkar's birth anniversary, Kejriwal emphasized that the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) strives to follow the path laid by Ambedkar, contrasting it with other parties that merely commemorate him without genuinely adhering to his principles.

Kejriwal claimed that the BJP government in Delhi was working against Ambedkar's vision by halting education schemes initiated by the AAP. He criticized the BJP for not prioritizing education, a core principle of Ambedkar's legacy. "Give me the name of one BJP-ruled state where good work has been done in the field of education," Kejriwal challenged, adding that he believed the BJP lacked the will to improve education.

He further stated that while the BJP "bows before Babasaheb out of compulsion," it does not appreciate his work for universal adult franchise, a key part of Ambedkar's legacy that many opposed. Kejriwal's comments came as part of the ongoing political debate about the state of education in India and the interpretation of Ambedkar's vision for the nation.

AAP leader Saurabh Bharadwaj reiterated that the party was committed to Ambedkar's ideals, focusing on quality education and unity among all sections of society. Delhi's Leader of Opposition, Atishi, also paid tribute to Ambedkar, praising his contributions in ensuring rights and justice for millions of Indians through the Constitution.

Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, born in 1891, was a pioneering social reformer, the chief architect of the Indian Constitution, and India's first law minister. His legacy continues to inspire debates on social justice and education in the country.

Monsoon preparedness: Verma raps AAP on desilting 'failure'

Blames AAP for Waterlogging, Promises Citywide Drain Cleaning in One Month

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

Public Works Department (PWD) Minister Parvesh Verma has held the previous Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) government responsible for the persistent issue of waterlogging in Delhi, citing their failure to desilt drains as the root cause. During an inspection visit to Srinivaspuri in South Delhi—a locality frequently impacted by flooding—Verma pledged that the Delhi government would clean all major drains in the city within a month.



"The main drain in Srinivaspuri has been choked for years. Last monsoon, backflow caused serious flooding and damaged several homes. The former local MLA, who was also the Chief Minister, did nothing to resolve it. We don't care which party holds a constituency—we're committed to working across Delhi," said Verma.

He announced that a formal work order for desilting the Srinivaspuri drain would be issued within a week, with cleaning operations set to begin immediately. In a move to ensure transparency, officials have been instructed to video-record the entire cleaning process.

To coordinate the cleanup, Verma directed the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) to begin desilting from the drain's origin point near East of Kailash. Meanwhile, the Delhi Jal Board (DJB) has been asked to clear all debris and construction waste from ducts by April 19. The district magistrate has been assigned the

task of removing illegal encroachments along the drainage lines.

Verma also stated that the PWD will take structural measures to prevent further encroachments and ensure effective drainage. "We will raise the boundary wall and install coil fencing over the culvert. Delhi Police has been requested to provide security during construction to prevent any disruptions," he said.

In addition to desilting, Verma emphasized that tackling waterlogging and water shortages during the summer and monsoon seasons remains a key focus for the Delhi government. He reiterated that all departments, including the PWD, MCD, DJB, and local administration, are working in "mission mode" to ensure Delhi is better prepared for upcoming rains.

PM Modi Flags Off Hisar-Ayodhya Flight

Lays Foundation for New Terminal at Maharaja Agrasen Airport

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, on Monday, April 14, 2025, marked a significant milestone by flagging off a commercial flight from Hisar to Ayodhya, furthering his vision of improving connectivity and accessibility across the country. In addition, PM Modi laid the foundation stone for a new terminal building at Maharaja Agrasen Airport, a project that aims to enhance the region's aviation infrastructure.

The construction of the new terminal is estimated to cost over ₹410 crore, signaling a major step in the development of Hisar's airport as a key aviation hub in the region. The upgrade is part of the government's broader commitment to making air travel more affordable, accessible, and safer for all citizens, ensuring that air connectivity becomes a vital tool in regional growth.

During the inauguration, PM Modi expressed his dedication to improving the infrastructure in Haryana, emphasizing the importance of better air connectivity for the region. "The flight from Hisar to Ayodhya will not only make travel easier but will also boost tourism and economic activity," said the Prime Minister.



The Hisar-Ayodhya route is expected to become a popular choice for pilgrims, especially for those wishing to visit the holy city of Ayodhya, which has immense religious significance for Hindus. The new flight will connect the two cities, offering convenient access to devotees, making it easier for them to undertake religious journeys.

The new terminal, once completed, will feature modern facilities and contribute to enhancing the overall experience for passengers. The project is also expected to drive economic development in Hisar by fostering job creation, boosting tourism, and improving connectivity with other major cities in India.

PM Modi's push for such infrastructure projects aligns with his vision of creating an integrated transport network across India, thereby contributing to the nation's broader development goals.

PM Modi, President Murmu Among Top Leaders To Pay Tribute On Ambedkar Jayanti

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

On the occasion of Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar's birth anniversary, President Droupadi Murmu, Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, and Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla led the nation in paying floral tributes at Ambedkar's statue in the Parliament House Complex on Monday.

Prominent opposition leaders including Congress Parliamentary Chairperson Sonia Gandhi, Lok Sabha Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi, and Rajya Sabha Leader of Opposition Mallikarjun Kharge also paid homage, reflecting a rare bipartisan moment of reverence. Union ministers, several Members of Parliament, and Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta joined the tribute ceremony as well.

President Murmu, in her message on the eve of Ambedkar Jayanti, hailed Dr. Ambedkar's indelible legacy, stating that his life story—marked by personal struggle and remarkable achievements—continues to inspire future generations. She noted his deep belief in education as a powerful means for social change and upliftment of marginalized communities.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, paying tribute on social media platform X, credited Ambedkar's ideology for guiding India towards the dream of social justice. "His principles and ideas will continue to strengthen and accelerate the mission of building a self-reliant and developed India," PM Modi said.

Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, born in 1891 into a Dalit fami-



ly, emerged as one of India's foremost intellectuals, legal scholars, and social reformers. He overcame severe caste-based discrimination to earn degrees from prestigious institutions like Columbia University and the London School of Economics. Ambedkar was instrumental in drafting the Indian Constitution and served as the country's first Law Minister.

He championed the cause of the Scheduled Castes and other marginalized sections, advocating for equal rights, social justice, and the abolition of untouchability. Revered as the "Father of the Indian Constitution," Ambedkar remains a towering symbol of empowerment, resilience, and reform in Indian history.

Commemorative events were held across the country, celebrating his legacy with cultural programs, lectures, and community outreach initiatives aimed at spreading his vision of an inclusive and just society.

UCC in Uttarakhand a Step Towards Ambedkar's Vision: CM Dhama on Ambedkar Jayanti

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

On the occasion of Ambedkar Jayanti, Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhama hailed the implementation of the Uniform Civil Code (UCC) in the state as a historic move aligned with the ideals of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar. Speaking at a public event marking the 135th birth anniversary of the architect of the Indian Constitution, Dhama said the UCC is a step toward creating an India envisioned by Ambedkar — one with equal laws for all citizens.



"Dr. Ambedkar believed that no matter one's caste, religion, or community, every citizen should be treated equally under the law. As long as separate personal laws exist, social divisions will persist," Dhama said.

Uttarakhand became the first state in the country to implement the Uniform Civil Code in January 2025. Highlighting this milestone, Dhama noted that the UCC not only ensures legal uniformity but also promotes social justice, particularly for women.

"The UCC will liberate Muslim daughters and daughters-in-law from regressive practices such as Halala, Iddat, child marriage, polygamy, and triple talaq," he said, addressing a gathering organized by the Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Maha Manch. The event was held to thank the state government for its decisive step in enforcing the UCC.

Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, often referred to as the Father of the Indian Constitution, was born on April 14, 1891, in Mhow (now Dr. Ambedkar Nagar), Madhya Pradesh. He was India's first Law Minister and a staunch advocate for social justice, equality, and education.

The UCC in Uttarakhand applies to all residents of the state, except Scheduled Tribes and communities under special protection. It governs matters related to marriage, divorce, succession, and live-in relationships, with mandatory online registration introduced via a government portal.

By implementing the UCC, CM Dhama said, Uttarakhand has not only fulfilled a major electoral promise of the BJP but has also ushered in a new era of women empowerment and legal reform, rooted in Ambedkar's core values of equality and justice for all.

PNB loan fraud: Mehul Choksi arrested in Belgium on India's extradition request



TPN Correspondent | Delhi

Fugitive diamond trader Mehul Choksi has been arrested in Belgium following a formal extradition request by Indian authorities, sources told The Indian Express on Monday. Choksi, one of the key accused in the massive ₹13,000 crore Punjab National Bank (PNB) loan fraud case, is wanted by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) and the Enforcement Directorate (ED) for criminal conspiracy, cheating, money laundering, and corruption.

According to sources, Belgian authorities took action after receiving India's extradition request, which was backed by a strong dossier of evidence compiled by Indian agencies. Choksi, who had obtained residency in Belgium and had been living in Antwerp — a global diamond hub — had been evading Indian law enforcement for several years.

Mehul Choksi, along with his nephew Nirav Modi, is accused of orchestrating one of India's largest banking scams by fraudulently securing letters of undertaking (LoUs) from PNB without proper documentation or collateral. These LoUs were then allegedly used to obtain overseas credit from other banks, ultimately leading to a staggering financial loss for the state-owned lender.

The Enforcement Directorate has accused Choksi of siphoning off huge amounts of money and laundering it through shell companies spread across various countries. Multiple properties linked to Choksi have been seized both in India and abroad.

In 2018, following the exposure of the scam, Choksi fled the country and later renounced his Indian citizenship. He initially took refuge in Antigua and Barbuda, where he secured citizenship under the Caribbean nation's investment program. However, after mounting legal challenges and political pressure, Choksi reportedly moved to Belgium, taking advantage of his business links in the diamond trade.

With his arrest in Belgium, Indian authorities are hopeful of finally bringing him back to face trial. Legal procedures for his extradition are expected to begin soon, and officials are closely monitoring the situation.

This marks a significant breakthrough in India's efforts to bring back economic offenders who have fled the country after committing large-scale financial frauds. It also strengthens India's position in seeking international cooperation in such high-profile cases.

Manipur celebrates 81st anniversary of declaring freedom in Moirang

TPN Correspondent | Manipur

The 81st anniversary of the historic flag hoisting by the Indian National Army (INA) in Moirang, Manipur, was commemorated on Tuesday at the INA Martyrs' Memorial, paying tribute to one of the most significant moments in India's freedom struggle. The event marked the day when, on April 14, 1944, Colonel Shaukat Ali Malik of the INA unfurled the tricolour of the Azad Hind Fauj on Indian soil for the first time, declaring Moirang free from British colonial rule.

Speaking at the event, Manipur Governor Ajay Kumar Bhalla highlighted the enduring legacy of the momentous occasion. "Moirang



was the first territory to be declared liberated from British rule. This act was not merely symbolic but a powerful declaration to the world of India's resolve to attain freedom," he said.

Under the leadership of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose, the INA's bold proclamation at Moirang ignited a wave of patriotic fervour across the nation. Though the INA's control over the region was brief, its symbolic impor-

ance has stood the test of time, representing courage, resistance, and the sacrifice of those who laid down their lives for the nation.

Governor Bhalla further stated, "The legacy of the INA continues to inspire generations. Their brief yet impactful presence in Manipur echoes the spirit of unwavering patriotism that defined India's fight for independence."

The commemorative event was attended by a host of dignitaries, including military veterans, public representatives, government officials, and local citizens. Notable attendees included MLA Thongam Shanti Singh, Lt. General (Retd.) K Himalay Singh, Major General (Retd.) JS Nanda, Major General S S Kartikeya, Brigadier Neeraj Sharma, DY IGAR (South), and IAS officer M Joy Singh.

To honour the occasion and raise public awareness about Moirang's historic role in India's independence movement, a special bike rally was also organised. Riders traversed through the town, carrying the tricolour, symbolising unity and remembrance of a defining moment in India's journey to freedom.

FIR against OYO, founder Ritesh Agarwal over 'wrong' GST notice of Rs 2.66 crore

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

A resort in Jaipur has filed a First Information Report (FIR) against travel booking giant OYO, alleging fraudulent activity that led to a massive Goods and Services Tax (GST) notice amounting to ₹2.66 crore. The complaint was filed by Madan Jain, a representative of Samskara Resorts, at the Ashok Nagar police station last week.

According to the FIR, Samskara Resorts received a GST show cause notice from the tax authorities, demanding payment based on an alleged inflated turnover. Jain claims that the inflated figure was the result of "thousands of fake bookings" shown under the resort's name — bookings that the resort insists never took place.

The complaint accuses OYO of deliberately providing false information to tax authorities, which led to the GST liability. Jain stated in the FIR that the resort had no knowledge of these alleged bookings and that the infor-



mation submitted was not only misleading but damaging to the resort's financial and legal standing.

"To show an inflated annual turnover, thousands of fake bookings were shown in the name of Samskara Resort," the FIR reads, highlighting that the resort's actual revenue figures do not support the tax liability outlined in the notice.

The GST show cause notice, which demands an explanation and payment of ₹2.66 crore, has placed the resort in a difficult position. Jain alleges that OYO used the resort's name to inflate booking numbers on its platform, thereby manipulating reported earnings. He also claims this was done without the resort's consent or knowledge.

The police are now investigating the matter, and the resort is seeking legal redress to clear its name and contest the GST demand. This case could have wider implications for the online travel booking sector, as it raises questions about data integrity, reporting practices, and the accountability of aggregator platforms like OYO.

As of now, OYO has not issued an official statement regarding the allegations. Meanwhile, Samskara Resorts is exploring legal options to seek damages and safeguard its financial credibility.

Will make Delhi a hub of medical tourism: Gupta

- Delhi to enhance healthcare to meet international standards.
- Focus on boosting economy through health tourism.
- Sir Ganga Ram Hospital praised for excellence in care

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

Chief Minister Rekha Gupta outlined the Delhi government's vision to transform the city into a global destination for medical tourism. Speaking at the 70th foundation day celebrations of Sir Ganga Ram Hospital, Ms. Gupta emphasized that the government is committed to enhancing health facilities in the capital to attract patients from around the world.



"We aim to make Delhi a global destination for medical treatment. By promoting health tourism, we can not only improve medical services but also strengthen the economic ecosystem," said Chief Minister Gupta. She added that the Delhi government has been continuously working towards reforming and expanding the healthcare sector to meet international standards.

The government's initiative to bolster the healthcare infrastructure is designed to position Delhi as a prominent player in the global medical tourism market. With state-of-the-art hospitals, skilled healthcare professionals, and a growing number of specialized medical centers, Delhi is poised to become a sought-after destination for people seeking high-quality medical treatment at affordable prices.

Ms. Gupta also acknowledged the crucial role that healthcare institutions like Sir Ganga Ram

Hospital play in the city's growth as a medical hub. She praised the hospital's dedication to excellence in patient care and its long-standing contributions to the medical community.

The Chief Minister's remarks reflect a broader commitment to improving the quality of healthcare in Delhi while also leveraging its potential to become a key player in the burgeoning medical tourism industry. As the city continues to enhance its healthcare services, it is poised to attract international patients seeking world-class medical care in a cost-effective and accessible environment.

Waqf Law Amendments Benefited Land Mafia, Not Muslims: PM Modi

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

At the inauguration of Hisar airport in Haryana, Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched a scathing attack on the Congress Party for opposing the Waqf (Amendment) Act. Modi accused Congress of exploiting the Waqf law for political gain and catering to Muslim fundamentalists, questioning why the party had never appointed a Muslim president or allocated 50% of its Lok Sabha election tickets to Muslim candidates if it truly cared about the community.



On the occasion of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar's birth anniversary, Modi also highlighted that his government's policies are inspired by Ambedkar's values. He criticized the Congress for misusing the Constitution to maintain its political power, citing the example of the Emergency. The Prime Minister pointed out that while the Constitution mentions a secular civil code, Congress never implemented it and is now opposing the Uniform Civil Code being rolled out in Uttarakhand.

Modi further chastised the Congress for neglecting Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, and Other Backward Classes when it comes to reservations, alleging that the party degraded Ambedkar's contributions both during his life and after his death. He also asserted that Ambedkar was against religious-based reservations, which he claimed Congress ignored. According to Modi, Congress's appeasement of Muslims harmed the majority of the com-

munity, benefiting only a small number of fundamentalists.

The Prime Minister also highlighted issues related to the Waqf law, claiming that land meant for Dalits, backward classes, and widows was taken over by land mafias. He argued that if the resources controlled by Waqf Boards were used properly, impoverished Muslim youth could have had better opportunities rather than low-paying jobs.

In response, Mallikarjun Kharge, Congress president, accused the BJP government of ignoring Ambedkar's core principles, particularly those related to education. Kharge reiterated Congress's call for the immediate implementation of the Women's Reservation Act, which includes provisions for SC, ST, and OBC women.

T.N CM Stalin to Hold Meeting with Vice-Chancellors on Improving Higher Education



TPN Correspondent | Delhi

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin will convene a consultative meeting with the Vice-Chancellors (V-Cs) and Registrars of all State universities on April 16, 2025, at the Secretariat. The meeting aims to discuss strategies for enhancing higher education across the state.

According to an official release, the primary agenda of the meeting will focus on improving the quality and accessibility of higher education in Tamil Nadu. The state government has been keen on addressing various challenges faced by the education sector, including academic standards, research capabilities, infrastructure development, and student welfare.

During the meeting, discussions are expected to center on how universities can align their curriculum and teaching methodologies with the evolving needs of the job market, ensuring that students are better prepared for profes-

sional success. There will also be an emphasis on encouraging innovation, collaboration between institutions, and fostering a research-oriented approach among students and faculty.

The consultative session is seen as a crucial step in furthering the Chief Minister's vision for advancing education in Tamil Nadu, ensuring that it remains a hub of academic excellence. It also reflects the state government's commitment to improving the overall educational infrastructure, making it more inclusive and responsive to the needs of students from diverse backgrounds.

This initiative aligns with the government's broader goal of transforming Tamil Nadu into a state that offers world-class higher education and produces skilled professionals ready to contribute to various sectors of the economy. The outcome of the meeting is expected to shape the future direction of higher education policies in Tamil Nadu.

Modi govt only pays lip service to Ambedkar, BJP-RSS his enemies: Kharge

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge on Monday (April 14, 2025) accused the Modi government of paying mere "lip service" to Dr. B.R. Ambedkar's legacy without taking concrete steps to fulfill his vision. Kharge asserted that the BJP and RSS were "enemies" of Ambedkar, the architect of the Indian Constitution, and criticized Prime Minister Narendra Modi for criticizing Congress's treatment of the Dalit leader.

Kharge's remarks came in response to Modi's recent comments about Ambedkar's contributions, where the Prime Minister accused Congress of degrading Ambedkar's legacy. In a counterattack, Kharge pointed to a letter written by Ambedkar, where he mentioned his electoral defeat in 1952, blaming lead-

ers like S.A. Dange and V.D. Savarkar for undermining his political career.

The Congress president accused the Modi-led government of failing to implement Ambedkar's core values, particularly his focus on social justice and equality. He claimed that while the government often invokes Ambedkar's name, it neglects his true wishes and values. Kharge emphasized that the BJP and RSS have always been opposed to Ambedkar's ideals, noting the way

their policies and actions have undermined his vision of social equality and justice for marginalized communities.

Kharge also took aim at the BJP's record on issues related to Dalits and backward classes, arguing that the ruling party has not genuinely addressed the issues faced by these communities. He pointed out that Ambedkar's dream of a just and inclusive society remains unfulfilled under the current government, which he said merely pays homage to Ambedkar without actively pursuing the social reforms he championed.

Kharge's comments underscore the ongoing political debate surrounding Ambedkar's legacy, with Congress and the BJP both claiming to represent his ideals while accusing each other of misinterpreting or neglecting his vision for India.



Bomb Remark Sparks Political Firestorm in Punjab Between AAP and Congress

A massive political controversy has erupted in Punjab after senior Congress leader and Leader of Opposition Partap Singh Bajwa claimed that "50 bombs have reached Punjab," with 18 having already exploded and 32 still undetonated. The statement, made during an interview with a private television channel, triggered strong reactions from the ruling Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), resulting in a police case against Bajwa.

Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann demanded Bajwa disclose the source of his information. "You should tell the source... Who told you this? If the national or state intelligence agencies had such information, they would have acted," Mann said, accusing Bajwa of spreading panic. "If you're waiting for the bombs to explode, it's a crime," he added.

Mann went further, suggesting a historical link between Bajwa's family and



Pakistani operatives, accusing the Congress leader of promoting fear through "baseless" claims. The AAP government has since filed a case under the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023, and deployed counter-intelligence officers to question Bajwa.

The Congress hit back, defending Bajwa's comments as being based on widely available media reports. Senior party leader Jairam Ramesh posted on X (formerly Twitter), saying Bajwa merely highlighted the recent surge in grenade attacks — reportedly more than 20 in-

cidents across Punjab over the past few months.

"Instead of addressing public safety, the CM is harassing the opposition. Bajwa lost family members to terrorism. To accuse him of links with terrorist groups is shameful," Ramesh wrote, accusing Mann of running a government driven by insecurity and vendetta.

Bajwa, who was summoned by the Cyber Crime police in Mohali, has requested more time and said he will appear by Tuesday afternoon. "I stand by my statement and won't reveal my sources," Bajwa said, recalling his personal losses to terrorism and affirming his commitment to national security.

Slamming the AAP government, Bajwa said, "The CM is not running the state to serve the people, but to pursue personal vendettas. This is a clear misuse of power."

Delhi Schools to Hold Special Assemblies on Ambedkar's Life: CM Rekha Gupta

15-Day Celebration Announced

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

In a bid to honour Dr. B. R. Ambedkar's legacy and educate the younger generation about his contributions, the Delhi government will organise special assembly sessions in all government schools, Chief Minister Rekha Gupta announced on Sunday. The sessions will focus on Ambedkar's life, struggles, and teachings, aiming to instill values of equality, education, and social justice among students.

The announcement came during a special event held at the Delhi Legislative Assembly to commemorate the 134th birth anniversary of Dr. Ambedkar, the principal architect of the Indian Constitution and a champion of social reform.

Chief Minister Gupta also declared a 15-day long celebration in all Delhi government schools to mark Ambedkar Jayanti. These celebrations will include debates, essay writing, art competitions, and educational programs centered

around Ambedkar's ideology and vision for India.

"Babasaheb Ambedkar was a visionary whose tireless work laid the foundation for a more just and equal society. His emphasis on education, equality, and empowerment is more relevant today than ever before," Gupta said during her address. "The Delhi government is committed to turning these ideals into action on the ground through focused efforts in education, health, and social welfare."

She also expressed her gratitude to Prime Minister Narendra Modi for officially declaring Ambedkar Jayanti a national holiday, calling it a "historic recognition of Babasaheb's lasting contributions to the nation."

The move has been welcomed by educationists and social activists, who believe that introducing students to Ambedkar's values early on will help create a more inclusive and socially aware generation.

Officials from the Directorate of



Education have confirmed that the new assembly format will be rolled out in schools starting this week. Each session will include short presentations, skits, and student-led discussions on Ambedkar's philosophy and his role in drafting the Indian Constitution. The initiative is part of a broader push by the Delhi government to strengthen civic education and promote inclusivity through school-based programs.

Delhi Police Nab 15 Foreign Nationals for Visa Overstay, Ordered for Deportation

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

In a crackdown on illegal immigration, the Delhi Police apprehended 15 foreign nationals for overstaying in India without valid visas. The individuals, including two from Bangladesh, 12 from Nigeria, and one from Ivory Coast, were detained during a targeted operation conducted in the Mohan Garden and Uttam Nagar areas of the capital.



According to police officials, the operation was carried out over the weekend following intelligence inputs about the presence of foreign nationals living in the area without proper documentation. During the checks, it was found that all 15 individuals had exceeded the validity of their visas and were staying in the country illegally.

The Delhi Police immediately transferred the detainees to a designated detention centre. Following due verification of their identities and visa statuses, the Foreigners Regional Registration Office (FRRO) issued deportation orders for all 15 individuals. Authorities are now coordinating with respective embassies and consulates to facilitate their return to their home countries.

"This operation was part of our ongoing drive to identify and take action against foreigners overstaying without legal permission. All those apprehended were found in violation of visa norms and have been sent to a detention centre pending deportation," a senior police official said.

Law enforcement agencies have intensified efforts in recent months to detect foreign nationals residing illegally, citing concerns over both national security and local law enforcement issues. Overstaying visa holders often fall under the radar and, in some cases, may be involved in unlawful activities due to their lack of legal status. The police have urged landlords and local residents to remain vig-

ilant and report any suspicious activities or undocumented foreigners residing in their neighborhoods. They also reminded property owners that providing shelter to illegal immigrants could attract legal action under the Foreigners Act.

With rising global migration and increased movement across borders, Indian authorities have taken a firmer stance on monitoring visa compliance, particularly in metro cities like Delhi, which serve as major hubs for both legal and undocumented foreign visitors.

Officials said similar operations will continue in other parts of the city to ensure strict adherence to immigration laws and maintain public order.

Delhi Braces for Heat as Mercury Touches 39°C; AQI in 'Moderate' Category

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

Delhi woke up to warm weather conditions on Monday, with the minimum temperature recorded at 21.6 degrees Celsius, according to the India Meteorological Department (IMD). The day is expected to remain hot, as the maximum temperature is predicted to settle around 39 degrees Celsius.



Humidity levels were relatively high in the morning, with the IMD reporting 60 per cent relative humidity at 8:30 am. As the day progresses, dry and hot conditions are likely to persist, pushing residents to take precautions against heat-related discomfort.

The national capital's air quality continues to hover in the 'moderate' category. According to data from the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), Delhi's Air Quality Index (AQI) was measured at 176 at 9 am. The AQI scale categorizes values between 101 and 200 as 'moderate', which may pose health concerns for people with respiratory conditions or prolonged exposure.

An AQI reading of 0-50 is classified as 'good', 51-100 as 'satisfactory', 101-200 as 'moderate', 201-300 as 'poor', 301-400 as 'very poor', and anything above 400 is considered 'severe'.

The IMD has not issued any specific weather alerts for Delhi today, but citizens are advised to stay hydrated and

avoid direct sunlight during peak afternoon hours, especially with rising temperatures and increased chances of heat-related health issues.

The city has been witnessing rising mercury levels over the past week, and forecasts indicate a continuation of this trend through mid-April. The IMD also noted that heatwave conditions may develop in parts of northwestern India, though Delhi is not currently under any heatwave warning.

Meanwhile, environmentalists and public health officials continue to express concern over air pollution levels, urging residents to limit outdoor activity during periods of poor air quality, especially vulnerable groups such as children, the elderly, and individuals with pre-existing respiratory issues.

With the summer season gaining momentum, both temperature and air quality remain key concerns for Delhi's residents in the days ahead.

Delhi Police Inaugurates 'Akshee' Pink Barrack at IGI Airport for Female Officers

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

In a progressive step towards ensuring better working conditions and facilities for its female personnel, the Delhi Police has inaugurated a dedicated rest area named 'Akshee' — a pink barrack — at the Indira Gandhi International (IGI) Airport. The initiative aims to provide a safe, hygienic, and comfortable space for women officers to rest and recover between duty shifts.



Located within the airport premises, 'Akshee' has been specially designed keeping in mind the unique needs of female law enforcement personnel who often work long and irregular hours at one of the country's busiest international transit points.

The pink barrack is equipped with four beds, personal cupboards and almirahs for secure storage, clean and modern washrooms, and a communal dining area where officers can relax and eat their meals. The initiative reflects the growing focus on gender-sensitive infrastructure in India's policing system.

Senior officials from Delhi Police said that this was part of a larger effort to improve the workplace environment for women officers. "The idea is not just to offer a physical space for rest, but also to recognize the contributions of our female staff and provide them with the dignity and comfort they deserve while serving the nation," said an official during the inauguration ceremony.

'Akshee' is expected to be especially helpful for women officers deployed on long shifts or night duties, giving them a secure environment to rest without having to leave the airport premises. The facility is under constant CCTV surveillance to ensure safety and is regularly maintained for cleanliness and comfort.

The initiative has been widely appreciated by officers on the ground, with many welcoming the move as a long-awaited facility that addresses the real-world challenges they face daily. There are also plans to replicate the model at other major public facilities across Delhi, such as railway stations and major metro hubs, as part of a broader women-friendly policing infrastructure campaign.

With this move, Delhi Police not only sets a positive precedent but also sends a strong message about supporting and empowering women in uniform.

Delhi Government Delays Rollout of 'No Fuel for Overage Vehicles' Policy

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

The Delhi government has missed its 1 April deadline to fully implement its "no fuel for overage vehicles" policy, which aims to curb air pollution in the national capital. As of now, only 477 of the city's 500 fuel refilling stations have been equipped with systems to detect the age of vehicles, with just 23 stations left to install the necessary devices. The government now expects to complete the rollout by the end of April.



The delay comes despite the government's efforts to address persistent air pollution by restricting the fuel supply to older, more polluting vehicles. The policy targets petrol vehicles older than 15 years and diesel vehicles older than 10 years. Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) cameras installed at fuel stations will identify the vehicle's age based on its registration year. The cameras will also check whether the vehicle has a valid pollution under control (PUC) certificate. If a vehicle is flagged as non-compliant, fuel attendants will be alerted, and refilling will be denied.

A senior official from the en-

vironment department confirmed that the installation process is nearly complete, with only 23 stations still to be equipped with the necessary technology. Chief Minister Rekha Gupta and Environment Minister Manjinder Singh Sirsa are closely monitoring the progress. Sirsa emphasized that while the government is working hard to meet the deadline, it is better to delay the policy rollout slightly than to implement it incompletely.

The policy stems from a Supreme Court ruling in 2018, which banned diesel vehicles older than 10 years and petrol

vehicles older than 15 years in Delhi. Additionally, the 2014 National Green Tribunal order prohibits parking of such vehicles in public areas. In line with these regulations, the Delhi government issued guidelines in 2024 on managing end-of-life vehicles, allowing them to be impounded unless owners take the necessary steps to relocate or re-register them in other states.

The full implementation of this policy is seen as a critical step in reducing vehicular emissions and improving air quality in the city, which has long struggled with pollution.



Gujarat ATS, Coast Guard Seize ₹1,800 Crore Worth of Drugs in High-Seas Operation

TPN Correspondent | Gujarat

In a major anti-narcotics operation, the Gujarat Anti-Terrorist Squad (ATS) and the Indian Coast Guard (ICG) jointly seized 300 kilograms of suspected methamphetamine valued at ₹1,800 crore after smugglers dumped the contraband into the Arabian Sea and fled across the International Maritime Boundary Line (IMBL), officials said on Monday.

The overnight operation was conducted on April 12-13 in the Arabian Sea near the IMBL off the Gujarat coast, based on specific intelligence received by the Gujarat ATS. Acting swiftly, the ICG diverted one of its ships from the Western Region to intercept the suspect vessel.

According to an official release, the Coast Guard ship managed to locate the suspicious boat despite challenging visibility conditions. Upon spotting the approaching patrol vessel, the smugglers quickly jettisoned their cargo into the sea and escaped across the IMBL, taking advantage of their proximity to international waters and the distance between the vessels at the time of detection. "The ICG ship deployed its sea boat immediately to

recover the jettisoned narcotics while commencing a hot pursuit of the fleeing vessel," the release stated. However, due to the geographical constraints and the swift movement of the smugglers, interception could not be achieved.

Despite the challenges of operating in darkness and rough seas, the Coast Guard successfully recovered the dumped contraband. The narcotics, believed to be methamphetamine, were brought ashore to Porbandar and handed over to the Gujarat ATS for further investigation. Officials noted that this operation marks the 13th successful joint mission by the Gujarat ATS and the Indian Coast Guard in recent years, highlighting the strong synergy and coordination between the two agencies in safeguarding national interests and coastal security. The seizure underscores the persistent threat of drug trafficking through maritime routes and the increasing need for coordinated intelligence-led operations. Investigations are ongoing to trace the origins and intended recipients of the consignment, and efforts are underway to identify and apprehend the smugglers who escaped into international waters.



Actor Salman Khan receives fresh death threat, Mumbai police register case

TPN Correspondent | Mumbai

Bollywood superstar Salman Khan has once again come under threat, with the Mumbai Police confirming a fresh death threat message received on Sunday morning. The threat was sent via WhatsApp to the Mumbai Police's traffic control room in Worli around 6:30 am.

According to police sources, the message, sent by an unidentified individual, issued a direct threat to Salman Khan's life. The sender allegedly claimed they would "enter Salman Khan's residence and kill him." Additionally, the message also threatened to plant a bomb in the actor's vehicle and detonate it. Mumbai Police have launched an immediate investigation into the matter and are treating the threat with the utmost seriousness. Cyber experts and technical teams have been roped in to trace the origin of the

message. The threat has added to growing security concerns surrounding the actor, who has previously received similar threats in the past.

A senior police official said, "We are in the process of verifying the authenticity of the message. The sender's number is being tracked, and further investigation is underway to ascertain whether this is a hoax or part of a larger threat." Security around Salman Khan's residence in Bandra has been increased. Additional personnel from the Mumbai Police and a special surveillance team have been deployed in the area as a precautionary measure. Khan, one of the biggest stars in the Hindi film industry, has faced multiple security threats over the years. In recent times, there have been reports of threats linked to gangster networks, prompting law enforcement agencies to enhance his personal security.

"Historic Day": Haryana Chief Minister On Launch Of Hisar-Ayodhya Flight

TPN Correspondent | Hisar (Haryana)

In a landmark moment for Haryana's aviation and religious connectivity, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday flagged off the first direct commercial flight from Hisar's Maharaja Agrasen International Airport to Ayodhya's Maharishi Valmiki Airport. The event marked the formal launch of operations at the Hisar airport and was described as "historic" by Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini.

Calling the day a turning point for the state's development, Chief Minister Saini hailed the Prime Minister's visit and said, "PM Modi, with your blessings, our fields are not only filled with crops but also with hope. This is a historic day for us all.

Now, people from Hisar and nearby areas can easily visit Ayodhya and have darshan of Lord Ram."

In addition to launching the flight services, PM Modi also laid the foundation stone for the new terminal building at Maharaja Agrasen International Airport — Haryana's first airport terminal — further cementing the state's position on the national aviation map.

The Prime Minister's Office had earlier announced a flight schedule from Hisar that includes two weekly flights to Ayodhya, and thrice-weekly connections to Jammu, Ahmedabad, Jaipur, and Chandigarh. This new connectivity is expected to boost religious tourism, regional economic growth, and ease of travel for locals.



The event coincided with Ram Navami, adding spiritual significance to the occasion. CM Saini also noted that PM Modi had taken darshan of Ram Setu earlier in the day, making the day even more symbolic for devotees.

During the same event, CM Saini and PM Modi paid tribute to Dr. B.R.

Ambedkar on his 135th birth anniversary. PM Modi emphasized Ambedkar's role in building modern India and his vision for social justice, equality, and self-reliance.

"Babasaheb's ideals are our guiding force toward a self-reliant and developed India," the Prime Minister said, calling Ambedkar the

"Father of the Indian Constitution" and saluting his lifelong fight for the rights of marginalized communities.

This blend of development and cultural reverence showcased a unique moment where infrastructure and heritage intersected on a national stage.

Rajasthan Braces for Intense Heatwave as Temperatures Soar Across State

TPN Correspondent | Jaipur

With dry weather prevailing across Rajasthan, temperatures have begun to surge, marking the arrival of intense summer conditions. Barmer emerged as the hottest location on Sunday, recording a blistering 44.0 degrees Celsius — five degrees above the seasonal average. Meanwhile, Sangaria registered the lowest minimum temperature at 19.6 degrees Celsius.

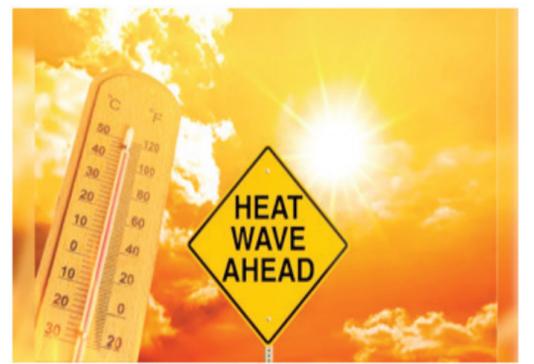
According to data from the Meteorological Centre, humidity levels across the state ranged between 20% and 50% as of 8:30 a.m. The effects of the last western disturbance have now faded, setting the

stage for a fresh spell of heatwave conditions beginning Monday, April 14.

A further spike in maximum daytime temperatures by up to five degrees Celsius is expected over the next four to five days. The heatwave is projected to begin in western Rajasthan, with its intensity and geographical spread peaking on April 15 and 16. The Jodhpur, Bikaner, and Shekhawati regions are expected to be hit hardest, with border districts likely experiencing extreme heatwave conditions and temperatures touching 45-46 degrees Celsius.

Despite the arrival of a weak western disturbance expected to bring light to moderate thunderstorms

to eastern Rajasthan on April 17-18, the overall temperature trend will remain high. In Barmer, temperatures remained at 44 degrees on Sunday, while Jalore recorded the state's highest minimum temperature of 26 degrees Celsius. Jaipur is also witnessing a steady rise in both day and night temperatures, with Sunday figures showing a minimum of 21.8°C and a maximum of 37.1°C. The city is expected to remain dry from April 14 onward, with temperatures climbing steadily. The weather department has issued several alerts in view of the forecasted heatwave. A yellow alert has been issued for Jaisalmer on



Monday, while hot winds are expected in Barmer, Bikaner, Jaisalmer, and Sriganganagar on Tuesday. An orange alert has been issued for April 16 in Sriganganagar, Jaisalmer, Barmer, and Bikaner, and a yellow alert for districts

including Jhunjhunu, Churu, Hanumangarh, and Jodhpur.

Authorities have advised residents to avoid outdoor exposure during peak afternoon hours and take precautions against heat-related illnesses.

Metro Chaos in Bengaluru as Reduced Train Frequency Sparks Overcrowding on Ambedkar Jayanti

TPN Correspondent | Bengaluru

Bengaluru witnessed chaotic scenes at Naddaprabhu Kempegowda Metro Station in Majestic on Monday morning as Namma Metro services were disrupted due to reduced train frequency. The Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) faced sharp criticism from commuters after trains began running at 10-minute intervals, instead of the usual 4-5 minutes during peak hours, causing severe overcrowding on platforms.

The disruption occurred during the morning rush hour, typically between 7:30 am and 10:30 am, a period when commuters rely heavily on the metro network to get to work. However, in observance of Dr. B. R. Ambedkar Jayanti — a government holiday — BMRCL opted to reduce train fre-

quency, assuming lower ridership.

The decision backfired, with scores of commuters left stranded on congested platforms, leading to scenes of frustration, confusion, and discomfort. Social media was soon flooded with images and videos of packed trains and platforms, as irate passengers voiced their discontent and demanded explanations.

In response to the backlash, BMRCL swiftly operationalised additional trips to alleviate the pressure. The corporation issued a statement acknowledging the situation and said that more trains were deployed to ease the congestion once the spike in passenger volume became apparent.

"We had anticipated a lighter crowd due to the holiday, but the actual footfall during peak hours exceeded our expecta-



tions," a BMRCL spokesperson said. "We have increased the number of train services and normal frequency has been resumed to handle the rush." The incident has reignited conversations around the need for better crowd management strategies and real-time mon-

itoring of passenger flow, especially on holidays when assumptions about reduced ridership may not hold true in a city with a high working population in essential and informal sectors.

Commuters have urged BMRCL to communicate better in the future and

to avoid service cuts on weekdays, even during public holidays. With the metro being one of the lifelines of daily transport in the city, passengers expect the system to adapt swiftly to ground realities and ensure smooth operations regardless of the calendar.

Trump's Tariff U-Turn Rattles Globe

In a stunning reversal, US President Donald Trump has put a temporary pause on his sweeping reciprocal tariffs—except those aimed at China—sending ripples across global markets and evoking comparisons to the erratic rule of medieval sultan Muhammad bin Tughlaq. While this partial ceasefire has calmed some immediate anxieties, the unpredictable manner in which these economic policies are being implemented and revoked continues to deeply unsettle financial markets and global stakeholders. Trump had earlier launched an all-out trade war, threatening punitive tariffs on imports from nearly every major economy. However, in his latest move, he has narrowed the scope, leaving only China facing the brunt of new tariffs—now raised to a whopping 125%, while other countries are being subjected to a 10% tariff for the next 90 days. The sudden narrowing of this economic offensive has been widely interpreted as both arbitrary and reactive.



The global community is grappling with the unprecedented nature of Trump's policy-making. Economists and political observers are drawing attention to how critical financial decisions are being made and reversed

with alarming casualness. There's no modern parallel to this kind of high-stakes economic improvisation in international trade policy. The bilateralization of the trade war—now essentially a standoff between the

US and China—has left analysts puzzled. Was this reversal driven by sheer unpredictability, or was it a strategic retreat in response to the severe backlash from equity and bond markets? Some believe Trump may have been

influenced by feedback from key business leaders and economic advisors, as well as public concern in the US about the impact of his tariffs. Others suggest that this was part of a long-orchestrated plan to economically

isolate China while keeping the rest of the world on relatively neutral ground. However, that theory is hard to reconcile with the initial universal scope of the tariff plan. Sustaining a tariff war with China, without affecting other economies, is far from simple in an interconnected global supply chain. During Trump's first term, the US had already imposed tariffs on a wide range of Chinese goods, and many expected Trump 2.0 to double down. Yet the flip-flop nature of these decisions has left many questioning whether there is any coherent strategy at all. The uncertainty unleashed by this chaotic approach is particularly damaging. Long-term economic planning, investment, and supply chain management all depend on policy stability and predictability—elements now clearly missing. While a policy can be announced or revoked within days, rebuilding trust and trade infrastructure takes years, if not decades. In the end, Trump's claim that he hopes for a "good deal with China" only adds another layer of ambiguity. As global markets brace for the next twist, the world watches with concern, unsure of whether diplomacy or disruption will define the next phase of this economic drama.

Ambedkar's Vision of Manuski and Dignity



Dr. B.R. Ambedkar's idea of manus (human) and manuski (human dignity) was rooted not just in Western liberal humanism, but in a deeper, vernacular, and performative understanding of what it means to be human in a caste-based society. His concept of humanness was not merely biological — it was social, ethical, and enacted through dignity, justice, and equality. On April 14, Ambedkar Jayanti, it's worth revisiting how central these concepts were to Ambedkar's political and philosophical vision, especially in the context of Dalit liberation.

In his 1925 speech to the Mumbai Province Bahishkrut Parishad in Belgaon, Ambedkar called on Dalits to fight for their manuski — to not just live, but to live with dignity. He posed a fundamental question to the Untouchables: "Do you want sukh (comfort) or manuski?" (Bahishkrut Bharat, Feb 3, 1928). This was not a rhetorical question. Ambedkar was pointing out that dignity, not mere survival or comfort, was the foundation of full personhood. To reclaim manuski, Ambedkar emphasised political representation, social transformation, and the annihilation of caste. He understood that Hinduism, structured on rigid human hierarchies, offered no path to dignity for Dalits. In his seminal — though undelivered — speech Annihilation of Caste (1936), he argued that dismantling caste was essential to creating a society in which manuski could be universally shared. But Ambedkar's vision did not stop at political change. He and his followers

- **Nitimatta/Naitikta (ethics)**
- **Svabhiman (self-respect)**
- **Svavalamban (self-dependence)**
- **Shila (character)**
- **Ijjat (dignity)**
- **Mansikta (mental ability)**
- **Abhu (honour)**

engaged in a multi-pronged strategy to regenerate Dalit society — educational reform, legal action, social uplift, and religious conversion — all aimed at both external liberation and internal transformation. For Ambedkar, manuski had to be cultivated, not just granted. Importantly, the term humanity in English doesn't fully capture the depth of manuski in the Dalit context. In Marathi, manuski draws from multiple moral and emotional registers: Together, these formed the foundation for dignified Dalit personhood — a humanity forged in struggle, not bestowed by privilege. Ambedkar's vision remains a radical blueprint for justice, challenging India to rethink what it means to be truly human.

Can Mamata Weather the Job Storm

As the 2026 West Bengal Assembly election approaches, a political storm threatens to shake Mamata Banerjee's once-impregnable stronghold. The Supreme Court's decision to nullify over 25,000 teaching appointments tied to the 2016 recruitment scam has delivered a seismic blow to the Trinamool Congress (TMC), raising questions about Banerjee's credibility and deepening discontent among her traditional support base — the middle class and rural aspirants. This verdict doesn't just signify a legal setback; it risks becoming an electoral turning point. Banerjee built her political brand by championing "Ma, Mati, Manush" — the mother, the soil, and the people — and for years, she enjoyed robust support from a broad coalition of urban middle-class voters and rural families. But with thousands of livelihoods wiped out in a single court order, faith in the system has cracked. The scandal's impact extends far beyond the jobholders. When

multiplied by dependents and families, over a crore people are directly or indirectly affected — especially in suburban and rural Bengal, where government teaching jobs are prized for their stability. These communities now feel betrayed, and the TMC's promise of governance and meritocracy lies in tatters. Urban anger is simmering too. Kolkata's middle class, which once embraced Banerjee for her anti-elitist and reformist persona, is disillusioned. The arrest of former minister Partha Chatterjee and revelations of rampant bribery have only intensified outrage. Teachers who followed the rules, only to be dismissed, are protesting — and their voices are echoing across Bengal's education ecosystem. Signs of political erosion are already visible. Despite winning 29 Lok Sabha seats in 2024, the TMC trailed in 47 of Kolkata's 144 municipal wards and lost two Assembly segments. Incidents like the R G Kar rape-murder case have fur-

ther dented Banerjee's image as a protector of the common people. Yet, while the TMC is wounded, the BJP is not fully poised to capitalize. The party's state leadership is fractured and lacks a charismatic face who can rival Banerjee's populist appeal. Leaders like Suwendu Adhikari and Sukanta Majumder are attacking with full force, but translating this into votes requires a unified strategy and clear vision, something the BJP still struggles with. Meanwhile, Banerjee is attempting to reclaim lost ground by portraying herself as the victim of a BJP-CPI(M) conspiracy, a narrative that often garners sympathy in Bengal. Historically, her ability to turn adversity into advantage has kept her politically afloat. Ultimately, the 2026 election could hinge on whether Banerjee can rebuild trust — or whether the BJP can finally present a compelling alternative. Either way, West Bengal is bracing for a political showdown unlike any in recent memory.



Gujarat ATS, Coast Guard Seize ₹1,800 Crore Worth of Drugs in High-Seas Operation

In a major anti-narcotics operation, the Gujarat Anti-Terrorist Squad (ATS) and the Indian Coast Guard (ICG) jointly seized 300 kilograms of suspected methamphetamine valued at ₹1,800 crore after smugglers dumped the contraband into the Arabian Sea and fled across the International Maritime Boundary Line (IMBL), officials said on Monday.

The overnight operation was conducted on April 12-13 in the Arabian Sea near the IMBL off the Gujarat coast, based on specific intelligence received by the Gujarat ATS. Acting swiftly, the ICG diverted one of its ships from the Western Region to intercept the suspect vessel.

According to an official release, the Coast Guard ship managed to locate the suspicious boat despite challenging visibility conditions. Upon spotting the approaching patrol vessel, the smugglers quickly jettisoned their cargo into the sea and escaped across the IMBL, taking advantage of their proximity to international waters and the distance between the vessels at the time of detection.

"The ICG ship deployed its sea boat immediately to recover the jettisoned narcotics while commencing a hot pursuit of the fleeing vessel," the release stated. However, due to the geographical constraints and the swift movement of the smugglers, intercep-



tion could not be achieved.

Despite the challenges of operating in darkness and rough seas, the Coast Guard successfully recovered the dumped contraband. The narcotics, believed to be methamphetamine, were brought ashore to Porbandar and handed over to the Gujarat ATS for further investigation.

Officials noted that this operation marks the 13th successful joint mission by the Gujarat ATS and the Indian Coast Guard in recent

years, highlighting the strong synergy and coordination between the two agencies in safeguarding national interests and coastal security.

The seizure underscores the persistent threat of drug trafficking through maritime routes and the increasing need for coordinated intelligence-led operations. Investigations are ongoing to trace the origins and intended recipients of the consignment, and efforts are underway to identify and apprehend the smugglers who escaped into international waters.



Priyanka Gandhi Likely to Be Elevated

The Congress party is reportedly considering a significant move to elevate Priyanka Gandhi Vadra to the post of vice president as part of a broader push for structural reforms within the organisation. While an official decision is yet to be made, party insiders say discussions around her formal promotion have intensified in recent weeks.

Currently, Priyanka Gandhi serves as the General Secretary of the party, though she does not hold any specific organisational charge. Despite this, she has been actively involved behind the scenes, particularly in driving new initiatives aimed at strengthening the party's grassroots network.

One of her major recent contributions is a pilot project focused on empowering district Congress presidents, beginning with Gujarat. This initiative aims to decentralise decision-making and increase the responsibilities of district-level leaders, giving them greater authority and autonomy to make impactful changes at the local level. If the pilot proves effective in Gujarat, the Congress plans to expand the model to other states across the country. Party sources view this project as a reflection of Priyanka Gandhi's growing strategic role within the organisation. Her ability to steer internal reforms, especially at a time when the Congress is trying to revamp its structure and operational efficiency, is being seen as a key asset for the party's revival efforts.

The proposed changes go beyond just her elevation. The Congress is reportedly preparing for a set of broader organisational reforms aimed at streamlining internal systems and improving functionality at all levels. The leadership believes that such reforms are essential to strengthen the party ahead of crucial electoral battles, including the upcoming state and national elections.

According to insiders, while Priyanka Gandhi's new designation is yet to be finalised, her increasing involvement in shaping policy, internal structures, and grassroots strategies signals a clear shift in her influence within the party. Her elevation to vice president could serve as both a symbolic and strategic move, reinforcing the Gandhi family's central role while also introducing a more reform-oriented leadership style.

As discussions continue, many within the party view her potential rise as a much-needed catalyst for revitalising the Congress and aligning its future course with evolving political dynamics.

Golconda Blue Diamond Set for Auction

A rare and radiant 23.24-carat vivid blue diamond with a rich Indian royal legacy is poised to capture global attention at Christie's Magnificent Jewels sale in Geneva. Known as The Golconda Blue, the diamond is expected to fetch between USD 35 million and USD 50 million (approximately Rs 300-430 crore), making it one of the most valuable blue diamonds to be auctioned in recent years.



of Indore and Baroda. Now mounted in a contemporary ring crafted by acclaimed Parisian designer JAR (Joel Arthur Rosenthal), the diamond continues its legacy by blending regal history with modern artistry.

Christie's International Head of Jewelry, Rahul Kadakia, highlighted the stone's unmatched significance, calling it "one of the rarest blue diamonds in the world." He compared The Golconda Blue to other celebrated diamonds of Golconda origin, such

as the Archduke Joseph Diamond and the Princie Diamond, both known for their noble lineage and exceptional brilliance.

"Exceptional noble gems of this caliber come to market once in a lifetime," Kadakia remarked, underscoring the rarity and importance of the diamond. He emphasized that its royal heritage, exquisite color, and remarkable size make it a treasure of global and historical importance.

For India, The Golconda Blue is more than just a gemstone—it is a tangible link to the country's illustrious past, evoking images of princely states, royal courts, and a flourishing diamond trade centered in the Golconda region. The upcoming auction is not just a sale, but a moment of cultural significance, as one of India's finest jewels prepares to change hands on the world stage.

The gem hails from the legendary Golconda mines, located in present-day Telangana, India—historically renowned for producing some of the finest and rarest diamonds in the world. Its exceptional quality, deep blue hue, and royal provenance add to its prestige and desirability among collectors and connoisseurs.

The Golconda Blue was once part of the illustrious royal collections of the Maharajas

Karun Nair Disappointed Despite IPL Half-Century

Karun Nair, the experienced Vidarbha batter, made a strong comeback in the 2025 Indian Premier League (IPL) with a scintillating knock of 89 runs off 40 balls. His performance, however, came in a losing effort as Delhi Capitals succumbed to Mumbai Indians in their latest encounter. Despite his remarkable innings, which included his first IPL half-century in seven years, Nair remained disappointed, emphasizing that individual performances hold little value if the team does not win.



The 33-year-old, who had been absent from the IPL for three years, was brought in as an Impact Player and delivered a solid contribution. However, he refused to dwell on his personal achievement during the post-match interview. Nair expressed his disappointment with the outcome, underscoring the importance of team success over individual milestones. "We play to win the match, so there is disappointment. No matter how much we score, if the team does not win, then there is no value of it," he remarked, adding that winning was his primary focus.

The knock was a welcome return for Nair, especially after a long absence from the IPL, but he felt his efforts were futile as Delhi Capitals couldn't finish the job. He noted how important it was for the set batters to stay at the crease for longer periods. "Obviously, it was easier for the set batter to play than for the new batter," Nair explained. "It was very important for a set batter to continue, but we lost wickets at regular intervals, making it tough to chase down the target."

Despite the loss, Nair acknowledged Mumbai Indians' strong bowling performance, which

kept the Capitals under pressure throughout the match. He pointed out that the team struggled to form partnerships, an essential aspect in T20 cricket. "We were all looking to score runs quickly, but we couldn't stitch together partnerships," he added.

The batter remains hopeful that his team will learn from this defeat and continue their momentum in future games. Nair's perspective on the loss reflects his commitment to the team's success and his determination to contribute to their winning efforts in the coming matches.

Anti-Waqf Violence Spreads in Bengal

Violent protests over the Waqf (Amendment) Act continue to escalate in West Bengal, with fresh reports of unrest emerging from a second district. After days of clashes in Murshidabad's Jangipur area, the tension has now reportedly spread to parts of Malda, raising alarm among authorities and prompting urgent legal and security interventions.



On Monday, a plea was filed in the Supreme Court seeking a court-monitored Special Investigation Team (SIT) probe into the violence. Filed by advocate Shashank Shekhar Jha, the petition calls for immediate action to protect lives and properties at risk due to the ongoing unrest. It also urges the court to ensure accountability and transparency in the investigation.

The situation first turned violent in Murshidabad on Saturday when protests against the Waqf (Amendment) Act took a violent turn. Protesters set fire to multiple vehicles, and visuals from the scene showed flames and thick smoke engulfing parts of Jangipur. The violence left at least three people dead and over 100 arrested. Authorities fear that unchecked misinformation could inflame tensions further.

Following the clashes, the Calcutta High Court held an urgent hearing on a court holiday and ordered the immediate deployment of Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF) in Murshidabad. The division bench led by Justice Soumen Sen stated that the court could not remain a si-

lent spectator and stressed the constitutional responsibility to protect civilians during such crises.

Jawed Shamim, Additional Director General (Law and Order), said on Monday that the administrations of both Murshidabad and Malda are working in coordination to restore peace. So far, 210 arrests have been made, and law enforcement has launched efforts to prevent the spread of rumors.

Nineteen displaced families have returned to their homes, and some businesses have resumed operations. Police are using loudspeakers to encourage residents to resume normal activities and urging calm amid ongoing investigations.

The violence, which began as a protest against legal amendments, has taken a deadly turn and now risks spiraling into a wider law-and-order crisis. With unrest spreading to more districts, the state's response and the outcome of the Supreme Court plea will be crucial in determining the next steps toward restoring peace.



Sheikh Hasina sends a 'play with fire, you burn too' warning to Yunus govt

Saying 'their audacity astonishes me'

TPN Correspondent | Dhaka

Former Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, who was ousted from office last year, issued a strong warning to the country's interim caretaker government on Tuesday, cautioning that "if you play with fire, it will burn you too." Hasina's remarks come in the wake of increasing threats to ban her long-standing political party, the Awami League, which has been a central force in Bangladesh's politics for decades.

In a virtual address from India, where she has been living since fleeing Bangladesh last August, Hasina condemned the interim government for its audacity in attempting to erase the Awami League's historical role in the country's independence struggle. She specifically accused Professor Muhammad Yunus, who has been linked to efforts undermining the Awami League, of erasing the party's contributions to the Liberation War.

Hasina, 77, emphasized that the Awami League, founded in 1948, was instrumental in securing the rights of the people of East Pakistan, which later became Bangladesh. She reminded the public that the country's independence in 1971 was achieved under the leadership of her father, Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, the founding father of the nation, and through the organizational strength of the Awami League. "The name of the country where they now live was given by Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib," Hasina said, reinforcing her father's role in uniting the people of Bengal and securing the nation's freedom.

The call to ban the Awami League, led by Hasina's supporters, has been met with resistance from rival political groups like the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP). While some extreme right-wing factions continue to demand the party's disbandment, the proposal has failed to gain substantial backing from other major political players in Bangladesh.

Hasina also addressed the violence that erupted in 2024, which resulted in significant casualties among Awami League activists, police officers, and members of minority communities. Reflecting on the human toll of the crisis, Hasina questioned the actions of the current regime and warned that their attempts to suppress her party could have dire consequences.

As political tensions escalate in Bangladesh, Hasina's statements underscore the growing divide and the uncertain future of the country's political landscape.

Russian missile attack on Ukraine's Sumy: More than 30 people killed, at least 84 injured

- Missiles reportedly used cluster munitions for maximum damage.
- Sumy, near Russian border, seen as key military zone.
- Ukraine shares evidence with ICC; war crimes probe underway.



TPN Correspondent | Ukraine

In the deadliest strike on Ukraine this year, two Russian ballistic missiles devastated the northern city of Sumy on Sunday, killing at least 32 people and injuring over 80, according to Ukrainian officials. The brutal attack, which occurred on Palm Sunday, drew widespread condemnation from Ukrainian leaders and prompted fresh calls for international action against Moscow.

President Volodymyr Zelenskyy posted a harrowing video on social media showing bodies lying on the street near a charred bus and destroyed cars. "Only scoundrels can act like this. Taking the

lives of ordinary people," Zelenskyy said, adding that the strike targeted civilians on a religious holiday when many were heading to church.

The Russian government has not issued a statement regarding the attack, and Reuters noted that no immediate response was received from Russian authorities.

Interior Minister Ihor Klymenko said the missiles struck a busy street where people were out in vehicles, on foot, or in nearby buildings. He labeled it a "deliberate destruction of civilians" on a day of religious significance. Zelenskyy's chief of staff, Andriy Yermak, revealed that the

missiles used in the attack contained cluster munitions, further indicating a deadly intent to cause maximum civilian casualties.

Sumy, a city of around 250,000 people located just 25 kilometers from the Russian border, has previously been a military hub for Ukrainian operations. Though Kyiv's cross-border offensives into Russia last year were largely repelled, the region remains a sensitive target.

Maryana Bezuhla, a Ukrainian lawmaker known for her candid criticism of the military leadership, suggested on Telegram that the strike may have followed a

leak regarding a potential troop gathering in the area. However, this claim remains unverified.

This attack comes just weeks after another missile strike on Kryvyi Rih—Zelenskyy's hometown—that killed 20 people, including nine children.

Ukraine's Foreign Minister Andrii Sybiha confirmed that Kyiv is sharing detailed evidence of the strike with international partners and institutions. The International Criminal Court in The Hague, which Ukraine joined officially this year, is currently investigating such incidents as potential war crimes under international law.

China Halts Rare Earth Exports Amid Escalating US Trade War, Threatens Global Supply Chains

TPN Correspondent | US

As tensions between the United States and China intensify, Beijing has suspended the export of several key rare earth elements, metals, and magnets—critical materials used across industries such as defense, electronics, automotive, aerospace, and semiconductors. The move, seen as a strategic response to President Donald Trump's latest tariff hike on Chinese goods, threatens to disrupt global supply chains and significantly impact American manufacturers.

According to a report by The New York Times, Chinese authorities are currently drafting a new regulatory framework for rare earth exports. While this system is being developed, shipments of these crucial materials have been halted at several Chinese ports. Once implemented, the new system may permanently restrict access to these materials for select companies, particularly American military contractors.

China, which produces about 90% of the



Beijing imposed these new export restrictions on April 2, coinciding with its broader retaliatory package against the US, which includes increased tariffs and specific product bans. While not an outright ban, China now requires special export licenses to ship rare earths and associated finished products abroad. Industry experts warn that the licensing system is currently underdeveloped, raising concerns about prolonged delays and dwindling international supplies.

world's rare earth elements, has placed seven categories of medium and heavy rare earths—such as samarium, gadolinium, terbium, dysprosium, lutetium, scandium, and yttrium—on an export control list. These elements are vital for manufacturing high-tech equipment, including missiles, EV motors, jet engines, and semiconductors. The United States, by contrast, has only one rare earth mine and remains heavily dependent on Chinese imports.

The decision underscores China's strategic use of its dominance in the rare earth sector as a geopolitical tool. Lockheed Martin, Tesla, and Apple are among major US companies that rely on Chinese rare earths. Though the US maintains some stockpiles, they are insufficient to sustain long-term defense manufacturing.

Meta Faces Landmark Antitrust Trial Over Instagram and WhatsApp Acquisitions

TPN Correspondent | Newyork

Meta Platforms Inc is heading into a historic antitrust trial that could potentially force the tech giant to divest Instagram and WhatsApp—two of its most valuable platforms. The trial, which begins Monday, marks a major test for the Federal Trade Commission's (FTC) efforts to rein in Big Tech.

The case stems from a 2020 lawsuit filed during former President Donald Trump's administration, accusing Meta—then Facebook—of engaging in anti-competitive practices by acquiring Instagram in 2012 and WhatsApp in 2014. The FTC alleges these deals were part of a strategy to eliminate competition and maintain Meta's monopoly in the social media space.

According to the FTC, CEO Mark Zuckerberg's long-held belief that "it is better to buy than compete" guided Facebook's acquisition strategy. The agency claims Meta pursued a pattern of buying up emerging rivals to neutralize



threats, especially during a shift from desktop to mobile platforms.

Instagram, purchased for \$1 billion, and WhatsApp, acquired for \$22 billion, were instrumental in helping Facebook adapt to mobile and stay relevant with younger users. The FTC argues that Meta used these acquisitions and internal policies to stifle innovation and deter competition.

However, the FTC's case hinges on a narrow market definition that excludes major players like

TikTok, YouTube, and Apple's iMessage—something experts say could weaken their argument. Meta counters that it faces intense competition and accuses the FTC of rewriting the rules years after clearing the acquisitions.

In a statement, Meta said, "The FTC's case defies reality. Instagram, Facebook, and WhatsApp compete daily with TikTok, YouTube, iMessage, and more. This lawsuit threatens innovation and sends a message that no deal is ever final."

Tim Cook's Viral Video Explains Why Apple Still Builds iPhones in China Despite Rising US Pressure

Apple CEO Tim Cook is once again in the spotlight as a resurfaced 2024 video gains traction online, offering rare insight into why the tech giant continues to manufacture iPhones in China instead of shifting operations to the United States. In the widely shared clip, Cook challenges the long-held assumption that Apple's presence in China is driven by low labour costs.



"The popular conception is that companies come to China because of low labour costs. I'm not sure what part of China they go to, but the truth is China stopped being the low labor cost country years ago," Cook says in the video.

Instead, Cook emphasizes China's unparalleled manufacturing infrastructure and skilled workforce as the real reasons behind Apple's deep-rooted production presence there. He highlights the scale and precision required to manufacture Apple devices—processes that demand specialised tooling engineers and high-level materials handling capabilities. According to Cook, while it may be difficult to gather a roomful of such engineers in the US, China could fill several football fields with them.

The video has gone viral amid rising political

calls in the US to repatriate manufacturing jobs. President Donald Trump recently expressed a desire for tech companies like Apple to start producing more devices domestically. The White House has also pointed to Apple's planned \$500 billion US investment as a potential signal of shifting priorities.

However, industry experts caution that Apple is unlikely to bring large-scale manufacturing back to the US anytime soon. Reports from Bloomberg suggest that the US lacks the skilled labor, supplier ecosystem, and infrastructure necessary to support Apple's complex production needs at scale.

Meanwhile, Apple is making moves to diversify its supply chain. India has emerged as a key partner in this strategy. Apple, through contract manufacturer Foxconn, is expanding a 300-acre iPhone plant in Bengaluru.

Market Outlook and Stock Picks

Sectoral Momentum Amid Global Trade Shifts



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Domestic stock markets may be mixed this week. US President Donald Trump's postponement of tariffs on all countries except China for 90 days has allayed fears of an economic slowdown. Supply dependence on the

Dragon Country is noteworthy. As this trade war is likely to benefit India, momentum may increase in some sectoral stocks. However, the market will follow Trump's comments and geopolitical equations. Shares of con-

sumer durables, FMCG, public sector enterprises and oil companies rose last week. It is better to stay away from IT stocks.

Stock Recommendations
Power Grid:



These shares, which have been in a downtrend for a few months, have now gained momentum. They have taken support at the crucial Rs. 250 level and turned around. Relative strength is also increasing. Investors should take a position above Rs 300 with a target price of Rs 322/330 in this counter, which closed at Rs 304 last Friday. A stop loss is mandatory at Rs 292.

Gujarat Gas Limited:

This counter, which has been in a downtrend since the beginning of 2024, has been forming a base since February this year. It is continuing to remain stable at Rs 380. Investors should enter this counter, which



closed at Rs 428 last Friday with a profit of 5.9%, at Rs 410/420 with a target price of Rs 490. A stop loss is mandatory at Rs 400.

Patanjali Foods:



This stock is performing well even in a losing market. Momentum and relative strength are good. It has been moving in the Darvas box pattern at Rs 1800 for a few months. Investors should take a position in the Rs.1850 range with a target price of Rs.2150 in this counter, which closed with a gain of 4.1% last Friday. Stop loss should be placed at Rs.1810.

Laurus Lab:

These shares have been in an uptrend



for a few months. They are currently moving in a range bound at the highest level. Short-term momentum is good. Average volume is increasing. Investors should take a position in the Rs.600 range with a target price of Rs.655 in this counter, which closed with a gain of 7.4% last Friday. Stop loss at Rs.585 is mandatory.

Jindal Stainless

These shares have been in a downtrend for a few months. Since the volume is registering less, it seems that the fall is likely to stop. Investors should take positions at Rs 530/540 with a target price of Rs 610 in this counter, which closed at Rs 542 with a gain of 5.8% last Friday. A stop loss at Rs 520 is mandatory.



Indian Shrimp Exporters Get Relief as US Pauses Higher Tariff

India's seafood exporters are gearing up to ship 35,000 to 40,000 tonnes of shrimp to the United States after President Donald Trump temporarily paused a planned tariff hike. The proposed reciprocal duty of 26% was rolled back to 10%, bringing a wave of relief to exporters and ensuring continued trade momentum.

K.N. Raghavan, Secretary General of the Seafood Exporters Association of India, told PTI, "There is a lot of relief now as we are at par with other exporters to the US. The shipments that were held back will now be processed." According to him, nearly 2,000 containers of shrimp, which had been delayed due to tariff uncertainty, are now being readied for export.



Trump's decision on April 9 to hold off on the tariff hike, just a week after it was announced, gives Indian exporters a crucial 90-day window to fulfil existing orders without facing additional costs. This decision retains a 10% blanket tariff on seafood imports from most countries, excluding China, which continues to face a steep 145% duty.

Currently, Indian shrimp exports to the US are subject to an effective customs duty of 17.7%, which includes a 5.7% countervailing

duty and 1.8% anti-dumping duty. Under delivery duty-paid (DDP) arrangements, Indian exporters typically absorb these costs themselves, making the temporary pause even more significant for preserving profit margins on already contracted shipments. Despite the tariff concerns, the US remains India's largest shrimp market, both in terms of volume and value. In the 2023-24 fiscal year, India exported shrimp worth \$2.7 billion to the United States. Encouragingly, industry sources have reported no decline in orders.

The Seafood Exporters Association is now urging the Indian government to push for long-term solutions during upcoming trade negotiations, particularly focusing on establishing a level playing field for India's seafood industry before the 90-day tariff pause expires.

The temporary relief has re-energized the sector, offering exporters a window of opportunity to maintain strong trade ties with their largest customer.

China's Exports Surge Ahead of Looming U.S. Tariffs

China's exports saw an unexpected and sharp rebound in March 2025, jumping 12.4% year-on-year in dollar terms, according to data released by the country's customs authority on Monday. The growth, which comes just ahead of major tariff hikes announced by the United States, marks a significant reversal from the 3% decline recorded in February.

The latest numbers surpassed all estimates in a Bloomberg survey of analysts, where the median forecast had predicted a more modest 4.6% increase. This performance highlights China's aggressive push to ship goods before fresh trade barriers take effect, particularly with exports to Southeast Asia reaching near-record levels.

Economists suggest that the spike is largely driven by front-loading activity, as exporters rushed to fulfill orders before Washington's new tariff measures are enforced. The U.S. administration under President Donald Trump has recently escalated its trade stance on China, reintroducing and expanding duties on a wide range of Chinese goods as part of its broader "America First" trade policy.

The Chinese government is closely monitoring the situation. In a statement earlier on Monday, the Commerce Ministry called on the U.S. to "correct its mistakes" and to "heed rational voices" that support stable trade relations. The Ministry also warned

that the tariff hike would likely disrupt global supply chains and hurt consumers and businesses on both sides.

Meanwhile, the rise in exports is seen as a temporary boost amid a more uncertain long-term outlook. Analysts caution that while March's numbers reflect strong external demand and proactive exporter behavior, the upcoming tariffs could result in a



slowdown over the next quarter, particularly if retaliatory measures are implemented or trade tensions escalate further.

This export rebound comes at a crucial time for China's economy, which is working to regain momentum after periods of sluggish domestic consumption and external uncertainty. Strong export figures may offer short-term relief, but the threat of a prolonged trade standoff with the U.S. remains a major concern for Beijing and global markets alike.

India's Manufacturing Sector Shows Late FY25 Uptick, But FY26 Q1 Outlook Mixed

India's industrial production showed signs of recovery towards the end of the financial year 2024-25, backed by strong performances in high-frequency indicators such as the manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI), Goods and Services Tax (GST) collections, and e-way bill generations, according to a recent report by the Bank of Baroda (BoB).

The report indicated that these positive signals suggest a rebound in production in the closing months of FY25. "Given the latest improvement in manufacturing PMI for March 2024, along with a pick-up in e-way bill generations and GST collections, we expect production to have reported some improvement towards the end of the last fiscal year," the report noted.

However, the outlook for the first quarter of FY26 remains cautious. BoB warned of emerging headwinds, particularly due to uncertain

global trade dynamics. Export growth remains a significant risk factor, especially amid geopolitical and economic volatility, including continued tensions between the United States and China.

The report also emphasized that the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) recent decision to reduce policy interest rates could serve as a tailwind for the manufacturing sector by lowering borrowing costs and incentivizing investment and production. Additionally, a 90-day pause announced by the Trump administration on the imposition of new country-specific tariffs, alongside a decline in global commodity prices, has further buoyed near-term expectations.

Nonetheless, India's Index of Industrial Production (IIP) data for February 2025 revealed a more nuanced picture. IIP growth slowed to 2.9%, down from 5.6% in February 2024 and

5.2% in January 2025. The decline was broad-based, affecting key sectors such as mining and electricity, with the manufacturing segment also seeing moderate weakening.

Within manufacturing, industries like basic metals, motor vehicles, chemicals, and apparel reported lower output, while pharmaceuticals, textiles, and electronics registered modest growth. Among use-based classifications, only capital goods saw year-on-year growth, whereas consumer durables, infrastructure, and non-durables declined.

Overall, IIP growth for the fiscal year to date stands at 4.1%, down from 6% in the same period last year. While positive domestic signals provided a lift at the end of FY25, the mixed global environment suggests a cautious start to FY26 for India's manufacturing sector.

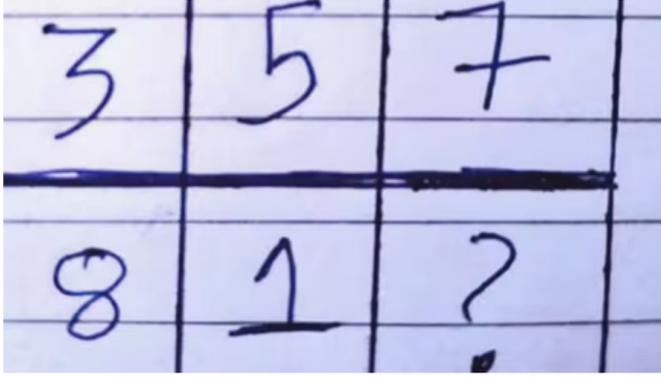


Viral Puzzle Stumps Internet Sleuths

A seemingly simple number puzzle has captured the internet's attention—and its collective frustration. Shared by Brainy Quiz, a popular account on X (formerly Twitter), the teaser presents a 3x3 number grid with one crucial blank square represented by a question mark. While it looks basic at first glance, solving the pattern behind the missing number has proven to be anything but easy.

Brain teasers like this have long been a popular way for people to challenge their logic and sharpen their thinking. They offer a satisfying escape from daily routines and, more importantly, give your brain a much-needed stretch. For some, cracking these puzzles is a casual habit; for others, it's an obsession. And with social media offering instant access to global puzzles, communities now form around solving the toughest ones—just like this one.

This latest viral grid has managed to hook everyone from casual browsers to self-proclaimed



math whizzes. Many report trying multiple patterns—adding, subtracting, multiplying rows and columns—only to come up short. What's maddening for many is the simplicity of the setup: how can something so compact stump so many people?

Brainy Quiz dropped the teaser without an immediate answer, only encouraging users to "spot the pattern" and share their guesses. As replies flood in, so do a variety

of theories, some brilliant, some wildly off-track, and all part of the fun. The puzzle's virality proves once again that the internet loves a good brain challenge—especially when it's wrapped in the mystery of one little missing number.

If you're brave enough to give it a go, dive in and join the thousands who've taken on the challenge. Just don't be surprised if you end up second-guessing yourself before that "aha!" moment hits.

Laid Off at 40? You're Not Alone

In a candid and timely reflection on today's job market, Bombay Shaving Company CEO Shantanu Deshpande recently addressed a growing and unsettling trend—professionals in their 40s facing layoffs across industries. Calling it a "global phenomenon," Deshpande highlighted how individuals in this age group, often in the peak of their earning years, are increasingly being let go by companies seeking to cut costs. Deshpande described the 40s to early 50s as a "golden salary period"—a time when professionals typically command high salaries after decades of experience. However, it's also when financial responsibilities tend to peak, with expenses like children's education, home loans, and elderly parents' healthcare pressing hard. Being laid off during this phase can be not just a financial jolt but an emotional one too.

The conversation struck a chord online, with many sharing personal stories. One Instagram user, Shweta Gadia, shared how she lost her job at 42 despite having an impressive professional profile. Since then, she's been struggling to find a role that matches her experience and expectations. Her story, among many others, reflects a larger shift in hiring dynamics—companies now often lean toward younger employees who cost less and are perceived as more adaptable in today's fast-changing digital environment.



Deshpande's post aims to shed light on what many professionals experience silently: the feeling of becoming "unhirable" after a certain age, not because of lack of skill, but due to shifting industry priorities. The CEO encouraged companies to take a more holistic view when hiring and retaining talent and emphasized the importance of upskilling, networking, and maintaining visibility in one's industry. The discussion underscores a need for open dialogue around age and employment—especially in a rapidly evolving market where even seasoned professionals are finding themselves on shaky ground.

Lazy or Smart? Porter Video Divides Internet

A light-hearted yet thought-provoking video shared on social media has sparked an online debate about convenience culture and customer expectations. A Porter delivery agent recently went viral after posting a clip narrating what he called an "amazing" order — delivering a small package from one tower to another in the same residential complex, barely a two-minute walk apart.

The video, shared by user Azhar Jafri shows the delivery agent standing near Tower 17, from where he picked up the package. He then pans the camera to Tower 19, pointing out that it's hardly a short stroll away. The package contained a couple of game controllers, and the delivery agent quipped, "These people are so lazy," while showing the handoff location.

The video's text overlay humorously read, "Porter mein aaya aalas ki delivery waala order" (A delivery order full of laziness came on Porter), poking fun at how hyperlocal convenience apps are now being



used for even the shortest of errands.

The caption added by the uploader — "Lucknow ke nawab chale gaye, nawabi chhod gaye" (The Nawabs of Lucknow are gone, but their royal habits remain) — only added to the comedic spin, prompting laughs from some and raised eyebrows from others.

While many found the situation funny and a bit excessive, others jumped to the customer's defense, noting that modern delivery apps are built on the promise of ul-

tra-convenience — and the customer was simply using a service they paid for. A few users even speculated that the delivery might have been requested for someone with mobility issues or time constraints.

As debates swirl over whether this reflects peak laziness or smart use of tech, one thing is clear: what began as a simple two-minute delivery has become a reflection of the larger conversation on how far we're willing to go — or not go — for convenience.

Raghunandan Kamath's Journey to Rs 300 Crore

From humble beginnings in a small Karnataka village, Raghunandan Kamath rose to become one of India's most beloved entrepreneurs, building Naturals Ice Cream into a Rs 300-crore brand without any formal education or aggressive marketing. Kamath, the son of a mango vendor, tapped into his roots and instincts to craft a business that combined tradition with innovation, creating a unique space in India's competitive ice cream market.

After moving to Mumbai in his youth, Kamath joined his brother's restaurant business but soon realized his true passion lay in creating desserts, especially fruit-based ones. Drawing inspiration from his family's fruit-selling legacy, he began experimenting with seasonal fruits and milk to craft simple, natural ice creams—free from artificial colors and preservatives. In 1984, he opened his first Naturals



Ice Cream outlet in Juhu, Mumbai, with just five flavors: mango, sitaphal (custard apple), jackfruit, banana, and chikoo (sapodilla). It was a modest shop attached to his father's South Indian restaurant.

What set Naturals apart was its commitment to quality and word-of-mouth marketing. Kamath believed the product would speak for itself, and he was right. As customers kept coming back for more, the brand grew steadily, driven by authenticity, consistency, and customer trust. Despite having no formal training in business or advertising, Kamath's

entrepreneurial instincts were spot on. Over the years, Naturals expanded across the country with over 150 outlets, retaining its family-run ethos and focus on fruit-based, handmade ice creams.

Kamath's inspiring journey proves that success doesn't always follow a straight path through business schools or big capital. Sometimes, it's the taste of home, a dedication to quality, and a deep understanding of your roots that can turn mangoes into millions. Kamath passed away in May 2024, but his legacy continues to delight generations of ice cream lovers across India.

Netflix Tests AI-Powered Smart Search



Netflix is reportedly experimenting with a new search tool powered by OpenAI, aiming to revolutionize how users discover content on the platform. According to The Verge, this AI-driven feature will allow users to search using natural language prompts, going beyond traditional filters like name, genre, or actor. This means that instead of typing in specific titles or actor names, viewers can describe what they're in the mood for — such as "a feel-good romantic comedy with a strong female lead" or "dark thrillers with plot twists like Gone Girl." The AI tool would then parse these prompts and deliver a curated list of matching content.

The move is seen as part of Netflix's broader push to enhance user experience and content discoverability in an increasingly crowded streaming landscape. With thousands of titles available, many users often struggle to find

something that suits their mood or preferences — a gap this AI integration aims to bridge. The feature is reportedly still in its testing phase and may be rolled out to a limited number of users before a wider launch. It leverages OpenAI's advanced language model capabilities to interpret subtle emotional or thematic nuances in user queries — a significant leap from traditional keyword-based search engines. This marks one of the latest examples of how generative AI is being integrated into consumer platforms to personalize and simplify everyday digital experiences. While Netflix has yet to make an official announcement, the early buzz suggests that content discovery on the platform might soon get a lot smarter — and more intuitive. If successful, Netflix's AI-powered search could set a new standard for recommendation and discovery in the streaming world.



Apple Leads Tech Rally on Tariff Relief

Apple shares surged over 6% in Frankfurt trading after the U.S. government granted tariff exclusions on smartphones, computers, and other electronics imported predominantly from China. The move sparked a broader rally in tech stocks across both U.S. and European markets, signaling investor optimism about easing trade tensions and cost pressures on consumer electronics.

The tariff exemptions come as a relief for major tech manufacturers that rely heavily on Chinese supply chains. Apple, with a significant portion

of its production based in China, stands to benefit directly from the reduced import costs, potentially improving profit margins and stabilizing product prices for consumers.

Other tech giants followed suit in the upward momentum. Nvidia climbed more than 3%, buoyed by strong AI demand and positive sentiment in the chipmaking sector. Dell Technologies posted a 6.3% gain, and Dutch semiconductor equipment maker ASML advanced 2.8%, reflecting broader investor confidence in the global tech ecosystem.

The tariff rollback is expected to alleviate some of the inflationary pressures that have been affecting the tech hardware market. Analysts note that the timing of this exemption is critical, as it may also influence pricing strategies ahead of key product launches and the year-end holiday season.

Market watchers suggest that this policy shift could mark a more pragmatic trade stance by the U.S., at least in the tech sector, where global interdependence on manufacturing and innovation is deeply entrenched.

LSG Posts 166/7 Against CSK in IPL 2025



Lucknow Super Giants (LSG) set a total of 166/7 in their IPL 2025 match against Chennai Super Kings (CSK) on Monday. Captain Rishabh Pant was the standout performer for LSG, scoring 63 runs off 49 balls. Pant brought up his fifty in style with a one-handed six over deep mid-wicket. Opener Mitchell Marsh contributed with 30 runs off 25 balls. After being asked to bat first, LSG struggled in the early overs, losing two

wickets during the powerplay. The CSK seamers, Khaleel Ahmed and Anshul Kamboj, took one wicket each in the first six overs to put LSG on the back foot. Ravindra Jadeja, CSK's senior spinner, finished with figures of 2/24 in his three overs, helping to restrict LSG's scoring. Despite the setbacks, Pant's innings guided LSG to a competitive total. LSG: 166/7 in 20 overs (Pant 63; Jadeja 2/24).

ISSF South American Swing: Second Leg Begins in Lima



The second leg of the ISSF World Cup Rifle/Pistol/Shotgun stage kicks off in Lima, Peru, at the Las Palmas range on Tuesday. Close to 400 athletes from 43 countries, including a 35-member Indian team, will compete in 15 events across Rifle, Pistol, and Shotgun disciplines over the next week. India, which finished second to China in the first leg in Buenos Aires, Argentina, with four golds and eight total medals, is aiming to continue its strong per-

formance. The rivalry between the two nations is expected to heat up in Lima. Indian shooters to watch include Manu Bhaker, Suruchi, and Sainyam in the women's air pistol, and Saurabh Chaudhary, Varun Tomar, and Ravinder in the men's air pistol. The competition will feature top shooters from countries like China, the USA, Italy, Germany, and more. All finals will be streamed live on the official ISSF YouTube channel.

Alcaraz Triumphs in Monte Carlo, Clinches First Title

Carlos Alcaraz overcame a slow start to defeat Lorenzo Musetti 3-6, 6-1, 6-0 in the Monte Carlo Masters final, securing his first title at the prestigious event. The Spaniard's victory, his sixth Masters 1000 trophy, marks his first major win since his 2024 Wimbledon triumph. Musetti took an early lead, breaking twice in the opening set as Alcaraz struggled with his forehand. However, Alcaraz regained his composure in the second

set, hitting with more power and accuracy to win five consecutive games. Musetti, who had played several long matches earlier in the week, began to tire under Alcaraz's relentless pace. The final set was one-sided as Alcaraz broke early and took full control. Musetti's physical struggles were compounded by a medical timeout, and Alcaraz closed out the match for a dominant win, showcasing his resilience and skill on clay.



Diksha Dagar Posts Another Top-10 Finish at SA Women's Open

Diksha Dagar continued her strong form in South Africa, securing a Top-10 finish at the SA Women's Open with a final round of 4-under 68, totaling 8-under 280 for the tournament. Her rounds of 72-71-69-68 in windy conditions at Erinvale Country and Golf Estate marked her second consecutive Top-10 finish in South Africa, following a T-9 in Joburg. This performance adds to her solid season, which also includes a runner-up finish in Morocco and a T-11 in New South Wales.

Pranavi Urs also impressed, finishing T-11 with a 7-under total after shooting 69 on the final day. Rookie Avani Prashanth finished T-50 with an even-par total, while Tvesa Malik ended T-58. Frenchwoman Perrine Delacour claimed her second LET victory, finishing 14-under par, with Casandra Alexander and Kelsey Bennett following closely behind. Diksha Dagar, alongside Wales' Chloe Williams, rounded out the Top-10 at 8-under par.



Uday Kumar Aims to Conquer World 10K Bengaluru with Unbreakable Spirit



Uday Kumar's journey is one of resilience, proving that true strength comes from within. A Kolkata-based contractual worker, Uday's life took a tragic turn during the 2015 Durga Puja holidays when an accident led to the amputation of his left leg. Despite being declared 91% disabled, Uday chooses to see himself as "91% abled," embodying the strength of human will. In the face of adversity, Uday found his passion in marathons. Since 2017, he has completed over 80 races across 16 states. His achievements extend beyond running—he has

conquered mountaineering feats like climbing Kanchenjunga and Mount Kilimanjaro, along with skydiving and scuba diving, earning the Tenzing Norgay National Adventure Award. Now, Uday is set to take on the TCS World 10K Bengaluru on April 27, 2025. After a personal best of 1 hour and 35 minutes in his first Bengaluru race, he is determined to beat his record and finish within 1 hour and 20 minutes. His story is a powerful reminder that the only limits we have are the ones we place on ourselves.

Gulzar's Daayra Revisits Hyderabad Tragedy

Meghna Gulzar is set to direct *Daayra*, a gripping crime drama inspired by the 2019 Hyderabad gang rape and murder case that shocked the nation. The film, produced by Jungle Pictures, stars Kareena Kapoor Khan and Prithviraj Sukumaran in lead roles. Announced recently, *Daayra* aims to take a realistic approach to the sensitive subject, portraying intense characters shaped by the horrific incident. Meghna, known for her powerful storytelling in films like *Raazi* and *Sam Bahadur*, co-writes this project with Yash and Sima. Currently in pre-production, the film seeks to shed light on the social and emotional impact of the case, while also exploring justice and societal accountability. With a strong cast and Meghna's impactful direction, *Daayra* promises to be a poignant and powerful cinematic experience, reigniting conversations on gender violence and legal reform.



Ajith's 'Good Bad Ugly' Hits Century

Ajith Kumar's latest action-comedy thriller **Good Bad Ugly** is storming the box office, entering the ₹100 crore club within just four days of its release on April 10. Directed by Adhik Ravichandran, the film showcases Ajith in a triple role — as Good, Bad, and Ugly — and has earned the highest opening day collection for a Tamil film in 2025, grossing ₹28.5 crore on day one across 2,400 shows.

The film, Ajith's 63rd, received strong reception across Tamil Nadu and fea-

tures high-octane action sequences choreographed by international stunt experts. Trisha plays the female lead, while Arjun Das portrays the antagonist.

Good Bad Ugly was made on a grand budget of ₹270–300 crore. Netflix has acquired the digital streaming rights for a reported ₹95 crore, with streaming expected to begin in May. Trade analysts suggest that if current momentum continues, it could become one of the biggest Tamil hits of 2025.



Nani's HIT 3 Promises Relentless Action



Starring Nani as Arjun Sarkaar, has arrived — and it's a dark, intense ride from start to finish. Directed by Sailesh Kolanu, this gritty crime thriller begins with the harrowing abduction of a baby, setting off a brutal chain

of events where Sarkaar takes justice into his own hands. Nani portrays a cop who's merciless with criminals yet composed in his personal life, showcasing a powerful duality that elevates the film's emotional stakes. The trailer

teases a relentless manhunt filled with blood, vengeance, and raw emotion. His performance, especially in the climax, is described as goose-bump-inducing. The visuals are intense, the atmosphere is ominous, and the

action sequences are savage. Srinidhi Shetty plays Nani's love interest, bringing a touch of warmth and charm to the otherwise grim narrative. **HIT 3** hits cinemas on May 1 and promises a gripping cinematic experience.

Another Death Threat to Salman Khan



Bollywood superstar Salman Khan has once again received a serious death threat. A message was sent to the WhatsApp number of the Worli Traffic Department in Mumbai, stating, "Salman, we will kill you at your home or blast your car with a bomb." Following this, the Worli police registered a case against an unidentified person and launched an investigation. Police are currently trying to trace the origin of the message and determine

whether the threat is genuine or a hoax. In the past, Salman Khan has faced multiple threats from the Lawrence Bishnoi gang. Due to ongoing security concerns, he is already under tight police protection. This latest threat has raised fresh concerns about his safety. Authorities are now reviewing his security measures to ensure his protection. The incident has shocked fans and industry members, who have expressed concern and support for the actor during this time.

Nidhhi Agerwal Responds to Comparison

Actress Nidhhi Agerwal, known for her role in **iSmart Shankar**, is awaiting the release of her two big Telugu films. Though she rose to fame quickly, her journey slowed down, and comparisons with rising star Sreeleela began. Many fans have questioned why Sreeleela has done multiple films back-to-back while Nidhhi seemed to take a step back. Reacting to the comparison, Nidhhi responded on social media saying, *"After iSmart, I did a hero*

film, three Tamil films and signed HHVM. I take my time and pick scripts I believe in. I may go wrong sometimes, but I'm here to stay. Don't worry about me." Interestingly, while Sreeleela had a rapid rise, her recent flops have slowed her momentum. She currently has no major films lined up. On the other hand, Nidhhi has promising projects like **Hari Hara Veera Mallu** and **Raja Saab**, which could redefine her career path.



Kingston: A Haunting Sea Tale



Kingston, a Tamil fantasy horror adventure directed by Kamal Prakash, stars G.V. Prakash Kumar in his 25th film as an actor. The movie, which began streaming on ZEE5 yesterday, revolves around a coastal village, Thoovathur, and a haunting mystery tied to a man named Bosayya who was killed and buried by the villagers in 1982. After his watery burial, strange deaths of fishermen begin to occur, sparking fear of his vengeful spirit. King, the protagonist, grows up

with his grandfather after his father's death at sea. As an adult, he works under a ruthless man named Thomas and becomes determined to bring peace to his people. Believing that removing Bosayya's coffin from the sea will end the curse, he sets out on a dangerous mission with his friends. The film combines sea adventure with horror but lacks emotional depth and strong storytelling, making it a mediocre watch despite its interesting premise.