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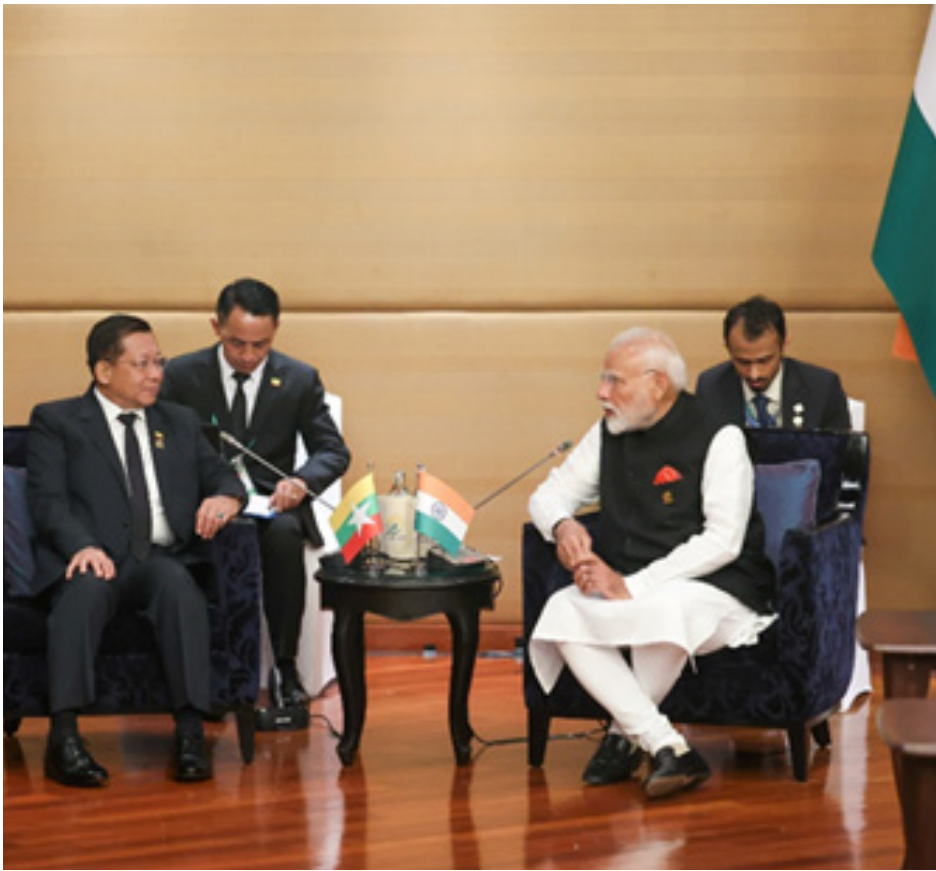
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PM Modi holds talks with Myanmar's Senior General Min Aung Hlaing

- Leaders discuss bilateral cooperation, India offers earthquake aid
- PM Modi met Myanmar’s Senior General on sidelines of BIMSTEC Summit
- Extended support following Myanmar’s March 28 earthquake
- Discussed cooperation in connectivity, infrastructure, and capacity building
- India leads relief efforts in Myanmar under Operation Brahma

TPN Correspondent | Bangkok

Prime Minister Narendra Modi held a significant bilateral meeting with Myanmar’s Senior General Min Aung Hlaing on Friday during the sidelines of the BIMSTEC Summit in Bangkok. The two leaders reviewed ongoing cooperation and explored ways to strengthen bilateral ties, especially in areas like connectivity, capacity building, and infrastructure develop-



ment. PM Modi also conveyed his condolences for the tragic loss of lives and damage caused by the massive 7.7 magnitude earthquake that struck Myanmar on March 28. “India is doing whatever is possible to assist our sisters and brothers of Myanmar in this critical time,” he posted on X following the meeting. India has already launched Operation Brahma, a humanitarian mission led by the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), to carry out rescue and relief efforts in the affected regions of Myanmar. India was the first country to respond with aid following the di-

saster, underscoring its role as a dependable regional partner. Earlier, PM Modi also met with his Thai counterpart, Paetongtarn Shinawatra, and discussed enhancing cooperation in sectors including defence, digital innovation, education, culture, and tourism. Both sides noted that India’s “Act East” and Thailand’s “Act West” policies are complementary and present opportunities for deepening strategic engagement. PM Modi expressed gratitude for the warm welcome and reaffirmed India’s solidarity with the people of Thailand, who were also affected by the recent earthquake.

Allahabad HC declines to quash summons against Rahul Gandhi in Savarkar defamation case

In a significant development, the Allahabad High Court on Friday (April 4, 2025) refused to quash the summons issued against Rahul Gandhi, the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, in the defamation case concerning his remarks on V.D. Savarkar. The case, filed by advocate Nripendra Pandey, stems from a speech made by Gandhi during his Bharat Jodo Yatra in Maharashtra, in which he allegedly defamed the Hindutva ideologue.



remedy is available to the petitioner.

However, the complainant, Pandey, contended that Gandhi insulted Savarkar by calling him a servant of the British and accusing him of accepting a pension from the British government.

The case has sparked political and legal debate, with Gandhi facing charges under Sections 153A (promoting enmity) and 505 (public mischief) of the Indian Penal Code (IPC). The trial court had previously imposed a fine of ₹200 on Gandhi for failing to appear in court in March 2025.

While dismissing Gandhi’s plea, the High Court noted that he still had the right to challenge the lower court’s order before the Sessions Court, emphasizing that the legal process must proceed as per established statutory procedures.

The Congress leader had challenged the order of a magistrate court in Lucknow, which had summoned him as an accused in December 2024. Gandhi’s legal team argued that the remarks made during his speech were not defamatory.

Ayushman Bharat to launch in Delhi from Today

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

In a major step towards strengthening healthcare in the National Capital, the Rekha Gupta-led Delhi government will roll out the Ayushman Bharat scheme on April 5. This marks the first time the Centre’s flagship health program will be implemented in Delhi after years of being stalled under the previous AAP regime. Announcing the launch, Delhi Health Minister Pankaj Singh confirmed that one lakh residents will be enrolled by April 10, with top priority given to the “poorest of the poor,” including beneficiaries of the Antyodaya Anna Yojana

(AAY) and other priority households. The Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PM-JAY) offers an annual health insurance cover of ₹5 lakh per family for secondary and tertiary hospitalization across empanelled public and private hospitals nationwide. The scheme aims to provide cashless treatment without any waiting period. “All individuals aged 70 and above are eligible for the scheme irrespective of income, as long as their Aadhaar card reflects the qualifying age,” said Singh. This move aligns with the Centre’s vision to extend universal healthcare to India’s growing elderly population.



As part of the enrolment process, Aadhaar-based e-KYC is mandatory, and each eligible senior citizen will be issued a distinct Ayushman Card to

avail the benefits. The scheme also includes several other components like the Ayushman Ar-ogya Mandir, critical care blocks, and diagnostic facilities, further bolstering Delhi’s healthcare infrastructure. Residents can visit the official website of the National Health Authority (NHA) to check the list of empanelled hospitals and initiate the application process. With this rollout, the Delhi government seeks to align with the Sustainable Development Goals while ensuring accessible, affordable, and inclusive healthcare for the city’s most vulnerable citizens.



PM Modi meets Bangladesh Chief Adviser Yunus
GLOBAL PAGE

Centre approves ₹18,658 crore railway boost for Maharashtra, Odisha, Chhattisgarh



- Network to expand by 1,247 km across 15 districts
- ₹18,658 crore approved for four major railway projects
- 1,247 km of new lines to benefit 15 districts

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

In a significant infrastructure push, the Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, on Friday approved four major railway expansion projects worth nearly ₹18,658 crore across Maharashtra, Odisha, and Chhattisgarh. The projects, aimed at enhancing connectivity and capacity of the Indian Railways, will expand the rail network by 1,247 kilometers across 15 districts in the three states.

According to the official press release from the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA), these projects are part of the government’s long-term plan to improve transportation infrastructure and boost economic development in key regions. The projects will involve construction of new railway lines, doubling of existing ones, and upgrading essential infrastructure. The government stated that the approval is part of the continued efforts to modernise and expand India’s railway network to support growing passenger and freight demands. Once completed, the new projects are expected to improve connectivity in remote areas, reduce congestion on existing routes, and enhance overall logistics efficiency in these states. “These projects will create direct and indirect employment opportunities during construction and also after commissioning,” the statement added. The move also aligns with the Centre’s larger vision of “Gati Shakti” – a national master plan for multi-modal connectivity that aims to streamline and modernise infrastructure across India. With this significant financial backing, Maharashtra, Odisha, and Chhattisgarh are expected to benefit not only through better rail connectivity but also through enhanced regional trade and socio-economic development in the coming years.

Delhi Assembly will soon run completely on solar power: Speaker Vijender Gupta

- Project to be completed within 100 days
- ₹15 lakh monthly savings expected in electricity bills.
- Initiative promotes renewable energy and sustainability.

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

Delhi Assembly Speaker Vijender Gupta announced on Thursday that a solar energy system, consisting of solar panels and a power plant with a capacity of 500 KW, will be installed on the Assembly premises within the next 100 days. The initiative is expected to help the Assembly save ₹15 lakh in monthly electricity bills. Speaking at a press conference, Gupta outlined the plan to transition the As-

sembly complex to renewable energy. He emphasized that the solar power plant would not only reduce the Assembly's dependency on conventional energy sources but also contribute significantly to cost savings in the long run. "I have set a target of 100 days for the installation of the solar power plant in the Assembly complex so that it can be run completely on solar energy," he stated.

The move is part of a larger effort to promote sustainability and reduce the carbon

footprint of government buildings. By utilizing solar energy, the Delhi Assembly aims to significantly cut down on electricity consumption from non-renewable sources, while also setting an example for other government institutions to adopt cleaner energy alternatives.

The solar power plant, with its 500 KW capacity, will be one of the major steps in the Delhi Assembly's commitment to environmental sustainability. The expected savings of ₹15 lakh per month in power bills will contribute to both financial efficiency and environmental responsibility.

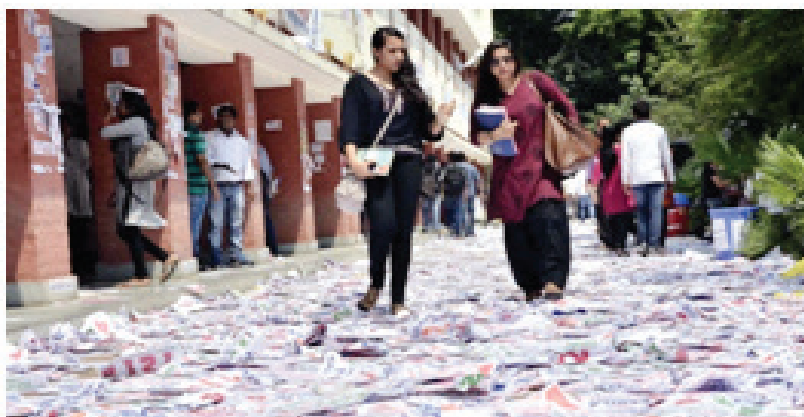
The Speaker also highlighted that this initiative aligns with the government's broader objective of encouraging the use of renewable energy, in



line with India's commitment to addressing climate change and reducing reliance on fossil fuels. Once completed, the

installation of the solar power system will position the Delhi Assembly as a leader in energy-efficient practices among

legislative bodies in India, reinforcing the growing push toward sustainable infrastructure in public institutions.



Delhi University to Implement Lyngdoh Panel Guidelines in Upcoming DUSU Elections

TPN Correspondent| Delhi

Delhi University Vice-Chancellor Yogesh Singh announced that the university will adhere to the Lyngdoh Committee guidelines in the upcoming Delhi University Students' Union (DUSU) elections. This move aims to introduce more "limitations and restrictions" to ensure the elections are conducted smoothly and fairly.

In an interview with PTI, Singh emphasized that the university intends to avoid past issues, particularly those involving defacement of walls and the use of money and muscle power during election campaigns. He expressed a strong desire to prevent a repeat of such events, saying, "Nobody should deface walls. What happened during elections in the past, huge amounts of money and muscle power, is not expected. We don't want to repeat these things, and next time, we will see a change."

The Lyngdoh Committee, set up in 2006, laid down a series of recommendations to ensure transparency and fairness in student union elections across

Indian universities. These guidelines include restrictions on campaign spending, the use of official resources, and the regulation of election-related violence. Singh's statement reflects the university's commitment to following these recommendations to promote a more organized and peaceful election process.

In previous years, DUSU elections have often been marred by controversies, including allegations of excessive spending, violence, and widespread wall-postering. The university's decision to strictly implement the Lyngdoh Committee guidelines is seen as a step toward improving the integrity of the election process and fostering a healthier democratic environment on campus.

The upcoming DUSU elections will likely see changes in the way campaigns are run, with stricter enforcement of rules and guidelines. Students and election candidates will be expected to follow these new rules, ensuring that the focus remains on a fair and transparent election process.

Rajnath Singh to inaugurate 1st edition of Naval Commanders' Conference

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

The first edition of the Naval Commanders' Conference 2025 is set to begin tomorrow in Karwar, Karnataka, marking a crucial event for the Indian Navy. The conference, which will be held in two phases, aims to address significant operational and administrative issues, while also charting the future direction for the Navy.

Phase I of the conference will begin on April 5, with Phase II following from April 7-10. This biannual gathering will bring together senior naval commanders to discuss critical strategic, operational, and administrative matters, particularly focusing on India's role in regional security. The discussions are expected to play a pivotal role in shaping India's

naval strategy in the coming years.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh will inaugurate the conference by flagging off the Indian Ocean Ship Sagar at Karwar. This initiative is designed to strengthen cooperation with countries in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR). As part of the deployment, INS Sunayna will be accompanied by a combined crew from India and nine partner nations, including Comoros, Kenya, Madagascar, Maldives, Mauritius, Mozambique, Seychelles, Sri Lanka, and Tanzania.

After the flag-off, Singh will inaugurate maritime infrastructure and facilities under Project Seabird, a key development in enhancing India's naval capabilities. Following

this, the Defence Minister will receive an update on the Indian Navy's operational readiness and future plans.

Phase II of the conference, to be held in New Delhi, will focus on a comprehensive review of various aspects of naval operations, logistics, human resource development, training, and administration.

Senior military leaders, including the Chief of Defence Staff, Chief of the Army Staff, and Chief of the Air Staff, will participate to foster greater synergy between the three services. The Naval Commanders



will also engage with Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri and G20 Sherpa Amitabh Kant to discuss foreign policy and international relations.

A major highlight of the conference will be the ongoing efforts towards modernisation, indigenisation, and self-reliance, aligning with the Government's vision of 'Aatma Nirbharta' (self-reliance).

Focus On High-Tech Sectors, Not On Chips, Ice Cream: Piyush Goyal To Startups

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal called on the Indian startup community to redirect their attention from traditional sectors like grocery delivery and ice cream making to cutting-edge fields such as semiconductor technology, machine learning, robotics, and artificial intelligence.

Addressing attendees at the Startup Mahakumbh on Thursday, Mr. Goyal challenged the current startup ecosystem, urging Indian entrepreneurs to think beyond basic services. He questioned whether India's fu-

ture should be limited to delivery services, asking, "Are we going to be happy being delivery boys and girls? Is that the destiny of India?" The minister compared Indian startups to their Chinese counterparts, highlighting that countries like China are focusing on robotics, 3D manufacturing, and next-generation factories. Mr. Goyal emphasized that the future of India's startup ecosystem lies in building technologies that prepare the nation for the coming decades. He pointedly asked, "Do we have to make ice cream or chips?" reflecting his desire

for Indian startups to create innovations that will shape the future. He also expressed confidence that startups would play a vital role in driving India's economic and technological growth, urging them to embrace a forward-thinking mindset. The minister assured that the government is committed to supporting entrepreneurs through their challenges, offering assistance and encouraging perseverance in their endeavors. In addition to urging startups to innovate, Mr. Goyal underscored the need for increasing domestic investment

in the startup ecosystem. He stressed that a strong foundation of homegrown capital is essential for reducing dependence on foreign funding and ensuring long-term economic resilience. To this end, he called for attracting more Indian investors to strengthen India's capital base and promote self-reliance within the startup sector. By focusing on high-tech sectors and boosting domestic investment, Mr. Goyal believes India's startup ecosystem can not only grow but become a global leader in technology and innovation.

'Absolutely necessary': SC confirms complete ban on firecrackers in Delhi-NCR



TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

The Supreme Court on Thursday upheld the complete ban on the sale, production, and manufacture of firecrackers in Delhi and the National Capital Region (NCR), calling it "absolutely necessary." The decision comes as part of the court's ongoing efforts to combat pollution and protect public health in the region.

A Bench of Justices A.S. Oka and Ujjal Bhuyan dismissed petitions filed by traders who sought a reconsideration of the ban. The traders had requested that the prohibition

be reduced to three or four months a year, but the court maintained its firm stance on the matter. The bench emphasized the need for strict measures to address the alarming levels of air pollution in the region, particularly during the festival season when the use of firecrackers traditionally spikes.

The ban was originally imposed to reduce the harmful environmental and health impacts caused by the bursting of firecrackers.

Delhi and NCR frequently experience hazardous air quality levels, especially

during festivals like Diwali, when widespread use of firecrackers contributes significantly to the region's pollution levels. The court's decision to uphold the ban is seen as a critical step in protecting the health and well-being of residents, particularly vulnerable groups such as children and the elderly.

This ruling further reinforces the Supreme Court's commitment to addressing air pollution and ensuring the public's right to a cleaner and safer environment. The court also acknowledged the importance of promoting alternative

ways of celebration, suggesting that people can engage in festivities without compromising air quality or public health.

The decision has been met with mixed reactions, with some expressing support for the ban as necessary for public health, while others, particularly traders and businesses in the firecracker industry, have voiced concerns about the economic impact. Nonetheless, the Supreme Court's ruling underscores the urgency of addressing the ongoing environmental challenges in Delhi and NCR.

Court dismisses defamation case against Atishi



- Delhi court refuses to take cognisance of Sandeep Dikshit's defamation complaint
- Observes statements made by Atishi and Sanjay Singh fall under free speech

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

A Delhi court on Thursday dismissed a criminal defamation complaint filed by Congress leader Sandeep Dikshit against former Delhi education minister Atishi and Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) MP Sanjay Singh, ruling that their statements were part of legitimate political discourse and protected under the right to freedom of speech and expression. Additional Chief Judicial Magistrate Paras Dalal observed that the remarks in question, made during a press conference in the run-up to elections, did not meet the criteria for criminal defamation. “The court fails to find that the necessary ingredients of criminal defamation are prima facie made out,” the judge stated. The court held that the statements — such as claims that “BJP is helping Congress in the Delhi election” — were political assertions made in a competitive environment, and not imputations capable of harming Dikshit's personal reputation. It also added that casting political as-

pirations or raising questions about campaign funding cannot automatically be considered defamatory. Regarding Dikshit's claim that the AAP leaders accused him of accepting “crores of rupees” from the BJP, the judge noted that such statements, even if unpleasant, should be addressed in the public domain or media, rather than through litigation. “Bits and pieces of the press conference or answers to questions from reporters cannot be read in isolation,” the court observed. It further stated that a political candidate cannot be accused of defaming another merely for presenting possible electoral outcomes or speculating on post-election alliances. Highlighting the dynamic nature of Indian elections, the court emphasized that voters hold the ultimate decision-making power and that robust political debate — even when aggressive — is a cornerstone of democratic expression. Accordingly, the court declined to take cognisance of the complaint, bringing the matter to a close.

HC advances hearing on Chidambaram's plea in INX Media case

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

The Delhi High Court has advanced the hearing on senior Congress leader and former Union Minister P Chidambaram's plea challenging a trial court's cognisance of the Enforcement Directorate's (ED) chargesheet in the INX Media money laundering case. Originally scheduled for August, the hearing will now take place on May 13, following an urgent request made by Chidambaram's legal team. Justice Ravinder Dudeja, who presided over the matter, directed that both parties refrain from pressing for arguments on the charges before the trial court until the High Court hears the matter. “Considering the urgency, the matter is advanced to May 13. Meanwhile, both parties have jointly agreed not to press for arguments on charges before the trial court,” the court noted. Senior Advocate N Hariharan, representing Chidambaram, urged the court to reschedule the hearing as the trial court was set to begin charge arguments on April 7. He argued that proceeding with the arguments at this stage would render Chidambaram's petition redundant, especially since the plea challenges the legality of the trial court's cognisance. Chidambaram has contended that the trial court's decision to take cognisance of the ED's chargesheet was procedurally flawed, as the agency



did not secure mandatory sanction under Section 197(1) of the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC). His legal team argued that since he was a public servant at the time of the alleged offence, sanction under CrPC—read with Section 65 of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA)—was a legal prerequisite for prosecution. Countering these claims, ED's Counsel Zohab Hossain maintained that Chidambaram's alleged actions were not part of his official duties as a Union Minister. Hossain argued that the alleged support extended to his son's business interests falls outside the scope of legitimate ministerial responsibilities and does not warrant protection under Section 197 CrPC. The INX Media case, involving alleged financial irregularities during Chidambaram's tenure as finance minister, has been a focal point of legal and political scrutiny. With the High Court now set to examine the procedural legality of the trial court's actions, the outcome of the May 13 hearing is expected to significantly impact the trajectory of the high-profile case.

Over 50,000 long power cuts in 10 years in Delhi, says Minister Sood

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

Delhi Power Minister Ashish Sood on Thursday accused the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) of misleading the public regarding electricity outages in the national capital. In a press conference at the Delhi Secretariat, Sood claimed that there had been 51,958 power cuts lasting over five hours in the past 10 years—an average of 14 extended outages every day during the AAP's tenure. Rejecting AAP leader Atishi's assertion that power cut data is available on the State Load Dispatch Centre (SLDC) website, Sood said, “No such figures exist in official records.” He maintained that the power cut figures were obtained from discoms BSES and Tata Power and highlighted that the highest number of long outages occurred in 2016 (8,659 instances), while the lowest was in 2022 (2,692). Sood also criticized the AAP's claims of a power sector transformation under Atishi's leadership and questioned

why such prolonged outages continued if improvements were truly made. He insisted that scheduled shutdowns are a global norm and necessary for maintenance, but accused the previous government of presiding over frequent unscheduled disruptions. The minister warned that legal action may be pursued against those spreading “falsehoods” and inciting public unrest. Meanwhile, the BJP-led Delhi government is reportedly preparing for an expected summer peak demand of 9,200 MW. Sood outlined several initiatives, including transformer upgrades, the removal of overhead cables, and coordination with the Public Works Department (PWD) and Delhi Jal Board to mitigate waterlogging-related power failures. To ensure grid stability, the government is setting up a 24x7 control centre and is reviewing existing power purchase agreements to enhance reliability during high-demand months. Responding to Sood's statements, AAP



leader Jasmine Shah alleged that unscheduled power failures have already disrupted areas like Sadar Bazar, IGI Airport, and Safdarjung Enclave. He cited SLDC data that, according to him, disproves the minister's claim that the outages were planned shutdowns. Shah further said many outages lasted from 30 minutes to over three hours, contradicting the BJP government's claims. As summer begins to grip the capital, both parties are now at odds over the management and reliability of the city's power infrastructure—a critical issue affecting millions of residents.

Himachal Congress protests over Anurag Thakur's remarks on Kharge

TPN Correspondent | HP

The Himachal Pradesh Congress on Thursday staged a protest against Union Minister and BJP MP Anurag Thakur over his controversial remarks in Parliament targeting Congress President and Leader of Opposition in Rajya Sabha Mallikarjun Kharge. Though Thakur later withdrew his comments, the Congress has vowed to escalate the matter nationally. Himachal Pradesh Congress President Pratibha Virbhadra Singh, addressing the media during the protest, strongly condemned Thakur's statement. “We will take this issue to the High Command. We strictly oppose Anurag Thakur's statements... We will carry out a rally against this throughout the country,” she asserted. The Congress's anger stems from remarks made by Thakur in the Lok Sabha during a heated debate on the Waqf Bill. Thakur accused the Congress of indulging in what he called “politics of appeasement.” The comments, directed at Kharge, sparked immediate uproar from Congress MPs, leading to the withdrawal of the statements from the record. Despite the retraction, Kharge responded sharply in the Rajya Sabha during Zero Hour on Thursday. He denounced Thakur's remarks as defamatory and demanded a formal



apology from the ruling party. “Yesterday, Anurag Thakur hurled completely false and baseless charges at me in the Lok Sabha. When my colleagues challenged him, he was compelled to withdraw his defamatory remarks. But the damage has been done,” Kharge said, according to news agency PTI. Kharge added that the remarks had already spread widely through the media and social platforms, compounding the harm to his reputation. “I am forced to stand up today and condemn Anurag Thakur's wild allegations. I expect an apology from the Leader of the House, which is the very least the ruling party can and must

do,” he demanded. The Congress president went a step further, daring Thakur to prove his allegations or quit Parliament. “If Thakur cannot prove his allegations, he has no right to be in Parliament. He should resign. If the allegations are proved, I will resign,” Kharge declared. The incident has added to the growing tension in Parliament over the contentious Waqf Bill, which the Congress has opposed. Thakur's comments, interpreted as an attack on the party's position, were seen as an attempt to link the legislation to broader accusations of religious appeasement.

Centre rejects Tamil Nadu's anti-NEET Bill CM announces all-party meeting on April 9 to decide next steps

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

In a significant setback to Tamil Nadu's long-standing opposition to NEET, Chief Minister MK Stalin informed the state legislative assembly on Friday that the Centre has rejected the Assembly's bill seeking exemption from the National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET). The bill, which was forwarded for Presidential assent, has been officially declined by the Union government. Despite the rejection, Stalin reaffirmed the state's determination to abolish NEET and announced that an all-party meeting will be convened on April 9 to chart out the next course of action. He described the Centre's move as “a dark chapter in federalism” and accused it of ignoring the collective voice of the Tamil Nadu people and their elected representatives. “Though the Tamil Nadu government provided all necessary clarifications through various ministries, the Union government has now denied the re-

quest for exemption,” Stalin said, according to PTI. “This decision goes against the spirit of cooperative federalism.” The bill in question was re-adopted by the Tamil Nadu Assembly in February 2022, seeking a permanent exemption from NEET for the state's medical admissions. The state has maintained that NEET disadvantages students from rural and underprivileged backgrounds. The decision comes despite the findings of a high-level committee led by former Madras High Court judge Justice AK Rajan. The 165-page report submitted on July 14, 2021, strongly recommended abolishing NEET, warning



that its continuation would gravely affect the state's healthcare system and deny opportunities to students from marginalised communities. The report further predicted a shortage of qualified doctors in government hospitals and primary health centres if NEET were to remain mandatory. It argued that Tamil Nadu's medical education system had functioned effectively prior to NEET's implementation and warned of a return to pre-independence era healthcare conditions if the entrance test persisted. Stalin assured that the state government will not relent in its fight and said all democratic avenues would be explored to restore the pre-NEET admission process. The rejection of the bill is expected to ignite political protests and intensify the ongoing debate over centralised exams in a federal structure. With the all-party meeting set for April 9, Tamil Nadu's next steps may include legal action or new legislative strategies aimed at reinforcing its demand.

No work related to Delhi University will be stalled because of government': CM Rekha



- Strong Delhi govt-DU collaboration emphasized.
- DU officials praise her prompt responses.
- Govt committed to higher education support.

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

Chief Minister Rekha Gupta assured that any work related to Delhi University (DU) would not face delays due to the Delhi government's involvement. Speaking to a packed auditorium at the Vice Regal Lodge, where she was honored by the university, Gupta emphasized the swift resolution of

issues concerning DU under her leadership.

"In just one month, every DU-related issue that came to me was resolved quickly. And I assure you that this will continue moving forward," said Gupta, addressing the gathering. Her statement reassured the audience, which included university officials, faculty, and students, that the Delhi government's

support would remain steadfast in addressing the needs of the prestigious institution.

Gupta's remarks come at a time when Delhi University is navigating various challenges, and her assurance reflects her commitment to maintaining a smooth collaboration between the Delhi government and the university administration. Her proactive approach has already garnered attention, with DU officials acknowledging the prompt responses to issues raised in recent weeks.

The Chief Minister's visit to the Vice Regal Lodge was a significant moment in her ongoing efforts to strengthen the relationship between the city government and the academic institutions in Delhi. It also underscored her belief in the importance of higher education for the city's growth and development.

As she took the stage to accept her felicitation, Gupta also highlighted the importance of supporting educational institutions like DU, ensuring they have the resources and assistance needed to thrive. Her leadership is seen as pivotal in ensuring that Delhi's universities continue to receive the necessary backing, both administratively and financially.

Her words were met with applause, signaling that the Delhi government's efforts are likely to result in more efficient collaboration and fewer hurdles for the university moving forward.

Delhi Government to Launch Smart Cards for Free Bus Travel for Women

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

The Delhi government is set to launch the registration process for 'smart cards' that will allow women to travel for free on public buses, an official announced. This initiative is part of the Delhi government's ongoing efforts to ensure safe and affordable transportation for women in the capital.

Although the department is still finalizing the finer details of the scheme, it has been confirmed that the smart cards will come with "lifetime" validity. Additionally, the cards will be exclusively available to genuine residents of Delhi, ensuring that only those living in the city will benefit from the scheme.

This move is in line with the Delhi govern-



ment's previous initiatives aimed at empowering women and improving their access to public services. The free bus travel scheme, first launched by the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) government in 2019, has already seen positive outcomes, including increased participation of women in the workforce and improved mobility across the city.

The upcoming smart card initiative is expected to further enhance these benefits, providing women with an added layer of convenience and financial relief when using public transportation. As the government prepares to roll out this system, it is anticipated that the introduction of the smart card will streamline the process for women to access free bus travel, making it easier for them to take advantage of this service.

The government's continued commitment to enhancing women's safety and mobility in Delhi underscores its focus on addressing the unique challenges faced by women in urban settings. Once the registration process for the smart cards begins, it will mark another step forward in making the city more accessible and inclusive for women.

Over 100 Seized Vehicles Destroyed in Fire at Delhi Impound Lot



TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

A fire broke out on Thursday at an impound lot in Nehru Place, South Delhi, destroying more than 100 vehicles that had been seized by the Delhi Traffic Police. The incident occurred in the early hours of the morning, and the blaze quickly engulfed a large portion of the lot, causing significant damage to the vehicles stored there.

According to police officials, the cause of the fire is still under investigation, and efforts are underway to determine how the blaze started. Authorities have confirmed that no injuries were reported in connection with the fire, but the damage to the vehicles, which were all in police custody for various violations, is extensive.

The impound lot, used by the Delhi Traffic Police to store seized vehicles, was filled with cars, motorcycles, and other vehicles that had been taken off the road for traffic violations, unpaid fines, or other legal reasons. The fire resulted in the total destruction of

more than 100 such vehicles, many of which were severely damaged beyond repair.

A case has been registered in connection with the incident, and the police are currently working to gather evidence and understand the circumstances surrounding the fire. Although the exact cause remains unclear, authorities are exploring all possibilities, including the potential for foul play, technical issues, or an accidental fire.

The incident has raised concerns over the safety protocols in place at the impound lot, as well as the security of seized vehicles. The Delhi Traffic Police are expected to review their procedures to prevent such incidents in the future.

This fire marks a significant loss not only to the individuals whose vehicles were involved but also to the police department, which now faces the challenge of addressing the aftermath and ensuring that safety measures are improved at impound lots in the city.

Delhi Forest Department to Install 45 New Camera Traps at Asola Bhatti Wildlife Sanctuary

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

The Delhi Forest and Wildlife Department is set to install 45 motion-based camera traps across the Asola Bhatti Wildlife Sanctuary in the coming weeks to enhance wildlife monitoring efforts. The initiative aims to gather more data on the sanctuary's wildlife population, particularly focusing on elusive species like leopards.

Each camera, designed to detect motion, can capture photographs and record videos of animals for up to one minute. The sanctuary already has 16 such cameras, which have successfully recorded images of various animals, including leopards, striped hyenas, spotted deer, wild boar, porcupines, and nilgai.

Deputy Conservator of Forest (South), Vipul Pandey, explained that these new camera traps would be installed at strategic locations, particularly near watering holes, where wildlife, especially leopards, is frequently spotted. The existing 16 cameras have provided valuable insights into the ani-



mals' habits, and based on their success, 45 additional cameras have been procured to further enhance monitoring.

The current leopard population in Asola Bhatti is estimated to be 12, including 10 adults and two cubs. Despite being nocturnal creatures, leopards have been frequently captured on camera during the daytime, especially near the 200 watering holes created within the sanctuary. Forest officials noted that leopards tend to follow regular routes to these watering holes, and the new camera traps will be strategically placed at these hot spots.

A year-long leopard census, being conducted by the Wildlife Institute of India (WII), is also underway and is expected to be completed by January 2026. This census will provide an accurate count of the leopard population in the sanctuary. The most recent mammal census, carried out by the Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS) between June 2021 and June 2022, identified eight leopards, with five believed to be permanent residents of the sanctuary.

These efforts are part of ongoing conservation initiatives to protect and monitor wildlife in the Asola Bhatti Wildlife Sanctuary.

Delhi Police Bust International Drug Syndicate, Seize ₹8.75 Crore Worth of Charas



TPN Correspondent | Delhi

Delhi police have dismantled an international drug syndicate operating across Nepal and northern India, arresting seven individuals, including three foreign nationals, an officer confirmed on Wednesday. The police operation resulted in the seizure of 17.526 kilograms of charas, with an estimated market value of over ₹8.75 crore.

The seized drugs had been sourced from Nepal and were being distributed to various states across northern India, including Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Haryana, Delhi, and Rajasthan. The drug syndicate's extensive network had managed to establish a well-organized supply chain, trafficking large quantities of narcotics across state borders.

The police, acting on intelligence reports, were able to track the syndicate's operations, leading to the arrest of the suspects involved in the illegal drug

trade. The foreign nationals arrested were reportedly key players in the syndicate, responsible for managing the logistics and distribution channels of the contraband across multiple regions.

The operation was part of a larger crackdown on drug trafficking in the region, which has seen a significant rise in the smuggling and distribution of narcotics in recent years. The seizure of charas, a potent form of cannabis, is seen as a major breakthrough in curbing the illegal drug trade in northern India.

The arrested individuals are being interrogated to uncover more details about the syndicate's network and its international connections. Authorities are also investigating whether the drugs were being transported via organized routes or through couriers, and they are coordinating with international law enforcement agencies to address the broader scope of the trafficking operation.

Delhi police have emphasized the importance of ongoing surveillance and intelligence-sharing to combat the rising drug menace, particularly as international trafficking networks continue to expand their reach. The authorities have assured that more such operations will be conducted to dismantle the remaining factions of the drug syndicate.

Kerala HCStays Proceedings Against Baba Ramdev and Associates

In Misleading Advertisement Case

TPN Correspondent | Imphal

The Kerala High Court on Thursday issued an interim stay on all proceedings in a lower court case against yoga guru Baba Ramdev, his associate Acharya Balakrishna, and their company, Divya Pharmacy, in a case related to a "misleading" advertisement.

Justice V.G. Arun stayed the proceedings in the Palakkad magisterial court for three months, agreeing with the petitioners' claim that the cognizance of the offence had been taken after the period of limitation had expired. The petitioners argued that the case, filed under the Drugs and Magic Remedies (Objectionable Advertisements) Act, 1954, and Section 550 of the BNSS, 2023, had surpassed the legal time limit for taking action.

The court noted there appeared to be "prima facie merit" in the petitioners' submission that the complaint was lodged beyond the statutory limitation period. Consequently, the High Court granted a temporary stay on further proceedings in the case, which had been registered under section 3(d) in conjunction with section 7(a) of the Drugs and Magic Remedies (Objectionable Advertisements) Act, 1954.



- **Petitioners argue case was filed beyond the legal time limit.**
- **Complaint was lodged under the Drugs and Magic Remedies Act.**
- **HC seeks state government's response by June 30.**

The act prohibits the advertisement of certain drugs for the treatment of specific diseases and disorders, and penalties are imposed for violations under section 7. The case was initiated following a complaint from the Drugs Inspector of Palakkad, who accused the defendants of misleading advertising.

The High Court also issued a notice to the state government and the office of the Drug Inspector in Palakkad, seeking

their response to the petition by June 30, the next scheduled hearing date. The interim stay provides temporary relief to Ramdev, Balakrishna, and Divya Pharmacy, allowing them to continue their operations while the legal proceedings are paused.

The case has drawn attention to the issue of misleading advertisements in the wellness industry and the enforcement of regulations governing such promotions.

Assam To Withdraw Foreigner Tribunal Cases Against Indigenous Koch-Rajbongshi Community

TPN Correspondent | Mumbai

In a significant decision, the Assam government has announced that it will withdraw pending cases against members of the Koch-Rajbongshi community in the Foreigners Tribunals. Approximately 28,000 individuals will benefit from this move, which aims to resolve long-standing issues regarding citizenship verification for this community.

The decision, made during a state cabinet meeting, also includes a plan to remove the "D voter" (doubtful voter) tags from the affected individuals' names in the voter lists. These tags had been placed on people whose citizenship status was uncertain, leading to lengthy and complicated legal battles. Many of those affected belong to the Koch-Rajbongshi community, where certain sur-

names have been frequently targeted in the scrutiny of voter lists.

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma confirmed that a total of 28,000 cases are currently pending across the state's Foreigners Tribunals. These cases largely concern individuals who have been forced to prove their Indian citizenship, often enduring prolonged legal proceedings. The government's move to withdraw these cases and remove the D-voter tags will bring relief to those who have faced challenges in establishing their citizenship.

In addition to this, the Assam government approved a 2% hike in Dearness Allowance (DA) for state government employees and pensioners. The arrears for the months of April and May will be disbursed ac-

cordingly, providing financial relief to state workers.

To address the state's recurring flood issues, the government also announced a new initiative to strengthen embankment monitoring. A dedicated force, made up of 12-15 young volunteers per unit, will be formed to oversee embankments spanning 8 to 12 km from April to October. These volunteers will be equipped with essential flood-fighting materials such as geo bags, torchlights, raincoats, and gumboots. On successful completion of their service, volunteers will receive certificates from the Chief Minister as recognition for their efforts.

These initiatives reflect the Assam government's commitment to addressing both legal and infrastructural challenges facing the state.



Special trains to cater to extra rush of passengers from Karnataka To UP, Bihar and Rajasthan



TPN Correspondent | Belagavi

To accommodate the increased number of passengers during the summer season, South Western Railway (SWR) has announced the operation of special trains. These trains are designed to ease travel for people planning to journey to popular destinations during the peak holiday period.

One of the key additions to the summer schedule is the special train service between SSS Hubballi and Banaras. This train will run for a total of six trips, providing much-needed capacity to handle the anticipated rush. The special train is expected to cater to passengers traveling between Karnataka and Uttar Pradesh, particularly those heading towards religious and cultural hubs like Banaras.

The special trains are part of a broader initiative by SWR to enhance connectivity and improve travel experiences during the busy summer months. Passengers can expect additional facilities and services to ensure a smoother journey. The route connecting Hubballi to Banaras will be crucial for trav-

elers looking to access key cities in North India, especially those heading to destinations like Varanasi, which attracts a significant number of visitors during this time of the year.

The summer season typically sees a surge in train travel, with many people embarking on vacations or pilgrimages. SWR's special trains are expected to help alleviate the pressure on regular services, ensuring that more passengers can travel comfortably to their destinations.

Additionally, these special trains will also serve as a valuable option for passengers traveling via Bengaluru, which acts as a major hub connecting various parts of South India to North India. By introducing these special services, SWR aims to ensure that the demand for seats is met efficiently and without delays, offering a convenient travel option for those planning their summer journeys.

SWR has also advised passengers to check for updates regarding ticket availability and schedules to make their travel plans accordingly.

Waqf Bill: Police On High Alert In UP, Bihar; Security Stepped Up In Delhi's Shaheen Bagh

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

Following the passage of the Waqf (Amendment) Bill, 2025 by Parliament on Friday, the police are on high alert in several cities across the country to pre-empt any protests or violence. The legislation, which introduces changes to the administration of waqf properties, has stirred controversy, prompting security measures in sensitive areas.

Police personnel have been deployed in key locations in Delhi and various districts of Uttar Pradesh ahead of Friday's namaz. In the past month, the All India Muslim Personal Law Board had called for a silent protest during the Alvida Jumma namaz, urging followers to tie black bands in opposition to the bill.

Security Tightened in Delhi

In the capital, the Delhi Police have stepped up security by deploying cen-

tral armed police forces in sensitive areas. To monitor potential disturbances, CCTV cameras and drones are being used to keep an eye on rooftops and narrow lanes, according to The Times of India. In addition, based on intelligence inputs, the district Deputy Commissioners of Police have been instructed to deploy 100 female police officers in specific areas to manage potential protests by women. Drones are also being used for surveillance in areas such as Shaheen Bagh, known for large protests against the Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 2019, as well as in Jamia Nagar, Seelampur, Jafrabad, and around Jama Masjid.



In response to concerns about public order, the Jamia Millia Islamia campus has seen heightened security measures to prevent disturbances by anti-social elements. A senior police officer reported that night patrols have been intensified, and additional forces will be deployed as needed to ensure peace.

High Alert in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar

Several districts in Uttar Pradesh, including Sambhal, Amroha, and Mau, are also on high alert. Local authorities have conducted flag marches and are monitoring the situation with drones to ensure peace and security. Similar measures are being implemented in Bihar to maintain law and order.

The police forces are closely monitoring developments in these regions to prevent any unrest following the passage of the controversial Waqf (Amendment) Bill.

ED raids across Jharkhand, West Bengal, Delhi in Ayushman Bharat scam probe



TPN Correspondent | Delhi

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has launched raids at 21 locations across Jharkhand, Delhi, and West Bengal as part of its investigation into an alleged scam related to the Ayushman Bharat health scheme. The operation is being carried out under the provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA).

The raids, which took place on Friday, in-

cluded the premises of Om Prakash, the personal secretary of former Jharkhand Health Minister Banna Gupta. Investigators also targeted third-party assessment agencies such as MD India, Safeway, and Medi Assist, along with their associates. In addition, the ED has scrutinized the premises of individuals linked to the fraud network, including consultants, former executives of associated companies, and officials of the Jharkhand State Arogya Society (JSAS).

The investigation stems from a report presented by the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India in Parliament, which exposed several irregularities in the Ayushman Bharat scheme. The CAG report revealed that deceased individuals had been falsely recorded as having received treatment under the scheme, pointing to widespread fraudulent activities.

Following the CAG's findings, the ED sought information from the Jharkhand Health Department and the Jharkhand State Health Society about the actions taken against those responsible for the irregularities. In response, the department provided details of FIRs filed against certain hospitals involved in the scam.

Armed with this information, the ED registered an Enforcement Case Information Report (ECIR) and initiated an investigation into the matter. The agency's raids on Friday followed the collection of initial evidence, which pointed to the involvement of several key individuals in the fraudulent activities. The ongoing investigation aims to uncover the full extent of the scam and hold those responsible accountable.

Godavari: SEIZE THE DRAINAGES

THE POINT DESK

This film revolves around the River Godavari and the pride of those who claim to belong to the Godavari region. However, it raises an important question—do they truly cherish and love the river? The story, dialogues, direction, and production of this film are by Galidevara Thamesh.

Q1: What inspired you to make this short film on Godavari River pollution?

Galidevara Thamesh: Growing up near the Godavari River, I have seen how it has been a lifeline for millions. But over the years, pollution has turned it into a dumping ground. The major issue is untreated sewage and drainage water directly flowing into the river. This deeply disturbed me, and I felt the need to create awareness through a medium that can visually impact people—hence, this short film.

Q2: Can you give us an overview of the film’s storyline?

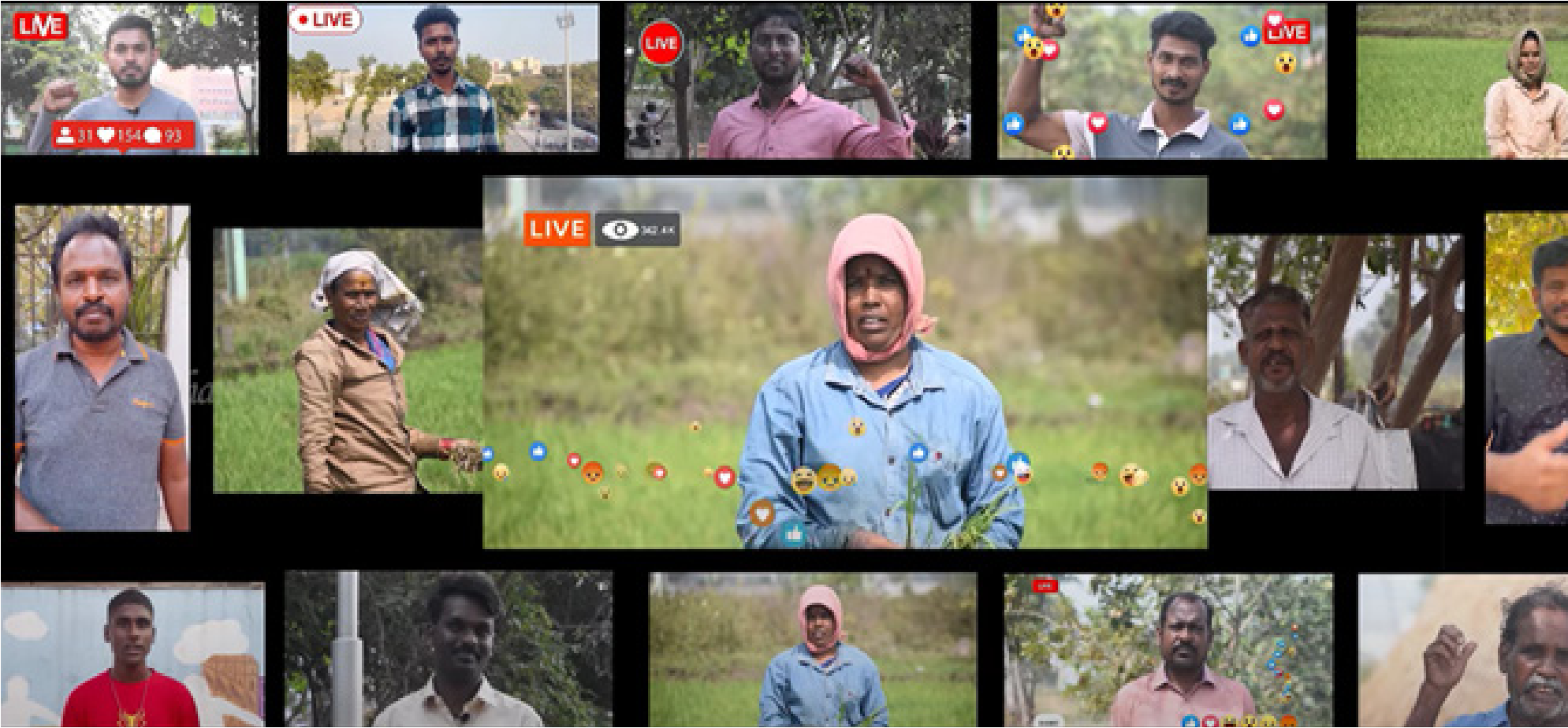
GT: The film follows the journey of a young environmentalist who exposes the increasing pollution in the Godavari River. It showcases the real problems—untreated sewage, lack of purification systems, and public negligence. The story builds awareness and urges the audience to take action before the situation worsens.

Q3: What message are you trying to convey through this film?

GT: The main message is simple—a clean river is a collective responsibility. Authorities must improve sewage treatment infrastructure, industries must follow environmental regulations, and people must stop polluting the river. If we don’t act now, future generations will inherit a poisoned water source.

Q4: What challenges did you face while making this film?

GT: The biggest challenge was shooting in real polluted locations. Some places had a strong stench, and others were unsafe due to the untreated waste.



Getting the right permissions and ensuring authenticity while maintaining cinematic quality was another hurdle. Financial limitations were also a factor, as this was an independent production.

Q5: How was the response from the audience?

GT: The response has been phenomenal! Even though this is a new YouTube channel, the film crossed 10,000 views in just 4 days. People have shared it widely, discussed the issue, and even tagged local authorities. This reaction shows that people do care and are ready to support change. I would specially thank my friends who deeply supported me.

Q6: Do you think this film can lead to action from the government or authorities?

GT: Awareness is the first step toward action. If enough people demand a solution, authorities will have no choice but to respond. I am planning to share this film with environmental or-



ganizations, policymakers, and municipal bodies to push for stricter sewage treatment regulations.

Q7: Is there a specific area along the Godavari River where pollution is worse?

GT: Yes, multiple areas, especially near major towns and cities, face severe pollution. Many drains discharge untreated sewage directly into the river. In some places, industrial waste is also a major concern. Proper sewage treatment plants and stricter monitoring are needed urgently.

Q8: What role do industries and the public play in this issue?

GT: Both are responsible. Some industries release untreated chemical waste, which is highly toxic. On the other hand, people also contribute by throwing garbage, plastic, and other waste into the river. Without public cooperation, even the best policies will fail.

Q9: Do you plan to continue making films on social and environmental issues?

GT: Absolutely. This is just the beginning. I want to use filmmaking as a tool to bring attention to real issues affecting our society. I plan to make more films covering topics like Political Party

followers, Money in Politics, and Culture.

Q10: What’s your message to the public and authorities?

GT: To the public—don’t wait for the government to act; start by doing your part. Stop dumping waste into the river and raise your voice for change. To the authorities—build proper sewage treatment plants, enforce stricter regulations, and take immediate action before we lose the Godavari forever.

Conclusion

Galidevara Thamesh’s “Godavari: Seize the Drainages” is not just a short film—it is a wake-up call. Through powerful storytelling rooted in reality, he compels both citizens and authorities to confront an environmental crisis that can no longer be ignored. As the river silently suffers the consequences of neglect, Thamesh’s film stands as a passionate plea for awareness, responsibility, and most importantly, collective action to save the Godavari for future generations.

Revanth Reddy was all about lake protection last year. This year, he’s destroying them

Bulldozing Green Spaces for IT Parks

In just a few days, Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy has found himself in the midst of a public relations disaster, thanks to the state government’s controversial decision to raze approximately 400 acres of land near the University of Hyderabad (UoH). What began as a simple development project has sparked widespread protests, police crackdowns, and heated debates about the balance between urban development and environmental preservation.

The land in question, near the UoH campus, is not just any piece of real estate; it is home to a rich biodiversity, including a lake, ancient rock formations like the Mushroom Rock, and a variety of wildlife. This 400-acre area houses 233 species of birds, as well as Bengal Monitor Lizards, Star Tortoises, and spotted deer. For students, the green space has long been viewed as a central, peaceful lung for the campus. However, the state government intends to convert the land into an IT park, leading to an outcry among students, environmentalists, and local activists.

Protests erupted last week when JCB bulldozers appeared on the UoH campus, triggering a violent police crackdown. The images of distraught animals, including peacocks, and the devastation caused by the bulldozers flooded social media, intensifying public anger. While the Telangana High Court issued an interim order halting the demolition, the state government



shows no signs of reversing its decision.

What makes the situation even more contentious is the fact that Chief Minister Revanth Reddy has been vocal about the need to protect lakes and green spaces in Hyderabad. In 2024,

he launched the Hyderabad Disaster Response and Asset Monitoring and Protection Agency (HYDRA), aimed at preventing encroachments on these natural spaces. Now, questions are being raised about whether HYDRA will take action against the state itself for this proposed encroachment.

The background of this issue is rooted in a complex legal dispute. The University of Hyderabad was established in 1974 as part of a settlement after the 1969 Telangana protests. The land on which the university sits, called Kancha Gachibowli, was handed over to the university in 1975, but it was never formally transferred to the university’s ownership. In 2003, the Telangana State Industrial Infrastructure Corporation (TGIIC) took control of the 400 acres and handed it over to a private company, IMG Bharata, for development. However, this area remained freely accessible to students without any barriers separating it from the campus.

In 2024, the state government wrested control of this land from IMG Bharata following a legal battle, claiming that the land technically belonged to the state. The government then sought to develop the area into an IT park, which has led to the ongoing protests.

What is particularly striking in this situation is the stark contradiction between the state’s rhetoric and its actions. Revanth Reddy has been a vocal advocate for protecting natural spaces in the city, yet his government’s actions suggest a disregard for environmental concerns when it comes to land acquisition for development. The city of Hyderabad has already witnessed the destruction of other heritage sites and green spaces, such as the ancient Khajaguda rock site, which has been slowly

eaten away by real estate development.

This decision raises several important questions. Can the state justify the destruction of such a valuable ecological space for the sake of development? Is there no alternative land available for the IT park that would not involve the destruction of biodiversity? The ongoing protests show that students and citizens are deeply concerned about the long-term consequences of such projects, and the state’s response has been to silence these concerns through police force.

As tensions mount, it is crucial for the Telangana government to reconsider its decision and engage in meaningful dialogue with the University of Hyderabad authorities, students, and environmentalists. The state may technically own the land, but it must also acknowledge its responsibility to protect the environment and respect the wishes of its citizens. Bulldozing green spaces and silencing protests is not the solution.

The current situation serves as a reminder of the need to balance development with environmental preservation. The Chief Minister and his government must find a way to reconcile these interests, or risk alienating the very people they claim to serve. As Hyderabad’s urban landscape continues to change, it is essential that the voices of the city’s residents—especially those who care about its natural heritage—are heard and respected.



PM Modi to Inaugurate India’s First Vertical Lift Sea Bridge

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is set to inaugurate India’s first vertical lift sea bridge, the new Pamban Rail Bridge, in Tamil Nadu on April 6, coinciding with the auspicious occasion of Ram Navami. The 2.08 km-long bridge, linking Rameswaram to the mainland, is a major infrastructure milestone designed to enhance connectivity while preserving the rich cultural heritage associated with the region. According to a statement from the Prime Minister’s Office (PMO), Modi will flag off both a train and a ship from the adjacent road bridge and witness the bridge’s vertical lift mechanism in operation. Following the inauguration, the Prime Minister will visit the Ramanathaswamy Temple in Rameswaram, performing darshan and pooja at one of the most revered pilgrimage sites in India. The PMO highlighted the bridge’s deep cultural significance, referencing the Ramayana, in which the legendary Ram Setu is believed to have originated near Dhanushkodi. Built at a cost of over ₹550 crore, the bridge features 99 spans and a 72.5-meter vertical lift span that rises 17 meters, allowing smooth passage of ships while ensuring uninterrupted train services. The bridge incorporates stainless steel reinforcements, high-grade protective paint, and fully welded joints, making it highly durable and low-maintenance. A special polysiloxane coating protects it from corrosion, ensuring longevity in the harsh marine environment. Additionally, it is designed to support dual rail tracks, keeping future infrastructure demands in mind. At around 1:30 PM, PM Modi will also lay the foundation stone and dedicate rail and road projects worth over ₹8,300 crore in Tamil Nadu. These include the four-laning of the Wala-japet-Ranipet section of NH-40, and the dedication of Viluppuram-Puducherry (NH-332), Poondiyanakuppam-Sat-nathapuram (NH-32), and Cholapuram-Thanjavur (NH-36) highway projects. As he addresses the gathering, the Prime Minister’s visit underscores the government’s commitment to strengthening infrastructure, boosting economic growth, and preserving cultural heritage in Tamil Nadu.

PM Modi’s Landmark Visit to Sri Lanka



Prime Minister Narendra Modi arrived in Colombo on Friday evening for a three-day visit aimed at strengthening bilateral ties between India and Sri Lanka. His visit follows his participation in the BIMSTEC (Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation) Summit in Bangkok. The Indian prime minister is scheduled to hold extensive discussions with Sri Lankan President Anura Kumara Disanayake on Saturday, covering a wide range of topics, including energy, trade, digitalization, defense, and connectivity. Both nations are expected to announce around 10 key agreements that will further cement cooperation, particularly in areas of defense, energy security,

- **Modi arrives in Sri Lanka**
- **Talks focus on key sectors**
- **10 agreements expected soon**
- **India supports economic recovery**

ty, and technological advancements. Modi’s visit comes at a crucial time for Sri Lanka, which is gradually recovering from one of its worst economic crises in history. Just three years ago, the island nation faced severe financial distress, prompting India to step in with a financial assistance package worth \$4.5 billion, which played a key role in stabilizing Sri Lanka’s economy. With economic indicators showing signs of improvement, the discussions between the

two leaders will focus on sustainable economic recovery, infrastructure development, and enhanced trade partnerships to ensure long-term financial stability. The Indian prime minister has emphasized the importance of reviewing progress on the joint vision of “Fostering Partnerships for a Shared Future,” a strategic framework aimed at fostering deeper cooperation in multiple sectors. India and Sri Lanka share strong historical, cultural, and economic ties, and

this visit is expected to further reinforce their mutual commitment to regional stability and growth. Enhancing digital connectivity between the two countries, improving defense collaboration, and addressing energy security challenges will be central themes during the talks. Modi’s visit also signals India’s commitment to strengthening its influence in the Indian Ocean region, particularly as China continues to expand its footprint in Sri Lanka through infrastructure investments. As the two nations engage in dialogue, the outcomes of this visit could shape the future of Indo-Sri Lankan relations, paving the way for stronger strategic, economic, and security cooperation.

Veteran Actor Manoj Kumar Passes Away

Legendary actor and filmmaker Manoj Kumar, known for his deep-rooted patriotism on screen, passed away at the age of 87 on April 4, 2025, at the Kokilaben Dhirubhai Ambani Hospital in Mumbai. Fondly called “Bharat Kumar” for his remarkable portrayals of nationalist characters in films, Kumar breathed his last at 4:03 am due to cardiogenic shock resulting from an acute myocardial infarction, a severe heart attack. Reports indicate that he had been battling decompensated liver cirrhosis in recent months, which further contributed to his deteriorating health. He was admitted to the hospital on February 21, 2025, as his condition worsened. Born Harikrishan Goswami on July 24, 1937, in Amritsar, Punjab, Manoj Kumar became a towering figure in Indian cinema with his patriotic and socially relevant films. His performances in classics like Shaheed, Upkar, and Purab Aur Paschim left an indelible mark on audiences and established him as a symbol of national pride. Apart from acting, Kumar was also a successful director, delivering thought-provoking films that resonated deeply with the Indian public. His immense contribution to Hindi cinema was recognized with numerous accolades, including seven Filmfare Awards and a National Film Award. In 1992, he was conferred the Padma Shri, one of India’s highest civilian honors, and in 2015, he received the Dadasaheb Phalke Award, the most prestigious recognition in Indian cinema. The news of his passing has left the film fraternity in mourning, with tributes pouring in from colleagues, fans, and admirers. Filmmaker Ashoke Pandit, while speaking to ANI, expressed deep sorrow, calling Manoj Kumar an inspiration and a true doyen of Indian cinema. He reminisced about their meetings and described Kumar as a man full of life and positivity. His absence leaves an irreplaceable void in the industry, and his films will continue to inspire generations to come. As Bollywood bids farewell to one of its greatest icons, Manoj Kumar’s legacy of cinematic excellence and patriotic fervor will remain eternal in the hearts of millions.



Actor Vijay Demands Katchatheevu Retrieval

Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK) chief and actor Vijay has reignited the debate over Katchatheevu Island, urging Prime Minister Narendra Modi to reclaim India’s sovereignty over the disputed territory ahead of his visit to Sri Lanka. As an interim measure, Vijay proposed a 99-year lease of the island, but he maintained that full retrieval remains the only long-term solution to the persistent crisis faced by Tamil Nadu’s fishermen. The actor-politician launched a scathing attack on both the DMK and the BJP-led central government, accusing them of neglecting the plight of Tamil fishermen and failing to take concrete steps toward reclaiming Katchatheevu. He dismissed the DMK’s recent Assembly resolution, which urged the Centre to retrieve the island, as mere “political drama” ahead of the 2026 Tamil Nadu elections. Vijay also reminded the public that the DMK was in power in 1974, when the island was handed over to Sri Lanka under the Indo-Lankan agreement. Furthermore, he criticized the Centre for what he called discriminatory treatment, alleging that while Gujarat fishermen receive protection, their Tamil Nadu counterparts face frequent arrests and boat confiscations by the Sri Lankan Navy. The Katchatheevu retrieval debate gained further traction after Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin wrote to PM Modi, demanding a review of the 1974 Indo-Lankan treaty and urging the Prime Minister to negotiate the release of jailed Tamil fishermen during his Sri Lanka visit. The Tamil Nadu Assembly also passed a resolution echoing these demands, amplifying political pressure on the Modi government. Katchatheevu, a 1.9 sq km island located 12 nautical miles off Rameswaram, has long been a flashpoint in India-Sri Lanka relations. Experts point out that the fish population in the region has declined significantly, forcing Indian fishermen to venture 22 nautical miles into Sri Lankan waters, increasing their risk of arrests.



Tamil Nadu’s NEET Exemption Bill Rejected by Centre

Tamil Nadu’s long-standing demand for an exemption from the National Entrance and Eligibility Test (NEET) suffered a major blow on Friday after President Droupadi Murmu rejected the state’s bill seeking to allow medical admissions based on Class XII marks. The bill, which was cleared twice by the state legislature in 2021 and 2022, had been pending with the Union government for years before being formally rejected. Chief Minister MK Stalin, addressing the Assembly, condemned the rejection as an “insult to Tamil Nadu” and called it a “black phase in federalism”. He pointed out that despite the Tamil Nadu government providing all necessary clarifications, the BJP-led Centre had refused to consider the exemption. In response, Stalin announced a meeting of all legislature parties on April 9 to discuss further legal and political actions. He emphasized that Tamil Nadu’s fight against NEET is far from over and that legal experts would be consulted to explore lawful measures to challenge the Centre’s decision. The controversy surrounding NEET in Tamil Nadu has been ongoing for years. The state’s primary argument against the system is that it disproportionately benefits students from wealthier families, who can afford expensive coaching, while students from rural and marginalized backgrounds struggle to compete. Switching to Class 12 marks for admissions, the state argues, would promote social justice and equitable access to medical education. Tamil Nadu has been vocal about its opposition, passing a unanimous Assembly resolution in 2023 urging the Centre to scrap NEET altogether. The state has also witnessed tragic incidents of student suicides linked to NEET pressure, adding emotional weight to the debate.



‘1000 Gold Cards sold Daily’ Trump’s \$5M visa plan draws global interest

- **New citizenship pathway aims to boost US economy**
- **Each Gold Card offers fast-track to US residency for \$5 million investment**
- **Program replaces EB-5 visa, with simplified process and no job creation clause**

TPN Correspondent | Washington DC

Former US President Donald Trump's newly launched “Gold Card” visa program has caught global attention, offering a streamlined pathway to US citizenship for high-net-worth individuals through a \$5 million investment. According to Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick, the program has already seen major traction, with 1,000 Gold Cards sold in a single day, raising \$5 billion. Unveiled as a bold replacement for the EB-5 investor visa program, the Gold Card eliminates complex conditions like job creation, allowing applicants to gain permanent residency in a faster and more efficient manner. The move is being hailed as a game-changer for wealthy individuals looking to establish their future in the United States



while contributing significantly to its economy. “This is an opportunity for the world’s best entrepreneurs and investors to become part of the American dream,” said Lutnick during an appearance on the All-In Podcast. “We’re seeing unprecedented demand.” Key benefits of the Gold Card

include simplified documentation, no business or employment requirements, and a clear path to US citizenship. It positions the US as an attractive destination for global capital, especially at a time when other countries are also vying for investor immigration. Supporters argue the Gold Card

will help revitalize key sectors, including real estate, technology, and infrastructure, through direct capital infusion. With daily sales hitting four digits, the initiative marks a new era in US economic diplomacy—welcoming visionaries, innovators, and investors who are ready to invest in America’s future.

PM Modi meets Bangladesh Chief Adviser Yunus Raises India’s concerns over safety of Hindus

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

Relations between India and Bangladesh have soured after Bangladesh's interim leader, Muhammad Yunus, made controversial remarks about Northeast India. Prime Minister Narendra Modi raised India's concerns during a meeting with Yunus on the sidelines of the BIMSTEC summit in Bangkok on April 4, 2025. Alongside External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar and National Security Advisor Ajit Doval, Modi expressed India's concerns over the safety of minorities in Bangladesh, particularly Hindus, and urged the Bangladeshi leader to avoid provocative rhetoric that could harm bilateral relations.

The tensions stem from remarks made by Yunus about India's Northeast region. Speaking during a visit to China, Yunus described the Northeast states—often referred to as the “Seven Sisters”—as a landlocked region and suggested that Bangladesh could serve as a “guardian of the



ocean” for the area. His comments were viewed as offensive, particularly by leaders in Assam, who stressed the importance of strengthening transportation links between the Northeast and the rest of India.

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma condemned Yunus' statement, pointing out its implications for India's stra-

tegic vulnerabilities. Sarma stressed the need to improve rail and road infrastructure in the region, particularly around the “Chicken's Neck” corridor, a crucial passage that connects Northeast India to the rest of the country. He warned that such remarks could reflect deeper geopolitical motives and suggested that India should explore alternatives to bypass the vulnerable corridor.

In his conversation with Yunus, Modi reiterated India's commitment to a peaceful, stable, and cooperative relationship with Bangladesh, emphasizing the importance of mutual respect and understanding. He also called for a thorough investigation into the safety of minorities in Bangladesh and urged for any inflammatory rhetoric to be avoided to maintain a stable environment between the two nations. The meeting marks the first between Modi and Yunus since the latter took office after the ouster of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's government in August 2024.

"Heartbroken, Was Unable To Meet Expectations": South Korea's Yoon Apologies



TPN Correspondent | Seoul, South Korea

In a heartfelt statement on Friday, South Korea's ousted president, Yoon Suk Yeol, publicly apologized after the country's Constitutional Court upheld his impeachment over a flawed martial law declaration, which led to his immediate removal from office. The ruling, delivered in a unanimous verdict, officially stripped Yoon of his presidential powers, marking a historic moment in the nation's political history.

“I am truly sorry and heartbroken that I was unable to meet your expectations,” Yoon said in a brief statement following the court's announcement. His apology came after a turbulent period in office, during which his leadership and decisions were widely criticized, culminating in the court's decision to uphold the impeachment motion that had initially been passed by the National Assembly.

Yoon, who served as president for just over a year, faced significant criticism after his controversial decision to declare martial law in response to growing political unrest in the country. The move, which was seen by many as an overreach of presidential powers, sparked widespread protests and led to accusations that Yoon had attempted to undermine South Korea's democratic processes. Critics argued that the declaration was an excessive response to the situation and threatened the stability of the country's democratic institutions.

The Constitutional Court's ruling solidified the concerns of the opposition and civil rights groups, who had long warned that Yoon's actions could set a dangerous precedent. In their unanimous decision, the justices emphasized the importance of maintaining checks and balances within the government, and stated that Yoon's actions had violated constitutional principles by overstepping the bounds of executive authority.

Despite the gravity of the situation, Yoon's apology indicated a sense of remorse, though many political observers were quick to point out that it came too late. Throughout the impeachment proceedings, Yoon had remained steadfast in defending his actions, claiming that his decision to invoke martial law was necessary to protect the country from potential threats. However, as the legal challenges against him mounted, the pressure became too great for him to ignore, culminating in the court's ruling.

The impeachment of a sitting president is a rare and significant event in South Korea, a country known for its vibrant democracy and history of political upheaval. Yoon's removal marks only the third time in the nation's modern history that a president has been impeached, following similar cases involving former presidents Park Geun-hye and Roh Moo-hyun.

In the wake of the court's ruling, political leaders from both the ruling party and opposition have expressed mixed reactions. Some have praised the Constitutional Court for upholding the rule of law, while others have warned that the decision could deepen political divisions in the country. The national discourse has been dominated by debates over whether Yoon's actions were justified, or whether they represented an abuse of power by a president who had not fully grasped the delicate balance of authority within a democracy.

China Opposes US Tariffs, Vows Countermeasures in Escalating Trade Dispute



TPN Correspondent | Beijing

China has strongly condemned the latest round of tariffs imposed by the United States, vowing to take “countermeasures” to protect its rights and interests. The Chinese government's reaction came after US President Donald Trump implemented a series of new levies on imports, including a 10 percent tariff on global goods and an additional 34 percent tariff specifically targeting China.

In retaliation, China has imposed its own tariffs on US agricultural products, including soybeans, pork, and chicken, with rates as high as 15 percent. These moves are part of a broader trade dispute that has the potential to damage both economies. China's fragile economic recovery, already hindered by a debt crisis in the property sector and low consumer spending, now faces further pressure from these new tariffs.

The Commerce Ministry in Beijing issued a statement expressing firm opposition to the tariffs, which it described as violations of international trade rules. It argued that the measures would seriously harm the rights and interests of affected countries, warning that they would have far-reaching consequences for global economic development. The ministry also accused the US of engaging in “unilateral bullying” and called for the immediate cancellation of the tariffs.

Trump's Continued Tariff Strategy: Pharma Products to Face New Charges Soon

Drugmakers are urging U.S. President Donald Trump to implement pharmaceutical tariffs gradually, as the industry braces for a potential new tariff on imported medical products. According to sources familiar with the discussions, the President is expected to announce a broader tariff plan this week, but details about specific tariffs on pharmaceuticals are unlikely to be revealed immediately.

Trump, who had previously exempted the pharmaceutical sector from past trade wars, has signaled that tariffs on medicines will be a part of his broader trade policy, aimed at reducing reliance on foreign countries for drug production. However, the industry fears the impact of these tariffs, especially the proposed 25% levy, which could make medicines more expensive and potentially lead to shortages.

Industry groups like PhRMA (Pharmaceutical Research and Manu-



facturers of America) argue that bringing more drug production to the U.S. is a long-term process that could take 5 to 10 years and require billions of dollars in investment. This is why they are advocating for a gradual ramp-up of the tariff rate rather than a sudden 25% increase.

In response, the Trump administration appears to be recognizing the challenges involved in shifting drug manufacturing to the U.S. While some sources are hopeful that the administration will con-

sider a more gradual approach to tariff implementation, the industry remains on edge as it prepares for the potential rise in costs.

The announcement expected on Wednesday may include a study looking into how pharma-specific tariffs could be applied, with a possible commitment to a more incremental rollout of tariffs. However, there is still uncertainty about how the tariffs will ultimately be structured and whether any adjustments will be made in response to industry concerns.

Some multinational drugmakers, including Johnson & Johnson, Eli Lilly, AstraZeneca, and GSK, have already made significant investments in U.S. manufacturing to bolster domestic production. Despite this, many of these companies continue to rely on overseas facilities for key components, and increasing production in the U.S. could take years.

Global Shockwaves Hit Indian Markets: Indices Plunge as Tariff Fears Grip Investors

Domestic stock markets were volatile on Friday. Sectoral and benchmark indices were volatile. This was due to the implementation of tariffs imposed by US President Donald Trump on countries around the world. As a result, markets in all countries turned red. The same sentiment continued here too. Shares in the metals and pharma sectors fell by 6%. Oil, manufacturing, energy and other sectoral indices also fell by more than 3 percent. In total, investors lost Rs 5 lakh crore in wealth as the Nifty 345 and the Sensex fell by 930 points.

The BSE Sensex, which closed at 76,295 in the previous session, opened at 76,160 on Friday. It touched an intraday low of 75,240. It reached an intraday high of 76,258. Finally, it closed at 75,364, losing 930 points. The NSE Nifty, which opened at 23,190, touched a low of



22,857 and a high of 23,214. It closed at 22,904, down 345 points. The Nifty Bank fell 94 points to settle at 51,502. In the Nifty50, 9 companies gained while 38 lost. Tata Consumer, Bajaj Finance, HDFC Bank, Nestle India,

Apollo Hospitals were the top gainers. Tata Steel, Hindalco, ONGC, Tata Motors, and Cipla lost the most. Finance and FMCG indices rose marginally today. Metal and pharma indices fell by 4-6%. Oil, manufactur-

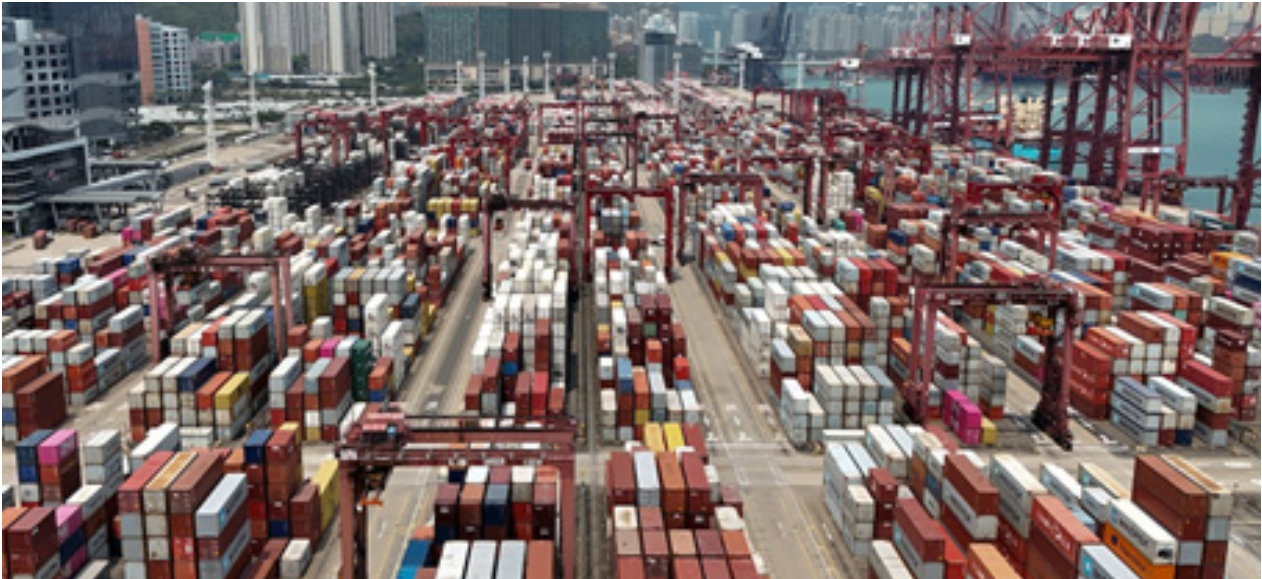
ing, energy, commodities, IT, CPSE, PSE, healthcare and media indices fell by 3 percent. Selling pressure was also seen on consumer durables, auto, infra and PSU bank shares.

Market breadth on NSE turned completely in favor of sellers. 646 shares rose and 2230 fell. Shares of 26 companies reached 52-week highs and 66 shares reached 62-week lows. 146 shares touched the upper circuit and 108 shares touched the lower circuit.



the revival plan. Citi has given a sell rating to Aditya Birla Passion with a target price of Rs 260. On the other hand, Morgan Stanley has maintained its underweight rating. UBS has given a sell rating to IndusInd Bank, reducing its target price to Rs 600 from Rs 770. The Union Cabinet has approved railway projects worth Rs 8,741 crore in Chhattisgarh. UBS has given a buy rating to Bank of Baroda with a target price of Rs 290. The price of Brent crude oil has fallen to \$ 68 per barrel. 19 lakh shares have changed hands in Tata Steel. Adani Group has approved raising Rs 6500 crore in the form of loans in FY26. HDFC Bank's loans have risen by 5.4% and deposits by 15.8%. CLSA has given a buy rating to Federal Bank with a target price of Rs. 230.

China strikes back with 34% tariffs on all US Goods



China has announced sweeping retaliatory tariffs of 34% on all US imports starting April 10, in response to President Donald Trump's latest round of steep duties on Chinese products. The move marks a significant escalation in the ongoing trade war between the world's two largest economies.

The counter-tariff, mirroring Trump's so-called "reciprocal" duties, is part of a broader package of measures unveiled by Beijing on Thursday, including export controls on critical materials and sanctions on American companies. Chinese authorities said the decision was aimed at "protecting national economic interests and responding proportionately."

Among the key measures China unveiled:

- A 34% tariff on all US goods, matching US rates on Chinese imports.
- Immediate export restrictions on seven types of rare earth materials critical to global electronics and defense industries.
- Launch of an anti-dumping investigation into US and Indian exports of CT X-ray tubes.
- Suspension of poultry imports from two major US producers.
- Inclusion of 11 American defense companies in the "unreliable entity list."
- Export controls imposed on 16 US firms.
- A ban on sorghum imports from a key US supplier.

The Chinese announcement came during a public

holiday, underscoring the urgency and coordination behind the measures. "The speed in which the counter measures were rolled out shows a high level of deliberation and a suite of appropriate responses to hit back at the US," said Dylan Loh, assistant professor at Singapore's Nanyang Technological University. "It strikes the balance between inflicting pain but not being seen as an overreaction."

Trump's new tariffs, introduced earlier this week, aim to raise levies on nearly all Chinese products to 54%, a historic high. He justified the action by citing China's alleged role in the fentanyl crisis and the need to balance trade terms with US partners. However, the move has reignited fears of a full-blown trade war, sending shockwaves through global markets.

Following China's announcement, European stocks plunged, with key indices nearing correction territory. In the US, futures on the S&P 500 slid by 2.2% in early trading, while Treasury yields fell sharply, reflecting a flight to safety. Commodities markets also reacted swiftly: soybean futures dropped 2%, while wheat and corn fell over 1%. Analysts warn that with Trump yet to speak to Chinese President Xi Jinping since returning to the White House, the lack of diplomatic engagement could worsen the standoff. In 2023, China imported \$164 billion worth of American goods, the lowest in four years—a figure likely to fall further under the new tariffs.

‘This is not a startup’: Piyush Goyal slams billionaire kids’ ice cream ventures

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

Union Minister Piyush Goyal sparked a debate on India's startup culture during his address at the Startup Mahakumbh 2025 event, where he strongly criticized the trend of wealthy business families launching niche ice cream and cookie brands and labeling them as "startups." Goyal argued that such ventures, though successful, lack the technological ambition needed for India's future.

"Fancy ice cream and cookies. I know at least three or four billionaires whose children make one brand or the other, very fancy ice cream and cookies, and run a very successful business," said Goyal. "And I have no complaint against that. But is that the destiny of India? Is the future of India satisfied with that?"

Goyal's comments were pointed, targeting a growing trend of branding lifestyle and food ventures as high-impact startups. He criticized the liberal use of buzzwords such as "healthy," "vegan," "gluten-free," and "zero" in marketing such products as innovative startups. "Using these terms and good packaging, they call themselves a startup. This is not a startup, it's entrepreneurship. This is business," Goyal stated firmly. He emphasized that India's real growth lies in areas like semiconductors and artificial intelligence, which can shape the future of the country and help it compete globally. "We are investing heavily in becoming self-reliant, building chips and AI models which will prepare the nation for the future," he said. In a sharp rhetorical jab, Goyal asked, "What should India do? Make ice cream or semicon-

ductor chips?"

His remarks ignited reactions across the startup ecosystem. Aadit Palicha, co-founder and CEO of Zepto, came to the defense of Indian consumer-facing startups. In a social media post, he highlighted the significant contributions these companies make to the economy.

"It is easy to criticise consumer internet start-



ups in India, especially when you compare them to the deep technical excellence being built in US/China," said Palicha. He noted that Zepto alone brings in over ₹1,000 crore in annual tax revenue, draws billions in foreign direct investment, and has strengthened India's backend supply chains. Palicha added, "If that isn't a miracle in Indian innovation, I honestly don't know what is."

As the debate over what defines a "true startup" continues, Goyal's remarks have reignited conversations about the direction of India's entrepreneurial ecosystem and the need to focus on deep-tech for national progress.

Oil plunges to four-year low amid tariff turmoil

Global oil prices crashed to their lowest levels in four years as a double shock from a surprise output hike by OPEC+ and a fresh wave of tariffs between the US and China sent energy and commodities markets into a tailspin. Benchmark Brent crude has dropped 14% in just two days, plunging below \$65 per barrel, while US crude futures have fallen to their lowest since 2021.

The sharp slide began Thursday after US President Donald Trump announced sweeping new tariffs targeting major trade partners, raising fears of a global economic slowdown and weakening oil demand. The rout deepened Friday after China retaliated by announcing a 34% tariff on all US imports effective April 10.

Compounding the market turmoil, OPEC+ stunned traders late Thursday by tripling its planned production hike for May. Delegates within the group described the move as a strategic decision aimed at forcing discipline among member countries that had been exceeding their production quotas. The output surge has raised questions about the bloc's commitment to supporting higher prices.



The result has been a steep selloff not only in oil, but across a broad spectrum of commodities. Copper dropped as much as 5.1% to its lowest level since January, and European natural gas futures slumped nearly 10%. Major mining firms were also hit hard: Glencore Plc shares fell 11%, while BHP Group and Rio Tinto Group posted significant

losses.

The unexpected output decision by OPEC+ marks a major shift in strategy after months of curbing supply to support prices. Analysts say the group's move could be aimed at regaining control of the market by undercutting overproducers, even at the cost of short-term price pain.

"The dual blow from OPEC+ and the trade war has jolted the oil market out of its recent trading band," said one analyst. "It's clear that both supply and demand risks are mounting."

Wall Street has responded with swift revisions to oil forecasts. Goldman Sachs and ING Groep NV are among the institutions lowering their price targets, citing demand concerns and rising supply. The developments come at a critical time for the global economy, which is already struggling with inflationary pressures and weakening consumer sentiment. The renewed volatility in oil prices is expected to ripple through energy markets and could complicate monetary policy decisions in the coming months.

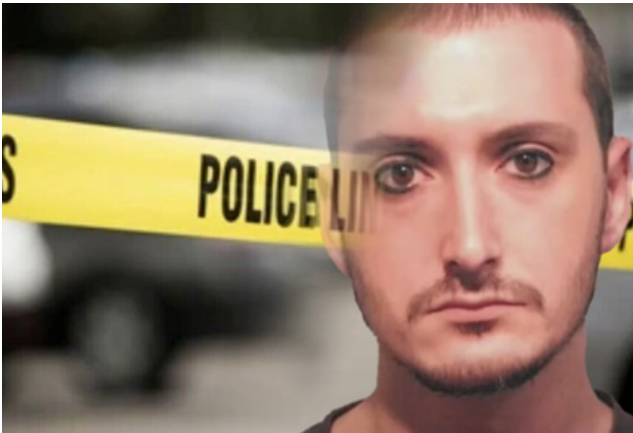
Mystery Account ‘JosD92’ Takes IPL 2025 Internet by Storm



A mysterious online persona, JosD92, has captivated the IPL 2025 digital community with a bizarre yet intriguing obsession—Hindi commentary and MS Dhoni. The enigmatic account has gained viral status on platforms like X (formerly Twitter) and YouTube, leaving cricket fans both

amused and bewildered. JosD92’s strategy is simple but effective—they frequently join IPL live-streams, particularly on popular YouTube channels like ‘Sports Yaari’, and purchase Super Chats to have their comments read aloud by the hosts. These comments, almost always centered around Hindi commentary and Dhoni, have sparked curiosity about the real identity and motives behind the account. The repetitive nature of JosD92’s messages, coupled with their willingness to spend money just to be heard, has made them a viral phenomenon. Some speculate that JosD92 is a Dhoni superfan, while others joke that it could be a social experiment or an elaborate marketing gimmick. As IPL 2025 progresses, JosD92’s legend continues to grow, with fans eagerly anticipating their next Super Chat message. Whether it’s sheer passion or a well-orchestrated digital stunt, one thing is certain—JosD92 has made their mark on IPL’s online landscape.

New Jersey Janitor Jailed for Food Contamination



A former elementary school janitor in New Jersey has been sentenced to eight years in prison after admitting to contaminating students’ food with human fluids and faeces. The shocking case, which unfolded at Elizabeth F. Moore School in Bridgeton, has sparked outrage, with authorities confirming that the 27-year-old culprit, Giovanni Impellizzeri, will serve at least five years before becoming eligible for parole. According to reports from the New York Post and

NBC Philadelphia, Impellizzeri was also charged with possession of child sexual abuse material. His January confession included third-degree possession of child sexual abuse material and second-degree official misconduct, leading to the harsh sentencing. The Cumberland County Prosecutor’s Office detailed the disturbing case in a press release, revealing that Impellizzeri’s crimes came to light after investigators obtained footage of him engaging in inappropriate acts within the school premises. Further inquiry into his phone data uncovered additional unsettling videos and messages, intensifying the case against him. The incident has raised alarms over school safety and background checks for employees, with many parents and community members demanding stricter hiring regulations in educational institutions. Authorities have assured the public that new measures will be considered to prevent such horrific violations in the future. Meanwhile, the case has ignited nationwide discussions on school security, staff oversight, and the need for stringent surveillance in environments involving children.

Vietnamese Man’s 5-Month Headache Reveals Shocking Cause



A bizarre medical case from Vietnam has left people stunned after a 35-year-old man suffering from severe headaches for five months discovered that a pair of chopsticks had been lodged in his brain. The man, whose identity has not been disclosed, had been relying on painkillers to manage his condition, but over time, his symptoms worsened—his vision began deteriorating, and he noticed a watery discharge from his nose. Concerned, he rushed to the Cuba Friend-

ship Hospital in Dong Hoi, Quang Binh province, where doctors conducted a CT scan that revealed a shocking discovery. The scan showed that the man’s brain was filling with air, a rare and dangerous condition known as tension pneumocephalus. Even more shocking was the presence of two broken chopsticks extending from his nose to his brain. Despite experiencing months of pain and discomfort, the man had no memory of how the chopsticks ended up inside his head. After further questioning, doctors speculated that he might have suffered a drunken altercation months ago, where he was possibly stabbed in the face with chopsticks but did not recall the incident. To save his life, doctors performed a complex endoscopic surgery through his nose, carefully removing the chopsticks and closing the hole in his brain. The case has gone viral on social media, shocking netizens and sparking discussions about how such an injury could go unnoticed for so long. Medical experts say this rare case highlights the importance of seeking immediate medical attention for persistent, unexplained symptoms, as what seems like a common headache could sometimes indicate a far more serious underlying condition.

Canada’s ‘Snake Honeymoon Spot’ Draws 75,000 Garter Snakes Yearly

Every spring, Narcisse, Manitoba, transforms into the world’s largest snake mating ground, drawing over 75,000 red-sided garter snakes in a dramatic courtship spectacle. This unique event, which attracts biologists and tourists alike, sees male snakes swarming around female snakes in a fascinating ritual known as the ‘mating ball’. The mating frenzy occurs in limestone dens, where the snakes hibernate during the winter and emerge as temperatures rise. The male garter

snakes outnumber the females, leading to intense competition as they coil around a single female, attempting to impress her. While the sight of thousands of writhing snakes might sound terrifying to some, it has become a major tourist attraction, with visitors gathering to witness nature’s most extraordinary reptilian love fest. This event is not just about spectacle; scientists study the behavior, pheromones, and survival strategies of these snakes, providing insights into reptilian mating

habits. Despite its eerie appearance, the Narcisse Snake Dens offer a rare glimpse into nature’s most astonishing mating rituals, making it a must-visit destination for wildlife enthusiasts and thrill-seekers alike.



ChatGPT Sparks Aadhaar, PAN Card Controversy

OpenAI’s artificial intelligence chatbot ChatGPT has once again found itself at the center of controversy after several social media users claimed it was generating fake Aadhaar and PAN cards, sparking serious security concerns. The AI tool, which recently gained popularity for its Studio Ghibli-style image generator, has been widely used by millions of users to create and share visually appealing artwork. However, its image generation capabilities are now under scrutiny, with many demanding stricter AI regulations to prevent misuse. Reports surfaced online showing purported screenshots of fake Indian identity documents allegedly created using ChatGPT’s image tools. These claims have triggered widespread debate on AI ethics, data security, and regulatory frameworks. Several users have expressed concerns that such capabilities could lead to identity fraud, financial crimes, and privacy violations. In response, AI experts and cybersecurity



analysts have urged tech companies to implement stronger safeguards to prevent misuse of AI-generated content. While OpenAI has not officially confirmed whether ChatGPT can create authentic-looking Aadhaar or PAN cards, past incidents highlight the potential risks associated with unrestricted AI-generated images. Regulatory authorities in India are now facing growing pressure to closely monitor AI developments, ensuring that such technologies do

not compromise national security or public trust. This incident also underscores the urgent need for global AI governance, as concerns over deepfakes, misinformation, and data security continue to rise. Amidst the uproar, calls for stricter AI legislation have intensified, with experts stressing that companies must establish clear ethical guidelines to prevent AI from being misused for fraudulent activities.

American CEO Allegedly Chokes Cruise Passenger Over Wife’s Insult



A luxury cruise turned chaotic when Kenneth DeGiorgio, CEO of First American Financial, was accused of choking a fellow passenger after a heated altercation over footwear etiquette in a cocktail lounge. The incident took place aboard a Virgin Voyages cruise, where DeGiorgio’s wife, Nichol DeGiorgio, reportedly asked another pas-

senger, identified as MA, to wear shoes while dancing. In response, MA allegedly hurled an expletive-laden insult at her, triggering the confrontation. According to eyewitnesses, an enraged Kenneth DeGiorgio approached MA and grabbed him by the neck, escalating the situation into a physical altercation. Some reports also claim that DeGiorgio threatened to kill MA during the attack. Security footage from the ship captured MA struggling to maintain his balance as DeGiorgio allegedly choked him. Following the incident, cruise security intervened, and the ship’s captain ordered DeGiorgio to remain confined to his cabin for the remainder of the journey. No official charges have been reported yet, but the altercation has sparked discussions online about the conduct of high-profile executives in public spaces. While Virgin Voyages has not issued a statement, sources suggest that legal action could follow if MA decides to press charges. The incident has also raised concerns about passenger safety on luxury cruises, where such outbursts can quickly turn violent.

Man Slams Schools Over Costly Textbooks



A recent viral video on social media has ignited debate over the exorbitant prices of school textbooks, with a concerned citizen calling out private schools for ignoring the New Education Policy (NEP) and placing unnecessary financial strain on parents. The man, in the widely shared clip, criticizes educational institutions for acting like “shopping malls” by charging as much as ₹6,000 for textbooks, making school bags heavier while adding to the financial stress of families already struggling with rising costs of essentials. One of the key concerns raised is that schools are blatantly disregarding the NEP’s principles, which emphasize “One Nation, One Class, One Curriculum, One Publication.” Despite this directive aimed at standardizing education and reducing the financial burden on students and parents, many private in-

stitutions continue to push expensive textbooks instead of adopting more affordable, government-approved alternatives. The issue has sparked widespread discussion online, with many parents sharing similar experiences and questioning the lack of regulation in textbook pricing. Critics argue that schools have turned education into a business, prioritizing profits over accessibility. Some have even called for strict government intervention to ensure that private institutions adhere to NEP guidelines and prevent exploitation. As the debate intensifies, education officials are facing growing pressure to enforce policies that promote affordability and fairness in school education. Whether this outcry will lead to actual reforms remains to be seen, but the frustration among parents and students is undeniably mounting.

Lucknow Super Giants Secure 12-Run Victory Over Mumbai Indians



Lucknow Super Giants (LSG) defeated Mumbai Indians (MI) by 12 runs in an exciting IPL 2025 clash held at the Bharat Ratna Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee Ekana Cricket Stadium. Batting first, LSG set a challenging target of 203 for 8 in 20 overs, powered by remarkable half-centuries from Aiden Markram and Mitchell Marsh.

Mumbai Indians, chasing 204, made a spirited effort with strong performances from Suryakumar Yadav and Tilak Varma. Despite their resilience, MI could only reach 191 for 5 by the end

of their innings. The match saw an interesting strategic move when Tilak Varma retired out in the final over, allowing a more aggressive batsman to attempt scoring quick runs.

The victory strengthens LSG's position in the IPL 2025 standings, showcasing their competitive form and effective strategies. Fans enjoyed a thrilling contest between the two teams, with LSG emerging as the superior side in a high-scoring encounter.

Pranavi Tied-4th Amid Weather Halt in Joburg Ladies Open



India's Pranavi Urs was in superb form at the Joburg Ladies Open before play was suspended due to a flooded course at Modderfontein Golf

Club. Sitting T-4 at 5-under through 13 holes, she trails leader Mimi Rhodes (-8), who completed her round.

Pranavi bounced back from an opening bogey on the 10th with six birdies before suspension. Meanwhile, Diksha Dagar carded 71 to finish T-21.

Other Indians struggled: Avani Prashanth and Tvesa Malik shot 77 each, placing T-107. Rhodes, fresh from her LET win in Australia, leads with a bogey-free 65. Cassandra Alexander (-7) and Shannon Tan (-6) follow closely. Play resumes tomorrow with eight groups, including Pranavi's, yet to finish. Urs is well-positioned to challenge for the lead once play resumes.

Rahi Sarnobat Triumphs with Gold After Battling Neuropathic Pain

Two-time Olympian Rahi Sarnobat made a remarkable comeback, clinching gold in the Women's 25m Air Pistol at the National Games 2025 in Dehradun. The 34-year-old shooter overcame neuropathic pain syndrome, a debilitating condition that left her bedridden in 2022. In a heartfelt interview, Rahi shared how she battled chronic pain, extreme fatigue, and de-

pression, unable to live a normal life for months. With help from neurologists and physiotherapists, her first step to recovery was simply sitting up to watch TV. Her return was fueled by inner strength, not just sporting ambition. "This time, I wasn't aiming for a comeback in sport—I was fighting to come back to life," she said. Now, Rahi shoots with renewed

focus, aiming not to prove herself, but to explore her untapped potential and inspire others.



Chirag Advances, Prajwal-Nitin Reach Doubles Final



India's Chirag Duhan stormed into his maiden ITF M25 singles semifinal with a 6-2, 7-6(1) win

over Ishaque Egbal in Bengaluru. The 21-year-old now faces top seed Jay Clarke, who beat Karan Singh in straight sets.

In doubles, SD Prajwal Dev and Nitin Kumar Sinha cruised into the final after a 6-0, 7-6(5) win over Parikshit Somani and Manish Sureshkumar. They'll face Nick Chappell (USA) and Grigoriy Lomakin (KAZ), who crushed Aryan Shah/Karan Singh 6-1, 6-0 in the semis.

Elsewhere, Oliver Crawford and Ryuki Matsuda also advanced to the singles semis. Meanwhile, Indian pair Somani-Manish stunned top seeds Adil Kalyanpur/Kody Pearson in the quarters before falling in the semis.

All eyes are now on Chirag's revenge clash with Clarke and the Indo-foreign doubles final showdown.

Yuva Yoddhas Storm into Final, Set Up Title Clash with Jaipur Pink Cubs

Yuva Yoddhas cruised into the Yuva All Stars Championship 2025 final with a commanding 39-24 victory over Warriorz KC in the semifinal. The Uttar Pradesh-based team dominated from the start, securing a 6-0 lead and inflicting two All-Outs by halftime (22-9). Shivam Singh shined as the Best Raider with 10 points, while Ravi was named Best Defender with seven tackle points.

The Yoddhas will now face Jaipur Pink Cubs, who have beaten them three times this season, including two wins in the best-of-three head-to-head round.

Jaipur topped Pool A with 80 points, while Yoddhas led Pool B with 65 points.

The high-stakes final promises a thrilling showdown, with Yoddhas seeking revenge and Jaipur aiming for a clean sweep.



MI New York Sign Star Players for MLC 2025



MI New York have announced a powerhouse-packed squad for Major League Cricket 2025, set to begin on June 13. The team has roped in international stars Quinton de Kock, George Linde, Michael Bracewell, Naveen-ul-Haq, and Azmatullah Omarzai. They join retained overseas players Kieron Pollard, Nicholas Pooran, Rashid Khan, and Trent Boult, along with key domestic names like Monank Patel and Heath Richards.

MI New York, who were eliminated in the 2024 playoffs by Texas Super Kings, are eyeing a strong comeback with this revamped squad. De Kock returns to the MI family, while Linde and Omarzai bring SA20 title-winning momentum from MI Cape Town.

The franchise released stars like Rabada and Nortje ahead of this season. With a balanced mix of experience and fresh talent, MI New York aim for their second MLC title.

HIL 2024-25 Returns with a Blockbuster Season, Crosses 41 Million Viewers

The return of the Hockey India League (HIL) in 2024-25 has been a resounding success, captivating over 40.8 million viewers across



India. This edition marked a historic milestone with the inaugural women's league, achieving near gender parity in viewership. While 44 men's matches drew 32.9 million, the 13 women's games attracted an impressive 15.1 million—a massive stride in Indian sports broadcasting.

Riding on the post-Olympics hockey wave, the league saw global viewership from 18 countries and over 1 billion digital views across social platforms. The HIL's revival aligns with Indian hockey's centenary and Olympic medal success, further fueling the sport's resurgence. Hockey India President Dilip Tirkey lauded the fan response, vowing continued efforts to elevate the game. The league's impact cements its role in shaping India's modern hockey era.



Vijay Deverakonda's Bold Take on Bollywood Decline



Telugu star Vijay Deverakonda made bold remarks on Bollywood's current slump, stating that the industry is facing tough times but will regain its past glory soon. In a recent interview, Vijay said Bollywood has been struggling to deliver major hits in recent years, while South

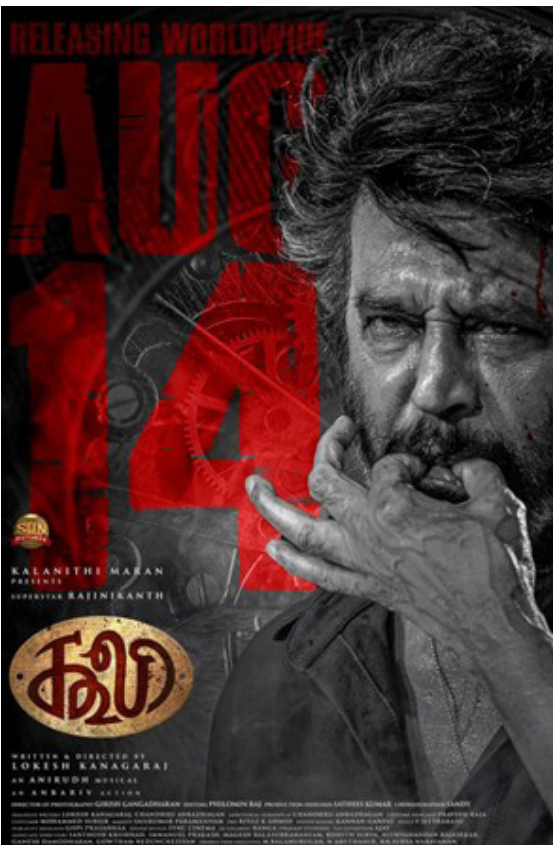
Indian films have seen a massive rise in popularity across the country and globally. He emphasized that the Telugu film industry's success is a result of years of hard work and creativity. Commenting on the growing gap in Bollywood, he added that new-age filmmakers—mostly from out-

side Mumbai—are likely to fill the creative void. Deverakonda also noted how North Indian audiences are now more interested in watching South Indian films, a shift from the past when such content received little recognition. He believes Bollywood's revival will come through fresh talent.

Rajinikanth's Coolie Set for August 14 Release

Superstar Rajinikanth is all set to return to the big screen with *Coolie*, directed by Lokesh Kanagaraj. The film's release date has officially been confirmed—*Coolie* will hit theatres worldwide on August 14, as announced by production house Sun Pictures through a post on X (formerly Twitter). The combination of Rajinikanth and Lokesh has created massive buzz across industries, with fans eagerly awaiting this high-octane entertainer. Lokesh, known for his gripping

storytelling and strong youth connect, enjoys a cult following even in Telugu-speaking states. Adding to the excitement, *Coolie* will also feature cameo appearances by stars like Akkineni Nagarjuna, Upendra, and Aamir Khan, raising expectations sky-high. With such a powerful cast and crew, *Coolie* is poised to become one of the biggest pan-India releases of the year. The countdown to Thalaivar's action-packed return begins!



Dhanush's Idly Kadai Locks October 1 Release Date

Dhanush's upcoming directorial *Idly Kadai* has officially locked October 1 as its new release date. The announcement came with a festive new poster featuring Dhanush in a traditional look, joyfully dancing amid a crowd. Originally slated for April 10, the film was postponed to avoid clashing with Ajith Kumar's *Good Bad Ugly*. Set in a rural backdrop, the emotionally rich drama marks Dhanush's fourth directorial after *Pa Paandi*, *Raayan*, and *Nilavukku En Mel Enna-*

di Kobam. He stars alongside Nithya Menen, reuniting after their acclaimed performance in *Thiruchitrambalam*. The film also features Arun Vijay, Shalini Pandey, Prakash Raj, and Rajkiran. Produced by Wunderbar Films and Dawn Pictures, it will be distributed by Red Giant Movies. The crew includes GV Prakash Kumar (music), Kiran Koushik (cinematography), and Prasanna GK (editing).

Peddi Glimpse Set for Release on April 6

Excitement builds for *Peddi*, starring Global Star Ram Charan



and directed by Buchi Babu Sana, as makers announce the release of its much-awaited glimpse titled *First Shot* on April 6, marking Sri Rama Navami. The announcement comes days after the film's title and intense first-look poster were unveiled on Charan's birthday, March 27. Adding to the buzz, music maestro A.R. Rahman has completed the audio mixing for the glimpse, heightening anticipation among fans. The glimpse will drop at 11:45 AM on Sunday, giving Mega fans plenty to celebrate this festive season. *Peddi* marks the first collaboration between Charan and Uppena director Buchi Babu Sana and promises a mass entertainer with powerful visuals and music. With Rahman on board, expectations are sky-high for this rural action drama.

Veteran Actor-Director Manoj Kumar Passes Away at 87

Legendary actor and filmmaker Manoj Kumar, fondly known as Bharat Kumar for his patriotic films, passed away at the age of 87 in Mumbai's Kokilaben Dhirubhai Ambani Hospital early Friday morning. The iconic figure had been battling decompensated liver cirrhosis and succumbed to cardiogenic shock following an acute myocardial infarction. Admitted on February 21, 2025, Manoj Kumar had been under medical care for several weeks. "He passed away peacefully at around 3:30 AM due to age-related complications," said Dr. Santosh Shetty, CEO of the hospital. Born Harikrishan Goswami in Amritsar on July 24, 1937, Manoj Kumar earned nationwide admiration for his patriotic-themed films like *Shaheed*, *Upkar*, and *Purab Aur Paschim*. His on-screen persona earned him the enduring title 'Bharat Kumar'. Tributes poured in from across the nation, with Prime Minister Narendra Modi mourning the loss, calling him an icon who ignited national pride through cinema. Apart from acting, he was a celebrated director of hits

like *Kranti* and *Roti Kapda Aur Makaaan*. Later, he joined politics and became a member of the BJP. Manoj Kumar's legacy remains a cornerstone of Indian cinema, forever etched in the hearts of millions.



Disha Patani Not Part of Prabhas's 'Fauji', Confirms Production

Rumours of Disha Patani starring alongside Prabhas in the upcoming period drama *Fauji* have been officially dismissed. The film, directed by Sita Ramam fame Hanu Raghavapudi, will feature Imanvi Esmail as the sole female lead, marking her Telugu debut. The production team clarified they never approached Disha and confirmed there's no second female lead. *Fauji* promises to showcase Prabhas in a fresh, emotionally intense role,

blending themes of love, war, and sacrifice. Producer Ravi Yerneni shared that filming is progressing rapidly, with a strong belief in the film's blockbuster potential. The cast includes industry veterans like Anupam Kher, Jaya Prada, and Mithun Chakraborty. Meanwhile, Disha was last seen in Tamil hit *Kanguva* and will next appear in *Welcome to the Jungle* with Akshay Kumar and Sanjay Dutt.