

Weather Forecast

HYDERABAD

t°

H 33° C

L 25° C

VIJAYAWADA

t°

H 35° C

L 26° C

TIRUPATHI

t°

H 36° C

L 26° C



CM Siddaramaiah Slams BJP's 'Janakrosha Yatre', Calls it a Farce Over Price Hike Silence

- CM dares BJP to confront Centre on rising fuel and LPG prices
- Labels protest a "drama" amid Centre's tax hike on petrol, diesel
- Congress to stage counter-protest at Bengaluru's Freedom Park

TPN Correspondent | Bengaluru
Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah has lashed out at the BJP's ongoing 'Janakrosha Yatre', dubbing it a farcical attempt to mislead the public, while the Centre continues to raise fuel and cooking gas prices. The CM questioned the BJP's silence on the Central government's decision to hike excise duty on petrol and diesel and increase LPG prices despite declining global crude oil rates.
"Now I want to know the reaction of the BJP leaders in the state. Why is the Central Government increasing fuel prices

when global crude is falling?" he asked, pointing fingers at the party's double standards. The Janakrosha Yatre, a 16-day statewide protest by the Karnataka BJP, aims to corner the Congress government over alleged fund diversion, rising prices, and reservation for Muslims in government contracts. However, Siddaramaiah hit back strongly on social media, stating that "Prime Minister Narendra Modi himself has smeared ink on the faces of BJP leaders who are trying to put the burden of the sin of price hike on our heads."

In a sharp remark, he said the BJP has only two choices now — either pressure the PM to lower prices or end the Yatre and return home. "If they continue with this drama, they will face public anger," he warned. Meanwhile, the Karnataka Congress has announced a protest against the fuel price hikes at Bengaluru's Freedom Park, accusing the Centre of following anti-people policies. On Monday, the Central Government increased LPG prices by ₹50 and hiked excise duty on petrol and diesel by ₹2 per litre, though retail prices remain unchanged for now.



AICC Session in Ahmedabad to Focus on Strengthening Party Base, Says Dy CM DKS

Congress aims to restructure and revamp organizational strength across India

Emphasis on empowering party cadres at district and block levels

Key leaders to discuss critical suggestions during the session

TPN Correspondent | Bengaluru
Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister and KPCC President DK Shivakumar has said that the All India Congress Committee (AICC) session being held in Ahmedabad marks a historic moment for the party. Speaking ahead of the two-day conclave, he emphasized that the Congress party is fully committed to revamping its organizational structure across the country under the leadership of AICC President

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Karnataka Congress MLC List: All Eyes on Ahmedabad Amid Finalisation Talks

CM and Dy CM to finalise MLC nominees at AICC meet

Lobbying intensifies as aspirants rush from Delhi to Ahmedabad

List may be released on April 10; SC nominee left to Parameshwara not pursued

TPN Correspondent | Bengaluru
With the suspense over the nomination of four Congress MLCs in Karnataka building up, the spotlight has now shifted to Ahmedabad, where Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Deputy CM DK Shivakumar are attending the AICC session on April 8 and 9. The Congress high command is expected to give the final nod to the nominees during this event, say party sources. After separate lists were submitted earlier in Delhi by the CM and DCM to party president Mallikarjuna Kharge, the central leadership had directed both to arrive at

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Waqf Act Now in Force, Supreme Court to Hear 15 Petitions on April 16th

15 petitions filed challenging amended Waqf Act; hearing scheduled for April 16

Opposition, Muslim community raise concerns over key provisions in the new law

Government files caveat in SC, seeks to be heard before any orders are passed

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi
The amended Waqf Act, recently passed by Parliament and signed into law by the President, has officially come into force even as it faces legal scrutiny. A total of 15 petitions challenging the Waqf Amendment Bill have been filed in the Supreme Court, which is scheduled to hear the pleas on April 16. The Centre has filed a caveat in the apex court, requesting that no interim orders be issued without hearing the government's side. The petitions primarily question the constitutionality and implications of several provisions in the amended legislation. Among the most debated clauses is the mandatory inclusion of

two non-Muslim members in both the Central Waqf Council and state Waqf Boards. Another provision requires individuals to have practiced Islam for at least five years before they can donate property to Waqf. A significant clause also removes government properties identified as Waqf from Waqf control, assigning their ownership determination to the local Collector. During the 12-hour debate in Parliament last week, the Opposition and sections of the Muslim community voiced sharp criticism, accusing the government of undermining religious rights and mismanaging minority affairs. However, the government has asserted that

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BTM Layout Molestation: Bengaluru Police Track Suspect Using 300 CCTV Clips

Police Commissioner assures swift arrest; probe led by South DCP
Suo motu case filed after disturbing CCTV video goes viral
Home Minister G Parameshwara issues apology after controversial remarks

TPN Correspondent | Bengaluru
The Bengaluru Police have intensified their investigation into a shocking molestation incident in the city's BTM Layout area, with Police Commissioner B Dayananda assuring that the accused will be apprehended soon. He confirmed that over 300 CCTV clips have been reviewed in the probe so far.

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AICC Session in Ahmedabad to Focus on Strengthening Party Base, Says Dy CM DKS

Mallikarjuna Kharge and Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi. Shivakumar stated that the primary focus of the session would be to strengthen the Congress from the grassroots, particularly by reinforcing cadres at the district and block levels. “This AICC session is not just another meeting—it is potentially a turning point in Congress’ journey forward,” he added. The session will include discussions on suggestions offered by senior leaders, aimed at energizing the party’s base and enhancing its readiness for upcoming electoral challenges. With the Lok Sabha elections behind them, the Congress appears keen to regroup and build momentum for the next round of assembly polls. Sources in the party indicated that there will also be high-level deliberations on strategies to



counter the ruling BJP at both the central and state levels, especially in states like Karnataka where the Congress holds power. The event in Ahmedabad has drawn attention as it brings together key national and state leaders to align on the party’s future roadmap. Party workers and observers view the initiative as a positive step toward organizational unity and strategic clarity.

Waqf Act Now in Force, Supreme Court to Hear 15 Petitions on April 16th

the law is aimed at improving the administration of Waqf properties and is not related to religious practice. The BJP defended the bill, stating it was drafted after consultations with a wide range of stakeholders and had even gained support from some non-Muslim minority groups. The party alleged that earlier Waqf property manage-

ment was marred by irregularities due to what it called the Congress’s appeasement politics, and that the new law would ensure benefits reach women and children in the community. The Supreme Court’s upcoming hearing is expected to be pivotal in deciding the future course of this controversial legislation.

BTM Layout Molestation: Bengaluru Police Track Suspect Using 300 CCTV Clips

The incident, which occurred in the early hours of April 3, came to light after a disturbing CCTV video went viral. The footage shows two women walking down a narrow lane when a man suddenly corners and gropes one of them before fleeing. The timestamp places the incident at 1:52 am. While no formal complaint has been filed by the victims, the Bengaluru Police took suo motu cognisance of the case and began an aggressive search. “We are actively tracking the accused. The investigation is being led by the DCP of Bengaluru South, and our teams are working at full capacity,” said Commissioner Dayananda. He also revealed that the city’s night patrol system is being reassessed to strengthen women’s

safety. “We are considering deploying senior officers during late hours and revamping our night-time vigilance,” he added. Meanwhile, Karnataka Home Minister G Parameshwara sparked controversy with his initial response to the incident, saying, “Such incidents happen occasionally in big cities.” His comments drew widespread backlash for being insensitive. On Tuesday, Parameshwara issued an apology and clarification, stating his words were misconstrued. “I have always prioritised women’s safety. If my statement hurt anyone, I sincerely apologise,” he said. The case has triggered public outrage and renewed calls for improved safety measures for women, especially during nighttime in Bengaluru.

Karnataka Congress MLC List: All Eyes on Ahmedabad Amid Finalisation Talks

a consensus and submit a unified list. This consensus list is now likely to be discussed and approved during the ongoing AICC session. Intense lobbying continues, with aspirants and their supporters who were camped in Delhi now reportedly rushing to Ahmedabad, hoping to push their case ahead of the final announcement. According to sources, the final list could be released by April 10, but a delay cannot be ruled out. Alongside Kharge, the final call will be taken in consultation with KC Venugopal, Randeep

Singh Surjewala, Siddaramaiah, and Shivakumar. Interestingly, Kharge had suggested to Home Minister Dr G Parameshwara to recommend a Scheduled Caste aspirant of his choice for inclusion. However, sources indicate that Parameshwara did not express keen interest, as the list had already been firmed up by the CM and DCM by then. The finalisation of MLCs carries political weight ahead of the Lok Sabha polls, and intra-party power equations are playing a major role in the selection process.

Home Minister Parameshwara Regrets Remarks on Molestation Case

- Home Minister says his words were misunderstood and distorted
- Expresses regret for any pain caused, especially to women
- Reaffirms commitment to women’s safety, cites Nirbhaya measures



TPN Correspondent | Bengaluru
Karnataka Home Minister Dr. G Parameshwara on Tuesday expressed regret over his controversial remarks related to a molestation incident in Bengaluru, stating that his words were misunderstood and distorted by some platforms. His earlier statement, which appeared to trivialize the incident, drew sharp criticism from the BJP and the National Commission for Women (NCW), prompting demands for a public apology. Speaking to the media, Parameshwara clarified, “My words were not properly understood. If they have caused pain, especially to our sisters and mothers, I express regret.” Emphasizing his commitment to women’s safety, he point-

ed out that as Home Minister, he had implemented several protective measures, including extensive use of Nirbhaya funds in collaboration with the central government. The controversy stemmed from Parameshwara’s remark on April 7, where he said, “In a big city like Bengaluru, incidents like this do take place here and there.” Critics, including the NCW, slammed the comment as in-

sensitive, claiming it trivialized crimes against women. The NCW formally urged the Governor and Chief Minister to seek a public apology and demanded immediate action to strengthen law and order in the state. Responding to the backlash, Parameshwara reiterated that he regularly monitors women’s safety issues and holds officials accountable. “Distorting my words for political gain is not right. I’ve taken strict measures and will continue to do so—not just make statements,” he said. Defending his track record, the minister said that atrocities against women were not a new issue and questioned the BJP’s silence during its own tenure. “If they claim nothing happened during their rule, people will laugh,” he added. Parameshwara’s clarification comes amid mounting political pressure and public concern over women’s safety in Karnataka, especially in the aftermath of recent incidents in Bengaluru.

BJP Slams Congress as ‘Chambal Dacoits’ in Mandya, Accuses Govt of Loot and Betrayal



- BJP continues Janakrosha Yatre in Mandya, targeting Congress on price hikes and corruption
- CT Ravi accuses Congress of looting public money, compares govt to Chambal dacoits
- Ashoka slams DCM’s Mandya remarks, questions CM’s alliance with Tamil Nadu over Mekedatu

TPN Correspondent | Mandya
On Day 2 of its Janakrosha Yatre, the BJP intensified its offensive against the Congress-led Karnataka government, holding a protest rally in Mandya, a politically sensitive region. Party leaders, including MLC CT Ravi, former CM DV Sadananda Gowda, and Leader of Opposition R Ashoka, participated in the event that began at Sir M Visvesvaraya’s statue. Addressing party workers and the public, CT Ravi launched a blistering attack, alleging that the Congress government had “surpassed the dacoits of the Chambal valley” in terms of looting public resources. “Over 50 essential items — including milk, electricity, and petrol — have seen price hikes. This government is shameless in its extortion,” he declared.

He also accused CM Siddaramaiah of hypocrisy, claiming that while the Maharajas of Mysuru made personal sacrifices for public welfare, Siddaramaiah had allegedly grabbed 14 MUDA plots in his wife’s name. “Will God forgive those who loot and still dare compare themselves to our kings?” he asked. R Ashoka continued the criticism, saying, “If a movie were made about this government’s looting, it would run for 100 days.” He mocked Deputy CM DK Shivakumar’s comment about Mandya people being “Chatris” (parasols), urging voters to prove they are “Chakravarthies” (emperors) instead. On the contentious Mekedatu project, Ashoka said Tamil Nadu CM MK Stalin has openly opposed it, questioning Siddaramaiah’s “double standards” in aligning with Stalin for political gain. Other leaders including Chavadi Narayanaswamy, B Sri Ramulu, CN Ashwath Narayan, and former MP Sumalatha Ambareesh were also present, reinforcing the BJP’s unified push across the state against what it terms a “corrupt and anti-people regime.”

Former MP Prathap Simha Demands Action Against Police Over BJP Worker’s Suicide



TPN Correspondent | Kodagu
Former MP Prathap Simha led a delegation on Tuesday to file a formal complaint with Kodagu Superintendent of Police K Ramarajan and Deputy Commissioner Venkat Raja, demanding action against a police officer who allegedly threatened BJP worker Vinay Somaiah, leading to his suicide in Bengaluru. Vinay’s brother, along with several BJP leaders, submitted the complaint, alleging that Vinay was pressured and harassed by a police official who called him on March 21 at 10:09 am, threatening him with action under Section 107 of the CrPC. Prathap Simha insisted that this section is meant for habitual offenders or those disturbing public peace, and had no relevance to Vinay, who was merely the admin of a WhatsApp group. Speaking to the media, Simha said, “It’s been four days since Vinay’s death, and not a single arrest has been made. We have given clear call records to the authorities. The police officer who issued the threat must be identified and investigated.” He also alleged political conspiracy behind the case, claiming Virajpet MLA A.S. Ponanna filed the complaint against Vinay through Thennira Maina, and demanded that the names of both MLA Ponanna and Dr Mantar Gowda be included in the FIR. Former MLA K.G. Bopaiah, who was present, called for strict action against those who issued threats to Vinay. Several BJP workers were present during the complaint filing and expressed solidarity with Vinay’s family. The issue has sparked political tensions in Kodagu, with BJP leaders accusing the Congress-led state administration of using state machinery to target their workers.

Three Top Karnataka 2nd PUC 2025 with 599 Marks; Pass Percentage Falls to 73.45%

- Amoolya Kamnath, Deeksha R (Science) and Deepashree S (Commerce) top with 599 marks
- Overall pass percentage drops from 81.15% last year to 73.45%
- Science stream records highest pass rate at 82.54%; Arts lowest at 53.29%

TPN Correspondent | Bengaluru
The Karnataka School Examination and Assessment Board (KSEAB) announced the results of the 2nd PUC (Class 12) Exam 1 on Monday, with a notable decline in the overall pass percentage. This year, the combined pass percentage across all three streams—

Science, Commerce, and Arts—stood at 73.45%, a significant drop from 81.15% recorded in 2024. Three students secured the top position with 599 out of 600 marks: Amoolya Kamnath and Deeksha R from the Science stream, and Deepashree S from the Commerce stream. Out of the total 6,37,805 candidates who appeared for the exam, 4,68,349 students successfully cleared it. The Science stream once again led the performance chart, with 2,80,433 students appearing and 2,31,461 passing, resulting in a strong 82.54% pass rate. Commerce followed with 76.07%, as 1,55,425 of 2,04,329 students passed. Arts re-

corded the lowest pass percentage at 53.29%, with only 81,553 of 1,53,043 students clearing the exam. The exams were conducted from March 1 to 20, with a single shift daily from 10 AM to 1 PM. Subjects ranged from Kannada and Arabic on the opening day to Hindi on the concluding day. The provisional answer keys were released promptly on March 21. Students can access their results via the official website karresults.nic.in. This year’s results highlight both exceptional individual performances and concerns about the overall dip in success rates, especially in the Arts stream.



TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

The BJP on Monday launched a scathing attack on Karnataka Home Minister G Parameshwara, demanding that senior Congress leaders Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra seek his resignation over his con-

troversial remarks on molestation in Bengaluru.

BJP national spokesperson Shehzad Poonawalla labelled Parameshwara a “serial offender”, accusing him of repeatedly making insensitive statements about crimes against women, including during the 2017 sexual assault in-

Rahul, Priyanka Should Seek Parameshwara’s Resignation-BJP

- **BJP accuses Karnataka Home Minister of trivialising molestation cases**
- **Shehzad Poonawalla calls Parameshwara a ‘serial offender’ for past remarks**
- **Cites rise in crimes against women under Congress-led government**

cidents in Bengaluru.

“Parameshwara’s statement that such incidents happen in big cities is a brazen display of a shocking, misogynist, patriar-

chal, and sexist mindset,” said Poonawalla. He condemned the minister for trivialising the recent molestation case and alleged that the Congress govern-

ment has failed to ensure women’s safety.

Highlighting that the Bengaluru police have yet to apprehend the culprits, the BJP leader claimed

that Parameshwara appears to be siding with the accused instead of the victims. He alleged that crimes against women have surged by nearly 50% since the Congress returned to power in Karnataka.

Poonawalla likened the minister’s indifference to the insult of Draupadi in the Mahabharata, stating that such a dismissive attitude toward women’s dignity is unacceptable. “If Rahul and Priyanka Gand-

hi truly stand for women’s safety, they must break their silence and demand the resignation of Parameshwara,” he said.

He also cited incidents such as the gang rape of an Israeli tourist to underline what he called the Congress government’s repeated failure to safeguard women. BJP maintained that this trend of insensitivity is not new among Congress leaders and must be addressed at the top level.

Congress Leaders in AC Rooms Ignoring Public Problems – BJP Vijayendra

TPN Correspondent | Mysuru

BJP Karnataka president B Y Vijayendra launched the Janakrosha Yatre in Mysuru, accusing the Congress-led state government of failing the people. He claimed Congress ministers are disconnected from ground realities, comfortably seated in air-conditioned rooms while the common man suffers due to inflation and misgovernance.

Addressing the media after offering prayers at the Chamundeshwari temple atop Chamundi Hills, Vijayendra said the journey was being launched from Mysuru not because it is Chief Minister Siddaramaiah’s hometown, but to seek divine blessings. He remarked that the Congress

government is not only bankrupt but also morally irresponsible.

He severely criticised the price hike of essential commodities and the alleged diversion of funds meant for Scheduled Caste communities. Vijayendra also objected to the 4% reservation for Muslims in government contract allocations, calling it unjustified and discriminatory.

He lashed out at the Congress for suspending 18 BJP MLAs from the Assembly, stating that such actions reflect the ruling party’s inability to accept dissent.

“There is a growing anger among the people. But Congress leaders are unable to see it as they’re locked away in luxury,” he said.

Responding to Karna-



taka Deputy CM D K Shivakumar’s claim that only BJP is outraged, Vijayendra quipped that leaders who govern from air-conditioned rooms cannot understand the public’s pain. “They are living in delusion while people struggle,” he said.

He rejected rumours of any rift between BJP and JD(S), stressing that both parties are committed to addressing people’s issues. “While BJP is leading this

Janakrosha Yatre, JD(S) is also protesting in its own way. This does not mean there is discontent,” he clarified.

Vijayendra maintained that BJP and JD(S) had jointly taken on the Congress in the Assembly, showcasing a strong alliance. The Janakrosha Yatre aims to expose the failures of the Congress regime and will continue across multiple districts in the coming days.

Kumaraswamy Deserves ‘Joker’ Tag More Than Me: Chaluvaryaswamy

TPN Correspondent | Mandya

In a sharp counterattack, Karnataka Agriculture Minister N Chaluvaryaswamy responded strongly to Union Minister H D Kumaraswamy’s recent self-reference as a “joker,” asserting that the title suits Kumaraswamy more than anyone else.

Addressing the media in Mandya on Monday, Chaluvaryaswamy said, “If you speak whatever comes to mind, you won’t earn respect. Kumaraswamy claims he made me a minister, but let him not forget—I was instrumental in making him the Chief Minister.”

Expressing his displeasure, Chaluvaryaswamy

labelled Kumaraswamy as someone who thrives on attention and media presence.

“He cannot sleep without appearing on television. And when he does, all he does is insult Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, Deputy CM D K Shivakumar, and even himself,” the minister charged.

Calling Kumaraswamy a “talkative person,” Chaluvaryaswamy alleged that the JD(S) leader often lacks basic political courtesy. “There is a way to conduct political discourse. But instead, he chooses mockery and unnecessary provocation every time he speaks,” he added.

The verbal spat comes



amidst increasing tension between the JD(S) and Congress leaders in the state, especially after recent alliance issues and electoral blame games. Kumaraswamy’s earlier remarks where he called himself a “joker” in the current political circus, appear to have been a sarcastic jibe, but have now escalated into a war of words between the leaders.

Chaluvaryaswamy’s comments also reflect a deeper strain in their past political camaraderie, as both leaders once worked closely within coalition dynamics.

With Assembly elections nearing and public scrutiny intensifying, such fiery exchanges are likely to continue, fueling further political drama in Karnataka’s power corridors.

Suresh Kumar Urges Speaker to Revoke BJP MLAs’ Suspension

TPN Correspondent | Bengaluru

Senior BJP leader and former minister Suresh Kumar has appealed to Karnataka Assembly Speaker U T Khader to revoke the suspension of 18 BJP MLAs, allowing them to resume their legislative duties. He emphasized the need to uphold democratic traditions and ensure that people’s issues are addressed in the Assembly.

Suresh Kumar revealed that he had personally met the Speaker on March 30 and explained the far-reaching consequences of the decision to suspend the legislators. “I requested him to reconsider or at least relax the restrictions imposed. Both the Speaker and Law and Parliamentary Affairs Minister H K Patil responded positively,” Kumar noted.

The suspension, which has sparked significant political tension in the state, has led to all BJP legislators boycotting legislature committee meetings in protest. Kumar said, “Our party has taken a stand that no BJP MLA will attend any committee meetings until the sus-



pension is lifted.”

He expressed concern that this decision hampers the ability of elected representatives to contribute to policymaking and solution-finding on crucial public issues. “These committees are meant to deliberate on people’s problems. But due to the current impasse, our role in them is blocked,” he lamented.

Suresh Kumar urged the Speaker to reconsider the decision in the interest of democratic functioning. “We are not asking for a favour, but appealing for the restoration of legislative dignity and re-

sponsibility. Parliamentary traditions must be preserved,” he stated.

The suspended MLAs were barred following ruckus during the recent Assembly session, with Congress leaders justifying the move as necessary to maintain decorum. However, BJP has consistently claimed the action was politically motivated and undemocratic.

As pressure mounts within and outside the legislature, the Speaker’s next move will be closely watched, with implications for both political stability and legislative functioning in the state.

No Rift With JD(S), In Constant Touch With Kumaraswamy, Says R Ashoka

TPN Correspondent | Bengaluru

Leader of the Opposition R Ashoka dismissed speculation of friction between the BJP and its alliance partner JD(S), asserting that he is in regular contact with Union Minister and JD(S) leader H D Kumaraswamy.

Speaking to the media in Bengaluru, Ashoka clarified that although there has been no formal discussion with JD(S) about the BJP’s ongoing agitation against the Congress-led state government, communication lines remain open and active. “There is no difference of opinion between BJP and JD(S). I am in constant touch with Kumaraswamy,” he said.

Ashoka’s comments come amid growing murmurs from JD(S) leaders who have expressed concern over being sidelined during the BJP-led protests and campaigns, including the recently launched ‘Janakrosha Yatre’. How-



ever, Ashoka denied any such neglect and reaffirmed the strength of the alliance.

He emphasized that ahead of every legislative session, coordination meetings are held with both BJP and JD(S) MLAs to outline a unified strategy against the government. “Before every session, I call a joint meeting with BJP and JD(S) legislators to plan our approach. We are committed to holding the Congress government accountable,” he stated.

Ashoka’s reassurance comes at a crucial time,

with political alliances in Karnataka under the scanner and opposition unity playing a key role in taking on the Congress, especially in the wake of controversial decisions and rising public discontent over inflation, reservations, and fund allocation. With both parties preparing for a high-stakes political battle ahead of the next electoral cycle, the Opposition leader’s remarks appear aimed at presenting a united front, dispelling internal rift rumours, and reinforcing the BJP-JD(S) alliance’s stability.

Harihar Peeth Dharmadarshis Slam Yatnal Over Swamiji Remarks

TPN Correspondent | Davanagere

Expelled BJP MLA Basanagouda Patil Yatnal has stirred a fresh controversy with his comments on Jagadguru Vachanananda Swamiji of the Harihar Panchamasali Peeth, drawing sharp criticism from the Dharmadarshis of the Peeth.

Addressing a press meet in Davanagere on Tuesday, Dharmadarshi Chandrashekhara Poojar issued a stern warning

to Yatnal, asking him to “keep his tongue in check” and refrain from making baseless allegations. “Swamiji is an internationally renowned breath guru, and it is completely false to say he has misused any funds,” Poojar asserted. Poojar clarified that the Harihar Panchamasali Peeth is governed by a board of Dharmadarshis, not solely by the Swamiji. “The Peeth operates under a trust, and Vachanananda Swamiji does not even

have the authority to sign cheques. These accusations are politically motivated and deeply disrespectful,” he added.

The remarks from Yatnal have sparked anger among the spiritual community, with leaders and devotees rallying behind Swamiji. The growing backlash highlights the significance of the Peeth and its revered standing among Panchamasali Lingayats and other devotees across Karnataka.

Yatnal, known for his provocative statements, has previously courted controversy and was recently expelled from the BJP. His latest outburst against a spiritual figure with a wide following has not only offended religious circles but is also seen as a reckless move with potential political fallout.

The Dharmadarshis have made it clear they will not tolerate attacks on their religious institution or its leaders.

BJP Slams Parameshwara’s Molestation Remark

TPN Correspondent | Bengaluru

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) came down heavily on Karnataka Home Minister Dr G Parameshwara for his controversial reaction to a molestation incident in Bengaluru, calling his comments “shameful” and “insensitive.” The outrage began after Parameshwara said, “In-

cidents like these tend to happen here and there in a big city like this,” which drew swift backlash from both state and national BJP leaders. Karnataka BJP took to social media platform ‘X’ and wrote, “Disgusting. Insensitive. Shameful. If this is your attitude, why even have a Home Minister? Women’s safety is NOT a joke. Mr Inefficient Dr G Paramesh-

wara, resign if you can’t protect citizens.” The party also targeted Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, questioning whether this was the version of women’s empowerment he had promised. Citing the deteriorating law and order situation, BJP leaders said that Bengaluru had moved from being the ‘Start-up Capital’ to the ‘Capital of Lawlessness.’

They referred to the Congress administration as a “Halal government” under a “scam” Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, accusing it of failing to ensure the safety of citizens, especially women. Former BJP MLA Basanagouda Patil Yatnal demanded an immediate apology from Parameshwara and urged the formation of a special police

team to track down those responsible for the molestation. Karnataka BJP president B Y Vijayendra also criticized Parameshwara’s remarks, saying that such a statement should never have been made public. He argued that it tarnished Bengaluru’s international reputation and reflected growing frustration with rising lawlessness under the



Congress regime. Leader of the Opposition in the Karnataka Assembly R Ashoka called Parameshwara an “accidental” Home Minister, accusing him of completely failing

to curb crime. “Bengaluru, once Silicon City, is now Crime City,” he said, insisting that the Congress government had lost the moral right to continue in power.

Bengaluru Techie Dies by Suicide

TPN Correspondent | Bengaluru

A 40-year-old private firm employee was found dead in what police suspect to be a case of suicide in northern Bengaluru. The deceased, identified as Prashanth Nair, was discovered hanging in his apartment in Ganigarahalli on Friday night. Police were informed shortly after the body was found around 9 p.m.

Nair had reportedly been going through a difficult phase in his personal life, which may have led to his tragic death. His father, MN Kutti, in a statement to the police, mentioned that Prashanth had been emotionally distressed due to ongoing



issues in his family. However, he added that he did not suspect any foul play. “My son had been upset for some time due to personal reasons. There’s no reason to believe anyone else was involved,” Kutti told the authorities.

According to the fami-

ly, Nair had married Pooja 12 years ago, and the couple had an eight-year-old daughter. Over the last year, their relationship had become strained, with frequent arguments over minor issues. As tensions escalated, Nair decided to move out of their Hennur

residence, believing that some time apart might help mend their relationship. He had been living alone in Ganigarahalli since then.

When Nair’s father visited his apartment on Friday evening, he found his son unresponsive and immediately contacted the police. A senior officer confirmed that an Unnatural Death Report (UDR) had been registered. “We found no indications of external injuries or signs of foul play.

No complaints of harassment have been made by either side, and the couple had been living separately for over a year due to mutual differences,” the officer said.

Bengaluru Man’s Organs Save Eight Lives



TPN Correspondent | Bengaluru

In a deeply moving act of humanity, a 28-year-old man from Bengaluru has given a new lease of life to eight individuals through organ donation after being declared brain dead.

The young man, who had sustained critical injuries in a road accident, was rushed to Fortis Hospital in Nagarbhavi in a severely unstable condition.

Doctors stated that the victim had suffered massive head trauma and oral

bleeding. A CT scan revealed a rapidly growing blood clot in his brain. Despite emergency medical efforts and intensive care, his condition worsened, and he was eventually declared brain dead. With the family’s consent, doctors carried out a complex, five-hour-long multi-organ retrieval procedure, ensuring his organs could be donated to those in desperate need.

The organs harvested included his eyes, lungs, liver, heart valves, kidneys, and skin — each matched and allocated to recipients as per organ donation protocols. The hospital confirmed that the donation helped save or significantly improve

the lives of eight different patients. In particular, recipients of his lungs, liver, and kidneys are now recovering well after successful transplant surgeries. His eyes were donated to restore the vision of two individuals, and his skin is expected to be used in treatment of burn patients. This gesture of kindness and courage, made possible through the consent of the victim’s grieving family, has been widely praised by the medical community and health officials. The case also highlights the importance of organ donation awareness and how one decision can transform multiple lives even in the face of tragedy.

CRPF, Rotary to Plant 10,000 Sandalwood Trees

TPN Correspondent | Bengaluru

In a notable step towards sustainability and tribute, the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) has partnered with Rotary Bangalore Midtown (RBM) to plant 10,000 sandalwood saplings on CRPF’s 250-acre campus in Bengaluru. This green initiative aims to create much-needed lung space for the fast-growing metropolis while also supporting the families of CRPF martyrs in the long run.

The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), signed between CRPF and RBM, outlines a phased approach to the plantation drive. The first phase will begin with 3,000 saplings, with plans to expand the project to 10,000 saplings



depending on land and water resource availability. What makes this project particularly significant is its dual impact — environmental and humanitarian. As per the MoU, any revenue generated from the commercial sale of the mature sandalwood trees, estimated after a 15-year growth period, will be used exclusively for the welfare of families of CRPF personnel who lost their lives in the line of

duty. Sandalwood, one of India’s most valued trees, is known for its high market demand and environmental benefits. Its cultivation not only helps improve biodiversity and air quality but also promotes long-term financial sustainability. This collaboration is seen as a model for combining green development with social responsibility. CRPF officials noted that the plantation aligns with the organiza-

tion’s long-standing commitment to environmental conservation, while Rotary members praised the initiative for blending eco-consciousness with compassion. Officials confirmed that regular monitoring will be done to ensure the healthy growth of the saplings and sustainable upkeep of the plantation area, making this a long-term investment in both nature and national service.

AAI Team Reviews Sites for 2nd Airport

TPN Correspondent | Bengaluru

A six-member team from the Airports Authority of India (AAI) arrived in Bengaluru on Monday to begin evaluating three proposed sites for the city’s much-anticipated second international airport. This visit marks a crucial step in the Karnataka government’s plans to expand air connectivity and ease congestion at Kempegowda International Airport. The AAI team includes officials Vikram Singh, K Srinivasa Rao (HAL), Manuj Bhardwaj, Sachchida Nand Pandey, Santosh Kumar Bharti, and Amaan Chhipa.

On Monday, the team was briefed by Khushboo Goel Chowdhary, Managing Director of the Karnataka State Industrial & Infrastructure Development Corporation. The briefing included site data, logistical considerations, and potential technical challenges.

According to Industries & Infrastructure Development Minister M B Patil, the AAI’s visit is strictly focused on assessing the



technical viability of the shortlisted sites. “Once the AAI gives its report, a detailed feasibility and viability study will follow,” Patil stated.

The three shortlisted sites include two locations along Kanakapura Road and one on the Kuni-gal-Nelamangala Road. The AAI team is scheduled to inspect these sites on Tuesday, with a follow-up meeting with Minister Patil planned for Wednesday.

In a related development, Minister Patil also addressed the pressing issue of environmental concerns stemming from industrial activity. He di-

rected officials to commission a comprehensive study on pollution levels across 215 industrial zones in the state. Patil proposed that the study be carried out by reputed institutions like the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) or the Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs).

“While we encourage industrial growth, we must not overlook its environmental impact,” Patil emphasized. He announced the formation of high-level teams to assess the effects of industries on air, water, land, and agriculture, and to recommend corrective measures to ensure sustainability.

BWSSB Offers Waiver on Water Arrears

TPN Correspondent | Bengaluru

In a bid to recover a massive ₹701.72 crore in outstanding water bill arrears, the Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) has proposed a one-time settlement (OTS) scheme that could benefit nearly five lakh consumers in Bengaluru. This initiative comes as the board grapples with mounting financial pressure and aims to provide consumers an opportunity to clear their dues without the burden of accumulated interest and penalties.

According to the details provided by BWSSB, the scheme offers complete waiver of interest and penalty components on pending bills, allowing consumers to pay only the principal amount. The beneficiaries of this scheme include 4,90,207 consumers across various categories — from domestic users to large institutions like the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP), Karnataka state government departments, central government offices, industries, and statu-



tory bodies.

Among these, domestic consumers account for the largest share of pending arrears, with ₹185.48 crore due, excluding interest and penalties. BWSSB officials believe that the waiver will encourage more consumers to come forward and settle their long-pending dues, which otherwise might remain locked in legal or financial disputes for years.

The proposal is seen as a strategic move not only to improve the board’s cash flow but also to foster goodwill among consumers, particularly those struggling to cope with

rising costs and inflation. If approved, the OTS scheme could significantly reduce the financial burden on both individual households and public institutions.

Officials are expected to roll out the detailed implementation framework in the coming days, including deadlines, payment procedures, and eligibility guidelines.

The BWSSB hopes the scheme will see wide participation and help it recover a substantial portion of the arrears without resorting to coercive measures or prolonged litigation.

Char Dham Yatra Opens Fully



TPN Correspondent | Uttarakhand

In a significant move ahead of this year's Char Dham Yatra, Garhwal Divisional Commissioner Vinay Shankar Pandey confirmed that there will

be no cap on the number of devotees undertaking the sacred pilgrimage. With the Char Dham Yatra being one of the most revered spiritual journeys in India, the announcement has come as a major relief

for lakhs of devotees eager to participate., Pandey assured that preparations are nearing completion, and the administration is prioritizing critical infrastructure improvements such as traffic

arrangements, access to pure drinking water, and sufficient parking facilities. To streamline crowd management and ensure seamless coordination, the entire Yatra route has been divided into 10-kilometer sectors. In each sector, officials will patrol on two-wheelers and stay in constant contact using walkie-talkies. These sectors are further organized into zones and super zones to enhance operational efficiency. According to Pandey, the direction from Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhama has been crystal clear — that pilgrims should not face any inconvenience at any stage of the journey.

Online registration for the pilgrimage is under-

way, and so far, over 13.5 lakh devotees have already registered. Despite the absence of a numerical cap, all pilgrims are still required to register in advance to facilitate smooth management. Beyond logistics, the administration is placing strong emphasis on maintaining environmental sanctity during the Yatra.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has introduced the concept of a "Green Yatra," and local officials are working hard to make this vision a reality. Pandey highlighted that field officers and the public alike are being sensitized to the importance of preserving the religious and ecological sanctity of the Dhams.



Delhi Plans Phase out of CNG Autos

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

In a significant push toward sustainable urban transport, the Delhi government is set to unveil its Electric Vehicle (EV) Policy 2.0, which includes a major recommendation to phase out CNG-driven autorickshaws in the capital. According to officials, the draft policy—currently under review—suggests that all existing CNG autorickshaws older than 10 years will be mandatorily replaced or retrofitted with battery-operated systems during the policy period. The move aligns with Delhi's broader ambition to curb air pollution and accelerate the shift to cleaner mobility solutions. The draft policy sets a clear timeline for implementation: starting August 15, 2025, no new CNG-powered autorickshaw registrations will be permitted in Delhi. In addition, existing permits for CNG autos will not be

eligible for renewal beyond this date. Instead, all new or replacement permits will be issued exclusively for electric autorickshaws, effectively laying the groundwork for a full transition to e-autos in the coming years.

Officials said that the proposal is part of a broader plan to significantly increase the share of electric vehicles in Delhi's public and shared transport ecosystem. The capital city has already made notable progress in the adoption of EVs, especially in the two-wheeler and private vehicle segments, but now the government is turning its attention to public transportation, where emissions and fuel usage are high. Autorickshaws, a key mode of last-mile connectivity, are central to this transformation. The transition will not only reduce carbon emissions but also improve air quality, a long-standing issue in the capital.

Karnataka Minister Apologises Over Remarks

TPN Correspondent | Karnataka

Karnataka Home Minister G Parameshwara issued an apology following widespread outrage over his remarks on a recent sexual assault incident in Bengaluru. The controversy erupted after a CCTV video went viral, capturing a disturbing scene in the BTM Layout area where a man was seen groping a woman walking with a friend. The attacker fled the scene when the second woman attempted to intervene. The video sparked a public outcry and sharp criticism, particularly from the opposition BJP, after Mr. Parameshwara

commented that "such incidents happen in big cities." The statement was widely condemned as insensitive and dismissive of women's safety concerns, prompting calls for accountability and a more serious approach to addressing such crimes.

Responding to the backlash, Mr. Parameshwara clarified his position and expressed regret over the misunderstanding, stating that his words were taken out of context. "I want to clarify that the statement I made yesterday wasn't understood properly. I have always been deeply concerned about women's safety,



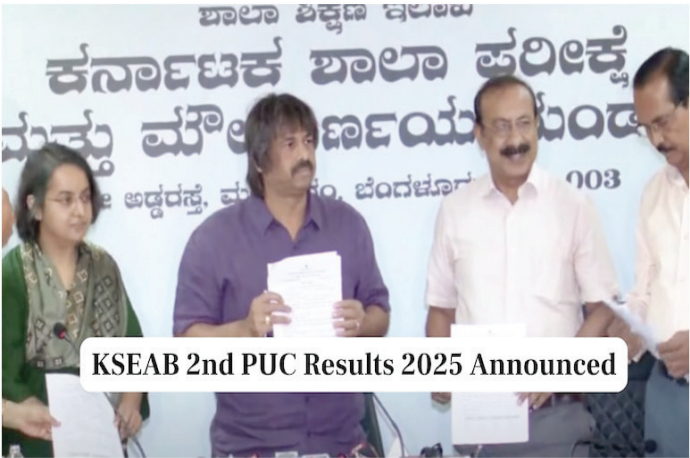
I've ensured that the Nirbhaya funds are properly used to enhance women's security measures. I don't want my statement to be twisted any further. If any woman has been hurt by my comment, I sincerely apologise and express my regret," he said in a public

statement.As the minister in charge of law and order in Karnataka, Parameshwara also noted that he has been urging the Bengaluru police to increase patrolling, especially in vulnerable areas, to prevent such crimes from occurring. His remarks,

however, were seen by many as an attempt to generalize and minimize the issue rather than address the core problems of urban safety and law enforcement lapses.

This incident has reignited public debate around women's safety in metropolitan cities and the responsibilities of political leaders in shaping discourse and taking proactive steps to ensure secure environments. The apology, while welcomed by some, has not completely pacified critics who demand more concrete action and accountability from the state government.

Karnataka 2nd PUC Results Declared



TPN Correspondent | Karnataka

The results of Karnataka's 2nd PUC Exam-1 for the academic year 2024-25 were officially announced on April 8, 2025, by the Minister for School Education and Literacy, Madhu Bangarappa, in Bengaluru. This year, the overall pass percentage has dropped to 69.16%, marking a significant decline of nearly 12% compared to last year's 81.15%. Of the 6,37,805 students who appeared for the exam, only 4,68,439 have successfully cleared it.

Officials attribute the decline in the pass percentage largely to the introduction of strict examination reforms aimed at curbing malpractices and ensuring transparency. Among the notable changes implemented this year were the installation of Artificial Intelligence (AI) enabled CCTV surveillance in all examination halls and continuous webcasting of the entire exam process.

These measures, education authorities say, have made it nearly impossible for students to resort to unfair means, thereby reflecting a more accurate assessment of academic performance.The AI surveillance system flagged suspicious movements and behaviors, while real-time webcasting allowed central monitoring teams to keep a close eye on proceedings across the state. Officials believe that these technological interventions have played a key role in upholding the integrity of the examination system but may have also contributed to the dip in the overall results by eliminating avenues for cheating that might have gone undetected in the past.

The 2nd PUC Exam-2 for those who did not clear Exam-1 is scheduled for later this year, offering students a second chance to improve their results under the same reformed system.

Supreme Court Sets Deadline for Governors

TPN Correspondent | Tamilnadu

In a landmark judgment on Tuesday, April 8, 2025, the Supreme Court of India laid down specific time limits for State Governors to act on Bills passed by State Legislatures, asserting that indefinite delays violate the constitutional scheme and disrupt the democratic process. The court's decision comes in response to a legal challenge against Tamil Nadu Governor R.N. Ravi, who had withheld action on 10 Bills for an extended period and later referred them to the President—an act

the court described as "erroneous in law."

Delivering the verdict, the Supreme Court invoked its constitutional powers to effectively approve the 10 Bills in question, thereby sending a strong message about the misuse of gubernatorial discretion. The court emphasized that while Governors do hold certain powers, they are bound to exercise them within reasonable timeframes and cannot act in a manner that stalls the legislative will of elected representatives.

Chief Justice of India,



D.Y. Chandrachud, noted that the Governor's role is not that of a political authority but a constitutional functionary, expected to uphold the federal structure and maintain the

sanctity of democratic processes. The judgment reaffirmed that once a Bill is duly passed by a State Assembly, it is the constitutional obligation of the Governor to act — either by

giving assent, withholding assent, or reserving it for the President — within a stipulated timeframe. The court stopped short of setting an exact number of days but stressed that any undue delay would be subject to judicial scrutiny going forward.

The verdict has wide-ranging implications for Centre-State relations and the functioning of constitutional offices, particularly in politically sensitive states where friction between the Raj Bhavan and the state government has become increasingly common.

Spike in Minor-Driven Accidents in Karnataka

TPN Correspondent | Karnataka

Karnataka has witnessed a disturbing rise in road accidents involving minors, with 751 cases reported between 2023 and 2024, making it the sixth-highest in the country, according to data from the Integrated Road Accident Database (IRAD) compiled by the Union Ministry of Road Transport and Highways.

This concerning trend persists despite clear legal prohibitions under the Motor Vehicles Act and the Juvenile Justice Act, which bar individuals below 18 years from operating any motor vehicle.

Tamil Nadu topped the list with 2,063 such



incidents, followed by Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra. These figures point to a growing issue of underage driving across the country, with experts raising alarms about lax enforcement and parental negligence contributing to

the problem.

In Bengaluru, authorities have already begun taking corrective action. The city's traffic police conducted a month-long special enforcement drive focused on wheeling and dangerous driving, run-

ning from March 1 to 31. During this period, 398 cases were booked for such offences, and shockingly, 82 of them involved minors.

In response, the police initiated action against 68 guardians for negligence,

holding them accountable for allowing minors to operate vehicles. Further, 32 cases were filed under the Juvenile Justice Act, 2015, indicating a more stringent approach toward addressing this serious violation.

As urban areas like Bengaluru continue to grapple with a surge in traffic violations and road safety challenges, the data underscores the urgent need for a collective societal response.

This includes stricter policing, robust legal follow-through, and a shift in public perception that views underage driving not as a harmless thrill but as a dangerous and unlawful act.

India-China Ties: Hope and Caution

Recent developments suggest a renewed enthusiasm in both New Delhi and Beijing to strengthen bilateral relations, with a notable uptick in diplomatic gestures, trade dialogue, and people-to-people engagement. This coincides with the 75th anniversary of diplomatic ties between the two nations, offering a symbolic opportunity for recalibration. Chinese Premier Li Qiang's government work report, presented at the annual meeting of the National People's Congress (NPC) in March, provides useful insight into China's global outlook and internal priorities. The report, a comprehensive policy document outlining budget allocations, economic targets, and external strategies, highlights how deeply interconnected China perceives itself with the rest of the world. It frames China as a dominant force in the global economy, boasting a continued contribution of roughly 30% to global growth and "record high" foreign trade figures, along with foreign exchange reserves surpassing \$3.2 trillion. Acknowledging that external engagement is key to addressing internal economic challenges, China is pushing for increased international cooperation, trade liberalisation, and improved global connectivity. This motivation is evident in President Xi Jinping's March 28 meeting with over 40 foreign business leaders, one of the largest such gatherings he has ever hosted. It is also reflected in Beijing's calls for restoring



direct flights and easing Indian restrictions on Chinese companies — restrictions put in place after the deadly Galwan clash in 2020. However, while China's overtures appear conciliatory, caution is warranted. Despite its rhetoric about openness, Beijing has often shielded its domestic markets through non-tariff barriers and selective access to foreign firms, ensuring that only those who contribute to its strategic goals — such as technology transfer and industrial growth — are allowed in. This protectionist stance has undermined previous trade agreements, including those with the United States, casting doubt on China's commitment to fair economic engagement.

India, too, has experienced this imbalance. The ballooning trade deficit with China is not only a result of India's competitiveness gap but also a reflection of systematic Chinese barriers that keep Indian products and services out of its markets. Therefore, even as talk of a "dragon-elephant tango" grows louder in Chinese diplomatic circles and media narratives, India must remain realistic. While mutual economic gains are possible, unresolved border issues, especially the ongoing tensions stemming from Chinese incursions in 2020, remain a core concern. The fact that China has not honoured previous commitments in international trade deals adds another

layer of scepticism. Improved relations are desirable, but not at the cost of strategic vulnerability. India should welcome dialogue and economic cooperation, but not at the expense of ignoring past betrayals or compromising on national security. The current optimism must be tempered with a hard-nosed assessment of China's track record. Engagement should be driven by principles of reciprocity, transparency, and strategic foresight. As the geopolitical landscape evolves and global uncertainties rise, India's policy must strike a careful balance between outreach and self-preservation — dancing with the dragon, perhaps, but always with eyes wide open.

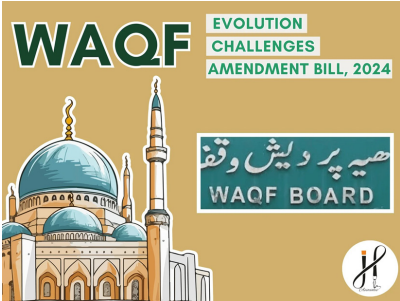


Modi's 'Act East' Strategic Leap

India's shift from the "Look East" to "Act East" policy represents a crucial evolution in its foreign policy approach, particularly under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership. First introduced in 1992, the Look East policy was born out of India's desire to integrate more deeply with Southeast Asia, a region experiencing rapid economic growth driven by the Asian Tigers and their successors. Initially focused on trade and cultural diplomacy, the policy led to early successes with countries like Singapore and Japan. However, progress remained cautious and somewhat limited in scope. That changed significantly in 2014 when PM Modi rebranded it as the "Act East" policy—signalling not just a change in name but a strategic recalibration with far-reaching implications. The Act East policy introduced urgency and ambition, pushing India to become an assertive player in the Indo-Pacific region, not just economically but also in matters of defence and regional security. It emphasized deeper engagement with ASEAN and reinforced India's commitment to the principle of ASEAN centrality. India started championing a free, open, and inclusive Indo-Pacific—a stance that resonated strongly with regional and global partners amid growing concerns over Chinese assertiveness. Over the past decade, India has steadily expanded its naval and military cooperation with ASEAN nations, participated more actively in regional forums like the East Asia Summit and the ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting-Plus (ADMM-Plus), and strengthened bilateral ties with key players such as Vietnam, Indonesia, and the Philippines. It also pursued strategic infrastructure initiatives, maritime domain awareness partnerships, and cross-border connectivity projects to improve people-to-people linkages and economic corridors. Modi's Act East strategy has thus transformed India from a passive participant to a proactive regional power. This transformation is particularly significant in the current geopolitical climate, where the Indo-Pacific is increasingly seen as the new global centre of gravity. India's alignment with like-minded partners in the region—such as Japan, Australia, and the United States—has positioned it as a vital counterbalance to China's growing influence. By evolving its eastern outlook into assertive action, India has not only broadened its strategic footprint but also reinforced its role as a responsible regional stakeholder in the Indo-Pacific.

Waqf Amendments: Reform or Repression

The recent amendments to the Waqf Act, 2025, are not, as claimed, about ushering in transparency or reform—they are about power, control, and marginalisation. Far from being a neutral legal upgrade, these changes represent a calculated move to weaken and subsume centuries-old Islamic charitable and spiritual institutions under state control. Framed as a step toward better governance, the amendments allow the government sweeping powers over Waqf land, bypassing Waqf Boards, and transforming places of worship, community service, and cultural legacy into administrative assets. This is not about curbing corruption—it's about consolidating authority. It is telling that similar scrutiny has not been extended to Hindu religious trusts, Sikh Gurdwara Boards, or Christian institutions. If the goal were true reform, accountability would be applied equally. Instead, the selective targeting reveals a dangerous pattern—using legal instruments to further majoritarian narratives. The Waqf institutions, which have historically played a vital role in community welfare, including funding schools, hospitals, and religious sites, are now being reduced to state-administered entities with no cultural or religious autonomy. This echoes earlier precedents—particularly in Jammu & Kashmir—where institutions like Auqaf-e-Islamia, once self-governed and socially impactful, were absorbed into the bureaucratic machinery, stripping them of independence and purpose. The present move appears to be a national expansion of that same approach. It is not reform; it is quiet erasure, and now it is being done loudly, on a national stage. What is more alarming is that this is being normalized as policy, masked in the language of modernization. But to those who have experienced communal erasure firsthand—like the author, a Hindu Kashmiri Pandit—it is clear that such measures do not promote justice. Rather, they perpetuate the same cycles of exclusion and domination. The amendments to the Waqf Act are not about improving governance; they are about re-engineering power structures. They signal a shift from a pluralistic democratic ethos to a homogenised, state-monitored vision of religion and public life.



A New Frontier for Indians

Germany's bold new transformation plan, backed by a record €500 billion stimulus, is creating an unexpected yet exciting opportunity for young Indians. In a historic post-war shift, the German parliament recently approved massive investments aimed at modernising the country's military, upgrading its ageing infrastructure, and accelerating climate protection measures. This sweeping vision, however, cannot succeed on money alone—it requires speed, innovation, and above all, people. Specifically, skilled professionals who can fuel the execution of these grand plans. With Germany facing a significant talent shortage, especially in sectors like engineering, IT, healthcare, and green energy, India's

vast and youthful talent pool is emerging as a natural fit. For Indian students, professionals, and entrepreneurs looking beyond traditional destinations like the US, UK, or Canada, Germany is now a serious contender. Its well-regarded universities, expanding job market, relatively affordable education, and evolving immigration policies make it increasingly accessible and attractive. Beyond career prospects, there's a bigger story here. This isn't just about migrating for a better paycheck—it's about being part of a defining moment in the transformation of Europe's largest economy. For young Indians, it offers the chance to contribute to, and benefit from, a national project that blends technology, sustainabili-

ty, and innovation. It's a rare window to grow personally and professionally while being at the heart of shaping something big. Of course, to make the most of this, a shift in mindset is essential—seeing Germany not just as a place to work or study, but as a land of long-term opportunity, innovation, and collaboration. Learning the language, adapting to the cultural nuances, and exploring pathways to integration will be key. As the world grapples with economic uncertainty and geopolitical tensions, Germany's clear vision, deep pockets, and need for talent present a quiet but powerful opening. For India's ambitious youth, Germany may well be the next big thing—waiting not just to be explored, but to be built together.



SC Warns Governors Against Delays

In a landmark verdict on April 8, 2025, the Supreme Court of India strongly criticized Tamil Nadu Governor R.N. Ravi for his prolonged inaction on key legislative matters, labeling his conduct as arbitrary and unconstitutional. The ruling sends a clear signal to all Governors across the country that they cannot act as political agents or stall democratic processes by indefinitely delaying assent to bills passed by elected state legislatures. The apex court, through a Bench comprising Justices J.B. Pardiwala and R. Mahadevan, noted that Governor Ravi had withheld action on as many as 10 crucial bills for years. These bills, initially passed by the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly, were left in limbo without any communication or decision. However, once the Assembly re-passed the bills and the matter reached the Supreme Court, the Governor swiftly referred them to the President—an action the court viewed as a deliberate attempt to evade scrutiny. The judges emphasized that a Governor's role under Article 200 of the Constitution is not that of a political gatekeeper but a constitutional authority bound to act within a reasonable timeframe. The court asserted that the Governor must act “as a constitutional authority, not as a political functionary,” and that the delays demonstrated a clear failure in upholding constitutional responsibilities. The judgment underscored that the post of a Governor is meant to be non-partisan and independent, serving as a constitutional bridge between the Centre and the states—not as a hurdle to the will of democratically elected governments. The court criticized Governor Ravi for not acting like a “friend, guide, or philosopher” to the state, but rather as a “roadblock” that hindered governance and undermined federal principles.



Bihar Hikes Pay for State Ministers

In a key decision taken during a state cabinet meeting chaired by Chief Minister Nitish Kumar on Tuesday, the Bihar government approved a 30% hike in the salary and allowances for individuals holding positions equivalent to Ministers of State and Deputy Ministers. According to Additional Chief Secretary (Cabinet Secretariat) S. Siddharth, the revision will benefit several categories of public office holders, including whips of political parties in both the Legislative Assembly and the Legislative Council, as well as chairpersons and members of various state boards and commissions. These officials are granted perks and privileges equal to those of a Minister of State under the state's protocol. The new decision raises the monthly salary for Ministers of State and Deputy Ministers from ₹50,000 to ₹65,000 — a ₹15,000 increase. In addition to the salary bump, local allowances have gone up from ₹55,000 to ₹70,000, reflecting the government's intent to offset rising living and administrative costs. Daily allowances for these officials have also seen a modest hike — up from ₹3,000 to ₹3,500 per day. The hospitality allowance has been increased from ₹24,000 to ₹29,500, further enhancing the support provided to state functionaries to fulfill their official duties. Notably, the decision also extends to Deputy Chairpersons and Deputy Chief Whips, whose posts are considered on par with Deputy Ministers.

Dubai Crown Prince Boosts India Ties

Dubai Crown Prince Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum's visit to India marked a significant step toward strengthening bilateral ties between the two nations, according to Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The Crown Prince, who arrived in New Delhi on a two-day visit, held high-level meetings with key Indian leaders, including PM Modi and Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, underscoring the deepening strategic, economic, and cultural relations between India and the United Arab Emirates. In a statement following his meeting with the Crown Prince, Prime Minister Modi described the visit as “special” and instrumental in paving the way for broader collaboration across various sectors. “India and the UAE share a deep bond of friendship and mutual respect. This visit by Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed reinforces the strength of our relationship and opens up new avenues for cooperation,” the Prime Minister said. The two leaders are believed to have discussed enhancing trade, investment, technology, and people-to-people exchanges. India and the UAE already enjoy strong economic relations, with the UAE being one of India's top trading partners and home to millions



of Indian expatriates. The Crown Prince's visit is expected to further accelerate partnerships under the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA), which came into force in 2022. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh also met with the visiting dignitary separately and highlighted India's keen interest in expanding defence ties with the Gulf nation. “We had a meaningful discussion on defence collaboration, including co-production and

co-development. India is looking forward to working closely with the UAE in these domains,” Singh said in a social media post after the meeting. Sheikh Hamdan's itinerary includes a visit to Mumbai, where he is scheduled to engage with top business leaders and explore investment opportunities in sectors such as infrastructure, fintech, energy, and tourism. His visit reflects the increasing high-level engagement between India and

the UAE, particularly in the backdrop of a rapidly evolving global economic order and the shared interest in ensuring regional stability and prosperity. The visit is being viewed as part of a broader strategy by both nations to diversify their partnerships beyond traditional energy and trade ties and move toward a more robust, multifaceted relationship. The symbolism and substance of this trip signal a promising new chapter in India-UAE relations.



Priyanka Skips Key AICC Meet

The Indian National Congress kicked off its highly anticipated two-day All India Congress Committee (AICC) conference in Ahmedabad on Tuesday, with discussions focused on structural reforms and strategies to revamp its grassroots machinery. The event, however, began without the presence of senior leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, who is currently abroad and will not be attending the sessions. The conference is being held at a specially erected venue within the Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel National Museum. This extended working committee meeting is considered crucial as the Congress aims to reinvent itself amid changing political landscapes and the run-up to key state and national elections. Over 1,700 party delegates from across India are expected to participate in the event, which brings together AICC members, state unit leaders, and senior office bearers. With Priyanka Gandhi absent, attention is expected to shift toward the roles played by Congress Pres-

ident Mallikarjun Kharge, Sonia Gandhi, and Rahul Gandhi, who are scheduled to address delegates on the second day. At the core of the conference are two key resolutions that will be tabled for discussion and approval: Organizational Restructuring – This resolution focuses on redefining the internal functioning of the Congress party, aiming for a more streamlined leadership structure, improved accountability, and increased transparency at all levels. Empowerment of District Congress Committees (DCCs) – The second resolution underscores the need to strengthen the DCCs, which are seen as the party's local pillars. Proposed reforms include giving them more autonomy, performance-based evaluations, and integrating technology to better address local issues. Though Priyanka Gandhi's absence was noted, party leaders maintained that her work in Wayanad and broader national engagements continue to be vital to the Congress's vision moving forward.

Drunk Congress Leader Kills 3 in Jaipur



A tragic road accident in Jaipur on Monday night turned politically explosive after an allegedly drunk Congress leader, Usman Khan, ran over multiple pedestrians in his SUV, leaving three dead and six others critically injured. The incident occurred along the MI Road-Nahargarh stretch, a densely populated area with narrow lanes. The driver, Usman Khan, aged 62, is a factory owner and served as the Congress' Jaipur district vice president. According to police, Khan was heavily intoxicated when he lost control of his vehicle, first hitting a scooter near the Santosh Mata Temple before plowing through people and vehicles over a 500-metre stretch. His SUV eventually collided with parked vehicles outside the Nahargarh Police Station, where locals and police were able to detain him after the vehicle got stuck in a narrow lane. The deceased were identified as Mamta Kanwar (50), Awadhesh Pareek (37), and Virendra

Singh (48), who succumbed to his injuries the following morning. The injured victims include a minor girl and several middle-aged individuals, all of whom were rushed to Sawai Man Singh (SMS) Hospital, where they remain in critical condition under trauma care. The horrifying accident sparked massive public outrage, with locals staging a protest outside the Nahargarh Police Station. Demands included financial compensation, government jobs for the victims' families, and strict legal action against Khan. Police from four different stations were deployed to maintain law and order in the tense locality. Meanwhile, the BJP seized the opportunity to attack the Congress, alleging that the party harbors individuals with criminal tendencies. BJP IT cell head Amit Malviya highlighted Khan's position within the Congress and accused the party of sheltering criminals while invoking “secularism” as a defense when such incidents occur.

Punjab Blast Accused Arrested; Link to Lawrence Bishnoi Gang and ISI Revealed

Zeeshan Akhtar, a close associate of gangster Lawrence Bishnoi, has been arrested in connection with the grenade attack on BJP leader Manoranjan Kalia's home in Jalandhar, Punjab. Police sources revealed that Akhtar masterminded the attack and is also a key suspect in the murder of NCP leader Baba Siddiqui. Investigations suggest that Pakistan's ISI played a role in orchestrating the attack as part of a larger conspiracy aimed at disrupting religious harmony in Punjab. The blast, which occurred early on Tuesday, caused significant damage to Kalia's residence, including shattered glass windows and a damaged aluminum partition. However, there were no casualties, as Kalia was at home at the time. The explosion also affected several vehicles parked outside his house. Following the attack, the main suspect who



threw the grenade was apprehended, and an e-rickshaw used in the operation was seized by the police. Interestingly, Babbar Khalsa International (BKI) terrorist Happy Passia claimed responsibility for the attack, hinting at a possible collaboration between the Lawrence Bishnoi gang and Khalistan terrorist outfits, including BKI, with support from the ISI. Security agen-

cies have long suspected such connections, and this claim further strengthens the link between these groups. This explosion marks the latest in a series of bombings in Punjab, with 12 blasts occurring within the past year. Happy Passia's name has surfaced in multiple investigations related to these attacks, with gangster Jeevan Fauji also suspected to be involved, particularly in the attacks targeting police establishments in Amritsar. The rising number of attacks has raised concerns, with opposition parties in Punjab pointing fingers at the Bhagwant Singh Mann government, accusing it of failing to curb the growing security threats. Punjab minister Mohinder Bhagat responded, stating that the attackers are those unable to tolerate the state's progress and development.

"Non-Aligned Nations Like India...": JPMorgan CEO's Advice To Donald Trump

- Urges stronger US trade ties with India, Brazil.
- Criticizes Trump’s protectionist policies and global impact.
- Market volatility, high deficits add to economic risks.

TPN Correspondent | US

JPMorgan Chase & Co. CEO Jamie Dimon has expressed concerns that the recent tariff measures imposed by US President Donald Trump could lead to inflation and potentially push the world’s largest economy into a recession. In his annual letter to shareholders, Dimon cautioned that the tariffs could result in a slowdown of economic growth, even if they do not directly trigger a recession.

Dimon warned that the tariffs are likely to cause inflation, not just on imported goods, but also on domestic products, as rising input costs and increased demand for local goods push prices up. He highlighted that market valuations are still relatively high,

adding to concerns of economic turbulence. “The economy is facing considerable turbulence, including geopolitics, ongoing sticky inflation, high fiscal deficits, and high asset prices and volatility,” Dimon noted.

In his letter, Dimon emphasized that the US should focus on strengthening trade relationships with non-aligned nations like India and Brazil, rather than pressuring them to align with the US. He suggested that deepening trade ties with key partners is beneficial both economically and geopolitically. “We don’t need to ask many nonaligned nations to align with us, but we can bring them closer by simply extending a friendly hand with trade and investment,” he said.



Dimon’s remarks come amid growing criticism of Trump’s protectionist policies, which have exacerbated market volatility worldwide. The tariffs, which include a 26% duty on Indian imports and 10% tariffs on Brazilian products, have sparked concerns about long-term economic repercussions. Billionaire investor Bill Ackman also warned that the US risks undermining its reputation as a reliable trading partner and

investment destination.

Additionally, Senator Ted Cruz voiced concerns that a severe recession could result in political fallout for the Republican Party in the upcoming elections. Meanwhile, President Trump remained defiant, defending the tariffs as necessary “medicine” to fix the economy, despite the escalating trade war, particularly with China.



Sheikh Hasina Vows to Return to Bangladesh, Seeks Justice for Her Party Members

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

Sheikh Hasina, the ousted Prime Minister of Bangladesh, has vowed to return to her home country and seek justice for her party, the Awami League, in a social media interaction with her supporters. Hasina, who is currently in India after her government fell due to widespread student protests last year, assured her followers that those responsible for targeting Awami League members will be held accountable.

In her message, the Awami League president expressed gratitude for her survival, saying, “Allah kept me alive for a reason, and the day will come when justice will be brought.” She recalled the profound loss of her family members, including her father, mother, and brother, and described the painful experience of being denied return to her homeland. Despite these hardships, Hasina remains determined, vowing that those who have committed crimes will face punishment. “This is my pledge,” she declared.

Hasina also took aim at Bangladesh’s interim head, Muhammad Yunus, criticizing his actions as detrimental to the people. “He loaned out small amounts at high interest rates and used the money to live lavishly abroad,” Hasina said, accusing Yunus of exploiting the situation for personal gain. She further claimed that Yunus, driven by a thirst for power, has played a key role in stoking unrest in Bangladesh.

In her remarks, Hasina painted a bleak picture of the current state of the country, calling it a “terrorist country” where violence against Awami League members is rampant. She alleged that members of her party, as well as police officers, journalists, lawyers, and artists, have been targeted. The former prime minister also criticized the government for clamping down on the media, claiming that crimes such as rapes, murders, and robberies are being suppressed, and media outlets reporting such incidents face severe retaliation.

Hasina’s comments highlight the ongoing political and social turmoil in Bangladesh and her unwavering commitment to securing justice for those affected.

Amid Trump Tariffs, S Jaishankar, US Counterpart Push For "Early Trade Deal"

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

In response to US President Donald Trump’s reciprocal tariffs, which sent shockwaves through global trade, India has chosen a unique path. While other nations, such as China and Canada, retaliated swiftly with their own tariffs, India decided not to mirror the US’ 26% tariff announcement. Instead, New Delhi opted to absorb the impact and recalibrate its trading dynamics, minimizing the effect on Indian exporters.

India’s strategy involves continuing its negotiations with the US for a mutually beneficial trade agreement, hoping to secure a “win-win” deal. Prior to the tariff imposition, India had already positioned itself strategically by being one of the first countries to initiate a significant trade pact with the US.

In recent talks, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar and US Secretary of State Marco Rubio discussed the importance of an expedited conclusion to the bi-



lateral trade deal. Both leaders agreed that finalizing the agreement quickly would be beneficial for both nations. Jaishankar also highlighted the ongoing discussions about regional security issues, such as the Indo-Pacific and

the Indian subcontinent.

India’s government has looked into a specific clause in Trump’s tariff order, which offers potential relief to countries making significant efforts to address

non-reciprocal trade issues. While countries like China and Vietnam face higher tariffs, India is in a more advantageous position and plans to finalize a trade deal by autumn 2025.

India has also taken several steps to ease tensions, such as reducing tariffs on high-end motorcycles and bourbon whiskey, as well as removing a digital services tax that impacted major US tech firms like Google and Amazon.

The Indian Commerce Ministry is closely monitoring the impact of US tariffs, particularly on sectors vulnerable to these changes, such as diamond merchants. At the same time, the ministry is evaluating new opportunities that may arise from this trade shift.

The India-US relationship remains strong, with both countries working towards doubling bilateral trade to \$500 billion by 2030, reflecting their growing economic and strategic partnership.

Shruti Chaturvedi, Indian Entrepreneur, Faces Detention Ordeal at US Airport

TPN Correspondent | US

Entrepreneur Shruti Chaturvedi has shared a disturbing experience at a US airport, claiming she was detained for eight hours by police and the FBI, which caused her to miss her flight. In a post on social media platform X, Chaturvedi, who runs the Chaipani public relations firm, recounted her ordeal, including allegations of inappropriate physical checks by a male officer under camera surveillance.

The cause of the detention, according to Chaturvedi, was a power bank in her handbag that airport security at Anchorage airport in Alaska deemed “suspicious.” She further described being stripped of her warm clothing and held in a chilled room without being allowed to use the restroom, make phone calls, or contact anyone during the long hours of questioning.

In her post, Chaturvedi described the experience: “Imagine being detained by Police and FBI for 8 hours, being questioned the most ridiculous things, physically checked by a male officer on camera, stripped off warm wear, mobile phone, wallet, kept in a chilled room, not allowed to use a restroom, or make a single phone call, made to miss your flight – all because the airport security found your powerbank in handbag ‘suspicious.’” She tagged India’s Foreign Minister S. Jaishankar and the Ministry of External Affairs in her post.



Chaturvedi, who had been sharing pictures from her Alaska trip on social media, had earlier posted about the stunning northern lights she witnessed during her journey. She expressed frustration over the treatment she received, highlighting the lack of due process in her detention.

Trump rejects offers to tear down tariffs, threatens more on China

The Trump administration’s approach to tariffs and “reciprocity” continues to spark controversy and confusion. White House trade advisor Peter Navarro recently highlighted Vietnam’s “nontariff cheating,” such as Chinese goods being rerouted through Vietnam, to justify tariffs on the country. However, the administration’s stance on tariffs goes beyond trade imbalances, aiming to reshape global trade practices entirely.

Despite offers from Vietnam and the European Union to remove tariffs on U.S. imports in exchange for reciprocal action, the Trump administration rejected these proposals. Navarro dismissed Vietnam’s tariff offer, asserting that their “nontariff cheating” mattered more. The U.S. government’s refusal to engage in reciprocal trade agreements has led to growing discontent among business leaders, some of whom are major Republican donors. Their concerns reflect the potential long-term economic harm caused by Trump’s unpredictable tariff policies.

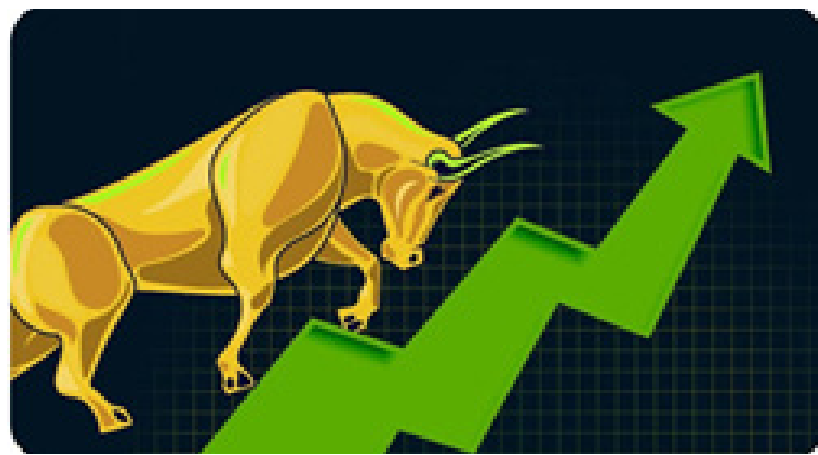
Meanwhile, the U.S. stock market continues to struggle, with the S&P 500 briefly entering bear market territory and the Dow Jones Industrial Average experiencing its largest intraday point swing in history. Although some tech stocks showed slight gains, including Nvidia and Amazon, the broader market re-



mains in turmoil. European markets have also taken a hit, with the pan-European Stoxx 600 index slumping by 4.5%, marking its worst week in five years.

The situation escalated as trade tensions with China deepened. In retaliation to U.S. tariffs, China imposed a 34% tariff on all U.S. goods, and Trump threatened an additional 50% tariff on Chinese imports. The White House’s rejection of offers from both Vietnam and the EU to reduce tariffs only adds to fears of a prolonged trade war. Business leaders are becoming increasingly vocal about the economic repercussions of Trump’s tariff policies. BlackRock CEO Larry Fink stated that many CEOs are already feeling the effects, with some suggesting the U.S. may already be in a recession. JPMorgan CEO Jamie Dimon also warned that tariffs could lead to inflation and slow economic growth, further fueling concerns of an economic downturn.

Markets Rebound Sharply as Tariff Fears Ease; Sensex Soars 1089 Points, Nifty Reclaims 22,500



Domestic stock markets gained heavily on Tuesday. They covered half of Monday's losses. The fear of Trump's tariffs has reduced, the world is exploring alternative ways, positive signals from global markets, and India is naturally a consumption-oriented country, which has instilled confidence in investors. Buying has been done as oversold conditions have already been reached and valuable shares are available at attractive prices. All indices including media, PSU bank, consumption, and realty have gained. Mid and small cap indices have also increased. Overall, Nifty has increased by 374 points and Sensex by 1089 points. It is better to be alert for now.

The BSE Sensex, which closed at 73,137 in the previous session, opened at 74,013 on Tuesday. It touched an intraday low of 73,424. It reached an intraday high of 74,859. It finally closed at 74,227 with a gain of 1089 points. The NSE Nifty, which opened at 22,446, touched a low of 22,270 and a high of 22,697. It rose by 374 points in total and closed at 22,535. The Nifty Bank rose by 650 points and settled at 50,511.

In the Nifty50, 49 companies gained and 1 lost. Jio Finance, Shriram Finance, BAEL, Adani Enterprises, Cipla were the top gainers. Only Power Grid lost slightly. India Vicks fell 10.31% today to 20.44. Media, PSU Bank, Consumption, Realty, Oil, FMCG, Pharma, Infra, PSE,

IT, CPSE, Commodities, Healthcare, Financial indices rose.

Market breadth turned in favor of buyers on NSE today. Out of a total of 2957 shares traded, 2391 gained and 499 lost. 17 shares touched 52-week highs and 22 shares touched 52-week lows. 124 stocks reached the upper circuit and 45 stocks reached the lower circuit.



Rupee weakened by 40 paise to settle at 86.24 against the dollar. Texmaco Rail signs binding term sheet with Juwari Industries. Goldman Sachs has given a buy rating to Axis Bank with a target price of Rs 1228 and SBI with a target price of Rs 823.

NBCC Company has received an order worth Rs 120 crore. Goldman Sachs has upgraded the buy rating to PNB Housing with a target price of Rs 1182. Transformer and Rectifiers Q4 profit increased from Rs 40 crore to Rs 94.2 crore. HSBC has maintained a buy rating on BPCL, HPCL, IOCL. 10 lakh shares changed hands in Sonata Software. Mazagaon Dock turnover increased by 14% in FY25. This has led to the declaration of an interim dividend of Rs 3 per share for the second time. Sebi has given a green signal to Anthem Biosciences and AYE Finance IPO. Jio Finance enters digital loans against securities. Bharat Electronics signs Rs 2210 crore deal with Defence Ministry. Citi says government hopes to cushion oil marketing companies' losses from falling oil prices.



Pidilite Industries Ltd.

Pidilite, a market leader in adhesives and sealants, continues to show steady performance despite market volatility. With strong consumer demand in the retail segment, products like Fevicol, M-Seal, and Dr. Fixit are witnessing consistent volume growth. The company's rural expansion strategy and focus on innovative construction chemicals are contributing to margin resilience. However, raw material cost fluctuations remain a watch point. Analysts maintain a positive outlook due to strong brand equity and distribution strength.

Tata Consumer Products Ltd.
Tata Consumer shares have



been active following recent upgrades by global brokerage firms. The company has shown robust growth in both the food and beverages segment. Its focus on premiumisation, increased distribution reach, and expansion into health-focused products is paying off. Integration with Tata Salt, Tetley, and Tata Sampann brands is streamlining operations. The recent stock rally was supported by strong Q4 performance and institutional buying. Analysts have upgraded the stock to 'Buy' with long-term potential.

Berger Paints India Ltd.



Berger Paints continues to remain under watch as the paint industry faces margin pressure due to rising input costs, espe-

cially crude derivatives. However, Berger's consistent focus on premium segments, growth in the decorative paint market, and strong rural penetration help offset inflation challenges. The company's new product launches and automation in manufacturing give it an operational edge. Analysts are cautiously optimistic, awaiting better cost-efficiency improvements.

PNB Housing Finance Ltd.



PNB Housing has been in the spotlight due to a sharp rally backed by strong institutional interest. Its affordable housing loan portfolio has now crossed ₹5,000 crore, marking a significant milestone. With improved asset quality, stable NIMs, and renewed focus on retail disbursements, the company is regaining investor confidence. A recent target upgrade by Goldman Sachs (₹1182) adds bullish sentiment. However, tight competition in the housing finance space remains a challenge.

Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd. (HPCL)



HPCL shares have seen sharp intraday movement, gaining up to 6% from daily lows recently. This is due to the sharp fall in Brent crude oil prices, which benefits downstream oil companies. Additionally, government measures to offset under-recoveries have also aided sentiment. HPCL is working towards improving refining capacity and expanding retail fuel outlets. Analysts at HSBC maintain a 'Buy' rating, citing near-term margin tailwinds and long-term capex-driven growth.



Tata Motors Reports 3% YoY Decline in Global Wholesales for Q4 FY25

Tata Motors Group reported a 3% year-on-year (YoY) decline in its global wholesales for the fourth quarter (Q4) of fiscal year 2025 (FY25), with total wholesales reaching 3,66,177 units. The company's Q4 performance, which includes figures from its luxury vehicle arm Jaguar Land Rover, was slightly lower compared to the same period in FY24.

The global wholesales of Tata Motors' commercial vehicles, including the Tata Daewoo range, stood at 1,07,765 units in Q4 FY25. This represented a 3% decline over the same quarter in the previous year, reflecting the ongoing challenges in the commercial vehicle segment.

On the passenger vehicle front, including electric vehicles, Tata Motors registered global wholesales of 1,46,999 units in Q4 FY25. This marked a 6% decrease compared to Q4 FY24, primarily impacted by subdued demand and market conditions.

In contrast, the luxury vehicle segment, represented by Jaguar Land Rover, saw a positive performance. The global wholesales of Jaguar Land Rover in Q4 FY25 stood at 1,11,413 vehicles, reflecting a 1% increase compared to Q4 FY24. Within this, Jaguar wholesales for the quarter totaled 7,070 vehicles, while Land Rover contributed 1,04,343 vehicles to the overall total.

Despite the overall decline in Tata Motors' global wholesales, the increase in Jaguar Land Rover's performance offers a bright spot for the group, especially in the luxury segment. The company continues to focus on improving its product portfolio, especially in the electric vehicle (EV) space, to cater to changing consumer preferences.

Tata Motors' leadership in the EV segment and its efforts in expanding its global presence remain central to its strategy, even as it navigates challenges in the commercial vehicle and traditional passenger vehicle sectors.

Coal production in India crosses 1 billion tonne milestone in FY25



India has marked a historic achievement by surpassing one billion tonnes of coal production in the 2024-25 fiscal year, reaching a provisional total of 1.04 billion tonnes (BT). This represents a 4.99% growth compared to the previous year's production of 997.83 million tonnes (MT). The milestone underscores India's critical role in the global coal sector, as it remains the second-largest consumer of coal worldwide, with the fifth-largest coal reserves.

The coal sector continues to play a pivotal role in India's energy land-

scape, accounting for 55% of the national energy mix and fueling over 74% of total power generation. This accomplishment has been achieved thanks to the collaborative efforts of Coal Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs), private sector players, and the hard work of over 500,000 mine workers spread across more than 350 coal mines. The Ministry of Coal highlighted the dedication and resilience of these miners, who have faced numerous challenges in order to meet the nation's growing demand for energy.

In addition to the significant rise in production, India has also experienced a remarkable increase in coal dispatch. Coal dispatch in 2024-25 reached 1.02 billion tonnes (provisional), a 5.34% rise from 973.01 MT in the previous year. Dispatch from commercial, captive, and other entities surged by 31.39%, reaching 196.83 MT, compared to 149.81 MT in 2023-24. Coal dispatch refers to the process of transporting and distributing coal to consumers, particularly power plants and industries across the country.

The Indian coal sector also achieved a notable reduction in coal imports. Coal imports declined by 8.4% to 183.42 MT between April and December 2024, compared to 200.19 MT during the same period in 2023-24. This reduction resulted in a savings of approximately USD 5.43 billion (Rs 42,315.7 crore) in foreign exchange.

While renewable energy continues to grow, coal remains indispensable to India's energy requirements. Despite future shifts towards greener alternatives, coal-based thermal power is expected to contribute 55% of India's energy mix by 2030 and 27% by 2047.

India net importer of finished steel in 2024/25, data shows



India, the world's second-largest crude steel producer, became a net importer of finished steel for the second consecutive year during the financial year that ended in March 2025, according to provisional government data reviewed by Reuters on Tuesday. The country imported 9.5 million metric tons of finished steel during the April-March period, reflecting a 14.6% increase compared to the previous year.

In contrast, India's finished steel exports fell significantly, standing at 4.9 million metric tons, a decline of 35.1% year-on-year. This sharp drop in exports contributed to India's status as a net importer of finished steel for the second year in a row.

India's growing reliance on steel imports comes despite its strong position as the second-largest producer of crude steel globally. The rise in finished steel imports highlights the challenges faced by the do-

mestic steel industry, including competition from cheaper foreign steel products and shifting market dynamics.

To address the growing import issue, the Indian government has recommended a temporary safeguard duty of 12% on certain steel products for a period of 200 days. This move aims to protect the domestic industry from an influx of cheap steel imports, particularly from countries where production costs are lower.

The safeguard duty is part of a broader strategy to curb steel imports and ensure the growth of the domestic steel manufacturing sector.

India's Ministry of Steel is expected to release detailed country-wise trade numbers later this month, providing further insights into the specific origins of the imports and the impact on the domestic steel market. Despite the challenges posed by increased imports, India remains one of the largest consumers of steel, with the material playing a crucial role in infrastructure development and various industries across the country. As the global steel market remains volatile, India's steel sector is expected to continue navigating these challenges with a focus on strengthening its domestic production capacity and reducing dependency on imports.

Wedding Menu with Calorie Counts Goes Viral

In a refreshing twist to traditional wedding celebrations, a wedding in West Bengal has captured the attention of internet users for its innovative approach—listing the calorie count of each dish on the menu. This thoughtful move was discovered by a Reddit user who attended the event, sparking widespread admiration online. In today's health-conscious era, people are increasingly meticulous about their diet, tracking every calorie and scrutinizing nutrition labels. However, at weddings, where indulgence often takes precedence, this mindful practice is rarely observed. Recognizing this gap, the hosts of this wedding decided to combine the joy of celebration with health consciousness. The menu featured a variety of dishes, clearly marked as vegetarian or non-vegetarian, alongside their corresponding calorie counts, allowing guests to make informed dietary choices without missing out on the festive feast. Adding a quirky charm, the menu welcomed guests with a light-hearted message: “Welcome to

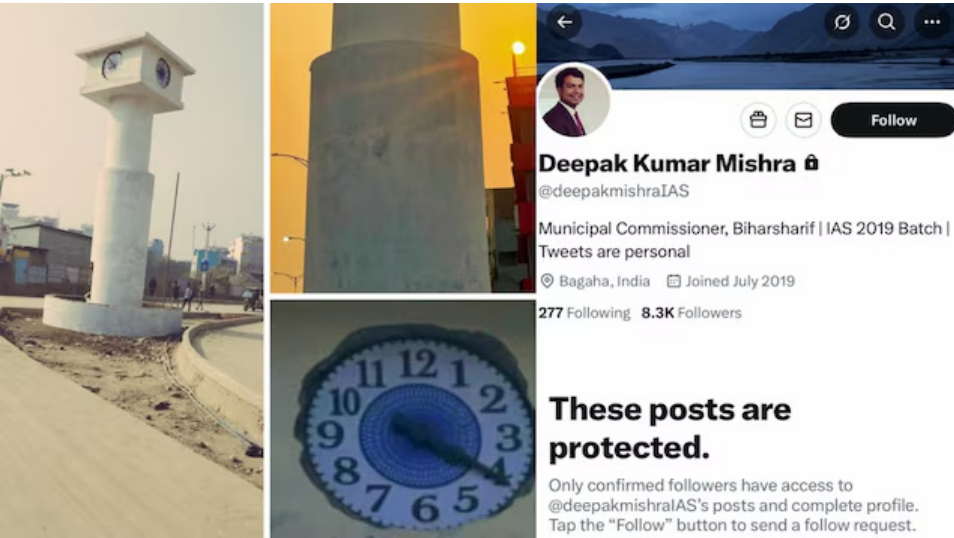


Charity Hall for this celebration evening. Though we are here to celebrate L&T (Love and Togetherness), we are not on any 90-hour work agenda. So please make yourselves comfortable and enjoy the dinner without wasting food, which is soon to be served on behalf of us.” This creative gesture not only showcased the hosts' consideration for their guests' health but also highlighted an emerging trend where even the most lavish events are embracing wellness. The idea resonated with many, as it balanced traditional wedding hospitality with modern health awareness, earning praise from netizens for its originality and thoughtful execution.

Bihar Clock Tower Sparks Outrage

A seemingly innocuous clock tower built in Bihar Sharif has sparked widespread outrage, turning into a hotbed of controversy on social media. Constructed under the supervision of Municipal Commissioner Deepak Kumar Mishra, the clock tower quickly came under public scrutiny after images of the structure began circulating on 'X' (formerly Twitter). What caught people's attention wasn't just its lackluster design but the reported cost — a staggering ₹40 lakh. Many questioned the rationale behind such a steep expenditure for what they perceived as an uninspired and unremarkable public structure. To add fuel to the fire, the clock stopped working just a day after its inauguration, triggering a flood of criticism and memes. The tower, which was hurriedly made operational ahead of Chief Minister Nitish Kumar's Pragati Yatra, soon became a symbol of poor planning and mismanagement. According to a report in Dainik Bhaskar, the clock's

malfunction was allegedly due to theft — miscreants reportedly broke in and stole copper wires, leaving the mechanism defunct. Ironically, the broken clock ended up displaying the same time — 4:20 — twice a day, a detail that was gleefully picked up by netizens for mockery. As public anger grew, Commissioner Deepak Kumar Mishra faced a barrage of questions and ridicule online. The backlash was so intense that Mishra ended up deleting his account on 'X', signaling a digital retreat amid mounting pressure. What was meant to be a landmark symbol of development during the CM's tour quickly devolved into a public relations disaster. The episode has raised serious concerns over public spending, project quality, and accountability among local officials. It has also reignited debate over how hasty execution of civic projects, often for political optics, can backfire spectacularly in the age of social media, where public opinion can turn viral in a matter of hours.



Rs. 9 Saree Frenzy in Vikarabad

Sarees hold a special place in the hearts of Indian women, and their enthusiasm for a good saree deal knows no bounds. This was clearly evident in Vikarabad, Telangana, where chaos unfolded during the grand opening of the JLM Saree Showroom at Ramayyaguda Road. The store, which was inaugurated in a grand manner by actress Anasuya and Telangana Assembly Speaker Gaddam Prasad Kumar, had been promoting a mega offer—sarees for just ₹9. This offer created a massive buzz for days leading up to the launch. On the day of the opening, thousands of women thronged the location, eager to grab the once-in-a-lifetime deal. The crowd grew so large and uncontrollable that even the police and store management



failed to handle the situation. The main Ramayyaguda-Vikarabad road was clogged with the sheer number of women pouring in from surrounding areas, leading to a huge traffic jam and public inconvenience. The publicity worked so well that the crowd was far beyond what the organizers had expected. As the

crowd surged, the management was forced to back off, unable to cater to everyone. Speaker Prasad Kumar personally stepped in to appeal to the women to maintain calm and promised that sarees would be distributed to all, but the crowd showed little patience. Eventually, with no other option left, the showroom had to be shut down on its opening day itself. The ₹9 saree offer, meant as a marketing masterstroke, turned into an overwhelming rush that spun out of control. While the buzz certainly made the store the talk of the town, it also served as a reminder of how promotional campaigns can spiral unexpectedly when they touch on something as beloved as sarees, especially when prices drop to single digits.

“Dire Wolves Revived After 12,500 Years”

In an extraordinary scientific breakthrough, researchers from Colossal Biosciences, a Texas-based company specializing in de-extinction efforts, have successfully revived the ancient dire wolf, a species that roamed North America as a dominant predator over 12,000 years ago. This remarkable feat was achieved through advanced genetic engineering techniques, including gene editing and cloning, using ancient DNA samples from a 13,000-year-old tooth and a 72,000-year-old skull fragment. The team utilized the DNA of the modern gray wolf, the dire wolf's closest living relative, and applied precise genetic modifications to recreate traits such as increased size, thicker fur, and stronger jaws. The result? Three healthy pups named Romulus, Remus, and Khaleesi, with Romulus and

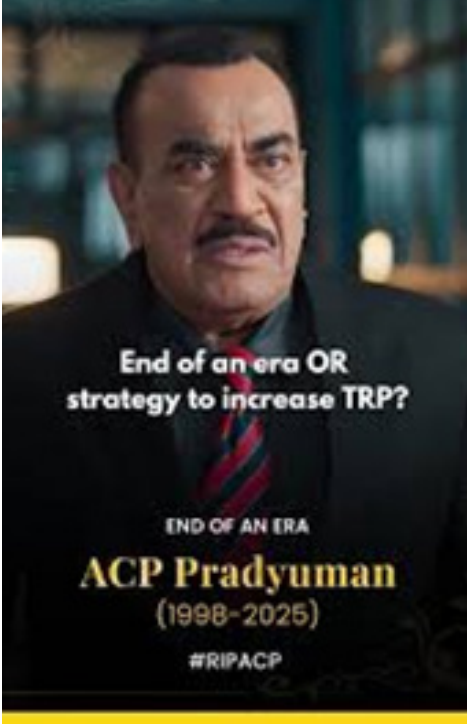


only showcases the potential of genetic engineering in conservation but also sparks discussions about the ethical implications of reviving extinct species. As the scientific community watches closely, the dire wolves symbolize both the marvels of modern biotechnology and the ongoing quest to reconnect with Earth's lost giants.

How ACP Pradyuman Became a Meme Legend

CID's ACP Pradyuman, played by Shivaji Satam, isn't just a television character—he's a pop culture legend. With his stern face, signature index-finger swivel, and the iconic line “Daya, darwaza tod do!”, he transcended the screen to become a meme, a memory, and a massive part of India's collective nostalgia. Recently, fans were hit with the emotional news of his departure from the long-running crime drama CID, marking the end of a 27-year era that began in 1998. While some speculate this exit might be a strategic move to rejuvenate the show's second season, others feel it's simply the natural curtain call for a character who has done it all. But regardless of the reason, the legacy of ACP Pradyuman is cemented in the hearts of every 90s kid and TV enthusiast who grew up watching the team chase down murderers in their trusty Qualis. CID wasn't just a show—it was a ritual, and Pradyuman was its moral compass. He led

his team with unwavering discipline: Daya, the muscle who smashed doors on command; Abhijeet, the steady, rational officer; Freddy, the comic relief with a nervous twitch; Vivek, the tech-savvy one with near-magical access to criminal databases; and Dr Salunkhe, the ever-sarcastic forensic expert who could diagnose poison by tasting white powder mid-autopsy. Episodes often began with a suspicious corpse and ended with philosophical justice delivered in Pradyuman's classic gravitas. Local police were conveniently skipped—because CID, apparently, had pan-India jurisdiction. With over 1,500 episodes, CID became a cult hit, and memes made sure it stayed alive online, long after some might have stopped watching. From viral reels to nostalgic remixes, Pradyuman's presence still lingers. So even though the character might be gone from the show, the legacy of his “laash ke saath kuch toh gadbad hai” moments lives on, etched forev-



er in India's meme history.

Iraqi Passenger Caught with Gold

Amid soaring gold prices, smuggling activities are on the rise across India. In a recent incident at the Indira Gandhi International (IGI) Airport in New Delhi, Customs officials seized a significant quantity of gold from an Iraqi national. Acting on profiling data, the Customs Department's Air Intelligence Unit intercepted a passenger who arrived from Baghdad on IndiGo flight number IA-443. During the X-ray screening of passenger baggage, suspicious images appeared, prompting officials to conduct a detailed inspection. The individual was further checked using a Door Frame Metal Detector (DFMD), which confirmed the presence of metal objects in his luggage. Upon opening the baggage, officials discovered various types of yellow metal ornaments weighing a total of 1.2 kilograms. According to the Customs Department, the gold was concealed in a way intended to evade detection. Authorities stated that such incidents have become increasingly common as smugglers attempt to bypass strict security

measures at international airports and sea-ports. The detained Iraqi passenger is now under investigation, and officials are probing the origin and intended destination of the smuggled gold. With the price of gold touching new highs, smugglers are resorting to innovative and risky methods to transport gold illegally into the country. This seizure underscores the vigilance and efficiency of Indian Customs officials in detecting and preventing illegal activities at airports. The department also reiterated that security screenings will continue to be stringent and thorough to deter such offenses. The seized gold has been taken into custody as evidence, and further legal action will be initiated based on the outcome of the investigation. The Customs Department is expected to take appropriate steps as per the law and may initiate prosecution if required. This incident serves as a reminder of the constant threats to border security posed by smugglers and the crucial role of alert surveillance systems.



Priyansh Arya Smashes Maiden IPL Century as Punjab Kings Beat CSK



Young sensation Priyansh Arya announced his arrival in style by scoring his maiden IPL century as Punjab Kings (PBKS) defeated Chennai Super Kings (CSK) by 18 runs in a thrilling IPL encounter. Opening the innings, Arya blazed his way to 103 off just 42 balls, including

7 fours and 9 sixes. He brought up his century in 39 balls, making it the fifth-fastest century in IPL history. The record still belongs to Chris Gayle, who hit a 30-ball ton in 2013. Thanks to Arya's explosive start, PBKS posted a formidable 219/6. Shashank Singh added a solid 52 off 36 balls*,

while Marco Jansen chipped in with 34 off 19 balls*. For CSK, Khaleel Ahmed (2/45) and Ravichandran Ashwin (2/48) picked up two wickets each. However, it wasn't enough as PBKS held their nerve to secure a crucial victory in the tournament.

ISSF WC: Teen Shooter Suruchi Strikes Gold in Women's 10m Air Pistol

India's Suruchi made a sensational mark at the ISSF World Cup 2025 in Argentina, clinching gold in women's 10m air pistol with a stunning score of 244.6 in the final. The 19-year-old national champion overcame a world-class field, including China's Qian Wei, who settled for silver, and Jiang Ranxin, the Olympic great who took bronze. Despite a slow start, Suruchi showed nerves of steel, shooting 10.7 and 10.8 during the

elimination rounds to take the lead after the 13th shot. She held her ground with a string of high 10s to finish strong. Suruchi had topped the qualification with a score of 583, outperforming big names like Zorana Arunovic, Doreen Vennekamp, and Manu Bhaker. This was India's third gold at the event and Suruchi's first ISSF medal, signaling the arrival of a promising new star on the global shooting stage.



ISSF WC: Narmada Finishes 6th, Sonam 8th in Women's Air Rifle Final



India missed out on a podium finish on day five of the ISSF World Cup 2025 in Argentina, with R. Narmada Nithin and Sonam Uttam Maskar placing sixth and eighth, respectively, in the women's 10m air rifle final. China's Wang Zifei, the reigning junior world champion, clinched gold with a near world-record performance, while Korea's Eunji Kwon took silver and Switzerland's Audrey Gogniat, the Paris Olympic bronze medalist, claimed bronze. Both Indians performed strongly in the high-pressure qualification rounds. Narmada shot a consistent 632.8 to place fourth, while Sonam secured her second consecutive ISSF final appearance with a 631.6, edging out American Olympian Mary Tucker on inner 10s. In the final, despite solid starts, the stiff competition proved too tough. Narmada narrowly missed fifth place by just 0.1 points, while leaderboard positions kept fluctuating through the event.

KKR Fall Short by 4 Runs in Thrilling IPL Clash Against LSG



In a high-octane run-fest, Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) fell agonizingly short by 4 runs against Lucknow Super Giants (LSG) on Tuesday. Chasing a daunting target of 239, KKR were cruising at 149/2 in 12 overs but suffered a dramatic batting collapse to finish at 234/7 in 20 overs. Ajinkya Rahane led the charge with a fluent 61 off 35 balls, smashing 8 fours and 2 sixes. Venkatesh Iyer added a quick 45, while Rinku Singh kept

hopes alive with an unbeaten 38 off 15, but it wasn't enough to get KKR over the line. Earlier, Nicholas Pooran (87* off 35 balls) and Mitchell Marsh (81 off 46) propelled LSG to a mammoth 238/3. With the ball, Shardul Thakur (2/52) made crucial breakthroughs for LSG, while Harshit Rana took 2/51 for KKR. Despite the valiant chase, KKR ended up on the losing side in a pulsating contest.

India Fall 1-2 to New Zealand in Billie Jean King Cup Opener; Shrivalli Shines in Debut Win



India suffered a 1-2 defeat to New Zealand in their opening tie of the Billie Jean King Cup Asia-Oceania Group 1, held at the Mhalunge Balewadi Tennis Complex, Pune. India started strong as Shrivalli Bhamidipaty delivered a dominant performance in the opening singles match, crushing Aishi Das 6-1, 6-1. Her clinical win, powered by six aces and effective break-point conversions, gave India a 1-0 lead. However, New Zealand hit back as Lulu Sun outplayed Sahaja Yamalapa-

lli 6-3, 6-3 in the second singles, leveling the tie. The experienced Kiwi used her court craft and power to outmaneuver the Indian. In the decisive doubles, Ankita Raina and Prarthana Thombare faced Lulu Sun and Monique Barry. Despite a spirited effort, the Indian duo fell 3-6, 4-6, handing the tie to New Zealand. Earlier, the tournament was inaugurated with a grand ceremony, featuring past and present Indian tennis stars. India next faces Thailand on April 9.

Telangana, MP, Manipur Shine on Day 5 of Senior Hockey Nationals

Day 5 of the 15th Hockey India Senior Men National Championship 2025 witnessed spirited performances as Telangana, Madhya Pradesh, and Manipur recorded impressive wins in their respective matches. In Division 'B', Telangana Hockey outclassed Goans Hockey 5-1. Goals from Surya Prakash Potluri (18'), Aiyappa PR (21'), Peddinti Neeraj Kumar (23'), Rohit Singh (28'), and Raju Talla (29') sealed the win. Telangana now stand second in Pool A with two wins in three matches. Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu Hockey cruised past Hockey Mizoram with a dominant 6-0 win. Six players in-

cluding Captain Arvind Yadav and Deepak Yadav scored to lift the team to third in Pool B. In Division 'A', Hockey Madhya Pradesh edged past Hockey Association of Odisha 3-2, with Ali Ahmad netting twice. Meanwhile, Manipur Hockey pulled off a thrilling 4-3 win over Le Puducherry Hockey, thanks to Cyril Lugun's hat-trick and a late winner from Thokchom Kingson Singh. Later matches on Tuesday feature Hockey Haryana vs Hockey Jharkhand and Uttar Pradesh vs Hockey Bengal, promising more action in the national championship.



Maruthi Urges Patience for Raja Saab



Director Maruthi, who visited the temples in Tirupati and Srikalahasti today, took to social media to share pictures and connect with fans awaiting updates on his upcoming film Raja Saab starring Prabhas. While fans eagerly sought news, Maruthi clarified that the official

updates will come from the production house, People Media Factory. In a tweet, he emphasized the complexity of the post-production process, particularly the heavy VFX work involved, and urged fans to be patient. “It’s not a one man word or work... everyone is giving their best,” he wrote, hinting

that once the CG output is verified, a release date will be announced. The film, a horror comedy, also stars Sanjay Dutt in a key role, with Nidhi Agerwal and Malavika Mohanan as the female leads. Originally slated for an April release, the film has now been postponed.

Allu Arjun, Atlee’s VFX Spectacle



The much-awaited collaboration between icon star Allu Arjun and blockbuster director Atlee Kumar has been officially announced, creating a huge buzz across the industry. Backed by Kalanithi Maran under Sun Pictures, the film—tentatively titled AA22xA6—is set to be a high-octane, VFX-heavy, pan-India spectacle. Touted as a gamechanger, this massive project brings together three powerhouses: Allu Arjun’s star appeal, Atlee’s mass

storytelling, and Sun Network’s production strength. Pre-production is already in full swing, with both Arjun and Atlee visiting top VFX studios in Hollywood to ensure world-class quality. While the title and full cast are yet to be revealed, the initial announcement teaser and insider reactions to the script have generated enormous hype, with many claiming it to be unlike anything seen before. The film is expected to go on floors later this year.

RGV Predicts Big Win for Peddi

Director Ram Gopal Varma made an intriguing tweet about Ram Charan’s upcoming film Peddi, directed by Buchi Babu Sana. Sharing the film’s first glimpse, RGV hailed it as a true gamechanger. He praised Ram Charan, saying the actor has reached not

just global but universal appeal. In a bold statement, Varma admitted that even directors like him and Rajamouli couldn’t fully grasp Charan’s power the way Buchi Babu has. Calling it a “guaranteed triple sixer,” RGV predicted massive success for Peddi. The

film, already generating buzz, is being anticipated as a high-impact release. Varma’s strong endorsement, along with the powerful first shot reveal, has only raised expectations further for this exciting collaboration between the global star and the rising director.



Tamannaah’s Odela 2 Promises Thrills

The much-anticipated trailer of Odela 2 has been unveiled, offering a gripping glimpse into a dark, supernatural tale. A sequel to the OTT hit Odela Railway Station, this film ups the stakes with a grand Pan-India production. Tamannaah Bhatia takes center stage as a fierce Naga Sadhu, a divine protector who reassures the terror-struck villagers of Odela as they face an ancient, rising evil. Directed by Ashok Teja, with

script and direction overseen by Sampath Nandi, the film blends myth and mystery with intense drama. Vasishtha N Simha portrays the menacing antagonist, sending chills with every appearance. The ensemble cast also features Hebah Patel, Yuva, and Naga Mahesh. The trailer, launched in Mumbai, promises a high-stakes thriller set against a haunting rural backdrop. Odela 2 hits cinemas on April 17.



Mrunal Slays in Stunning Black

Mrunal Thakur stole the show at Maddock Entertainment’s anniversary bash, turning heads with a stunning all-black look that had paparazzi in a frenzy. Dressed in a sleek black outfit paired with a bold silver necklace, Mrunal exuded both elegance and edge. Her open, flowing hair and natural glow completed the effortlessly glamorous ensemble, sparking instant praise online.

Fans couldn’t stop gushing, calling her “chubby yet killer” and dubbing her look “black dress goals.” As if her red carpet moment wasn’t sizzling enough, Mrunal is all set to bring more heat on screen in the upcoming film Dacoit, where she stars opposite Aivi Sesh. This fresh pairing has already generated buzz, with audiences eagerly waiting to see her in action.



Ajay Devgn on Vaani-Ileana Swap

At the trailer launch of Raid 2 in Mumbai, Ajay Devgn addressed the buzz around Vaani Kapoor replacing Ileana D’Cruz as his on-screen wife. Responding to a journalist’s query, Devgn explained, “That’s true, but the character can change. If you see a lot of Hollywood films, Sean Connery is no longer James Bond. It’s the character you follow.” Vaani joins the sequel as the new

female lead, while Ileana played the role in the first part. Directed by Raj Kumar Gupta, Raid 2 sees Ajay reprise his role as IRS officer Amay Patnaik, gearing up for his 75th raid—this time targeting a powerful and shrewd politician, played by Riteish Deshmukh. The trailer teases a high-stakes showdown, with Amay determined to uncover hidden black money at all costs.