

President Droupadi Murmu Receives Lisbon’s City ‘Key Of Honour’

- Marks 50 years of India-Portugal diplomatic ties.
- Emphasizes cultural, economic cooperation.
- Sees Portugal as key EU partner for India.

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi
President Droupadi Murmu was presented with the ‘City Key of Honour’ by the Mayor of Lisbon at a ceremony held at the City Hall of Lisbon on Monday evening. Expressing her gratitude, President Murmu thanked the Mayor and the people of Lisbon for the warm gesture, highlighting the city’s reputation for its open-mindedness, cultural diversity, and respect for tolerance.



tween the two countries and their potential for cooperation in diverse fields are set to transform their historical ties into a dynamic and visionary partnership.

India, she pointed out, is capitalizing on its strengths as a knowledge-based economy, with advancements in science and technology, information and communication technology, digital infrastructure, and start-ups driving sustainable development. She further stated that India sees Portugal as an important partner in leveraging these strengths to achieve inclusive growth and global progress.

Highlighting Portugal’s crucial role in fostering India’s relations with the European Union, President Murmu expressed confidence that the bilateral relationship between the two nations would continue to grow stronger in the future, benefiting both their people and the world at large.

During her visit, President Murmu also attended a banquet hosted by the President of Portugal, H.E. Mr. Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa, at Palácio da Ajuda. In her remarks at the banquet, President Murmu emphasized the deep-rooted cultural ties between India and Portugal, which span centuries. These shared bonds are reflected in the architecture, historical sites, languages, and even cuisines of both nations.

This year holds special significance, as it marks the 50th anniversary of India-Portugal diplomatic relations. President Murmu acknowledged this milestone and expressed her belief that the natural synergy be-

1st Page Cont..

Delhi CM Rekha Gupta Praises DAV Institutions for Their Role in Nation-Building

Gupta further emphasized the Delhi Government’s commitment to educational progress, revealing that 19.29% of the capital’s annual budget had been allocated to the education sector this year. She reassured that the government’s focus remains on fostering innovation and main-

taining high-quality education in the city.

Her speech underscored the significant role of educational institutions like DAV in shaping the future of the nation and empowering students to contribute to societal growth.

Centre Files Caveat in Supreme Court Against Pleas Challenging Waqf Act 2025

as Waqf and mandates that inheritance rights for women and children be considered. It also grants powers to state governments to nominate members to Waqf boards, including representatives from backward classes and both Sunni and Shia communities.

However, the law has faced significant opposition. Muslim organizations like the Jamiat Ulema-i-Hind, All India Muslim Personal Law Board, and the Indian Union Muslim League have raised concerns, calling the bill a “dangerous conspiracy” to undermine the religious freedom of Muslims. These organizations argue that the Act is a direct attack on the Constitution’s guar-

antee of religious freedom and equal rights for all citizens.

Political parties, including Congress, the DMK, and AIMIM, have also moved the Supreme Court against the Act, claiming that it imposes arbitrary restrictions on the management of Waqf properties, thereby infringing on the religious autonomy of the Muslim community. Congress MP Mohammad Jawed and AIMIM’s Asaduddin Owaisi are among those seeking judicial intervention.

The Supreme Court is likely to hear the case on April 15, 2025, marking a crucial moment for the future of the controversial legislation.

TMC Internal Rift Exposed: Kalyan Banerjee vs. Mahua Moitra Amid Election Prep

For Mamata, the priority now is to identify the individual or individuals responsible for leaking these compromising materials and bring an end to the public discord that has surfaced within her ranks. As the TMC heads toward crucial elections, the last thing it needs is a public spectacle of internal divisions that could provide ammunition to its political rivals.

With political stakes high and the state’s electoral future on the line, Mamata Banerjee faces a critical challenge in maintaining party unity and damage control before the 2026 assembly polls. The coming weeks will be pivotal for the Trinamool Congress as it tries to regain its footing and manage the fallout from the leak.

Delhi’s Draft EV Policy 2.0 Aims to Phase Out CNG Auto Rickshaws and Fossil Fuel Vehicles

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

The Delhi government is set to introduce its draft Electric Vehicle (EV) Policy 2.0, which includes significant measures to phase out fossil fuel-driven vehicles, including CNG autorickshaws. According to officials, the new policy proposes a ban on the registration of CNG autorickshaws from August 15 this year, and existing CNG auto permits will not be renewed after this date. These permits will be replaced with electric auto permits as part of the government’s efforts to encourage the adoption of cleaner energy sources.

The draft policy also mandates that all CNG auto-rickshaws over 10 years old be either replaced or retrofitted to run on electric batteries during the policy’s implementation period. In addition to the auto sector, the draft policy recommends phasing out fossil fuel-driven vehicles used for waste collection by municipal bodies and city buses, with



the goal of replacing them with electric vehicles.

In another significant proposal, the draft policy suggests that two-wheelers running on petrol, diesel, or CNG will no longer be allowed starting from August 15, 2026. Similarly, the registration of diesel, petrol, or CNG three-wheelers for goods transport will be banned starting August 15, 2025.

The draft also outlines a plan for the transition of all garbage collection vehicles, owned or leased by the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD), New

Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC), and Delhi Jal Board (DJB), to electric vehicles by December 31, 2027. Furthermore, public transport buses operated by Delhi Transport Corporation (DTC) and Delhi Integrated Multi-Modal Transit System (DIMTS) are expected to be converted to electric buses. The policy mandates that DTC and DIMTS procure only electric buses for intra-city operations.

Private car owners will also be encouraged to switch to electric cars, but the policy stipulates that this will apply only to those who already own two vehicles.

While the policy is close to finalization, some aspects, particularly those related to two-wheelers, may be subject to change before it is approved by the Delhi Cabinet. The introduction of the EV Policy 2.0 is part of the Delhi government’s ongoing efforts to tackle the city’s severe air pollution crisis by reducing the number of fossil fuel-powered vehicles on the roads.

SC Sets Time Limits for Governors on Assenting to Bills, Criticizes Tamil Nadu Governor

TPN Correspondent| Jammu

In a landmark ruling on April 8, 2025, the Supreme Court of India imposed strict time limits on Governors to act on Bills passed by State Legislatures, following a critical judgment on Tamil Nadu Governor R.N. Ravi. The court took strong exception to the Governor reserving 10 Bills for the President’s consideration, calling it “erroneous in law.” A Bench of Justices J.B. Pardiwala and R. Mahadevan emphasized that under Article 200 of the Constitution, the Governor is bound to act according to the aid and advice of the state’s council of ministers and does not possess discretionary power in such matters.

Article 200 of the Constitution deals with the assent of the Governor to Bills passed by the State Legislature. The court highlighted that the Governor must adhere to a clear process and



cannot exercise an “absolute veto” or “pocket veto” by withholding assent indefinitely. The Bench directed that the Governor must take a decisive action, either giving assent to the Bills or withholding it, and in some cases, reserving the Bills for the President’s consideration.

As part of the judgment, the Supreme Court prescribed specific timelines for the Governors to act upon Bills:

One month: For withholding assent to a Bill.

Three months: In cases where the Governor withholds assent contrary to the advice of the State Cabinet.

One month: When a Bill is presented for reconsideration after being returned by the Governor.

The Bench clarified that the Governor must either grant assent to the Bills or withhold assent and reserve them for the President’s consideration, with the exception being when the second version of a Bill is substantially different from the first one. This ruling is expected to streamline the process and ensure that there is no unnecessary delay in the assent of Bills, thereby upholding the principles of federal governance and democratic functioning in the States.

PM Modi Celebrates 10th Anniversary of Mudra Yojana

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on April 8, 2025, celebrated the 10th anniversary of the Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana (PMMY) by hosting a group of beneficiaries at his residence in New Delhi. During the event, the Prime Minister described the scheme as an “eye-opener” for any government, emphasizing its role in fostering entrepreneurship, particularly among India’s youth and women.

Interacting with the select beneficiaries, PM Modi said that the Mudra Yojana has encouraged a shift from being job seekers to job creators, helping numerous individuals realize their entrepreneurial potential. “₹33 lakh crore has been given to the people of the country without any guarantee,” the Prime Minister stated, stressing that the scheme’s success is a testament to the trust placed in the common people, rather than just the wealthy.



The scheme, which provides financial support to micro and small enterprises, has notably been embraced by women. PM Modi pointed out that women have not only been the largest group of applicants but have also exhibited the highest repayment rates. He also highlighted that many beneficiaries have employed others, contributing to the nation’s economy by creating jobs at the grassroots level.

A key moment during the interaction came when an entrepreneur from Kerala, who had returned from the UAE to pursue his business in India, shared how

the Mudra Yojana helped him succeed. The Prime Minister asked the entrepreneur about his mother’s reaction to his decision to return, to which he responded that “everything went well in the end.” The personal stories shared during the event showcased how the scheme has transformed lives.

PM Modi later took to X (formerly Twitter) to share a video of the interaction, highlighting the impact of Mudra Yojana on individuals and their entrepreneurial journeys. Since its launch in April 2015, the scheme has sanctioned over 52 crore loans worth ₹32.61 lakh crore, empowering millions of micro-entrepreneurs and fueling India’s entrepreneurial revolution.

The Mudra Yojana has played a pivotal role in supporting India’s grassroots enterprises by eliminating collateral requirements and simplifying access to finance, marking a significant milestone in the country’s economic growth.

Heatwave Warning Issued In Delhi-NCR For Next 2 Days

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) issued a heatwave warning for Delhi-NCR on Tuesday, predicting intense heat over the next two days. IMD Scientist Dr. Naresh Kumar confirmed that the region would continue to experience high temperatures, with a slight reprieve expected on April 11 when light rainfall is forecasted.

The IMD has also issued a red alert for Rajasthan, where temperatures are expected to soar both during the day and at night. The heatwave conditions in the state are anticipated to persist for

the next 48 hours, with a forecast of light rainfall in the Himalayan region.

Meanwhile, the Shimla Meteorological Centre reported that temperatures in Himachal Pradesh are expected to rise by 3 to 6 degrees Celsius above the normal range. In response to the heatwave, the IMD issued a Yellow Alert for some lower hill areas in the state on Monday.

However, the onset of a Western Disturbance from April 9 is expected to bring some relief to the region. Senior IMD Scientist Sandeep Kumar Sharma stated that light rainfall is likely in isolated districts, such as Chamba, Kangra, Kul-

lu, and Lahaul-Spiti, with the rainfall activity intensifying by April 10 and 11. This could bring thunderstorms and lightning to parts of Shimla, Kullu, Kangra, Mandi, and Sirmaur.

By April 12, the rainfall is expected to decrease, and clear weather is anticipated from April 13 onwards.

On April 7, heatwave conditions were recorded at three stations — Safdarjung, Ridge, and Ayanagar — with temperatures exceeding 40°C. The IMD has warned that the heatwave conditions are expected to persist in Delhi until April 9.

Amit Shah chairs meeting to review developmental projects in J&K



- Security reviewed amid tightened measures in Kashmir.
- Shah on 3-day visit; meets top officials, CM Omar Abdullah.
- Focus on development and reinforced regional security.

TPN Correspondent| Delhi

Kashmir government.

A high-level meeting to assess ongoing developmental projects in Jammu and Kashmir commenced on April 8, 2025, in Srinagar under the leadership of Union Home Minister Amit Shah. The meeting, held at Raj Bhavan, was attended by Jammu and Kashmir's Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, and senior officials from both the Union Home Ministry and the

During the session, officials briefed Shah on the progress of various developmental initiatives in the Union Territory. The Home Minister is currently on a three-day visit to Jammu and Kashmir, which began on April 7, 2025. Upon his arrival, Shah visited the home of Kirti Chakra award-ee Deputy Superintendent of Police Humayun Muzammil Bhat. Bhat, who lost his life in

2023 during an encounter with terrorists, was posthumously awarded the Kirti Chakra for his bravery. Shah spent nearly 20 minutes with Bhat's father, retired Inspector General of Police Ghulam Hassan Bhat, offering condolences before proceeding to Raj Bhavan.

In September 2023, Humayun Muzammil Bhat, along with three other security personnel, was killed in a fierce encounter with terrorists in the dense forests near Gadool village, Kokernag, in the Anantnag district of south Kashmir.

Later in the day, Amit Shah is scheduled to meet with senior security forces and police officers to review the current security situation in the region. The visit comes amid heightened security measures, with armed personnel deployed across Kashmir to ensure the safety of the Union Home Minister.

In addition to reviewing development projects, Shah's visit also focuses on reinforcing the security framework in Kashmir, which remains a key area of concern for both local authorities and the central government.

BJP will form govts in Kerala, Tamil Nadu in 10 years: Goa CM Pramod Sawant



TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

Goa Chief Minister Pramod Sawant has confidently stated that the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) will form its government in Kerala and Tamil Nadu within the next 10 years. He made this remark while addressing the "Atal Smruti" event, part of the BJP's foundation day celebrations on Monday.

Although the BJP currently does not hold power in these southern states, Sawant expressed optimism about the party's prospects, predicting that it would secure govern-

nance in both Kerala and Tamil Nadu by 2035. Both states are set to hold elections in 2026, and Sawant's statement highlights the BJP's long-term strategy to expand its presence in the region.

The Chief Minister credited the groundwork laid by the BJP during the leadership of Atal Bihari Vajpayee and L.K. Advani for the party's current momentum. He emphasized that the party's efforts over the years are now starting to show results. "The work that began during Atal Bihari Vajpayee and L.K. Advani's time is bearing fruits now," he said, acknowledging the impact of

their leadership.

Sawant also took the opportunity to remember the late Vajpayee's significant contributions to India's development. He praised Vajpayee for his role in positioning India as a global power, notably through the nuclear tests conducted in Pokhran. "Vajpayee showed the world that India is also a superpower," Sawant said, highlighting the former prime minister's bold decisions.

Additionally, Sawant lauded Vajpayee for being instrumental in the mobile phone revolution in India, which transformed the country's communications landscape. "He carried the concept of mobile phones to every part of the country," Sawant remarked.

The Goa CM also noted that Vajpayee had foreseen the BJP's rise to power and believed in the party's future growth. His comments reflect both a tribute to the party's past achievements and a forward-looking vision for the BJP's political future, especially in southern India.

Simultaneous polls can become reality by 2034: UP CM Adityanath



TPN Correspondent | Lucknow

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Monday, April 8, 2025, expressed confidence that simultaneous elections in India could become a reality by 2034. Speaking at the "Atal Smruti" event, part of the BJP's foundation day celebrations in Lucknow, Adityanath emphasized that those who prioritize the "nation first" mantra would support the move, and he called for a widespread awareness campaign to garner public backing.

Adityanath pointed out that while simultaneous elections were previously held between 1952 and 1967, the practice was disrupted due to internal political conflicts. He suggested that restoring the system could provide long-term political stability, which, in turn, would benefit the country's growth. "If you run into critics, tell them this is our country, one nation, one election-induced political stability would be for our benefit," he said, urging for a campaign to spread awareness.

The Chief Minister outlined how a unified election system would reduce the frequency of elections, which he argued hampers economic growth and creates political in-

stability. By eliminating the disruption caused by constant elections, Adityanath believes the country would experience a period of stability, allowing governments to complete their full terms and focus on development.

He also pointed to the positive example set by Uttar Pradesh, where, following his government's stable tenure since 2017, the state has seen significant improvement in law and order, economic growth, and development. Adityanath noted that before 2017, political instability and frequent elections had led to lawlessness and resource exploitation. He credited the stability of the current government for the state's progress and positioned it as an example of how stability fosters growth.

Furthermore, Adityanath acknowledged the role of former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee in promoting political stability and governance, calling for the realization of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of "one nation, one election." He concluded by asserting that a well-executed simultaneous election system could transform the nation into a model of political and economic stability by 2034.

'Serious injustice': Rahul Gandhi urges President Murmu

To step in amid Bengal teachers job row

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi has urged President Droupadi Murmu to intervene in the ongoing controversy surrounding teacher recruitment in West Bengal. In a letter to the President, Gandhi highlighted the recent Supreme Court verdict that upheld the Calcutta High Court's ruling, which declared the 2016 teacher recruitment process invalid due to serious irregularities. As a result, over 25,000 teaching and non-teaching staff appointments were annulled, affecting many who had been selected through fair means.

Gandhi expressed concern over the plight of those teachers who had been appointed through proper channels and served for years. He stressed that while any corruption or malpractice in the recruitment process should be condemned, dismissing teachers who were fairly selected is a grave injustice. He pointed out that many

of these teachers had been in service for nearly a decade, and their sudden dismissal could cause significant disruptions in the education system, as well as financial hardships for their families.

In his appeal to the President, who has a background in education, Gandhi wrote, "You have served as a teacher yourself, and I am sure you understand the enormous human cost of this injustice." He requested that President Murmu urge the state government to allow the teachers selected through transparent methods to continue their work.



The controversy stems from the West Bengal School Service Commission's (SSC) 2016 recruitment drive, which was marred by allegations of favoritism and corruption. The Calcutta High Court had earlier declared the recruitment process void, prompting protests from the affected teachers. While the Supreme Court allowed the continuation of a CBI investigation into other aspects of the recruitment, it set aside part of the High Court's order regarding the creation of supernumerary posts for the employees.

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, in response, met with the affected teachers and criticized the court's decision, calling it part of a larger "conspiracy" to destabilize the state's education system. She expressed outrage over the disqualification of teachers, some of whom had received gold medals for their academic achievements.

Narendra Modi will become prime minister again in 2029: Fadnavis



TPN Correspondent | Delhi

As the Congress party strategizes its future course in Ahmedabad, Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis emphasized that Prime Minister Narendra Modi will secure a fourth term in office after the 2029 Lok Sabha elections. Speaking at the Global India Forum in Mumbai on Tuesday, Fadnavis, a senior BJP leader and three-time Chief Minister, firmly dismissed discussions about a potential successor to Modi, stating, "It is not the right time to think of a

successor to Modi, because, in 2029, Modi will be Prime Minister again."

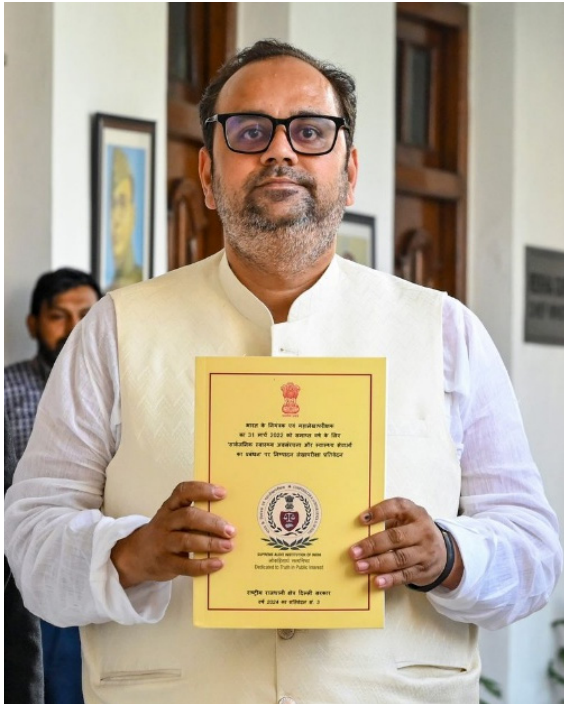
This is the second time in a fortnight that Fadnavis has pushed back against the narrative advanced by some of Modi's critics, who speculate that the Prime Minister will retire after turning 75. Fadnavis's statement reinforces his belief in Modi's continued leadership and his critical role in shaping India's future political landscape.

The issue of Modi's retirement plans was recently raised by Shiv Sena (UBT) Rajya Sabha member Sanjay Raut, who suggested that the Prime Minister's successor would likely come from Maharashtra, and that the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) would play a key role in selecting him. Raut pointed to Modi's recent visit to the RSS headquarters in Nagpur during the Gudi Padwa festivities, suggesting

it was an indication that Modi was discussing his potential retirement with RSS chief Dr. Mohan Bhagwat. Raut's comments fueled speculation about Modi's future, with some even interpreting the visit as a sign that Modi would be stepping down.

However, Fadnavis has consistently rejected such notions, reaffirming his belief in Modi's leadership and his expectation that the Prime Minister will continue to lead the country beyond 2024. Fadnavis's remarks come as the BJP seeks to maintain momentum ahead of upcoming elections, while also addressing any internal debates about the party's long-term leadership. As Modi's political tenure continues to dominate discussions, Fadnavis's confident assertion further solidifies his stance on Modi's future role in Indian politics.

Delhi Govt to revamp portal for seamless public service access, says IT Minister



- Key services to feature prominently on homepage.
- Portal to use open-source Drupal and cloud hosting.
- Aims to boost digital governance and transparency.

TPN Correspondent
| New Delhi

Delhi's Information Technology Minister, Pankaj Kumar Singh, on Monday conducted a review of the Information Technology Department's overall functioning and called for significant upgrades to the Delhi Government's web portal. The aim is to streamline the delivery of public services to citizens while ensuring ease of access and efficiency.

During the high-level meeting,

Singh emphasized that the redesigned portal must prioritize citizen needs, offering faster loading speeds and straightforward access to essential welfare-related services. He instructed officials to display all major public services related to water, sewerage, health, PWD, and e-governance prominently on the homepage of the portal, ensuring that they are easily accessible.

The minister also stressed the importance of timely and regular updates on all departmental websites, directing heads of departments

(HODs) to oversee maintenance and ensure the provision of accurate and up-to-date information. He highlighted that such transparency is crucial for building an effective digital governance framework.

Reviewing the proposed upgrades, Singh further emphasized that the new website must be citizen-centric in both design and functionality. It should be quick to load, intuitive to navigate, and feature powerful search tools, ensuring that citizens from all walks of life can easily access the information they need.

The revamped Delhi Government portal, which will cater to over 100 departments, will feature modern functionalities such as multilingual support, dynamic content,

and compatibility with all major web browsers. It will be built using open-source Drupal technology and hosted on scalable cloud infrastructure for resilience, security, and high availability.

Minister Singh reiterated that security, speed, and usability would be the core principles of the redesign, highlighting that the initiative aims to digitally empower the citizens of Delhi. The revamp aligns with the broader digital governance push led by Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta and under the guidance of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The government hopes that this updated platform will enhance service delivery, improve citizen satisfaction, and set new standards in e-governance.

Man Charred To Death After Car Catches Fire On Delhi Flyover

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

A tragic incident unfolded on Monday night on the Bijwasan Road flyover in the Chanakyapuri area of Delhi, where an individual was charred to death after a car caught fire. The incident occurred around 10:32 pm, with Delhi Fire Service (DFS) officials responding promptly to the scene.

Firefighters worked quickly to douse the flames, and upon examining the burned vehicle, they discovered the body of a person inside, severely charred. Authorities have launched an investigation into the cause of the fire and the identity of the victim. While the exact cause of the fire remains unclear, police are exploring whether it was an accident or the result of another factor. Investigators are working to piece together the details surrounding the incident, with further updates expected as the probe continues.

In a separate accident, a seven-year-old boy was injured in a car crash in the Sainik Enclave area of New Delhi. According to Delhi Police, they received a report on Monday evening about the boy's injury, which



occurred near the BHD Nagar area. Upon arrival, police discovered that the boy, a resident of Sainik Enclave, had been admitted to a hospital and was reported to be in stable condition.

The car involved in the accident has been seized by the police, and legal action is being taken against the driver. Authorities are investigating the circumstances of the crash to determine the cause and hold the responsible parties accountable.

Both incidents have raised concerns over safety on Delhi's roads, and authorities are taking swift action to ensure justice and further prevent similar accidents.

North to face heatwave ; yellow alert for Punjab, Delhi

TPN Correspondent| New Delhi

As summer arrives earlier than expected this year, Delhi is set to experience a significant rise in temperatures. The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has forecasted that the national capital will see a maximum temperature of 41 degrees Celsius on Tuesday. Along with the soaring temperatures, Delhi is also expected to experience clear skies and heatwave conditions, prompting the IMD to issue a 'yellow' alert that will remain in effect until Wednesday.

On Tuesday, the minimum temperature in the city is anticipated to hover around 22 degrees Celsius. Areas like Safdarjung and Palam saw above-normal minimum temperatures on Tuesday morning. Safdarjung recorded a minimum of 22.4 degrees Celsius, which is nearly two degrees higher than the usual average for this time of year. Meanwhile, the Palam station reported a minimum temperature of 25.2 degrees Celsius, which is about five degrees



above the normal figure.

Both stations noted an increase in the minimum temperature by approximately two degrees Celsius in just a span of 24 hours, signaling the onset of hotter days ahead. The weather conditions are expected to intensify with the heatwave, impacting daily life across the city.

The IMD has urged residents to take necessary precautions to avoid heat-related illnesses, such as staying hydrated, wearing light and loose clothing, and limiting outdoor activities during peak heat hours. As the city faces these rising temperatures, it is advised that people take extra care to safeguard their health during this early onset of summer.

Luxury Bus Service Launched Between Delhi Airport and Taj Mahal for Tourists

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

Tourists visiting the Taj Mahal can now enjoy a comfortable and convenient journey with the launch of a luxury bus service from the Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGIA) in Delhi to Agra. Announced by the Delhi International Airport Limited (DIAL) on Monday, the new service aims to provide a hassle-free travel experience for visitors heading to one of India's most iconic landmarks.

The service, operating twice daily in both directions, has been introduced in collaboration with the private operator RIGI Trans Tech Private Limited. The luxury buses are designed to provide a premium travel experience, ensuring comfort and convenience for passengers as they travel between Delhi and Agra.

Travellers can now book their tickets in advance for this pre-arranged

mode of transport, making it easier for tourists to plan their visit to the Taj Mahal without the worry of navi-



gating public transportation. The bus service is expected to enhance tourism, offering a seamless connection between the capital city and Agra, home to the world-renowned monument.

This initiative also aims to reduce the stress of travel for international and domestic tourists arriving in Delhi and looking to visit the Taj Mahal. By offering a direct and luxurious transportation option, the service enhances

es the overall experience of visiting the iconic white marble structure.

The introduction of this luxury bus service is expected to boost tourism and provide a modern and efficient mode of transport for those traveling between Delhi and Agra, contributing to the ease and comfort of tourists exploring the region

Delhi Education Minister announces audits of private schools across city



TPN Correspondent| Delhi

Delhi Education Minister Ashish Sood announced on Monday that committees have been set up to audit all private schools across the city. These committees, led by the Sub-Divisional Magistrates (SDMs) of each district and consisting of tehsildars and accounts officials, will be tasked with ensuring transparency in school fees and identifying any financial irregularities. Additionally, an investigation has been launched by the District Magistrate of Dwarka into the "unregulated" fee hikes at Delhi Public School, Dwarka. However, no deadline has been given for the completion of the audit reports.

This decision comes in response to

mounting protests by parents who have expressed concerns over rising fees and the alleged mistreatment of students who have not been able to pay the increased charges. Parents have claimed that their children were singled out, confined to the library for extended periods, and restricted from basic activities like using the washroom due to unpaid fees.

Divya Mathey, a parent of a Class 12 student, described the situation his son faced at the school, saying, "Even after the District Magistrate's inquiry, my son was confined to the library with 18 other students for seven hours. They weren't allowed to go to the washroom or communicate with each other." Mathey, who works in the private sector, emphasized the

long-term impact this experience could have on the children's trust in the system.

Sood pointed out that audits had been rare during the previous AAP government, despite accusations of financial irregularities in some schools. He highlighted that discrepancies involving crores of rupees had not been investigated previously.

In a related development, senior AAP leader Atishi wrote to Chief Minister Rekha Gupta, accusing the BJP government of allowing private schools to increase fees without regulation. She claimed that parents were turning to the AAP for help as they felt the BJP government was not addressing their concerns.

Karnataka Records Road Accidents Involving Minors, Raising Concerns Over Underage Driving

TPN Correspondent | Karnataka

Karnataka has reported 751 road accidents caused by individuals under the age of 18 between 2023 and 2024, ranking it as the sixth-highest state in India for such incidents. According to data from the Union Ministry of Road Transport and Highways' Integrated Road Accident Database (iRAD), Tamil Nadu tops the list with 2,063 cases, followed by Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra.

The rising number of accidents involving minors has sparked concern among law enforcement and road safety experts, who stress the need for stricter enforcement of laws and increased public awareness. A senior traffic police officer from Bengaluru acknowledged that while legal provisions exist to prevent underage driving, enforcement remains a major challenge. "The increasing vehicle population and urban congestion in Karnataka require us to ramp up awareness campaigns and take stronger action against underage drivers," the officer stated.

In response, Bengaluru's traffic police conducted a month-long special drive in March, focusing on wheeling offences. During this campaign, 398 cases were booked, including 82 involving minors. Authorities have taken action against 68 guardians for negligence and filed 32 cases under the Juvenile Justice Act, 2015. Additionally, 40 driving licences were sent for suspension, and 197 vehicle registrations were canceled as part of a



- State ranks 6th in India for underage driving cases.
- Bengaluru police booked 82 minors in special drive.
- Guardians face jail, fines under Motor Vehicles Act.

push to hold both minors and their guardians accountable.

Under Section 199A of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988, parents or guardians of minors caught driving can face criminal liability, including up to three years in prison, fines, and the suspension of the vehicle's registration. "If a minor is caught driving, the responsibility extends beyond the child. The

law makes it clear that the vehicle owner and parents will be held accountable," a senior officer added.

Traffic expert Prof. M.N. Srihari emphasized that the increasing access to vehicles for minors without proper training or licensing presents a serious cultural issue. He called for stronger deterrents and community-based education programs to address this growing problem.

Two Militants Arrested in Manipur, Arms and Ammunition Seized

TPN Correspondent | Manipur

Security forces in Manipur's Imphal East district have arrested two militants associated with banned outfits, according to a police statement released on Tuesday. The arrests were made as part of ongoing operations aimed at curbing militant activities in the region.

During subsequent search operations conducted in Churachandpur, Kangpokpi, and Imphal, the security forces recovered a significant cache of arms and ammunition. The seized weapons and explosives are believed to be linked to the arrested militants, though investigations are ongoing to determine the full extent of their network and activities.

The police have not yet disclosed the identities of the arrested militants, but sources indicate that they are part of groups that have been involved in acts of violence and unrest in the region. The recovery of weapons is seen as a major success in the ongoing fight against insurgent groups operating in Manipur.



Manipur has been grappling with insurgency and ethnic strife for decades, and security forces have been stepping up their efforts to restore peace and stability in the state. The recent arrests and seizure of arms are a reminder of the continued presence of militant groups, despite the state's ongoing efforts for peace.

Authorities are now focusing on tracking down other members of the militant outfits and preventing any further violence. The arrested militants are being questioned to uncover further details about their activities and plans.

Security forces have assured the public that they will continue to monitor the situation closely and take swift action to ensure peace and security in the region.

20,000 Tribal Students Set World Record with Surya Namaskarams on World Health Day



TPN Correspondent | Alluri

Around 20,000 tribal students, including over 13,000 girls, gathered at Araku Valley Degree College in Alluri Sitharama Raju district on World Health Day to perform 108 Surya Namaskaras as part of the 'Yoga - Maha Surya Vandanam' programme, setting a Guinness World Record.

The participants, who had been preparing for the event for five months, performed sun salutations for nearly two hours. The event, which was a major highlight of the World Health Day celebrations, was officially recognized by Alice Renaud, Manager of the London World Records Union. She presented the Guinness World Record certificate to District Collector Dinesh Kumar, acknowledging the achievement.

Renaud expressed her admiration for the participants, stating, "I'm a World Record Union Manager, and I was here tonight to witness 20,000 students perform Surya Namaskaras. This is a new world record. Congratulations to all involved!"

The event was inaugurated by Tribal Welfare Minister Gummadi Sandhya Rani, who also actively participated in the Surya Namaskaras, inspiring the crowd. The participants, primarily students from five mandals in the district, had been waking up at 4

a.m. daily for five months to prepare for the massive yoga session.

Health personnel were on-site to monitor the participants' well-being throughout the event. District Collector Dinesh Kumar highlighted the positive effects of the yoga sessions, noting that students had shown significant improvements in health, learning abilities, and overall performance. He also pointed out that students who previously required frequent hospital visits had shown a marked decline in medical needs, reflecting the benefits of consistent yoga practice.

The event was launched ceremonially by Patanjali Srinivas, a Physical Education Teacher, who blew a conch to mark the start. Collector Dinesh Kumar praised the efforts of Srinivas, the teachers, and tribal welfare officers for their pivotal roles in organizing the successful event.

The celebration was attended by several dignitaries, including Joint Collector Dr. Abhishek Gowda, SP Amit Bardar, and Sub-Collector Sauryanan Patel, all of whom celebrated the achievement. The record-breaking event not only underscored the importance of physical fitness but also showcased the community's commitment to improving health and well-being.

Char Dham Yatra Preparations Nearly Complete; No Cap on Devotees



TPN Correspondent | Uttarakhand

Garhwal Divisional Commissioner Vinay Shankar Pandey announced that preparations for the Char Dham Yatra are nearly finished, with special emphasis placed on key aspects such as traffic management, clean drinking water, and parking facilities. He revealed that there would be no cap on the number of pilgrims this year, marking a departure from previous restrictions.

Pandey explained that the Yatra route has been divided into 10 km sectors, with officials using two-wheelers and walkie-talkies to ensure smooth operations. Addition-

ally, these sectors have been further divided into zones and super zones for better coordination and management. "Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhama has given very clear directions to ensure that pilgrims face no inconvenience," he said, adding that around 13.5 lakh people had already registered online for the pilgrimage.

The administration has also placed a strong focus on making the Yatra environmentally friendly. Pandey highlighted the "Green Yatra" initiative, launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, which encourages pilgrims and officials to maintain cleanliness along the route. "We are working to ensure that the holiness

of the Dhams is preserved, while also minimizing environmental harm by preventing the use of harmful materials and reducing garbage," he said.

In preparation for this year's Yatra, Pandey mentioned that Chief Minister Dhama had instructed officials to start planning immediately after last year's pilgrimage concluded. Several meetings have been held since February, and as of April 5, all district magistrates, superintendents of police, and heads of departments from the Garhwal division participated in a meeting to finalize preparations.

Furthermore, a 30-member advance team from the Badrinath-Kedarnath Temple Committee (BKTC) arrived at Badrinath Dham to oversee infrastructural restoration ahead of the opening of the temple doors on May 4.

The Char Dham Yatra, which covers four holy sites—Yamunotri, Gangotri, Kedarnath, and Badrinath—attracts millions of devotees annually. The pilgrimage typically starts in April or May and continues until November, depending on weather conditions.

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



TPN Correspondent | Punjab

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 gre-

nade 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 agencies 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.

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.

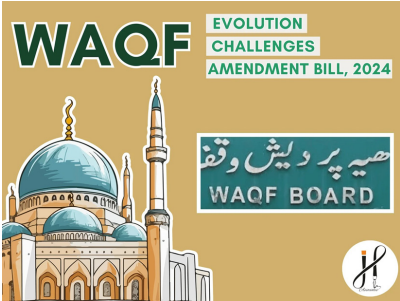


Modi's 'Act East' Strategic Leap

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.

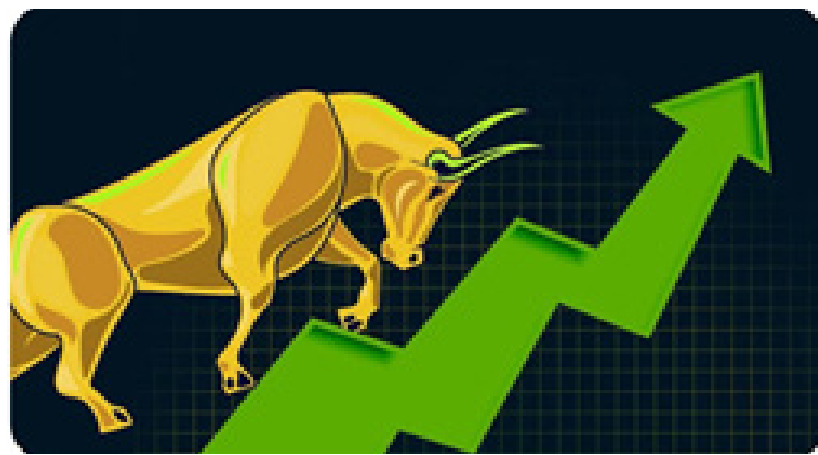
Meanwhile, the U.S. stock market continues to struggle, with the S&P 500 briefly entering bear market territory and the Dow Jones Industrial Average experiencing its largest intraday point swing in history. Although some tech stocks showed slight gains, including Nvidia and Amazon, the broader market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

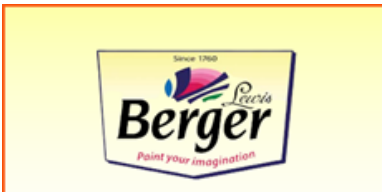
Pidilite, a market leader in adhesives and sealants, continues to show steady performance despite market volatility. With strong consumer demand in the retail segment, products like Fevicol, M-Seal, and Dr. Fixit are witnessing consistent volume growth. The company's rural expansion strategy and focus 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

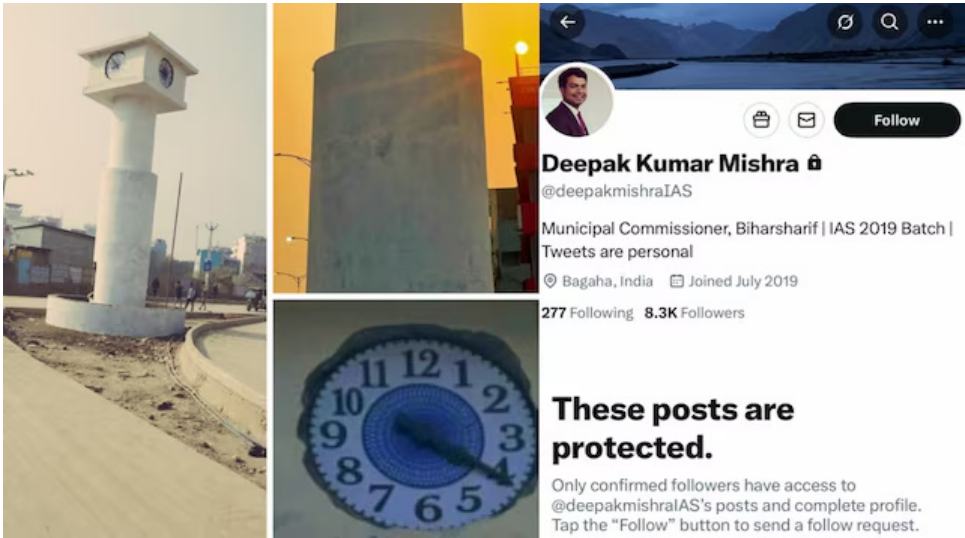


Charity Hall for this celebration evening. Though we are here to celebrate L&T (Love and Togetherness), we are not on any 90-hour work agenda. So please make yourselves comfortable and enjoy the dinner without wasting food, which is soon to be served on behalf of us.” This creative gesture not only showcased 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

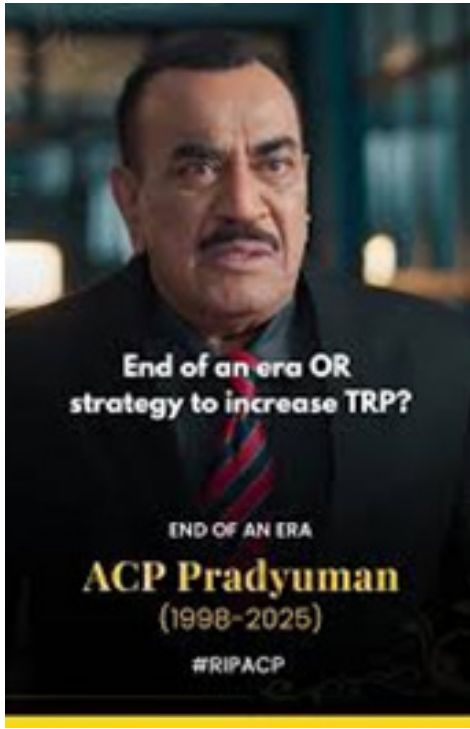


Remus already standing nearly four feet tall and weighing over 36 kg at just six months old. These pups are currently being raised and studied at a secure location in the United States. The dire wolf, famously featured in HBO's "Game of Thrones," was larger and more robust than today's gray wolves, with powerful build and hunting prowess. Colossal Biosciences' success with these gene-edited wolves marks a major milestone in the company's mission to bring back extinct species and explore the possibilities of biodiversity restoration. This project not 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.