

TRUMP ANNOUNCES RECIPROCAL TARIFFS AGAINST INDIA, CHINA FROM APRIL 2

Chennai, 06 March 2025: US President Donald Trump slammed the high tariffs charged by India and other countries including China, calling it "very unfair" and announcing reciprocal tariffs will kick in from next month.

The president made his case for his reciprocal tariffs, which will commence April 2. He wants to impose the same tariff on imports from foreign countries as those nations impose on US exports.

"Other countries have used tariffs against us for decades and now it's our turn to

start using them against those other countries.

On average, the European Union, China, Brazil, India, Mexico and Canada - Have you heard of them -and countless other nations charge us tremendously higher tariffs than we charge them. It's very unfair," Trump said Tuesday night in an address to the Joint Session of the Congress, the first of his second term in the White House.

"India charges us auto tariffs higher than 100%," he continued.

In February, President Trump has said that his administration will

"soon" impose reciprocal tariffs on countries such as India and China, reiterating what he had said during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to the US capital last month.

Trump has made it clear to Prime Minister Modi that India will not be spared from Washington's reciprocal tariffs and emphasised that "nobody can argue with me" on tariff structure.

"China's average tariff on our products is twice. And South Korea's average tariff is four times higher. And we

give so much help militarily and in so many other ways to South Korea. But that's what happens. This is happening by friend and foe. This system is not fair to the United States. It never was," he said.

Trump added that from April 2, reciprocal tariffs will kick in, and whatever "they tariff us, other countries, we will tariff them. That's reciprocal back and forth.

Whatever they tax us, we will tax them. If they do non-monetary tariffs to keep us out of their market, then we will do non-monetary barriers to keep them out of our market."

ALL PARTY MEET URGES CENTRE TO RETAIN EXISTING NUMBER OF LOK SABHA SEATS MODI SHOULD GIVE ASSURANCE ON DELIMITATION: STALIN

Chennai, 06 March 2025: An all-party meeting chaired by Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin unanimously urged the Centre to retain the current number of Lok Sabha seats and uphold constitutional boundaries for the next 30 years beyond 2026.

The meeting also resolved to form a Joint Action Committee with representatives from political parties across southern states to raise awareness and mobilize opposition against any reduction in parliamentary representation.

Stalin emphasized that it was unjust to penalize southern states, which have successfully implemented population control



measures, by reducing their parliamentary seats. He reiterated that the then-Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee had assured in 2000 that delimitation would be based on the 1971 Census. He called on the Centre to uphold this commitment and ensure that other states also adopt effective population control measures.

The resolutions passed in the meeting strongly condemned the BJP-led Union

Government's delimitation plans, warning that they posed a severe threat to the political representation of Tamil Nadu and other southern states. Stalin argued that reducing Tamil Nadu's Lok Sabha seats would be a grave injustice, especially since the BJP government was already disregarding the voices of the state's 39 MPs. "We must take an unequivocal stand against the 2026 Census-based delimitation," he

asserted.

The meeting saw participation from all major political parties, including the AIADMK, DMK allies, and the emerging Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam. However, the BJP, its ally Tamil Maanila Congress, and Naam Tamilar Katchi, led by actor Seeman, boycotted the discussions.

Stalin likened the proposed delimitation to a "Damocles' sword" hanging over South India. He explained that if the Centre maintained the existing 543 Lok Sabha constituencies, Tamil Nadu would lose eight seats. However, if the total number of constituencies were increased to 848 and seats were allocated proportionally, Tamil Nadu would gain 22 seats. On the other hand, if delimitation were based purely on current population figures, the state would receive only 10 additional seats. "Both methods favor states with larger populations while strangling Tamil Nadu's voice. We must defeat this conspiracy," he warned. Another resolution called for a Constitutional amendment to ensure that if the total number of MPs were increased, the representation of Tamil Nadu and other southern states should also be proportionately expanded based on the 1971 Census.

JAPAN-INDIA BUSINESS COOPERATION COMMITTEE DELEGATION CALLS ON PRIME MINISTER MODI

Chennai, 06 March 2025: A delegation from the Japan-India Business Cooperation Committee (JIBCC) comprising 17 members and led by its Chairman, Mr. Tatsuo Yasunaga called on Prime Minister Narendra Modi today.

The delegation included senior leaders from leading Japanese corporate houses

across key sectors such as manufacturing, banking, airlines, pharma sector, plant engineering and logistics.

Mr Yasunaga briefed the Prime Minister on the upcoming 48th Joint meeting of Japan-India Business Cooperation Committee with its Indian counterpart, the India-Japan Business

Cooperation Committee which is scheduled to be held on 06 March 2025 in New Delhi. The discussions covered key areas, including high-quality, low-cost manufacturing in India, expanding manufacturing for global markets with a special focus on Africa, and enhancing human resource development and exchanges. Prime

Minister expressed his appreciation for Japanese businesses' expansion plans in India and their steadfast commitment to 'Make in India, Make for the World'. Prime Minister also highlighted the importance of enhanced cooperation in skill development, which remains a key pillar of India-Japan bilateral ties.

CABINET APPROVES REVISION OF LIVESTOCK HEALTH AND DISEASE CONTROL PROGRAMME (LHDCP)

Chennai, 06 March 2025: The Union Cabinet, chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, has today approved the Revision of Livestock Health and Disease Control Programme (LHDCP).

The scheme has three components namely National Animal Disease Control Programme (NADCP), LH&DC and Pashu Aushadhi. LH&DC has three sub-components i.e. Critical Animal Disease Control Programme (CADCP), Establishment and Strengthening of

existing Veterinary Hospitals and Dispensaries - Mobile Veterinary Unit (ESVHD-MVU) and Assistance to States for Control of Animal Diseases (ASCAD). The Pashu Aushadhi is new component added to the LHDCP scheme. The total outlay of the scheme is Rs.3,880 crore for two years i.e. 2024-25 and 2025-26, which includes the provision of Rs. 75 crore to provide good quality and affordable generic veterinary medicine and incentive for sale of medicines under Pashu Aushadhi component.

Productivity of the livestock is impacted adversely due to diseases like Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD), Brucellosis, Peste des Petits Ruminants (PPR), Cerebrospinal Fluid (CSF), Lumpy Skin Disease, etc. Implementation of the LHDCP will facilitate reduction in these losses by preventing diseases through immunization. The Scheme also supports door-step delivery of livestock health care through the subcomponents of Mobile Veterinary Units (ESVHD-MVU) and improving

availability of generic veterinary medicine-Pashu Aushadhi through network of PM-Kisan Samridhhi Kendra and Cooperative Societies.

Thus, the scheme will help in prevention and control of livestock diseases through vaccination, surveillance and upgradation of healthcare facilities. Also, the scheme will improve productivity, generate employment, encourage entrepreneurship in the rural area and prevent economic losses of farmers due to disease burden.

JAN AUSHADHI-PHARMACIST'S AWARENESS SEMINARS: FIFTH DAY OF CELEBRATIONS FOR JAN AUSHADHI DIWAS 2025

Chennai, 06 March 2025: On the fifth day of 7th Jan Aushadhi Diwas 2025 seminars were organised in Pharmacy Colleges/Universities in 30 cities in 30 different States across country to spread awareness among Pharmacy students about Jan Aushadhi Pariyojana so that pharmacy students can take the advantage of the scheme by opening Jan Aushadhi Kendras and become self-employed.

Pharmacists play a crucial role in our society by dispensing the medicines through various mediums to patients and citizens in the proper way and providing support to take medicines on time with prescribed dosage.

In order to spread awareness among Pharmacy students about the salient features of the scheme, various seminars were conducted. In these



seminars, students were given information about Jan Aushadhi Pariyojana and its benefits to the society. The students were also made aware about the entrepreneurial opportunities which are being offered through Jan Aushadhi Pariyojana.

The students were also told about the high-quality products which are being sold through dedicated outlets known as Jan Aushadhi Kendras.

At the end, students were encouraged to

become a part of this noble project through which quality medicines are being provided at affordable rates.

During these seminars, information about "Jan Aushadhi Sugam Mobile App" has been highlighted for spreading awareness about the proper usage of this application by the citizens. Presently, more than 15,000 Jan Aushadhi Kendras have been opened across the country covering all the districts of the country.

Under the scheme, the Government has set a target to open 25000 Jan Aushadhi Kendras by 31st March, 2027 across the country.

At the initiative of the Prime Minister, the 7th of March is celebrated every year as "Jan Aushadhi Diwas" with a view to enhance awareness about the scheme and promote generic medicines. As in earlier years, week-long events have been planned at various locations across the country from the 1st to the 7th of March 2025.

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SAMSUNG TRANSFORMS SMARTPHONE SERVICE CENTRES WITH PREMIUM DESIGN AND EXCEPTIONAL CUSTOMER SERVICE

Coimbatore, 06 March 2025: Samsung, India's largest consumer electronics brand, is set to elevate its smartphone customer service experience with a comprehensive redesign of its service centres. This initiative aims to establish a seamless service-to-sales journey, reinforcing Samsung's commitment to superior after-sales support with a strong focus on premium customer care.



technological innovation with advanced diagnostic tools that detect issues with pin-point accuracy.

Designed to deliver an integrated omni-channel experience, the remodelled service centres incorporate advanced digitalised processes to cater to evolving expectations of Samsung's young and dynamic customer base. They not only boast a diverse product portfolio but also lead the way in

The upgraded centres break away from traditional layouts, introducing plush, sofa-style seating equipped with inbuilt wireless charging stations to create a lounge-like ambience. Reimagined accessory walls showcase Samsung's extensive range of wearables, while ultra-large digital screens feature the latest product innovations, offering visitors an immersive experience.

"Over the decades, we have expanded a robust network of service centres to support our existing customer base which is concurrent to the needs of our sales partners. As consumer expectations evolve every day, we wanted to transform these spaces by infusing youthful and efficient design elements to make them more appealing, while keeping traditional customer needs in mind. At the heart of this is Samsung's commitment to providing a premium experience to its customers," said Sunil Cutinha, VP,

Customer Satisfaction, Samsung India.

To enhance customer interactions, dedicated kiosks will enable visitors to connect with product support specialists, explore new product launches, and stay updated on exclusive offers and discounts. An online appointment booking system will allow customers to schedule their visits in advance, ensuring a hassle-free experience with minimal wait times.

Samsung currently operates more than 3,000 service touch points across India including physical service centres, resident engineers and collection points. The roll-out of the service centre redesign will be implemented in phases across key cities, ensuring an elevated customer experience nationwide.

PRINCIPAL CHIEF ELECTRICAL ENGINEER, SOUTHERN RAILWAY TO CONDUCT INSPECTION AND SPEED TRIAL ON THE NEWLY LAID ELECTRIFIED BROAD GAUGE 4TH LINE BETWEEN CHENNAI BEACH AND CHENNAI EGMORE

Chennai, 06 March 2025: Shri Somes Kumar, Principal Chief Electrical Engineer (PCEE), Southern Railway will be conducting a Statutory Inspection on the Newly laid Electrified Broad Gauge 4th line

between Chennai Beach and Chennai Egmore on 06th March, 2025 (Thursday).

After the inspection, Principal Chief Electrical Engineer, Southern

Railway will also conduct a High-Speed AC Trial run between Chennai Beach and Chennai Egmore section on 06th March, 2025 between 10.00 hrs to 14.30 hrs.

Public staying in

the vicinity of Railway lines between Chennai Beach and Chennai Egmore Stations are hereby cautioned not to approach/trespass the Railway lines. M.Senthamil Selvan, Chief Public Relations Officer.

UN ASKS ISRAEL TO STOP AIRSTRIKES ON SYRIA

Chennai, 06 March 2025: A UN special envoy on Tuesday strongly condemned Israel's military escalations in Syria, including airstrikes, calling for an end to violations and refraining from exacerbating conflict.

"Such actions are unacceptable and risk further destabilising an already fragile situation, heightening regional tensions, and undermining efforts toward de-escalation and a sustainable

political transition in line with key principles of Security Council resolution 2254 (2015)," Geir Pedersen, the UN special envoy for Syria, warned in a statement.

Pedersen said he remained "deeply concerned" by Israel's continued violations of the 1974 Disengagement of Forces Agreement. The special envoy called on Israel to cease violations, uphold its international obligations, and refrain from unilateral

measures that exacerbate conflict.

Pedersen urged all parties to respect Syria's sovereignty, unity, independence, and territorial integrity. "Constructive dialogue and strict adherence to international agreements and international law are essential for security in Syria and the broader region," he said. Israel launched airstrikes on Monday night targeting a Syrian air defence battalion near the western coastal city of

Tartus, Syrian state media reported.

A spokesperson for the Israeli military confirmed that the Israel Defence Forces had struck a military site in Qardaha, a town near Tartus, adding that the attacks were in response to "recent developments in the region." It was the latest Israeli attack in Syria, where, following the fall of Bashar al-Assad's government, Israel has deployed ground forces and conducted airstrikes.

HPCL AND TATA MOTORS LAUNCH GENUINE DEF FOR ENHANCED COMMERCIAL VEHICLE PERFORMANCE

Chennai, 06 March 2025: Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd. (HPCL), a Maharatna Oil Company, and Tata Motors, India's largest commercial vehicle manufacturer, have partnered to introduce their co-branded Genuine Diesel Exhaust Fluid (DEF). This high-quality DEF solution will drive optimal vehicle performance, boost drivetrain efficiency, and extend vehicle longevity.

Produced in BIS-approved facilities that meet the highest industry standards, this co-branded Genuine DEF is being made available via HPCL's extensive retail network of 23,000 fuel stations across the country, ensuring ready availability and easy access for customers.

An essential component for modern BS6-compliant diesel vehicles, DEF plays a key role in reducing harmful emissions by breaking down potentially harmful nitrogen oxides into safer and cleaner nitrogen and water.

By using this co-branded Genuine DEF, Tata Motors' customers can conveniently enhance vehicle efficiency



while ensuring compliance of emission and environmental norms.

Speaking on the launch, Mr. Amit Garg, Director, Marketing, Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd., stated, "At HPCL, we are committed to driving innovation and sustainability in the mobility sector. Our partnership with Tata Motors for co-branded Diesel Exhaust Fluid (DEF) is a significant step toward reducing emissions and supporting cleaner transportation solutions.

By leveraging our extensive distribution network of 23,000 plus retail outlets and Tata Motors' technological expertise, we aim to provide customers with a high-quality, accessible, and eco-friendly solution that contributes to a greener future."

Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Girish Wagh, Executive Director, Tata Motors,

said, "This collaboration with HPCL marks another step forward in our commitment to provide innovative and sustainable solutions for the commercial vehicle industry.

The introduction of our co-branded Genuine Diesel Exhaust Fluid ensures that Tata Motors customers can now access it even more easily across the country, and achieve optimal performance while complying with highest environmental standards. We are delighted to partner with HPCL in offering a product that not only enhances vehicle efficiency but also contributes to making the environment cleaner, and the future greener."

Committed to innovation, sustainability, and customer-centric services, HPCL continues to drive India's energy transformation through initiatives in

cleaner fuels, renewable energy, and digital advancements in fuel retailing. The company's robust supply chain and state-of-the-art infrastructure, including refineries and terminals, ensure seamless product availability across urban and rural markets. With a strong focus on sustainable mobility and emission reduction, HPCL plays a pivotal role in shaping a greener, more efficient future for India's transportation sector.

As a holistic mobility solutions provider, Tata Motors' commercial vehicles are further complemented by Sampurna Seva 2.0 initiative, ensuring comprehensive vehicle lifecycle management, including breakdown assistance, guaranteed turnaround times, annual maintenance contracts (AMC) and easy access to genuine spare parts. Additionally, Tata Motors leverages Fleet Edge, its connected vehicle platform, to optimise fleet management and maximize vehicle uptime. Across the country, Tata Motors has over 2500 sales and service touchpoints to offer the highest uptime for its vehicles.

STALIN URGES MODI TO RECONSIDER PROPOSAL FOR OFFSHORE MINING IN GULF OF MANNAR

Chennai, 06 March 2025: Chief Minister Stalin urged the union government to reconsider the move offering a block of the Cauvery basin, which falls under the Gulf of Mannar Biosphere Reserve off the TN coast. The plan is to offer it to potential investors for hydrocarbon exploration and production as part of the Open Acreage Licensing Policy (OALP) Bid Round-X.

In a letter to the Prime Minister Narendra Modi, regarding proposal for offshore mining activities in Gulf of Mannar, Chief Minister Stalin said, "I write to you with deep concern on the proposal for offshore mining activities in Gulf of Mannar, off the coast of Tamil Nadu. The Directorate of Hydrocarbon, Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas,

Government of India has launched OALP-BID Round-X for auctioning Petroleum and Natural Gas Blocks on 11.02.2025.

The notification includes 9990.96 sq. km under the block name CY-DWHP-2024/1 in the Cauvery Basin, which falls within the Gulf of Mannar Biosphere Reserve and is near the Palk Bay and Wadge Bank. The Gulf of Mannar Marine Biosphere Reserve, which encompasses the Gulf of Mannar Marine National Park was declared on 18.02.1989 by the Government of India and has a rich biodiversity encompassing varied ecosystems like coral reefs, sea-grass beds, mangroves, estuaries, mudflats, islands and forests. This biosphere reserve consists of a chain of 21 islands and

adjoining coral reefs, spread over 560 sq kms off the coasts of Ramanathapuram and Thoothukudi Districts, supports a wide variety of marine fauna. In addition, the Tamil Nadu Government has notified India's first Conservation Reserve for the highly endangered Dugong (Sea Cow) in the Palk Bay in September 2021, covering 448 sq kms of coastal waters of Thanjavur and Pudukkottai Districts.

Given the fragile eco-system of these areas and their rich biodiversity, deep sea mining for petroleum and natural gas may cause irreversible damage to marine habitats and degrade the overall health of the ocean. The risks of sediment plumes, toxic waste discharges and habitat destruction cannot be overstated and it will also affect the livelihood of the

lakhs of fishermen who depend on the Gulf of Mannar for their sustenance. Any such disruptions caused by mining activities will also make the entire coastal area vulnerable and this has created immense anxiety among the coastal communities.

Unfortunately, the State Government was not consulted by the Union Government before notifying this block for auction. If due consultation had been done, we would have explained in detail all the issues highlighted above. In this scenario, I strongly urge you to reconsider this decision and delete all the notified biodiversity rich areas from the OALP for deep sea mining. Considering that the future of all these fragile protected ecosystems is at stake, I seek your personal intervention in this critical issue.

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PM MODI CELEBRATES LEGACY OF SUFI POET AMIR KHUSRAU

Chennai, 06 March 2025: Prime Minister Narendra Modi recently attended Jahan-e-Khusrau, an esteemed festival dedicated to celebrating the life and legacy of the illustrious Sufi poet and scholar Amir Khusrau.



In his address, the Prime Minister extended his warm wishes for Ramzan and lauded the enduring contributions of Sufi traditions, emphasising their universal message of inclusivity, peace, and spiritual harmony.

The three-day cultural festival, held at Sunder Nursery, was inaugurated by Prime Minister Modi, who underscored the profound spiritual and artistic legacy of Hazrat Amir Khusrau, highlighting the festival's pivotal role in uniting people through music, poetry, and devotion. He spoke at length about how Sufi saints embraced diverse traditions, quoting extensively from both Amir Khusrau and Mirza Ghalib to reaffirm the timeless ideals of unity and interfaith harmony.

Referring to Ghalib's evocative words "When we wake up, we see the distance between Kashi and Kashan is only half a step" he illustrated the deep-seated cultural and spiritual interconnectedness of civilisations.

Reflecting on this landmark edition, Muzaffar Ali, the festival's visionary founder, shared: "For 25 years, Jahan-e-Khusrau has served as a bridge between the past and the present, between the earthly and the divine.

This festival is not merely about music, it embodies the longing of the soul, the search for love, and the profound beauty of human connection. As we celebrate this Silver Jubilee, we reaffirm our commitment to preserving and sharing the wisdom of Sufi traditions with the world."

Adding to this sentiment, Meera Ali, co-curator of the festival, emphasised: "Jahan-e-Khusrau is not just an event; it is a movement dedicated to the preservation and promotion of India's rich spiritual and

artistic heritage. Every performance, every note, and every verse serve as a powerful reminder of the enduring beauty of Sufi philosophy.

As we move forward, we hope to continue inspiring future generations through this unparalleled cultural experience."

In 2001, Meera Ali designed the production of an annual 'Jahan e Khusrau', an annual international Sufi music festival, staged in Delhi, Lucknow, Jaipur, Patna, Srinagar, London and Boston, bringing together artistes and musicians from several countries every year.

Amir Khusrau (Abu'l Hasan Yamin ud-Din Khusrau, 1253-1325 AD) was a polymath an Indo-Persian Sufi poet, musician, scholar, and courtier in the Delhi Sultanate (1206-1526).

He is widely celebrated as the "Parrot of India" (Tuti-e-Hind) and is regarded as the father of qawwali, a devotional musical tradition that remains integral to the Sufi spiritual practice across the Indian subcontinent. It was a Timeless Legacy of Amor Khusrau to posterity.

Khusrau's literary and artistic contributions were vast he was an expert in numerous Persian poetic forms, ranging from qasidas, masnavis, and rubais to ghazals, the latter of which he played a pivotal role in developing in the Indian cultural context. His influence on Indian classical music was equally profound, with many attributing the origins of khayal and tarana to his innovations.

Despite his literary and musical acclaim, Khusrau's poetry also bore deep personal reflections. In 1300, following the passing of his mother and

brother, he composed a poignant elegy:

"A double radiance left my star this year,

Gone are my brother and my mother,

My two full moons have set and ceased to shine,

In one short week through this ill-luck of mine."

His homage to his mother was equally moving: "Wherever the dust of your feet is found,

It is like a relic of paradise for me."

Khusrau passed away in October 1325, merely six months after the death of his revered spiritual mentor, Hazrat Nizamuddin Auliya. His tomb, located adjacent to Nizamuddin Auliya's shrine in Delhi, remains a revered site of pilgrimage.

Among his many immortalized verses, one of the most celebrated is his tribute to the splendor of Hindustan: "Agar Firdaus bar ru-ye zamin ast, Hamin ast o hamin ast o hamin ast." Rendered in English: "If there is a paradise on earth, it is this, it is this, it is this."

Among the distinguished attendees, Lt. Gen. Zameer Uddin Shah, a noted scholar and public intellectual, commended the Prime Minister's speech, stating: "I was present and must say this was the finest speech I have heard the Prime Minister deliver.

He quoted extensively from Khusrau and Ghalib, eloquently emphasizing the virtues of Sufism and the imperative of communal harmony. The content of his speech should be heeded by those who spread divisiveness it serves as a compelling reminder of our shared cultural and spiritual heritage."

The Prime

Minister's address was also widely appreciated by international dignitaries, who recognized the significance of India's commitment to fostering cultural unity: Javier Paulinich, Ambassador of Peru, praised India's unwavering dedication to preserving its cultural and spiritual harmony.

Fernando Bucheli, Ambassador of Ecuador, underscored the universal power of music as a bridge between communities. Guillermo Rubio Funes, Ambassador of El Salvador, noted that Modi's presence at the festival offered a significant platform for Sufi musicians and artists. Omar Lisandro Castaneda Solares, Ambassador of Guatemala, described his exchange with the Prime Minister as "an unforgettable experience." It was a Landmark Celebration of India's Cultural and Spiritual Heritage.

As Jahan-e-Khusrau marks its 25th anniversary, it continues to serve as an enduring testament to the vibrancy of Sufi traditions, offering a confluence of poetry, music, and spiritual philosophy.

This milestone edition reaffirmed its role as a beacon of artistic expression, interfaith dialogue, and cultural harmony values that Prime Minister Modi eloquently championed in his address.

The festival witnessed the presence of numerous dignitaries, including Vinai Kumar Saxena, Lieutenant Governor of Delhi, as well as notable literary and artistic personalities.

Among them, poet and singer Minu Bakshi spoke about her latest literary work, Barish-e-Rehmat, further enriching the festival's profound engagement with Sufi thought and poetic traditions.

In its Silver Jubilee edition, Jahan-e-Khusrau remains a symbol of India's composite cultural identity, ensuring that the spirit of Sufi wisdom and artistic excellence continues to inspire generations to come.

INDONESIA, AUSTRALIA EXTEND BILAT CURRENCY SWAP

Chennai, 06 March 2025: Bank Indonesia (BI) announced on Tuesday that Indonesian and Australian financial institutions have extended their bilateral currency swap arrangement (BCSA).

Governor Perry Warjiyo of BI and

Governor Michele Bullock of the Reserve Bank of Australia (RBA) signed the renewed arrangement, which will span five years, beginning on March 4, 2025.

"The BCSA enables the exchange of local currencies between the two central banks with

a value of up to 10 billion Australian dollars (6.2 billion U.S. dollars) and the corresponding Indonesian rupiah," BI said in a press release.

The deal extends a cooperation that began in December 2015.

The renewal reaffirms BI and

RBA's commitment to enhancing bilateral trade and investment for the benefit of both nations' economies. In addition to Australia, BI engages in local currency cooperation with other central banks in the region, including those of China, South Korea, and Malaysia.

TN SET TO INTRODUCE ENRICHED TEXTILE POLICY SOON

Chennai, 06 March 2025: The Tamil Nadu government is set to unveil an "enriched textile policy" within the next week to 10 days, Minister for Handlooms and Textiles R. Gandhi announced in Coimbatore.

Speaking at the inauguration of a five-day Entrepreneurship Development Programme for technical textile entrepreneurs, he revealed that the government had received 100 applications for mini textile parks, of which 17 had been approved

so far 10 of them in Karur. To attract investments, the State government removed the market cess on cotton in 2021 and eased regulations for setting up mini textile parks.

Regarding entrepreneurship training, he noted that the Central government provides Rs.10,000 per candidate, while the State government contributes Rs. 5,000. Additionally, Rs.10 crore will be allocated this year as an interest subsidy to support the modernization of spinning mills.

Further benefits for powerloom units are also expected to be announced soon.

Minister for Electricity Senthil Balaji highlighted that the State government has increased the free electricity quota for handloom and powerloom units.

A. Sakthivel, honorary chairman of the Tiruppur Exporters Association, pointed out that cotton garment production has reached saturation, while the global market for technical textiles is valued at \$500 billion. Both the Central and State

governments are promoting entrepreneurship in technical textiles to encourage new entrants into the sector.

Meanwhile, T. Rajkumar, former chairman of the Southern India Mills Association, stated that an official announcement from the Central government regarding approvals for the PM MITRA park in Virudhunagar is expected soon.

The park, set to be developed on 1,000 acres, will be a significant step in advancing the region's textile industry.

DRDO CONDUCTS HIGH-ALTITUDE TRIALS OF INDIGENOUS INTEGRATED LIFE SUPPORT SYSTEM FOR LCA TEJAS

Chennai, 06 March 2025: The Defence Bio-Engineering & Electro Medical Laboratory (DEBEL), a Bengaluru-based lab under the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), successfully conducted high-altitude trials of the Indigenous On-Board Oxygen Generating System (OBOGS)-based Integrated Life Support System (ILSS) for the LCA Tejas aircraft, on March 04, 2025.

The OBOGS-based ILSS is a cutting-edge system designed to generate and regulate breathable oxygen for pilots during flight, eliminating dependence on traditional liquid oxygen cylinder-based systems.

The ILSS underwent rigorous testing on the LCA-Prototype Vehicle-3 aircraft of Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL)/ Aeronautical Development Agency (ADA), meeting stringent aeromedical standards in varied



flight conditions, including altitudes of up to 50,000 feet Above Mean Sea Level and high-G maneuvers.

Performance evaluations covered critical aspects such as oxygen concentration, demand breathing, availability of 100% oxygen, aerobic maneuvers at required altitudes for full functional testing of Anti-G Valve, Breathing Oxygen System (BOS) ON during taxiing, Take off, Cruise, G turns and rejoin approach & landing.

Following flight clearance from Centre for Military Airworthiness & Certification (CEMILAC), the system successfully met all specified parameters. Beyond OBOGS, the ILSS

adapted for use in MiG-29K and other aircraft.

This milestone has been achieved through the collaborative efforts of DEBEL, ADA, HAL, CEMILAC, National Flight Test Center, Directorate General of Aeronautical Quality Assurance, and the Indian Air Force (IAF).

Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh congratulated DRDO, IAF, Public Sector Undertakings, and industry partners on this remarkable achievement, emphasising that this development reinforces India's commitment to cutting-edge defence technologies and aligns with the vision of 'Viksit Bharat 2047.'

Secretary, Department of Defence R&D and Chairman DRDO Dr Samir V Kamat also lauded the DRDO team, the IAF, and industry partners for their contributions towards the successful high-altitude trial of the Indigenous ILSS for LCA Tejas.

UNION MINISTER SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M.SCINDIA SHOWCASES INDIA'S TELECOM TRANSFORMATION AT MWC 2025

Chennai, 06 March 2025: Minister for Communications Shri Jyotiraditya M Scindia visited the prestigious Mobile World Congress (MWC) in Barcelona, Spain, engaging in top level meetings with CEOs, addressed key sessions and witnessed major tech innovations in one of the world's largest gatherings for the mobile and telecommunications industry.

This visit showcased India's telecom transformation at Mobile World Congress 2025, with Bharat's rapid 5G rollout, world's lowest data tariffs, indigenous 4G/5G stacks & robust cybersecurity measures highlighted in the prestigious event. Participation in MWC 25 underscores the global standing of India's telecom revolution and reflects India's commitment to tech governance.

The Minister addressed key sessions on 'Global Tech Governance: Rising to the Challenge' and Balancing Innovation & Regulation: Global Perspectives on Telecom Policy' at the



event.

He said that "Innovation, Inclusivity, Sustainability & Trust forms the core of India's guiding principles towards tech governance" and highlighted the success of Aadhaar, BharatNet in serving every citizen of the country.

The Minister also spoke about the four steps of India's efforts towards balancing innovation with regulation such as spectrum management; ensuring market stability; introducing telecom regulation to ease up various processes; and bringing cybersecurity measures for consumer protection.

During the MWC 2025 visit, Shri Scindia unveiled the curtains of India Mobile Congress 2025 and inaugurated Bharat Pavilion

Mavenir, Ericsson, Nokia, AMD, AT&T, Airtel, BSNL, CDOT, TEPC, during dinner with CEOs, enabling strategic partnerships and innovation in Telecom.

The event also featured bilateral meetings with FCC, along with booth visits to Companies exploring cutting-edge developments in 5G, artificial intelligence, and next-generation mobile technologies.

The Minister's participation in MWC 2025 highlights India's commitment to leveraging cutting-edge technologies for enhancing digital infrastructure.

This engagement also reflects India's strategic focus on strengthening international partnerships, driving investments in the telecommunications sector, and shaping global policies to ensure inclusive and sustainable growth.

Through active dialogue and collaboration, India aims to play a key role in shaping the future of global connectivity and technological advancements.

organized by the Telecom Equipment & Services Export Promotion Council (TEPC) with the support of the Department of Telecommunications, Government of India, featured 38 Indian telecom equipment manufacturers showcasing their state-of-the-art products, both hardware and software.

The Minister also inaugurated VVDN's indigenously designed & manufactured AI based Wi-Fi-7 during his visit to Bharat Pavillion. He also visited other booths such as Meta and Google Cloud, catching a glimpse of their various technological solutions.

As part of the visit, the Minister interacted with top industry leaders from Qualcomm, Cisco,

OUR AIM TO DEFEAT DMK, SPLITTING OF VOTES WILL NOT OCCUR IN 2026: PALANISWAMI

Chennai, 06 March 2025: AIADMK general secretary Edappadi K. Palaniswami (EPS) on Tuesday indicated a possible shift in his stance regarding an alliance with the BJP for the 2026 Assembly elections.

While he did not explicitly confirm a reunion, he refused to rule it out, reiterating that the ruling DMK remains AIADMK's "sole adversary" and that vote-splitting would not be an issue in the upcoming polls.

Speaking to reporters at Attur in Salem, the opposition leader stated that the party's political alliance strategy would be revealed in six months.

"Our priority is to defeat the anti-people DMK regime by ensuring that votes are not divided," he asserted. When asked directly about talks with the BJP, EPS sidestepped the question, once again emphasizing that the AIADMK sees only the DMK as its opponent. His remarks

signal a potential shift from his earlier firm opposition to rejoining hands with the BJP, following AIADMK's exit from the alliance in September 2023.

Dismissing speculation, EPS also refuted claims that the AIADMK is engaged in discussions with actor Vijay's Tamilaga VettriKazhagam.

Regarding DMDK general secretary Premalatha's assertion that her party has been allocated a Rajya Sabha seat by the AIADMK, EPS denied

any such agreement. "Have we told anyone that we are giving a Rajya Sabha seat to the DMK?" he countered. On the arrest of Amalraj, an ex-serviceman working as a security guard for NTK president Seeman, EPS declined to comment. However, he demanded action against a DMK functionary in Dharmapuri for allegedly threatening the district collector and superintendent of police during an internal party meeting.

FESTIVAL OF RUSSIAN CULTURE AT RUSSIAN HOUSE ON MAR 7

Chennai, 06 March 2025: Grand inauguration ceremony of the Festival of Russian Culture in South India will take place on 7th March at 6:30 PM at Russian House in Chennai.

This event will showcase a mesmerizing performance, blending classic Russian dances,

classical vocal performances (like world famous "Fly Away on the Wings of the Wind" from the opera "Prince Igor"), a fashion theatre show displaying traditional Russian dresses and ornaments, and authentic Russian folk songs. For the first time in South India the audience will enjoy the performance of the

renowned Artistic Ensemble of N.P. Ogarev National Research Mordovia State University, a multiple laureate and grand prize winner of prestigious international and national festivals. Their performances have captivated audiences worldwide, showcasing the beauty and diversity of

Russian culture.

The inauguration will be attended by Consul General of the Russian Federation in Chennai His Excellency Valery Khodzhaev. The entrance is free. All are welcome to join this unforgettable cultural event. Venue: Russian House in Chennai, 74, Kasturi Rangan Road, Alwarpet.

SHRI AJAY BHADOO APPOINTED AS CEO OF GOVERNMENT E MARKETPLACE

Chennai, 06 March 2025: The Government of India has appointed Additional Secretary in the Department of Commerce Shri Ajay Bhadoo, as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Government e Marketplace (GeM) with effect from March 3, 2025. He will assume this role in addition to his existing responsibilities in the Department of Commerce.

His appointment as CEO of GeM, India's largest e-marketplace

for government procurement, comes at a pivotal time as the platform transitions to a next-generation digital marketplace powered by Tata Consultancy Services (TCS). Currently, GeM has recorded a Gross Merchandise Value (GMV) of ₹4.58 lakh crore, reflecting a 28.65% year-on-year growth.

An Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer of the 1999 batch from the Gujarat cadre, Shri

Bhadoo brings over two decades of experience in policy formulation and implementation across diverse sectors, including urban infrastructure development.

In August 2024, Shri Bhadoo was appointed as Additional Secretary in the Department of Commerce. Previously, he served as the Deputy Election Commissioner at the Election Commission of India. His extensive

career also includes a tenure as Joint Secretary to the former President of India, Shri Ram Nath Kovind, and leadership roles such as CEO of the Gujarat Maritime Board and Commissioner of Rajkot and Vadodara Municipal Corporations.

Shri Bhadoo holds a degree in Civil Engineering and a Master's in Business Law from the prestigious National Law School of India University, Bengaluru.

COAL PRODUCTION FROM CAPTIVE AND COMMERCIAL MINES GROWS 32.53% YOY TO 167.36 MT

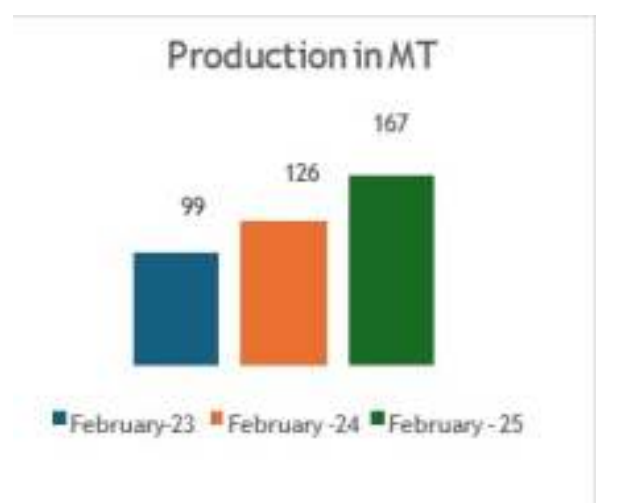
Chennai, 06 March 2025: The Ministry of Coal is pleased to report that total coal production from captive and commercial mines for the financial year 2024-25 has reached 167.36 million tonnes (MT) as of February 2025. This represents a 32.53% year-on-year (YoY) increase compared to the 126.28 MT produced by February 28, 2024.

Coal dispatch has also witnessed a significant surge, with total dispatch for the financial year reaching 170.66 MT, surpassing

the 128.45 MT recorded in the previous year. This marks a 32.86% YoY growth, ensuring a stable and uninterrupted coal supply to key sectors such as power, steel, and cement.

Bhaskarpara Coal mine of M/s Prakash Industries Limited commenced coal production on February 15, 2025, with a Peak Rated Capacity (PRC) of 15 MT.

Looking ahead, the Ministry of Coal remains committed to



fostering a sustainable and efficient coal sector that contributes to national growth and development. This vision aligns with Viksit Bharat 2047, which aims to establish a developed India by

2047. The coal sector will play a pivotal role in achieving this goal by ensuring energy security, promoting sustainable development, and driving economic progress.

PRE-EVENT PRESS RELEASE FOR KOLKATA ROADSHOW TO BE HELD ON 7TH MARCH, 2025

Chennai, 06 March 2025: The Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (MDoNER) is organising the North East Investors Summit and Investment roadshow in Kolkata on 7th March, 2025, starting from 10:30 a.m. onwards at Hotel JW Marriott Kolkata.

The event will be graced by Dr. Sukanta Majumdar, Hon'ble Minister of State, Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region and Ministry of Education, Government of India. Shri Dharmvir Jha, Statistical Adviser, Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region along with senior representatives from North Eastern States will participate in the event. The roadshow is being organised in collaboration with the State Governments of North Eastern Region, FICCI (Industry Partner), and Invest India (Investment

Facilitation Partner).

Kolkata roadshow is the ninth major roadshow as part of pre-summit activities of North East Investors Summit and will be featuring presentations from representatives of the eight North Eastern states viz. Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim and Tripura.

These states will highlight various investment opportunities across key sectors, inter alia, including Infrastructure and Logistics, Agri & Allied industries, IT & I T E S, Energy, Textiles, Handloom & Handicrafts, Tourism & Hospitality, Education & Skill, Healthcare, Entertainment and Sports. The roadshow will also feature B2G (Business-to-Government) meetings, which will provide a unique

platform to investors to engage directly with State representatives and explore sectoral opportunities in the North Eastern Region.

The North East Investors Summit to be organised by MDoNER, aims to attract investments and stimulate economic development. Previous roadshows in Mumbai, Hyderabad, Kolkata, Bengaluru, Ahmedabad and Chennai received strong participation.

The Kolkata roadshow is the second of its kind in the city and aims to build on the momentum of previous event, offering a platform for investors to engage directly with state officials. Kolkata's strategic proximity to the North Eastern states makes it an ideal gateway for investment and the

success of earlier roadshows has reinforced investor confidence in the region, contributing to the realization of the Prime Minister's vision of a 'Viksit Bharat Viksit North East'.

The recently held roadshow held in Chennai on 5th February, 2025, was attended by Shri Jyotiraditya M. Scindia, Hon'ble Union Minister for the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (MDoNER), was a remarkable success.

The keen participation from investors in the B2G meetings marked the growing appeal of the region as an investment destination.

The roadshow in Kolkata is expected to attract many potential investors eager to be part of the growth journey in North East India.