

Weather Forecast

HYDERABAD

t°

H 33° C

L 25° C

VIJAYAWADA

t°

H 35° C

L 26° C

TIRUPATHI

t°

H 36° C

L 26° C



CM Revanth Reddy Pushes for Speedy Progress on RRR and New NH Proposals

CM directs priority for land acquisition for National Highways

Orders blueprint for Hyderabad–Raipur and Hyderabad–Mancherial NHs

Instructs officials to design dry port with a 100-year future vision

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad

Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy on Friday directed officials to accelerate the works related to the Regional Ring Road (RRR) and prioritize land acquisition for ongoing and proposed National Highway (NH) projects across the state. In a high-level review meeting, the Chief Minister emphasized that land acquisition issues must be addressed proactively to avoid further delays in infrastructure development. CM Revanth expressed concern over the delays caused by land acquisition bottlenecks and urged officials to give them special attention, particularly for NH works. He inquired into the challenges being faced by the revenue and roads departments and sought immediate solutions to ensure smooth execution of major highway projects. The Chief Minister also instructed officials to prepare proposals for a new National Highway connecting Hyderabad city to Raipur, the capital of Chhattisgarh. Highlighting the strategic importance of better interstate connectivity, he said such a highway would significantly boost trade and logistics between Telangana and central India. Further, CM Revanth called for detailed planning of a National Highway from Hyderabad to Mancherial and asked for the proposals to be sent to the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) at the earliest. Stressing on long-term planning, he advised officials to prepare infrastructure models that would meet the state's needs for the next hundred years. He also instructed that the proposed dry port in the state should be designed with a futuristic vision, aligning it with the expected growth in industrial and logistics sectors. CM Revanth reiterated that the dry port should not only meet current demand but also support economic activities for future generations. The meeting was attended by senior officials from the Roads & Buildings, Revenue, and Transport departments.

KTR Fires Fresh Salvo at Revanth Reddy Over ₹10k Cr Land Scam



- **Alleges massive financial fraud linked to HCU lands, demands Centre's response**
- **Claims involvement of BJP MP, hints at collusion between BJP and Congress**
- **Warns of court battle and national-level complaints if Centre remains silent**

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad

BRS Working President K.T. Rama Rao (KTR) made serious allegations on Friday, accusing the Congress government in Telangana, led by Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, of being involved in a staggering Rs. 10,000 crore financial fraud connected to land near the Hyderabad Central University (HCU). Addressing the media, KTR described Revanth Reddy as the "mastermind" behind what he termed an environmental and financial scam.

KTR claimed the Apex Committee's recent probe only touched on environmental violations, while the larger financial irregularities have been ignored. He alleged the scam also involved a BJP MP and challenged the central government to clarify its stand. "If the Centre fails to act, it will be seen as collusion with the Congress government," KTR warned.

He further stated that the BRS party would escalate the matter nationally. "I will personally meet the Prime Minister and the Union Finance Minister to lodge a complaint. We'll also raise this issue in both the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha through our allies," he said.

Referring to PM Modi's own claims during election campaigns about corruption in Telangana, KTR asked why no action had been taken so far. "Despite evidence that Revanth Reddy diverted Rs. 1137 crores to his brother-in-law in the Amruth scam, the Centre has remained silent," he said.

KTR also slammed the ease with which powerful individuals obtain massive bank loans. "In this case, ICICI Bank sanctioned thousands of crores without verifying land titles. If a common man applies for a loan, he must submit a hundred documents. Why this double standard?" he questioned, urging the media to investigate further.

"We have given so many clues... Now let's see what you do," he concluded.

Justice A. Rajasekhhar Reddy Appointed as Telangana Lokayukta



TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad

The Telangana government has filled long-vacant key positions in the state's accountability and rights institutions by issuing appointment orders on Friday. Retired High Court Judge A. Rajasekhhar Reddy has been appointed as the new Telangana Lokayukta. Alongside him, BS Jagjivan Kumar has been appointed as the Deputy Lokayukta.

In a parallel move, Justice Shamim Akhtar has been appointed as the Chairman of the Telangana State Human Rights Commission (HRC). Shivadi Praveena and B. Kishore have been named as members of the Commission. The appointment proposals were approved by the Governor last Saturday and official orders followed this week, marking a significant administrative development in Telangana's governance framework.

It is noteworthy that both Justice Rajasekhhar Reddy and Justice Shamim Akhtar hail from Nalgonda district, underlining the district's growing representation in key judicial and administrative roles within the state.



Metro Rail to Reach Future City: CM Revanth Orders Fast-tracking of Second Phase

CM Revanth Reddy holds review, directs officials to push for central approval

Phase-2 Metro proposal covers 76.4 km with ₹24,269 crore budget

Plans in place to extend Metro to Future City, Mirkhanpet

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad

Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy has directed officials to expedite the approval process from the Central Government for the second phase of the Hyderabad Metro Rail project and to prepare final proposals for extending the Metro network to the upcoming Future City. The CM held a review meeting at the Command Control Center on Friday, attended by Government Advisors Vem Narender Reddy and Srinivasa Raju, Special Chief Secretary Jayesh Ranjan, CMO Secretary V. Seshadri, Principal Secretary MA&UD Dana Kishore, and HMR MD NVS Reddy. Officials informed the CM that the Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) for the second phase, covering 76.4 km, were already submitted to the Centre. This includes corridors such as

Cyberabad Police Recover 1,060 Stolen and Lost Mobiles Worth ₹3.18 Crore in Just 45 Days

- Recovered phones handed over to rightful owners at Commissioner Office
- DCP L.C. Naik urges public to use CEIR portal to report lost mobiles
- CCS teams across zones praised for swift and efficient recovery

TPN Correspondent | Cyberabad

In a major breakthrough, the Cyberabad Police successfully recovered 1,060 stolen and lost mobile phones worth ₹3.18 crore within just 45 days. Under the supervision of DCP Crimes L.C. Naik, the 6th phase of mobile phone recovery was conducted by the CCS, IT Cell, and Social Media teams using the Central Equipment Identity Register (CEIR) portal. The recovered phones were handed over to their owners on Friday (April 11) at the Cyberabad Commissioner Office.

Speaking on the occasion, DCP Naik emphasized the importance of mobile phones in modern life, stating they hold vital information and personal memories.

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CM Revanth Reddy Announces Installation of Mahatma Phule Statue on Necklace Road

- CM inspects proposed statue site near IMAX on Phule Jayanti
- Officials directed to conduct survey and submit detailed plan
- Tribute paid at Amberpet statue by CM and senior leaders

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad

In a symbolic move on the occasion of Mahatma Jyotiba Phule's birth anniversary, Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy took a key decision to install a statue of the social reformer on Necklace Road, Hyderabad. On Friday, the Chief Minister personally inspected the proposed site near the IMAX theatre, accompanied by Deputy CM Bhatti Vikramarka, PCC Chief Mahesh Kumar Goud, MP Anil Kumar Yadav, GHMC Mayor Vijayalakshmi, former MP Anjan Kumar Yadav, and BC leaders including Jajula Srinivas Goud.

CM Revanth Reddy directed the officials to conduct a detailed survey of the site and submit a comprehensive report with design and traffic impact plans. He emphasized the need for meticulous planning to ensure that the statue installation does not lead to traffic disruptions or related issues in the future. The decision is seen as a significant step in honoring the legacy of Mahatma Phule, who championed the



rights of the backward classes and fought for social justice.

Earlier in the day, the Chief Minister also paid floral tributes to Phule by garlanding his statue in Amberpet. The event witnessed participation from PCC Chief Mahesh Kumar Goud, CM Advisor Vem Narendar Reddy, MP Anil Kumar Yadav, former MPs V. Hanumantha Rao and Anjan Kumar Yadav, MLAs, MLCs, Mayor Vijayalakshmi, and Constituency In-charge Rohin Reddy, among others.

The Telangana government's gesture comes as part of its broader commitment to recognizing the contributions of social reformers and leaders from marginalized communities.

1,460 New CCTV Cameras Inaugurated in Malkajgiri Zone to Strengthen Community Surveillance

- CP G. Sudheer Babu highlights CCTV's vital role in crime prevention
- 410 cameras set up in 17 colonies; 1,050 installed at 212 vulnerable temples
- Total of 98,321 cameras geo-tagged in Malkajgiri Zone

TPN Correspondent | Malkajgiri

In a significant boost to public safety, Rachakonda Commissioner of Police Sri G. Sudheer Babu, IPS, inaugurated 1,460 new CCTV cameras across the Malkajgiri Zone on Friday. Of these, 410 cameras have been installed in 17 residential colonies at a cost of ₹1.19 crore, including a two-year Annual Maintenance Contract (AMC), under a community-driven initiative. The remaining 1,050 cameras were installed across 212 vulnerable temples as part of a focused drive to enhance security at sensitive locations. These cameras are integrated with the Command and Control Centre and monitored round-the-clock by a dedicated team. With this addition, the total number of community CCTV cameras in the Malkajgiri Zone has risen to 5,260, alongside 93,061 Nenu Saitham cameras, taking the total to an impressive 98,321 geo-tagged cameras. Addressing the gathering, CP G. Sudheer Babu emphasized the growing importance



of CCTV surveillance in crime deterrence and investigation. He highlighted how footage from CCTV systems has played a crucial role in solving several sensational cases. He appealed to colony elders and local communities to actively participate in enhancing surveillance infrastructure, noting that the mere presence of cameras significantly improves public safety and reduces criminal activity.

On this occasion, the Commissioner felicitated several community leaders for their cooperation and contribution in supporting the police's CCTV initiative.

The programme saw participation from DCP Malkajgiri Zone Smt. P.V. Padmaja, IPS, Addl. DCP N. Venkata Ramana, ACPs S. Chakrapani (Malkajgiri), T. Mahesh Goud (Kushaiguda), J. Narendar Goud (IT Cell), and all SHOs from the Malkajgiri Zone.

GO 16 on Banakacharla Project Sparks Row Between AP and Telangana

- Telangana opposes AP's move, citing injustice over Godavari waters
- Revanth Govt raises issue with Jal Shakti Ministry
- Telangana writes to Godavari Board and Polavaram Authority with objections

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad

A fresh row has erupted between Andhra Pradesh and Telangana over the Banakacharla Project, with the Telangana government strongly objecting to the issuance of GO 16 by the AP government regarding the Godavari-Banakacharla water linkage. The controversial project, aimed at diverting Godavari river water to meet the needs of Rayalaseema and other regions in AP, has been a point of contention since its proposal. In a swift reaction, the Telangana government has written a formal letter to the Godavari River Management Board (GRMB) and the Polavaram Authority, urging them to intervene and prevent AP from going ahead with the project. The letter



included a copy of GO 16 and highlighted Telangana's concern that such unilateral actions by

AP could violate interstate water-sharing norms and cause long-term injustice to Telangana's

rightful share of Godavari water. The Telangana government has alleged that the Banakacharla linkage, if executed, could drastically affect water availability for its regions, particularly in the backdrop of previous disputes over Krishna and Godavari allocations. CM Revanth Reddy has already taken up the issue at the national level by bringing it to the notice of the Union Jal Shakti Minister, seeking the Centre's intervention to halt the AP government's progress on the project. Both states have earlier made their arguments before the Godavari Board, but with the issuance of this GO, tensions have resurfaced. Telangana maintains that any new inter-basin water diversion requires the consent of both states and the approval of the central authorities, which it claims has not been obtained in this case. The matter is likely to be escalated further, with Telangana expected to push for a review of AP's actions in the upcoming GRMB meeting.

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Metro Rail to Reach Future City: CM Revanth Orders Fast-tracking of Second Phase

Nagole-Shamshabad (36.8 km), Rayadurgam-Kokapet Neopolis (11.6 km), MGBS-Chandrayanagutta (7.5 km), Miyapur-Patancheru (13.4 km), and LB Nagar-Hayat Nagar (7.1 km). The total estimated cost of ₹24,269 crore is proposed to be shared equally between the Centre and the State.

Revanth Reddy emphasized persistent follow-up with the Centre to secure approvals and begin work immediately after getting the green signal.

Looking ahead, the CM instructed officials to prepare a DPR for a new 40-kilometer Metro extension from Shamshabad Airport to the Young India Skills Development University in the proposed Future City. Spread across 30,000 acres, Future City is a major urban expansion project, and the Metro's reach to Mirkhanpet is considered vital. The FSDA (Future City Development Authority), along with HMDA, will play a key role in this expansion.

Cyberabad Police Recover 1,060 Stolen and Lost Mobiles Worth ₹3.18 Crore in Just 45 Days

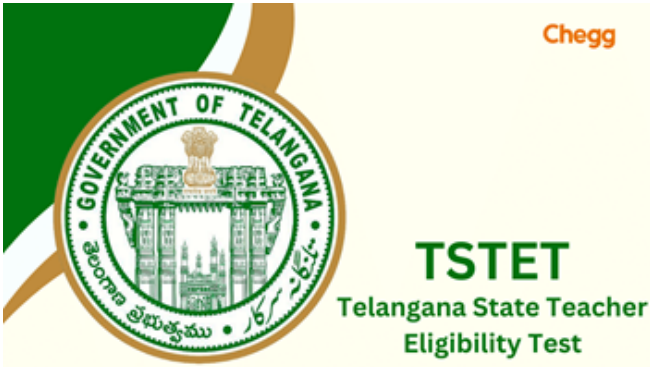
He said while thieves are relentless, the police must be even more persistent. He encouraged the public to report lost phones via police stations or directly through the CEIR portal, which not only blocks misuse but also helps in timely recovery. Zone-wise, CCS Madhapur recovered 245 phones, Balanagar 225, Medchal 200, Rajendranagar 205, and Shamshabad 185. Several recipients at the event shared heartfelt stories, thanking the police for their swift response and professionalism. One beneficiary from Kukatpally

said, "I lost hope of getting my phone back, but the police recovered and returned it quickly. I'm very thankful." Another woman recalled losing her phone after dropping her child at school and was amazed by the prompt action from Cyberabad Police. DCP Naik appreciated CCS ACP K. Shashank Reddy, IT Cell Inspector Anjaneyulu, and Inspectors Sanjeev, Prasanth, Pavan, Raju, Dalinaidu, SI Shashidhar, and the teams from IT Cell and CCS for their remarkable efforts in this large-scale recovery operation.

TG-TET Notification Released: Applications from April 15, Exams in June

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad

In a key development for teacher job aspirants in Telangana, the Telangana State Teacher Eligibility Test (TG-TET) notification has been officially released by the School Education Department. The much-awaited announcement is seen as a boost to the unemployed youth in the state, particularly in the wake of the BC reservation bill and the government's commitment to expand job opportunities. According to the notification, TG-TET 2025 will be conducted between June 15 and June 30, with the results set to be declared on July 22. The application process will be open from April 15 to April 30, and detailed guidelines and



syllabus will be made available on the official website starting April 15.

The fee structure for the examination is as follows:

- ₹750 for candidates appearing for one paper
- ₹1000 for candidates attempting both Paper I and Paper II

Paper I is intended for candidates aspiring to teach Classes I to V, while Paper II is for those aiming to teach Classes VI to VIII.

The Telangana government has reiterated its earlier commitment to hold TET exams twice a year, enabling more opportunities for qualified candidates to enter the teaching profession. This move is being welcomed by educational and employment circles, especially as it aligns with the broad-

er strategy to fill vacancies across the state's educational institutions.

With the TET notification now out, aspirants are advised to begin their preparations and stay tuned to the official portal for updates on the syllabus, exam pattern, and hall ticket download procedures.

Harish Rao Urges CM Revanth to Release Pending Funds for SC/ST Best Available Schools

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad

Former Minister and senior Pink Party leader Harish Rao has written a strongly worded letter to Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, urging the immediate release of pending funds for the Best Available Schools (BAS) — institutions aimed at providing quality education to SC and ST students across Telangana.

In his letter, Harish Rao expressed serious concern over the plight of 150 BAS institutions that have reportedly not received government funds for the past two years. He stated that due to this negligence, both students and school managements are facing severe hardships. He said students were struggling without proper food, accommodation, and basic facilities, while school owners



were plunging into debt. He added that several institutions had resorted to mortgaging household gold and assets to keep their operations running, painting a grim picture of the financial state of these schools.

Citing a particularly tragic incident, Harish Rao alleged that a school owner in Wanaparthy attempted suicide, unable

to bear the mounting financial pressure. "They are hiding their faces in shame, unable to repay loans or EMIs, and are being cornered by bankers," he wrote. Harish Rao criticized the Congress-led government for its inaction and demanded that the pending funds be released immediately, stating that the future of thousands of marginalized students was at stake. Sharing his concerns on social media platform X (formerly Twitter), he tagged the official Telangana CMO handle and reiterated his appeal.

His letter and public appeal have sparked political conversation, with education rights activists and opposition leaders rallying behind the demand for timely support to SC/ST institutions.

KTR Cries Over Lost Commission, But BRS Sold Thousands of Acres: Mahesh Kumar Goud

TPCC chief slams BRS for land scams, questions silence on Gachibowli, HCU lands
Alleges sale of lands at Rs. 100 crore per acre in Kokapet under BRS rule
Says Congress saved 400 acres from going to IMG through Supreme Court fight

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad
Telangana PCC president Mahesh Kumar Goud launched a sharp attack on BRS working president K.T. Rama Rao (KTR), alleging massive irregularities in land dealings during the ten-year rule of the previous government. Addressing a media conference at Gandhi Bhavan, Goud criticized KTR for lamenting over the breakdown of a commission agreement worth thousands of crores with Billi Rao, calling it a reflection of BRS's corrupt governance. He alleged that thousands of acres

of prime land around Hyderabad were sold off or allocated to followers during the KCR-led administration. "Why didn't the BRS government raise its voice for the Kancha Gachibowli lands for a decade? Why was there no action when Hyderabad Central University lands were stuck in legal battles?" Goud questioned. Highlighting the Congress government's intervention, he said it was only after the party came to power that the case was fought in the Supreme Court and 400 acres were recovered, saving the land from being

handed over to IMG. "That land is now going to bring opportunities for industries and lakhs of jobs for the youth," he said. Mahesh Kumar Goud also expressed outrage over the sale of lands in Kokapet, questioning whether they were not sold at rates as high as Rs. 100 crore per acre during the previous regime. He said those in power then showed no concern for the environment or future development while disposing of such massive tracts of public land. He concluded by stating that the Con-



gress government will ensure transparency in all land dealings and make sure public assets are used for people's benefit, not for political kick-backs or private gains.

KCR Jailed Revanth, But He Spares BRS Leaders: MP Dharmapuri Arvind



TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad
Nizamabad MP and BJP leader Dharmapuri Arvind launched a scathing attack on Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, accusing him of running an incompetent and corrupt government. Addressing the media at the BJP office in Hyderabad, Arvind said that while former CM KCR had once jailed Revanth Reddy, the current CM is not even attempting action against BRS leaders now. He criticized the Congress government for failing to deliver in its one and a half years of rule, stating that the administration has been reduced to only issues like Pushpa, Hydra, Musi, and HCU land. "What we have in Telangana now is a government with zero administrative capability and no financial discipline," Arvind stated. The BJP MP accused the Congress of neglecting all the key promises made before the elections, including Indiramma Mananu, Yuva Vikasam, Vidya Bharosa Card, Cheyutha, Arogyasri, and Tulam Bangaram. "None of these schemes have seen light. Revanth Reddy's graph is falling every day," he said, alleging that many of the same corrupt individuals who surrounded KCR are now aligned with Revanth. He didn't spare the opposition either, claiming it is "sleeping in a farmhouse" and questioning why the opposition post was accepted in the first place. Arvind added that the system in Telangana was destroyed during KCR's tenure and accused Revanth Reddy of now trying to intimidate political opponents. He further recalled Revanth Reddy's remarks at a party meeting in Ahmedabad, where the CM reportedly said he would not allow BJP leaders into Telangana. "But recently, leaders like Malka Komuriah and Anji Reddy have entered Telangana," Arvind countered, alleging inaction against the corrupt KCR family and raising concerns about internal dissatisfaction in Congress ranks over Revanth's leadership.

KTR Failed to Act on 48-hour Land Scam Claim, Says Congress MP

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad
Congress MP Chamala Kiran Kumar Reddy launched a scathing attack on BRS working president K.T. Rama Rao, branding him a "hypocrite" and accusing him of making baseless claims about a land scam involving Hyderabad Central University (HCU). Addressing the media, Chamala ridiculed KTR's challenge to expose the Kancha Gachibowli land scam within 48 hours, saying, "He did nothing, and there is still no proof." With biting sarcasm, the MP said, "We were worried what would happen if KTR dropped a hydrogen bomb, but he couldn't even drop an onion bomb." He accused KTR of creating unneces-



sary drama when the government was gaining a good name through development programs, suggesting that the BRS leader was unable to accept positive developments under Congress rule. Chamala further alleged that KTR had a personal interest in the HCU lands

and had tried to acquire them in collusion with Billy Rao. He said that after those attempts failed, KTR resorted to holding a press meet to vent his frustration. "If KTR is so sure of a scam, why doesn't he name the MP he is accusing? Instead, he is trying to confuse the people of Telangana with vague statements," Chamala said. He urged KTR to stop playing diversion politics and instead answer for the alleged land dealings and commissions under the BRS government. The Congress MP concluded by asserting that people are no longer fooled by such tactics and that the current government is focused on delivering real progress and safeguarding public lands.

'You Should Talk About Political Seriousness': Janasena Leader Prithviraj Fires Back at MLC Kavitha

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad
Strong reactions have erupted within Janasena after Telangana BRS MLC Kavitha's remarks on Andhra Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister and Janasena Party chief Pawan Kalyan. Her statement, calling Pawan Kalyan a "not a serious politician" and expressing dismay over his elevation as Deputy CM, has stirred widespread criticism across social media platforms. In retaliation, Janasena supporters launched a sharp counterattack, questioning how someone without political seriousness could win all contested seats in the recent elections. They asserted that Pawan Kalyan's success was not just electoral but also ideological, resonating



with people who believe in his leadership and sincerity. Adding to the chorus, Janasena leader and well-known actor Prithviraj responded strongly to Kavitha's remarks. In a fiery tweet, he said, "Is Deputy CM Pawan Kalyan not a serious

partments entrusted to him, and where are you, who were accused in the liquor scam while in office?" Prithviraj's sharp reaction has added fuel to the ongoing political row, with Janasena cadres across both Telugu states backing their leader and condemning what they see as "demeaning and baseless" comments. The party's social media wings have also started trending hashtags demanding an apology from MLC Kavitha for her remarks. With the political heat rising, all eyes are now on how BRS leadership will respond to this growing backlash, as Janasena cadres stand firmly behind their party chief, defending his political stature and performance.

Madras Agreement Behind Silence on Scams: Maheshwar Reddy 's Sensational Allegation

TPN Correspondent | Nirmal
BJP leader and Nirmal MLA Maheshwar Reddy made explosive allegations against the Congress and BRS parties, accusing them of secretly working together through what he termed a "Madras agreement." Addressing the media, MLA claimed that BRS had turned into a tail party for the Congress, silently supporting the ruling government in Telangana while pretending to be in opposition. He alleged that BRS working president K.T. Rama Rao has been hurling accusations at BJP only to divert attention from the covert understanding between the BRS and Congress. He went further to say that BRS chief K. Chandrashekar Rao is



fully backing Chief Minister Revanth Reddy's continuation in office for a full five-year term. Referring to KTR's recent visit to Tamil Nadu, MLA accused him of finalizing a secret pact with Revanth Reddy during his trip to Chennai. "This Madras

agreement is the reason why Congress leaders are not questioning the corruption scandals involving KCR and KTR," he claimed. The BJP MLA also pointed to the curious withdrawal of both parties from the Hyderabad local body MLC elections as further evidence of the alleged deal. "If there's no agreement, then why did both parties back out from the MLC election? The people deserve an answer," MLA demanded. He concluded by warning the public about this hidden alliance, saying that the people of Telangana are being deceived by both Congress and BRS, who are more focused on protecting each other than delivering good governance.

KTR Has Exploded a Bombshell Without Evidence - MLC Dayakar

TPN Correspondent | Telangana
Senior Congress MLC Dayakar came down heavily on BRS working president K.T. Rama Rao, stating that KTR has been making sensational and baseless allegations against the Congress government without a shred of evidence. Speaking to Mirror in a sharp rebuttal, MLC Dayakar said that just making loud statements doesn't make them true. "Will people believe if I say someone stole without proof? Likewise, KTR's statements are nothing but empty rhetoric meant to create confusion," Dayakar asserted. He claimed that all the so-called bombshells being dropped by KTR are hollow and lack any credibility. MLC Dayakar defended the Congress government's functioning and Chief Minister Revanth Reddy's commitment to the people of Telangana. He said that despite the severe financial mess inherited from the previous regime, the government is trying its best to raise necessary funds and fulfill the promises made during the elections. Highlighting how BRS is attempting to destabilize the new government, Dayakar alleged

that their actions are aimed at creating roadblocks for development and misleading the public. "KTR and his team are unable to digest the goodwill CM Revanth Reddy is generating among the people," he added. He urged the public to be cautious of misinformation and politically motivated attacks, assuring that the Congress government remains focused on transparency, development, and delivering on its assurances.



Cyberabad Police Recover Over 1,000 Lost and Stolen Phones Worth Rs 3.18 Crore in 45 Days

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad

In a significant achievement, the Cyberabad police have successfully recovered 1,060 lost and stolen mobile phones over the past 45 days, with an estimated total value of Rs 3.18 crore. These devices were formally returned to their rightful owners during a public event held at the Cyberabad Commissioner's Office on Friday, April 11. The operation was carried out by the five zones of the Cyberabad Central Crime Station (CCS), with Madhapur CCS leading the recovery effort, trac-



ing and returning 245 mobile phones.

Balanagar CCS followed with the recovery of 225 devices,

while Rajendranagar CCS tracked down 205. Medchal CCS accounted for 200 recoveries, and Shamshabad CCS successfully located 185 phones. This

coordinated effort by the CCS teams marks a robust step in tackling mobile theft and ensuring swift returns to victims. Speaking at the event, Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP) L.C. Naik urged the public to report any lost or stolen phones without delay, either by visiting the nearest police station or using the CEIR (Central Equipment Identity Register) portal. He emphasized that CEIR plays a crucial role in preventing the misuse of stolen devices by blocking them across all networks and expediting the tracking and recovery process.

In his address, the DCP also highlighted the importance of community participation in crime prevention.

He encouraged residents to install CCTV cameras in their colonies and residential communities, noting that surveillance not only improves local safety but also significantly assists the police in tracing suspects and recovering stolen property.

For cybercrime-related incidents, DCP Naik advised citizens to use the national cyber-crime helpline 1930 or visit the

official cybercrime reporting website to lodge complaints. He emphasized the need for timely reporting, as early action increases the chances of recovery and helps authorities in conducting thorough investigations. The large-scale recovery effort reflects Cyberabad police's ongoing commitment to public safety and technological coordination, reassuring citizens that law enforcement is actively working to protect their digital property and enhance overall security in the region.

Traffic Curbs Announced in Hyderabad for Hanuman Jayanti Processions on April 12

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad

Hyderabad police have issued a traffic advisory ahead of Hanuman Jayanti celebrations scheduled for Saturday, April 12, with extensive restrictions to be enforced from 11:00 am to 8:00 pm. The curbs are primarily aimed at managing the Hanuman Vijay Yatra, a grand procession that will travel across key city roads, drawing large crowds and vehicular disruptions.

The main yatra will commence from Ram Mandir in Gowliguda and culminate at the Hanuman Mandir in Tadbund, Secunderabad. The procession will traverse a long route, moving through Gowliguda, Ram Mandir, Putlibowli crossroads, Andhra Bank crossroads, Koti, DM&HS, Sultan Bazar, Ramkoti, Kachiguda crossroads, Narayanguda YMCA, Chikakadpally, RTC crossroads, Ashok Nagar, Gandhi Nagar (behind Viceroy Hotel), Praga Tools, Kavadiiguda, CGO Towers, Bansilalpet Road, Bible House, City Light Hotel, Bata showroom, Ujjaini Mahankali Temple,



Old Ramgopalpet police station, Paradise crossroads, CTO Junction, Lee Royal Palace, Brooke Bond, Imperial Garden, Mastan Cafe, before finally reaching Sri Hanuman Temple in Tadbund.

In anticipation of traffic congestion, commuters are advised to avoid the yatra route between 2:00

pm and 7:00 pm. For those traveling from Lakdikapul toward Secunderabad or Uppal, police suggest using alternate routes via VV Statue, Somajiguda, Greenlands, Begumpet flyover, Prakashnagar flyover, and Paradise flyover. From there, commuters may either turn left to reach JBS, right for Secunderabad Station, or proceed straight via St John Rotary toward Uppal. In addition to the main procession, another yatra originating from the Karmanghat Hanuman Temple in the Rachakonda Commissionerate will enter Hyderabad city limits at Champapet. This procession will pass through Champapet crossroads, IS Sadan, Dhobhighat, Saidabad Y Junction, Saidabad Colony Road, and Shankeshwar Bazar, re-entering the Rachakonda limits at Saroor Nagar Tank.

It will then merge back into Hyderabad at Rajiv Gandhi statue, Dilsukhnagar, and continue through Moosaram Bagh, Malakpet, Nalgonda crossroads, Azampura Rotary, and Chaderghat before joining the main yatra at DM&HS.

Hyderabad on High Alert as Multiple Protests Planned Against Waqf Amendment Act

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad

Security has been intensified across Hyderabad and other parts of Telangana as several organizations have called for protests against the Waqf Amendment Act following Friday prayers. With demonstrations scheduled in multiple key areas of the city, police forces have been placed on high alert and patrolling has been ramped up to ensure law and order. In Saidabad, Wahdat-e-Islami, in coordination with the Joint Action Committee, has announced a protest outside Masjid-e-Ujale Shah immediately after Namaz-e-Juma.

A significant gathering is expected at the venue as organizers prepare for a large turnout. In the Shaheennagar area, a major protest rally is scheduled near Osmania Hotel. Local residents are leading the rally, which is projected to attract a massive crowd, raising concerns about traffic disruptions and public safety. Meanwhile, in the Moula Ali area near ECIL, a "Waqf Bachao March" is slated to take place at Moula Ali Kaman at 2:30 PM. This demonstration, too, is expected to draw considerable participation from nearby neighborhoods. Similarly, in Serilingampally, local residents have planned a protest march starting at 1:30 PM from Moti Masjid to Tarannagar Masjid. The sequence of demon-



strations across different corners of the city has prompted authorities to deploy additional police forces in sensitive zones. High-security areas include Saidabad, Medhapatnam, Bahadurpura, and the historic Makkah Masjid, all of which have witnessed heightened surveillance and police presence. Officials have also directed law enforcement agencies in other towns and mandals across Telangana to enhance vigilance and deploy backup units to manage any potential flare-ups. The protests stem from growing opposition to the Waqf Amendment Act, with community leaders and organizations raising concerns about its implications on religious endowments and institutional autonomy.

As tension builds, the administration remains focused on ensuring peaceful demonstrations while avoiding any law and order breaches. Authorities have urged protestors to maintain calm and cooperate with police during the rallies to prevent any disturbances in the city.

Gold Rates in Hyderabad Shatter Records for Third Time in April Amid Global Tensions



TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad

Gold prices in Hyderabad have skyrocketed in the past three days, setting new all-time highs for the third time this April. The surging rates come amid global economic uncertainty and growing concerns surrounding US trade policies. On April 1, 3, and now April 11, gold prices in the city hit historic peaks, reflecting a sharp upward trend.

On Friday, the 22-carat rate jumped by Rs 1850 to touch Rs 87,450 per 10 grams, while the 24-carat variant rose by Rs 2020 to reach Rs 95,400, surpassing the previous highs of Rs 85,600 and Rs 93,380 set just a week ago. This sudden surge marks a significant price movement of over 6.3 percent in just three days, as 22-carat and 24-carat gold

were priced at Rs 82,250 and Rs 89,730 respectively on April 8.

The city has witnessed a dramatic rise of over 22 percent in 2025 alone. At the start of the year, 10 grams of 22-carat gold cost Rs 71,500, while 24-carat gold stood at Rs 78,000—highlighting a year-to-date increase of Rs 17,400 per 10 grams. The sharp rally in Hyderabad aligns with trends

seen in other metropolitan cities such as Mumbai, Delhi, and Bengaluru, all of which are also experiencing record-breaking prices. Analysts point to a combination of global factors fueling the upward momentum. As investors seek refuge in safer assets, the demand for gold has increased in response to the weakening US dollar and fears surrounding a renewed trade war.

On Thursday, President Donald Trump warned that if partner countries fail to reach agreements with the US by July 9—marking the end of a 90-day pause—reciprocal tariffs will be enforced on incoming goods. This announcement has intensified investor anxiety, driving the rush toward gold as a hedge against market volatility.

HYDRAA-NRSC Pact to Digitize Land, Water Data Around Hyderabad ORR

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad

In a significant move toward improving urban governance, disaster management, and environmental conservation, the Hyderabad Disaster Response and Assets Protection Agency (HYDRAA) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the National Remote Sensing Centre (NRSC) on April 11, 2025. The collaboration aims to digitize and provide public access to comprehensive land and water resource data in and around the Outer Ring Road (ORR) region of Hyderabad. The initiative focuses on compiling accurate geo-spatial information concerning tanks, canals, stormwater

drains, government lands, and public parks—clearly marked with defined boundaries. It will involve the use of topographical sheets, cadastral maps, revenue records, and historical tank survey data from the 1970 Survey of India, combined with high-resolution satellite imagery supplied by NRSC. HYDRAA Commissioner AV Ranganath described the agreement as a milestone that will bring much-needed transparency to the mapping of Full Tank Levels (FTL), buffer zones, and public properties such as parks and roads. He emphasized that the project would be instrumental in water resource protection, spatial planning, and disaster preparedness.



NRSC Director Dr. Prakash Chauhan highlighted the uniqueness of the project, stating that Telangana would become the first Indian state to adopt such a large-scale, technology-driven initiative aimed at preserving water bodies and securing public

land. Key features of the HYDRAA-NRSC collaboration include: Technical and geo-spatial support for disaster management and urban planning. Creation of a comprehensive geospatial database for the Telangana Core Urban Region

(TCUR). Public access to legacy and current satellite data via the Bhuvan and Bhunidhi portals under the 2023 Geospatial Data Policy. Integration of digital elevation models, aerial imagery, and high-resolution satellite data for effective asset monitoring. Free use of NRSC's National Database for Emergency Management (NDEM) for real-time disaster visualization. The partnership will also support data collection and verification across 27 municipalities surrounding the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC), strengthening efforts to ensure transparent governance and promote sustainable urban development.

BRS Leaders Submit Petition to Tahsildar and MPDO in Protest

TPN Correspondent |
Telangana

Sangareddy District witnessed political unrest as Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) leaders from the Patancheru constituency staged a dharna, strongly opposing the government's move to convert rural areas in Jinnaram mandal into municipalities. The protest took place in front of the Mandal Parishad Development Office (MPDO), where the leaders submitted a memorandum to Tahsildar Bikshapati via MPDO Aruna Reddy.

The demonstration was led by Patancheru BRS coordinator Adarsh Reddy, along with former ZPTC Kolan Bal Reddy and senior leader Venkatesham Goud, who were present as chief guests. A large rally was carried out through the mandal headquarters before converging at the MPDO office.

Addressing the gathering, the BRS leaders expressed serious concern over the government's intention to convert fully rural villages into urban municipalities. They claimed the move



would disrupt the traditional lifestyle of villagers and impose additional burdens, such as higher taxes and complex urban regulations, on the rural

population.

"The decision to upgrade gram panchayats into municipalities is irrational and serves no prac-

tical purpose. It will only create administrative confusion and increase financial pressure on people who are still dependent on agriculture and rural livelihoods," said Adarsh Reddy.

The leaders demanded that the state government maintain the current status of village panchayats in Jinnaram mandal and withdraw any proposals to convert them into municipalities. They also warned of intensified protests if the Congress-led government proceeds with the plan. "If necessary, we

will hold demonstrations in front of the houses of Congress leaders until the government reverses this decision," they said.

Mandal-level BRS president Rajesh, along with former public representatives and a large number of party activists, participated in the protest. The protest concluded with a renewed vow to protect the rural identity and governance of the villages in Jinnaram mandal, insisting that the panchayat system should be preserved for the benefit of the local people.

Railways Launch Special Summer Trains to Tirupati, Srikakulam & Shirdi



TPN Correspondent | Telangana

With the summer holiday rush picking up, the Indian Railways has announced a slew of special trains to ease passenger congestion on high-demand routes. The Railway Department has unveiled a summer train schedule that includes special services between key destinations such as Cherlapalli, Srikakulam, Tirupati, and Machilipatnam.

Owing to the heavy rush of devotees and tourists traveling to Tirupati during the summer months, South Central Railway officials have introduced a new special train service between Machilipatnam and Tirupati. According to the schedule, special train number 07121 will depart from Tirupati at 10:20 PM from May 13 to May 25, reaching Vijayawada at 4:30 AM and Machilipatnam at 7:20 AM the following morning.

On the return journey, train number 07122 will leave Machilipatnam at 5:40 PM from May 14 to May 26 and is scheduled to arrive in Tirupati at 3:20 AM the next day. This special train will halt at several important stations en route, including Renigunta, Gudur, Nellore, Ongole, Chirala, Tenali, Gudivada, and Pedana.

In addition to this, South Central Railway has announced 24 special train services between Cherlapalli and Srikakulam Road. Train number 07025 will operate from Cherlapalli to Srikakulam Road every Friday from April 11 to June 27. The return service, train number 07026, will run from Srikakulam Road to Cherlapalli every Saturday from April 12 to June 28.

Meanwhile, the railway officials have also confirmed the extension of special train services between Tirupati and Sainagar Shirdi. Trains numbered 07637/07638 will now continue operating on this route until June 30, providing much-needed relief to pilgrims and tourists heading to the holy town of Shirdi.

These measures aim to reduce the pressure on regular train services and offer comfortable travel options to passengers during the busy summer travel season.

"Mallan on the Move: MLA Mallareddy's Japan Journey Becomes a Social Media Hit"



TPN Correspondent | Telangana

Former Minister and Medchal MLA Mallareddy is making headlines once again — not for

politics this time, but for his lively vacation in Japan. Accompanied by his wife, the senior leader is on a summer getaway and appears to be thoroughly enjoying the experience.

From boarding Japan's iconic bullet train to taking part in traditional cultural activities, Mallareddy is living his best life, and social media can't get enough of it. His pictures from the trip, especially those clicked with locals and in front of the bullet train, have taken the internet by storm, garnering thousands of likes and shares.

One of the highlights of the trip was the couple's participation in the Japanese Traditional Tea Ceremony held in Tokyo. Dressed in traditional Japanese attire, the Mallareddy couple blended into the serene cultural ambiance, posing happily for photos that have since gone viral.

The politician, known for his cheerful persona, didn't hold back from mingling with local people, exchanging smiles, and enthusiastically posing for selfies. His fans back home are enjoying this lighter, more personal side

of their MLA, with many expressing admiration for his energy and curiosity about different cultures.

Earlier in the trip, Mallareddy boarded Japan's high-speed Shinkansen (bullet train) for a short journey. Before getting on board, he took pictures in front of the sleek train, which quickly made rounds on social media. His fascination with Japanese infrastructure and discipline has also been a topic of discussion among his followers.

The photos and videos from this vacation not only show a relaxed and rejuvenated Mallareddy but also showcase his efforts to connect with global cultures. Whether it's sipping tea in Tokyo or zooming through cities in the bullet train, Mallareddy seems to be relishing every moment of his Japanese adventure.

As his journey continues, fans are eagerly awaiting more glimpses from his trip. It remains to be seen how many more destinations he plans to cover before returning, but one thing is certain — Mallareddy's Japan diaries are a social media hit!

BJP Leaders Submit Petition Over Encroachments by Former Corporator's Husband

TPN Correspondent | Telangana

BJP leaders from the Badangpet Municipal Corporation have submitted a petition concerning alleged encroachments by Janga Reddy, the husband of the former corporator of the 30th Division and a BRS leader. The complaint, which was addressed to the mother of the former corporator residing in the municipal corporation premises, comes after the municipal commissioner failed to respond to several complaints raised by local residents regarding encroachments in MCR Colony.

The petition accuses Janga Reddy of illegally encroaching on public roads in MCR Colony. The allegations state that he has constructed commercial structures and is earning income by renting them out, causing significant inconvenience to residents and disrupting the local environment. Despite numerous complaints to the Badangpet Municipal Commissioner about these encroachments, no action has been taken, prompting BJP leaders to escalate the issue.



BJP Corporation President Ramakrishna Reddy voiced frustration over the lack of action, accusing local officials of being hesitant to

address the issue due to political connections. He claimed that the officials have not taken steps to resolve the drainage problems in Shiv Sai Nagar Colony either, further fueling dissatisfaction among local residents. Reddy alleged that the reluctance to act against encroachments stems from the influence of former Minister and MLA Sabitha Indra Reddy, who is a supporter of the ruling party.

The BJP leaders questioned why the authorities are unwilling to take action against encroachers, especially after the Congress government came to power. They also raised concerns over who is backing these encroachments and why they are allowed to persist despite the complaints.

The petition serves as a call for immediate action and highlights ongoing issues regarding encroachment and drainage management in the area. The BJP is pressing for swift intervention from the authorities to address these concerns and restore public spaces for the benefit of local residents.

POCSO Court in Nampally Sentences Man to 25 Years for Attempted Rape of Minor



In a significant development, the POCSO (Protection of Children from Sexual Offences) Court in Nampally has sentenced Srinivas, the man who attempted to rape a minor girl, to 25 years in prison. The crime took place in the Raj Bhavan Makta area in 2023 when Srinivas lured the victim into his house under the false pretense of giving her a cellphone.

The victim's parents registered a case of molestation and attempted rape after the young girl managed to escape the assault

and disclosed the incident to her family. Following their complaint, the police swiftly initiated an investigation. The case was brought to trial under the POCSO Act, which is aimed at protecting children from sexual offenses.

The incident occurred when Srinivas took the victim into his residence and made advances under the false claim of offering her a cellphone. Upon realizing the situation, the girl managed to escape and immediately reported the assault to her parents. The girl's

parents, deeply concerned about the well-being of their daughter, swiftly filed a case against the accused for molestation and attempted rape.

The legal proceedings were fast-tracked due to the severity of the crime, and the POCSO Court, after examining the evidence and hearing from both the victim and the accused, found Srinivas guilty of the charges. As part of the conviction, the court sentenced him to 25 years in prison. In addition to the lengthy jail term, the accused was also

ordered to pay a fine as part of the ruling.

This sentence is being hailed as a victory for child protection laws, which aim to safeguard minors from exploitation and abuse. The POCSO Act has provided a strong framework for prosecuting offenders who target children, and this case highlights the legal system's firm stance against crimes of such nature.

The victim's family, while relieved by the court's decision, expressed their emotional gratitude, acknowl-

edging that justice has been served. The court's verdict not only offers closure to the family but also sends a strong message to potential offenders that such crimes will not be tolerated.

Child protection advocates have welcomed the verdict, stressing the importance of maintaining stringent laws to deter crimes against children. They also reiterated the need for ongoing efforts to raise awareness and protect children from similar offenses in the future.

Isi role in 26/11 under lens

The extradition of Tahawwur Hussain Rana to India has re-opened the dark chapter of the 2008 Mumbai terror attacks and brought renewed focus on Pakistan’s Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI). Rana, a Canadian-Pakistani businessman, was brought to India from the United States on April 10 after a long legal battle. He is now in a high-security lock-up in New Delhi, facing fresh interrogation by Indian agencies. At the heart of the questioning are two shadowy ISI figures — Major Iqbal and Major Sameer Ali — whose names have surfaced repeatedly in investigations into the deadly three-day siege that left 166 people dead.

According to sources in the National Investigation Agency (NIA), Rana’s interrogation will focus on his communication and collaboration with these two ISI-linked individuals. Investigators believe Rana acted as a conduit and facilitator in the larger Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) network that planned and executed the attacks. His connections to David Coleman Headley, the Pakistani-American who carried out the reconnaissance missions in Mumbai, are well-documented. Now, authorities are seeking more details about how much coordination took place between Rana, Headley, and their alleged ISI handlers.

One of those handlers, Major Iqbal, is believed to have played a central role in planning and



financing the operation. Identified in a 2010 US indictment as an ISI officer, Iqbal is accused of directing Headley’s every move. Headley, who pleaded guilty in a US court, testified that Iqbal — known by the alias “Chaudhery Khan” — was his main handler. Their email exchanges included details about targets, surveillance equipment, and cover identities. One notable message involved the attempted use of a Shiv Sena functionary, Rajaram Rege, to gain access to party offices. Rege later confirmed a brief encounter with Headley but said he re-

jected the request outright. While Major Iqbal is portrayed as the architect of the planning phase, Major Sameer Ali is described as the operational commander. According to Zabiuddin Ansari alias Abu Jundal, a 26/11 handler arrested in 2012, Sameer Ali was inside a LeT control room in Karachi’s Malir Cantonment, directing the attacks in real time. He allegedly issued orders to senior Lashkar figures, including Zaki-ur-Rehman Lakhvi, during the carnage. Interpol has issued a Red Notice against Sameer Ali, who was reportedly born in Lahore in 1966.

Despite mounting evidence, Pakistan has repeatedly denied his existence, calling him a “fictitious character.”

Jundal also claimed that Pakistan’s own Federal Investigation Agency raided and dismantled the Karachi control room weeks after the attacks, potentially to destroy evidence. While Lakhvi was later arrested, others, including Jundal and trainer Abu Qahafa, escaped. With Rana now in Indian custody, investigators hope to finally expose the depth of ISI’s involvement in the 26/11 plot.



Don’t Fear AI—Democratise It Instead

A few days ago, in a moment of curiosity and digital experimentation, I uploaded a Ghibli-style AI-generated image of myself to Instagram. Most reactions were encouraging, but a particular comment stuck with me. Someone wrote, “It is an insult to Miyazaki and the lifetime he spent on this,” referencing legendary animator Hayao Miyazaki. The remark was a nod to a now-viral statement Miyazaki made in 2016, calling AI-generated art “an insult to life itself.”

This criticism mirrors a larger, ongoing debate about artificial intelligence and its impact on creativity, originality, and intellectual property. As AI tools like ChatGPT and other natural language processing (NLP)-based algorithms become more mainstream, concerns about their reliance on open-source data and the lack of credit to original creators have grown. Copyright infringement fears are no longer confined to academia or tech circles—they’re now being discussed on social media platforms and in creative communities.

Yet, while the concerns are valid, the broader perspective reveals something more important: AI is not a threat to humanity or the death knell for creativity. Rather, it is a tool—powerful, yes, but still just a tool. Its capacity to assist with mundane tasks like summarising long documents, generating code, or drafting letters, has saved time and opened up creative possibilities for millions.

Instead of panicking about the rise of AI, we should direct our energy toward democratising it. India, in particular, has a chance to lead this movement. By investing in research and development—especially through educational and public research institutions—the country can ensure that AI technologies remain accessible and beneficial to all, not just a privileged few.

AI-driven innovations should not be monopolised by large corporations or confined to elite institutions. If India commits to building open-source frameworks, training diverse AI talent, and embedding ethical AI education in its academic curricula, it could set a global example of how to balance progress with responsibility.

It’s also crucial to build public awareness about how AI works—its limitations, its data dependencies, and the biases it can carry. This knowledge empowers users and helps shift the narrative away from fear and toward informed engagement. Transparency, inclusivity, and accountability must be the pillars of this effort.

Congress, CPI(M) Struggle as BJP Gains

Nearly a year after the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, the political landscape in India reflects a curious imbalance. Despite the BJP falling short of an absolute majority and relying on allies to form the government, the party remains comfortably in control. The recent passage of the Waqf amendment bill underlines the strength of the National Democratic Alliance (NDA), even as the opposition INDIA bloc attempted to put up a united front.



Ahmedabad was seen as a symbolic move to challenge Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah on their home turf. But the gamble didn’t pay off. Despite fiery speeches targeting Modi and the BJP, the event lacked a forward-looking vision. Critics noted that the Congress failed to articulate a clear and compelling alternative for India’s future.

While most speakers echoed aggressive anti-BJP sentiments, a few voices urged introspection and a more constructive approach. Shashi Tharoor, MP from Thiruvananthapuram and runner-up in the last Congress presidential race, seconded the political resolution moved by Sachin Pilot. Tharoor emphasized the need for Congress to become “a party of hope, not resentment,” advocating for positivity and a future-oriented agenda.

Last week, two key INDIA bloc constituents—the Congress and the Communist Party of India (Marxist)—held their respective national conclaves. The CPI(M) gathered in Madurai for its 24th party congress, while the Congress held its All India Congress Committee (AICC) meeting in Ahmedabad, returning to Gujarat for such a session after 64 years.

However, both events barely stirred the national political discourse. Lacking in headline-making resolutions or innovative political messaging, the conclaves failed to capture media attention. Television debates remained unaffected, and print coverage was largely limited to inner pages. In contrast, the BJP continued with business as usual, unfazed by the opposition’s activities.

The timing of these conclaves coincided with the BJP’s foundation day on April 6. Now 45 years old, the party appears to have overtaken its older rivals—Congress, with a 140-year legacy, and CPI(M), tracing roots back to 1925—not just in organization but in narrative dominance. The momentum clearly rests with the BJP. The Congress’ decision to host its AICC meet in

India’s Space Power Needs Strategic Boost

India has long been recognised as a formidable player in the global space arena. However, recent developments and geopolitical dynamics highlight the urgent need for New Delhi to ramp up its military space capabilities—particularly in light of the widening technological gap with China.

Speaking at the third edition of the Indian DefSpace Symposium on April 7, Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) General Anil Chauhan emphasised the evolving nature of warfare, asserting that “primary elements of warfare will depend on space.” He stressed the importance of defining military space doctrine, fostering a “space culture” within defence circles, and addressing vulnerabilities in India’s space infrastructure.

Space has not recently become a domain of strategic interest—it has been central to defence since World War II. In the war’s final stages, Nazi Germany became the first to launch an unmanned rocket beyond the Kármán Line (~100 km above sea level). What followed was a decades-long race for supremacy in

space between the USA and the USSR, masked as peaceful exploration but driven by military and economic objectives.

The 1957 launch of Sputnik-1 by the Soviet Union and the United States’ swift response marked the beginning of this intense competition. This space race intensified with Yuri Gagarin’s historic manned mission in 1961, followed by President John F. Kennedy’s vision of landing a man on the Moon, achieved with Apollo 11 in 1969. As these milestones were crossed, the militarisation—and eventual weaponisation—of space also gained momentum.

In an attempt to rein in space militarisation, the UN General Assembly adopted the “Declaration of Legal Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space” in 1963. The Outer Space Treaty of 1967, signed by the USSR, UK, and USA, sought to prohibit the placement of nuclear or other weapons of mass destruction in orbit or on celestial bodies. Yet, these legal instruments did little to curb ac-



tual military ambitions. By the 1980s, both superpowers had developed anti-satellite (ASAT) capabilities. The USSR equipped its MiG-31 with a miniature ASAT missile, while the US destroyed its own satellite in 1985 using the ASM-135 missile. After a pause in such tests, Chi-

na reignited concerns in 2007 with a direct-ascent ASAT demonstration.

India, while having demonstrated ASAT capability in 2019 (Mission Shakti), still lags behind China in the scale and integration of space assets for defence. With

space now firmly established as the next frontier of military power, India must accelerate its investments in satellite networks, space surveillance, and counter-space technologies to ensure its strategic interests are protected in the decades to come.

India Prioritises Interests in US Trade Talks

India is actively engaging with the United States on a bilateral trade agreement (BTA), but the government is firm in its stance that any such deal will be shaped by national interests, not by pressure or haste. Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal asserted on Friday that the dialogue with the US is progressing steadily, underpinned by an "India First" approach that aims to secure long-term benefits for the country.

Speaking at an event in New Delhi, Goyal highlighted that while the discussions are constructive and forward-looking, India will not enter into any trade agreement at gunpoint. He emphasized that the government is committed to safeguarding public and economic interests, and will avoid any decision that could compromise the nation's future.

"We are in a continuous and evolving dialogue with the US. But we're very clear — no deal under pressure. We will protect India's interests, and every step will be taken with due diligence," Goyal said. The broader goal of the discussions is to double bilateral trade between India and the US to USD 500 billion by 2030. Currently, trade between the two nations stands at approximately USD 200 billion. Goyal noted that the partnership with the US is crucial for India's growth trajectory, especially as the country works toward the vision of Viksit Bharat 2047, a



roadmap to becoming a fully developed economy. Reaffirming the government's long-term strategic focus, Goyal said India's approach in all global trade negotiations—be it with the US, EU, or other partners—will be guided by transparency, mutual respect, and a commitment to national welfare.

"Our engagements are aimed at enhancing trust and ensuring that India's economy and people benefit the most. We do not rush into decisions that could have long-term consequences. That's not how Atmanirbhar Bharat operates," he added.

The minister also acknowledged that while there is global enthusiasm about India's economic potential, especially in sectors like manufacturing, digital trade, and green technology, India will tread carefully and negotiate from a position of strength.

With the global landscape evolving rapidly, India remains focused on building sustainable trade relationships while ensuring domestic industries are supported and protected. Goyal's statement makes it clear that India is open to collaboration, but on its own terms.

India Defends EVM Security After Gabbard Remarks



Amid rising concerns over the integrity of electronic voting systems, India's Election Commission has firmly reiterated that the country's Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) are secure, tamper-proof, and immune to hacking. This comes in response to recent remarks by Tulsi Gabbard, former US Congresswoman and current US intelligence chief, who voiced concerns about the vulnerability of voting technologies worldwide.

In her statement, Gabbard highlighted growing evidence of hacking threats to voting systems, urging democratic nations to ensure transparent and secure electoral processes. While she did not single out India, her general comments about EVMs prompted Indian officials to issue a detailed clarification.

Sources within the Election Commission emphasized that India's EVMs are fundamentally different from the complex systems used in many Western nations. "Our machines are built like simple calculators. They are not connected to the internet, WiFi, Bluetooth, or even infrared, making them completely insulated from remote tampering," said an EC official.

The Commission explained that India does not rely on networked electronic voting systems, which are often a combination of hardware, software, and digital processes. Instead, Indian EVMs are standalone, one-way programmable devices with no wireless connectivity. "They are not open to manipulation through

malware or hacking," the official added.

India's EVMs have been in use since 1999 and have withstood numerous challenges in courts, political arenas, and public forums. In several instances, parties have questioned the authenticity of EVMs following election losses, but repeated technical reviews, expert demonstrations, and mock polls have affirmed their reliability.

The EC also noted that each machine is rigorously tested, sealed, and monitored during every phase of the election process—from manufacturing to storage, and through deployment and counting. Security protocols, including randomization of machine allocation, further minimize the risk of manipulation.

The controversy comes at a time when India is preparing for a massive electoral exercise involving millions of voters across thousands of polling stations. The Election Commission reassured voters that the integrity of the election process remains uncompromised, and there is no cause for concern regarding the technology used.

While concerns about election security are valid globally, India's unique approach—low-tech by design but high in transparency and security—continues to set a robust example. The EC's swift response aims to restore public confidence and reaffirm India's commitment to free and fair democratic practices.

India Pushes for Swift US Trade Deal

India is prepared to move with urgency on securing a bilateral trade agreement with the United States, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar said on Friday, marking a significant shift in India's approach to global trade negotiations.

Speaking at the Global Technology Summit in New Delhi, Jaishankar emphasized that it is now India, not the US, driving the urgency behind the deal. "Normally, a complaint in the past was that we were slowing it down. Today, it's the other way around — we are the ones pressing forward," he said. His remarks come just two days after US President Donald Trump announced a 90-day breather on imposing reciprocal tariffs, which has opened a new window for trade diplomacy between the two nations.

Jaishankar underlined that India is navigating a complex global environment, marked by rising tensions between the US and China over tariffs. "The world is barreling towards deep turmoil and economic upheaval. In this scenario, India must be agile and prepared to protect its



interests," he cautioned. He acknowledged that the US remains a highly ambitious trade partner, which makes the negotiations challenging. However, both countries are now aligned in their desire to close a meaningful trade deal. India and the US have conceptually agreed to finalize the agreement by September–October 2025.

"We will find a fix that works for both sides," Jaishankar asserted, signaling optimism that the long-standing nego-

tiations will reach a mutually beneficial outcome. The current momentum follows a meeting between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President Trump in Washington earlier this year, during which both leaders committed to concluding the first tranche of the bilateral trade agreement. This was followed by a significant visit from a US delegation led by Assistant Trade Representative Brendan Lynch to New Delhi from March 26 to 29 to iron out the details.



PM Modi Offers Prayers at Anandpur Dham

Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited Anandpur Dham in Madhya Pradesh's Ashoknagar district on Friday, where he performed a puja at the revered Guru Ji Maharaj Temple and took part in spiritual and public engagements. This marks his second visit to the state in 2025, underscoring his continued focus on both religious heritage and public outreach.

Located in Anandpur village of Isagarh tehsil, Anandpur Dham lies about 30 km from Ashoknagar district headquarters and approximately 215 km from Bhopal. The Prime Minister arrived in the afternoon and began his visit by performing rituals at the temple, a significant religious center for devotees from across the region.

Following the puja, PM Modi was scheduled to participate in a public programme and address a large gathering of citizens and spiritual followers. A state government official confirmed that the visit aimed to connect with both the spiritual community and the broader public. Anandpur Dham, established by the Shri Anandpur Trust, is known not only as a religious destination but also as a hub for philanthropic and social work. Spread across 315 hectares, the site is home to a modern gaushala that shelters more than 500 cows. The Trust also carries out agricultural activities, promoting sustainability and rural development.

In addition to its spiritual significance, Anandpur Dham contributes actively to public welfare. According to an official release, the Trust runs a charitable hospital in Sukhpur village and manages schools in both Sukhpur and Anandpur. It also operates 'Satsang' centers across India, facilitating community gatherings and spiritual teachings. PM Modi's itinerary reflects a blend of spiritual outreach and governance, reaffirming his government's efforts to support religious institutions that are engaged in charitable, educational, and rural upliftment activities. The visit is expected to further strengthen the relationship between spiritual organizations and developmental initiatives under the banner of inclusive growth. The Prime Minister's engagements at Anandpur Dham are seen as part of a broader effort to combine cultural heritage with social empowerment, aligning with the government's "Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas" vision.

Kerala CM Defends Vellappally Natesan



In the wake of a controversy surrounding Sree Narayana Dharma Paripalayanogam (SNDP) general secretary Vellappally Natesan, Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan came out in his defense during a public event on Friday. The backlash was triggered by Natesan's recent remarks about the Muslim-majority district of Malappuram, which many interpreted as communal in nature.

Speaking at a function organized to honor Natesan, the Chief Minister clarified that the veteran SNDP leader had not made any statements against any religion. Instead, Vijayan insisted that Natesan's comments were aimed at a particular political party, and not the Muslim community or any religious group. He accused certain political elements of deliberately misrepresenting the statement for their own gain.

Vijayan emphasized that Natesan had always stood for secular values and that the SNDP leader's track record spoke for itself. According to him, it was regrettable that a section of the public had taken the remarks out of context and used them to create communal disharmony. The Chief Minister warned against such attempts to sow division, stating that Kerala's social fabric must not be disturbed for political mileage.

The controversial remark reportedly likened Malappuram to a "separate nation," a comment that sparked criticism from several quarters, especially the Indian Union Muslim League (IUML). However, Vijayan's strong support suggests the ruling CPI(M) does not want to alienate the SNDP or its Ezhava base ahead of the elections. With political narratives heating up, the CM's defense signals an attempt to balance community sentiment and electoral strategy.

"Stealing Water From Texas Farmers": Trump Threatens Mexico With Tariffs

Accuses Mexico of hurting Texas farmers. Sheinbaum cites drought, promises solution. Past water disputes sparked unrest in Mexico.

TPN Correspondent | US

US President Donald Trump threatened Mexico on Thursday with escalating trade consequences, including tariffs and potentially sanctions, unless the country provides more water to Texas under a longstanding treaty. Trump accused Mexico of “stealing” water from Texas farmers and criticized the country for its failure to supply enough water, which he claimed had led to the closure of the only sugar mill in Texas last year.

The dispute stems from a 1944 water-sharing agreement between the United States and Mexico, under which the two countries share water from the Colorado River in exchange for flows from the Rio Grande, which forms part of the border. According

to the U.S. government’s Boundary and Water Commission, Mexico owes the United States over 1.55 billion cubic meters of water, with the current cycle set to expire in October.

Trump’s post on his Truth Social platform stated, “We will keep escalating consequences, including TARIFFS and, maybe even SANCTIONS, until Mexico honors the Treaty.” His remarks highlight the ongoing tensions between the two nations over water rights, with U.S. farmers and lawmakers growing frustrated over Mexico’s delayed deliveries in recent years.

In response, Mexican President Claudia Sheinbaum defended her government’s actions, stating that Mexico has been adhering to the treaty despite ongoing drought con-



ditions. She noted that Mexico had sent a “comprehensive proposal” to the U.S. State Department, assuring that an agreement would likely be reached.

Mexico’s delayed water deliveries have been linked to two decades of severe drought in the Rio Grande basin. However, the United States has expressed dissatisfaction with Mex-

ico’s tendency to wait until the end of each five-year cycle to meet its obligations, leading to complaints from U.S. farmers. In previous years, tensions over water deliveries have resulted in civil unrest in Mexico. In 2020, farmers in the northern state of Chihuahua seized a dam to prevent water from being sent to the U.S., leading to violent clashes with the Mexican National Guard.



Imran Khan Open to Dialogue, Not Submission: PTI Leader Junaid Akbar

TPN Correspondent | Peshawar

Former Prime Minister Imran Khan is open to holding reconciliatory talks with Pakistan’s government and institutions, but he refuses to be coerced into submission, said Junaid Akbar, President of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) unit in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Speaking at a media interaction on Thursday, Akbar emphasized that Khan is willing to engage in dialogue for the supremacy of the Constitution and rule of law, but not under duress.

Khan, who has been incarcerated in Adiala Jail, Rawalpindi, since August 2023, faces numerous legal cases that emerged after his government was ousted in April 2022. Despite his detention, Akbar insisted that PTI remains open to constructive engagement.

“Our doors are open,” Akbar stated, “but if someone thinks they can force their will upon us by keeping Khan Sahib and our workers in jail and lodging false FIRs, they are mistaken.”

He called on state institutions and political entities to operate within the legal and constitutional framework, noting that while the PTI has grievances with the leadership of certain institutions, the party still respects and acknowledges them as vital national pillars.

Akbar criticized the ongoing legal and procedural barriers that have limited access to Khan in prison. “We are not asking for special treatment—just the rights that are granted under the jail manual,” he said. He described repeated attempts to meet Khan being thwarted by long delays and eventual denials.

Highlighting the growing discontent among the public, Akbar warned that the continued suppression of democratic rights and silencing of political voices could provoke unrest. “This is not just about Imran Khan. It’s a national issue. The gap between institutions and the people has widened drastically,” he said.

He concluded by urging for dialogue and constitutional adherence to avoid a scenario where the public, feeling unheard, takes to the streets. “We don’t want that kind of confrontation. We want stability through law, justice, and public trust,” he added.



South Africa Considers Policy Shift to Welcome Starlink Amid Musk-Government Tensions

TPN Correspondent | London

South Africa may soon revise its satellite internet licensing requirements to accommodate companies like Elon Musk’s Starlink, in a move that seeks to balance investment with equity policy reforms. The effort comes amid tensions between Musk and the South African government, with the Tesla and SpaceX CEO publicly criticizing laws requiring foreign companies to sell ownership stakes to Black South Africans as discriminatory.

Musk, born in South Africa, has argued that the legislation — part of the country’s Black Economic Empowerment (BEE) initiative — restricts the operation of his satellite internet service, Starlink. His comments have drawn sharp criticism, with some accusing him of dismissing the historical injustices of apartheid.

Now, South African Telecommunications Minister Solly Malatsi is proposing an alternative route for companies like Starlink to gain access to the country’s market. Instead of mandating equity sales, the new directive under development would allow satellite providers to fulfill licensing requirements by investing in underserved and disadvantaged communities.

Malatsi said he is finalizing the directive, which will then undergo a public consultation process through the Independent Communications Authority of South Africa (ICASA), the country’s telecom regulator. “We want to ensure global technological advancements reach rural and marginalized parts of our country,” he said.

However, the proposal has sparked backlash from political opponents who argue it could weaken South Africa’s transformation agenda. Critics say the move prioritizes the interests of Musk — who left the country in his youth and rarely returns — over longstanding goals to rectify racial inequalities entrenched by apartheid.

“The minister is seeking to cut corners and erode hard-won transformation goals,” said Khusela Sangoni Diko, chair of the parliamentary committee on telecommunications. She emphasized that other satellite internet firms are interested in South Africa and are willing to comply with existing BEE regulations.

China Raises Tariffs On US Goods To 125% As Trade War Worsens

TPN Correspondent | China

China announced on Friday that it would raise tariffs on US goods to 125% from 84%, a move that comes in response to President Trump’s recent tariff hike on Chinese imports to 145%. This escalation of the trade war between the two largest global economies marks a significant intensification of the ongoing economic standoff.

The new Chinese tariffs, set to take effect on Saturday, were declared hours after President Xi Jinping urged the European Union to collaborate with China in resisting what he referred to as “unilateral bullying” by the US, a clear reference to the high tariffs imposed by President Trump under his administration. In his statement, Xi emphasized that tariffs had become more of a “numbers game” with no practical economic value, and that China would ignore further tariff increases by the US at this stage.



The Chinese Ministry of Finance issued a statement declaring that the US’s continuous imposition of abnormally high tariffs on China was damaging to the global economy. It further claimed that the US should take full responsibility for the global economic “turbulence” caused by Trump’s trade policies. Beijing also pointed out that the US’s decision to freeze tariffs on other countries was partly due to pressure from China.

In response to the US’s previous tariff round, which saw duties

on Chinese imports raised to 104%, China had already increased its tariffs on US goods from 34% to 84%. The latest tariff hike further compounds the tension between the two nations and continues to hurt global markets.

Xi Jinping also took the opportunity to address the European Union, urging the bloc to fulfill its international responsibilities and stand with China against what he described as “unilateral bullying practices.” He stressed that this cooperation between China and Europe would protect international fairness and justice. The trade war, which has already caused severe disruptions to global markets, shows no signs of easing as both nations continue to escalate their tariffs, with no clear resolution in sight.

Key Accused In Nepal Pro-Monarchy Protests Arrested From Assam

TPN Correspondent | Assam

Durga Prasai, a key figure behind the deadly pro-monarchy protests in Kathmandu on March 28, has been arrested in Assam, India, and handed over to Nepalese authorities. The violent protests, which took place in the Tinkune area of Kathmandu, led to the deaths of two individuals, including a photo-journalist, and left over 110 others injured.

According to Nepal Police, Prasai, who was charged with state offenses and organized crime, was arrested in Jhapa district, which borders India. It is reported that Prasai was initially apprehended by Assam police and subsequently transferred to Nepalese authorities. However, there was no official extradition treaty in effect between Nepal and India, so the details of the arrest were not disclosed by officials.

The March protests, organized by pro-monarchy groups including the Rastriya Prajatantra Party (RPP), called for the reinstatement of Nepal’s monarchy and the establish-



ment of the country as a Hindu state. The unrest in Kathmandu and other regions of Nepal has been fueled by a desire to return to the monarchy, which was abolished in 2008 when Nepal transitioned from a Hindu monarchy to a secular, democratic republic.

In connection with the protests, more than 60 individuals, includ-

ing prominent members of the RPP such as General Secretary Dhawal Shumsher Rana and Vice President Rabindra Mishra, have been arrested. These arrests were made under charges related to state offenses and organized crime, and the suspects are currently in judicial remand, following an order from the Kathmandu District Court.

The RPP has called for the immediate release of its leaders and supporters, demanding justice for those arrested in connection with the pro-monarchy protests. The political tension surrounding the protests highlights the ongoing debate over Nepal’s identity as a secular republic versus the desire among some factions to restore the monarchy and its Hindu state status.



The domestic stock market indices witnessed a significant rally on Friday, closing higher with substantial gains. As expected, the market surged, buoyed by US President Donald Trump's decision to suspend tariffs on all countries, except China, for 90 days. This move generated positive sentiment across global markets, leading to heightened optimism that global supply chains would remain intact and that an economic recession might be averted. Moreover, expectations that India could benefit directly and indirectly from this tariff war further fueled the market rally.

The announcement encouraged investors to buy shares in large numbers, particularly benefiting sectors like metals, consumption, government companies, commodities, and energy. These sectors saw in-

Indices Surge on Positive Sentiment Amid US-China Trade Truce

creased demand, propelling the markets higher. The BSE Sensex rose by 1,310 points, while the NSE Nifty gained 429 points by the close of trading.

The BSE Sensex, which ended the previous session at 73,845, opened at 74,835 on Friday. During the day, it touched an intraday low of 74,762 and a high of 75,467 before closing at 75,157, marking a gain of 1,310 points. The NSE Nifty, which opened at 22,695, saw fluctuations between a low of 22,695 and a high of 22,923, eventually closing at 22,828 with a total gain of 429 points. Additionally, the Nifty Bank surged by 762 points, closing at 51,002.



In the Nifty50, 47 stocks recorded gains, while just 3 stocks ended in the red. Hindalco, JSW Steel, Tata Steel, Coal India, and Geofinance were among the top gainers. On the flip side, Asian Paints, Apollo Hospitals, and TCS were the major losers of the day. The India VIX, or Fear Index, dropped by 6.17% to 20.11, indicating reduced volatility and growing investor confidence. Sectors such as metals, consumption, CPSE, commodities, energy, PSE, pharma, oil, infrastructure, auto, and finance all made significant gains during the session.

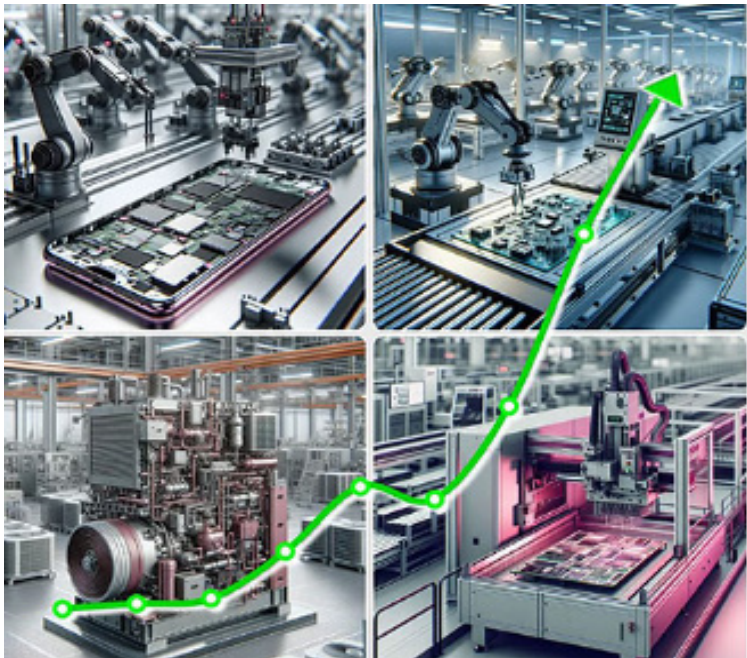
Market breadth was heavily in favor of buyers, with 2,381 shares advancing compared to 492 shares that declined out of 2,959 traded stocks. Notably, 35 stocks hit their 52-week highs, while 18 stocks hit their 52-week lows. Additionally, 160 shares touched their upper circuit limit, while 23 stocks reached the lower circuit.

The Indian Rupee strengthened by 64 paise, closing at 86.05 against the US Dollar. Retail participation in the market surged, with investor accounts on the NSE crossing Rs 22 crore. HSBC recommended a "buy" on Eternal with a target price of Rs 218, while CLSA gave CEAT an "Outperform" rating with a target price of Rs 3,494.

Despite the ongoing tariff war between China and the US, monthly SIP (Systematic Investment Plans) remained stable in March, indicating confidence among retail investors. In corporate news, the Bazel Project Company secured orders worth Rs 50-100 crore for power transmission and substations. Aurobindo Pharma acquired Hyderabad-based Fintra Software, and RBNL emerged as the lowest bidder for a Rs 143 crore project with Southern Railway.

Overall, the market closed on a positive note, reflecting investor optimism spurred by the global trade truce and favorable domestic market conditions.

India Emerges as Global Electronics Manufacturing Powerhouse



India is rapidly establishing itself as a global hub for electronics manufacturing, driven by supportive government policies and a strategic focus on value addition. According to a recent report by Axis Capital, value addition in electronics manufacturing has surged from 30% to approximately 70%, and is projected to reach 90% by FY27. This shift is significantly improving India's competitiveness in the global supply chain.

A new components policy is playing a critical role in this transformation. The policy aims to increase value addition in the electronics sector from the current 15-16% to a robust 40-50%, reducing reliance on imports and fostering self-reliance in critical components.

Mobile phone exports have been a key success story, growing 77-fold over the past decade. Simultaneously, India has drastically reduced its dependence on imports of completely built air conditioners (CBUs)—from 35% in FY19 to just 5% in FY25. Many essential AC parts like compressors, copper tubes, and aluminum coils are now being manufactured domestically. Although around 8.5 million room air conditioner (RAC) compressors were still imported in FY24, full local manufacturing is expected within the next two to three years.

The demand for Printed Circuit Board Assembly (PCBA) is also witnessing a steep rise across both consumer and business electronics sectors. This surge is bolstered by increased import duties that have encouraged domestic production. Notably, PCBA imports—valued at ₹300 billion in FY18—have fallen to nearly zero in FY24.

This dramatic shift is a result of the government's "Make in India" initiative, which has reversed the trade imbalance in electronics. Until 2016, India imported more electronics than it produced. By FY24, however, domestic production exceeded imports by 24%.

India's electronics exports have been growing at a CAGR of about 26% between FY16 and FY25, reflecting its rising stature on the global stage. Key schemes such as the Production Linked Incentive (PLI), Phased Manufacturing Program (PMP), and the SPECS initiative, coupled with a skilled workforce and better infrastructure, have all contributed to this success.

With corporate tax for new manufacturing units reduced to 15% and the global "China+" sentiment gaining traction, India is now the world's second-largest mobile phone producer—with 99% of phones sold in India manufactured locally.

India's Industrial Output Slows to 2.9% in February 2025 Amid Broad Sectoral Weakness

India's factory output growth, as measured by the Index of Industrial Production (IIP), slowed significantly to 2.9% in February 2025, down from the 5.2% expansion recorded in January. The data, released by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, highlights a broad-based moderation across key sectors such as manufacturing, mining, and electricity, reflecting subdued industrial activity.

The sharp deceleration comes amid lingering concerns over global demand uncertainties, supply chain disruptions, and weaker consumer spending domestically, which have collectively impacted industrial production.

According to the official data, the manufacturing sector, which holds the largest weight in the IIP, grew just 3.1% in February compared to 5.7% in January. The sector has seen inconsistent performance in recent months, indicating caution among producers amid fluctuating demand and rising input costs.

Mining output also witnessed a slowdown, rising 2.1% year-on-year in February, lower than the 3.3% recorded in the previous month. Similarly, electricity generation, a critical indicator of industrial and residential demand, grew by a modest 1.8%, sharply down from 5.6% in January.



In terms of use-based classification, capital goods production — a proxy for investment — showed only a marginal rise, reflecting subdued business confidence. Consumer durables continued to underperform, contracting slightly, which points to weaker demand in the economy. Non-durable goods, which include everyday items, registered modest growth, indicating some resilience in rural and low-income segments.

Economists believe the slowdown in IIP growth may impact overall GDP expansion in the fourth quarter of FY2024-25, especially as global trade continues to remain volatile and domestic consumption sees uneven recovery.

While the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has maintained a pause on interest rate hikes, citing inflationary concerns and the need to support growth, the latest IIP data may add pressure on policymakers to consider measures that stimulate industrial demand.

As India approaches a new financial year, industry bodies have called for targeted fiscal support, improved ease of doing business, and supply-side interventions to revive industrial momentum and ensure a more balanced economic recovery.

India Proposes EV Import-Export Swap to Break Deadlock in UK Free Trade Talks

In a strategic move to accelerate the finalisation of its long-pending Free Trade Agreement (FTA) with the United Kingdom, India has proposed allowing unlimited imports of high-end electric vehicles (EVs) from the UK, priced above GBP 80,000 (approximately ₹89 lakh). In exchange, New Delhi is seeking a larger export quota for more affordable, mass-market EVs priced below GBP 40,000 (₹44 lakh) to the UK.

This proposed quid pro quo is aimed at resolving key differences between the two countries that have delayed the conclusion of the FTA, which has been under negotiation for several years. If accepted, the deal could significantly benefit Indian automakers such as Maruti Suzuki and Mahindra & Mahindra, both of which have ramped up plans to enter and expand in international EV markets.

India's pitch focuses on leveraging its growing strength in the production of cost-effective electric vehicles, which are becoming



increasingly competitive in terms of price, range, and performance. By gaining preferential access to the UK market for these models, Indian manufacturers could tap into a broader customer base seeking affordable green mobility options, particularly as the UK moves closer to its 2035 ban on the sale of new petrol and diesel cars.

On the other hand, the offer to allow unlimited imports of luxury EVs from the UK would benefit premium British carmakers like Jaguar Land Rover, which is owned by India's Tata Motors. These companies are looking to increase their footprint in the Indian luxury auto segment, particularly with the rising demand for electric SUVs and sedans among affluent buyers.

The arrangement would strike a balance between the UK's push for greater access to India's luxury goods market and India's ambition to boost EV exports. It also aligns with India's broader climate goals and its push to become a global EV manufacturing hub.

If both sides agree, the EV proposal could become a turning point in the FTA talks, clearing the path for a comprehensive agreement that boosts trade, enhances co-operation in green technology, and deepens economic ties between the two nations.



In a breakthrough that deepens our understanding of the moon, Chinese scientists have discovered that soil from the moon's far side is significantly drier than that of the side facing Earth. The research, published in *Nature*, is based on samples brought back by China's *Chang'e 6* mission, which landed in the South Pole–Aitken Basin—one of the oldest and deepest craters in the solar system. Scientists examined five grams of lunar soil, selecting 578 individual particles for detailed study using advanced electron microscopy. They found that these particles contain less than 1.5 micrograms of water per gram of soil—remarkably lower than the 1 to 200 micrograms typically found in samples from the near side of the moon. While the quantity may seem minuscule, even trace amounts of water on the moon have massive implications for planetary science and future lunar exploration. The presence of water, or lack thereof, can reveal important details about the moon's geological

evolution, the effects of solar wind, and the potential for sustaining human activity on its surface. However, researchers caution that more data is needed to draw definitive conclusions. The current analysis is limited by the small sample size, and the possibility remains that other parts of the far side may have varying moisture levels. Still, the discovery adds a crucial piece to the ongoing effort to map out lunar resources and understand the satellite's complex history. Sen Hu of the Chinese Academy of Sciences, who led the study, emphasized that the findings open up new questions about the moon's formation and environmental conditions. With multiple countries, including India through its *Chandrayaan* missions, working to unlock the secrets of the moon, such international efforts are proving invaluable. As scientists push further into lunar research, even tiny grains of soil are revealing enormous insights about our closest celestial neighbor.

Thai Restaurant Slammed Over ‘Body Size’ Discounts



A restaurant in Chiang Mai, Thailand, is facing severe backlash after a video revealed its controversial discount strategy—offering lower prices to customers based on how “skinny” they are. Chiang Mai Breakfast World installed a series of five metal frames at the entrance, each decreasing in width. The gimmick? Customers are invited to pass through the bars, with slimmer gaps offering higher discounts. If you squeeze through the narrowest frame, you get 20% off your meal. Wider frames give 15%, 10%, or 5% discounts, and if you can't fit through any of them, the sign reads: “Full price, sorry.” The now-viral video of the setup, shared by travel influencers Alex and Amina on Instagram, garnered nearly 12 million views. The post captioned “Better than nothing. Which one would you go through?” shows the couple laughing as they attempt the challenge. But what

started as a seemingly light-hearted gimmick has drawn major criticism online. One clip showed a diner jokingly being pushed through a narrow gap by a friend who yelled, “You need some butter!” Though they laughed it off and accepted a 5% discount, many viewers didn't find it funny. The video's comment section exploded with criticism. “This is fat-phobic nonsense. What kind of message are they trying to send?” one user asked. Another pointed out, “So if I don't fit, I have to pay more? That's insulting.” While some defended the idea as harmless fun, others slammed the restaurant for promoting body shaming under the guise of humor. “Imagine the embarrassment some people might feel just trying to eat breakfast,” one user commented, highlighting the discomfort such a system could cause.



Title: Law Student's Weekly 3,200 km Commute

Most students move closer to their campus to ease academic life, but 30-year-old Nat Cedillo has taken a dramatically different route. A law student in her final semester at a prestigious New York City school, Cedillo travels over 3,200 kilometers every week — flying from Mexico City to New York and back — to attend her classes in person.

Her routine is intense: she boards a flight from Mexico City early Monday morning, attends classes in Manhattan, and returns home by Tuesday night. While the commute sounds exhausting, Cedillo insists it's worth it to complete her law degree. Cedillo and her husband, Santiago, moved from Brooklyn to Mexico City last year. The decision was based on a combination of factors — better weather and a more affordable lifestyle being key. However, instead of transferring or deferring her stud-



ies, Cedillo committed to super-commuting, a term for individuals who regularly travel long distances for work or education. Since January, she's made the round-trip journey more than a dozen times, covering over 4,000 miles per week. In total, she has already spent over \$2,000 (around ₹1.7 lakh) on travel, food, and short hotel stays during her 13-week semester. Her commitment puts her among a growing group of Americans embracing the

super-commuting lifestyle. According to a study cited by *The New York Post* from Stanford University, post-pandemic work and education trends have led to a 32% rise in people traveling more than 75 miles for work or studies. In New York City alone, that figure has surged by 89%. While many would find such a schedule unsustainable, Cedillo views it as a small price for academic success and personal happiness. “It's exhausting,” she admits, “but worth it.”

British Vlogger Amazed by Indian Train Food Delivery

During a train journey to Varanasi, British YouTuber George Buckley was left astonished after experiencing food delivery right to his train coach—a feature that's still uncommon in the UK. Sharing the moment on Instagram, George posted a video that quickly went viral, garnering nearly 8 lakh views. In the clip, recorded aboard his AC first-class coach, George narrates his experience as his train makes a brief five-minute stop at Kanpur Central. “I am getting food delivered on a train in India. If you don't believe me, just hold on,” he says excitedly. George had placed his order—consisting of a sandwich and a milkshake—two hours earlier through the Zomato app. As the train pulled into Kanpur, he waited near the coach door for his delivery. Much to his amazement, the food was handed directly to him by a Zomato delivery agent,

who even snapped a selfie with him before leaving. He later enjoyed his meal with an Indian co-passenger who had helped him navigate the ordering process. In the post's caption, George wrote, “The UK needs to take notes,” applauding the convenience and customer service available in India. The video sparked admiration and humor online. Viewers expressed surprise at the convenience of Indian train travel, with one commenter sharing, “Mad isn't it? I got a Dominos delivered to my bed on a train there.” Another joked, “He will be shocked when he gets groceries delivered in 10 minutes.” Many appreciated George's positivity and openness to Indian culture. Comments praised his cheerful attitude and the impressive logistics behind India's evolving travel amenities.



Purple: Not a Color, Just an Illusion?

In a surprising twist to how we understand color, scientists now say purple might not be a “real” color at all—but an illusion created by the human brain. Unlike red, green, or blue, which have specific wavelengths on the visible light spectrum, purple doesn't exist as a single wavelength. Instead, what we perceive as purple is the brain's clever blend of signals from both red and blue light. This perceptual trick highlights how color isn't just about the light that hits our eyes, but also how our brains process that light. Flowers appear vivid because of pigments reflecting particular wavelengths. The sky shifts colors as sunlight scatters through the atmo-

sphere. But purple? It's different. There's no wavelength for it—no place for it on the rainbow. Our eyes don't even have a receptor dedicated to purple. The brain simply fills in the gap. This discovery is more than a curious fact about color—it's a reminder of how much of our “reality” is constructed in our minds. Purple feels just as real as any color, yet it's a creation of perception, not physics. So the next time you admire a violet flower or a lavender evening sky, take a moment to appreciate the illusion. You're not just seeing a color—you're witnessing your brain doing a bit of visual magic.



Supratim Das Dreams of Scoring Against MBSG

In a heartfelt moment ahead of the Indian Super League (ISL) Cup final, 19-year-old midfielder Supratim Das from Mumbai City FC revealed a personal dream that blends childhood admiration with professional ambition—scoring against Mohun Bagan Super Giant (MBSG), the club he grew up idolizing. Born in Kolkata, Supratim was immersed in the city's rich football culture from a very young age. His early exposure to the game began at just two years old, guided by his father, and by four, he had joined a local football academy. His talent quickly stood out, leading to a pivotal moment at age

11 when he was selected by the Reliance Foundation Young Champs (RFYC). With RFYC, Supratim helped his team clinch the Sub-Junior I-League title in 2018-19, contributed to a runner-up finish in the 2022-23 MFA Super Division League, and represented India in the Premier League Next Gen Cup in 2023. Now contracted with Mumbai City FC until 2027, Supratim made his ISL debut this season against Odisha FC and is eager to leave his mark. In an interview with ANI, he spoke passionately about his connection to Mohun Bagan, calling them his childhood favorite and expressing how significant it

would be to score against them. "There's no doubt they have been incredible this season... scoring against them would be a huge moment for me," he said, adding that the child in him would be "absolutely thrilled." While MBSG prepares for a high-stakes clash with Bengaluru FC this weekend, Supratim's story underscores the emotional narratives that often run parallel to competitive football. His journey from a Mohun Bagan supporter in Kolkata to a rising star at Mumbai City FC reflects the evolving dreams of young Indian footballers and the deep-rooted passion that drives them forward.

Norwich, Chennaiyin FC Launch Talent Program

In a major push for youth development in Indian football, Norwich City FC and Chennaiyin FC have joined hands for a strategic partnership that includes an exclusive six-week training programme in the UK. Sam Jeffery, Commercial Director of Norwich City FC, along with Chennaiyin FC COO Akhil Prakash, spoke to ANI about the vision behind this collaboration, its structure, and long-term goals. The initiative is focused on nurturing Chennaiyin FC's most promising U-23 players by immersing them in a high-performance European footballing environment. These players will travel to Norwich to train under elite coaches at Norwich's Category One academy, one of the top-rated youth development centres in England. Jeffery shared that the idea for this partnership took shape during a sports conference in late 2023, where both clubs recognized shared goals around

academy development. Over the next few months, teams from both sides worked closely to align their resources, setting up a program that focuses on academy frameworks, performance analytics, nutrition, and player pathway development. Jeffery highlighted how Norwich's infrastructure and know-how in running a top-tier academy could significantly benefit Chennaiyin FC in building sustainable talent pipelines. Prakash added that they are currently in the process of identifying top U-23 talents to be part of the inaugural batch heading to Norwich. With Indian football increasingly turning to international expertise, this collaboration marks a significant step in Chennaiyin FC's ambition to not only develop future ISL stars but also players capable of succeeding at global levels. The training program is seen as an investment into the long-term growth of the



sport in India, blending global practices with local ambition. The Norwich-Chennaiyin partnership sets a strong example of how clubs across continents can unite to raise footballing standards, nurture young talent, and shape the future of the game.

Stokes Unlikely in White-Ball Return Soon

England Cricket's Managing Director Rob Key has cast doubt over Ben Stokes' immediate return to white-ball cricket, emphasizing that the all-rounder's current focus is on red-ball cricket and regaining full fitness. Speaking on the Sky Sports Cricket Podcast, Key shared that Stokes is gradually building up his bowling workload under the supervision of elite pace bowling coach Neil Killeen, recently operating at around 75 percent intensity. With his last appearance in white-ball cricket being during the 2023 World Cup—after briefly coming out of retirement—Stokes has not played any format since. Key stated that while



newly-appointed white-ball skipper Harry Brook would undoubtedly benefit from having a player of Stokes' caliber, such a

return depends heavily on the all-rounder's physical condition and readiness to perform in all departments. The immediate goal for Stokes, according to Key, is to prepare for England's upcoming Test match against Zimbabwe, scheduled to begin on May 22 at Trent Bridge. The management wants to ensure that Stokes can resume his vital role as a pace-bowling all-rounder—a role critical not only for balance but also for his leadership on the field. Key praised Stokes' dual contribution as a captain and batsman and underlined the importance of his fitness to contribute as a fourth bowling option in the Test setup.



KKR Demolish CSK in 8-Wicket Win

In a thoroughly one-sided contest at Chepauk, Kolkata Knight Riders delivered a clinical all-round performance to decimate a lacklustre Chennai Super Kings by eight wickets in their IPL 2025 clash on Friday. CSK, sent in to bat first, crumbled to their lowest-ever total at home—managing just 103 for 9 on a surface that offered grip and turn. Barring Shivam Dube's unbeaten 31 and brief resistance from Vijay Shankar (29) and Rahul Tripathi (16), the rest of the CSK batting order faltered miserably against KKR's disciplined bowling unit. Sunil Narine once again proved his worth as a match-winner, claiming three wickets for just 13 runs in his four overs. He was well-supported by Harshit Rana

(2/16) and Varun Chakravarthi (2/22), who choked the middle overs and dismantled CSK's batting rhythm. The Knight Riders' bowlers showed excellent control and tactical awareness, not allowing CSK any momentum throughout the innings. The chase was a walk in the park for Kolkata. They cruised to 107 for 2 in just 10.1 overs, making a mockery of the modest target. The KKR top order, brimming with confidence, made light work of the CSK attack, which looked ineffective and demoralised after a dismal show with the bat. The eight-wicket win not only boosted KKR's net run rate but also exposed the glaring gaps in CSK's current form and strategy.



India's Asia Badminton Hopes End

India's campaign at the Badminton Asia Championships 2025 came to a close on Friday, following the exit of the country's last remaining contenders—Dhruv Kapila and Tanisha Crasto—in the Mixed Doubles Quarterfinals. The duo fell short against Hong Kong's fifth-seeded pair, Tang Chun Man and Tse Ying Suet, with a straight-games loss of 22-20, 21-13. The match, although competitive in the opening game, saw the Indian pair lose momentum in the second, bringing the nation's run at the continental tournament to an end.

The tournament, being held in Ningbo, China, witnessed early exits for the rest of the Indian contingent as well. In singles action, Olympic medalist PV Sindhu advanced to the Round of 16 but was edged out in a tough battle against Japan's Akane Yamaguchi, a two-time world champion and currently ranked fourth in the world. Sindhu, seeded 17th, fought hard in the three-game

thriller but eventually lost 12-21, 21-16, 16-21 in just over an hour.

India's men's singles hopefuls, Kiran George and Priyanshu Rajawat, also exited in the Round of 16, while the men's doubles pair of Hariharan Amsakarunan and Ruban Kumar Rethinasabapathi couldn't progress beyond the same stage. Despite moments of promise throughout the tournament, the results highlighted the growing competitiveness of Asian badminton and the challenges faced by the Indian squad in navigating through high-caliber opponents.

With the tournament set to conclude on Sunday, India will now look ahead to regroup and refine strategies for upcoming international events. The early exits also put the spotlight back on team preparation and performance consistency as India builds towards more critical events in the 2025 calendar, including Olympic qualification races.

India Shine with 8 Medals in ISSF



India wrapped up their campaign at the ISSF World Cup in Buenos Aires on a high note, securing a total of eight medals—four gold, two silver, and two bronze—to finish second in the overall standings. While China topped the table with 11 medals, including five gold, India's strong performances across events showcased the depth and emerging talent in the country's shooting circuit.

Among the standout performances was the gold medal haul by Sift Kaur Samra in the women's 50m rifle 3 positions, Rudranksh Patil in the men's 10m air rifle, Suruchi Singh in the women's 10m air pistol, and Vijayveer Sidhu in the men's 25m rapid fire pistol. These victories reinforced India's position as a rising power in shooting sports globally. The bronze medal match in the 10m air pistol mixed team event saw Tokyo Olympian Saurabh Chaudhary and Suruchi

Singh defeat the experienced duo of Manu Bhaker and Ravinder Singh with a scoreline of 16-8. Notably, Chaudhary and Suruchi had posted a strong qualifying score of 581-26x to reach the medal round, finishing third among the qualifiers. Bhaker, despite being a medalist at the Paris 2024 Olympics, had a subdued tournament. She placed 13th in the women's 10m air pistol qualifiers and finished sixth in the 25m pistol event after making it to the medal round. Her bronze-winning partner from Paris, Sarabjot Singh, was absent from the competition. China dominated the gold medal match in the 10m air pistol mixed team event, with Ma Qianke and Zhang Yifan defeating compatriots Yao Qianxun and Hu Kai 16-10. The Chinese pair had topped the qualifiers with identical scores of 582, underscoring their consistency and firepower.



Hari Hara Veera Mallu On Track



Despite ongoing speculation about another delay, the team behind Hari Hara Veera Mallu has confirmed that the film will release on schedule. Starring Powerstar Pawan Kalyan, the much-anticipated period action drama is now locked for a theatrical release on May 9th, 2025. Rumors had circulated online suggesting pressure from the OTT partner was causing uncertainty about the release date. However, the makers have put those talks to rest with a fresh update on the

film's progress. Currently, re-recording, dubbing, and VFX works are being carried out at a rapid pace. The team promises a grand cinematic experience, emphasizing that they are sparing no effort to deliver a summer blockbuster. The PR team tweeted, "Re-recording, Dubbing, and VFX are in full swing—pushing boundaries at lightning speed. #HariHaraVeeraMallu hits the big screens on May 9th!"

Kalyan Ram's Full-Throttle ASOV Push

Nandamuri Kalyan Ram, usually low-key in promotions, is going all out for his upcoming film Arjun S/O Vyjayanthi, releasing on April 18th, 2025. Known for being reserved during pre-release campaigns, Kalyan Ram is now actively engaging in promotions, surprising fans and industry watchers alike. This shift stems from the actor's deep connection to the project. He has reportedly given one of the most intense performances of his career, and he's equally invested in

ensuring the film reaches a wide audience. The film's team has rolled out a strategic series of promotional events, including teaser and song launches in multiple cities, generating solid buzz. At each event, Kalyan Ram has been speaking with heartfelt sincerity about the film, impressing audiences with his grounded and passionate presence. His hands-on approach is setting a fresh tone for his image and boosting expectations for ASOV ahead of its release.



Good Bad Ugly: Ajith's Biggest TN Opener



Ajith Kumar's latest film Good Bad Ugly has Astormed the Tamil Nadu box office, registering the highest day-one gross of his career in the state. Directed by Adhik Ravichandran, the gangster action drama opened to packed houses and positive reviews for its Tamil version, earning a massive Rs. 31 crore gross on its first day in the home market. Despite the strong start, the film fell short of becoming Tamil Nadu's all-time top opener. It now

ranks as the fourth biggest opener in the state, behind Beast, Leo, and Sarkaar. While expectations were sky-high for Ajith to break existing records, the film settled for a strong but not record-breaking debut. Good Bad Ugly is produced by Mythri Movie Makers, with music by GV Prakash Kumar. The ensemble cast includes Trisha, Prabhu, Prasanna, Arjun Das, Sunil, Simran, Rahul Dev, and Yogi Babu, contributing to the film's mass appeal.

Rama Rama Promo Radiates Devotion

Ahead of Hanuman Jayanthi, the team behind Vishwambhara has unveiled the promo for its first single, Rama Rama — a spiritually rich offering that blends devotion with cinematic grandeur. Featuring Megastar Chiranjeevi and composed by MM Keeravaani, the track is set for full release tomorrow and

is already capturing hearts with its divine aura. The promo teases a soul-stirring composition layered with sacred chants, a powerful melodic base, and emotional depth. Shankar Mahadevan's commanding vocals, paired with Lipsika's soulful touch, bring Ramajogayya Sastry's devotional lyrics to life, creating a ce-

lestial musical experience. Chiranjeevi's majestic appearance amid children dressed as Lord Hanuman adds visual grace and spiritual symbolism, beautifully reinforcing the track's reverent theme. The imagery exudes purity, innocence, and a deep sense of devotion, making it a perfect tribute to Lord Rama and Hanuman.

