

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

“Opposition Conspiring to Halt Development: Sridhar Babu on Kancha Gachibowli Land Issue”



- Sridhar Babu blames BRS for conspiracy
- Supreme Court clarified land ownership clearly
- Government protecting 400-acre disputed land
- Opposition spreading fake AI-based propaganda
- Development projects hindered by false narratives

TPN Correspondent | Telangana

IT Minister Sridhar Babu accused the BRS (Bharat Rashtra Samithi) and other opposition parties of deliberately obstructing development in Telangana. Addressing the media at Gandhi Bhavan regarding the Kancha Gachibowli lands controversy, he emphasized that the Supreme Court has already clarified that the disputed 400 acres belong to the government. He condemned the spread of misinformation and the use of AI-generated fake videos on social media to mislead the public. The minister highlighted the government's vision to create a “Future City” to address the growing population density in Hyderabad. He said the government is committed to ensuring a quality life for all residents, especially those near the Musi River, and to expanding job opportunities for youth. Sridhar Babu clarified that the bond issuance process was fully in line with SEBI regulations and confirmed that no loans were taken from ICICI. He said that 37 institutions have invested through bond purchases, and compared to the previous BRS regime, the current government is securing funds at lower interest rates. He accused BRS of trying to block land acquisition for welfare initiatives, despite having acquired thousands of acres themselves for Pharma City. He asserted that the Congress government has not altered any land acquisition laws and has already implemented loan waivers for farmers using TGIC funds. In conclusion, he condemned the opposition's alleged attempts to divert public attention and stall developmental projects under the guise of environmental concerns.

Fake Cotton Seeds Worth ₹44 Lakh Seized in Yalal, Vikarabad



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Padma Shri Vanajeevi Daripalli Ramaiah Passes Away at 75

TPN Correspondent | Telangana

A wave of sorrow has swept across Khammam district following the demise of Padma Shri award-ee and renowned environmentalist Daripalli Ramaiah, fondly known as Vanajeevi Ramaiah. The 75-year-old passed away in his sleep late Friday night. When family members tried to wake him on Saturday morning, they found him unresponsive and rushed him to the government hospital, where doctors confirmed his death. Ramaiah was widely celebrated for his lifelong mission of tree planting and environmental conservation. Known for his simple lifestyle and tireless dedication, he went village to village planting and distributing saplings, often carrying seeds in his pockets and on his bicycle. Recognizing his relentless efforts in green activism, the Government of India honored him with the Padma Shri in 2017. Ramaiah's passing marks the end of a green crusader's journey who reportedly planted millions of trees across Telangana. His wife Janamma and other family members were seen grieving deeply. Fans, environmentalists, and political leaders paid heartfelt tributes on social media, remembering his legacy through touching posts and memories.



BRS vs Congress: KTR's Allegations and ICICI Bank's Strong Reply – Social Media Battle Heats Up

TPN Correspondent | Telangana

The political battle between BRS and Congress in Telangana has intensified, revolving around the controversial issue of the 400-acre land in Kancha Gachibowli, near HCU. The dispute centers on allegations of a ₹10,000 crore scam, with BRS Working President KTR claiming that the ICICI Bank had granted a loan of ₹10,000 crore against land that allegedly had no ownership rights. KTR also accused the TGIIC of mortgaging the land to obtain the loan. However, ICICI Bank has vehemently denied these allegations. In an official statement, the bank clarified that it did not approve any mortgage loan for TGIIC nor was any land mortgaged with them. The statement further explained that the bank only acted as an account holder for the bonds issued by TGIIC. This bank statement has sparked a war of words on social media, with BRS supporters alleging that the statement was fake and accusing the bank of covering up the issue. They point out that the statement was not available on the official bank website and lacked an official signature. On the other hand, Congress supporters have taken this as a counterattack, claiming that KTR's excitement was halted by ICICI Bank's official clarification, undermining his allegations.

Government Cover-up Drive: BRS

Following KTR's press conference, the ICICI Bank issued its

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BRS and Congress locked in fierce political battle over Kancha Gachibowli land.

KTR alleges ₹10,000 crore scam; ICICI Bank denies mortgage loan.

ICICI Bank releases statement, triggering social media war between BRS and Congress.

Congress claims KTR's premature accusations were debunked by ICICI Bank.

Harish Rao demands a white paper from the government on the mortgaged land.



Bandi Sanjay Backs Raja Singh Amid BJP Discord in Telangana

Union Minister Bandi Sanjay meets Raja Singh, assures resolution of internal party issues

Calls Raja Singh a “Hindutva warrior” and vital for BJP’s strength in Telangana

Singh’s recent criticism of state BJP leadership, including Kishan Reddy, stirs concern ahead of MLC polls

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad

Telangana BJP leader and Goshamahahal MLA Raja Singh received strong support from Union Minister of State for Home Affairs Bandi Sanjay during the latter's visit to the Akashpuri Hanuman Temple in Hyderabad's Old City on Saturday. Following a prayer ceremony, Sanjay held a closed-door meeting with Raja Singh, signaling efforts to resolve rising tensions



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“Gave Up Medicine for Politics”: KTR’s Revealing Comments Spark Interest

KTR says he let go of MBBS seat to pursue other studies

Left foreign job to join the Telangana movement

Demands central probe into Kancha Gachibowli land scam



TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad

BRS Working President and former Minister K.T. Rama Rao (KTR) made revealing remarks about his personal journey during a media interaction on Saturday, shedding light on the key decisions that led him to enter politics. In a candid conversation, KTR shared how he once secured an MBBS seat but chose not to pursue medicine. “I never seriously considered becoming a doctor during my childhood, but later I aimed for it. My mother also hoped I'd choose that path,” KTR said. He explained that after securing a B.Pharmacy seat and clearing

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BRS vs Congress: KTR's Allegations and ICICI Bank's Strong Reply – Social Media Battle Heats Up

statement, which clarified that they did not grant any mortgage loan to TGIIC nor were any lands mortgaged with the bank. The statement also emphasized that ICICI Bank acted only as the account bank for the bond issuance process and related interest payments. Despite this clarification, BRS supporters are dismissing the bank's statement as fake, claiming it is part of a cover-up by the government.

KTR's Premature Move: Congress

In response to the ongoing controversy, some journalists confirmed that the ICICI Bank's statement was authentic and reported in major newspapers. This further fueled the Congress reaction, with party members accusing KTR of being too hasty and making unsubstantiated claims, only to be contra-

dicted by the official statement from ICICI Bank.

Harish Rao Demands White Paper

Former Minister and BRS MLA Harish Rao also weighed in, recalling a previous question he raised in the Assembly. The government had previously responded, stating that the 400-acre land was mortgaged through TGIIC to secure the loan. However, ICICI Bank's statement contradicts this, stating that no land was mortgaged. Rao has now demanded a white paper from the government, questioning whether the 400-acre land was mortgaged through brokers connected to CM Revanth Reddy's companies. He is urging the government to clarify the mystery surrounding the mortgaging of the land.

“Gave Up Medicine for Politics”: KTR's Revealing Comments Spark Interest

the entrance for MBBS in Karnataka, he ultimately gave it up at the last minute to pursue a general degree. He later went on to study abroad and took up a job in a well-known international company. However, his turning point came during the Telangana movement. “I gave up everything — my job and settled life abroad — to return and serve the people through politics,” he said, emphasizing his deep emotional connection to the cause of Telangana statehood. Shifting focus to current political issues, KTR launched a strong attack on the Revanth Reddy-led Congress government over the controversial

Kancha Gachibowli land issue. He alleged that the government is involved in a major scam, selling valuable forest land in clear violation of Supreme Court directives. Calling it a “large-scale financial conspiracy,” KTR demanded a thorough investigation by central agencies into the land transactions. “The law is being bypassed and public property is being looted. This issue must not go unchecked,” he added. KTR's comments — both personal and political — have sparked interest, offering a glimpse into his motivations while reigniting the debate around land deals in Telangana.

Bandi Sanjay Backs Raja Singh Amid BJP Discord in Telangana

within the party. Speaking to the media after the meeting, Bandi Sanjay described Raja Singh as a senior leader and a “staunch Hindutva warrior” who has risked his life for the protection of Hindu values. His remarks were seen as a public endorsement of Singh at a time when the latter has been openly expressing discontent with the BJP's state leadership. Raja Singh has been distancing himself from party programs over the past few weeks, reportedly upset over key decisions—especially the allocation of MLC tickets in Hyderabad. His criticism of Telangana BJP President G. Kishan Reddy and other state leaders has caused unease within the party, particularly with internal elections approaching.

Bandi Sanjay sought to calm the situation, assuring that the party's internal issues will be ironed out soon. “Singh's role is crucial to the party,” he said, urging unity among leaders and reaffirming the party's commitment to core values. Though Sanjay publicly denied any interest in the state BJP president post, political circles are abuzz with speculation that his meeting with Raja Singh signals strategic alignment ahead of leadership decisions. With the BJP nominating Gautam Rao as its candidate for the Hyderabad local bodies MLC election, Raja Singh's continued silence or rebellion could pose a setback. The central leadership appears to be closely monitoring the situation to prevent further internal rifts.

Supreme Court Sets 3-Month Deadline for President on State Bills

- President must act within three months
- Delay in decision must be justified
- Governor's bill hold limit: one month
- Without cabinet advice, return in 3 months
- Court can review governor's inaction

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

In a landmark judgment, the Supreme Court of India has set a historic precedent by imposing a three-month deadline for the President to decide on bills sent by Governors for consideration. This decision comes in the backdrop of the ongoing constitutional tussle between the Tamil Nadu state government and its Governor, R.N. Ravi. A two-judge bench comprising Justice J.B. Pardiwala and Justice R. Mahadevan, delivering



its verdict in the Tamil Nadu State vs. Governor case, made it clear that prolonged delays by the Governor or President in handling state legislation are unconstitutional. As per the 415-page judgment uploaded recently, if a bill is reserved for the President's consideration, a decision must be made within three months.

This is the first time in India's constitutional history that a specific time frame has been laid out for the President's action in such matters.

The bench clarified that:

- If a Governor decides to withhold a bill for the President's consideration, he must do so within one month of receiving it.

- If done without cabinet advice, the bill must be sent back to the state assembly within three months.
- Both Governors and state governments must communicate clearly and resolve doubts promptly to avoid unnecessary delays.
- Judicial review is permitted if a Governor does not comply with these timelines.

In an unprecedented move, the Tamil Nadu government went ahead and notified 10 laws passed by the state legislature without the assent of either the Governor or the President, marking a historic first in Indian constitutional history. This judgment is expected to have nationwide implications, potentially reshaping the delicate balance of power between State Governments, Governors, and the Union Executive.

Telangana to Launch Exclusive Industrial Parks for Women in All Constituencies

TPN Correspondent | Telangana

In a move aimed at empowering women, especially in rural areas, Telangana IT and Industries Minister Duddilla Sridhar Babu announced the establishment of exclusive industrial parks for women in every legislative constituency across the state. The announcement was made during the brochure launch of the second edition of “Food A Fair”, an upcoming event scheduled for June 12-14 at HITEX, jointly organized by the State Government, HITEX Exhibitions, and the Telangana Food Processing Society. Minister Sridhar Babu emphasized the government's vision to make Telangana a



national leader not only in IT and pharmaceuticals but also in agriculture and agro-based industries. He shared that:

- Telangana has already attracted ₹16,000 crore in food processing investments.

- The state hosts 14 food processing zones across 7,150 acres.
 - Over 6,800 micro food processing units are currently operational.
 - Future development will focus on Tier-2 and Tier-3 cities.
- The Minister reaffirmed the state's commitment to financially supporting women and new entrepreneurs, further strengthening Telangana's industrial and economic landscape.

The event was attended by top officials including State Industries Commissioner Malsur, Food Processing Director Akhil, and “Food A Fair” organizers Srikant, TG Srikant, and Vishala Reddy.

Congress Mission Gujarat: Key Responsibilities for Leaders from Telugu States



TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

The Congress party has focused its attention on the state of Gujarat, which has become a challenging battleground for them. As part of their Mission Gujarat, the party has appointed a set of AICC Observers to oversee operations in the state. A total of 43 observers and 7 supporting observers have been designated by the All India Congress Committee (AICC) to carry out this crucial task. These observers have been entrusted with the responsibility of appointing District Presidents across Gujarat. Alongside each AICC Observer, there will be a team of 4 PCC observers assigned to each district Congress committee. The appointments were announced in a statement by K.C. Venugopal, the AICC General Secretary. **Among the AICC Observers appointed for this mission, several leaders from the Telugu states have been given significant roles. These include:**

- Meenakshi Natarajan, In-charge of Telangana AICC affairs
- MP Balram Naik
- Former MLA Challa Vamsi Chander Reddy
- Former AP PCC Chief Gidugu Rudraraju
- Former In-charge of Telangana AICC affairs Manikkam Thakur

These leaders have been entrusted with pivotal tasks as part of Congress's efforts to strengthen their presence in Gujarat, especially as they gear up for future elections in the state.

ED Seeks Non-Bailable Warrants Against Gangster Nayeem's Family Members

TPN Correspondent | Telangana

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has urged the special court to issue non-bailable warrants (NBWs) against the family members of gangster Nayeem. The ED officials revealed that Nayeem had allegedly registered several illegally acquired lands in the names of his family members by threatening innocent people.



Despite issuing multiple summons, the family members have failed to appear or cooperate, prompting frustration from the authorities. In response, the ED has formally requested the court to issue NBWs to ensure their presence.

So far, the ED has reportedly seized 35 illegal properties linked to Nayeem as part of their ongoing investigation.

Former Minister & BRS MLA Harish Rao Slams Congress, Calls for KCR's Return

- Congress failed, Siddipet projects halted
- KCR hailed as development's brand ambassador
- Revanth accused of policy betrayal
- Public welfare schemes scrapped, says Harish
- BRS silver jubilee rally announced

TPN Correspondent | Telangana

Siddipet MLA and former Minister T. Harish Rao strongly criticized the Congress-led Telangana government, alleging administrative failure and political vendetta against Siddipet's development. Speaking at a BRS party meeting in Siddipet Camp Office with leaders from Siddipet town and Chinakodur mandal, Harish Rao declared that the people of Telangana are yearning for the return of former Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao (KCR), who he described as the “brand ambassador” of development and welfare. He accused the Congress gov-

ernment of stalling key development works, including the 1000-bed hospital, nursing college, Shilparamam, and ₹20 crore road projects in Siddipet. He expressed outrage over the shifting of the sanctioned veterinary college from Siddipet to Kodangal and vowed to fight until funds for halted projects are restored. Harish Rao called Revanth Reddy a “brand ambassador of broken promises,” accusing him of destroying welfare schemes like KCR Kits and Bathukamma sarees, and cutting trees and poor people's homes under the guise of development. “The Congress government rose quickly but is falling even faster,” he quipped, slamming the CM for deceptive politics and failed governance. He urged people to rally behind BRS and attend the grand silver jubilee meeting on April 27 in large numbers. “Let the pink flag fly high in every ward and village,” he said.

Rakesh Reddy Faces Defamation Lawsuit from TGPSC: Notice Issued

TPN Correspondent | Telangana

The Telangana State Public Service Commission (TGPSC) has issued a defamation notice to BRS leader Rakesh Reddy. The notice was sent after Rakesh Reddy allegedly made false accusations regarding the Group-1 exam results. The TGPSC stated that Rakesh Reddy's comments were defamatory, and as a result, they have demanded an apology within seven days. The notice warns that if an apology is not provided within the stipulated time, the TGPSC will file defamation cases and other criminal charges against him. Furthermore, the TGPSC has restricted Rakesh Reddy from making any further allegations against the commission or posting related content on social media. The notice stresses the importance of refraining from any future defamatory statements or social media posts regarding the TGPSC.



Congress MLC Vijayashanti, Husband Receive Threats: FIR Filed in Hyderabad

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad

Congress MLC and former actress Vijayashanti and her husband Dr. Srinivas have reportedly received serious threats from a man identified as Chandra Kiran Reddy. The incident has triggered concern within political and public circles, especially as the threats allegedly included warnings of harm.

According to reports, Chandra Kiran Reddy previously managed Vijayashanti's social media accounts when she was associated with the BJP. However, after her shift to the Congress party, she reportedly cut ties with him. Angered by this,

Chandra Kiran is said to have demanded payment and subsequently issued threats to the couple, including a chilling warning of "elimination."

In response to these threats, Dr. Srinivas, Vijayashanti's husband, lodged a formal police complaint at Banjara Hills Police Station, Hyderabad. The police have acknowledged the complaint and are said to be initiating an investigation. The situation has raised concerns over the safety of public figures, especially those transitioning between political parties. Congress party members are reportedly standing in solidarity with Vijayashanti and demanding swift action.

Kadiyam Srihari Fires Back at BRS MLA Palla Rajeshwar Reddy



TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad

In a heated political exchange, former Deputy Chief Minister Kadiyam Srihari has fiercely responded to BRS MLA Palla Rajeshwar Reddy's remarks. Palla, who had previously referred to himself as a "watchdog," accused Kadiyam of being involved in party defections. Srihari, however, made it clear that he will abide by the Supreme Court's verdict on party changes and that the BRS has no moral authority to speak on the issue of defection.

Srihari's response came after Palla's comments on defections within political parties. The former deputy CM issued

a direct challenge to Palla, stating that he would resign from his position if Palla could prove that he had provided a B form to Kavya or offered any financial assistance for election expenses.

Srihari strongly criticized Palla and the BRS for their stance on party defections, calling it hypocritical, and reaffirmed his commitment to truth and integrity. The war of words between the two leaders has intensified, with both sides standing firm on their positions.

This political dispute is expected to escalate as Kadiyam Srihari has made it clear that he would not back down and would take action if Palla could substantiate his claims.

Telangana is Trapped in Debt: CPI MLA Kunamneni Sambasiva Rao's Shocking Comments

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad

Kunamneni Sambasiva Rao, the CPI MLA from Telangana, made serious allegations regarding the financial situation of the state. Speaking to the media, he claimed that Telangana has been completely trapped in debt and is in dire need of central assistance to recover. He stated that if Telangana is to emerge from the debt trap, it would require support from the central government. He further urged the BRS party to provide advice and suggestions to help the state overcome this financial crisis.

In his comments on

the recently passed Waqf Amendment Bill, Kunamneni expressed his belief that there is no need for a new law for the Waqf Board, adding that the BJP government was using religion to incite division for political gain. He criticized the BJP for its polarizing tactics. Moreover, in connection with the Kancha Gachibowli land issue, the CPI leader demanded that the BJP MP involved in the controversy should be named by KTR. He also made it clear that CPI has no plans to work with the BRS party and will continue to maintain a friendly policy with Congress instead.

Leaders Mourn the Demise of Padma Shri Vanajeevi Ramaiah

TPN Correspondent | Telangana

The untimely demise of Padma Shri awardee and environmentalist Daripalli Ramaiah, affectionately known as Vanajeevi Ramaiah, has evoked deep sorrow across the nation. On Saturday morning, Telangana awoke to the tragic news of Ramaiah's passing due to a heart attack at the age of 75. Several prominent leaders expressed heartfelt condolences, remembering his selfless service toward environmental protection.

Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy expressed profound grief,

calling Ramaiah a man who firmly believed that "human survival is impossible without nature." In his official statement, the CM described Ramaiah as someone who not only planted trees but sowed awareness across society. He hailed him as a guiding force for the youth and paid rich tributes to his unwavering dedication to greenery and sustainability. Former Telangana CM K. Chandrashekar Rao (KCR) lamented that the world lost a true environmental crusader. He praised Ramaiah's mission of planting over a crore of trees, likening it



to a divine calling.

KCR recalled Ramaiah's crucial support in promoting the Haritha Haram initiative and empha-

sized the need for "thousands more Vanajeevi Ramaiahs" in on Saturday's environmental crisis. His message underscored the

legacy of Ramaiah as a living embodiment of the motto: "Vriksho Rakshati Rakshitah" (Protect trees and they protect you).

"Not a Hydrogen Bomb, Just an Onion One": MP Chamal Mocks KTR's Press Meet

- Chamal mocks KTR press conference
- Expected bomb, got onion joke
- Allegations didn't meet expectations
- Press meet overhyped, says MP
- Political heat rises in Telangana



TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad

Bhuvanagiri MP Chamal Kiran Kumar Reddy took a sharp dig at BRS Working President K.T. Rama Rao (KTR) over his

recent press meet, mocking it as an anticlimactic affair. Speaking to the media on Saturday, Chamal ridiculed the much-hyped event, saying, "We expected a hydrogen bomb, but

he didn't even throw an onion bomb that kids play with."

Chamal sarcastically remarked that the press conference had been over-publicized, only to

end up as a non-event with no real revelations. "They made so much noise for that press meet, and in the end, it didn't even catch a rat," he quipped, likening the situation to

digging a mountain and finding nothing.

These comments come in the wake of KTR's serious allegations during his press interaction, where he claimed that a Rs. 10,000 crore scam took place involving 400 acres of HCU lands, implicating Chief Minister Revanth Reddy and even hinting at the involvement of a BJP MP. Chamal's jibe reflects the intensifying political rhetoric in Telangana, as leaders from rival parties continue to clash over land issues and governance.

"BRS Failed Legally, Now Spreading Lies": MP Mallu Ravi on Kancha Gachibowli Land Row

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad

Telangana Congress leader and Nagarkurnool MP Mallu Ravi made sensational remarks on the Kancha Gachibowli 400-acre land controversy, accusing the BRS and BJP of launching malicious propaganda against the Congress government. Addressing the media on Saturday, he stated that former CM KCR was responsible for delaying the



legal resolution of the land case, which remained pending for over a decade.

Mallu Ravi emphasized that it was due to the efforts of the Congress gov-

ernment that the land was secured for public use. He slammed the opposition for falsely portraying the Congress regime as anti-environment, especially by spreading fake narratives involving the killing of wildlife.

He further stated that the BRS's social media wing is actively working to malign the current government. Their misinformation campaign, he said, was the very reason

the Central Empowered Committee (CEC) visited Hyderabad. He confirmed that the CEC has already ruled that the 400 acres belong to the government.

Additionally, Mallu Ravi mentioned that a detailed factual report has been sent to the Congress High Command and also shared with Union Minister Bhupender Yadav, affirming transparency and legitimacy in the land proceedings.

BRS Slams Congress Govt, PCC Over Land Scam, Threats Against KTR



TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad

RS Assembly Whip K.P. Vivekananda launched a scathing attack on the Congress-led Telangana government and the Pradesh Congress Committee (PCC), accusing them of a ₹10,000 crore land scam and using threats to silence BRS Working President K.T. Rama Rao (KTR).

Speaking at Telangana Bhavan, Vivekananda said KTR exposed financial irregularities in the Kanchegachhi Bowli land deal, leaving Congress leaders

rattled.

He alleged that CM Revanth Reddy and PCC chief Mahesh Kumar Goud were trying to suppress the truth with contradictory statements and intimidation.

Branding Goud a "dummy PCC president," he challenged him to an open debate in the CM's presence. Vivekananda also hinted at a Congress-BJP nexus and promised to expose a BJP MP involved in the matter.

Taking a swipe at Meenakshi Natarajan, whom he dubbed a "super CM," he accused the government of misusing state assets.

He reaffirmed that BRS would pursue legal action and demand a white paper, stating that KTR's revelations were only the beginning.

After Congress Came to Power in Telangana, We Provided 58,868 Jobs: Addanki Dayakar

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad

Congress MLC Addanki Dayakar has highlighted the employment initiatives undertaken by the Telangana Congress government, stating that a total of 58,868 government jobs have been filled since the party came to power. He asserted that this is a significant milestone, especially considering that the administration has completed only one year in office. Speaking to the media, Dayakar said, "In just one year, we've not only provided nearly 59,000 jobs but have also issued fresh notifications to fill another 30,228 posts. This reflects our commitment to youth employment and administrative strengthening." However, he also acknowledged that the employment rate in the state has seen a decline — from 22% under the BRS government to 18% now. Despite this dip, Dayakar emphasized that the Congress government is actively working

on long-term employment strategies and fast-tracking recruitment drives.

He took a dig at the previous BRS regime, claiming they merely made announcements but failed to execute proper recruitment plans. "Unlike the BRS government, which only made grand promises, we are



delivering tangible results," Dayakar added. He said the Congress government's focus remains on both short-term employment solutions and the creation of sustainable opportunities across various sectors including education, health, and public services. While the drop in the employment rate may raise concerns, Addanki Dayakar maintained that the numbers will improve steadily with continued efforts. He concluded by reaffirming the Congress government's resolve to fulfill its promise of large-scale job creation — a key electoral pledge made during the 2023 Assembly elections.



Thousands Participate in Hanuman Jayanthi Procession in Hyderabad

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad

Thousands of devotees are participating in the grand Hanuman Jayanthi procession, organized by the Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP) and Bajrang Dal, in Hyderabad on Saturday, April 12. The procession, known as the ‘Veer Hanuman Vijaya Yatra,’ began from the

Ram Mandir temple in Gowliguda, Old City, and is set to reach Hanuman Temple, Tadban Bowenpally, by evening. The route of the procession covers prominent areas such as Koti, Sultan Bazaar, Kachiguda, Chikkadpally, Narayanguda, Musheerabad crossroads, Ashoknagar, Bible House, Ramgopalpet, Paradise Secunderabad, and Bowenpally.

Along the way, several smaller processions from Saidabad, Karmanghat, Madannapet, Gowlipurra, Puranapul, Dhoolpet, Rajendranagar, and other localities joined the main procession. Devotees, some on foot and others on motorcycles, waved saffron flags, while Hindutva devotional songs like ‘Baap toh Baap Rahega’ and ‘Banayenge Mandir’

blared from sound systems installed along the route. In line with the celebratory spirit, local basthi associations have set up drinking water and food camps to provide for the convenience of the devotees taking part in the procession. The organizers of the event were granted permission by the Hyderabad police to use large sound systems to play



devotional songs during the procession. Hyderabad’s city police commissioner, C.V. Anand, visited the Ram Mandir temple at Gowliguda earlier in the day to offer his prayers. Following

this, the commissioner conducted a security inspection for the procession to ensure smooth and peaceful celebrations. The procession is a significant event for the city’s Hindu communi-

ty, marking Hanuman Jayanthi with great enthusiasm and devotion. The authorities have taken measures to maintain order and ensure the safety of participants throughout the event.



₹60 Lakh Worth Ganja Seized in Four Cases Across Telangana

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad

In a major crackdown on illegal drug trade, Telangana Excise Department and STF teams seized 75.262 kilograms of ganja and 2.42 grams of charas, valued at ₹60 lakh, across four different cases. The seizures included vehicles and mobile phones used in the smuggling.

Khammam Police, under Assistant Commissioner G. Ganesh, intercepted a vehicle smuggling 51.27 kg of ganja from Odisha to Pune, seizing both the contraband and the car.

In another case, STF A team intercepted a smuggler transporting 21.48 kg of ganja from Odisha to Hyderabad, en route to Dhoolpet. Alongside, the STF B team seized 2.51 kg

of ganja and 2.42 grams of charas in separate operations. A couple—Chandarpal Singh and Gayatri Bhai—was caught transporting ganja on a two-wheeler in Dhoolpet. They were arrested and 13 others were booked.

In Khairatabad, an individual named Akash was caught with 1.26 kg of ganja and charas, while in Balanagar, two individuals—Pawan Kalyan and Prudhvi—were arrested while smuggling 1.252 kg of ganja on a scooter.

All the accused and seized items were handed over to respective excise stations. The Excise Enforcement Director V.B. Kamalasan Reddy lauded the efforts of Khammam police and STF teams for their swift and effective action.

JNTU Hyderabad flags irregularities in results declared by autonomous colleges

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad

Jawaharlal Nehru Technological University (JNTU) – Hyderabad Vice Chancellor, Prof. T Kishen Reddy, has expressed concerns regarding the irregularities in the results declared by certain autonomous colleges, particularly a significant rise in distinctions—up to 25 percent variation—after these institutions attained autonomy. During a meeting with the managements of both autonomous and non-autonomous colleges, Prof. Reddy highlighted the issue, calling it a worrying trend that needs immediate attention.

As a result, some results from these colleges were put on hold for further review and corrective measures. Prof. Reddy emphasized the importance of maintaining integrity and consistency in academic evaluations, which should not be compromised due to autonomy. He also raised concerns about the growing availability of comput-

er science and engineering seats in Hyderabad, with over 20,000 seats available in the region alone, especially in light of emerging technologies like Artificial Intelligence (AI) that are impacting job prospects.

The Vice Chancellor also pointed out legal challenges surrounding some deemed-to-be universities and questioned the wide disparity in course fees across different colleges for the same programs, ranging from Rs. 40,000 to Rs. 2 lakh.

He described this variation as a violation of Article 14, which guarantees equality before the law. Rector Dr. K Vijayakumar Reddy further stressed that universities should not only serve as regulatory bodies but also as guiding forces for educational institutions. During the meeting, a proposal was put forward to grant eligibility to candidates with PhDs from IITs, NITs, and Central universities to become research supervisors.

Concordia University, St. Paul and Exxeella Education Group Empower Thousands of Students through Strategic Partnership

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad

Concordia University, St. Paul (CSP), in collaboration with Exxeella Education Group, has achieved a remarkable milestone by successfully recruiting over 10,000 international students to pursue higher education at CSP since the inception of their partnership. This collaboration has significantly contributed to expanding educational opportunities for students across the globe.

As part of CSP’s official delegate Veronica Mashek, Sr. International Student Recruiter & partnership Manager visit to India, the university recently launched its Online MBA program, marking a significant step in offer-



ing flexible, high-quality education tailored for the global market. To promote this initiative, CSP and Exxeella Education Group jointly organized a grand event at FNCC, Hyderabad, which drew an overwhelming response from the education community.

The event saw partic-

ipation from over 300 recruitment consultancies from across India, making it one of the largest gatherings of its kind. The CSP team delivered a comprehensive presentation on the university’s offerings, highlighting the advantages of the new Online MBA program.

Adding an engaging



touch to the event, CSP hosted an interactive quiz competition, awarding first, second, and third prizes to winners aimed at encouraging and informing students about their future educational pathways.

The delegates from CSP extended their heartfelt appreciation to the Chair-

man and the entire team of Exxeella Education Group for their unwavering support and dedication towards helping international students achieve their academic dreams. This partnership continues to play a pivotal role in shaping the futures of thousands of aspiring students.

Dr. Bondada Extends Helping Hand for Life-Saving Heart Surgery

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad

In yet another inspiring act of compassion, Dr. Bondada Raghavendra Rao, Chairman of the Bondada Group of Companies, has once again showcased his unwavering commitment to community welfare. Demonstrating his generosity, Dr. Rao provided financial support to a family in urgent need of medical assistance.

Bachu Kutumbarao, a resident of Dakshina Chiluvolulanka village in Avanigadda mandal, required a heart transplant surgery to be conducted at NIMS Hospital in Hy-

derabad. Understanding the gravity of the situation and the financial burden it placed on the family, Dr. Bondada stepped in and donated ₹25,000 towards the procedure. The amount was transferred directly to the Indian Bank account of Kutumbarao’s wife, Smt. Madhavi, at the Avanigadda Branch.

This timely support not only offered hope to the patient and his family but also served as a reminder of Dr. Bondada’s consistent philanthropic efforts. Known for extending help to those in need, especially in times of medical emergencies, Dr. Rao has

built a strong reputation as a compassionate leader who gives back to society without hesitation.

The gesture has been met with widespread appreciation from residents across several villages in the region. Many have praised Dr. Bondada’s continued dedication to public service and humanitarian causes, highlighting his efforts as an inspiration for others.

Community members have lauded his initiative, expressing their heartfelt gratitude and admiration for his commitment to the well-being of the underprivileged. In an age



where personal success often overshadows social responsibility, Dr. Bondada Raghavendra Rao stands out as a beacon of hope and kindness.

Such contributions, though seemingly small in monetary value, make a tremendous difference in the lives of those struggling with medical and financial hardship. Dr. Rao’s involvement not only aids



individual cases but also fosters a culture of empathy and active citizenship in society.

Protests Erupt Against New Waqf Legislation Across Hyderabad

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad

Small groups took to the streets on Friday to voice their opposition to the new Waqf legislation, which introduces significant changes to the management and administration of Muslim endowments and bodies overseeing them. The protests were seen in multiple areas of Hyderabad, including near Mecca Masjid at Charminar, Azizia Masjid in Humayun Nagar, and Ujale Shah Masjid in Saidabad,



as well as in several other neighborhoods.

Demonstrators carried banners and signs denouncing the new law, labeling it a “black law.” The protesters raised concerns

about the potential impact of the legislation on Muslim religious and charitable institutions, with many fearing it would diminish their autonomy and undermine the man-

agement of Waqf properties.

In response to the growing discontent, various organizations have planned a series of talks, deliberations, and public protest meetings in the coming weeks. These discussions are scheduled to take place on April 12, 13, 19, and 26, under the banner of the All India Muslim Personal Law Board, the Muslim Joint Action Committee, and Congress leaders. One of the key public meetings is slated for April 19 at the All India

Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimin (AIMIM) headquarters in Dar us Salaam.

The protests highlight the increasing concerns within the Muslim community about the changes brought about by the new Waqf legislation. Protesters have expressed their intent to continue raising awareness about the potential risks and challenges they believe the law could impose on the management of Waqf properties, urging the government to reconsider or revise the legislation.



Minister Seethakka Reviews Pending Projects in Unified Warangal District

TPN Correspondent |
Telangana

Minister Seethakka held a crucial review meeting with MLAs and officials from the unified Warangal district, focusing on the progress of Panchayat Raj Engineering works and Mission Bhagiratha projects. During the meeting, she expressed strong dissatisfaction over the delay in development works and criticized the negligent attitude of certain contractors.

The minister highlighted that several segments still have pending works and warned that such delays would no longer be tolerated. She directed of-

ficials to remove non-performing contractors and urged them to ensure that only serious bidders participate in future tenders.

“Once a work order is issued, the project must begin immediately. Contractors who are not ready to work from day one should not be allowed into the tender process,” Seethakka asserted, sending a strong message to the contractor community.

Her proactive stance aims to accelerate the pace of infrastructure and drinking water projects in the region, ensuring timely completion and better service to the public.

Confusion in Gurukula Results: Toppers Denied Seats



TPN Correspondent |
Telangana

The recently released Gurukula Class 5 entrance exam results have triggered widespread confusion and concern among parents and students across Telangana.

Despite securing top ranks — including state first rank — a few students did not receive seat allotments due to minor application errors, sources revealed. Another 53 students reportedly faced a similar fate over minor discrepancies.

Parents, after sending letters to officials and the BC Commission, were met with disappointment, as no action has yet been taken. The entrance exam held on February 23 was meant to fill 51,968 seats

in various Gurukula institutions. The first list for 1,944 special category students was released on March 29, followed by a second list of 38,278 students on April 4.

Unlike previous years where students could check seat allotment and rank by hall ticket number, this year only PDF merit and allotment lists were provided without individual search options. This led to confusion, with some students appearing to be allotted seats in multiple lists, in different schools — leaving parents in utter dilemma.

Officials have not offered clarity so far, intensifying parents' concerns about the transparency and reliability of the process.

Fake Cotton Seeds Worth ₹44 Lakh Seized in Yalal, Vikarabad

TPN Correspondent |
Telangana

In a major crackdown, the Vikarabad district police, along with the Task Force, seized a huge quantity of fake cotton seeds in Yalal mandal.

Addressing the media at Tandur DSP office, District SP Narayana Reddy revealed that suspicious plastic bags were found in an agricultural field near Bagayapalli crossroads in Yalal.

Upon inspection, the Task Force identified them as counterfeit cotton seeds and handed them over to the Yalal police. According to Agriculture Officer Swetha Rani, the seized

seeds weigh about 22 quintals and are estimated to be worth ₹44 lakh.

The main accused, A1 Narayana Reddy from Kothakota village in Annamayya district of Andhra Pradesh, is currently absconding. Two others—A2 Siva Nageswara Rao, a farmer from Annamayya district, and A3 Dasari Srinivasa Rao from Guntur district—have been arrested and remanded.

SP Narayana Reddy urged farmers to remain vigilant and not to purchase seeds from unauthorized dealers or without proper labeling. He emphasized the importance of buying only cer-



tified seeds to avoid losses during cultivation. Appre-

ciating the swift action, he announced rewards for

the Task Force team, Tandur DSP, and Rural CI.

Private Interests Eye Dasa Ram Bastion, Alleged Conspiracy to Evict Poor Residents

TPN Correspondent |
Telangana

In a disturbing development in the Dasa Ram Basti area, reports suggest that private individuals have set their sights on survey number 144, a 3.5-acre plot of land in BK Guda, located in the Ameerpet mandal. Sources indicate that efforts are underway to evict the poor residents who have lived there for over



30 years in makeshift huts. More than 100 huts

are said to be at risk, with attempts to clear the land

reportedly underway. The residents have expressed their deep anguish, as the land is being cleared without any prior notice or proper alternative arrangements. This land has been a place of refuge for the underprivileged, where former Minister Talasani Srinivas Yadav had worked to provide necessary infrastructure, including drainage systems

and nalla connections for the residents. However, with the present Congress government's alleged involvement, Basti residents claim that the current efforts to evict them are part of a broader conspiracy to drive them out.

Residents are seeking immediate intervention from authorities to halt the eviction plans and protect their homes from the encroachment of private interests.

22 Maoists Surrender in Telangana's Mulugu District, Rehabilitation Support Announced

TPN Correspondent |
Telangana

In a significant blow to the banned Communist Party of India (Maoist), 22 Maoists surrendered to the police in Telangana's Mulugu district on Friday, April 11. The extremists laid down their arms before Mulugu district Superintendent of Police Dr. P. Shabarish at the Mulugu district police headquarters. The group of surrendering Maoists includes four Area Committee Members (ACMs), one party member, and the rest were militia members. This surrender marks another step forward in the ongoing ef-

forts to curb left-wing extremism in the region.

As part of the government's rehabilitation program, the SP announced financial assistance to the surrendering Maoists. The ACMs will receive Rs 4 lakh each, while the party member will be granted Rs 1 lakh, and the militia members will be provided Rs 25,000 each.

Dr. Shabarish appealed to other Maoist leaders to give up their violent ways and join the national mainstream. He emphasized that the ideology of left-wing extremism has lost its relevance, stressing that nothing constructive could be achieved by

staying in the forests.

The police had earlier issued a warning regarding Maoists threatening tribal communities and trying to restrict their movement in forests near Karrigutta by falsely claiming bombs had been planted. The SP reassured the public that the tribals, who depend on the forest for their livelihood, need not fear these threats. Grazing cattle and collecting forest produce are natural activities for them, and they will continue to engage in these tasks without interference.

This surrender of 22 Maoists follows the recent surrender of 86 Maoists



in Bhadradi Kothagudem district, where 82 were from Bhadradi-Kothagudem and four from Mulugu district. The extremists were primarily operating in the Bijapur forests of neighboring Ch-

hattisgarh.

This marks a significant achievement in the fight against Maoist insurgency, as nearly 250 extremists have surrendered in Telangana this year alone.

Crop damage by elephants in Maharashtra trigger concerns for farmers in Telangana



TPN Correspondent |
Telangana

Widespread crop destruction caused by a herd of wild elephants in Maharashtra's Gadchiroli district has sparked fresh fears among farmers in neighboring Telangana's Kumram Bheem Asifabad district, already reeling from two fatal elephant attacks in 2024.

In early April 2024, a lone elephant that had strayed into Telangana from Maharashtra killed two villagers—Alluri Shankar (50) in Burepal-

li, Chintalamanepalli mandal, and Karu Posham (65) in Kondapalli, Penchikalpet mandal. The elephant had reportedly crossed the Pranahita river and later returned to Maharashtra forests on April 6 after forest officials managed to divert its path. The situation remains tense as reports of ongoing crop damage caused by a herd of 32 elephants in Gadchiroli's Armori Taluka circulate. Villages such as Suryadongari, Akapur, Injawari, Kitadi, and Chur-

mura have witnessed heavy losses, with maize and paddy fields being trampled. Despite efforts by Maharashtra's forest department, including the deployment of hula parties—groups using torches and drums to drive the elephants away—the animals continue to destroy standing crops. The news has caused alarm among farmers in Telangana, who now fear a repeat of last year's tragedy. Many have appealed to authorities to implement preventive measures to keep the

elephants from straying across the border and into their agricultural fields. The anxiety is compounded by the knowledge that elephants, known for their powerful memory, often revisit ancient migratory routes and habitats. Experts studying human-elephant conflict in Maharashtra suggest the animals are venturing into new territories in search of food, water, and shelter due to habitat loss caused by rampant mining activity in Chhattisgarh.

Empowering Pasmanda Muslims

The Waqf Amendment Act marks a turning point for Pasmanda Muslims, offering not just legal reform but long-overdue recognition. For the first time, the All India Pasmanda Muslim Mahaz was invited to present its views before the Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) on Waqf—a historic acknowledgement of a marginalised voice.

At its core, the Amendment focuses on better governance of waqf properties while preserving the foundational Islamic concept of waqf. It ensures that religious and historical sites like mosques, dargahs, cemeteries, and Karbalas remain untouched, safeguarding their cultural and spiritual significance.

A key feature of the Act is the provision for a comprehensive survey of waqf properties (auqaf). This aims to document assets clearly, prevent encroachments, and enhance administrative accountability. The Muslim majority in Waqf Boards and Councils remains intact, ensuring community-led decision-making.

One controversial change is the removal of the “Waqf by User” clause, which allowed long-used properties to be designated as waqf without formal declaration. While the change aims to reduce legal ambiguity and misuse, properties already recognised under this clause will retain their status.

The Act’s broader goal is to curb mismanagement and corruption within Waqf institutions. It introduces stricter oversight, promoting transparency and rebuilding community trust. Efficient administration will



enable waqf assets to serve their original purpose—community welfare.

Crucially, the reform has the potential to transform the lives of economically weaker Muslims, especially Pasmanda groups. Better-managed waqf funds can support educational scholarships, build schools, and offer higher education opportunities—

particularly for girls from financially strained families.

Skill development centres using waqf land can offer training in modern trades like IT, healthcare, and tailoring, increasing employability. Enhanced revenues can also fund self-employment schemes and microfinance, helping artisans and labourers build sustainable liveli-

hoods.

Housing and healthcare, two pressing needs among Pasmanda Muslims, can be addressed through low-cost housing initiatives and free clinics powered by waqf resources. These steps would significantly raise the standard of living for underprivileged families.

The Waqf Amendment Act thus signals a shift from symbolic inclusion to tangible empowerment. For the Pasmanda Muslim community, it is not just a legislative milestone but an affirmation of their place in the national conversation. This recognition must now translate into continued advocacy and equitable development, ensuring waqf resources uplift those most in need.

RBI Cuts Rates, Boosts Lending Push



The Reserve Bank of India’s Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) has cut the repo rate by 25 basis points, bringing it down from 6.25% to 6%. This marks the second consecutive rate cut and the first for FY2025-26. The move signals the RBI’s shift from a ‘neutral’ to an ‘accommodative’ stance, indicating potential for further rate reductions or a continued status quo depending on economic trends.

The decision reflects the RBI’s twin objectives: reviving slowing economic growth and keeping inflation under control. The central bank has revised India’s GDP growth forecast for FY26 to 6.5%, down from 6.7%. At the same time, the Consumer Price Index (CPI) inflation projection has been eased from 4.2% to 4%, suggesting improving price stability.

Inflation has been on a steady decline in recent months. From a peak of 5.2% in December 2024, it fell to 3.6% by February 2025, marking a cumulative drop of 1.6%. Even food inflation, which has a direct impact on household expenses, has decreased to 3.8%, its lowest level in 21 months. These favourable numbers give the RBI room to ease monetary policy without risking inflationary flare-ups.

The rate cut is expected to reduce the cost of bor-

rowing for banks, which can now access funds more cheaply from the RBI. In turn, this move is designed to push banks to lend more aggressively to consumers and businesses, spurring demand and investment in the economy.

The policy shift is also a clear response to persistent concerns over weak private consumption and sluggish industrial growth. Lower interest rates may revive credit off-take in key sectors such as housing, automobiles, and MSMEs, which are critical to job creation and overall economic momentum.

Additionally, by adopting an ‘accommodative’ stance, the RBI is keeping policy flexible and open to further rate cuts should economic conditions warrant. This proactive approach may offer a buffer against global uncertainties or domestic shocks that could impact the growth trajectory.

With inflation contained and growth in need of a boost, the RBI appears to be aligning its policy tools toward stimulating the economy without compromising price stability. The latest measures send a clear signal to markets, businesses, and households that the central bank is committed to supporting recovery while remaining vigilant on inflation.

India Must Respond to US Tariffs

When former US President Donald Trump imposed a steep 26% tariff on Indian imports, he justified it as “reciprocal.” He claimed he was being “kind,” implying that the actual duty should be 52%. While the tariff hike has been paused, the Indian government has remained surprisingly silent, neither protesting the move nor explaining why it’s unjustified. The facts tell a different story from Trump’s logic. In the last year, India imported \$42 billion worth of goods from the US — about 1.1% of India’s \$3.9 trillion GDP. In contrast, US imports from India stood at \$87 billion — only 0.3% of its \$29 trillion GDP. That means the US enjoys a larger share of our economy than we do of theirs. If parity is the goal, India’s exports to the US should reach \$300 billion — over three times the current amount. Instead, India is being disproportionately generous. With lower per capita income and a growing domestic industry, India needs more protection, not less, to help local businesses achieve scale. The Modi government appears to have taken Trump’s rhetoric at face value. Rather than pushing back, India has yet to demand fairer terms or retaliate with equal duties. A 26%

counter-tariff would be a justified response if US duties on Indian goods continue. More than retaliation, this is a moment of opportunity. India should use the crisis to swiftly expand trade relations with other countries. We can seek lower trade barriers and mutually beneficial agreements to offset potential losses from US restrictions. A time-bound, reviewable framework for such deals can boost bilateral gains and diversify our trade network. While short-term disruptions are inevitable, especially in sensitive industries, India must be ready to adapt. Our past shows we’ve borne short-term hardship for long-term strategic gains — from non-alignment during the Cold War to facing sanctions post-nuclear tests. What is concerning now is the government’s silence. India should assertively demand more access to the US market and push for equal economic participation. The principle is not just trade parity, but national dignity. We are not against the US, but we must make it clear that India cannot be bullied or blackmailed. In this trade war, silence is surrender. It’s time India speaks — not just in defense, but with purpose, pride, and principle.





Nagendran Replaces Annamalai as TN BJP Chief

In a significant political reshuffle ahead of the 2026 Tamil Nadu Assembly elections, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has appointed Nainar Nagendran as the new president of its Tamil Nadu unit. The announcement follows the party's decision to realign with the AIADMK under the National Democratic Alliance (NDA), marking a strategic shift in the BJP's approach in the state.

Nagendran, a three-time MLA from Tirunelveli, replaces K. Annamalai, who served as state president during a period marked by aggressive outreach but strained ties with the AIADMK. Nagendran was the sole candidate to file his nomination on Friday and is now tasked with steering the BJP's campaign for the upcoming state elections.

At a public event celebrating the leadership change, Annamalai congratulated Nagendran, calling him a seasoned leader and expressing full support. "We know our goal and path — we will uproot the DMK from Tamil Nadu with the strongest NDA alliance in 2026," Annamalai declared to loud applause from party workers.

State BJP Vice President Narayanan Thirupathy also hailed the leadership transition. "Nagendran is a versatile man, rich in political culture. The cadre is thrilled. Under his presidency, we believe the BJP will scale new heights in Tamil Nadu," he said.

Nagendran's appointment coincides with the BJP's formal reunion with the AIADMK, a move that is expected to strengthen the NDA's prospects in the state. The two parties had parted ways in the run-up to the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, largely due to Annamalai's outspoken criticism of AIADMK icons like M.G. Ramachandran and J. Jayalalithaa.

Nagendran's political roots in the AIADMK, where he previously served as a minister, are seen as an asset in mending ties between the two allies. His experience and existing rapport with AIADMK leaders are expected to smooth over the past discord and present a united front.

For the BJP, the leadership change signals a shift from confrontation to coalition-building. With the NDA back together in Tamil Nadu and elections a year away, the party is betting on Nagendran's leadership and alliance politics to gain ground in a state where national parties have traditionally struggled for dominance.

Tamil Nadu Enforces 10 Bills Post-SC Verdict

In a significant move following a Supreme Court ruling, the Tamil Nadu government has officially notified ten Acts in the state Gazette, marking a decisive step in the ongoing power tussle between the Raj Bhavan and the State. These Acts, which had earlier been readopted by the State Assembly after initial refusal or inaction by the Governor, were deemed to have received assent as per the Supreme Court's recent verdict.

A large number of these Acts deal with the appointment of Vice-Chancellors (V-Cs) in state-run universities—an area that has been a longstanding point of contention between the Governor and the elected government. The new legislation effectively curtails the powers of the Governor-Chancellor in this domain, transferring authority to the State government. This shift is part of a broader push by the DMK-led government to assert greater auton-



omy in higher education administration.

One of the notable Acts included in the notification is the Tamil Nadu Fisheries University (Amendment) Act, 2020, which renames the university as The Tamil Nadu Dr. J. Jayalalithaa Fisheries University, honoring the late AIADMK

leader and former Chief Minister.

The Supreme Court had earlier ruled that the Governor cannot indefinitely delay assent to Bills passed by the legislature. In its verdict, the apex court emphasized that once the legislature readopts a Bill that has been returned by the Governor, the Gov-

ernor is constitutionally obligated to either grant assent or forward it to the President. In this case, since the Governor had forwarded the Bills to the President without granting assent, and no action was subsequently taken by the President, the Court ruled that the Bills were deemed to have received assent. Legal and political experts see the development as a landmark in the evolving relationship between the Governor and the State legislature, especially in opposition-ruled states. The Tamil Nadu government's move is seen as a bold assertion of federal principles and legislative supremacy. With the notification of these Acts, the government is expected to move swiftly in appointing Vice-Chancellors without waiting for gubernatorial approval, setting a precedent that could influence other states engaged in similar disputes with Governors over administrative powers.

ED Moves to Seize National Herald Assets



In a major step forward in its money laundering probe related to the National Herald case, the Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Saturday issued possession notices for immovable assets worth Rs 661 crore. The properties, linked to the Con-

gress-affiliated Associated Journals Limited (AJL), had earlier been provisionally attached as part of the investigation.

The ED confirmed that necessary documentation for taking over the

properties has been submitted to the concerned registrars in each location. In addition to the legal filings, the agency has also physically posted notices on the properties, seeking vacation of the premises and facilitating the agency's takeover.

These locations are key assets under scrutiny in the ongoing investigation against AJL, a company with long-standing ties to the Indian National Congress.

The ED also served a separate notice to Jindal South West Projects Limited, which currently occupies the 7th, 8th, and 9th floors of the Herald House property in Bandra, Mumbai. The notice demands that the occupant vacate the premises, clearing the way for the ED to take official possession.

The National Herald case has remained politically charged, involving top Congress leaders, including Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi, who have been questioned in connection with the alleged misappropriation of assets and money laun-

dering. The probe revolves around the acquisition of AJL's assets by a company called Young Indian, in which senior Congress leaders reportedly hold a majority stake.

The ED had provisionally attached the properties in previous stages of the investigation under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), claiming that assets worth hundreds of crores were illegally acquired through financial manipulation. This latest move signals the agency's intent to escalate proceedings and enforce action on ground, converting provisional attachments into formal takeovers. Legal experts say this could trigger further court battles, especially as the Congress party has repeatedly denied wrongdoing and claimed the case is politically motivated.

The ED's notice issuance comes amidst a broader crackdown on alleged financial irregularities involving political entities and is expected to spark a fresh round of political confrontation in the weeks ahead.

India Firm on Fair Trade Talks

In a strong statement reflecting India's firm stance on trade negotiations, Union Ministers Piyush Goyal and S. Jaishankar emphasized that India will not be pressured into hasty agreements, even amid shifting global dynamics triggered by the United States' recent policy changes.

Speaking at the Italy-India Business, Science, and Technology Forum, Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal responded to former US President Donald Trump's move to pause reciprocal tariffs on India for 90 days. This window has been seen as an opportunity for fast-tracking a bilateral trade agreement between the two nations.

Goyal, however, made it clear that India would not compromise under pressure. "We never negotiate at gunpoint. While favourable time constraints encourage faster progress, any deal will be concluded only if it secures the interests of our country and its people," he asserted.

He reiterated that India's ongoing trade discussions with countries including the US, UK, and European Union are progressing steadily. "Our focus remains India First, aligned with our broader vision of achieving Viksit Bharat by 2047 during the Amrit Kaal," Goyal added.

"We are certainly geared up for a high degree of urgency. There's a window and we're keen to deliver results. But our trade deals are complex and require mutual understanding," Jaishan-



kar stated.

Reflecting on past US-India negotiations, Jaishankar remarked, "We spoke for four years during the first Trump administration. They had a view of us, but frankly, we have our view of them too. That mutual understanding was missing back then."

On the EU trade talks, Jaishankar addressed criticism about prolonged negotiations, saying, "It's not that we've been talking for 30 years non-stop — there were long periods when talks were dormant. These are inherently protracted processes." The ministers' remarks underscore India's evolving but steadfast approach: willing to engage but not at the cost of national interest.

Three Killed in Murshidabad Waqf Protests

At least three people have lost their lives in fresh violence that broke out in West Bengal's Murshidabad district on Saturday, as protests over the contentious Waqf (Amendment) Act escalated. The latest fatalities have deepened tensions in the region and drawn sharp political responses.

According to officials, two persons — a father and son identified as Hargobind Das and Chandan Das — were killed in a brutal mob attack in Dhulian, Shamsheganj. The incident, reportedly communal in nature, marks one of the most severe episodes of violence since protests began.

A third casualty was confirmed on Saturday afternoon. Izaz Ahmed Sheikh, a 17-year-old who had sustained bullet injuries during a police firing in Suti on Friday, succumbed to his injuries at a local hospital. The death has further fuelled anger among protestors, who allege excessive use of force by law enforcement agencies.

A senior police official told The Hindu, "Two deaths have been reported in communal clashes. One person injured in police firing died today." Authorities are yet to make any arrests in connection with the killings, though investigations are underway.

The protests stem from growing opposition to the Waqf (Amendment) Act, recently passed by



the Parliament. Critics of the law claim it infringes on minority rights and grants excessive control over religious endowments. Demonstrations have been particularly intense in Muslim-majority pockets of the state, including Murshidabad, which has seen repeated incidents of unrest this week.

Visuals from Jangipur, another protest-hit area, showed vehicles set ablaze and streets strewn with debris. Law and order have reportedly deteriorated in multiple pockets, prompting deployment of additional police forces and rapid action units.

Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee took to social media to reiterate her government's stance. "We have made our statement on this matter clear — we do not support this law. This law will not be implemented in our state.



Trump opens door to Iran deal, warns of consequences if talks fail

TPN Correspondent | Washington

In a significant foreign policy move, U.S. President Donald Trump has expressed openness to a renewed nuclear deal with Iran but warned of “great danger” if negotiations fail. This comes as the U.S. and Iran prepare for talks in Muscat, Oman, on Saturday, focused on curbing Tehran’s rapidly advancing nuclear program.

Trump’s envoy to the Middle East, Steve Witkoff, and Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi are expected to lead their respective delegations. While Trump claimed the discussions would be direct, Iran has indicated they will likely proceed through intermediaries, with Omani officials shuttling messages between separate rooms.

“I want Iran to be a wonderful, great, happy country, but they can’t have a nuclear weapon,” Trump said aboard Air Force One. His administration believes Iran is in a weakened position due to regional setbacks, including the degradation of proxy forces like Hamas, Hezbollah, and the Houthis by Israeli and U.S. forces, as well as increasing economic pressure from sanctions.

Iran’s nuclear capabilities have significantly progressed since Trump withdrew from the Obama-era 2015 deal. Iran now possesses uranium enriched up to 60%, near weapons-grade level, and enough material to potentially produce multiple nuclear weapons. The U.S. is pushing for a tougher deal that goes beyond the previous agreement, aiming for full dismantlement of Iran’s nuclear enrichment and strategic missile capabilities.

National Security Advisor Mike Waltz has stated that the U.S. red line remains weaponisation, while Witkoff hinted at possible flexibility, stating that the administration could accept continued enrichment if weaponisation is prevented.

Iran’s President Masoud Pezeshkian reiterated that Tehran does not seek nuclear weapons and suggested openness to foreign investment, including from the U.S., if a deal is reached. This marks a shift from previous Iranian policies that restricted American business presence.

As negotiations begin, both sides face complex challenges. Trump seeks a foreign policy win, while Iran faces internal and external pressures. Whether these talks will succeed depends on the scope of U.S. demands and Iran’s willingness to compromise without further escalation.

Trump Replaces Obama’s Portrait with Painting of Himself

Surviving Assassination Attempt at White House

- Painting shows Trump defiant after July 2024 rally shooting in Pennsylvania.
- Video of installation posted with Trump’s chant: “fight, fight, fight.”
- Critics protest; Trump allies, including Rep. Greene, cheer the change.

TPN Correspondent | US

In a move steeped in symbolism and controversy, U.S. President Donald Trump has replaced the official White House portrait of former President Barack Obama with a dramatic painting of himself surviving an assassination attempt. The new artwork, now displayed in the grand entrance hallway of the White House, depicts Trump with his fist raised defiantly, moments after the July 2024 attempt on his life during a rally in Butler, Pennsylvania.

The 78-year-old Republican leader has shifted Obama’s portrait—originally unveiled in 2022 by then-President Joe Biden—to a different location, where George W. Bush’s portrait previously hung. Bush’s portrait has now been moved to a less prominent spot near the staircase.

The new Trump painting, which captures what many of his supporters view as a defining mo-



ment in his re-election campaign, has been accompanied by a brief video posted on social media platform X. The video, captioned “Some new artwork at the White House,” shows staff installing the gold-framed portrait while Trump’s rallying cry “fight, fight, fight” plays in the background.

The decision underscores Trump’s long-standing rivalry with Obama, which began during the 2016 presidential campaign and was marked by Trump’s promotion of the debunked “birther” conspiracy theory questioning Obama’s citizenship. Their public tensions have continued ever since, with

frequent jabs exchanged in speeches and interviews. While it is customary for presidential portraits to be hung after a president leaves office, Trump has never been one to follow tradition. He has previously displayed a framed copy of his Fulton County mugshot near the Oval Office and a bronze sculpture of his assassination attempt reaction at Mar-a-Lago. White House Communications Director Steven Cheung dismissed backlash over the portrait swap in typically blunt fashion, replying to one critic on X with, “Pipe down, moron.” Meanwhile, staunch Trump supporter Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene praised the new display, posting a side-by-side comparison with Obama’s portrait and writing, “Much better.” The White House Historical Association, which oversees the tradition of presidential portraits since 1965, has yet to comment on the unconventional reshuffling.

Earthquake of 5.8 Magnitude Strikes Pakistan; Tremors Felt in Jammu & Kashmir

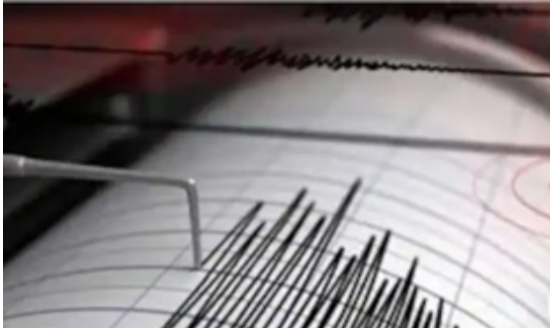
TPN Correspondent | Srinagar

An earthquake measuring 5.8 on the Richter scale struck on Saturday afternoon, with its epicentre located in the Pakistan region. Mild tremors were reported across parts of Jammu and Kashmir, though no immediate reports of damage or casualties have surfaced.

According to Mukhtar Ahmad, Director of the Meteorological Department, the quake occurred at 1:00:55 PM IST. The seismic activity was pinpointed at latitude 33.63°N and longitude 72.46°E, occurring 10 km beneath the Earth’s surface.

While the epicentre lay within Pakistan’s territory, the tremors were felt across the border in the Kashmir Valley, which lies in a highly seismically active zone. The region is historically prone to earthquakes due to its location on major tectonic fault lines.

The latest event revives memories of the



devastating earthquake on October 8, 2005, which measured 7.6 on the Richter scale and had its epicentre in Muzaffarabad, Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK). That quake claimed over 80,000 lives on both sides of the Line of Control (LoC), and caused extensive damage in parts of Afghanistan, Tajikistan, India, and China’s Xinjiang region.

The 2005 disaster remains one of the deadliest earthquakes of the decade. Official figures from Pakistan estimate the death toll between 73,276 and 87,350, with some reports suggesting the number could have ex-

ceeded 100,000. In India, 1,360 people were killed, and thousands more were injured. The event also left over 3.5 million people homeless and about 138,000 injured.

In recent years, the Chenab Valley region—especially Doda and Kishtwar districts—has experienced frequent seismic activity. Several residential and government buildings in these areas have sustained structural damage, rendering many uninhabitable.

Experts have repeatedly urged authorities and residents to adopt earthquake-resilient construction practices in both the Kashmir Valley and the Chenab region. Traditional structures made of wood and mud were historically more resilient to tremors. However, modern concrete buildings, though widespread, are more vulnerable unless built to seismic safety standards. With ongoing tremors and past experiences, experts emphasize preparedness and resilient infrastructure as essential for minimizing future earthquake-related losses.

Georgia Becomes First US State To Introduce Bill Against Hinduphobia

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

In a historic move, the state of Georgia has introduced a groundbreaking bill to formally recognize Hinduphobia and anti-Hindu bigotry within its legal framework. If enacted, the legislation would amend Georgia’s penal code to explicitly define Hinduphobia and mandate law enforcement agencies to account for it in hate crime investigations and enforcement of anti-discrimination laws.



Senate Bill 375 is a bipartisan effort, backed by Republican Senators Shawn Still and Clint Dixon, alongside Democratic Senators Jason Esteves and Emanuel D. Jones. The proposed bill defines Hinduphobia as “a set of antagonistic, destructive, and derogatory attitudes and behaviours towards Hinduism,” and seeks to ensure that such bias is taken seriously under Georgia’s existing legal protections.

The Coalition of Hindus of North America (CoHNA), which has worked closely with lawmakers on this effort, hailed the bill as a historic first. “Georgia becomes the first state to introduce such a bill, and if passed, will make history once again,” CoHNA said in a statement. The organization thanked the sponsoring senators for addressing the growing concerns of Hindu communities both in Georgia and across the United States. This bill builds upon a resolution passed by Georgia’s House of Representatives in April 2023, which condemned Hindupho-

bias and recognized Hinduism as one of the world’s oldest religions, with a global following of over 1.2 billion people. That resolution, led by Republican Representatives Lauren McDonald and Todd Jones, was celebrated by Hindu American communities, particularly in Forsyth County—home to one of Georgia’s largest populations of Hindu and Indian-American residents.

According to a 2023–2024 Pew Research Center Religious Landscape Study, approximately 2.5 million Hindus live in the United States, accounting for 0.9% of the national population. Georgia alone is home to more than 40,000 Hindus, most of whom reside in the Atlanta metropolitan area. If passed, Senate Bill 375 would mark a significant step toward recognizing and combating religious discrimination against Hindus, while also setting a precedent for other U.S. states to follow in addressing rising concerns over anti-Hindu sentiment.

Indian-Origin NJ Councillor Charged in Mafia-Linked Gambling Racket

TPN Correspondent | New York

Anand Shah, a 42-year-old Indian-origin municipal councillor from New Jersey, has been charged in connection with a major mafia-run gambling operation, according to New Jersey Attorney General Matthew Platkin. Shah, a two-term councillor in Prospect Park — a suburb of New York — is among 39 individuals facing charges including racketeering, illegal gambling, money laundering, and other serious crimes.

The charges were announced following a series of coordinated raids at 12 locations across New Jersey, including four poker clubs. Authorities say the criminal network was associated with the notorious Lucchese Crime Family, one of the major Italian-American mafia organisations in the United States.

Shah, who oversaw finance, economic development, and insurance for the borough, has been accused of managing illegal poker games and an online sports betting operation tied to the crime family. His alleged involvement has sparked concern about corruption in local government. “The arrest of a sitting council member only adds fuel to the fire of public distrust in elected officials,” Platkin said during a press briefing.



The gambling network reportedly operated behind the façade of legitimate businesses such as restaurants and private social clubs, generating nearly \$3 million in revenue. Platkin emphasised that the reality of organised crime is far from the glamorised version seen in pop culture. “This isn’t about romanticised mob life. It’s about illegal activity — money, power, and the threat of violence,” he said.

Another Indian-origin individual, Samir S. Nadkarni, 48, from Longwood, Florida, was also charged. He was described as a “sports-book sub-agent and poker host” within the operation.

The Lucchese-linked syndicate allegedly ran gambling machines and sports betting rings, exploiting loopholes and using social clubs as fronts.



India's auto component industry to hit USD 145 billion by 2030, exports to triple

India's apex policy think tank, NITI Aayog, has laid out an ambitious roadmap to propel the country's automotive components industry to USD 145 billion in production by 2030, with exports expected to triple from USD 20 billion to USD 60 billion. The projections are part of a new report titled "Automotive Industry: Powering India's Participation in Global Value Chains", released by the think tank on Friday.

The report delivers a comprehensive overview of the Indian automotive sector, outlining a strategic vision that balances opportunities, challenges, and a clear pathway to enhance global competitiveness. It emphasizes India's potential to emerge as a key player in the glob-

al automotive value chain, especially as the industry pivots toward electrification and advanced technologies.

Key Highlights of the Report:

Global Position: India is currently the fourth-largest automobile producer globally, behind China, the USA, and Japan, manufacturing close to 6 million vehicles annually.

Global Market Snapshot: The global auto component market stands at USD 2 trillion, with USD 700 billion in exports. India's current share in this export market is a modest 3%.

Growth Potential: The report identifies a major opportunity in engine components, drive transmission, and steering systems—segments that

currently dominate global trade but where India's share remains only 2-4%.

Strategy Framework: The interventions proposed are divided into fiscal and non-fiscal categories, tailored around four types of components based on complexity:

Emerging & Complex Conventional & Complex

Conventional & Simple Emerging & Simple

Fiscal Measures: Operational expenditure (Opex) support

Skill development programs

R&D incentives Intellectual Property (IP) transfers

Cluster-based infrastructure development

Non-Fiscal Measures: Industry 4.0 adoption Simplifying regulatory

procedures

Enhancing flexibility in labour norms

Promoting international collaboration

Supplier discovery mechanisms

Challenges Ahead:

Despite significant strengths such as a cost-competitive workforce and strong domestic demand, India's GVC (Global Value Chain) integration remains moderate. Key challenges identified include:

High operational costs Infrastructure bottlenecks

Low R&D investment Limited presence in high-precision component manufacturing

NITI Aayog's report asserts that with the right policy push and strategic investments, India can



substantially elevate its share in global automo-

tive exports, aligning with the broader goals of 'Make

in India' and economic self-reliance.

Gold skyrockets ₹6,250 to breach ₹96,000 level as U.S.-China trade war intensifies



Gold prices in India surged to an all-time high on Friday (April 11, 2025), driven by strong domestic demand and global safe-haven buying amid escalating U.S.-China trade tensions. In the national capital, the price of gold rose by a whopping ₹6,250, reaching a historic ₹96,450 per 10 grams, according to the All India Sarafa Association.

This sharp rally follows Wednesday's close, where gold of 99.9% purity was priced at ₹90,200 per 10 grams. Similarly, gold of 99.5% purity jumped from ₹89,750 to ₹96,000 per 10 grams, marking one of the steepest single-day increases in recent history.

Silver prices also mirrored this trend, climbing ₹2,300 to touch ₹95,500 per kg. The spike in silver

prices followed the global momentum and was partially influenced by the closure of domestic bullion markets on Thursday for Mahavir Jayanti.

Analysts attribute the surge to increasing geopolitical uncertainties and the growing appeal of gold as a safe-haven asset. "Gold extended its record-setting rally...to hit fresh lifetime highs near ₹93,500 on MCX, defying rupee strength," said Ja-teen Trivedi, VP Research Analyst at LKP Securities.

On the Multi Commodity Exchange (MCX), gold futures for June delivery also hit a record ₹93,736 per 10 grams, rising ₹1,703.

Globally, spot gold reached a peak of \$3,237.39 per ounce before stabilizing at \$3,222.04. Meanwhile, Comex gold futures in Asian trading soared to \$3,249.16 per ounce.

Kaynat Chainwala, AVP

of Commodity Research at Kotak Securities, noted that safe-haven demand has intensified amid fears of a prolonged trade war. The Trump administration's recent decision to impose tariffs of up to 145% on Chinese imports prompted a retaliatory 125% duty from China, rattling global markets.

The weakening U.S. dollar, which dropped below the 100-mark, also added momentum to gold's upward trajectory.

Investment bank UBS stated that ongoing trade disputes, economic uncertainties, and geopolitical risks are expected to further fuel the demand for gold, making its long-term outlook increasingly bullish. Central banks, it noted, are continuing to purchase gold at record levels, a trend unlikely to slow in the face of global instability.

Developed world more reliable trading partner than China: Piyush Goyal

Union Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal on Friday, April 11, 2025, expressed India's strategic inclination to strengthen trade partnerships with European and North American nations, while maintaining a cautious and reserved approach toward economic engagement with China.

Speaking at the Global Technology Summit hosted by Carnegie India, Goyal emphasized that India's trade policies will prioritize collaboration with developed countries that adhere to principles of fairness, transparency, and mutual benefit. "Our effort is to integrate our economies with the developed world, who believe in fair play, who believe in honest business practices, and where we get an equal opportunity to do business and invest," he stated.

Goyal highlighted the limited Chinese investments in India, stating that even when Chinese firms had the opportunity to invest, their involvement remained minimal. "Nor are we encouraging any significant investment coming in from China at all at the moment,"



he added.

Reinforcing India's cautious stance, Goyal criticized countries with high per capita incomes—implicitly referring to China—labeling themselves as "developing" nations. "If countries with a per capita income of \$50,000 or more choose to call themselves developing nations, then obviously it is going to cause angst," he said, reiterating India's decision to stay out of the China-backed Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) as a prudent move.

Addressing India's trade negotiations with the United States, Goyal refrained from committing to a fixed timeline for the bilateral trade agreement, noting that any deal must serve India's

national interests. "We aspire for indicative timelines, but at the end of the day, it has to be a win-win for both sides... Just to meet a deadline, you cannot compromise national interest."

On the European front, Goyal criticized the European Union's climate-related and non-trade demands as unrealistic and obstructive. "Unless they get that out of their system, they will find it very difficult to get a trade agreement with anybody whatsoever," he remarked.

His statements reflect India's evolving foreign trade strategy: safeguarding national interests while aligning with trusted global partners and distancing itself from unreliable or opaque economies.

U.S. Defense Department terminates \$5.1 billion in IT contracts with Deloitte

In a major cost-cutting move, U.S. Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth has ordered the immediate termination of multiple IT services contracts worth a combined \$5.1 billion. The contracts, held by major consulting firms including Accenture and Deloitte, were deemed by the Pentagon to be non-essential expenditures.

The directive, outlined in a memo dated April 10 and released publicly on April 11, 2025, highlights a shift in the Department of Defense's approach to outsourcing and consultant dependency.

Hegseth stated that the terminated contracts "represent non-essential spending on third-party consultants" for tasks that could be performed internally by Pentagon personnel.

"These terminations represent \$5.1 billion in wasteful spending... and nearly \$4 billion in estimated savings," the memo



read. It marks one of the largest single cost-cutting actions taken under Hegseth's leadership.

The decision comes amid increasing scrutiny over defense budget allocations and growing calls from lawmakers and watchdog groups to reduce reliance on costly external contractors for services that do not directly support military readiness or operations.

According to defense officials, many of the cancelled contracts were for IT consulting, project

management, and digital transformation services. While these services have been used to modernize various systems, Hegseth argued that the Pentagon has sufficient in-house capability to manage the majority of these functions.

Sources within the Defense Department say the review leading up to the cancellations was part of a broader audit launched earlier this year, aimed at identifying redundancies and inefficiencies in defense spending.

Industry groups and affected contractors have yet to issue formal responses, but analysts predict significant pushback, particularly from firms that stand to lose long-term federal revenue streams. The decision could also impact the private defense consulting market, which has grown substantially in recent years.

Hegseth, who has championed greater efficiency and accountability within the department, emphasized in the memo that funds saved from these terminated contracts would be redirected toward core defense initiatives and modernization programs that directly enhance national security.

The move is expected to generate both praise and criticism as debates continue around defense budgeting, fiscal responsibility, and the role of private contractors in U.S. military operations.

TCS Q4 Profit Slips 1.68% Despite Revenue Growth

Tata Consultancy Services (TCS), India's largest IT services company, reported a net profit of ₹12,224 crore for the quarter ending March 2025, marking a 1.68% decline compared to ₹12,434 crore in the same period last year. Despite the dip in quarterly profits, TCS achieved a major milestone by crossing the \$30 billion mark in annual revenue for FY25, underlining its sustained growth and strong global presence. The company's revenue from operations for the March quarter stood at ₹64,479 crore, registering a 5.29% year-on-year increase from ₹61,237 crore reported in the corresponding period of the previous financial year. The rise in revenue reflects ongoing demand



for digital transformation services, though it was partially offset by cost pressures and slower discretionary IT spending from global clients.

The marginal drop in profits despite revenue growth indicates challenges such as rising operational expenses, wage revisions, and foreign exchange headwinds. North American and European markets, which account for a significant portion of TCS's business, have seen cautious client spending amid economic uncertainty, contributing to

margin pressure.

TCS's performance also highlights its focus on expanding key business areas like cloud services, artificial intelligence, and industry-specific digital solutions. The company continues to build on its strong portfolio across banking, financial services, retail, and health-care sectors, while also adapting to global tech trends and client needs. As one of the first IT majors to report its Q4 earnings, TCS's results set the tone for the rest of the Indian tech industry. Analysts will be closely watching management commentary in upcoming earnings calls for insights into deal pipelines, attrition rates, hiring strategies, and the outlook for FY26.

Eagle Snatches, Returns PSC Hall Ticket

In a scene straight out of a movie, an eagle in Kerala's Kasaragod district created panic just minutes before the start of a crucial Public Service Commission (PSC) exam by swooping down and snatching a candidate's hall ticket — only to return it just in time. The incident took place on the morning of April 10, 2025, at the Government UP School in Kasaragod, where around 300 candidates had gathered to write the 7:30 a.m. exam. Among them was an aspirant who had arrived early to revise. As he sat down beside the parish hall, he placed his hall ticket next to him on the bench — unaware that a twist of fate was about to unfold. Without warning, an eagle swooped down from above, grabbed the hall ticket in its beak, and flew up to a window ledge high above the exam center. What followed was a mix of disbelief, tension, and helplessness as the candidate



looked on in horror. Officials and other examinees were equally shocked. Some bystanders urged the candidate to throw stones to scare the eagle into dropping the ticket. But the candidate, fearing that the bird might fly away completely, decided against any drastic action. He watched anxiously as precious minutes passed and the final bell for the exam neared. In what felt like a miracle, the eagle eventually loosened

its grip and let the hall ticket flutter down from its perch — just in time. The relieved candidate retrieved it and was allowed to proceed with the exam, making it to his seat just as the exam was about to begin. The unusual incident quickly became the talk of the town, adding a feather of a different kind to the PSC exam story — and giving everyone involved a tale they won't forget any time soon.

Monkey Hugs Tharoor, Naps Peacefully

In a heart-warming encounter straight out of a storybook, Congress MP Shashi Tharoor had an unexpected visitor at his home — a monkey that ran toward him, hugged him, and then dozed off peacefully on his lap. Sharing the extraordinary moment on social media platform X, Tharoor described how the monkey approached him out of the blue. After receiving a couple of bananas as a friendly treat, the animal nestled comfortably against Tharoor's chest and fell asleep, much to the amusement and surprise of onlookers. Tharoor posted pictures of the calm and cuddly guest, leaving netizens both touched and entertained. Many users praised the tender interaction and the MP's gentle handling of the animal. The post quickly went viral, spreading smiles across timelines and adding yet another memorable chapter to Tharoor's eclectic public life.



AI Memes Mock Trump's Tariff Strategy

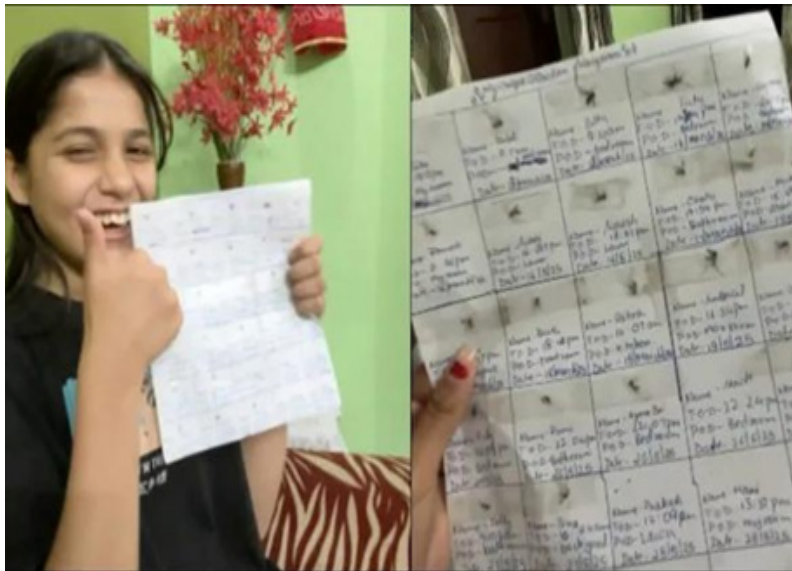
Chinese social media users have flooded platforms with AI-generated videos and memes that poke fun at U.S. President Donald Trump's tariffs on Chinese imports. The viral content showcases a satirical portrayal of Trump and other prominent figures, such as Elon Musk and JD Vance, working on factory production lines—an apparent jab at Trump's push for U.S. reindustrialization. One of the most shared videos, reposted by PhoenixTV, shows Trump and Musk working on a Nike sneaker assembly line, while another depicts Vance assembling an iPhone, wearing a red cap devoid of the MAGA logo. The AI videos humorously imagine a future where Americans return to manual labor, illustrating the fallout from the escalating trade war with China. These videos also depict the impact of Trump's tariff policies, portraying scenes of overweight Americans working in factories, assembling Tesla products. The satire questions the feasibility and effectiveness of Trump's "Make America Great Again" mantra, which includes bringing manufacturing jobs back to the U.S. In addition to the viral videos, Chinese officials and social media users

have used AI memes to further mock Trump's tariffs. One meme, shared by Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Mao Ning, humorously claimed that Trump's MAGA hats have become over 50% more expensive due to his tariffs. While the U.S. has exempted certain tech products like smartphones and laptops from these tariffs, the broader trade war continues to escalate. China retaliated with a 125% tariff on U.S. goods, intensifying tensions between the world's two largest economies. The new exemptions may provide relief to U.S. tech companies, including Apple, Nvidia, and Dell, but the overall impact of the 145% tariffs on Chinese imports remains significant. The growing meme culture highlights the ongoing, heated nature of the U.S.-China trade conflict, with both sides taking jabs at each other's policies.



Girl Goes Viral for Collecting Dead Mosquitoes

A girl's unusual hobby of collecting dead mosquitoes has gone viral on social media, sparking both fascination and amusement. The video, posted by Akansha Rawat on Instagram, shows the girl taping dead mosquitoes to sheets of paper and categorizing them by name, time, and place of death. The clip has quickly garnered over five million views, with viewers left both perplexed and impressed by this bizarre collection. The video begins with the cameraperson introducing the girl's eccentric hobby, saying, "People have such strange hobbies, and hers is the strangest of them all." The camera then reveals a sheet of paper covered with dead mosquitoes, each labeled with names such as 'Sigma Boi,' 'Ramesh,' 'Babli,' and 'Tinku.' The girl's dedication to this activity has left her friends both amazed and concerned, with one even calling her a "psycho." As the video spread across the internet, many users com-



mented on the strange nature of the hobby. Some humorous responses included: "The entire mosquito community is in fear" and "She is indirectly roasting all men," referring to the male names given to the female mosquitoes, known for their blood-sucking habits. While some found the hobby amusing, others questioned its peculiar nature, with one user commenting on the "Ritual Death Notes" and another

remarking on the difficulty of life for the mosquitoes. The video has created a flurry of reactions, showcasing just how bizarre hobbies can go viral on the internet. The video's viral success has sparked a debate about eccentricity in hobbies, with many acknowledging the girl's unique way of dealing with her mosquito encounters while humorously engaging the online community.

Woman Travels 6,500 KM Weekly for Studies

Nat Sedillo, a 30-year-old woman from Mexico, travels more than 6,500 kilometers every week for her education. Despite living in Santiago, Mexico, with her husband, Sedillo commutes to New York for her college studies. She travels to New York once a week, covering a distance of over 3,000 kilometers each way, and returns the same day. This routine means she is spending more than 6,500 kilometers every week solely for her education.

Interestingly, Sedillo says that traveling to New York weekly is more cost-effective than living there. Despite the long distance and high travel expenses, including flight, accommodation, and food costs, she finds it more economical to make the trip rather than stay in New York full-time. Since January, she has spent approximately ₹1.7 lakhs (around \$2,200) on travel, accommodation, and food.

Sedillo's decision to take this route, rather than staying in New York full-time, has proven financially beneficial for her. Her weekly commute is a strategic choice, helping her save money while pursuing her academic goals. Despite the challenging travel schedule, she remains committed to her education, believing that this is the best approach for her financial situation.

This remarkable story of perseverance and planning has drawn attention for its unconventional approach to balancing education and financial considerations. While many might wonder why she doesn't just stay in New York, Sedillo's unique solution highlights the importance of



making decisions that work best for one's individual circumstances, even if it means undertaking a long and costly commute each week.

ICC Mulls WTC Points System Overhaul



The International Cricket Council (ICC) is reportedly set to deliberate significant changes to the World Test Championship (WTC) points system during meetings in Zimbabwe this weekend, according to a report by The Guardian. However, the controversial plan to introduce a two-division format in Test cricket is likely to be put on hold.

Currently, the WTC awards 12 points for a win, six for a tie, and four for a draw, regardless of the strength of the opposition or venue. This uniform system has drawn criticism, especially from within the 'Big Three' – India, England, and Australia – who argue that they are disadvantaged as they frequently play competitive series among themselves. Under the proposed revamp, the ICC is considering a bonus points system that could reflect the margin of victory, similar to rugby union. Points may also be weighted based on opponent strength and awarded additionally for away wins, aiming to make the rankings more reflective of performance difficulty.

The next WTC cycle will begin in June 2025 with India's tour of England for a five-match series, shortly after the WTC final between South Africa and Australia at Lord's. South Africa's progression to the final has sparked debate, as they reached the summit without facing England or Australia, primarily winning against teams like West Indies, Bangladesh, and Sri Lanka. The ICC will also discuss the issue of over-rate penalties, which has significantly impacted team standings. England, in particular, have been hit hard – losing 22 points due to slow over-rates, which dragged them down to sixth place in the current cycle, despite having the third-best win percentage of 51.5%.

These potential changes signal ICC's intent to address fairness and competitiveness in Test cricket, though radical structural reforms like the two-tier system may have to wait.



Sunrisers Hyderabad (SRH) pulled off one of IPL's greatest run chases, defeating Punjab Kings (PBKS) by 8 wickets in a thrilling match at the Rajiv Gandhi International Stadium. PBKS set a daunting target of 245/6, thanks to a fiery knock from Shreyas Iyer. But SRH's young sensation Abhishek Sharma stunned everyone with a breathtaking 112 off 49 balls, smashing boundaries at will. Travis Head backed him up brilliantly with a quickfire 89. Together, they dismantled the PBKS bowling attack and finished the chase in just 18.5 overs. This victory marks SRH's second-highest successful run chase in IPL history, establishing them as a force to reckon with in the 2025 season. The match was a showcase of fearless batting and remarkable composure under pressure, as SRH delivered a performance fans will remember for years.

Pakistan Shines in WC Qualifiers

As the ICC Women's Cricket World Cup Qualifier 2025 enters a decisive phase, Pakistan's women's team has emerged as a strong contender, securing two convincing victories and expressing confidence ahead of their remaining matches. The hosts began their campaign with a 38-run win over Ireland, followed by a six-wicket triumph against Scotland. These back-to-back victories have placed Pakistan in a favorable position as the tournament progresses toward its conclusion on April 19. Speaking after the win over Scotland, Pakistan captain Fatima Sana emphasized her team's growing composure and the importance of maintaining steady partnerships under pressure. Pakistan's success has been built on all-round team efforts, with key contributions from both batters and bowlers. The depth and balance within the squad have given the team a solid foundation to tackle tougher opponents, including a crucial clash with West Indies. The ICC Women's World Cup Qualifier is currently being hosted in Pakistan from April 9 to 19, featuring six teams – Pakistan,



West Indies, Bangladesh, Ireland, Scotland, and Thailand. The top two teams from this event will earn a spot in the Women's Cricket World Cup 2025, scheduled to take place in India later this year in October and November. With high stakes and only a few matches remaining, Pakistan aims to maintain momentum, knowing that consistent team performance will be key to qualification. Captain Fatima Sana's leadership and the squad's unified approach are shaping up to be critical factors in their campaign's success.

Udayan Mane Leads with Grit

Olympian and 12-time title winner Udayan Mane fired a determined four-under 68 in the third round of the Indorama Ventures Open Golf Championship 2025, taking a two-stroke lead with a total score of 14-under 202 at the Kalhaar Blues and Greens Golf Club in Ahmedabad. Mane, who hails from Pune and is a former PGTI Order of Merit champion, displayed great mental fortitude on Friday. Despite starting the day with a double-bogey, the 34-year-old quickly recovered to post an eagle, five birdies, and a bogey. His composed performance has put him in prime position to end a three-year title drought. Trailing him is Khalin Joshi from Bengaluru, who also has a strong pedigree with six titles and a past stint as PGTI No. 1. Joshi carded a solid three-under 69 on the penultimate day, highlighted by four birdies and a single bogey, keeping himself in the hunt at 12-under 204. Joshi, who shares a long competitive history with Mane dating back

to their junior golf days, is aiming to snap his own winless run of over two years. Abhinav Lohan from Faridabad posted a matching 68 to claim third place at nine-under 207, while Chandigarh's Angad Cheema followed closely behind in

fourth with a round of 70 and an aggregate of eight-under 208. Local favorite Varun Parikh brought in a 69 to finish the day in tied eighth at five-under 211, ensuring Ahmedabad representation among the top contenders.



Pant Reveals Strategy After LSG Win

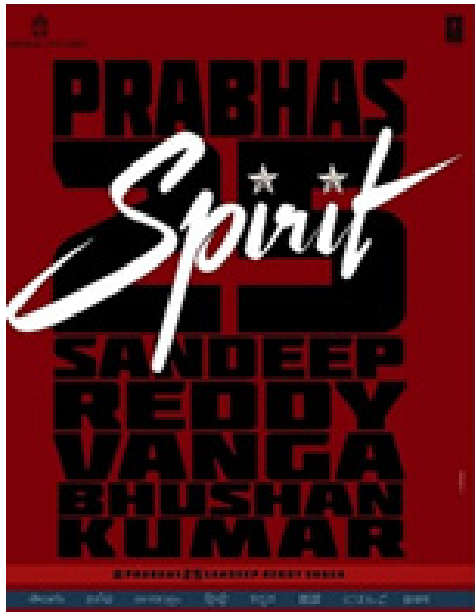
After sealing a hard-fought six-wicket win over Gujarat Titans (GT) at the Ekana Stadium, Lucknow Super Giants (LSG) skipper Rishabh Pant shared his strategy behind the bowling approach that helped his side restrict GT to a modest total in the death overs. Chasing 181, LSG's batting was powered by Nicholas Pooran and Aiden Markram, who played crucial roles in the successful chase. While GT bowlers did well to drag the match into the final over, the home side held their nerve to secure a vital victory. Reflecting on the match at the post-game presentation, Pant

said, "Definitely feeling happy. We just follow the same path, believe in our ability, and take one game at a time. The idea was to bowl yorkers and slower deliveries into the wicket. Bowlers executed the plan well and helped pull the game back. Though the start wasn't ideal, the comeback was amazing." On his own improving form, Pant remarked, "The more time I spend at the crease, the better I feel. I'm getting there with each match." He also reserved special praise for Nicholas Pooran, stating, "We're lucky to have him. You'd rather have a guy like that on your team than against you. His batting has

been phenomenal." In the first innings, GT looked set for a big total after an impressive 120-run stand between Shubman Gill (60 off 38) and Sai Sudharsan (56 off 37). However, a flurry of quick wickets derailed their momentum. GT eventually posted 180/6, losing wickets in clusters post the openers' dismissal. Key contributors like Jos Buttler (16), Sherfane Rutherford (22), and Rahul Tewatia (0) failed to capitalize. LSG, with this win, continues to build momentum at home and looks increasingly confident heading into the business end of the season.



Prabhas' Spirit Gears Up for Shoot



Director Sandeep Reddy Vanga is deep into pre-production for his much-anticipated film *Spirit*, starring Prabhas in the lead. The latest update reveals that casting is in full swing, with several talented actors being considered for key roles. Described as a gripping cop thriller with Sandeep's signature storytelling style, the film's screenplay took nearly six months to develop. The shoot is expected to begin in September or October 2025.

Prabhas will undergo a striking physical transformation for the role, adding intrigue to his already highly anticipated performance. Interestingly, *Spirit* will feature actors from both the USA and Korea, hinting at an international flavor. Produced by Bhushan Kumar, along with Sandeep and Pranay Reddy Vanga, the film is already creating buzz. After *Spirit*, Prabhas will team up with Ranbir Kapoor for *Animal Park*.

Kalyan Ram Shines in Arjun S/O Vyjayanthi



The trailer for *Arjun S/O Vyjayanthi*, starring Nandamuri Kalyan Ram, was launched at a grand pre-release event in Hyderabad with Jr. NTR as chief guest. The event drew a massive crowd and emotional reactions. Veteran actress Vijayashanthi said the story, centered on a mother-son bond, deeply moved her: "This film is about sacrifices a son makes for his mother. The climax will leave you stunned." She revealed that she

suggested a few script changes before fully committing herself. Kalyan Ram expressed confidence: "Some films we forget after watching, but this one will stay with you. It's close to my heart." Jr. NTR praised the film's emotional core and Kalyan Ram's performance: "It's like seeing what would happen if Vijayashanthi's Karthavyam character had a son. The last 20 minutes hit hard because of Kalyan Anna."



Vaishnavi Chaitanya's Struggle Post-Baby

Vaishnavi Chaitanya shot to fame with the blockbuster *Baby*, a surprise box office sensation that nearly touched ₹100 crores. Her performance as a conflicted young woman caught between two lovers received immense praise, earning her widespread recognition. However, sustaining that success has proven to be a challenge. Following *Baby*, Vaishnavi starred in *Love Me - If You Dare*, backed by Dil Raju. Despite the banner's strong reputa-

tion, the film bombed at the box office. Hoping for a turnaround, she took on a quirky role in *Jack* alongside Siddhu Jonnalagadda, where she played a "lady detective." Though the concept intrigued many, the film failed to connect with audiences. Now, all eyes are on Vaishnavi's next move. Can she bounce back and recapture the magic of *Baby*? The industry and her growing fanbase are watching — and hoping.

Rakul Preet Stuns in Saree Glam



Rakul Preet Singh turned the fashion heat up as she graced the cover of HT City Showstopper magazine, channeling mermaid vibes with her bold ethnic style. Dressed in a printed saree paired with a silver bralette and a statement choker, Rakul looked every bit

the modern-day glam icon. In another look, a soft pink drape added a dreamy touch to her photoshoot, highlighting her versatility. But beyond the exquisite outfits, it was Rakul's effortless confidence and poise that truly stood out. From shimmering crop tops to

bold accessories, she blended tradition with a modern edge, redefining saree fashion in a way only she can. Her looks struck the perfect balance between elegance and edginess, making a strong case for re-inventing ethnic wear with fresh, fearless flair.

'Raama Raama' from Vishwambhara Ignites Devotion

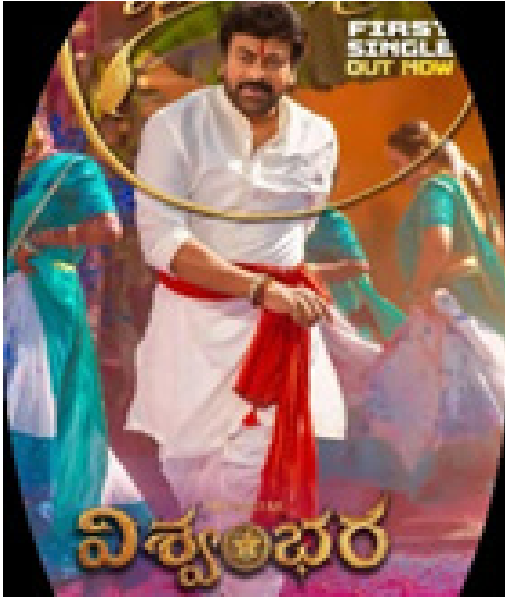
On the auspicious occasion of Hanuman Jayanthi, the makers of *Vishwambhara* unveiled their first single, *Raama Raama*, a soul-stirring spiritual anthem. Featuring Megastar Chiranjeevi as a devout follower of Lord Hanuman, the track reinforces the film's spiritual core and divine undertones.

Composed by Oscar-winning maestro MM Keeravaani, the song is a powerful blend of classical Indian melodies and cinematic orchestration. It begins with soothing vocals and soft instrumentals, gradually intensifying with layered percussion and culminat-

ing in Chiranjeevi's fervent chant of "Jai Shri Ram."

Known for his devotion off-screen, Chiranjeevi's portrayal promises to bring an emotional depth to his role as a Hanuman devotee. The lyrical video has already struck a chord with fans, with visuals reflecting spiritual grandeur.

Raama Raama is not just a song—it's a devotional experience, setting the tone for the magnum opus *Vishwambhara*.



Jaya's Heartfelt Welcome to Aishwarya

An emotional throwback video from the 2007 Filmfare Awards is winning hearts online. The clip shows Jaya Bachchan warmly welcoming Aishwarya Rai into



the Bachchan family before her marriage to Abhishek Bachchan. Accepting an award on stage, Jaya said, "I am going to be a mother-in-law all over again to a wonderful, lovely girl who has great values, great dignity and a lovely smile. I welcome you to the family. I love you." The heartfelt moment left Aishwarya visibly teary-eyed, with Amitabh Bachchan also present in the audience. Jaya had previously praised Aishwarya on *Koffee With Karan*, calling her dignified, graceful, and a perfect fit for the Bachchan family. Despite recent rumours about tension in Aishwarya and Abhishek's marriage, the couple has maintained silence. Amitabh Bachchan had requested privacy, dismissing speculation with a firm yet respectful message to the public.