



Weather Forecast

HYDERABAD

t°

H 33° C

L 25° C

VIJAYAWADA

t°

H 35° C

L 26° C

TIRUPATHI

t°

H 36° C

L 26° C

CM Revanth Reddy Secures Japan Mega Deal



Marubeni invests ₹1,000 crore Telangana

Next-gen industrial park in Hyderabad

600 acres for global manufacturing hub

30,000 jobs to be created

Focus on electronics, defense, pharma

TPN,Correspondent|Hyderabad
Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy's visit to Japan yielded a major investment deal on the very first day, as Japanese conglomerate Marubeni Corporation agreed to invest ₹1,000 crore in the state. The company has proposed setting up a Next-Generation Industrial Park in the upcoming Future City of Hyderabad.

During a meeting in Tokyo, Marubeni executives met CM Revanth Reddy and discussed the proposal in detail. The project will initially span 600 acres and aims to attract more than ₹5,000 crore in total investments in phases. The Letter of Intent (LoI) was signed in the presence of the Chief Minister by state officials and company representatives. The industrial park will focus on electronics, green pharma, precision engineering, aerospace, and defense sectors. It is designed to attract foreign investments in advanced manufacturing and



generate skilled employment in Telangana. Officials estimate that the project will create 30,000 direct and indirect job opportunities, improving livelihoods in the region. CM Revanth Reddy welcomed Marubeni's participation, stating that this would be the first major park in Future City, which is being developed as

2 PAGE



CM Revanth in Japan: Seeks Metro, Musi, RRR Funding

TPN,Correspondent|Hyderabad
Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, during his ongoing Japan tour, stepped up efforts to secure funding for key infrastructure projects in the state. A high-level meeting was held with Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) where the CM, along with a team of senior officials, presented Telangana's vision for urban transformation. The state sought financial support for Metro Rail Phase-2, Musi River Rejuvenation, and inter-connecting radial roads linking the Regional Ring Road (RRR) to the Outer Ring Road (ORR). These projects are part of a larger mission to position Hyderabad as a world-class

CM meets JICA for infrastructure aid

Seeks ₹11,693 Cr loan for Metro

Musi revival, radial roads in focus

Hyderabad to mirror global cities

Telangana pitches big development push

city, comparable to Tokyo and New York. CM Revanth informed that the Metro Phase-2 project, estimated at ₹24,269 crore, is under final review by the central government. He requested ₹11,693 crore in funding from JICA, accounting for 48% of the project's cost. He also emphasized that the Musi river restoration and expansion of road networks would not only ease urban congestion but attract more investments into Telangana. JICA's Senior Vice President Shohei Hara reiterated the agency's long-standing positive ties with Telangana. The CM was joined by key state officials including Jayesh Ranjan, V. Sheshadri, NVS Reddy, and others during the meeting.

450 Acres for IT Knowledge Hub in Puppalaguda - Telangana Eyes 5 Lakh Jobs

- 450 acres allotted in Phase-1
- Targeting 5 lakh youth employment
- Ministers Bhatti, Sridhar, Ponguleti meet
- Land near Puppalaguda re-evaluated
- Hyderabad to embrace AI revolution



TPN,Correspondent|Hyderabad
The Telangana government has kickstarted plans to establish a massive IT Knowledge Hub across 450 acres in Puppalaguda, aiming to create employment for over 5 lakh youth. Deputy CM Bhatti Vikramarka Mallu, along with Ministers Duddilla Sridhar Babu and Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy, held a high-level meeting with Chief Secretary Shanthi Kumari and key officials from the industries and revenue departments at the Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Secretariat. The ministers directed officials to initiate development works in the first phase immediately. Previously, the area saw land allocation to MLAs, MPs, IAS officers, and various cooperative societies. However, citing a Supreme Court judgment cancelling those allocations, officials brought the matter to the sub-committee's attention. In addition, a 250-acre land parcel adjacent to this area, owned by the Telangana Industrial Infrastructure Corporation, has also been identified — giving a total of 450 acres for the proposed Knowledge Hub. Officials estimated that this hub will offer extensive employment opportunities, especially as Hyderabad looks to stay ahead in emerging AI technologies. Ministers emphasized that just like Hi-Tech City and the Financial District, this new initiative will further accelerate Hyderabad's role in global IT innovation.

Bhatti Vikramarka Slams BJP Over National Herald Case

- Congress won't fear BJP tactics
- National Herald rooted in freedom struggle
- BJP scared of caste census demand
- ED targeting Gandhi family politically
- Congress will show strength in elections



TPN,Correspondent|Hyderabad
Telangana Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka made sharp remarks against the BJP, accusing it of using investigative agencies like the ED to suppress the Congress party's growing influence. Speaking during a protest outside the ED office in Hyderabad, Vikramarka asserted that the Congress, which once fought the British Empire, will not be intimidated by the BJP's political maneuvers. He defended the National Herald

newspaper, stating it was not a private venture, but a medium established by Jawaharlal Nehru to spread the ideals of India's freedom movement. Bhatti said the Gandhi family, the Congress Party, and National Herald have all made sacrifices for the nation. The Deputy CM alleged that the BJP is scared of the Congress's

2 PAGE

BJP Launches 'Waqf Reforms Awareness Campaign' in Telangana



- Clarifies Waqf law amendment intentions
- Senior BJP leaders attend workshop
- Campaign scheduled from April to May

TPN, SRIKANTH GURRAM|Hyderabad
The Bharatiya Janata Party

(BJP) Telangana unit organized a workshop under the banner of "Waqf Sudhaar Jan Jagrana Abhiyan" at its state headquarters. The event was inaugurated by Union Minister for Coal and Mines and BJP Telangana President G. Kishan Reddy.

2 PAGE

KTR Alleges ₹10,000 Cr Scam in HCU Land Deal



- Empowered Committee demands investigation team
- ₹10,000 crore fraud must surface
- KTR urges probe by RBI
- Congress accused of serious corruption

2 PAGE

"Kancha Gachibowli Lands Not for Privatization," Says TPCC Chief

- Maresh Kumar Goud rejects allegations
- SC slams state on land issue
- Congress claims lands saved from sale
- BRS sold lands at low prices
- Opposition creating baseless controversy



2 PAGE



IPL 2025 Fixing Allegations: Police Begin Probe

4 PAGE



1st Page Cont..

KTR Alleges ₹10,000 Cr Scam in HCU Land Deal

TPN,Correspondent|Hyderabad
BRS Working President K.T. Rama Rao (KTR) has intensified his allegations against the Congress-led Telangana government, claiming a massive ₹10,000 crore scam involving lands belonging to Hyderabad Central University (HCU). Speaking at Telangana Bhavan on Thursday, KTR stated that his earlier claims about irregularities in HCU land dealings have now been validated by an Empowered Committee. According to him, the CEC report recommended the formation of an independent investigation team via a specialized agency to probe financial and procedural violations in the land transaction. KTR accused the Revanth Reddy-led Congress government of deliberate mismanagement and corruption. “The ₹10,000 crore scam must come to light,” he

said, further demanding a probe by RBI, while also urging Prime Minister Narendra Modi to intervene if the Centre truly cares about transparency. He emphasized that if the empowered committee’s findings are to be taken seriously, a fair and independent probe—whether by CBI, RBI, CVC, or under the supervision of a Supreme Court judge—must be initiated. KTR’s remarks are part of a broader political offensive by the BRS as it accuses the Congress government of misusing public assets and engaging in massive corruption, particularly targeting one of Hyderabad’s most prestigious educational institutions. With these fresh allegations, political tensions between BRS and Congress are expected to escalate ahead of upcoming electoral battles.

Bhatti Vikramarka Slams BJP Over National Herald Case

rising momentum due to its stance on caste census, ballot-based elections, and renewed focus on Gujarat. He accused the Centre of misusing the National Herald case to divert public attention from key policy issues discussed at the recent AICC meet in Gujarat, attended by Rahul Gandhi and Mallikarjun Kharge. Protesting the inclusion of Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi in the ED chargesheet, Bhat-

ti claimed that demands are growing to implement the caste census nationwide, which has made the BJP anxious. He added that if Congress policies were implemented, the wealth being handed over to corporates would instead benefit the poor and marginalized. Bhatti concluded with a strong note of confidence, declaring that the Congress will prove its strength in the upcoming Lok Sabha elections.

CM Revanth Reddy Secures Japan Mega Deal

India’s first Net-Zero city. He assured full government support and highlighted Telangana’s investor-friendly policies and infrastructure. Marubeni’s Business Executive Officer Mr. Dai Sakakura praised the Telangana government’s vision and expressed eagerness to

capitalize on the region’s potential. Marubeni operates across 65 countries with over 410 group companies, employing more than 50,000 people worldwide. The company leads in sectors like food, energy, metals, finance, chemicals, and real estate.

BJP Launches ‘Waqf Reforms Awareness Campaign’ in Telangana

The workshop saw participation from several senior BJP leaders including Shiv Prakash Ji (BJP National Co-Organization General Secretary), Arvind Menon (National Secretary), Chandrasekhar Tiwari Ji (State Organization General Secretary), MLAs like Abhay Patil, MLC Malka Kumaraiah, and state general secretaries Gujjula Premender Reddy, Dugyala Pradeep Kumar, and Dr. Kasam Venkateshwarlu. The session was presided over by Dr. Gangidi Manohar Reddy, BJP State Vice President and Convener of the “Waqf Sudhaar Jan Jagrana Abhiyan.”

The party announced that a statewide awareness campaign will be held from April 20 to May 5, 2025, to address and remove misconceptions about the Waqf Amendment Act. The campaign aims to educate the public about the true objectives and provisions of the law, ensuring that people understand its intent and implementation clearly. This move is part of the BJP’s broader strategy to reach out to minority communities and provide transparent information about legislative reforms impacting religious and charitable institutions.

“Kancha Gachibowli Lands Not for Privatization,” Says TPCC Chief

TPN,Correspondent|Hyderabad
TPCC President Mahesh Kumar Goud clarified the Congress government’s stand on the controversial Kancha Gachibowli land issue, which has garnered national attention. Addressing the media at Telangana Bhavan, Goud dismissed allegations that the government was planning to privatize the disputed lands. He firmly stated that the Congress government has no intention to privatize these lands. “On the contrary, we ensured that lands at risk of being privatized were secured as government property,” he said. Goud accused opposition parties of creating unnecessary political drama and urged them to stop misleading the public.

He also lashed out at the previous BRS government, accusing it of misusing power during its 10-year rule. He alleged that thousands of acres around Hyderabad were sold off by the BRS regime for personal gains. Highlighting one specific instance, Goud claimed that lands valued at ₹100 crores per acre were handed over to KTR’s close aides for just ₹30 lakhs. He criticized BRS leaders for now pointing fingers at the Congress while having committed greater irregularities themselves. He concluded by asserting that the Congress government is committed to transparency and protecting public assets, and won’t fall prey to diversion tactics.

Harish Rao Slams Revanth: Telangana ‘Falling, Not Rising’ Under Congress

- Harish Rao calls Telangana economy falling
- CAG report shows revenue dip
- Revanth’s governance lacks financial vision
- ₹91.81 crore drop in revenue
- BRS highlights previous steady growth

TPN,Correspondent|Hyderabad
BRS senior leader and former minister Harish Rao launched a scathing attack on the Congress-led Telangana government, claiming the state is experiencing a “falling, not rising” trend under CM Revanth Reddy’s leadership. In a sensational tweet, Harish Rao reacted to the recently released CAG Report, pointing out a drop in the state’s Own Tax Revenue (SOTR). According to him, revenue stood at ₹1,24,146.19 crore in 2023–24, but fell to ₹1,24,054.38 crore in 2024–25, marking a decline of ₹91.81 crore. Rao noted that such a dip hadn’t oc-



curred even during the COVID-19 pandemic, labeling it a serious concern. He emphasized that under BRS rule from

2014 to 2023, Telangana achieved a 12% CAGR in tax revenue growth—a trend that appears to be reversing under Congress. The former finance minister blamed the decline on CM Revanth Reddy’s impulsive and poorly informed decisions, which he said have negatively impacted the state’s fiscal trajectory. Rao’s remarks come amid mounting criticism from the BRS against the Congress administration, which they accuse of failing to maintain economic momentum and reversing the progress made during the previous regime. This statement adds fuel to the ongoing political tussle between BRS and Congress, as both parties gear up for future electoral battles and attempt to shape the public narrative around governance and development in Telangana.

Liquor Lovers in Shock as Telangana Plans Price Hike



TPN,Correspondent|Hyderabad
Liquor lovers in Telangana are staring at another major blow as the state government is reportedly planning to increase liquor prices yet again. After hiking beer prices by 15% earlier this year, the government is now focusing on costlier liquor brands — those priced above ₹500 per bottle. Sources suggest that these liquor brands may face a minimum 10% price hike, translating to an increase of ₹50 or more per bottle. However, cheaper liquor brands are likely to be spared from the hike. Officials estimate that this move could generate an additional ₹2,000 crore annually for the state exchequer. In the last financial year, Telangana reportedly earned over ₹30,000 crore from liquor sales, making it one of the top revenue sources for the state. A formal decision will be made after a detailed review with senior excise and finance officials, say insiders. Meanwhile, consumers are already reeling from the earlier hike in beer prices, where each bottle went up by ₹20–₹30 on average. If the current proposal is approved, the common man may soon feel the pinch even more — and liquor may turn into a luxury for many.

Minister Ponguleti Launches Bhubharthi Land Law Pilot

Officers to Resolve Land Issues at Doorstep

TPN,Correspondent|Hyderabad

In a bold move toward land reform, Revenue, Housing, and Information Minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy officially launched the Bhubharthi Land Law (2025) pilot project in Kajipur, Maddur Mandal, Narayanpet District on Thursday. Addressing a gathering, he emphasized that officials will now come directly



to people’s doorsteps to resolve land issues—eliminating middlemen and costs for citizens. This initiative is set to replace the older 2020 Revenue Act, which required citizens to go around offices. The 2025 Bhubharthi Act makes officials accountable, enabling faster resolutions with zero expenses for the public. The Minister also stated that around 6,000 licensed surveyors will soon be appointed to facilitate mapping during land registration, bringing transparency and accountability. The new law empowers the government to reclaim encroached government and farmer lands, especially those not involved in

legal disputes. Each land registration will now include a digital property map for clarity. Initially, the project rolls out in 4 districts, and the government aims to resolve all land issues there by June 2, on Telangana Formation Day. Subsequently, 28 mandals in 28 districts will be included in the experimental phase, with plans to scale statewide. Minister Ponguleti condemned the opposition’s criticism of the Act, urging them not to spread misinformation. He praised CM Revanth Reddy’s leadership, calling Bhubharthi a visionary law built to last 100 years for the benefit of Telangana’s farmers and poor.

Union Minister Bandi Sanjay: Rahul Gandhi Must Apologize

TPN,Correspondent|Hyderabad
Congress leaders’ aggressive comments against Prime Minister Narendra Modi and other BJP leaders during a protest held by TPCC outside the ED office in Hyderabad have stirred controversy. Reacting sharply, Union Minister of State for Home Affairs, Bandi Sanjay, took to Twitter to condemn the remarks. He stated that the Congress leaders were not voicing their own opinions, but were merely reading a script written by Rahul Gandhi. He criticized their language as not only disrespectful but also deeply offensive to the public, accusing the Congress party of stooping to such levels due to their political bankruptcy. Bandi Sanjay said that the Telangana public is closely observing such behavior and demanded an unconditional apology from Rahul Gandhi and the Congress party. He alleged that the frustration in their tone reflects their



disappointment over no longer being able to loot the nation. He further stated that the Congress leadership has completely lost their sense of decency and dignity, forgetting the stature of the Prime Minister.

“With such disgraceful language and conduct, forget 2029 — even after a generation, your party has no future,” he remarked, slamming the Congress for its downfall and irresponsible rhetoric.

Modi Govt Targeting Rahul’s Image, Alleges TPCC Chief Mahesh Kumar Goud

TPN,Correspondent|Hyderabad
TPCC, under the leadership of its chief Mahesh Kumar Goud, held a protest rally from Gun Park to the ED office at Basheer Bagh in Hyderabad, condemning the inclusion of Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi’s names in the ED charge sheet in connection with the National Herald case. The rally saw participation from senior Congress leaders, including AICC in-charge Meenakshi Natarajan, ministers, MLAs, MLCs, and MPs.

Goud accused the BJP government of mis-using central agencies to launch politically motivated attacks. He alleged that as Rahul Gandhi’s popularity grows, the Modi government is unable to digest it and is orchestrating false cases to damage his image. He questioned how granting a ₹90 crore loan to a party-run newspaper like the National Herald could be considered money laundering, stating that no suspicious transactions ever took place. Goud said the Gandhi family has never

feared such cases, calling Rahul a true fighter and the voice of the people. He accused Modi and Amit Shah of routinely using investigation agencies to target opposition leaders during elections and claimed that caste census initiatives by Rahul Gandhi have politically shaken the BJP, especially after setbacks like in Bihar. He concluded by questioning if any BJP leaders had participated in the freedom struggle, emphasizing the Gandhi family’s sacrifices for the nation.



Anjan Kumar Yadav Abuses Union Minister Kishan Reddy During ED Office Protest



TPN,Correspondent|Hyderabad
During a protest organized by the TPCC in front of the Hyderabad ED office, former MP Anjan Kumar Yadav sparked controversy by verbally abusing Union Minister Kishan Reddy with obscene language. The protest was held against the inclusion of Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi’s names in the ED charge sheet in the National Herald case. Originally planned two days ago, the protest was delayed due to TPCC Chief Mahesh Kumar Goud’s unavailability. Today, Congress ministers, MLAs, MLCs, former ministers, MPs, and senior leaders joined the demonstration. While addressing the gathering, Anjan

Kumar Yadav responded aggressively to criticism from BJP leaders who questioned the protests, asking whether Congress leaders felt no shame supporting leaders accused of corruption. In a heated reply, Anjan Kumar Yadav used vulgar language against Kishan Reddy, which was caught on video. The video, now viral on social media, shows TPCC chief and ministers present while the abuse occurred. Some leaders were even seen cheering. The incident drew strong criticism from netizens, with many condemning Yadav’s choice of words and questioning the decorum of Congress leadership during the protest.

Addanki Dayakar Calls Modi, Amit Shah ‘Big Crooks’ – Fires Sensational Comments

TPN,Correspondent|Hyderabad
In protest against the inclusion of Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi’s names in the ED chargesheet in the National Herald case, TPCC leaders held a massive demonstration in front of the ED office in Hyderabad. Congress ministers, MLAs, MLCs, former ministers, and key leaders participated in the event. Speaking at the protest, MLC Addanki Dayakar made sensational remarks, stating that Prime Minister Narendra Modi lacked the courage to face Rahul Gandhi politically and was misusing central agencies to file false cases. He accused Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah of being “big crooks” and said they were afraid of the

growing influence of Rahul Gandhi. He further said that those who fearlessly stood up to the British would never be intimidated by Modi. Dayakar criticized the BJP for its lack of contribution to the freedom struggle and warned that conspiracy against a family that sacrificed for the nation would unite Congress supporters across the country. He predicted that BJP would be ousted in 2029 and accused the Modi government of trying to politically eliminate the opposition. Dayakar asserted that while BJP spreads hate, Rahul Gandhi spreads love, and vowed to “bury Modi deep” for misusing ED and IT raids against dissenters.



ED, CBI Now BJP’s Front Organizations”: Congress MLC Balmoor Venkat’s Explosive Remarks



TPN,Correspondent|Hyderabad
Congress MLC Balmoor Venkat came down heavily on the BJP-led central government, accusing it of misusing investigative agencies like the Enforcement Directorate (ED) and the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) for political vendetta. Speaking during a protest organized by TPCC in front of the Hyderabad ED office, Venkat said that neither Congress nor its leaders fear these agencies or Modi. He alleged that the BJP has transformed the ED and CBI into its affiliate wings, using them to file politically motivated cases against Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi. Venkat criticized the BJP for ignoring its promises to the people and instead focusing on spreading division and hate. He pointed out that while Rahul Gandhi fights for reservations based on population and demands a caste census, the BJP, fearing the pressure, is retaliating with cases. He said the central government is unable to digest Telangana’s model governance and is alarmed after the Gujarat meeting. Calling Rahul Gandhi the true ideological heir to Ambedkar, he mocked that the BJP might as well rename its party wings as “BJP-ED Morcha” and “BJP-CBI Morcha.” Venkat concluded by warning that Congress will not stay silent as the Gandhi family—who sacrificed for the nation—is targeted out of political vengeance.

From That Day On, Modi Govt Started Political Vendetta AICC In-Charge Meenakshi Natarajan’s Sensational Comments



TPN,Correspondent|Hyderabad
Protesting the inclusion of Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi’s names in the ED chargesheet related to the National Herald case, the TPCC organized a demonstration in front of the ED office in Hyderabad. Speaking on the occasion, AICC Telangana In-Charge Meenakshi Natarajan made strong allegations against the BJP-led central government. She questioned how money laundering could occur without any financial transactions, calling the case a clear act of political vengeance. Natarajan claimed the vendetta began the day Rahul Gandhi openly stated in Parliament that he would defeat the BJP in the Gujarat Assembly Elections. From then on, the Modi government started sending notices as part of a targeted campaign, she said.

She expressed concern over the alarming state of the country and the uncertain future for coming generations. Citing caste discrimination during the Kumbh Mela and mistreatment of poor Hindus near dumping yards, she accused the government of hypocrisy. Natarajan said the Congress has always stood by the marginalized, implementing caste census and SC classification first in Telangana. She reiterated that the National Herald is a non-profit, with no financial transactions involved, questioning how money laundering allegations could be justified. She concluded by urging Congress workers to fight for justice and continue until Rahul Gandhi becomes Prime Minister.

Former Minister Sabitha Indra Reddy Expresses Anger at Congress Workers

TPN,Correspondent|Hyderabad
Maheswaram MLA and former minister Sabitha Indra Reddy expressed strong displeasure over the behavior of Congress workers during a government event. On Thursday, she was distributing Kalyana Lakshmi cheques in Kandukur mandal of Ranga Reddy district when the incident occurred. Speaking at the event, the BRS MLA mentioned former CM KCR and discussed Congress promises. During the proceedings, a group of Congress work-

ers allegedly clashed with BRS activists who were present. The situation escalated when the Congress cadre reportedly attacked BRS workers at the venue. Sabitha condemned the incident, criticizing the Congress workers for disrupting a welfare program and behaving violently. She accused them of resorting to aggression instead of engaging in constructive dialogue. Sabitha also emphasized that such actions during public service programs are unacceptable and need to be addressed seriously.



“Are They Congress Leaders or Street Rowdies?”: Nizamabad Urban MLA Dhan Pal Fires Back



TPN,Correspondent|Hyderabad
Nizamabad Urban MLA Dhan Pal Surya Narayana strongly condemned the derogatory remarks made by Congress leader Anjan Kumar Yadav against Union Minister and BJP state president Kishan Reddy. He expressed outrage that such vulgar language was used during a protest organized by the Congress

in connection with the National Herald case — and that too in the presence of the state’s Deputy Chief Minister. Dhan Pal slammed the Congress, calling it the “address for corruption” and accused its leaders of behaving like street rowdies when they cannot digest the truth. He stated that making obscene and abusive comments against Prime Minister Narendra Modi and BJP leaders reflects the party’s frustration and lack of discipline. He warned Congress leaders to mind their language, emphasizing that the public will teach them a lesson if they continue to act like goons. Dhan Pal pointed out previous incidents of threats made against Bandi Sanjay and RSS leaders as further proof of Congress’s “goonda politics.” Demanding strict legal action, the MLA urged the Telangana DGP to immediately file cases against Anjan Kumar Yadav and Addanki Dayakar for their inappropriate and inflammatory remarks.

Jagga Reddy Accuses RSS of Plotting Against Sonia and Rahul Gandhi

TPN,Correspondent|Hyderabad
Congress Working President and former Sangareddy MLA Jagga Reddy has made a serious allegation, claiming that the RSS is plotting to eliminate Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi, as they are unable to confront them directly in politics. He made these comments while participating in a protest organized by the Congress party in front of the ED office on Thursday. During his speech, Jagga Reddy launched a scathing attack on the BJP leadership, particularly Narendra Modi and Amit Shah. He accused them of engaging in politics devoid of values, ethics, and integrity. Reddy strongly defended Sonia and Rahul Gandhi, asserting that they have the support of the Indian people despite the challenges they face. He further criticized the BJP for attempting to discredit the Gandhi family, which he said had sacrificed a lot for the nation.



IPL 2025 Fixing Allegations: Police Begin Probe



TPN,Correspondent|Hyderabad
The IPL 2025 season may be thrilling for fans, but recent fixing allegations have stirred controversy across the cricketing world. According to reports, the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) has issued warnings to all 10 franchises, following suspicious activities linked to potential match-fixing. It is believed that five top-tier teams were contacted by suspicious individuals, and the BCCI has collected preliminary evidence in this regard. Following this, police have launched an investigation, asking the BCCI

to submit the details and evidence they possess. Interestingly, the BCCI had earlier warned franchises to stay cautious of a Hyderabad-based businessman who was reportedly trying to establish links with players or support staff. The identity of this individual remains under investigation. Police are now closely scrutinizing individuals with links to the ICC, BCCI, and local cricket clubs. They are focusing on five prominent businessmen from Hyderabad, who are currently under the scanner for possible involvement in the fixing network.

High Court's Key Observations on Hyderabad Metro Phase 2 Construction



TPN,Correspondent|Hyderabad
The Telangana High Court made significant remarks regarding the construction of Phase 2 of the Hyderabad Metro, particularly through the Old City. A Public Interest Litigation (PIL) was filed in court raising concerns over the impact of the metro project on the historical buildings in the region. During the hearing on Thursday, the bench observed that while transportation infrastructure is essential for urban development, it should not come at the expense of heritage structures. The court stressed that historical buildings are equally important and

must be protected during the metro construction process. It emphasized that no work should be carried out near heritage sites identified by the Archaeology Department without taking necessary precautions. The court directed the authorities to provide details on the measures being taken to safeguard these heritage buildings. Notices were issued to the parties involved to clarify their approach to this issue. The case has been adjourned to April 22 for further hearing, where the court will review the steps taken to ensure that the metro project does not harm the historical heritage of the Old City.

Telangana Secretariat Siege: Tension over GO 21 Withdrawal Demand



TPN,Correspondent|Hyderabad
Tension erupted at the Telangana Secretariat as part-time university employees staged a protest demanding the immediate withdrawal of Government Order (GO) 21. The protestors attempted to storm the Secretariat, but police intervened, resulting in a tense atmosphere. Several protesters were detained by the police during the incident. The part-time and contract employees, primarily from various universities, have been demanding regularization of their jobs. They insisted that job security should be provided to them before any recruitment is conducted within the universities. They further warned that they would oppose the Congress party in the upcoming elections unless their demands are met. For several days, the Joint Action Committee (JAC) of contract assistant professors from Telangana universities has been pressing for the withdrawal of GO 21, which outlines the procedures for faculty appointments. The JAC has called for the regularization of the 1,270 contract teachers working across 12 universities and for new recruitment to follow the implementation of UGC pay scales. The committee's leaders are adamant that recruitment should only proceed after the regularization of existing contract employees.

Training for Election Officials: Anurag Jayanti Urges Adherence to Election Rules

TPN,SRIKANTH GURRAM |Hyderabad

The Returning Officer, Anurag Jayanti, emphasized the importance of conducting elections efficiently and without errors during the second round of training for polling officers, assistant polling officers (APOs), and micro observers. The training took place on Thursday morning at the GHMC Command Control Room as part of the ongoing local body MLC elections in Hyderabad.

Anurag Jayanti stressed that election officials should have a thorough understanding of the rules and regulations related to the polling and counting processes. He highlighted the need for officials to carry out their duties responsibly to ensure smooth, transparent, and fair elections. The Returning Officer advised them to stay vigilant and avoid any mistakes throughout the process. The training session included detailed explanations on various aspects such



as ballot paper accounts, ballot box seals, and the process of opening and sealing ballot boxes. It was emphasized that all polling and counting procedures should follow the rules precisely to avoid discrepancies.

The afternoon session focused on the training of counting supervisors, assistants, and micro observers, where they were instructed on how to conduct the counting process transparently, following legal requirements, and ensuring zero errors.

Master trainers provided comprehensive

guidance on polling-related duties, such as checking ballot serial numbers, election materials, sealing ballot boxes, and completing relevant forms. They also covered the roles and responsibilities of polling officers, including those related to counting, ensuring all procedures are followed with precision.

Dr. Sunanda Rani, the Training Management Nodal Officer, and various master trainers, along with polling officers, APOs, micro observers, and counting officials, participated in the training.

ED Raids at Surana Industries MD's Residence: Cash Seized

TPN,Correspondent|Hyderabad

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has concluded raids at the residence of Narendra Surana, Managing Director of Surana Industries, located in Secunderabad's Boyinapalli area. During the raids, substantial amounts of cash were reportedly seized. The ED also conducted searches at the residence of Satish Chandragupta, the MD of Sai Surya Developers, another company associated with Surana Industries. Several documents were seized from both the Surana and Sai Surya offices.

These raids are part of an ongoing investigation into allegations of financial irregularities. Satish Chandragupta was arrested by the Cyberabad police recently for allegedly defrauding people by collecting money under the guise of a real estate venture in Vattinagulapally. Based on this police case, the ED initiated an investigation into Sai Surya Developers. The ED has uncovered that Surana Industries allegedly set up shell companies to facilitate illegal transactions, including diverting bank loans to these shell entities. The companies are also suspected of investing heavily in real estate. Further, the ED has been probing the group's involvement in money laundering, particularly related to their operations in the mining, copper, and solar industries.



Surana Group and Sai Surya Developers had reportedly taken substantial loans from Chennai's SBI, but failed to repay, leading to a CBI case being filed in 2012. During previous investigations, 400 kg of illegally stored gold was seized by the CBI, though 103 kg of gold went missing, prompting the Madras High Court to issue orders to investigate its whereabouts.

26.7 Kgs of Ganja Seized in Hyderabad: Two Arrested, Nine Charged

TPN,Correspondent|Hyderabad

In a significant operation, the Special Task Force (STF) team seized 26.7 kilograms of ganja in two separate cases in Dhoolpet, Hyderabad. The total estimated value of the seized ganja is approximately Rs. 13.50 lakhs.

In the first case, the STF team apprehended Akash Singh, who was transporting 25.23 kgs of ganja that had been illegally imported from Odisha. The arrest took place near the statue of Rani Avantibai in Dhoolpet. Along with Akash Singh, the authorities also booked several others including Lakhan Singh, Sanjay Singh, Jyothi Bai, Anand Singh, Manish Singh, Deep, and Niranjan Kumar in connection with the illegal ganja trade.

In the second operation, another 1.5 kgs of ganja were seized from Bhadrinarayan Singh, who was found conducting sales near the Shivanand Mandir in Giyaguda. Additional charges were filed against individuals like Ajay Singh and Manju Devi, who were reportedly linked to the trafficking network.

The STF team, under the leadership of Anji Reddy, has made significant progress in cracking down on the illegal ganja trade in the region, with further investigations underway.



Shock for Hyderabad Metro Commuters: Fare Hike on the Horizon

TPN,Correspondent|Hyderabad

Hyderabad Metro commuters might soon face a fare hike, as discussions are ongoing about increasing metro charges. The Hyderabad Metro Rail Corporation (HMRL) had been facing significant financial losses, with its construction partner, L&T, reporting a loss of ₹6,500 crore by the end of the last financial year. The company had requested the government to increase metro fares following the heavy financial strain caused during the pandemic.

In 2022, L&T proposed fare hikes, which were initially reviewed by the Fare Fixation Committee (FFC) set up under the Metro Railway Operation and Maintenance Act-2002. While the committee agreed with the fare increase, the then BRS government rejected the proposal. However, with the continued financial losses, it seems inevitable that a fare hike will soon take place.

Currently, the minimum fare for Hyderabad Metro is ₹10, and the maximum is ₹60. There is no clear indication of how much the fares will rise, but with the recent fare hikes in Bengaluru Metro, it is expected that similar adjustments will occur in Hyderabad as well. In addition, HMRL has already discontinued the ₹59 Holiday Saver Card and eliminated the 10% discount during peak hours, further signaling the financial challenges the metro system is facing.



Patancheru: Leopard Trapped in ICAR - Efforts to Capture Another Ongoing

TPN,Correspondent|Hyderabad

A leopard was successfully trapped in the ICAR (Indian Council of Agricultural Research) area in Patancheru, where leopards had been reported roaming for the past week. Drone surveillance had revealed the presence of two leopards in the area.

To address the situation, forest department officials set up two cages with goats as bait, and one leopard was successfully captured. The captured leopard has been relocated to the Hyderabad Zoo Park for safety and rehabilitation.

Efforts are still underway to capture the second leopard, as forest officials continue to monitor the situation. The ICAR authorities have kept this operation under wraps, ensuring that details of the incident remain confidential. This is not the first time a leopard has been trapped in the area, as a similar incident occurred in the past.



Eco-Tourism Push: Telangana Minister Konda Surekha’s Green Mission

- Telangana Forest Minister calls for accelerated eco-tourism development
- Plans to attract international tourists with well-designed projects
- Emphasis on enhancing greenery and forest fire prevention
- Haritha Nidhi budget for 2024–25 & 2025–26 approved
- Special efforts directed toward monkey conservation

TPN,Correspondent|Hyderabad
Telangana Forest, Environment and Endowments Minister Konda Surekha has instructed forest department officials to move swiftly on developing eco-tourism in the state. During the Haritha Nidhi state-level review meeting held at the Secretariat on Thursday, she emphasized that Telangana should plan projects that not only preserve greenery but also appeal to international tourists. Minister Surekha called for a joint meeting with the Forest, Tourism, and

Industries departments to chalk out integrated strategies. She stressed the need for robust planning in plantation, nursery development, awareness programs, and maintenance of greenery. Officials received approval for the Haritha Nidhi budget for both 2024–25 and 2025–26. Senior officials including Principal Secretary Ahmad Nadeem, PCCF R.M. Dobriyal, Wildlife PCCF Aelu Singh Meru, Dr. Suvarna (CAMPA), and others participated. The review also covered wildfire mitigation strategies. The Minister in-

structed the officials to report any operational difficulties immediately and address pending issues quickly. A special note was made regarding monkey conservation. Minister Surekha suggested planting fruit-bearing trees preferred by monkeys in nurseries to reduce human-animal conflict and help them reintegrate into the forest. She acknowledged the Union Environment Minister’s supportive stance toward Telangana and stressed proactive execution of pending environmental initiatives.



Tragedy Strikes Again: M.Tech Student Ends Life Over Betting App Loss

TPN,Correspondent|Hyderabad
In a shocking incident, yet another life has been lost to the lure of online betting apps. Pavan, an M.Tech student studying at JNTU Masab Tank, allegedly died by suicide after suffering a massive loss in a betting app. The incident occurred in Reddy Basti, Attapur, where he was found hanging from a ceiling fan. According to reports, Pavan lost nearly ₹1 lakh in one go while using a betting application. In a desperate attempt to recover his losses, he sold his iPhone and Royal Enfield bike, and even used the money sent by his parents — but still couldn’t make any profit. Unable to bear the financial and emotional burden, Pavan reportedly took the extreme step. His native place is Gadwal district, and the tragic news has plunged his family into deep grief. This incident brings to light the ris-



ing concern of youth falling prey to online gambling platforms, especially students. Authorities have registered a case and an investigation is currently underway. The tragedy has sparked renewed calls for stricter regulation of betting apps and increased awareness about their dangers, particularly among young individuals.

Resolve Transfers Along With Employee Issues, TGO Leaders Urge Excise Officials

TPN,Correspondent|Hyderabad
Excise department employees may soon see long-pending issues addressed, including long-overdue transfers and service-related demands. On Thursday, the TGO Central Association led by President Eluri Srinivasa Rao and General Secretary A. Satyanarayana met Excise Commissioner Hari Kiran and Addl. Commissioner (In-charge) S.Y. Khureshi to press for action on key employee concerns. TGO leaders highlighted that constable/head constable transfers haven’t taken place for nearly 8 years, and under GO 317, several man-



datory inter-zonal transfers were made without proper follow-up. They stated that despite Minister Jupally Krishna Rao’s assurances, and issuance of guidelines a few months ago, no transfers have been implemented yet. They emphasized the need

for transfers to be completed before summer holidays, citing difficulties in children’s admissions and family relocations if delayed. The Commissioner responded positively and assured that transfers would be initiated soon, likely by end of April or early May.

The delegation also submitted 17 major demands, including:
• Pending promotions
• Amendments to service rules
• Accident insurance coverage through a tie-up with State Bank, especially for on-duty incidents
The Commissioner assured them that all issues under his purview would be examined and resolved at the earliest. TGO representatives from across Telangana, including district office bearers and excise staff, participated in the meeting, reflecting the urgency and seriousness of the issues at hand.

We Want Our Lands: Mamidipally Farmers Demand Justice

TPN,Correspondent|Balapur
Raising strong voices for justice, farmers of Mamidipally are demanding that the 444.10 acres of land in Survey No. 99/1 rightfully belong to them. The land, which they claim has been in cultivation by their families for nearly five decades, has recently been taken over and fenced off by the government, triggering massive outrage. According to the farmers, 186 individuals have legal and ancestral rights over the land, but revenue officials have failed to recognize or record their ownership. The land was initially acquired by the government citing airport development needs, but no compensation was provided to the farmers, they say. Now, with the government allegedly preparing to sell off these lands, the



farmers are protesting, asserting that the land should be returned to them. “We have cultivated this land for generations. We live off this land. How can the government sell what is rightfully ours without justice or compensation?” they questioned.

They further stated that until the government ensures proper justice and ownership recognition, they will not allow any transaction or sale of the land. The farmers urged the Congress-led state government to prove that it is truly a “pro-poor government” by standing with the farmers and doing what is right.

Telangana High Court Halts Group-1 Appointments

TPN,Correspondent|Hyderabad
In a major development that has stunned thousands of aspirants, the Telangana High Court has temporarily stayed the appointment process of Group-1 services. The directive comes at a time when the Telangana government was gearing up to issue appointment letters to candidates who qualified the prestigious exam. The High Court instructed the Telangana State Public Service Commission (TSPSC) not to proceed with issuing appointment letters until the ongoing legal scrutiny is concluded. However, the court clarified that the certificate verification process of selected candidates may continue as scheduled. This move follows rising controversy over the Group-1 exam results, with widespread allegations that several candidates secured identical scores, raising serious concerns over transparency and fairness. The issue gained political traction when BRS MLA Kaushik Reddy and other party leaders accused the TSPSC of mishandling the selection process and demanded a CBI inquiry into what they called a massive recruitment scam. As the matter reached the High Court, the judicial intervention has now put the entire recruitment process on hold, delivering a shock to thousands of hopeful candidates across the state. Further hearings are awaited to determine the next course of action.



Massive Cordon & Search Operation in Pahadi Shareef: 70 Vehicles Seized, Liquor Confiscated

TPN,Correspondent|Rachakonda
In a major cordon and search operation conducted early morning, Rachakonda Police under the directives of Commissioner Sudheer Babu and the supervision of Maheshwaram DCP Sunitha Reddy, combed through 600 to 700 houses in Omar Colony, under Pahadi Shareef Police Station limits. The large-scale operation included 200 police personnel, 8 Circle Inspectors, 14 Sub-Inspectors, Maheshwaram ACP, and Additional DCP. **As part of the operation:**
• 70 vehicles were seized, including 7 auto-rickshaws, for lack of proper documentation or suspicion of misuse.



- 39 litres of liquor were confiscated from two illegal belt shops.
- 5 individuals, including rowdy-sheets and suspects, were taken into custody

effort to maintain law and order and ensure safety in sensitive areas of the Maheshwaram constituency.

and given counseling. Speaking after the operation, police officials stated that stringent action will be taken against anyone disturbing public peace and security. They urged locals to report any suspicious behavior immediately to the nearest police station. This operation comes as part of an ongoing

Smita Sabharwal Issue: Mahesh Kumar Goud Reacts, Calls It a 'Hasty Mistake'

TPN,Correspondent|Hyderabad
Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC) President Mahesh Kumar Goud has reacted to the controversy surrounding senior IAS officer Smita Sabharwal, who recently reposted an AI-generated image related to the HCU incident on social media platform X (for-

merly Twitter). Speaking to the media, Mahesh Kumar Goud stated that only Sabharwal herself knows why she reposted the controversial content, but from what it appears, it was a mistake made in haste, not with any malicious intent. He added, “Even in the past, she received notices from

a university, so this is not entirely new for her.” He drew a comparison with Union Minister Kishan Reddy, who had also reposted something without fully understanding it, but promptly deleted it and apologized after realizing the error. Goud further clarified that the image suggesting deer died on

HCU campus was AI-generated and false, emphasizing that such misinformation should not be circulated without verification. The IAS officer has received notices for her social media post, which added to the ongoing debate around responsible digital behavior by public officials.



A Democracy Denied

How Gandhiji blocked Sardar Vallabhai Patel and Democracy

India's independence was hard-won—and so were its first steps as a sovereign nation. But one of its earliest and most consequential decisions wasn't made through a democratic vote or policy debate. It came down to Gandhi's influence.

In 1946, the Congress party needed to choose its leader—who would, by default, become independent India's first Prime Minister. Out of 15 Pradesh Congress Committees, 12 nominated Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel. None backed Jawaharlal Nehru. Yet Nehru was chosen. Why? Because Gandhi intervened. He believed Nehru, with his global image and appeal, was the better choice to represent India on the world stage. That decision changed the course of Indian history. And the more we look back, the clearer it becomes: the promise of Nehru's international image did not deliver in material terms, while Patel's practical leadership was sidelined at a critical moment.

Nehru's Rise to Prime Minister:
Most Dishonest and undemocratic episode in Indian history

Jawaharlal Nehru did not receive a single vote from Congress's provincial committees when the question of leadership came up in 1946. The overwhelming choice was Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel. Yet, Mahatma Gandhi intervened and nominated Nehru. Instead of stepping aside on moral grounds—knowing he lacked majority support—Nehru accepted the position. This wasn't democratic. It was a back door ascent, driven by personal ambition and Gandhi's influence, not by the will of the majority. Despite this, the Congress party and later narratives painted Nehru as a symbol of democratic values and integrity. That image fabricated by concealing the real facts. His ascent was not just undemocratic—it was a betrayal



of the very principles of democracy.
Nehru's Global Image: Overrated

Gandhi's argument was that Nehru's stature as a statesman would help India gain recognition, respect, and possibly support from major powers. Nehru had relationships abroad, especially in Europe, and was seen as modern, western-educated, and articulate. But that global prestige never translated into tangible benefits for India's economy or development in those early years. International banks didn't offer large loans or aid packages. The West didn't rush in to support India financially or strategically. Despite being a founding leader of the Non-Aligned Movement, Nehru struggled to secure meaningful foreign investment or alliances that might have lifted India's struggling economy. Instead, India chose a path of self-reliance mixed with socialist planning—

nationalizing industries, regulating private enterprise through the License Raj, and shutting out foreign capital. These policies kept India's economy crawling while other Asian nations—like South Korea and Japan—leapfrogged ahead by embracing private enterprise and export-driven growth.

Patel's Vision: Grounded, Pragmatic, Unfulfilled

Patel, by contrast, was a realist. As India's first Home Minister and Deputy Prime Minister, he oversaw the integration of over 560 princely states into the Indian Union—a logistical and political feat few leaders could have pulled off. He was tough when needed, yet deeply focused on national unity and institutional stability. His economic ideas leaned toward market-friendly pragmatism. Patel had strong ties to India's industrial class and would likely have encouraged a more

mixed economy—one that didn't alienate private enterprise or close India off from global capital.

He also took a firmer line on internal security and was far more skeptical of China than Nehru. In 1950, he warned Nehru against trusting China blindly, especially after Tibet's occupation. Nehru ignored those warnings, leading to the 1962 war, which exposed the deep flaws in India's foreign policy and defense preparedness.

A Political Culture That Could Have Been Different

There's also the question of leadership style. Nehru was a visionary but also an idealist. His charisma helped build a cult of personality, and eventually, the Congress became dynastic under the Nehru-Gandhi family. Patel, in contrast, was more grounded and didn't seek personal adulation. Had he led India, the Congress might have



Dr. Buragadda Srinadh
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evolved into a more institutionally democratic party rather than one centered around a family name. Indian politics could have taken a different, possibly more meritocratic, shape.

Gandhi's Role: A Costly Preference?

Gandhi's influence in shaping India's early leadership was enormous—but not always constructive. In this case, his personal preference overrode the democratic consensus within the Congress. Patel deferred, respecting Gandhi's wish, despite having clear support from the majority.

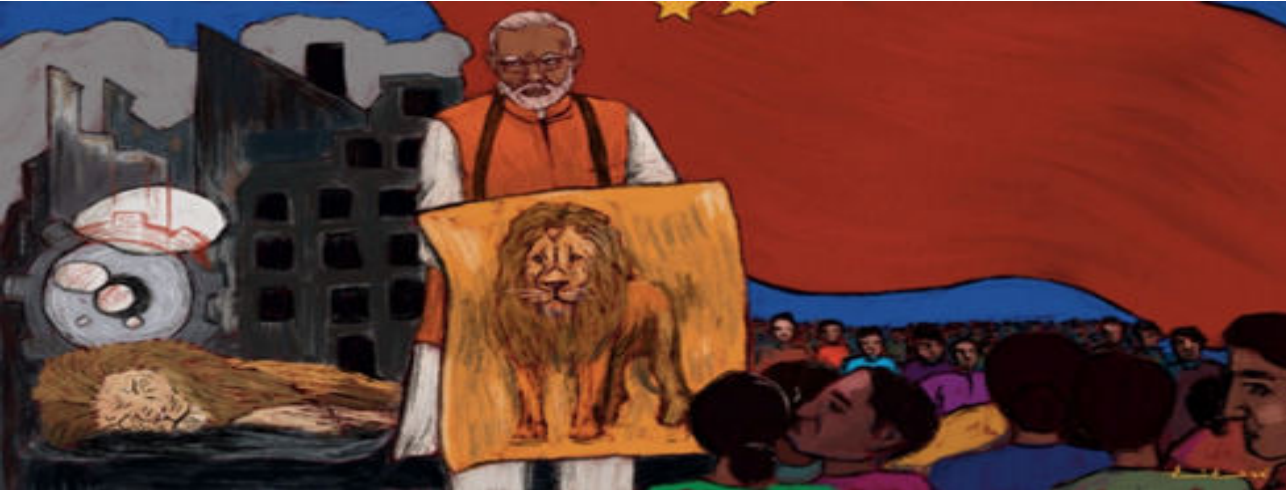
It's worth questioning: should a personal relationship or ideological preference have determined who led independent India? And what did the nation lose in sidelining a leader like Patel at such a critical juncture?

History is full of what-ifs. But some aren't just academic—they point to missed opportunities. Had Patel become Prime Minister, India might have embraced a more grounded economic model, a sharper foreign policy, and stronger political institutions. Nehru's secularism was selectively applied, and his commitment to democratic values is debatable—after all, he became Prime Minister by sidelining majority opinion. His international image, the very reason Gandhi chose him, failed to bring the concrete benefits it promised.

In the end, India paid the price for choosing symbolism over strategy. And that decision still echoes today.

Why India Can't Innovate?

From Missed Opportunities to Manufactured Outrage: Why India's Startup Dream Stumbles



In 2020, an IIT graduate created an app that auto-filled IRCTC ticket forms—solving a real problem millions face daily. Instead of support, he was arrested. This missed opportunity reflects a deeper issue with India's startup ecosystem—where bureaucracy trumps innovation and genuine problem-solvers are penalised.

Fast forward to 2025, and Union Minister Piyush Goyal is berating Indian entrepreneurs for only building food delivery apps. He asks, "Are we going to be just delivery boys and girls?" The real question is—what options do India's youth have? Our economic model thrives on cheap labour, and our laws often fail to protect it. We attract global investors by highlighting low wages and lax regulations, not innovation or skill.

Meanwhile, China has transformed from a cheap-labour economy into a tech powerhouse. While India's per capita income in 2022 was \$2,388, China surged ahead to \$12,720. Their "Made in China 2025" initiative focused on semiconductors, EVs, drones, and AI—backed by serious funding. In contrast, India allocated just \$23.45 billion to private-sector R&D in the 2025 budget, compared to China's \$496 billion. Even deep-tech entrepreneurs face systemic hur-

dles. One semiconductor startup founder revealed his application for tax benefits was delayed for two years and finally rejected—until a "facilitator" offered guaranteed approval for a bribe. There's space for corruption, but none for rules-based support.

The automobile industry reflects this stagnation—60% of Indian cars use only 10 engines, and innovation is minimal. Chinese automakers, by contrast, offer over 200 models, including electric cars under \$1,000. In India, the cheapest EV is still over ₹7 lakh.

Our public sector, once the foundation of cities like Bengaluru, remains undervalued despite contributing massively to national development. In 2024–25, PSUs provided ₹74,000 crore in dividends. Yet, instead of nurturing them, we are selling them off while celebrating a handful of billionaire-led ventures.

And while the world innovates, we excel at paper leaks and hate-driven influencer content—our real "startups." Without serious investments in health, education, and job creation, India risks losing its demographic dividend to reels, riots, and rigged exams.

UPI Outages Highlight the Need for Greater Resilience and Security

The Unified Payments Interface (UPI), a cornerstone of India's digital economy, faced three significant outages this month, disrupting millions of daily transactions. Retailers, traders, and individual users were left stranded, with confusion erupting across businesses relying heavily on seamless digital payments. While the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) managed to restore services within hours, the damage to user confidence was already done.

With around 600 million transactions occurring daily and over 18 billion in March alone—a 14% rise from the previous month—UPI has become indispensable. Accounting for nearly 65% of all digital transactions in India, its stability is crucial. However, recurring glitches—six in the past year and 21 in five years—underscore the urgent need for better system preparedness.

NPCI attributes the latest glitch to an unexpected surge in transaction volume, but such a spike should not have come as a surprise. Digital adoption has been consistently rising since demonetisation and the COVID-19 pandemic, bolstered by increased smartphone penetration and public awareness. As UPI scales, the infrastructure behind it must

evolve to handle peak loads without failure.

There's growing discussion around introducing a new entity into the digital payments space. This could promote competition, innovation, and reduce risk by preventing overreliance on a single system. A more resilient ecosystem would ensure continuity even if one node falters.

Equally concerning is the sharp rise in UPI fraud. The monetary value of such frauds jumped from ₹573 crore in 2022–23 to ₹1,087 crore in 2023–24. While some of this increase may correlate with transaction growth, it exposes vulnerabilities in the system. NPCI has already implemented identity verification and authentication protocols using AI and machine learning. However, with cyber threats growing more sophisticated, continuous upgrades and stricter monitoring are essential.

UPI is a shining example of India's tech prowess, even garnering international interest. But to sustain its global stature, system reliability and user security must be non-negotiable. The time to future-proof UPI is now—before glitches turn into larger cracks in India's digital foundation.





JD(U) Backs Nitish for CM Till 2030

Patna, April 17, 2025 — The Janata Dal (United) has made its intentions clear for the upcoming Bihar elections by publicly backing Nitish Kumar to continue as Chief Minister till 2030. A massive poster put up outside the party's state headquarters boldly declared: "25 se 30, phir se Nitish" — signalling a renewed five-year term for Bihar's longest-serving CM.

This strong projection of Nitish's leadership comes shortly after Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini suggested that the BJP would contest the elections in Bihar under the leadership of Samrat Choudhary, a senior BJP leader and current state president. The JD(U)'s poster is seen as a direct rebuttal to those comments, reaffirming Nitish Kumar's central role in the NDA alliance in Bihar. The statement on the poster not only endorses Nitish's leadership for another term but also aims to consolidate JD(U)'s claim to the top post in any future government formed by the NDA in the state.

Nitish Kumar, currently serving his eighth term as Chief Minister, has become one of the most enduring political figures in Indian state politics. His tenure, known for its focus on development, infrastructure, and social reforms, has seen both praise and criticism, particularly over his frequent political realignments. While no official statement was released by JD(U) leadership, party insiders suggest that the poster reflects the grassroots sentiment and serves as a message to both allies and opponents that Nitish remains the face of governance in Bihar.

Political observers say this internal NDA messaging could lead to tensions within the alliance, especially as the BJP may push to assert greater leadership in the state. However, JD(U)'s public show of support could serve as a bargaining chip in future seat-sharing talks. As Bihar heads toward another election cycle, the slogan "25 se 30, phir se Nitish" sets the tone for JD(U)'s campaign — one firmly anchored around the legacy and leadership of Nitish Kumar.

Dawoodi Bohras Laud Waqf Amendment Act

A delegation from the Dawoodi Bohra community met Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday, extending their heartfelt appreciation for the newly enacted Waqf (Amendment) Act, 2025. The group described the legislation as a long-awaited reform that addresses long-standing concerns within the community.

Expressing confidence in the Prime Minister's inclusive vision, the delegation reaffirmed their belief in his governance motto — "Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas" (Together with all, development for all, trust of all).

The Dawoodi Bohras, a Shia Muslim sect predominantly based in western India, have a global presence with community members settled in over 40 countries. They trace their lineage to the Fatimid Imams of Egypt, descendants of the Prophet Muhammad. The community has been guided by the al-dai al-mutlaq (supreme missionary), a spiritual leader who has operated from India for the past 450 years.

However, the passage of the Waqf Amendment Act has also stirred tensions in parts of the country. In Murshidabad, West Bengal, recent protests against the Act led to violence and the death of three people.



In response, Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee appealed to Governor CV Ananda Bose to defer his planned visit to the affected region until normalcy is restored.

At a press conference, Banerjee announced Rs 10 lakh compensation for the families of those killed, and aid for rebuilding damaged homes and shops. She emphasized the need to rebuild public confidence before

any official visits, stating, "Let the confidence be built first."

The Chief Minister also criticized the Union Home Ministry for not sharing intelligence about outsiders allegedly involved in inciting violence. She claimed that expanding the BSF's jurisdiction to 50 km from the border has weakened state control and monitoring systems.

Governor Bose, however, maintained his commitment to visit Murshidabad and personally meet with the victims' families. Calling it an "emotional issue," he stated, "I want to see the ground reality and share the sentiments of the affected families."

The Waqf Amendment Act continues to evoke both commendation and controversy, with its broader social implications yet to fully unfold.

India Eyes Stability Amid Global Trade War



Amid rising global protectionism and mounting trade tensions, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman asserted on Thursday that India is prepared to tackle global disruptions through policy agility and sustained long-term investments. Speaking at a commemorative event marking 150

years of the Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE), the minister highlighted the increasing volatility in global supply chains due to protectionist measures. Despite the challenging international environment, she affirmed that India's strategy will focus on strengthening domestic fundamentals to en-

sure stability and growth. "We will navigate the global disruptions with policy agility and long-term investments," Sitharaman said, adding that the recalibration of global trade dynamics is proving to be "very, very challenging."

Her remarks come in the wake of a resurgence of trade tensions, with U.S. President Donald Trump announcing a new wave of sweeping tariffs on multiple nations, including India. Although the U.S. has since announced a 90-day pause on implementing these measures, markets across the globe have experienced significant turbulence.

Despite these headwinds, Sitharaman noted that India's financial markets have demonstrated strong resilience, and credited retail investors for their continued confidence.

She also acknowledged the growing influence of Domestic Institutional Investors (DIIs), noting their evolution from merely supportive participants to dominant players in Indian capital markets. The minister's remarks underscore the government's broader approach of relying on structural reforms, targeted investments, and domestic market development to mitigate the effects of external economic shocks.

As the global trade landscape continues to shift, Sitharaman's comments signal a firm commitment to insulating the Indian economy through a future-focused, self-reliant growth model. Her statement serves as both reassurance and a call to stay the course amid geopolitical uncertainties, reinforcing India's position as a resilient and adaptable economic force on the world stage.

India Watches Pakistan-Bangladesh Rapprochement



India has officially acknowledged the renewed diplomatic engagement between Pakistan and Bangladesh, following the resumption of Foreign Office Consultations (FOC) in Dhaka — the first such dialogue in 15 years. Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal, during a weekly media briefing in New Delhi, stated, "Yes, we have taken note of it," in response to a question on the evolving ties between the two South Asian neighbours. The FOC talks, held on Thursday, were led by Pakistan's Foreign Secretary Amna Baloch and her Bangladeshi counterpart Md Jashim Uddin. The move marks a significant thaw in relations that had remained stagnant

for over a decade. This development follows a major political shift in Bangladesh after the fall of Sheikh Hasina's Awami League government, which was triggered by massive student-led protests over reservation policies last year. The interim government under Muhammad Yunus has since taken steps to reset foreign relations.

As part of this renewed engagement, Secretary Baloch is also scheduled to meet interim Prime Minister Yunus and Foreign Affairs Adviser Touhid Hossain. Later in the day, she will participate in a roundtable discussion with think tanks and members of the Pakistani diaspora in Dhaka.

Looking ahead, Pakistan's Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar is expected to visit Dhaka on April 27–28, which would be the first high-level visit from Islamabad in more than a decade.

Sources indicate that the warming of ties began discreetly last year through two informal meetings between PM Shehbaz Sharif and interim PM Yunus — first at the UN General Assembly in New York, and later at the D-8 Summit in Cairo.

Following these engagements, Bangladesh eased visa rules for Pakistani nationals and opened direct shipping routes. Pakistan, in turn, has shown interest in enhancing cooperation in trade, tourism, cultural exchange, and investment — signaling a broad-based diplomatic revival.

Naveen Patnaik Set for 9th Term as BJD Chief



Bhubaneswar, April 17, 2025 — Naveen Patnaik, former Chief Minister of Odisha and founding leader of the Biju Janata Dal (BJD), filed his nomination on Thursday for the party president post, aiming for a ninth consecutive term.

Speaking at a press conference, BJD State Returning Officer and MLA Pratap Keshari Deb confirmed that Patnaik was the sole nominee for the top post. "Naveen Patnaik filed his nomination between 10 AM and 1 PM today. As there are no other contenders, he will be declared elected unopposed after completing procedural formalities," Deb said. The nomination filing took place at Sankha Bhawan, the BJD headquarters in Bhubaneswar, in the presence of senior party leaders. Symbolically, the move coincided with the 28th death anniversary of Biju Patnaik, Naveen's father and a towering political figure in Odisha, after whom the regional party is named.

As part of the BJD's ongoing internal elections, the lists of district presidents and state council mem-

bers have already been finalised, according to Deb. The next step will be the selection of state executive members, who will play a key role in shaping the party's future direction.

Naveen Patnaik has led the BJD since its formation in 1997, winning eight consecutive terms as party president. His leadership once brought unmatched electoral dominance in Odisha, with the BJD ruling the state for 24 years until its recent loss in the 2024 state assembly elections. In a dramatic shift, the BJP secured a majority in the 2024 Odisha Assembly polls, winning 78 out of 147 seats and forming the government under Mohan Charan Majhi. The BJD managed only 51 seats, and three independent MLAs later joined the BJP, raising its tally to 81 seats. The Congress won 14. The Lok Sabha elections were even more lopsided, with the BJP capturing 20 of 21 seats, leaving the BJD with none despite its deep roots in the state. Yet, with this unchallenged nomination, Naveen Patnaik reaffirms his central role in BJD's leadership and its future strategy moving forward.

General Asim Munir Reasserts Pakistan’s Hardline Stance on Kashmir, Two-Nation Theory

“The 1.3-Million Indian Army”: Pak Army Chief On Kashmir, Balochistan



TPN Correspondent | Delhi

In a speech likely to provoke a strong response from New Delhi, Pakistan Army Chief General Asim Munir reasserted Islamabad’s unwavering stance on Kashmir, calling it Pakistan’s “jugular vein.” Addressing an audience of overseas Pakistanis, Munir urged them to take pride in their heritage and stressed that Pakistan was created on the foundation of the two-nation theory — the belief that Hindus and Muslims are fundamentally different in culture, religion, and identity.

Munir emphasized that this ideological divide justified the creation of Pakistan in 1947 and continues to define the country’s national narrative. “We are not one nation. Our forefathers made sacrifices because they believed in a separate identity. We must pass this story to the next generation,” he said.

His comments strongly backed the two-nation theory and contrasted sharply with India’s view of a shared history and its commitment to secularism. The statement underscores Pakistan’s long-standing ideological position and the Army’s role as the guardian of national identity.

Touching on security concerns, Munir dismissed fears that terrorism could derail Pakistan’s future. “Do you think terrorists can take away the destiny of this country? If the Indian Army cannot intimidate us, these terrorists certainly can’t,” he declared.

He also took a firm stance on separatist movements in Balochistan, asserting that the province is integral to Pakistan and will remain so. “You won’t be able to take Balochistan in ten generations,” he warned, vowing that the Army would defeat insurgency there.

On Kashmir, Munir reiterated that Pakistan’s position remains unchanged. “It was, is, and will remain our jugular vein. We will not abandon our Kashmiri brothers in their heroic struggle,” he said.

General Munir’s remarks not only reinforce the Army’s central role in shaping Pakistan’s domestic and foreign policies but also signal a hardening of Islamabad’s approach toward India. As tensions persist, the Indian Ministry of External Affairs is expected to issue a formal response to these statements.

Ukrainian Parliament Approves 90-Day Extension Of Martial Law & Mobilisation



TPN Correspondent | Kyiv

Ukraine’s Parliament has voted to extend both martial law and the country’s general military mobilization for another 90 days, continuing emergency measures in place since the Russian invasion in February 2022. The extension will run from May 9 to August 6, according to parliamentarian Yaroslav Zheleznyak, who shared the outcome on Telegram.

The vote passed with broad support: 357 lawmakers backed the continuation of martial law, and 346 supported the extension of mobilization—well above the required 226 votes.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky submitted the bills, which were swiftly adopted. Martial law was first enacted on February 24, 2022, and has since been renewed multiple times as the war continues. Under Ukraine’s Constitution, no elections—presidential or parliamentary—can take place while martial law is in effect.

This provision has sparked political controversy both within Ukraine and abroad. Zelensky’s five-year presidential term officially expired in May 2024. While the Ukrainian government insists that elections are legally suspended during martial law, Russia and some international critics have questioned Zelensky’s legitimacy. Russian President Vladimir Putin has

repeatedly challenged Zelensky’s authority, even suggesting that a United Nations-backed interim government should be installed to lead Ukraine to elections. Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov responded to the latest extension by accusing Kyiv of trying to “preserve its unstable structure.”

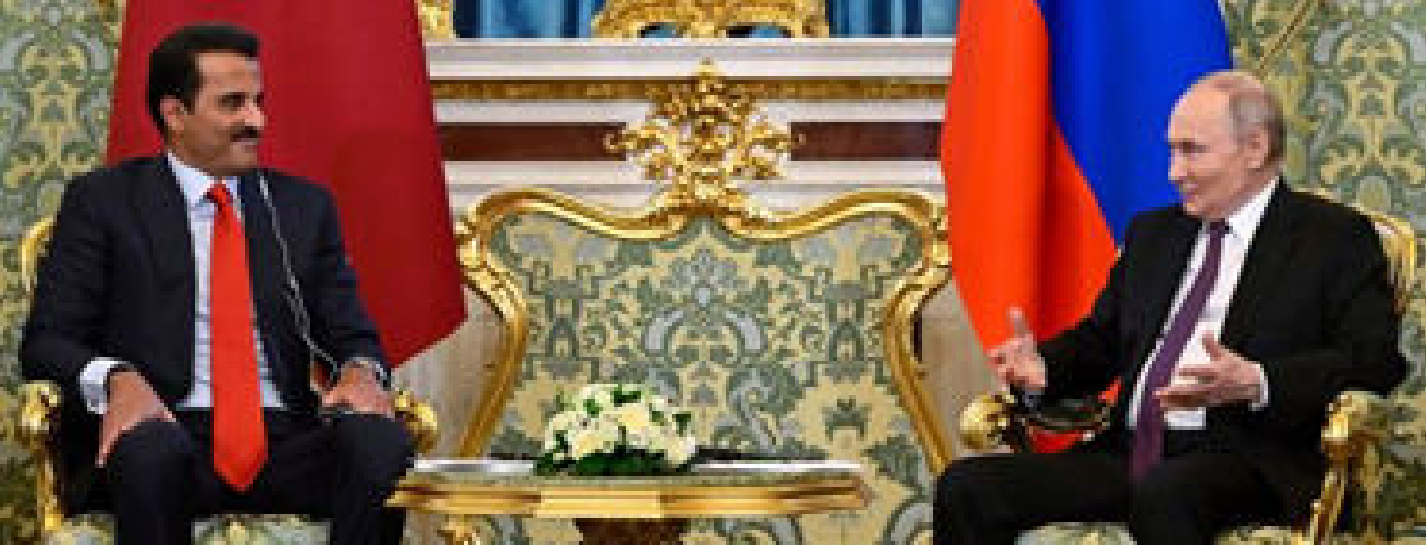
The United States has also weighed in, with former President Donald Trump describing Zelensky as a “dictator without elections” in a February statement. Ironically, the comment appeared to rally domestic support for Zelensky, temporarily boosting his approval ratings.

Still, internal dissent is growing. Petro Poroshenko, Ukraine’s former President and leader of the largest opposition party, publicly supported extending martial law for national defense, but criticized the government for allegedly exploiting the emergency measures for political gain.

“I want to stress that we should recognize the obvious – the government has started to abuse martial law, using it not only to defend the country, but to build an authoritarian regime,” Poroshenko warned during a heated parliamentary session on Tuesday.

Despite political friction, there remains wide consensus on the need to maintain martial law as Ukraine continues to resist Russian aggression.

Putin and Qatari emir discuss Syria and Gaza at Moscow talks



- **Moscow aims to protect its Tartus and Hmeimim military bases.**
- **Doha acts as key mediator in maintaining Russia-Syria relations.**
- **Syria signals intent to uphold major international partnerships.**

TPN Correspondent | Moscow

Qatar’s Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani assured Russian President Vladimir Putin on Thursday that Syria’s new leadership, under President Ahmed al-Sharaa, is interested in building strong ties with Moscow. The statement comes amid a significant shift in the region’s power dynamics following the fall of longtime Syrian leader Bashar al-Assad in December.

During a high-level conversation, Sheikh Tamim conveyed that President al-Sharaa, who emerged as the head of the rebel coalition that ousted Assad, is eager to maintain and even deepen diplomatic and strategic relations with Russia. This assurance could be crucial for the Kremlin, which is now working to safeguard its long-standing inter-

ests in Syria, particularly its military foothold in the region.

Russia currently operates two critical military bases in Syria—its naval facility in Tartus and the Hmeimim airbase in Latakia. These sites have been instrumental in projecting Russian influence across the Middle East and the Mediterranean. With Assad’s departure, concerns have grown in Moscow over the future of its access and operational freedom at these locations.

President Putin has reportedly reached out to several regional allies to ensure continued cooperation from the new Syrian administration. Qatar’s role in this diplomatic effort is particularly significant, given its regional influence and its history of backing various factions during the Syrian conflict.

Ahmed al-Sharaa’s rise to power marks a new chapter for Syria, and many international observers are watching closely to see how the nation’s foreign policy may shift under his leadership. While Sharaa has not made detailed public statements regarding Syria’s strategic partnerships, the message delivered by Sheikh Tamim suggests that the new leadership is open to maintaining continuity in key international relationships—especially with global powers like Russia.

For Moscow, securing these ties is vital to preserving its status as a major stakeholder in Middle Eastern affairs. As the region navigates this political transition, Russia will be keen to ensure that it is not sidelined by a new order emerging in Damascus.

China Integrates AI into Education to Drive Innovation and Future Growth

TPN Correspondent | Hong Kong

China is set to embed artificial intelligence (AI) into its national education system, including teaching methods, textbooks, and school curricula, in a sweeping effort to modernize learning and foster innovation. The move, detailed in an official government paper released Wednesday, will impact students and educators at the primary, secondary, and higher education levels.

As the world’s second-largest economy seeks new engines of growth, the Chinese government is positioning AI as a central pillar in its education overhaul. According to the Ministry of Education, the integration of AI into classrooms aims to strengthen both teaching practices and the fundamental capabilities of students and teachers alike.

For students, AI is expected to cul-



tivate essential skills such as independent thinking, complex problem-solving, communication, and collaboration. For educators, the introduction of AI tools is designed to create more dynamic, engaging, and challenging learning environments.

The education ministry highlighted that promoting AI education would enhance the “core competitiveness of innovative talents” and contribute to the country’s broader ambition to become a global innovation leader.

The initiative follows a significant expansion in AI-related courses and enrollments across Chinese universities, spurred in part by domestic advancements in AI technology.

In January, China’s AI sector gained international attention when local startup DeepSeek launched a competitive large language model that was more cost-effective to develop than many Western counterparts. This milestone helped fuel national momentum for deeper AI integration in multiple sectors, including education.

The push also aligns with China’s long-term vision laid out in its “strong-education nation” action plan, which was also launched in January. This strategic roadmap targets 2035 as the milestone year for establishing a globally advanced education system, with innovation and digital transformation at its core.

Trump's Gold Card Will Be Available Soon

TPN Correspondent | Washington

As Elon Musk’s role in the U.S. government efficiency task force winds down, President Donald Trump has assigned him a new project: creating a fast-track immigration system called the “Gold Card” for ultra-wealthy foreigners. The initiative, led by the Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE), aims to offer special U.S. residency visas priced at \$5 million each, according to The New York Times.

Engineers from Musk’s team are developing an application portal for these high-value visas, collaborating with officials from the State Department, Department of Homeland Security, and U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services. The “Gold Card” is positioned to replace the existing EB-5 visa program, which currently requires investments of \$800,000 to \$1.05 million and job creation for at least 10 Americans. That program raised around



\$4 billion last year. Trump first announced the Gold Card program in February, calling it a new “route to citizenship” for “very high-level people.” While initial details were sparse, the administration later revealed the card would grant permanent residency to affluent individuals, pending background checks. Trump recently showcased a laminated prototype featuring his photo, the Statue of Liberty, and a bald eagle, promising rollout in “less than two weeks.”

Leading the project on DOGE’s side are Marko Elez and Edward Coristine. Elez was recently linked to a pseudonymous X (formerly Twitter) account

that made controversial posts about immigration. Coristine, just 19, was previously dismissed from an internship at a data firm over alleged leaks. Despite their backgrounds, both have met with government officials to streamline the vetting process.

The team is working on accelerating the traditionally lengthy immigration review procedures, aiming to approve qualified applicants within two weeks of applying. This includes compressing interviews, background checks, and other formalities.

Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick claimed on a podcast last month that 1,000 Gold Cards had already been “sold,” although no evidence was provided. He emphasized that cardholders must be law-abiding and vetted. Lutnick also confirmed Musk’s team is building the system and expects it to launch within two weeks—now revised to a week and a half.

Sensex, Nifty Soar in Major Trend Reversal as Markets Rally Across Sectors

Domestic stock markets staged a powerful comeback on Thursday, marking a significant trend reversal as benchmark indices ended with robust gains. Despite starting the day with a gap-down, both the Sensex and Nifty surged in the afternoon on the back of renewed buying interest, driven by favorable global cues and improving domestic sentiment.

The key triggers for the rally included the absence of fresh geopolitical tensions, renewed interest from foreign institutional investors (FIIs), and a strong performance by strategic sectors. Banking, finance, and oil stocks led the charge, signaling a broad-based bullish sentiment.

The BSE Sensex, which had previously closed at 77,044, opened slightly lower at 76,968 and dipped to an intraday low of 76,665. However, a sharp rally in the second half of the session pushed it to an intraday high of 78,616, before closing strongly at 78,553, up by 1,508 points. Likewise, the NSE Nifty opened at 23,401, touched a low of 23,298 and rallied to a high of 23,872 before ending at 23,851, gaining 414 points. The Nifty Bank index was a standout performer, jumping 1,172 points to settle at 54,290.

Among the Nifty50 constituents, 43 stocks advanced while only 7 declined. Notable gainers included Eicher Motors, Zomato, ICICI Bank,

Bharti Airtel, and Bajaj Finserv. On the downside, Wipro, Hindalco, Tech Mahindra, Hero Moto-Corp, and JSW Steel were among the top losers.

All sectoral indices closed in the green, with private banking, financial services, and PSU banks posting gains of over 2%. Other sectors such as oil, pharma, FMCG, healthcare, consumer durables, realty, metal, and IT also witnessed strong buying interest.

Market breadth on the NSE clearly favored the bulls. Out of 2,977 stocks traded, 1,847 advanced, while 1,047 declined. A total of 63 stocks hit their 52-week highs, while 16 hit 52-week lows. Additionally, 116 stocks were locked in their upper circuits and 29 in lower circuits.

This week marked the highest weekly gains for Indian markets in two years. Sensex, Nifty, and Mid-cap indices rose over 4%, while Nifty Bank soared more than 6%. The Indian rupee also strengthened by 31 paise, closing at 85.37 against the US dollar.

In other developments, James Reid was appointed as chairman of Root Mobile, Jio Finance shares rallied ahead of earnings, and HDFC AMC posted an 18% YoY jump in Q4 profit to ₹638 crore. Meanwhile, Morgan Stanley downgraded Wipro and Tata Steel, while upgrading Aditya Birla Fashion. Adani Ports announced plans for a preferential issue of shares, and BHEL signed a tech transfer agreement with BARC. Angel One's net profit declined nearly 49% YoY to ₹174 crore. NSE has applied for SEBI's NOC for its much-anticipated IPO.



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Fitch Cuts India's GDP Forecast Amid Escalating Global Trade War Concerns

Fitch Ratings has revised India's GDP growth projection for the current fiscal year (2025–26), trimming it by 10 basis points to 6.4%, citing mounting concerns over an escalating global trade war. The agency also lowered the forecast for the previous fiscal year (2024–25) to 6.2%, while keeping the estimate for 2026–27 unchanged at 6.3%.

The downgrade is part of a broader revision of global growth forecasts in Fitch's special update to its Global Economic Outlook (GEO), published on Thursday. The report highlights how the intensifying trade tensions, particularly those involving the United States, have cast a shadow over global economic prospects.

"It is hard to predict US trade policy with any confidence," Fitch said, noting that growing uncertainty is stifling business investment and eroding household wealth through falling equity prices. Additionally, retaliatory tariffs are expected to further weaken US export performance, adding to the global slowdown.

As a result, Fitch has sharply lowered its forecast for global growth in 2025 by 0.4 percentage points. Projections

for both the US and China have been slashed by 0.5 percentage points. World growth is now expected to fall below 2% for the year—excluding the pandemic, this would mark the slowest global growth since the 2009 financial crisis.

For India, while the economic outlook remains comparatively resilient, the country is not immune to the ripple effects of deteriorating global trade conditions. Fitch's modest downward revision reflects the potential challenges India could face in sustaining export-led growth in an uncertain external environment.

The outlook for other major economies is also bleak. The US is expected to grow at a subdued pace of 1.2% in 2025. China's growth, once a driver of global momentum, is forecast to fall below 4% this year and next. Meanwhile, the eurozone is projected to remain sluggish, with growth below 1% throughout the period.

Fitch also pointed to the US's recently announced "Liberation Day" tariffs, calling them "far worse than expected," and warning that such aggressive trade measures are likely to deepen the global economic malaise.

India's US Exports Hit Record \$86.5 Billion Amid Trade War Fears; China Imports Also Soar

India's exports to the United States touched a historic high of \$86.51 billion in the financial year 2024–25, as businesses rushed to ship goods ahead of the reciprocal tariff hikes that took effect on April 2. The surge appears to be a case of front-loading, driven by anxiety over the escalating global trade tensions, particularly between the US and its trading partners.



Provisional data released by the Commerce Ministry reveals that exporters scrambled to complete shipments in March, boosting the annual figures to unprecedented levels. The jump in exports underscores how concerns over future trade restrictions can trigger temporary spikes in international commerce, as firms attempt to beat looming deadlines.

Meanwhile, India's imports from China also rose significantly, reaching a record \$113.45 billion in 2024–25. Despite rising geopolitical tensions and a push for "self-reliance" under the government's Atmanirbhar Bharat initiative, trade with China continues to grow, largely driven by India's dependence on critical Chinese goods—especially in sectors like electronics, pharmaceuticals, and industrial machinery.

This widening trade imbalance highlights the complex nature of India's economic relationships, where strategic concerns often coexist with deep commercial dependencies. While India seeks to diversify its import sources and strengthen domestic manufacturing, Chinese

products remain deeply embedded in Indian supply chains.

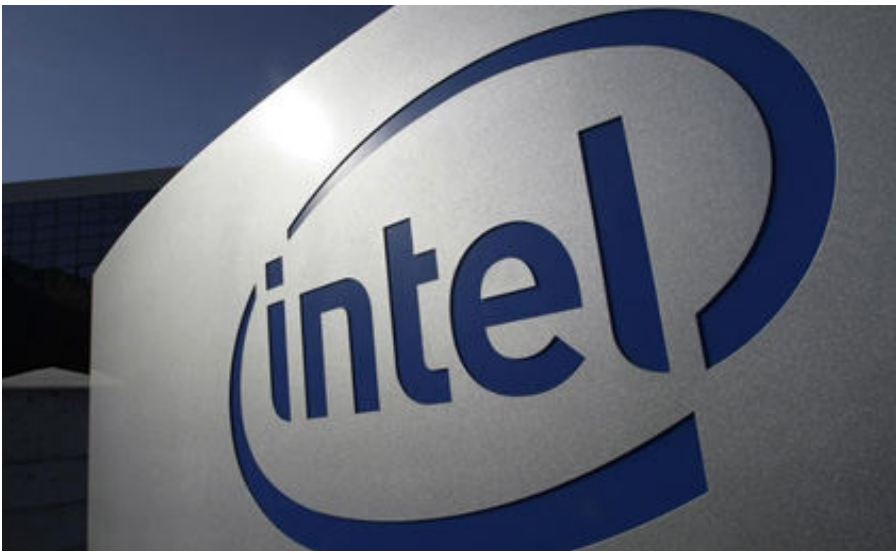
The record-breaking figures for both US exports and Chinese imports come against the backdrop of global trade uncertainty. The recent wave of reciprocal tariff announcements—especially those led by the United States—has rattled supply chains and prompted many countries, including India, to reassess their trade strategies.

Experts caution that while front-loading may offer a short-term boost, it could lead to a slowdown in subsequent months if demand weakens or tariffs start to bite. They also warn that prolonged trade wars could impact investor confidence, currency stability, and long-term export competitiveness.

As trade tensions rise globally, India faces the dual challenge of protecting its export momentum while reducing overdependence on key import sources. The road ahead may require a careful balancing act between economic pragmatism and strategic autonomy.

Intel to Require Licenses for AI Chip Sales to China Amid U.S. Trade Policy Shifts

American semiconductor giant Intel has informed its Chinese clients that it will now require export licenses to sell certain high-performance artificial intelligence (AI) chips to China, according to a report by the Financial Times. The move follows a growing wave of restrictions by the U.S. government targeting advanced tech exports to China, intensifying global tensions in the semiconductor sector.



This development comes just a day after rival chipmaker Nvidia revealed it could face a revenue hit of up to \$5.5 billion due to new U.S. export controls on its AI processors specifically designed for the Chinese market. Dutch semiconductor equipment maker ASML also issued a more cautious outlook, citing similar trade headwinds.

Under the leadership of newly appointed CEO Lip-Bu Tan, Intel reportedly informed clients that chips exceeding specific performance benchmarks will now require a license for export to China. These thresholds include chips with a total DRAM bandwidth of 1,400 gigabytes per second (GB/s), I/O bandwidth of 1,100 GB/s, or a combined total of 1,700 GB/s or more. Intel's Gaudi AI chip series, as well as Nvidia's China-focused H20 processor, both surpass these limits, placing them squarely under the new export license requirements.

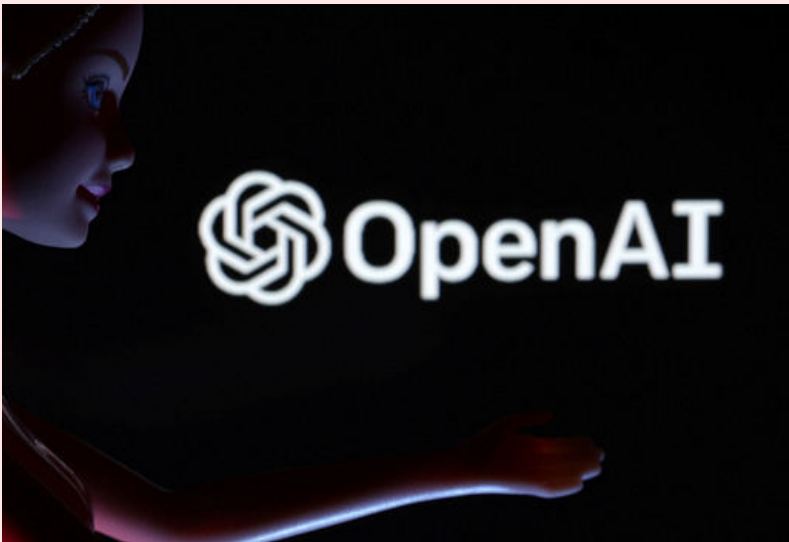
The announcement has already sent ripples through the market. Intel's stock declined more than 3% on Wednesday, mirroring a broader dip in chip stocks as concerns mount over the ongoing disruption in the global semiconductor trade caused by the U.S.'s evolving trade policies.

These measures are part of Washington's broader strategy to curtail China's access to cutting-edge AI technologies that could have military or surveillance applications. However, industry analysts warn that such restrictions could not only impact China's AI development but also hurt U.S. companies' bottom lines and slow the momentum of the AI chip sector, which had experienced a significant boom over the past two years.

As Big Tech's capital expenditures come under scrutiny and global trade tensions escalate, the AI chip industry appears poised for a period of uncertainty and slowdown.

OpenAI Unveils o3 and o4-Mini Models

OpenAI has announced the release of its newest artificial intelligence models, o3 and o4-mini, designed to advance AI reasoning and bring significant upgrades in how machines understand and interact with the world. The announcement, made on April 17, 2025, underscores OpenAI’s commitment to pushing the boundaries of AI’s cognitive abilities and real-world application. Both models come with multimodal understanding, a feature that allows them to process and reason with images alongside text—a leap in AI’s ability to think contextually. This means the models can now include visual information as part of their decision-making or problem-solving process, rather than relying on text alone. This feature enables more human-like, intuitive reasoning, and is expected to significantly enhance the performance of AI in complex tasks across industries like education, healthcare, design, and content creation. According to OpenAI, the o3 model is its most advanced reasoning model to date, combining improved memory handling, bet-



ter contextual understanding, and faster response times. Meanwhile, o4-mini offers many of the same capabilities in a more lightweight, efficient form suitable for mobile and embedded applications. The company also confirmed that older models will be gradually phased out as users transition to the more capable o3 and o4-mini models. This move is intended to streamline development and ensure that users benefit from the latest AI capabilities without the limitations of earlier architectures. These releases mark a significant evolution in OpenAI’s model lineup and point toward a future where AI systems are not only faster and smarter but also more perceptive and capable of multimodal reasoning—integrating multiple forms of input into a single chain of thought. With o3 and o4-mini, OpenAI continues to lead in developing general-purpose AI tools that offer deeper, more flexible understanding across a wide range of human tasks.

Los Angeles to Host Sperm Race

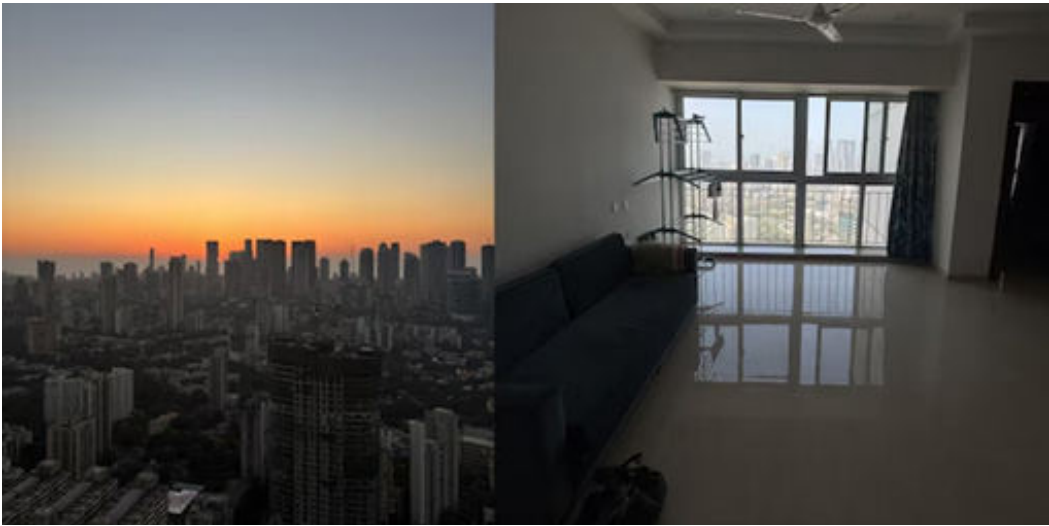


In a one-of-a-kind event that merges science, sportsmanship, and a touch of humor, Los Angeles will host the world’s first-ever “Sperm Race USA” — a race not involving athletes or vehicles, but microscopic human sperm. Set to take place on April 25 at the Hollywood Palladium, the event is being organized by a startup aptly named Sperm Racing. The goal? To raise awareness about men’s reproductive health, specifically the often-overlooked link between sperm motility (speed) and male fertility. While it may sound unusual, organizers are treating the occasion much like a high-stakes sporting event, complete with press conferences, live commentary, and even opportunities for audience betting. The race itself will see two sperms from different individuals competing on a 20-centimetre long track designed to mimic the environment of a woman’s reproductive system. Each sperm, measuring around 0.05 millimetres, will be monitored using advanced imaging technology to determine which

one reaches the finish line first. While the race unfolds under a microscope, the action will be broadcast on large screens for up to 1,000 spectators. The event aims to combine entertainment with education, hoping to spark public interest in male reproductive health, which often receives less attention compared to women’s health. By making a biological process visible and competitive, Sperm Racing hopes to create a broader conversation around fertility issues in a fun, engaging way. While it may seem eccentric, the Sperm Race has already generated massive buzz online and is expected to attract crowds similar to traditional sports matches. With cheering fans, flashing cameras, and a tongue-in-cheek approach to science, the event promises to be unlike anything seen before. Whether it’s scientific curiosity or the sheer novelty of the race, Sperm Race USA is sure to grab global attention — all in the name of health awareness and a little bit of fun.

Mumbai Flat Rent Sparks Online Outrage

A recent apartment listing in Mumbai has taken social media by storm, with many users stunned by the high rent being asked for an unfurnished room. Ohshin Bhatia, a tech professional based in Mumbai, shared a post on X (formerly Twitter) in search of a female flatmate for her 2 BHK apartment in Parel, one of the city’s prime localities. According to her post, Bhatia is renting a master bedroom in her two-bedroom flat for a staggering Rs 52,000 per month. The total rent for the apartment is Rs 1 lakh, and she is seeking someone to split the cost. While the room is unfurnished, Bhatia highlighted that the flat comes with access to several amenities, including a gym, jogging track, and a high-rise view from the attached balcony. “Hey guys, I’m looking for a female flatmate (to join me in a 2 BHK) in Parel. It’s an unfurnished master bedroom and the rent is 52k, comes with a gym, jogging track and good amenities. The view is breathtaking, as it’s a higher floor. Preferably aged 20-25,” she wrote in her now-viral post.



The listing quickly attracted widespread attention, not just because of the rent, but also due to the specific age preference and the fact that the room comes without basic furniture. Many users expressed disbelief, pointing out that such a high amount for an unfurnished space reflects the skyrocketing cost of living in Mumbai, especially in posh areas like Parel. Some questioned whether the price was justified, while others joked about need-

ing a raise just to afford rent in the city. The incident has reignited debates about urban housing affordability and the challenges young professionals face in securing decent living spaces in India’s financial capital. With rent rates soaring and real estate prices pushing limits, listings like these seem to have become the new normal — even if social media isn’t quite ready for them.

Bihar Teacher Slammed Over Scooter Incident

A disturbing incident from Bhagalpur, Bihar, has gone viral on social media, sparking outrage and concern across the country. A video shows a female teacher from Mukheriya Madhya Vidyalaya, located in the Jagdishpur district, instructing two young schoolchildren to clean her mud-covered scooter during school hours. The clip, which has quickly circulated online, captures the children diligently scrubbing the teacher’s scooter while regular classes were in session. This misuse of students’ time has triggered a massive backlash, with people questioning the ethics and behavior of the teacher



involved. The viral video has not only drawn public anger but also raised serious questions about the well-being and dignity of schoolchildren, especially in rural educational institutions where such acts can often go unnoticed or unchallenged. Parents and local residents are demand-

ing strict action, arguing that schools should be spaces of learning and growth, not personal convenience for teachers. “What kind of message is this sending to our children?” asked one concerned parent. “Instead of teaching them, she is using them for her own chores. Who will

clear the mud in her mind?” Social media users have expressed collective disgust, with many emphasizing that such behavior undermines the purpose of education and reflects a deep-rooted misuse of authority. The incident has also reignited conversations around the protection of students’ rights and the need for better oversight in government schools. As the clip continues to trend, many are calling for a broader discussion about accountability in the education system, especially in remote and under-resourced schools, where students are often vulnerable to such forms of exploitation.

Mysterious Lights Over Vancouver Spark Debate

A mysterious video from Vancouver, Canada, has gone viral online, capturing what appears to be a strange, colorful light show in the night sky. The footage, originally shared on X (formerly Twitter) by user @dom_lucer, has ignited a wave of speculation, curiosity, and debate across social media platforms. The video shows a glowing object hovering in the sky, radiating and shifting between multiple colors while seemingly moving in a circular pattern. The unusual display has led many viewers to wonder whether they are witnessing a UFO (Unidentified Flying Object) or simply a high-tech drone. “This strange light was recorded by witnesses in the United States and Canada. Witnesses report colorful UAPs [Unidentified Aerial Phenomena] and other unexplained phenomena lighting up the sky,” read the caption accompanying the post. The video includes audio of onlookers expressing disbelief and awe. “What is this?” one voice asks, followed by another questioning, “Is this a UFO?” The crowd seems mesmerized, with their attention completely fixed on the mysterious object. With nearly 5 million views, the clip has trig-



gered widespread discussion. While some viewers are convinced it’s an alien spacecraft, others have taken a more skeptical stance. One user, Bill Mitchell, questioned the logic behind extraterrestrials using lights: “Why would alien spacecrafts have lights on them, assuming they want to be here incognito? I’m sure they have the ability to see what’s around them without lights.” While there is no official explanation yet, the Vancouver light show has once again fueled age-old questions about life beyond Earth and how we interpret the unknown. Whether a drone stunt or something more otherworldly, the video has certainly left many people watching the skies a little more closely.

Man Learns Girlfriend Is 48, Not 27

In a bizarre and shocking revelation, a 26-year-old man has gone viral after discovering that the woman he had been dating for four years was actually 21 years older than she claimed. The incident came to light after the man shared his story on Reddit’s r/BreakUps subreddit, sparking widespread disbelief and discussion. According to the post, the man said his girlfriend had consistently claimed to be born in April 1998, which made her 27 years old at the time. The relationship lasted four years, during which he never suspected a thing. However, everything changed when he happened to look through her laptop and stumbled upon an image of her passport. The document clearly stated she was born in 1977, making her 48 years old—more than two decades older than what she had told him. “I’ve been dating my girlfriend for four years now, and she always claimed to be born in April ‘98,” he wrote. “I found a picture of her passport in her laptop where it says ‘77.” The man explained that he never doubted her



claims because she genuinely looked young for her age and carried herself like someone in her late twenties. Despite that, he admitted there had been a few red flags over the years—such as her reluctance to share personal documents or talk about her past in detail. As the story continues to make waves online, it has sparked a broader conversation about age deception in relationships, and how far some people are willing to go to maintain an illusion. For this man, the revelation ended in heartbreak—and a viral post that’s taken the internet by storm.



Pooja Hegde Boosts Retro Buzz

Pooja Hegde, who had been away from Telugu cinema since exiting Guntur Kaaram, is now actively promoting Retro, set for release on May 1st. Although Suriya headlines the Karthik Subbaraj-directed gangster drama, Pooja's sudden involvement in Telugu interviews has sparked curiosity.

Despite Suriya's popularity and Sithara Entertainments backing the film, Retro had surprisingly low buzz in Telugu. Pooja's recent promotional spree has shifted that, drawing attention with her candid interviews and heartfelt appreciation for Telugu fans. She even revealed her next Telugu project—a romantic film.

While Retro has decent anticipation in Tamil, these new efforts are boosting its Telugu reach. With the trailer still pending, Pooja's presence has already made a noticeable difference. More promotional activities are expected to follow in the coming days.

Arjun S/O Vyjayanthi USA Premieres Today

Nandamuri Kalyan Ram's Arjun S/O Vyjayanthi premieres today in the USA ahead of its worldwide release tomorrow. Directed by Pradeep Chilukuri and produced by Ashok Vardhan Muppa and Sunil Balusu under Ashoka Creations and NTR Arts, the film blends family drama with intense action.

Lady Superstar Vijayashanthi makes a strong comeback as Kalyan Ram's mother, while Saiee Manjrekar plays the female lead. In the USA, the film

is having a wide release through Prathyangira Cinemas, known for distributing blockbusters like Kalki, Deva, and Pushpa 2.

Arjun S/O Vyjayanthi has built strong hype, with the teaser, trailer, and songs receiving an excellent response. NTR's comments at the pre-release event, particularly about the gripping climax, have further boosted expectations. The makers have promoted the film extensively across Telugu states.



Odela 2 Falls Short of Hype

Odela Railway Station (2022) gained decent appreciation as a direct OTT release. Now, its creator Sampath Nandi returns with Odela 2, this time with a theatrical release and a grander scale. Tamannaah Bhatia takes the spotlight as a Naga Sadhu, joined by Hebah Patel and Vasishtha N. Simha. Directed by Ashok Teja, the film runs for 2 hours and 30 minutes and falls under the horror genre.

Backed by Madhu Creations and Sampath Nandi Teamworks, Odela 2 has been heavily promoted. With music by Ajaneesh Loknath and a larger production canvas, expectations were high. However, the film doesn't quite match the intrigue of its predecessor. While the premise is ambitious, the execution falters, leaving viewers with a visually rich but emotionally flat horror experience. Overall, it struggles to live up to the hype.



L2: Empuraan Locks OTT Release Date

Mohanlal and Prithviraj Sukumaran's L2: Empuraan, the sequel to the blockbuster Lucifer, is set for its OTT debut on Disney+ Hotstar from April 24. The film, which hit theatres on March 27 as a Ramzan special, will stream in Malayalam, Telugu, Tamil, and Kannada.



Empuraan made a strong theatrical impact, grossing over ₹265 crore worldwide in just 21 days. Its pre-release business crossed ₹100 crore, with a break-even target of ₹220 crore.

Made on a massive ₹180 crore budget, the film was produced by Sree Gokulam Movies, Aas-

hirvad Cinemas, and Lyca Productions. It boasts a star-studded cast including Manju Warrier, Tovino Thomas, Indrajith Sukumaran, and others.

While fans were surprised by its early OTT release, the digital rights were reportedly sold at a record price. All eyes are now on its streaming performance starting April 24.

Meenakshi Scores With Venky & Chay

Meenakshi Chaudhary, who delivered a blockbuster with Venkatesh's Sankarantiki Vasthunam (Rs 300 crore grosser), is now teaming up with Naga Chaitanya for her next project, NC24. Interestingly, she becomes one of the rare actresses to romance both the Mama-Alludu duo—Venky and Chay—in back-to-back films.



Naga Chaitanya, fresh off his biggest hit Thandel (his first Rs 100 crore film), adds major star power to NC24. With both leads riding high on success, the film is already generating strong buzz.

Directed by Virupaksha fame Karthik Varma Dandu, NC24 is shaping up as a mythical thriller with an intense, suspense-driven narrative. Shooting began today, and Chay's new look is expected to be a major highlight when the film releases next year. Expectations are high for this fresh pairing and gripping storyline.

Akshay & Twinkle Steal Spotlight at Kesari 2 Premiere

Akshay Kumar and Twinkle Khanna made a stylish entry at the Kesari Chapter 2 premiere, walking in hand-in-hand and radiating charm. The couple posed gracefully for the cameras, delighting fans with their chemistry. Akshay looked dapper in a grey textured suit with a matching tie, while Twinkle wowed in an elegant olive green co-ord set.



The glitzy event was a star-studded affair with many Bollywood celebrities in attendance. Ananya Panday stood out in a vibrant purple saree paired with a halter-neck blouse, and Suhana Khan

opted for a timeless off-shoulder black dress. Kajol, Rasha Thadani, and several other familiar faces added glamour to the night, making the Kesari 2 premiere a sparkling celebration of style and cinema. Fans couldn't get enough of the fashion and star power on display.

Neeraj Chopra Wins Season Opener at Potchefstroom Invitational



Two-time Olympic medalist Neeraj Chopra began his 2025 athletics season with a victory at the Potch Invitational Meet in Potchefstroom, South Africa. Neeraj threw 84.52m, winning the men’s javelin competition at McArthur Stadium—the venue where he qualified for the Tokyo 2020 Olympics nearly five years ago. The event saw Neeraj and South Africa’s Douw Smit, who recorded 82.44m, as the only two athletes to surpass the 80m mark in the six-man field. Neeraj’s personal best and the Indian national record stand at 89.94m, achieved at the 2022 Stockholm Diamond League. The Potchefstroom event marks a deviation from Neeraj’s usual start to the season at the Doha Diamond League. Despite the modest throw, the win provides a strong foundation for his upcoming competitions in the 2025 season.

Tapendra Ghai Shoots 62 to Build Four-Shot Lead at Calance Open 2025

Tapendra Ghai of Gurugram produced the best round of the day, an eight-under 62, to take a commanding four-shot lead after round three of the Calance Open 2025 at Qutab Golf Course in New Delhi. With this performance, the 29-year-old moved up from his overnight tied fourth place to a total of 17-under 193 (64-67-62). Ghai’s exceptional putting and consistent birdies, including a 30-footer on the 13th, propelled him to the top. Honey Baisoya (67), Pukhraj Singh Gill (68), and Yuvraj Sandhu (69) are tied for second at 13-under 197. Ghai, a PGTI titleholder in 2018, credited his success to strong execution and a focus on staying in the moment for the final round. Mumbai’s Aryaman Aditya Mo-



han and Manu Gandas also made impressive moves, shooting 63 to sit in the top 10.

Rafael Nadal to Be Honored with Tribute at French Open

Retired tennis legend Rafael Nadal will receive a special tribute at the French Open on May 25, the opening day of the tournament, as announced by French Open director Amélie Mauresmo. The 22-time Grand Slam champion, who retired in November, is celebrated for his record-breaking 14 French Open titles. Mauresmo emphasized that the tribute will be exceptional and a surprise for the audience. Nadal, who already has a statue at Roland Garros, will also be featured in an exhibition at the tournament’s museum and lend his voice to the official trailer. The tribute, originally planned for 2024 but postponed, is now being held following Na-



dal’s retirement. The tribute underscores the inseparable bond between Nadal and Roland Garros, as expressed by French Tennis Federation president Gilles Moretton. Additionally, the French Open will set up a fan zone at Place de la Concorde in central Paris.

Will Jacks Shines as MI Clinch Crucial Win Over SRH

Mumbai Indians defeated Sunrisers Hyderabad by four wickets in a thrilling IPL 2025 clash, thanks to a stellar all-round performance from Will Jacks. Bowling first, MI restricted SRH to 162/5 in 20 overs. Jacks was impressive with the ball, taking 2/14. SRH’s innings was revived by Heinrich Klaasen, who smashed 21 runs off Deepak Chahar in the 18th over, and a final-over surge from Aniket Verma and Pat Cummins added 22 runs. Abhishek Sharma top-scored for SRH with 40. In reply, Jacks led MI’s chase with a quickfire 36 off 26 balls. Despite losing wickets regularly, MI held their nerve to chase down the target. This win is crucial for MI as they push for a playoff spot, while SRH will rue missed opportunities with both bat and ball.



Delhi Storm into Swami Vivekananda U-20 NFC Semi-Finals with 8-0 Win

Defending champions Delhi thrashed Chandigarh 8-0 to enter the semi-finals of the Swami Vivekananda U-20 Men’s National Football Championship 2025, held at the Ramakrishna Mission Ashrama Ground in Narainpur, Chhattisgarh. The match was decided in the first session, where Delhi scored seven goals. Moirangthem Rajeshwor Singh, Aditya Adhikari, and Laishram Rahul Meitei each netted two goals, while Sankhil Darpo Tuishang and Arman Ahmad scored one each. Delhi dominated from the start, with Rajeshwor Singh opening the scoring in the seventh minute. Aditya Adhikari followed with a second in the 16th minute, and the lead grew further with a third goal from Rajeshwor Singh in the 27th minute. The relentless pressure from Delhi left Chandigarh with no chance of a comeback.



Raksha Khadse Assesses Athlete Training and Infrastructure in Bengaluru

Union Minister of State for Youth Affairs and Sports, Raksha Nikhil Khadse, visited the Sports Authority of India (SAI) Bengaluru campus for two days to assess the implementation of India’s sports schemes at the grassroots level. During her visit, Khadse interacted with elite athletes, including Olympians, Dronacharya and Dhyan Chand Awardees, as well as coaches from the Senior Women’s Hockey, Athletics, and Para-Athletics teams. She praised the spirit of perseverance and commitment demonstrated by athletes, highlighting their personal challenges and triumphs. A key moment of the visit was the inauguration of the new Indoor Kabaddi Hall, which aims to enhance the training of



athletes in traditional Indian sports. Khadse also engaged with foreign and Indian coaches to discuss training methodologies and strategies for inte-

grating science-based, athlete-centric models to improve performance at the global level.