



India will continue to be fastest growing economy: FM Sitharaman

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# Drug Racket Shifts from Import to Export

Closed factories become drug hubs in city outskirts  
Illegal export from suburbs like Uppal, Jeedimetla on rise  
Drugs like Alpha Jolam made in rented closed units  
Public demand special surveillance; officials form teams



**TPN | V. Krishna Kumar**  
**Special Desk:** The drug menace in Hyderabad has taken a new and alarming turn. Once limited to smuggling from Goa and agency areas, the trade has now evolved into full-scale manufacturing and exporting from within Telangana itself. Shocking revelations from recent raids by the Excise Enforcement and Telangana Narcotics Bureau suggest that the racket has moved from import dependency to setting up illegal drug factories in the city's industrial suburbs. Areas like Uppal Industrial Estate, Pashamilaram, Katetan, and Jeedimetla have become silent breeding grounds for drug production. Closed and abandoned factories, left unnoticed for years, are now being rented for the manufacturing of synthetic drugs like Alpha Jolam. Raids have uncovered crores worth of drug activity inside these units, leading officials to intensify surveillance and deploy special teams to monitor the situation closely.

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# Major Blast at Sigachi Chemical Industry in Sangareddy

Reactor blast in Pashamilaram kills at least 15 workers  
Four more bodies found, toll may rise, says Minister Damodar Raja Narasimha  
CM Revanth Reddy orders rescue efforts, to visit site at 10 AM

**TPN Correspondent | Sangareddy**  
A massive explosion at the Sigachi chemical industry in the Pashamilaram industrial estate of Sangareddy district on Monday has resulted in a grave tragedy. At least 15 workers have lost their lives so far in the devastating blast, which was triggered by a reactor explosion, sending shockwaves through the region. The blast, which occurred in the production wing of the facility, caused the building to collapse instantly. The force of the explosion was so intense that several workers were flung over

100 meters, with some dying on the spot. Another adjacent building also suffered serious damage. Thick black smoke engulfed the area immediately after the explosion, creating panic among local residents and workers in nearby units. Initially, eight deaths were confirmed, including five at the scene and three others who succumbed to injuries at the hospital. Later in the evening, Minister Damodar Raja Narasimha confirmed that four more bodies were recovered from under the rubble. He stated that some individuals might still be trapped and

the final toll will be known only after complete debris clearance. Eyewitnesses reported hearing a deafening explosion, following which workers were seen fleeing the facility in panic. Local residents and workers rushed toward the industry after the blast, causing heavy congestion in the area. Thick plumes of black smoke were visible from several kilometers away. Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy expressed deep sorrow over the incident and promptly instructed officials to intensify rescue operations. He also directed health officials to

ensure the best medical care for the injured. CM Revanth will personally visit the blast site at 10 AM today to review the situation. Rescue teams, including police, fire services, and medical personnel, continue operations through the night, searching for survivors and clearing debris. Investigations are underway to determine the exact cause of the explosion and whether any safety violations occurred. The tragedy has raised concerns over safety protocols in chemical industries located in Telangana's industrial corridors.



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Form Mandal-Level Price Committees, Expand Sand Sale Centers

# Ramachandra Rao, PVN Madhav Named BJP Chiefs for Telugu States

Ramachandra Rao to head Telangana unit, PVN Madhav to lead AP BJP  
Both leaders have RSS roots and calm political image  
Surprise picks despite many strong contenders

**TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad**  
BJP has once again proved that it thrives on surprises when it comes to leadership choices. In a move that caught many off guard, the party high command appointed former MLC PVN Madhav as the Andhra Pradesh BJP President and senior leader N. Ramachandra Rao as the Telangana BJP President. Though many leaders were in the race for both posts, the BJP opted for calm, experienced leaders with deep RSS backgrounds.

**PVN Madhav to lead AP BJP**  
In Andhra Pradesh, names like Vishnu Vardhan Reddy, Bhanuprakash, Dr. PV Parthasarathy, Sujana Chowdhury, and Adinarayana Reddy were widely discussed. Yet, the party chose PVN Madhav—a second-generation leader with strong RSS ties and a clean public image. His father, PV Chalapati Rao, led the BJP in



the state for six years. Madhav's BC background and non-controversial nature also weighed in his favor. With the coalition government in AP, the party likely believes he can handle coordination smoothly.  
**Ramachandra Rao to head Telangana BJP**  
In Telangana, leaders like Etala

Rajender, Dharmapuri Aravind, DK Aruna, and M. Raghunandan Rao were in the running. But the party picked N. Ramachandra Rao, known for his gentle image and grassroots connect. A former MLC with an active ABVP and RSS past, he is seen as someone who can unite all sections of the party and handle internal dynamics with maturity. By picking Madhav and Ramachandra Rao, the BJP has opted for soft-spoken yet strategically sound choices, indicating that experience, loyalty, and ideological alignment continue to be key factors for the party's top decisions in Telugu states.

# Raja Singh Quits BJP Amid Internal Turmoil

Goshamahal MLA resigns citing threats, rigged leadership polls  
Alleges BJP leaders blocked his presidential nomination  
Claims Centre doesn't want BJP to win in Telangana  
Says party workers and voters feel deeply betrayed

**TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad**  
In a dramatic political development, Goshamahal MLA T. Raja Singh resigned from the primary membership of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on Monday, triggering a fresh storm within the Telangana unit of the party. His resignation, timed during the state BJP president election process, has intensified speculation about growing internal discord. Raja Singh, who arrived at the party office in Nampally with his supporters, said he intended to contest for the post of state president but was obstructed. He alleged that some party leaders threatened his followers, prompting his decision to step down from the party. He has submitted his resignation letter to Union Minister and current state BJP President G. Kishan Reddy. Making serious allegations, Raja Singh accused the central leadership of deliberately stalling BJP's chances in Telangana. "They already decided who the president should be.



This entire election is just a drama," he said. He added that despite risking his life and facing terrorist threats since 2019 for the party, he has been sidelined.

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## Raja Singh Quits BJP Amid Internal Turmoil

Later, posting on X (formerly Twitter), Raja Singh voiced his frustration: “Just because many are silent, don’t assume they’re happy. I’m speaking for all those activists and voters who are heartbroken today.” He warned that if BJP continues filling key positions with select loyalists and suppresses internal democracy, the party will face serious setbacks in the state. “If you want BJP to come to power in Telangana, then hold fair elections—not nominations based on camps and factions,” he urged. Raja Singh’s exit also lays bare the widening rifts in the Telangana BJP. He had been openly expressing his dissatisfaction for months, but today’s resignation is the strongest sign yet of a deepening leadership crisis.

## Import to Export

Previously considered a problem confined to the elite and film circles, drug use has now pervaded all layers of society. The IT and software boom, along with weekend party culture, has only fueled the trend. Ganja and even OG Kush oil are reportedly being sold from local pan shops to supermarkets, making access easy and widespread. Authorities have also found that many of those who began as users have now turned into small-time drug peddlers—selling part of their stash to fund their own addiction. A growing number of students and software professionals are being caught in this dangerous loop, some ending up behind bars. On the directions of Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, police and excise officials are stepping up their crackdown. However, experts and citizens alike believe that without continuous tracking of the city’s closed factories and local dealers, the network may only spread further underground. Locals insist that if the state aims to end this crisis, it must hit the supply chain hard—starting at the roots in these forgotten industrial zones.



## Seethakka Meets Union Minister Annapurna Devi

Minister urges more Centre funds for Anganwadi infrastructure  
Highlights Telangana’s pioneering schemes like Arogya Lakshmi, Poshan 2.0

**TPN Correspondent | Shamshabad**  
In a significant development, Telangana Minister for Women and Child Welfare Seethakka met Union Minister Annapurna Devi at Shamshabad Airport on Monday. The Union Minister was on her way to Delhi from Maharashtra when she made a brief halt at the airport. Minister Seethakka used the opportunity for a special meeting, during which she submitted a detailed memorandum requesting increased allocation of Central funds to Telangana’s Women and Child Welfare Department. Explaining Telangana’s progressive welfare initiatives, Seethakka stated that the state is spending more than any other state on schemes like Arogya Lakshmi, Poshan 2.0, and Sankshema Anganwadi. She elaborated on how these initiatives are directly benefiting women and children across the state. Seethakka also informed the Union Minister that Telangana is the only state offering retirement benefits to Anganwadi workers, setting a benchmark for others. She urged



the Centre to increase its share in the salaries of Anganwadi teachers and helpers, many of whom are on the front lines of early childhood care. Highlighting the infrastructural challenges, the Minister said that over 11,000 Anganwadi centers are still operating from rented premises, and requested funding support from the Union Government to construct permanent buildings. The meeting was described as positive, and Seethakka expressed hope that the Union Government would respond favorably to Telangana’s requests, given its leading efforts in welfare delivery.

## Form Mandal-Level Price Committees, Expand Sand Sale Centers

Price fixation panels to be set up at mandal level

20 sand sale centers established; more on the way

No extra tax burden on public, says Bhatti

**TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad**

Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka has directed officials to form mandal-level price fixation committees to regulate the prices of construction materials essential for Indiramma housing, including cement, steel, bricks, and sand. Chairing a key Revenue Resource Mobilization Sub-Committee meeting at the Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Secretariat on Monday, Bhatti emphasized that these materials must be made available to the public at fair prices without delay. Ministers and sub-committee members Uttam Kumar Reddy and Duddilla Sridhar Babu attended the meeting, which reviewed the implementation status of various departmental decisions taken earlier. One of the significant outcomes was the establishment of 20 sand sale centers across the state. Officials were urged to expedite

the setting up of more such centers, especially in market yards and government lands, to ensure easy access to sand. To further streamline revenue processes, the ministers also examined the status of Layout Regularization Scheme (LRS) applications. Officials proposed that revising basic land values at Sub-Registrar offices might encourage more people to apply for regularization. In another notable development, the sub-committee reviewed initiatives to allow tribals in agency areas to directly manage sand quarries without the involvement of middlemen. The Deputy CM underscored the need to increase revenue through administrative reforms rather than increasing the tax burden on the common man. Bhatti instructed that the Chief Secretary hold daily reviews on the implementation of decisions made by the Revenue Resource Mobilization Sub-Committee.



He stressed the importance of measurable progress and assured officials of full support to fast-track pending file approvals. “Departments should coordinate with me directly if there are any delays,” he said. The meeting also covered industrial pollution management, particularly the relocation of pollution-causing industries outside the Outer Ring Road, categorized zone-wise. Officials discussed the One-Time Settlement (OTS) scheme progress under the Mines and Geology Department. On the performance of the Commercial Taxes Department,

the sub-committee noted that Telangana is performing better than several southern states in terms of revenue collection. Senior officials present at the meeting included Finance Principal Secretary Sandeep Kumar Sultania, Commercial Taxes Principal Secretary Rizvi, Mines and Geology Principal Secretary Sridhar, Special Secretary to the Deputy CM Krishna Bhaskar, and Commissioners Shashank, Haritha, Hari Kiran, Gautham, Surendra Mohan, along with Hyderabad Collector Harichandan and Ranga Reddy Collector Narayanareddy.

## Illegal Boreholes Destroyed After Point News Report

Hydra officials act on Sunnam Lake water contamination issue

Over 70 illegal huts and shops removed from Sunnam Lake

Boreholes drilled for illegal water trade completely destroyed

Officials begin ₹10 crore lake development project

**TPN | V. Krishna Kumar**

**Hyderabad:** Prompted by a report from True Point News, Hydra municipal officer Ranganath and Pollution Control Board officials responded swiftly to the issue of illegal boreholes being drilled in Sunnam Lake, which had led to a rampant trade of contaminated water. The issue came to light following a Point News exposé titled “Are You Drinking This Water...?”, which detailed how unscrupulous traders were exploiting the lake by extracting and selling polluted water. The article also highlighted serious health risks posed to consumers.

Acting on the report, officials moved in and destroyed the illegal borewells that had been sunk into the 32-acre water body. In addition, over 70 unauthorized huts and small business complexes that had cropped up around the lake were completely removed. Hydra officials confirmed that Sunnam Lake is being developed at a cost of ₹10 crore, and the presence of these illegal activities posed both environmental and public health threats. Officer Ranganath, along with the Pollution Control Board, had earlier raised concerns, stating that consuming the water being illegally sold could lead to serious illnesses.

Despite prior warnings, illegal water trading resumed after a brief lull. However, following the Point News report,



High Court officials intervened, leading to strict enforcement action to ensure the lake is protected from further exploitation.

Authorities have now sealed the boreholes permanently, warning that any future violations will be met with legal action. Efforts to restore and beautify Sunnam Lake are currently underway. **MLA Stops Hydra Demolitions...**

Tensions flared at Sunnam Cheruvu on Monday when PAC Chairman and Serilingampally MLA Arekepudi Gandhi intervened to stop demolition activities initiated by the Hydra municipal authorities. The demolitions, part of a crackdown on illegal encroachments



and boreholes reported around Sunnam Lake, were suddenly halted following the MLA's orders. Gandhi, who rushed to the spot after receiving complaints from locals, expressed strong objection to Hydra's demolition drive, particularly targeting structures in a plotted layout near the lake. The MLA questioned the legitimacy of demolishing marked plots, stating that the layout had existed for years and that any action must be based on proper verification. Arekepudi Gandhi reportedly instructed officials to immediately stop the demolition of any plots without due process and promised to take the issue to higher authorities. The MLA accused municipal staff of acting in haste and ignoring the rights of genuine plot owners. This intervention has led to a temporary pause in the demolition drive, raising questions over administrative coordination and the legal status of the layout in question. The situation at Sunnam Cheruvu remains tense, with both sides sticking to their stance. Further clarification from the municipal department is awaited.



## IGP V. Satyanarayana Retires with Honor

DGP Jitender hails him as a “trouble shooter” of Telangana Police

**TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad**

A warm farewell was held on Monday evening at the DGP office to honor Inspector General of Police (Multizone-II), Sri V. Satyanarayana, IPS, as he retired after a distinguished career in the Telangana Police Department. Director General of Police Dr. Jitender, IPS, commended his decades of service, calling him the “trouble shoot-

er” of the department. Sri Satyanarayana's career began as a Sub-Inspector. He later rose through the ranks, eventually retiring as IGP. DGP Jitender praised him for his ability to resolve complex challenges, maintain inter-departmental coordination, and sustain strong public relations. “He was always active in the field—on his first day and even on his last day,” said the DGP,

recalling his exceptional commitment. Sri Satyanarayana played key roles during critical situations involving communal tensions and law and order challenges. His service included tenures as DCP South Zone Hyderabad, Security Officer to the then Chief Minister, and Commissioner of Police for Karimnagar and Ramagundam. Most recently, he served as IGP Multizone-II.

Additional DGP (L&O) Mahesh M. Bhagwat, IPS, highlighted that even on his final day in uniform, Satyanarayana was at a fire accident site in Sangareddy—an act that reflects his relentless commitment to duty. Senior officers including IGPs S. Chandrasekhar Reddy, M. Ramesh, Ramesh Naidu, Srinivas, Hyderabad Commissioner Ranganath, and AIG Ramana



Kumar also spoke, recalling their memorable experiences and praising his leadership and support. In his farewell remarks, IGP Satyanarayana thanked his senior officers, colleagues, and the public. He reflected on his

journey with pride and humility, affirming that he had always strived to serve impartially and with integrity. “Public service was my top priority, and I retire with satisfaction that I upheld it till the end,” he concluded.



# Kharge to Attend Village-Level Presidents’ Meet at LB Stadium on July 4

**AICC President Kharge to address over 25,000 grassroots Congress leaders  
Ministers, MLAs inspect stage, parking, VIP entry**

**TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad**  
Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC) Chief Mahesh Kumar Goud, along with Ministers Ponnampet Prabhakar, Vakati Narender, Chief Minister's Advisor Vem Narender Reddy, Rajya Sabha MP Anil Kumar Yadav, MLA Danam Nageshwar, senior leader V. Hanumanth Rao (VH), Khairatabad DCC President Rohin Reddy, SAT Chairman Shivsen Reddy, and Minority Residential

School Vice Chairman Fahim Qureshi, inspected the LB Stadium in Hyderabad on Monday in preparation for a major Congress meeting scheduled for July 4. The event will mark the first major visit of AICC President Mallikarjuna Kharge to the state after the Congress came to power. He will address a massive gathering of over 25,000 party workers including village-level presidents, mandal and district-level of-

fice bearers, general secretaries, state leaders, and affiliated organization members. The PCC leadership and ministers reviewed key arrangements like stage construction, VIP entry routes, parking facilities, and overall security to ensure smooth conduct of the meeting without any logistical issues for attendees. Speaking to the media, TPCC Chief Mahesh Kumar Goud said, "AICC President Mallikarjuna Kharge garu will come

to Hyderabad on July 4 to lead a massive public gathering against the fascist Modi regime. This is a historic occasion where the voice of grassroots Congress workers will rise." He also took a swipe at Union Home Minister Amit Shah's recent Hyderabad visit and BJP's foreign policy posturing. "You stop midway when Trump says India will wage war on Pakistan. You claim to be tough on Leftist movements, but don't even conduct proper dialogue. What kind of leadership is this?" he asked, criticizing the BJP's double standards.



The July 4 meeting is expected to energize Congress cadres ahead of upcoming local body polls and reinforce the party's campaign against the BJP at the national level.

## Bandi Sanjay’s Big Statement on CM Post

**High command's decision final, BC to be made CM if BJP wins BRS cheated Dalits with false CM promise**



**TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad**  
As the suspense builds around the selection of the next Telangana BJP state president, Union Minister Bandi Sanjay Kumar made significant remarks during a media interaction at the BJP state office in Nampally on Monday. He affirmed that while the BJP is a democratic party where anyone can file nominations, the final decision on the president post rests with the central leadership. "Nobody becomes president in BJP just by someone's wish. The high command will announce the name, and all members will follow that decision," said Bandi Sanjay, making it clear that internal discipline is crucial in the party. He issued a stern warning that strict action would be taken against those who act against the party or speak irresponsibly. Amid speculation and lobbying within the party ranks, his comments sought to reassure the cadre and emphasize unity. Turning to future political plans, Bandi Sanjay expressed full confidence in the BJP forming the government in Telangana in the next assembly elections. He made a clear promise: "If BJP comes to power, a leader from the BC community will be made Chief Minister." Launching a scathing attack on the BRS party, he recalled its past unfulfilled promise to appoint a Dalit as Chief Minister. "BRS betrayed the people. They promised a Dalit CM and never delivered. Now let them show courage and promise CM or state president post to BCs," he challenged. His remarks are being viewed as both a message of internal discipline and a strategic move to consolidate BC support for the party ahead of the elections.

## "Can't You See?": Eatala Slams Revanth Government

***Eatala accuses Congress of shielding encroachments in Banjara Hills***

**TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad**  
A fresh political storm has erupted over the ongoing house demolitions in Hyderabad as Malkajgiri MP and BJP leader Eatala Rajender came down heavily on the Revanth Reddy-led Congress government. After visiting the affected families in Jawaharnagar, Eatala expressed strong disapproval of the demolition drive being carried out under the 'Hydra' initiative, accusing the government of crushing the lives of the poor. Speaking to the media after interacting with victims, Eatala lashed out at the government saying, "Can't you see whether a person living on a 30 to 60-yard plot is poor or rich? You fools... don't



you see with your eyes?" He questioned the government's motive behind targeting the underprivileged while ignoring powerful en-

croachments. Eatala alleged that Congress leaders themselves had occupied lands worth ₹50-100 crore per acre in

prime areas like Banjara Hills, and that G.O. 58 and 59 were brought in to regularize such illegal encroachments. "Why protect the palaces of the rich and demolish the huts of the poor?" he asked. He also raised concern that houses were being razed simply because the poor couldn't afford to bribe officials. "This government is playing with the lives of the poor. If it doesn't mend its ways, we will launch a state-wide agitation," Eatala warned. The issue has sparked widespread public concern, with many questioning the selective enforcement of demolition rules and calling for accountability and transparency from the state government.

## Harish Rao Slams Congress Over Gurukul Neglect

**Former minister warns of collapse in education for weaker sections**



**TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad**  
Senior BRS leader and former minister T. Harish Rao has launched a scathing attack on the Congress-led Telangana government, accusing it of systematically destroying the Gurukul education system that once stood as a model for the nation. In a strongly worded post on Twitter, he said the future of lakhs of children from underprivileged backgrounds is now in jeopardy. Harish Rao alleged that the government has not cleared the dues of contractors supplying food to the Gurukul

institutions since January. As a result, supplies of eggs, meat, and bananas have already stopped. He warned that the contractors have threatened to stop all supplies starting July 1, which could severely impact the health and nutrition of students. He also highlighted that rent payments for Gurukul school buildings have been pending for the past 13 months, amounting to over ₹450 crore. Due to this, several building owners have reportedly locked schools, leaving students in limbo. Rao expressed anguish that even basic facilities such as uniforms, shoes, and school bags have not been provided to students, even though the academic year is well underway. "Scenes of children attending class in torn clothes are heartbreaking," he said. He lamented that the Gurukul system, which flourished during the KCR-led BRS government, has been severely weakened under the Congress regime. "It's a shame that such an excellent educational model is being allowed to crumble," he remarked.

## Raja Singh’s Claims Baseless, Says BJP’s Rani Rudrama



**TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad**  
The Telangana BJP leadership has firmly responded to the sensational resignation and allegations made by Goshama-hal MLA Raja Singh, stating that his claims are baseless and motivated by personal frustration. As the party gears up to officially announce its new state president on Tuesday morning, senior leaders have stepped in to counter the narrative put forth by the firebrand MLA. BJP state spokesperson Rani Rudrama slammed Raja Singh's accusations, saying his indiscipline has reached its peak. "His allegations are completely untrue. BJP stands for discipline and ideology—not for the whims of individuals," she asserted. She further clarified that Raja Singh's resignation from the party has been forwarded to the national leadership and dismissed any suggestion that it would destabilize the party. Rani Rudrama also challenged Raja Singh's statement on quitting his MLA post, stating, "If he is serious, he should submit his resignation to the Speaker, not just to the party leadership." Echoing similar sentiments, BJP MLA Payal Shankar defended the party's internal democratic process. He noted that "every eligible member was given a chance to file nominations, and the process required support from 10 proposers as per party rules." He dismissed the ongoing media buzz as speculation and reaffirmed the legitimacy of the selection process. Meanwhile, party state general secretary Premender Reddy announced that the name of the new Telangana BJP president will be declared at the Veda Convention Centre in Hyderabad on Tuesday. These developments have intensified the political spotlight on the Telangana BJP, as the leadership works to contain the fallout from Raja Singh's dramatic exit while preparing for the formal unveiling of its new state chief.

## Gangula Kamalakar Slams Delay in Development Works

**MLA submits sixth complaint to Municipal Commissioner over stalled projects**

**TPN | Srikanth Gurram**  
**Karimnagar:** Karimnagar MLA and former minister Gangula Kamalakar has expressed serious anger over the continued delay in development works across Karimnagar city. On Monday, he met Karimnagar Municipal Corporation Commissioner Praful Desai and submitted a fresh petition demanding immediate action on pending civic projects, particularly in the Pendarag area. Speaking to the media after the meeting, Kamalakar criticized the Congress government, stating that since it came to power, there have been no signs of development in the city. He said that over 65 civic works in Pendarag have been left incomplete for the past 18 months, de-

spite multiple representations. "This is the sixth time we are submitting a complaint to the government, but there has been no response," he said. The BRS leader added that people across Karimnagar are suffering due to civic neglect. "Lights that used to shine brightly, especially at Teegala Bridge, are no longer seen anywhere. Entire areas are now left in darkness, and there is an acute shortage of drinking water," Kamalakar pointed out. He also slammed the current functioning of the municipality, calling it chaotic and inefficient. He demanded that 24-hour water supply be restored to Karimnagar residents through the municipal pipeline system and reminded the public that it was under KCR's



regime that Karimnagar witnessed all-round development and earned recognition as a model city. "The TRS government turned Karimnagar into a shining example with no dirt roads and full infrastructure. But today, all that progress is being reversed under the Congress rule," he stated. He also criticized the administration under special officers and warned that if the current issues, including the ongoing dumping yard crisis, are not resolved, the BRS will be forced to launch a movement. Former corporators, party leaders, and several BRS supporters participated in the program, supporting Kamalakar's call for immediate intervention and civic redressal.



# Lal Darwaja Bonalu Celebrated at Telangana Bhavan

Governor Jishnu Dev Varma inaugurates photo exhibition  
Spiritual fervour marks Bonalu launch in Delhi  
Cultural showcase reflects Telangana’s vibrant traditions



**TPN Correspondent | New Delhi**  
The Lal Darwaja Bonalu celebrations began with great devotion and grandeur at Telangana Bhavan in New Delhi on Monday. Telangana Governor Shri Jishnu Dev Varma formally inaugurated the festivities by opening a special photo exhibition that captured the spirit of the Bonalu festival celebrated over the years. The exhibition was organised by the Simhavahini Sri Mahankali Temple Committee with support from the Telangana Government. In a traditional gesture of devotion, Governor Jishnu Dev Varma performed pujas and lifted the bonam to Goddess Mahankali. He was warmly received by the temple committee members and devotees, who welcomed him with Poornakumbham, bonalu, and auspicious instruments in line with Telangana customs. Telangana Bhavan Resident Commis-

sioner Dr. Shashank Goyal felicitated the Governor on this occasion. Speaking at the event, the Governor lauded the efforts of the temple committee and said, “The dedication shown by the Simhavahini Sri Mahankali Temple Committee in conducting the Lal Darwaja Bonalu at Telangana Bhavan for the past eleven years is remarkable. Celebrating such festivals in the national capital strengthens our cultural identity and offers a deep spiritual experience not just for Telanganites but also for others.” The photo exhibition showcased rare and powerful moments from past Bonalu events in Delhi, including processions, Pothuraju performances, and images depicting the rich traditions associated with Goddess Mahankali. Upcoming programs include a grand procession of the Mahankali Amma-



vari Gadde from India Gate to Telangana Bhavan on July 1, followed by the installation of the Ghata. On July 2, cultural performances featuring Pothuraju dances, folk arts, and the offering of a gold bonam will be held, reflecting Telangana's cultural richness. The Simhavahini Sri Mahankali Temple Utsava Committee expressed heartfelt thanks to Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, Endowments Min-

ister Konda Surekha, and New Delhi Special Representative A.P. Jitender Reddy for their support. They also acknowledged the contributions of Resident Commissioner Dr. Shashank Goyal and Telangana Bhavan staff in enabling the smooth conduct of the celebrations in the capital. The event saw participation from numerous Telangana Bhavan officials, members of Telugu associations, devotees, and cultural artists.

## SCR Bids Farewell to Longest-Serving GM Arun Kumar Jain

*Commended for modernising RPF, passenger safety and tech upgrades*

**TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad**

The Railway Protection Force (RPF) of South-Central Railway (SCR) gave a grand farewell to Shri Arun Kumar Jain, General Manager of SCR, who retired on June 30, 2025, as the longest-serving GM in the zone's history. Known for his visionary leadership and strategic reforms, Shri Jain leaves behind a legacy of strengthening passenger safety, infrastructure, and modern policing methods across the railway network. During his tenure, South Central Railway saw remarkable progress in passenger security and operational modernization. His leadership helped the RPF upgrade its infrastructure, including staff barracks, posts, and training centres. He allocated substantial funds for technological enhancements like CCTV surveillance, drones, and body-worn cameras, significantly boosting surveillance and emergency responsiveness. One of his key contributions was the strengthening of station security under the Amrit Bharat Station Redevelopment Scheme, which included the creation of high-tech command centres and monitoring systems. Shri Jain's initiatives promoted a combined system of trained manpower and smart policing, creating a secure environment for both passengers and railway property. Special emphasis was laid on women and child safety. RPF



Shakti Teams were reinforced with more staff and better coordination, actively patrolling stations and trains. Child rescue operations were also intensified, working with welfare organisations to save vulnerable children. These initiatives were widely praised for their humane and sensitive approach. To honour his contributions, a ceremonial send-off parade was held at the RPF Training Centre in Moula Ali. In his farewell speech, Shri Jain expressed gratitude to the RPF for their professionalism and highlighted achievements under his leadership. These include CCTV installations at 72 stations under the Nirbhaya Fund, cyber cell operations that rescued 81 trafficked children, and recovery of lost mobile phones. He praised key operations such as Yatri Suraksha (₹8.02 crore property recovered), Nanhe Farishte (3,435 children rescued), AAHT (1,161 victims from 552 traffickers), and NARCOS (6,778

kg ganja seized). He also applauded women-led units like “Rudramma” and “Nagamma” and commended the recognition of Moula Ali RPF Training Centre as a cybercrime Centre of Excellence. RPF IG-cum-PCSC Ms. Aroma Singh Thakur paid tribute to Shri Jain's guidance, lauding his role in securing ₹100 crore for RPF infrastructure over three years and promoting passenger security. She credited him for landmark events like the RPF Raising Day Parade 2023 and several welfare measures. The event concluded with a vote of thanks from DIG/CSC Shri Md. Shadan Zeb Khan. All Principal Heads of Railway Departments, DRMs of Hyderabad and Secunderabad, and RPF personnel attended the emotional farewell. The parade included displays of commando skills, with a special performance by female commandos and patriotic dance dramas, celebrating Shri Jain's impactful legacy.

## Hyderabad CP C.V. Anand Bids Farewell to 73 Retiring Officers

**TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad**

Hyderabad City Police Commissioner C.V. Anand, IPS, honorably felicitated 73 police officers retiring from the Hyderabad City Police Commissionerate at a heartfelt farewell event held today. The list of retirees includes 1 Assistant Commissioner of Police (ACP), 31 Sub-Inspectors (SIs), 30 Assistant Sub-Inspectors (ASIs), 8 Head Constables (HCs), 2 Police Constables (PCs), and 1 Lower Grade Employee (LGE). Speaking on the occasion, Commissioner C.V. Anand extended his warm wishes and gratitude to the outgoing officers. “It's my duty as Commissioner to personally thank you for your long and dedicated service. I try to attend every



retirement function for this reason,” he said. He highlighted the department's efforts to ensure all retirement benefits are provided without delay, preferably on the very same day of retirement. He advised the officers not to sink into idleness post-retirement. “Don't just sit at home. Do something productive every day—your health and family will thank you for it,” he encouraged. Commissioner

Anand praised the officers for their commendable service and wished them a peaceful and fulfilling life ahead. The farewell event was also attended by Smt. Parimala Hana Nutan, IPS (Joint Commissioner, Admin), Sri K. Apoorva Rao, IPS (DCP, Special Branch), Sri Mohd. Ismail (Junior Administrative Officer), Sri Shankar Reddy (President, Police Officers Association), and several association members.

## Mayor Vijayalakshmi Tours Rahamat Nagar

*Vows to speed up pending development works*

**TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad**

Hyderabad City Mayor Gadwala Vijayalakshmi conducted a tour of the Rahamat Nagar division in Jubilee Hills constituency, accompanied by local Corporator CN Reddy. The visit covered key areas including the Rahamat Nagar inter-section road widening project, Karmika Nagar, Brahma Shankar Nagar Community Hall, SPR Hills ground, and T Anjaiah Nagar Basti. During her interactions with local residents, especially women, Mayor Vijayalakshmi



highlighted that considerable development has already taken place in the division. She assured that all pending works will be reviewed with concerned officials to ensure their early completion. Corporator CN Reddy reiterated the commitment to develop Rahamat Nagar into a prob-

lem-free division. “We will secure necessary funds with the support of the government and move forward with comprehensive development,” he stated. The inspection also saw the participation of key GHMC and zonal officials including Serilingampalli Zonal Commissioner Hemant Sahadev, GHMC Circle-19 Deputy Commissioner Zakiya Sultana, Town Planning ACP, CE Ratnakar, SE Shankar Nayak, and EE Indrabai. Congress leaders and other local officials from the division were also present.

## BJP Demands Immediate Reopening of Closed Road

*BJP Leader Ravi Kumar Yadav confronts landowner over public inconvenience*

**TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad**

The sudden closure of a key road connecting Navbharatnagar to Kakatiya Hills in the Madapur division has led to major inconvenience for local residents. On Monday, BJP Serilingampally constituency in-charge Ravi Kumar Yadav visited the affected area near Guttala Begumpet after receiving complaints from residents. The disputed road, located in Survey No. 17/2, has reportedly been in public use for over 30 years. With its closure, locals are now forced to take



long detours for their daily commute. Ravi Kumar Yadav demanded that the property owner immediately remove

the fencing and restore access to the road. However, during the inspection, bouncers deployed at

the site attempted to stop Ravi Kumar Yadav and his team, leading to a tense situation. The matter was later defused after a phone conversation with the property owner, Bhanothu Laxman, who assured the BJP leader that there would be no hindrance to public movement and the road would be reconstructed. BJP leaders G. Radhakrishna, Burra Mahender Yadav, division president Venugopal Reddy, and other local leaders including Vinod, Vijay Reddy, Suman Nayak, and Guru Yadav accompanied Ravi Kumar during the inspection.

## ₹6.5 Lakh Stolen From Bike Trunk in Malakpet Ganj

**TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad**

A theft case involving ₹6.5 lakh in cash was reported from the Malakpet Ganj area under Chaderghat police station limits on Monday morning. The incident came to light when Sheikh Quddus, a local businessman, approached the police claiming that a bag containing ₹6.5 lakh was stolen from the trunk of his two-wheeler. According to the complaint, Quddus had kept the cash-filled bag in the trunk of his vehicle parked at his residence around 8:30 am before heading to his shop. On returning to the vehicle, he discov-

ered that the bag was missing. He expressed suspicion that a woman wearing a burqa may have committed the theft, although no concrete evidence has yet been presented to support this claim. The Chaderghat police have registered a case and started the investigation. As part of their efforts, police teams are collecting CCTV footage from the area and recording statements from potential witnesses to trace the accused. The investigation is ongoing, and further updates are expected once leads emerge.



# Indiramma Rajyam Becoming a Reality: Ponguleti

20,000 MT godown inaugurated in Warangal district  
Government fulfilling Indiramma’s vision, says Minister

**TPN Correspondent | Warangal**  
A 20,000 metric ton capacity godown constructed at a cost of ₹14.17 crore in Rayaparathi mandal of Warangal district was inaugurated on Monday by Revenue, Housing and Information & Public Relations Minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy. Warangal MP Dr. Kadiyam Kavya, Palakurthi MLAs Mamidala Yashaswini Reddy and KR Nagaraju, District Collector Dr. Satya Sarada, and Adanav Collector Sandhya Rani were also present at the event. Speaking at the inauguration, Minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy hailed the Congress government under Chief Minister Revanth Reddy for fulfilling the promises made during the election campaign within just 18 months of taking charge. “We are not just announcing welfare schemes; we are delivering on them despite the burden of ₹8 lakh crore loans left by the previous regime,” he asserted. The minister highlighted several key

initiatives of the Congress government during his address. He stated that interest-free loans amounting to ₹21,000 crore have been provided to women’s self-help groups, empowering them economically. The government has also launched welfare measures like free bus travel for women and 200 units of free electricity to households, significantly reducing the burden on poor and middle-class families. He noted that under the Rajiv Aarogyasri scheme, health insurance coverage up to ₹10 lakh is being offered, ensuring better medical access for the underprivileged. In support of the agricultural sector, the minister mentioned that the government is providing a ₹500 bonus in addition to the Minimum Support Price (MSP) for crops, alongside active efforts to waive farm loans and implement farmer assurance programs. He also informed that ration cards are being distributed to all deserving fam-

ilies without discrimination. Further, he pointed out that ₹200 crore has been sanctioned for the construction of integrated schools in each constituency, and 3,500 Indiramma houses are being rolled out per constituency to address the housing needs of the poor. All these measures, he said, reflect the Congress government’s commitment to building a welfare-oriented, inclusive, and development-driven Telangana. Ponguleti added that the government is committed to “making farmers kings” and tackling all land-related issues through the Bhu Bharati Act, discarding the controversial Dharani portal into the “Bay of Bengal.” Referring to political accountability, he said the Congress will not spare those who misused power. “The previous leaders who claimed to set up schools left them in rice mills. The people have now awakened and have already shown their rejection of such



leaders,” he said, hinting at the defeat of former minister Dayakar Rao in Palakurthi. He called upon Congress workers to gear up for the upcoming local body elections and promised that the Congress flag will fly in every village. “Indiramma’s Rajyam is here not to

flip boards or names but to fulfill the dreams of the poor,” he declared. The minister also remarked emotionally, “God knows our commitment — that’s why the rain has stopped for this inauguration. This is just the beginning of many dreams being realized.”

## Govt Targeting Opposition Constituencies: Sabita

Maheswaram MLA slams Congress over biased Indiramma house allotment

**TPN Correspondent | Maheswaram**  
Maheswaram MLA and former minister Sabita Indra Reddy has launched a sharp attack on the Revanth Reddy-led Congress government, accusing it of running the state in an unplanned and biased manner. During a visit to Greenrich Colony in Nadargul 31st Division under Badangpet Corporation, she alleged that Indiramma housing benefits were being selectively granted only to Congress party workers. Speaking at a meeting organized by local residents after inspecting development works, Sabita expressed serious concern over the lack of equitable governance in Telangana. “There is no direction in this government’s administration. Opposition constituencies are being deliberately neglected, and officials are being terrorized to stop development works,” she charged. She accused the Chief Minister of prioritizing political gains over pub-



lic welfare and warned that harassing officials to block development in opposition areas is undemocratic. “If the government continues this vindictive behavior, we will not hesitate to fight back,” she said. Sabita assured residents that she would ensure necessary funds are brought in for the constituency, even if it means taking on the state

government. She urged the public to report any problems directly to her for prompt resolution. The event was attended by former BRS floor leader Surnaganti Arjun, ex-corporators Peddabavi Shobha Anand Reddy, Srinivas Reddy, Likki Mamata Krishna Reddy, Boyapalli Deepika Sekhar Reddy, and other local leaders.

## Jupally Inaugurates New KGBV Building in Pangal

**TPN | N Naveen**  
**Nagarkurnool:** Tourism, Culture and Excise Minister Jupally Krishna Rao on Monday reiterated the Congress government’s commitment to educational development in Telangana. He was speaking after inaugurating the new building of Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya (KGBV) constructed at a cost of ₹85 lakh in Pangal mandal center, Nagarkurnool district.

Addressing the gathering, Jupally said the Congress people’s government is giving top priority to strengthening the education and medical sectors. “It is the responsibility of the teachers to shape students not only academically but also as responsible citizens,” he said. He also urged the youth, farmers, and voluntary organizations to join hands in guiding the younger generation in the right direction. The Minister emphasized that the government is spending lakhs of rupees on providing quality education and healthcare and appealed to parents to admit their children in government institutions instead of corporate schools. He stressed the need for children to be en-



couraged in activities like physical exercise, yoga, and meditation for their holistic well-being. Earlier in the day, Minister Jupally also inaugurated renovation works of a government school in Mallaipalli village under Pangal mandal, taken up with ₹10 lakh funding from the Rotary Club. The minister lauded such collaborations and encouraged more community-driven support for government schools. Local public representatives, education department officials, teachers, and residents participated in the events.

## Govt Schools Must Compete with Private Institutions



**TPN | Srikanth Gurram**  
**Manakondur:** MLA Dr. Kavampalli Satyanarayana emphasized that government schools should match the standards of private institutions in all respects. On Monday, the MLA laid the foundation stone for the construction of a perimeter wall at the Government High School in Annaram village, Manakondur mandal, with an estimated cost of ₹20 lakh. Speaking on the occasion, MLA Kavampalli said that the government is actively upgrading the infrastructure of government schools and colleges across the state to provide students with a comfortable and conducive learning environment. However, he pointed out that infrastructure alone is not enough. For government schools to truly compete with private institutions, academic quality and teaching standards must rise significantly, he said. The MLA stressed the crucial role of teachers in shaping not just the academic but also the

moral and civic foundation of students. He stated that teachers have the unique power to transform a student’s life and mindset. Urging educators to upgrade their skills, he called for serious introspection within the teaching community. He asked how many teachers come to class after preparing proper notes, how many read newspapers to stay updated, and whether teachers in Telugu and English mediums are actively refining their language proficiency. Similarly, he questioned if math teachers are focusing on topics like abacus, aptitude, and logical reasoning, and encouraged them to take up that responsibility. Kavampalli added that students naturally gravitate towards teachers who explain lessons clearly and effectively, noting that the student-teacher bond is the real proof of a teacher’s success. To inspire students, he also spoke on various historical leaders like Napoleon Bonaparte, Benito Mussolini, Adolf Hitler, Ilevich Ulvanov, and Vladimir Lenin, offering insights into the world wars and leadership traits. The program was attended by Agricultural Market Committee Chairman Marri Odela Yadav, Vice Chairman Remidi Tirumal Reddy, District Kisan Congress Vice President Dyava Srinivas Reddy, party leaders Remidi Srinivas Reddy, B. Mahender, Burra Sridhar, Madupu Prem Kumar, Venkatesh, Meesa Satyanarayana, Mada Tirupati Reddy, Matangi Sahadev, Sunil, Vangala Malleshham, along with the school principal Sudarshana, teachers, students, and staff.

## Flood of Complaints at Prajavani in Quthbullapur and Gajularamaram

**TPN Correspondent | Medchal**  
A large number of complaints poured in during the Prajavani program held on Monday in the Quthbullapur and Gajularamaram twin circles of Medchal district. The program, conducted from 10.30 am to 1 pm, served as a public platform for citizens to air their grievances and seek immediate redressal from government departments. According to officials, 10 complaints were registered from residents of the Quthbullapur circle, while 13 were received from the Gajularamaram circle — totaling 23 issues brought to light. The range of complaints included civic infrastructure, sanitation, water supply, and housing-related problems. Deputy Commissioners of the respective circles, Narasimha and Mallareddy, personally received the complaints and assured the complainants that every issue would be taken seriously. They held discussions with officials from the concerned departments on the spot, directing them to address the problems



raised during the session in a time-bound manner. Officials from multiple government wings participated in the program, listening to citizens and noting down action points. The Prajavani platform continues to act as a bridge between the administration and the people, aiming for better transparency and quicker problem-solving at the local level.

## CI Conducts Vehicle Checks at Ameerpet Junction

**TPN Correspondent | Maheshwaram**  
As part of routine enforcement, CI Venkateswarlu and SI Prasad conducted a vehicle inspection drive at the Ambedkar intersection in Ameerpet, Maheshwaram mandal on Monday. The checking focused on ensuring compliance with road safety rules and vehicle documentation. Speaking on the occasion, CI Venkateswarlu emphasized that motorists must carry proper certificates and documents. He warned



that vehicles found on the road without valid documents or number plates would be seized immediately. He also issued a strict warning to

parents not to permit minors to drive vehicles, highlighting the legal consequences and potential dangers. The CI further added that two-wheeler riders must wear helmets at all times, and those with pending challans should clear them promptly to avoid action. SI Prasad along with other police staff participated in the vehicle checks. The police urged citizens to follow traffic rules strictly to avoid penalties and ensure road safety.



# India's Growing Cancer Burden: Why Awareness, Early Detection and Prevention Are Vital

Cancer is emerging as one of the most pressing public health challenges in India. According to the Global Cancer Observatory (GLOBOCAN) projections, India is expected to record an estimated 1.57 million new cancer cases in 2025, a significant rise from 1.39 million in 2020. If current trends continue, this number could climb to over 2 million by 2040. Notably, cancer deaths among women are rising at a faster pace than men, underscoring the urgency for gender-sensitive prevention and care strategies.

## Most Common Cancers in India

Among women, breast and cervical cancers top the list. Breast cancer has an age-standardized incidence rate of 26.6 per 100,000, making it the most common. Risk factors include increasing age, obesity, late childbirth, family history, and genetic mutations like BRCA1/2. Early detection through breast self-examinations (BSE) and clinical breast exams can be life-saving. Women over 40 are encouraged to undergo annual mammograms.

Cervical cancer, caused largely by persistent infection with high-risk HPV strains, is preventable with regular Pap smears or HPV testing. Warning signs such as abnormal bleeding, pelvic pain, or unusual discharge should never be ignored. The HPV vaccine, if administered between ages 9–14, can prevent nearly 90% of cervical cancers — yet awareness and uptake remain low.



## Cancers Among Men

Among Indian men, lung cancer continues to be a leading cause of death. Strongly linked to tobacco use, it is also fueled by air pollution, occupational exposure to carcinogens, and family history. Symptoms such as

persistent cough, chest pain, and unexplained weight loss warrant immediate medical attention.

Another growing concern is prostate cancer, especially with increasing life expectancy. Often silent in the ear-



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ly stages, it may later present with urinary symptoms or bone pain. PSA blood tests and digital rectal exams (DRE) are useful screening tools for men over 50 or younger if at high risk.

## Major Risk Factors

Nearly 40% of all cancer cases in India are linked to modifiable risk fac-

tors, including tobacco, infections (like HPV and HBV), obesity, poor diet, and sedentary lifestyles. Tobacco use alone accounts for a major share of oral and lung cancers, particularly among men.

Environmental exposures such as air pollution and chemical carcinogens are also contributing to the rise in cases. Infections like HPV (for cervical cancer) and Hepatitis B (for liver cancer) are preventable through vaccination, yet coverage remains inadequate.

## The Way Forward

While treatment facilities are expanding, prevention and early detection remain the most cost-effective tools. India needs to boost public awareness, improve vaccination coverage, and scale up screening programs, especially in rural and underserved areas.

The government's inclusion of cancer screenings in public health missions, visual oral checks for tobacco users, and routine breast and cervical cancer screenings are positive steps. But more needs to be done to promote regular health checkups, dismantle stigma, and invest in trained health workers for early detection.

A healthier India will be built not just in hospitals, but in homes, schools, and community centers—where awareness can lead to early action, and early action can save lives.

## China's Sabotage Game and India's Steadfast Shift Away from Old Equations

China's ongoing attempts to undermine India's rise as a global power reveal its deep insecurity about India's growing influence and self-reliance. From diplomatic maneuvering at multilateral forums to economic sabotage and military backing of Pakistan, Beijing is deploying every tool in its arsenal to contain India's ambitions. But New Delhi is no longer willing to play by the old rules; instead, it is charting a new course that prioritizes strategic autonomy and resilience.

A stark example of China's diplomatic gamesmanship unfolded at the recent Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) meeting. India refused to endorse the joint statement after China and its ally Pakistan pushed a narrative that selectively condemned terrorism in Balochistan while ignoring terror attacks in Jammu and Kashmir, such as the one near Pahalgam. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh's decision to withhold his signature exposed China's attempt to shield Pakistan's terror proxies under the SCO's anti-terror mandate, undermining the very purpose of the organisation.

Founded by China, Russia, and Central Asian states, the SCO was meant to tackle terrorism, extremism, and regional security. However, China has transformed it into a platform for advancing its geopolitical agenda—supporting Pakistan, suppressing inconvenient truths, and challenging Western influence. India's dissent reveals the limitations of China's leadership and the contradictions within the SCO framework, preventing China from fully dominating the bloc.

On the global stage, Beijing's unease with India is also evident in the upcoming BRICS Summit in Brazil. For the first time in 12 years, President Xi Jinping is expected to skip the summit, reportedly due to Modi's invitation to a state dinner—a subtle diplomatic snub. Officially, China cites scheduling conflicts, but the underlying tension is clear: Beijing fears being



overshadowed by India's rising stature. Behind the scenes, the India-China relationship remains tense post-Galwan clashes. While there has been a mild thaw with ongoing border disengagement talks and economic normalization efforts, negotiations remain exhaustive. China is aggressively using its economic leverage to stall India's progress, particularly through control of strategic supplies like rare earth magnets crucial for defence, electric vehicles, and electronics manufacturing. China's export restrictions on key materials such as samarium and neodymium have disrupted supply chains globally. In response, India is ramping up efforts to mine and produce rare earth elements domestically, offering production-linked incentives and forging partnerships with Australia and Quad countries to diversify sources. India's assertiveness at the recent G7 summit—calling out China's unreliable supply practices—has rattled Beijing, which fears a coordinated effort to curb its rare earth dominance. Chinese tactics extend beyond trade. Reports of delayed shipments of specialty fertilisers and tunnel boring machines, despite contracts being settled, highlight China's use of non-tariff barriers

as economic coercion. Such moves aim to pressure India into reopening its markets to Chinese investment and resuming direct flights, but New Delhi remains cautious, unwilling to compromise its strategic goals.

Meanwhile, Beijing's people-to-people gestures like resuming the Kailash Mansarovar pilgrimage mask its continued military support to Pakistan. Chinese missiles, drones, and fighter jets have been used in recent Indian operations against Pakistan, and intelligence sharing between China and Islamabad further complicates the security landscape. Despite these multifaceted challenges, India is steadfast. Rejecting any return to outdated equations, New Delhi is focused on building a future where Chinese attempts to undermine Indian interests will be ineffective. The push for self-reliance, military preparedness, and diversified partnerships signals a strategic shift that China cannot easily counter.

India's approach balances firm diplomacy with clear military and economic priorities, reflecting a mature, calculated response to Beijing's provocations. While challenges remain, India's unrelenting resolve positions it well to emerge stronger in a rapidly changing geopolitical environment.

## The Complex Reality of Language in India

### How Trains, Venn Diagrams, K.L. Rahul and Kneecap Can Help Us Understand Shah's Anti-English Remark

Indian languages are vibrant, thriving, and deeply woven into the fabric of everyday life. Contrary to claims that English threatens India's cultural identity, the multilingual reality of the country reveals a far more nuanced picture—one where languages coexist, overlap, and evolve naturally.

At a book launch in New Delhi, Home Minister Amit Shah declared that in the near future, English speakers would feel ashamed of their language. He praised India's native tongues as ornaments of its culture, essential to understanding the country's history, dharma, and identity. But this perspective, rooted in a rigid, exclusionary mindset, overlooks the reality of India's linguistic diversity and the organic multilingualism practiced by millions.

Instead of viewing languages as separate, isolated circles, a more accurate metaphor is the Venn diagram, where languages overlap and interact. Take my own experience: I scored highly in both English and Hindi in school, was a Sanskrit topper for years, and grew up in a household where Hindi, Marathi, Gujarati, Vaghri, and English were spoken interchangeably. My linguistic environment was a complex weave, not isolated strands. Similarly, Indian cricketer K.L. Rahul's multilingual communication with teammates—switching seamlessly between Hindi, Kannada, Tamil, and English—illustrates this natural linguistic overlap. These are not acts of forced assimilation but spontaneous responses to social realities, reflecting India's linguistic pluralism.

Shah's anti-English rhetoric also ignores a critical paradox within his own ideological circle. Hindu right-wing intellectuals, many writing revisionist histories and biographies in English, have cultivated a vibrant English-language publishing ecosystem. If English truly undermines "Bhartiyata," why do these ideologues embrace and propagate their views through



it? The contradiction is glaring and exposes the limits of Shah's vision.

To offer another metaphor, languages in India resemble railway tracks: sometimes diverging, sometimes converging, but always supporting the journey forward. The train of Indian culture moves steadily along this vast network, adapting to changing routes but never derailed. English is not a foreign intruder but an established track on which the train runs. The comparison with Northern Ireland's Irish language revival, championed by the rap group Kneecap, highlights a key difference. Irish is spoken daily by a tiny minority and is at risk of extinction, necessitating strong preservation efforts. In contrast, Indian languages thrive across millions, embedded in cinema, literature, music, and daily conversation—no official legitimisation required.

Moreover, Kneecap's use of English alongside Irish emphasizes that bilingual or multilingual identities are not contradictory but complementary. Similarly, Indian speakers fluidly navigate multiple languages depending on context, not ideology.

Finally, the idea that English speakers should feel ashamed ignores a broader linguistic reality: Indian English is its own distinct variant, rich but imperfect, reflecting the country's diverse influences. Many English speakers in India struggle with the language, and this is evident in media and literature alike. The shame is not about English itself but often about linguistic insecurity, something universal across languages and cultures.



# India and Brazil Explore Joint Defence Production, Eye Strategic Collaboration

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

India and Brazil are deepening defence ties, with both nations exploring opportunities for joint production, mutual procurement, and co-development of military systems. The two countries are increasingly recognizing the strategic potential in leveraging each other's defence manufacturing strengths to build a more self-reliant and cooperative security framework. Brazil has expressed strong interest in acquiring Indian-made Akash surface-to-air missiles, artillery guns, coastal radar systems, and secure communication technologies for battlefield use. The Akash missile system notably demonstrated its operational capability during a brief but intense skirmish with Pakistan from May 7-10, 2025. India, on the other hand, is looking to collaborate with Brazil on the development of an Airborne Warning and Control System (AWACS) based on Brazil's Embraer aircraft platform. AWACS is a critical capability for airborne surveillance and command operations. In a significant move, Embraer and Indian company Mahindra have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to collaborate on manufacturing the



C-390 Millennium multi-mission transport aircraft. India is actively evaluating this platform as a potential replacement for its aging fleet of Soviet-origin AN-32 transport planes. The upcoming BRICS Summit, scheduled for July 5-8 in Brazil, will serve as a platform for further discussions when Prime Minister Narendra Modi meets

Brazilian President Lula da Silva. Modi's visit will include bilateral talks in addition to his participation in the 17th BRICS summit. India's Ministry of External Affairs highlighted the momentum behind these efforts. Secretary (East) P. Kumaran noted that the two nations are actively considering joint ventures, joint research, and co-development projects, particularly involving Embraer platforms for reconnaissance and surveillance missions. Brazil's interest extends to joint maintenance of the French-origin Scorpene-class submarines, used by both navies, and potential collaboration in offshore patrol vessel production. The Joint Defence Committee (JDC), established in 2003, has facilitated 14 high-level exchanges between military leadership. Since 2007, 134 defence officers (70 Indian, 64 Brazilian) have trained in each other's institutions. In 2024, India and Brazil launched a 2+2 Political-Military Dialogue, further cementing defence cooperation. Both countries are strategic partners across global forums including BRICS, the G20, and the India-Brazil-South Africa (IBSA) Dialogue Forum, signaling a growing convergence in global security and development agendas.



## Kolkata Gangrape Case: SIT Reveals Assault Was Pre-Planned, Over 25 Eyewitnesses Identified

TPN Correspondent | Kolkata

In a disturbing development in the Kolkata law college gangrape case, police revealed on Monday that the assault on a female student was premeditated by three of the four accused. The Special Investigation Team (SIT) investigating the case has uncovered evidence suggesting that the trio had a history of sexually harassing fellow students and had plotted the crime days in advance. The accused — Monojit Mishra, Pratim Mukherjee, and Zaid Ahmed — allegedly targeted the victim from her first day at South Calcutta Law College. The fourth arrested individual is a security guard at the institution. According to a senior officer, the three main accused often recorded their acts of harassment on their mobile phones and used the footage to blackmail victims. "This was not a spontaneous act. The trio had planned the assault well in advance. The victim was be-

ing closely watched by them from the day she joined," the officer said. The SIT is currently searching for mobile phone videos that may have been recorded during the incident. Police conducted raids at the homes of Mukherjee and Ahmed on Sunday and are examining devices for incriminating footage. Investigators suspect a video clip of the June 25 gangrape may have been shared with others. "We're working to determine if the footage was forwarded to other individuals or groups. If so, we will identify and question all those who received it," the officer added. The SIT has compiled a list of more than 25 people, mostly students, who were present on the college campus the evening of the incident. Each will be questioned to piece together the sequence of events and identify any additional witnesses or accomplices. The case has triggered widespread outrage, with student protests erupting across the city demanding swift justice.

# India "Would Love A Big, Good, Beautiful" Trade Pact With US: Nirmala Sitharaman



With a crucial July 9 deadline approaching to avoid US retaliatory tariffs, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has expressed India's strong interest in finalizing a comprehensive trade pact with the United States. In an interview with Financial Express, she stated, "Yes, we would love to have an agreement, a big, good, beautiful one; why not?" — echoing former US President Donald Trump's own phrasing. Sitharaman emphasized that India is eager for a mutually beneficial trade deal but will remain firm on key domestic interests, especially in sensitive sectors like agriculture and dairy. "Agriculture and dairy have been among the very big red lines,"

she said, highlighting that negotiators have carefully safeguarded the concerns of Indian farmers and livestock breeders during discussions. Her comments come in response to Trump's recent claims that a bilateral trade agreement would "open up" India's markets for US goods. While India is open to deeper trade relations, Sitharaman clarified that full market access, particularly in agriculture and retail, is not negotiable due to India's regulatory protections. India is currently negotiating for relief from US tariffs on steel, aluminium, and certain agricultural exports. Additionally, it is pushing for visa liberalisa-

tion and greater access for its services sector. In contrast, the US seeks expanded access to India's agricultural and technology markets, stricter enforcement of intellectual property rights, and greater data flow commitments. Sitharaman also dismissed Trump's earlier label of India as a "tariff king," calling it unjustified. She noted that India's effective tariff rates are significantly below WTO thresholds, with only eight applicable duties including zero tariffs. Customs duties, she added, account for just around 4% of the value of imported goods — lower than global averages. India remains hopeful of concluding a balanced deal before the looming tariff deadline.



## Sri Lankan Navy Arrests 8 Indian Fishermen for Alleged Illegal Fishing in Mannar Waters

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

The Sri Lankan Navy on Sunday arrested eight Indian fishermen and seized their trawler for allegedly engaging in illegal fishing within Sri Lankan territorial waters near the northern region of Mannar. The arrests were made during a maritime search operation carried out by naval personnel, according to an official statement released by the Sri Lankan Navy. The fishermen were apprehended for allegedly poaching in Sri Lankan waters — a recurring issue that has long been a source of diplomatic tension between India and Sri Lanka. The arrested individuals, along with their trawler, are set to be handed over to the Fisheries Inspectorate in Mannar for further legal proceedings.

Incidents involving the arrest of Indian and Sri Lankan fishermen have become common, as both sides often inadvertently cross the International Maritime Boundary Line (IMBL) due to the proximity of fishing zones in the

Palk Strait and the Gulf of Mannar. The narrow stretch of water between Tamil Nadu and northern Sri Lanka is rich in marine resources, making it a frequent site of contention.

Authorities in Sri Lanka have repeatedly emphasized their commitment to protecting the country's marine resources from illegal fishing practices, particularly bottom trawling, which is banned under Sri Lankan law but often used by some Indian fishermen. India has called for the humane treatment of its fishermen and has also sought mechanisms for the early release of detained nationals. Diplomatic channels between the two countries remain active, with discussions aimed at finding long-term solutions to the recurring maritime disputes.

The latest arrest is expected to reignite calls for bilateral talks to strengthen cooperation in fisheries management and to prevent such incidents through clearly defined and jointly monitored maritime boundaries.

# Char Dham Yatra Resumes After 24-Hour Ban Amid Cloudburst Tragedy

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

The 24-hour suspension of the Char Dham Yatra was lifted on Monday, following a temporary halt prompted by severe weather conditions, officials confirmed. Garhwal Divisional Commissioner Vinay Shankar Pandey stated that the ban had been revoked, though District Magistrates along the route

have been instructed to regulate vehicular movement based on local weather assessments. The Yatra was suspended on Sunday after a heavy rain alert was issued. Soon after, a devastating cloudburst triggered a massive landslide near Barkot on the Yamunotri route in Uttarakashi district, resulting in the deaths of two workers and leaving seven others missing.

According to Uttarkashi District Magistrate Prashant Arya, the Barkot-Yamunotri road — which suffered a major washout before Silai Band — has been repaired and made passable. Restoration work on other damaged segments continues. Additionally, the 33 KV power supply line in the affected region has been restored, with ongoing efforts to repair the 11 KV line.

The search operation for the seven missing workers is being conducted by the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), State Disaster Response Force (SDRF), police, and revenue teams. The landslide occurred approximately four kilometers ahead of Paligad on the Yamunotri National Highway near Silai Band. The two deceased have been identified as Kewal Bisht (43) from Kar-

mamohani in Nepal's Rajapur District and Dujee Lal (55) from Pilibhit, Uttar Pradesh. Meanwhile, Chamba town and nearby regions continue to experience heavy rainfall. Authorities are urging pilgrims to remain cautious and cooperate with local administration during the ongoing Yatra, especially in areas prone to landslides and flash floods.



# 'God Bless America': Trump's 'One Big Beautiful Bill' Clears First Senate Hurdle Amid Uproar

TPN Correspondent | Washington

In a tense late-night vote, the U.S. Senate took a critical step toward advancing former President Donald Trump's flagship legislative effort—the expansive 940-page “One Big Beautiful Bill Act.” The Republican-controlled Senate narrowly approved a key procedural motion Saturday by a slim 51-49 margin, setting the stage for further debate in the coming days.

The bill, which Trump is pushing to pass before the July 4 deadline, seeks a massive \$150 billion increase in military spending, alongside billions for border wall construction and intensified deportations—core elements of Trump's political agenda. However, to fund these initiatives, the bill proposes steep cuts to domestic programs, including significant Medicaid reductions and the elimination of clean energy incentives, sparking sharp criticism across party lines. Behind the scenes, Republican leaders worked intensely to secure support. Vice President JD Vance's pressure reportedly convinced Senator Ron Johnson of Wisconsin to switch his vote, giving Republicans the necessary edge. Yet dissent remained, with Senators Rand Paul and Thom Tillis joining all



47 Democrats in opposition. Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer condemned the GOP's late-night maneuvering, demanding a full, word-by-word reading of the bill—a marathon session expected to last 15 hours. Key provisions have drawn widespread backlash. Critics warn Medicaid cuts could jeopardize rural hospitals and leave millions uninsured. The bill also rescinds electric vehicle tax credits and climate incentives, drawing ire from

environmental advocates. Independent analysts warn it could add trillions to the national debt, exacerbating economic inequality. Even billionaire Elon Musk publicly denounced the bill as “utterly insane,” warning it would inflict “immense strategic harm” and be “political suicide” for Republicans. Now headed back to the House, the bill faces an uncertain future amid Republican divisions and fierce opposition, with its fate hanging in the balance.

## Tibetan Americans, U.S. Congress Mark Tibet Lobby Day and Dalai Lama's 90th Birthday with Unity and Advocac



TPN Correspondent | Washington

Washington D.C. witnessed a powerful show of solidarity this week as over 200 Tibetan Americans and supporters from 25 U.S. states and the District of Columbia gathered at the Capitol for Tibet Lobby Day. The event, held in the lead-up to His Holiness the Dalai Lama's 90th birthday on July 6, 2025, aimed to bring attention to Tibet's struggle for freedom and advocate for stronger U.S. support.

Organized by the International Campaign for Tibet (ICT), the Office of Tibet, and the Capitol Area Tibetan Association, the two-day initiative saw participants visiting more than 100 Congressional offices. It concluded with a celebratory

event hosted by Congressmen Michael McCaul and Jim McGovern, and attended by key leaders including Speaker Emerita Nancy Pelosi, Congresswoman Nicole Malliotakis, and Congressman Michael Baumgartner. Actor and activist Richard Gere, Chairman of ICT, participated virtually. Congressman McCaul recounted a touching conversation with the Dalai Lama: “I asked him if he held resentment toward the Chinese. He said, ‘I cannot let negative emotions overwhelm my spirit.’” McCaul praised the Dalai Lama's resilience and emphasized, “They may take your land, but they cannot erase your spirit.” Congressman McGovern expressed deep admiration for the Dalai Lama, saying, “He inspires

millions through his messages of peace, tolerance, and human dignity. Let's celebrate his next birthday together in Lhasa, Tibet.”

Tencho Gyatso, President of ICT, thanked supporters, stating, “This success is a result of passionate individuals and lawmakers standing for those facing oppression in Tibet.” The efforts paid off, with four new Senate co-sponsors and six in the House signing onto the pro-Tibet resolution during Lobby Day. As part of ICT's Compassion Rising campaign and the CTA's Year of Compassion, the event underscored the ongoing global advocacy for Tibetan rights and celebrated the enduring legacy of the Dalai Lama.

## Nationwide Outrage in Bangladesh After Brutal Rape of Hindu Woman in Cumilla

TPN Correspondent | Dhaka

The brutal rape of a 21-year-old Hindu woman in Cumilla district, central Bangladesh, last week has ignited nationwide protests and outrage. The shocking incident came to public attention only after a distressing video of the assault went viral on social media, showing the woman stripped naked and pleading with her attackers. The survivor was attacked on June 26 at her parental home during the local festival, Hari Seva. The main accused is 36-year-old Fazor Ali, a local politician from Ramchandrapur Pachkitta village. According to police, the survivor's husband, who works in Dubai, was visiting her with their children when Ali allegedly broke into the house at around 10 pm and assaulted her.

Locals initially apprehended and beat Ali but took him to a hospital instead of handing him over to the police. Ali reportedly escaped from the hospital. Police have arrested five people so far, including Ali and four others accused



of sharing the victim's images and identity on social media. Cumilla's police chief, Nazir Ahmed Khan, confirmed the arrest of Ali during a pre-dawn raid in Dhaka's Sayedabad area. In response to the incident, students of Dhaka University organized mass protests demanding justice, while minority students residing in Jagannath Hall staged processions calling

for strong action against the perpetrators. Political leaders also condemned the attack, with BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir demanding exemplary punishment. The High Court intervened by ordering the immediate removal of the viral video and called on authorities to ensure the survivor's security and provide necessary medical treatment.

## "Utterly Insane": Elon Musk Criticises Donald Trump's 'Big, Beautiful Bill' Again



TPN Correspondent | Moscow

Billionaire entrepreneur Elon Musk launched a fierce critique of the Senate's latest draft of former President Donald Trump's expansive tax-and-spending bill, just as the chamber prepared to debate the nearly 1,000-page proposal. Musk warned that the legislation would “destroy millions of jobs in America” and cause severe strategic damage to the country.

Calling the bill “utterly insane and destructive,” Musk criticized it for handing out support to outdated industries while harming sectors crucial to the future economy. His remarks added to growing tensions between Musk and Trump's political circle, especially after Musk recently stepped down as head of the Department of Government Efficiency (Doge). Republican Senate leaders are under pressure to pass the bill by Trump's self-imposed July 4 deadline, and Musk's outspoken opposition complicates those efforts.

Earlier this month, Musk also condemned the House version of the bill, calling it a “disgusting abomination” filled with excessive spending. His harsh comments triggered a public rift with Trump, though Musk has since attempted to reopen dialogue with the former president.

On Saturday, Musk doubled down on his opposition, highlighting concerns about the bill's energy policies and economic impact. He shared criticism from Princeton energy systems engineer Jesse Jenkins, who argued that the energy provisions in the bill are rejected by automakers, electric utilities, data centers, and manufacturers alike. Musk responded bluntly, “Good question. Who?”

Musk further criticized the bill for raising the US debt ceiling by \$5 trillion — the largest increase in history — warning this would accelerate the country's “fast lane to debt slavery.”

The bill, spanning 940 pages, proposes major cuts to social programs like Medicaid and food stamps, while increasing defense and immigration enforcement funding. Central to the legislation is Trump's \$350 billion border and security plan, including billions for border wall expansion, migrant detention facilities, and hiring thousands of new ICE officers, aimed at supporting a massive deportation initiative.



## Iran's Top Shiite Cleric Issues Fatwa Against Trump and Netanyahu, Calling Them 'Enemies of God'

TPN Correspondent | Iran

Iran's leading Shiite cleric, Grand Ayatollah Naser Makarem Shirazi, has issued a powerful fatwa—a religious decree—against former US President Donald Trump and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, labeling them “enemies of God.” The fatwa calls on Muslims worldwide to unite against these leaders for threatening Iran's Islamic republic leadership. According to Mehr News Agency, Makarem declared that anyone threatening the country's supreme leaders is a “warlord” or “mohareb”—a term in Iranian law meaning a person who wages war against God. Those labeled mohareb face severe punishments, including execution, crucifixion, limb amputation, or exile. The decree further states that any Muslim or Islamic state that cooperates with these enemies is committing a forbidden (haram) act.

The fatwa urges Muslims globally to make Trump and Netanyahu regret their actions, promising divine rewards to those who suffer hardships or losses while acting in defense of Islam.

This decree comes after a 12-day conflict sparked by an Israeli bombing campaign on June 13 targeting Iranian military commanders and scientists linked to Iran's nuclear program. Iran retaliated with ballistic missile strikes on Israeli cities. The violence escalated after the US joined Israel in striking Iran's nuclear facilities, prompting Iran to attack an American military base in Qatar.

A fatwa, issued by a Marja—the highest authority in Twelver Shia Islam—is a religious ruling that calls for enforcement by Muslim individuals and governments. Iran has a history of using fatwas to justify violence; the most infamous example being the 1989 fatwa against British author Salman Rushdie, who faced assassination attempts after his novel The Satanic Verses was deemed offensive. Rushdie's ordeal included a 2023 stabbing attack in New York, which left him seriously injured.

This latest fatwa highlights the continued tension between Iran, the US, and Israel amid escalating conflicts in the region.



# Private Banks Now Hold Majority Share of NPAs in Unsecured Retail Loans



Private sector banks now account for the largest share of gross non-performing assets (NPAs) in unsecured retail loans, according to the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) Financial Stability Report (FSR) released for the year ended March 2025. The report reveals that private banks held 52.6% of gross NPAs in unsecured loans, a significant increase from below 50% two years ago. In contrast, public sector banks (PSBs) accounted for 40.5% of NPAs in this category. Unsecured loans, which include credit cards, personal loans, and education loans, are issued without any collateral. These loans gained popularity following the pandemic, as banks—especially in the private sector—pursued aggressive retail lending strategies.

However, this growth has led to elevated risks, particularly around loan defaults. The FSR highlights that private banks have seen persistently high slippages in their unsecured retail portfolios. "Slippages in unsecured retail loans remain elevated for private banks. Fresh slippage in this segment continues to dominate the overall slippage," the report said. This has also led to higher write-offs, which continue to be a significant factor in managing NPAs, especially for private lenders. Although there has been some moderation in the growth of unsecured lending, the asset quality in this segment has weakened relative to the broader retail loan portfolio.

As of March 2025, the gross NPA (GNPA) ratio for unsecured retail loans stood at 1.8%, compared to 1.2% for the overall retail segment. Following the COVID-19 pandemic, much of the banking sector's credit growth was fueled by lending to the retail and services sectors, particularly through unsecured loans and loans to non-banking financial companies (NBFCs). Currently, unsecured retail loans constitute 25% of the total retail loan book and account for 8.3% of banks' gross advances. The rising share of NPAs in this segment is raising concerns about the sustainability and risk management practices of banks, especially in the private sector.

# Indian Stock Market Opens Flat Amid Positive Global Cues

Mumbai: The Indian stock market opened flat on Monday, buoyed by positive global cues and early buying interest in the PSU bank and IT sectors. At 9:27 am IST, the Sensex edged up marginally by 1.35 points to 84,057.55, while the Nifty rose 6.50 points, or 0.03%, to 25,644.30. Nifty Bank showed slight gains, up 15.15 points or 0.03% at 57,459.05 in early trade. Market analysts pointed to easing geopolitical tensions in West Asia and a sharp decline in Brent crude prices to \$67 as key factors supporting the market sentiment. Additionally, reports suggesting positive developments in trade negotiations between the US and China, as well as the US and India, have boosted investor confidence. Dr. VK Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist at Geojit Investments, noted that re-



cent market rallies have been driven by large-cap stocks like HDFC Bank, ICICI Bank, Reliance Industries (RIL), and Larsen & Toubro (L&T), which have seen strong institutional buying. The Nifty Midcap 100 index climbed 220.90 points (0.37%) to 59,606.05, while the Nifty Smallcap 100 index rose 153.35 points (0.81%) to 19,130.15. Among the Sensex constituents, M&M, Kotak Mahindra Bank, Bharti Airtel, HDFC Bank, NTPC, and UltraTech Cement were the top losers. On the other hand, Trent, SBI, L&T, Axis Bank, and Hindustan Unilever Limited led the gains.

Weakness in the US dollar index continues to encourage foreign institutional investor (FII) inflows, alongside ongoing retail optimism supporting domestic fund investments. Experts advise that while staying invested in this bullish market makes sense, caution should be exercised when making fresh investments at current high valuations. On June 27, FIIs were net buyers, acquiring equities worth ₹1,397.02 crore, while domestic institutional investors (DIIs) were net sellers, offloading shares worth ₹588.93 crore. Asian markets also showed mixed trends, with China, Bangkok, Japan, Seoul, and Jakarta trading in green, while Hong Kong slipped into the red.

In the US, the Dow Jones closed Friday at 43,819.27, up 1%, with the S&P 500 and Nasdaq also posting solid gains.

# India's Trade Deficit Could Rise to \$300 Billion in FY26 Despite Moderate Oil Prices: ICICI Bank

ICICI Bank has forecast that India's trade deficit will widen to USD 300 billion in the financial year 2025-26, even though oil prices are expected to remain moderate. This would mark an increase from the USD 287 billion deficit recorded in FY25 and USD 245 billion in FY24, representing 7.0% of the country's GDP. According to the bank's report, the main driver of the growing trade deficit is the weak performance of India's non-oil exports, which have struggled to keep pace with rising imports. On the other hand, strong domestic economic growth is expected to sustain high import levels, further widening the gap between imports and exports. Despite the widening trade deficit, ICICI Bank projects that steady inflows from services exports and remittances will help maintain the current account deficit (CAD) at a manageable USD 30 billion, or approximately 0.7% of GDP. The current account deficit includes not only the trade balance but



also other international financial flows such as investment income and remittances. A trade deficit occurs when a country imports more goods than it exports, and India's persistent deficit highlights ongoing challenges in boosting export competitiveness outside of the oil sector. Meanwhile, imports remain robust, driven by strong domestic demand and

economic expansion. The report underscores the importance of strengthening non-oil exports to reduce India's reliance on imports and improve the overall balance of payments. As the economy continues to grow, addressing these structural trade imbalances will be crucial for sustaining external stability and economic resilience in the coming years.

# India's Industrial Growth Slows to 9-Month Low of 1.2% in May 2025



India's industrial output growth slipped to a nine-month low of 1.2% in May 2025, reflecting a significant slowdown in key sectors such as electricity and mining. This marks the weakest growth since August 2024 and is a decline from 2.6% in April, according to official data released by the National Statistical Office (NSO) on Monday. The April figure was also revised downward from the earlier estimate of 2.7%.

The latest data from the Index of Industrial Production (IIP) — which tracks changes in the volume of production in factories, mines, and utilities — points to broad-based weakness, with particular stress in energy and resource-linked industries. Electricity output contracted sharply by 5.8%, while mining output saw a marginal

decline of 0.1% year-on-year. In contrast, manufacturing, which constitutes the bulk of the IIP, provided some support with 2.6% growth, driven by increased production in machinery, non-metallic minerals, and basic metals. However, this was still notably below the 5.1% growth recorded in the same month last year, indicating persistent softness in industrial momentum.

Sector-wise, consumer goods remained weak, reflecting subdued demand, while capital goods and infrastructure-related output offered modest positive contributions to overall industrial performance.

The IIP reading for May stood at 156.6, up slightly from 154.7 in May 2024, but the slow pace of expansion raises concerns about the resilience of India's industrial recovery amid global uncertainties and domestic demand challenges. This deceleration in industrial activity may influence monetary policy discussions, especially as the Reserve Bank of India weighs the implications of softening growth against ongoing inflation risks.



# India will continue to be fastest growing economy: FM Sitharaman

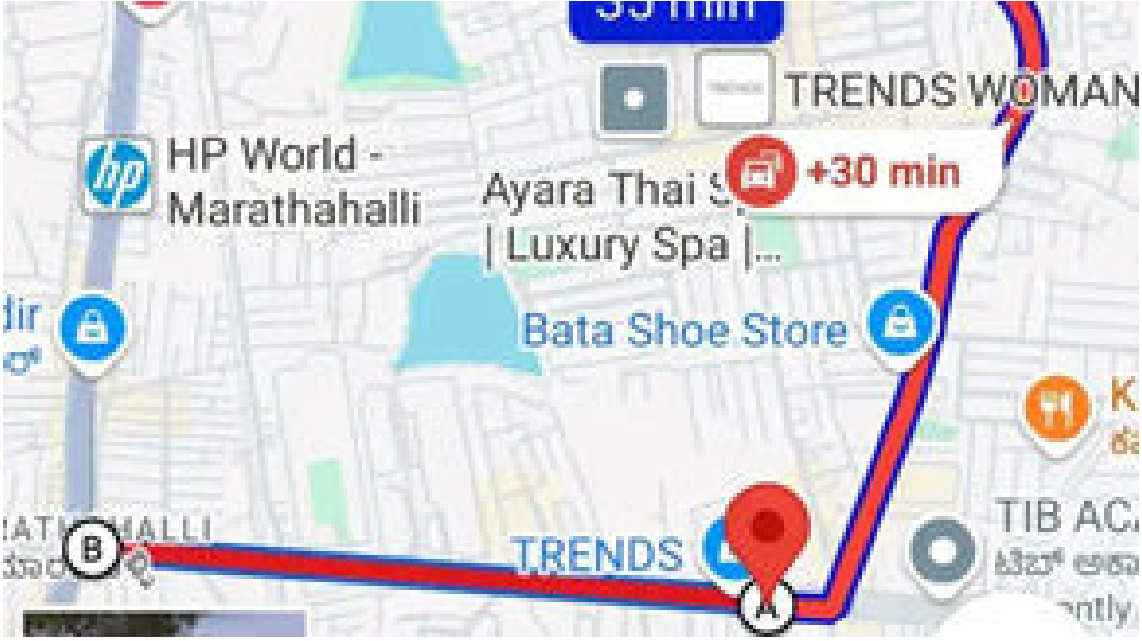
Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has expressed confidence that India will maintain its position as the fastest-growing major economy, with growth expected to remain strong or even improve, especially with a favourable monsoon this year. According to the Reserve Bank of India's latest data, the GDP growth accelerated to a robust 7.4% in the fourth quarter of 2024-25, leading to an overall growth rate of 6.5% for the full fiscal year. This impressive performance was driven by strong showings in agriculture, construction, and services sectors. Sitharaman highlighted in her social media posts that the deepening of India's markets is benefiting ordinary citizens and retailers alike. She pointed out

that the country's digitised and transparent systems empower individuals to access services easily without external help — a sign of a dynamic and modern economy. The Finance Minister reaffirmed the government's commitment to supporting labour-intensive sectors, emphasizing that both traditional handicrafts and high-tech manufacturing will receive policy backing. "There is no choosing between labour and capital," she said, underscoring the inclusive approach to industrial growth and job creation. Sitharaman also praised the government's continuous support for MSMEs over the past 11 years, noting the positive impact of targeted policies. She referenced initiatives like the Dhan-Dhaan-

ya Krishi Yojana, aimed at boosting agricultural productivity and increasing farmers' incomes through value addition, particularly in aspirational districts. Additionally, the Finance Minister assured that defence needs will be fully met, highlighting the growth of domestic defence production and the rise of India as an exporter. Since 2014, attention has been focused on improving supply chains and meeting the detailed requirements of the armed forces, marking a significant shift towards self-reliance in defence manufacturing. Overall, Sitharaman's remarks signal strong confidence in India's continued economic growth and structural progress across key sectors.



# Bengaluru Traffic Sparks Newton's 'Fourth Law' Joke: Auto at Rest Will Remain at Rest



Bengaluru's infamous traffic woes have once again become a hot topic online, this time thanks to a witty social media post that left netizens in splits. A user named Lalit Gour recently shared his frustrating experience of being stuck in traffic near Brookfield, where Google Maps showed a shocking 48-minute travel time for just 3.6 kilometres.

Posting the screenshot on X (formerly Twitter), Lalit wrote, “Newton’s fourth law of motion: A Bangalore auto at rest will remain at rest.” The post immediately struck a chord with thousands who could relate to the everyday struggle of navigating

Bengaluru's gridlocked streets.

Many users chimed in with their own experiences and sarcastic takes. One commented, "No words when it comes to Bengaluru traffic," while another joked, "Walking is the only solution." Someone else added, "I drove 19 km in 50 minutes, and I thought I had it bad!"

The post even drew responses from users in other congested cities, with a Gurugram resident sharing, “Even here, 16-lane roads get jammed.”

In a follow-up reply, Lalit humorously wrote, "When an interviewer asks, 'Where do you see yourself in 5 years?' I just think... still stuck in Bangalore

traffic...”

Amid the laughter, the reality remains grim. The Karnataka government is actively pursuing large-scale infrastructure projects to address the issue. Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar recently announced plans for double-decker flyovers along metro routes, with Rs 9,000 crore allocated for the project. Additionally, 300 km of 50-foot-wide buffer roads along stormwater drains are also planned, with another Rs 3,000 crore budgeted. While Bengaluru waits for relief, its citizens continue to rely on humor to survive the daily grind—quite literally.

# Saag Milkshake Shocks the Internet: “Have You Lost Your Dimaag?”



Just when you thought you had seen every food experiment out there, the internet has been left stunned by the latest bizarre culinary creation: the Saag Milkshake. Yes, you read that correctly — a milkshake made with green leafy saag and creamy vanilla ice cream.

This unconventional drink is currently making waves on social media after digital creator Pushpek Sidhu shared a viral reel reacting to it. The video, shot at a restaurant abroad, starts with an enthusiastic voiceover asking, "Have you tried our brand new Saag Milkshake?" What follows

is a surprising recipe that mixes a generous scoop of rich vanilla ice cream with hand-stirred, organic saag (a traditional Indian leafy green preparation), blended together into a smooth shake.

To take things up a notch, the drink is poured into a glass, topped with fresh whipped cream, and—perhaps most shockingly—garnished with chopped coriander. Many viewers initially mistook the drink for a trendy green smoothie, only to be baffled by its unusual ingredient list.

Pushpek summed up what many were thinking. "Saag?! Have you lost

your dimaag?!” he exclaimed, highlighting the internet’s collective disbelief. Online users have flooded the comments section with a mix of curiosity, humor, and mild horror. While some are fascinated by the idea, others have declared it a step too far in the world of food fusion.

Food experiments have always had a place on the internet, but the Saag Milkshake has certainly set a new benchmark for creativity—and controversy. Whether it becomes a trend or fades as a one-time shocker, it's clear that this leafy dessert has captured everyone's attention.



# Fed Up With Soaring Real Estate Costs, Man Contemplates Living on a Houseboat

With real estate prices in Indian metro cities reaching record highs, owning a home has become an unattainable dream for many middle-class citizens. Amid this ongoing crisis, one frustrated Reddit user has sparked an unusual but thought-provoking conversation by suggesting an alternative housing solution: living on a houseboat.

In a now-viral Reddit post, the user expressed his dismay at the skyrocketing cost of flats in cities like Bengaluru, Hyderabad, and Chennai. "I am unable to afford flats in any of the Indian cities—Bangalore, Chennai, and Hyderabad. I am already aged out, so I won't be of working age for EMIs," he explained, adding that a houseboat could be a creative and affordable alternative.

The post, which quickly gained traction, included a genuine query: "Is it legal to live in a boat in India?" While the idea might seem far-fetched to some, it's not without prece-

dent. Houseboats are already popular in regions like Kerala and Srinagar, albeit mostly for tourism. The thought of using one as a permanent residence in urban areas, however, is relatively uncommon and raises several questions about legalities, infrastructure, and accessibility.

The user's perspective resonated with many others who are equally disillusioned by the ever-increasing real estate costs. In a country where housing affordability is becoming a crisis, the concept of floating homes may no longer be just a quirky fantasy, but a potential future reality.

As urban housing challenges grow, creative solutions like these are likely to spark more conversations around alternative living, sustainability, and financial independence. Whether or not it becomes a trend, this post certainly highlights the lengths people are willing to go for a roof over their heads.

# Labubu Dolls Steal the Show at Tsinghua University's Graduation Ceremony

In a delightful and quirky twist to a formal occasion, Labubu dolls made a surprising appearance at Tsinghua University's graduation ceremony in China, leaving the internet both amused and amazed. A now-viral video shows two Chinese students carrying their beloved Labubu dolls, fully dressed in miniature graduation caps and gowns, as they walked up to receive their graduation certificates.



Labubu dolls, created by Hong Kong-based artist Kasing Lung, originally appeared in a picture book and have since become a global sensation through Pop Mart's blind box collectibles. The dolls have now taken over social media, wardrobes, and even celebrity circles—spotted alongside stars like Lisa of BLACKPINK, Rihanna, and Dua Lipa.

This heartwarming display at one of China's most prestigious universities sparked a variety

of reactions online. While some viewers found the moment “adorable” and “wholesome,” others criticized it as crossing the line of tradition. One comment read, “I love Labubus, but this is a bit too much,” while another enthusiastically shared, “I’m graduating this year and I’ll bring my Labubu too!”

Despite the divided opinions, the incident clearly struck a cultural chord. The mix of formality and playful personalization showcased how new generations are blending tradition with individuality, even in conservative academic settings. As one user put it best, “The faculty passed the vibe check.”

Labubu's charm shows no signs of fading—and now, it has a graduation degree too!

# Fans Celebrate Final Season with Real-Life Squid Game Parade in South Korea

Squid Game mania is back—and this time, it's spilling onto the streets. To mark the highly anticipated release of the third and final season of Netflix's global phenomenon Squid Game, fans in South Korea organized a spectacular real-life parade inspired by the show. The event, held shortly after the season's premiere on June 27, has taken social media by storm. A viral video capturing the parade, shared by South Korea-based digital content creator Rana Adil Mushtaq, has already surpassed 1.2 million views. The clip showcases a street full of enthusiastic fans recreating some of the show's most iconic elements with remarkable detail and energy. Participants marched in the signature pink jumpsuits and black masks worn by the guards in the show, creating an eerie yet thrilling atmosphere. A towering replica of

the motion-sensing animatronic doll from the infamous “Red Light, Green Light” game led the procession, drawing loud cheers from onlookers. Adding to the dramatic flair, black coffins—similar to those used to carry eliminated players in the series—were also part of the parade, emphasizing the dark themes that made the series so gripping.

The celebration served as both a tribute and a send-off to a show that redefined the survival thriller genre on a global scale. Fans around the world flooded the comments section with awe and appreciation for the creativity and dedication shown in the parade. With *Squid Game* Season 3 now streaming, the buzz is stronger than ever. And if this parade is any indication, the fandom's love for the series is as powerful as the show's cultural impact itself.



# Petra Kvitova’s Emotional Return to Wimbledon Ahead of Retirement



Two-time Wimbledon champion Petra Kvitova has made a heartfelt return to the All England Club this year, marking what is expected to be her final appearance at the prestigious grass-court Grand Slam before she retires. The 35-year-old Czech left-hander, who won Wimbledon in 2011 and 2014, missed last year’s tournament due to maternity leave. Kvitova announced about a week and a half ago that she plans to retire after the U.S. Open in September, making this Wimbledon a special farewell. Despite her absence and a recent ranking outside the top 500, Kvitova received

a wild-card entry to compete and was set to face No. 10 seed Emma Navarro in the first round. “It’s my favorite tournament. It always has been and always will be,” Kvitova told The Associated Press. Reflecting on her career at Wimbledon, she said winning two titles remains the highlight, despite painful losses along the way. After early first-round exits in 2008 and 2009, she reached the semifinals in 2010 before capturing her first title in 2011 by defeating Maria Sharapova. She claimed her second trophy in 2014, beating Eugenie Bouchard decisively. Her journey at Wimbledon is also

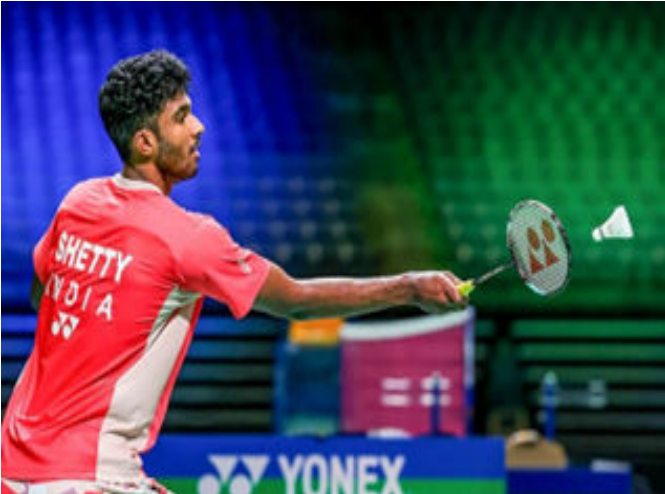
deeply personal. Kvitova’s coach-turned-husband, Jiri Vanek, proposed to her at Centre Court, and their son Petr was born during the 2024 tournament fortnight. Balancing motherhood and professional tennis has been challenging, especially with the logistics of travel and being away from her young son, but Kvitova described her 17-month hiatus from the tour as more of a break than a quit. “My mindset is still in a good place,” she said, sharing the bittersweet joy of returning to Grand Slam competition and her beloved Wimbledon, known affectionately as “Wimby.”



## Marc Marquez Wins Dutch GP, Equals Agostini’s Record with 68th MotoGP Victory

Assen, Netherlands | June 30, 2025: Marc Marquez delivered a masterclass at the historic TT Circuit Assen, fending off a fierce challenge from Marco Bezzecchi to win the Dutch Grand Prix and claim his 68th MotoGP victory. With this triumph, Marquez equals the legendary Giacomo Agostini’s record for premier class wins, capping off an unforgettable weekend at the 100th anniversary of racing at Assen. Starting from P3, Marquez quickly worked his way past title rival Alex Marquez and teammate Francesco Bagnaia (Pecco), taking the lead on Lap 5. The #93 maintained his composure under relentless pressure from Bezzecchi (Aprilia Racing), who stayed within striking distance for most of the race but couldn’t find a way past. Marquez extended the gap to 0.7 seconds in the final laps to seal a dramatic win. Bezzecchi’s second-place finish handed Aprilia a double podium weekend, while Bagnaia recovered from a mid-race drop

to secure P3. The race wasn’t without drama—Alex Marquez crashed out after contact with Pedro Acosta, later diagnosed with a fractured left hand. Fermin Aldeguer also crashed out, triggering a chain reaction that affected Fabio Quartararo and Joan Mir. Acosta finished a strong P4 for Red Bull KTM, followed by Maverick Viñales (P5) and Fabio Di Giannantonio (P6). Franco Morbidelli took P7 despite a Long Lap penalty, while Raul Fernandez claimed P8, his third consecutive top-10 finish. Enea Bastianini and Quartararo rounded out the top 10. Brad Binder, Johann Zarco, Alex Rins, Jack Miller, and Somkiat Chantra completed the points-scoring positions, with Chantra earning Thailand’s first-ever MotoGP point. As the championship battle intensifies, the paddock now heads to Sachsenring for Round 11, with Marquez firmly reestablished as a title contender in the 2025 season.



## Ayush Shetty Clinches First BWF World Tour Title at US Open; Tanvi Sharma Finishes Runner-Up

Rising Indian badminton star Ayush Shetty claimed his maiden BWF World Tour title with an impressive straight-games win over Canada’s Brian Yang in the men’s singles final of the US Open Super 300. The 20-year-old secured the victory 21-18, 21-13 in just 47 minutes, ending India’s title drought on the World Tour this season. Seeded fourth, Shetty dominated from the outset, showcasing a mix of attacking flair and solid defense. After a close start at 6-6, the Mangalore shuttler pulled ahead to lead 11-6 at the mid-game break. Though Yang leveled at 16-16, Shetty’s sharp placement and a decisive jump smash helped him close out the first game. In the second, Shetty raced to a 7-2 lead and maintained his momentum with a combination of cross-court punches and smashes, ultimately sealing the match. This marks Shetty’s third win over Yang in 2025, following earlier victories at the Malaysia and Taipei Opens. It also adds to his growing resume, which includes finals appearances at the 2023 Odisha Masters, Bahrain International, and the 2024 Dutch Open. Meanwhile, in the women’s singles final, 16-year-old Tanvi Sharma delivered a valiant performance but settled for runner-up in her first World Tour final. Facing top-seeded Beiwen Zhang of the USA, Tanvi lost 11-21, 21-16, 10-21 in a 46-minute contest. Zhang took control early in the first game, but Tanvi bounced back strongly in the second, attacking from the start and forcing errors with aggressive play. However, Zhang regained her rhythm in the decider, pulling away with an 11-4 lead and closing the match without further resistance. Despite the loss, Tanvi’s breakthrough performance signals a promising future for the young Indian shuttler on the global stage.

## Pakistan’s Participation in 2025 Men’s Asia Cup in India Uncertain Amid Security Concerns



Pakistan’s involvement in the upcoming 2025 Men’s Asia Cup hockey tournament, scheduled to be held in Rajgir, Bihar, from August 29 to September 9, remains uncertain following recent security concerns. The hesitation comes in the wake of the deadly terror attack in Pahalgam that claimed 26 lives, raising serious questions about allowing the Pakistan men’s hockey team to compete on Indian soil. Hockey India officials have confirmed that they are in close consultation with the Indian government before finalizing Pakistan’s participation. “We are in contact with the government, and we will follow whatever instructions it provides. As for the current situation, I don’t think the Pakistan team will be allowed to participate,” a Hockey India spokesperson told the Indo-Asian News Service (IANS). The Men’s Asia Cup 2025 is a critical tournament as it acts as a qualifier for the 2026 FIH Men’s Hockey World Cup, to be co-hosted by Belgium and the Netherlands. The winner of the Asia Cup secures a coveted spot in the World Cup, raising the stakes for all competing nations. In addition to the Asia Cup, India is also set to host the FIH Hockey Men’s Junior World Cup later this year, from November 28 to December 10, across Chennai and Madurai. Pakistan’s participation in this junior event is also under question due to similar security and political concerns following the Pahalgam attack. The Pakistani junior team has been placed in the same group as India in the 24-team tournament. Pakistan last participated in a major hockey event in India in 2023, during the Asian Champions Trophy in Chennai, where India secured a record fourth title by defeating Malaysia 4-3 in the final. However, given the current tense atmosphere, the prospect of Pakistan’s teams playing in India this year appears doubtful.



## Tanvi Sharma Falls Short Against Beiwen Zhang in US Open Final

Sixteen-year-old Tanvi Sharma showed immense promise at the US Open 2025 badminton tournament in Iowa but fell to experienced American Beiwen Zhang in a hard-fought final, losing 11-21, 21-16, 21-10. Despite a strong middle-game performance, Sharma struggled to adapt to the faster court conditions on one side, which ultimately affected her shuttle control and consistency. Sharma, following in the footsteps of Indian greats like Saina Nehwal and PV Sindhu, both of whom achieved significant milestones as teenagers, demonstrated that she has the talent and temperament to compete at the highest levels. Her ability to craft rallies and keep opponents on the move was evident, especially in the mid-game where she fought back impressively to take the second set. However, the faster drift on one side of the court proved tricky for the young player. Sharma’s shuttlecock control faltered on that side, with shots sailing long more frequently than she would have preferred. This inconsistency gave Zhang, a 34-year-old seasoned pro, the upper hand to seize crucial points. Sharma’s gameplan typically relies on her strong criss-cross play, using a wide range of shots to make her opponents run across the court. She also possesses dependable smashes and drop shots, allowing her to exploit open spaces once she creates opportunities with flank attacks. Yet, against Zhang’s steady baseline play and tactical awareness, Sharma couldn’t fully impose her style. Despite the loss, Sharma’s journey to her first big Super 300 final signals a bright future. With more experience and adjustments to different playing conditions, she looks poised to become a formidable force in international badminton in the years to come.





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