

# No exceptions for any nation, tariffs roll out April 2: Trump

Chidanand Rajghatta | TNN

**Washington:** Trump tariffs are poised to torment the world. The US president on Sunday confirmed he will be imposing a uniform global tariff (basically taxes or duty on all imports into the US) on all countries — with no

▶ **EDIT: Trumpcession**  
▶ **20 yrs on, US co gets nod for N-tech transfer, P 10**

exceptions — on Wednesday, April 2, which he has characterised as 'Liberation Day'.

"We would start with all countries, so let's see what happens," Trump said, days after teasing a prospect that he "may give a lot of countries breaks" and saying "it's going to work out very well" with New Delhi even though

## NYT report on HAL incorrect, says govt

The govt has described as factually incorrect and misleading an NYT report claiming that state-owned HAL facilitated transfer of sensitive British equipment and tech from a Reform UK party donor to Russian arms agency Rosoboronexport. **P 10**

India is "one of the highest tariffing nations in the world".

Trump's threat came despite **deputy secretary of state Christopher Landau predicting a 'golden age' for US-India ties** while indicating some progress in trade talks in Delhi.

▶ **Continued on P 10**



# Nepal lawmaker demands probe into former king's role in protests

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**Kathmandu:** Rastriya Prajatantra Party (RPP) senior vice-president Rabin Mishra and general secretary Dhawal Shumsher Rana, a member of the lower house, were remanded in custody for five days by Kathmandu district court judge Taradevi Maharjan. The court permitted further investigation under charges related to crimes against the state. The duo were among 11 people presented in court Monday, said court information officer Deepak Kumar Shrestha. Mishra was handcuffed; Rana was not.

Rana's daughter Shivangini told **TOI** that her father had been diagnosed with cancer at the Homi Bhabha Cancer Hospital and Research Centre in India in Nov. He had just completed a round of radiation therapy and was due to return to India for follow-up treatment, but was not allowed to leave. "I won't be surprised if they (govt) slap ridiculous charges against him," she said.

Shivangini added that the family had been informed verbally by officials that the passports of both members were being held "until further notice", but no formal communication had been received.

Meanwhile, during a session of the federal parliament on Monday, lawmakers from the ruling coalition demanded that former king Gyanendra



Pro-monarchy protesters carried out 'mashaal' rally in Kathmandu (above) and 11 other cities to condemn the arrests of their members

Shah's passport also be impounded in connection with the violent demonstrations. Rastriya Janamorcha MP Chitra Bahadur KC said that a thorough investigation into the former king's role was "essential to protect the republic".

Ramhari Sharma Kafle, chief of the Kathmandu district public prosecutor's office, said Mishra, Rana and others may be charged with crimes against the state after preliminary investigation. Of the nearly 200 persons — locals, members of various political parties — arrested and detained so far, police have produced 42 people in court, including those held under charges of criminal mischief and organised crime. The rest are under further investigation, police said.

According to officials, the March 28 'Janadolan' — led by the United People's Move-

ment Committee, a coalition supporting monarchy — turned violent and led to widespread vandalism in Kathmandu. Protesters allegedly damaged homes, a hospital, vehicles, and a political party office, and looted a shopping mall. They also reportedly seized a weapon from the armed police. The committee was led by Nawaraj Subedi, who is under house arrest.

In another development, Kathmandu Metropolitan City fined Gyanendra Shah Nepalese Rs 793,000 (INR 4 lakh) for protest-related damage. Officials issued the fine over multiple infractions, including littering streets, breaking public railings and damaging fire engines used during the protest. The city police attempted to deliver the letter at Gyanendra's estate Nirmal Niwas but were turned away by his staff. The notice was later sent by post.



# India junks NYT claim of HAL transferring sensitive tech to Russia

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**New Delhi:** The Indian govt has described as factually incorrect and misleading a New York Times report claiming that an Indian firm — state-owned Hindustan Aeronautics Limited — facilitated transfer of sensitive British equipment and technology from a Reform UK party donor to Russian arms agency Rosoboronexport.

According to the report, the Indian company received equipment from HR Smith group, which donated £1,00,000 (just under \$1,30,000) to Reform UK last year, and, within days, sent parts to Russia with the same identifying product codes.

Govt sources, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the report was factually incorrect and misleading, and has tried to frame issues and distort facts to suit a political narrative.

“The Indian entity mentioned in the report has scrupulously followed all its international obligations on strategic trade controls and end-user commitments. India’s

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robust legal and regulatory framework on strategic trade continues to guide overseas commercial ventures by its companies,” said an official.

“We expect reputed media outlets to undertake basic due diligence while publishing such reports, which obviously was overlooked in the instant case,” added the official.

The report said that the components have civilian and military uses and have been flagged by the British and American authorities as critical to Russia’s war effort in Ukraine. “Officials have urged exporters to carry out detailed checks to ensure that their clients are not redirecting restricted equipment to Moscow,” it said.

# April-June to be hotter than usual: IMD

NEW DELHI, Mar 31 (PTI)

**INDIA** is expected to experience hotter-than-usual temperatures from April to June, with more heatwave days in central and eastern India and the north-western plains, the IMD said on Monday.

Most parts of the country will see higher-than-normal maximum temperatures, except for some areas in western and eastern India where the temperatures are expected to be normal. Minimum temperatures will also be above normal in most regions, India Meteorological Department (IMD) chief Mrutyunjay Mohapatra said in an online press conference.

"From April to June, most parts of north and east India, central



People resort to umbrellas under the blistering sun at Red Fort in New Delhi on Monday. (ANI)

India, and the plains of north-west India are expected to experience two to four more heatwave

days than normal," he said.

Usually, India records four to seven heatwave days from April

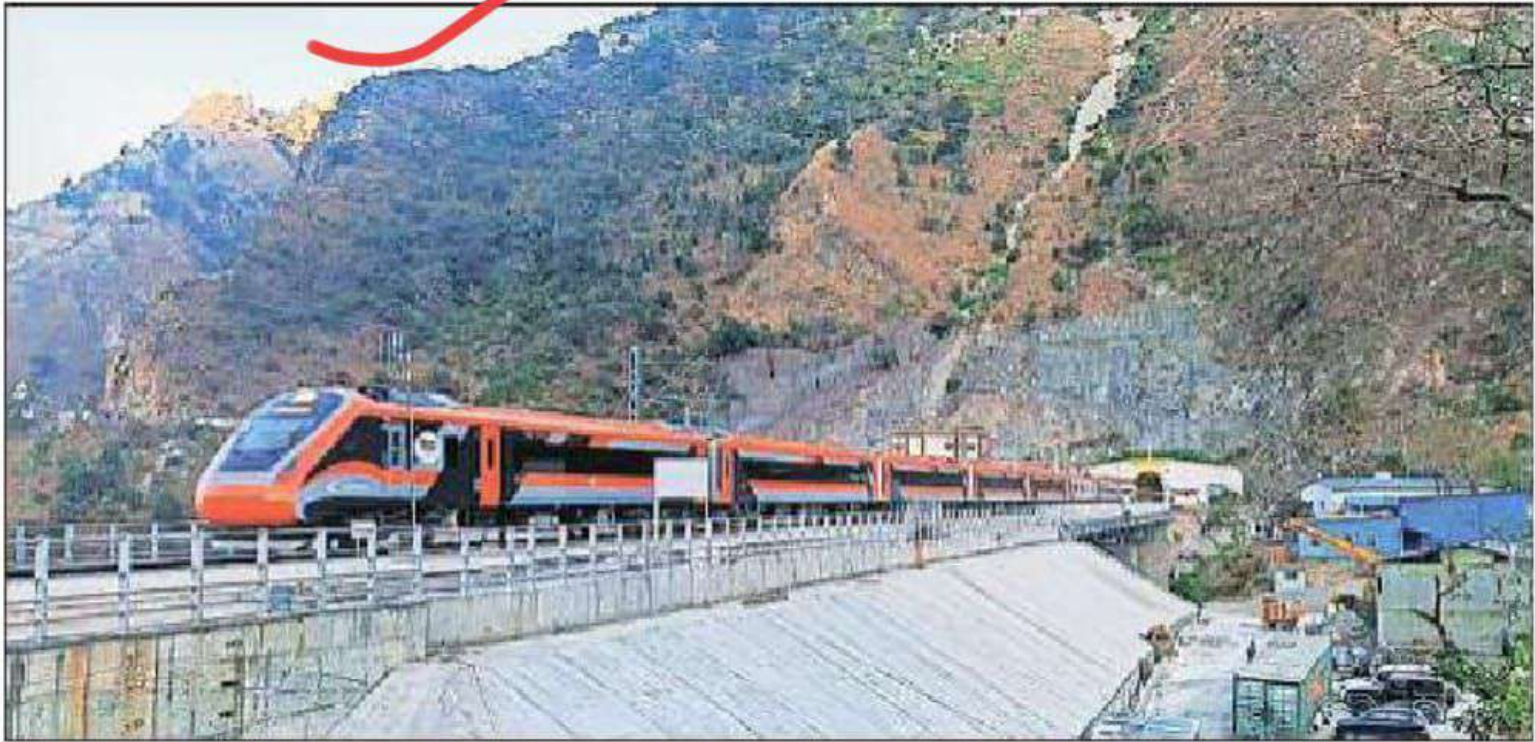
to June. An IMD official had earlier said north-west India might face double the number of heatwave days during the summer.

The region normally experiences five to six heatwave days during the season.

States likely to see above-normal heatwave days include Rajasthan, Gujarat, Haryana, Punjab, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, West Bengal, Odisha, Chhattisgarh, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh and the northern parts of Karnataka and Tamil Nadu. In April, most parts of India will likely witness higher-than-usual maximum temperatures. However, some areas in the extreme southern and the north-western regions may experience normal temperatures.



# PM to flag off first Vande Bharat train to Kashmir on April 19



A Vande Bharat train on trial run in Kashmir.

(ANI/File photo)

JAMMU, Mar 31 (PTI)

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi will flag off the first Vande Bharat train to Kashmir on April 19 from Katra, marking the completion of the 272-kilometre Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla rail link project. The Jammu-Katra-Srinagar Vande Bharat Express will initially operate from Katra as the Jammu railway station is undergoing renovation.

According to officials, the rail link project was completed last

month. Trial runs of the train on the Katra-Baramulla route have been successfully conducted. The Commissioner of Railway Safety approved the train service between Katra and Kashmir in January, they said.

The Vande Bharat Express is expected to significantly reduce travel time between Jammu and Srinagar, providing a modern and efficient rail service for the region, they said.

Speaking to reporters in Jammu on Sunday, Union

Minister Jitendra Singh said, "Prime Minister Modi will arrive in Udhampur on April 19. He will visit the world's highest railway bridge and inaugurate it. After that, he will flag off the Vande Bharat train from Katra."

The inauguration of the train will fulfil a long demand for direct rail connectivity to Kashmir. Currently, train services operate only between Sangaldan and Baramulla in the Valley and from Katra to destinations across the country.



# 3rd edition of AIAC hosts 21 artists from ASEAN member countries

NEW DELHI, Mar 31 (PTI)

THE ongoing third edition of the ASEAN-India Artists' Camp (AIAC) 2025 in Shillong is utilising art to strengthen cultural ties, bringing together 21 artists from India and ASEAN countries.

Organised by the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) in collaboration with cultural organisation Seher, the camp, which held its launch event in Delhi on Saturday, marks 10 years of India's 'Act East' Policy. Using art as a medium for cultural dialogue in line with the decisions taken and endorsed in the 21st ASEAN-India Summit, the AIAC is hosting artists

from India along with ASEAN member nations including Singapore, Malaysia, Cambodia, Timor-Leste, Myanmar, Thailand, Brunei, Indonesia, Lao PDR and Philippines. Over the course of 10 days, artists will create original works, take part in workshops on classical dance, music, and handicrafts, and explore India's artistic traditions in a collaborative setting.

They will also hold interactive sessions with local art students in Shillong and conduct a special workshop at a local school, where visiting ASEAN artists will share their skills and experiences with young learners.