

# 18-04-2025 : News Bulletin

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## 1. US-China Trade War Ceasefire Talks

### 1.0 Intro to Topic

- Weeks of escalating trade tensions between the US and China culminate in talks of a ceasefire.
- Donald Trump hints at a potential deal within 3-4 weeks.
- The impact of this deal on global markets, particularly on companies like Nvidia, is a major concern.

### 1.1 Trump's Stance and Potential Deal

- Trump claims a deal with China is imminent, potentially within 3-4 weeks.
- His rhetoric has cooled since initially accusing other countries of "raping and pillaging" America.
- He suggests the tariff rate may not exceed 245%, indicating a willingness to compromise.

### 1.2 Reasons for a Potential Deal

- Investors and businesses are questioning Trump's trade policies.
- Key figures like Elon Musk are distancing themselves.
- Foreign allies are seeking alternative options, leaving Trump relatively isolated.
- The Federal Reserve's opposition to tariffs further isolates Trump's position.

## **2. Trump's Conflict with the Federal Reserve**

### **2.0 Intro to Topic**

- Trump's trade policies clash with Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell's stance on inflation and economic growth.
- This leads to a public conflict, with Trump demanding Powell's resignation.
- The legality of firing the Fed Chair is a subject of debate among legal scholars.

### **2.1 Powell's Resistance to Trump**

- Jerome Powell, appointed by Trump in 2018, opposes the tariffs, citing negative impacts on inflation and growth.
- He refuses to intervene in the stock market or lower interest rates despite Trump's demands.
- Trump publicly criticizes Powell, vowing to remove him from his position.

### **2.2 Legality of Removing Powell**

- Trump's ability to fire Powell is legally ambiguous, as no president has attempted it before.
- The Federal Reserve Act allows for the removal of governors and board members "with cause," but policy disagreements do not qualify.
- Demoting Powell to a board member position is another possibility, also untested legally.
- The Supreme Court is hearing a similar case regarding the firing of independent agency heads.

## **3. Nvidia's Dilemma in the US-China Tech War**

### **3.0 Intro to Topic**

- Nvidia, a major AI chip manufacturer, is caught in the crossfire of the US-China trade war.
- Trump's ban on the sale of Nvidia's H20 chip to China threatens billions in revenue for the company.
- Nvidia's CEO, Jensen Huang, is navigating this complex situation through lobbying and pursuing alternative strategies.

### **3.1 Trump's Ban on Nvidia Chips**

- Trump bans Nvidia from selling its H20 AI chip to China, adding to existing export controls.
- This impacts billions in potential revenue for Nvidia from Chinese tech giants like Alibaba and Tencent.
- The ban represents a further escalation in the US-China tech rivalry.

### **3.2 Nvidia's Response and Strategy**

- Jensen Huang, Nvidia's CEO, visits China to reassure customers and explore alternative chip designs.
- Nvidia commits to massive investments in US chip manufacturing, possibly to appease Trump.
- The company faces a difficult balancing act, trying to maintain access to both the US and Chinese markets.

### **3.3 Future Implications**

- China is actively developing domestic alternatives to Nvidia's chips, reducing Nvidia's reliance on the Chinese market.
- Nvidia's revenue from China is projected to significantly decrease, potentially nearing zero.
- The situation highlights the growing difficulty for companies to remain neutral in the US-China tech war.

## **4. US Efforts to Counter China's Dominance in Global Shipping**

### **4.0 Intro to Topic**

- The US aims to curb China's dominance in global shipping by imposing higher taxes on Chinese-built ships.
- This strategy aims to boost American shipbuilding but faces significant challenges and pushback.
- China's extensive control over shipbuilding, container production, and port traffic makes this a difficult endeavor.

### **4.1 Trump's Plan to Tax Chinese Ships**

- Trump announces a plan to significantly increase port fees for Chinese-built ships arriving in US ports.
- The initial plan called for a flat fee of \$3.5 million per ship per visit, later modified based on cargo weight and frequency of visits.
- The plan provides an exemption for ships built in American shipyards.

### **4.2 Challenges and Pushback**

- The plan faces criticism from US industries, who worry about increased prices and inflation.
- China criticizes the plan, arguing it will disrupt global supply chains and harm American consumers.
- China's dominance in shipbuilding makes it difficult for the US to quickly replace Chinese vessels.

### **4.3 China's Rise in Shipbuilding**

- China's rise in shipbuilding is attributed to significant government investment and support.

- Chinese shipyards are highly efficient and competitive on price, making them difficult to compete with.
- The US acknowledges the need to modernize its shipbuilding industry but recognizes the long-term nature of this effort.

## **5. Bangladesh-Pakistan Relations and Implications for India**

### **5.0 Intro to Topic**

- Bangladesh's request for an apology from Pakistan for the 1971 war complicates their improving relations.
- This development presents both opportunities and challenges for India.
- The potential of closer Bangladesh-Pakistan ties raises concerns for India's security and regional influence.

### **5.1 Bangladesh's Request for Apology**

- Bangladesh formally requests an apology from Pakistan for the genocide committed during the 1971 war.
- This request, while publicly made, doesn't appear to be a major condition for improved relations.
- Pakistan denies any need for an apology, claiming that all issues from 1971 have been resolved.

### **5.2 Implications for India**

- Discussions between Bangladesh and Pakistan on Kashmir and SAARC raise concerns in India.
- India views Kashmir as a bilateral issue and opposes third-party involvement.
- India criticizes Pakistan's role in hindering SAARC cooperation.

### **5.3 Further Tensions**

- Bangladesh's intervention in the communal clashes in West Bengal over the wak bill further strains relations with India.
- India criticizes Bangladesh for downplaying attacks on its minority communities.
- The overall trend suggests Bangladesh's preference for engaging with Pakistan over India.

## **6. Google's Ad Business Monopoly Case**

### **6.0 Intro to Topic**

- A US court rules that Google holds a monopoly in online advertising technology.
- This ruling follows a similar antitrust case regarding Google's online search dominance.

- The case raises broader questions about the power of big tech companies and potential antitrust remedies.

## **6.1 Google's Monopoly**

- A US court rules that Google has an illegal monopoly in online advertising technology.
- Google's control of ad servers, ad exchanges, and pricing rules is cited as evidence.
- Google plans to appeal the decision.

## **6.2 Implications for Big Tech**

- This is Google's second antitrust loss in a year, raising concerns about the future of big tech.
- Potential remedies may include spinning off parts of Google's ad business.
- The case highlights broader concerns about anti-competitive practices within Silicon Valley.

# **7. China's Proxy Wars in Yemen and Ukraine**

## **7.0 Intro to Topic**

- Accusations that China is supporting the Houthis in Yemen and arming Russia in Ukraine surface.
- The US accuses China of providing geospatial intelligence to the Houthis, aiding their attacks.
- Ukraine's president alleges China is supplying weapons and even assisting with weapons production on Russian soil.

## **7.1 China's Support for Houthis in Yemen**

- The US State Department accuses China of aiding Houthi attacks on US interests by providing satellite imagery.
- This intelligence is claimed to allow Houthis to target ships with increased accuracy.
- China's actions are seen as contributing to strategic disruption in the Red Sea, impacting global trade.

## **7.2 China's Alleged Support for Russia in Ukraine**

- Ukrainian President Zelenskyy claims China is supplying weapons and artillery to Russia.
- He further alleges that Chinese nationals are involved in weapons production within Russia.
- China denies these allegations, maintaining its neutrality in the conflict.

## **8. Addressing Hinduphobia in Scotland and other Western Countries**

### **8.0 Intro to Topic**

- A motion is tabled in the Scottish Parliament to recognize and address Hinduphobia.
- This is the first such motion in Europe, highlighting a growing awareness of anti-Hindu sentiment.
- The issue is not limited to Scotland; similar concerns are rising in the UK, Canada, US, and Australia.

### **8.1 Scotland's Historic Motion**

- A motion in the Scottish Parliament aims to recognize and tackle Hinduphobia.
- The motion calls for education and dialogue to improve understanding of Hinduism.
- The motion is based on a report detailing instances of vandalism, attacks, and discrimination against Hindus in Scotland.

### **8.2 Hinduphobia in Other Western Countries**

- Reports of increasing hate crimes and discrimination against Hindus are emerging from various Western countries.
- Examples include vandalism of temples, discriminatory remarks, and bias in employment.
- The issue prompts discussions on stronger hate crime laws and policies to protect Hindu communities.

## **9. US-Iran Nuclear Deal Negotiations**

### **9.0 Intro to Topic**

- Negotiations for a new US-Iran nuclear deal resume after years of stalled progress.
- The talks, taking place in Rome, aim to address concerns about Iran's uranium enrichment program.
- The potential deal's implications for regional stability and the global oil market are significant.

### **9.1 Negotiation Details**

- The second round of talks takes place in Rome after a first round in Oman.
- Key issues include Iran's uranium enrichment levels and the verification of its nuclear program.
- Iran insists on its right to enrich uranium, while the US seeks to prevent Iran from acquiring a nuclear weapon.

## 9.2 Potential Deal Structure

- A potential three-stage deal is discussed, involving gradual sanctions relief in exchange for Iran's cooperation.
- This includes scaling back uranium enrichment, allowing inspections, and potentially shipping enriched uranium to a third party.
- Congress ratification of the final agreement would help ensure its longevity.

## 9.3 Implications of a Deal

- A deal could provide economic relief for Iran and potentially lead to greater regional stability.
- The easing of sanctions could significantly increase Iran's oil exports, influencing global oil prices.
- However, uncertainty remains, with regional players expressing both hope and concern.

# 10. The Complexity of English Spelling

## 10.0 Intro to Topic

- The inherent complexity of English spelling is discussed, noting its impact on language learning and literacy.
- Historical attempts to simplify English spelling are reviewed.
- Modern factors such as internet use and generational shifts are influencing spelling trends.

## 10.1 Historical Attempts at Simplification

- Benjamin Franklin and Noah Webster are among historical figures who attempted to reform English spelling.
- President Theodore Roosevelt's attempt at simplification faced strong opposition.
- The movement to simplify English spelling has been largely unsuccessful in the past.

## 10.2 Modern Trends

- The internet and globalization are contributing to the use of simpler, often Americanized, spellings.
- Gen Z is also influencing spelling trends, potentially contributing to ongoing changes.
- Despite these trends, a complete standardization of English spelling remains unlikely in the near future.

# **11. UNESCO Honors Bhagavad Gita and Natya Shastra on World Heritage Day**

## **11.0 Intro to Topic**

- UNESCO's inclusion of the Bhagavad Gita and Natya Shastra in its "Memory of the World" register is highlighted.
- This event is celebrated on World Heritage Day.
- The significance of preserving India's rich cultural heritage is emphasized.

## **11.1 UNESCO's Recognition**

- UNESCO honors the Bhagavad Gita and Natya Shastra, two ancient Indian manuscripts, on World Heritage Day.
- This brings the total number of Indian inscriptions on the "Memory of the World" register to 14.
- The recognition celebrates India's rich literary and performing arts heritage.

## **11.2 India's Cultural Heritage**

- India possesses a vast collection of ancient manuscripts, reflecting its rich history and diverse cultures.
- This includes texts on various subjects, often featuring elaborate calligraphy and illustrations.
- The preservation of India's cultural heritage is emphasized as an ongoing responsibility.

# **12. Miscellaneous News and Vantage Shots**

## **12.0 Intro to Topic**

- This section covers a range of miscellaneous news items and visual highlights.
- Items include political gaffes, cultural events, and historical milestones.
- The Vantage Shots provide visual representations of the day's events.

## **12.1 Trump's Geographical Mishaps**

- President Trump makes several geographical errors in his speeches, showcasing his limited geographical knowledge.
- Examples include misidentifying the location of Congo and making mistakes about other countries and regions.
- This further highlights perceived shortcomings in Trump's knowledge base.

## **12.2 Vantage Shots**

- Visual highlights are presented, including images of Filipino Catholics' Good Friday rituals, a humanoid robot half-marathon in Beijing, and cherry blossoms in Germany.



- A historical note commemorates Zimbabwe's independence from the UK in 1980.