



**Russia lost lakhs of soldiers in the Ukraine war, now sending summons to youth to...**



**FPIs offload significant IT, financial services and capital goods stocks till April 15**

**Makers of Sunny Deol's Jaat issue apology, delete controversial scene from film post FIR**

## Crucial READ

**Govt issues alert about online frauds targeting pilgrims, tourists**

**New Delhi (Agency):** The Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre, under the Union Ministry of Home Affairs, has alerted the public about online booking frauds, especially those targeting Char Dham pilgrims and tourists, across the country. These frauds are being perpetrated through fake websites, deceptive social media pages, Facebook posts, and paid advertisements on search engines such as Google, the home ministry said in a statement.

## Two killed, four injured in road accident

**Pathankot (Agency):** Two persons were killed and four seriously injured when a Srinagar-bound car overturned near Madhopur, near here, on Friday. Passersby took the injured to the Civil Hospital, Pathankot. Two persons were declared 'brought dead' while the injured were taken to the emergency ward. The car was going to Srinagar from New Delhi. The deceased have been identified as Sushil Kumar and Naresh Kumar. The injured are Satish Kumar, Kewal Krishan, Arun and Vikas. Satish Kumar, who was driving the vehicle, said he tried to negotiate a bend when he lost control. He said he regained consciousness only at the hospital where doctors told him that he had met with an accident. The relatives of the dead person and the injured have been informed in Delhi.

## In a first, troops get 4G, 5G access across in Galwan, Siachen

**Jammu (Agency):** For the first time ever, troops deployed in some of the world's most inhospitable terrains, including Galwan and Siachen Glacier, can now stay connected with their families and loved ones back home as the Army has facilitated reliable 4G and 5G mobile connectivity across the remote and high-altitude areas of Ladakh bordering both China and Pakistan, officials said.

# Make efforts to fulfill Prime Minister Shri Modi's dream of Digital India: Chief Minister Dr. Yadav



**Bhopal (Agency):** Chief Minister Dr. Mohan Yadav will participate in IT Conclave in Indore on 27 April. On this occasion, a digital database focused on water structures of 55 districts will be displayed by the Madhya Pradesh Science and Technology Council. Chief Minister Dr. Yadav was discussing with senior officials today at Samatva Bhavan Chief Minister's residence regarding inauguration of public welfare programs and construction works to be held in the state in the near future. Chief Minister Dr. Yadav said that it has become possible to do digital mapping through satellite of two different seasons (pre and post monsoon) according to the condition of water filling in water structures in the state. Classification of rivers and ancient water structures has

also become easy. This is also being done to ascertain the names of water structures and their location by geo tagging. This is definitely a commendable effort. A national scientific conference will also be held along with the conclave on April 27 in Indore. Chief Minister Dr. Yadav said that many works are being done in Madhya Pradesh to realize the dream of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Digital India. An encouraging environment is being created in the field of science and technology. Chief Minister Dr. Yadav said that to increase awareness among students towards science, they should be connected with various competitions. Students should be motivated to visit the Science City, Observatory and Planetarium located in Ujjain. It was told in the

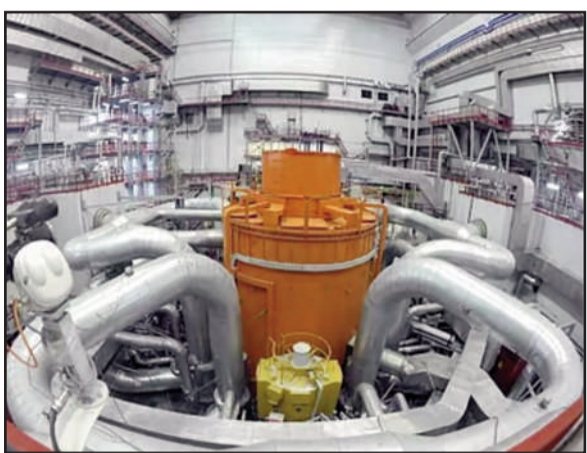
meeting that the Science and Technology Council has made arrangements to send more than seven hundred students of the state to visit the major institutions of New Delhi and Chandigarh by Vande Bharat train. Chief Minister Dr. Yadav obtained information regarding the implementation of public welfare programs and schemes run by various departments and gave instructions. He said that activities like drone show should also be organized on Bhopal Gaurav Diwas. Chief Minister Dr. Yadav said that health camps should be organized in the districts with the help of voluntary organizations in the state. Along with these camps, health tests and distribution of useful equipment for the disabled should also be done in the interest of the disabled. Chief Minister Dr. Yadav

Health camps should be organized in districts with the help of voluntary organizations

said that the health camp held recently in Morena is an ideal example, where a large number of citizens were benefited. Chief Minister Dr. Yadav discussed with the officials on the outline of various programs being held in the state in the next three months. Chief Minister Dr. Yadav will participate in the programs being held in the districts that have achieved the target under Har Ghar Jal in the near future. Chief Minister Dr. Yadav will also participate in Gopal Sammelans organized by Cooperative and Animal Husbandry Department, Dr. Ambedkar Kamdhenu Yojana, provision of laptops

- Health camp organized in Morena is an ideal example
- Students should be connected with various competitions to increase awareness towards science
- IT Conclave in Indore on 27 April
- Chief Minister Dr. Yadav discussed with senior officials regarding inauguration of public welfare programs and construction works

and e-scooties to students, Chief Minister Agriculture Advancement Scheme, Sukanya Samridhi Yojana, Atal Pension Scheme, conferences of backward tribal class, conference of PESA representatives, inauguration of 70 multipurpose centers in the state, housing scheme, labor welfare program, fisheries welfare programs. The concerned departments have started necessary preparations for these programs. Chief Secretary Anurag Jain along with Additional Chief Secretaries, Principal Secretaries of departments etc. were present in the meeting.



## India's first prototype fast breeder reactor in Tamil Nadu

**To be operational by September 2026, 500 MW capacity, will recycle nuclear waste to generate electricity**

**Chennai (Agency):** India's first prototype fast breeder reactor (PFBR) at Kalpakkam in Tamil Nadu is expected to be operational next year. The reactor will kick off the second phase of the country's three-stage nuclear project, which aims to recycle nuclear waste to generate electricity. The reactor was designed by the Indira Gandhi Centre for Atomic Research (IGCAR). The Indian government had approved the construction and operation of the nuclear reactor-prototype fast breeder reactor (PFBR) in 2003 by Bharatiya Nabhikiya Vidyut Nigam Limited (BHAVINI). This is India's first reactor that will use plutonium-based fuel (mixed oxide) and will use liquid sodium for cooling. It will also reuse fuel from the currently used pressurized heavy water reactors (PHWR). While Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited (NPCIL) is running the rest of the nuclear plants in the country, BHAVINI is preparing PFBR. The capacity of this reactor is 500 MW and it is in its final stage. It is expected that it will start generating electricity by 2025-26. In March 2024, Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited this reactor vault and the control room of the reactor. In July 2024, the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB) allowed fuel loading and initial tests. PFBR will play a very important role in India's nuclear project as the fuel produced from it will be used in the third stage thorium-based reactors. The government has also announced the 'Nuclear Energy Mission', which aims to generate 100 gigawatts of electricity.

## 3 dead, 3 injured, 1 missing as two cars collide in Gujrat's Rajkot, burst into flames



**New Delhi (Agency):** Three persons were charred to death after a car with eight occupants burst into flames following a collision with another four-wheeler in Gujarat's Rajkot district on

Saturday evening, a police official said. Three people are severely injured, while a three-year-old girl is missing, the official added. The incident took place near

Sardhar village along the state highway connecting Rajkot to Bhavnagar, the Aji Dham police station official said, adding both cars involved in the head-on collision were damaged in the fire. "Three persons died on the spot, while three others were rescued with severe burn injuries. They have been admitted to the Rajkot Civil Hospital. The deceased were identified as Niruben Makwana (35), Himanshi Sarvaiya (22), and Meet Sakariya (12). Hetavi Makwana (3) is missing," he said.

## 5 Dead After Roof Collapses In UP's Meerut

**Meerut (Agency):** Five members of a family were killed when the roof of their house collapsed during a strong storm in this district on Friday evening, police said. A mother and her nine-month-old daughter died, while three other family members were injured in the incident in Lisadi Gate Police Station area, they said. The locals immediately began the rescue work and pulled out those buried under the debris. The deceased have been identified as Rukhsar (25) and her daughter Mahira (9 months) of Ahmednagar Gali No. 15. Both were taken to the hospital in a critical condition, where doctors declared them dead.

## 'Always respected judiciary' BJP distances itself from Nishikant Dubey's remarks on Supreme Court

**New Delhi (Agency):** The Bharatiya Janata Party distanced itself from its MP Nishikant Dubey and Dinesh's remark on the Supreme Court, with party president JP Nadda saying that he has instructed both the leaders and all members to not make such statements. "The BJP completely rejects these statements," Nadda posted on X. Dubey courted controversy on Saturday by escalating his criticism of the apex court and accusing it of inciting a "religious war" in the country. He said that under Article 368, only Parliament has the authority to make laws, while the top court's



role is limited to interpreting them. He also said that India is deeply rooted in the traditions of Lord Ram, Krishna, Sita, Radha, the 12 Jyotirlingas, and the 51 Shakti Peeths, with a Sanatan tradition that is spread across thousands of years. Dubey claimed that the Supreme Court asks for documents when it is about matters like Ram temple issue, Gyanvapi Mosque, however "when it comes to the mosques built after the arrival of the Mughals, you say there are no documents to show".

# Death toll in Delhi's Mustafabad building collapse jumps to 11, landlord dead

**New Delhi (Agency):** The death toll in Saturday morning's building collapse in Delhi's Mustafabad area has risen to 11 as teams of the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), fire services, Delhi Police, and other volunteers carried out rescue efforts for over 12 hours. The Delhi police has shared the list of the deceased and the injured in the tragedy. According to the list, the landlord of the building, identified as a 60-year-old Tehsin, has also died in the collapse. Eight of the 11 people who have lost their lives in the horrific incident belonged to the same family. Three of the dead are women, while four children have also lost their lives in the collapse.



11 others have sustained varying degrees of injuries in the collapse. Out of those injured, six have been discharged from the hospital after treatment, while five are still

undergoing treatment. The rescue operations went on for the better part of the day to rescue the 22 people trapped in the rubble of the four-storey building.

## The Mustafabad building collapse

The collapse happened at around 2:39 am on Saturday when a four-storey building came tumbling down, trapping several people under the debris that was created, Sandeep Lamba, additional deputy commissioner of police of North East District, said. Divisional fire officer Rajendra Atwal told ANI that they received a call regarding a house collapse around 2:50 am in the morning. "We reached the spot and found out that the entire building has collapsed and people are trapped under the debris...NDRF, Delhi Fire Service are working to rescue the people," he said. Delhi chief minister Rekha Gupta expressed grief over the lives lost in the Mustafabad building collapse. She has confirmed that a probe into the reasons for the devastating incident has been initiated, and rescue teams from various agencies, including DDMA, NDRF, DFS, and others, are engaged in search and rescue operations. "I express my deepest condolences to those who lost their lives in this unfortunate accident. May God grant peace to the departed souls and provide strength to the grieving families to bear this irreparable loss," she said.

## Inherited truth, courage from Nehru: Rahul Gandhi



**New Delhi (Agency):** wheeling conversation with party leader Sandeep Dikshit that was posted on the former Congress chief's X handle and YouTube channel, Gandhi talks about his pursuit of truth and his willingness to stand by it no matter what the cost. "Nehru didn't teach us politics — he taught us to confront fear and stand for the truth.



**BRIEFS**

**The commissioner heard the problems of the people in Charkhari Tehsil Diwas**

**Staff Reporter**  
**Banda.** On Saturday, Commissioner of Chitrakootdham Mandal Ajit Kumar participated in the Tehsil Diwas organized in Tehsil Charkhari. On this occasion, the Commissioner listened to the public problems seriously and directed the concerned officials for quick and quality redressal of complaints.

After Tehsil Diwas, the Commissioner conducted a surprise inspection of Government Ashram Paddhati Vidyalaya, Charkhari.

During the inspection, the school's headmaster, teachers and other staff were found present. He interacted with the

**Surprise inspection of school and health center done**

students and assessed the quality of education. The quality of food available in the school was found satisfactory, but the toilet and drinking water arrangements were found unsatisfactory. On this, the Commissioner directed the District Social Welfare Officer and the Headmaster to make immediate improvements and send a report. In the same sequence, the Community Health Center Charkhari was also inspected, in which the Medical Officer Charkhari was present. During the inspection, the cleanliness of the medical center, availability of medicines, presence of doctors and promotional material for protection from heat wave were found satisfactory. However, when the water cooler installed outside the campus was found non-functional, the Commissioner directed the CMO Mahoba and Medical Officer Charkhari to start the water cooler immediately. Apart from this, he directed that patients should get quality treatment, be treated gently, there should be proper arrangements of ramps and tricycles for the handicapped and all the arrangements at the centre should be ensured as per the National Quality Assurance Standards set by the Government of India.

**Even after a week, the robbery of the bullion trader of Girwa could not be solved**

**Staff Reporter**  
**Banda.** Why do most of the robbery incidents happen in this police station due to which common man and businessman lose faith in the police due to which three of the four robberies have happened, one robbery happened in front of the police station

■ **The condition of Girwa police came to light**  
■ **The bullion trader was disappointed as even after a week the case of robbery of the bullion trader could not be solved**

itself. The case is of Girwa police station's Tenduhi village resident Pankaj son of Mithlesh Soni who had a jewellery shop in Baheri village itself, who was going to his village Tinduhi after closing the shop with his father a week ago on 12th April, when four masked people came on two bikes near Bachhehi and after stopping their bike, they fired a shot at Pankaj and snatched his bag and ran away, after this SP Ankur Agarwal and many senior officers reached the spot and not only this, four teams were also formed by the SP to search for the masked robbers, which are doing their work but it has been a week and till date these robbers have not been caught. The villagers say that what does the Girwa police do when the police has no fear of any criminal. Such incidents have happened before and can happen in the future too because the police is only engaged in the gravel and its protection. CO Naraini Ambuja Trivedi says that after the robbery, four teams have been formed, out of which SOG, two teams of Girwa police station are engaged in surveillance and soon the matter will be revealed.

**As the heat increases, drinking water stalls have been opened in four places**



**Staff Reporter**  
**Sumerpur.** Due to continuous rise in temperature, Nagar Panchayat has started providing cold water from pitchers to the passersby by starting drinking water stalls at important places of the town. The Nagar Panchayat President inaugurated the drinking water stall by being present at Neha Chauraha.

Keeping in mind the increasing heat, the Nagar Panchayat has started drinking water stalls at Neha Chauraha, Thana Chauraha, Bus Stop, Devgaon Chauraha. The Nagar Panchayat President Dharendra Shivhare inaugurated the Paushala at Neha Chauraha by giving cold water to the passersby. Dr Gyanendra Kumar Pathak, Bholu Singh, Rajjan Mishra, Arvind Shrivastava, Rakesh Tiwari, Ramesh Soni, Deepak Sharma, Virendra Kushwaha, etc were present here. The Nagar Panchayat President said that soon Paushalas will be started outside the railway station, Kamlesh Tiraha, Ramlila Maidan, Purani Galla Mandi, so that in summer, passersby can get cold water from the pitcher to quench their thirst.

**DM resolved 35 revenue complaints on the spot in Sampurna Samadhan Diwas**



**Staff Reporter**  
**Pratapgarh.** In the Sampurna Samadhan Diwas organized under the chairmanship of District Magistrate Shiv Sahay Awasthi in Patti Tehsil Diwas, 234 complainants presented their problems. Out of these, 35 revenue complaints were resolved by the DM on the spot. Of the total complaints received, 106 were related to revenue, 35 to police, 38 to development, 2 to social welfare, 1 to education, 1 to health and 51 to other departments. Superintendent of Police Dr. Anil Kumar resolved the complaints related to police. In one case, Vijay Bahadur, a resident of Rajmalpur, complained about obstruction of the road. He told that the opponent Dayashankar

blocked the road made by consensus by filling water. The DM directed the Sub-District Magistrate Patti to investigate and resolve it quickly. The District Magistrate directed the officials to resolve the complaints on priority basis in a quality and timely manner. Departments which have 2 or less complaints should resolve them on the spot on the same day. Other departments should resolve at least 2 complaints. He asked the revenue and police teams to resolve land disputes with fair investigation and ensure that no poor is deprived of welfare schemes. On this occasion, Project Director DRDA Dayaram Yadav, Tehsildar and district level officers were present.

**Only the one who knows history can write and create history - Colonel Rawal**

➤ **Ram related picture exhibition launched on world stage**

**Staff Reporter**  
**Rewa.** On the occasion of "World Heritage Day" under the aegis of Directorate of Archaeology Archives and Museum, Madhya Pradesh Government Bhopal, while inaugurating the photo exhibition on Ram on the world stage in the historical tunnel of Venkat Bhawan Archaeological Museum situated in the heart of Rewa, the chief guest of the ceremony, Colonel Avinash Rawal, Principal of Sainik School Rewa, said that it is essential for everyone to know the ancient, ancient history of India, Sanatan Dharma tradition etc. The person who will know the history will write history and make history. On this occasion, Regional Officer of Nehru Yuva Kendra, Government of India Kuldeep Singh, Environment and Archaeology Expert Dr. Mukesh Yengal, Head of Department of Ancient History in Awadhesh Pratap Singh University, Professor Mahesh Chandra Srivastava,

**1,52,860 old age pensioners will be verified door to door by May 15, ineligible people taking benefits will be shown the way out**

**Cross verification will be done by Divisional Deputy Director and Social Welfare Officer**



**Staff Reporter**  
**Pratapgarh.** Fake beneficiaries taking benefits of old age pension will be excluded from this scheme. For this, door to door verification is being done. The District Magistrate has assigned the responsibility of verification to Block Development Officers in rural areas and SDM and Executive Officers in urban areas. District Social Welfare Officer Nagendra Kumar Maurya said that cross verification of verification was done in various Gram Panchayats of Lalganj Block. He said that the work of verification of beneficiaries included in the list for pension payment in the new financial year has been started. Verification of total 152860 pensioners in the district will be completed by May 15. Strict action will be taken against the

verifying officer, employee showing a living person as dead. He said that cross verification of 10 percent verification will be done by Divisional Deputy Director and District Social Welfare Officer. The department is providing a quarterly pension of Rs 1000 per month through DBT to the elderly people of 60 years or more under the BPL income limit.

For this, it is necessary to be a resident of Uttar Pradesh. The annual income of the applicant in the rural area should be less than Rs 46080 thousand and the annual income in the urban area should be less than Rs 56460 thousand. The Aadhaar and mobile number of the beneficiaries are linked to the bank accounts. It is seen through the portal that a person can get benefits in only one pension.

**A strategy was made regarding vaccination by holding a meeting at BRC**

**Staff Reporter**  
**Pratapgarh.** On the instructions of BSA and BEO, a meeting of the headmaster and nodal teacher was held on Saturday at Sukhpal Nagar BRC of Sadar block. In which the campaign of vaccination of children between 24 April to 10 May in council schools by

the Health Department was discussed. It was informed that children between 10 and 16 years will be vaccinated against tetanus and diphtheria. Keep the details of the children safe from now on for the preparations of the campaign. In which it is necessary to tell the Aadhar

card of the child, the mobile number of the parent on the day of vaccination. It was also told that everyone will be informed a day in advance about which day vaccination will be done in the school. On the day of vaccination, the attendance of children in the school has to be kept 100 percent. On the instructions

**Plea for justice from DG in daughter's death case**

**Staff Reporter**  
**Pratapgarh, Lalganj.** Jagmohan Verma's wife Geeta Devi, a resident of Pahadpur in Sangipur police station area, has sent an online complaint letter to the Director General of Police. In which she has pleaded for justice in the incident of daughter Swati's death due to harassment. The victim has said in the complaint letter that her daughter died by consuming poison on April 14 at 4 pm. It has been alleged in the complaint letter that on investigating the deceased's mobile, it has come to light that an accused from the same village raped the deceased by luring her with marriage. The victim also alleges that when she gave a complaint to the police, the accused abused her and threatened to kill her if she did not take back the complaint letter. CO Ramsaraj Sonkar said that legal action will be taken after investigating the complaint letter.

**Nodal officer will give water supply report to headquarters**

**Staff Reporter**  
**Banda.** The team of nodal officers will give the report of water supply to the headquarters. All the nodal officers are investigating whether the villages are getting regular supply of chlorinated water with pressure or not. Along with this, the nodal officers are also providing information about the progress of road restoration, leakage, FTK testing, ISA, IEC, Grievance Portal and redressal of complaints made by the village heads to the technical cell of the State Drinking Water and Sanitation Mission. The department has deployed a team from the Lucknow headquarters of the State Drinking Water and Sanitation Mission along with the local officials. On the instructions of Anurag

Srivastava, Principal Secretary of Namami Gange and Rural Water Supply Department, nodal officers have been appointed to ensure water supply without any hindrance in the districts of Bundelkhand including Banda. The team of nodal officers from Lucknow inspected more than 24 villages of Amlikaur and Khatan Gram Samuh Yojana. Feedback of water supply was also taken from the villagers. It is claimed that tap water is being supplied in 80 percent of the villages of the district. Out of 647 villages in Banda, more than 525 villages have been declared Har Ghar Jal certified. The work of drinking water supply in many villages is in the final stage. Soon water supply will be started in these villages too.

**Chairperson of National Women's Commission will hold public hearing on Thursday**

**Staff Reporter**  
**Banda.** National Women's Commission Chairperson Vijaya Rahatkar will hold a public hearing on Thursday at 2 pm in the Circuit House Auditorium to empower women and ensure justice for resolving women related

problems, domestic violence and other types of problems. In which officers of police and administration and related departments will be present. The above information has been given by Additional District Magistrate Judicial Amitabh Yadav.

➤ **Venkat Bhawan Archaeological Museum will run for a week**

Singh and Jairam Pandey of the Department of Archaeology welcomed the invited guests. In his address, Joint Collector Shreyash



Yugas, said that the exhibition of photographs of sculptures and paintings from around the world of the great men of these two eras is very rare. The city dwellers must see it. Sainik School Principal Colonel Avinash Rawal told that the Yuvraj Bhawan of Sainik School Rewa is also built during the time of Venkat Bhawan. He expressed happiness on seeing the rare exhibition. On the occasion of the inauguration of the photo exhibition in Venkat Bhawan Archaeological Museum, Block Sports Coordinator Vikas Soni, Deepak Sharma, News Anchor Anjum Benazir, Vijay

Gokhale gave detailed information about the ancient history of Vindhya region. Manganwan SDM Tripathi threw light on Shri Ram Gaman Marg in Chitrakoot. Dr Mukesh Yengal, while talking about the natural tourist spots of Vindhya region, rock paintings as well as Lord Shri Ram, Shri Krishna and Balram in Treta and Dwapar

India Mukesh Mandal, Principal of Ayurveda College Dr. Deepak Kulshreshtha, poetess Dr. Varsha Singh, educationist Shahid Parvez along with other dignitaries of the city and a large number of students were present. Before the inauguration of the exhibition, Abhishek Sharma, Shivbharat Srivastava, Tej Bahadur

Gokhale gave detailed information about the ancient history of Vindhya region. Manganwan SDM Tripathi threw light on Shri Ram Gaman Marg in Chitrakoot. Dr Mukesh Yengal, while talking about the natural tourist spots of Vindhya region, rock paintings as well as Lord Shri Ram, Shri Krishna and Balram in Treta and Dwapar

**Vishwa Hindu Parishad expressed its anger over the atrocities happening in West Bengal, took out a procession to protest**

**Staff Reporter**  
**Banda.** Under the banner of Vishwa Hindu Parishad, on Saturday, a large number of Hindu community people, led by District President Chandramohan Bedi, reached the Collectorate in the form of a procession, shouting slogans against the Mamata Banerjee government. After raising slogans and protesting here, a memorandum addressed to the President was handed over to the District Magistrate. Vishwa Hindu Parishad said through its memorandum that the way

the entire Bengal is being burnt in the fire of violence under the guise of opposing the Waqf Act, Hindus are being tortured. Anti-national and anti-Hindu elements are being given free hand to execute their conspiracies without any hindrance. It is clear from this that the situation in Bengal is extremely worrying. This violence that started from Murshidabad is now seen spreading throughout Bengal. But the government machinery is not only inactive in front of the rioters but has also become their helper or

motivator at many places. Before the situation goes out of control, the central



government should take control and run the administration and punish the anti-national and anti-Hindu

elements for their misdeeds. He further said that Waqf was just an excuse, the real aim was to make Murshidabad Hindu-free. This frenzied Jihad mob looted and burnt more than 200 houses and

commercial shops of Hindus, hundreds of Hindus were badly injured and three civilians were brutally murdered. As a result, more than 500 Hindu families had to migrate from Murshidabad. Instead of going to them and worrying and helping them, Mamata Banerjee is meeting the Imams who instigate riots. Instead of providing facilities to the refugees, Mamata is now conspiring to forcibly serve them back to the Jihadis. The Hindu leader said that the Mamata government can go to any extent to destroy

the federal structure of India in Bengal to protect its government and vote bank. National security has come under threat in Bengal. Bangladeshi and Rohingya infiltrators are being allowed to come unhindered. Their Aadhar cards are being made. Due to this the existence of Hindus is in danger. Law and order has been completely destroyed. During this, hundreds of workers including Deepu Dixit, Naman Shivhare, Sumit Soni, Pappu Sharma, Dinesh Gupta, Prabhakar Chandel, Lalaram were present.



**BRIEFS**

**Services restored in VIL network**

**New Delhi (Agency).** Vodafone Idea Limited (VIL) users faced network disruption in the early hours of Friday. The company said that this disruption was caused by a 'technical problem'. The problem has now been resolved and all services are now normal. A VIL spokesperson said that our network services in the National Capital Region (NCR) were affected for some time due to a technical problem in the early hours of Friday, April 18. The problem has been resolved and all services are now normal. The spokesperson said that we apologize for any inconvenience caused by this. Thank you to our users for being patient.

**No change in petrol-diesel prices**

**New Delhi (Agency).** Indian petroleum companies have released new fuel prices at 6 am on Friday. According to the released rates, there has been no change in the price of petrol and diesel even today. However, if we talk about crude oil, the price of crude oil in the international market is \$ 65.78 per barrel, which is lower than in the past days. Petrol in Delhi is Rs 94.77 per liter, Diesel is Rs 87.67 per liter, Petrol in Mumbai is Rs 103.50, Diesel is Rs 90.03, Petrol in Kolkata is Rs 105.01, Diesel is Rs 91.82, Petrol in Chennai is Rs 100.80, Diesel is Rs 92.39, Petrol in Noida is Rs 94.87, Diesel is Rs 88.14, Petrol in Bengaluru is Rs 102.92 per liter, Diesel is Rs 88.99, Petrol in Patna is Rs 105.60, Diesel is Rs 92.04, Petrol in Lucknow is Rs 94.69, Diesel is Rs 87.55, Petrol in Chandigarh is Rs 94.30, Diesel is Rs 82.38, Petrol in Hyderabad is Rs 107.46, Diesel is Rs 95.63, Petrol in Gurugram is Rs 95.17, Diesel is Rs 88.03 per liter.

**Mahindra's two latest versions will be launched by 2026**

**New Delhi (Agency).** Swadeshi company Mahindra & Mahindra is working on the facelift version of its two best-selling SUVs Thar and XUV700. These latest versions of the company will be launched by 2026. The Thar was launched in 2020 and the XUV700 in 2021. According to reports, the Thar facelift is being prepared under the codename W515, whose design will be inspired by the Thar Rocks. It will include a new grille with double-stacked slots, C-shaped LED signature headlight and tail-light, new bumper, body cladding and newly designed alloy wheels. The interior will also get features like a new steering wheel, remapped buttons, larger touchscreen infotainment system, digital instrument cluster and sunroof in the hard-top version. There will be no change in the engine options. Changes like connected LED headlights, new grille, square wheel cladding can be seen in it. The interior will also get a high-tech and premium touch. The engine options in the XUV700 facelift will remain the same as before, which will include a 2.0-liter turbo-petrol (200hp) and a 2.2-liter turbo-diesel (155-185hp).

**BluSmart's exit, new business models, and legal hurdles – What's behind the churn in India's ride-hailing market**



**New Delhi (Agency):** India's \$1-billion ride-hailing market is in the thick of disruption—popular electric cab service BluSmart has paused operations, platforms are abandoning commission-based models for subscription fees, and regulators are cracking down on bike taxis. With BluSmart hitting the brakes on Wednesday, just a day after related-party entity Gensol Engineering Ltd was pulled up by India's top markets regulator for fund diversion and document falsification, questions are mounting over the future of its 8,000-strong electric vehicle (EV) fleet. But even as BluSmart's exit could open up opportunities for rivals in the four-wheeler space, Uber and Ola are facing growing pressure from challengers like Rapido and Namma Yatri, which have scrapped commissions in favour of daily subscription fees for ride partners. Daily subscription fees—significantly cheaper than per-ride commissions—have proved popular among drivers, helping platforms like Rapido and Namma Yatri onboard more of them. While Uber and Ola continue to charge commissions for cab rides, they've been compelled to make the shift to a subscription-based model in the three-wheeler segment. As platforms adapt their business models, legal uncertainties are compounding the churn. Clarity is still awaited on whether ride aggregators must levy 5 per cent Goods and Services Tax (GST) on passengers for rides booked under the subscription model. Meanwhile, on April 2, the Karnataka High Court ordered all bike taxi operations in the state to cease by mid-May due to the lack of regulatory guidelines—a precedent that could prompt similar curbs in other states. After suspending services across Delhi-NCR, Bengaluru, and Mumbai, BluSmart has told customers it may take up to 90 days to refund their in-app wallet balances.

**FPIs offload significant IT, financial services and capital goods stocks till April 15**

**Mumbai (Agency):** Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs), who remained net sellers in the domestic equity markets during the first fortnight of fiscal 2025-26, offloaded the highest amount of shares of information technology (IT) companies, followed by financial services stocks and capital goods in the same period. Overseas investors net sold Rs 33,927 crore of local shares between April 1 and 15. In the first fortnight of the current fiscal, FPIs net sold Rs 13,828 crore worth of IT shares and Rs 4,501 crore

worth of financial services stocks. This sell-off was driven by uncertainties

April 2, and the following escalation in trade wars. Analysts, however, believe



stemming from reciprocal tariffs announced by US President Donald Trump on

that the FPI trend is likely to reverse in favour of emerging markets, especially India, in

the near term, amid trade tensions between the US and China. "The bulk of the (FPI) selling was between April 1 and 7 and was primarily due to the concerns about reciprocal tariffs from the US, and thus the Indian currency declined sharply to 86.75 level, which is back to 85.40 in the last two days," said Shrikant Chouhan, Head Equity Research, Kotak Securities. Heavy selling by FPIs resulted in the Sensex and Nifty plunging close to 4 per cent between April 1 and 7. However, both the indices have now recovered their losses. Besides, IT and financial services stocks, FPIs pulled out money from capital goods (Rs 3,019 crore) metals & mining stocks (Rs 2,829 crore), oil gas & consumable fuels (Rs 2,759 crore), and automobile and auto components (Rs 2,562 crore) between April 1 and 15. "Although services were not targeted (through reciprocal tariffs), Indian IT companies were spooked by the prospect of slowdown in the US and therefore cut in IT budgets.

**Gold imports increased by 192 percent due to global uncertainty**

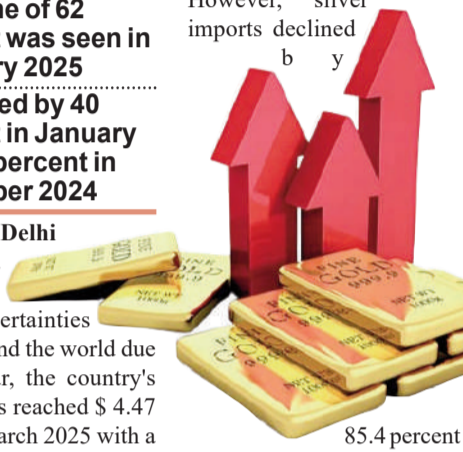
- Gold imports reached \$ 4.47 billion in March 2025
- A decline of 62 percent was seen in February 2025
- Increased by 40 percent in January and 55 percent in December 2024

**New Delhi (Agency).** Amid global uncertainties arising around the world due to tariff war, the country's gold imports reached \$ 4.47 billion in March 2025 with a huge increase of 192.13 per cent. Gold imports, which affect the current account deficit, declined by about 62

percent in February 2025, while it saw a jump of 40.8 percent in January and 55.39 percent in December 2024. However, silver imports declined

by 85.4 percent to \$ 119.3 million in March. According to the Ministry of Commerce, gold imports increased by 27.27 per cent

to \$58 billion in the last financial year 2024-25, which was \$45.54 billion in 2023-24. Gold accounts for 8 per cent of the country's total imports. Silver imports declined by 11.24 per cent to \$4.82 billion in the last financial year. Despite the continuous rise in prices, the increase in imports of precious metals indicates that investors' confidence in gold remains strong, as it is a safe means of investment. Experts say that asset diversification towards gold amid global uncertainties and tensions in many countries, increasing demand among central banks and surge in prices can also be factors in import growth.



**Trade wars resulting from erosion of trust in international systems: IMF**

**New Delhi (Agency):** Trade tensions are, to a large extent, the result of an erosion of trust in the international system and between countries as global integration—while lifting vast numbers out of poverty—has not benefited everyone equally, with many communities "hollowed out" by jobs moving overseas, said Kristalina Georgieva, Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund (IMF). The impact of trade wars has begun to show up already in Indian sectors, which are facing steep duties on inputs such as steel and aluminium, as well as weak and below-expectation reported by IT earnings due to declining discretionary spending in the US. Several top software firms have even expressed uncertainty about

wage hikes in FY26 amid tariff-related disruptions. Moreover, Indian goods exports in FY25 barely grew as shipments of labour intensive sectors such as gems and jewellery and marine exports remained under stress registering a degrowth. Trade wars have also triggered concerns about dumping of Chinese goods with US tariffs on China reaching as high as 245 per cent. "Trade distortions—tariff and non-tariff barriers—have fed negative perceptions of a multilateral system seen to have failed to deliver a level playing field. While the first two decades of this century saw significant convergence towards a low and stable US effective tariff rate, progress has stalled in the past decade.

Taking into account all the recent tariff increases, pauses, escalations, and exemptions, it is clear that the US effective tariff rate has jumped to levels not seen



in generations," she said in a statement. "Other countries have responded. And then there are the spillovers—as the giants face off, smaller countries are caught in the crosscurrents. China, the EU, and the United States—despite having relatively low

import-to-GDP ratios—are the world's three largest importers. Size matters—their actions impact the rest of the world," Georgieva said. Georgieva said the IMF

has been advising China on policies to boost chronically low private consumption. These include scaling back industrial policies and widespread state involvement in industry, as well as strengthening social safety nets to reduce the need

for precautionary savings. "Such actions, if decisive enough, would lift confidence and domestic demand, help repair damaged trade relations, and set the stage for the next phase of China's growth story. Among other things, that story needs to include a stronger embrace of the natural progression from manufacturing to services as economies mature," she said. In the US, Georgieva said the key macroeconomic policy challenge is to put federal government debt on a declining path—requiring significant reductions to the budget deficit. This, she noted, would necessitate elements of spending reform. Reducing federal debt would both strengthen economic resilience and help lower the current account deficit.

**Gensol's share price continues to plummet after SEBI action; BluSmart suspends operations**

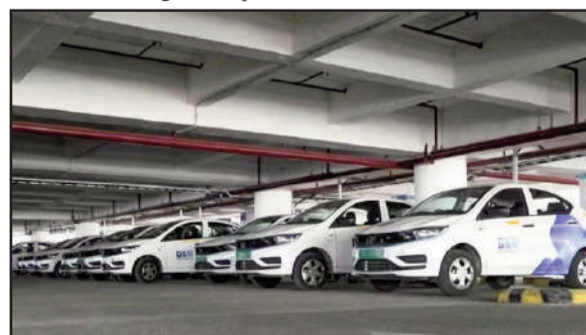
**According to market regulator SEBI, brothers Anmol and Puneet Singh Jaggi, promoters of Gensol Engineering and EV cab service BluSmart, diverted Rs 262 crore—loaned by government-owned lending agencies to procure 1,700 electric cars—towards personal indulgences and related-party entities.**

**New Delhi (Agency):** Crisis-ridden EPC company Gensol Engineering's share price continued to plummet on Thursday, ending the day's trade 4.97 per cent lower at Rs 117.50 apiece. The company's shares have been placed under Enhanced Surveillance Mechanism (ESM) Stage 1 by stock exchanges. This entails strict

enforcement of a 5 per cent price band with trade-for-trade settlement. This means that all trades must be settled on the same day. At the time of writing, Gensol's market cap stood at Rs 446.3 crore, as its share price touched a 52-week low. According to market regulator SEBI, brothers Anmol and Puneet Singh Jaggi, promoters of Gensol Engineering and EV cab service BluSmart, diverted Rs 262 crore—loaned by government-owned lending agencies to procure 1,700 electric cars—towards personal indulgences and related-party entities. Gensol Engineering's share price was down 5 per cent on Thursday to Rs 116.54 apiece on the NSE. In the past five days, the company's stock lost 16.55 per cent value. According to exchange data, Gensol's share price declined 50.76 per cent in the past month, 85.98 per cent in the past six months, and 87.09 per cent in

the past year. Gensol is a company in the renewables sector which was founded in 2007. It was listed on the stock exchanges in 2019. It started as an operator in the engineering, procurement, and construction space with a focus on solar energy projects. Along with the Gensol stock price crash, BluSmart also suspended operations on Thursday amid the brewing crisis, with users failing to book cabs on BluSmart app. The Delhi airport also issued an advisory, cautioning flyers that BluSmart has temporarily suspended operations, and asking them to avail other cab and transportation services to and from the airport. Operational in Delhi-NCR, Mumbai, and Bengaluru, the EV cab service was particularly popular for airport drop-offs and pick-ups. SEBI has barred the Jaggi brothers from the securities market over

alleged financial mismanagement and misuse of funds. According to the regulator, the brothers diverted substantial loan amounts through complex



transactions for personal use, including the acquisition of luxury real estate, and continuously misled investors. SEBI has barred the two from the securities market for financial mismanagement and misuse of funds. The investigation into the brothers' vast network of transactions routed through related-party entities and round-tripping began following a complaint of stock manipulation and

fund diversion in June 2024. Following the regulator's action, the company announced the resignation of an independent director—Arun Menon—and its promoters. In an email addressed to Anmol Singh Jaggi, Menon stated that he had offered to resign earlier but was asked to stay on until the IPO of Matrix Gas and Renewables, another unit of the Gensol group. Menon said he had offered to resign since he felt he was adding "limited value to the company" after multiple requests for a face-to-face meeting with the CFO were not heeded. These meetings

were sought for clarity on Gensol's debt position, Menon said, adding that he had also offered to assist the company with deleveraging through a debt restructuring plan. "There was growing concern on the leveraging of GEL (Gensol Engineering) balance sheet to fund the capex of other businesses; and the sustainability of servicing such high debt costs by GEL," Menon said in the email, attached in the exchange filing. He also cited the terms of his current employment, where the parent company is a private equity firm, stating that it does not allow him to hold an independent director's role, as a reason for his decision to quit the board immediately. Gensol clarified that there is "no other undisclosed price-sensitive information apart from that flagged by SEBI known to the Company that could explain the recent movement in the Company's share price." The company denied media reports that it was in discussions for an undisclosed "merger, acquisition, asset sale or any other significant transaction." In what is reportedly one of the biggest reported frauds at a startup in India, SEBI's findings show that Rs 262 crore out of a loan secured from government agencies for purchasing 1,700 EVs, the brothers purchased a luxury apartment in The Camellias, a high-end residential society operated by the DLF Group in Gurugram, Haryana. A sum of Rs 40 crore was routed to Gensol Group's related party entity Wellyray Solar Solutions via GoAuto, according to the SEBI order. A sum of Rs 39 crore was transferred to the Jaggi brothers through another series of complex transactions. Anmol Jaggi directed Rs 50 lakh from the Rs 26 crore received via Wellyray into former BharatPe founder Ashneer Grover's latest venture Third Unicorn.

**Tariffs weigh on Indian IT firms' earnings; Jerome Powell flags US spending dip**



**New Delhi (Agency):** Top Indian IT software exporters to the US are reporting weaker-than-expected earnings and have expressed uncertainty over wage increases, as tariffs begin to weigh even on the services sector amid concerns about declining discretionary spending in the US. This comes as Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell also said that recent changes in US trade policy are likely to cause "at least a temporary" rise in inflation and "delays in investment decisions".

India's second-largest IT company, Infosys, on Thursday reported an 11.7 per cent decline in consolidated net profit for the March quarter, citing weak macroeconomic conditions triggered by the US-led global tariff war. TCS, which posted a 1.6 per cent drop in consolidated net profit last week, said it was witnessing delays in decision-making and project initiations related to discretionary investments, attributing the trend to tariffs announced by US President Donald Trump. IT major Wipro also stated that it would decide on wage hikes for FY26 "closer to the date", as CEO Srinivas Pallia warned that uncertainties had "dramatically increased", with tariffs on China potentially impacting the company's European clients in the future. Although Wipro reported a 6.4 per cent sequential rise in net profit, its shares fell over 4 per cent on Thursday after brokerages downgraded the firm over weaker-than-expected performance. Market concerns over IT earnings have intensified after Powell on Thursday expressed concern over the impact of trade policy on US economic growth. Following his warning that tariffs could cause "at least a temporary rise in inflation" and noting that discretionary spending in the US is "already declining", Trump posted on social media that "Powell's termination cannot come fast enough". Notably, the World Trade Organization (WTO) on Wednesday warned that US tariffs could impact global trade growth. It revised down its forecast for global commercial services trade growth to 4 per cent in 2025 and 4.1 per cent in 2026—significantly below baseline projections of 5.1 per cent and 4.8 per cent, respectively. Raising concerns about a potential dip in demand from the US, Powell on Wednesday said that surveys of households and businesses indicate a "sharp decline in sentiment and elevated uncertainty" about the economic outlook, largely stemming from trade policy concerns.



## EDITORIAL

## Measured Momentum

India's latest inflation data has landed like a cool breeze in the sweltering summer of economic uncertainty. Retail inflation easing to 3.34 per cent in March — its slowest pace in over five years — is not just a statistical milestone. It signals a broader shift in the economic landscape, where falling food prices and subdued core inflation could empower the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to loosen monetary policy further. But while this downward trend opens a window for more rate cuts, it also places the RBI at a delicate crossroads between domestic stimulus and global caution. The sharp decline in food inflation to 2.69 per cent, driven notably by a 7 per cent fall in vegetable prices, is a striking reversal from the volatility that plagued much of the previous year. The impact of this moderation will be most felt by the average Indian household, where food constitutes a large share of monthly expenses. Lower inflation translates to more purchasing power — an essential ingredient

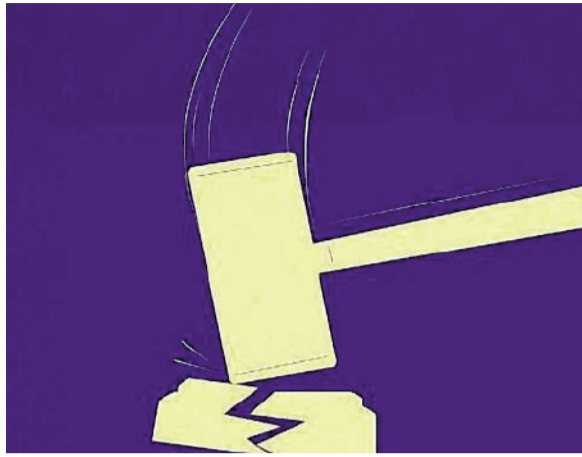


for reviving consumer sentiment. While inflation has cooled, consumer demand remains uneven across sectors. Rate cuts alone will not spark broad-based recovery — it must be paired with confidence-building measures, especially in rural and informal markets. Yet, this relief must be viewed in balance with the broader economic context. Core inflation, which strips out volatile food and fuel components, remains sticky at around 4.1 per cent. This suggests that underlying price pressures from services and non-food goods persist, likely reflecting structural issues rather than seasonal fluctuations. Moreover, the RBI's challenge is compounded by unpredictable global factors. The lingering threat of a US-China trade slowdown and uncertain weather patterns remain potential triggers for inflationary surprises.

While an above-average monsoon, as forecast, would be a boon for agricultural output and rural incomes, it is not a certainty. Food prices can spike again if there are any monsoon disruptions or supply chain bottlenecks. Still, with inflation currently well within the RBI's comfort zone and GDP growth revised slightly downward to 6.5 per cent for the fiscal year, the case for further rate cuts is strong. Lower interest rates can provide much-needed fuel for credit growth, particularly for MSMEs and housing, and stimulate private investment that has remained sluggish despite government capital expenditure. That said, the RBI must avoid the temptation to rely too heavily on rate cuts as a panacea. Monetary easing must be accompanied by fiscal prudence and structural reforms to improve the supply side of the economy. More importantly, the central bank must guard against being blindsided by imported inflation or commodity price shocks. The March inflation print is encouraging, but it's not an all-clear signal. It gives the RBI space to manoeuvre, but not to sprint. Policy must be calibrated, measured, and forward-looking. After all, in an interconnected world, even the calmest domestic waters can be stirred by storms from afar.

## In Justice Varma case, due process, not media trial will deliver justice

Ramvilas Sharma



“Like other citizens, judges are entitled to presumption of innocence. Justice must be done, not just in outcome, but also in method”

Public confidence in the Indian judiciary appears to be on increasingly fragile ground. According to the latest C-Voter-India Today survey, only about 30 per cent of those surveyed said they fully trust the judiciary, while 12 per cent trust it only somewhat. Alarming, nearly 48 per cent reported having no trust in it at all. These findings reflect a growing crisis of institutional confidence. Justice Abhay S Oka recently echoed this concern during a lecture on “Access to Justice”. He remarked: “We kept patting our backs that citizens trust the courts, but we have to ask if citizens are saying that. I have been to villages etc. The statement that common man has full faith in judiciary may not be entirely correct.” Recent allegations concerning Justice Yashwant Varma have sparked public scrutiny and provoked sharp commentary. While accountability is vital, it is equally important to ensure that the constitutional safeguards and legal principles that govern such inquiries are respected. The judiciary, as an institution, must be protected from premature judgements that risk eroding public trust. For sitting high court judges, the in-house inquiry procedure requires the CJI to initiate a fact-finding probe by a three-member committee comprising two chief justices of high courts and one high court judge.

being struck down, found its way into the PC Act by an amendment in 2018 in light of growing concerns about harassment of honest officials. The intent was to provide procedural safeguards for decisions taken by a public servant in the discharge of official functions. Section 19 of the same Act requires sanction before a court takes cognisance. The Lokayukta Act mandates a preliminary inquiry before proceeding against high-level officials. The Lokayukta is headed by a retired SC judge, and at least half the members are required to be judicial members, ensuring judicial oversight for preserving institutional independence while maintaining robust scrutiny. When Parliament contemplates impeaching a judge, the Judges (Inquiry) Act, 1968 must be followed. It contemplates a preliminary investigation by a committee comprising an SC judge, a chief justice of a high court, and a distinguished jurist. The requirement of impartial fact-finding before action is consistent across all levels of the judiciary. The Constitution Bench in Lalitha Kumar's case has provided for preliminary inquiries in relation to public servants in corruption cases as well as private persons in matrimonial and commercial disputes and doctors in medical negligence cases. Recently, the SC has mandated a preliminary inquiry to protect journalists and others in freedom of speech cases. Such safeguards exist not to protect the guilty, but to ensure procedural fairness. The judiciary deserves no less. Unlike politicians, bureaucrats or private persons, judges cannot respond publicly to allegations. Judicial propriety demands dignified silence. This puts them at an inherent disadvantage when faced with media scrutiny or public criticism.

## Instagram is making us buy our belongingness

It starts the way these things always do — innocently, passively. A woman, sitting in her tiny apartment, thumb idly grazing the screen, watching as an influencer unboxes an \$800 skincare fridge with the reverence of an archaeologist uncovering a lost relic. A fitness coach, impossibly toned, insists that the secret to effortless workouts isn't discipline or diet, but a \$300 pair of running shoes. A tech reviewer, speaking with the authority of an economist, explains why owning four different tablets isn't indulgence — it's strategy. Suddenly, what was once an idle curiosity hardens into something else entirely: A need. Not just to own but to belong. This isn't advertising — not in the way billboards and magazine spreads once were. This is something much subtler. Something designed not to sell, but to seep. In 1899, sociologist Thorstein Veblen coined the term “conspicuous consumption” to describe the tendency of people to buy things not for their utility but as a display of wealth and status. At the time, his theory applied mostly to the ultra-rich — the ones who could afford to spend frivolously to signal their social standing. But more than a century later, Instagram has democratised that impulse. The allure of curated lifestyles, paired with a digital economy that rewards visibility, has transformed Instagram into both a marketplace and a stage where desire is manufactured and monetised at an unprecedented scale. Instagram didn't invent aspiration, but it did something more powerful: It made it feel personal. Traditional luxury marketing was built on distance — runway models, glossy magazine ads — a world beyond immediate reach. Instagram collapsed that distance. Now, it's not celebrities selling the dream; it's the girl you went to high school with, the fitness coach with 10k followers, the influencer whose morning routine feels both enviable and attainable. A new kind of behavioural economics — where the old levers of desire (scarcity, social proof and comparison) operate at hyperspeed. The influencer economy is worth over \$21 billion because it replaces cold corporate persuasion with something far more effective: Trust. When a friend — or someone who feels like one — recommends a product, the line between marketing and reality disappears. A \$500 Dyson Airwrap isn't just a hair tool; it's an investment in self-worth. A Stanley Cup isn't just a water bottle; it's a lifestyle choice. The more we scroll, the more we buy — not because we need more, but because we're chasing a version of ourselves that feels just within reach. The influencer economy is now a multi-billion-dollar industry. According to McKinsey, Gen Z consumers are particularly susceptible to influencer marketing, with nearly 75 per cent reporting that they rely on social media recommendations before making a purchase. Companies are now focusing on “ROI-driven [return on investment] influencer collaborations”, prioritising engagement metrics over follower counts. In other words, influencers are no longer just aspirational figures — they are business assets, meticulously selected based on their ability to convert visibility into sales. Brands are now adopting a more strategic approach to influencer marketing, moving beyond flashy one-off campaigns toward long-term partnerships with content creators who align with their brand values. This is particularly true in the beauty, fashion, and wellness industries, where influencers have become the primary channel for product discovery. (While Instagram fuels an economy of influence, it also perpetuates a culture of perpetual dissatisfaction. The platform thrives on aspiration — the idea that there is always something more to want, whether it's a better wardrobe, a more sculpted body, or a perfectly aesthetic morning routine.)

## Silencing Dissent

In a world already fractured by disinformation and rising authoritarianism, Russia's latest crackdown on journalists is a chilling escalation. The sentencing of four journalists to five-and-a-half years in prison for alleged ties to a banned organisation underscores the dangerous erosion of press freedom in a country that once flirted with openness but has now plunged headlong into repressive rule. These journalists stand accused not of violence or sedition, but of working on content related to a YouTube channel critical of the government. That alone was enough to brand them extremists under Russia's increasingly opaque legal framework. The fact that this so-called trial unfolded behind closed doors is telling — truth has become too dangerous to witness in President Vladimir Putin's Russia. The targets of these sentences were not militants or political operatives. They were reporters, editors, and visual storytellers — people whose only crime was seeking to inform the public. Their work involved documenting public figures, reporting on opposition



voices, and capturing the kind of footage that, in functioning democracies, is the bedrock of a healthy press. But in today's Russia, truth-telling is treated as a threat to national security. The broader context is essential. These sentences come after the suspicious death in prison of Russia's most prominent opposition leader Alexei Navalny — a man who had long challenged the state's corruption and repression. That his death remains clouded in controversy only heightens the sense that the state is methodically dismantling every avenue of dissent.

By punishing journalists who once gave him a platform, the message is clear: not only will the voice of the opposition be silenced, but so will those who dared to amplify it. What makes these sentences particularly egregious is their retroactive criminalisation of routine journalistic work. These journalists were not operating underground; their reporting was public, their affiliations known. That the state can later reframe this work as extremist activity reveals just how elastic and dangerous the legal system has become. It weaponises ambiguity, allowing the government to punish people not for what they did wrong, but for whom they were perceived to be aligned with. What's especially disturbing is the normalisation of this repression. Terms like “foreign agent” and “extremist” are wielded not as legal classifications, but as political weapons to marginalise and criminalise critics. Independent outlets, already under siege, now operate in a climate of fear. Even freelancers — those without institutional backing — are not spared. This is not just censorship; it is the institutionalisation of fear. Yet even in that courtroom, behind glass and handcuffs, one of the convicted had the courage to say he believed the regime would not last much longer. That kind of defiance is rare and courageous. It reminds us that authoritarianism cannot fully extinguish hope. But hope, without action, fades. The international community must recognise that press freedom in Russia isn't just under threat — it's being systematically dismantled.

## 50 years on, Khmer Rouge's shadow stalks

Ramvilas Sharma

On 17 April 1975, tanks rolled into the Cambodian capital, Phnom Penh, to cheering crowds who believed that the country's long civil war might finally be over. But what followed was one of the worst genocides of the 20th century. During a brutal four-year rule, the communist-nationalist ideologues of the Khmer Rouge killed between 1.6 million and 3 million people through executions, forced labour and starvation. It represented a quarter of the country's population at the time.

Fifty years on, the Khmer Rouge's legacy continues to shape Cambodia — politically, socially, economically and emotionally. It's etched into every Cambodian's bones — including mine. I write this not just as an academic or observer but as a survivor. My father died under the Khmer Rouge, succumbing to dysentery and malnutrition after being forced to work in a labour camp. My mother pretended to be Vietnamese to save our family. She escaped Cambodia with five children in 1976, crossing through Vietnam before reaching France in 1978 and finally the United States in 1985. We were among the lucky ones.

Today, Cambodia is physically unrecognisable from the bombed-out fields and empty cities of the 1970s. Phnom Penh gleams with high-rises and luxury malls. And yet beneath the glitter, the past endures — often in silence, sometimes in cynical exploitation. The Khmer Rouge came to power on a wave

of disillusionment, corruption, civil war and rural resentment. Years of American bombing, the 1970 U.S.-backed coup that ousted Prince Norodom Sihanouk, and the subsequent deeply unpopular U.S.-aligned military regime set the stage for

four decades, has justified its grip on the country through the trauma of the genocide.

“Peace and stability” have become mantras used to squash dissent. Every sham election becomes a referendum not just on policy but on avoiding a re-

1975–79 genocide. Many mid- and lower-level perpetrators walk free, some are still in government positions, some neighbours to survivors. For a nation where the majority of the population was born after 1979, there remains a glaring gap in



the Khmer Rouge's rise. Many Cambodians, particularly in the countryside, welcomed the Khmer Rouge, with its mix of hardline communist ideology and extreme Cambodian nationalism, as liberators who promised to restore order and dignity.

But for the next four years, the Khmer Rouge, under feared leader Pol Pot, brought terror to the nation through ideological purges, forced labour, racial genocide of minority groups and policies that brought widespread famine. The regime fell in 1979, when Vietnamese forces invaded Cambodia and toppled the Khmer Rouge leadership, installing a new, pro-Hanoi government. But its shadows remain. The now ruling Cambodian People's Party, in power for over

turn to war. Critics of Cambodia's rulers are framed as threats to peace and unity. Opposition parties have been dissolved, activists jailed, media muzzled. This political culture of fear draws directly from the Khmer Rouge playbook — minus the overt violence. The trauma inflicted by that regime taught people to distrust one another, to keep quiet, to survive by keeping their heads down.

That impulse still shapes public life. The Khmer Rouge tribunal — officially the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia — was supposed to bring closure. It has brought some. But it took decades to begin, cost over US\$300 million and convicted only three senior Khmer Rouge leaders over the

education and public reckoning over the Khmer Rouge's atrocities. Cambodia's school curriculum still struggles to teach this period adequately. For many young people, it's something their parents don't talk about and the state prefers to frame selectively. In raw numbers, Cambodia's economic progress over the past two decades has been impressive. GDP growth averaged around 7 per cent annually before the Covid19 pandemic. Cities have expanded, and investment — especially from China — has flooded in. But much of this growth is precarious. Cambodia's economy remains dependent on garment exports, tourism and construction.

This leaves it vulnerable to external shocks, such as the

Trump administration's imposition of 49 per cent tariffs on Cambodian goods, now temporarily paused. Instead of building a resilient, diversified economy, Cambodia has relied on relationships — with China for investment, with the U.S. for markets — without investing enough in its own human capital. That, too, I believe, is a legacy of the Khmer Rouge, which destroyed the country's intellectual and professional classes. The psychological toll of genocide doesn't disappear with time. Survivors carry the scars in their bodies and minds. But so do their children and grandchildren.

Studies in post-genocide Cambodia have shown elevated rates of post-traumatic stress disorder and depression among survivors and their descendants, resulting in intergenerational trauma. There are not nearly enough mental health services in the country. Trauma is often dealt with privately, through silence or Buddhism, the country's dominant religion, offers rituals for healing, reincarnation and forgiveness. But this isn't a substitute for systemic mental health infrastructure. Worse, in recent years, even the memory of the genocide has been politicized. Some leaders use it as a tool to silence dissent.

Others co-opt it for nationalist narratives. There's little room for honest, critical reflection. Some independent initiatives, such as intergenerational dialogue programs and digital

archives, have tried to fill the gap but face limited support. This is, I believe, a second tragedy. A country cannot truly move forward if it cannot speak freely about its past. April 17 is not a national holiday in Cambodia. There are no official commemorations. The government doesn't encourage remembrance of the day Phnom Penh fell to the Khmer Rouge. But to my mind, it should. Not to reopen wounds, but to remind Cambodians why justice, democracy and dignity matter.

The danger isn't that Cambodia will return to the days of the Khmer Rouge. The danger is that it becomes a place where history is manipulated, where authoritarianism is justified as stability and where development is allowed to paper over injustice. As the world marks the 50th anniversary of the Khmer Rouge's rise, Cambodia must, I believe, reckon with this uncomfortable truth: The regime may be long gone, but its legacy lives on in the institutions, behaviors and fears that continue to shape Cambodia today.

When I look back, I think of my father — whom I never knew. I think of my mother, who risked everything to save us. And I think of the millions of Cambodians who live with memories they cannot forget, and the young Cambodians who deserve to know the full truth. My life has been shaped by what happened on 17 April 1975. But that story isn't mine alone. It belongs to Cambodia — and it's still being written.



'Civil unrest, crime, terrorism'

# In reissued advisory, US urges citizens to avoid travel to Bangladesh

**The US State Department also warned of changing conditions in Bangladesh, asking its citizens to avoid all kinds of demonstrations and political gatherings.**

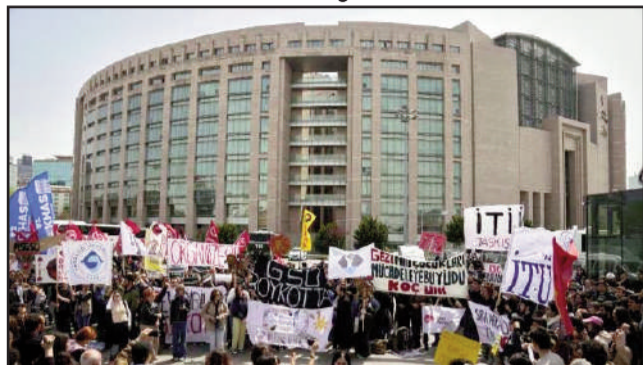


Bangladesh after months of communal violence that began in the month of July last year. Communal clashes against the government led by then Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to resign and flee Dhaka, toppling her Awami League's 16-year regime. At least 300 people were reported to be dead amid the agitation. This was followed by the formation of an interim government in the country, with Mohammad Yunus as its interim chief advisor. To those travelling to the Chittagong Hill tracts, the department said: "Prior approval from the Government of Bangladesh's Ministry of Home Affairs Office of Public Safety is required if you plan to travel to these areas. Due to the risks, US government employees working in Bangladesh are prohibited from traveling to the region. Do not travel to these areas for any reason."

The US has also warned of changing conditions in Bangladesh, thus, asking the citizens to avoid all kinds of demonstrations and political gatherings, "even peaceful ones, since they could turn violent with little or no warning." It also urged them to closely monitor local media for latest events and be prepared to adjust plans. Travellers should be aware of petty crimes such as pickpocketing in crowded areas, the advisory stated. Crimes such as muggings, burglaries, assaults, and illegal drug trafficking constitute the majority of criminal activity in Bangladesh's major cities, but there are no indications foreigners are being targeted because of their nationality.

**New Delhi (Agency).** The United States on Friday reissued its travel advisory for Bangladesh, urging citizens to reconsider their travel plans to the South Asian country amid "civil unrest, crime, and terrorism". It also said travel should be avoided to Khagrachari, Rangamati, and Bandarban Hill Tracts districts (collectively known as the Chittagong Hill Tracts), citing communal violence, crime, terrorism, kidnapping, and related security risks. "Reconsider travel to Bangladesh due to civil unrest, crime, and terrorism. Some areas have increased risk," the advisory by the US State Department read. This comes amid the escalating law and order situation in

## Dozens on trial in Turkey after protests over Istanbul Mayor's arrest



**New Delhi (Agency).** Dozens of students and journalists appeared in court in Istanbul on Friday after being charged over protests sparked by the arrest of opposition mayor Ekrem Imamoglu, a key political rival of President Recep Tayyip Erdogan. The case has drawn national and international attention amid concerns over political freedoms and judicial independence in Turkey. The protests erupted after Imamoglu, widely seen as Erdogan's strongest opponent, was detained on 19 March and jailed a few days later on corruption charges. Many critics, including rights groups and opposition figures, believe

the charges are politically motivated. Imamoglu, the mayor of Istanbul, has been a rising political figure and a potential presidential contender. According to AP, a total of 189 people – mostly university students – are on trial, accused of joining unauthorised demonstrations and refusing to follow police orders to disperse. Some are also facing charges for allegedly carrying weapons. Among those on trial are four photojournalists and three reporters who were covering the protests. Their cases have been separated from the main group of defendants, the court decided on Friday.

**Beer costs Rs 1700 and a banana costs Rs 565 at Istanbul Airport**



**Istanbul (Agency).** Turkey's Istanbul Airport is famous as one such place where the prices of food items surprise people. According to the report, a passenger claimed that Istanbul Airport sells even basic food items at premium prices. Sometimes it is so expensive that it is very difficult for a common man to buy it. It was written about the prices that here a bottle of beer is available for about 15 pounds or about Rs 1700, while a banana is being sold for about Rs 565. More than 2 lakh people come and go to this airport every day, so keeping such a high price for all these passengers is like insulting and robbing them. The Italian newspaper Corriere della Sera also did a report on the skyrocketing prices at Istanbul Airport. According to this, this airport is the most expensive airport in Europe in terms of food and drink. The report also contained the memoir of an Italian writer, in which he told how he was given 90 grams of lasagna for about 2300 rupees.

# Russia lost lakhs of soldiers in the Ukraine war, now sending summons to youth to join the army

**Some youth are suffering from diseases like hypertension and diabetes, are forced to hide**

**Moscow (Agency).** There is military activity in Russia due to the war with Ukraine. On the orders of President Vladimir Putin, a 'Maha Military Recruitment Campaign' is being run across the country from April 1, in which about 1.6 lakh youth between 18 and 30 years are

being recruited in the army. Surprisingly, some of the youth recruited in the army are suffering from diseases like hypertension and diabetes. This recruitment campaign is considered to be the biggest conscription drive after 2011. Through this campaign, Russia's military strength is to be increased to 25 lakh soldiers. Putin had mentioned this in an order last year and now this plan has been implemented. According to media reports, this time the recruitment is being



done more aggressively than ever before. According to the report, a 21-year-old youth living near Moscow says that he

is suffering from hypertension, despite this he has been summoned for recruitment in the army. These days he is forced to live in hiding and is hoping that he can apply for medical exemption, because he is not getting relief from the government. According to human rights activists in the report, earlier the youth used to get exemption from recruitment on some basis or the other, but this time the age limit has been fixed from 18 to 30 years. Earlier this limit was 27

years. A spokesperson of an organization says that now anyone can get a summons and the way to avoid it has almost closed. Even though the Russian Defense Ministry has claimed that these soldiers will not be sent to Ukraine, but experts believe that this step is a preparation to prolong the Ukraine war. According to estimates, Russia has lost millions of soldiers in the war with Ukraine in the last three years.

## 38 people killed in US air strike

**Yemen (Agency).** 38 people have died in the US air strike on Yemen's Houthi rebels, while more than 100 people have been injured. This air strike took place on an oil port Ras Eisa. US Central Command has confirmed this strike, although they have not given the exact number of dead. The deaths in this attack may be the deadliest air action ever taken by the US on Houthi rebels, which has been done under the new campaign launched by US President Donald Trump from March 15. The campaign is aimed at weakening the Iran-backed Houthi rebel group, which has attacked several US ships passing through the Red Sea since the Israel-Hamas war began in October 2023.



People demonstrating with banners in a rally at Berkeley University in California.

# Scientists have developed a camera about 250 million times faster than a normal smartphone

**Washington (Agency).** Scientists have developed a camera that can take a photo in a trillionth of a second. This camera is about 250 million times faster than a normal smartphone. The name of the camera is VSPDF, the camera has been developed by a team of scientists from Columbia University. With its help, the speed of atoms and their movement can be seen with great accuracy. Actually scientists wanted to understand this process for a long time, but due to the limitations of



technology it was not possible. Now it will be possible with this new super-fast camera. This camera does not use light like normal cameras, but detects the position of atoms with the help of microscopic particles called neutrons. When neutrons collide with a substance and pass through, then from the changes in their path, it can be understood which atoms are nearby and how they are moving. VSPDF, the speed of the camera can be changed, which makes it easy to differentiate between

'dynamic disorder' and 'static disorder' (normal movement). Scientists first tried this technique on a substance called germanium telluride. This material is used in thermoelectric devices, which produce electricity from heat or cool electricity. The study revealed that as the temperature increases, its atoms start moving faster in a specific direction, the same direction from which it draws electricity. This discovery will not only help scientists understand complex substances better, but will also open the way to creating new devices that can provide energy for space missions such as rovers on Mars.

## When the hijacker brandished a knife, a passenger shot the hijacker



**New York (Agency).** A person hijacked a Tropic Air plane going from Corozal to San Pedro. There were 14 passengers and two pilots on board. As soon as it was known that an American citizen hijacked the plane at knife-point, people panicked. The accused started stabbing them. In which a pilot and two passengers were injured. An injured passenger shot the accused with his licensed revolver. The hijacker has been identified as 65-year-old American citizen Akinyela Sawa Taylor. According to the police, Taylor demanded to take the plane out of the country by showing a knife during the flight. There were 14 passengers and 2 crew members on board the plane. This flight was going from Corozal to San Pedro. Belize Police Commissioner Chester Williams said that Taylor stabbed three people in the plane, including the pilot and the passengers. After

this, the same passenger shot Taylor with his licensed gun. During this incident, the plane kept circling in the air for about two hours, but was finally landed safely. The injured pilot and two passengers are admitted to the hospital. The most injured was the passenger who showed courage and killed the hijacker. He was stabbed in the back and suffered serious injuries to his lungs. Commissioner Williams said, we are praying for him. He is our hero. Williams admitted that security is weak at small airports in Belize and it is now a matter of concern how Taylor boarded the plane with a knife. US State Department spokeswoman Tammy Bruce in Washington said that officials still have to gather complete information. She said, "This is a horrific incident. We are thankful that it did not turn into an incident with major loss of life and property."



**Charu Asopa shares glimpses of her new villa in Bikaner amid financial crisis controversy: 'Noise don't affect me anymore'**



Charu Asopa, who was previously married to Sushmita Sen's brother Rajeev Sen, recently shifted to Bikaner. Her decision to leave Mumbai made quite some headlines, especially after a video of the television actress selling clothes for a living went viral. During the same time, the actress shared that she is planning to leave the city because it is too expensive for her. This made many speculate that the actress was going through a financial crisis. Amid all this, Charu has shared a new vlog from her hometown Bikaner, where she bought a new villa. In her vlog, she shared, "The work is being done in the new house. Ziana's playroom and bedroom is being made. I don't know how long all this construction work will take, but I am really hoping all this is done before Akshaya Tritiya, so that we officially move in there." Akshaya Tritiya is on April 30. In the same vlog, the actress shared that now noises around her don't affect her. She said, "When you walk out of the worldly affairs, then no matter how much anyone says anything about you, says anything, thinks anything, it doesn't matter to you because you know, you are in a peaceful environment. You are at peace. So when there is peace in your mind, then no matter how much noise there is outside it, it does not affect you." The actress also revealed that she has a tight schedule as she has to get her loan sanctioned for the new house. Charu, currently has left her television gig to look after her daughter. The actress, who is open to take up short term roles in movies and OTT, sells face packs, sarees, and salwar suit for a living through her business, Charu Asopa's Closet. A week ago, Rajeev Sen had taken a dig at his ex-wife for citing finances as her reason to move out of Mumbai. He told Hindustan Times, "She has money to take luxury cruise trip along with her family, where she has paid for all their tickets. Then how is she suffering financially?" Later, Charu in her another vlog reacted to Rajeev's claims and said, "I never claimed I was living in poverty. My priorities changed after my daughter, and after considering many aspects, I decided to move to Bikaner."

**Mushtaq Khan says he was underpaid for Welcome and earned less than Akshay Kumar's staff: 'Paise nahi badhaye...'**

You can't think of Welcome without Mushtaq Khan and his unforgettable character, Balu. Who can forget that iconic line: "Meri ek taang nakli hai, main hockey ka bohut bada khiladi tha (My one leg is fake, I was a great hockey player)." It's almost as if the two are inseparable. For all the love Mushtaq gets for this role, especially in today's meme culture, there's an unfortunate reality behind the scenes: he didn't get paid as much as he deserved. Sure, working alongside the likes of Nana Patekar, Anil Kapoor, and Akshay Kumar was a blast, but the shooting schedule stretched on endlessly, and Mushtaq's payment never reflected the extended hours. Mushtaq Khan shared his frustration



about the pay disparity, humara hota hai toh bola jaata saying, "Agreement jab hai ki 20 din ka shoot hai ya 25

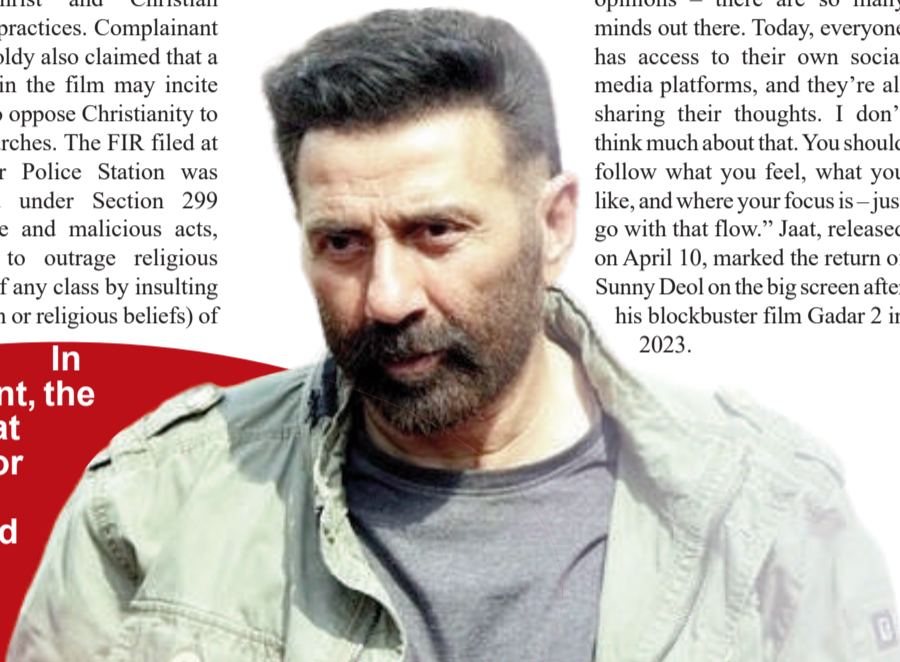
din ka shoot hai. Uss hisaab se hum aap na payment tay karte hain. Par fir 25 din ke shoot ke baad aapse 10 din aur maange jaate hai, fir uske baad 15 din aur. Maine kaha yeh toh galat baat hai yaar. Paise nahi badhaye. (When we sign an agreement, we're told it's a 20-day or 25-day shoot. Based on that, we decide our payment. But when, after the 25-day shoot is over, they ask for 10 more days, and then another 15 days after that. I felt this was not right. The payment wasn't increased)." He further revealed that Akshay Kumar's staff was getting paid more than him. "Main aapko iske peechhe ka reason batata hoon. Humare saath toh fix hogaya tha ki aapko poori film 1 lakh mein karni hai, phir chahe woh 20 din ho ya 25.

**Makers of Sunny Deol's Jaat issue apology, delete controversial scene from film post FIR**

Sunny Deol and Randeep Hooda's Jaat landed in controversy after a section of the Christian community raised objections to a scene in the film. On Friday, an FIR was filed against actors Sunny Deol, Randeep Hooda, Vineet Kumar Singh, and others for allegedly hurting religious sentiments. In response, the makers have issued an apology and removed the controversial scene from the movie. Hours after the FIR, the makers of Jaat issued an statement which read: "To whomsoever it may concern, there has been a backlash for a specific scene in the film. The scene has been removed from the film with immediate effect." The statement further read, "Our intention was not to hurt any religious

sentiments. We deeply regret it and have taken a quick action of deleting the scene from the film. We sincerely apologize to everyone whose beliefs have been hurt." The controversy erupted after members of the Christian community alleged that Jaat features scenes that disrespect Jesus Christ and Christian religious practices. Complainant Viklav Goldy also claimed that a dialogue in the film may incite those who oppose Christianity to target churches. The FIR filed at the Sadar Police Station was registered under Section 299 (deliberate and malicious acts, intended to outrage religious feelings of any class by insulting its religion or religious beliefs) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS). Apart from the actors of the film, the FIR was also registered against the film's director Gopichand Malineni and producer Neveen Melineni. Director Gopichand Malineni recently spoke to India Today about the controversy

surrounding Jaat. He said, "On social media, everyone has their own phone and their own ideas. For example, I love Lord Balaji, but even when it comes to God, people have different opinions about whom they worship. Similarly, when people watch films, they have many different opinions - there are so many minds out there. Today, everyone has access to their own social media platforms, and they're all sharing their thoughts. I don't think much about that. You should follow what you feel, what you like, and where your focus is - just go with that flow." Jaat, released on April 10, marked the return of Sunny Deol on the big screen after his blockbuster film Gadar 2 in 2023.



In a statement, the makers of Jaat expressed regret for hurting religious sentiments and confirmed that the controversial scene had been removed with immediate effect.

**Paddington in Peru movie review: Third time's not the charm**



You can take a bear out of the jungle, but you can't take the jungle out of the bear," so declares Paddington (voiced by Whishaw again). However, can you force the jungle back into the bear, is the question? And the answer here, in this third film on the lovable bear with a red hat, blue jacket and an endless supply of marmalade, in good old London, is touch and go. Paddington in Peru does not have the charm or the wit or the plaintive appeal of the first two films on the bear, as conceived by Paul King, whose very essence was finding its feet and home in the big city. The Peru chapter packs in a lot more adventure on a technically higher scale, and ends up hurting a story whose essence is its simplicity, such as a family home and a bare sandwich. Plus, there is no Sally Hawkins this time to provide this story a heart. She was the Mary Brown of the previous two films, and while Mortimer bravely takes up the role this time, you sorely miss Hawkins and that smile that seems to embrace the whole world.

**Sinners movie review: Music is the elixir in Michael B Jordan's gripping Southern horror**

Michael B Jordan is effortless as the two men from whom we can't tear our eyes away, who are as many parts good, grieving men trying to do some good as cool-headed businessmen. He packs both charisma and raw strength here.

Like Jordan's Peele's Get Out, Sinners explores the themes of racism, segregation and - as its name suggests - religion, through the genre of horror. Coogler teams up with his favourite actor Jordan again (Creed and Black Panther being among their several collaborations) to give a film that via one night's story captures the lived reality of generations of slavery. It entails a society living under the shadows of suspicion, separation, tension and whispered slurs; an atmosphere where traditional beliefs can sound like voodoo, while religious scriptures can be spouted by both the so-called saints and the sinners; and where even slight ambitions can be read as rebellions. In a town of Mississippi, where rows and rows of white cotton plantations stretching out into the horizon hide the Blacks working day and night in them to meet their quota of sharecropping, what stirs the uneasy quiet is the return of two prodigals - twins Smoke and Stack (both played by Jordan). The reputation of the twins precedes them in this Jim Crow

land, circa 1932, for having broken the rules of the game to rise as minor gangsters in Al Capone's mafia world. Soon as they arrive, bearing lots of cash and enough guns, Smoke and Stack buy a sawmill from a suspected Ku Klux Klan member and announce their plans to start a juke joint there. They are not wasting time, and go about having the club up and running by that same evening, turning to old friends (such as the harmonica playing Lindo) and their guitar-strumming cousin Sammie (Canton, a singer making his acting debut) to provide the night's entertainment, and others to prepare the signs and decorations. Smoke and Stack also rekindle their old flames in the town - Annie (Mosaku) and Mary (Steinfeld), respectively. It's when the night is in full swing, amidst a whole lot of shaking and schmoozing and more, that the horrors the twins are determined to keep out of their establishment come stalking in taking a new, dangerous form. A snarling O'Connell leads that group, strumming about Ireland's natural beauty under Mississippi's full moon and quiet night, as beautifully as hinting at the danger lurking under his smooth talk.



**Retro trailer: Suriya cannot stay away from violence as he announces a 'thrilling and dangerous' battle**

The countdown has begun for the release of Karthik Subbaraj's much-anticipated Suriya-starrer Retro. While the project had been generating significant buzz since initial reports regarding it emerged, the hype has only gone through the roof with the arrival of the movie's trailer, which underscored that Retro would be a full-on mass entertainer, with the signatures of both Karthik Subbaraj and Suriya all over it. The nearly three minutes long trailer transports viewers to a bygone era where Suriya's character appears to be a man trying to escape violence - only for it to catch up with him time and again.

The trailer opens with a man asking Suriya to put on a show, setting the stage for the introduction of key characters played by Pooja Hegde, Jayaram, Prakash Raj, Joju George, and others. As the trailer unfolds, a series of intense action sequences follows, including a man preparing for war. Amid the chaos, Suriya's character makes a promise to his love interest - to stay away from violence, rowdiness, and hooliganism. However, he struggles to keep that promise. In a powerful moment, Suriya's character reflects, "Our separated lives over the past years almost changed her into a Buddha, and me into a demon." The trailer then delves into how he navigates his turbulent world and confronts the forces pulling him back into violence. The trailer cut was crafted by renowned filmmaker-editor Alphonse Puthren. Bankrolled jointly by Stone Bench Creations and 2D Entertainment, Retro also features Pooja Hegde, Jayaram, Joju George, Singampuli and Nassar in key roles. While the movie's music is composed by Santhosh Narayanan, its cinematography and editing are handled by Shreyaas Krishna and Shafique Mohamed Ali, respectively. For Suriya, Retro's success is extremely important as his last film, Siva's Kanguva (2024), had bombed at the box office. Opening up about his experience working with Suriya, Karthik, who makes his return to the director's chair following the widely acclaimed Jigarhanda DoubleX, shared during a recent chat with Vikatan, "Right from the way his eyes move to the dialogue delivery and body language, Suriya sir has a firm grasp on everything. He is a pure artiste, and I could feel his passion ring through till the dubbing process. He loves cinema. He only wants to do films that are new to him, both as an actor and as a person. He doesn't want to take anything for granted."



**When Ranjeet's father threw him out of his house for pulling actress Raakhee's hair: 'He said baap ki naak kata di'**

Veteran actor Ranjeet is among the evergreen villains of Bollywood, who was part of almost all the big films, made between 70s to 2000s. The actor started his career in 1970 and went on to star in films like Hulchul (1971), Laila Majnu (1976), Dharam Veer (1977), and latest being Housefull 4 (2019). While now known for starring in over 200 films, Ranjeet was thrown out of his own house

after his first film. Not because he became an actor, but because he molested Raakhee on screen. During his appearance on The Kapil Sharma Show post COVID-19 pandemic, Ranjeet had recalled the time when he did his first film Sharmeelee which disappointed his father. He shared, "When I did my first film, Sharmeelee, my father threw me out of the house. He was like 'Baap ka naak kata

diya.'" Sharing the reason behind his disappointment, Ranjeet said, "He was mad at me because I molested Raakhee in the film. It showed me tearing her clothes and pulling her hair." Ranjeet then recalled his dad's reaction and said, "He was like if you had to act, you could have taken up doctor, engineer, police's role, what have you done? What are you doing molesting a girl?'" Previously, talking to IANS,

Ranjeet said, "I am completing 50 years in the film industry. I have lived life on my own terms. I did not have a godfather. Despite the image (of a baddie), I have never been involved in any controversy all these years. I can say that I have lived very gracefully." Ranjeet's acting career happened out of the blue. He was someone selected for the Indian Air Force, but he left it during training.





**Virat calls Anushka his strength**



**New Delhi (Agency).** Indian cricket team's experienced batsman Virat Kohli has said that wife Anushka Sharma is his strength, she understands my situation. Virat said that he sees Anushka not only as a wife but also as an emotional support. He also said that mentally I have a lot of conversations with my wife. Anushka and I talk about the complexity of the mind. Along with this, we also talk about negativity and how it can pull you towards itself. Regarding wife Anushka, he said that she is like a pillar of strength for me because she herself is at that place where she has to face a lot of negativity. So she understands my situation and I understand her situation and having a life partner who understands exactly what you are thinking, feeling and going through is the most important thing. Virat also said that I don't know how I would have got this clarity if she was not in my life. Their journey of love and marriage started in the year 2013 on the set of a shampoo ad. Both of them fell in love with each other at first sight and that ordinary day turned into a beautiful romance.

**Former cricketer Ajay Jadeja said, Pandya never gives up**

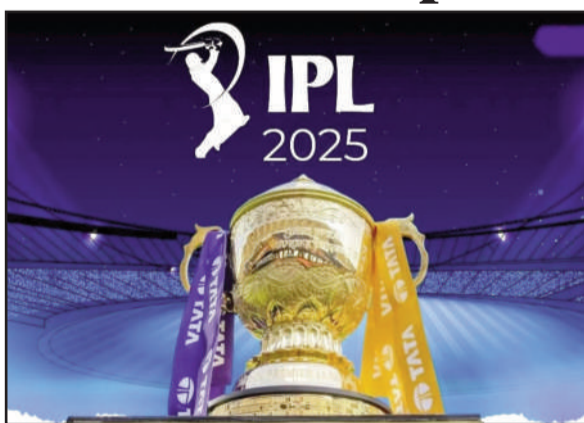
**Mumbai (Agency).** Former Indian cricketer Ajay Jadeja has praised Mumbai Indians captain Hardik Pandya and said that he is very passionate and never gives up. Jadeja has said that he likes this quality of Pandya very much. He also said that he is ready to lead the team in every situation. The team's campaign was weakened by continuous defeats since the beginning of this season, which is now coming back on track. The team has then registered two consecutive wins over Delhi Capitals and Sunrisers Hyderabad. Pandya has taken 11 wickets in six matches so far and is the joint second highest wicket taker. Jadeja



said, Pandya leads from the front, be it batting, bowling, fielding or outside the field. He always keeps smiling. One thing about him is that he never gives up. Last year was not good for him, but this

year, despite not getting good results in the beginning, he stuck to his style. He also feels that Mumbai's morale has increased after the 12-run win against Delhi Capitals. He said, according to me, the change came in the last match against Delhi Capitals. In that match, Mumbai won even after coming close to defeat and this is Pandya's style. Jadeja said, this changed the attitude of the team. This match showed how Mumbai and Hardik play. When Hardik Pandya comes to the field, even if the team needs 10, 12, 15 runs per over, you still feel that he has a better chance of winning at the crease.

**Punjab Kings reach second place**



**Mumbai (Agency).** With the fifth win in seven matches of IPL against Royal Challengers Bangalore (RCB), there has been a change in the points table and the team of Punjab Kings has now reached second place. This victory of Punjab has caused loss to Gujarat Titans and RCB and with the loss of place of Gujarat, RCB has slipped to third and fourth place. With this win, Punjab now has 10 points with 5 wins in 7 matches and has come to the second position in the points table. At the same time, Delhi Capitals is still at number one with 10 points. It has won 5 out of 6 matches, due to which it is in the first position. Gujarat Titans (4 wins in 6 matches) and RCB (4 wins in 7 matches) are at third and fourth position with 8-8 points. Talking about the match, Punjab won by 5

wickets in the rain-affected match. This match was reduced to 14-14 overs. In this, RCB, playing first, scored 95 runs with the help of Tim David's 50 runs. After this, Punjab won this match by five wickets. Gave Punjab Kings a victory by five wickets. Nehal scored 33 runs with the help of 3 sixes in 19 balls and Stoinis scored 7 runs in 2 balls. Talking about the Orange Cap for the most runs, Nicholas Pooran is at the top of the race with an average of 59.90 and 357 runs in 7 innings. In the race for the Purple Cap for the most wickets, Noor Ahmed is still at the top with 12 wickets, but RCB's Josh Hazlewood can overtake him in the next match. Hazlewood also has 12 wickets, although he is lagging behind due to his economy of 8.17.

**Churchill get I-League title & ISL promotion after AIFF panel verdict, Inter Kashi to approach CAS**

**Delhi (Agency):** After weeks of uncertainty and drama, Churchill Brothers, the provisional I-League leaders, was adjudged champions for the 2024-25 season by the Appeals Committee of the All India Football Federation (AIFF) on Saturday. The AIFF confirmation of the Goan club's title triumph, however, is unlikely to bring closure to one of the most turbulent seasons in Indian domestic football as Inter Kashi, the other claimant to the second-tier title, announcing their intention to approach the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) following the Appeals Committee's decision. The championship outcome had been uncertain due to a dispute involving Inter Kashi, the newly-formed club who finished second in the league but were contesting the result of their match against Namdhari FC (which they lost 2-0), alleging that the opposition fielded an ineligible player - Brazilian midfielder Cleudson C Silva. The AIFF initially formed a disciplinary committee to investigate the matter, and the initial ruling awarded a 3-0 win to Inter Kashi which

would have taken them two points clear of Churchill Brothers and clinched the title. However, Namdhari appealed against the verdict and an appeal panel on Saturday ruled in exhaustion of all internal dispute resolution processes, enables Inter Kashi to approach the Court of Arbitration in Sport (CAS) for a truly free and fair hearing of the matter," the club said in a statement. "From the very beginning, Inter Kashi has been clear that the case involves a simple interpretation of rules and regulations based on some undisputed facts. Inter Kashi will keep no stone unturned to secure justice, and any celebration in the interim may ultimately prove to be premature in nature." The seeds of tension between Churchill Brothers and Inter Kashi were sown even earlier, most notably in their clash in Goa late in the

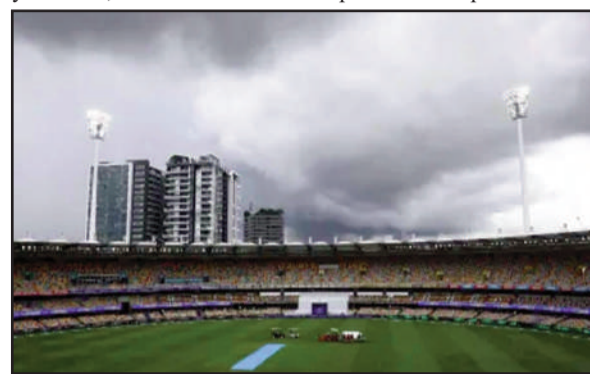


**There will be no cricket matches at the Gaba ground after the Ashes series**

**Brisbane (Agency).** Fans will no longer be able to watch cricket matches at the Brisbane Stadium in Australia. This ground will bid farewell to international cricket after the upcoming Ashes series against England. Cricket and Australian Football League (AFL) matches have been held on this ground for decades. It will be demolished after the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games. The Gaba Stadium is considered to be the stronghold of cricket and football, but now the Queensland government has announced to build a new, state-of-the-art stadium in Victoria Park in place of this historic ground. This stadium will have a capacity of about 63,000 spectators and will be used to host major international tournaments in the future. The Gaba Stadium is considered to be one such

team broke the undefeated record of the host team by winning on this ground. The Indian team defeated Australia on this ground for the first time since 1988 during the Border-Gavaskar Trophy. The Gaba Stadium had long been on the radar due to its old structure and limited facilities. There

was a plan to rebuild the ground earlier but it was canceled in view of the huge expenditure. People were also



against spending a huge amount on this stadium, which Cricket Australia was under pressure. At the same time, the government has now decided that a new state-of-the-art stadium will be built in place of Gaba, which will be equipped with modern sports facilities and will provide better

opportunities to the players of Queensland. The construction of the new stadium will cost around 3.8 billion Australian dollars. It will be designed keeping in mind the needs of cricket, AFL football and other international sporting events. Queensland Premier David Crisafulli announced the project and said that this new stadium will become a great platform for cricket and other sports. ICC tournaments, Big Bash League and other international competitions will be organized on this ground in future. The cricket history of Gaba Stadium has been very rich. The first Test match was played here in 1931 and since then a total of 67 men's Test matches have been played on this ground. Gaba also made its place in women's cricket and two women's Test matches were also organized here.

**Feeling honoured to have a pavilion named after me at Wankhede Stadium: Rohit**

**Mumbai (Agency).** Indian cricket team captain Rohit Sharma has said that he had never even dreamt that a stand would be named after him. Rohit said that he is feeling proud and honoured by the decision of Mumbai Cricket Association (MCA) to rename Divecha Pavilion Level 3 of Wankhede Stadium as Rohit Sharma Stand. This is an emotional moment for him. The cricketer recalled his early days when he used to go to watch Mumbai Ranji players after Under-16 training at Azad Maidan. He said that in the year 2003-04, we used to

go to the track to watch Ranji players. Since then, I have many memories of Wankhede. After the



reconstruction of the stadium, we won the World Cup. Now it seems surreal to

see the stand in my name. Rohit made his debut for the Indian team in 2007. He was part of the 2007 T20 World Cup winning team. He has played 159 T20Is, 273 ODIs and 67 Test matches so far. He bid farewell to T20 international cricket after winning the T20 World Cup in Barbados last year. Rohit has been made the brand ambassador for the Mumbai T20 League starting from May 26. The T20 Mumbai League, launched in 2018, is a premier domestic T20 tournament organised by the MCA, which provides a platform for young talent.

**Rahul shared pictures of newborn daughter Evara on his birthday**

**Mumbai (Agency).** Veteran Indian cricket team batsman KL Rahul turned 33 on April 19. On this occasion, Rahul and his wife Athiya Shetty made public the first picture of their newborn daughter. The couple has named their daughter Evara, which means God's gift. As soon as this picture came on social media, fans liked it a lot.

Rahul and Athiya's daughter was born on March 24 last month. Now both of them shared a picture of their daughter, in which Rahul is holding the daughter in his lap and Athiya is looking at him with loving eyes. It was written - Our daughter, Evara is everything for us. Rahul has told the full name of the daughter as Evara Vipula

Rahul. In this, Evara means God's gift, Vipula is kept in honor of his great-grandmother and protector, and Rahul is taken from his father's name. In this picture, Evara is lying on Rahul's shoulder but her face is hidden. Bollywood stars and fans showered love and congratulations in its comment section.

**RCB's third defeat on their home ground**

**Bengaluru (Agency).** Punjab Kings defeated Royal Challengers Bangalore (RCB) by five wickets in a rain-interrupted Indian Premier League (IPL) match. With this, the RCB team has suffered its third defeat on its home ground. In this match, Punjab Kings got a target of 96 runs in 14 overs to win, which they achieved 11 balls earlier. With this, Punjab Kings have won the fifth match, which has further confirmed their playoff claim. Due to rain, this match was reduced to 14-14 overs. However, in this match, Punjab had a bad start while chasing the target. Priyansh Arya and Prabhsimran Singh, who came in as impact subs, returned to the pavilion in the beginning. Prabhsimran scored only 13 while Priyansh could score only 16 runs. After this, Shreyas Iyer and Josh Inglis were also out on 7 and 14 runs. Punjab moved ahead with a 28-run partnership between Nehal Vadhwa and Shashank Singh. In this, Nehal scored all the runs and Shashank was seen supporting him by scoring only 1 run.

**When Dhoni changed the hotel in anger: Smith**



**Chennai (Agency).** Former Indian cricket team captain Mahendra Singh Dhoni is popular as Captain Cool due to his calm and restrained behavior. Dhoni is currently captaining Chennai Super Kings (CSK) after Rituraj Gaikwad was ruled out of the IPL season. West Indies' Dwayne Smith, who plays for CSK, has said that Dhoni is very calm and he has seen him getting angry twice in his career. Smith said, once Ashwin dropped a catch even though it was a very easy catch, but after that Dhoni got angry and removed Ashwin from slip and sent him somewhere. Smith said that this was the first time I saw him getting angry. Apart from this, Smith told about the incident that happened in a hotel and said that once the hotel staff stopped the food from coming inside, which was to go to Dhoni. Dhoni then went to another hotel in anger. Former batsman Suresh Raina has also said that he has seen Dhoni getting angry in some cases. Under Dhoni's captaincy, CSK has won the IPL title five times. As the captain of the Indian team, he has led the Indian team to victory in all ICC tournaments including the World Cup and the T20 World Cup.



# Heat will break out like a torture in MP

**Mercury crossed 44 in Khajuraho, Naugaon-Guna... Temperature was more than 40 degrees in 28 cities, similar weather for next 5 days**

**Bhopal (Agency):** This year there will be record-breaking heat in MP. On Friday, for the first time in the season, the day's mercury crossed 44 degrees Celsius in MP. The temperature in Khajuraho and Naugaon was recorded at 44.6 degrees and 44 degrees Celsius respectively. In Guna it was 44.3 degrees. The big cities of the state - Bhopal, Indore, Gwalior, Ujjain and Jabalpur were also the hottest of the season. The temperature in Gwalior was 43 degrees, in Ujjain 42.8 degrees, in Bhopal 42.2 degrees, in Jabalpur 42.1 degrees and in Indore 41.7 degrees Celsius. On Friday, the mercury was 40 degrees

or more in 28 cities. This has happened for the first time in the season, when so many cities have been hit by severe



heat. According to the Meteorological Department, on Friday, Ratlam, Sagar-Sidhi recorded 43.8 degrees, Damoh 43.6 degrees, Satna-Shajapur 43.1 degrees, Narmadapuram-Rewa 42.6 degrees, Shivpuri-Raisen 42 degrees, Mandla 42 degrees, Dhar 41.9 degrees, Umaria 41.7 degrees, Khargone 41.4 degrees, Malajkhand 41 degrees, Seoni 40.4 degrees, Betul 40.2 degrees, Khandwa 40.1 degrees and Chhindwara recorded 40 degrees Celsius.

Meteorologist VS Yadav said that with the increase in day temperature, the heat has increased at night as well.

Similar weather will prevail for the next 5 days. With the north-western winds gaining strength, the minimum temperature in Indore, Bhopal, Gwalior, Chambal, Sagar, Rewa, Narmadapuram divisions will be around 25 to 27 degree Celsius. The maximum temperature during the day in the entire state can remain between 42 to 44 degree Celsius. Heat wave can blow for 2 to 3 days. There is a possibility of light rain. The minimum temperature in the entire

state will be 3-4 degrees more than normal i.e. 27 to 30 degree Celsius. Nights will also become hot along with the day. The mercury in Gwalior, Chambal, Sagar and Rewa divisions can be 43-45 degrees while the temperature in the rest of the state including Indore, Ujjain-Bhopal can be 41 to 44 degree Celsius. Due to the cyclonic circulation system, the effect of heat wave can remain for 3 to 4 days in the last week of April.

There was a period of intense heat and rain in the first and second week of April. In the first week, all the divisions had 21-24 degree Celsius, 2-3 degrees more than normal. At the same time, due to western hot winds during the day, the maximum temperature reached 39 to 44 degree Celsius more than normal in Indore, Sagar and Narmadapuram divisions. In the rest of the divisions including Ujjain, Bhopal, Gwalior, it was between 41 to 42 degree Celsius. Heat wave has already blown in Ratlam in the first week. At

**> The highest heat was in 1996, it also rained**

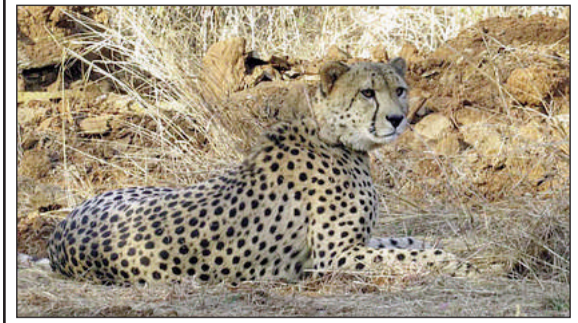
Talking about the trend of heat in April, the maximum temperature in Bhopal reached 44.4 degrees Celsius on 29 April 1996. There are also chances of rain and storm in Bhopal this month. This is the reason why there has been a spell of rain in April for the last few years. On 20 April 2013, Bhopal received 30.8 mm (more than an inch) of rain in 24 hours. In 2023, 22.6 mm of rain fell. On 17-18 April, the temperature was 40.9 degrees Celsius.

at the same time, heat kept increasing due to hot winds in the rest of the cities. In the second week, there was a situation of strong storm, rain, hail and thunderstorms in the entire state. Rain occurred in 80 percent of the state. On the other hand, there was also the effect of heat in some districts.

Due to the high effect of heat wave in April-May, the summer season starts from March in Madhya Pradesh. According to this trend, there will be intense heat in the next 3 months. The Meteorological Department has predicted heat wave for 15 to 20 days till May. Hot winds can blow for 30 to 35 days in April-May. The effect

of heat wave will be seen in different districts in the second fortnight of April. In Madhya Pradesh, the effect of heat starts increasing from the second fortnight of April. In the last days of the month, the temperature breaks records. A 10-year data-based study of Bhopal, Indore, Jabalpur and Gwalior revealed that the mercury reached 43 degrees in Bhopal-Indore while the figure touched 44 degrees in Jabalpur. In Gwalior, the temperature has crossed 45 degrees Celsius. In the last three years, these cities experienced intense heat. This time too, there is a possibility of an increase in temperature.

## Eight cheetahs will be brought to India from Botswana



**Bhopal (Agency):** Under the rehabilitation program of cheetahs in India, eight cheetahs will be brought from Botswana in two phases, out of which the first four will reach India by May. This information was given in the review meeting of 'Project Cheetah' held in Bhopal on Friday, in which Union Environment, Forest and Climate Change Minister Bhupendra Yadav and Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Dr. Mohan Yadav also participated. Officials of the National Tiger Conservation Authority said that the process of

bringing more cheetahs from South Africa, Botswana and Kenya to India is going on. Four cheetahs will be brought from Botswana by May, after which the remaining four cheetahs will be brought to India. Also, the process of agreeing on an agreement in this regard is going on between India and Kenya. According to the information, so far more than Rs 112 crore has been spent on the cheetah project, out of which 67 percent amount has been spent on cheetah rehabilitation in Madhya Pradesh.

## BRIEF NEWS

### NGT seeks strict

### response from DM on illegal mining in Yamuna

**Delhi (Agency):** The National Green Tribunal (NGT) has given time till April 21 to the District Magistrate (North) to file his reply on the issue of illegal mining in the floodplains of Yamuna. The bench headed by NGT Chairperson Justice Prakash Shrivastava passed this order on April 17 on the request of the concerned DM. The DM assured the tribunal that he would file the reply by April 21. The tribunal has taken suo motu cognizance and started hearing in a case. This case is related to increasing illegal mining in the floodplains of Yamuna between Alipur in North Delhi and Panchaira in Ghaziabad. Sand mafia in the area are building temporary roads on the Yamuna river. This helps them to transport mining machines and extract sand during floods. These roads are often made of wooden planks and sand bags. This method is damaging the ecosystem of the river. All this is part of a long-standing practice, in which the illegal roads built are washed away in monsoon floods and are built again the next year. The case said that no rules allow mining on the river bed and the use of heavy machinery is also not allowed. Digging more than a depth of 3 meters in the flood zone is illegal. The NGT held that the lessee should ensure that the flow of the river is not obstructed in any way.

### 23-year-old dream of becoming an Assistant Commandant shattered

**Delhi (Agency):** The Delhi High Court directed the Centre and the concerned respondents to pay Rs 15 lakh as compensation to a person who was denied the post of Assistant Commandant due to 'arbitrariness' in the selection process of the Central Police Organization. The court said that the petitioner has been fighting this case for the last 23 years so that he can be properly considered in the selection process. However, directing to reconsider his selection after a long time will create administrative chaos. A bench of Justice Naveen Chawla and Justice Shalinder Kaur said that instead of directing the respondents to reconsider the appointment of petitioner Satvir Singh to the post of Assistant Commandant and if he is found eligible by applying the criteria laid down in the year 2002, then fix his salary and seniority retrospectively and give him imaginary promotion, we consider it appropriate to give him a lump sum compensation for the loss he suffered due to his 'arbitrary rejection' in the selection process. The court has given 12 weeks to the respondents to pay the compensation. In its judgment delivered on April 17, the High Court said that we are facing an unfortunate situation where the examination/selection process in question is of the year 2002. The persons selected in the selection process are not before us. While modifying the relief sought, the High Court observed that directing appointment may create many other problems.

### When will new buses hit the roads of Delhi? People are facing a lot of trouble

**Delhi (Agency):** Due to the shortage of buses, the problems of the people of Delhi are increasing. People wait impatiently at the bus stop for the buses to arrive on their route, sometimes they even spend a lot of time waiting for it. As soon as the summer starts, their problems are increasing even more. The way the previous Aam Aadmi Party government was careless about the purchase of buses in the last year of its tenure, the public is now facing the brunt of it. While 790 buses have been removed from the roads from January to March due to being old, 112 buses are also going to be removed from the roads in April. In total, 900 buses of DTC are being removed from the roads. Meanwhile, people were facing problems due to 462 buses of DIMTS standing on the roads, but Transport Minister Dr. Pankaj Singh said that the buses of DIMTS which were standing on the roads have been allowed to run. All these buses are back on the roads. He said that the public will not be allowed to face shortage of buses. These buses were standing on the roads due to the end of the contract with the government.

## Many influential people are surrounded for funding Saurabh Sharma

**Accused will increase, cancer hospital operator had given 6.5 crores**

**Bhopal (Agency):** New revelations are being made every day in the Saurabh Sharma case, one of the most talked about cases of the capital Bhopal. The charge sheet presented by ED has revealed that Saurabh Sharma can also be a big hawala businessman, because Saurabh Sharma's wife Divya Sharma and a hawala businessman had opened a company together, this has also been revealed in the ED charge sheet. Now another revelation has been made, in which Dr. Shyam Agarwal, a renowned doctor of the capital and director of Navodaya Cancer Hospital and Research Center, has also transferred six and a half crore rupees to Saurabh Sharma's bank accounts without any written document.

Dr. Agarwal has sent five crore rupees to the account of

Viral Construction and one and a half crore rupees to the account of Saurabh's confidant Sharad Jaiswal. To escape from ED, Dr. Shyam Agarwal is claiming to have bought property from Saurabh Sharma's Arival Construction, but no documents were found for this and neither was Arival Construction selling any such property. In such a situation, the question arises again whether Saurabh Sharma used to transfer the black money of big officials and businessmen of the capital and the state through hawala? Or was this amount taken as brokerage to get a file passed? However, no one is able to answer this at the moment. According to the ED chargesheet, Saurabh Sharma was also investing outside Madhya Pradesh. Saurabh had deposited about three crore rupees within five

days in Mano-Deep Nagarik Sahakari Sansthan located in Pune, Maharashtra. However, it is not yet clear in what context this amount



was deposited. But it is certain that as the ED investigation progresses, layers will be revealed and many famous faces will be exposed. Black money worth crores was revealed after the Lokayukta raid on 18

December 2024 at the residence of former constable of Transport Department Saurabh Sharma, his confidante and

business partner Chetan Singh Gaur and Sharad Jaiswal. After this, the Income Tax Department team recovered more than 52 kg of gold and cash worth about eleven crores from Chetan Singh Gaur's Innova car parked in an abandoned

condition in Mendora late night of 19-20 December 2024. After this, the Enforcement Directorate raided on 27 December. The Lokayukta Police itself is running a poor investigation system. Due to not submitting the challan on time, the special court has also granted bail to the three accused in the corruption case registered by the Lokayukta Police, but new revelations are being made every day in the charge sheet presented by the ED.

Saurabh, Chetan Singh Gaur and Sharad Jaiswal have got bail from the Special Court due to not submitting the challan on time by the Lokayukta Police against Saurabh Sharma. Alerted by the Lokayukta case, ED has filed a challan against the three accused in the special court before the due date and has made 12 people accused

including the mother, wife, driver, brother-in-law. In this case, ED is currently closely examining the documents seized from the hideouts of Saurabh Sharma and his confidants, investigation of bank accounts and documents of companies. The way ED's investigation is going on, it seems that in the coming days ED will present another supplementary challan, because many such names are also coming to light, who have not been made accused yet. In such a situation, ED will present another supplementary challan in a few months and will also make the close ones of Saurabh Sharma and his confidants, relatives and officers of his companies accused, because Saurabh has either bought property in their name or made them partners.

### Girl thrown off e-rickshaw to snatch mobile

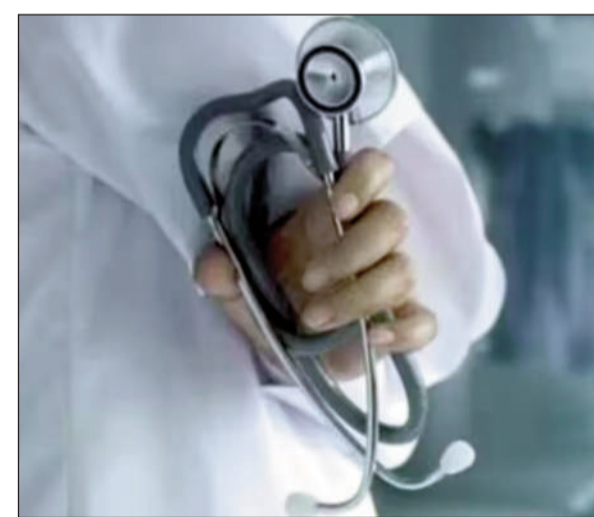


**Delhi (Agency):** While robbing the phone on Wazirabad Main Road in Gokulpuri area of North East Delhi, the miscreant caught the wrist of the girl sitting in the e-rickshaw. The miscreant riding a bike gave a strong jerk. Due to this the girl fell down from the e-rickshaw. Her head hit the road and she became unconscious. The public picked her up from the road and took her to the side. A person took her to the nearest hospital, from where she was referred to GTV Hospital. The condition of the victim Komal (19) remains critical, there is a possibility of blood clotting on her head. Gokulpuri police have registered a case and are searching for the accused. Komal lives with her family in Brijpuri. She is doing graduation. She has also been working in a furniture showroom in Johripur for about two months. The family consists of parents, two younger sisters and a younger brother. Father does a private job.

Komal was coming home in an e-rickshaw on Thursday evening. A bike rider came from behind on the main Wazirabad road near Mohan Nursing Home in Yamuna Vihar at around 7:00 pm. He started snatching the phone from Komal's hand. Instead of the phone, the miscreant got hold of her wrist. The miscreant jerked her sharply, due to which she fell down from the moving e-rickshaw. Due to this, Komal's head hit the road and she became unconscious. The public pushed her aside and a huge crowd gathered. Advocate Anurag Sharma admitted her to Mohan Nursing Home, from where the family took her to GTV Hospital. Komal's younger sister Kajal told that Didi has regained consciousness now, but is not in a condition to talk right now. She is opening her eyes intermittently. Doctors have done a CT scan, after which it is said that there is blood clotting on the head. Doctors say that the condition will gradually improve.

## Free treatment will be available in 88 private hospitals of Delhi

**Delhi (Agency):** The State Health Agency of the Delhi Government has issued instructions to private hospitals to register for Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana. Under this, SHA has issued this instruction to all the 88 hospitals already registered with Delhi Arogya Kosh and has sent an email to the management of those hospitals asking them to enter into an agreement with SHA. Beneficiary patients of the scheme will be able to get free treatment only in hospitals registered with Ayushman Bharat. According to the scheme, SHA will enter into separate agreements with all the hospitals. SHA has shared the agreement letter and its terms with all the hospitals registered with Delhi Arogya Kosh. Help desks will have to be set up in hospitals within seven days of signing the agreement. Arogya Mitras will be deployed by the hospital at that help desk. The help desk will be equipped with computer and internet facilities. When the beneficiary patients reach this desk, Arogya Mitras will



verify the patients and help them in treatment. After treatment, patients will be able to make an online claim for the cost of treatment within 24 hours of being discharged from the hospital. SHA will have to complete all the paperwork within 15 days and pay the cost of treatment. If any procedure is not listed in the Ayushman Bharat scheme, then approval can be taken from SHA first. For such procedures, SHA can fix a maximum amount of Rs 1 lakh. It is worth noting that an agreement was signed with the National Health

Authority and the State Health Agency of Delhi on April 5 to implement the Ayushman Bharat PMJAY scheme and the work of making cards started from April 10. In Delhi, 6.54 thousand poor families and about six lakh elderly people above 70 years of age will get free treatment up to Rs 5 lakh under this scheme. Apart from this, the Delhi government will also provide additional health insurance of Rs 5 lakh. Therefore, the state government will issue a top-up wallet for SHA registered hospitals.

### Delhi High Court mentions Draupadi episode

**Delhi (Agency):** The Delhi High Court acquitted a man in the case of adultery, citing the Draupadi episode of Mahabharata. The woman's husband had filed a case saying that his wife was in adultery with the petitioner. They went to another city, where they stayed together in a hotel and had sexual relations between them without the consent of the husband. Justice Neena Bansal Krishna, calling the crime of adultery under Section 497 of the IPC unconstitutional, discussed in detail the Supreme Court's decision in this regard. The court said that the 'old law' had a provision that the relevant crime is considered only in the absence of the consent or connivance of the married woman's husband. In the judgment delivered on April 17, Justice Krishna said, "Considering a woman as the property of her husband and its disastrous consequences are well described in the Mahabharata, in which Draupadi was gambled away by none other than her own husband Yudhishtira, where the other four brothers remained silent spectators and Draupadi had no voice to protest for her dignity."