



**Top officials of UP govt engaged in saving consultants who gave false affidavits**



**Big 204 percent jump in the value of M&A and PE deals on an annual basis**

**Hina Khan condemns Pahalgam attack, writes, 'As a Muslim, I want to apologise to all my...'**

**Crucial READ**

**Five workers die after inhaling fumes at UP rice mill**

**Bahraich (Agency):** Five workers died allegedly after inhaling fumes emanating from a dryer at a rice mill here on Friday, police said. Three other workers, who fainted after inhaling the fumes, were rushed to the district hospital, Additional Superintendent of Police, Ramanand Prasad Kushwaha. The incident took place at the Rajgarhia Rice Mill and preliminary investigations suggest that several workers arrived at the mill this morning and went to inspect smoke emanating from the dryer, the officer said.

**Omar Abdullah backs Centre's move to suspend Indus Waters Treaty**

**New Delhi (Agency):** Jammu and Kashmir chief minister Omar Abdullah, on Friday, called the now-suspended Indus Waters Treaty with Pakistan the "most unfair document" for the people of the union territory, saying it never had their support. India on Wednesday suspended the World Bank brokered 1960 treaty on water sharing with Pakistan in response to the terrorist attack in Jammu and Kashmir's Pahalgam that killed 26 people.

**Object falls from IAF aircraft, damages house in MP's Shivpuri; inquiry ordered**

**Shivpuri (Agency):** A "metal object" that fell from an Indian Air Force aircraft caused severe damage to a house in Madhya Pradesh's Shivpuri district on Friday, but nobody was injured, police said. The IAF said it has instituted "an inquiry into the incident". "The IAF regrets the damage caused today to property on ground, near Shivpuri, by the inadvertent drop of a non-explosive aerial store from an IAF aircraft, and has instituted an inquiry into the incident," it said in a post on X.

# State government is working for public welfare with a spirit of service: Chief Minister Dr. Yadav

State government is committed to realize the mantra of development with the legacy of Prime Minister Modi

- Work is being done rapidly for industry, employment, agriculture, skill development
- May the 500 days of the state government be fruitful
- Chief Minister addressed the State of States Conclave

**Bhopal (Agency):** Chief Minister Dr. Mohan Yadav has said that the Madhya Pradesh government is working in mission mode to fulfill the resolution of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's developed India @ 2047. The benefit of welfare schemes is being given by starting 4 missions for the poor, youth, farmers and women empowerment of the state. It is our good fortune to get the opportunity to work under the guidance and leadership of Prime Minister Modi. He said that hard work is the aim of life and the society and organization evaluate the work. Madhya Pradesh is the fastest growing state of India in

terms of economy. The year 2025 is being celebrated as the Industry Year by the State Government. To increase industrial investment in the state, the government first organized Regional Industry Conclave (RIC) at the divisional level and Global Investors Summit-2025 in Bhopal, which received an investment of more than 30 lakh crores. The industrial growth rate of the state is more than 12 percent. The state government has set a target of increasing milk production capacity from 9% to 20%. The government is making every possible effort to put Madhya Pradesh in the front row by working on the basic mantra of development



with heritage. The government has presented a budget of 4 lakh 21 thousand crores this year. This reflects the growth of the state. Chief Minister Dr. Yadav expressed these views in the State of States Conclave on the completion of 500 days of the state government with remarkable achievements. In the conclave, tribute was paid by observing 2 minutes of silence for the peace of the souls of the tourists who died in the Pahalgam terrorist attack. Chief Minister Dr. Yadav said that today more than 100 industrial parks have been established in the state. Investors in every sector are turning to Madhya Pradesh

for business. It is the achievement of the state that industrial units working in the field of cotton in the southern states are also coming to Madhya Pradesh. In the coming years, youth will get employment on a large scale in the state, and recruitment will also continue on government posts. The government has set a target of providing 2.5 lakh jobs in 5 years. He said that activities are being conducted holistically for farmer welfare and to make farming a profitable activity. The price of wheat used to be Rs 600, which our government is purchasing today at Rs 2600 per quintal. New schemes are being

implemented for the prosperity of farmers. Farmers are being encouraged to cultivate alternative crops that require less water and cost along with paddy and soybean. Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar Kamdhenu Yojana has been started to increase the income of cow keepers from animal husbandry. In this, a cow-keeper can raise from one unit (25 cows) to 8 units (200 cows). The government will give a subsidy of up to 25 percent to the cow-keepers. These schemes will not only increase milk production in the state, but will also provide more employment opportunities to the people of the state.

## Over 100 Pakistani nationals in Pune asked to leave India after Pahalgam attack



**New Delhi (Agency):** The Pune district administration has identified 111 Pakistani nationals in the area and ordered them to leave India by April 27, following the Pahalgam terror attack in Jammu and Kashmir. Authorities in Pune have granted an extension of two more days, till April 29, for Pakistani nationals who are in the district on medical visas. That information regarding the Pakistani

nationals was being collected from the passport office and visa-issuing officials. The visas were issued for various reasons, including tourism and medical treatment, the collector said. "So far, we have received information about 111 Pakistani nationals. All of them have been informed that it is mandatory for them to leave the country within the stipulated deadline," he said.

### Indus Waters Treaty suspension

After 26 tourists were gunned down during a terrorist attack in Jammu and Kashmir, India officially informed Pakistan that they planned to temporarily suspend the Indus Waters Treaty with immediate effect. In a letter addressed by Debashree Mukherjee, India's secretary of water resources, to her Pakistani counterpart, India claimed that Islamabad had breached the conditions of the treaty due to sustained cross-border terrorism targeting Jammu and Kashmir. The move is among the five big punitive moves taken against Pakistan in the wake of the Pahalgam terror attack, including suspension of visas.

**Amit Shah dials chief ministers, says ensure no Pakistani stays back in India**



**NEW DELHI (Agency):** Union home minister Amit Shah on Friday spoke to chief ministers over phone, asking them to ensure that no Pakistani citizen stays in India beyond the deadline set by the Centre, people familiar with the development said. "The home minister personally called the CMs of all states and union territories to identify and inform the Centre about any overstaying Pakistani nationals so that they can be sent back to their country," a government official said.

## Opposition backs Centre's action on Pahalgam attack, says Rahul Gandhi

**New Delhi (Agency):** Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Friday condemned the Pahalgam terror attack and vowed that the united Opposition would stand with the Centre in its efforts to take action against the perpetrators. The Lok Sabha MP assured the victims' families of the country's full support, adding that he met an injured person and was deeply moved by the support shown by the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

In a post on X, Gandhi said, "This is a terrible tragedy. I have come here to understand the situation and help. All the people of Jammu and Kashmir have condemned this horrific attack and have fully supported the country. I met an injured person. My condolences and affection are with those who have lost their loved ones. I want to assure everyone that the

**'Terrible tragedy'**

**Rahul Gandhi on attacks on Kashmiri people**



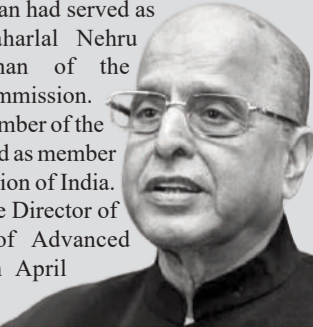
Calling for unity among all citizens in the country, Rahul Gandhi also urged his countrymen to not attack Kashmiri people, and to unite against the terrorists who carried out the attack. The Congress leader said, "It is sad that some people in the rest of the country are attacking our brothers and sisters in Kashmir. It is imperative that we all stay united, stand together, fight against this barbaric attack and defeat terrorism once and for all." Chief minister Omar Abdullah on Friday said that he had deputed his cabinet ministers to various cities across the country to ensure the safety of traders and students from Jammu and Kashmir.

whole country stands united with them." He addressed the all-party parliamentary meeting which took place on Thursday and said, "Yesterday we had a meeting with the government, in which the united opposition condemned this attack and clearly said that whatever

step the government wants to take, we will fully support it." The Congress leader, who landed in Srinagar on Friday, met survivors of the attack, as well as chief minister Omar Abdullah and lieutenant governor Manoj Sinha to understand the situation on ground.

## Former ISRO chief K Kasturirangan dies at 84

**New Delhi (Agency):** Former ISRO chief and chairperson of drafting committee behind the ambitious new National Education Policy (NEP) K Kasturirangan passed away in Bengaluru on Friday, officials said. He was 84. "He left for heavenly abode this morning at his residence in Bengaluru. His body will be kept at Raman Research Institute (RRI) for paying last respects on April 27," the officials said. Known as the man behind education reforms listed in NEP, Kasturirangan had served as chancellor of the Jawaharlal Nehru University and chairman of the Karnataka Knowledge Commission. He had also served as a member of the Rajya Sabha (2003-09) and as member of then Planning Commission of India. Kasturirangan was also the Director of the National Institute of Advanced Studies, Bangalore from April 2004 to 2009.



## Jal Shakti minister CR Paatil 'Won't allow a single drop of water into Pakistan'

**New Delhi (Agency):** Jal Shakti minister CR Paatil on Friday said that India would not allow a "single drop" of water to flow into Pakistan as a retaliation for its alleged role in the terrorist attack on tourists in Jammu and Kashmir's Pahalgam, killing 26 innocent people. "We will ensure that not a single drop of water flows into Pakistan from India," CR Paatil said. The minister made the comments after attending a meeting chaired by home minister Amit Shah to discuss the future course of action following India's decision to suspend the Indus Waters Treaty of 1960 with Pakistan. Besides Paatil, senior officials from several ministries reportedly attended the high-stakes meeting. Paatil also said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi has issued a slew of



directives, and the meeting was held to follow up on them. Shah also made several suggestions to ensure the effective implementation of the Centre's decision. Paatil later posted on X, "The Modi government's historic decision on the

Indus Waters Treaty is lawful and in national interest. We will ensure that not a single drop of Indus water flows into Pakistan." The BJP leader also said India has sent a "strong message" to Pakistan that it will not tolerate terrorism at all.

### Omar Abdullah on IWT

Earlier on Friday, Jammu and Kashmir chief minister Omar Abdullah called the now-suspended treaty the "most unfair document" for the people of the union territory, saying it never had their support. "The Government of India has taken some steps. As far as Jammu and Kashmir is concerned, let's be honest, we have never been in favour of the Indus Waters Treaty. Now, what the medium to long-term implications of this are, that is something we have to wait to see," Abdullah said.

## Over 8 lakh shops in Delhi remain shut in protest against Pahalgam terror attack

**New Delhi (Agency):** Over 900 markets in Delhi were shut down on Friday in protest against the terrorist attack in Pahalgam, leading to a trade loss of ₹1,500 crore in one day. According to the Confederation of All India Traders (CAIT), more than 8 lakh shops across the national capital participated in the bandh, spanning key sectors such as textiles, gold, spices, utensils and more. The bandh had been called by the Chamber of Trade and Industry (CTI). "This is more than just a protest. It's a united stand against terrorism, we are observing this bandh in memory of those who lost their lives in Pahalgam."

## Health dept team reached to investigate death of mother and child



**Staff Reporter Pratapgarh, Kunda.** After the news of the death of mother and child during delivery in the nursing home went viral, the health department woke up from its deep slumber and started investigating the case. On October 22, the mother and child died during delivery in IMH Nursing Home located in Mawai Kala of Kunda Kotwali area. After which the family members started a ruckus accusing the nursing home operator of negligence. Police reached on information. However, later the nursing home operator reached a settlement with the family members of the deceased. In such a situation, the police returned. When the matter went viral on social media, the health department took cognizance of the matter on Friday. Deputy CMO Dr. Azad and Health Officer RK Singh reached Kunda Kotwali. From where the police personnel reached the nursing home and investigated the matter. The team also recorded the statement of the health workers present in the nursing home. After investigating for about an hour, the team reached Kunda Kotwali. From where the team left for the district headquarters. Deputy CMO Dr. Azad Singh said that the nursing home operator has been warned. Also, the investigation report will be given to higher officials.

## Congressmen took out a candle march in protest against the terrorist attack in Pahalgam, Jammu and Kashmir



### Organized a condolence meeting for the departed souls

**Staff Reporter Banda.** As per the instructions of UP Congress Committee President Ajay Rai, under the joint aegis of District, City and Women's Congress, under the leadership of Congress District President Rajesh Dixit, a candle march was taken out from the District Congress Office through Peeli Kothi Babulal Square to Indira Gandhi Park near Amar Talkies, in protest against the brutal killing of 28 tourists by terrorists in Pahalgam, Jammu and Kashmir. A condolence meeting was organized at Indira Gandhi Park and homage was paid to the departed souls. On this occasion, Congress President Rajesh Dixit said that Honorable Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi should cancel his foreign tour and return to his country due to this incident. National President Mallikarjun Kharge and Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi said that Congress Party is with you in support of every action of the government. Terrorism should be eradicated from its roots. Congress District President angrily demanded from the government that strong security arrangements should be made at all tourist

places in the country. The eligible persons of the deceased family members should be given financial assistance of one crore each and the injured should be given proper treatment along with financial assistance of 10 lakhs. City Congress President Afsana Shah, District Women Congress President Seema Khan said that Jammu Kashmir is a very sensitive province. The government is inviting the countrymen to promote tourism but is not making arrangements for the safety of those tourists. This horrific incident shows that the government has failed from the security point of view. Strict action against the terrorists was demanded. Senior Congress leaders Mumtaz Ali, Sankata Prasad Tripathi, Pawan Devi Kori, Satya Prakash Dwivedi were present on this occasion. Advocate K P Sen, Youth Congress President Aditya Kumar Singh, Suman Shukla, Santosh Kumar Dwivedi, Shoaib Rizvi, Kalicharan Nigam, Ashraf Ullah Rampa, Rajesh Gupta Pappu, Dhiru Pandey, Kalicharan Sahu, Shabbir Saudagar, Nathuram Sen, Sunil Chaurasia, Irfan Khan Councilor, Asad Alvi, Ishu Faiz Khan, Ashok Vardhan Karna, Harishchandra Bajpai, Bhailyalal Patel, Shivbali Singh, Sukhdev Gandhi, Seema Babi, Kallo, Asmat Jahan, Mithila Devi and a large number of Congress members were present.

## Campaign being run on communicable diseases visible in schools and students

**Staff Reporter Pratapgarh.** A debate competition was organized in the secondary schools of the district on Friday under the Communicable Disease Control Campaign. Staff and students were given information about the prevention and control of communicable diseases. On World Malaria Day, awareness was created to prevent the spread of malaria. This campaign of communicable diseases is being run under the

supervision of the Health Department on the orders of DM SS Awasthi, CDO Dr. Singh, Principal of Government Inter College Rampur Kampa. Experts on



Divya Mishra and DIOS Omkar Rana. Which is being monitored by Dr. Vindhyachal

communicable diseases gave detailed information about the causes of diseases and ways to

avoid them through the competition. Tips were also given to deal with communicable diseases when they spread. This initiative of the department is spreading awareness among the students, the effect of which is also being seen in schools and students. Apart from cleanliness in schools, students are also becoming aware by talking about communicable diseases in schools. This campaign of the department will prove beneficial in the coming days.

## This time also Bachcha Bank's result 100%



**Staff Reporter Pratapgarh.** The UP Board students who are getting education with the help of Bachcha Bank Friends Group BBFG have got 100 percent result this time also. All eight children have passed with good marks. Teacher Shani and Damini fed laddus to the children gathered at the center in Bhangwa village. Bachcha Bank is helping in sports along with the education of helpless and needy students.

Teacher Shani told that at present the group has taken the responsibility of 45 children. Out of which eight students have appeared in the UP Board examination of Inter and High School this time. All passed. The founder member of the group, senior physician of the medical college, Dr. Manoj Khatri congratulated all the children. He said that all the children will be helped in the future as well.

## Advocates demonstrated by tying black bands on their heads



**Staff Reporter Pratapgarh.** In protest against the terrorist attack in Pahalgam, advocates led by Junior Bar Association Puratan's president Bhanu Singh Advocate and Mukku Ojha staged a strong protest in the district court on Friday. They tied black bands on their heads and raised slogans of Pakistan Murdabad, Terrorism Murdabad. They took out a procession in the Collectorate premises and

protested. A condolence meeting was held for the peace of the souls of those killed in terrorism. On this occasion, advocates like Rohit Kumar Bhukla, Jai Prakash Mishra, Santosh Narayan Mishra, Ashok Singh, Anand Kumar Singh, Jitendra Kumar Singh, Shekhar Singh, Anuj Singh, Surya Narayan, Ashish Kumar Srivastava, Dipendra Pratap Deepu, Sandeep Upadhyay, Anjani Kumar Singh etc. were present.

## Resolve the problems of entrepreneurs on priority and in time: DM



**Staff Reporter Banda.** District level Udyog Bandhu meeting was held in the Collectorate auditorium under the chairmanship of District Magistrate J. Reebha. In the meeting, the District Magistrate directed the officers of the concerned departments to resolve the problems of entrepreneurs on priority and in time. In the meeting, he directed to send maximum number of applications to the banks as compared to the physical target of 2500 achieved in the financial year 2025-26 under the Chief Minister Yuva Udyami Vikas Abhiyan Yojana and get the applications for loan approved. Under the scheme, 301 loan applications were sent to the banks, in which 77 loan applications were approved and a loan of Rs 33.64 lakh was sanctioned, he directed the bankers to get the

loan approved for the remaining applications. While reviewing the Chief

proposals for investment and to get cooperation from the nodal officers of all the



Minister's Youth Self-Employment Scheme and One District One Product Financing Margin Money Scheme, he told the entrepreneurs that under this scheme, all the young entrepreneurs should apply for self-employment and can avail the benefits of the scheme. If there is any problem in getting loan sanctioned from the banks, then inform them so that it can be resolved. He directed the Deputy Commissioner of Industry to start commercial production of the entrepreneurs who had signed the intent and submitted

departments and the entrepreneurs' organizations for the upcoming GBC and bring the MoU to the ground 100% and prepare MoUs for new investment proposals. The entrepreneurs requested that the advertisement for allotment of vacant plots in industrial area Bhuragadh through e-auction should also be publicized in local newspapers. The District Magistrate directed to take action for approval at the level of Managing Director UPSIDA for the approval of the estimate proposal of Rs 284.66 lakh provided by the Executive Engineer Jal

Nigam Nagariya regarding water supply in industrial area Bhuragadh. He directed the Executive Engineer Electricity to improve the power supply in industrial area Bhuragadh and find an alternative solution to the problem of power tripping. He gave instructions to the concerned officers regarding removal of encroachment on the side of the road in industrial area Bhuragadh. In the meeting, the Chief Fire Officer informed the entrepreneurs about keeping fire fighting equipment installed in their institutions for protection against fire and not to use any kind of inflammable substance in the industrial area, so that fire can be prevented. Chief Development Officer Ved Prakash Maurya, GM DIC Gurudev, Executive Engineer Electricity, Regional Manager UPCDA, Chief Fire Officer along with entrepreneurs Manoj Jain, Ashok Gupta, Manoj Shivhare and other entrepreneurs and officers of the concerned departments were present in the meeting.

## Shailaja Nishad scored 89.83 percent and Musafia Manal scored 70.01 percent marks in high school



**Staff Reporter Chilla.** Shailja Nishad, daughter of Indrajit Nishad, Headmaster of Primary School Sadimadanpur 1, area Tindwari Banda, resident of Chilla, brought laurels to



her parents by scoring 89.83 percent marks. Musafia Manal, daughter of a farmer, Mehboob Ullah, resident of Hathaura Banda, brought laurels to her parents by scoring 70.01 percent marks.

## Hindu organizations protest against the genocide in Kashmir



**Staff Reporter Maudaha.** On Friday, Hindu organizations staged a protest against the recent massacre in Kashmir. On this occasion, hundreds of youths of Hindu organizations raised slogans against terrorism and Pakistan in front of the tehsil gate of the town and trampled them under their feet and expressed their anger by burning the effigy of

terrorism. It should be known that the heart-rending incident of the terrorists brutally killing unarmed tourists in Kashmir has shocked the entire country and protests are going on all over the country against it. And every citizen of the country is now fed up with the terrorism nurtured by Pakistan and has made up his mind to fight till the end.

## BRIEFS

### Dozen houses burnt in fire caused by short circuit



**Staff Reporter Pratapgarh.** A massive fire broke out on Friday due to an electrical short circuit in Rajapur Rainia village of Antu police station area. More than a dozen houses were burnt to ashes in this fire incident. To control the fire, firefighters with three fire brigade vehicles, with the help of villagers, worked hard for hours to control the fire. Villagers' household goods, grains, clothes, a motorcycle and two goats were destroyed in the fire. Ravindra Kumar Saroj has suffered the most loss, while other villagers have also suffered heavy losses. The affected families are left with no food and water, and there is an atmosphere of mourning in the village. SDM Sadar Nancy Singh, CO City Shivnarayan Vaish, Inspector in-charge Anandpal Singh, outpost in-charge Ravindra Singh Yadav and police force were present on the spot. SDM Nancy Singh said that the Revenue Department will provide all possible assistance to the affected families under the provisions of the government.

### Newly elected officials of Press Club Pratapgarh take oath



**Staff Reporter Pratapgarh.** The oath taking ceremony of the newly elected executive of Press Club Pratapgarh, affiliated to Press Club of India, was held in the Zila Panchayat Auditorium on Wednesday. The chief guest of the program, District President of Bharatiya Janata Party Ashish Srivastava administered the oath of office and secrecy to the newly elected officials. In the newly formed executive, Pankaj Dubey took oath as President, Satyendra Singh as Vice President, Jaisingh Bahadur as General Secretary, Najme Hasan as Organization Minister, Asif Siddiqui as Press Spokesperson and Anshuman Singh as Treasurer. Journalists from all over the district were present in the program. Former BJP District President Omprakash Tripathi, Vyapar Mandal President Rajendra Kesarwani and Brijendra Singh Chhote Bahaiya congratulated the newly elected members as special guests. In the program, there was a detailed discussion on the strength of the organization, the interests of journalists and freedom of the press. All the newly elected officials pledged to strengthen the organization with the resolve of fair and fearless journalism.

### Anti Romeo team conducted checking campaign, gave info to girl students



**Staff Reporter Pratapgarh.** In-charge Anti Romeo Preeti Katiyar and her team reached various schools of Kotwali Nagar area on Friday and made the girl students aware about safety. Asked the girl students about their safety at Saket PG College located in Dahila Mau of the city, Pratap Bahadur Postgraduate College located in the city. Conducted checking campaign at Maa Sheethla Devi Dham Katra and Maa Belha Devi Temple. Gave information about Mission Shakti Abhiyan and other schemes run by the Uttar Pradesh government like Kanya Sumangala Yojana, Chief Minister Mass Marriage Scheme etc. The girls were told about the toll free number Women Power Line 1090, Women Helpline 181, Chief Minister Helpline 1076, Police Emergency Service 112, Child Helpline 1098, Health Service 102, Ambulance Service 108, Cyber Helpline 1930 etc. being run by UP Police.

# WPPS CEO Conclave 2025 focused on innovation and leadership of wheat industry

■ **Intensive discussion on wheat varieties, technical development and gluten awareness in Indore**  
■ **From value addition to Vision 2030: Strategic roadmap prepared for wheat industry**  
■ **Experts discussed strategies to take India's wheat industry to the global stage**  
■ **Second day of Wheat Conclave 2025 focused on health, technology and sustainability**

**Indore (Agency):** Food concerns have raised many questions about grains in recent years, these questions have also spread many misconceptions among the common people. To discuss and solve all these misconceptions, the second day of WPPS CEO Conclave

2025 concluded with concrete ideas and plans towards the broad future of the wheat industry, technical innovation and global leadership. On the second day of this conclave held in Indore on 24 and 25 April 2025, leading industry experts, policy makers and entrepreneurs brainstormed on topics such as 'value addition and innovation'. WPPS Chairman Ajay Goyal said that the second and last day began with a discussion on the topic 'price addition and innovation', where emerging trends in the field of baking and breakfast products were kept at the center. The speakers emphasized that the consumer today wants more health-centric, convenient and reliable options, and the wheat industry will have to innovate in line with these expectations. In the sessions on technology and innovation, it was told that work is necessary to make milling and baking more automated and energy-efficient. For this, emphasis was laid on the use of artificial intelligence, data analytics and smart farming tools, so that the entire process from production to consumption can be made modern and

sustainable. Women farmers also shared their views in this conclave and actively contributed to its success. Today, women farmers across the country and the world are moving ahead shoulder to shoulder and playing a vital role in the development of this agricultural sector. Another important topic of discussion was the economics of wheat – in which issues like demand, supply, price policy and market stability were raised. Experts agreed that a strong pricing mechanism is needed to provide fair prices to farmers and quality products to consumers at stable rates. There was also a discussion on improving public health through fortified flour. It was pointed out that there is a need to include micronutrients like iron, folic acid and vitamin B12 in flour. There was also talk about linking it with campaigns like 'Har Ghar Poshan' and the possibilities of cooperation between the government and the industry. The session on global trade and cooperation highlighted opportunities for India and other countries – especially the US – to collaborate in research, quality standards and export growth. Emphasis was laid on strategic

partnerships and agreements to increase the competitiveness of wheat products internationally.

for eco-friendly farming techniques was underlined. Different wheat varieties and gluten were also discussed

biscuits, cakes and muffins. Hard red spring and winter wheat were found to be most effective for products like

and the elderly. Awareness about gluten is also very important. It is a protein found in wheat that helps in giving



The conclave also brought forth ideas focused on sustainability and environment, including topics such as water conservation, soil health and balancing natural resources. Linking climate-smart agriculture to the future of wheat production, the need

during the conclave. Goyal informed that varieties like durum, soft and hard wheat as well as white and ancient wheat were explained in detail. Durum wheat was found to be suitable for products like pasta and semolina, while soft wheat is ideal for light baking like

roti, paratha and bread. The characteristics of these varieties—such as their protein content, gluten level, texture and colour—make them suitable for different uses. White and ancient wheat are nowadays being preferred for a healthy lifestyle, especially among children

elasticity and shape to the dough. Although it is safe for most people, it can be harmful for those with celiac disease, wheat allergy or gluten sensitivity. For such people, grains like maize, millet, ragi, buckwheat and quinoa can be excellent gluten-free options. They not only provide

nutrition but also retain the taste without compromising. The day concluded with a dialogue on policy and leadership, where there was a direct interaction between policy makers and industry representatives. WPPS presented a long-term strategic roadmap for the wheat industry, setting the direction to bring real change through policy support, private sector participation and collective efforts. Chairman Ajay Goyal said in his closing address that today we not only discussed the problems but also laid down concrete directions for their solutions. The discussions held on this platform will serve as a guide for the years to come and we believe that India can become a hub of wheat-based innovation and global leadership in the times to come. In an important session, the future of India's wheat industry was presented under "Vision 2030". It focused on sustainable farming, use of smart technologies and India's role in global food security. It was also made clear that India has the potential to not only become self-sufficient, but also play a leadership role in the global wheat supply chain.

## Rupee rises 12 paise to 85.33 against dollar



**MUMBAI:** After a two-day pause, the rupee gained 12 paise to 85.33 against the US dollar on Thursday, on weak greenback and overnight decline in crude oil prices.

Forex traders said the rupee strengthened on the weak US dollar and overnight decline in crude oil prices amid slowing US business activity. The US Treasury yields also declined with the 10-year yield falling 3 bps to 4.35 per cent.

At the interbank foreign exchange, the domestic unit opened at 85.60 and moved between the intra-day high of 85.25 and the low of 85.67 against the greenback.

The unit ended the session at 85.33, registering a gain of 12 paise over its previous closing level.

On Wednesday, the rupee depreciated 26 paise and settled for the day at 85.45 against the US dollar.

Meanwhile, the dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, was trading lower by 0.51 per cent at 99.33.

Brent crude, the global oil benchmark, rose 0.65 per cent at \$66.55 per barrel in futures trade. FIIs bought equities worth Rs 3,332.93 crore on a net basis on Wednesday, according to exchange data.

## Pakistan's stock market tumbles as India-Pak tensions simmer

**ISLAMABAD:** Pakistan's stock market on Thursday witnessed a sharp dip, with the benchmark KSE-100 index closing at 115,019.81, down by 2,206.33 points from the last close, amid brewing tension between India and Pakistan after the Pahalgam terror attack.

India on Wednesday downgraded diplomatic ties with Pakistan and announced a raft of measures, including suspension of the Indus Water Treaty and immediate shutting down of the Attari land-transit post.

In retaliation, Pakistan also suspended bilateral trade and accords, including the Simla Agreement, and airspaces with India, among other moves.

The Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) took the hit,

and the KSE-100 index plunged by 2,485 points early in the session, dropping to 114,740 points.

As the day progressed, the market showed signs of slight recovery, narrowing the loss to 1,196 points. By midday, the current index was at 116,030.02 points.

However, it nosedived again and finally closed at 115,019.81, down by 2,206.33 points, or 1.92 per cent.

The sharp dip comes after the market touched an all-time high, crossing the 120,000 mark earlier this year. Observers said the bearish trend is expected to dominate the market until there is a sign of improvement in the current political and security situation with India.

## Tax deductions cannot be claimed to settle proceedings under 4 laws

**NEW DELHI:** The income tax department on Thursday said taxpayers will not be allowed to claim deduction for expenditures incurred to settle proceedings initiated under four laws, including the Sebi and the Competition Act.

In a notification issued on April 23, the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) notified that any expenditure incurred to settle proceedings initiated in relation to contravention or defaults under the four specified laws shall not be deemed to have been incurred for the purpose of business or profession and no deduction or allowance will be allowed for such expenditure.

The four laws are the Securities and Exchange Board of India Act, 1992; the Securities Contracts (Regulation) Act, 1956; the Depositories Act,

**The four laws are SEBI Act, 1992; Securities Contracts (Regulation) Act, 1956; Depositories Act, 1996 and the Competition Act, 2002**

1996; and the Competition Act, 2002.

Amit Maheshwari, Tax Partner at AKM Global, said, "The deductibility of settlement payments under Section 37(1) of the Income-tax Act, 1961, has long been a subject of judicial debate, particularly in cases like Income Tax Officer v. Reliance Share & Stock Brokers (P) Ltd., where con-

sent fees paid to SEBI were allowed as business expenditure on grounds of commercial expediency."

However, the CBDT brought in changes to law via Finance Act, 2024, and has now notified that any expenditure incurred for settlement or compounding of proceedings under specific legislations in India or outside, including the SEBI Act, the Securities Contracts (Regulation) Act, the Depositories Act, and the Competition Act, shall not be eligible for deduction, Maheshwari said.

"This effectively overrides prior tribunal rulings and brings much needed clarity to the tax landscape, although grey areas persist under other regulatory laws such as FEMA and RBI directions," Maheshwari added.

## LIC relaxes claim settlement rules for Pahalgam victims

**NEW DELHI:** Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) on India on Thursday announced relaxation in claim settlement procedure for victims of Pahalgam terror attack.

The dastardly terror attack that took place on Tuesday in Kashmir's Pahalgam killed 26 people, mostly tourists.

Expressing grief over the death of citizens in the terror attack, LIC in a statement said it is committed to supporting those affected and will expedite claim settlements to provide financial relief.

LIC CEO & MD Siddhartha Mohanty said the insurance company announced many concessions to mitigate the hardships of the claimants of LIC



policies.

In lieu of death certificates, any evidence in government records of death of the policyholder due to the terrorist attack or any compensation paid by central/state government will be accepted as proof of death, he said. For further assistance, the claimants may contact the nearest LIC branch/division/customer zones or may call at 022-68276827.

## 'Patent filings by startups, MSMEs up 310% in 5 years'

**NEW DELHI:** Patent filings by startups and MSMEs have increased by 310 per cent in the last 5 years from 1,492 in 2018-19 to 6,120 in 2023-24, an official said on Thursday.

N Ramchander, Joint Controller, Controller General of Patents, Designs and Trademarks, further shared that in about three years over 2.4 million students and faculty across India have been educated about IP rights through the National Intellectual Property Awareness Mission launched in 2021.

Addressing an event organised by ASSOCHAM, he informed that the filing of patent applications in India has surged by 116 per cent rising from 42,763 in 2014-15 to 92,172 in 2023-24.

"Patent grants have been

an even more remarkable increase of 1,624 per cent, jumping from 5,978 in 2014-15 to 103,057 in 2023-24. India has seen biggest change in resident and non-resident distribution over past 10 years with the share of resident filling increasing from 24.8 per cent in 2013 to 60 per cent in 2024," said N Ramchander.

India's IPR policy has provided a comprehensive framework for IP creation, protection and commercialisation but continuous evaluation and updation are necessary. The patent rules have been amended in 2024 in order to further simplify and streamline the procedure and create conducive environment for innovation and protection of Intellectual Property (IP) in India.

## Big 204 percent jump in the value of M&A and PE deals on an annual basis



**New Delhi (Agency):** The value of mergers and acquisitions (M&A) and private equity (PE) deals in India in the first quarter of 2025 has registered a big jump of 204 percent on an annual basis. There were 67 deals in the January-March period and their value was \$ 5.3 billion. This information was given in the Grant Thornton India report released on Thursday. According to the report, six high-value transactions of more than \$ 100 million also took place in this quarter, with a total value of \$ 4.3 billion. In the previous quarter, there were only four deals of more than \$ 100 million and their value was \$ 534 million.

The report said that this trend reflects renewed confidence among investors, establishing India as a preferred destination for capital investment amid

global uncertainties. Vishal Aggarwal of Grant Thornton India said, despite global challenges and volatility in capital markets, India's growth rate remains promising. With the emphasis on regulatory simplification and collaborative development in Budget 2025, we expect capital expenditure to accelerate, leading to fresh capital inflows. The M&A segment witnessed 28 deals in the first quarter of 2025 and their value was more than \$4 billion. This is the largest ever figure of deal volume and the third largest figure of value on a quarterly basis. The PE segment witnessed 37 deals in the March quarter and their value was around \$1 billion. There has been a marginal increase of 2 per cent in deal value as compared to the previous quarter.

## THE Asia University Ranking 2025: KIIT rises to 184th spot in Asia

*With this latest ranking, KIIT is the 8th best university in India among government and private institutions*

**BHUBANESWAR:** Like every year, the Times Higher Education (THE) Asia University Rankings have been announced, and KIIT Deemed to be University, Bhubaneswar has once again achieved a remarkable position. In the 2025 edition, KIIT has secured the 184th rank in Asia, marking a significant improvement from last year's position of 196. This advancement reaffirms KIIT's steady progress and its growing recognition in the realm of global academic excellence.

With this latest ranking, KIIT is the 8th best univer-



sity in India among government and private institutions. It has attained this status by surpassing numerous prestigious Indian institutions. It also retained its distinction as the

### Closer Look

► It also retained its distinction as the top-ranked Deemed University in Eastern and Northern India

► Further, in the Sports Science subject, KIIT is ranked second in India

► Prof. Achyuta Samanta, Founder of KIIT, KISS, and KIMS, expressed heartfelt gratitude to the dedicated faculty, staff, students, alumni, and well-wishers who have played a pivotal role in this achievement

top-ranked Deemed University in Eastern and Northern India. Further, in the Sports Science subject, KIIT is ranked 2nd in India.

This year's rankings fea-

ture 853 universities from 35 countries/territories. It assesses their research, teaching, knowledge transfer and international outlook. The rankings, which are based on 18 performance

indicators, are relied on by students, academics, policy-makers and industry leaders worldwide.

Prof. Achyuta Samanta, Founder of KIIT, KISS, and KIMS, expressed heartfelt gratitude to the dedicated faculty, staff, students, alumni, and well-wishers who have played a pivotal role in this achievement. "This recognition reflects the collective efforts and the mission-driven spirit that define KIIT. We share this success with every individual who believes in our values," he stated. KIIT has consistently featured in prestigious global

rankings, including the THE World University Rankings and QS Rankings. The university has also earned major international accreditations such as IET, ABET, and others, further solidifying its position as a global centre of excellence in higher education.

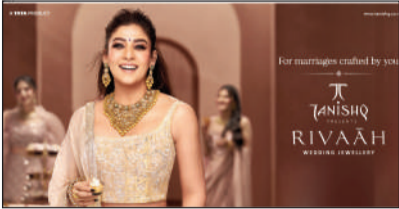
It is worth highlighting that despite being only 27 years old, KIIT has outperformed several well-established institutions on the list, many of which have been around for over 50 years. Additionally, it is worth noting that KIIT received its deemed-to-be-university status only 21 years ago.

Upon it by the extraordinary actions of the Governor's office — these revealed a troubling pattern of procedural jugglery. When judicial scrutiny was attracted to bills that had languished for years, he hastily returned them to the legislature marked "consent withheld", in an apparent attempt to render the hearing infructuous. After the bills were re-passed, an absurd argument was put forth that because only photocopies were returned while the originals remained at the Raj Bhavan, the legislature lacked authority to re-pass them.

When the Punjab ruling made it clear that there is no unlimited power to sit on such bills, the re-passed bills suddenly got sent to the President for review. At every turn, the Governor tried to subvert both the intent of the legislature and the judicial review of his actions. This has compelled the court to explicitly state in paragraph 432 of the judgment that "The conduct exhibited on the part of the Governor..... has been lacking in bonafides."

## Rivaah blends heritage with modernity

**Staff Reporter**  
**Varanasi:** As the auspicious festival of Akshaya Tritiya approaches, Tanishq's exclusive wedding sub-brand, Rivaah, is set to celebrate the grandeur of upcoming summer Indian weddings with its exquisite bridal jewellery collections offerings. With a profound understanding of India's diverse wedding traditions, Rivaah by Tanishq offers an extensive range of jewellery tailored to brides across various communities, ensuring a seamless fit for every wedding function — from the Haldi and Mehendi ceremonies to the Sangeet and the main wedding day. Each piece is designed to not only honor these cherished traditions but also to reflect the individuality and elegance of the bride. Rivaah seamlessly blends heritage with personal expression, empowering brides to craft their own unique bridal narrative. Rivaah by Tanishq is committed to elevating every aspect of the wedding experience, ensuring that each moment resonates with timeless elegance. Pelki Tshering, Chief Marketing Officer, Tanishq, said, "As we step into the summer wedding season, Rivaah by Tanishq continues to cater to the growing demand for bridal jewellery that blends heritage with modernity. With Akshaya Tritiya signalling the start of this exciting period, our



Rivaah Golden Advantage Scheme and best gold rate offer have helped over 2.7 lakh wedding buyers this year. With region-specific designs and evolving preferences toward natural diamonds, Rivaah caters to the diverse preferences of modern brides. As the demand for jewellery that offers both emotional value and long-term investment grows, Tanishq will continue to redefine the bridal jewellery experience by housing a large collection of jewels that are not only suitable for your D-day but can be adorned on all special days and functions of your wedding."

To elevate the festive shopping experience, Tanishq is offering a powerful value proposition with up to 20% off on making charges of gold jewellery and diamond jewellery value, along with ₹101 off per gram on gold purchases. Customers can also benefit from Gold Rate Protection by booking in advance and stay shielded from price hikes. Adding to the value, Tanishq assures 100% exchange value on old gold brought from any jeweller, reinforcing trust, flexibility, and smart gold buying this season.

## Top officials of UP govt engaged in saving consultants who gave false affidavits

**Memo given to cabinet ministers, MPs and over dozen MLAs in protest against privatization**

**Staff Reporter**  
**Mirzapur,** The Electricity Employees Joint Conflict Committee, Uttar Pradesh has alleged that instead of canceling the appointment of the consultant who gave false affidavits, the top officials of the Uttar Pradesh government are meeting with him and are engaged in saving him. Cabinet Minister Laxmi Narayan in various districts of the state today Chaudhary, MP Ramprasad Chaudhary MP Seema Dwivedi and more than a dozen MLAs were given memorandum in protest against privatization. The Sangharsh Samiti has issued instructions on all districts and projects to make extensive public relations to make the bike rally to be held on the occasion of May Day. The Sangharsh Samiti has said that peaceful memorandum of two campaigns and peaceful demonstrations for the last

five months. Despite this, if the decision of privatization is not withdrawn, there is no other option but to start the movement from next month, which will be the responsibility of the government and



Intelligence submitting memorandum to the MLA Rinki Cole in protest against privatization

management. Officials of the Sangharsh Samiti said that the false affidavit of the transaction consultant grant thorton appointed illegally and after catching the fraud, instead of canceling the order of black list and appointment, Uttar Pradesh instead of canceling it. Senior officials of the government are holding a high level meeting based on the report of the Chief Secretary, Chief Secretary and are ordering to carry forward the process of privatization without fear, which is a very serious matter. It is noteworthy that the Chief Secretary has ordered the

process of privatization faster by meeting the high officials of the Energy Department and the high officials of Power Corporation tomorrow. The Sangharsh Samiti said that the transaction consultant is false. The case of catching the

affidavit is now almost three weeks, despite this, the company has neither been blacklisted nor can be canceled so far. In contrast, RFP documents have been prepared from this company for privatization of 42 districts of Purvanchal Vidyut Vitran Nigam and Dakshinchal Vidyut Vitran Nigam. The Sangharsh Samiti said how much about the privatization of electricity in Uttar Pradesh. There is going to be a sample of big corruption. The Sangharsh Samiti accused the Uttar Pradesh government, the Energy Department and the top

officials of the Power Corporation of Bhagat with private houses. He said that all these are openly flouting the policy of zero tolerance on corruption of Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath ji. Under the two campaigns today, the answer to the privatization of electricity Memorandums were submitted to State Government Cabinet Minister Laxmi Narayan Chaudhary, Mohanlal Ganj MP RK Chaudhary, Member of Parliament Ramprasad Chaudhary, Member of Parliament Border Dwivedi Girish Chandra Yadav and former Minister Shyam Sundar Sharma. A memorandum was also submitted to more than a dozen MLAs on Friday. Mainly Kaptanganj MLA Kavindra Chaudhary, Mahadeva MLA Dood Ram, Chanbe MLA Rinke Kol, Mungra The memorandum was submitted to Badshahpur MLA Pankaj Patel, Shahganj MLA Rajneesh Singh, Jafarabad MLA Jagdish Narayan Rai, Mariahu MLA RK Patel, Badlapur MLA Ramesh Mishra, Malhani MLA Lucky Yadav. Apart from this, memorandums were given to a large number of councilors, gram panchayat presidents and village heads across the state.

# Install speed boards on routes to slow down vehicles at turns: DM

**Give info about traffic rules by setting up road safety club via cops & schools**

**Staff Reporter**  
**Mirzapur,** In view of curbing road accidents in the district, a meeting of the District Road Safety Committee under the chairmanship of District Magistrate Priyanka Niranjan is called in the Collectorate. A detailed discussion was held with the officials. In the meeting, information was taken regarding the action taken by the District Magistrate on the decisions taken in the meeting of the last Road Safety Committee,

Chief Development Officer Vishal Kumar, Assistant Divisional Transport Officer Vijay Kumar, Executive Engineer Public Works Department, Jurisdictionist Shikha Bharti, In-charge Traffic Vipin Kumar Pandey and all other concerned officers were present. In the meeting, the road-wise accident was reviewed under the district's boundary of the district's road accidents. The District Magistrate said that corrective action should be taken on priority on black spots identified to prevent accidents and boards related to accidental area or blind turn etc. should also be installed there. Directed in relation to the sites of the dead in three or more accidents. It was done that accidents were found to be

accidents due to most tractors, trolleys and negligence, the District



District Magistrate Priyanka Niranjan giving instructions to the concerned by meeting the District Road Safety Committee

Magistrate said that retro reflex tapes of the tractor trolley should be installed, taking effective action against illegal vehicles, continuous action should be taken on over speed and careless vehicle drivers. The

meeting also suggested to shift the electric pole at the end of road tracks as per the

Officer-in-Charge of Traffic and said that information should be obtained within a week by conducting health tests of vehicles installed in government or private schools. For this, the publicity should also be corresponded and directed. He also gave seminars in private and government schools. Road safety awareness programs should also be organized by organizing seminars. Awareness should be brought by spreading publicity through newspapers or hoardings for the encouragement of Good Samaritan persons assisting in road accidents. The person who crashed the person to the hospital will not be interrogated in any way and should be presented under the

Good Samaritan Scheme. Accident Marking the dominated places, make the first speed table top of the state routes, major district roads and other district roads so that the speed of vehicles can be slowed at the turn and accidents can be prevented. Instructions were given to install road lights and large sign boards related to road lights and accident-dominated areas on accident roads. Discussion on making a rotary charaha (Gol Charaha) to slow down Chunar Durga Mor vehicles Was done. Discussions were made to take action under the road safety to prevent accidents on Adalhat Narayanpur road. Motor Association officials should also be present in the meeting.

## Div Commr holds review meet over Chief Minister Dashboard Revenue

**In 22 items, all three districts of the board got A Plus category, departmental officer of C and D category, taking interest and instructed to improve progress**



Commissioner Balakrishna Tripathi giving instructions to the concerned meeting related to Chief Minister Dashboard Revenue

**Staff Reporter**  
**Mirzapur,** Chief Minister Dashboard Revenue in Commissioner Office Auditorium under the chairmanship of Divisional Commissioner Vindhyachal Mandal Balakrishna Tripathi. The review meeting was convened. Additional Commissioner Administration Dr. Vishram, Additional District Magistrate (F/R) Mirzapur Shiv Pratap Shukla, District Magistrate (F/R) Sonbhadra, District Magistrate (F/R) Bhadohi, Divisional Forest Officer Arvind Raj Mishra and all concerned divisional and district officials were present. During the review, the three districts of the board have achieved good achievement by achieving A Plus category in 22 items of revenue schemes. But even after repeated warnings, the situation of the board is not getting satisfactory due to lack of improvement in progress even after repeated warnings. The Mandalayukta gave a stern warning to such officers and said that in the month of April, taking personal interest in the work, they brought progress so that the board can get good ranking in the state. Absent and Additional District

Magistrate (F/R) in the meeting of Executive Engineer Jal Nigam Urban Mirzapur Instructed to issue a show-and notice if the pending applications are not disposed of after the time limit of Bhadohi. Among the items where A Plus category has been obtained, verification of petrol pumps, main farmer accident assistance scheme, mandi income, mandi inward, drug sales license, compiled sample and gratitude, drugs, compiled samples and composed proceedings medicines, NFSAPDS beneficiaries, trades Issue, online application process for L.O.I. Mandalayukta has spoiled the progress of district Bhadohi in review of wheat procurement. On being done, while directing the Additional District Magistrate Bhadohi, he said that the month of April should improve the progress by increasing the purchase of wheat. In the review of the Department of Minerals, the Divisional Commissioner directed the District Khajin Officer to take recovery and enforcement action against the target in Sonbhadra district. In the review of GST, Bhadohi was instructed to improve progress.

## Rising Star - Devyani Meshram: An Inspiring Journey from Modeling to Acting

**Staff Reporter**  
**Lucknow:** When confidence, talent, and hard work come together, success is inevitable. Such is the story of Devyani Meshram—a 19-year-old young model who has already made a mark in the fashion world and is now ready to step into the world of acting. Early Start, Big Dreams: Devyani began her modeling journey at the young age of 14. Coming from a modest background, she proved herself despite limited resources. Her dedication and hard work bore fruit in 2023 when she earned the title of "Miss Icon Madhya Pradesh – First Runner-Up." Step-by-Step Success in the World of

Glamour: Today, Devyani has worked with renowned makeup artists and fashion designers, including: Makeup Artists: Trisha Thawne, Neha Chute Veera Sali (International Makeup Artist), Designers: Sadiq Raza (International Designer), Amanpreet, Manish Lohia, Rai Kishori (Celebrity Fashion Designer), Leena Dwivedi, Reena Beniwal. While modeling for them, Devyani has consistently impressed audiences with her confidence, sense of style, and strong stage presence. Aspirations to Become an Actress: Now,

Devyani is preparing to enter the world of acting. She dreams of shining just as brightly on the big screen as she has on the ramp. She is formally learning the art of acting and auditioning for various projects. An Inspiration for the Youth: Devyani Meshram is not just a model; she is an inspiration for countless young girls who come from small towns and dare to dream big. She has shown that with strong determination, no stage is too small. Proud achievements, dreams, and the courage to pursue them—Devyani Meshram has emerged as a role model for today's youth. Her journey is bound to reach greater heights, and perhaps next time, we will see her acting on the big screen.



## BRIEFS

### Div Commr holds review meet for disposal of complaints on IGR portal



Commissioner Balakrishna Tripathi directing the concerned by meeting IGRS portal

**Staff Reporter**  
**Mirzapur,** A review meeting was convened regarding the disposal of complaints received on the IGRS portal in the Commissioner's Office Auditorium under the chairmanship of Divisional Commissioner Vindhyachal Mandal Balakrishna Tripathi. Additional Commissioner Administration Dr. Vishram, Joint Development Commissioner Ramesh Chandra, Divisional in the meeting Forest Officer Arvind Raj Mishra, Joint Commissioner Industry Virendra Kumar and all the divisional and district officers should be present. In the review of the applications received at IGR, Superintendent Engineer Uttar Pradesh Housing and Development Council Mirzapur, 16 dissatisfied feedback, 15 of Superintending Engineer Vidyat, 12 in 15, 10 of Chief Engineer Vidyut Mirzapur 08, 08 in 10 of Electricity Mirzapur, 06 in 07 of Joint Education Director Secondary Education Department On receiving the dissatisfied feedback in 06 of the Director Panchayat, 06 in 06, Deputy Labor Commissioner, 06, Superintending Engineer Yigki Irrigation Mirzapur, the Divisional Commissioner directed to issue a show-and notice, expressing strong displeasure. He said that pre-disposal of complaints should be held and after listening to their problems, do quality disposal. He said that in cases related to revenue A joint team of revenue and police should be settled and disposed of. The Divisional Commissioner said that all the divisional and district officers should apply the portal daily. He said that once the report uploaded on the portal comes back again, the concerned officials should not upload the same report again but should go on their own and dispose of the quality.

### Airtel plans to revolutionize IR experience

**Staff Reporter**  
**Prayagraj:** Bharti Airtel has announced new plans to its IR portfolio that will make it simpler, more affordable and completely hassle-free for customers. The company has unveiled India's first unlimited\* IR plans that offers unlimited data across 189 countries. Additionally, for the long-staying NRI community, Airtel also launched a unique recharge plan for Rs. 4000 with one-year validity. The plan offers 5GB data and 100 voice minutes for use when abroad, while in India customers can use the same plan and get 1.5GB daily data and unlimited call benefits. The plan gives customers a hassle-free connectivity experience anywhere across the 189 countries and use the same number while in India without having to do a separate recharge. Siddharth Sharma, Director Marketing and CEO – Connected Homes, Bharti Airtel, said, "At Airtel, we are dedicated to simplifying our customers lives and delivering greater value and convenience to them. We have dramatically simplified our IR plans that will truly redefine our value proposition for customers and give them the freedom to use data and voice generously while roaming the world. We remain continuously committed to delivering solutions that meet our customers' ever-evolving needs."

**Customers will continue to enjoy other IR benefits with these plans that include:**

- In-flight connectivity, auto activation of services upon landing overseas, 24x7 contact centre support.
- One Plan for travel to 189 countries. No confusion over which zone or pack to select. No need for multiple packs across multiple countries or transit airports.
- Auto renewal feature for frequent travelers. This will remove the need to buy the pack multiple times and will enable hassle free travel
- Affordable packs. These will be more affordable than most in-country / local sims and will eliminate the hassle and expense of acquiring local SIM cards, providing globetrotters with a simplified solution to stay connected.
- All control will rest in the customer's hands. They will be able to manage their entire International roaming needs on the Airtel Thanks app with updates on usage, billing amount and addition of data or minutes as needed.

### Signify launches Ecolink fans for energy efficiency

**Staff Reporter**  
**Varanasi:** In line with the customer demands for the summer season, Signify, the world leader in lighting, has unveiled an innovative range of Ecolink fans, offering high speed performance, superior air delivery, and energy efficient technology. Designed to cater to evolving consumer needs, this new lineup introduces 4 new models with BLDC Technology: AiroElevate, AiroQuad, AiroGeometry & AiroJewel and 2 new Smart models: AiroGeometry Smart and AiroJewel Smart which are powered by Wiz; Signify's IoT platform. The innovative product line combines advanced technology with superior performance, offering consumers a breath of fresh air in any space. With a MRP range of INR 5850/- to INR 8700/-, the product line includes 4 new innovative models - AiroElevate, AiroQuad, AiroGeometry, AiroJewel, all designed to provide superior air delivery, efficient performance, and significant energy savings. Commenting on the power packed launch Sumit Joshi, MD & CEO, Signify, Greater India, said, "At Signify, we are dedicated to redefining innovation and design to enhance everyday living. We are thrilled to introduce our powerful new range of Ecolink fans, designed to meet the evolving needs of consumers. Through extensive research, we have developed a lineup that seamlessly integrates cutting-edge technology with energy efficiency. With models like AiroElevate, AiroQuad, AiroGeometry, and AiroJewel, we have incorporated unique features such as designer LED speed indicators, BLDC technology, RF remote technology and a ceiling adjustable mounting mechanism that maintains the design aesthetic post installation.

## ‘Heads of State’ to release on July 2

It stars Priyanka Chopra Jonas, Idris Elba and John Cena

Priyanka Chopra Jonas's upcoming Hollywood film 'Heads of State' will premiere on 'Prime Video' on July 2, the streamer announced on Wednesday.

Directed by Ilya Naishuller of 'Nobody' fame, the globetrotting adventure movie features Priyanka alongside Idris Elba and John Cena. It will be released in six languages - English, Hindi, Tamil, Telugu, Kannada and Malayalam.

'Heads of State' is about the US President (Cena) and the UK Prime Minister (Elba), who must set aside their rivalry to thwart a global conspiracy and save the world - if they can work together.

"The UK Prime Minister Sam Clarke (Elba) and US President Will Derringer (Cena) have a not-so-friendly and very public rivalry that jeopardises their countries' special relationship. But when they become the targets of a powerful and ruthless foreign adversary - who proves more than a match for the two leaders' security forces - they are begrudgingly forced to rely on the only two



people they can trust: each other," read the official logline.

In the movie, Priyanka essays the role of the brilliant MI6 agent Noel Bisset.

'Heads of State' also stars Paddy Considine, Stephen Root, Carla Gugino, Jack Quaid and Sarah Niles.

The 'Amazon MGM Studios' film has a story by Harrison Query, who also co-wrote the screenplay with Josh Appelbaum and Andre Nemec. It is produced by Peter Safran and John Rickard.

The film is directed by Ilya Naishuller of 'Nobody' fame



## Hina Khan condemns Pahalgam attack, writes, ‘As a Muslim, I want to apologise to all my fellow Hindus, fellow Indians’

Actor Hina Khan has strongly condemned the terrorist attack in Pahalgam in which 26 tourists were killed. The TV actor, who was born in Kashmir and recently shared photos of her visit there, expressed her outrage and sorrow at the dastardly attack. She also confirmed to her fans that she is 'safe and back'.

Hina wrote a long note expressing her deep sorrow after the attack in Kashmir. A part of Hina's post read, "The way this attack was conducted by heartless, inhuman, brainwashed terrorists who claim to be Muslims is beyond appalling. It breaks my heart. As a Muslim, I want to apologise to all my fellow Hindus and fellow Indians." "It's not about me or my pain—it's the pain of everyone who lost their loved ones. It's the pain every Indian is feeling. I am praying for their strength and peace. I am praying for the souls we lost," she added.

Yeh Rishta Kya Kehlata Hai fame actor also condemned the attack and wrote, "We must not mince words. I condemn it, I reject it, and I hate those who did it. Wholeheartedly, absolutely and unconditionally." She also added, "Those who did this can follow any religion. They are not human beings for me. As embarrassed I am for the act of some Muslims, I pray to my fellow Indians to not alienate all of us. All of us who call India our home and our motherland. If we end up fighting each other, we would be doing what they want us to do, to divide us, to keep us fighting, and we must not let that happen as Indians."

She also expressed that she wants a Kashmir where Kashmiri Pandits can live peacefully with Kashmiri Muslims. She concluded the note by saying that she also wants justice. "Peace and Love Jai Hind," read Hina's post caption.

A day after the attack too, Hina posted a heartbroken emoji on her Instagram story and asked, "PAHALGAM, WHY WHY WHY?". Hina, who was on vacation to Kashmir last week, also shared via her Instagram story, "Also to all those who were really concerned about my whereabouts, I am safe and back.."

## Seema Sajdeh says she is scared to date after divorce with Sohail Khan: ‘I might get killed’

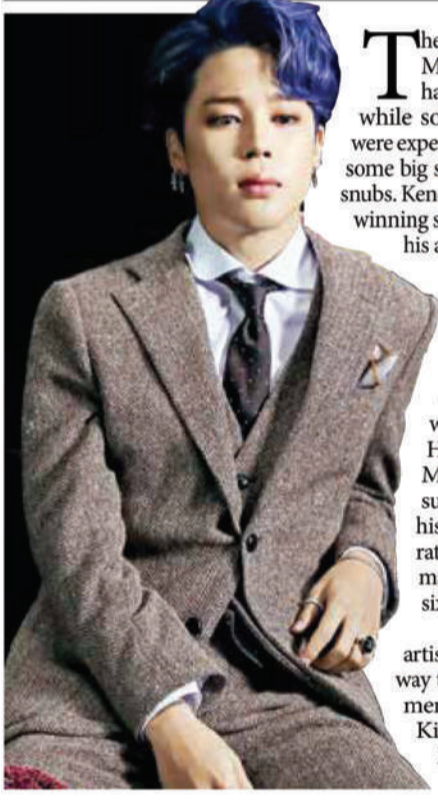
Seema Kiran Sajdeh and her relationship status became the talk of the town ever since she first appeared in Netflix's Fabulous Lives of Bollywood Wives along with Maheep Kapoor, Bhavana Pandey, and Neelam Kothari. While in the first season, she was shown to be at the verge of ending her marriage with Sohail Khan, the third season showed her getting into a relationship with the man she was engaged to before eloping with Sohail. In a recent interview, Seema shared her experience of dating people after marriage which made her think she might get killed. In a conversation with Janice Sequeria, Seema called going on dates post divorce, the worst part of the whole process. She shared, "Honestly, for me, it was the worst part. Everyone just told me, 'Arey, just go have good time, meet him, talk to him'. I watched too much of Law and Order SVU. And because I watched it too much, I started to think I might get killed. I am like, 'What if he turns out to be a serial killer?'"

Seema then shared new age dating is not her cup of tea. "I am sorry I am old school. I didn't even know the meaning of situationship", shared the fashion designer and stylist. Seema, however, recalled once joining a dating app after getting drunk.



## BTS' Jimin, BLACKPINK Rosé, Kendrick Lamar grab AMA 2025 nominations

Coming in second place is Post Malone, who clinched eight nominations



The full list of 'American Music Awards 2025' has been released and while some of the entries were expected, there were also some big surprises and major snubs. Kendrick Lamar and his winning streak continue with his album 'GNX' - from his Super Bowl halftime performance to leading the Grammys, 'Billboard' and now topping the AMAs with 10 nominations. He's followed by Post Malone with eight, surprisingly ahead of his 'Fortnight' collaborator Taylor Swift, who managed to clinch just six nominations.

K-pop acts and artists also made their way to the list, with BTS members Park Jimin, Kim Namjoon and BLACKPINK's Rosé standing out

among others. The 51st annual American Music Awards will be hosted by none other than Jennifer Lopez, scheduled for May 26, 2025.

For Lamar, 2025 could turn out to be a golden year - one where he might actually tie legends like Michael Jackson and Whitney Houston for the most AMA wins in a single year if he takes home trophies in the eight categories he's nominated in. Out of his 10 total nominations, he's up for American Music Awards 'Artist of the Year', 'Album of the Year' for 'GNX' and 'Song of the Year' for 'Not Like Us' (the diss track aimed at Drake). Kendrick also locked in three out of the five spots in the 'Favourite Hip-Hop Song' category, with 'Like That' (with Future and Metro Boomin'), 'Not Like Us' and Luther (with SZA).

Coming in second place is Post Malone, who clinched eight nominations this year. He's nominated for 'Artist of the Year', 'Album of the Year' for 'F-1 Trillion' and 'Song of the Year' for 'I Had Some Help' (his country collaboration with Morgan Wallen). He has already won in both the rap/hip-hop and pop/rock categories in the past. But this time, he's also nominated in three country categories. He also has chances of winning 'Collaboration of the Year' one for 'I Had Some Help' and another for 'Fortnight', his surprise team-up with Taylor Swift.

Billie Eilish, who released her 'Hit Me Hard and Soft', her third album clinched seven nods, including for Artist of the Year, Album of the Year, Song of the Year, Favourite Touring Artist and more.

Jennifer Lopez will host the awards ceremony

## Penn struggled to ‘differentiate’ himself from his ‘Gossip Girl’ role

Badgley added that the ‘celebrity culture’ in the late 2000s didn't help either



For Penn Badgley, it was difficult to leave his 'Gossip Girl' character Dan Humphrey behind after the show concluded in 2012. In a recent appearance on the 'Call Her Daddy' podcast, Badgley said that it was difficult to 'move on' from the role after starring in the hit series for six seasons.

to differentiate myself in terms of self-worth. What people seemed to think of Dan seemed to be what people thought of me."

Badgley added that the 'celebrity culture' in the late 2000s didn't help either.

During the peak of 'Gossip Girl', the 'You' star said he was constantly being asked about his dating life, which made him feel like, 'You're constantly needing to prove yourself in some manner, otherwise, what are you doing?'

'Gossip Girl' ran for 121 episodes from 2007 to 2012. Starring Blake Lively, Leighton Meester, Ed Westwick, Chace Crawford, Kelly Rutherford, Matthew Settle and Jessica Szohr, the show followed a group of wealthy New York teens whose scandalous lifestyles are repeatedly disrupted by an anonymous blogger known only as 'Gossip Girl'.

In the show's final episode, 'New York, I Love You XOXO', Badgley's character Dan Humphrey is said to be the notorious 'Gossip Girl', citing his outcast status among the elite as the reason for starting the blog.



'It was a struggle. When you do a film, you do it once and give it your all and then you move on,' he says

"It was a struggle. When you do a film, you do it once and give it your all and then you move on. When you do a television show, you're doing it constantly because of the nature of that show," Badgley said, reported 'variety.com'.

He added, "I was 20, 21 and 22, so I didn't have the emotional maturity to understand how

## Bill developing series based on Jonestown massacre of 1970s

American actor Bill Hader is developing a series based on cult leader Jim Jones and the infamous Jonestown massacre in the 1970s. The 'Barry' star is collaborating with screenwriter Daniel Zelman for the show, which hails from the American premium cable network HBO.

Hader is also set to direct and could star in the project as well, if it is given a go-ahead by the network, according to entertainment news outlet 'Variety'.

Jones was the founder and

The massacre remains one of the deadliest tragedies involving civilians in American history



dren. Alongside his inner circle, Jones orchestrated the tragedy at the remote jungle commune in Guyana, where followers were directed to consume a cyanide-laced drink.

The Jonestown massacre remains one of the deadliest tragedies involving civilians in American history, drawing sustained media attention and public scrutiny ever since. Multiple books and documentaries have been released. Actor Powers Boothe played the cult leader in the two-part CBS miniseries 'Guyana Tragedy: The Story of Jim Jones' in 1980.

'Breaking Bad' creator Vince Gilligan was also developing a Jonestown series at HBO beginning in 2016, but the project didn't move forward.



## Ground Zero movie review: Emraan Hashmi's Kashmir drama strikes a much-needed balance in these fraught times

An intensive search-and-combing operation which results in the capture of a dreaded terrorist in Srinagar could be the one-line theme of several similar films in the past. The difference with 'Ground Zero', which calls itself a 'work of fiction based on real-life events', are two-fold. First, it releases the same week of the Pahalgam tragedy, whose consequences will be felt for a long time to come. Second, it steers clear of the disturbing jingoism that has been part and parcel of such films, focussing instead on the tough life of the BSF jawans and other

security forces in the conflict-stricken Kashmir valley Emraan Hashmi plays BSF officer Narendra Nath Dhar Dubey, who managed to locate and take out terrorist kingpin Ghazi Baba and his accomplices in 2003. It was a time when PM Atal Bihari Vajpayee had visited the valley, in the midst of rising terrorist activities: there are glimpses of the 2001 attack on Parliament in the film.

Delhi-based intelligence officers, played here by Rahul Vora and Zoya Hussain, are not too enthusiastic by Dubey's taking charge and contradicting their findings. Neither is

his own senior (Mukesh Tiwari). But Dubey sticks to his guns, trusting his loyal colleagues to have his back, as well as his own gut instincts, and follows through to a successful end. No spoilers here, as these operations are documented in detail. The film uses some of these details to build a complex picture of a valley in turmoil, where the locals can be both complicit and innocent, depending upon their situation. Or let's say, as complex as a mainstream Hindi film can be. It shows locals pelting stones; it also gives us poverty stricken homes where desperate young boys like Hussain

(Mehroos) become easy marks for their handlers from across the border. 'Yeh jagah hamari hai, par kya yahaan ke log hamaare hain,' asks Dubey; his wounded colleague's (Deepak Paramesh) response is 'yes' to both. It's tempting but not a good idea to extrapolate from films. But Ground Zero, which takes time to build an atmosphere of tension — stepping out to a market, even with your armed mates around you, can be your last day alive — is perhaps the much-needed kind of balance a film can achieve in these fraught times.

The film becomes lax in some parts,

especially when the Delhi gang arrives to tell the local forces how to do their jobs. Zoya Hassan pitches it high as an intelligence officer who is willing to lead Dubey her ear; both Vora and Tiwari swing between being shouty and belligerent. Sai Tamhankar is effective as Dubey's wife, getting her own speech in, in defence of her doughty spouse, even as we see how that insecurity creeps into their domestic sphere. Hashmi does a good job of being Dubey, trying to tone down the dialoguing and making it sound conversational. But tighter would have been better.

# BCCI will follow the government's advice regarding cricket relations with Pakistan: Rajiv Shukla

**Mumbai (Agency):** Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) Vice President Rajiv Shukla has said that whatever decision the government takes regarding cricket relations with Pakistan, it will follow it. After the terrorist attack in Pahalgam, tension has increased between the two countries and in such a situation, there is a demand that Pakistan should not be played with at any level. Currently, both the countries play only in ICC events. BCCI Vice President Shukla has said that the board will follow the government's advice, although he said that no decision has been taken yet regarding keeping India and Pakistan in the same group in ICC



and ACC events. It is worth noting that questions are being raised about both the countries playing in Asia Cup and Women's ODI World Cup. At the same time, it remains to be

seen what decision the Asian Cricket Council (ACC) takes in this matter. Due to the tension between India and Pakistan, the situation has changed now. For this reason, it is believed that BCCI has appealed to ICC not to keep India and Pakistan in the same group in the upcoming big tournaments. It is worth noting that the cricket board benefits a lot from the India-Pakistan match in any big event. In such a situation, if these two teams are not in the same group, then the organizers suffer losses. However, Shukla has put forth his side regarding the reports coming about not keeping the two in the same group. He said that the board will act

on the advice of the government in this matter. This clearly means that whatever the government decides, the BCCI will do the same. At the same time, an official has said that he has no information about not keeping India and Pakistan in the same group. This means that it is not yet decided whether India and Pakistan will be kept in the same group or not. Talking about ICC events, no major tournament is going to happen at the moment. Women's ODI World Cup is to be organized in India at the end of this year. Pakistan has qualified for it. This eight-team tournament will be held in a round-robin format, with no groups. This means that all teams will play each other. As per the pre-planned schedule, Pakistan's matches will be held at a neutral venue.



Bologna players celebrating after winning a football match in Italy.

## Yashasvi got angry at Hazelwood



**Bengaluru (Agency):** Royal Challengers Bangalore (RCB) opener Yashasvi Jaiswal got angry at fast bowler Josh Hazelwood after getting out in the match against Rajasthan Royals, after which the umpire warned RCB captain Rajat Patidar. When Yashasvi got out in this match, Hazelwood made some gestures which angered Yashasvi and he said something. Which the umpire considered a violation of the code of conduct. In this match, the dispute between Hazelwood and Yashasvi Jaiswal started from the fourth over itself. After not being able to play the first three balls of Hazelwood, Yashasvi hit three fours. After this, he also hit two fours and a six in the last over of the powerplay. On the fifth ball of the over, Hazelwood changed the angle and bowled around the wicket, this time Jaiswal got out while trying to hit a shot. Hazlud played a key role in RCB's victory by taking a total of 4 wickets in this match. After dismissing Yashasvi in the 6th over, he dismissed Shimron Hetmyer. After this, he took the wickets of Dhruv Jurel and Jofra Archer by giving 1 run in the 19th over.

## Irfan Pathan said, only a RCB player will break Gayle's record

**Mumbai (Agency):** Former Indian cricketer Irfan Pathan has said that West Indies explosive batsman Chris Gayle's record of highest score of 175 runs can be broken in this season of Indian Premier League (IPL). Pathan has said that only a RCB player will break this record, although he has not revealed the name of the batsman. Many new records have been made and broken in IPL so far, but this record made by Gayle in 2013 is such that it has been standing for more than a decade. Gayle is known for his stormy batting. He played an unbeaten innings of 175 runs in 66 balls against Pune Warriors in T-20. At that time Gayle used to play for RCB. Gayle's T20 career includes 14,552 runs in 463 matches. Apart from Gayle, former New Zealand legend Brendon McCullum is at number two, who scored an unbeaten 158 off 73 balls for Kolkata Knight Riders against Royal Challengers



Bangalore in 2008. Abhishek Sharma is at number three in terms of highest run-scoring innings by scoring 141 runs in the season this season. At number four is South Africa's Quinton de Kock, who played an unbeaten innings of 140 off 70 balls for Lucknow Super Giants against Kolkata Knight Riders in 2022. At number five in this list is former RCB player AB de Villiers, who scored an unbeaten 133 off 59 balls against Mumbai Indians in 2015, while KL Rahul is at number six, who scored an unbeaten 132 off 69 balls for Punjab Kings against Royal Challengers Bangalore.

## Due to this reason, cricket matches are not being held in Kashmir even after three decades

**Mumbai (Agency):** The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) has not been able to organize any international cricket match in Jammu and Kashmir for the last three decades. Two matches were held here in the eighties and the Indian team had to face defeat in both of them. Both these ODIs were held at the Sher-e-Kashmir Stadium in Srinagar. The first match was held on 13 October 1983, in which India and West Indies clashed. West Indies won this match by 28 runs. Kapil Dev was the captain while Clive Lloyd was leading the West Indies. After this, the next match in Srinagar was

held three years later i.e. in 1986. In this, Australia defeated India by three wickets. Since then, matches could not be held here due to increasing incidents of terrorism. At the same time, when Article 370 was removed in the year 2019, it was felt that like other areas, cricket would now develop in Kashmir and more and more matches would be held, but this did not happen. The reason for this is that due to the long-term terrorism, there is a lack of sports facilities in Kashmir. Along with this, security is also an important issue due to which matches are not held here.

## 'WILL PLAY A HUGE ROLE' Boulton believes Rohit holds key to Mumbai Indians' quest for No. 6

**HYDERABAD:** Mumbai Indians' pacer Trent Boulton has backed "world-class" Rohit Sharma to play a pivotal role in the team's pursuit for a record-extending sixth IPL title, following back-to-back half-centuries that signalled his timely return to form.

The Kiwi left-arm pacer was instrumental in dismantling Sunrisers Hyderabad's famed top-order, returning with a match-winning spell of 4/26 to cap MI's fourth straight win in emphatic style. After SRH collapsed to 143/8, MI, powered by Rohit's commanding 46-ball 70, chased down the target in just 15.4 overs. The emphatic win not only boosted their net run rate but also propelled them to third place on the points table. "I think the whole side, the whole Mumbai Indians squad possesses some world-class players and obviously Rohit needs no introduction in that regard," Boulton said at the post-match media interaction. "I'm sure everyone wants to be contributing at some points, but Rohit's doing a fantastic job of late and playing nicely just at the right time. So he's going to play a huge role for us in the remain-



Trent Boulton said Rohit Sharma is a world-class player

**Rohit's doing a fantastic job of late and playing nicely just at the right time. So he's going to play a huge role for us in the remaining part of the season**

— Trent Boulton, MI pacer

ing part of the season. I think you just need to be prepared for any role," he added. Boulton also praised captain Hardik Pandya for his leadership style, calling it a refreshing experience. "Hardik's a passionate cricketer, obviously very skilful. He's a great leader, I think. He leads from the front. "He's a great communicator. He's one of my favourite Indian cricketers, so to get the chance to play underneath him is a great experience." Boulton, who has adjusted seamlessly into a new role after

shifting from Rajasthan Royals to MI, emphasised the importance of adaptability in a long tournament like the IPL. "At Rajasthan I was prepared to bowl at any stage of the match. I've been lucky enough to play 10 IPL seasons where it hasn't always been the same recipe every time. So I think the first thing is you've got to always want the ball. There's some great players in there. Obviously, (Jasprit) Bumrah needs no introduction either, so it's great to be having ball back in hand with him."

## Fed Cup: Kujur blurs to gold & national record

**KOCHI:** Odisha sprinter Animesh Kujur ran a blazing 200m race as he won the gold medal with a national record time of 20.40 seconds and became the Asian season leader on the final day of the National Federation Senior Athletics Competition here on Thursday. The 21-year-old Kujur, who had earlier won a silver in men's 100m, ran a brilliant race to better Amlan Borgohain's earlier national record of 20.52 seconds set in 2022. Borgohain, representing Reliance, finished second with 20.80 seconds. With his 20.40 seconds effort, Kujur became the current Asian leader and joint 35th best in the world in the season so far.

The men's 200m final race also turned out to be the fastest ever in the country with four competitors running sub 21 seconds. Rahul Kumar G of Tamil Nadu clocked 20.85 seconds to finish third while Manikanta Hoblihar of Karnataka took the fourth spot with a time of 20.91 seconds. Kujur, however, missed the World Championships qualifying time of 20.16 seconds which is a very tough ask for an Indian 200m runner. He, however, bettered the

## Kujur, however, missed the Worlds qualifying time of 20.16 seconds

Asian Championships qualifying time of 20.53 seconds set by the Athletics Federation of India (AFI). Kujur has been in top form coming into the event. He won a gold in the Uttarakhand National Games in February with a time of 20.58 seconds -- his earlier personal best. He then finished on top in the Indian Open Athletics Meet in Chennai earlier this month, clocking 20.63 seconds. He had won 200m gold in the last edition of this event, as well as in the 2024 National Inter-State Championships. "I felt good during the morning heat race. It gave a big boost to my confidence and eventually resulted in a record breaking performance in the medal round," Kujur said after the final race. In the men's triple jump, Praveen Chithravel equalled his own national record of 17.37m and qualified for the World Championships.

AGENCIES



Animesh Kujur clocked 20.40 seconds to win the 200m event

## Super Cup: 'Six-pack' NEU drub Sporting, in last-8

**BHUBANESWAR:** Moroccan striker Alaeddine Ajaraie struck a brilliant hat-trick as NorthEast United FC demolished Mohammedan Sporting 6-0 to enter the Kalinga Super Cup quarterfinals here on Thursday. Indian Super League's highest goal-getter Ajaraie scored in the 18th, 57th and 90+2 minutes while Jithin MS (3rd), Nestor Albiach Roger (42nd) and Guillermo Fernandez Hierro (66th) also found the target for NorthEast United in the completely one-sided match. NorthEast United have had a penchant for

scoring early in games this season and they continued that trend, with a goal in the third minute. Jithin MS capitalised on some lacklustre Mohammedan defending to smartly volley Nestor Albiach's cross from inside the six-yard box and give his side the lead. Mohammedan slowly grew into the game and in the 12th minute, Lalremnga had the best chance for his side, after being played through on the right side of the box by a wavy Robi Hansda run. The angle was acute and yet the winger took a shot which was parried to safety.

AGENCIES

# Hazelwood keeps up RCB's Josh

## Helps RCB win 1st game at home, Kohli also shines

**BENGALURU:** The unrelenting Josh Hazlewood fashioned Royal Challengers Bengaluru's first win at home this IPL season with an extraordinary penultimate over as his team beat Rajasthan Royals by 11 runs in a see-saw affair here on Thursday. The defeat meant RR are out of the reckoning for a place in playoffs berth in the ongoing edition of the league. They have lost seven matches out of nine. Coming on to bowl with RR needing 18 off 12 deliveries, Hazlewood (4/33) picked up two wickets in as many balls while giving away just one run, as the visitors were stopped at 194/9 in a chase of 206 at a packed Chinnaswamy Stadium. Hazlewood's heroics meant Yashasvi Jaiswal's (49 off 19 balls) blazing knock at the top of the order and Dhruv Jurel's (47 off 34 balls) valiant effort went in vain as RR suffered their fifth defeat on the trot. This was after RCB star batter Virat Kohli (70 off 42 balls) and Devdutt Padikkal (40 off 27 balls) controlled the middle overs with a partnership of 95 for the second wicket. Set a target of 206, RR's start was brutal with Jaiswal and 14-year-old Vaibhav Suryavanshi amassing 52 runs in 27 balls



Josh Hazlewood and Virat Kohli did the star turns for their team

before the latter was bowled by a Bhuvneshwar Kumar knuckle ball after the teenager went for one too many, having hit two sixes in his 16-run knock. Suryavanshi was RR's impact player. Jaiswal, who began the RR innings with a six on the leg side off Bhuvneshwar, smashed Yash Dayal for 18 runs as the

visitors started the chase in earnest. The swashbuckling Jaiswal then went after Hazlewood and clobbered the experienced Australian pacer for three successive fours in an eventful over that also comprised three dot balls. Not content with his punishment of Hazlewood, Jaiswal hit the Australian for two more

fours and a six over the keeper. However, after being taken to the cleaners, Hazlewood had the last laugh as he cut short Jaiswal's whirlwind stay when he crammed the batter for room and forced him to pull one straight to Romario Shephard at midwicket. RR, nevertheless, had raced to 72/2 by the end of power-



**It was a much needed win. Today the wicket was different, as we had expected. All the credit goes to the bowlers how they came back after the 10th over.**

— Rajat Patidar, RCB captain

play as Riyan Parag (22 off 10 balls) walked into the middle. Parag looked in the mood on the night and smoked Suyash Sharma, RCB's impact sub, for a six over deep square-leg. **Brief scores: RCB:** 205/5 (Kohli 70, Padikkal 50; Sandeep 2/45); **RR:** 194/9 (Jaiswal 49, Jurel 47; Hazlewood (4/33), Krunal 2/31).

AGENCIES

## BOTH TEAMS NEED A WIN DESPERATELY

# Survival instincts come into play as CSK take on SRH

**CHENNAI:** Chennai Super Kings will eye a crucial turnaround at home when they face an equally desperate Sunrisers Hyderabad in a battle of survival in the Indian Premier League here on Friday. Both sides have endured a turbulent season, notching just four points from eight games, and must now win all remaining fixtures to keep their slim qualification hopes alive. Known to make the most of home conditions, five-time champions CSK find themselves in uncharted territory as they haven't been able to read the wickets well at the Chepauk. They started strong at their fortress, dominating Mumbai Indians as Noor Ahmad spun a web around the visitors. But the early promise fizzled out quickly, with three successive losses at home. The also endured the ignominy of posting their lowest-ever IPL total at home -- 103/9 against Kolkata Knight Riders. Head coach Stephen Fleming has also voiced frustration over the Chepauk surface, which has offered more to seamers than CSK's usual spin-heavy attack.



MS Dhoni bats at nets during a practice session

SRH, meanwhile, have endured an equally erratic campaign. A bright start gave way to inconsistency, with their ultra-aggressive, attack-at-all-costs strategy falling flat. The explosive opening pair of Travis Head and Abhishek Sharma, so vital last season, have failed to hit the same heights.

AGENCIES

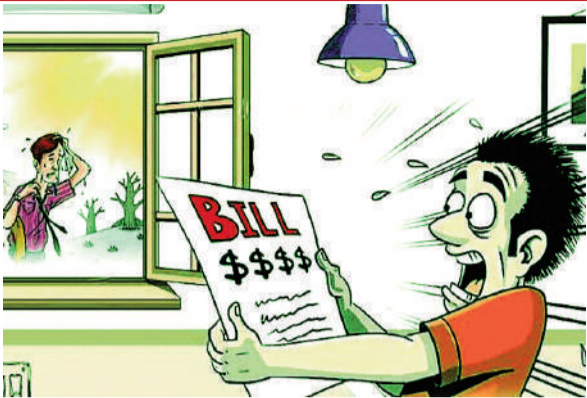
## Gambhir receives death threat email

**NEW DELHI:** The head coach of the India men's cricket team, Gautam Gambhir, has found himself at the centre of a security scare after he received threatening emails, the Delhi Police said on Thursday. The threats were received on April 22 -- the same day terrorists gunned down 26 people, mostly tourists, in Kashmir's Pahalgam -- from a suspicious Gmail account. "We have been informed about an alleged threat mail received on an email ID associated with Gautam Gambhir. The matter is being investigated," DCP (Central) M Harsha Vardhan said. "Gautam Gambhir is already a Delhi Police protectee," the officer said. Gambhir, a former BJP MP, reportedly received two threat mails.

# Electricity company increased testing fee by seven and a half times

Installing solar net metering system will be costly for consumers

**Bhopal (Agency):** On one hand, the government in MP is promoting solar energy so that people can produce electricity by installing solar panels on their homes, offices etc. On the other hand, Madhya Kshetra Vidyut Vitran Company Limited has increased the testing fee charged in solar net metering system by seven and a half times. This increase is a challenge for consumers, as it will increase the cost of installing net metering system. Actually, net metering is a system that adjusts the electricity produced by solar panels with the electricity consumption of your house. If your solar panels generate more electricity than the electricity consumption of your house, then the excess electricity is sent to the grid and you get credit for it. The increase in the testing fee of solar net metering system will increase the cost of installing solar net metering system for consumers. This may cause problems in



adopting solar energy. However, government subsidy is also available on solar net metering system in MP, which helps in reducing this cost. But Madhya Kshetra Vidyut Vitran Company Ltd. has increased the testing fee and made the solar net metering system more expensive, which can harm consumers. There can be many reasons behind Madhya Kshetra Vidyut Vitran Company Ltd. increasing the testing fee, such as increase in cost, or achieving the company's financial targets. It is worth noting that the use

of solar energy is increasing in Madhya Pradesh. A target of 1100 MW solar energy has been set in Bhopal city, which will reduce carbon emissions equivalent to 285 lakh trees. Both the government and the corporation are working to promote solar energy, but Madhya Kshetra Vidyut Vitran Company Ltd. Bhopal is sabotaging this plan, due to which solar vendors are withdrawing their steps. The company has increased the testing fee of the meter installed in the solar net metering system by a huge amount, hurt by which solar

## 12450 rupees being charged instead of 1680

It is worth noting that the testing fee of the meter installed in the system has been Rs 1680 and the same fee is fixed in other electricity departments of Madhya Pradesh, West Zone and East Zone, but Madhya Kshetra Bhopal has issued a circular on 4 April 2025 and the fee has been increased to Rs 12450. Whereas a profit of 10 to 15 thousand rupees can be made with great difficulty in a 3 kW solar, but if this circular is accepted, then the vendor will have to close the business or increase the cost of the system instead of working at a loss. At present, the customer says that the cost of the system is high, so how can the rate be increased. Solar vendors have requested Prime Minister Narendra Modi to take cognizance of this issue and help the vendors save their business from closure. The most surprising thing is that the cost of solar net meter is Rs 5448, whereas Madhya Kshetra Vidyut Vitran Company Limited is charging double the cost of the meter in the name of testing. This fee is Rs 12450. According to sources, electricity distribution companies do not have the right to increase any charge related to electricity. This right is only with the Electricity Regulatory Commission. Vendors will also knock the door of Electricity Regulatory Commission against the order of Madhya Kshetra Vidyut Vitran Company.

vendors have written a letter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi. In the letter, the solar vendors have written that 'I humbly request you on behalf of all the solar vendors

of Madhya Pradesh that Madhya Kshetra Vidyut Vitran Company Ltd. Bhopal is creating a lot of obstacles in your efforts to promote solar energy.'

# Investigation against 'Honourables' in limbo

**Bhopal (Agency):** The agencies investigating against corruption in MP are so helpless that even after the High Court's direction, the investigation against former ministers and senior officials has not been able to proceed. Due to this, questions have also been raised on the functioning of the Lokayukta and EOW organization. It is worth noting that while on one hand the investigations against former ministers are stuck, on the other hand, a provision has been made that investigation cases will not be easily registered against ministers in the Lokayukta. On receiving a complaint, it will first be examined whether the minister has a direct role in the concerned matter or not. What happens now is that on examining the complaint, if the basis for registering an investigation case is understood at first glance, then the case is registered, but it is not looked into closely as to what is the role of the minister in it. Due to this, after investigation, action has to be taken against the minister for deletion and termination. This creates a situation of unnecessary dispute. Therefore, it has been decided to implement a new system. It is worth noting that even on the instructions of the MP High Court, the Lokayukta organization has not been able to complete the investigation of the disproportionate assets case against many former ministers. Former DG Lokayukta Arun Gurtu says



that the investigation agencies were established to catch organized, white-collar crime. District police is enough to catch small employees like Patwari, Panchayat Secretary. It seems that somewhere the investigation agencies also work under pressure. This is the reason why big fish always escape. In August 2022, while hearing a PIL, the High Court had directed the Lokayukta to investigate the property of the then minister Gaurishankar Bisen. The PIL was filed by former MLA of Lanji (Balaghat) Kishore Samarite. A complaint of benami property worth billions of rupees was made to the Lokayukta against Minister Govind Singh Rajput, but the investigation did not start. Samarite, who complained against Bisen, said that when the Lokayukta organization did not start the investigation on the complaint made in the year 2013, he filed a petition in the High Court.

## BRIEF NEWS

### AAP's first reaction on BJP's victory in MCD mayor election

**Delhi (Agency):** BJP has won the Delhi MCD Mayor Election. Raja Iqbal Singh has become the new mayor of Delhi. In this election, the BJP candidate got 133 votes. On the other hand, after the MCD election results, the reaction from Aam Aadmi Party has come. AAP leader Saurabh Bhardwaj said that now no excuse will work, work will have to be done. Saurabh Bhardwaj said that even after all the tricks and manipulations, BJP has only 117 councillors in the MCD of 250 councillors. Even in the house of 238 councillors, the majority is 120. BJP should know that in the 4 engine government, no excuses, no rhetoric will work, now work will have to be done. The public will know in 1 month. Let us tell you that in this mayor election of MCD, Aam Aadmi Party did not field its candidate. Whereas Congress fielded its candidate in the election despite eight votes.

### BJP's Raja Iqbal Singh became MCD mayor, Congress got only this many votes

**Delhi (Agency):** BJP has won the mayor election of Delhi MCD. Party's Iqbal Raja Singh has become the mayor of Delhi. Iqbal got 133 votes while Congress candidate Mandeep got only eight votes. Despite having eight votes, Congress had fielded its candidate, while Aam Aadmi Party had decided not to field a candidate in this election. After winning the MCD mayor election, BJP leader Raja Iqbal Singh said, I want to thank Prime Minister Narendra Modi, BJP National President JP Nadda, Union Home Minister Amit Shah, Delhi BJP chief Virendra Sachdeva and other party leaders. He further said, I assure you that I will work together with the ruling party, opposition and Congress. Decisions will be taken without any discrimination for the development of Delhi. After winning the election, Delhi's new Mayor Raja Iqbal Singh said, my main goal will be to improve the cleanliness system of Delhi, remove the mountains of garbage, solve the problem of waterlogging and provide all the basic and essential facilities to the people of Delhi. We will all work together with full dedication and hard work.

### Devendra Yadav cornered BJP over Delhi's public transport

**Delhi (Agency):** Delhi Congress President Devendra Yadav has expressed serious concern over the poor condition of public transport facilities. He said that during the tenure of the BJP government, Delhi's transport facilities have completely deteriorated. Especially in this scorching heat and deadly heat wave, when lakhs of people are dependent on public buses, the passengers are facing a lot of problems due to the huge shortage of DTC buses and the absence of shelters at the bus stops. Devendra Yadav said that the Delhi government has not only failed to improve the public transport facilities, but more than 2000 DTC buses have been removed from the fleet during its tenure. He also questioned the Chief Minister's announcement, in which it was said that 1000 e-buses would be included in the first week of April, but not even a single bus has been included till now. He also cited the Delhi High Court's order, in which 11,000 DTC buses were said to be necessary in the capital. But, while there were 4344 DTC buses in 2015-16, it reduced to 3937 in 2022-23. During the Congress government, the number of buses was more than 7000 and during the tenure of the Sheila Dikshit government, a big step was taken towards pollution control by introducing CNG buses, which was appreciated internationally. Calling the policies of the BJP government 'confused', Devendra Yadav said that on the one hand the number of buses is being reduced, while on the other hand there is talk of stopping CNG auto rickshaws. This will put the employment of lakhs of families in crisis and pollution will increase further due to the increase in the number of private vehicles.

## Where is the EOW-Lokayukta investigation of tainted PWD officers stuck?

**Bhopal (Agency):** Engineers of the Public Works Department of Madhya Pradesh are reaping the benefits. Many complaints are pending with the EOW and Lokayukta in cases of arbitrary changes in design-drawings, poor quality construction of roads and buildings. Engineers of the Public Works Department of Madhya Pradesh, surrounded by serious allegations of corruption, are reaping the benefits. Many complaints are pending with the EOW and Lokayukta in cases of arbitrary changes in design-drawings, poor quality construction of roads and buildings. Some investigations are going on for 12 years and some are stuck for 10 years. More than 15 such engineers are occupying high positions in the department and are influencing the investigations by resorting to their interference in the

government. In such cases, after the completion of investigation in two to three years, the hearing starts in the court, but due to the grace of the department, they have been saved for more than a decade. Technical officers of the level of Chief Engineer, Superintendent Engineer and Executive Engineer are also surrounded by the heat of financial irregularities and irregularities in construction. The cases of such officers have been buried in the investigation agencies for years. Despite complaints, no action has been taken against these officers, on the contrary, they have been continuously successful in getting charge of high posts with the help of their influence. The dominance of such tainted officers is intact in PWD and due to this, the investigation in the cases of poor construction and collusion with contractors is not able to move forward. First of all, let us talk about

those officers who are surrounded by complaints of irregularities in construction works. Chief among them is GP Mehra, Chief Engineer of Madhya Pradesh Road Development Corporation. He has also been the Chief



Engineer of the lucrative Building Department in PWD. Mehra has considerable influence in the department. During deputation, Mehra was accused of poor road construction between Chanderi-Mungavali by Hyderabad's ShriKN Company and Gwalior's Tomar Builders. A complaint has been lodged in the

Lokayukta Police. A three-member committee was formed at the departmental level to investigate the allegations against Mehra. The technical officers included in the committee could not complete the

by him in the construction of the school building had reached the EOW. This investigation has also not come out of the file till now. A complaint of corruption was lodged with the Lokayukta Police in the year 2023 against Raghavendra Singh Kirar, AGM i.e. Assistant General Manager of the Building Branch of the Public Works Department. Apart from him, Nishant Pachauti, DGA i.e. Deputy General Manager (Technical) of Bhawan Vikas Nigam has been accused of getting a job with the help of a fake EWS certificate. His complaint was lodged with the Lokayukta Police in the year 2024. No one has any idea where this complaint made for investigation has been buried for a year. Not only the high ranking officers of the level of GM, AGM, DGM in the Public Works Department, but also the Executive Engineers, Assistant Engineers working

in the divisions and districts are ignoring the quality in road and building construction. This gives profit to the contractor, a part of which reaches these officers as well. Whether it is collusion for tender or benefiting the construction agency by changing the design-drawing, the technical officers of the Public Works Department are not spared from allegations. Their complaints also continuously reach the department and investigation agencies like EOW Lokayukta. However, these officers suppress the complaints with the help of their influence, the investigation on them does not proceed further. In a span of more than a decade, PWD engineers were constantly surrounded by allegations of corruption and technical irregularities, but neither the investigation was completed nor any action was taken.

## CM Rekha Gupta reached the department which no Chief Minister visited

**Delhi (Agency):** Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta reached the headquarters of Delhi Fire Service (DFS) at Connaught Circus along with Home Minister Ashish Sood. Here she not only took information about the resources available with Delhi Fire Service but also encouraged them by talking to the fire service employees. Here DFS Director Atul Garg welcomed her and gave important information related to the department. During this, CM Gupta also operated many fire fighting equipment himself. DFS Director Atul Garg, excited by the CM's visit, said that this is the first time that a Chief Minister has come here, and this is enough to boost our morale. Garg said that the CM had also mentioned the fire department in the budget speech, and this was also the first time. Garg said that as per the Chief Minister's wish, we are buying new vehicles to make Delhi Fire Service state-of-the-art so that we can go inside

narrow streets quickly to control the fire as soon as possible. Director of Delhi Fire Services, Atul Garg said on this occasion, first of all I would like to say



that the Chief Minister came here, this itself increased our enthusiasm, our motivation increased a lot. Because she is the first CM who came to the premises

here. She herself drove the equipment, she climbed on them, saw what is new, how many vehicles are there, this is a big day for the people of Delhi. A CM who has thousands of other works, she herself came to this department and she herself understood and herself assured. So this is a matter of great happiness, a very motivating thing for our soldiers, for all of us. Garg further said, CM Madam had already given us funds in the budget, she had already mentioned our department in the budget speech. This has happened for the first time, till date the name of the fire department had never come in any budget speech. This shows her intention from the very beginning that she wants to make our department very strong and wants to make it one of the best. Although we already have all the equipment, but still he has said that you will not have any shortage of funds. So now we cannot ask anything more from our CM.

## More than 900 markets in Delhi remained deserted, loss of more than Rs 1500 crore

**Delhi (Agency):** More than 900 markets including Connaught Place, Sadar Bazar, Gaffar Market and Chandni Chowk remained deserted on Friday due to the Delhi bandh called by traders to protest against the Pahalgam terrorist attack. Various trade

associations of sectors like textiles, spices, utensils and bullion also kept their shops closed. According to the Confederation of All India Traders (CAIT), more than 8 lakh shops remained closed in Delhi, resulting in a business loss of about Rs 1,500 crore

during the day. On Thursday, the Chamber of Trade and Industry (CTI) had called for a bandh. It also took out a candle march in Connaught Place to express solidarity with the victims of the attack. 26 people were killed in this attack, most of whom were tourists.

## Conflict between AAP and BJP on development in Kiradi



**Delhi (Agency):** Former Chief Minister of Delhi and Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leader Atishi recently went to Kiradi Assembly and claimed development work there, but Delhi BJP President Virendra Sachdeva rejected it outright and said that her claim is not only false but also shameful. Sachdeva launched a scathing attack on Atishi and put the 10-year government of AAP in the dock by referring to the plight of Kiradi. Atishi went to Kiradi and said that her party has done a lot of development work there. But, Virendra Sachdeva called it a baseless talk. Sachdeva says that the situation in Kiradi for the last 10 years is such that whether it rains or not, ponds remain on the roads for 9 months. There is no good school, no college and no proper

hospital. This is the truth of AAP's development. He alleges that Arvind Kejriwal's government has completely ignored Kiradi, which is one of the largest assembly constituencies of Delhi. Sachdeva also said that AAP's victory in Kiradi was not due to development, but due to the influence of caste and religion. He argues that like seats like Okhla, Ballimaran and Seelampur, AAP did vote bank politics in Kiradi too and did nothing for the welfare of the people there. He asked Atishi a direct question that if your MLA Rituraj Govind had done so much development in 10 years, then why did AAP have to remove him from the ticket? Answer this, if we talk about Kiradi, then this area is really facing many problems.