



Pakistan, scared of the attack, has lost its senses, instead is accusing India of terrorism...



Local stock markets opened with gains

Kevin Hart cancels India show in 'solidarity' with victims of Pahalgam terrorist attack,...

P6

Baba Saheb Ambedkar gave the society an opportunity to live life with equality and take a new flight - Former Chief Minister Smt. Vasundhara Raje

Seminar of Dr. Ambedkar Samman Abhiyan held at Ravindra Natya Griha Indore

Bhopal (Agency): Chief Minister Dr. Mohan Yadav said that the personality of the President of the Indian Constituent Assembly and Bharat Ratna Baba Saheb Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar was very great and vast. He was a strong supporter of social unity. Dr. Ambedkar is the messiah of not only Dalits but all sections. King Jiwaji Rao Scindia of Gwalior and Maharaja Gaekwad of Baroda also contributed significantly in taking Dr. Ambedkar forward. Baba Saheb was given the name Ambedkar by his guru. He respected it throughout his life and took it to the pinnacle. Chief Minister Dr. Yadav

was addressing the district seminar of Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar Samman Abhiyan at Ravindra Natya Griha Indore on Tuesday. Former Chief Minister of Rajasthan Smt. Vasundhara Raje, Urban Administration and Housing Minister Kailash Vijayvargiya, Water Resources Minister Tulsiram Silawat, Rajya Sabha MP Ms. Kavita Patidar, former Rajya Sabha member Narayan Singh Kesari, Mayor Pushyamitra Bhargava, MLAs Mahendra Hardia, Ramesh Mandola, Smt. Malini Gaur, former Mayor Krishnamurari Moghe, Chairman of Safai Kamgar Commission Pratap Karosia, Chairman of



Scheduled Caste Finance Development Corporation Sawan Sonkar, Sumit Mishra, Raghavendra Gautam and Dr. Nishant Khare were specially present in the program. Chief Minister Dr. Yadav

said that today the Central and State Governments are doing the work of taking the works of Baba Saheb Dr. Ambedkar to the people. The government has done the work of developing the place where Baba Saheb Dr.

Ambedkar was born, the place where he got education and all other important places related to him as pilgrimage sites. Former Chief Minister of Rajasthan Smt. Vasundhara Raje said that Baba Saheb Dr. Bhimrao

Ambedkar was a great leader not only of Dalits but of all sections, whom the whole world listened to. He wanted every person of the country to be educated and progress. He was full of humanity and he looked at everyone with the same vision. The Constitution written by Dr. Ambedkar is not just a document of law but a way of living life, which is being respected all over the world today. She said that Dr. Ambedkar gave the message to the whole world through his education and work that no work is difficult or impossible. His work inspires the society, increases self-confidence and gives a new energy. Dr.

Ambedkar has given everyone the opportunity to live life with equality as well as to fly. Former Chief Minister Smt. Raje praised the cleanliness of Indore and said that the people here have made cleanliness their sanskaar. This is the reason why Indore is number one in cleanliness for 7 consecutive years. Urban Administration Minister Kailash Vijayvargiya said that, comparing Baba Saheb Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar with South African black leader Dr. Nelson Mandela and former US President Martin Luther King, Dr. Ambedkar made about 80 crore Indians aware of education. Water Resources Minister

Silawat said that Baba Saheb Dr. Ambedkar is not only the pride of the nation but also of the world. He was a prophet and always roared against injustice. The Center and the Government are working to move forward on the path shown by Dr. Ambedkar. Here, along with Nari Shakti, Yuva Shakti, the poor and farmers are also being honored. Before the program, everyone paid tribute to the innocent people who died in the terrorist attack in Pahalgam by observing two minutes of silence. In the program, the guests honored former MP Narayan Singh Kesari and other social workers.

PAHALGAM ATTACK Jaishankar speaks to counterparts from 7 non-permanent members of UNSC

New Delhi (Agency): External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Tuesday spoke to his counterparts from seven non-permanent member nations of the UN Security Council amid speculations about India's possible response to the Pahalgam terror attack. Citing "cross-border linkages" to the horrific attack, India has promised severe punishment to those involved in the April 22 strike that killed 26 civilians.

Jaishankar's phone conversations with the foreign ministers of the seven countries came days after the UN Security Council issued a statement condemning the terrorist attack in Pahalgam, but not before Pakistan, backed by China, worked to water it down.

Jaishankar spoke to his counterparts from Algeria, Greece, Guyana, Panama, Slovenia, Sierra Leone and Somalia and discussed the Pahalgam attack.

The external affairs minister also received a call from UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres and conveyed to him, India's resolve to bring the "perpetrators, planners and backers" of this attack to justice.

"Appreciate his unequivocal condemnation of the terrorist attack in Pahalgam. Agreed on the importance of accountability," Jaishankar said in a social media post after the conversation with Guterres.

"India is resolved that the perpetrators, planners and backers of this attack are brought to justice," he said. Besides the seven non-permanent member nations of the UNSC that the external affairs minister reached out to, the other members of the powerful body are Denmark, Greece and Pakistan.

There is a possibility that the UNSC may again discuss the Pahalgam attack. In its April 25 statement on the attack, the UNSC condemned it in the "strongest terms" and reaffirmed that terrorism in all its forms and manifestations constitutes one of the "most serious" threats to international peace and security.

However, the statement was

seen as "inadequate".

The non-permanent members are elected by the UN General Assembly for two-year terms, and their membership rotates.



In his phone talks, Jaishankar is understood to have conveyed to the foreign ministers, India's policy on "zero tolerance" towards terrorism. "A warm conversation with FM Hugh Hilton Todd of Guyana today. Discussed the Pahalgam terrorist attack and the need to combat terrorism in all forms and manifestations," the external affairs minister said on X. On his discussion with

Slovenian Foreign Minister Tanja Fajon, Jaishankar said he thanked her for Slovenia's condemnation of the attack. During his phone conversation with Panama's Javier Mart nez, the external affairs minister thanked him for the country's "expression of solidarity and support" to India following the attack that killed 26 civilians.

"Good to speak with FM @AhmedAttaf_Dz of Algeria. Thanked him for the solidarity and support on the Pahalgam terrorist attack," Jaishankar said. "Reaffirmed our strong bilateral partnership and look forward to welcoming him in India soon," he said.

In the last few days, India reached out to various world capitals apprising the nations about the "cross-border" links to the terror attack.

Several world leaders, including US President Donald Trump, French President Emmanuel Macron, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, Egyptian President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi, Jordan's King Abdullah II and Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni, also dialled Modi to condemn the attack. Japanese Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba, UAE President Mohamed Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian, Sri Lankan President Anura Kumara Disanayake, Dutch PM Dick Schoof, US Vice President J D Vance, Australian PM Anthony Albanese and Nepal PM KP Sharma Oli also spoke to Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Jaishankar's phone calls with his counterparts from six non-permanent members of the UNSC come as India mulls options to respond to the terror attack. On Sunday, Modi said the "perpetrators and conspirators" of the Pahalgam attack will be "served with the harshest response".

"The whole world stands with 140 crore Indians in our fight against terrorism. I once again assure the affected families that they will get justice, and justice will be done," Modi said in his 'Mann ki Baat' address.

"The perpetrators and conspirators of this attack will be served with the harshest response," he said. On Tuesday, Modi asserted that the armed forces have "complete operational freedom" to decide on the mode, targets and timing of India's response to the attack.

He said this while chairing a meeting that was attended by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, NSA Ajit Doval and the chiefs of the three services. Modi affirmed that it is the national resolve to deal a crushing blow to terrorism, government sources said.

tions to respond to the terror attack.

On Sunday, Modi said the "perpetrators and conspirators" of the Pahalgam attack will be "served with the harshest response".

"The whole world stands with 140 crore Indians in our fight against terrorism. I once again assure the affected families that they will get justice, and justice will be done," Modi said in his 'Mann ki Baat' address.

"The perpetrators and conspirators of this attack will be served with the harshest response," he said.

On Tuesday, Modi asserted that the armed forces have "complete operational freedom" to decide on the mode, targets and timing of India's response to the attack. He said this while chairing a meeting that was attended by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, NSA Ajit Doval and the chiefs of the three services. Modi affirmed that it is the national resolve to deal a crushing blow to terrorism, government sources said.

On Tuesday, Modi asserted that the armed forces have "complete operational freedom" to decide on the mode, targets and timing of India's response to the attack.

He said this while chairing a meeting that was attended by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, NSA Ajit Doval and the chiefs of the three services. Modi affirmed that it is the national resolve to deal a crushing blow to terrorism, government sources said.

New Delhi (Agency): Axiom-4 to the International Space Station, piloted by Indian astronaut Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla with three other crew members, will be launched from the Kennedy Space Centre in Florida at 10.33 pm IST on May 29. The announcement was made by Axiom Space, a US-based commercial human spaceflight firm, at a virtual press conference late Tuesday.



Shukla's travel to space, onboard SpaceX's Dragon spacecraft, comes four decades after Rakesh Sharma's iconic spaceflight onboard Russia's Soyuz spacecraft in 1994.

Besides Shukla, the Ax-4 crew includes members from Poland and Hungary, marking each nation's first mission to the International Space Station in history and the second government-sponsored human spaceflight mission in over 40 years.

Shukla will conduct seven experiments in space that are aimed at encouraging microgravity research in India, which hopes to build its own space station by 2035 and send

astronauts to the moon by 2047.

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has drawn up plans to focus on India-centric food for carrying out experiments on the ISS, including sprouting methi (Fenugreek)

and moong (green gram) in microgravity conditions. "We have a sprouting experiment which tries to sprout green gram or moong and methi or fenugreek seeds, which are believed to have medicinal properties," Tushar Phadnis, Group Head for Microgravity Platforms and Research, said at the virtual press conference organised by Axiom. "The idea is not just to stop with sprouting it there. The idea is also to see how these India-specific sprouts behave

when they come back. They will undergo a lot of analysis in the labs of the respective PIs (principal investigators)," Phadnis said. The Axiom-4 (Ax-4) mission will also include Sławosz Uznanski, European Space Agency (ESA) project astronaut, who will be the second Polish astronaut since 1978.

Tibor Kapu will be the second national Hungarian astronaut since 1980.

Peggy Whitson will command her second commercial human spaceflight mission, adding to her standing record for the longest cumulative time in space by an American astronaut. The Ax-4 crew will launch aboard a SpaceX Dragon spacecraft to the space station and spend up to 14 days at the orbiting laboratory. Talking about the experiments planned by ISRO, Phadnis said Shukla will also expose the seeds to the macrobiotic conditions and bring them back.

"And when they're brought back to Earth, they'll be cultivated in plants not just once but over generations," he added.

Pahalgam terror attack: PM Modi meets RSS chief Bhagwat

New Delhi (Agency): RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat met Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday, an interaction which has come in the backdrop of the horrific Pahalgam terror attack that left 26 civilians, mostly tourists, dead.

Home Minister Amit Shah was also believed to be part of the meeting with Bhagwat. They exchanged views at the prime minister's residence amid the government weighing its options of countermeasures following the April 22 terror strike by Pakistan-linked terrorists.

Sources said the meeting was in connection with the Pahalgam attack. With the Hindutva organisation considered the ideological mentor to the ruling BJP and having a vast network across the country, the meeting assumes significance.

Bhagwat has met Modi at the prime minister's official residence only on a few occasions.

The meeting came after Modi chaired a meeting of the top defence establishment, including Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, NSAAjit Doval, Chief of Defence Staff General Anil Chauhan and all three chiefs of the armed forces.



The RSS had condemned the terror strike as an attack on the unity and integrity of the nation and called for appropriate punishment for those behind it. It has said, "All political parties and associations should rise above their differences and condemn this terror act. Government should ensure all required relief and assistance to the affected families and ensure appropriate punishment for the people responsible for this attack."

Don't attend funerals of terrorists deny them burial space: RSS leader urges Muslims

Jammu (Agency): Senior RSS functionary Indresh Kumar on Tuesday condemned the Pahalgam attack and urged the country's Muslims to desist from participating in funerals of terrorists and giving them space at burial sites.

"A terrorist has no religion - they are nothing but the face of evil. When you offer namaz for a terrorist, attend their funeral, or give them a grave, you affirm that they belong to a religion. That must stop", Kumar told reporters here.

"This issue has been ongoing for 40 to 50 years, yet prayers (namaz) are still offered for them... this raises serious questions," added Kumar, the chief patron of the Muslim Rashtriya Manch.

He called on the Muslims of Jammu and Kashmir and across the country to refuse to perform the last rites of slain terrorists.

"If such a firm step had been taken 20-30 years ago, Jammu and Kashmir may not have suffered the tragedies we have seen. Now is the time to reject and dissociate from glorifying

terrorism," he said.

Strongly condemning the terror attack, he said it was a "crime against humanity".

Kumar proposed the construction of a memorial in Pahalgam to honour the victims of the attack and to expose the



brutality of Pakistan. On India's security response, he praised the courage of the Indian Army and the government's resolve.

"The government is clear that those who perpetrate such attacks will be taught a lesson", he said. Responding to the Congress' social media post targeting Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Kumar criticised the party for "habitual abuse." "Congress leaders cannot digest their meals

without abusing the prime minister. They oppose even the army commander when the military fights terrorism. He said this is their political method, and it is highly condemnable".

He also said that Pakistan was on the brink of disintegration and asserted that the time has come to reclaim Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir (PoJK).

"Sindh, Balochistan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, PoJK, and even Pakistani Punjab are now demanding independence. Pakistan is falling apart and thinks it can save itself by provoking hatred against India, but that strategy has failed," he said.

Kumar also accused Pakistan of radicalising the youth and using religion as a weapon to destabilise Kashmir.

"For decades, they have trained Kashmiris to fight their own people, ruined the land, and tarnished its image. Pakistan alone is responsible", he said.

He further called on Indian Muslims to reject "vote-bank politics" and choose a path of national dignity.

Rahul Gandhi says path to Delhi power runs through UP, Bihar

Raebareli (Agency): Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi on Tuesday said the Congress party wants to form a strong government at the Centre, and the path to it goes from Uttar Pradesh and Bihar. Addressing party office bearers and workers of the Sareni assembly constituency in Raebareli district, Rahul Gandhi said, "The Congress party wants to form a strong (coalition) government in Delhi...with 200-300 seats. Its path passes through Uttar Pradesh and Bihar."

He added, "Until we are strong in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar, a strong government cannot come to Delhi. Our target is to form an INDIA alliance government first in Bihar and then in Uttar Pradesh."

Asserting that in the next UP Assembly election, the BJP will be wiped out, the Rae Bareli MP said, "INDIA alliance government will be formed. (And) wherever our government is going to be formed, whether in Bihar or Uttar Pradesh, it will be formed by listening to the voices of our

workers."

Referring to the recent terror attack on tourists in Pahalgam, Rahul Gandhi said, "Our party



gave full support to the government. I would like you to observe silence in this meeting today."

Subsequently, everyone present in the meeting observed silence.

During his speech, he also hit out at PM Modi.

"Whatever the billionaires want in India, Modi ji gets it for them. Adani wants an airport, defence industry, infrastructure, road contract. Whatever they want, he gets it for them...Narendra Modi has made five seven such people."

Cong becomeing Lashkar-e-Pak: Mayor

Staff Reporter
Prayagraj: Mayor Ganesh Kesarwani expressed anger over Congress's Verified X posting a photo of beheading Prime Minister Narendra Modi and said that the thinking of Pakistani terrorist organization and Congress is similar and posting of such objectionable photo by Congress shows that Congress party has now completely become Lashkar Pakistan Congress and said that beheading is an old hobby of Congress which is once again becoming prominent these days and Congress's Muslim appeasement politics had cut off the brain of the country, Jammu and Kashmir, and given its head to Pakistan after the independence of the country and since then till today Congress is working on this ideology whose only intention is to break India into pieces, which will not be allowed to happen at any cost.



Congress's post on beheading is proof of its terrorist character: Sanjay Gupta

Staff Reporter
Prayagraj: BJP Metropolitan President Sanjay Gupta said that after the Pahalgam incident, posting of a photo of beheading of Prime Minister Narendra Modi by Congress's verified X handle is proof of Congress' terrorist character and shows collusion with Pakistani terrorist organizations as a signal, which I strongly condemn and further said that the successful aggressive policy of Prime Minister Narendra Modi against Pakistan has disturbed the mental balance

of Congress and its royal family, to which the entire country is witness that



Congress has completely become a Pakistan-supporting party and said that no matter what Congress Party, Pakistan and terrorist organizations do, the enemy country will give a befitting reply to Pakistan and the terrorists of Pahalgam.

Best-ever performance in FY '25, operating EBITDA of INR 2,482 cr & PAT of INR 1,226 cr

Staff Reporter
Varanasi:The Company closed FY'25 with a strong 9% YoY volume growth in Q4, despite sustained pressure from elevated raw material prices over the past two quarters. Q4 FY'25 revenue stood at INR 18,230 crores, up 38% YoY, with an underlying 8% volume growth. Segment-wise, revenue from Edible oils rose 45% YoY, Food & FMCG grew 9%, and Industry Essentials posted a 17% increase. The Company delivered its highest-ever annual operating EBITDA of INR 2,482 crores in FY'25. In Q4 FY'25, operating EBITDA stood at INR 448 crores, with Profit After Tax (PAT) at INR 191 crores. Commenting on the results, Mr. Angshu Mallick, MD & CEO, AWL Agri Business Ltd. (formerly known as Adani Wilmar Ltd.) said: "The Company has delivered another strong quarter and achieved its best-ever financial year performance. We recorded 24% YoY revenue growth in FY '25 and achieved the highest-ever full year revenue of INR

63,672 crores. In FY '25, the Kitchen Essential business delivered a strong performance, with edible oils achieving a 28% YoY increase in revenue, driven by an 10% YoY underlying volume growth. Similarly, the Foods & FMCG segment recorded a 26% year-over-year revenue growth, supported by 26% volume increase. However, the Industry Essentials business experienced a modest 2% revenue growth YoY. The financial year experienced lower volatility in commodity prices, leading to robust profits. We achieved record performance, with operating EBITDA of INR 2,482 crores and PAT of INR 1,226 crores in FY'25. The Company has bolstered its capabilities in FY '25 through an expanded distribution network, increased manufacturing capacities, and strong consumer engagements via ATL and BTL activities. With the growing consumer shift towards packaged foods—offering superior quality and hygiene —we

are well-positioned to capitalize on opportunities in this vast market." Direct retail coverage grew 19% YoY to 8.6 lakh outlets, with rural town coverage exceeding 50,000 — a tenfold rise from FY'22. This expanded footprint strengthens our platform for driving incremental volume growth in new markets. Alternate channels generated over INR 3,600 crores in revenue in FY'25, led by 100%+ YoY growth in Quick Commerce volumes in Q4. This reflects the impact of focused improvements in assortment, availability, and promotional strategies. The Company's strategic focus on gaining share in under-indexed markets is delivering strong results. In FY'25, the South region grew 25% YoY in branded edible oils and foods, now accounting for over 10% of total branded sales. **Edible Oils** Q4 edible oil volume rose 7% YoY, with revenue up 45% YoY to INR 14,769 crores. During H2, palm oil volumes in the value-for-

money segment were impacted by a sharp price increase compared to other edible oils. Excluding palm oil, branded edible oil volumes grew 6% YoY in FY'25, closely aligning with our growth aspirations for the category. This growth was primarily driven by market share gains in Sunflower and Mustard oils, each now contributing around 15% to branded volumes. We made significant market share gains in our key edible oils, with Soyabean increasing by 10bps, Sunflower by 20bps, and Mustard by 40bps on a MAT basis. However, Palm oil market share declined by 140bps, leading to a small dip in our overall market share. The strategy to grow in under-indexed markets is paying off. Branded edible oils saw strong double-digit growth in the South, backed by better distribution and marketing. In MP and Maharashtra—our weaker markets—we posted high single-digit growth, supported by flanker brand penetration.

All India Brahmin Welfare Institute celebrated Lord Parashurama's birth anniv

- Prayer held for peace of soul, strongest action demanded from government
- Lord Parashurama's life described both weapons and scriptures as useful and religion for establishment : Mahant Yogananda Giri

Staff Reporter
Mirzapur: Lord Vishnu The sixth incarnation of Lord Parashurama, the destroyer of injustice, is the deity of the Brahmins, Lord Parashurama teaches us both weapons and the use of scriptures from his great life. On the occasion of the birth anniversary of the All India Brahmin Kalyan Sansthan Lord Parashurama, the entire Brahmin emphasizes the society on the direction of strengthening for political, economic and social progress. The said idea, Mahant Doctor Yogananda of Budh Nath Temple fellHe expressed today while addressing the huge Lord Parshuram Jayanti

held in Mahuwaria in front of Sadar Tehsil of Mirzapur under the aegis of All India Brahmin Welfare Institute Union Mirzapur. In the program, first of all worshipping with Shankhanad was performed with Shankhanad by worshipping with wreath and mantra on the portrait of Lord Parashurama ji of Brahmin Samaj and all on the picture of Lord ParashuramaThe officials offered flowers and worshiped the program while addressing the program, Pandit Arun Chand Pandey Advocate, National Vice President of All India Brahmin Welfare Institute, said that Lord Parshuram was

born on the day of Akshaya Tritiya at the beginning of Treta Yuga. Lord Parshuram inspired us to struggle against injustice. All the people followed the unity of the Brahmin society by following the footprints of Lord Parashurama andWork should be done for the welfare of all society. Addressing the Jayanti program, Acharya Jayaprakash Pandey, the state president of the All India Brahmin Welfare Institute, and the event, Acharya Jayaprakash Pandey said that the entire life of Lord Parshuram was to establish a crime and exploitation free society by freeing the entire life of injustice and exploitation of sinners. Senior journalist/litterateur Salil Pandey addressing the programSaid that Lord Parashurama's life inspires us to raise his voice against injustice. Addressing the program, the National

General Secretary of the institute, Pandit Sunil Kumar Pandey Advocate said that taking inspiration from the life of Lord Parashuram, we



Officials and supporters of All India Brahmin Welfare Institute celebrating the birth anniversary of Lord Parashurama

have to work to strengthen the Brahmin society for the welfare of all, only then we can talk about the welfare of the Brahmin by uniting the Brahmin society.After the program, all the officials of the institute kept a 02- minute silence for the peace of the soul of the deceased family members killed in the

terrorist incident in Pahalgam, Jammu and Kashmir, India and demanded strict action against the culprits from the

Shankar Dubey, Pandit Rajkumar Upadhyay, Pandit Nityanand Dubey, Pandit Rahul Tiwari, Pandit Sanjay Kumar Tiwari, Pandit Pradeep Kumar Pandey, Pandit Dharendra Dubey, Pandit Sureshchand Tiwari, Pandit Amritlal Dubey, Pandit Ishwar Chandra Pathak, Pandit Pandey, Pandit Sandeep Lalit Pandey, Pandit Sandeep Lalit Pandey, Pandit Sandeep Tiwari, Acharya Pandit Hiralal Pandey Pandey Pandit Hiralal Pandey, Panditi Santosh, Panditi Santosh Santosh Kumar Pandey, Pandit Alok Dwivedi, Pandit Dilip Kumar Upadhyay, Pandit Neil Kant Pandey, Pandit Naveen Chandra Upadhyay, Pandit Shyam Bihari Pandey, Pandit Adesh Kumar Pathak, Pandit Surendra Kumar Tripathi, Pandit Rakesh Upadhyay, Pandit Satyam Tripathi, Pandit Vipin Pandey etc. were present.

Commr ordered for four lane from Binani College to Kachhwa

Staff Reporter
Mirzapur: Giving a memorandum from the village-poor network to the Commissioner of Vindhyachal Mandal, it was demanded that the route from Binani College to Medical College should be done. Along with this, the bridge over the company ghat adjacent to the DM bungalowIt should be built as soon as possible because the foundation stone has been laid by the city MLA about three years ago.Taking this demand seriously, Divisional Commissioner Bal Krishna Tripathi spoke on telephone with District Magistrate Priyanka Niranjana of Mirzapur and Ramswaroop, Chief Engineer of Mirzapur of PWD and directed that this work related to public interest should be done on priority basis. Network convenor SalilPandey informed the Commissioner Shri Tripathi that the vacant peeps in the Kumbh Mela should be taken to Mirzapur. On this suggestion, the Board Commissioner Balakrishna Tripathi also held talks with the commissioner of Prayagraj, on which the Commissioner of Prayagraj asked to send a letter related to the demand for Peep through PWD. The Commissioner Shri Tripathi directed Mirzapur Chief Engineer Ramswaroop to take action as soon as possible. Both the above The demand is related to the public interest, on behalf of the network, Salil Pandey also requested AK Dwivedi, the head engineer of PWD's Headquarters to Lucknow, to direct PWD officials in Mirzapur in this direction. Chief Engineer Ramswaroop of Mirzapur assured that the orders of higher officials would be followed. He said that it would be better to be from Kachhwa instead of Four Lane Medical College.

BRIEFS

Awareness camp organized for solid waste management



Additional District Judge Vinay Arya addressing Solid Waste Management Awareness Camp

Staff Reporter
Mirzapur: The National Legal Services Authority Delhi has directed to set up an awareness camp under the Plan of Action Action Scheme on Solid Waste Management. In the course of this instruction, Additional District Judge Vinay Arya arrived as the chief guest at the camp organized at the City Club Prayer House Auditorium on the Civil Line of the city. Where they clean He participated in the camp along with the heroes, employees. Cleaning heroes in Shivir were informed with awareness and legal literacy. For solid waste disposal, the wet dried garbage released from the wards was asked to be raised separately. On this occasion, the team of Swachh Bharat Mission including Councilor Neeraj Gupta, Krishna Kumar (DLSA), Ranjit, DPM Sanjay Singh, Surya Kumar Yadav, CSI Manoj Seth, team, cleaning inspector, cleaning hero andEmployees were present.

India and Egypt strengthen ties via avenues of strategic collaboration in skill development



Staff Reporter
Varanasi: The Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE), Government of India, today hosted a high-level Egyptian delegation led by H.E. Prof. Dr. Ayman Bahaa El Din, Deputy Minister of Technical Education, for a pivotal round of deliberations at Kaushal Bhawan, New Delhi. This engagement marks another milestone in the ever-strengthening India-Egypt relationship, building on the momentum of the 2023 elevation of bilateral ties to a Strategic Partnership and the recent recognition of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi with Egypt's highest civilian honour. Shri Atul Kumar Tiwari, Secretary, MSDE, highlighted the enduring people-to-people and institutional linkages between the two nations. He emphasized India's vision to become the "Skill Capital of the World" through the Skill India Mission, under which already close to 400,000 individuals have already been trained in advanced domains such as artificial intelligence, robotics, and big data, while nurturing over 1.3 million entrepreneurs. India's efforts to align its vocational education and training (TVET) ecosystem with global standards, and the establishment of world-class Skill India International Centres, were presented as models for international collaboration. The Egyptian delegation shared insights into Egypt's comprehensive TVET reforms, including the EU-supported TVET Egypt Reform Programme and the establishment of Sector Skill Councils, which resonate with India's scalable and affordable skilling models. Both sides acknowledged the success of ongoing collaborations, such as the 2024 MoU between India's NIELIT and Egypt's Information Technology Institute, the El-Sewedy Group's partnership with Amity University, and the Indian-supported Vocational Training Centre in Cairo. Looking ahead, the two countries identified several promising avenues for future cooperation. These include joint certification programmes, faculty and student exchanges, digital skilling and entrepreneurship initiatives, and the establishment of Centres of Excellence in priority sectors like information technology, agriculture, tourism, and green skills. Both delegations expressed a shared commitment to creating a globally competitive, future-ready workforce and to using their partnership as a template for broader South-South cooperation.

Waterlogging due to pipeline leakage
Staff Reporter
Sumerpur: Due to leakage in the drinking water line passing through the small market ground premises of the town, the ground is getting waterlogged. At the same time, dirty water is being supplied to the houses of the people. Jal Sansthan is not solving the problem even after the complaint. Kunjbihari Pandey, Mahesh Gupta, Aditya Awasthi etc., residents of the small market ground premises, said that due to leakage in the drinking water line passing through the market ground premises, the market yard is getting waterlogged. Due to this, the market ground is getting spoiled. Also, dirty water is being supplied to the houses of the people. Jal Sansthan is not solving the problem even after the complaint. Junior Engineer of Jal Sansthan Vishwalendra Nath said that the problem has been noticed. The water supply will be improved by getting it fixed on Wednesday.

ON-OE inherent to national interest : Abhilasha Gupta Nandi



former Mayor of Prayagraj Abhilasha Gupta Nandi addressing a nation-one election seminar

Staff Reporter
Mirzapur: A nation-one election topic, a program of women and adult students convened on 29 April 2025 in the auditorium of SN Public School Mission Compound Mirjapur. Which started with the song Vande Mataram by garlanding the portrait of Bharat Mata and ending with the national anthem. Prayagraj, the chief guest of the programFormer Mayor Abhilasha Gupta was Nandi. The program was inaugurated by the program president Sandhya Singh with a welcome speech keeping the proposed background on the subject of one

nation-one election. Chief guest Abhilasha Gupta Nandi, mainly in the program, gave his address to a nation-one election for all-round development, economic prosperity, administrative efficiency, political stability and maximum participation of voters Advocated to be necessary and described it as very necessary in the national interest. All the women present on the above things sought support on which all the women and students present supported both hands with loud sound and unanimously passed the proposal and decided to send this proposal to His Majesty. The program

was conducted by Sunita Sharma District General Secretary. BJP's District General Secretary and Women in the program District in-charge Harishankar Singh Patel and Mahila Morcha from Bina Patel, Geeta Yadav, Chandrakala Srivastava, Uma Baranwal, Sandhya Patel, Bhavna Gupta, Premrata Dubey, Gunja Sahu, Suman Yadav, Suman Yadav, Suman Yadav, Suman Yadav, Suman Yadav, Pinki Gupta, Anita Prajapati, Urmila Barnwal, Dr. Aditi Jain, Poonam Churasia etc. doing. The above information district media cum in charge Paresh Pratap Singh gave it.



REC raises ₹5,000 cr via bonds

NEW DELHI: REC Ltd on Monday said it has raised Rs 5,000 crore through issuance of bonds.

The offering included Rs 3,000 crore through five-year bonds at a coupon of 6.87 per cent and Rs 2,000 crore through 10-year bonds at a coupon of 6.86 per cent, a company statement said.

According to the statement, the bond issuance witnessed an overwhelming response from market participants, reflecting strong investor confidence in the company's robust financial position and growth prospects.

The bonds have been assigned a "AAA" rating by prominent credit rating agencies – CARE Ratings, ICRA, and India Rating & Research Pvt Ltd – signifying the highest degree of safety regarding timely servicing of financial obligations. The bonds will be listed on both the BSE and the NSE.

'Diversified uranium sources, land acquisition key for nuclear energy'

NEW DELHI: Union Power Minister Manohar Lal on Monday said that measures such as faster land acquisition and securing diversified uranium fuel sources are crucial in scaling up domestic nuclear energy capacity.

He said broader participation from private and state sectors is needed to promote nuclear energy. Lal said while chairing a meeting of Consultative Committee of the Ministry of Power.

"(The) minister outlined the key challenges and strategic steps required for scaling up nuclear energy, including Amending the Atomic Energy Act, 1962 and Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage Act, 2010 to enable broader participation by private and state sectors and Strengthening public perception and enhancing awareness about nuclear energy's safety and benefits," the Power Ministry said in a statement.

Besides, measures like introducing tax concessions, green power classification, and long-term financing to ensure competitive nuclear tariffs, and diversifying technology choices through competitive bidding



and promoting indigenous manufacturing under Make in India are crucial nuclear energy, he said.

Lal said securing diversified uranium fuel sources and expanding the vendor base for specialised nuclear equipment and building skilled manpower capacity by strengthening nuclear education and training infrastructure are also important.

Facilitating faster land acquisition through brown-field expansions and repurposing retired thermal sites and streamlining regulatory approval processes to reduce project timelines are also nec-

essary for nuclear capacity addition, the minister said.

A total of eight nuclear reactors having a capacity of 6,600 MW are in the underconstruction stage in the country, the statement said.

Another 10 reactors with 7,000 MW capacity are in pre-project stages.

India operates 25 nuclear reactors across seven locations, with a total installed capacity of 8,880 MW, contributing about 3 per cent of the country's electricity generation, it said.

The government targets 100 GW of nuclear power capacity by 2047 to strengthen India's long-term energy security.

RBI ask banks to ensure ATMs dispense ₹100, ₹200 notes

MUMBAI: The RBI on Monday asked banks to ensure that ATMs dispense Rs 100 or Rs 200 denomination notes to enhance the availability of these currency notes to the public.

Banks and White Label ATM Operators (WLAOs) have to implement the direction in a phased manner.

"As part of an endeavour towards enhancing public access to frequently used denominations of banknotes, it has been decided that all banks and White Label ATM Operators (WLAOs) shall ensure that their ATMs dispense Rs 100 and Rs 200 denomination banknotes on a regular basis..." the RBI said in a circular.

According to the circular, by September 30, 2025, 75 per cent of all ATMs (Automated Teller Machines) shall dispense either Rs 100 or Rs 200 denomination banknotes from at least one cassette.

By March 31, 2026, 90 per cent of all ATMs shall dispense either Rs 100 or Rs 200 denomination banknotes from at least one cassette.

'India will be fiercely competitive due to comparative matrix of tariffs'

NEW DELHI: The current global tariff environment notwithstanding, India is expected to stay competitive due to its vast domestic market, scale advantages, and focus on innovation, Union Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia has said asserting that seen even from the lens of a comparative matrix of tariffs vis-a-vis other nations, India holds a more favourable position.

Scindia - who is the Minister for Communications as well as Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER) - noted that given that other nations too face varying levels of tariffs, India will likely emerge "fiercely and much more competitive" across numerous products than before.

The lucrative domestic market has drawn global multinational companies to set up a significant presence here, he said and cited the strong pace of India's economic growth and New Delhi's policy push on manufacturing and innovation.

"So I do believe that irrespective of the prevailing environment of tariffs, India will continue to be competitive because she has economies of



Union Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia

scale behind her because innovation comes along with that economies of scale to be able to cater to such a large market. And therefore, even in comparison with other nations, India will remain to be competitive," the minister said.

To a question on how he sees the US tariff situation playing out, the Minister said that the whole question of tariffs has to be seen from a comparative matrix point of view.

"So if you're a country that I used to compete with and the tariffs that have been put on you are possibly today double of what mine are. Where I used to be uncompetitive vis-a-vis you, I now become competitive. So, I think it is important to

look at it not only from purely India-centric point of view but from a comparative matrix point of view," Scindia said.

The Minister expressed confidence that for many products in many areas, India will emerge fiercely and much more competitive than prior to the tariffs being in place.

India has transformed itself from an infrastructure standpoint, and from an exporting nation standpoint as well, he said terming it "a monumental change".

"...you have to understand where we stand as an economy... Today, India stands very tall... We're today going to become the third-largest economy by 2028. We're today at almost a \$4 trillion economy, \$5 trillion by 2028, close to \$6 trillion by 2030," the minister said.

From a country that used to import an overwhelming majority of its mobile phone requirement and produced merely 5 crore units, India is producing over 35 to 40 crore mobile phones, today.

"Our exports are over Rs 1,75,000 crore purely on mobiles," he said.

Local stock markets opened with gains

Sensex at 80,627.85, Nifty above 24,400 level

Mumbai (Agency). Indian stock markets opened with gains in the green on Tuesday due to positive signals from global markets. Buying was recorded in PSU banks, auto and IT sectors in early trade. At the opening of the morning, the Sensex was trading 409.4 points higher at 80,627.85, while the Nifty was up 118.10 points at 24,446.60. Nifty Bank was up 492.90 points at 55,925.70. The Nifty Midcap 100 index was up 490.90 points at 54,931.15. The Nifty Smallcap 100 index was up 183.15 points at 16,860.05. According to analysts, after a positive opening, Nifty may find support at 24,250. On the

higher side, 24,500 may be the immediate resistance, followed by resistance at 24,600 and 24,700. Indusind

Power Grid were the top gainers in the Sensex pack. While UltraTech Cement, Nestle India, Sun Pharma



Bank, Bajaj Finserv, Axis Bank, Tata Motors, M&M, Titan, SBI, Bajaj Finance, Eternal, Maruti Suzuki and

and Asian Paints were the top losers. In Asian markets, China and Bangkok were trading in the red, while

Jakarta, Seoul, Hong Kong and Japan markets were trading in the green. In the US markets, Dow Jones closed 0.28 percent higher at 40,227.59 in the previous trading session. The S&P 500 index rose 0.06 per cent to close at 5,528.75 and the Nasdaq fell 0.10 per cent to 17,366.13. On the institutional front, foreign institutional investors (FIIs) remained net buyers, infusing Rs 2,474.10 crore for the ninth consecutive session on April 28. Domestic institutional investors (DIIs) also remained net buyers, infusing Rs 2,817.64 crore for the second consecutive session on the same day.

BYD's most expensive EV SUV Sillion 7 launched

New Delhi (Agency). BYD has launched its most expensive EV SUV, Sillion 7, in India. BYD company announced that its Kochi-based dealership EVM BYD has delivered the highest number of



premium EVs in a day, which included a total of 52 BYD Sillion 7 SUVs. The grand event featured SUVs of different colors standing together and traditional drummers, dancers, and violinists also

participated during the delivery. Sillion 7 has received a 5-star safety rating in the Euro NCAP crash test. This SUV has achieved excellent safety marks for adult and child passengers. Apart from this, Sillion 7 has a

been given many safety features like 11 airbags, 360-degree camera and advanced driver assistance system. This SUV ensures the highest safety standards while

providing users with a great driving experience. The Sillion 7 is priced at Rs 48.9 lakh (lower variant) and Rs 54.9 lakh (Performance variant). The BYD Sillion 7 has made a strong position in the EV SUV segment in India due to its great features and performance. The Sillion 7 is available in two variants.

The lower variant comes with a single motor setup that generates 308 bhp and 380 Nm of torque, while the Performance variant comes with a dual motor setup that produces 523 bhp and 690 Nm of torque. Both variants are equipped with an 82.56 kWh battery pack that offers a range of 567 km and 542 km respectively

IDBI Bank Q4 profit rises 26% to ₹2,051 cr



NEW DELHI: IDBI Bank on Monday reported 26 per cent increase in net profit at Rs 2,051 crore for the March quarter of FY25. The LIC-controlled bank had posted a net profit of Rs 1,628 crore for the year-ago period.

Total income rose to Rs 9,035 crore in the period under review from Rs 7,887 crore in the January-March period of previous fiscal.

Interest income marginally declined to Rs 6,979 crore during the period under review from Rs 6,990 crore in the corresponding quarter a year ago.

In the 2024-25 fiscal, net profit rose 33 per cent to Rs 7,515 crore as compared to Rs 5,634 crore in the previous year.

Total income during the financial year rose to Rs 33,826 crore from Rs 30,037 crore in FY24.

On the asset quality side, the bank's gross Non-Performing Assets (NPAs) were reduced to 2.98 per cent of gross advances as of March 31, 2025, compared to 4.53 per cent by the end of March 2024.

Net Non-Performing Assets also came down to 0.15 per cent of the advances over 0.34 per cent a year ago.

The board of IDBI Bank has proposed a dividend of Rs 2.10 per share on face value of Rs 10 each subject to shareholders' approval.

Gold prices fall, silver also softens

New Delhi (Agency). A fall is being seen in the prices of gold and silver. The futures prices of both opened with a fall on Tuesday. At present, the price of gold in the domestic market is Rs 95,300, while the price of silver is close to Rs 96,250. A fall in the futures prices of gold and silver is being seen in the global market. The futures price of gold started with sluggishness. The benchmark June contract of gold on the Multi Commodity Exchange (MCX) opened at Rs 95,800 with a fall of Rs 225. The

previous closing price was Rs 96,025. At present, it was trading at Rs 95,311



with a fall of Rs 714. At this time, it touched the day's high of Rs 95,800 and

the day's low of Rs 95,311. Gold futures had touched its highest level of Rs 99,358 last week. Silver futures started sluggish. Silver benchmark May contract on MCX opened with a decline of Rs 77 at Rs 96,387. Its previous close price was Rs 96,464. At this time, it was trading at Rs 96,279, down by Rs 185. At this time, it touched the day's high of Rs 96,387 and the day's low of Rs 96,254. Silver futures had touched its highest level this year at Rs 1,01,999 per kg.

Maruti Suzuki's fourth quarter results were mixed

New Delhi (Agency). The country's leading car manufacturer Maruti Suzuki's fourth quarter results were mixed. The company's revenue increased, but the EBITDA margin was lower than expected. In the fourth quarter, the company's volume

increased by 3.5 percent and realization by 2.7 percent. The company's net sales increased by 6.4 percent on a yearly basis. The company's exports were 8.1 percent higher on a yearly basis. The EBITDA margin declined by 173 basis points on a year-on-year basis.

Rupee strengthened by 27 paise to 84.96 per dollar

Mumbai (Agency). Rupee opened at 85.06 against the dollar in the interbank foreign exchange market. Then it rose to 84.96 per dollar, which shows a rise of 27 paise from the previous close. Rupee closed at 85.23 against the US dollar on Monday with a gain of 18 paise. Meanwhile, the dollar index, which shows the position of the US dollar against

six major currencies, rose by 0.17 percent to 99.18. Foreign exchange traders said that both India's manufacturing and industrial production increased by three percent, which reflects the situation of domestic demand. Apart from this, the strong rally in the domestic markets due to the surge in foreign capital inflows further boosted the sentiments.



IDBI Bank's fourth quarter profit rises to Rs 2,051 crore



New Delhi (Agency). IDBI Bank's profit in the fourth quarter of FY 2024-25 rose 26 percent year-on-year to Rs 2,051 crore. The bank's profit in the fourth (January-March) quarter of FY 2023-24 was Rs 1,628 crore. The company said that total income in the quarter under review increased to Rs 9,035 crore from Rs 7,887 crore in January-March 2024. During this period, interest income declined marginally to Rs 6,979 crore from Rs 6,990 crore in the same quarter a year ago. Profit for the entire financial year 2024-25 grew 33 percent year-on-year to Rs 7,515 crore. It was Rs 5,634 crore in FY 2023-24. Total income rose to Rs 33,826 crore in the previous fiscal from Rs 30,037 crore in 2023-24. In terms of asset quality, the bank's gross non-performing assets (NPAs) declined to 2.98 per cent of gross advances as of March 31, 2025, from 4.53 per cent as of March 31, 2024. Net NPAs also declined to 0.15 per cent from 0.34 per cent year-on-year. The board of directors of IDBI Bank has proposed a dividend of Rs 2.10 per share. This is subject to the approval of shareholders.

Govt starts 5th marine fisheries census

Mobile app VyAS-NAV was launched by Union Minister Rajiv Ranjan Singh at coastal states fisheries meet in Mumbai

NEW DELHI: The Centre on Monday kickstarted the 5th Marine Census operations and launched a mobile application for data collection of 1.2 million fisher households nationwide.

CMFRI, the nodal agency for implementing the marine fisheries census, will capture data from nine coastal states, and the entire census operation will be completed by December 2025.

"Today marks the beginning of the 5th Marine Census operations..." an official statement said.

The mobile app VyAS-NAV -- launched by Union Minister Rajiv Ranjan Singh at the coastal states fisheries meet in Mumbai -- has been developed by the ICAR-Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI) to boost transparency and efficiency.



Union Minister Rajiv Ranjan Singh

The village enumeration will be finalised by May-June, while family-level data and other facilities will be covered during November-December. The entire operation will span from April to December.

According to the statement, the VyAS-NAV app will be used by supervisors (staff of CMFRI, Fishery Survey of India and the Fisheries Departments across the coastal states) for field verification of fishing villages, fish landing centres and fishing harbours.

Unlike in the past, customised mobile and tablet-based applications created by CMFRI will be used for data collection to reduce manual errors and accelerate data compilation for policy-level use.

At the coastal states meet, the minister inaugurated and laid the foundation for key projects for seven coastal states and UTs with a total outlay of Rs 255 crore under the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY).

He also awarded the first-ever aqua insurance (One Time Incentive Sanction-cum-Release Order) to beneficiaries under the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Kisan Samridhi Sah-Yojana (PM-MKSSY).

Aquaculture insurance focuses on mitigating risks and extending financial incentives, particularly to small and marginalised farmers.

EDITORIAL

Schisms within

In the latest sign of a deepening internal fracture within the Palestinian leadership, President Mahmoud Abbas has launched an unprecedented verbal attack on Hamas, calling them “sons of dogs” and demanding they release hostages, disarm, and cede control of Gaza to his Palestinian Authority (PA). These explosive remarks reflect not just personal outrage, but a broader crisis of legitimacy and leadership at a time when the Palestinian people are enduring catastrophic suffering. Mr Abbas’s words mark a significant rupture, laying bare the broken channels between the two dominant Palestinian factions. His condemnation of Hamas ~ delivered not in the usual cautious political tones but with emotional venom ~ suggests a leader no longer concerned with optics but with legacy. Yet,



beneath the fury lies a profound political reality: Mr Abbas has lost control of the narrative, of the territories, and arguably, of the confidence of his own people. Since Hamas seized Gaza in 2007, the Palestinian political landscape has been defined by division. While the PA governs parts of the West Bank, Hamas maintains a tight grip on Gaza. The war with Israel has only intensified this divide, with neither side able ~ or willing ~ to present a united front in the face of unprecedented civilian suffering. Mr Abbas’s speech, though seemingly directed at Hamas, is as much a cry of frustration over his own irrelevance as it is a call for unity.

This moment is more than a political rupture; it is a mirror reflecting the Palestinian leadership’s paralysis. When internal rage eclipses strategic clarity, the dream of a unified front ~ essential for statehood ~ recedes into the realm of impossibility. There is no denying Hamas’s role in escalating the conflict. Its refusal to release hostages or disarm fuels Israel’s continued military campaign. However, Mr Abbas’s scathing denunciation risks alienating a significant portion of the Palestinian populace, particularly those in Gaza who, for better or worse, see Hamas as a symbol of resistance in the face of occupation and destruction. The language he used, incendiary and divisive, may win him applause in diplomatic circles, but it weakens any remaining hope for a cohesive national movement. More than 18 months into a devastating war, Palestinians need leadership that prioritises survival and dignity over factional vendettas. They need a vision rooted in realism ~ one that seeks peace not just with Israel but among themselves. For that to happen, both Hamas and the PA must acknowledge their failings. Hamas must realise that its intransigence and militant posture only deepen Gaza’s agony. Meanwhile, Mr Abbas must rebuild trust and legitimacy, not through fiery speeches, but through genuine political reform and accountability. The Palestinian cause cannot afford a civil war of words. If there is to be any hope of ending the cycle of war, displacement, and despair, it must begin with a sincere effort toward internal reconciliation. Anything less is a betrayal ~ not just of politics, but of a people abandoned to bear the unbearable.

Fission Frontier

India’s nuclear power sector, long cloaked in strategic caution and state monopoly, appears ready for a historic leap. The government’s consideration of allowing up to 49 per cent foreign direct investment in nuclear power plants marks not just a policy shift ~ it signals a deep rethink of how India wants to meet its energy future. The timing is not incidental. Paired with the proposed easing of liability laws and the long-overdue entry of Indian private players, this new FDI window could transform the nuclear landscape from an insular, slowmoving domain into a vibrant arena of investment and innovation. For a country targeting 100 gigawatts of nuclear capacity by 2047 ~ up from just over 8 GW today ~ such bold reforms are essential. Nuclear energy is India’s best bet for reliable, round-the-clock clean power, especially as it seeks to phase down coal without stalling growth. Solar and wind are indispensable, but they are also intermittent. Nuclear fills that base-load gap with zero emissions ~ provided it

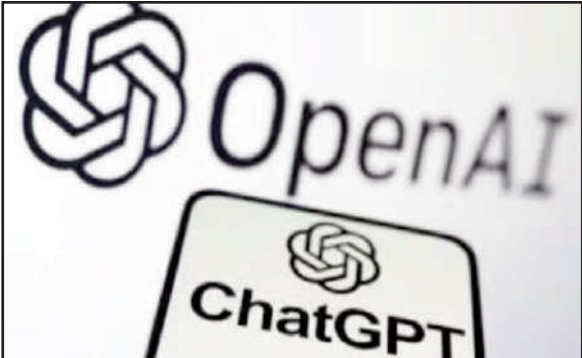


is safe, economically viable, and publicly accepted. The inclusion of foreign investors can help on three fronts. The first is capital as building nuclear plants is notoriously expensive, and India needs more than just domestic public funds. Second is technology as global players bring cutting-edge designs, safety systems, and operational expertise. The third is credibility because foreign participation may boost investor confidence and fast-track capacity expansion. Opening the nuclear sector also presents an opportunity to build a robust supply chain ecosystem within India. If executed strategically, this could catalyse the growth of domestic component manufacturing, skilled workforce training, and R&D partnerships ~ benefits that go far beyond individual projects and align with broader goals of self-reliance and industrial competitiveness.

But this opportunity is laced with complex responsibilities. India must ensure that the opening up of the sector does not weaken sovereign control over critical safety and regulatory standards. A 49 per cent cap with prior approval requirements is a good start ~ preserving national oversight while inviting collaboration. For global investors, clarity on exit options, repatriation of profits, and dispute resolution mechanisms will also be key. India must craft investor-friendly rules without diluting its regulatory authority. If done right, the nuclear sector could become a model for foreign participation in other strategically sensitive sectors still largely off-limits. It is also time for the public narrative around nuclear energy to evolve. Decades of secrecy and state dominance have made nuclear power opaque and politically sensitive. As more private and foreign stakeholders enter, transparency, community engagement, and environmental accountability must improve. Trust is as critical to nuclear expansion as funding or technology. If India manages to execute this shift with caution and clarity, it will not just boost clean power ~ it will redefine the country’s energy diplomacy, technological ambition, and economic resilience. The atom may have once symbolised power. In India’s next chapter, it could well symbolise partnership.

‘Please’, ‘thank you’ are costly expressions for AI. Are we putting a price tag on kindness?

Ramvilas Sharma



When OpenAI CEO Sam Altman recently responded to a viral post on X (formerly Twitter) questioning how much electricity costs are incurred by people saying “please” and “thank you” to ChatGPT, his reply was brief but revealing: “Tens of millions of dollars well spent”. On the surface, this may have appeared to be tongue-in-cheek. But dig deeper and you’ll find a troubling sign of the times ~ a glimpse into how artificial intelligence, a tool designed to aid humanity, is now quietly reshaping what it means to be human. The cost of AI isn’t just measured in watts and dollars ~ it’s measured in what we lose as humans. Once, we feared AI would kill jobs. Now, we already know that AI has disrupted industries. In recent years, artists, designers, writers, and musicians have raised concerns about how AI-generated content has replaced their craft. Creative industries, which once thrived on personal expression and emotional nuance, are now forced to coexist with machines that mimic style by using codes but lack soul in the simulation. What began as a concern about copyright and job loss has grown into a much bigger existential question: What happens to the human spirit when even basic human decency ~ kindness, politeness ~ is being framed as inefficient? Altman’s statement reveals a new front in this silent cultural shift. If courtesy is viewed as a computational cost, what does that say

about the direction we’re marching in? To get to the deeper implications, we must first examine what those simple words ~ “please” and “thank you” ~ actually represent. They’re not just linguistic habits or polite formalities. They are expressions of respect, humility, and shared humanity. We say “please” to show that we don’t take others’ time or service for granted. We say “thank you” to acknowledge effort, no matter how small. These are tiny rituals that build connections and remind us that we’re part of a social world, not just a transactional one. When users speak this way to AI, it’s not because they believe the machine deserves respect ~ it’s because they want to maintain their own. It’s about preserving the habit of kindness, even when the recipient is not a living being. It’s also a way to humanise the experience, especially when AI systems are increasingly taking the place of people in customer service, creative advice, education, and mental health support. Yet in an AI-dominated world that values speed, precision, and scalability, even these small courtesies are now framed as inefficiencies. Altman’s remark mirrors an uncomfortable reality: We’re entering a stage where not just creative labour, but emotional behaviour itself is being measured by its economic and computational weight. And that should worry us. Because here’s the dilemma: If something as seemingly trivial as politeness is seen as a “cost,”

what happens when more significant emotional expressions ~ empathy, patience, vulnerability ~ enter the equation? Will AI tools start nudging users toward more “efficient” communication by stripping these out? Will platforms begin filtering for speed and brevity at the expense of sincerity and warmth? If this trajectory continues, the problem won’t be that machines become more human-like ~ it’s that the humans will become more machine-like. Already, there are signs of this cultural shift. On social media platforms and messaging apps, communication has been reduced to acronyms, emojis, and automation. Customer service bots handle complaints with templated empathy. Virtual assistants schedule our lives with clinical detachment. And in all this, we’re slowly being trained to suppress the very things that make communication rich: Nuance, feeling, and human unpredictability. The irony is bitter: AI, which began as a marvel of human ingenuity, is now subtly shaping the boundaries of human expression. The goalposts of what is “normal” communication are shifting ~ not through force, but through subtle cues embedded in the systems we use every day. Yes, AI has the potential to revolutionise medicine, climate science, education, and accessibility. But if we’re not careful, the cost of AI will be in diminished empathy, reduced human agency, and an impoverished emotional vocabulary. There’s also an environmental angle to this debate. A Goldman Sachs report estimated that a single Chatgpt-4 query consumes about 2.9 watt-hours of electricity, 10 times that of a typical Google search. Multiply that by a billion queries per day, and the energy costs become staggering.

Global system shakeup, courtesy Trump

Chaotic as it seems, Donald Trump’s tariff war and subsequent walk-backs are a deadly serious attempt by his team to address what they perceive as the core issues of the dollar-dominated global monetary system.

Ramvilas Sharma

Chaotic as it seems, Donald Trump’s tariff war and subsequent walk-backs are a deadly serious attempt by his team to address what they perceive as the core issues of the dollar-dominated global monetary system. The key Trump advisers (trade guru Peter Navarro, Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent and Council of Economic Advisers Chairman Stephen Miran) share visceral anger and angst in their speeches or writings. America is victimized by the current system because she has to run large current fiscal and trade deficits from the strengthening dollar, created by allies refusing to pay for America’s military protection, whilst trading rivals devalue or cheat to gain market share, weakening America’s once mighty manufacturing prowess.

Essentially, the Trump Administration wants to reset the whole dollar-dominated monetary and trading order. Miran’s November 2024 User Guide to the Global Trading System, which some label as the “Mar a Lago Accord”, is a global shake-down from Pax Americana to Tax Americana ~ users and holders of US dollars, especially allies will have to pay for protection and use of the dollar infrastructure in either user fees, tax or swaps into securities of longer duration. The key weapons are higher tariffs, sanctions or in-

come or wealth taxes, at the extreme swaps for longer-term securities, freezing or possible seizure of their dollar holdings.

This takes us back to a brutal history lesson in imperial finance. The Roman empire funded itself basically by confiscating enemy or vassal assets or extinguished debt through seizure, military conquests or shakedowns. The British empire civilized this model to a rule of law “borrowing”, offering perpetual Consol bonds to colonies and anyone seeking liquidity and store of value haven in London, and then reinvesting proceeds in the colonies through higher returns from shares in the British East India Company monopoly or private mining, plantation and trading (arms dealers), funded by British banks. In 1717, Isaac Newton as Master of the Mint adopted the sterling gold special standard, which fixed the pound sterling at a gold-silver exchange price that eventually evolved into a gold standard.

The US dollar was initially based on the silver standard, but American gold became plentiful after the 1848 California gold rush. As the two world wars exhausted Europe and bankrupted the British empire, gold and capital fled to the United States, establishing New York as a financial haven and the dollar supplanted the sterling. By 1945, the US emerged as the undisputed

winner and dominant power, with the dollar linked to gold at \$35 per ounce. Gold has long been accepted as a good means of payment (coinage) and store of



value, but its main defect as a reserve currency standard is limited supply which constrains the ability of governments to print money or borrow money. Gold creates a hard budget constraint independent of politics.

When America began to lose gold reserves in the 1960s due to excessive spending on the Vietnam war, President Nixon abandoned the dollar peg in 1971 and the era of floating exchange rates with the dollar as top reserve standard began. The new system gave the United States the ability to relax her fiscal dis-

cipline, since the rest of the world wanted to hold dollars as reserve currency. This created an “exorbitant privilege”, identified by the Belgian/American econo-

The work that the British could not do was done in the last 10 years

Senior journalist Rahul Dev’s pain was seen on social media. The current situation highlights his deep concern. After the terrorist attack in Bersan Valley of Pahalgam in Jammu and Kashmir, the way some organizations in India have started creating a narrative of hatred and division, there is a fear of a civil war like situation arising. Which is a sign of social insensitivity. Looking at the kind of incidents that are happening, the collective thinking and wisdom of the country is also being questioned. Expressing his pain, he said in strong words that many of his former friends have now become ‘wolves’ due to religious discrimination. How in the fire of counter violence, they have started tearing their own people apart. This thinking has pitted people against each other in every household. His anger is not personal, but is an expression of national thinking on a broad scale. The kind of situations that are being created in India after the terrorist attack in Pahalgam, for a large and diverse country like India, collective restraint and prudence is most needed in this difficult time. The objective of terrorist attacks is not only loss of life and property. The objective of terrorism is not only to reach power. Terrorism also works to break the social fabric. Pakistan can never directly compete with India. Pakistan itself knows this better. The way Pakistan-sponsored terrorism has killed innocent people by asking their religion in Pahalgam of Jammu and Kashmir, is condemnable and deserves the harshest punishment. The way some extremist Hindu organizations have publicly demonstrated against the Muslim community in India in the last several years, it has become a weapon for a country like Pakistan. If there are fights in the name of Hindu-Muslim in India, there is a situation like civil war. India will be the one to suffer the loss in this. What Pakistan wanted, the Hindu organizations of India are doing the same. This was a well-planned attempt of Pakistan-backed terrorists. The Hindu-Muslim divide within India should be deepened. Unfortunately, some elements within the country are seen to be a part of this conspiracy of Pakistan either out of passion or deliberately. Rahul Dev said that we cannot counter the challenge given by Pakistan by killing tourists in Pahalgam in the manner Pakistan does. He said that the same mentality is being seen in the educated class of India, which is spreading hatred in the guise of so-called nationalism. This situation is worrying. The social and political leadership is also not speaking out against this poison, due to which the situation is becoming more frightening. What will be the future of the country when the educated section of the society and responsible people will become a part of inflammatory discussions. India has also started walking on the path of Pakistan. This danger is looming over India.

Today there is a need for all Indians to respond to terrorism with national unity. The strength of India lies in its diversity and social harmony.

If we get trapped in the trap of terrorists and stand against each other, then it will strengthen the plans of the enemies of the country. This warning is not just a word, it is the call of the times. In this time of crisis, anger has to be controlled with prudence. We should not get caught in the web of hatred. We all have to remember that India will remain invincible as long as we remain united from within. The work that the British could not do in India. With the unity of Hindus and Muslims, we were able to make the British run away from India.

Various initiatives to reform the international monetary system were made, such as the Palais Royale Initiative centred around trying to replace the nationally-issued reserve currency (USD) with a multilaterally issued currency, the IMF’s Special Drawing Rights, a basket of the key reserve currencies. This proposal would not fly because the US did not want to lose the dollar’s special status and the leading nations could not agree on how to cede national currency issuance power to the IMF. What these reformers missed, including myself as a former central banker, was that the natural substitute for a non-national reserve currency is not another artificially designed multilateral standard, but the historical candidate, gold.

Gold is the only money that cannot be printed by governments or mined through cyber machines. If we cannot trust politicians, national governments or central bankers to manage our money, then a transparent gold market will be able to price such fiat currencies that will float against each other and against gold. As the United States began to run larger and larger fiscal deficits (currently 7 per cent of GDP), trade deficit (3.1 per cent of GDP) and run up net foreign liabilities to foreigners of \$26 trillion by end 2024, dollar holders were until recently

rewarded by outperformance in US financial asset returns. The US stock market is now at historical highs, and the bond market wobbled when the equity market corrected. This is exactly what happens in emerging markets. Global investors are now into “Sell or Hedge America”.

The shift out of dollars has already happened as central banks have reduced the share of dollars in their foreign exchange reserves from 71.5 in 2001 to 57.8 per cent in 2024. Central banks have been adding 1,000 tonnes of gold to their reserves for three years running, holding 36,195 tonnes as of January 2025, comprising 19.8 per cent of total reserves at current prices, of which European central banks hold 64.1 per cent of their reserves in gold.

The spectacular rise in gold prices to a peak of \$3434 per ounce this week suggests a fundamental de-dollarization not into other fiat currencies, but into gold. In other words, Trump’s financial engineers have tried to use a single weapon ~ tariffs ~ to reset the system, inadvertently pushing the system back towards a gold standard. Central banks cannot fight higher gold prices by selling precious reserves or higher interest rates, the last thing heavily indebted governments need. Between financial engineers or gold, in gold I trust.

Pakistan, scared of the attack, has lost its senses, instead is accusing India of terrorism

Islamabad (Agency). After the Pahalgam attack, Pakistan is fully confident that India will not spare it. Due to this fear, Pakistan's leaders and ministers have lost their senses. They are talking nonsense. First, Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif demanded an international investigation and declared himself innocent. Now, further, his Home Minister Mohsin Naqvi said that it is India that is spreading terrorism in Pakistan. Ever since Pakistan's involvement in the Pahalgam terror attack has come to light, it has resorted to the old policy of blaming India to do damage control and improve its falling image at the international level. Shahbaz Sharif said, the tragedy of Pahalgam is a part of India's old policy of blaming India. Pakistan, being a responsible

country, is ready to participate in any fair, transparent and credible investigation. According to the

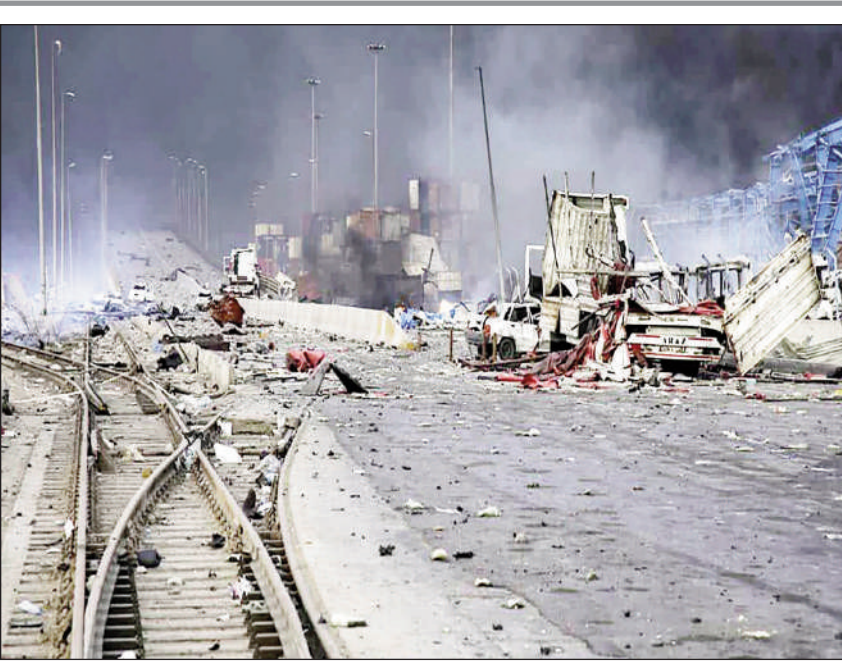


report, Home Minister Mohsin Naqvi made a more scathing attack in the press conference, India is involved in terrorist activities in Pakistan. We condemn terrorism in

any form, but if anyone tries to harm Pakistan, 240 million Pakistanis are ready to fight till the last breath.

India has accused Pakistan of supporting terrorism after the Pahalgam attack. Suspended the Indus Water Treaty and limited its trade and diplomatic

relations with Pakistan. In response, Pakistan has also announced the suspension of all bilateral agreements and flights with India. Pakistan threatened that if India tried to stop or divert the water flow, it would be responded with full force and power. The United Nations Security Council has strongly condemned the Pahalgam attack and appealed to all countries to cooperate and punish the criminals. Saudi Arabia and Iran have proposed mediation between India and Pakistan. US President Donald Trump expressed hope that India and Pakistan will find a solution on their own, but also promised his full support to India. Firing took place between Indian and Pakistani soldiers on the Line of Control for the second consecutive day since the Pahalgam attack.



Debris scattered all around after the blast at Shahid Razi port, located in the southwest of Iran's Bandar Abbas port.

Carney or Poilievre? Canada goes to polls amid Trump pall

Over 300 seats are up for grabs in the election

TORONTO: Canadians will decide Monday whether to extend the Liberal Party's decade in power or instead hand control to the Conservatives. They'll pick either Prime Minister Mark Carney or opposition leader Pierre Poilievre to lead the way forward, but the election is also a referendum of sorts on someone who isn't even Canadian: Donald Trump.

Until the American president won a second term and began threatening Canada's economy and sovereignty, even suggesting the country should become the 51st state, the Liberals looked headed for defeat.

Canadians go to the polls as the country grapples with the aftermath of a fatal car ramming attack on Saturday in Vancouver. The tragedy on the eve of the election prompted the suspension of campaigning for several hours. Police ruled out terrorism and said the suspect is a local man with a history of mental health issues.

Trump's truculence has infuriated many Canadians, leading many to cancel US vacations, refuse to buy American goods and possi-



Liberal Party is led by Prime Minister Mark Carney

Candidate that emerges as PM will face a litany of challenges

bly even vote early — a record 7.3 million Canadians cast ballots before election day. Trump also put Poilievre and the Conservative Party on the back foot after they appeared headed for an easy victory only months ago.

"The Americans want to break us so they can own us," Carney said recently, laying out what he saw as the stakes for

the election. "Those aren't just words. That's what's at risk."

Poilievre, a populist fire-brand who campaigned with 'Trump-like bravado, had hoped to make the election a referendum on former Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, whose popularity declined toward the end of his decade in power as food and housing prices rose and immigration surged. But then Trump became the dominant issue, and Poilievre's similarities to the bombastic president could cost him. "He appeals to the same sense of grievance," Canadian historian Robert Bothwell said of the Conservative leader. AGENCIES

68 killed in US attack in Yemen

Sanaa (Agency). 68 people have died in a US attack on Monday in Yemen's northern province of Saada. This attack was carried out on a detention center housing African migrants. According to reports, there were 115 prisoners in this jail, out of which 47 have also been injured. The injured have been taken to the hospital for treatment. Most of them are said to be in critical condition. In the footage of this attack released by Yemen's Al Masirah TV, several bodies are seen lying in the rubble after the bombing of the detention center in Saada. Saada's General Republican Hospital said in a post on Telegram that dozens of people have died and at least 50 injured people have been admitted to the hospital.

China is directly interfering in Myanmar, a problem for India and America

Napida (Agency). Myanmar has been witnessing constant chaos since the military coup in February 2021. More than 500 new armed groups have been formed in Myanmar in the last four years. Apart from this, there are also pre-existing ethnic armed organizations (EAO). These groups are challenging the junta regime on a large scale. More than 16,000 armed clashes have taken place between the junta army and rebel groups in the last four years. China also has an important role in this entire development.

According to the report, China is a powerful player in Myanmar. It officially claims to follow a policy of non-interference, but Beijing's approach has changed since the 2021 coup. China's focus on Myanmar is to protect its strategic investments from

instability and keep an eye on developments on its southwestern border.



China has tried to find a solution in Myanmar that is in line with its interests. China has tried to ensure that no party in Myanmar becomes so strong that it becomes a challenge for it. After this, China has increased its role in Myanmar. China's role will also be important in deciding the future of Myanmar. This

can also create problems for the rebel groups of Myanmar. In Myanmar, in

October 2023, three organizations Arakan Army (AA), Myanmar National Democratic Alliance Army (MNDAA) and Taang National Liberation Army (TNLA) together launched Operation 1027 against the junta. The junta army has suffered heavy losses in this operation. The rebel groups have snatched many

strategically important posts from the junta. This had never happened before in Myanmar's civil war. Since Operation 1027, China has put more emphasis on mediation. Its effect was seen when in April 2025, after occupying Lashiao for nine months, the MNDAA soldiers handed over the city back to the army. This was not possible without China's intervention. China is constantly deciding in Myanmar who will sit at the negotiating table and who will get what as a result. The most worrying thing about China's influence is that Beijing is directly getting involved in Myanmar. This can lead to two things in the world. One is that the world forgets Myanmar and the other is a competition between America and China.

Death toll in Iran port explosion rises to 47

DUBAI: The death toll from a huge explosion that rocked one of Iran's main ports rose Monday to 46 people killed, authorities said.

Iranian state television offered the toll from the blast at Shahid Rajaei port near Bandar Abbas, citing local officials.

A fire still burned at the site, some two days after the initial explosion Saturday, just as Iran began a third round of negotiations with the United States over its rapidly advancing nuclear program. Over 1,000 people suffered injuries in the blast.

Authorities still haven't offered an explanation for the explosion.

Private security firm Ambrey says the port received missile fuel chemical in March. It was part of a shipment of ammonium perchlorate from China by two vessels to Iran, first reported in January by the Financial Times. The chemical used to make



Key Points

- » A fire still burned at the site, some two days after the initial explosion Saturday
- » Iranian state television offered the toll from the blast at Shahid Rajaei port near Bandar Abbas, citing local officials

solid propellant for rockets was going to be used to replenish Iran's missile stocks, which had been depleted by its direct attacks on Israel during the war with Hamas in the Gaza Strip. AGENCIES

RAMMING ATTACK SUSPECT CHARGED WITH MURDER Hugs, tears, flowers: Vancouver plunges into agony

VANCOUVER: A 30-year-old man was charged with multiple counts of murder on allegations he killed 11 people when he rammed a crowd of people at a Filipino heritage festival in Vancouver, as hundreds attended vigils across the city for the victims and the Canadian Prime Minister visited the site on the eve of a federal election.

Kai-Ji Adam Lo, 30, was charged with eight counts of second degree murder in a video appearance before a judge on Sunday, hours after he was arrested at the scene, said Damien Darby, spokeswoman for British Columbia prosecutors. Lo has not yet entered a plea.

Investigators ruled out terrorism as a motive and said more charges are possible. They said Lo had a history of mental health issues.

An attorney for Lo was not listed in online court documents and The Associated Press wasn't immediately able to reach an attorney represent-



Scores of people attended vigils across the city

ing him.

Those killed were between the ages of 5 and 65, officials said. About two dozen people were injured, some critically, when the black Audi SUV sped down a closed street just after 8 pm Saturday and struck people attending the Lapu Lapu Day festival. Authorities had not released victims' names by Sunday evening.

Nathaly Nairn and her 15-year-old daughter carried flowers to one of the vigils. They

had attended the festival on Saturday, and Nairn recounted seeing the damaged SUV and bodies on the ground.

"Something really dark happened last night," Nairn said, as she and her daughter wiped away tears.

Emily Daniels also brought a bouquet. "It's sad. Really sad," she said. "I can't believe something like this could happen so close to home."

Police Interim Chief Steve Rai called it "the darkest day in

The tragedy was reminiscent of an attack in 2018, when a man used a van to kill 10 in Toronto

Vancouver's history." There was no indication of a motive, but Rai said the suspect has "a significant history of interactions with police and health care professionals related to mental health."

Video of the aftermath showed the dead and injured along a narrow street in South Vancouver lined by food trucks. The front of the Audi SUV was smashed in.

Prime Minister Mark Carney cancelled his first campaign event and two major rallies on the final day of the election campaign before Monday's vote. AGENCIES

Trump to sign order requiring list of sanctuary cities and states

WASHINGTON: US President Donald Trump plans to sign an executive order on Monday directing the attorney general and the secretary of Homeland Security to identify within a month the cities and states that are not complying with federal immigration laws, a White House official said Monday.

Last week, a federal judge blocked Trump's administration from withholding federal funding from more than a dozen so-called sanctuary jurisdictions that have declined to cooperate with Trump's hardline immigration crackdown.

Trump launched an aggressive enforcement campaign after taking office, surging troops to the southern border

U.S. Border Patrol arrested 7,200 migrants illegally crossing the border in March

and pledging to deport millions of immigrants in the U.S. illegally. The Republican president said the actions were needed after years of high illegal immigration under his predecessor, Democrat Joe Biden.

At a press briefing, White House officials touted a steep decline in illegal crossings at the U.S.-Mexico border during Trump's first three months in office.

U.S. Border Patrol arrested

7,200 migrants illegally crossing the border in March, the lowest monthly total since 2000 and down from a peak of 250,000 in December 2023.

"We have the most secure border in the history of this nation and the numbers prove it," Trump border czar Tom Homan said at the briefing.

In his first hundred days in office, Trump has moved to strip legal immigration status from hundreds of thousands of people, increasing the pool of those who can potentially be deported.

While arrests of immigrants in the U.S. illegally have spiked, deportations remain below last year's levels under Biden when there were more people illegally crossing the border who could be quickly returned. AGENCIES

Putin thanks North Korea for troops

SEOUL: Russian President Vladimir Putin thanked North Korea on Monday for fighting alongside his troops against Ukrainian forces and promised not to forget their sacrifices, hours after North Korea confirmed its deployment for the first time.

The back-to-back Russian and North Korean statements -- which illustrate their expanding military partnerships -- came two days after Russia said its troops have fully reclaimed the Kursk region that Ukrainian forces seized in a surprise incursion last year.

Putin praised North Korean soldiers who he said "shoulder to shoulder with Russian fighters, defended our Motherland as their own." AGENCIES

Funeral in rearview mirror, focus shifts to May 7 conclave as people await new pope

VATICAN CITY: Catholic cardinals on Monday set May 7 as the start date for the conclave to elect Pope Francis' successor, delaying the secret voting for two days to help them get to know one another better and find consensus on a candidate before they are sequestered in the Sistine Chapel.

The cardinals set the date after arriving for the first day of informal meetings following Pope Francis' funeral Saturday. In a chaotic scene, journalists shouted out questions to the cardinals about the mood inside, whether there was unity, and when the conclave would begin.

A reporter for a satirical



A San Lorenzo banner featuring the late Pope Francis

Italian television programme repeatedly asked whether an Italian cardinal who has been convicted by the Vatican criminal court on finance-related charges would be allowed to vote.

"There is the hope of unity," said Argentine Cardinal Angel Sisto Rossi, the 66-year-old archbishop of Cordoba who was made a cardinal by Francis in 2023.

Many cardinals cited the

desire to continue Francis' pastoral focus on people who are marginalised and against war. But conservatives in the ranks may be more focused on forging unity and refocusing the church back to core doctrines emphasised by St. John Paul II and Pope Benedict XVI, rather than continuing Francis' social justice focus and outreach to women and gays.

British Cardinal Vincent Nichols, the 79-year-old archbishop of Westminster, was adamant that the church must strive for unity. "The role of the pope is to hold us together and that's the grace we've been given from God," he said. AGENCIES

SRK to make history with his first-ever appearance at Met Gala

The event will be organised at the iconic Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York

As excitement builds for the coveted Met Gala on May 5, it has been confirmed that Bollywood superstar Shah Rukh Khan will make history with his first-ever appearance at the Met Gala, organised at the iconic Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York in collaboration with none other than Sabyasachi, India's most celebrated fashion designer.

The rumours of King Khan appearing at the Met Gala started after the fashion watchdog, 'Diet Sabya', hinted at the superstar attending the annual event early in April. However, on Sunday, the 'Instagram' account 'confirmed' that Shah Rukh will walk the steps of the Metropolitan Museum of Art at the Met Gala 2025. The superstar will also make history by becoming the first-ever Indian actor to attend the Met Gala. Kiara Advani, who is expecting her first child with husband and actor Sidharth Malhotra, will also attend the event. They will be joined by actor-singer Diljit Dosanjh at the event.

He'll collaborate with none other than Sabyasachi, India's most celebrated fashion designer

Confirming Shah Rukh's appearance at the Met Gala, Diet Sabya's post read, "We at 'DietSabya' can confirm: Yes, that is indeed SRK - India's undisputed generational superstar - making his Met Gala debut in May 2025, wearing Sabyasachi (India's biggest luxury brand)." AGENCIES



Kevin Hart cancels India show in 'solidarity' with victims of Pahalgam terrorist attack, organisers promise to reschedule

Hollywood comedian and actor Kevin Hart has cancelled his India tour for his comedy special, 'Acting My Age', following the heinous Pahalgam terrorist attack in Jammu and Kashmir that killed 26 tourists. Kevin was scheduled to perform in India as part of his world tour, with a single show planned at the Indira Gandhi Indoor Stadium in Delhi on April 30. However, in light of the tragic events, the comedian has now cancelled his trip. The organisers

shared the news on social media, while also hinting at the possibility of a future show, announcing that they are 'working closely with Kevin for a new schedule.' Their statement read, "Important update: In light of the recent tragic events, we, along with Kevin Hart's team, have decided to cancel the upcoming Delhi show scheduled for April 30th." They also promised a full refund for all ticket holders. The post added, "All ticket holders will receive full refunds, and the amount will automatically be refunded back to your original mode of payment. We are working closely with Kevin Hart's team on a new schedule and will share updates soon."

The caption of the announcement emphasized that the cancellation was made in solidarity with the victims of the recent terror attack. It stated, "Due to the recent tragic events, Kevin Hart's Delhi show will be rescheduled. While we were looking forward to gathering with all of you, we believe it's important to pause and stand in solidarity with those affected. Full refunds will be issued automatically. Thank you for your understanding." Kevin Hart's show was supposed to start at 7:30 pm on April 30 and was scheduled to run for two hours and thirty minutes. Ticket prices ranged from Rs 4,000 to Rs 20,000, depending on the seating arrangement.

BTS' J-Hope hints at band's reunion after concluding military service: 'It's going to be a massive energy'

Boy band BTS was at the top of their game before all seven members enlisted for mandatory Korean military service in 2023, pausing the production of their albums and stage performances. RM, Jin, Suga, J-Hope, Taehyung, Jimin, and Jungkook are likely to reunite by the end of July 2025. Most members are out of military service and the remaining ones will complete their service by June this year.

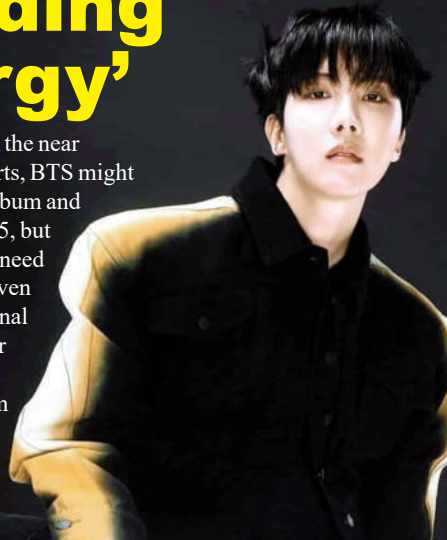
Meanwhile, band member J-Hope has shared an update on the same. In a recent interaction with Teen Vogue, J-Hope spoke about the possibility of a BTS reunion and said, "I look forward to June when our members will have completed their service." In South Korea, all eligible male citizens are required to perform mandatory military service between the age of 18 and 35. J-

Hope completed his military service last year in October. J-Hope showed excitement about reuniting with his band members. He said, "We will quickly get together and talk about what BTS can do in the future. I think it's going to be a massive energy." Ever since BTS disbanded temporarily for its members to participate in military service, the members have been focusing on their own endeavours, with many

releasing personal albums and launching personal brands. J-Hope too hopped on the same trend and dropped his first solo soundtrack, Hope on the Street Vol. 1, in 2024. He had earlier released his first solo full-length album, Jack in the Box, in 2022. Talking about the changes the band members have gone through during the time they pursued their personal goals, he said, "I think

that over time, we each refined our unique identities as each of us work on their own music, come out with their solo projects and do their own thing. The funny thing for me is when our identities, which have taken shape in various ways, come together as BTS, I'm curious to see how it'll look like." BTS hasn't released a full-fledged album in the last five years. However, fans are expecting the band to release

some new tracks in the near future. As per reports, BTS might return with a full album and a world tour in 2025, but given that this will need a lot of planning given the members personal commitments, their agency previously stated that an album and reunion might happen in 2026.



'Didn't mind being a flowerpot in KGF'

Srinidhi Shetty knew about the length of her role in the superhit Kannada film franchise

MUMBAI: South actress Srinidhi Shetty has no qualms about being called a 'flowerpot' in her 2018 debut film 'KGF: Chapter 1' as she knew about the length of her role in the superhit Kannada film franchise right from the outset.

In the 'KGF' franchise, directed by Prashanth Neel, the actress played the headstrong Reena Desai opposite lead star Yash's towering Rocky. It was produced by 'Hombale Films'.

"I didn't mind being a flowerpot in 'KGF' because that was like a dream project for me when it came, not because of how it would happen. When I heard the story, I knew my role was only this much, but I wanted to do it. I wanted my first movie to be like that. But again, it's an individual choice. Some people would love to be a flowerpot, some



Directed by Prashanth Neel, the actress played the headstrong Reena Desai opposite lead star Yash's towering Rocky

people wouldn't," Shetty told the top news agency. She added, "Now if you ask

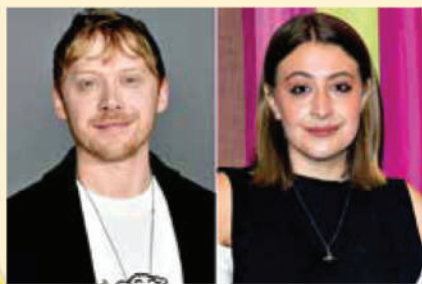
me, 'Would you be a flowerpot in the next few movies?' I'll take my time and think about whether I want to or not. I'll see who's doing the film and how important the flowerpot is. The first one was my conscious choice. But there's nothing bad, right or wrong, in it. It's fine; there are no calculations."

The 32-year-old actress, who later appeared alongside Tamil superstar Vikram in the 2022 action-thriller 'Cobra', attributed her popularity to the 'KGF' films.

"The amount of fame or love I have gained is because of 'KGF'. There are no two ways to do it. Probably it didn't convert into work that maybe I would have thought it would have, but that did not happen. But the three things that I have: name, fame and love are because of 'KGF'. It takes its own pace and time and I even take time to choose what I want and what I do not want to do. Having said that, the success of the movie didn't change me as a person. I'm still the same."

Shetty is looking forward to the release of 'HIT: The Third Case', fronted by Telugu star Nani.

Rupert Grint, Georgia Groome announce birth of second daughter



LOS ANGELES: Actors Rupert Grint and Georgia Groome welcomed their second child, a baby girl.

The 'Harry Potter' actor announced the news on his 'Instagram' handle on Sunday. The post shared by the actor featured the picture of a newborn with her name written over her outfit.

The couple named their second daughter Goldie G. Grint. "Secret Child Slightly Revealed" Introducing Goldie G. Grint. A 10/10 baby (so far). Shout out to @alex.digesu for always delivering," read the caption.

'Female solidarity has been my strength'

Salma Hayek said she and Penelope Cruz both offered huge support to one another

Salma Hayek said she and Penelope Cruz both offered huge support to one another as they tried to make it in Hollywood as actresses from Mexico and Spain, respectively. She said that female solidarity has been her strength, inspiration and safe space.

The 58-year-old actress first found major success in her native Mexico, starring in the telenovela 'Teresa', which aired for two years across 125 episodes, before stepping into Los Angeles in 1991.

Hayek remembered how difficult it was to land roles as a Latino actress during the decade, but she was lucky to have Cruz, who moved from Spain to America to make it in Hollywood, to lean on and vice versa.

In an interview with the Italian publication 'IO Donna', Salma said, "In the 1990s, there were no roles for Latinos. I had to fight for every opportunity. It's true. Luckily, I was able to count on a community of extraordinary women at my side. Penelope Cruz... We were a refuge and strength for each other. Female solidarity has been my strength, my inspiration and my safe space. Without this network, I don't know if I would have had the same resilience. I think that friends are food for the soul, you learn from each other's courage."

Hayek's first big screen roles were opposite Antonio Banderas in Robert Rodriguez's 1995 action film 'Desperado' and playing a vampire in Rodriguez's cult horror film 'From Dusk Till Dawn', which also starred

Hayek creates her own stories for Latin audiences via her own independent production company 'Ventanarosa', which provided viewers with the hit series 'Ugly Betty'



George Clooney, Quentin Tarantino, Juliette Lewis and Harvey Keitel.

It was the role of surrealist painter Frida Kahlo in Julie Taymor's biographical film 'Frida', released in 2002, that earned her critical acclaim and recognition and her performance made her the first Mexican actress to receive a 'Best Actress' Oscar nomination.

Hayek creates her own stories for Latin audiences via her own independent production company 'Ventanarosa', which provided viewers with the hit series 'Ugly Betty'.

The 'Hollywood Walk of Fame' honouree said she created 'Ventanarosa' in 1999 so she could create roles for other actresses like her. Discussing opportunities for Latino performers, she said, "There has been progress, but there is still a lot to do. This is why I continue to produce stories for Latin audiences, Argentina and Mexico. In 26 years of production, I have never thought only of myself." AGENCIES

Sudirman Cup: Shuttlers face fight to survive



PV Sindhu and Co will face Indonesia in must-win match

XIAMEN: Faced with a herculean task to trump a formidable Indonesia and stay afloat in the competition, an under-strength India will need its struggling singles stars to deliver the goods in a must-win Group D contest at the BWF Sudirman Cup Finals here on Tuesday.

India's campaign began on a disastrous start on Sunday with a 1-4 defeat to Denmark, a result that put their qualification for the knockout stage in serious jeopardy.

With only two teams progressing from Group D, India

must secure a win against Indonesia to keep their hopes alive otherwise, their third and final group match against England will be reduced to just a formality. The poor form of their star singles players — Lakshya Sen, HS Prannoy, and PV Sindhu has not helped the team.

However, there is some hope for India. Lakshya has defeated Indonesia's top men's singles player Jonatan Christie in their last two encounters — at the Paris Olympics and the All England Championships.

AGENCIES

South Africa's Stubbs has emerged as the best finisher in this season of IPL



Mumbai (Agency). South African cricketer Tristan Stubbs, playing for Delhi Capitals in the 18th season of IPL, has emerged as the best finisher. Stubbs has scored a lot of runs in the last overs with his aggressive attitude against fast bowlers. If we look at the current statistics

of IPL and the statistics from last year till now, then not any Indian player but Tristan Stubbs has emerged as the best finisher in IPL. Along with scoring runs, whether it is about strike rate or hitting fours and sixes, Stubbs is dominating. At the same time, his compatriot Heinrich Klaasen is also in this list but he is far from Stubbs. Dinesh Karthik, Shreyas Iyer and Liam Livingstone are also among the best finishers but Stubbs has come out on top. In IPL 2024, Stubbs has batted at an average of 54 in 13 innings. This cricketer has scored 378 runs so far.

After SL breeze, red-hot women eye SA scalp

COLOMBO: Their campaign off to a dominant start, a confident India will look to maintain momentum when they face South Africa in their second match of the women's tri-series here on Tuesday.

The Indian team extended its winning streak in ODIs to seven matches with a comprehensive nine-wicket victory over hosts Sri Lanka in the tournament opener on Sunday.

The 'Women in Blue' excelled across all three departments. The bowlers, led by the spinners Sneha Rana, Deepti Sharma and Shree Chaurani, restricted Sri Lanka to a sub-par total, while the top three -- Pratika Rawal, Smriti Mandhana, and Harleen Deol --- played fluent innings with the bat. Their fielding was good as well, and they will be confident of a similar display.

AGENCIES

'AURA AND THRILL MISSING' KKR's pacer Harshit is missing the Gambhir effect in dugout

NEW DELHI: Pacer Harshit Rana on Monday said he misses the "thrill and aura" associated with his long-time mentor Gautam Gambhir in the Kolkata Knight Riders' dugout. Under Gambhir's mentorship, Harshit had a breakthrough IPL 2024 season in which he got 19 scalps in KKR's IPL-winning campaign and never looked back.

Before another 12 months ended, Gambhir had ensured that the burly pacer, who gets some zip off the surface makes his India debut across all three formats and does decently.

No wonder the protege, who owes his success to 'Guru' Gambhir is missing his presence as KKR are in midst of a poor season with only six points and a seventh place in the league table.

Asked if the team misses him, Harshit replied: "I won't say that because composition of our support staff is basically the same (from last year). (Abhishek) Nayar Bhai has



KKR's Harshit Rana has 19 wickets so far

also come back. Chandu Sir, (Dwayne) Bravo are all good. But yes, there is this thrill factor which I miss a little. I am not talking about anyone else."

When prodded to elaborate on Gambhir, he said: "You also know that Gambhir has an aura, the way he comes and takes the team along. I was just talking about that."

Gambhir has an aura, the way he comes and takes the team along. I was just talking about that

Harshit Rana, KKR pacer

Abhishek Nayar, who was part of the franchise as a coach during the 2024 season, has joined back the KKR coaching staff for the remaining IPL season after BCCI sacked him from assistant coach's post with the Indian national team in the wake of poor show in Border-Gavaskar Trophy. Harshit feels that Nayar's presence will make a hue difference for his innovative, out of the box strategies.

"There will be a lot of changes now that he (Abhishek Nayar) has come back. Because he is a very smart mind." AGENCIES

Vaibhav Suryavanshi ruined Afghan pacer Karim's cricket career

Players who gave 30 runs in the first over of their debut match in IPL

New Delhi (Agency). Afghan pacer Karim Janat got his debut cap in IPL on 28 April. Gujarat Titans included him in the playing eleven. Karim was facing 14-year-old Vaibhav Suryavanshi, but Vaibhav batted brilliantly and ended the Afghan pacer's IPL career even before it started. Let us tell you that in the last two overs in T20 cricket in India, Karim Janat has conceded 66 runs. Karim came out to bowl in front of Vaibhav. Vaibhav hit a six on Karim's first ball, hit a four on the second ball, hit a six again on the third ball. After this, Vaibhav hit fours again on the fourth and fifth balls and hit a six on the

last ball, making a total of 30 runs in the over. After this, captain Shubman Gill did not



give a single over to Karim. He even got out after a few overs. This in itself is an

embarrassing record in Karim's name, because no bowler has ever conceded

Varun Chakraborty conceded 25 runs against Kolkata Knight Riders. Now in 2025, Karim conceded 30 runs. Apart from this, Karim Janat has conceded a total of 66 runs in the last two overs in T20 cricket while playing in India.

In fact, the last match of the three-match T20 International series between India and Afghanistan was played in Bengaluru last year. The last over in that match was bowled by Karim. In that over, Karim Janat conceded a total of 36 runs against Rohit Sharma and Rinku Singh. In this way, 66 runs have been conceded in India in his last two overs.

Shubman praised Vaibhav, said- it was his day, which he took advantage of

New Delhi (Agency). Shubman Gill has also praised Vaibhav Suryavanshi, who batted brilliantly against Gujarat Titans. Vaibhav scored a century with the help of 11 sixes and seven fours, which was the second fastest century in the history of IPL. Apart from this, he has also become the youngest batsman to score a century. After the match,

Shubman Gill said that it was Vaibhav's day, which he took advantage of. Gill said in the post-match presentation ceremony that he took the game away from us in the powerplay and the credit goes to him. There were some things that we could have done better, but it is very easy to say such things sitting outside. We got

some chances early, but we could not take advantage, but looking back, it seems that there are some areas on which we need to work. Gill said on sitting out in the second innings that I felt a little cramp in my back and we have to play another match a few days after this, so the physio did not want to take any risk.

101/100 for the Royal heir

Ton-up Suryavanshi, 14, keeps Royals' hopes alive

JAIPUR: Fourteen-year-old boy wonder Vaibhav Suryavanshi walked into the collective consciousness of cricket fans by becoming the youngest ever to score a hundred in an IPL match where result became inconsequential in the wake of a batting carnage for the ages.

For the record, Royals kept their play-off qualification hopes alive with a walk-in-the-park eight-wicket victory over Gujarat Titans in a chase of 210 made easy by a chubby-cheeked prodigy from Bihar's Samastipur, who was born three years after the cash-rich league started.

His 35-ball century is now the second-fastest in the IPL and fastest-ever for any Indian after Chris Gayle's 30-ball knock for RCB.

The left-handed Suryavanshi, simply stood and delivered against Indian bowlers Ishant Sharma and Mohammed Siraj with a collective experience of 141 Tests between them.

Ishant had made his Test debut back in 2006 when Suryavanshi wasn't even an idea but the "Gen Alpha" kid (all those born between 2010-2024) made a mockery of everything thrown at him.

There were 11 sixes and seven fours in his 38-ball-101



Rajasthan Royals' Vaibhav Suryavanshi belted seasoned pros effortlessly to make 101 off 38 balls

that even made a regal Yashasvi Jaiswal (70 not out, 40 balls, 9x4s, 2x6s) look like a mere bystander. Even with baby fat refusing to leave the contours of his cheeks, the stable core and holding his shape are things that stand out.

The basics built through those hours of toil in Patna, playing 600 balls a day from the

age of 10 did show its results. The days of facing 16-17 year old net bowlers for whom his father Sanjiv Suryavanshi, would pack 10 extra tiffin boxes haven't gone waste.

The decision of the Suryavanshi family to put all their eggs in one basket and have no Plan B by selling farm land to fuel their son's cricketing ambi-

tions will certainly become a part of cricketing folklores that will be spoken in years to come.

The bat speed was astonishing and the manner in which he picked up Siraj over long-on and belted Ishant into the square leg stand was there to be seen. Even Test spinner Washington Sundar scurried for cover and Karim Janat, the

2

His 35-ball century is now the second-fastest in the IPL and fastest-ever for any Indian after Chris Gayle's 30-ball knock for RCB

11

Number of sixes hit by Vaibhav Suryavanshi, the highest by an Indian in an IPL innings

Afghan international, was hit for 30 runs in an over including a disdainful flick. When Shubman Gill scored 50-ball 84 and Jos Buttler smashed 26-ball-50 not out earlier, it seemed like a mayhem but once Suryavanshi started, no one knew that how he could be stopped.

AGENCIES

DELHI HAVE PROVED FORMIDABLE SIDE DC look to shake off RCB hangover as KKR visit

AGENCIES

KOLKATA: The Arun Jaitley Stadium in Delhi is bracing for a compelling IPL encounter tomorrow as Delhi Capitals host Kolkata Knight Riders in the 48th match of the 2025 season.

The clash presents a stark contrast in fortunes with an in-form DC looking to solidify their top-four chances against a KKR desperately seeking a turnaround.

DC have emerged as a formidable force this season, showcasing impressive consistency with six victories in their nine outings and a total of 12 points, making them strong contenders for a play-offs berth. On the other hand, KKR find themselves in a precarious situation. With a mere three wins in nine matches, they are currently languishing in the seventh position with just seven points. Their campaign has been riddled with inconsistencies, leaving them with a mountain to climb in the remaining fixtures.

KKR's batting line-up will rely heavily on the opening pair of Sunil Narine and Rahmanullah Gurbaz. Narine has shown glimpses of what he can do on his day, but Gurbaz needs to fire



Delhi Capitals' KL Rahul has been in superb form

in this match. Skipper Ajinkya Rahane has been their leading run-scorer with 271 runs, striking at 146, and will likely hold the crucial No. 3 position. But he seems to falter in crucial moments, something he would like to rectify tomorrow.

Angkrish Raghuvanshi will continue to be the impact player, while Andre Russell and Rovman Powell could both find themselves drafted into playing XI with Rinku Singh.

Speculation is rife that KKR might consider bringing in Moeen Ali to inject stability and experience into the middle-order, but trading which foreign player is the question.

KKR's bowling attack will be spearheaded by the trio of Varun Arora, Harshit Rana and Varun Chakravarthy, each having claimed 11 wickets in nine games.

Meanwhile, DC will be eager to bounce back after their setback against RCB. Their opening pair is expected to feature Abhishek Porel, alongside the returning Faf du Plessis. Karun Nair will likely bat at No. 3.

The spotlight for DC will undoubtedly be on KL Rahul, who has been in stellar touch, accumulating 364 runs in eight innings at an impressive average of 60 and a strike-rate of 146. His three half-centuries and 16 sixes indicate a welcome return to form for the stylish right-hander. Axar Patel will anchor the middle-order alongside Tristan Stubbs and Ashutosh Sharma. The Capitals' bowling attack will be led by Mitchell Starc and Kuldeep Yadav. Yadav will be the key bowler for DC, having taken 12 wickets at an impressive economy of 6.55.

Bumrah should be rested after every two matches during England tour: Shastri



Mumbai (Agency). Former Indian cricket team coach Ravi Shastri has said that the team's main fast bowler Jasprit Bumrah should not be overburdened in the upcoming England tour. Shastri said that Bumrah should be rested after every two matches. He also said that he should be given the freedom to choose the match as per his convenience. The Indian team will play England in the series starting at Headingley on June 20 and it will also be the beginning of its new World Test Championship cycle.

Bumrah was out of the Champions Trophy due to a back injury suffered during the Australia tour. The bowler made a comeback to the game for Mumbai Indians during the IPL. Shastri said that I will

be cautious about Bumrah. I will give him two Test matches at a time and then wait for a break. Also said that ideally let him play four. If he starts well then you will ask him to play five matches but it depends on his body. Bumrah should be allowed to decide which match he wants to miss. He said that he should be given the first opportunity to say that yes, I am having some trouble. A break will help him. He said that with Bumrah, Mohammad Shami and Mohammad Siraj, Indian fast bowlers will dominate England.

Shami's unavailability, Bumrah's injury in the fifth Test and Siraj's poor form led to India losing the Border-Gavaskar series 1-3. Siraj has since made a great comeback in the IPL for Gujarat Titans.

Ayodhya bypass widening work will start from June 1

➤ Road widening will be completed in 2 years at a cost of 836 crores | ➤ Minister of State Mrs. Gaur gave instructions to the construction agency

Bhopal (Agency): The work of widening the 16 km long Ayodhya bypass road from Ratnagiri to Asharam Tiraha in Bhopal will start from June 1. The cost of widening this road is Rs 836 crores. It will be completed in a time period of 2 years. Minister of State for Backward Classes and Minority Welfare (Independent Charge) Mrs. Krishna Gaur held a review meeting on Tuesday with the officials of the ministry construction agency NHAI and other officials of the concerned departments regarding the progress of the construction work. Minister of State Mrs. Gaur said that to resolve any difficulty arising during

construction, contact the officials immediately. The difficulty will be resolved



immediately. There should be no delay in this work, it should be completed within the stipulated time limit of 2 years. She said that this will be the model road of the

state. It also includes the construction of flyovers etc. NHAI's project director

Devansh Narwal said that the work of Ayodhya bypass widening will be completed within the stipulated time frame. In this, first of all a service road will be built so

More than 4 times the number of trees will be planted in place of the trees to be cut

It was told in the meeting that the trees coming in the way of Ayodhya bypass widening will be removed. More than 4 times the number of trees removed will be planted in place of the trees to be removed. Project Director Narwal said that the electric poles and pipe lines etc. coming in the way of road widening will be shifted on time. In the meeting, construction of Anand Nagar flyover, Metro Rail flyover construction at Ratnagiri Tiraha and other construction works were reviewed. State Minister Mrs. Gaur directed to complete the work of land acquisition for Anand Nagar flyover construction in the next one week. Commissioner Municipal Corporation Sanjeev Singh, Project Director NHAI Devansh Narwal, General Manager of Metro Rail Bhopal, Public Works Department, Revenue and Municipal Corporation officials were present in the review meeting.

Lord Chitragupta's Prakatotsav will be celebrated on 4th May

Bhopal (Agency): Madhya Pradesh Yuva Kayastha Sangathan will celebrate Lord Chitragupta's Prakatotsav on 4th May. On this occasion, a procession will be taken out from the Chitragupta temple in Jawahar Chowk, which will be inaugurated by Madhya Pradesh Cabinet Minister Vishwas Kailash Sarang. Camels, horses, carriages, DJ and a 10 feet high statue of Lord Chitragupta will be the center of attraction in the procession. The procession will start from Jawahar Chowk and will end at the Chitragupta temple via Rangmahal Square, TT Nagar Police Station, New Market, GTB Square.



Bhandara organized after the procession

After the conclusion of the procession, a Bhajan Sandhya will be organized by Ravi Khare Group. In which devotional songs will be presented. Then a huge feast will be organized, in which people from all sections of the society will participate. This program will be organized by Madhya Pradesh Youth Kayastha Organization's president and convener Sanjeev Srivastava (Sanju), Dr. AK Srivastava, Ashish Srivastava, Uday Srivastava, Deep

Srivastava, Rajiv Saxena and other officials. Many organizations including All India Kayastha Mahasabha, Chitragupta Samaj Bhopal, Kayastha Parliament Bhopal, Iravati Chitragupta Culture and Social Trust Kotra, Chitragupta Samaj Kolar, Shri Chitragupta Mandal (District Chitragupta Kalyan Mandal 1100 Quarters) and Kayastha Mandal Urban Area Hoshangabad Road Bhopal are cooperating in the event.

BRIEF NEWS

Salary of 165 employees will not be released until investigation is done

Delhi (Agency): New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC) has taken a big decision and issued an order to stop the salary of 165 Palika Sahayak. This decision has created an atmosphere of confusion among those employees whose salary has been decided to be stopped. However, this order is till the investigation is completed. Out of the total 8137 Palika Sahayak of New Delhi Municipal Council, the papers of 7972 have been verified but the verification of 165 Palika Sahayak has not been done yet. Therefore, NDMC has decided that these Palika Sahayak will not be given salary. Also, NDMC will run considering these Palika Sahayak as unverified. It is worth mentioning that in the year 2023, NDMC had made more than 4500 Palika Sahayak permanent. After checking the documents of these Palika Sahayak, the further process was to be completed. But after the process is not completed yet, the Personnel Department of NDMC has decided that salary will not be given till the investigation is not done.

Supreme Court orders CBI inquiry against Supertech

Delhi (Agency): The Supreme Court on Tuesday gave a setback to Supertech Builders by ordering a CBI inquiry into its projects in the National Capital Region. During the hearing, the Supreme Court found that banks and developers have formed a kind of nexus, calling it an unholy nexus, on Tuesday the court directed the CBI to conduct a preliminary inquiry into the projects of Supertech Limited in the NCR region. During this, the Supreme Court directed the CBI to register 7 preliminary investigations to investigate the nexus between builders and banks under subsidy schemes. The CBI will form SITs from the state police of Uttar Pradesh and Haryana as the maximum projects for investigation are in NCR. In this regard, after considering the affidavit filed by the CBI, a bench of Justice Suryakant and Justice N Kotishwar Singh directed the DGP's of these two states to give a list of DSPs, Inspectors, Constables to the agency to constitute a Special Investigation Team (SIT). The apex court was hearing petitions filed by several home buyers who had booked flats under subsidy schemes in various housing projects across the NCR region especially Noida, Greater Noida and Gurugram. In these petitions it was alleged that they were being forced by the banks to pay EMIs despite not having possession of the flats.

MCD's bulldozer roared in Delhi, encroachment cleared for 2 km

Delhi (Agency): With the change of government in the national capital Delhi, the attitude of the officials has also changed. Actions against illegal encroachment are being seen from the side of MCD. Shahdara North Zone on Monday removed temporary encroachment from a road of two kilometers in Brahmpuri ward. During this, the goods of the encroachers were confiscated. Officials said that the general branch of the corporation, maintenance and health department, traffic police and Delhi Police took joint action and removed illegal encroachment from the road. Encroachment was removed from Ward Bhajanpura and in front of Yamuna Vihar Service Road. During this, unauthorized hawkers and shopkeepers also protested. The corporation and police force controlled the situation. Corporation officials say that such action by the corporation against encroachment in the national capital Delhi will continue in future as well. Meanwhile, the Delhi High Court has also indicated bulldozer action in Taimur Nagar in South-East Delhi. A bench of Justice Pratibha M Singh and Justice Manmeet PS Arora has directed the DDA to start demolishing illegal structures obstructing the repair of Taimur Nagar drain in south-east Delhi from May 5. The court directed the officials to complete the work of cleaning the drain expeditiously. The court bluntly said that illegal encroachment needs to be demolished. Hope you have understood our point. We do not know who those mafias are. How was permission given to build there? How did such a big building suddenly come up and the officials could not even get a clue. This will have to be investigated.

Districts under the charge of senior ministers are laggards

Work not going according to the government's intention in Jal Ganga Sanvardhan Abhiyan

Bhopal (Agency): Jal Ganga Sanvardhan Abhiyan is being run by the government in the state these days. This campaign is not getting success as per the government's intention. The reason for this is that the districts which are under the charge of senior ministers of the state government, but work is not being done fast in those districts. In the report of the first twenty days of the campaign which has come to Bhopal, the districts under the charge of about 14 ministers including both the Deputy Chief Ministers are proving to be laggards. Because of this, they could not even get a place in the first ten places. In this case, the work has been done well in Rewa under the charge of Minister Prahlad Patel, Balaghat under the charge of Uday Pratap Singh, districts under the charge of Chetan

Kashyap, Karan Singh Verma etc., due to which the districts under their charge have been successful in getting the first place. In this case, good work has been done in three districts so far, due to which they have got a place in the first three places. The important thing is that these districts are not only small, but two districts are far away. It is worth mentioning that this campaign has started in the state from March 30, which is to run till June 30. Before starting this campaign, its targets were also fixed. Along with this, it was also decided that this campaign will be monitored by the minister in charge in every district. **Cash reward will be given** The important thing is that to make this campaign successful, the government has already made a provision to give cash reward to the

collectors of the concerned districts and the CEO of the District Panchayat. Apart from this, similar reward is to

lakh rupees, the second prize of 1.25 lakh rupees and the third prize of 1 lakh rupees. The District Panchayat CEO



be given to other concerned officers as well. Under this, the collector will be given the first prize of one and a half

will get the first prize of 1 lakh, the second prize of 75 thousand and the third prize of 50 thousand rupees.

Pollution will be reduced by removing toll plaza on Delhi border

Delhi (Agency): Contractors collect toll tax and ECC at 156 MCD checkpoints on the Delhi border. Toll tax is collected separately from all vehicles including private vehicles on national highways. Especially during peak hours, there is a long jam at every toll to collect toll tax, which troubles common people and drivers. There is a long jam at the toll plaza, from five to 30 minutes. Due to increased traffic on the road in the morning and evening, not only the commercial vehicles paying toll, but also private cars, buses, two-wheelers face problems. Hooliganism and misbehavior of the contractor collecting toll tax and his henchmen is common. Studies show that vehicles are the biggest contributors to Delhi's pollution. The pollution caused by fuel wastage, carbon dioxide emissions

and bad air due to traffic jams and time spent in toll is deadly for Delhi. If you go beyond toll payment, the police put up barricades



every few meters and check the documents of the vehicles by making them stand in a queue, they are especially interested in the documents of commercial vehicles, this is also a factor in increasing pollution. Even after spending more on fighting pollution than the amount received from toll, the situation in Delhi remains

dangerous, people lose their lives. Increasing particulate matter (PM) emissions from vehicles cause air pollution. In October 2015, the NGT

directed commercial vehicles entering Delhi to pay environmental compensation fee (ECC) in addition to toll tax. The Supreme Court held that diesel vehicles with engines of 2,000 cc and above cause high pollution levels, so the purpose of the NGT order was to prevent such vehicles from entering Delhi. In

December 2015, the Supreme Court doubled the ECC for loaded commercial vehicles entering Delhi, but its message was that such vehicles can enter Delhi by paying ECC. Collection of ECC along with toll tax increases people's troubles due to delays and traffic jams. It is clear that vehicle emissions pollute air by increasing PM, so collecting ECC from these vehicles and allowing them to enter Delhi is like allowing them to distribute poison only after paying tax to save people from deadly poison. Collection of ECC at toll plazas increases traffic jams and pollution, so stop entry of seriously polluting vehicles into Delhi. If NGT/Supreme Court deems collection of ECC necessary, commercial vehicles can collect it online at the time of fitness and pollution certificate renewal.

LG VK Saxena gave big information about Shalimar Bagh

Delhi (Agency): Delhi's LG VK Saxena said about Shalimar Bagh that it is a very historical place. The last time I came here, the condition of this park was very bad. We had decided that this place would be renovated. He said that work has been going on here for a year. Very good work is being done. LG VK Saxena said that I am sure that



the work will be completed in 1-2 months. Said that efforts are being made to bring back the glory of Delhi. We can say that the way the Delhi government is working under the leadership of Rekha Gupta, the hard work it is doing, the day is not far when we will be able to see Delhi as a beautiful city.

The tenant himself sold the Waqf property, Delhi High Court sought response from Board MCD and Police



Delhi (Agency): An incident of selling Waqf property by a tenant has come to light in the national capital Delhi. Taking a tough stand on this incident, Delhi High Court has sought response from Delhi Police, Delhi Waqf Board and others. Justice Tara Vitasta Ganjoo issued notice to Delhi Police, Delhi Waqf Board, MCD, seller and buyer of the property located in Shahdara. Delhi High Court has given this order on the petition in which action has been demanded against the culprits. The court directed Delhi Police, Delhi Waqf Board, MCD, seller and buyer of the property located in Shahdara to file a reply on the petition within two weeks. The case will now be heard on May 14. During the hearing, Delhi Police, MCD and other departments assured the court that they would take strict action in this matter. This petition has been filed on behalf of the management committee of Masjid Parav Wali through advocate Wajih Shafiq.

advocate Wajih Shafiq. The management committee of Masjid Parav Wali has sought a direction from the court to the authorities to take strict action against the culprits on the illegal sale of about 118 square yards of property on Main Babarpur Road in West Rohtash Nagar, Shahdara. It has also been said that after knowing about the illegal sale and purchase of Waqf property, the petitioners had brought this fact to his notice by meeting the Station House Officer (SHO) of Shahdara on January 13. The court directed the Delhi Police, Delhi Waqf Board, MCD, seller and buyer of the Shahdara-based property to file a reply on the petition within two weeks. The case will now be heard on May 14. During the hearing, Delhi Police, MCD and other departments assured the court that they would take strict action in this matter. This petition has been filed on behalf of the management committee of Masjid Parav Wali through advocate Wajih Shafiq.