



**Male society will have to change thinking towards women: District Judge Arvind Mishra**



**Pahalgam attack aftermath: India closes airspace for all Pakistani aircraft**

**Apoorva Mukhija, aka The Rebel Kid, wants her children to be proud of how she stood up for...**

## Manipur Shuts Down as Meitei, Kuki Groups Mark Two Years of Ethnic Strife

Imphal (Agency): Manipur came to a standstill on Saturday, as both Meitei and Kuki civil society groups enforced a total shutdown across the state to mark the second anniversary of the ethnic conflict that erupted in 2023. In the Imphal Valley, the shutdown was spearheaded by the Coordinating Committee on Manipur Integrity (COCOMI), a prominent coalition representing Meitei interests. Simultaneously, the Zomi Students' Federation (ZSF) and the Kuki Students' Organisation (KSO) enforced similar strikes in the Kuki-majority hill districts, including Churachandpur, Kangpokpi, and Pherzawl.

The impact was felt state-wide—shops, markets, schools, and government offices remained closed, and public transport services were largely suspended. Only a few private vehicles ventured onto the roads during the early hours, as security forces were deployed across sensitive areas to maintain peace and prevent any poten-

tial unrest. Only a few private vehicles could be seen on the roads in the early morning hours. Authorities deployed additional security forces at key flashpoints to prevent any potential flare-ups.

The shutdown marks two years since violent ethnic



clashes first broke out on May 3, 2023, following a "Tribal Solidarity March" organised in the hill districts to protest against the Meitei community's demand for Scheduled Tribe (ST) status.

The unrest quickly escalated into widespread communal violence between the majority Meiteis in the valley and the Kuki-Zomi tribes in the hills. The conflict led to more than 260 deaths, left over 1,500 people injured, and displaced more than

70,000 individuals.

COCOMI organised a "Manipur Peoples' Convention" at Khuman Lampak Stadium in Imphal, calling for the protection of Manipur's territorial integrity and the restoration of peace.

In contrast, Kuki groups in the hills are observing the day as a "Day of Separation," reinforcing their long-standing demand for a separate administrative arrangement for the Kuki-Zomi tribes.

Commemorative events in Churachandpur included a solemn gathering at the "Wall of Remembrance" at 11 a.m., followed by prayers and tributes at the Sehken Burial Site, where many victims of the 2023 conflict were buried.

Despite repeated interventions from the Union government, including the deployment of central forces and several rounds of dialogue, a lasting political or social resolution remains elusive. Civil society leaders on both sides continue to accuse each other of atrocities, and trust between the communities remains deeply eroded.

**Rahul says Caste Census first step towards new paradigm of development**

New Delhi (Agency): Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Saturday reasserted that "Caste Census is the first step towards a new paradigm of development." In a post shared on his social media handle X, the Congress scion pointed out that the BJP had called the Caste Census divisive while "I called it the truth." "For years, we fought for it—because India cannot grow if 90% of its people are excluded. Today, the Prime Minister and the government have finally been compelled to listen to the will of the people," Mr Gandhi asserted.

The Congress had Wednesday welcomed the decision of the Cabinet Committee on Political Affairs to approve a proposal to include caste enumeration in the next caste census as a "step in the right direction" which the Congress has been demanding right from the beginning.

"We welcome it but want to know the timeline by when it would be carried out," Mr Gandhi, who is also the Leader of the Opposition in Lok Sabha, had said asserting that the "caste-based census is a new paradigm of development."

## 'Krishi Udyog Samagam 2025' will be organized in Mandsaur today, CM Dr. Yadav will inaugurate it



**Bhopal (Agency):** 'Krishi Udyog Samagam-2025', dedicated to innovation, technological progress and farmer welfare in the field of agriculture and horticulture, is going to be organized in Mandsaur on 3 May.

This important event will be inaugurated by Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Dr. Mohan Yadav. This one-day conference will become a platform for new opportunities and ideas for farmers, entrepreneurs, exporters and experts in the agricultural sector. Leading agriculture and horticulture experts of the country will guide farmers on

topics like modern technologies, smart farming, processing and value addition.

An exhibition of state-of-the-art agricultural equipment and innovations will be organized at the Samagam venue, which will showcase many innovations like drones, AI based equipment, power sprayer, micro irrigation system, organic-nano fertilizer, polyhouse, bio-flocs, cage culture model, milk and herbal products. Participating farmers will get an opportunity to see live demo of advanced techniques of organic and natural farming, which will enable

them to get acquainted with the methods of sustainable and profitable farming. A special dialogue session will be organized for FPOs, agro-based industries and exporters, in which access to global markets and processing techniques will be discussed.

More than 80 stalls of 8 departments including Agriculture, Horticulture, Animal Husbandry, Fisheries, Agricultural Engineering, MSME will be set up. Through these stalls, farmers will be made aware of schemes, technical information and innovations.

A special screening of a documentary film based on the remarkable innovations done by farmers in Mandsaur district will be the main attraction of the Samagam. Farmers will get information about departmental schemes as well as the facility of registration on the spot. Chief Minister Dr. Yadav will also provide benefits to farmers under various schemes.

Inauguration of Maharishi Sandipani Vidyalaya Bhawan (Chandvasa)- Maharishi Sandipani Vidyalaya Bhawan constructed at a cost of 33.14 crores under CM Rise School Yojana will be inaugurated.

Launch of construction works worth 400 crores (Dudhakhedi)- Chief Minister will inaugurate and perform Bhoomi Pujan of various construction projects in Dudhakhedi.

Expert Lectures- 15 experienced experts of agriculture and horticulture will provide training and advice to farmers in practical sessions.

## In a first, Karnataka declares formation of Anti-Communal Task Force

Bengaluru (Agency): In a first-of-its-kind action, the Karnataka government has established a specialised Anti-Communal Task Force following rising communal tension in Mangalore after the killing of former Bajrang Dal activist Suhas Shetty. The Anti-Communal Task Force (ACTF) would be similar in structure to that of the Anti-Naxal unit and would focus on quelling unrest in Dakshina Kannada and Udupi districts, which are prone to communal stress. G Parameshwara, the state Home Minister, said the ACTF will be operationalised within a few weeks. Designed to collaborate closely with local law enforcement agencies, the task force will have its own operational autonomy to intervene

independently against communal activities.

The trigger for the formation of a new force was the murder of Suhas Shetty on Thursday in Mangalore. Suhas Shetty was the main accused in the killing of Mohammad Fazil, which marked the escalation in retaliatory violence linked to the murder of the BJP youth wing worker Praveen Netaru, a few days before the murder of Fazil. Tension prevails in the Mangaluru region, following the congregation of pro-Hindutva activists and BJP leaders in the town. Besides, social media was also red hot with threats from many handles that could trigger and escalate tension. Karnataka police filed 12 FIRs in connection with social media posts that either called



for revenge for the murder of Shetty or appeared to celebrate the killing of the Hindu activist. FIRs are reported to be filed in many places across the region — Mangaluru North, Mangaluru South, Mulki, Urwa, Barke, Moodabidri, and Kavour.

These social media posts, police said, led to an increase in communal tension in the sensitive coastal district. Consider these samples of inflammatory

posts: "We will not let the sacrifice of Suhas Shetty go in vain," "If we do not show our strength, we won't survive," and "Blood is the answer for blood." The other side too did not flinch when it posted equally inflammatory messages like "Finished" and the caption "Next wicket will be taken soon," along with a picture of Suhas Shetty. Prohibitory orders are now in place in the region until May 6, with shops reopening under heavy security. On Friday, the region observed a bandh called by Hindu organisations. State Home Minister Parameshwara was present in Mangalore to review the situation. Accompanied by Dinesh Gundu Rao, the minister in charge of the district, he also met with local Congress leaders.

## Karnataka Minister ready for a suicide mission to Pakistan

Bengaluru (Agency): Karnataka does not fail to provide more than its share of Nataka (theatrics) when it comes to politics and its politicians. Now, the state Housing Minister, Zameer Ahmed Khan, has declared that he is ready to go to Pakistan with a bomb strapped to him. In a video posted on X, the minister is

heard saying, "If needed, I will go on a suicide mission. I'm not saying this as a joke or out of josh."

The video post, made on Friday, generated quite a controversy as he said, "If the country needs me, let Narendra Modi and Amit Shah give me a suicide bomb—I swear on Allah (the God), I will tie it and go to Paki-

stan." The minister maintained in conversations with media personnel, "We are Indians and Hindustanis, and have no relation with Pakistan. We are ready to wage war with Pakistan."

In sheer jingoism, the Karnataka minister seems to have overtaken everyone else in the political field, much in keeping with the Congress stance

after the Pahalgam incident. The Congress said it was fully with the government and urged it to take whatever action it deemed fit to teach Pakistan a lesson.

But in terms of jingoism, the Karnataka minister seems to have outdone even members of the hardcore right-wing ecosystem. His utterances drew sharp remarks from the BJP.

## PM vows decisive action against terrorism amid rising India-Pakistan tensions

New Delhi: Amid escalating tensions between India and Pakistan following the terror attack in Pahalgam that claimed 26 innocent lives, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday reaffirmed his commitment "to take firm and decisive action against the terrorists and those who support them."

"We are committed to taking firm and decisive action against the terrorists and those who support them," Mr Modi said in a joint press statement after holding bilateral talks with the visiting Angolan President, João Manuel Gonçalves Lourenço.

"We are firmly united in our stance against terrorism. I expressed my gratitude to President Lourenço and the people of Angola for their sympathies towards those killed in the Pahalgam terror attack," the Prime Minister added.

"We are unanimous in our belief that terrorism is the biggest threat to humanity... We thank Angola for its support in our fight against cross-border



terrorism," he emphasized.

Recalling that India is one of the largest buyers of Angola's oil and gas, the Prime Minister said: "We have decided to expand our energy partnership. I am happy to announce that a defence credit line of \$200 million has been approved for the modernization of Angola's forces."

India is the third-largest trading partner of Angola, accounting for about 10% of Angola's external trade—mainly due to bulk crude oil purchases. The trade balance is in Angola's

favour, with India being the second-largest importer of Angolan oil, which constitutes 90% of India's bilateral trade with the country.

Disclosing that his discussions with President Lourenço also included repair and overhaul of defence platforms and supplies, Mr. Modi said: "We would be happy to assist in training Angola's armed forces."

He added that, as part of the development partnership, "we will share our capabilities with Angola in digital public infrastructure, space technology, and

capacity building."

"Today, we have also decided to further strengthen our ties in the areas of healthcare, diamond processing, fertilizers, and critical minerals," the Prime Minister said, adding that "the popularity of yoga and Bollywood in Angola is a symbol of the strength of our cultural ties. To enhance people-to-people relations, we have decided to initiate a Youth Exchange Programme between our two nations."

Welcoming Angola's decision to join the International Solar Alliance, Mr Modi said: "We have also invited Angola to join India's initiatives: the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure, the Big Cat Alliance, and the Global Biofuels Alliance."

Extending best wishes to Angola on behalf of 140 crore Indians for its presidency of the African Union, the Prime Minister said: "It is a matter of pride for us that during India's G20 presidency, the African Union

secured permanent membership in the G20."

Reiterating that India's cooperation with African countries has gained momentum over the past decade, Mr. Modi stated: "Our mutual trade has reached nearly \$100 billion. There has been significant progress in defence cooperation and maritime security. Just last month, the first naval maritime exercise 'Akyam' was conducted between India and Africa."

"In the past 10 years, we have opened 17 new embassies in Africa. Credit lines of over \$12 billion have been allocated for Africa, in addition to \$700 million in grant assistance. Vocational training centres have been established in eight African countries. We are collaborating with five African nations on digital public infrastructure. In times of disaster, India has consistently played the role of 'First Responder,' standing shoulder to shoulder with the people of Africa," the Prime Minister concluded.

## Mediation Act should be extended to rural areas: Murmu

New Delhi (Agency): President Droupadi Murmu on Saturday observed that the dispute resolution mechanism under the Mediation Act 2023 should be effectively extended to rural areas so that Panchayats are legally empowered to mediate and resolve the conflicts in villages.

Addressing the first National Mediation Conference 2025 in New Delhi, the President said that the Mediation Act, 2023, was the first step in consolidating the civilisational legacy. "Now we need to add momentum to it and strengthen its practice. She emphasised that the dispute resolution mechanism under the Mediation Act should be effectively extended to rural areas so that the Panchayats are legally empowered to mediate and resolve the conflicts in villages. Social harmony in villages is an essential prerequisite of making the nation strong," she added.

The President said that mediation is an essential part of the delivery of justice, which is at the heart of the Constitution of India. Mediation can speed up the delivery of justice not only in the specific case under con-

sideration, but also in other cases, by reducing the burden on courts of a large number of litigations. It can make the overall judicial system much more efficient. It can thus open up the developmental pathways that



might have been blocked. It can enhance both the ease of doing business and the ease of living. "Mediation, when we see it this way, becomes a key instrument to realise the vision of Viksit Bharat by 2047," she added.

The President said that India has a long and rich tradition of judicial mechanisms in which out-of-court settlements were more of a norm than the exception. The institution of the Panchayat is legendary for fos-


tering amicable resolutions. The Panchayat's endeavour was not only to resolve the dispute but also to remove any bitterness among the parties about it. It was a pillar of social harmony for us. "Unfortunately, the colonial rul-

ers ignored this exemplary legacy when they imposed an alien legal system on us. While the new system did have a provision for mediation and out-of-court resolution, and the old tradition of alternative mechanisms did continue, there was no institutional framework for it. The Mediation Act, 2023, plugs that loophole and has several provisions that will form the foundation of a vibrant and effective mediation ecosystem in India," she added.



BRIEFS

Resolve to provide justice to the oppressed and downtrodden



Target prepared for 2027

Staff Reporter Palani.


On Saturday, the Samajwadi Party organized a PDA Mahapanchayat in several villages of the Tindwari assembly constituency. Many big leaders of the SP attended these meetings held under the chairmanship of Assembly Speaker Pramod Nishad. Addressing the Mahapanchayat, SP National General Secretary Vishambar Prasad Nishad said that PDA (victim, Dalit and minority) will become a medium to provide justice to the exploited, laborers, farmers and students of the society. Recalling the thoughts of Baba Saheb Ambedkar, he said that the exploited-deprived class has always been at the bottom of the social ladder and the dominant forces have always been against reservation. Former minister Daddu Prasad said that the goal of the PDA is to give the message of change to the people by defeating the BJP in the 2027 elections. He said that Baba Saheb has provided security shield to the oppressed classes through the Constitution. On this occasion, District President Dr Madhusudan Kushwaha, former District President Vijay Karan Yadav, Top Singh, Dr Rajkumar Yadav, Narayandas Yadav, Ramkripal Shivhare and hundreds of SP members were present.

A 7th grade student reached her home by jumping over the boundary wall of the residential school, causing a stir

Staff Reporter Jaspura.

On Saturday, a class 7th student Lakshmi, daughter of Rajan, age 13 years, resident of Chandwara police station Palani, reached her home by jumping over the boundary wall of the Kasturba Gandhi Residential School located in the town. The in-charge warden of the school, Yamani Kaushal, told that on Saturday at around 3 o'clock, class 7th student Lakshmi talked to her family members from the school phone that she is not feeling good here and she does not want to stay here anymore. Due to this, the mother of that student, Suman, came to pick her up at around 4 o'clock. But before that, the said student had reached her home by jumping over the boundary wall of the school. There was a commotion in the entire staff on not finding the said student in the school. The in-charge warden of the residential school informed the local police station in-charge. On receiving the information, the police station in-charge Anupama Tiwari reached the spot with her colleagues and gathered information. After a lot of searching, it was found that the student had reached her home. After that, the student's family informed her mother Suman over the phone. The student's mother made the warden and the police station in-charge talk to the family over her phone, then she told that she had reached her home safely. For the safety of the students in the girls' residential school, there is a boundary wall, CCTV cameras and guards, but such a big incident has been averted, while it has also raised a big question that what was the whole stop doing when the girl was jumping over the boundary wall. Due to this act of the student, the in-charge warden of the residential school, Yamani Kaushal, has immediately expelled her from the school.

Work of registration of e-rickshaws and installation of holograms has started




Staff Reporter Sumerpur.

In a camp organized at Gayatri Tapobhoomi on Saturday, the E-Rickshaw Union listed the e-rickshaws operating in the town and rural areas in the register by putting the union's hologram on them. This process was completed in 200 rickshaws on the first day. E-Rickshaw Union's patron Vyapar Mandal President Mahesh Gupta Deepu said that as per the administration's wish, a camp was organized on Saturday and the e-rickshaws operating in the town and nearby rural areas were listed in the register with the name, address and mobile number by putting the union's hologram on them. 200 e-rickshaws were listed on Saturday. In this process, those rickshaw drivers have been included who have all kinds of valid documents. Ramji Mishra, Anuj Shivhare, Shivnarayan Dhuria, Guddu Gupta, E-Rickshaw Union President Dhiru Yadav etc. were present on this occasion. The patron of the E-Rickshaw Union said that this campaign will continue continuously and after taking valid documents from the e-rickshaw drivers operating in the town and rural areas, all will be registered and the list will be handed over to the Transport Department. After this, with the cooperation of the Transport Department and the Police Department, action will be taken against e-rickshaws being operated illegally.

Satna police took major action on the instructions of IG

The accused who attacked the head constable with intent to kill was arrested in a short encounter



Staff Reporter Rewa.


On the instructions of Rewa Zone IG Gaurav Rajput, Satna police has achieved a major success and arrested the accused Achu Gautam alias Adarsh, who entered the barracks of Jaitwara police station and attacked the police. During the arrest of the accused, there was an encounter between the police and the accused, in which the accused was shot in the leg. According to the information received, the police had received information that the accused was hiding on Tikuri Akouna road. The police laid a siege and tried to catch the accused. During this, the accused opened fire on the police, but SHO Kotar Dilip Mishra narrowly escaped as he was wearing a bullet proof jacket. The police also fired in retaliation, in which the accused was shot in the leg and he fell. After this the police arrested him. The accused has been admitted to the hospital for treatment. On this incident, Rewa IG Gaurav Rajput had announced a reward of Rs 30 thousand on the arrest of the accused. Cases of many serious crimes have also been registered against the accused Achu Gautam alias Adarsh in the past.

Due to money transaction, the goons beat up the couple along with their son and daughter and injured them

Staff Reporter Baberu.

In Bhagirath Purwa village of Arwari of Marka police station area, the goons beat up the husband, wife, son and daughter of the same family and seriously injured them over money transaction. They were admitted to CHC by the police. In Bhagirath Purwa village of Arwari of Marka police station area, on Saturday afternoon, the goons of the same village beat up Hiralal Prajapati son Rama Prajapati age 48 years, wife Shivpatiya age about 42 years, daughter Sonia age 19 years, son Achhe age 15 years of the same family and injured them. On receiving the information, Dial 112 PRB police reached the spot and admitted all the injured to CHC Baberu. Where first aid was given by the doctor. At the same time, the injured Hiralal has accused four-five people living in the neighborhood of beating them over money transaction. And he has said that they entered the house and beat me, my wife and my son and daughter and injured them. The police is busy investigating this fight.

Patients and students face problems due to the daily traffic jams



Staff Reporter Sumerpur.

There was a huge jam on Saturday afternoon on the Station Road of Sumerpur town, due to which the life of the people was completely affected. An ambulance was also stuck in this jam for a long time, but no help could be received from the police station. Due to the ambulance getting stuck, the condition of the patient remained critical, while the passersby had to face a lot of trouble. School vehicles were also affected due to the jam at the time of school closing. Many school children were stuck in vehicles for hours and could reach their homes late. The atmosphere became tense due to the concern of the parents and the trouble of the children. Local traders and passersby said that this situation is not new, such jams occur on Station Road every day, but no concrete steps are being taken by the administration. Local people said that the road has been encroached upon by shopkeepers and temporary cart vendors on Station Road, due to which the road has become narrow and a situation of jam is created. Despite complaining many times, the encroachment has not been removed, due to which the resentment towards the administration is increasing among the public. The local residents have demanded from the district administration and police administration that the encroachment should be removed soon and the traffic system should be improved so that the general public can get relief. If this problem is not solved in time, then the public may be forced to take the path of agitation.

Public complaints should be resolved with timeliness and quality: DM

Staff Reporter Banda.

Sampoorna Samadhan Diwas was organized in Tehsil Sadar under the chairmanship of District Magistrate J. Reebha. He instructed the officers present in the Sampoorna Samadhan Diwas to take the received complaints seriously and resolve them in a timely and quality manner. He got 06 complaints resolved on the spot by the concerned officers. A total of 57 complaints related to revenue police, development, supply, electricity department and other departments were received in the Sampoorna Samadhan Diwas, out of which 06 complaints were resolved on the spot. He instructed the officers to resolve the remaining public complaints in a timely and quality manner, no laxity will be tolerated in this work. In the Sampoorna Samadhan Diwas, while listening to the public problems of the people, he took action on the case of determination of land share in Mahokhar by a complainant and warned the concerned Lekhpal and instructed him to resolve the case within two days. He directed the Executive Officer of Nagar Palika Parishad Bada to take action on the application of

residents of Khanipar for cleaning of drains and the people of Kalyanpur for



construction of drains to get rid of the problem of water logging. He directed the revenue officers to keep

The old man committed suicide by hanging himself


My daughter's marriage is to take place after fifteen days

Staff Reporter Maudha.

The daughter was to get married after a fortnight but the father committed suicide by hanging himself, while there are reports of suicide due to stress over the expenses of the marriage, now the marriage can also be eclipsed. On Saturday early morning, the old man committed suicide by hanging himself on an acacia tree, the police reached on the information and sent the body for postmortem. The deceased's daughter was getting married this month, due to which he was worried. Binwar town resident Ramkharan Prajapati (62) son of Ramcharan Prajapati committed suicide by hanging himself on an acacia tree near Siddha Baba's place located on Bandhur Road outside the village, when he did not come home for a long time in the morning, the family members searched for him, then they came to know about his suicide. On the information, the police reached on the information and sent the body for postmortem and started further proceedings. The deceased's brother Prem Kishore told that his niece got married on 18 May this month. The marriage was to take place and the wedding procession was to come from Kalla, due to which the brother was worried. And like every day, today also he went out for a morning walk but did not return. After which it was reported that he had committed suicide. There is mourning in the wedding house due to the death and the family members are in a bad state weeping. The police station informed that Prem Kishore had informed that his brother Ramcharan had committed suicide by hanging himself. On reaching the information, the police filled the Panchnama of the dead body and sent it for postmortem and started further proceedings.

The accused of robbery and theft was arrested with an illegal pistol


100% of the stolen goods were recovered from the possession of the accused



Staff Reporter To tie.

Under the guidance of Superintendent of Police Palash Bansal, in the course of the campaign being run to control crime and criminals in the district and to arrest the accused wanted in various cases, the police of Mataundh police station arrested the wanted accused in the case of robbery and snatching in the police station area. It is worth mentioning that on April 26, a person from Mahoba was greeted by a motorcyclist near Mataundh bus stand and confused by his identity and made to sit on his motorcycle. After travelling some distance, the accused asked the person for some money for some work. When the person took out money from his pocket to give him money, the accused showed a pistol and looted Rs 47000 and fled from there. In this regard, a case was registered at Mataundh police station and efforts were being made to identify and arrest the accused. In this sequence, the accused was arrested by Mataundh police near Maudha road. Rs 47000 looted in the incident, illegal pistol and motorcycle used in the incident were recovered from the possession of the accused. The name of the arrested accused is Sanjay Kumar Sahu, son of Premnarayan Sahu, resident of village Lama, police station Kotwali Dehat, district Banda, present address Bengalipura, police station Kotwali Nagar.

Residents of Kanshiram Colony protested and blocked the road over drinking water problem



The officials got the jam cleared by giving assurance

Staff Reporter Banda.

With the onset of summer, water crisis in many areas of the city is taking a toll on people's lives. People's anger erupted over the water crisis in Hardauli Kanshiram Colony under Sadar Tehsil. Angry citizens blocked the road and demonstrated with empty buckets in their hands. The protesting citizens say that they have been struggling with the water problem for a long time and have informed the administration several times in this regard, but no concrete measures have been taken so far. Their daily routine is being badly affected due to water shortage. As soon as the information was received, the district administration team reached the spot and got the jam cleared by explaining to the people. The administration has also assured to solve the problem soon. The local residents are very angry with the administration's indifference and have warned to intensify the agitation if no concrete steps are taken soon.

Case filed against ITBP jawan in loan dispute

Staff Reporter Sumerpur.

The police have registered a case of assault against an ITBP jawan in the case of assault and abuse in the matter of asking for loaned money in village Mihuna of the area. Shailendra Yadav, a resident of Mihuna, is posted in the ITBP. He had come to the village on leave a few days ago. He had lent 10,000 rupees to Ashish Yadav, a resident of the village. There was a quarrel between Shailendra and Ashish when Shailendra asked for his money back. It is alleged that Ashish went to Shailendra's house and abused him. On the complaint of Ashish, the police have registered a case against Shailendra for abusing and assaulting him.

Submit life certificate in treasury

Staff Reporter Banda.

Chief Treasury Officer Vinod Kumar has informed that all the pensioners receiving pension from the treasury are informed that those pensioners who have not deposited their life certificate in the treasury and whose pension payment has stopped due to lack of life certificate should immediately submit their life certificate by appearing in the treasury / through online process. All pensioners are also requested to submit their life certificate in the treasury on time. It was told that Bindi Devi, Babulal, Triveni, Sundariya Devi, Chandrika Prasad, Nawab Begum, Abhishek Kumar Gupta, Ram Sanchi, Ishwari Prasad Tiwari, Kusuma Devi, Ram Dulare Shrivats, Lilavati etc. pensioners are requested to immediately submit their life certificate in the treasury as their pension is stuck in the treasury.

Two injured in bike collision

Staff Reporter Maudaha.

Two people were injured in a collision between two bikes on Thursday night. They were brought to the government hospital of the town for treatment where both are being treated. In Khanna of the neighbouring district Mahoba, Khanna resident Rajkumar (22) son of Jagdish and Babu (20) son of Ramzani were seriously injured in a collision between two bikes. Both the injured were brought to the government hospital of the town by their family members for treatment where both the injured are being treated. At present, both are said to have suffered serious injuries.



## Pahalgam attack aftermath: India closes airspace for all Pakistani aircraft



**New Delhi (Agency):** India has closed its airspace for Pakistani aircraft, days after a similar move by the neighbouring country in the wake of the Pahalgam terror attack. The Notice to Airmen (NOTAM) communicating this decision, issued on Wednesday evening, states that India’s airspace will not be available for Pakistan-registered aircraft and planes operated, owned, or leased by Pakistani airlines and operators, including military flights. The ban will be in place till the early morning of May 24, as per the current NOTAM.

On April 24, Pakistan had closed its airspace for Indian aircraft and airlines after New Delhi’s strong diplomatic moves in response to the terror attack. Pakistan’s move is slated to affect over 800 West-bound international flights a week operated by Indian airlines from Northern Indian airports. These flights now face longer flight times, increased fuel burn, and a few other complexities related to crew and flight scheduling, an analysis of airlines’ schedule data shows.

All these flights were routinely flying over Pakistan on their way to various destinations to the west of India. The initial impact is already visible, with Indian airlines’ flights from North India to West Asia, the Caucasus, Europe, the UK, and North America’s eastern region switching from their routine paths to longer routes. Moreover, a number of Air India’s ultra-long-haul flights to and from North America are now taking technical halts – planned stops for refuelling or crew change – at European airports, breaking the journey of the otherwise non-stop flights. The impact of India’s airspace closure is unlikely to be as significant because, unlike India’s booming aviation sector, Pakistan’s struggling flag carrier, Pakistan International Airlines (PIA), has a limited international footprint, and that too largely to the west of the country.

## Before Pahalgam, J&K planned ambitious tourism push to bring in revenue, jobs

**New Delhi (Agency):** With the tourist sector contributing 7 per cent to Jammu and Kashmir’s overall gross state domestic product, the state was banking big on tourism in the coming years, pegging hopes on years of relative peace to realise the region’s potential. The term “tourism” featured as many as 27 times in Chief Minister Omar Abdullah’s March 7 Budget speech for 2025-26, when he went on to declare that his government’s goal was to increase the sector’s contribution to J&K’s GSDP from 7 per cent to at least 15 per cent over the next four to five years as the state embarked on a “transformational journey to becoming a global tourism powerhouse”.

The terror attack in Pahalgam and the subsequent closure of 49 prominent tourist

destinations have dashed those hopes.

The J&K Economic Survey for FY25 had pegged the nominal GSDP at Rs 2.65 lakh crore and the real GSDP at Rs 1.45 lakh crore. At 7 per cent of GSDP, the size of J&K’s tourism sector comes to Rs 18,550 crore in nominal terms and Rs 10,150 crore in real terms.

For neighbouring Himachal Pradesh, too, tourism accounts for nearly 8 per cent of the hill state’s GSDP. In that context, J&K’s aim to more than double tourism’s share in its GSDP within five years was an ambitious target. For FY26, the J&K government earmarked Rs 390.2 crore as capital expenditure on the tourism sector, an increase of Rs 121.8 crore over the revised estimate for FY25. In terms of earnings by the UT’s

## ITR notified by Income Tax department: Taxpayers can now disclose capital gains in ITR-1

**New Delhi (Agency):** The Income Tax (I-T) Department has notified income tax returns for assessment year 2025-26 (financial year 2024-25) enabling the filing of returns effective April 1. This year onwards, the tax department has included a provision to file details of long-term capital gains within the ITR-1 and ITR-4 formats.

Earlier, taxpayers filing ITR-1 had to file the details of capital gains in ITR-2 separately. Taxpayers are required to file details of

capital gains where the assessee has only long-term capital gains under section 112A not exceeding Rs 1.25 lakh and does not have any brought forward loss or loss to be carried forward.

The I-T Department, which functions under the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT), will soon operationalise the filing functionalities for the commonly used segments ITR-1 Sahaj and ITR-4 Sugam. ITR-1 can be filed by an individual having income up to Rs 50 lakh and who

receives income from salary, one house property, other sources (interest, etc), long-

up to Rs 5,000. Section 112A of the Income-tax Act provides for the



term capital gains under section 112A up to Rs 1.25 lakh, and agricultural income

taxation of long-term capital gains (LTCG) arising from the sale of listed equity

## Pakistan stock market dips sharply amid escalating tensions with India

**Karachi (Agency):** Trading in the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) remained in the negative on Wednesday owing to the escalating tensions with India following the terror attack in Jammu and Kashmir’s Pahalgam that killed 26 people.

Shares at the PSX fell over 2,000 points in intraday trade amid uncertainty over speculation that India might launch military strikes against Pakistan.

On Tuesday evening, Information Minister Ataullah Tarar added to the uncertainty by claiming that Pakistan had credible intelligence that India intends to carry out military

action against it in the next 24-36 hours.

Earlier in the day, Prime Minister Narendra Modi in a



meeting with the top defence brass gave them “complete operational freedom” to decide on the mode, targets and timing of India’s response to the Pahalgam terror attack. The benchmark

Karachi Stock Exchange-100 index decreased by 1,717.35 points, or 1.5 per cent, to stand at 113,154.83

Securities, said the decline was due to “news of a likely attack in the next few days”.

Fatima Bucha of AKD Securities said investors’ concerns increased following the information minister’s press briefing. “No doubt the market is under pressure,” she said.

All Karachi Tajir Ittehad Association President Atiq Mir said there was uncertainty in all business sectors due to the escalation in diplomatic and military tensions with India.

“Markets and shopping centres are not doing business as usual this week as everyone is more concerned about what will happen now,” he said.

## Term deal for Russian oil off the table for now; US crude purchases to depend on commercial viability, says Indian Oil chairman Sahney

**New Delhi (Agency):** The prevailing geopolitical and geoeconomic uncertainties have evidently shelved a potential term deal for Russian oil that was being pursued by India’s public sector refiners. Government-owned oil refiner Indian Oil Corporation (IOC), which is also India’s largest refiner, is currently not in “any active negotiations” for a term deal with Russian oil majors like Rosneft, according to

Indian Oil Chairman Arvinder Singh Sahney. On the question of increasing oil purchases from the US, given that the Donald Trump administration wants to increase American oil and gas exports and India is a major importer of crude oil, Sahney said that all purchase decisions would be purely on commercial basis, and there was no “mandate” for the company to buy more oil from any country.

“As of now, we are not in any active negotiations... We are waiting and watching because every day things are changing. Every day the situation on tariffs, the situation on sanctions are changing... So, in these topsy-turvy conditions, I don’t think it is prudent to go in for a term deal with a new player... any new player,” Sahney told reporters in response to a question on the status of term deal negotiations with Russia. The company, however, remains open to inking term contracts with new suppliers, should the conditions allow, he added.

Term oil deals are usually annual supply agreements with fixed volume commitments at a predetermined pricing formula. Such contracts assure buyers as well as suppliers of steady supply and offtake, unlike spot market oil deals that are prone to higher pricing and supply volatility. Spot contracts, as the name suggests, are immediate purchases from suppliers or traders with the shortest-possible delivery cycle. A bulk of oil purchased by India’s public sector refiners—IOC, Bharat Petroleum Corporation (BPCL), and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation (HPCL)—is through term contracts. However, all the Russian oil being bought by these companies is on spot basis. As Russia is currently India’s largest supplier of crude oil, the public sector refiners were understood to be negotiating a potential term contract for Moscow’s discounted oil. According to industry sources, private sector refining major Reliance Industries had inked a large term deal with Russia’s Rosneft in December 2024.

This had led to speculation that the PSUs were also looking to seal term deals for Russian oil. But with fresh and stringent US sanctions hitting Russian oil trade in January this year and with the volatility in geoeconomic circumstances since Donald Trump took charge as US President later that month, the hopes of a term deal appear to have been dashed, at least for the time being.



## From Carlsberg beer to Porsche sports cars: How US reciprocal tariffs are affecting global brands

**New Delhi (Agency):** US President Donald Trump’s ‘Liberation Day’ reciprocal tariff announcements have created uncertainty for countries and businesses.

With US trade partners scrambling to strike bilateral treaties that may ease their tariff burden and bridge their trade imbalance with America, companies are broadly choosing to keep their powder dry and watch what they say even if their first quarter earnings gave them something to cheer about. With Q1 earnings season already underway in the West, key European companies revealed how they view Trump tariffs and why they would hold off on crystal gazing just yet. From carmakers to appliance manufacturers, brewers to energy giants, a gamut of companies shared their earnings on Tuesday. Here’s a breakdown of their forecast for the near future in the shadow of Trump tariffs.

Mobility, here, encapsulates

a range of goods and services providers, from luxury cars to airlines. How are Trump tariffs expected to impact their bottom lines? Swedish-origin, Chinese-owned carmaker Volvo withdrew its revenue forecast for the next two years, providing market watchers a window into the uncertainties that engulf the European car maker. The company’s Q1 profit narrowed to 1.9 billion Swedish krona (1 US\$ is equal to 9.65 krona) in Q1 FY25 from 4.7 billion krona in the year-ago period. Since Volvo Cars largely imports vehicles into the US from Europe, it might be subjected to nearly 25 per cent duty. Volvo Cars foresees an impact to its profitability arising out of “tougher market conditions and lower volumes combined with increased price pressure and tariff effects,” it said in its quarterly earnings report. To be sure, Trump provided some relief to automakers late on Tuesday by signing

two orders for the partial reversal of up to 25 per cent automobile tariffs. Foreign carmakers in the US, part of a group named Autos Drive America, said while these order offered some relief “but more must be done in order to turbocharge the US auto industry,” Reuters reported.

German carmaker Volkswagen’s sports car brand Porsche reported better than expected earnings in the first quarter of the current fiscal from the North American region excluding Mexico. This was attributed to an improvement in purchasing power, and, more importantly, “pull-forward effects due to the announced introduction of tariffs,” according to its quarterly earnings statement.

Porsche revised the 2025 sales revenue forecast to 37-38 billion euros from 39-40 billion euros earlier, adding that the “introduction of US tariffs to lead to negative impacts for the months of

April and May 2025”. While the sports car maker is unlikely to shift manufacturing to the US owing to its low vehicle sales figures, Porsche CFO Jochen



Breckner said the company plans to pass on “at least a proportion of the tariffs to end customers”.

German airline Lufthansa warned against headwinds from foreign exchange volatility and geopolitical uncertainties, even as it reported a 25 per cent jump in Q1 passenger traffic from the Americas to Europe. “Despite all the geopolitical uncertainties, we ... remain

on course for growth, are optimistic about the summer, and are sticking to our positive outlook for 2025,” Lufthansa CEO Carsten Spohr said in a statement.

However, the airline has set up a task force to “closely monitor current developments and, if necessary, respond quickly and flexibly to any weakening in demand, for example by adjusting capacity”.

Lufthansa also forecasted potential cost additions owing to a range of issues such as low demand and air freight volumes, apart from a

spike in “costs of materials, aircraft and aircraft parts”, according to its earnings release. Danish beermaker Carlsberg kept its full-year outlook unchanged but warned that US tariffs are likely to affect consumer spending and the cost of raw materials in upcoming quarters. “History tells us that prolonged uncertainty will feed into consumers’ purchasing decisions,” CEO Jacob Aarup-Andersen told Reuters. While Carlsberg has limited exposure to US tariffs since the country makes up for a small fraction of the brewer’s overall sales, a spike in the price of barley, sugar and aluminium may spoil the party for beer guzzlers, Aarup-Andersen said.

Interestingly, Carlsberg’s Q1 sales surged 17 per cent on a rise in China sales figures. Adidas kept its 2025 revenue guidance unchanged despite a strong first quarter. While Adidas would have raised its revenue guidance “in a

normal world” the uncertainty around trade negotiations and final tariff rates prevented it from making “any ‘final’ decisions on what to do,” said CEO Bjorn Gulden. He was clear that the company will compensate for US uncertainty by boosting business elsewhere, while trying to provide products in the US “at the best possible price”. To be sure, the sportswear brand has already slashed exports of China-made products to the US.

Swedish appliance maker Electrolux warned that US tariffs are likely to prompt consumers to shift to lower price points and cut back on discretionary spending. The company adjusted its North America market outlook for full year FY25 to ‘Neutral to Negative’ from negative in 2024, said CEO Yannick Fierling. The company plans to raise prices to compensate for tariff hikes, according to its interim Q1 earnings report. The impending

uncertainty was underlined by Fierling in an interview with Reuters where he said: “For us producers, it is extremely difficult to anticipate where tariffs will be landing.”

While the company largely manufactures for North America within the continent, it plans to diversify some component supply lines from China to other Asian countries, besides Turkey.

Energy major BP reported a 4 per cent decline in Q1 FY25 net profit to \$1.4 billion citing weaker refining and trading in gas. BP CEO Murray Auchincloss warned that lower crude prices may reflect across its capital plans, Reuters reported. BP has pegged the additional capital that it may require if crude price shifts by up to \$10 per barrel, at \$2.5 billion, Auchincloss said. He acknowledged expectations of a decline in global demand for oil and gas owing to global uncertainty.





## EDITORIAL

## Regulating school fee

AFFORDABLE and quality education for all — that's a key goal of the National Education Policy, 2020. A big roadblock on this ambitious path is the economic exploitation of parents by many private schools that are solely or primarily driven by the profit motive. The lack of adequate checks and balances has fuelled rampant commercialisation in the education sector. In a welcome move, the Delhi Cabinet has approved a Bill to regulate fee in all schools in the national capital, prescribing fines up to Rs 10 lakh for any hike without proper approval. The Bill, likely to be tabled in the Assembly soon, proposes the formation of committees at the school, district and state levels. These panels will examine fee hike proposals by school managements in a transparent and time-bound manner. The objective is to protect hapless parents from arbitrary decisions that reek of sheer extortion — a take-it-or-leave-it scenario in which the school authorities hold all the aces.

Several states, including Gujarat, Rajasthan and Tamil Nadu, have their own legislation to regulate the fee structure of schools. However, state governments have repeatedly found themselves embroiled in court battles over this matter. In 2021, the Supreme Court upheld the constitutional validity of the Rajasthan Schools (Regulation of Fees) Act, 2016, confirming the state's right to prevent profiteering in education. Recent protests by aggrieved parents have prompted the BJP government in Delhi to come up with a regulatory Bill. The legislation has tried to incorporate clear-cut enforcement provisions so as to minimise disputes between educational institutions and governments. Private schools often justify fee hike on the grounds of providing better facilities to students and higher salaries to teachers. However, most of them are reluctant to disclose details of income and expenditure. Such opacity leaves parents ill-informed and makes them more vulnerable to being milked dry. It is hoped that robust legal safeguards will deter schools from treating education as a cash cow.

## No proxies, please

THE cancellation of Gurugram Municipal Corporation Mayor Raj Rani Malhotra's husband's appointment as her 'advisor' has cast fresh light on an old malaise: the persistence of patriarchal influence in women's political representation. The backlash to Tilak Raj Malhotra's appointment serves as a rare institutional pushback against the notorious 'sarpanch pati' culture — where elected women are relegated to ceremonial roles while their husbands wield real power. This proxy culture is not new. Despite the constitutional promise of empowerment through the 73rd Amendment and reservation of seats for women in panchayati raj institutions, the reality in many parts of India, especially in patriarchal belts like Haryana, is far from transformative. Women, though elected, are often treated as stand-ins for their male relatives — an arrangement both tolerated and, until recently, institutionally accepted. Yet, a glimmer of hope shines through in the same state where this controversy erupted. Last week, Haryana witnessed the formation of its first Girls' Panchayat in Fatehabad's Barseen village, led by 21-year-old Astuti Kamboj. The symbolic body comprising girls aged 11-21 aims to foster leadership and civic awareness among young girls, preparing them for meaningful political participation, to be real leaders rather than placeholders. The contrast is striking: on one hand, entrenched patriarchy tries to assert itself in the power corridors of an urban municipal corporation; on the other, rural girls are being trained to claim their space in the political process. The system must widely shun symbolic representation through familial proxies and encourage genuine participation by women and girls. The cancellation of the Gurugram appointment must not be treated as a one-off. It should set a precedent against male backseat drivers in governance. Empowerment means letting women lead, not just hold office.

## Pahalgam terror attack EU urges India Pakistan to show restraint

New Delhi (Agency): The European Union (EU) on Friday called on New Delhi and Islamabad to show "restraint" and pursue dialogue to defuse tensions amid speculation about India's possible retaliation against Pakistan in view of the cross-border linkages to the Pahalgam terror attack.

Following separate phone conversations with External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and Pakistan's Deputy Prime Minister Ishaq Dar, EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs Kaja Kallas said the rising tensions between the two neighbouring countries are "alarming" and the escalation of the situation helps "no one".

"Rising tensions between India and Pakistan are alarming. I urge both sides to show restraint and pursue dialogue to ease the situation. Escalation helps no one," she said in a post on X.

"I spoke to both @DrSJaishankar and @MishaqDar50 today to convey these messages," she added.

On his part, Jaishankar welcomed the EU's "strong condemnation" of terrorism in all forms and manifestations.

"Good to speak with EU HRVP @kajakallas this evening. Discussed the Pahalgam terror-

ist attack. Welcome European Union's strong condemnation of terrorism in all forms and manifestations," Jaishankar said in a post on X.

The EU's call for restraint to India and Pakistan came two days after US Secretary of State Marco Rubio urged the two countries to work together to de-escalate tensions over the Pahalgam terror attack.

Rubio spoke to Pakistan's Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Jaishankar on Wednesday amid escalating tensions between the two neighbouring countries over the April 22 Pahalgam strike, in which 26 people, mostly tourists, were killed.

Citing "cross-border linkages" to the horrific attack, India has promised severe punishment to those involved in it.

At a high-level meeting with the top defence brass, Prime Minister Narendra Modi asserted on Tuesday that the armed forces have "complete operational freedom" to decide on the mode, targets and timing of India's response to the terror attack, according to government sources.

The prime minister affirmed that it is a national resolve to deal a crushing blow to terrorism, the sources said after the meeting.

## China's Ambassador to India writes: Stand up to Washington's bullying

Ramvilas Sharma

**The tariff and trade war has once again placed the world at a crossroads. At this pivotal historical juncture, let us jointly uphold multilateralism, safeguard the international rules-based order as well as the development rights and interests of the Global South, and inject much-needed stability into a turbulent world.**



THE "Liberation Day" of the United States of America ignited a war without gunpowder — a trade and tariff war that has caused not only a crash in domestic stocks, bonds, and currency markets but also wiped out vast amounts of global wealth. China has firmly said "no" to the US's tariff bullying, drawing international attention. I would like to share some perspectives on why China has taken this approach. The US abuse of tariffs, under the guise of "reciprocity and fairness", violates WTO rules, severely undermines the rules-based multilateral trading system, and disrupts the global economic order. All countries, regardless of their size, are equal. The US abuse of tariffs is a typical act of unilateralism, protectionism and economic bullying. Its essence is to deprive the vast majority of developing countries of their rights to development and progress, keeping them permanently at the lower end of the global supply chain in labour-intensive and low-value-added industries, and serving as the workforce of developed economies.

Certain countries, unwilling to engage in direct confrontation with the US, opt for concessions in an attempt to appease it and secure preferential treatment. Facts have proved that making unilateral concessions on economic and trade issues is like "bargaining with a tiger

for its skin", which will only embolden the US to escalate its demands. The sobering lessons of the devaluation of the US dollar, the collapse of the Bretton Woods system, and the Plaza Accord should not be ignored. If the world tolerates America's arbitrary tariff abuses, we risk plunging back into the Great Depression, or even a regression to a lawless jungle where "might makes right". Against the backdrop of millennia-long human civilisation, America's two-century existence is a blink of an eye. History marches onward, undeterred by the will of any one nation. The US is merely one country. It does not represent the whole world. Its share of the global GDP, once peaking at roughly 50 per cent, has since dwindled to about 26 per cent. Its foreign trade only accounts for 13 per cent of global trade volume, while the remaining 87 per cent is conducted among over 190 other countries. These nations possess vast potential for cooperation and are fully capable of driving stable growth in the global economy. Moreover, the international economic order is not America's "one-man show". Major regional trade pacts like the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP), Digital Economy Partnership Agreement (DEPA), and Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP) have all emerged as

benchmarks for regional economic cooperation — without the US's participation. The Financial Times has rightly pointed out that if the US positions itself against the vast majority of countries that uphold free trade and support the multilateral trading system, the ultimate outcome will not be "economic deglobalisation", but rather, "de-Americanisation of the world". Since the dawn of the 21st century, the rise of developing countries has been the most striking feature of the evolving international landscape. Take BRICS as an example: Its member states now account for nearly half of the global population and one-fifth of world trade. Their contribution to global economic growth exceeds 50 per cent, approximately double that of the G7. In terms of purchasing power parity, the total economic output of BRICS has already surpassed that of the G7.

China's development is a result of self-reliance and hard work, not favours from others. China does not flinch from any unjust suppression. China's resolute countermeasures against the US tariff bullying are not only to safeguard its own legitimate rights and interests but also to uphold the free trade system and protect the shared interests of the international community. It was precisely because China took the lead in standing up to it that the US was forced to announce a 90-day pause for other countries. Now, the ball is in America's court. China's position is clear: There are no winners in a tariff war or a trade war. If a negotiated solution is truly what the US wants, it should seek dialogue based on equality, respect and mutual benefit.

## Bandung Spirit merits a revival

Its principles remain valid as norms for inter-state ties and for creating a more democratic world order

Ramvilas Sharma

APRIL 24 marked the 70th anniversary of the Afro-Asian Conference organised in the Indonesian city of Bandung in 1955. The conference was a landmark event in contemporary political history. It registered powerfully the rising tide of anti-imperialism and anti-colonialism, led by the first wave of newly independent countries of Asia and Africa.

These were led by a generation of visionary leaders, who demanded the right of their countries to determine their own national destinies in a more democratic world order and to pursue development along pathways best suited to the genius of their own people. There was an overarching sense of solidarity among them, despite differences over many issues.

Most of all they were deeply concerned about the East-West ideological and military divide and the threat of annihilation inherent in the possession of nuclear weapons in the hands of a small minority of powerful nations. The well-known 10 Bandung principles, which elaborated the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence, jointly declared by India and China in 1954, became the norms for inter-state relations and peaceful coexistence in a divided world.

The historical context in which the Bandung conference was convened must be understood. It was book-ended by one past and one future event and was integrally linked to them. The precursor was the Asian Relations Conference of 1947, convened by India under its first

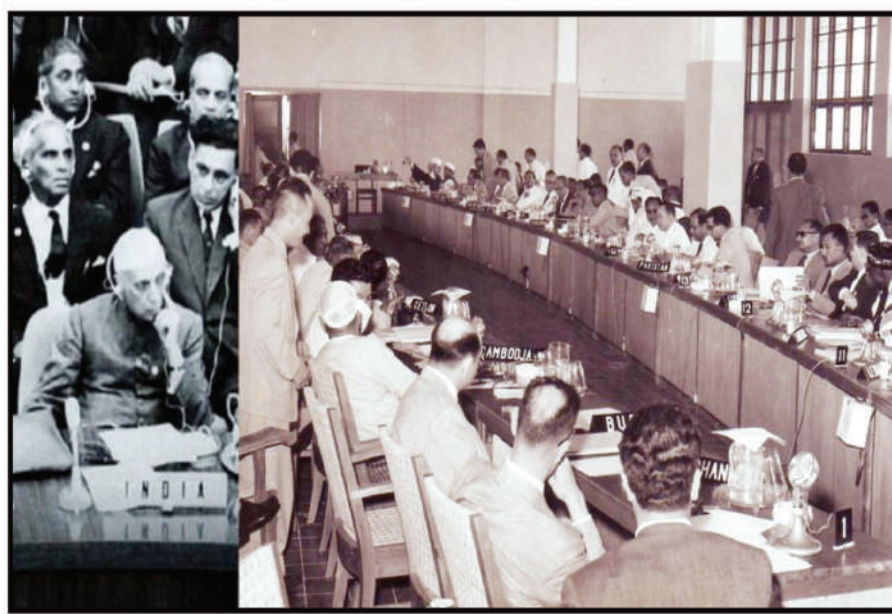
Prime Minister, Jawaharlal Nehru. Although that conference was restricted to Asian countries, it was the first expression of affinity and shared interests among the newly emerging Asian nations and a rejection of Western dominance. Nehru made a powerful statement at the conference, underlining the independent role of post-colonial countries of Asia, but which applied equally to sister-countries of Africa:

"For too long we, of Asia, have been petitioners in Western courts and chancelleries. That story must belong to the past. We propose to stand on our own feet and cooperate with all others who are prepared to cooperate with us. We do not intend to be playthings of others."

It is this sentiment that developed and crystallised into the initiative to convene the Bandung conference and led, logically and inevitably, to the global Non-Aligned Movement (NAM), established in 1961, with Nasser (Egypt), Tito (Yugoslavia), Nkrumah (Ghana) and Nehru being its chief architects. Bandung is the critical pivot point in this unfolding saga, which played such an influential role during the Cold War years.

As the world once again begins to fracture along political, ideological and economic faultlines, is there a possibility of the revival of the Bandung Spirit in an emerging coalition of the Global South?

The notion of a Global South implies that there is a Global



North. When the G20 took shape in the aftermath of the global financial and economic crisis (GFC) of 2007-08, this suggested that the advanced countries of the North could no longer monopolise the governance of the global economy. New influential actors in the developing

world now exercised greater agency than before. There was now a more plurilateral global financial and economic system, even if the influence of the West remained significant.

Just as the end of the Cold War in the 1990s led to the blurring of the East-West divide, so did the aftermath of the GFC lead to a blurring of the North-South divide between developed and developing countries. Coalition of interests rather than rigid alliances became the norm. This was also the fallout from an increasingly globalised economy

driven by rapid technological advance. The world seemed to be moving towards a borderless future and "becoming flat", as described by journalist Thomas Friedman.

It is the unravelling of these converging trends that has led to a resurgence of a polarised

and contested world, weakened the institutions of global governance and revived the fears of a destructive war. This resembles the Cold War years in that there are two leading powers contending for hegemony, forcing other countries to choose sides. And like in the Cold War, most developing nations do not wish to make a choice and in that sense, wish to be "non-aligned".

This is a shared sentiment that could justify the Global South moniker but not strong

## SC did not overreach its powers in the Tamil Nadu case

ON April 8, the Supreme Court passed a judgment deeming the Tamil Nadu Governor's withholding of assent to several state assembly bills as "illegal". Thereafter, on April 17, the Court passed an interim order, recording the assurance of the Union government that it would not give effect to certain contentious provisions of the Waqf (Amendment) Act, 2025, at least for a week.

This prompted criticism from Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar, who likened the actions of the Court to a "super-parliament". He described Article 142 of the Constitution as a potent tool for the judiciary against democratic forces. In the same speech, Dhankhar has also criticised the basic structure doctrine for being an impermissible inroad into parliamentary sovereignty. These sentiments were echoed by Rajendra Arlekar, the Governor of Kerala and (in virulent language) by Nishikant Dubey, Member of Parliament from Godda, Jharkhand.

These assertions are contrary to the intent of the framers of the Constitution, to its very text, and several judgments of the Supreme Court. These indicate that in matters related to the interpretation of the Constitution, the Supreme Court has the final word. Further, while the Court has on occasion overstepped its domain, allegations of judicial overreach cannot be made in either of the two cases referred to.

It was clear to the Constituent Assembly that the courts would be entrusted with the power to strike down primary legislation. Members such as Chimanlal Shah argued that this power was inherent in constitutions with a chapter of rights. In a speech supporting Ambedkar's resolution for the adoption of the Constitution, Alladi Krishnaswami Ayyar stated, "The limitation on the different organs of the state can be preserved in no other way than through the medium of courts." He went on to call the Supreme Court "the ultimate arbiter in all matters involving the interpretation of the Constitution".

Nehru was of the view that the judiciary could not stand in judgment over the sovereign will of the Parliament, but would concede that the authority of Parliament was subject to "scrutiny of the superior courts in case of some grave error, in case of contravention of the Constitution or the like." The power to review and strike down legislation is manifest from a reading of several constitutional provisions. Article 13(2) proscribes the state from making "any law which takes away or abridges fundamental rights". Article 245(1) allows the Parliament and state legislature to enact laws "subject to the provisions of this Constitution". Further, Article 32 guarantees a right to move the Supreme Court for the enforcement of fundamental rights.

Shortly after the Constitution came into force, the Patna High Court (in June 1950) struck down as unconstitutional a law that allowed the government to take over estates of the zamindars without compensation.

Following this and other early decisions, an exasperated Nehru wrote to the chief ministers stating, "It is impossible to hang up urgent social changes because the Constitution comes in the way... We shall have to find a remedy, even though this might involve a change in the Constitution". A series of constitutional amendments followed.

The First Amendment put land-reform statutes beyond the scope of judicial review. While debating the amendment in Parliament, Nehru refrained from a frontal attack on the judiciary, saying instead that the Constitution had been "kidnapped and purloined by the lawyers".

In the initial years, the courts upheld the Parliament's power to amend the Constitution, including the chapter on rights. The position changed with the judgment in Golaknath, wherein it was held that Parliament could not abridge fundamental rights. The basic structure doctrine was introduced in Kesavananda Bharati, which incidentally was delivered 52 years ago on April 24.

ment today and a similar space free of great power contestation.

The uncommitted nations of today deploy greater economic and military capabilities than they did in the Cold War years. They have greater agency and capacity to take relatively independent decisions. Any coalition of such substantial powers would have greater impact than during the Cold War.

There is talk about the revival of spheres of influence. This alone should be enough to mobilise a 21-century version of the Bandung Spirit that rejected the very notion of spheres of influence.

One may have to rethink the category known as the West. Since the onset of Trump 2.0, the very notion of a 'West', comprising the developed nations of the trans-Atlantic, may have become moot. Which direction will Europe gravitate towards? Would it evolve into a latter-day but more powerful Yugoslavia with non-aligned instincts?

Nehru saw the pursuit of a non-aligned foreign policy aligned with the rationale for a NAM. His genius lay in using each to reinforce the other. The world has changed and so has India, but there are parallels with the international situation as it prevailed in the early Cold War years and as it is developing today. There is space for statesmanship and for leading another peace movement in the world today. PM Modi has declared that ours is no longer an era of war. India has the opportunity to play a critical role at this inflection point.



beneficiaries of 08 ration cards by the District Magistrate. Similarly, 02 out of 74 applications received in the entire resolution day organized under the chairmanship of ADM Shiv Pratap Shukla in Tehsil Chunar were disposed of on the spot and Additional in Tehsil Madihan 05 of 67 applications received under the chairmanship of ADM Satya Prakash Singh was disposed of on the spot. On this occasion, Deputy District Magistrate Lalganj Yugantar Tripathi, Chief Medical Officer Dr. C.L. Verma, District Development Officer Shравan Kumar Rai and other concerned officers were present in Tehsil Lalganj.



# Apoorva Mukhija, aka The Rebel Kid, wants her children to be proud of how she stood up for herself: ‘Mummy gundi thi’

*Apoorva Mukhija, aka The Rebel Kid, has lost faith in friends and humanity after the India's Got Latent controversy.*

Social media influencer Apoorva Mukhija, who is better known as The Rebel Kid online, has had a tumultuous 2025. After being targeted for her comments on India's Got Latent, she and her family received a torrent of hate on social media. Recently she announced her comeback on Instagram, and, in an interview, she talked about her decision to start afresh. In an appearance on the We Are Yuva YouTube channel, Apoorva talked about her online persona and the weight of being under scrutiny all the time. "I am tired, and it's been too long, but I can't give up. This is my life, so being tired doesn't mean that you decide to not do it one day, and you can still decide to do it really well."

She talked about her comeback and why she chooses to keep going even during such adverse times in her life, and she said, "I like to believe that there is an arc to every story, and mine will also have a happy ending. But no one is writing this arc. If I stop, then that's it. Nothing magical is going to happen and fix everything, and I love this life. I love creating content, and I love meeting people that resonate with my content, being in Bollywood parties and looking at those people and realising I used to look at these people on TV screens."

Talking about her life as a celebrity and all that it entails, Apoorva admitted, "There are downsides to this life as well, but I chose it, and I am living my dream. I always wanted the media to hound me for a comment, and now I am going to show that to my kids and say,

Tumhari mummy bhi gundi thi (your mother was a gangster)." Insecurities can creep up within the most successful and happy people as well, and the Nadaaniyan actor admitted that she too has dealt with similar problems. "I have always grown up with the feeling of not being enough and thinking that your parents want somebody better than you. Then you try to be that person; you study more and behave properly, and then you realise it is never enough."

She also talked about the backlash her



father faced during the controversy and how she almost started believing in the things people were saying about her on the internet. "Whenever people say that I inspired women or gave them a path, I just tell them to stop. Because I have started believing the stuff about me on the internet. People have texted my dad, 'lannat hai tumhari beti pe (shame on your daughter).' But I hope my daughter is like me, and I have done whatever I want with my life, and if I die tomorrow, I will have no regrets."

She added that she hopes that she can return to the internet, having left behind the anger she feels now, and can once again love the space. While this has been a tumultuous time for the young content creator, she has displayed grit and character in the face of turmoil and hate.

# Daisy praises Glen Powell, Paul Mescal and Sebastian Stan

Daisy Edgar-Jones, who praised her former co-stars Glen Powell, Paul Mescal and Sebastian Stan, said they were all very generous and supportive of her being 'listed first in the credits of their projects'.

Edgar-Jones and Mescal became overnight stars after they starred in the miniseries 'Normal People' (2020). She worked with Powell in the 2024 hit 'Twisters' and before that, shared screen space with Stan in 2022's 'Fresh'.

"I have worked with basically all of the internet's boyfriends," she joked in an interview with 'Elle' magazine.

She added, "I'm lucky

that every actor I've worked with has been incredibly supportive of me being the lead. Glen, Sebastian, Paul - experience of working with the three stars and said they aren't self-serving. "Glen was always like, 'What's Kate's journey in this? Let's find it.' Same with Sebastian - he was so completely invested in Noah's journey. Paul Mescal's like playing tennis with your best friend. I'm nervous to the point that it comes to working with someone who might not be so chill with it! Because there's so much ego that can exist in this industry," she said.

Edgar-Jones said she is now looking forward to working with Timothee Chalamet and Austin Butler. Her latest film is 'On Swift Horses', which will be released in theatres in the US on April 25.



# 'Avengers: Doomsday' begins production as Marvel unveils official cast

Marvel veterans Chris Hemsworth, Anthony Mackie, Sebastian Stan, Paul Rudd and Tom Hiddleston will be suiting up once again for the next 'Avengers' film, 'Marvel Studios' revealed.

The Hollywood banner on Wednesday evening announced that the new instalment, titled 'Avengers: Doomsday', has started production.

The five actors are reprising their fan-favourite characters of Thor, Captain America, Bucky Barnes, Ant-Man and Loki in the film. Robert Downey Jr, who kickstarted the 'Marvel Cinematic Universe' (MCU) with his 2008 'Iron Man' movie and played the titular superhero till the 2019 blockbuster 'Avengers: Endgame', has moved to the other side.

The Hollywood superstar will be appearing as supervillain Doctor Doom in the movie, which is directed by Anthony and Joe Russo.

The superhero roster



also includes Simu Liu, who played the title character in 2021's 'Shang Chi and the Legend of the Ten Rings', Letitia Wright, who took on the mantle of Black Panther from the late Chadwick Boseman and Winston Duke as M'Baku.

Tenoch Huerta Mejia, who played the aquatic antagonist Namor in 'Black Panther: Wakanda Forever' and Danny Ramirez, who debuted as Falcon in the studio's most recent film 'Captain America: Brave New World', are part of the lineup as well. But the biggest surprise was the return of

many stars of the 'X-Men' franchise. Cinema veterans Patrick Stewart and Ian McKellen will be appearing as Professor Charles Xavier and Magneto, along with actors James Marsden as Cyclops, Rebecca Romijn as Mystique, Alan Cumming as Nightcrawler and Kelsey Grammer as Beast.

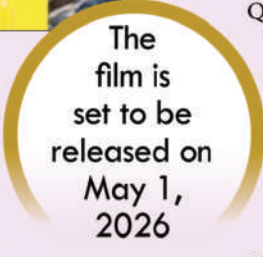
Channing Tatum, previously attached to a Gambit movie that never materialised,

will appear in 'Doomsday', following his debut in the 2024 blockbuster 'Deadpool & Wolverine'.

Members of the upcoming 'Fantastic Four' movie are also in the cast. Pedro Pascal will be suiting up as Mr. Fantastic, alongside, Vanessa Kirby's The Invisible Woman, Ebon Moss-Bachrach's The Thing and Joseph Quinn's The Human Torch.

The stars of another forthcoming 'Marvel' title 'Thunderbolts' are in the mix as well. Florence Pugh will feature as Yelena Belova, along with David Harbour as Red Guardian, Wyatt Russell as U.S. Agent, Hannah John-Kamen as Ghost and Lewis Pullman as the mysterious Bob.

'Avengers: Doomsday' is set to be released on May 1, 2026.



## SARA ALI KHAN ON FATHER SAIF'S STABBING INCIDENT

# 'Made me realise life can change overnight'

Bollywood star Sara Ali Khan said the knife attack on her father, Saif Ali Khan, could have gone 'so wrong' and the incident has made her realise the uncertainty of life.

Saif, 54, was attacked in the early hours of January 16 at his Bandra home in Mumbai. He was stabbed six times by the assailant, who was later arrested. The actor was immediately hospitalised and underwent spinal and plastic surgeries at the Lilavati Hospital. He was discharged on January 21.

Sara opened up about the incident during her appearance on 'NDTV Yuva' and said the whole family is feeling grateful. "It could have gone so wrong and I am so grateful that everything is fine. It was a reminder of almost all of our lives. We all talk about practicing mental health. Being grateful for your life is so important. And moments like



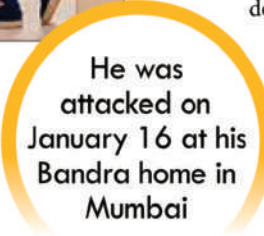
that make you realise it," she said.

Asked if the incident brought the family closer, Sara said she shares a close bond with her father. "It's about making you realise how transient the things that you chase

are. It didn't make me realise I love my father. I have known that for 29 years. It made me realise life can change overnight. So, every second of every day deserves a mindful celebration. It made me realise the importance of just being," she said.

Taking highs and lows in stride is another learning from the whole episode, Sara said. "It takes COVID to realise the importance of being at home with your family or it takes somebody being almost attacked for you to be like, 'Okay, life matters'. Life does matter. The small joys do matter. Celebrate every day that you are alive. That is what life is about," she added.

Sara was most recently seen in 'Sky Force', co-starring Akshay Kumar, Veer Pahlajani and Nimrat Kaur. She will next star in Anurag Basu's 'Metro... In Dino'.



He was attacked on January 16 at his Bandra home in Mumbai

# 'I never want to repeat myself'

*Adarsh will star in 'Tu Yaa Main'*

Adarsh Gourav, who is all set to play a quirky local influencer in 'Tu Yaa Main' alongside Shanaya Kapoor, said that he never wants to repeat himself as the joy of acting lies in the transformation.

Sharing his thoughts on his chameleon-like transformations, Adarsh said, "For me, acting is about complete immersion-physically, emotionally and mentally. I don't just play character. I become them. Every role demands a different version of



'For me, acting is about complete immersion: physically, emotionally and mentally,' he says

me and that's what excites me the most. Whether it's Dhruv in 'Rukh', Balram Halwai in 'The White Tiger' or Jugnu in 'Guns & Gulaabs', I have always aimed to bring authenticity to the screen. That means reshaping my physicality, altering my mannerisms and deeply understanding the psyche of the person I'm portraying."

Adarsh said he personally

invests time in crafting each character's look because appearances tell stories. "The way a person walks, dresses or even holds themselves can reveal so much about their life experiences. Playing Neil Pereira, a fitness trainer in 'Kho Gaye Hum Kahan', required me to build a physique that looked naturally athletic. At the same time, Nasir Shaikh in 'Suburbans of Malegaon' had to embody the hunger and passion of a struggling filmmaker. Now, for 'Tu Yaa Main', I'm stepping into the shoes of a small-town social media influencer-a role that demands an entirely different approach."

AGENCIES

# 'There's no scandal, no soap opera, no intrigue'

Opening up about his divorce from singer Jennifer Lopez, actor-director Ben Affleck said there was no drama around it.

Affleck and Lopez began dating in 2002 and even got engaged in the following year, but soon parted ways. They rekindled their romance in 2021 and tied the knot in 2022. But their marriage didn't last long as the duo headed for divorce in September last year. They were granted a divorce in February.

Affleck said his life is 'drama-free' despite the divorce. "My life is actually pretty drama-free. And

Actor Ben Affleck opened up about his divorce from singer and actress Jennifer Lopez

so even if I have the same events that people have. I'm sure in your mind you're thinking, 'Oh, well, you just got divorced'. That's not drama-free," he told 'GQ' in an interview.

"There's no scandal, no soap opera, no intrigue. The truth is, when you talk to somebody, 'Hey, what hap-

pened?' Well, there is no: 'This is what happened'. It's just a story about people trying to figure out their lives and relationships in ways that we all sort of normally do. For one thing, you start going, 'Okay, clearly this person has got these issues. Clearly, they have these issues'. And the reason I don't want to share that is just sort of embarrassing."





## Woxsen Sports Academy, SixS collaborate to launch India's first brain training lab for athletes

**HYDERABAD (Agency):** Woxsen University has taken a pioneering step in Indian sports development with the launch of the Woxsen Sports Academy in collaboration with SixS Sports & Business Solutions Pvt Ltd, unveiling the country's first-ever Brain Training Lab for athletes. The event brought together leading names from Indian sports and academia, setting a new benchmark in holistic athlete development.

At the heart of this revolutionary initiative is the Brain Training Lab, an innovation that combines neuroscience and cognitive training with traditional

sports performance enhancement. Designed to improve focus, reaction time, and decision-making abilities, the lab addresses the



critical mental aspects that define elite athletic performance. Further advancing this mission, the Woxsen Sports Academy has also introduced a state-of-

the-art Sports Science Centre featuring cutting-edge biomechanics technologies. This includes a Motion Capture System by Xsens

that records precise 3D human motion in real time, even in outdoor environments, ensuring accurate performance analysis. Smart Plantar

Pressure Sensor Insoles by Moticon allow for lab-level gait and foot pressure analysis directly within the athlete's shoe, removing the limitations of traditional lab settings.

Surface Electromyography (EMG) technology by Delsys measures muscle activation during both performance and rehabilitation, offering deep insights into muscle behavior under varied conditions. Together, these innovations mark a significant leap forward in athlete training, positioning Woxsen University at the forefront of sports science and performance development

## With help from painkillers, Casper Ruud beats Cerundolo to reach Madrid Open final against Draper

**MADRID (Agency):** With the help of painkillers, Casper Ruud overcame a rib ailment to defeat Francisco Cerundolo in straight sets and reach the Madrid Open final on Friday.

Ruud will face Jack Draper, who beat Lorenzo Musetti 6-3, 7-6 (4) in the other semifinal to make his third final of the year.

Ruud received treatment on his rib three games into the match and went on to win 6-4, 7-5 on the Caja Magica center court.

The 15th-ranked Norwegian saved 15 of the 18 break points he faced against the 21st-ranked Argentine.

Ruud said he felt something in his rib during the warmup, just before going out on the court. He said he "felt it in nearly every shot, especially the serve."

"I wasn't sure I was going to be able to finish the match, honestly," Ruud said. "I got a couple of painkillers, which is not the ideal thing, but at the same time in a situation like this, you have to do that now and

then. It was easing and getting better as the match went on."

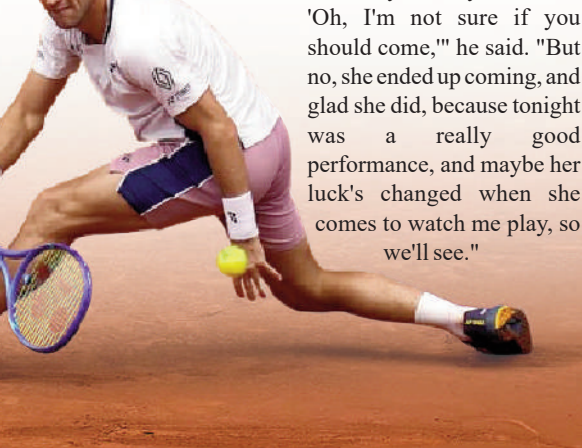
A former world No. 2, Ruud will return to the top 10 thanks to his campaign in Madrid. He could reach No. 6 in the rankings with a win in the final.

Ruud — a 12-time tour champion — would also become the first Norwegian to lift an ATP 1000 trophy since the series was introduced in 1990, according to the ATP.

Ruud had lost two matches in a row against Cerundolo, who knocked out top-seeded Alexander Zverev earlier. The sixth-ranked Draper improved his record against

11th-ranked Musetti to 4-0.

Draper won at Indian



## Unadkat attributes SRH's poor run to ineffective bowling, changing pitches

**AHMEDABAD (Agency):** Staring at an early exit, India pacer Jaydev Unadkat has opened up on Sunrisers Hyderabad's faltering IPL campaign, attributing their underwhelming performance to ineffective bowling and changing pitch conditions.

SRH are all but out of the playoff race after suffering a 38-run defeat against Gujarat Titans here on Friday. "From my experience of playing in the IPL, for a team to do well, there has to be at least three or four guys, in terms of your bowling, who have to contribute in every game. And probably this year I would say that we are lacking that when two guys are bowling well, the other three are probably not really bowling in tandem," Unadkat told reporters.

Opting to bowl first, SRH failed to contain the GT top order, who posted a challenging 224 for six. Unadkat managed to pick up three wickets in the final over of the innings.

"Like we look at partnerships in terms of batting, I think it's the same in bowling as well. Because when you are not bowling well from both the ends, it creates unnecessary pressure on the other guy. And then the plans also change. So we have to take the blame for not being the best bowling side in the



tournament," he said. "When you want to win games, you got to be the best. And we haven't been the best. I can't say that there is anything that we lack in terms of practicing and training and planning. It's just the execution out there on the field, which can go wrong at times."

SRH had reached the final last season riding on their ultra-aggressive batting approach. This year too, Pat Cummins and Co. began their campaign with a bang, posting a mammoth 286 for six against Rajasthan Royals. However, they lost momentum thereafter and now lie second from the bottom with just three wins and seven losses in 10 games. "Last year, we scored 200-plus in four or five matches, and that gave us a sense that we had set a standard. But that can't always be the norm. Other teams and batters are planning better now, and bowlers are also adapting and coming up with new strategies," Unadkat said.

Wells in March. After his quarterfinal victory in Madrid, he secured a top-five debut in the rankings.

"I felt like both of us, our quality didn't really drop from the first ball," Draper said. "Credit to Lorenzo, he's obviously playing so good on the clay. I played him on hard, and on grass when we were juniors, growing up with him. But on clay, he's a different beast, so to get this win on this court in this stage, semifinals, it means so much to me."

Draper, who hasn't lost a set on his way to the final, said this time his mom brought him some extra luck.

"Seems like every match she's come to I've been terrible. So I was thinking when she said she was going to come yesterday I was like, 'Oh, I'm not sure if you should come,'" he said. "But no, she ended up coming, and glad she did, because tonight was a really good performance, and maybe her luck's changed when she comes to watch me play, so we'll see."

## Paris FC returns to Ligue 1 after 46 years



**New Delhi (Agency):** The fans of Paris FC were overjoyed at the final whistle of the draw of his club Paris FC against Martigues (1-1) on 2nd May.

It was a wait of 46 years that ended for the Paris FC as they will return to the French top flight next season after they secured the promotion. The result guaranteed them a top two finish in Ligue 2, with leaders Lorient also having secured promotion. Paris FC will join champions Paris St Germain in Ligue 1, the first time in 35 years that two clubs from the French capital will compete in the top flight in the same season. Club President Pierre Ferracci was seen celebrating wildly as his wait of 13 years ended with aplomb. In 2012, he took over as president of Paris FC (PFC), which was languishing in the third tier of French football, with the dream of bringing it back to Ligue 1. Paris FC was founded in 1969 and has spent only three seasons in the top flight of French football, the last time being in 1978-1979. This season, they experienced two historic events: the promotion to Ligue 1 and the purchase of the club by the Arnault family, who became the majority shareholders and will take full control at the end of the 2026-2027 season.

## Kolkata Knight Riders eye must-win at Eden as Rajasthan Royals aim to spoil party

**KOLKATA (Agency):** Riding high on their new-found confidence, defending champions Kolkata Knight Riders will look to finally get it right at home and keep their playoff hopes alive when they take on a struggling Rajasthan Royals in their IPL match here on Sunday.

With four league matches remaining, KKR's equation is straightforward -- win all four and reach 17 points, a total that should secure a spot in the top-four without relying on the other results. The challenge, though simple on paper, is steep in reality. The final leg of their campaign includes two home matches -- against Rajasthan Royals on Sunday and Chennai Super Kings on Wednesday -- followed by two away fixtures, against Sunrisers Hyderabad on May 10 and an in-form Royal Challengers Bengaluru (May 17). While SRH have lost steam, RCB are charging up the table, making that final clash in Bengaluru potentially a high-stakes encounter. But that's still far away.

For now, the Knights must stay focused on what's immediately in front -- the two back-to-back games at Eden Gardens, starting with the Royals. Interestingly, both RR and CSK are among the most inconsistent sides

this season and were the first to be eliminated. CSK became the first team to crash out of the playoff race, and RR followed soon after,



officially eliminated following their 100-run loss to Mumbai Indians in Jaipur on Thursday. That, however, makes them dangerous opponents. With nothing to lose, both CSK and RR can spoil KKR's party. But KKR's bigger worry is their poor run at home. Eden Gardens, which once used to be their fortress, has yielded just one win from five matches this season -- the latest a rain-affected washout against Punjab Kings. Their spinners have struggled to adjust to the grip and variable bounce, something the rival teams have exploited far more effectively.

Batting, too, has been underwhelming which has been a far cry from the explosive unit that powered them to the title in 2024.

**CHENNAI (Agency):** Indian shooting has come a long way in the last decade or so. Chain Singh is one of the rare shooters to have had a unique involvement during this evolution. In a rapidly-growing market that has constantly generated high-yielding stocks, Chain has been that stock that has weathered unfavourable circumstances over the years to stay relevant. The mild-mannered man from the Army is one of the experienced faces in the national shooting team brimming with hot stocks and potentials. And having captured his first individual World Cup medal recently, the 36-year-old from Chanser (Doda district of Jammu & Kashmir) is now aiming to go higher.

In a tense final of the men's 50m rifle 3 positions event in

the season-opener in Buenos Aires, Chain had done just about enough to edge junior counterpart Aishwary Pratap

(Buenos Aires) were quite tough. In India, we get somewhat similar kinds of challenges during June, July.



Singh for the final spot in the podium. That was also the country's first medal of the season. Chain and many other Indians were training their guns at the Tiro Federal Argentino de Buenos Aires range for the first time. "The conditions at the range

It gets windy. So we have faced those kinds of challenges in the past as well. But if you look overall, it was quite tough," Chain recollected. His wide grasp of the sport helped him navigate the challenge then. The rifle shooter also credited foreign

## Kevin De Bruyne not finished yet as he gives Manchester City crucial win over Wolves

**MANCHESTER (Agency):** Kevin De Bruyne scored and gave Manchester City a crucial but barely deserved 1-0 win over Wolverhampton Wanderers and a lift into third place in the Premier League on Friday.

The Belgian is leaving City at the end of the season and still providing good memories thanks to his goal against a team that won its last six league encounters.

With three games left, City was a firm favourite to take one of the Champions League places.

Slightly against the run of play, De Bruyne side-footed home a cut back from Jeremy Doku 10 minutes before halftime in his second-to-last appearance at Etihad Stadium.

Wolves will be aggrieved at not taking something from the game but were undone by poor finishing and the City goalposts. In the 22nd, Jean-Ricner Bellegarde opted to pass when it looked easier to shoot but Marshall Munetsi at full stretch could not get on the end of his inviting cross.

Five minutes later, Rayan Ait-Nouri hit the post then saw his rebound cleared off the line by Josko Gvardiol.

The woodwork saved City again in the second half when a Matheus Cunha strike crashed off the post.

City coach Pep Guardiola, meanwhile, scotched rumors he's about to leave the club. He recently signed a contract extension until June 2027.



## Meet Kimi Antonelli, the youngest to take Formula 1 pole



**New Delhi (Agency):** In a breakthrough that will be etched in Formula 1 history, Mercedes rookie Kimi Antonelli became the youngest driver ever to clinch pole position, doing so with breathtaking composure in the sprint qualifying session of the Miami Grand Prix.

At just 18 years and 4 months old, Antonelli delivered a lap of supreme control and speed to edge out McLaren's championship leader Oscar Piastri by a razor-thin 0.045 seconds. Lando Norris followed closely in third, while Red Bull's Max Verstappen was just 0.055s off Norris' time.

Antonelli's Mercedes teammate George Russell could only manage fifth, over three-tenths of a second adrift. This marked the first time Antonelli outqualified Russell, a statement performance that hints at why Mercedes entrusted the Italian teenager to succeed the legendary Lewis Hamilton. "I am over the moon," Antonelli said, beaming after the session. "I did not expect it. I was feeling good in the car and could improve lap by lap. That consistency came together right at the end. We'll enjoy this moment but I'm focused on tomorrow. I want to repeat this." Born in Bologna in August 2006, Antonelli has been part of the Mercedes driver development program since 2019 and has climbed the junior racing ladder with precision and patience. He dominated the Italian and ADAC Formula 4 championships in 2022 before impressing in Formula Regional and skipping Formula 3 altogether, a rare but bold move backed by Mercedes' confidence in his raw talent.

Until Miami, Antonelli had adopted a cautious, methodical approach to his rookie season prioritising clean weekends over headline-grabbing performances. But under the sweltering Florida sun, he shed all restraint. From the moment practice began at the Hard Rock Stadium circuit, he looked sharp, assured, and fast. After stepping out of the car, the moment turned emotional as Antonelli shared a tight embrace with his father Marco, a former touring car driver and founder of the AKM Motorsport team where Kimi took some of his first competitive steps. "It was really nice to find him in the garage after qualifying," said Antonelli.



# Hailstorms and rains in many districts of the state including Bhopal, weather will remain changed for the next 3 days



**Bhopal (Agency):** Due to the cyclonic circulation and western disturbance being active in Madhya Pradesh, there is a constant change in the weather. On Saturday, there was rain with strong thunderstorms in many districts of the state. There was a dust storm in the capital Bhopal in the evening and light rain also occurred in many areas. At the same time, there was an effect of intense heat in many districts of the state. Narsinghpur was the hottest in the state, where the maximum temperature was recorded at 43.8 degrees. Similarly, the mercury reached 43.3 degrees in Ratlam as well. The

Meteorological Department has predicted that similar weather will remain for the next three days. **Know why the weather of the state changed** Senior scientist of the Meteorological Department, Dr. Divya E. Surendran said, due to the cyclonic circulation and western disturbance being active, hailstorms and rains are

continuing in Madhya Pradesh. Similar weather will remain for the next few days. Rain alert has been issued in 40 districts on Saturday. Along with this, heat will affect Indore, Ujjain, Sehore, Dewas, Harda, Betul, Burhanpur, Kargone, Barwani, Dhar, Khandwa, Alirajpur, Jhabua, Ratlam and Barwani.

Cities with maximum temperature in the state		
City	Maximum	Temperature
Narsinghpur		43.8
Ratlam		43.3
Kargone		42.6
Khandwa		42.1
Dhar		41.8

## BRIEF NEWS Centre, Delhi & local bodies working as one team, true strength of a triple-engine govt: CM

**Delhi (Agency):** In a bid to enhance the last-mile connectivity in the city, the Delhi government on Friday flagged off 400 electric buses under the Delhi Vehicle Interconnector (DEVI) scheme. “The Central government, the Delhi government, and local bodies are working as one team — this is the true strength of a ‘triple-engine’ government. We are united in our commitment to transform an unorganised Delhi into a better city. Today is a proud moment for all of us as we launch 400 new DEVI electric buses on Delhi’s streets,” said Chief Minister Rekha Gupta as she inaugurated the buses at an event held in Kushak Nallah Depot in Seva Nagar in New Delhi. She added that DEVI buses are a major step towards addressing the challenge of last-mile connectivity in the Capital. The event was attended by Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan, Union Minister of State for Road Transport Harsh Malhotra, Delhi ministers Pravesh Sahib Singh, Ashish Sood, Manjinder Singh Sirsa, and Dr Pankaj Kumar Singh, among others. The city will get 2,080 e-buses by the end of this year, the CM asserted. Underlining that 45% of pollution is caused by vehicular emissions, Gupta said, “The solution cannot only rely on public transport, but private vehicles must also be converted into electric vehicles. To encourage this shift, the Delhi government will soon introduce a new EV policy with attractive rebates and incentives for private vehicle owners.” Last year, the previous Aam Aadmi Party government had launched a trial for Mohalla buses to ensure better connectivity. The BJP, however, after coming to power in February, renamed the Mohalla Bus Service as DEVI buses. “Delhi has always been blessed with the divine grace of Maa Durga. Despite many disasters and challenges, this city has always stood resilient and continued to grow. It is in the honour of this spirit of faith and strength that we have named these new electric buses DEVI,” said the CM.

## International vehicle theft racket busted in Delhi, eight arrested

**Delhi (Agency):** Last August, when Delhi Police personnel arrested 40-year-old Taj Mohammad, a man with over 70 cases against him, they expected to solve a chain of car thefts orchestrated by him in India. But what they learnt was that the brains behind the operation was not him, but a Dubai-based controller, Amit Pasha. On February 26, the Crime Branch arrested seven members of the Pasha’s car theft gang, including car sellers and technicians. A Look-Out Circular has been issued against Pasha, said police. Taj’s interrogation led to the arrest of seven others, including Imran Khan alias Guddu (25), a technical expert skilled in bypassing ECM (engine control module) codes; Kunal Jaiswal (24) from Mumbai, a major receiver of stolen vehicles, and Akbar (40), a financier and distributor linked to buyers in northeast India. The other arrested persons are Mateen Khan (24), Nagender Singh (46), Manish Arya (48) and Nadeem (38). The first man to be arrested was Imran, a resident of Seelampur, who used to “decode” high-end vehicles for the gang. “Imran played a critical role in enabling the syndicate’s seamless theft operations,” DCP (Crime) Apoorva Gupta said on Friday. The stolen vehicles were then given to a middle man, UP resident Mateen Khan, who would supply the vehicles to “sellers” in multiple cities across India. “He supplied these cars to sellers such as Kunal Jaiswal and others in cities like Vadodara, Hyderabad, and Mumbai. . . Kunal facilitated the resale of stolen cars in major cities such as Mumbai, Pune, and Nasik.

## Sahil was running prostitution under the guise of a dance class, the club owner suspects have connections with politicians

**Bhopal (Agency):** The dance class of Sahil, the second main character of the gang that raped, blackmailed and did love jihad with the girl students of a private college in Bhopal, was also a den of debauchery. A video has also been found in Sahil's secret folder, which was made in the changing room of Sahil's dance class. In this video, drunk girls are dancing with the boys of this gang and some other boys. During the dance, the boys were touching the bodies of the girls at will. Sahil and another boy were touching the private parts of the girls on the pretext of teaching them dance steps. After this video came out, the police suspect that obscene acts were also done in the dance class at night. Sahil used to

make many girls of the dance class do prostitution on the pretext of sending them to dance at farm houses and parties of rich people for money. However, the police believe that the girls used to go with the young men willingly for Rs. 1,000 to 2,000 to fulfil their needs. The police is waiting for the girls to register a case in this regard. If any girl files a case in this regard, then the direction of investigation will be from the angle of love jihad, blackmailing and prostitution. The photo of Club-90 operator Meharbhan Gurjar with a Congress leader is going viral on social media. Gurjar and his close aides are also in touch with BJP leaders. It is being said that during the one and a quarter year

government of Kamal Nath, Meharbhan Gurjar was given the municipal corporation's land to run the Club-90 restaurant. Meanwhile, another information has come to light that the people associated with the place near Club 90 where Hindu girls were humiliated are suspected of funding. That person also funds a big leader of the state and the leader works to save him in criminal cases. Sahil is on police remand and is being continuously interrogated. The main accused of the gang, Farhan, and Bihar resident Nabeel are also on police remand. The sixth accused of this gang, Abrar, is absconding, while the seventh accused, Hamid, committed suicide in December 2024. Police

investigation has revealed that the role of all the six seven main accused of this gang was fixed. Someone used to trap the girls in the name of friendship, someone used to take them to his room in the name of friendship and then make them addicted to smoking cigarettes. The girl who smoked cigarettes was given marijuana to drink. After this, after raping them in intoxication and making a video, they were fed meat and threatened to leave Hindu attire and live in the environment of a particular class and behave like them, otherwise the video of the rape would be made viral. The girls who were victims of Farhan's brutality have also given information about this gang. Farhan is currently on police remand, but while

escaping from police custody, he was shot in the leg and is admitted in Hamidia Hospital. On Saturday evening also, the officers reached Hamidia Hospital and questioned Farhan. According to police sources, Sahil was running a dance class for the last two years. He used to lure the girls coming there into prostitution by offering them money or by blackmailing them. He also used to send these girls to parties held in farm houses around the city. Let us tell you that Ashoka Garden police was going to Bilkisganj in Sehore district with Farhan in search of the absconding accused Abrar of the gang. Farhan was taken on remand by Ashoka Garden police on Friday itself. Farhan told the police

that Abrar is hiding in Bilkisganj. The police was going to Bilkisganj with Farhan from Ashoka Garden police station with security force at 11:30 pm. As soon as they left Ratibad police station, Farhan stopped the car to urinate in Sarwar village. Two policemen including the sub-inspector got down for his safety. Meanwhile, accused Farhan tried to escape by snatching the pistol of the sub-inspector. During the scuffle between the two, a bullet was fired from the sub-inspector's pistol which hit Farhan's leg. The accused could not escape, the police caught him. Farhan has been admitted to Hamidia Hospital, where his condition is out of danger.

## Out of 642 faculty members at IIT Delhi, 20 are from Scheduled Caste, 8 belong to Scheduled Tribe

**Delhi (Agency):** Only 3.1% (20) of the 642 faculty members at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Delhi belong to the Scheduled Caste (SC) category, and just 1.2% (8) are from the Scheduled Tribe (ST) category — a shortfall of 76 SC and 40 ST faculty members, or 11.9% and 6.3% respectively. As per the Central government’s reservation norms, institutions like IITs are required to maintain 15% reservation for the SC category and 7.5% for the ST category. The data for SC/ST representation across the institute, including teaching staff, students and non-teaching staff, was furnished to the Parliamentary Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes last month ahead of a review visit on April 11 by the panel’s members, it has been learnt. In their memoranda submitted to the panel,

representatives of students and teachers flagged concerns related to research pushback and placement concerns, among others. The data, which gave an

SC category, and from 3.54% to 4.31% for ST candidates. In PhD programmes, the admission for SC students rose to 9.69% in 2024-25 from 8.88% in 2015-16, with



overview of student representation over a decade, revealed that the intake for the SC category for undergraduate programmes was around 13.85% in 2015-16. This went up to 14.92% in 2024-25. For the ST category, the institute saw a surge from 6.92% to 7.46% in the same period. In postgraduate programmes, the percentage went from 11.27% in 2015-16 to 13.11% in 2024-25 for the

ST student admissions surging to 3.28% in 2024-25 from 0.97% in 2015–16. The Parliamentary Committee’s visit was part of a broader review of the implementation of Constitutional safeguards for marginalised communities by premier institutes. An official memorandum issued by the Lok Sabha Secretariat on March 26 underlined that the Committee’s “on-the-spot

local study visit” would examine “implementation of reservation policy in student admissions, in faculty and non-faculty positions, along with other measures undertaken to safeguard the rights of SC/ST teachers/ad-hoc teachers/employees.” The Committee, chaired by MP Fagga Singh Khulaste, held interactions with faculty and students during its visit and met with the ST and SC faculty and student representatives to hear their grievances. Meanwhile, as per sources, IIT Delhi in its responses concerning the faculty representation, stated, “The institute undertakes all the necessary steps to ensure adequate representation from all the categories..” Institute specifically encourages applicants from the SC/ST /OBC/EWS category as well as persons with disability. On many occasions, few candidates are shortlisted from the ones who’ve applied, and even

## When a tenth class student broke the friendship, Aman sent her nude photo to her mother, case registered under POCSO Act



**Bhopal (Agency):** A young man befriended a minor girl living in Bhopal's Ashbagh police station area and asked for her nude photo. When the accused started pressuring the girl to have physical relations after molesting her, the victim distanced herself from him. When the victim did not receive the accused youth's call, the accused sent the victim's nude photo to her mother. After the mother received her daughter's nude photo, the ground slipped under her feet. After this,

the mother and daughter reached Jahangirabad police station and registered a case. According to the police, the accused Aman Yadav lives in Jahangirabad police station area and is an adult. Two days ago, when the accused pressured her to have physical relations, the victim did not agree. After this, the accused beat her up and sent her nude photo to her mother. The police have registered a case against Aman Yadav under molestation, POCSO and other sections and started searching for him.

### Had stopped talking on mother's advice

*Police sources said that when the mother saw the minor girl continuously talking on the phone, one day the mother dialed the same number on which the daughter used to talk. The person talking on the said number turned out to be a young man. After this, when the mother inquired, the daughter told that he is her friend. The mother scolded the daughter and told her not to talk to the said boy. After this, she could not talk. The accused young man was also angry for this reason. The police have started searching for the accused. At present, the accused is absconding. The police is also investigating the criminal record of the accused.*