



Anil D Ambani

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## LG, CM greet people on Eid-ul-Fitr

LG Manoj Sinha and Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today extended their heartiest greetings to the people on the occasion of Eid-ul-Fitr, which is being celebrated on Saturday. "On the auspicious occasion of Eid-ul-Fitr, I extend my heartiest greetings and good wishes to all," the LG said in his message. "The festival of Eid-ul-Fitr, which marks the culmination of the holy

## Panel to review AI use in ACB probes

The government has formed a Technical Appraisal Committee (TAC) to examine the proposed use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in investigative operations of the anti-corruption bureau (ACB). "Sanction is hereby accorded to the constitution of a TAC for the project 'Adoption of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in investigative operations in ACB,'" says an ACB order issued

## Woman missing for 11 yrs reunited with family

A woman missing for the past 11 years was reunited with her family by Surankote police in Poonch district of Jammu. Identified as Leelawati, the woman was said to be mentally unwell. She belongs to Dwaj in Uttar Pradesh and was separated from her family 11 years ago. After getting separated from family, she was living at Surankote in Poonch district. When Surankote police station SHO Abid Bukhari questioned her, she was able to provide only limited in

## Normal petrol, diesel prices remain unchanged

**NEW DELHI, MAR 20:** The price of premium or higher-grade petrol price on Friday was increased by Rs 2 per litre while the rate of bulk diesel sold to industrial users was hiked by about Rs 22 a litre, reflecting the spike in global oil prices amid conflict in the Middle-East. However, the price of normal petrol and diesel remains unchanged. Premium 95-Octane petrol price in Delhi has been increased from Rs 99.89 per litre to Rs 101.89 in the national capital, industry sources said.

## Rules notified for simplified Income Tax law

**NEW DELHI, MAR 20:** Central Board of Direct Taxes on Friday notified the rules for Income-tax Act, 2025 which provided enhanced tax benefit for HRA to salary earner but makes disclosure of landlord-tenant relationship mandatory. The Income-tax Rules, 2026 will operationalise the simplified direct tax legislation that was approved by Parliament last year and will come into effect from April 1. "These rules may be called the Income-tax Rules, 2026. They shall

# India slams Pakistan, calls it 'global epicentre of terror'

## Justifies decision to place IWT in abeyance

**UNITED NATIONS, MAR 20:** Justifying the decision to place Indus Water Treaty (IWT) in abeyance, India strongly condemned Pakistan, calling it a 'global epicentre of terror' and asserting that 'New Delhi's patience & goodwill were met with conflict & terror attacks'. Responding to Pakistan during a UN event on World Water Day, India's Permanent Representative to the UN, Harish Parvathaneni accused Islamabad of waging three wars and orchestrating thousands of terror attacks against it. India strongly countered Pakistan after it raised concerns over IWT, with Harish stating that the treaty would remain in abeyance until 'Pakistan ends its role as a hub of terrorism'. Calling out Islamabad's record, he said India's patience and goodwill were met with conflict and terror attacks. The statement marks a strong diplomatic push by New Delhi on the global stage. India also highlighted its achievements in water access, including massive rural supply programmes. As tensions rise, the message from India is firm - treaties cannot exist in isolation from ground

realities. Ending terror is the first step towards restoring trust and cooperation between the two nations. New Delhi's patience had run out after decades of cross-border terrorism. Harish said and added that the 1960 treaty could not be sustained in the face of continued hostility. "Pakistan violated this spirit of the treaty by inflicting three wars and thousands of terror attacks on India. Several innocent Indians became victims to Pakistan-sponsored terror attacks," he said. Calling Pakistan the "global epicentre of terror," he said responsibility in water-sharing arrangements "is a two-way street" and cannot be divorced from broader conduct between nations. India used the platform to highlight its domestic achievements in water governance, including the Jal Jeevan Mission, one of the world's largest rural drinking water programmes, with a strong focus on community participation and women-led management. However, the Indian envoy said that Pakistan had misused the international platform to raise bilateral issues, prompting a pointed rebuttal. He also said that IWT, signed over six decades ago, no longer reflected

present-day realities, citing technological advancements in dam infrastructure, growing clean energy needs, and climate as well as demographic changes. "All our efforts to discuss modifications to the treaty with Pakistan were rebuffed," he said, saying that the absence of dialogue further constrained the agreement's viability. Reiterating India's position as a "responsible upper riparian state," Harish said that such responsibility must be matched by Pakistan ending the use of terrorism as an instrument of state policy. "Pakistan must uphold the sanctity of human life before talking of upholding the sanctity of treaties," he said. Last year also, Harish had said at the UN that it was Pakistan that had continued to violate the 1960 treaty, highlighting several aspects to expose disinformation and explain why India had finally announced that the treaty would be in abeyance "until Pakistan, which is a global epicentre of terror, credibly & irrevocably ends its support for cross-border terrorism". "In the last four decades, over 20,000 Indian lives have been lost in terror attacks," he had said.

# UN calls for de-escalation, says Iran war risking to get out of control

**BRUSSELS, MAR 20:** United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has issued a stark warning to both the United States and Israel, urging an immediate end to hostilities in the Middle East that he says are spiralling out of control and causing immense civilian suffering. In a post on X, Guterres wrote, "I have two clear messages: First, to the United States & Israel: It's high time to end this war that is risking to get out of control, causing immense suffering on civilians, with dramatic effects on the global economy & potentially tragic consequences, especially for the least developed countries. Second, my message to Iran: Stop attacking your neighbours, they were never parties to the conflict. The Security Council has condemned these attacks, has ordered them to stop, as it has order to open the Strait of Hormuz. The prolonged closure of the Strait of Hormuz causes enormous pain for so many people around the world who have nothing to do with this conflict. It's time for the force of the law to prevail over the law of the force. It's time for diplomacy to prevail over war."

Guterres' comments came in response to the recent Iranian strikes targeting regional infrastructure, which have escalated tensions across the Middle East and raised concerns over global energy supplies. The Secretary-General's appeal reflects the growing alarm over the humanitarian and economic repercussions of the ongoing conflict. French President Emmanuel Macron also weighed in, emphasising the need for immediate de-escalation. Macron wrote on X, "It is time to open a path towards de-escalation in order to re

## West Asia crisis Jaishankar, Wong share assessments as hostilities enter 21st day

**NEW DELHI, MAR 20:** External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Friday held a high-level telephonic conversation with Australian Foreign Minister Penny Wong to deliberate on the deteriorating security situation in West Asia and review strategic developments in the Indo-Pacific. In a post on X, the EAM expressed satisfaction with the bilateral engagement, stating he was "very pleased to speak with my Australian counterpart Senator Wong."

The dialogue primarily focused on the regional crisis that has gripped the Middle East, during which the two leaders "shared our assessments of the ongoing West Asia conflict". The conversation comes as the hostilities enter their 21st day, following the outbreak of the conflict on February 28. India has been actively engaging with global partners to navigate the economic and security implications of the three-week-long confrontation. Beyond the immediate crisis in the Gulf, the ministers also looked towards broader maritime and security challenges, as the EAM noted that the two sides "also discussed Indo-Pacific issues." This diplomatic outreach follows a significant telephonic discussion held on Thursday, where Israeli Foreign Minister Gidon Saar emphasised Israel's appreciation for its "special strategic partnership" with India. During the call, Saar briefed the EAM on Is

**J&K to host Travel Mart on Apr 14-15** **JAMMU, MAR 20:** Tourism Department is all set to host Travel Mart in April this year to highlight the tourism potential of the

## 6 Indians killed, 1 missing amid West Asia conflict MEA coordinates repatriation

**NEW DELHI, MAR 20:** Six Indian nationals have lost their lives, and one remains missing in separate incidents across the Gulf region amid the ongoing West Asia conflict, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said on Friday, adding that Indian missions are coordinating with local authorities for assistance and repatriation. An Indian national was killed in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, on March 18, bringing the total number of Indian fatalities in the Gulf region to six. The circumstances

surrounding the death remain unclear. In a social media post, the Indian Embassy in Riyadh expressed its "deepest condolences on the tragic demise of an Indian national in Riyadh due to recent events on March 18th" and said it was in contact with the deceased's family and local authorities. "We remain committed to extending all possible assistance in this matter," the post added. Addressing an interministerial briefing, Aseem R Mahajan, Additional Secre-

## 'Without US, NATO paper tiger' Trump calls allies 'cowards' over lack of support in Iran conflict

**WASHINGTON, MAR 20:** President Donald Trump assailed NATO allies on Friday over their lack of support for the US-Israel war against Iran, calling the longtime US allies "cowards." "Without the USA, NATO is a paper tiger!" he said in a social media post. Trump has been calling for major US allies and others, none of which were consulted or advised on the war, to help secure the safety of shipping through the Iran-controlled Strait



of Hormuz. The conflict has roiled global markets, killed thousands and displaced millions since US-Israel strikes began on Feb. 28. The US president complained NATO countries did not want to join the fight against Iran, yet still complain about high oil prices. "Now that fight is militarily won, with very little danger for them, they complain about the high oil prices they are forced to pay, but don't want to help open the Strait of Hormuz, a simple military maneuver that is the single reason for the high oil prices. So easy for them to do, with so little risk," he wrote. "COWARDS, and we will



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