



Xi calls China-Russia ties 'precious' in current international context

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Tejasswi Prakash Clears The Air On Marriage Rumours With Karan Kundrra: 'Not Happening Anytime Soon'

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Pak should realise conflict brings only destruction: Farooq



NC president Farooq Abdullah today said Pakistan should realise that nothing can be achieved through conflict, as it only brings destruction.

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Govt revises diesel tax structure

The government has issued a notification revising the tax structure on the sale of diesel oil in the Union Territory.

As per a notification issued by the finance department, tax on diesel will now be levied at the rate of 16 per cent minus Rs 2.50 per litre, along with a cess of Rs 1 per litre.

The revised rates came into effect on April 11, 2026.

Drug peddlers' property demolished

Authorities today demolished commercial property belonging to an alleged drug peddler in Pulwama district of Kashmir as part of the anti-narcotics campaign launched by LG Manoj Sinha.

This is the first incident of property demolition carried out by the authorities in Jammu and Kashmir after the LG launched the 'Nasha Mukht Jammu & Kashmir Abhiyan' a few days ago.

Officials said shops and other allied constructions belonging to Mukhtar Ahmad were demolished by

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CBSE announces results for class 10 board exams

NEW DELHI, Apr 15

The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) on Wednesday announced results for Class 10 board exams, officials said.

"The results have been declared," a senior board official said.

The CBSE started with two editions of board exams for Class 10 from this year. It was mandatory for students to appear in the first edition, the results of which have been declared.

Girls have again outshone boys in the CBSE Class 10 board exams, results for which were declared on

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WPI inflation rises to 38-month high of 3.88 pc

NEW DELHI, APR 15

Wholesale price inflation rose sharply to an over 3-year high of 3.88 per cent in March, driven by a sharp spike in rates of fuel, power and manufactured items amid the West Asia crisis.

Government data released on Wednesday showed that the Wholesale Price Index (WPI)-based inflation rose for the fifth straight month in March as core inflation accelerated, amid softening of primary food items. As higher energy prices eventually generalise to

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Expanding permanent category with veto critical to UNSC reform: India

UNITED NATIONS, APR 15: India has asserted that any reform of the United Nations Security Council not accompanied by expansion in the permanent category with veto would perpetuate existing imbalance and inequities in the UN organ.

"Consideration of a new category, with or without veto, will complicate an already existing discussion that involves wide-ranging views," India's Permanent Representative to the UN Ambassador Parvathaneni Harish said while addressing the Inter-Governmental Negotiations (IGN) meeting on Security Council reforms.

"There are two fundamental aspects that result in an imbalanced structure and lack of legitimacy and non-representativeness of the UN Security Council. These are the membership; and veto," he said.

"There is broad agreement on the dire need to re-



form the UN Security Council. It is evident that a structure designed more than 80 years ago does not meet the requirements of the current geo-political realities," Harish said.

The Indian envoy recalled that the sole reform of the Council in the 1960s, which expanded only the non-permanent category, led to an increase in the relative power of veto-wielders.

In comparative terms, while the original ratio of permanent members, with veto, to non-permanent members was 5:6, it was amended to 5:10 thereafter

to the relative advantage of veto-wielders.

"Any reform that is not accompanied by an expansion in the permanent category with veto would deteriorate this ratio further and thereby, perpetuate the existing imbalance and inequities. Therefore, expanding the permanent category with veto is critical to real reform of the Security Council," he said.

Harish also noted that consideration of a new category under the framework of UNSC reform, with or without veto, would "complicate" an already existing discussion that involves

wide-ranging views. "It is important to limit the scope of reforms to the existing framework in order to streamline and fast-track the path to reforms," he said.

India has been at the forefront of the decades-long efforts calling for reform of the Security Council, including expansion in both its permanent and non-permanent categories, saying the 15-nation Council, founded in 1945, is not fit for purpose in the 21st Century and does not reflect contemporary geo-political realities.

New Delhi has underscored that it rightly deserves a permanent seat at the horse-shoe table.

India also highlighted the issue of the "effective veto" that every Security Council member, elected and non-elected, enjoys on products / outcomes such as the Security Council presidential statements, the Press Statements and Sanctions Committees.

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Omar seeks collective INDIA bloc response to proposed delimitation bill

Himalayan Mail News JAMMU, APR 15

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today said the INDIA bloc must collectively decide the opposition's response to the Constitution Amendment Bill, 2026.

"A meeting of the INDIA bloc has been scheduled at 3 pm on Wednesday at Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge's residence in Delhi," he said while speaking to reporters after the inauguration of 'Know Your Artisan' initiative.



"I will head there to attend the meeting. As for what NC intends to do or not do, we will discuss those matters during that meeting because we cannot do anything on this issue alone. The INDIA bloc must collectively decide what our response will be on this bill, and what our role will be in the Parlia-

ment - whether in the Lok Sabha or the Rajya Sabha," Abdullah said.

Asked whether the delimitation would have a positive impact, the chief minister said it remains to be seen whether the Bill is intended to benefit the BJP or the common voter.

He pointed to the delimitation exercise undertaken in Jammu and Kashmir in 2023 and said, "Based on our past experience, they can say that delimitation will benefit us. However, under that delimitation, attempts were

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Take 9 pledges on health, saving water: Modi to people



MANDYA (KARNATAKA), APR 15: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday appealed to people to take nine collective pledges, ranging from water conservation, natural farming, to fitness and service, to realise a "developed Karnataka and a developed India".

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Oppn favours women's reservation, not delimitation amendment: Kharge

NEW DELHI, APR 15: Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge today said while the opposition parties 'favour women's reservation', they had decided to vote against the proposed Constitution amendment bill on delimitation.

Top leaders of the opposition parties, except AAP, met at Kharge's residence here to discuss strategy on the women's reservation law and the proposed delimitation amendment, ahead of a special three-day sitting of the Parliament. Kharge stressed that the



opposition had always supported women's reservation in Parliament, but was concerned about the manner in which the bill was being brought.

"All of us are in favour of the women's reservation bill, but have reservations on the way in which it is be-

ing brought. It is politically motivated. Just to gag and suppress opposition parties, the government is doing this," Kharge said after the meeting.

"We are continuously supporting women's reservation. We are insisting that the earlier amendment that was passed be implemented. They (the BJP-led government) are playing tricks with delimitation. Therefore, all parties have taken a decision unitedly to oppose this bill," he added.

Leaders of the Congress, DMK, Trinamool Congress,

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Boat sinks in sea, 250 feared missing

DHAKA, APR 15: About 250 people, including children, were feared missing after a boat carrying Rohingya refugees and Bangladeshi nationals capsized in the Andaman Sea, the United Nations said on Tuesday.

"The trawler, which departed from Teknaf in southern Bangladesh and was on its way to Malaysia, reportedly sank due to heavy winds, rough seas, and overcrowding," the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) said in a statement.

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'Nasha Mukht J&K Abhiyaan' For decades, Pak has orchestrated drugs into J&K to fund terrorism: LG

Himalayan Mail News JAMMU, APR 15

Stating that Pakistan has been orchestrating drugs into Jammu & Kashmir for decades to fund terrorism, LG Manoj Sinha today said that drug abuse was not just a law & order problem but a social cancer.

"For decades, Pakistan has orchestrated drug smuggling into Jammu & Kashmir to fund terrorism and destroy our young generation," while addressing a public meeting at Ramban in Jammu region as part of the 'Drug-Free Jammu & Kashmir campaign'.

The LG also flagged off a 'padyatra' on the occasion.

"Drug abuse isn't just a law & order issue but a social cancer requiring every part of society to fight. I have urged for 'Whole of Government' and 'Whole of Society' approach. I believe when the government's strength and society's resolve act as one, even the toughest challenges crumble," he said.



"We will map every hotspot. And I promise you, we will hit each one like a surgical strike. Not a single smuggler will be spared. The entire network will be dismantled," he added.

Intensifying the crusade against drug menace, Sinha led 'padyatra' from the district police line to the district administrative complex, Ramban.

He was joined by public representatives, senior officials of civil & police administration, civil society members, religious leaders, members of business & trade community, ex-servicemen, prominent citi-

zens, various stakeholders, women, students, youth, and people from different walks of life in a large number, who had gathered with the resolve to eradicate drug addiction, transform society, and secure youth's future.

The LG highlighted society's role in fight against drug menace and called for collective action.

"If the neighbour's house is on fire, yours is not safe. Because drugs don't spread like flames but they spread like wind. That's why a 'Whole of Society' response is our only real and potent weapon against drug men

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Darbar Move

Govt orders shifting of offices to Srinagar from May 4

Himalayan Mail News JAMMU, APR 15

The government today ordered the annual Darbar Move of offices from Jammu to Srinagar for the summer season, outlining a detailed schedule for closure, reopening, transportation, security, and administrative arrangements.

According to a government order, offices observing a five-day week would close in Jammu on April 30

while those following a six-day week would close on May 2. All the offices were scheduled to reopen in Srinagar on May 4.

As per the order, offices moving in camp will carry only 33 per cent of staff strength or a maximum of 10 officials, whichever is less. The Jammu and Kashmir Road Transport Corporation (JKRTC) has been directed to provide sufficient buses on May 1 and 3, with advance ticket-

ing starting from April 20.

The order states that each convoy will be accompanied by a crane, and empty buses, and mobile workshops to address any breakdowns en route. Police will escort the convoys and ensure priority passage through key tunnels, including the Syama Prasad Mookerjee Tunnel and Banihal-Qazigund Tunnel.

Healthcare arrangements will be made along

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Samrat Choudhary sworn in as Bihar chief minister

PATNA, APR 15: BJP leader Samrat Choudhary was sworn in as the chief minister of Bihar on Wednesday, the first from the saffron party to hold the post.

Governor Lt Gen Syed Ata Hasnain (ret'd) administered the oath of office and secrecy to Choudhary as chief minister and to JD(U)'s Vijay Kumar Choudhary and Bijendra Prasad Yadav as members of the Council of Ministers at the Lok Bhawan here.

Both Vijay Kumar Choudhary and Yadav were part of the Council of Ministers in the Nitish Kumar government. They are considered close to Kumar, the JD(U) supremo.

NDA sources said the council of ministers would be expanded later as more members from the alliance partners would be accommodated in the new grouping.



Top leaders of the ruling NDA in Bihar, which comprises the BJP, JD(U) and three other parties, attended the ceremony.

They included Union Ministers J P Nadda and Chirag Paswan, Nitish Kumar, and all NDA MLAs. Nitish Kumar, who is now a Rajya Sabha MP, relinquished the chief minister's post on Tuesday, dissolving his cabinet in which Samrat Choudhary

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Shri Amarnathji Yatra Registration begins; J&K Bank enrolls 6,000 pilgrims on day 1

Himalayan Mail News JAMMU, APR 15

As registration for the annual Amarnathji yatra in south Kashmir Himalayas began today, a large number of devotees thronged the counters set up by the government here, with J&K Bank enrolling 6,000 pilgrims on day 1.

The advance registration is open in both online and offline modes.

The holy 57-day pilgrimage will commence from



the twin tracks - the traditional 48-km Nunwan-Pahalgam route in Anantnag

and the 14-km shorter but steep Baltal route in Gan

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PM 'misleader', alleges Congress

NEW DELHI, APR 15: The Congress on Wednesday said the bills circulated by the government for the Parliament's special sitting contradict all the "so-called assurances" given by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, and alleged that he has engaged in "deliberate deceit" with the nation over the question of delimitation.

A day after the government circulated among MPs bills related to the women's quota law and delimitation, the opposition party said the southern states will lose their strength in the Lok Sabha, and so will smaller states in northwest India and states in the east.

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Opening Hormuz 'permanently' for world, says Trump

Iran hints at 2nd round of ceasefire talks

WASHINGTON, APR 15: US President Donald Trump on Wednesday said he was "permanently opening" the Strait of Hormuz for "China and the world," days after he announced a "naval blockade" of the strategic waterway, which has remained effectively closed by Iran, shortly after the war began in February.

The Iranian military had earlier today threatened to block trade through the Red Sea, along with the Gulf and Sea of Oman, if



the US naval blockade on Iranian ports continued.

"China is very happy that I am permanently opening the Strait of Hormuz. I am doing it for them, also - And the World. This situation will never happen

again," Trump wrote in a post on Truth Social.

He also reiterated that he had received personal assurances from Chinese President Xi Jinping that they would not send weapons to Iran.

"They have agreed not to send weapons to Iran. President Xi will give me a big, fat hug when I get there in a few weeks," Trump said, referring to his planned May 14-15 summit with Xi in Beijing.

He claimed that the Chinese president had assured