



**Nepal PM directs universities to scrap party-based student unions**

**Dhanush Planning To Direct Female-Centric Film With Rumoured Girlfriend Mrunal Thakur?**

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### 3 APCCF posts abolished

The Union Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change has abolished three temporarily added posts of Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (APCCF) in J&K with effect from December 18, 2025. An order issued in this regard says: "As per recommendation of the Joint Cadre Authority, three temporarily added posts of APCCF in J&K, are hereby abolished with effect from December 18, 2025."

### Man detained near IB

A 50-year-old man was detained by BSF after he was found moving under suspicious circumstances in a forward area near the International Border here. According to officials, he was spotted by a BSF patrol near Mayan Border Out Post in Makwal area of Phallian Mandal late Monday evening and was subsequently taken into custody. After preliminary ques

### Girls outshine boys in class 10 JKBOSE results

The J&K Board of School Education today declared the class 10 annual regular examination results for the March-April 2026 session of Jammu division, with 88 pc pass percentage, while girls outperforming boys in the overall performance. As per the official data, the overall pass percentage has been recorded at 88.85 per cent, with a total of 50,754 students appearing in the examination. Out of them, 45,094 students qualified successfully. The results highlight a

### India's economy to grow at 6.4 pc this year

UNITED NATIONS, Apr 21: India's economy is projected to grow at 6.4 per cent this year and 6.6 per cent in 2027, according to a report by the United Nations. The United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) said in its report that economies in South and South-West Asia grew by 5.4 pc in 2025, compared to 5.2 pc in 2024, driven largely by strong growth in India. India's growth edged up to 7.4 pc in 2025, "supported by robust consump

### Ladakh LG calls on VP

NEW DELHI, APR 21: Vice President CP Radhakrishnan on Tuesday held a courtesy meeting with Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, Vinai Kumar Saxena, at Uprashtrapati Bhavan in New Delhi. "Lt. Governor of Ladakh, Shri Vinai Kumar Saxena, called on Vice President Shri CP Radhakrishnan at Uprashtrapati Bhavan today," the

## India pushes for UNSC overhaul, backs African model for reforms

UNITED NATIONS, APR 21: **Throwing its weight behind the African model for reforms in the United Nations Security Council and emphasising the need to better reflect the aspirations of Global South during key discussions at the UN Headquarters, India has called for sweeping reforms in global financial systems and UNSC.**

India underlined that expansion in both permanent and non-permanent categories was essential for a meaningful change. India pushed for long-pending reforms of UNSC during the Intergovernmental Negotiations (IGN) meeting at the UN. Secretary (West) Sibi George delivered the national statement at the IGN meeting on UN Security Council reforms at the UN Headquarters, and emphasised that the current structure of the Security Council does not adequately represent developing nations, particularly in its permanent membership. He emphasised that the call for greater representation of the Global South - particularly in the permanent category - was "loud and clear", arguing that the current composition of the Council no longer reflects contemporary geopolitical realities.

George highlighted the need for greater representation of the Global South, particularly in the permanent category. He underlined the similarities between India's approach to UN Security Council reforms and the African model. Earlier, India underscored its continued engagement with the United Nations, with a particular focus on UN peacekeeping, during a high-level interaction between MEA Secretary (West) Sibi George and Khaled Khiari, Assistant Secretary-General for the Middle East, Asia, and the Pacific in the Departments of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs and Peace Operations, at the UN Headquarters in New York. In a post on X on Tuesday, India's Permanent Mission to the UN said, "Sibi George met Khaled Khiari, Assistant Secretary-General for the Middle East, Asia, and the Pacific in the Departments of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs and Peace Operations. Both had a productive discussion on various topics, with a particular focus on UN peacekeeping." "The Global South needs a more active role, especially on issues that directly affect them," he said, stressing that this cannot be achieved without expansion in both categories of mem-

bership. Backing the proposal for a 26-member Council, India said concerns over working methods should not be used as an impediment. The UNSC's provisional rules, it argued, can be adapted to accommodate additional members. India also welcomed provisions in the African model aimed at strengthening the role of Troop Contributing Countries (TCCs), calling for their greater involvement in drafting and implementing peacekeeping mandates. It cautioned against the use of the Council for advancing narrow national political agendas, including in sanctions regimes. On the contentious veto question, India endorsed the African position that rejects any "sub-category" within permanent membership. "An all-or-none approach must apply," George said, maintaining that new permanent members must enjoy the same rights and responsibilities as existing ones. In a broader push, India stressed closer coordination between the UNSC and UN General Assembly, and warned that reforms limited to non-permanent expansion would fall short. "More representativeness translates into more democracy,"

## LG calls for building India which freedom fighters once dreamt of

Himalayan Mail News JAMMU, APR 21

Stating that the country was moving decisively towards becoming a developed nation, LG Manoj Sinha today called for building an India which freedom fighters had once dreamt of. "India is moving decisively towards becoming a developed nation. The goal of 2047 is not merely a date, it is a national resolve," he said in his address at the statue unveiling ceremony of Vijay Bahadur Singh, a well-known social worker and the founder of Mahamandaleswar Shri Bal Krishna Yati Inter College at Ghazipur in Uttar Pradesh. The LG called for building an India which our freedom fighters once dreamed of and in which every section and every individual was part of the mainstream of progress. Paying homage to Vijay Bahadur Singh, he said he had discharged his duties without any expectation, served without any desire



for fame, and built not for himself but for the coming generations. "We must carry the ideals of Vijay Bahadur Singh to every segment of society," Sinha said and called him 'a true karma yogi'. "I feel particularly proud that Vijay Bahadur did not ask what Bindravan could do for him; instead, he showed what Bindravan and the Jakhania region could do for themselves. This inter college, born of a people's movement, is just a small symbol of his transformative work," he said. "Vijay Bahadur Singh did not merely establish a college; he made a pledge, a promise to the future. In 1974, when he laid the foundation of this institution, there was no major financial support and no assurance of success. All he had was an unshakeable belief that education is the power which can change society," he added. The LG also spoke about service, sacrifice and nation building. "Under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, India has taken development beyond mere statistics and carried it to every doorstep," he said. Crores of families who once had no roof over their

## S Korean Prez concludes India visit; boosts shipbuilding, logistics cooperation

NEW DELHI, APR 21: South Korean President Lee Jae Myung, today concluded his three-day official visit to India, strengthening cooperation in shipping, maritime logistics and shipbuilding, while delivering a wide range of strategic outcomes between the two nations. The visit resulted in 21 key outcomes spanning strategic vision documents, agreements, and institutional frameworks, significantly advancing the India-Republic of Korea (ROK) partnership.



President Lee was seen off at the conclusion of his visit by Minister of State Harsh Malhotra. MEA described the visit as "productive", noting that it placed the India-South Korea partnership on a stronger footing with a forward-looking agenda. "A productive visit con-

cludes as President Lee Jae Myung of Republic of Korea departs from India. He was seen off by Minister of State for Road, Transport & Highways and Corporate Affairs Harsh Malhotra. The visit delivered tangible outcomes in key areas and placed the India-South Korea partnership on a stronger footing, with a forward-looking agenda." MEA said in a post on X. During his visit, President Lee held extensive talks with Prime Minister Narendra Modi, with both sides agreeing to deepen

## Civil servants instrumental in bridging gaps: Prez



NEW DELHI, APR 21: President Droupadi Murmu greeted the country's bureaucrats on the Civil Services Day on Tuesday and said their integrity and empathy will be instrumental in bridging gaps, fostering inclusivity, and strengthening trust between the State and its citizens.

## 2 ISI operatives held for planning grenade attacks, target killings

NEW DELHI, APR 21: The Special Cell of Delhi Police has arrested two operatives allegedly working at the behest of Pakistan-based gangster and ISI proxy Shahzad Bhatti, with the police unearthing a criminal conspiracy to carry out firing, grenade attacks and target killings in the Delhi-NCR region. The accused, identified as Rajveer (21) and Vivek Banjara (19), both natives of Madhya Pradesh's Gwalior, were apprehended by the Special Cell. "Their arrest foiled planned attacks in the national capital and adjoining areas. The arrests exposed a larger conspiracy orchestrated by Bhatti, who, along with other ISI-linked handlers, was recruiting young people through social media platforms and deploying them for targeted acts of violence in Delhi-NCR," Deputy Commis-

sioner of Police (Special Cell) Praveen Kumar Tripathi said in a statement. The officer said that a case in this regard was registered on March 31 following inputs about a plan to execute grenade attacks and targeted killings in the region. "Vivek Banjara was first traced and arrested from Dabra in Gwalior on April 16. During interrogation, he disclosed details about his associate Rajveer, leading to the arrest of Rajveer from the Sarai Kale Khan area of Delhi on April 18," the officer added. The police said Rajveer was allegedly preparing to target a prominent hotel in Delhi-NCR on the directions of his handler Shahzad Bhatti, when he was apprehended. One pistol and six live cartridges were allegedly recovered from his possession. Addi

## India's Gulf outreach aimed at energy security, diaspora welfare: MEA

NEW DELHI, APR 21: Amid escalating concern in West Asia as the deadline for the ceasefire between the US and Iran looms, India has intensified engagement with Gulf countries focusing on energy security, welfare of the Indian diaspora, and other issues of mutual interest. "The outreach has been undertaken under the direction of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, with multiple high-level visits to key Gulf nations in recent days," MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said in a media briefing.

He noted that NSA Ajit Doval visited Saudi Arabia, the External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar travelled to the United Arab Emirates, and the Union Petroleum Minister Hardeep Singh Puri visited Qatar. Earlier on Sunday, NSA Doval paid an official visit to Saudi Arabia's capital Riyadh, where he held high-level meetings with senior Saudi leadership focusing on bilateral relations, energy cooperation and regional developments, as per the Embassy of India in Riyadh. Last week, EAM Jais-

hankar shared glimpses of his engagements with the top leadership of the United Arab Emirates, underlining the strength of bilateral ties between the two nations. In a post on X, Jaishankar said, "Sharing some moments of my call on President HH Mohamed Bin Zayed of the UAE and meeting with HH Hamdan Mohammed." Jaishankar was on a four-day visit to Abu Dhabi as part of his two-nation diplomatic mission to Mau

## Army reaffirms resolve to fight terrorism

NEW DELHI, APR 21: On the eve of the first anniversary of the Pahalgam terror attack, the Indian Army on Tuesday reaffirmed its resolve to fight against terrorism, and said, "When boundaries of humanity are crossed, the response is decisive". On April 22 last year, terrorists had killed 25 Hindu holidayers and a local in Baisaran meadow of Pahalgam in Kashmir. In retaliation, India had launched Operation Sindoor early on May 7 and decimated multiple terror infrastructure in Pakistan

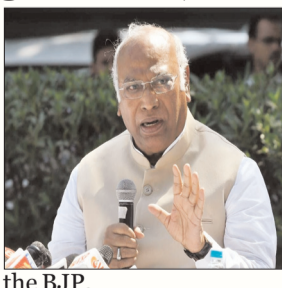
## In North Bengal, BJP seeks to retain edge, TMC eyes gains

KOLKATA, APR 21: North Bengal, with its 54 assembly seats, has once again emerged as one of the principal theatres of the West Bengal assembly polls, with the BJP striving to retain the region that powered its rise in the state, and the TMC seeking to reclaim lost ground amid shifting political equations. Voting in all 54 seats will be held in the first phase on April 23. For the BJP, north Bengal remains the most viable

route to offset the TMC's dominance in south Bengal. For the ruling party, a recovery here is essential if it is to blunt the saffron surge, and deny the opposition the momentum it needs. The region presents a complex electoral mosaic where old loyalties are under strain and new fault lines are emerging. The BJP, which turned north Bengal into its strongest bastion after the 2019 Lok Sabha polls and consolidated that rise in the 2021 assembly election, is now battling anti-incumbency, local dissidence and unease over candidate selection. The TMC, on the other hand, believes it has repaired its organisation, rebuilt bridges with social groups and regained some of the ground it had ceded. That shifting contest plays out differently across the region's eight districts: Darjeeling, Kalimpong, Jalpaiguri, Alipurdwar,

## Kharge accuses Modi of 'terrorising' Oppn; BJP hits back

NEW DELHI, APR 21: Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge on Tuesday intensified his criticism of Narendra Modi, accusing the Prime Minister of "terrorising" political parties and the public through the alleged misuse of government machinery and central investigative agencies. Speaking at a press conference in Chennai alongside KC Venugopal, the Congress president initially used the word "terrorist" to refer to PM Modi, while attacking the AIADMK's alliance with



the BJP. He later clarified that he did not intend to use the term literally, stating instead that the Prime Minister was "terrorising" the democratic fabric of the country. "He is terrorising people and political parties. I never said he is a terrorist

in the literal sense," Kharge said, adding that the government was misusing its authority to target opposition parties. Kharge also alleged that institutions such as the Election Commission were functioning as an "extension of the BJP office." He also accused the prime minister of violating the Model Code of Conduct in the final phase of the election campaign through his address to the nation on April 18. He claimed that central agencies, including the

## Pak extends airspace closure for Indian planes

NEW DELHI, APR 21: Pakistan today extended the closure of its airspace for Indian planes till May 24 as the curbs will now remain in place for more than a year. In the wake of the terror attack at Pahalgam, Kashmir, that killed 26 people on April 22 last year, India and Pakistan have closed their respective airspaces for each other's planes. While Pakistan airspace has been closed for Indian aircraft since April 24, 2025, Pakistan planes are not permitted to use the Indian airspace since April 30 last year. According to a NOTAM

## West Asia conflict US, Iran signal new ceasefire talks as truce nears end

ISLAMABAD, APR 21: Two regional officials today said that the United States and Iran had signalled that they would hold a new round of ceasefire talks as a fragile two-week truce was due to expire. However, neither the US nor Iran has publicly confirmed the timing of the talks, with Iranian state television denying that any official was already in Pakistan's capital. US Vice President JD Vance and Iran's parliament speaker Mohammad

Bagher Ghalibaf, were likely to arrive in Islamabad early on Wednesday to lead their teams in the talks, officials said. The officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorised to brief reporters. A ceasefire that began on April 8 was set to expire on Wednesday. Both sides remain dug in rhetorically, with US President Donald Trump warning that "lots of bombs" will "start going off" if there's no agreement before the ceasefire deadline, and Iran's chief negotiator saying that Tehran has "new cards on the battlefield" that haven't yet been revealed. The ceasefire seemed likely to be extended if talks resume. White House officials have said that Vance would lead the American delegation, but Iran hasn't said who it might send, and Iranian state television on Tuesday broadcast a message saying that "no delegation from Iran has visited