

# WAQF AMENDMENT BILL

## Waqf (Amendment) Bill, 2025 Introduced Amid Uproar in Lok Sabha

Union Minister Kiren Rijju introduced the Waqf (Amendment) Bill, 2025, and the Mussalman Waqf (Repeal) Bill, 2024, in Lok Sabha amidst disruptions by opposition members. Rijju clarified that the Bill aims to improve Waqf property management, not to seize land or religious sites.

He rejected Congress' allegations that the Bill targets minorities, asserting it promotes secularism and inclusivity by allowing up to four non-Muslim experts and two women in the Central Waqf Council. Rijju criticized the previous government for transferring 123 properties to the Waqf Board, warning that without amendments, even the Parliament building could be claimed as Waqf property.



### Waqf Amendment Bill is a Conspiracy Against Muslims: Mehbooba Mufti



### Omar Abdullah Opposes Waqf Amendment Bill, Claims It Targets One Religion



### Amit Shah Clarifies No Non-Muslim Appointment to Waqf Board Amid Controversy

Union Home Minister Amit Shah dismissed Congress' claims about the Waqf (Amendment) Bill, 2024,

stating it doesn't interfere with Muslims' religious matters. Shah clarified that non-Muslims will not influence religious affairs but will oversee the administration of Waqf properties to ensure legal compliance.

Addressing opposition concerns over the inclusion of 12 non-Muslims in the Waqf Board, Shah emphasized that disputes will be resolved in courts. He asserted that the Waqf Board is a statutory body, not exclusive to any community.



Shah criticized the misuse of Waqf properties, revealing that from 2001-2012, properties worth ₹2 lakh crore were leased to private entities, prompting judicial intervention. He also assured protection for government, ASI, and private lands under the new Bill, which allows all Muslim communities to register trusts without Waqf interference.

Concluding, Shah claimed the Modi government represents "politics of progress" and predicted continued BJP dominance.

### Rahul Gandhi Slams Waqf (Amendment) Bill as Tool to Marginalize Muslims

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi condemned the Waqf (Amendment) Bill, 2024, calling it a "weapon" to marginalize Muslims and undermine their personal laws and property rights. He criticized the BJP-RSS alliance for using the Bill to attack the Constitution and warned it could set a precedent for targeting other communities in the future.

Congress leader KC Venugopal echoed similar concerns, labeling the Bill as divisive and unconstitutional, accusing the BJP of focusing on religious division instead of pressing issues like farmers' rights and youth unemployment.

In response, BJP MP Kamaljeet

Sehrawat attacked Rahul Gandhi, referencing historical figures like Shyama Prasad Mookherjee to defend the BJP's role in India's independence movement.

Minority Affairs Minister Kiren Rijju defended the Bill, stating it wouldn't apply retrospectively and isn't intended to grant additional powers to the government. He emphasized that the Bill aims to improve the management of Waqf properties, which have largely remained underutilized despite being the largest in the world. The Mussalman Waqf (Repeal) Bill, 2024, was also introduced alongside the amendment.



### Owaisi Tears Waqf Amendment Bill, Calls It Unconstitutional



AIMIM chief Asaduddin Owaisi tore a copy of the Waqf (Amendment) Bill, 2024, in Lok Sabha, calling it unconstitutional and an attack on Muslims. He alleged the Bill targets mosques, dargahs, and madrasas, promoting religious division. Defending the Bill, Minority Affairs Minister Kiren Rijju said it aims to improve Waqf property management without granting extra powers. The Mussalman Waqf (Repeal) Bill, 2024, was also introduced alongside it.



### Voting Underway on Waqf (Amendment) Bill 2025 in Lok Sabha

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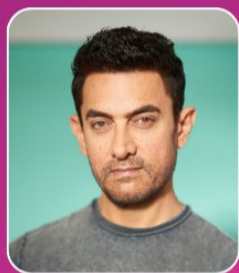
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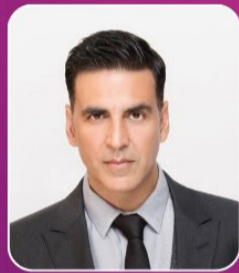
AAMIR KHAN  
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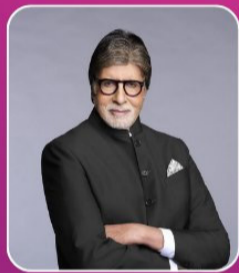
ADAR POONAWALLA  
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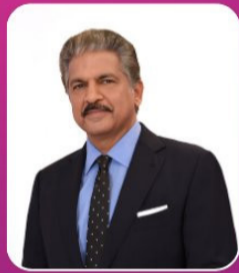
AJAY BIJLI  
Managing Director, PVR INOX Ltd



AKSHAY KUMAR  
Indian Actor



AMITABH BACHCHAN  
Indian Actor



ANAND MAHINDRA  
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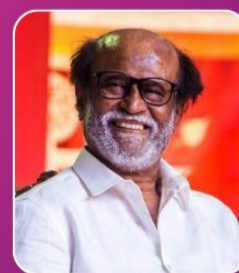
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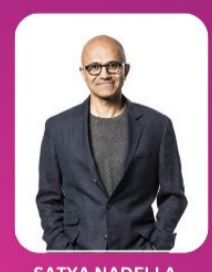
RANBIR KAPOOR  
Indian Actor



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President & Chief Executive Officer, Sony Pictures Entertainment



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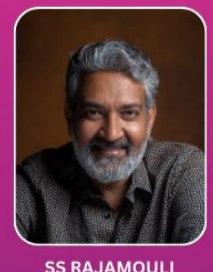
THEODORE SARANDOS  
CEO, Netflix



SHAHRUKH KHAN  
Indian Actor



SHEKHAR KAPUR  
Indian Filmmaker



SS RAJAMOULI  
Indian Filmmaker



SUNDAR PICHAI  
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# Lieutenant Governor addresses Alumni Meet of Sharda University at Srinagar

THE JAZZBAAT  
NEWS DESK

SRINAGAR, APRIL 02: Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha addressed the Alumni Meet of Sharda University at Srinagar.

In his address, the Lieutenant Governor extended his felicitations to the Alumni, Management, Faculty and Students of Sharda University.

He exhorted the youth to put the skills acquired at the University to good use in nation-building and improving the lives of the people.

"Education is a rare opportunity and represents infinite power. Education is the only asset and it is like a small lamp which has the power to defeat the immense darkness. Youth should explore the spiritual and cultural dimension of education and cherish its value system," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor highlighted that the alumni play a crucial role in networking and mentorship, building



the reputation of the educational institution and helping in knowledge sharing.

The Lieutenant Governor said, "Alumni serve as a role model and inspire young students to achieve their goals. The next two-decades is expected to be the best time for knowledge economies in the world. You as the knowledge keeper will be responsible for transferring expertise earned in the university to the economic sector to drive growth and build developed India.

To give back to society and nation, Alumni should promote value-based system in the jobs or enterprises so while developing their full potential, they can also motivate the young generations to contribute to-

wards nation-building". The Lieutenant Governor also spoke on the transformation taking place in the educational landscape in J&K, under the guidance of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi. He impressed upon the educational institutions and teaching community for implementing National Education Policy 2020 in letter and spirit, developing a favourable environment that promotes innovation, skill development, experiential learning and empowering the youth to become agents of positive change.

"We need to have a long-term vision to create a robust innovation ecosystem and this vision should be fostered by educational institutions like Sharda University. We need fearless and curious minds who can innovate and leverage it for India's benefit," the Lieutenant Governor said. He further emphasised on strengthening the ties between academia and industry to meet the evolving demands of the global market.

The Lieutenant Governor also lauded the significant contribution of Sharda University in providing quality education and nurturing future leaders. Ms Sakina Itoo, Minister for Higher Education, J&K; Shri Aftab Malik, Chairman, District Development Council, Srinagar; Shri Pradeep Kumar Gupta, Chancellor, Sharda University, faculty members, students and alumni of Sharda University and their family members were present on the occasion.

Justice Ali Mohammad Magrey, former Chief Justice of the High Court of J&K and Ladakh; Dr Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat, Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, and senior officials of civil and police administration were also present.

## J&K Witnesses Multiple Encounters, Attacks in First Three Months of 2025

KNT

Srinagar, Apr 2: The first quarter of 2025 saw a rise in encounters, militant attacks, and cross-border hostilities across Jammu and Kashmir, leading to multiple casualties.

The first quarter of the year was marked by many encounters between militants and security forces. In Zalooa Gujjarparati forest area of Sopore, an exchange of fire led to the killing of a soldier, Pangala Kartheek. A fierce gunfight in Krumhora Rajwar Handwara resulted in the killing of a foreign militant, while a police officer sustained injuries. In the Sanyal Hiranagar area of Kathua, an infiltration bid turned into an armed confrontation, leaving a minor non-local girl injured in the crossfire as militants managed to escape. The most deadly encounter occurred in the Sufian forest area of Juthana in Kathua, where four policemen, including Head Constable Jagbir Singh and Selection Grade Constables Tariq Ahmad, Balwinder Singh Chib, and Jaswant Singh, were killed. Seven other security personnel were wound-



ed, while two infiltrators were neutralized in the same gunfight. Militants also carried out targeted attacks. A grenade attack on the 163 Territorial Army unit in Hamray Patan, Baramulla, caused significant damage to an MI Room, leading to the arrest of three suspects. In another incident, militants shot dead an ex-serviceman, Manzoor Wagay, in Bihibagh, Kulgam, leaving his wife and niece injured. In Goripora Bomai Sopore, Army personnel opened fire, killing a truck driver, Waseem Mir, under circumstances that triggered widespread outrage. The period also witnessed a series of cross-border hostilities and sniper attacks. In the Makri area of the Bhawani sector in Rajouri, an accidental blast left six army personnel injured. A soldier, Puran Singh, was wounded in a sniper attack in the Nowshera sector,

while another soldier suffered injuries in a similar incident in Akhnoor. An IED blast in the Akhnoor sector claimed the lives of two soldiers, including a captain, while another was injured. Additionally, a soldier was wounded in a sniper attack in Poonch, prompting a brief exchange of fire with Pakistani troops. Another IED explosion rocked the Narkote area along the LoC in Poonch. Militants also intensified attacks on security forces in Rajouri's Sunderbani sector, where an army vehicle came under fire, leading to a massive cordon and search operation. In another incident, unidentified gunmen hurled a grenade at a police post in Old Town Baramulla. Security forces resorted to firing after detecting suspicious movement in Sunderbani, indicating heightened vigilance amid increased militant activity. (KNT)

## Forest Fire in Veshow Range's 32 and 34 Compartments Fully Controlled

Danishwar Hameed  
THE JAZZBAAT

A forest fire that had been burning in the 32 and 34 Compartments of Veshow Range for the past four days has now been fully contained.

Range Officer Ghulam Mohd Khan confirmed the fire was under control and expressed relief over the resolution. "We are relieved to report that the fire has been completely controlled. A big thank you to the res-



idents of Manzgam and Watoo for their incredible support during this crisis. Their efforts were vital in managing the fire on the ground," Khan stated. The fire had posed significant risks to both

the environment and surrounding communities, but thanks to the combined efforts of the local residents and the Veshow Range forest department, damage has been minimized. Authorities are now conducting a thorough assessment of the affected areas and are putting measures in place to prevent future incidents. The collaboration between the forest department and local communities was crucial in successfully managing this crisis.

## Pakistani Troops Violate Ceasefire in Poonch, Indian Army Retaliates

KNT

Poonch, Apr 2: Pakistani forces violated the ceasefire agreement on Tuesday by firing at Indian positions in the Krishna Ghati (KG) Sector of Poonch. Troops of the Nangi Tekri Battalion, under the Krishna Ghati Brigade, responded with strong retaliation.

Meanwhile, security forces have intensified search and cordon operations in the Panjthirhi area of Kathua following an exchange of fire with militants. Based on intelligence inputs, a joint team of the Indian Army, Jammu and

Kashmir Police, and CRPF has deployed multiple ambushes and surveillance teams in the region.

The operation escalated after suspicious movement was detected on the night of March 31, leading to a fresh encounter. A search-and-destroy mission was launched at first light on April 1, and the operation is still in progress with forces maintaining a high state of alert.

The Rising Star Corps of the Indian Army confirmed the developments on X, stating: "Acting on intelligence inputs, multiple surveillance cum ambushes were deployed in gener-



al area Panjthirhi, Kathua by Indian Army, JK Police and CRPF. Suspicious movement was observed on the night of March 31, leading to an exchange of fire. Search and destroy operations launched at first light on April 1. Operations in progress." (KNT)

## Waqf Amendment Bill is a Conspiracy Against Muslims: Mehbooba Mufti

Says, Hindus Must Stand Up, Muslims Must Stay Vigilant to Save India



JKNS

Srinagar, Apr 2: Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) President Mehbooba Mufti has strongly opposed the Waqf (Amendment) Bill tabled in Parliament, calling it a deliberate attempt to target the Muslim community. She urged people across the country, especially from the Hindu community, to stand against what she described as an oppressive move by the BJP government.

Speaking to media persons in Srinagar, Mehbooba Mufti as per news agency JKNS alleged that the bill is part of a larger conspiracy to marginalize Muslims in India. She accused the BJP government of creating an atmosphere of fear through mob lynchings, demolition of mosques, and attempts to take over graveyards. She asserted that the country should function according to its Constitution and not according to a divisive agenda. Mufti warned that if

such policies continue unchecked, "India could face internal divisions similar to those witnessed in Myanmar. She drew a parallel between the current situation and the exodus of Kashmiri Pandits, stating that just as the nation still feels ashamed of that episode, it should not allow history to repeat itself with Muslims."

Mufti criticized the BJP's approach, claiming that its policies are pushing the country towards fragmentation. She reminded the ruling party that "no government is permanent and that those in power today will eventually be replaced. She urged the citizens of India to wake up and take a stand before irreversible damage is done".

Mufti's remarks come amid growing opposition to the Waqf (Amendment) Bill from various political and religious organizations. While the BJP maintains that the bill aims to ensure better management of Waqf properties, opposition leaders argue that it is yet another move to suppress minority rights in the country. (JKNS)

## AIMPLB to Challenge Waqf Bill in Court, Labels It Unjust Law



THE JAZZBAAT  
NEWS DESK

NEW DELHI, 2 April 2025 The All India Muslim Personal Law Board (AIMPLB) stated on Wednesday that they will legally contest the Waqf (Amendment) Bill. They criticized the bill as a "black law" that violates the rights of Muslims.

The Waqf bill is to be considered and voted upon on Wednesday in the Lok Sabha. It will proceed to the Rajya Sabha for examination if it passes in the Lower House. AIMPLB member Md Adeb condemned the bill at a press conference, stating that it is an endeavor to take over Muslim community properties. "They think they can just

take away our property. Is that fine with us? Don't think we are defeated," Adeb said, again asserting that their fight against the bill is just beginning.

He pointed out that the bill was resisted when it was being considered in the Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) that debated it, having stated, "Don't think we have lost. This is just the start." This is a battle to rescue our country as this bill is a danger to the very foundations of India.

Adeb urged all rational citizens to stand against the bill and reinforced the AIMPLB's commitment to resist the law in court and on the streets too. "We will go to the court. We won't rest till this law is abolished," he asserted.

## Two Women Naxals Killed in Encounter with Police in Madhya Pradesh

THE JAZZBAAT  
NEWS DESK

Two women Naxals were gunned down during an encounter with the police's Haq Force in Madhya Pradesh's Mandla district. The head reward of the two killed was Rs 14 lakh each. The encounter occurred in the interior forest of Bichia police station area of Mandla district on Wednesday morning. The police have also recovered advanced weapons and other vital things from the site.

Madhya Pradesh DGP said on social media, "Two women Naxals were killed in an encounter with the Haq Force of the police in the interior forest under Bichia police station area of Mandla district this morning. An SLR rifle, a normal rifle, a wireless set and other useful items have

been recovered from the site. The police are continuing to search the area so that no Naxal can escape."

Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Mohan Yadav welcomed the police force for the operation's success and reaffirmed his determination to uproot Naxals from the state. He added, "Due to the police alert, two women Naxals, against whom there was a reward of Rs 14 lakh on their heads, were gunned down in police firing. With the guidance of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah, our police force is working day and night in anti-Naxal operations. We are making tireless efforts to free the state from Naxals."

He also stated, "Our operation to end Naxalism in the state is still on. Within the last one year, we have killed

more than 10 Naxals in different operations, which is a beacon of our success. Our police force is making every operation worthwhile by its skill, vigilance and bravery. What is most essential is that not a single of our police officials was hurt during this operation, which is evidence of the fruitful execution of our plan."

On social media, the Chief Minister posted, "Today, two women Naxals, upon whose heads the reward was of Rs 14 lakh, were gunned down in a combing operation carried out by Haq Force deep in the jungles of the Bichia police station region of Mandla district. SLR rifles and other essential equipment were seized. I extend heartfelt congratulations to our security forces for this excellent and courageous step. She also said, "Under the directions of

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Minister Amit Shah, a decision has been made to finish off Naxalism from the country entirely by March 2026. This victory will further boost us towards the accomplishment of our objective. The nation and Madhya Pradesh will soon be rid of the evil of terrorism and Naxalism."

The Naxal operations in the state, experts say, have to a large degree fallen in their grasp due to stern action from the Madhya Pradesh government and the security personnel. There have been recent successes when the police's monitoring activities and intelligence reports helped trigger many fruitful operations against them. Such attacks continuing are sure to render the state free from all Naxals in a couple of years from now.

## Kuki Groups Set Three Pre-Conditions for April 5 Talks in Delhi

THE JAZZBAAT  
NEWS DESK

Guwahati :2 April,2025 Before the April 5 dialogue between Kuki Zo and Meitei groups, arranged by the Ministry of Home Affairs in New Delhi, the Manipur Kangpokpi district's Kuki community leaders have established three conditions. They are to ban movement between Meitei and Kuki groups in areas dominated by one group or the other. Henlianthang Thanglet, chairman of the Kuki Zo Council (KZC), said these are terms that emerged in Tuesday's meeting convened by the Committee on Tribal Unity (COTU). Thanglet explained that the three conditions are: "Move-



ment of Meitei people in Kuki-Zo areas and vice versa will be strictly limited, hostilities must cease for at least six months to enable negotiations, and a formal and meaningful dialogue process should be initiated during the ceasefire." A Kuki Zo Council member, who spoke anonymously, confirmed that the Union Ministry of Home Affairs has scheduled a meeting on April 5 for the

Meitei and Kuki Zo communities in New Delhi.

As of May 2023, over 250 individuals have been murdered and thousands displaced following ethnic violence that broke out between the Imphal Valley-based majority Meitei community and the hill-based Kuki-Zo tribes.

The violence erupted after a 'Tribal Solidarity March' was held in the hill districts to oppose the demand of the Meitei community for Scheduled Tribe (ST) status.

The central government has tried several times to persuade both the communities to sit down for a dialogue. On February 13, the Centre had imposed President's rule in the state after the Organization of Chief Minister N Biren Singh.

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## UK to Cut "Green Tape" for Faster Projects



The UK government has announced plans to streamline environmental regulations to speed up major infrastructure projects. This initiative, aimed at reducing bureaucratic obstacles—commonly known as "green tape"—will allow for quicker project approvals. One key reform is the introduction of a single environmental regulator for large projects, replacing the need for multiple agency approvals. Additionally, certain wildlife protection regulations, such as those concerning bats and other species, will be simplified. The government insists that these changes will not weaken environmental protections but will facilitate economic

growth. However, conservationists warn that reducing regulatory steps might put nature at risk. The reforms stem from a review by Dan Corry, who highlighted the complexity of current regulations as a barrier to both development and nature restoration. Out of 29 recommendations, nine will be implemented immediately, including the creation of a unified planning portal. While these changes aim to boost economic growth, they may face resistance from environmental activists. The government has assured that core habitat regulations will remain unchanged, but the debate over balancing development and conservation is expected to continue.

# Avoid vulgar and ear-splitting songs



Dr. Satyawan Saurabh

A wedding is a special occasion that connects the cultural, familial, and emotional worlds of two families. It is not just a union of two people but a union of two families, in which emotions, rituals, and traditions are exchanged. Music is an integral part of this event, but it should be chosen very carefully. Music should not be limited to just fun and dance but should respect our values, relationships, and emotions. The connection of songs with our emotions and values. Wedding songs share the dignity of relationships, emotions, and culture of the family. The lyrics and tunes of the songs have a great impact on our morale and the overall wedding experience. Weddings are a family affair, with people from different age groups in attendance. Parents, grandparents, uncles, aunts, and even young children are present at the ceremony. The lyrics of the songs should be decent and modest so as not to hurt anyone's feelings. For instance, when we attend simple and solemn wedding ceremonies, we must remember that it is a symbol of a deep bond, and the music played during this time should be one that honors this fact. The wedding vows are for a lifetime. It is a vow that involves love, trust, and dedication from both parties. The songs should also be such that they express the feelings of love, relationship, and mutual respect. Songs based on breakups or betrayal, such as "Channa Mereya" or "Bhula Dunga," are not suitable for this occasion. These songs do not match the

wedding vows. Every wedding has its own culture, traditions, and customs. Traditional music and religious rituals are especially important in Indian weddings. In such a situation, while selecting the songs, we should ensure that they do not hurt any religious or cultural beliefs. For example, if the wedding is taking place in a particular religious custom, then we should take care that the music is in accordance with this tradition. Weddings are a celebration, and the main purpose of music is to enhance this happiness. Songs that are full of enthusiasm and joy can make the occasion more special. On the contrary, sad or negative songs like "Tu jo nahi," "Tum hi ho," etc., can make the atmosphere dull. While selecting the music, we should keep in mind that it brings happiness and positivity to everyone's mind. Which songs should I put on my "Do Not Play" list?

While selecting wedding music, it is very important to ensure that we avoid songs that are vulgar, double-meaning, or insensitive. The atmosphere of a wedding is sacred and familial, and hence we should avoid songs that cross the line in language or emotions. For example, songs like "Munni Badnaam" and "Sheila Ki Jawani" are not suitable for the occasion. Weddings are a celebration of love and commitment, and songs that are based on breakups, betrayal, or unstable relationships, such as "Channa Mereya" or "Bhula Dunga," do not suit the wedding atmosphere. Songs that promote intoxication or other negative tendencies during a wedding do not suit the atmosphere. Songs like "Daru Desi," "Lungi Dance," and "My Drinking" can affect the dignified atmosphere of the wedding. Some songs that are simply loud and noisy, such as songs with excessive bass or DJ tracks, can sometimes make the atmosphere unpleasant. To avoid these, music should be selected in such a way that everyone can easily listen to it and enjoy it. People from all classes and communities attend our weddings. In such a situation, songs that hurt any religious or caste sentiments should be avoided. To avoid these songs, it is important that the songs selected express equality, respect, and love.

How to create a balanced playlist? Some special tips can be followed to create a balanced and diverse playlist: It is important to keep in mind the preferences of the bride and groom as well as family and friends at the wedding. Include songs in the playlist that are pleasant to people of all age groups. The songs should always be sweet and melodious. Such songs not only feel good to the ears,



but they also connect hearts. On this special day of marriage, romantic songs, such as "Tum Hi Ho," "Tum Jo Aaye," etc., can make the atmosphere even more special. Select the songs in such a way that they symbolize decency and dignity. A wedding is a serious and respectable occasion, and any song on it that does not show decency in words should be removed from the list.

Choose the right music for each ritual. Romantic and sentimental songs for the jaimala, energetic tracks for the dance floor, and emotional tunes at the time of vidaai can make the day even more memorable. Traditional Indian music, Sufi songs, and folk songs can also play an important role in the wedding. Such songs can make the traditional and cultural atmosphere of the wedding more lively. If the budget allows, it can be a good idea to include a live band or Sufi singing. Live music creates a different kind of intimacy and connection that DJ music cannot.

A wedding is not just an event; it's an emotional journey. A wedding is not just a celebration; it is an emotional journey. Music,

which connects our hearts and minds, plays a vital role in this journey. The right music selection not only adds to the dignity and joy of the ceremony, but it also reaffirms the relationships that are built for a lifetime. So, when you select your wedding music, keep in mind that the songs are not just for entertainment, but they represent a deeper meaning and message. Decency, respect for emotions, and following cultural traditions are very important in the selection of songs. Ultimately, the purpose of wedding music is not only to fill the atmosphere with entertainment, but it also connects us with our emotions and relationships. So avoid vulgar and ear-splitting songs and choose songs that further enhance the dignity and joy of this sacred bond.

— Dr. Satyawan Saurabh, Poet, freelance journalist and columnist, radio and TV panelist, 333, Fairy Garden, Kaushalya Bhawan, Barwa (Siwani), Bhiwani, Haryana - 127045. Mobile: 9466526148, 01255281381

## Premier League Adopts Offside Tech



The Premier League has confirmed the introduction of semi-automated offside technology (SAOT) for the final seven rounds of the 2024-25 season, starting April 12. This advanced system is designed to make offside decisions faster, more consistent, and more accurate. SAOT uses optical tracking and artificial intelligence to detect offside positions and generate real-time 3D graphics. The technology has already been used in the FIFA World Cup, Champions League, Serie A, and La Liga, proving effective in reducing delays and improving decision accuracy. The first Premier

League match to feature SAOT will be Manchester City's clash with Crystal Palace. League officials believe this system will enhance the experience for fans, players, and broadcasters by significantly cutting down the time taken for offside calls. Despite its benefits, some critics argue that excessive reliance on technology may reduce the human element in football officiating. However, the Premier League remains confident that SAOT will bring greater fairness and efficiency to the game. Fans can expect a smoother and quicker decision-making process, ensuring minimal disruptions and a better viewing experience.

# Why India's middle class wants their children in international schools



Vijay Garg

India now has the second-largest number of international schools globally. The rise in international schooling is driven by growing middle-class aspirations, increased incomes, and the desire for global career opportunities. These schools offer personalized learning and inquiry-based curricula, attracting students from both urban and rural areas. With a rise in the aspirations of the middle class, Indian parents are increasing their focus towards international board schools for their children, with the nation hosting the second-largest number of international schools worldwide — not just in name with a tag, but in affiliation with global education boards. Apart from being in India's richer cities like Mumbai, Bengaluru, the schools are now reaching places like Hatkanagale in Sangli, Tholahunse in Davangere, and Sonaghati in Betul. "Every year, Cambridge is adding 100 schools, and 30 to 40 new schools of IB are coming up each year. The aspira-



tion of the middle class is at an all-time high. The phenomenon is not limited to metro cities but tier 2 and 3 cities, where the major growth now is coming 'Will a parent pay four lakhs a year for a CBSE school? No' Educationist GarG highlights this shift, stating that opening an international school is a strategic move. The affiliation process is smoother, the branding more aspirational, and the significantly higher tuition fees face little resistance. "Will a parent pay four lakhs a year for a CBSE school? No," "But give it the international tag, and no one blinks." It's not just about curriculum - it's about optics too. "In a world where educational institutions are also real estate investments, international schools align neatly with the land-and-building models of private owners. They're

more than schools; they're signals of status, carefully constructed to appeal to ambition and aspiration." Why is middle class sending their children to these schools? At the turn of the century, India had only eight schools offering the IB programme, and the presence of Cambridge (IGCSE) schools was so minimal that no records existed in 2000. By 2011-12, Cambridge International and International Baccalaureate had expanded to 197 and 99 schools, respectively. According to fresh data from ISC Research, India had 884 international schools in 2019, which has grown to 972 as of January 2025, marking a 10% increase over five years. In comparison, the global count of international schools rose by 8% to 14,833. Maharashtra leads with 210 IB- and IGCSE-aligned schools, followed by Karnata-

ka, while Tamil Nadu and Telangana are rapidly catching up. "More Indian families, expatriates, and NRIs are choosing international schools, which is why cities like Mumbai, Bengaluru, Hyderabad and Delhi are seeing more investment from international school chains. Parents now have higher incomes, and they see global curriculums as a way to future-proof their children's careers, making sure they study in systems that match Western universities and open doors to global opportunities," ISC Research field research manager, India "The global exposure and the rising income are in short the two reasons why Indians are opting for the international boards," added Garg. Vijay Garg Retired Principal Educational columnist street kour Chand MHR Malout Punjab

# Bangladesh Chief Advisor Mohd Yunus, PM Modi to meet in Bangkok on April 4: Report

UNI

Dhaka, Apr 2 (UNI) Bangladesh Interim Government's Chief Advisor Muhammad Yunus and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi will hold a bilateral meeting in Bangkok, Thailand, on April 4, on the sidelines of the BIMSTEC Summit, officials in Dhaka said on Wednesday.

"I can tell you that the meeting will take place," a senior official in Dhaka told UNB without elaborating further. Meanwhile, New Delhi also hinted positively about the meeting. "It is expected that they'll meet," a source in New Delhi told UNB. The interim government said there is a high possibility that the two leaders



will hold a meeting on the sidelines of the BIMSTEC Summit.

"We have requested for the meeting officially. We have reasonable grounds to remain hopeful. There is a high possibility to see the meeting," High Representative to the Chief Advisor Khalilur Rahman told reporters at the For-

eign Service Academy. Chief Advisor's Press Secretary Shafiqul Alam and Deputy Press Secretary Abul Kalam Azad Majumder were also present at the media briefing. This will be their first in-person meeting since the formation of the army-backed interim government led by Yunus on

August 8 last year, after the downfall of the Sheikh Hasina regime. The Chief Advisor is scheduled to leave for Bangkok on April 3 to attend the Summit. The Chief Advisor will also hold bilateral meetings with other BIMSTEC leaders on the sidelines. Earlier, Bangladesh ap-

proached India through the diplomatic channel to arrange a meeting between Yunus and Prime Minister Modi on the sidelines of the Summit. Foreign Secretary Md Jashim Uddin recently said the strain in the relations between Bangladesh and India could be overcome if the meeting is held between Yunus and Modi. Prime Minister Modi greeted Chief Advisor Yunus and wished the people of Bangladesh on the occasion of Eid-ul-Fitr, seeking stronger friendship between the two countries. "May the bonds of friendship among our countries grow stronger," PM Modi said in his message shared by chief advisor's press wing on Monday night, UNB reported.

## US tariffs harmful to the world: ECB chief

UNI

Brussels, Apr 2 (UNI) The United States' tariff policies are adding to global uncertainties and will have a negative impact worldwide, European Central Bank (ECB) President Christine Lagarde said on Wednesday.

"It will be negative the world over, and the density and the durability of the impact will vary depending on the scope, on the products targeted, on how long it lasts, and on whether or not there are negotiations," Lagarde told Newstalk radio in Ireland.

She noted that tariff escalations harm not only those targeted but also those who impose them. Such disputes, she said, often conclude with parties returning to the negotiating table. Lagarde emphasised the rising levels of uncertainty, with U.S. tariff measures being a significant contributing factor. "We simply don't really know



to this day - which is supposed to be the day when it is announced - what the deal will be for the rest of the world," she said. "Predictability is in very short supply at the moment." In a recent interview with a French radio pro-

gramme, Lagarde also suggested that the U.S. tariffs could serve as a wake-up call for the European Union. "We can decide together to take our destiny into our own hands, and I think it is a march to independence," she said.

## Myanmar to allocate some 240 mln USD for earthquake relief

UNI

Yangon, Apr 2 (UNI) Myanmar's government will allocate 500 billion kyats (about 238.09 million U.S. dollars) for earthquake relief and rehabilitation efforts, State Administration Council (SAC) Chairman Min Aung Hlaing has said. The Myanmar leader made the statement at a cash donation ceremony in Nay Pyi Taw on Tuesday, where well-wishers donated 104.44 billion kyats



(49.71 million dollars) in cash and non-cash items worth 12.4 billion kyats (5.9 million dollars), state-owned daily The Global New Light of Myanmar reported. The contributions were received by the chairman of the national disaster management committee, the SAC vice chairman, council members, and other relevant officials, it added. Following a 7.9-magnitude earthquake that struck Myanmar Friday, Min Aung Hlaing called for international

assistance. In response, rescue teams, medics and nurses from 16 countries and regions have arrived in Myanmar with humanitarian aid and medical supplies as of March 31, it said. Among the 18 powerful earthquakes that have struck Myanmar, the 7.9-magnitude quake was the second strongest, following an 8.0-magnitude earthquake that hit the country in 1912, according to the local daily Myanmar Alinn.

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## Afghan interim govt to commence design work of 4 major dams

UNI

Kabul, Apr 2 (UNI) The Afghan interim government's Ministry of Energy and Water has decided to start the survey and design work of four major dams in the year 1404 in the Persian calendar, starting from March 21, as part of efforts to manage water resources and increase electricity generation in the country. The proposed dams would be constructed in the northern Takhar, eastern Ghazni, and western Herat and Badghis provinces to develop agricultural fields and

increase energy production, the private media outlet Tolonews reported Tuesday.

"The budget for these dams has also been allocated to the Ministry of Energy and Water, and their practical survey and design will begin this year," Tolonews quoted Matiullah Abid, spokesman for the Ministry of Energy and Water, as saying.

Some 80 percent of the country's 35 million population largely relies on agriculture and has also been facing power shortages and potable water. To overcome the challenges, the interim government, in



addition to investing in the energy sector and launching small- and medium-scale projects to manage water

resources, also imports power from neighboring Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan and Iran.

## BUSINESS

## ITA Airways sets to start integration into Star Alliance

UNI

Kochi, Apr 2 (UNI) ITA Airways has officially received approval to start the integration process into Star Alliance following a verdict by the Star Alliance Chief Executive Board (CEB). Building on its induction into the Lufthansa Group earlier this year, this decision paves the way for its much anticipated entry into the world's largest airline alliance. The onboarding process will now move at full throttle.

Celebrating the milestone, Star Alliance Chief Executive Officer Theo Panagiotoulias stated, "In early 2026, ITA Airways is expected to officially join the Star Alliance network as a full member. The decision by our Chief Executive Board underscores the strong confidence our members have in ITA Airways. As a gateway for Italy, its addition strengthens our global network, offering seamless and connected journeys to more travellers worldwide."

Joerg Eberhart, CEO and General Manager of ITA Airways, said "We are excited to join the Star Alliance network and to bring the excellence of Made in Italy into the alliance, further enhancing its global reach. This is a significant milestone in ITA Airways' growth, and we look forward to offering our customers the future privileges of the world's largest airline network."



ITA Airways will add 360 daily flights to the Alliance network, further strengthening the Alliance's footprint in the European region. The biggest growth will come from its home cities, especially Rome and Milan, which are currently served by 16 Star Alliance members collectively. Leveraging their legacy within the Alliance, Lufthansa Group is mentoring ITA Airways through its integration journey into Star Alliance. "I am proud that ITA Airways will become the fifth hub airline

of the Lufthansa Group to join Star Alliance. As the mentor of the membership process, we will do our utmost to ensure a smooth and swift integration. ITA Airways' future membership will provide Star Alliance customers with many new opportunities for personalised travel planning. I am confident that ITA Airways will be an excellent addition to the Star Alliance portfolio," said Dieter Vranckx, Chief Commercial Officer of the Lufthansa Group. Upon completing induction, the Star Alliance network will grow to 26 member airlines, offering over 18,000 daily flights connecting 192 countries.

## DoT intensifies action to curb spam calls/messages; disconnects 1.75 lakh connections

UNI

New Delhi, Apr 2 (UNI) As part of its ongoing efforts to combat spam calls and cyber fraud, Department of Telecommunications (DoT) on Wednesday said it has disconnected about 1.75 lakh Direct Inward Dialing (DID)/landline telephone numbers that were found to be involved in unauthorized promotional activities and illegal activities. Recently it has been observed that large number of spam calls are being originated from telecom identifiers like numbers starting from 0731, 079,080 etc by misusing Primary Rate Interface (PRIs),

DoT analyses this crowd sourced data to act against such telecom resources. Identified cases are forwarded to the DoT's field offices Licensed Service Areas (LSAs) for detailed investigation. In instances where violations are confirmed, telecom services are suspended for those engaging in unauthorized promotional activities. Telecom Service Providers (TSPs) have been advised to take immediate necessary steps to ensure the scrupulous compliance of Unified License conditions relating to the curbing the misuse of PRIs including SIP trunks, Lease Line, Internet Lease Lines, IPLC etc., and to regularly check for their bonafide use. The DoT has asked Enterprises/Bulk customers/



Lease Line, Internet Lease Lines, SIP and IPLC. Citizens, under the Jan Bhagidari, have been reporting such instances of Unsolicited Commercial Communication (UCC) / spam / fraud call on Chakshu module of Sanchar Saathi, Ministry of Communications said in a statement.

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Consumers to ensure their telecom services are used in compliance with established regulations, avoiding any misuse for unsolicited commercial communication. Violations could result in severe penalties, including disconnection of services. Additionally, the DoT encourages citizens to continue reporting spam calls through the Chakshu module of Sanchar Saathi (www.sancharsaathi.gov.in), fostering a collaborative effort to make telecom services more secure and user-friendly. The Department remains dedicated to strict monitoring and prompt action against UCC violators to protect consumer interests.

## Bharti Airtel and Nokia expand core network collaboration to speed-up new 5G service delivery

UNI

Kolkata, Apr 1 (UNI) Nokia and Bharti Airtel are expanding their partnership with the deployment of Nokia's Packet Core appliance-based and Fixed Wireless Access solutions for providing a better network experience for Airtel's growing 4G/5G customer base. The solution will help seamlessly integrate 5G and 4G technologies into a single set of servers. Nokia's FWA will provide additional capacities for home broadband and enterprise-critical application services. Airtel will use Nokia's automation framework to realise zero-touch service launch and efficient lifecycle management for core network functions to enhance its ability to deliver new services faster while reducing

network operational costs. Using Nokia's converged Packet Core solution for 5G standalone (SA) readiness, Airtel will continue its evolution toward advanced 5G and simplify its network architecture to meet the ever growing need of data while reducing network operational costs. This will help Airtel optimize its hardware footprint and reduce its cost per bit by utilizing appliance-based Packet Core gateways, while maintaining the rest of the network elements in a cloud-native architecture. The rollout covers network automation in a multi-year deal that spans the majority of Airtel's service regions across the country. The collaboration entails advancing autonomous networks by utilising GenAI for service orchestration and assurance. "Nokia's innovative Packet Core deployment

architecture enables critical changes to our network quality and reliability for meeting the fast-rising growth in customer data requirements," said Airtel CTO, Randeep Sekhon. "This rollout further demonstrates our longstanding success in jointly collaborating to strengthen the overall Airtel customer experience." "Nokia and Airtel have a long-standing partnership, and we are pleased to bolster its 5G SA readiness," said Raghav Sahgal, President of Cloud and Network Services at Nokia. "Airtel's use of Nokia's Packet Core to build greater network agility and reliability demonstrates how we are both helping customers solve problems and furthering Nokia's leadership position in the Core space in India and around the world." Nokia's solution provides a pre-integrated and modu-

lar server-based configuration for increased flexibility to support a wider range of business and operational deployment models. This allows Airtel to better target new customers and create new revenue streams. Nokia's Packet Core solution for Fixed Wireless Access enables additional capacity for home broadband and enterprise-critical application services for the delivery of extreme bandwidth and capacity to customers. Nokia has an expansive core footprint in Bharti Airtel's network and already provides several other core technologies including VoLTE (Voice over LTE), HSS (Home Subscriber Server), HLR (Home Location Register), UDM (Unified Data Management) and VoNR (Voice over New Radio), along with MANO (automated Management & Orchestration).

# HEALTH

## Not getting enough magnesium could affect cardiovascular risk



Jessica Freeborn

**M**agnesium is a mineral that affects many aspects of how the human body works, including nerve function, muscle function, and bone development.

A review published in *Nutrients* discusses how magnesium affects cardiovascular health, according to recent studies.

The review suggests that inadequate magnesium levels can increase the risk for cardiovascular disease, based on data from multiple studies. The review also discusses several mechanisms that may be involved and notes that many people are not consuming enough magnesium in their diets. Magnesium intake: How does it affect cardiovascular disease risk? Patrick Kee, MD, PhD, a cardiologist with Vital Heart & Vein, who was not involved in the review, explained to *Medical News Today* what a magnesium deficiency is, and how doctors can diagnose it. He told us that:

“Magnesium deficiency can manifest in two distinct states: hypomagnesemia and chronic latent magnesium deficiency. Hypomagnesemia is relatively straightforward to diagnose, as it is characterized by a low serum magnesium level below 1.5 to 1.8 mg/dL [milligrams per deciliter]. However, total body magnesium deficiency without hy-

pomagnesemia can be challenging to detect. This condition, known as chronic latent magnesium deficiency, can only be diagnosed through a magnesium tolerance test, which involves administering an intravenous infusion of magnesium followed by urine collections. Unfortunately, this test is laborious and not widely accessible.” The review notes that people with chronic latent magnesium deficiency have reduced magnesium overall. However, their serum total magnesium still reads as normal. This review notes several key points in the history of research regarding magnesium. For a while, the understanding was that magnesium deficiency was not a major issue and that if it was, it was mainly for people with conditions that impacted their body’s ability to absorb or excrete magnesium.

Research in the late 1990s and early 2000s began to support the idea that inadequate dietary magnesium led to not enough magnesium in the body. The results also suggested that this deficiency might affect cardiovascular function. The review then notes that after 2006, many epidemiological studies, randomized controlled trials, and meta-analyses showed a relationship between magnesium and conditions like high blood pressure, heart failure, and cardiac mortality. More recent data have added to these findings. Many studies from 2018 and on have found that magnesium status is inversely correlated with high blood pressure, stroke, coronary and ischemic heart disease, atrial fibrillation, heart failure, and cardiac morbidity and mortality. The review then discusses how magnesium deficiency may contribute to cardiovascular problems. There may be multiple mechanisms involved.

For example, magnesium deficiency may contribute to inflammatory stress and oxidative stress. The author defines oxidative stress

as “an imbalance between oxidants (reactive oxygen and nitrogen species) and antioxidants.” Some data also supports the idea that magnesium deficiency may contribute to abnormal lipid levels and trouble with lipid metabolism. For example, the author notes some data from human studies supports that chronic latent magnesium deficiency could lead to lipid changes. The review suggests that magnesium deficiency may also contribute to endothelial dysfunction and changes in electrolyte metabolism.

How much magnesium do you need? After discussion of the relationship between magnesium and cardiovascular disease, the review goes on to discuss magnesium intake. The author notes that it has been challenging to set how much magnesium people should consume.

A number of factors could impact how much magnesium someone needs. For example, some data support the notion that individuals who weigh more might need to consume more magnesium. The review further notes that surveys indicate that many people are not consuming enough magnesium.

The author stresses that over one quarter of adults could have a magnesium intake that could lead to mild to moderate magnesium deficiency or chronic latent magnesium deficiency. How worried should you be about your magnesium intake?

Despite the amount of research discussed in this review, it also has limitations. This review is from one author and discusses data from multiple studies and findings from animal and in vitro research.

It is important to note that all the cited studies have their own limitations, even though they show direction. For example, a number of the discussed studies focused on postmenopausal women, so the results might not be applicable to other groups. New research will need to be considered as it becomes avail-



able and can confirm or refute the evidence cited in this review. Overall, more research may be required, particularly to confirm the potential benefits of magnesium supplementation. Cheng-Han Chen, MD, a board-certified interventional cardiologist and medical director of the Structural Heart Program at MemorialCare Saddleback Medical Center in Laguna Hills, CA, who was not involved in the review, noted the following words of caution:

“Trials investigating the use of magnesium supplementation have not yet found a consistent benefit to heart health. If dietary magnesium deficiency is eventually confirmed to be a risk factor for cardiovascular disease, then magnesium supplementation may represent a potential avenue to improve cardiovascular outcomes. Prospective randomized controlled trials will be necessary to evaluate any potential therapeutic benefit from magnesium supplementation.”

Similarly, Kee told us that “the efficacy of magnesium supplementation in reducing hard clinical out-

comes such as heart attack, stroke, and peripheral artery disease remains uncertain, particularly in individuals susceptible to magnesium deficiency, as previously mentioned.”

“The relative low cost and generic nature of magnesium supplementation may not provide sufficient motivation for extensive clinical trials to validate its potential in reducing cardiovascular outcomes. [Nevertheless,] oral magnesium supplementation appears to be safe, and individuals have the autonomy to decide whether to incorporate it into their regimen,” he added.

However, it is important to note that the review notes some of the potential benefits of magnesium supplementation. For example, one umbrella meta-analysis of randomized controlled trials cited in the review suggested that magnesium supplementation helps to decrease blood pressure.

How can you up your magnesium intake?

Overall, this review suggests the

importance of regularly consuming magnesium and how adequate magnesium may lower the risk for cardiovascular problems.

People can address dietary magnesium intake with appropriate professional guidance to help ensure they are getting enough magnesium.

Magnesium also has other benefits that make it an essential component of diet. Registered dietitian nutritionist Karen Z. Berg, MS, RD, CSO, CDN, advised MNT that:

“It is important for overall health to have enough magnesium in your diet. Your body uses this mineral for a lot of different functions including blood pressure control as well as muscle contractions. Lots of foods you probably already eat are high in magnesium. The best sources of magnesium are dark leafy greens like spinach or swiss chard, as well as nuts and seeds. Almonds, cashews, pumpkin seeds or chia seeds are all great options. Black beans and edamame are also good sources of this mineral.”

Courtesy: Medicalnewstoday

## Large meals after 5 pm could contribute to type 2 diabetes risk

Finn Cohen

**A**s the holidays approach and the epic meals begin, a study recently published in *Nutrition & Diabetes* suggests that most of us should avoid the temptation to eat heavily later in the day.

The study, conducted by teams from the Universitat Oberta de Catalunya in Barcelona, Spain, and from Columbia University, NY, suggests that eating more than 45% of daily calorie intake after 5 p.m. may be linked to poorer glucose tolerance, particularly in older adults with prediabetes or early type 2 diabetes.

This can significantly harm health over time, leading to a greater risk of type 2 diabetes development, greater cardiovascular risk, and chronic inflammation.

The previously assumed consequence of late eating was primarily weight gain due to a slower metabolism as we wind down and our bodies prepare for and engage in sleep.

The new study suggests that, regardless of a person’s weight or general caloric intake, the time of day when they eat can have significant consequences on glucose metabolism.

The study classified 26 participants between the ages of 50 and 75 — who had overweight or obesity, as well as prediabetes or type 2 diabetes — into two groups: “early eaters” who consumed most of their daily calories before 5 p.m., and “late eaters” who ate 45% or more of their calories after 5 p.m. for 14 days.

The groups ate a comparable amount of daily calories and macronutrients. However, late eaters consumed almost double the number of calories after 5 p.m., consuming more fat and carbohydrates overall and trending toward higher protein and sugar intake than early eaters.

In oral glucose tolerance tests, the late eaters had notably higher blood glucose levels after 30 and 60 minutes, indicating a lower tolerance of glucose (sugar).

This trend was maintained regardless of participants’ body weight

and fat mass, calorie intake, and diet composition.

Why is eating late bad for your health?

Nate Wood, MD, an instructor of medicine and the director of culinary medicine at the Yale School of Medicine, who was not involved in the study, explained to *Medical News Today* that eating later in the day or into the night does have the capacity to add weight to the body due to the simple fact that most people are much less active at night, and not active at all as they sleep.

“The issue with eating late at night, we think, is that we are consuming calories at a time when our body doesn’t need them,” Wood told us.

He illustrated this by saying:

“Imagine you eat a few slices of pizza and then immediately go to bed. We break down that food into energy (calories), but then we have no immediate use for that energy because we’re sleeping, not exercising! So, what does our body do with that energy? It stores it to use later, when we need it. And how does our body store energy? As fat! This is one reason that it’s generally recommended to try eating earlier in the day as opposed to later.”

Pouya Shafipour, MD, a board-certified family and obesity medicine physician at Providence Saint John’s Health Center in Santa Monica, CA, who was not involved in the study, explained that the body is much more insulin-resistant at night, due to circadian rhythms.

During the day, there is more insulin secretion and increased pancreatic activity, he explained.

“When the receptors at the back of the retina sense that light is going down, melatonin starts getting secreted from the pituitary gland, and then that suppresses the pancreas,” Shafipour said, adding that eating late can be very harmful in the long and short term.

“If you’re a night owl and you’re just eating late, higher chance of insulin resistance, basically, based on your genetic predisposition. Higher rate of pre-diabetes, diabetes development, things like that. And this is something that we typically see with graveyard shift people, you know, firefighters, cops, doctors, medical

staff that work at night a lot,” he pointed out.

What is the ideal meal to eat later in the day?

It is probably not the most popular answer during the holidays, but dinner should ultimately be the lightest meal you eat, Shafipour advised.

This means fewer carbohydrates — so avoiding pasta, mashed potatoes, rice — and indulging less in dessert and alcohol.

“You want your dinner or the latest meal to be the lowest carbohydrate and simple carbohydrate meal,” Shafipour explained. “So you know this would be something with some healthy sources of protein and some healthy sources of fat, and maybe a salad. So optimally, you want to avoid desserts, alcohol, any type of refined sugar, white rice, white bread, potatoes, even a lot of fruits, because fruits also have sugar fructose.”

Because of insulin resistance, he added, there is a daytime window where those larger-carbohydrate meals can work with your metabolism. “The most active time in terms of metabolism is plus and minus an hour between probably about 10 a.m. to 4 or 5 p.m.,” Shafipour said.

“So if one wants to optimize their insulin sensitivity, [they] want to eat [their] heavier carbohydrate meals in that window and then try to wind it down by sundown and have a lighter dinner. And the lighter dinner will help with insulin sensitivity, will provide a better quality sleep,” he noted. How does sleep affect glucose metabolism? The balance between sleep and eating is important to strike for metabolism and overall health. Because sleep is so important, Wood said that a consistent pattern each night was the most important factor.

“Most adults need 7 to 8 hours of sleep per night. Getting less than that or more than that can have negative effects on our health,” Wood pointed out.

“I recommend patients try to go to bed at the same time every night. This means that if you go to bed at 10 p.m. on weeknights, try to go to bed no later than 10:30 or 11:00 p.m. on weekends. The more consistent we can keep our sleep schedule, the bet-



ter,” he advised.

Shafipour explained that the hormonal changes that occur during sleep have a significant effect on appetite throughout the day:

“Sleep is also by itself very important, because we have the hor-

mone leptin, which is an appetite suppressing hormone, get secreted, and it peaks around 6 or 6 and a half hours of sleep. So optimal sleep schedule would be for an average adult would be between 7 to 8 hours so you get enough leptin and ghrelin,

which is the appetite hormone that one also doesn’t stay up too much during the day. So if we sleep less than 6 and a half hours, we’ll notice that we’re hungrier during the day looking for food more.”

Courtesy: Medicalnewstoday

## Kantara Chapter 1' delays, rumours dismissed

ANI

Rishab Shetty's upcoming film, Kantara Chapter 1, is all set for a grand release in October. Recently, there were rumours doing the rounds that the film had been delayed. However, the makers shared a cute video to reconfirm the release date and dismiss the rumours about the postponement. Rishab Shetty took three months of training and learnt horse riding, Kalari and sword fighting to ace this sequence. Shot for nearly 45-50 days, the massive sequence was filmed in the mountains of Karnataka. The makers recently shot an extensive war



sequence with 500 skilled fighters. Nearly 3,000 people

were part of the biggest sequence, which is said to be one of the highlights of Kantara: Chapter 1. The video featured a message from one of the fans, which read, "Bro, Is Kantara: Chapter 1 postponing its release date?" The question is followed by the answer 'No' in different languages.

The team shared the video with the caption, "NO doubts. NO delays :) The legendary saga, #KantaraChapter1 unfolds on October 2nd, 2025. Kantara: Chapter 1 will hit theatres on October 2, 2025. The makers have now reconfirmed the release date. Fans were excited with the latest announcement and expressed their happiness in the comments section.

## 'Karate Kid: Legends' trailer shows return of Ralph Macchio & Jackie Chan; check it out

ANI

Washington DC [US], April 2 (ANI): The much-loved Karate Kid franchise is set to return with a new movie, 'Karate Kid: Legends.' Sony has released the official trailer for 'Karate Kid: Legends', which brings back Ralph Macchio as Daniel LaRusso from the original Karate Kid movies and Jackie Chan as Mr Han from the 2010 reboot starring Jaden Smith, reported Deadline. The trailer was released on Tuesday, a day after Macchio and actor Ben Wang made an appearance at CinemaCon to promote the film. The movie takes place three years after the last season of



Cobra Kai. It follows a young kung fu fighter, Li Fong (played by Wang), who moves from Beijing to New York City with his mother after a family tragedy. Struggling to adjust, Li Fong faces challenges at school and gets into fights, even though he tries to avoid trouble. When a friend needs his help, Li decides to enter a karate competition. But his kung fu skills alone

are not enough. To prepare, his teacher, Mr. Han (Chan), seeks help from Daniel LaRusso (Macchio). Together, they train Li, combining karate and kung fu to create a powerful new style. Directed by Jonathan Entwistle, Karate Kid: Legends features a screenplay by Rob Lieber. The movie is produced by Karen Rosenfelt, with Ralph Macchio also serving as an executive pro-

ducer. The cast includes Joshua Jackson, Sadie Stanley, Ming-Na Wen, and Aramis Knight. The trailer ends with Daniel LaRusso telling Li Fong: "Remember what you're fighting for. When you understand that, you will be ready." The first trailer for Karate Kid: Legends was released in October last year. The original Karate Kid (1984) revolved around the story of Daniel LaRusso, played by Ralph George Macchio, a teenager who moves to Los Angeles and learns karate from Mr. Miyagi to stand up against bullies. The 2010 remake starred Jaden Smith as Dre Parker, who moves to China and is trained by Mr. Han, played by Jackie Chan. (ANI)

## "Kaun jayega itni mehengi picture dekhne": Tigmanshu Dhulia on how high ticket prices deter viewers



ANI

Mumbai (Maharashtra) [India], April 2 (ANI): Acclaimed filmmaker Tigmanshu Dhulia spoke about how high ticket prices impact audience turnout in theatres and the increasing corporate interference in filmmaking. In a conversation with ANI, Dhulia highlighted the difference in ticket pricing between the South Indian film industry and the Hindi film industry. "There is a cap on ticket rates in South...yahan to kuch bhi ticket ka rates kariye, kaun jayega aese...Tickets ka rate jo badha rakhe hai kaun jayega itni mehengi picture dekhne" (If the ticket rates are high, who will go to see such expensive movies?) The traffic has increased in every city. So people say leave it, on the day of World Cinema Day there is a ticket of 100 rupees, every movie theatre is full. Why are the movies getting hit in reruns as the tickets prices are low?" the filmmaker said.

Several films like 'Sanaam Teri Kasam', the 2016 romantic drama, which made its grand return to theatres on February 7, 2025 or Soham Shah and Aanand L Rai's 'Tumbbad', re-released in theatres on September 13, 2024 got much appreciation from the audience. Citing the reason, he added, "Sab films kyu chal rahi hai, jo jab release hui thi flop thi. Kyo? Ticket ka rate kum hai, samajh mein kyu nahi aata logon ko?" (Why are all the films doing well which were flops when they were released? Why? Ticket rates are low, why don't people understand?) He spoke about the importance of lowering the ticket prices, "They are not selling you tickets for the movie. They are selling you parking tickets, popcorn, samosas, and tacos...aur saath mein tickets bhi bech rahi hai aur unka pura paisa hai jahan pe yeh multiplex bana hai. (And they are also selling tickets. All their money is in the real es-

tate where this multiplex is made.) Dhulia opened up on the interference of corporates and how it impacts the filmmaking process: "Filmmaking is a hobby; it is not a business. You indeed have to run your house while fulfilling that expensive hobby. And there is no measure of greed here, you want so much, that's the nature of a person. You want more, you want a bigger bungalow, you want a bigger car.... At every level. I am not just talking about the film industry. Everyone wants money more than ever. Such a society has been formed." He added, "Earlier, there used to be 2-3 people who used to make the film. If there was any problem...to producer ke kandhe par haath daala lawn mein ghum gaye problem solve..Here, there are corporates, he will go to the legal department; he will go to the budget department; he will go here, he will go there. 'If you see the end titles of the film, the credits don't end. There are names of such people who have nothing to do with the film. So, the corporates came and destroyed the film industry." "The South is still good; that's why the corporates haven't intervened. They have intervened in OTT but not in feature films. They are still the old producers. They work in friendship. 'Aur abhi South ke theatres ka jo average capacity hai 75 per cent hai, Hindi mein 25 per cent hai kyunki vahan ticket rates par cap hai, yahan pe to kuch bhi kariye aap.'" On the work front, Tigmanshu Dhulia has garnered international recognition with the biographical film, 'Paan Singh Tomar', which premiered at the 2010 BFI London Film Festival and the thriller drama 'Saheb, Biwi Aur Gangster.' 'Paan Singh Tomar' eventually went on to win the National Film Award for Best Feature Film in 2012. He is also well known for his role as Ramadhir Singh in Anurag Kashyap's cult film 'Gangs of Wasseypur'. (ANI)

## Akash Ambani visits, offers prayers at Sri Venkateswara Temple

ANI

Tirupati (Andhra Pradesh) [India], April 2 (ANI): Akash Ambani, Chairman of Reliance Jio Infocomm Limited (RJIL), visited Sri Venkateswara Temple in Tirumala on Wednesday to offer prayers to Lord Venkateswara and seek blessings from the priests.

The temple, dedicated to Lord Venkateswara, an incarnation of Lord Vishnu, is one of the most visited religious sites in India, attracting millions of devotees annually. In the visuals, Akash Ambani was seen wearing a red cloth around his body as he performed necessary rituals during his holy visit to the Lord Venkateswara Temple.



He was greeted with warmth and reverence by the temple priests. Akash Ambani recently spoke at the Mumbai Tech Week 2025 at the Jio World Centre and stressed the importance of AI in India's future. He said that AI will be the key driver of India's economic growth, helping the country achieve a 10 per cent or double-digit growth rate in the com-

ing years. During a fireside chat with Dream11 CEO Harsh Jain, Ambani stressed the importance of AI in shaping the future. "I think AI is the biggest technology change that we have seen in our lifetime to date. And in my view, it is the engine that will empower India to grow at 10 per cent or double-digit growth num-

bers for the foreseeable future," he said. To make India a leader in AI, Ambani highlighted three fundamental areas of focus: AI infrastructure, research and development, and skilled talent. Meanwhile, earlier in March, filmmaker and choreographer Prabhu Deva visited the Sri Venkateswara Temple in Tirumala to offer prayers and seek blessings from the priests. The choreographer, dressed in a simple white outfit, was seen on Tuesday greeting shutterbugs stationed outside the temple. Prabhu Deva was also seen clicking selfies with fans. Actor Esha Rebba visited the Sri Venkateswara Swamy Temple in Tirumala along with director Tharun Bhascker. (ANI)

## Sonu Sood thanks readers as his book reaches thousands of schools

ANI

Mumbai (Maharashtra) [India], April 2 (ANI): Actor Sonu Sood recently thanked readers as his book 'I'm No Messiah' (co-authored by Meena Iyer) reached over 7,000 schools across India. The actor, on Wednesday took to his Instagram account to share a series of pictures along with a message that read, "I'm humbled that my book 'I'm No Messiah' (co-authored by Meena Iyer) has reached over 7000 schools across India thank you #Pradeep Lokhande @ruralrelationspune13 @penguinrandomhouse @meenaiyerofficial #keepreadingIndia." The book, available in both Hindi and English, has reached 7,000 schools,

connected with 1,390 young readers across seven states, and influenced 229 opinion leaders. Through the Gyan-Key Classroom Library, the world's largest rural reading initiative led by Pradeep Lokhande, the book has also inspired over 2,380 postcards from readers. Meanwhile, on the professional front, Sonu was last seen headlining 'Fateh', which also marked his directorial debut. The film is an action-packed thriller inspired by real-life cyber-crime events during the COVID-19 pandemic. The film also features Jacqueline Fernandez, Vijay Raaz, and Naseeruddin Shah, all of whom play pivotal roles in bringing the high-stakes narrative to life. The film hit theatres on January 10. (ANI)

## Supertar Shah Rukh Khan returns to Mumbai in style, spotted at Airport

ANI

Mumbai (Maharashtra) [India], April 2 (ANI): Bollywood superstar Shah Rukh Khan returned to Mumbai in the wee hours on Wednesday. Shah Rukh Khan, popularly known as King Khan of Bollywood, was spotted at Mumbai International Airport as he returned from his long trip and hopped into a car. Often seen in a mask and hoodie, Shah Rukh Khan's latest airport look has surprised his fans. In the visuals, the 'Jawan' actor looked handsome in a black shirt and loose blue jeans. Shah Rukh complimented his outfit with black sunglasses. The actor greeted his fans before he hopped into his car after a long journey. He was accompanied by his manager, Pooja Daddani. Shah Rukh recently hosted an IPL 2025 opening ceremony, which signified a beautiful crossover between cricket and Bollywood. With his amazing hosting



skills, SRK added "chaar chand" to the ceremony. The highlight of the event was undoubtedly the moment when SRK called former RCB captain 'GOAT' and shook a leg with him on his blockbuster song 'Jhoomo Jo Pathaan'. The entire Eden Gardens erupted into loud 'Kohli Kohli' chants. Like the audience, SRK could not resist himself and chanted 'Kohli Kohli'. "Virat bhai is the only

player who has been associated with just one team in the entirety of the IPL. He is the OG. The GOAT of IPL," said Shah Rukh before asking Kohli to come on the stage. "The king of 22 yards and a billion hearts. Let's hear the loudest for the one and only the GOAT, Mr. Virat Kohli," he added. The audience was left excited on seeing 'King Kohli' as he unleashed his dancing avatar with 'King Khan' at the jam-packed Eden Gardens. In no time, fans flooded social media by uploading videos of SRK and Kohli's 'Jhoomo Jo Pathaan' dance. Before Kohli, SRK danced with Rinku Singh, who is a part of the KKR squad. Rinku shook a leg with SRK on his famous 'Lutt Putt Gaya' track from the latter's film 'Dunki'. Rinku's dance left Kohli in splits. Recently, the 'Jawan' actor was also spotted at Aamir Khan's house to celebrate the latter's 60th birthday. He was joined by Salman Khan. (ANI)

## Indian Film Festival of Los Angeles to Kick Off on May 6

THE JAZZBAAT NEWS DESK



INDIAN FILM FESTIVAL OF LOS ANGELES MAY 6-10, 2025

Wed, April 2, 2025: The 23rd Indian Film Festival of Los Angeles (IFFLA) announced its 2025 lineup, maintaining its role as the country's leading South Asian film showcase in the United States. Now in its second decade, over 20 years, IFFLA has presented innovative storytelling and emerging talent, and the lineup for 2025 is its best yet of South Asian film. The festival will begin with Varsha Bharath's directorial debut, Bad Girl, and end with Lawrence Valin's directorial debut, Little Jaffna, with stories that resonate South Asian culture. The festival will run from May 6-10, 2025, at Landmark Theatres Sunset and the WGA Theatre. Tickets, passes, and gala access are available now at www.indianfilmfestival.org. Building on last year's success, IFFLA 2025 is expanding its Industry Day into a two-day program with the goal of fostering connections and business opportunities for South Asian filmmakers.

This year, an opportunity to win a Pitch Competition Grant for \$10,000 is also possible. The festival features a varied range of South Asian films from India, Nepal, Bangladesh, Pakistan, the U.S., the U.K., and Canada, along with international co-productions from France, Singapore, and Norway. IFFLA 2025 will present 27 films, which include seven narrative features, one documentary, 18 short films, and a special two-episode screening of an anthology series. The festival will include two world premieres, six North American premieres, three U.S. premieres, and 14 Los Angeles premieres, featuring a unique panorama of fresh faces and perspectives. IFFLA Artistic Director Anu Rangachar emphasized that this year's lineup showcases the rich di-

versity of South Asian cinema, particularly highlighting women's contributions both onscreen and off. We are thrilled to present a wider slate that boasts an electrifying combination of talent, from fearless newcomers to old friends and established directors. These films also provoke vital conversations. They address difficult and timely subjects such as gender identity, migration, sexuality, mental health, climate change, and responsible technology, making this festival a deeply stimulating and unforgettable experience." One of the highlights of the year is Sabar Bonda (Cactus Pears), which won the Grand Jury Prize at Sundance recently. Rohan Kanawade's debut feature film gives a groundbreaking exploration to queer relationships in the rigid social order of India.

## 'Top Gun', 'Batman Forever' actor Val Kilmer passes away at 65

ANI

Washington DC [US], April 2 (ANI): Actor Val Kilmer, who is known for his roles in Top Gun, Willow, and The Door, passed away at the age of 65, reported Deadline. Kilmer's daughter, Mercedes Kilmer, confirmed to the New York Times, as quoted by Deadline, that the actor passed away after battling pneumonia.

Kilmer's early films included comedies like Top Secret! and Real Genius, as well as a breakout role as LT Tom "Ice-man" Kazansky opposite Tom Cruise in Top Gun. The actor's leather-clad portrayal of Jim Morrison in Oliver Stone's The Doors is still considered one of the best roles of an actor. After his outing as The Lizard King, Kilmer opted for scene-stealing co-starring roles in Tombstone (1993), True Romance (1993)

and Heat (1995). Regarding his character's popularity in 'Tombstone', Kilmer shared that he used to hear his fans chanting his dialogues every time he went to an airport. In an earlier interview with Deadline, Kilmer said, "Someone sent me a poll recently where Tombstone snuck into the top 10 Best Westerns of all time. I don't know if that film is a classic, but it has some elements of a classic, like the cast and

screenplay. I still can't go thru an airport without hearing "I'm your huckleberry." Kilmer said the key to landing his iconic role of Doc Holliday in Tombstone was the accent, a "dialect that didn't exist anymore." So he reached out to dialect and speech coach Tim Monich for help. "Within days, there was a tape at my doorstep of a true Southern aristocrat who spoke so slowly and precisely about the theater he had restored.



# Siraj, Buttler propel GT to emphatic win over RCB

UNI

By BD Narayankar

Bengaluru, Apr 2 (UNI) A stellar bowling performance from Mohammed Siraj and a match-winning knock by Jos Buttler powered Gujarat Titans (GT) to an emphatic eight-wicket victory over Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) in the 14th match of IPL 2025 at the Chinnaswamy Stadium on Wednesday.

Siraj was the architect of GT's success with the ball, dismantling RCB's top order with a fiery spell of 3/19. His early breakthroughs rattled the hosts, as he dismissed Devdutt Padikkal (4) and Phil Salt (14) before sending back Liam Livingstone (54) in a crucial moment of the game. Ravivirnisai Sai Kishore provided support in the middle overs, picking up two wickets to restrict RCB to a total of 169.

Chasing 170, GT's innings was anchored by Buttler, who remained unbeaten on a scintillating 73 off 39 balls. His knock, laced with five fours and six sixes, came at a strike rate of 187.18. He brought up his half-century in style, smashing Livingstone over the ropes in the 15th over.

Sai Sudharsan played a crucial role at the top, scoring a fluent 49 off 36 deliveries, hitting seven fours and a six before falling



to Josh Hazlewood. Skipper Shubman Gill, who started aggressively with a six and a four, departed for 14 after being caught by Livingstone off Bhuvneshwar Kumar.

The finishing touch came from Sherfane Rutherford, who hammered 30 off 18 balls. He sealed the win in spectacular fashion, smashing Hazlewood for a massive six, as GT wrapped up the chase in just 17.5 overs.

GT's dominance was evident throughout the chase, with Buttler playing a commanding role. He took on Rasikh Salam and Krunal Pandya, dispatching them for boundaries at will. His reverse scoop off Hazlewood in the 17th over left the Chinnaswamy spectators in stunned silence. RCB's bowlers struggled to find their rhythm, with Hazlewood and Bhuvneshwar being the only wicket-takers.

Rasikh Dar Salam, Krunal Pandya, and Yash Dayal were taken to task by GT batsmen, as the visitors comfortably overhauled the target.

With this dominant win, GT continues their impressive run in IPL 2025, while RCB lost their first match as they next meet Mumbai on April 7 in an away game. GT will lock horns with Sunrisers Hyderabad on April 6.

# BFC take crucial lead with 2-0 win in SF first leg

UNI

Bengaluru, Apr 2 (UNI) Sandesh Jhingan's own goal and a stunning second-half strike by Edgar Mendez secured Bengaluru FC a 2-0 victory against FC Goa in the opening leg of their Indian Super League semi-final at the Sree Kanteerava Stadium here on Wednesday.

The result, in front of a packed fans of over 19,000, extended the Blues' unbeaten run at home against the Gaurs, strengthening their position ahead of the return leg.

Bengaluru FC Head Coach Gerard Zaragoza made a solitary change to the starting lineup, introducing Sivasakthi Narayanan in place of Vinith Venkatesh. Meanwhile, FC Goa's Manolo Marquez opted for Sahil Tavora over Rowlin Borges in midfield, while Brison Fernandes replaced Mohammed Yasin.

The hosts started on an aggressive note, pressing high and displaying incisiveness from the outset. An early chance saw Alberto Noguera thread a precise pass to Mendez, whose cut-back for Ryan Williams was crucially intercepted by Odei Onandia.



While Bengaluru FC maintained pressure in attack, Goa also carved out opportunities. Pedro Capo forced Hrithik Tiwari into action with a header from a Noguera free-kick, while Manoyal Bhutia produced a vital interception to thwart a move involving Carl McHugh and Brison Fernandes.

As both teams sought control of possession, Williams embarked on a dazzling run after the water break, narrowly missing the far corner with a chipped effort over Hrithik. The home side's persistent attacking play eventually bore fruit in the 42nd minute when Jhingan inadvertently headed Mendez's cross into his own net, handing Bengaluru FC the lead.

The Blues intensified their offensive play in the second half, with full-backs pushing high up the field. The strategy yielded immediate results, as Bhutia ex-

changed passes with Williams before delivering a pinpoint cross for Mendez to hammer home in the 51st minute, doubling the advantage.

Seeking to capitalise on their momentum, Zaragoza introduced Sunil Chhetri and Jorge Pereyra Diaz for Sivasakthi and Mendez. FC Goa responded with sustained pressure, creating opportunities through Iker Guarrotxena and Onandia, both of whom failed to convert headers. Later, Gurpreet Singh Sandhu was called into action, denying Boris Singh's curling attempt with a fine save.

Despite the visitors' relentless attacks, Bengaluru FC's all-Indian defensive unit stood firm, securing a valuable advantage heading into the second leg.

The two teams will resume their battle in the decisive second leg at the Fatorda Stadium on Sunday, April 6.

# Mohun Bagan look to bank on strong away form in semi-final first leg clash against Jamshedpur

UNI

Jamshedpur, Apr 2 (UNI) Jamshedpur FC are set to host Mohun Bagan Super Giant (MBSG) in the first leg of their Indian Super League (ISL) 2024-25 semi-final fixture on Thursday, at 7:30 pm IST.

This will be the first time that these two sides meet in the playoffs, with MBSG reaching the last-four courtesy of winning the ISL League Shield, whereas the Red Miners defeated NorthEast United FC 2-0 in the one-legged eliminator.

Jamshedpur FC have not secured a victory in their previous six matches against Mohun Bagan Super Giant in the ISL, losing on four instances. Another failure to bag a triumph here will make it their longest winless run in front of any opponent in the competition.

Meanwhile, MBSG have been unbeaten on the road in the previous six games, winning thrice and scoring 13 goals in expense of conceding merely thrice. Avoiding a loss here will not only mark a new club record for their longest such streak away from home in the league, but also enable them to enter the second and decisive leg in Kolkata high on confidence.

Jamshedpur FC have the advantage of making a strong start to the semi-final tie, but they have lost both of their last two games here - with their last longer losing streak at the stadium coming between November-December 2022, of three games each.

Jamshedpur FC have seen a purple patch upfront in 2025, scoring the most goals (22) since the start of the calendar year - one more than Mohun Bagan Super Giant (21), who are the highest scorers in the league with 47 strikes.

MBSG have won just one of their last six ISL playoffs matches in regulation or extra time (D3 L2), including a 1-3 defeat to Mumbai City FC in last season's final. They will want to set this record straight to clinch the ISL Cup after falling short at the final hurdle last season.

Head coach Jose Molina remains unbeaten in the ISL playoffs (W1 D2) from his tenure with ATK in 2016. If he avoids a defeat here, Molina will surpass John Gregory (W2 D1 in 2017-18 for Chennaiyin FC) to become the tactician with the longest unbeaten streak in the playoffs.

Jamshedpur FC head coach Kha-



lid Jamil outlined an optimistic perspective before the fixture. "There are two legs to play and we are facing a very good team. We are positive, since we are playing at home, and we must think for a positive result," he said.

Mohun Bagan Super Giant head coach Jose Molina affirmed his side's commitment to win the ISL Cup.

"We are ready and we want to win the ISL Cup. We are absolutely happy with the season, but we want to win the Cup too," he said.

Jamshedpur FC and Mohun Bagan Super Giant have faced each other 10 times in the ISL, with MBSG winning five times and the Red Miners emerging victorious thrice. Two encounters have produced draws.

Jamshedpur FC's Javi Hernandez is just two goal contributions away from reaching 50 in the ISL (29 goals & 19 assists). If he scores in this game, he will record the second-highest goal tally in a single season for Jamshedpur FC, behind Greg Stewart (11 goals in 2021-22).

Mohun Bagan Super Giant's Jason Cummings has provided an assist in each of their last two away games. Setting up another goal here will make him the first club player to assist in three consecutive away matches in ISL history. Overall, he has netted four times and directly facilitated six strikes in the current campaign.

Jamshedpur FC's Muhammad Uvais has recorded 27 passes per game at 75% accuracy, making 12 blocks, winning 37 tackles, alongside winning 21 aerial duels, creating 13 goal-scoring chances, thus making contributions on both ends of the field.

# Top seeds survive scare, Jaishingani stuns 4th seed

UNI

Bengaluru, Apr 2 (UNI) Top two seeds Jay Clarke and Oliver Crawford overcame stiff challenges, while India's Raghav Jaishingani stunned fourth seed Alexandr Binda to storm into the second round of the SM Krishna Memorial Open at the SM Krishna Tennis Stadium here on Wednesday.

Jaishingani, who advanced through the qualifying rounds, scripted a remarkable comeback against Italy's Binda. After losing the opening set, he reeled off five consecutive games, including two crucial breaks, to claim the second set 6-3.

The Indian maintained his momentum in the decider, breaking serve in the first and fifth games to seal a 2-6, 6-3, 6-4 victory.

Reflecting on his triumph, Jaishingani said, "I started well, but he dominated the first set. I had a clear plan and stuck to it, and gradually, I began to win points. I focused on my tactics, and as the match progressed, things started falling into place."

The 22-year-old added that he had "zero expectations" coming into the match and preferred to take things "day-by-day."

"I don't set ranking goals. I go match by match. It would be great to progress deep into the tournament,



but I am not putting any pressure on myself," he added.

Meanwhile, India's Kabir

Hans came agonisingly close to pulling off the biggest upset of the tournament against top-seeded Clarke. After dropping the opening set 4-6, Hans fought back to take the second set 6-4. The decider went to a tiebreak, where the Briton eventually prevailed.

Second seed Crawford also faced a tough battle before overcoming Australia's Kody Pearson in three sets to reach the next round.

Joining Jaishingani in the second round were fellow Indians Karan Singh, Abhinav Sanjeev Shanmugam, Manish Sureshkumar, Prajwal Dev, and Ishaque Egbal. Singh, the fifth seed, dispatched the in-form

Adil Kalyanpur in straight sets. Shanmugam outlasted Suraj R Prabodh in three sets, while Sureshkumar registered a 6-2, 7-6 (2) win over Yuvan Nandal. Egbal enjoyed a comfortable 6-2, 6-1 victory over Maan Kesharwani. Aryan Shah battled past Nitin Kumar Sinha 6-2, 3-6, 6-3, while SD Prajwal Dev overcame Krish Tyagi 6-4, 6-4.

In the doubles category, the Italian duo of Binda and Nikita Ianin eased past Manish Ganesh and Suraj R Prabodh 6-1, 6-4. Meanwhile, Digvijay Pratap Singh and Jagmeet Singh staged a comeback to defeat Jaishingani and Bharat Nishok Kumaran 5-7, 6-2, [10-7].

# Haryana CM Nayab Singh Saini Meets Asian Wrestling Championship 2025 Medalists



UNI

New Delhi [India], April 2: Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini on Wednesday met the champions of the Asian Wrestling Championship 2025: gold medal winner Manisha Bhanwala, silver medal winner Reetika Hooda, bronze medal winner Muskan Nandal, and their coach Mandeep.

Olympic medalist and BJP leader Yogeshwar Dutt was also present. CM Nayab Singh Saini posted a message on his official X page, congratulating the sportspersons for their success and wishing them all the best for their future. "Today, I met Senior Asian Wrestling Championship gold medalist Manisha, silver medalist Reetika Hooda, bronze medalist Muskan Nandal, and coach Mandeep. All were greeted warmly and congratulated, and I wished them all the best for their future wins. May Mata Rani's blessings always be with

you. I wish you all a bright future," CM Nayab Singh Saini posted on his official X account.

Wrestlers Manisha Bhanwala (62 kg) and Antim Panghal (53 kg) brought glory to India by securing gold and bronze medals, respectively, at the Asian Wrestling Championships 2025 in Amman, Jordan, as per Olympics.com. Manisha Bhanwala beat North Korea's Ok J Kim 8-7 in the final to bring India its first women's freestyle wrestling gold medal at this championship since 2021. Manisha had won three back-to-back bronze medals from 2022 to 2024. Manisha was down 2-7 against Ok J Kim but produced a stunning turnaround to win gold. Current U23 world champion Reetika Hooda won a silver medal in the women's freestyle 76kg event. Muskan Nandal (women's 59kg), Mansi Lather (women's 68kg), and Greco-Roman grapplers Nitesh (97kg) and Sunil Kumar (87kg) won bronze medals in the day's earlier events.

# BCCI announces fixtures for Team India (Senior Men) international home season 2025

UNI

Mumbai, Apr 2 (UNI) The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) has revealed the schedule for India Men's home season for 2025. India are set to host the West Indies and South Africa across October and November later this year.

India's home season will commence with a two-Test series against the West Indies, with the first Test in Ahmedabad starting on October 2. The second Test is set to be played in Kolkata from October 14.

Following the West Indies series, India will host South Africa in a multi-format contest. The Test series against South Africa will mark a historic moment, as Guwahati is set to host its first-ever Test match. The series will begin in New Delhi on November 14, followed by the second Test in Guwahati starting on November 22. India and South Africa will then engage in a



three-match ODI series, followed by a five-match T20I series in December. The ODIs will be played in Ranchi, Raipur and Vizag, from November 30 to December 6, before the focus shifts to the T20Is from December 9 to 19, with matches taking places in Cuttack, Chandigarh, Dharamsala, Lucknow and Ahmedabad.

**India vs West Indies**  
1st Test - 2nd Oct - 6th Oct, Ahmedabad  
2nd Test - 10th Oct - 14th Oct, Kolkata  
India vs South Africa

1st Test - 14th Nov - 18th Nov, New Delhi  
2nd Test - 22nd Nov - 26th Nov, Guwahati  
1st ODI - 30th Nov, Ranchi  
2nd ODI - 3rd Dec, Raipur  
3rd ODI - 6th Dec, Vizag  
1st T20I - 9th Dec, Cuttack  
2nd T20I - 11th Dec, New Chandigarh  
3rd T20I - 14th Dec, Dharamsala  
4th T20I - 17th Dec, Lucknow  
5th T20I - 19th Dec, Ahmedabad