



Prez of the European Parliament Roberta Metsola, casts her ballot for EPP Prez during the European People's Party (EPP) congress in Valencia



President of UDR parliamentary group Eric Ciotti speaks during a session of questions to the government at the French National Assembly in Paris



A city bus goes by the historic city of Santiago, Spain during a major power outage across Spain and Portugal



Turkey's Prez Recep Tayyip Erdogan with Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni as they meet at villa Doria Pamphilj, in Rome

allovertheworld



A farmer carries lamb to a sheep dip during a campaign to combat the rise of Crimean-Congo haemorrhagic fever, a viral tick-borne disease transmitted to humans, at a farm in Bablon near the city of Hillah in the Iraqi province of Babilon

France targets cheap Chinese goods with fee on packages

PARIS: France wants to start charging non-EU online sellers a handling fee for each low-value package shipped to domestic customers, government ministers said Tuesday as the country copes with an influx of cheap goods from China. Such a fee, of "a few euros" per parcel, would help cover the cost of checking the incoming billions of small packages each year ordered by EU consumers via platforms such as Chinese-founded firms Temu and Shein. In 2024, 4.6 billion packages each worth under 150 euros (\$170) entered the EU - more than 145 per second - with 91 percent originating in China. Some 800 million such packages were shipped to France alone last year. Merchandise worth less than 150 euros, excluding VAT, purchased by mail and sent directly from a third country is not subject to EU customs duties.

Over 72,000 migrants dead, disappeared globally since 2014: UN

GENEVA: More than 72,000 deaths and disappearances have been documented along migration routes around the world in the past decade, most of them in crisis-affected countries, the United Nations said on Tuesday. Last year saw the highest migrant death toll on record, with at least 8,938 people dying on migration routes, according to the International Organization for Migration (IOM). "These numbers are a tragic reminder that people risk their lives when insecurity, lack of opportunity, and other pressures leave them with no safe or viable options at home," IOM chief Amy Pope said in a statement. The report by her UN agency found that nearly three-quarters of all migrant deaths and disappearances recorded globally since 2014 occurred as people fled insecurity, conflict, disaster and other humanitarian crises.

Abu Dhabi launches \$500mn maternal health fund for Africa

NAIROBI: A \$500-million fund aimed at improving maternal and neonatal health in sub-Saharan Africa was launched Tuesday in Abu Dhabi at a time when Western countries are sharply cutting aid to Africa. The Beginnings Fund brings together philanthropists including the Gates Foundation and the Mohamed bin Zayed Foundation for Humanity, run by the United Arab Emirates (UAE) president. It set a deadline of 2030 to reach the \$500-million target and has already reached \$450 million in pledges, organisers said in a statement. The fund seeks to prevent more than 300,000 deaths and improve access to quality care for 34 million mothers and babies by that date. An aid freeze ordered earlier this year by US President Donald Trump has slashed budgets for many humanitarian programmes.

Hungarian women with two children exempted from income tax

BUDAPEST: Hungary on Tuesday passed a law exempting women with two or three children from paying income tax as part of a costly drive to try to reverse population decline. Prime Minister Viktor Orban's nationalist government has since 2010 enacted several measures to seek to boost the birth rate, including subsidised loans, housing allowances for families and tax exemptions for women with four or more children. Under the new law approved Tuesday in parliament, mothers of two under the age of 40 will get lifetime income tax exemptions from next year, with the benefits gradually expanded to all mothers of at least two by 2029. Mothers of three will be exempted from income taxes from this October under the legislation passed on Tuesday.

UPS says it will cut 20,000 jobs worldwide in 2025

NEW YORK: Package delivery giant UPS said Tuesday it plans to cut 20,000 positions worldwide in 2025 following a significant drop in business for Amazon, its largest customer. UPS expects to "reduce our operational workforce by approximately 20,000 positions during 2025 and close 73 leased and owned buildings by the end of June 2025," the company said in an earnings press release. The shipping company, which had around 490,000 employees at the end of 2024, is taking the actions to "reconfigure" its operations in reaction to a "changing trade environment," said Chief Executive Carol Tome. "The macro environment may be uncertain, but with our actions, we will emerge as an even stronger, more nimble UPS," Tome said. Profits were \$1.2 billion, up 7.2 percent from the year-ago level, while revenues were down 0.7 percent at \$21.5 billion.

Canada's Liberals celebrate stunning win, Conservative challenger loses his seat

AP, TORONTO: As Canada's Liberals celebrated election victory in a stunning turn of fortune, vote counting resumed Tuesday to determine whether Prime Minister Mark Carney's party gains an outright majority or needs help in Parliament from a smaller party.

Carney's rival, populist Conservative leader Pierre Poilievre, was in the lead until US President Donald Trump took aim at Canada with a trade war and annexation threats. Poilievre not only lost his bid for prime minister Monday but was voted out of the Parliament seat that he held for 20 years.

That capped a swift decline in fortunes for the firebrand Poilievre, who a few months ago appeared to be a shoo-in to become Canada's next prime minister



Canada's Prime Minister and Liberal Party leader Mark Carney waves to supporters at a victory party in Ottawa, Ontario

and shepherd the Conservatives back into power for the first time in a decade.

Poilievre, a career politician, campaigned with Trump-like bravado, taking a page from the "America First" president by adopting the slogan "Canada

majority - at least 172 seats - or would need to rely on a smaller party to pass legislation.

The vote-counting agency Elections Canada said the counting of special ballots - cast by voters who are away from their districts during the election - has resumed.

When the counting was paused early Tuesday, the Liberals were leading or elected in 168 seats, four short of a majority. Elections Canada estimated that uncounted votes could affect the result in about a dozen districts.

In a victory speech, Carney stressed unity in the face of Washington's threats. He said the mutually beneficial relationship Canada and the US had shared since World War II

First." But his similarities to Trump may have ultimately cost him and his party.

The Liberals were projected to win more of Parliament's 343 seats than the Conservatives. It was not immediately clear if they would win an outright

days, activists have staged candlelight protests demanding a stop to construction and the restoration of damaged landscapes.

DISPUTE OVER TREE FELLING NEAR HC INTENSIFIES WITH NEW EVIDENCE

The subject land is an ecologically sensitive area when the official legends of Regional Plan 2021 has classified No Development slopes as Ecologically Sensitive Areas (ECO1) zone and Natural Cover as Ecologically Sensitive Areas (ECO-2).

The Disaster Management Plan 2012, explicitly states that existing landslide areas, whether old or new, are generally prone to recurrent landslides, and even a superficial inspection of the outer wall of the High Court premises reveals alarming indications of structural compromise including cracks in the plaster, tile, and brick foundations, all recognised warning signs of impending landslides. These structural defects have manifested on the High Court building within a mere five years of its inauguration, which is a matter of grave concern.

There is a well-documented history of landslides in the area, including a landslide on September 4, 2007, which had severely disrupted traffic on NH-17 for nearly a month. The North Goa Collector had also recommended a comprehensive geological survey of the entire hillock given its unstable nature, the petitioners said, emphasising both the Environmental Impact Assessment report and the Environmental Clearance granted at the time of constructing the High Court.

Regarding planting of 290 trees within and around the complex against the felling of 290 trees permitted on 28/11/2014, the respondent had failed to disclose to the Court the current status of afforestation/replanting of the said 290 trees even after a decade had elapsed since granting such permission, the petitioners have stated.

The High Court Registrar also wrote a formal letter dated January 17, 2024, complaining about tree felling, and that the advocates and others had observed and documented the tree felling activities at the subject site.

The periphery/cliff surrounding the High Court was provisionally identified as a private forest in 2018 by the expert V T Thomas Committee but was subsequently removed from this protective classification by a review committee without conducting any site inspection whatsoever, in clear violation of established protocols. This critical issue regarding the proper classification and protection of the forest area is currently pending adjudication before the Supreme Court challenging the order of the National Green Tribunal (NGT). Adv Rohit Bras De Sa is representing the petitioners.

SIX-YEAR-OLD MURDERED BY FATHER IN SALTETE

The Maina-Curtorim Police have registered a case of murder under Sections 103(1) and 115(2) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023, along with Section 8(2) of the Goa Children's Act. A manhunt has been launched to locate and apprehend the accused.

A police team, including a dog squad and fingerprint experts, visited the scene and conducted a panchanama. Authorities are reviewing CCTV footage from nearby areas and searching key locations, including bus stands and railway stations. A description of the accused has been circulated across police stations in Goa and neighbouring states.

Locals expressed deep sorrow and outrage over the incident. Many visited the site and called for justice. Authorities have urged the public to remain vigilant and report any information that could assist in locating the accused.

TOURIST'S VIDEO OF ZIPLINE RIDE IN PAHALGAM CAPTURES TERROR ATTACK

Bhatt said he detached himself, jumped off the zipline and ran with his family. They hid in a blind spot where three to four others had taken refuge.

After around eight to 10 minutes, when the shots subsided, they started running again and managed to escape, he said.

Bhat said, "Two terrorists were on the ground asking people about their religion and shooting them. The rest were hiding in the bushes and firing. There may have been four to five terrorists, from the way the bullets were being fired. Two people were on the ground, but we have no idea how many were firing from the bushes."

He said the zipline operator sent nine people for the ride before him.

"When I got ready and got the selfie stick ready, he (the operator) said, 'Allah hu Akbar' three times. And the firing started. He kept looking down while uttering the words. When we saw the video the next day, I realised that the firing started after he said 'Allah hu Akbar,'" Bhat claimed.

Mexico, US reach deal on Rio Grande water sharing

AP, MEXICO CITY: Mexico and the US said on Monday they had reached an agreement that involves Mexico immediately sending more water from their shared Rio Grande basin to Texas farmers after US President Donald Trump threatened tariffs and sanctions earlier this month.

"Mexico has committed to make an immediate transfer of water from international reservoirs and increase the US share of the flow in six of Mexico's Rio Grande tributaries through the end of the current five-year water cycle," US State Department spokesperson Tammy Bruce said in a statement.

Bruce thanked Mexico President Claudia Sheinbaum for her involvement in facilitating cross-border cooperation.

He recalled that there was no presence of the Indian Army, and the place was under the local police's security. "Within 20 minutes of the incident, the Army had covered all tourists and brought them to the parking lot," he said, expressing hope that Prime Minister Modi would act against terrorists within 15-20 days.

SC REFUSES TO ENTERTAIN FRESH PLEAS CHALLENGING LAW

"We will hear all...Five cases have been registered. If you want to argue additional points then move implement applications," the CJI said.

The bench passed a similar order on Monday and asked counsel for petitioner Syed Ali Akbar to file an intervention application in pending five cases which will be taken up on May 5 for passing interim orders.

On April 17, the bench decided to hear only five of the total number of pleas before it and titled the case: "In Re: Waqf (Amendment) Act, 2025".

About 72 petitions, including those by AIMIM leader Asaduddin Owaisi, All India Muslim Personal Law Board (AIMPLB), Jamiat Ulama-i-Hind, the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK), Anwar Basha former chairman Karnataka State Board of AUQAF represented by advocate Tariq Ahmed, Congress MPs Imran Pratapgarhi and Mohammad Jawed, were filed against the law.

While appointing three lawyers as the nodal counsel, the bench asked the advocates to decide among themselves who was going to argue.

The petitioners were allowed to file their rejoinders to the Centre's reply within five days of the service of the government's response.

"We clarify that the next hearing (May 5) will be for the preliminary objections and for an interim order," the bench said.

The Centre, on April 17, assured the bench that it will neither denotify waqf properties, including "waqf by user", nor make any appointments to the central waqf council and boards till May 5.

The assurance of Solicitor General Tushar Mehta came when he informed the bench headed by the CJI that the waqf law was passed by Parliament with "due deliberations" and it should not be stayed without hearing the government.

Later, the Union Ministry of Minority Affairs filed a preliminary 1,332-page affidavit defending the amended Waqf Act and opposed any "blanket stay" by the court on a "law having presumption of constitutionality passed by Parliament".

The ministry urged the top court to dismiss the pleas challenging the validity of the law, pointing out a "mischievous false narrative" surrounding certain provisions.

The Centre recently notified the Act, which got the assent of President Droupadi Murmu on April 5 after its passage from Parliament following heated debates in both houses.

The bill was passed in the Rajya Sabha with 128 members voting in favour and 95 opposing it.

It was cleared by the Lok Sabha with 288 members supporting it and 232 against it.

'WOW'BHAVI! CRICKET WORLD HEAPS PRAISE ON PRODIGIOUS TALENT SURYAVANSHI

Former India opener Kris Srikkanth called Suryavanshi the next superstar of Indian cricket.

"At 14, most kids dream & eat ice cream. Vaibhav Suryavamshi delivers a fabulous 100 against one of the contenders for IPL! Composure, class, and courage beyond his years. We are witnessing the rise of a phenomena. Indian cricket's next superstar is here," said Srikkanth.

The national T20 captain and Mumbai Indians star Suryakumar Yadav lauded the teenager as well and described his knock as a "carnage of an innings".

"Absolutely insane!" he posted on instagram.

India pacer Mohammed Shami wrote: "Vaibhav Suryavanshi, what an incredible talent.. Scoring a century at just 14 is unreal. Keep shining brother."

Former India women's team captain Mithali Raj was among the greats of the game who were left in awe of the teenager from Bihar. "Watching Vaibhav Suryavanshi today felt like witnessing history in the making. At just 14, he has taken on a 200+ chase with a level of confidence beyond his years. 100 off 35 balls, and he made it look effortless. Well played, champ!" she wrote.

Cricketer-turned-commentator Ian Bishop was left stunned by Suryavanshi's onslaught. "I hope we don't go too far with praising him, but you cannot step back from the fact that tonight was absolutely mind-blowing, other-worldly," he said on ESPNcricinfo. Former Australia captain Aaron Finch joined the chorus of applause by expressing his amazement at the Suryavanshi's talent. "Have you ever seen anything like this? #vaibhavsuryavanshi what a talent!" he wrote on X.