

International

U.S., China take step back from sky-high tariffs.

U.S. and Chinese officials had reached a deal to roll back most of their recent tariffs and call a 90-day truce in their trade war for more talks on resolving their trade disputes. The two sides had reached a deal for a 90 day pause on measures and that reciprocal tariffs would come down by 115%.

Turkey's PKK to formally lay down arms.

The Kurdish armed group, the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK), has announced it is laying down its arms and disbanding. The move followed a call in February by the group's jailed leader, Abdullah Öcalan, for it to disband. The PKK initially aimed to create an independent homeland for Kurds, who account for about 20 percent of Turkey's population.

Founded in 1978, the PKK led an armed struggle primarily targeting Turkish military infrastructure, seeking greater recognition and independence for Kurdish communities in Turkey's southeast.

Pakistan names its military response 'Operation Bunyan-ul-Marsoos.'

Pakistan has reportedly named its military response to India "Operation Bunyan-ul-Marsoos", a term drawn from the Quran meaning "solid wall of lead." The announcement follows India's precision strikes on three key Pakistani airbases early Saturday—Nur Khan (Rawalpindi), Murid (Chakwal), and Rafiqui (Jhang)—in retaliation for weeks of cross-border hostilities, including the Pahalgam terror attack that killed 26 civilians.

National

India will not discuss anything with Pakistan except terrorism and PoK: PM Modi.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has outlined India's unwavering commitment to combat terrorism, following the success of Operation Sindoor. Mr Modi said that India will not engage in any discussions with Pakistan except

those concerning terrorism and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK). He criticised the Pakistani government and military for supporting terrorism, warning that such actions could lead to their downfall.

He outlined three key pillars of India's security doctrine, and the first pillar is the Decisive Retaliation. The second is No Tolerance for Nuclear Blackmail, as India will not be intimidated by nuclear threats.

The third pillar is No Distinction Between Terror Sponsors and Terrorists, as India will no longer see terrorist leaders and the governments sheltering them as separate entities.

32 airports reopen for civil aircraft operations after India-Pakistan ceasefire.

Thirty-two airports which were temporarily closed for civil Aircraft operations have now been opened with immediate effect following the ceasefire between India and Pakistan. Earlier, these 32 airports were closed for civil Aircraft operations on the 15th of this month.

Ladakh records world's highest snow leopard density.

The Union Territory of Ladakh is home to the highest recorded density of snow leopards in the world, with nearly 68 per cent of India's population of the elusive big cat found in the Union Territory. Globally, snow leopard populations range from 0.92 to 1.8 animals per 100 km². Hemis National Park in Ladakh reported the highest recorded number of snow leopards in the world, with about 2.07 animals per 100 square kilometers (km²) — more than any previous count from Tibet.

The peer-reviewed study, published in the journal PLOS ONE, estimated India's snow leopard (*Panthera uncia*) population at 709 individuals, of which 477 were found in Ladakh. Snow leopards, restricted to mountainous terrains in 12 countries across South and Central Asia, occupied a range of 47,572 km² in Ladakh alone.

Buddha Purnima being celebrated on May 12.

Buddha Purnima is being celebrated on May 12. It not only marks the day when Gautam Buddha was born, but also the day when he attained Nirvana under the Mahabodhi tree at Bodhi Gaya.

This day is commemorated by Buddhists and Hindus all over the world, and is a major festival in countries like India, Nepal, Bhutan, Burma, Thailand, Tibet, Korea, Laos, Vietnam, Mongolia, Cambodia, Singapore, Indonesia and Sri Lanka.

Economist SP Sharma launches his book 'India@2047.'

Renowned economist Dr SP Sharma has launched his new book, 'India@2047: Leading the Global Economic Order,' at an event in New Delhi. The book presents a compelling roadmap for India's transformation into a global economic superpower by 2047-- coinciding with the centenary of India's independence.

Business and Economy

World Bank Land Conference 2025 concludes: Global praise for India's rural governance models

The World Bank Land Conference 2025 concluded on a high note, with India earning international recognition for its innovative and technology-led rural governance initiatives. Held from May 5–8 in Washington D.C., the four-day conference saw India take centre stage as a Country Champion under the leadership of Vivek Bharadwaj, Secretary, Ministry of Panchayati Raj. India's flagship schemes, the SVAMITVA initiative and the Gram Manchitra platform, were widely acknowledged as transformative models for land tenure security and decentralised planning.

The SVAMITVA Scheme, which combines drone-based land surveys with legal and administrative reforms, was showcased as a game-changer for empowering rural communities.

India extends financial support to Maldives through rollover of \$50 million Treasury Bill.

India has extended crucial financial support to the Maldives through the rollover of the \$50 million Treasury Bill for one more year, which will support its ongoing efforts to implement fiscal reforms for economic resilience.

At the request of the Maldivian government, the State Bank of India (SBI) has subscribed, for one more year, a \$50 million Government Treasury Bill issued by the Ministry of Finance of Maldives.

Bhutan launches world's first national-level crypto tourism payment system.

Bhutan has joined forces with Binance and DK Bank to become the first country to roll out a national-level crypto payments system for tourists. Travelers to the South Asian country can use crypto via Binance Pay to pay for everything from airline tickets to tourist visas to hotel bookings to tour guides to fresh fruit from roadside vendors.

Payments in more than 100 cryptocurrencies can be made via static and dynamic QR codes, powered by DK Bank, Bhutan's first fully digital lender.

Porter becomes India's newest unicorn startup after raising Rs 1,700 crore in funding.

Porter, the on-demand logistics startup, has reportedly become India's newest unicorn after raising \$200 million (approximately Rs 1,700 crore) in a Series F funding round. The round was led by Kedaara Capital and Wellington Management, with participation from existing investor Vitruvian Partners. Porter's latest valuation, now stands between \$1.1 billion and \$1.2 billion. Earlier, Netradyne and Juspay have become Unicorns in 2025.

Reliance NU Energies bags 350 MW solar project from SJVN Limited

Reliance Power's arm Reliance NU Energies has secured a 350 megawatt (MW) solar project with a 175 MW/700 MWh of battery energy storage system (BESS) from SJVN Limited.

The BESS, integrated with the solar project, will provide a backup power supply of 175 MWh for four hours.

Sports

Football: Barcelona beats Real Madrid, inches closer to La Liga title.

Barcelona mounted a spectacular comeback to beat Real Madrid 4-3 and move to the brink of the La Liga title. Kylian Mbappe scored a hat-trick for Los Blancos but Raphinha's double and goals from Lamine Yamal and Eric Garcia gave Barcelona a seven-point lead on reigning champion Madrid with three matches remaining.

Boxing:Navarrete retains WBO title.

Mexico's Emanuel Navarrete kept his World Boxing Organisation (WBO) super-featherweight world title with a seven-round technical decision over previously unbeaten Filipino fighter Charly Suarez in San Diego. The outcome was then decided by the scorecards at the time of the stoppage with all three having Navarrete ahead -- 77-76, 77-76 and 78-75.

Virat Kohli announces retirement from Test cricket.

Virat Kohli has announced his retirement from Test Cricket. Virat scored 9230 runs in 123 matches at an average of 46.85 in the game's

longest format. He went on to become the fourth-highest run-getter for India.

He led the country in 68 Tests, most by an Indian, losing just 17 of them. With a win percentage of 58.82 per cent, which includes 40 wins and 11 draws.

IPL 2025 to resume on May 17 .

The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) has announced that the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2025 will resume on the 17th of this month, after a week-long pause due to rising tensions between India and Pakistan. It was suspended on May 9.