

CM to chair CAD today



By A K News Service

WALONG, May 12: Chief Minister Pema Khandu arrived in Walong along Indo-China border in Anjaw district on Monday ahead of second sitting of Cabinet Aapke Dwar (CAD), scheduled on Tuesday at Kibithoo, India's easternmost village near Indo-

China border.

Highlighting the strategic and remote location of Kibithoo, Khandu underscored the importance of extending governance to the nation's frontier villages. "Tomorrow, I will be chairing the CAD at scenic Kibithoo village. This initiative brings the entire Govt machinery - ministers,

officers, and HoDs - to the grassroots, to help them directly understand local concerns and deliver timely solutions," Khandu said.

Major policy decisions and development announcements tailored specifically for border district of Anjaw would be made during the session. "Gov-

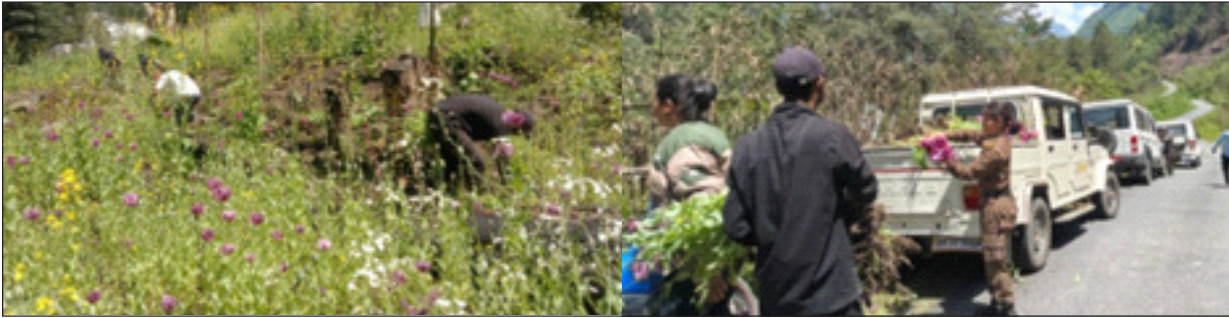
ernance must go beyond office walls - it should reach every village, especially those guarding our borders," he emphatically said.

The CAD, a flagship outreach programme of the GoAP, aims to strengthen the administrative presence and address developmental needs in remote and sensitive areas like Kibithoo.

Deputy CM Chowna Mein, Cabinet ministers Kento Jini, Dasanglu Pul, and several other senior leaders were also arrived for the CAD.

It may be recalled here that Walong on the bank of Lohit River, situated 35-km north India-China line of actual control at Kaho Pass, had witnessed ferocious fighting during 1962 Indo-China aggression. It has an Indian Army cantonment and 1962 War Memorial.

Illegal poppy cultivation destroyed 1st time in Dibang Valley district: SP



ANINI, May 12: Dibang Valley District Police in co-ordination with district administration, in a landmark initiative under Operation Dawn-2, carried out the first-ever destruction of illegal poppy cultivation in the district on Saturday last, according to an official release.

Acting on credible intelligence inputs about illicit poppy cultivation near Angrim Valley village, a joint team led by SI Chote Lal Sahani and executive magistrate Dr. Kajum Mara, conducted

an operation at the site, located between Anini-Dumbuen road and Dri River, where approximately 110 square meters of standing poppy plants were illegally cultivated.

Video graph and photograph of the site conducted and the poppy straw was seized in presence of independent witnesses. The illicit crop was uprooted and destroyed in the presence of all officials, a major step in district's efforts against narcotics and illegal drug cultivation.

Approximately 1 kg raw

poppy plant was seized based on the complaint and handed over as evidence. A suo moto criminal case (No 2 U/S 18(a)/25 of the NDPS Act, 1985) was registered at Anini police station and SI Lokmey Boluk was entrusted with the responsibility of investigation.

While NDPS cases have previously been registered in this district, they were mostly related to drug consumption or illegal sale. This is the first instance where a case involving illegal poppy cultivation has

been detected.

Dibang Valley SP Manish Shaurya appreciated police and civil administration team for their prompt and coordinated action and directed the team to trace the accused involved and to identify other locations in the district where illegal cultivation might be taking place. The Dibang Valley Police remains firmly committed to eliminating the menace of drugs and will continue strict enforcement of the NDPS Act, the release added.

DCM inaugurates Lungchaseng Buddha Vihara



NAMSAI, May 12: "Education is foundation of empowerment without which the society remains in darkness. Let us invest in our youth, value the voices of both women and men and build a society where all can grow together," said Deputy Chief Minister Chowna Mein.

In his inaugural address to Poi-Lu-Chong-cum-Buddha Jayanti celebration

attended by large number of devotees at Nampong village on Monday, he said the vibrant celebrations reflected deep spiritual and cultural ethos of Buddhist community and underscored importance of preserving cultural heritage while fostering inclusive development.

Mein also inaugurated Lungchaseng Buddha Vihara, envisioned as a

centre for spiritual growth, reflection and communal harmony. A souvenir was released to commemorate the occasion.

The day also marked the traditional Tang Thi Kongma procession, followed by devotional chanting, Dhamma discourses and cultural presentations reflecting message of peace, harmony and unity espoused by

Lord Buddha.

Prominent attendees included MP Tapir Gao, Ministers Wangki Lowang & Biyuram Wahge, MLA Zingnu Namchoom, Ven. Udhaya Baadra, Ven. Kitisara Bhikkhu, Namsai Pariyati Sesinga Buddha Vihara head monk Ven. Agga Dhamma and revered Bhikkhu Sangha members were present. (PRO)

Moyong lauds PM for Operation Sindoor

ITANAGAR, May 12: Operation Sindoor, the decisive counter-terrorism strike on May 6-7 last conducted under leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi marked a historic milestone in India's fight against terrorism as stated by BJP national spokesperson-cum-MP Dr. Sambit Patra.

Arunachal Pradesh BJP led by president Kaling Moyong, while endorsing Operation Sindoor, in a statement said that neutralizing over 100 terrorists in



nine terror bases deep within Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK), demonstrated

India's unmatched military precision, strong political resolve and unwavering national unity.

The operation also included critical strategic steps, like suspension of Indus Waters Treaty and taking steps for economic isolation of Pakistan globally, Moyong said in a statement and saluted unmatched courage and professionalism of armed forces in executing it in a mission mode to reaffirm the doctrine of New India with-

out compromising national security

Appreciating targeting terrorist hubs with surgical precision and avoiding civilian casualties that too steering clear of Pakistani military installations, he said the state people stand firmly with the brave armed forces. This bold move exemplified India's resolve to eliminate threats at their roots with strategic clarity, restraint, and strength, the statement added.

SAFF U-19 Champ-2025

Bangladesh & Nepal dominate on Day 2

YUPIA, May 12: The SAFF U-19 Championship-2025 continued to thrill football enthusiasts on Day 2 as the Golden Jubilee Outdoor Stadium here hosted two high-voltage matches, drawing loud cheers and passionate support from the crowd.

In the first encounter, Bangladesh cruised to a convincing 3-0 victory over Bhutan. Bangladeshi side displayed discipline and control throughout the match, converting their chances efficiently while maintaining a solid defensive line to keep a clean sheet.

The second match of the evening featured a dominant performance by Nepal, who outclassed Sri Lanka with a resounding 5-0 win. Showcasing remarkable attacking flair and technical finesse, the Nepalese team overwhelmed their opponents, making



their intent clear in the championship race.

The excitement is set to escalate further on May 13

with two highly anticipated clashes in the stadium here. Bhutan will face Maldives at 4:00 PM, while hosts In-

dia will lock horns with Nepal at 7:30 PM in a key contest that will decide the group stage table topper.

Drones observed along IB in Jammu's Samba, Punjab's Jalandhar; officials say situation calm now

JAMMU/CHANDIGARH, May 12 (PTI) Drone activity was observed for a few hours late on Monday along the International Border in Jammu's Samba district as well as Punjab's Jalandhar district.

However, the army said late in the night that the situation was calm and under control. "No enemy drones are being reported at present."

Earlier, the army had said security forces were engaging the suspected drones in Samba district.

The drone activity along the border came hours after Prime Minister Narendra Modi's first address to the nation following Operation Sindoor and the meeting of the directors general of military operations (DGMOS) of India and Pakistan.

The army had said there was no need to be alarmed. "A small number of suspected drones have been observed near Samba in Jammu and Kashmir. They are being engaged," it had said.

In the backdrop of the situation, several areas in Samba, Kathua, Rajouri and Jammu witnessed blackouts.

Lights were switched off at the cave shrine of Mata



Vaishno Devi and along its track as a precautionary measure, sources said.

The latest hostilities between India and Pakistan began in the northern districts of Kupwara and Baramulla in the Kashmir valley before spreading southwards to Rajouri, Poonch, Akhnoor and the Pargwal sector along the International Border in Jammu district. The hostilities affected five border districts -- Baramulla, Kupwara, Poonch, Rajouri and Jammu.

The recent round of cross-border firings further undermined the ceasefire agreement reached in February 2021, which had largely been seen as ineffective due to Pakistan's frequent violations along the 740-kilometre Line of Control (LoC).

Meanwhile, a senior dis-

trict official in Punjab's Jalandhar said the armed forces neutralised a suspected "surveillance drone".

Deputy Commissioner (Jalandhar) Himanshu Aggarwal said, "I have been informed that one surveillance drone was brought down by the armed forces around 9:20 pm near Mand village. An expert team is looking for the debris."

In a message at 10:45 pm, he advised people against going near any debris and to immediately inform the nearest police station.

It has also been informed that there was no drone activity since 10pm, Aggarwal said.

The Jalandhar deputy commissioner urged residents to remain calm and not burst firecrackers, as had been reported in some areas.

Earlier, he had said that lights had been switched off in some areas around Suranassi as a precautionary measure after reports of drone sightings.

"We are verifying them. There is no (total) blackout as of now. There is nothing to worry, as confirmed by armed forces officers. They are on regular vigil as always," Aggarwal had said in a message at 9:15 pm.

Punjab shares a 553-kilometre border with Pakistan.

India and Pakistan reached an understanding on May 10 to cease all firing and military actions on land, air, and sea with immediate effect following four days of intense cross-border drone and missile strikes that brought the two countries to the brink of full-scale war.

Precautionary blackout measures were also enforced in Punjab's Amritsar and a few areas of Hoshiarpur districts.

An Amritsar-bound IndiGo flight returned to Delhi after blackout measures were enforced, sources said.

They said the flight had to return as the Amritsar airport was closed due to the precautionary blackout.

IndiGo cancels flights to Amritsar, 5 other places for May 13

NEW DELHI, May 12 (PTI) IndiGo has cancelled its flights to and from Jammu, Amritsar, Chandigarh, Leh, Srinagar and Rajkot for May 13.

"In light of the latest developments and with your safety as our utmost priority, flights to and from Jammu, Amritsar, Chandigarh, Leh, Srinagar, and Rajkot are cancelled for 13th May 2025," IndiGo said in a post on X at 23:38 hours on Monday.

The airline also said its teams are actively monitoring the situation.



These six airports are among those that were re-

opened for civilian flights on Monday after being

temporarily shut in the wake of the military conflict between India and Pakistan.

On Monday evening, an IndiGo flight enroute to Amritsar returned to the national capital after precautionary blackout measures were enforced in Amritsar, according to sources.

The flight 6E2045 from Delhi to Amritsar returned to the national capital after being airborne for sometime, as per information available on flight tracking website Flightradar24.com.

The Arun Khabar

TUESDAY, MAY 13, 2025

Two Years on, Manipur Looks to be an Incurable Wound

Without even a ripple, May 3, the date marking the completion of two years of ethnic strife in Manipur, has passed. For almost two years now, an Indian state has had an arbitrary border drawn through it, separating two warring communities, with an intervening ‘buffer zone’ or ‘no man’s land’ patrolled and monitored by the Army and the CRPF. Since Independence, nowhere in India has such a situation prevailed. More dangerously this is being allowed in a border state that abuts the violence-wracked and failing state of Myanmar, and is not far distant from another country on the edge of chaos—Bangladesh. And yet, the Centre’s silence on Manipur speaks volumes on its orientation towards this troubled Northeastern province. The strife in Manipur continues to be treated as a simple ‘law and order’ problem, with little attention to any constructive initiatives.

The reliance on blunt force is evident even in attempts at ‘normalisation’, such as the forcible restoration of ‘free movement’ between the divided Hill and Valley areas on March 8, under directives of the Union Ministry of Home Affairs. Despite continuing unrest, it had been decided that bus services covering four routes connecting Imphal, Senapati, Kangpokpi, Bishnupur and Churachandpur, would be restored. A single bus left Imphal, under armed escort, but was met with protests, road blocks, barricades and stone pelting, as it entered ‘Kuki areas’. Eventually, the bus was overturned and a security vehicle was set on fire a few kilometres beyond Gamgiphai in Kangpokpi District. One person was killed and over 20 injured in clashes, as security forces sought to restore order. The entire enterprise was then abandoned, and the move only cemented the orchestrated hatred between Kukis and Meiteis.

It is significant that, despite continuous troubles, a complete absence of any process of normalisation, the comprehensive failure to recover thousands of weapons and large quantities of ammunition looted from state armouries, and mounting evidence of bias and, indeed, political mischief by the powers that be, prominently including the state’s chief minister, Biren Singh, the government was allowed to continue for more than 21 months after the start of the troubles, and was pressured to resign only on February 9. Crucially, the troubles were created and persisted under a ‘double-engine government’, with a BJP regime both at the Centre and in the state.

It is useful to recall, moreover, that the enduring insurgencies in the state were all but over, when intentional mischief plunged it into renewed ethnic strife. The year 2022 saw just seven insurgency-linked fatalities. There was an abrupt escalation to 157 such fatalities in 2023, with just four of these occurring between January and May. Total fatalities in both insurgent and ethnic violence exceeded 200 in 2023, and there was a significant overlap between the two categories, making a clear separation difficult. Insurgency-linked fatalities fell to 87 in 2023, but the largest drop was in the ‘insurgent’ category, from 73 killed in 2023, to 30 in 2024. Several dormant Kuki and Meitei insurgent groups have revived their violent activities, and there has been a significant escalation in turf wars. Indeed, of the 28 killed in 2025 (South Asia Terrorism Portal data till May 3), 27 were insurgents, of who 24 were killed in a running battle between Manipur-based insurgent formations, including the People’s Liberation Army/ Kanglei Yawol Kanna Lup/ United National Liberation Front-Koireng and the Peoples Revolutionary Party of Kangleipak, on the one hand, and the Myanmar-based Kuki National Army-Burma on the other, in the Kamjong district of Manipur, near the Indo-Myanmar border, between January 27 and 30. Abductions, extortion and other crimes have also become frequent. Of over 6,000 weapons looted from various state armouries, just half have yet been recovered, most of them after President’s rule was imposed in February, further testimony to the prejudicial actions of the Biren Singh regime. There are, of course, voices of reason, both in the political leadership and in civil society, but these remain on the periphery of the dominant and polarised discourse in the state. Crucially, any significant step towards reconciliation would require powerful political initiatives from the Centre to act against the extremist elements in the present political spectrum, but there is little evidence of any such measures. Moreover, there is little trust among the larger population in the good faith of the Centre’s intentions and interlocutors.

Violence and political malfeasance have created an abyss of hatred and suspicion between the Kukis and Meities in Manipur, and this is unlikely to be filled in the foreseeable future. If political and administrative actions continue to compound the injuries on both sides, however, this will become an incurable wound that can only produce wider harm in India’s fragile Northeast.

Need to be right, sign of a vulgar mind

French existentialist Albert Camus’ quote – “the need to be right is the sign of a vulgar mind” – has profound relevance in all situations and circumstances in life. The morbid insistence on being right all the time makes one rigid, ossified and monomaniac. The magnanimous acceptance that you can be wrong more than you can be right in your whole lifetime, makes you a thoughtful human. Life’s so intricate and also egalitarian in the sense that it also offers your opponents to be right at times. An individual’s life is a saga of mixed emotions, paradoxes, upheavals and all shades of colours. Urdu poetess Parveen Shakir put it suc-

cinctly, “Tumhara ye israar ke main hi sahi hoon/ Humare rishte ko talkh kar gaya” – Your insistence that you’re right/ Embittered our relationship. She further wrote, “Har baar toh koi sahi ho nahin sakta/ Kabhi agle ko bhi mauqa do sahi hone ka” – One cannot be right all the time/ Let other person be right sometimes. When we let others be right, we accept and validate different and new perspectives.

In a philosophical debate at Saharsa in present-day Bihar, Mandan Mishra was reluctant to concede defeat at the hands of Adi Shankara, who was young enough to be Mandan’s son. Mandan Mishra’s wife Ubhaya

Bharati, who was a mediator, politely told her husband that he lost the debate to Adi Shankara. She admonished her husband, the delusion that he could never be wrong had made him reluctant to accept that Shankara was right. Right to be right doesn’t make one upright and ethical. It fills you with arrogance. Camus’ insistence on not being right has a greater and deeper significance. In his book The Rebel, Camus wrote that a genuine rebel or revolutionary couldn’t succeed in his rebellious ways unless he accepted his opponents to be right occasionally because then only could he fight with them on an even keel.

Lt Gen Syed Ata Hasnain (retd)

The thrill of analysing military situations lies in the speed of change and how badly one can get surprised by the sheer dynamism of situations. The racy narrative of the developments over the last four or five days, ending with the ceasefire and also the breaches, made for much scope for analysis. Yet, prudence demands that any assessment of the current Indo-Pakistan scenario commence with the trigger that started it all: Pahalgam.

It was India’s collective conscience which demanded from the government retribution of a proportion that would hurt the masters of the proxies that have waged war on India for the last 36 years. It was a demand also to convey India’s political will and full strategic intent to avenge every misadventure they would undertake. Although immediacy of response was the emotive demand, the government sensibly gave itself a window sufficient to plan, wargame, gain confirmatory intelligence and build a credible deception.

The decisions of the Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) were in the non-military domain, correctly so, allowing the Armed Forces the space they needed. It also transpired that a credible but low-key deception plan was also progressively adopted. Even the last man on the streets of India knew that an Indian response was imminent. Yet, significantly, no one could predict when this could happen. Analysts like me gave a time window of even two to three months to keep Pakistan on tenterhooks about the deployment of its reserve formations on the ground, thus incurring a heavy economic penalty.



In a nation that is yet seeking the 24th loan from the IMF to service its previous loans from other sources, such expenditure is debilitating, as are no doubt the various military actions it is involved in. The ‘wait and starve’ strategy, although executed for just a fortnight, gained much credibility and helped achieve some surprise.

Fourteen days after the Pahalgam attack, India struck and this time all along a 700-kilometre frontage, from Bahawalpur to Muzaffarabad, 24 state-of-the-art missiles with autonomous loiter munitions rained down on nine locations in 25 minutes on the night of May 6/7.

The escalation way above Balakot involved three things. First, it was Pakistan’s heartland in Punjab, which was hit with high-profile targets such as Bahawalpur, Muridke and Sialkot, all bearing the most significant parts of Pakistan’s Jihadi-terrorist infrastructure. The same has been instrumental in ideologically motivating, headquartering, training, and even launching terrorists against India for the better part of 36 years.

Second, all these locations are close to some of

the most important garri- sons and cantonments which house the Pakistan Army, implying that these too are in the crosshairs of India’s transformational missile capability and could be effectively targeted with precision, with little or no collateral damage.

Third was the political will and the complete civil-military fusion on display on the Indian side with a new-found confidence in strategic communication. The balancing act was well choreographed and decisive but calibrated.

It was more important to take stock of the situation after delivery of the initial package, which was the first response to an escalation Pakistan had already conducted through the Pahalgam attack. What needed to be remembered was that the comparatively low intensity exchanges, well short of war, could be managed at that level if the civilian government in Pakistan was in control. However, as we all know, it is the Pakistan Army which is in command of that nation’s foreign and strategic policy; it has always been so ever since we can remember.

In the tenure of the previous Pakistan Army Chief,

General Qamar Bajwa, one may have expected pragmatism regarding escalation. His successor, General Asim Munir, is not from that mould. He is a deeply ideologically oriented military leader whose reputation has often been dented right through his over two-year tenure. He is identified as one from whom we can expect the Musharraf approach—decisions based on irrationality more than military logic. Due to the above reasons, after the demonstration of India’s technological prowess with precision targeting, we may not have expected a quiet Pakistani response to play just sufficiently to the street and then pull back. We must remember that Pakistan’s Army reserves had already been deployed, at least in J&K, for sure.

Also, in the recent past, Pakistan has been in the process of refurbishing its artillery ammunition reserves, which were sold in bulk to Ukraine at the behest of the US last year, to secure an IMF loan. Decision makers in Pakistan needed to realise that they could take the situation to a much higher rung of escalation by their further response. They would then

have no control over India’s next response cycle, and the cost could well be a comprehensive collapse. Yet, while choosing to adopt the escalation on two continuous nights, Pakistan banked on India not upping the ante beyond.

Mercifully, it was a drone and missile conflict, along with Pakistani artillery shelling of the villages in Poonch, Rajouri and Uri. If the ceasefire, reputed to have been pressured by the US at the IMF meeting, had not been arrived at, India may have reached the level of a much more unpredictable cycle of escalation, employing maritime and ground forces. Pakistan’s ability to resist the initial forays would have undoubtedly taken this to a much higher level.

There are several dangers of Pakistani miscalculation. The breaches of the ceasefire within a few hours of it coming into effect reveal that lessons are far from learnt. Pakistan must know that US intervention came, if at all, perhaps because it sensed that Pakistan was going to be hugely decimated, especially when its Nur Khan airbase was effectively hit.

The moral ascendancy gained by India through its very calibrated actions ensured that its international reputation of being an upholder of human rights was retained, if not enhanced. Pakistan, on the other hand, brought international disgrace on itself through the targeting of civilian villages and prayer houses of innocents in the same manner as the terrorist action in Pahalgam. I strongly suggest to the Government of India to declare May 10 as ‘Retribution against Terrorism’ Day. Let it be an internationally recognised calendar date, never to be forgotten.

A mango miracle and birth of India's first woman saint

Renuka Narayanan

With ‘Nari Shakti’ powerfully mesaged by the Armed Forces, I recalled the first-known woman saint of India and how Mahadev repeatedly took her side. She was Karaikkal Ammai from the 6th century.

Her name means ‘Respected Old Lady of Karaikkal’ in Tamil. Her life was chronicled in the 12th century in a book on the 63 Nayanmar, or Tamil Shaiva saints, called Periya Puranam. She invented a genre of devotional poetry called the andhadi. ‘Anth’ means ‘the end’ and ‘adi’, ‘the beginning’, in Sanskrit, Tamil, and several Indian languages. In this poetic form, a line’s last word becomes the next line’s first word. Several notable Tamil poets used the andhadi with vigour and beauty. So, she also contributed significantly to Indian literature.

Born as Punitavati, the only child of a wealthy merchant, Dhanadattan, in Karaikkal, she was absorbed in Shiva from childhood. She sang songs about him, regularly visited his temple, and was delighted to serve Shaiva mendicants food.

Her parents got her married to Paramadattan, the son of a prosperous merchant from Nagapattinam. Paramadattan was full of doubts and questions about god and the existence of divinity. He and Punitavati were from two ideological extremes. Punitavati’s parents persuaded Paramadattan to settle in Karaikkal. Paramadattan went to conduct business every day in his new shop while Punitavati cooked and kept



the house.

One morning, one of Paramadattan’s friends sent him two fine, ripe mangoes, which he forwarded to Punitavati. While cooking lunch, she heard a hungry mendicant’s call and fed him rice and one of the mangoes.

When Paramadattan came home, Punitavati served him the remaining mango, which he enjoyed immensely and asked for the second one. This demand terrified Punitavati, who did not dare admit she had given it to a religious mendicant.

She panicked and ran away to the puja room to pray to Shiva to save her from censure. This is where the legend takes over.

When Punitavati wept pitiously to Shiva, lo and behold, a mango appeared miraculously in her hand. She took it to Paramadattan. But he found the second mango far superior to the first. He asked his wife how this was possible, and she had to tell him the truth. Of course, Paramadattan did not believe her. “Prove it. Go ask your god for another mango,” he said angrily.

Punitavati ran back to the puja room, and Paramadattan followed. Shiva favoured his distraught devotee. Another mango manifested and vanished the moment Paramadattan touched it.

Stunned, Paramadattan left for his shop to think things over. “She is capable

of receiving divine miracles,” he thought agitatedly. “But I am an ordinary mortal. How can I look at her as my wife now? She is far above me. I can never live normally with her again.”

Paramadattan ran from Karaikkal to Madurai, where he started a new life. He sent a message to his father-in-law, claiming he was going on a long trading expedition. In Madurai, he settled down and married Bhagyavati, the daughter of a trading partner. They had a daughter. He named their daughter ‘Punitavati’ out of respect for his first wife, now seeing her as his family goddess.

Meanwhile, the abandoned ‘goddess’ pined for

her lost husband. Seven lonely years passed without any word. Her parents were supportive but could not console her.

One terrible morning, a family friend brought the news that Paramadattan was married in Madurai and had a daughter. Punitavati, shocked, begged her parents to take her to Madurai. There, they found Paramadattan with his wife and daughter, who all fell at her feet. Paramadattan explained his actions and begged for forgiveness. Punitavati’s loyal heart shattered.

She stumbled to Shiva’s sanctum nearby. “Lord, I have loved you since childhood,” she cried. “You have twice blessed me with your grace. My youth and beauty are useless now. Turn me into an old hag whom no man will look at. Let me spend the rest of my life at your temples.”

Immediately, she transformed into a hideous old hag and cried out in joy. Everyone was frightened by how easily Shiva granted her wishes. She left her parents and began wandering from town to town.

Her joy in her liberation found expression in poetry in temple courtyards, in the form of the andhadi. People listened, marvelled at the new literary form, and wrote down her songs. Stripped of her looks and earthly ties, Punitavati felt like a free-floating particle.

One day, Shiva asked if she had another wish. She boldly asked to see him and Parvati dance. To her wonder, they appeared, smiling, and danced gloriously. Time lost all meaning. Falling at their feet, Punitavati vanished forever, but her name and songs remain loved to this day.

HELP US TO HELP YOU

The members of Arunachal Pradesh Union of Working Journalists (APUWJ) and the Arunachal Press Club (APC) have unanimously taken the following decisions applicable for newspapers published from Arunachal Pradesh:
In view of too many appointment orders, formation of unions and forums beginning from colony, village level to state level, congratulatory and thank you notes clogging up various newspapers offices published from the state, the APC and APUWJ unanimously deem it fit to set a standard for accepting such releases for printing.
Henceforth, releases pertaining to appointments and resignation of various office bearers of any organisation, formation of organisations, **congratulatory and thank you notes** and intimation of programme would not be entertained.
Press releases containing demands not addressed to the state government/ authorities concerned; bandh announcements not addressed to the Deputy Commissioner/ District Magistrate; demands made to the state government but not addressed to the Chief Minister, the Chief Secretary or the Minister concerned; and payment demands addressed to the editor instead of the HoDs concerned will not be entertained under any circumstances from any quarter.
In light of the constant menace of bandh calls given by various organisations/ unions etc and its subsequent withdrawals which has become a public nuisance, it will be mandatory for such bodies to convene a press conference in Itanagar to address media persons before declaring any bandh at Capital Complex. Failure to do so will result in non-publication of their ‘news’.
Condolences will not be entertained anymore unless the person in question was a prominent personality **at the state level**. Anything else can go as obituary/paid news.
NOTE: Unsolicited telephonic or personal enquiries shall not be entertained. Any attempt to influence the above rules shall tantamount to interference and may invite legal actions. Therefore, the newspapers request all sections of society to co-operate for independent functioning of the media in the state in their own interest.

NDA has potential to win 104 of 126 assembly seats in Assam: Himanta

'New India' will track and eliminate terrorists no matter where they hide: Assam CM



GUWAHATI, May 12 (PTI) Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Monday termed the BJP's performance in the panchayat polls as "historic" and said the ruling alliance has the potential to win 104 assembly seats out of 126 in next year's election.

The ruling BJP on Monday is leading in all panchayat bodies across Assam with counting of votes continuing for the second day in a row.

"The BJP is marching ahead to capture more than

300 seats in Zilla Parishad and it is historic. However, it is still being counted," Sarma told reporters here.

Asked about the expectation in next year's assembly elections, he said that it will be better than the panchayat results.

"Panchayats are usually in the rural areas. In the Assembly, both rural and urban areas will go to the polls. Traditionally, the BJP performs well in urban locations.

"Presently, the BJP-led alliance's potential in

Assam is 104 seats. However, there is a difference between potential and reality. We hope that we will win 95 seats. But everything depends on the public mood," the CM said.

Presently, the ruling BJP's strength in the 126-member Assam Assembly is 64, while its allies AGP has nine MLAs and UPPL has seven.

In the opposition camp, the Congress' strength is 26, AIUDF has 15 members, BPF has three and CPI(M) has one MLA. There is one Independent legislator also.

When asked about the Bodoland Territorial Region's election, which is due later this year, Sarma said, "We will fight alone in BTR, but we will not fight in all seats. We will contest only in those seats where we have our strength. Our alliance with UPPL will continue."

According to Assam State Election Commission (ASEC) data, the BJP has won 242 members of Anchalik Panchayat constituencies, while its ally Asom Gana Parishad (AGP) has bagged 30 seats so far.

Opposition Congress has cornered 34 seats, one constituency each won by Rajior Dal and AIUDF and 14 by Independents.

In Zilla Parishad, the BJP has won 26 seats while its ally AGP emerged victorious in three. No other party has opened its account yet in ZP constituencies, the ASEC data showed.

Along with these, results for thousands of seats for Gram Panchayat (GP) have also been declared, but these are all Independents as candidates were not allowed to contest on party tickets.



GUWAHATI, May 11 (PTI) Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Sunday said 'Operation Sindoor' has shown that 'New India' will track terrorists and kill them.

He lauded the armed forces for eliminating terrorists and damaging critical military and terror infrastructure in Pakistan during the operation.

He also praised Prime Minister Narendra Modi for leading the world's oldest

civilisation with maturity and urged BJP workers to inform the public about India's growing role as a global leader.

"As I watched the excellent briefing by our DGMOs a short while ago, we remain profoundly grateful to the exemplary leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri @narendramodi Ji and our valiant Armed Forces," Sarma said in a post on X.

He maintained that it has been "demonstrated with

irrefutable evidence that #OperationSindoor has eliminated over 100 Pakistani terrorists and damaged critical military and terror infra of our enemy".

"But above all it sent a strong deterrence that New India will track terrorists to the ends of the earth and eliminate them, no matter where they hide - at land, air or sea," Sarma added.

Later, addressing party members at the state BJP headquarters here, Sarma

lauded Modi's leadership.

"Modi is not coming on TV. But he is holding a series of meetings. There is no immaturity displayed. He has shown how to lead a matured nation," he said.

On Pakistan prime minister making statements over the current situation, Sarma said, "Pakistan is a fragile state, a failed state. And India is the oldest civilisation and Modi is leading it."

Dismissing Pakistan's claim of hitting Indian targets, the chief minister said, "We are all here and if something were to happen in Punjab or Jammu and Kashmir as claimed by them, we would have known. The fact is that nothing has happened."

Asserting that India has emerged as a global power, he urged BJP members to make the people aware of this powerful position the country holds.

"The BJP members have to tell the people that we are in a position now which other nations want to emulate," he claimed, without elaborating.

Over half of consumers do not pay energy bills in Tripura: Official

AGARTALA, May 12 (PTI) More than half of a total of around 9 lakh consumers of the Tripura government-run power utility TSECL have not paid their electricity bills for several years, an official said on Monday.

Only 4,32,045 consumers, mostly from the urban areas, paid their electricity bills to the Tripura State Electricity Corporation (TSECL), the official said.

This trend has led to an accumulation of pending bills amounting to Rs 475 crore till now. In tribal areas, most consumers skip paying electricity bills despite repeated appeals. This resulted in the accumulation of pending bills, the official said.

"The state has 9, 27,838 consumers. Of them, only 4,32,045 consumers pay monthly energy bills, around 40 per cent. Off late, the realisation of electricity bills has increased to around 45 per cent," TSECL Managing Director, Biswajit Bose, told PTI.



According to him, the bill payment in urban areas, including Agartala, appears satisfactory, but it seems disastrous in tribal dominated areas like Tulashikar, Hezamara, Mungiakami and Jatanbari.

"As of today, the amount of pending bills has stood at Rs 475 crore in the state. We are taking all possible steps to increase the collection of bills. TSECL teams

are visiting the consumers and requesting them to clear their pending bills at the earliest. In some cases, we have started disconnecting electricity connections," he said.

Asserting that the TSECL has also been working to take legal action against hooking lines, mostly concentrated in tribal localities.

"More than 10,000 offenders had resorted to hooking

the main power lines. The connections were disconnected last year, and fines up to Rs 3 crore were collected. We are trying to streamline the whole system," he said. The state power utility company will arrange 372 MW power supply during the summer season - June, July and August, when the power consumption goes up in the north-eastern state, Bose added.

DGMOs of Pakistan, India hold first round of talks

ISLAMABAD, May 12 (PTI) The Director Generals of Military Operations (DGMOs) of Pakistan and India held the first round of talks on Monday.

Defence sources confirmed that DGMo Maj Gen Kashif Abdullah and his Indian counterpart Lt Gen Rajiv Ghai spoke to each other over a hotline.

No details of the talks were shared.

The two leaders were expected to address concerns of each other regarding allegations of violations of an understanding to stop all firings and military actions on land, air and sea, with immediate effect on Saturday.

It is the first time that they have got in touch since the announcement of the understanding to stop all fir-



ings and military actions on land, air and sea, with immediate effect on Saturday.

It was decided by the two sides that the DGMOs

would hold talks on May 12.

Tensions between India and Pakistan soared after the Indian Armed Forces hit

terror launchpads in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) last week in response to the Pahalgam terror attack.

Denmark takes over as chair of Arctic Council at a time when Trump eyes Greenland

TROMSOE (NORWAY), May 12 (AP) Denmark on Monday takes over the Arctic Council's rotating chairmanship from Norway at a time when Arctic security tensions are fraught and US President Donald Trump is seeking to annex Greenland.

Denmark chose to name Vivian Motzfeldt, Greenland's foreign affairs minister, to be the new chair of the council, the eight-nation grouping of countries that border the

Arctic. Denmark has rebuffed Trump's talk of buying the strategic Arctic island, a semi-autonomous territory of the kingdom.

During Norway's two-year turn at the helm of the Arctic Council, the inter-governmental body was beset by strain over how to deal with Trump and Russia's war in Ukraine. Russia is the biggest Arctic nation and was the chair of the council before Norway.

It was one of the few settings where Western countries and Russia worked together closely, but the other seven countries decided to pause their work with Russia in the council shortly after Moscow launched the full-scale invasion of Ukraine in February 2022.

The Arctic Council does not deal with security issues but makes binding agreements on environmental protection and gives a

voice to the Indigenous peoples of the Arctic region.

The members are Russia, the United States, Canada, Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden. Six organisations representing Arctic Indigenous peoples are permanent participants of the council, which was established in 1996. Countries including France, Germany, China, Japan, India and Korea attend the council's meetings as observers.

Students' union stages blockade for delayed road project in Nagaland's Phek

KOHIMA, May 12 (PTI) An organisation of students on Monday launched an indefinite blockade on NH-29 in Kikuma area in Nagaland's Phek district to protest against the delay in developing the stretch of the national highway connecting four districts with the state's capital Kohima.

The Chakhesang Students' Union (CSU) blocked the movement of vehicles of the National Highways and Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited (NHIDCL) and its contractor engaged for the 29 km road project - Kohima-Jessami National Highway (Package 2).

The students' union launched the indefinite blockade because of the "failure" of NHIDCL and its executing agency to meet several demands, CSU president Pphulo Sara told PTI here.

The CSU has demanded immediate steps to repair potholes, clear debris caused by landslides, ensure proper drainage and accelerate construction work.

"Despite all the representations submitted to the authorities concerned and a recent protest rally, both agencies failed to fulfil their commitments, resulting in immense inconvenience to commuters and the public. Both agencies have not re-

sponded to our demands, and therefore, CSU was compelled to launch the blockade," Sara told PTI.

With the monsoon season approaching, the worsening road condition poses a serious threat to commuters, the students' organisation said.

The highway, which connects Kohima to Jessami, is a vital route for the people of Kikuma, Phek, Meluri, and Kiphire districts.

Manipur: Proud of my son, says father of deceased BSF constable Deepak

IMPHAL, May 12 (PTI) Even as family members and relatives mourned the death of BSF constable Deepak Chingakham, who succumbed to injuries sustained during firing in Jammu and Kashmir's RS Pura sector, the deceased's father said he is proud of the sacrifice made by his 25-year-old son.

Chingakham Bonibihari Singh, father of the fallen constable, said, "We are really proud of his sacrifice. He joined the BSF in April 2021 and was the sole breadwinner of the family. Due to health issues, I am unable to work."

Deepak's younger brother Chingakham Naoba Singh said, "He used to call me now and then, ask me what I needed, and always



told me to work hard to succeed in life. Now he is gone. I am completely devastated."

Deepak's mother is also in a state of shock and has been crying inconsolably, asking her son to be

brought back.

Chingakham's mortal remains will arrive at Imphal airport on Tuesday.

BJP, Cong condole death of BSF constable from Manipur in cross-border firing in Jammu

IMPHAL, May 12 (PTI) The BJP and the Congress in Manipur on Monday condoled the death of BSF constable Deepak Chingakham, who was killed in action after Pakistan initiated cross-border firing in the Jammu region on May 10.

Chingakham of Manipur was among the eight BSF personnel injured in the cross-border shelling along the international border in J&K's R S Pura Sector, and he succumbed to his injuries on Sunday.

BJP state president Adhikarimayum Sharda Devi said, "We are deeply saddened by the loss of constable (GD) Deepak Chingakham of the Border Security Force, who made the ultimate sacrifice while bravely serving the nation during cross-border firing in the R S Pura sector."



She also said Chingakham was a proud son of Manipur, and his courage and devotion reflect the unwavering spirit and commitment of the Manipuri people.

"We honour his bravery and stand with his family and comrades in this time of grief. His sacrifice will never be forgotten," the

state BJP chief said on X.

Chingakham hails from Yairipok Yambem in Imphal East district and is survived by his father, mother and a brother.

Congress president Keisham Meghachandra extended his condolences to the bereaved family.

Keisham said, "The people of Manipur, and indeed the entire nation, are proud of his bravery and commitment. We will remember him for his supreme sacrifice for our motherland. I extend my heartfelt condolences to his family, friends, and fellow soldiers. May the Almighty grant them strength during this time of immense grief."

The BSF director general and all ranks expressed their deepest condolences to his family.

The BSF had, on Sun-

day, said a second trooper was killed in action after Pakistan initiated cross-border firing in the Jammu region a day ago. Sub-inspector Mohammed Imteyaz had succumbed to his injuries.

"Constable Deepak Chingakham sustained fatal injuries during cross-border firing along the International Boundary in R S Pura area, Jammu district, on May 10, and attained martyrdom on May 11," the force said in a social media post.

A wreath-laying ceremony to honour Chingakham will be held at the BSF's frontier headquarters on Monday.

The firing between BSF and Pakistani forces took place after India launched 'Operation Sindoor' following the April 22 terror attack in Pahalgam.

Health remains perfect. Today, you can come across a person in a party who can give you some important advice to strengthen your economic side. Some of you are likely to purchase jewelry or a home appliance. You can experience the pain of love. Overseas news and business offers for some. Good day to visit a lawyer to make some legal advice. Today, you will get ample of time to make love with your better half, but health might suffer. Remedy - For strengthening relationship with loved, read Matsyavatar Katha of Lord Vishnu together, if possible.

Operation Sindoor new policy against terror: PM Modi

NEW DELHI, May 12: In his first address to the nation after Operation Sindoor, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday sternly warned Pakistan that India will not succumb to nuclear blackmail and sent a clear message to the world: terror and trade, terror and talks cannot go together.

"Operation Sindoor is India's new policy against terrorism. We have only kept in abeyance our operations against Pakistan and the future will depend on their behaviour," Modi said in a 22-minute address.

He also had an advice for Pakistan's rulers: "The terrorists they have been feeding and nurturing all these years will swallow Pakistan itself. If Pakistan wants to survive, it will have to root out terrorism."

"This is not an era of war, but this is also not the era of terror," Modi said, as he paid glowing tributes to



the armed forces for successfully forcing Pakistan to plead for peace after eight of their airbases were heavily damaged.

"Any talks with Pakistan can happen only on terrorism and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir," the prime minister said.

Modi's assertions about not doing trade with Pakistan came minutes after US President Donald Trump said that he told India and Pakistan that his administration will do trade with them only if they end the conflict.

Modi said that while Pakistan pleaded with India to stop the military offensive, New Delhi considered it only after they promised to stop their misadventure.

The prime minister termed the Pahalgam attack as the most "barbaric face of terrorism", saying it was personal pain for him, but the enemy has now realised the consequences of removing 'sindoor from the forehead of our women'.

Addressing the nation, Modi said Operation Sindoor was not just a name but, through it, the whole

world saw India's resolve turn into action and more than 100 dreaded terrorists were slaughtered.

"India will not tolerate any nuclear blackmail. We have only kept in abeyance our operations against Pakistan, the future will depend on their behaviour. Operation Sindoor is now India's new policy against terrorism, a new line has been drawn," he said.

PM Modi said India will not see terrorists and their state sponsors separately.

"Pakistan has to dismantle its terror infrastructure. There is no other way to peace," the prime minister said.

"The Pahalgam attack was the most barbaric face of terrorism, it was a personal pain for me. We gave the armed forces full liberty to raze terrorists to dust."

"The enemy has now realised the consequences of removing 'sindoor' from the forehead of our women. Operation Sindoor was not

just a name... on May 7, the whole world saw our resolve turn into action," he said.

"When our missiles and drones destroyed terror sites in Pakistan, not only their buildings but their spirit was also demolished. When 'Nation First' is our resolve, steely decisions are taken," he said.

Saluting the security forces, PM Modi dedicated their bravery to mothers, sisters and daughters of this country.

Pakistan slumped into gloom after the Indian attack on terror camps, "but they dared to attack us rather than helping fight terrorism. More than 100 dreaded terrorists were slaughtered in the Indian attack", Modi said.

"The entire world saw how Pakistani drones were downed by our military might. India has struck at the heart of Pakistan, our missiles attacked with precision to damage their air bases," he said. (PTI)

India, Pak DGMOs hold crucial talks; focus on avoiding aggressive, inimical action

NEW DELHI, May 12: The Director Generals of Military Operations (DGMOs) of India and Pakistan on Monday deliberated on ways to avoid "inimical" military actions and agreed on considering immediate steps to reduce troops of the two militaries from the borders and forward areas.

In the conversation over the hotline, the two officers focused on continuing the commitment that both sides must not fire a "single shot" or initiate any "aggressive and inimical" action against each other, according to an Indian read-out.

The nearly 45-minute talks took place two days after the two DGMOs reached an understanding on halting all military actions.

The arrangement reached on May 10 came after four days of intense hostilities that saw the two sides targeting each other's military installations with drones, missiles and long-range weapons that raised fears of a wider military conflict.

"Talks between DGMOs were held at 5:00 PM. Issues related to continuing the commitment that both sides must not fire a single shot or initiate any aggressive and inimical action against each other were discussed," the Indian Army said.

"It was also agreed that both sides consider immediate measures to ensure troop reduction from the

borders and forward areas," it said in a statement.

The talks over the hotline were previously scheduled at 12 noon. However, it started at around 5 pm.

Though there were cases of violation of the understanding by the Pakistani military on May 10 night, there were no such incidents on Sunday night.

"The night remained largely peaceful across Jammu & Kashmir and other areas along the international border," the Army said in a brief statement earlier.

"No incidents have been reported, marking the first calm night in recent days," it said.

Under Operation Sindoor, India carried out precision strikes on terror infrastructure early on May 7 in response to the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack.

Following the Indian action, Pakistan attempted to attack Indian military bases on May 8, 9 and 10.

The Pakistani attempts were strongly responded to by the Indian side by inflicting heavy damage to a number of key Pakistani military installations, including air bases, air defence systems, command and control centres and radar sites.

Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri on Saturday evening announced that India and Pakistan reached an understanding to stop all firings and military actions on land, air and sea, with immediate effect.

Hours ahead of the

DGMO talks, the Indian Air Force said all its military bases and systems continue to remain fully operational, and ready to undertake any further missions if the need arises.

Director General of Air Operations Air Marshal AK Bharti said the Indian military's fight was with terrorists and their support infrastructure, but it was a "pity" that the Pakistani military chose to bat for the terrorists.

"We have also iterated that our fight was with terrorists and their support infrastructure," he said.

"However, it is a pity that the Pakistani military chose to intervene and bat for the terrorists, which compelled us to respond in kind," he added.

Air Marshal Bharti, Director General of Military Operations Lt Gen Rajiv Ghai and Director General of Naval Operations Vice Admiral A N Pramod addressed the media briefing on 'Operation Sindoor.'

The Air Marshal said India's robust air defence system effectively foiled Pakistan's attempts to attack Indian military installations.

On Pakistan military's claim of success in hitting Indian installations, he said, "I would like to emphatically state that, in spite of some minor damage incurred, all our military bases and systems continue to remain fully operational, and ready to undertake any further missions, should the need so arise." (PTI)

Congress asks if PM has accepted US mediation on Kashmir, stopped ops against Pakistan for trade

NEW DELHI, May 12: The Congress on Monday demanded answers from Prime Minister Narendra Modi on US President Donald Trump's claims, made minutes before the prime minister addressed the nation, asking if the operation against Pakistan was stopped due to trade obligations and whether he had accepted American mediation on Kashmir.

The Congress also reiterated its demand for a special session of Parliament to discuss the Pahalgam attack, Operation Sindoor and the cessation of military action against Pakistan on US mediation, asserting that a collective resolve from Parliament was the need of the hour.

Asserting that India would not tolerate any "nuclear blackmail", Modi on Monday said operations against Pakistan had only been kept in abeyance and the future would depend on the neighbouring country's behaviour.

Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh said in a post on X, "The prime minister, his drumbeaters, and his apologists should answer."

"The prime minister's much-delayed address to

the nation was completely upstaged by President Trump's revelations a few minutes earlier. The prime minister was completely silent on them. Has India agreed to US mediation? Has India agreed to a 'neutral site' for a dialogue with Pakistan? Will India now give in on US demands for opening Indian markets in autos, agriculture, and other areas?" Ramesh asked.

Trump on Monday reiterated his claim that his administration stopped a "nuclear conflict" between India and Pakistan, telling the south Asian neighbours that the US would do a "lot of trade" with them if they ended the hostilities.

Ramesh, a former Union minister, said Modi should immediately have a meeting with leaders of all political parties -- something he had studiously avoided in the last 20 days.

"The months ahead will demand both painstaking diplomacy and a collective resolve. One-liners and dialogue-baazi are poor substitutes," he asserted.

"We applaud and salute our armed forces unreservedly. They have done the country proud. We are 100 per cent with them at all

times. But the prime minister has still much to answer for," Ramesh said.

Congress media department in-charge Pawan Khera noted Trump's statement came a few minutes before the prime minister's address and called it "very disturbing".

He said no Indian would accept what Trump said and "we expected that the prime minister would clarify and respond".

"We need a clarification from the government of India on whether this operation was stopped due to trade," Khera said, noting that India did not trade with "sindoor" and it was not possible to do trade with "sindoor".

"We want to know on what terms mediation was done. Why did you not respond to what Donald Trump said on Kashmir? There are several questions in the minds of the country and there is a need for a collective resolve. There were two opportunities and two such all-party meetings were held but unfortunately the prime minister did not attend," the Congress leader said.

"We again demand that there should be a special session of Parliament and

there should be a collective resolve from all. Only the prime minister can create such a collective resolve. There will obviously be no sensitive issues discussed in that, but political issues will be raised," he added.

There is a need to know what the nation gained and what it lost. This question remains to be answered, Khera asserted.

Asked if the Congress was dissatisfied with the prime minister's address, he said, "We are all satisfied in view of the armed forces action and we salute them but we have to discuss politically with the prime minister and there are several questions to be asked."

These questions can be answered only through a collective discussion and a collective resolve would emerge and that collective resolve is the need of the hour, he stressed.

Khera also said there had been several governments in the past and all of them attempted to de-hyphenate India and Pakistan as the two countries could not be equated.

"But, in the last few days, India and Pakistan have been equated and hyphenated by America and

this is what we object to," the Congress leader said.

"In the eyes of the entire world, the US has hyphenated India and Pakistan. We have strong objections to that," he added.

In his first address to the nation after Operation Sindoor, Modi said that while Pakistan pleaded with India to stop the military offensive, New Delhi considered it only after it promised to stop its misadventure.

The prime minister termed the Pahalgam attack the most "barbaric face of terrorism", saying it was a personal pain for him but the enemy had realised the consequences of removing "sindoor from the foreheads of our women".

The prime minister also said Operation Sindoor was not just a name but, through it, the entire world saw India's resolve turn into action and more than 100 dreaded terrorists were slaughtered.

"India will not tolerate any nuclear blackmail. We have only kept in abeyance our operations against Pakistan, the future will depend on their behaviour. Operation Sindoor is now India's new policy against terrorism, a new line has been drawn," he said. (PTI)

Pakistan-allied hackers launched 15 lakh cyber attacks on Indian websites; only 150 successful

MUMBAI, May 12: Maharashtra Cyber has identified seven Advanced Persistent Threat (APT) groups responsible for launching over 15 lakh cyber attacks targeting critical infrastructure websites across India following the Pahalgam terror strike.

Of these, only 150 attacks were successful, officials said on Monday.

Even after India and Pakistan reached an understanding to stop military hostilities, Indian government websites are facing a barrage of cyber attacks from the neighbouring country as well as from Bangladesh and the Middle Eastern region, they said.

Addressing reporters, a senior official of Maharashtra Cyber debunked claims of hackers stealing data from Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport in Mumbai, hacking aviation and municipal systems, and targeting the Election Commission website.

"The probe discovered that cyber attacks on (government websites in) India decreased after India-Pakistan ceased hostilities, but not fully stopped. These attacks continue from Pakistan, Bangladesh, Indonesia, Morocco, and Middle Eastern countries," he said.

In a report titled 'Road of Sindoor', prepared under the military operation launched by the Indian armed forces under the same name against terrorists, the state's nodal cyber agency has de-

tailed the cyber warfare launched by Pakistan-allied hacking groups.

The report has been submitted to all key law enforcement agencies, including the Director General of Police and the State Intelligence Department.

According to the report, these cyber attacks originated from Bangladesh, Pakistan, the Middle East, and an Indonesian group, said Yashasvi Yadav, Additional Director General of Police, Maharashtra Cyber.

The methods used included malware campaigns, Distributed Denial-of-Service (DDoS) attacks, and GPS spoofing. Defacement of Indian websites was also reported.

Many such attacks were thwarted and critical infrastructure of India was saved, he said.

'Road of Sindoor' is a follow-up to Maharashtra Cyber's earlier report 'Echoes of Pahalgam', which documented cyber attacks following the Pahalgam terror incident.

The seven hacking groups identified in the report are: APT 36 (Pakistan-based), Pakistan Cyber Force, Team Insane PK, Mysterious Bangladesh, Indo Hacks Sec, Cyber Group HOAX 1337, and National Cyber Crew (Pakistan-allied).

These groups collectively launched approximately 1.5 million targeted cyber attacks on Indian infrastructure, Yadav said.

Among the 150 success-

ful attacks, the Kulgaon Badlapur Municipal Council website was defaced.

The attackers also claimed to have stolen data from Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport (CSMIA), as well as from telecom companies, with some of the data allegedly appearing on the darknet. Additionally, the website of the Defence Nursing College in Jalandhar was defaced.

The report also highlights a hybrid warfare strategy by Pakistan-allied groups that includes widespread misinformation campaigns. These groups falsely claimed to have hacked India's banking system and caused power outages.

Maharashtra Cyber identified and removed over 5,000 instances of misinformation and fake news related to India-Pakistan military conflicts that were circulating on social media.

Of 80 specific misinformation cases flagged for take-down, 35 have been removed so far, with the remaining 45 pending action.

These false narratives included claims of cyber attacks on India's power grid, statewide blackouts, satellite jamming, disruption of the Northern Command, and an alleged attack on a Brahmos missile storage facility, Yadav said.

Maharashtra Cyber has urged citizens not to believe in or spread misinformation and to verify news through trusted and official sources, he said. (PTI)

AAI says 32 airports to resume operations, airlines issue travel advisories

MUMBAI, May 12: Airports Authority of India (AAI) on Monday announced that civilian flight operations will resume at 32 airports that were temporarily shut last week in view of the military standoff between India and Pakistan.

Airlines, including Air India, AirIndia Express, IndiGo and SpiceJet, issued travel advisories/ updates to their customers following the opening of the civil flight operations from these 32 airports.

In a statement on Monday, state-owned AAI said the 32 airports that were closed for civilian aircraft operations till 0529 hours of May 15 are now available for operations with immediate effect. "It is recom-

mended for travellers to check flight status directly with Airlines and monitor airlines' websites for regular updates," the statement said.

Civilian flight operations from the 32 airports across northern and western India, including Srinagar and Amritsar, were suspended from May 9 to May 15. The AAI along with other aviation authorities had issued a series of Notices to Airmen (NOTAMs), announcing the temporary closure of 32 airports across northern and western India for all civilian flight operations.

Security measures were enhanced, and at least 32 airports in northern and western

parts of the country were temporarily shut in view of the conflict between India and Pakistan. On Saturday, India and Pakistan reached an understanding to stop all firings and military actions on land, air and sea with immediate effect.

Air India in a statement on Monday said, "Air India will progressively resume flights to and from Jammu, Srinagar, Leh, Jodhpur, Amritsar, Bhuj, Jamnagar, Chandigarh and Rajkot starting Tuesday, May 13." It also said that bookings for these sectors are now open.

Air India Express, in a statement, said it "will gradually reinstate flight operations

from previously closed airports, following the lifting of NOTAMS by the authorities."

Starting Tuesday, services will resume on routes including Hindon-Bengaluru, Jammu-Delhi, Jammu-Srinagar, and Srinagar-Delhi, it added.

Operations on Hindon-Mumbai are planned to resume the day after, AirIndia Express said, adding the reinstatement of other flights, including international services from Amritsar, is expected to follow from May 15.

"Following the government directives, the recently closed airports are now available for airlines operations,"

IndiGo said in a statement.

The Gurugram-based airline also said it has reopened its flight bookings and resumed operations starting May 12, progressively on select routes, beginning with Delhi - Chandigarh, Delhi - Jammu - Delhi and Delhi - Amritsar - Delhi.

Over the course of the next few days, more flights will resume gradually across the network, IndiGo said.

Meanwhile, SpiceJet in a travel update said, "Flight restrictions to/from Leh, Srinagar, Jammu, Dharamshala, Kandla & Amritsar have been lifted." "Flights will resume soon," the airline added. (PTI)

China denies reports of sending cargo plane with military supplies to Pakistan

BELJING, May 12: The Chinese military on Monday denied reports that its largest military cargo plane has carried arms supplies to Pakistan and warned legal action against those spreading such rumours.

The People's Liberation Army Air Force (PLAF) has denied that its Xi'an Y-20 military transport aircraft has taken supplies to Pakistan.

After seeing a large amount of information on the internet about a "Y-20 transporting relief supplies to Pakistan", the Air Force said in a statement that such claims were untrue, a report on the official website of the Chinese Defence Ministry said on Monday.

The PLAF also posted several screenshots of photos and words that shared the incorrect information, with each stamped with the red word "rumour".

"The internet is not beyond the law! Those who produce and spread military-related rumours will be



held legally responsible!" the report added.

The denial by the PLA, which shares close ties with its Pakistan counterpart, was regarded as significant, coming two days after an understanding between India and Pakistan to stop all firings and military actions and Islamabad's requirement for immediate replenishments.

According to a recent report of Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI), China has

emerged as the largest weapons supplier to Pakistan, accounting for 81 per cent of arms procurement of China's all-weather ally from 2020 to 2024. The procurement included the latest jet fighters, radars, naval ships, submarines and missiles.

Both countries jointly manufacture J-17 aircraft, the mainstay of the Pakistan Air Force (PAF).

Considering the large-scale use of Chinese weapons supplies by Pakistan and the all-weather relation-

ship between the two countries, the Chinese official media showed considerable interest during the last few days in the India-Pakistan military confrontation, regurgitating some of Pakistan's claims, including the downing of planes.

India launched 'Operation Sindoor' on May 7 to destroy nine terror infrastructures in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied-Kashmir in retaliation for the Pahalgam terror attack.

This was followed by major strikes on several Pakistan airbases a day later, virtually weakening Pakistan's ability to retaliate as India's air defence missile systems successfully thwarted a series of attempts made by Pakistan to breach Indian airspace with swarm drone and missile attacks.

While the Chinese official media here intimately played up reports of Pakistan's claims of shooting down planes, the scale of attacks by the Indian Air Force on nine terror sites

deep inside Pakistan followed by strikes on radar systems and air bases came as a surprise here.

The Indian Embassy in Beijing cautioned state-run tabloid Global Times to verify messages before posting them on social media.

On the diplomatic front, China said it will play a constructive role to bring about a ceasefire between India and Pakistan.

China hopes India and Pakistan will consolidate and maintain the momentum of the ceasefire, avoid renewed conflict, and resolve differences through dialogue and negotiation, returning to the path of political settlement.

China stands ready to maintain communication with both sides and continue to play a constructive role in achieving a comprehensive and lasting ceasefire and safeguarding regional peace and stability, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Lin Jian told the media last week. (PTT)

Trump claims his administration stopped 'nuclear conflict' between India and Pakistan



NEW YORK/WASHINGTON, May 12: President Donald Trump on Monday claimed that his administration stopped a "nuclear conflict" between India and Pakistan, adding that he told the two countries America will do a "lot of trade" with them if they stop the conflict.

"On Saturday, my administration helped broker a full and immediate ceasefire, I think, a permanent one, between India and Pakistan, ending a dangerous conflict of two nations with lots of nuclear weapons. And they were going at it hot and heavy, and it was seemingly not going to stop," Trump said

in his remarks in the White House, describing "the historic events that took place over the last few days."

Indian government sources in New Delhi have been maintaining that the Directors General of Military Operations (DGMOs) of India and Pakistan reached the understanding and no third party was involved.

"I'm very proud to let you know that the leadership of India and Pakistan was unwavering, powerful, but unwavering in both cases, having these, they really were from the standpoint of having the strength and the wisdom and fortitude to fully know and to understand the gravity of

the situation," he said.

"And we helped a lot, and we helped also with trade. I said, 'Come on, we're going to do a lot of trade with you guys. Let's stop it. Let's stop it. If you stop it, we're doing trade. If you don't stop it, we're not going to do any trade'," he claimed.

"People have never really used trade the way I used it, that I can tell you, and all of a sudden they said, 'I think we're going to stop' and they have, and they did it for a lot of reasons, but trade is a big one. We're going to do a lot of trade with Pakistan. We're going to do a lot of trade with India. We're negotiating with India right now. We're going to be soon, negotiating with Pakistan, and we stopped a nuclear conflict," he claimed.

"I think it would have it could have been a bad nuclear war. Millions of people could have been killed. So I'm very proud of that. I also want to thank Vice President Vance and Secretary of State Rubio for their work and efforts they worked very hard on that," Trump said. (PTT)

Bangladesh officially bans Hasina-led Awami League under revised anti-terror law

DHAKA/NEW DELHI, May 12: Bangladesh on Monday issued a gazette notification, officially banning all activities of deposed premier Sheikh Hasina's Awami League party under an overnight revised anti-terrorism law.

"The Home Ministry today issued the gazette notification banning all activities of the Awami League, its all front, associate and brotherly organisations," Home Adviser Lt Gen (retd.) Jahangir Alam told a media briefing here.

According to the notification, Awami League and its affiliated organisations were banned under the Anti-Terrorism Act 2025 until Bangladesh's International Crimes Tribunal (ICT-BD) completed the trial of its leaders and activists, said a Home Ministry official.

The official said Section 18 of the revised law empowered the government to declare any "entity" or organisation alongside an individual if they were found involved in terrorism based on reasonable grounds.

The original Anti-Terrorism Act of 2009 did not have the provision of banning the "entity".

The Awami League leaders were charged with committing crimes against humanity over the deaths of hundreds of people during last year's anti-government protests by a student platform. The protests resulted in the ouster of Hasina's 16-year-long regime on August 5.

On Saturday, the Muhammad Yunus-led interim government's Council of Advisers or the Cabinet slapped a ban on "all activ-



ities of Awami League", including in cyberspace, under an anti-terrorism law.

It said the ban would stay in place until the special tribunal completes a trial of the party and its leaders.

The next day, the Awami League rejected the interim government's decision and vowed to carry on

its activities in an appropriate manner.

Monday's development came as Bangladesh overnight promulgated an ordinance banning the publication or dissemination of statements of individuals or organisations charged under a revised terrorism law.

On Sunday night, Pres-

ident Mohammed Shahabuddin promulgated an ordinance amending the Anti-Terrorism Act, prohibiting any form of publicity, including press statements, social media content, or public gatherings in support of any individuals or entities tried in the act.

The revised law broadened the scope of restrictions by replacing the previous reference to "listed individuals or banned entities" with a more general phrase: "any individual or entity against whom action has been taken under subsection (1) of Section 18" of the anti-terrorism law.

Formed in 1949, the Awami League led the movement for the autonomy of Bengalis in the then East Pakistan for decades and eventually led the Liberation War in 1971. (PTT)

Russian coal reserves to last five centuries, sees vast potential for cooperation with India

MOSCOW, May 12: Russia's coal reserves are enough to meet demand for more than five centuries and the country sees vast potential for cooperation with India, Russian Energy Ministry Officials here have said.

The new environment-friendly and safe coal mining hubs will provide up to 250 million tonnes of additional production capacity by 2025, Russian Energy Minister Alexander Novak said in an article.

Russia is one of the leading coal suppliers to India by volume, Novak, who holds the rank of Deputy Prime Minister in the Russian cabinet, said.

Russian coal production totalled 443.5 million tonnes in 2024, with 196.2 tonnes exported.

In the article published in the latest issue of "Energy Policy" magazine, Novak writes that by 2050, the in-

dustry will be made up of high-tech, modern enterprises operating under strict environmental standards.

"Installed coal-power generation capacity in Siberia and the Far East is expected to reach about 38 GW. We also plan to introduce 'clean coal' technologies and innovative coal mining approaches to develop a wide range of products for coal and coal-waste processing, as well as to boost the development of coal chemistry industries," he said and unveiled the plans for the development of coal industry in Russia.

According to Russia's energy strategy which runs through 2050, the country's target for coal production in 2030 is 530.1 million tonnes, with a goal of 662 million tonnes by 2050. In 2024, coal output stood at 443.5 million tonnes.

"Russia has a vast resource base and every opportunity to efficiently extract and use these reserves to reliably meet domestic demand and expand export supplies," Novak said.

Russia has suggested signing an intergovernmental agreement to support imports of coking coal as well as establishing supply volumes for thermal coal.

"Given the Indian steel industry's rising demand for coking coal, we see a lot of potential in the development of Russian-Indian cooperation in the coal sector," Energy Ministry's Coal Industry Director Pyotr Bobylev was quoted as saying by independent Interfax news agency.

India signed a memorandum in 2021 which envisages boosting Russian coking coal supplies to India to 40 million tonnes by 2035. (PTT)

India extends financial support to Maldives through rollover of USD 50 million Treasury Bill

MALE, May 12: India has extended crucial financial support to the Maldives through the rollover of the USD 50 million Treasury Bill for one more year, a move the Maldivian government said 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 USD 50 million Government Treasury Bill issued by the Ministry of Finance of Maldives, the Indian High Commission in the Maldives said in a statement on Monday.

Since March 2019, the Indian government has been facilitating subscription of several such Treasury Bills by the SBI and rolling them over, annually,

interest-free to the Government of Maldives, it said.

"This has been done under a unique Government-to-Government arrangement, as emergency financial assistance to the Maldives," the statement said.

The Maldives is India's key maritime neighbour and an important partner in India's 'Neighbourhood First' policy and Vision 'MAHASAGAR' i.e. Mutual and Holistic Advancement for Security and Growth Across Regions, the statement said.

India has assisted the Maldives in times of need and the subscription of this Treasury Bill, along with, the Government of India's decision earlier this year to extend the special quota for export of essential commodities for the Maldives,

reflect India's continued support to the Government and the people of the Maldives, it added.

Abdulla Khaleel, the Maldives' Minister of Foreign Affairs, expressed gratitude to India and External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar for extending crucial financial support to his country.

"This timely assistance reflects the close bonds of friendship between #Maldives & #India and will support the Government's ongoing efforts to implement fiscal reforms for economic resilience," he said.

Treasury Bills (T-bills) "rollover" refers to the practice of reinvesting the proceeds from a maturing T-bill into a new T-bill, effectively extending the investment term. (PTT)

Airstrike in central Myanmar kills up to 22 people at bombed school, reports say

BANGKOK, May 12: An airstrike by Myanmar's military on a village in the country's central Sagaing region hit a school on Monday, killing as many as 20 students and two teachers, according to a member of a resistance group, an aid worker and media reports.

The morning attack on Ohe Htein Twin village in the region's Tabayin township, also known as Depayin, also wounded dozens of students, they said.

Neither the military government nor state-controlled media have released information about the reported airstrike.

The military has increasingly used airstrikes to counter a widespread armed struggle against its rule, which began in February 2021 when it seized power from the elected government of Aung San Suu Kyi.

More than 6,600 civilians are estimated to have been killed by security forces since then, according to figures compiled by nongovernmental organisations.

A member of the White Depeyin People's Defence Force resistance group fight-



ing against army rule told The Associated Press that a fighter jet dropped a bomb directly onto a school, where many students from primary to high school levels were studying after 9 am.

The area is about 115 kilometres northwest of Mandalay, Myanmar's second-largest city.

The resistance fighter, who rushed to the site of the attack to help the victims, spoke on condition of anonymity because he was afraid of being arrested by the military. He said that 20 students and two teachers were killed in the attack on the school, which is operated by the country's pro-

democracy movement, and about 50 others were wounded. Three nearby houses were damaged.

He also said that there had been no recent fighting in the area, though Sagaing is a stronghold of the resistance.

Nay Phone Latt, a spokesperson for the opposition's National Unity Government, told the AP that he received the same information on the number of casualties, and that the death toll could rise. The organization is the main opposition group coordinating resistance to military rule.

He accused the military of deliberately attacking civilians in monasteries, refu-

gee camps, schools and hospitals, with the excuse that resistance fighters were sheltering at such sites, though this was not the case and the bombings were intended to alienate the people from the resistance movement.

The death tolls from Monday's bombing reported by independent Myanmar media ranged from 17 to more than 20. A volunteer in Tabayin assisting displaced people who asked not to be identified because of fear of government reprisals said he received the information from the ground that 12 students were confirmed dead and around 30-50 others were wounded. (AP)

Sairaj breaks youth national records to win 81kg weightlifting gold; athletes shine with meet marks

PATNA, May 12: Promising weightlifter Sairaj Pardeshi of Maharashtra hogged the limelight, breaking three youth national records en route to the 81kg gold medal on the ninth day of the Khelo India Youth Games here on Monday.

Pardeshi's effort was special. In the 81 kg category, he broke records in snatch (140 kg), clean and jerk (172 kg) and total lift (312 kg), leaving Andhra Pradesh's M. Tarun (287 kgs) and Uttar Pradesh's Aayush Rana (264 kg) in his wake.

It also helped Maharashtra to stay on top of the medal tally with 35 gold medals, followed by Karnataka and Rajasthan.

The athletics competition began at the Patliputra Sports Complex here and four meet records already



tumbled.

Jithin Arjunan (Tamil Nadu) leapt to a new mark in the long jump as his 7.65m erased the record of 7.42m created by Aryan Choudhary of Delhi in Panchkula, 2022.

Uttar Pradesh's Kadir Khan set a meet record in the under-18 400m boys' heats.

Khan clocked 47.67 seconds to erase the meet record held by Kerala's Abdul Razzak (48.34 sec) set in the Pune Games in 2019.

New meet records were also set in boys' discus throw (Hansraj Dhayal of Rajasthan 63.18 metres) and boys 110m hurdles (Saif Farooq Chafei of Maharashtra, 13.48 seconds).

Bihar's Alka Singh won a gold in girls Shot Put with her second attempt that measured 14.73m to share some of the gloss.

Saif Farooq Chafekar won the boys 110m hurdles with a new meet record of 13.48 seconds.

In 100m hurdles, Maharashtra's Shourya Ambure won the first gold medal of track events in this competition with a timing of 14.11 seconds.

Maharashtra's Rohit Shivaji Binnar set the new record in boys 3000m with a timing of 8:29.16, bettering the previous record set

Go well, King: Bollywood celebrities hail Virat Kohli as he announces Test retirement



NEW Delhi, May 12: Several stars, including Vicky Kaushal, Ranveer Singh, Farhan Akhtar and Abhishek Banerjee were among those who expressed gratitude to Virat Kohli for his incredible run in Test cricket after he announced his retirement from the longest format.

The 36-year-old cricketer quit red ball cricket after scoring 9,230 runs from 123 matches with 30 hundreds at an average of 46.85.

Kaushal lauded Kohli for doing things in his own way and that way will truly be missed. "Congratulations on an incredibly inspirational Test career and thank you

- for the game, for the people I shared the field with, and for every single person who made me feel seen along the way," he wrote.

The comments section of the post was flooded with reactions from several fans, including actors Ranveer Singh, Farhan Akhtar, Aparshakti Khurana, Abhishek Banerjee, and Neha Dhupia. "One in a Billion! Go well, King!" Singh wrote.

"Congratulations on an incredible test career and thanks for all the great memories," said Akhtar.

Khurana said he is happy to be born in an era "where we witnessed it inch by inch!" "Rabbb Charchidiyaan Kalaan ich rakhey! Always," he added.

"Thanks for making every Indian proud," wrote Banerjee.

Dhupia said Kohli's reign will "never end in our hearts".

Actor Suniel Shetty praised the batter, saying he didn't just play cricket but "lived it".

"You Honoured it, breathed fire, wore your heart on your sleeve and your passion like armour. The roar. The grit. The obsession. The Heart. Take a bow, champ. The red-ball rests, but your legacy races on. @imVkohli," Shetty wrote in an X post.

Actor Prakash Raj thanked Kohli for "all the inspiring moments". (PTI)

Beginning of Gambhir era: Coach becomes most powerful figure in Indian dressing room

NEW DELHI, May 12: Greg Chappell's fall was spectacular when he tried to impose his authority while Anil Kumble could not deal with alpha male stardom but it seems Gautam Gambhir is on course to become that rare India head coach who will wield more power than the skipper.

Indian cricket is replete with examples where powerful managers had to back out in-front of player-power.

Bishan Singh Bedi, Chappell and Kumble despite being champion players themselves didn't realise that they have to play the second fiddle. John Wright, Gary Kirsten and Ravi Shastri knew that and were immensely successful.

With the retirements of Virat Kohli, Rohit Sharma and Ravichandran Ashwin, there aren't many megastars left in the Test team and it gives Gambhir time and space to manoeuvre and move his strategic pieces on the cricketing chess board.

If sources in the BCCI are to be believed, Gambhir had objectives in his bucket-list and the biggest was abolition of star culture in the team.

"The Gautam Gambhir



era begins now. He was categorical that during the next WTC cycle, India need to have fresh faces," a BCCI source told PTI on the condition of anonymity.

"Everyone, associated with decision making knew where Gambhir stood in terms of carrying seniors in the longest format. Obviously his and chairman of selectors Ajit Agarkar's thoughts aligned," he added.

In Indian cricket, the captain has always been that central figure who would prevail over coaches even they were equally-powerful personalities.

Sourav Ganguly, Mahendra Singh Dhoni, Kohli and Rohit Sharma all had the last say in the national teams that they led.

But not anymore with Gambhir, who is now undoubtedly the most powerful figure with the last word resting with him.

Rahul Dravid-Rohit Sharma combination had a brief but eventful journey unlike Rohit Sharma-Gambhir, which never seemed like a happy marriage.

With Kohli though, Gambhir had signed truce with powerful people acting mediators.

This is the first time that a coach has got his way in terms of quick phasing out

of mega stars.

But then power is a double edged sword.

It is understood that in the transition phase of Indian cricket, Gambhir wanted the BCCI to empower him suitably so that debacle like Border-Gavaskar Trophy and New Zealand series at home isn't repeated anymore.

In Shubman Gill, he would have a young captain, who will listen to him, at least at least till he finds his footing.

Gill is a superstar in making but has still not reached the level where he can question Gambhir's decisions and strategies.

The only person who could have had an independent voice is Jasprit Bumrah but his leadership ambitions have been neutralised by his dodgy fitness.

Hence, Gambhir will have unfettered power, going forward just like he has in the T20 set-up. The only set up where he would still need to tread carefully is ODIs where Kohli and Rohit are still eying to compete till the 2027 ODI World Cup. (PTI)

Ayush, Unnati aim to continue strong show at Thailand Open

BANGKOK, May 12: Young Indian shuttlers Ayush Shetty and Unnati Hooda will look to build on their recent impressive run, while Lakshya Sen will be eager to regain his rhythm during the Thailand Open Super 500 badminton tournament which gets underway here on Tuesday.

Ayush, 20, and 17-year-old Unnati had reached the semifinals of the Taipei Open Super 300 last week, but they will have to navigate the qualifying rounds to make it to the main draw here.

While Ayush will take on Finland's Joakim Oldorff in his opening qualifying match, Unnati faces Thailand's Thamonwan Nithititikrai in the women's singles qualifiers.

Sen, on the other hand, will open his campaign against Ireland's Nhat Nguyen in the main draw. The former Commonwealth Games champion will be keen to test his fitness, having missed out on playing any matches at the Sudirman Cup due to an injury.

Priyanshu Rajawat, another rising talent, has struggled for consistency and will hope for a strong showing when he begins his campaign against Indonesia's Alwi Farhan.

In women's singles, Malvika Bansod -- a finalist at the 2022 Syed Modi International and the 2023 Hylo Open, both Super 300 events -- will face Turkey's Neslihan Yigit in her opening match in the main draw.

Former national champion Anupama Upadhyaya, who beat England's Miu Lin Ngan in the Sudirman Cup,

will have a tough task against Thailand's former world champion Ratchanok Intanon in her opening round.

Rakshita Ramraj will open against Singapore's Yeo Jia Min, while Aakarshi Kashyap will face Japan's Kaoru Sugiyama.

In men's singles, former world number one Kidambi Srikanth, currently ranked 82nd, will continue his comeback trail. He faces fellow Indian S Sankar Muthusamy Subramanian -- a player he defeated last week in Taipei - in the qualifiers. (PTI)

Miss World 2025 contestants visit Buddhavanam on Buddha Purnima



HYDERABAD, May 12: The contestants of the Miss World 2025 from 22 countries visited Buddhavanam, a Buddhist theme park on the banks of the Krishna river in neighbouring Nalgonda district, on the occasion of Buddha Purnima on Monday.

The contestants participated in meditation and other spiritual programmes.

Noted archaeologist E Sivanagi Reddy explained the significance of Buddhavanam to them. The participants of the global event were delighted to see the sculptures depicting the life of Gautama

Buddha at the park.

Buddhavanam, located beside the famous Nagarjuna Sagar Dam, is a one-of-its-kind Buddhist heritage theme park spread across 279 acres.

It has been developed to showcase glimpses of the Buddha's glorious life, featuring Buddha Charitha Vanam (Life of Buddha), Jataka Park, Dhyana Vanam, Stupa Vanam, Maha Stupa, and an in-house Buddhist Heritage Museum.

Before arriving at Buddhavanam, the contestants also took part in a photo

shoot at Vijay Vihar, located close to the dam.

Nagarjuna Sagar derives its name from Nagarjuna Konda or Sripurvata-Vijayapuri, which served as the capital of the Ikshvaku dynasty that ruled parts of present-day Andhra Pradesh and Telangana during the 3rd and 4th centuries AD.

Nagarjuna Konda was a prominent centre of Mahayana Buddhism.

The contestants hailed from countries including India, Bangladesh, Cambodia, Myanmar, Vietnam, Australia, New Zealand, In-

donesia, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Lebanon, Mongolia, Nepal, the Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Türkiye, China, Thailand, and Armenia.

The Miss World contestants are scheduled to participate in a heritage walk at Charminar and attend a welcome dinner at the Nizam-era Chowmahalla Palace on May 13.

The administration, including the police, has made elaborate security and logistical arrangements for the heritage walk.

The Miss World 2025 contest began with a glittering ceremony in Hyderabad on May 10 and will continue until May 31.

The Telangana government has drawn up an action plan to enhance the state's global image and attract investments by leveraging the Miss World event.

The participants will visit prominent tourist attractions across the state. Their itinerary includes heritage sites from the Nizam era in Hyderabad and the UNESCO-listed Ramappa temple in Warangal. (PTI)

FRAZZ

By Jef Mallett

WHEN YOU SEE A DOG IN A WINDOW, IT'S USUALLY BARKING LIKE CRAZY.

I WONDER WHAT IT'S BAR...

HEY, MS. PLAINWELL! MS. PLAINWELL! HEY! HI!

WHERE WAS I?

WONDERING SOMETHING YOU DIDN'T HAVE TO WONDER.

BIG NATE

By Lincoln Peirce

WHAT'S THIS NONSENSE ABOUT "SHORTS TIME"?

IT'S VERY SIMPLE, MRS. G!

WHEN IT'S WARM ENOUGH TO WEAR SHORTS, THAT'S A SIGN THAT SUMMER VACATION IS COMING!

SO LET'S ALL RELAX! IT'S TIME TO TAKE OUR FOOT OFF THE GAS PEDAL. AM I RIGHT?

YOUR FOOT HASN'T TOUCHED THE GAS PEDAL SINCE LABOR DAY.

I LIKE TO FACE MYSELF.

DON BRUTUS

By Chip Sansom

UNH... UNNH!

¡UFI NO SE MUEVE... ¿ESTÁS PISANDO EL FRENO?

CLARO QUE NO.

¿GNRRR? NO... ENTIENDO QUE PASA, ¡COFF!

QUIZÁS SI QUITO EL FRENO DE ESTACIONAMIENTO...

'King' Virat Kohli announces Test retirement; says it's not easy but feels right

NEW DELHI, May 12: India's most successful Test captain and the fulcrum of its batting for over a decade, Virat Kohli announced his retirement from the format on Monday, ending his passionate love affair with the five-day game which celebrated him as its saviour during a global T20 surge.

The 36-year-old Kohli, who admitted that it wasn't an easy call to make, turned up in 123 Tests for India, scoring 9230 runs with 30 hundreds and 31 half centuries at an average of 46.85.

He will now only be seen in ODIs, having already retired from T20 Internationals last year after having a significant role in India's T20 World Cup win in the Caribbean.

"I'm walking away with a heart full of gratitude - for

the game, for the people I shared the field with, and for every single person who made me feel seen along the way," Kohli announced on his Instagram page, putting an end to incessant speculation about his future in the format that peaked after the tour of Australia earlier this year.

Since making his debut in 2011 as the nation's Test cap number 269, Kohli captained India to the world number one position in the format and fetched a historic series triumph in Australia in 2018-19.

Under his leadership, India won 40 of 68 Tests, making him the most successful for his country and fourth most successful overall, behind South African Graeme Smith, Ricky Ponting and Steve Waugh. He also logged 20 hundreds as captain, mak-

ing it the highest by an Indian in that position.

"It's been 14 years since I first wore the baggy blue in Test cricket. Honestly, I never imagined the journey this format would take me on. It's tested me, shaped me, and taught me lessons I'll carry for life," Kohli added.

The megastar's last Test assignment was a largely underwhelming tour of Australia in which he managed just one hundred. He ends his career well short of the 10,000 run mark, which was, at one stage, considered a formality.

The right-hander nonetheless signs off as a giant of the format with seven double hundreds, the highest for an Indian and well ahead of the legendary quartet of Sunil Gavaskar (4), Sachin Tendulkar (6), Virender Sehwag (6) and



Kohli's Test retirement makes Tendulkar's record of 100 centuries 'safe'



End of an era: Cricket fraternity hails Kohli

NEW DELHI, May 12: Virat Kohli's Test retirement is the "end of an era" and a closure to an "epic career", the cricket fraternity said on Monday, eulogising the modern-day Indian great.

The 36-year-old ended his inspiring run in the traditional format, scoring 9230 runs from 123 matches with 30 hundreds at an average of 46.85. He will only play in ODIs now, having already retired from T20 Internationals last year.

"An era ends in Test cricket but the legacy will continue FOREVER! The former Team India Captain retires from Test cricket. His contributions to Team India will forever be cherished!," the BCCI said in a post on 'X'.

In a statement, BCCI president Roger Binny said, "Virat Kohli's name will be remembered alongside the finest ever to have graced Test cricket. What set him apart was not just his hunger for runs, but his commitment to excellence in the toughest format of the game."

"His leadership marked a shift in how India competed

overseas — with aggression, belief, and a refusal to settle for second best. He inspired a generation to take pride in the whites, and his impact on Indian cricket will be felt for decades to come."

India's head coach Gautam Gambhir said he will miss Kohli, who is also known for his bold and unapologetic passion for the game.

"A man with lion's passion! Will miss u cheeks," he posted.

The ICC hailed Kohli as one of India's Test greats.

"One of India's Test greats calls time in the longest format. Whites off, crown intact. Virat Kohli bids goodbye to Test cricket, leaving behind an unmatched legacy," the ICC said.

"Thank you for championing the purest format during the rise of T20 cricket and setting an extraordinary example in discipline, fitness, and commitment," ICC chief Jay Shah wrote.

Former India coach Ravi Shastri said he still can't fathom that Kohli is done with his Test career.

"Can't believe you are

done. You are a modern-day GIANT and were a fantastic ambassador for Test match cricket in every way you played and captained. Thank you for the lasting memories you've given to everyone, and to me in particular. It's something I will cherish for life. Go well," Shastri wrote on 'X'.

Tennis great Novak Djokovic also took to social media to hail Kohli's career.

"Incredible innings," wrote Djokovic on his Instagram story.

Former South African cricketer AB De Villiers also sang Kohli's praise.

"Congrats to my biscotti on an epic Test career! Your determination & skill have always inspired me. True legend!" he tweeted.

Ajinkya Rahane posted on Instagram, "It's been a special journey sharing the field with you. So many great memories and partnerships together. Congratulations on an amazing Test career!"

Former teammates Yuvraj Singh and Cheteshwar Pujara highlighted Kohli's drive and dedication

towards Tests.

"Test cricket brought out the fighter in you and you gave it everything! You played the way greats do, with hunger in your heart, fire in your belly and pride in every stride. Proud of what you've done in whites. Go well King Kohli!" Yuvraj wrote.

"Congratulations Virat on a Test career you can be incredibly proud of! Your passion for the format was inspiring...and it was an honour to share the crease with you over the years, in the heat of many-a-battle, grinding it out for the country! Will cherish the several memories and partnerships together" Pujara wrote.

Harbhajan Singh remembered the tough and successful days he had shared with Kohli.

"Virat, we've shared that era...faced the grind together, lived the long days of Test cricket with pride. Your batting in whites is special - not just in numbers, but in intent, intensity, and inspiration. Good luck going forward," he tweeted.

Star Indian pacer Jasprit Bumrah, who made his Test debut under Kohli's leadership, expressed gratitude.

"From making my Test debut under your captaincy to reaching new heights together for our country, your passion and energy will be missed but the legacy you leave behind remains unmatched," Bumrah wrote.

Swashbuckling wicket-keeper-batter Rishabh Pant echoed the sentiment.

"The intensity, the passion, the fight - you gave it your all, every single time! All the best for what's ahead," Pant wrote.

Former India pacer Irfan Pathan described Kohli as "a true torchbearer of modern Indian Test cricket".

"Congratulations on a phenomenal Test career. As captain, you didn't just win matches - you changed mindsets. You made fitness, aggression, and pride in whites the new standard."

With T20 cricket dominating the global scene, Kohli's support for Tests was praised by Virender Sehwag.

"From the time I saw you,

Bopanna-Pavlascek advance; Yuki-Gallo-way pair exits from Rome Masters



ROME, May 12: Veteran Indian tennis star Rohan Bopanna and his Czech partner Adam Pavlascek on Monday advanced to the second round of the men's doubles event at the Rome Masters here.

Bopanna and Pavlascki stunned sixth seeded pair of New Zealand's Michael Venus and Croatia's Nikola Mektic 4-6 7-6 (5) 10-4 in super tie-breaker to progress to the next round.

Bopanna and Pavlaski will next face Great Britain's Joe Salisbury and Neal Skupski in the next round.

But it was heartbreak for another Indian Yuki Bhambri. Bhambri and his American partner Robert Gallo-way crashed out in the opening round, losing 1-6 2-6 against fourth seeded pair of Marcel Granollers of Spain and Argentina's Horacio Zeballos on Sunday. (PTI)

Indian shuttlers win 19 medals at Fazza Para Badminton International



DUBAI, May 12: Indian shuttlers finished with a haul of 19 medals, including a gold, four silver and 14 bronze, at the 6th Fazza Para Badminton International tournament here.

Sivarajan Solaimalai and Sudarsan Saravanakumar Muthusamy claimed the only gold medal at the championships, as the pair got a walk-over from their top seed opponents Hong Kong's Chu Man Kai and Wong Chun Yim in the men's doubles SH6 finals on Sunday.

Experienced shuttler Umesh Vikram Kumar settled for silver in two of his Standing Lower SL3 singles and men's doubles finals, while

the pair of Hardik Makkar and Ruthick Ragupathi went down fighting to the top seeded Malaysian Cheah Like Hou and Muhammad Fareez Anuar in men's double Standing Upper SU5 finals.

Tokyo Paralympic champion Krishna Nagar signed off with a bronze after losing to Brazil's Vitor Tavares in the semifinal. He dedicated his medal to the defence forces of India, acknowledging their relentless efforts in safeguarding the nation.

"This medal is for the brave men and women in uniform who are working hard, day and night, to protect our country. Their courage motivates me to keep fighting on court," he said. (PTI)

NEW DELHI, May 12: If there was one player who was considered worthy of bettering Sachin Tendulkar's record of 100 international hundreds, it was Virat Kohli.

When Tendulkar was asked in an award ceremony after hitting his 100th century who can break his record, he took two names: Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma.

Within a week, both Rohit and Virat retired from Test format.

Kohli, who quit the Test arena on Monday, is still 18 hundreds away from equaling the incredible milestone and now has just one format to play, may be for a maximum of two years.

In an age when the relevance of the 50-over format is a continuous debate, hitting 19 hundreds in ODIs is a humongous task.

There is a possibility of Kohli featuring in the ODI World Cup to be held in South Africa, Zimbabwe and Namibia in 2027.

Before that, India is scheduled to play only 27 ODIs which includes a three-match series against Bangladesh in August-September.

It looks Tendulkar's record is 'here to stay'.

Tendulkar scored 51 centuries in 200 Tests and 49 centuries in 463 ODIs.

Kohli hit 30 centuries in 123 Tests, 51 in 302 ODIs and one in 125 T20 games.

Former captain Rohit has scored a total of 49 centuries, including 12 in Tests, 32 in ODIs and five in T20s.

In the list of batsmen who have scored the most centuries in international cricket, after Tendulkar and Kohli, are Australia's Ricky Ponting (71), Sri Lanka's Kumar Sangakkara (63), South Africa's Jacques Kallis (62) and Hashim Amla (55), Sri Lanka's Mahela Jayawardene (54).

Kohli's contemporaries England's Joe Root (53), Australia's Steve Smith (48) and New Zealand's Kane Williamson (48) are also at the fag end of their careers and there is no chance of them even getting close to Tendulkar's record. (PTI)