



Wheat procurement:
Commr expressed ire
over slow pace, directs
officials to encourage...



P3
«

**Bhushan Power saga: Why
did Supreme Court reject
JSW Steel takeover bid and
order liquidation?**

**Aryan Khan's
show is 'really
fun', says
Netflix's....**

P6

Pak missile, drone attack in Jammu, Punjab and Rajasthan; all intercepted

New Delhi (Agency): Acomplete blackout is being witnessed in the border areas of Jammu and Kashmir, Punjab and Rajasthan after a missile and drone attack by Pakistan. According to defence sources, Pakistan launched eight missiles at Satwari, Samba, RS Pura and Arnia sector in Jammu Division. However, all were intercepted by Indian Air Defence Units.

Pakistani drones were also intercepted by India's "Sudarshan Chakra"—S-400 Air Defence System. A video shared by news agency Asia News International shows flashes in the sky after a Pakistani drone is successfully intercepted. Explosions can also be heard in the video.

India also shot down two Pakistani JF-17 fighter jets while trying to intrude into the Indian airspace, multiple reports claimed. However, the Pakistani military has denied the claim and termed a video of DG ISPR ad-

mitting the loss as "deep fake". Reports also claimed an F-16 supersonic fighter jet of the Pakistani Air Force was shot down by India using a surface-to-air missile defence system.

Meanwhile, a complete blackout has been enforced in several border areas, including Udhampur, Samba, Akhnoor and Kishtwar in Jammu and Kashmir, and Jalandhar in Punjab, and Jaisalmer in Pakistan. Sirens are also being heard in several areas throughout the district.

The tensions between India and Pakistan started after Islamabad backed terrorists gunned down 25 innocent civilians, mostly tourists from across the country, and a Nepali national in Jammu and Kashmir's Pahalgam on April 22. Following the brutal attack, India launched Operation Sindoor to avenge the Pahalgam attack and destroyed nine terror camps in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir.



While India maintained its strikes only targeted terror bases, as New Delhi didn't want an escalation, Pakistan resorted to intense shelling in Jammu and Kashmir and targeted Indian military establishments in the wee hours on Thursday, May 8. Indian armed forces foiled the attack and launched a retaliatory strike, destroying a Pakistan air defence system in Lahore.

Meanwhile, Panic gripped Jammu late Wednesday night after a series of missile attacks were launched from Pakistan, triggering loud explosions, sirens, and an enforced blackout across the city and nearby areas. The strikes came just hours after India neutralized Pakistan-based air defence radars and systems as part of the ongoing Operation Sindoor. Army

sources confirmed that eight missiles were fired from Pakistan targeting areas such as Satwari, Samba, RS Pura, and Arnia. "All were successfully intercepted and blocked by the Air Defence Units. The visuals from Jammu resemble Hamas-style attacks on Israel, using multiple low-cost rockets," said a senior military source.

"Pakistan's military is operating and behaving like the terrorist organization Hamas. It's noteworthy that last month, ISI and Hamas held a meeting in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK)," the source further claimed. Former Jammu and Kashmir DGP Sesh Paul Vaid posted on X, "Complete blackout in Jammu. Loud explosions—bombing, shelling, or missile strikes suspected. Fret not—Mata Vaishno Devi is with us, and so are the valiant Indian Armed Forces."

Reports also confirmed blackouts at various locations in

Punjab, Jammu & Kashmir, and Rajasthan as a precautionary measure. Army sources further revealed that hostile drones were sighted at multiple locations along the western front and were engaged effectively by India's air defence systems.

In an official statement, the Ministry of Defence said that during the night of May 7-8, Pakistan attempted to target multiple military installations across Northern and Western India including Awantipura, Srinagar, Jammu, Pathankot, Amritsar, Kapurthala, Jalandhar, Ludhiana, Adampur, Bathinda, Chandigarh, Nal, Phalodi, Uttarlai, and Bhuj, using drones and missiles. "These were neutralized by India's Integrated Counter-UAS Grid and Air Defence systems. Debris recovered from multiple locations confirms the Pakistani origin of the attacks," a Ministry spokesperson said.

EAM Jaishankar flags Pakistan's escalation in calls with counterparts from US, Italy

New Delhi (Agency): External Affairs Minister (EAM) S. Jaishankar spoke with counterparts from several countries, including the US, late Thursday night, asserting India's strong resolve to firmly counter any attempts at escalation being made by Pakistan. In his call with the US Secretary of State Marco Rubio, EAM Jaishankar deeply appreciated Washington's commitment to work with India in the fight against terrorism.

"Underlined India's targeted and measured response to cross-border terrorism. Will firmly counter any attempts at escalation," he posted on X after the call. Rubio, meanwhile, emphasised the need for immediate de-escalation and expressed US support for direct dialogue between India and Pakistan while encouraging continued efforts to improve communication.

"The Secretary reiterated his condolences for the horrific terrorist attack in Pahalgam and reaffirmed the United States' commitment to work with India in the fight against terrorism," said a statement issued by the US



State Department.

As Pakistan rained several missiles on Indian cities escalating military tensions, the EAM also spoke with Italian Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation Antonio Tajani.

"Discussed India's targeted and measured response to firmly counter terrorism. Any escalation will see a strong response," the EAM reiterated.

He also spoke with Estonian politician Kaja Kallas, currently the Vice-President of the European Commission.

"Discussed ongoing developments with EU High Representative/Vice President Kaja Kallas. India has been measured in its actions. However, any escalation will get a firm response," EAM Jaishankar wrote on X.

US Secretary of State dials Pakistan PM on escalating tensions with India

New Delhi (Agency): United States (US) Secretary of State Marco Rubio on Thursday called Pakistan's Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif as the administration led by US President Donald Trump made a fresh attempt to de-escalate tensions between Islamabad and New Delhi. During the phone call, Sharif strongly condemned India's missile and drone strikes in Pakistan, which have claimed at least 31 lives and injured 57 others. "Pakistan reserves the right to act in self-defence, in accordance with Article-51 of the UN Charter," maintained Sharif.

As per details from the Prime Minister's House, Sharif accused India of violating Pakistan's sovereignty and territorial integrity while gravely jeopardizing peace and stability in the South Asia region.

"The Prime Minister reaffirmed Pakistan's firm resolve to defend its sovereignty and territorial integrity at all costs," PM house press release stated.

US Secretary of State Marco Rubio stated that Washington is keeping a close eye on the situation and is monitoring the crisis, expressing serious concerns



over the deteriorating security situation in South Asia.

"To this end, he emphasised upon the need for both Pakistan and India to work closely to de-escalate the situation," read the PM House statement.

India on Thursday said that Pakistan attempted to engage a number of military targets in Northern and Western India in-

cluding Awantipura, Srinagar, Jammu, Pathankot, Amritsar, Kapurthala, Jalandhar, Ludhiana, Adampur, Bhatinda, Chandigarh, Nal, Phalodi, Uttarlai, and Bhuj, using drones and missiles on the night of May 7-8 which were neutralised by the Integrated Counter UAS Grid and Air Defence systems.

However, Pakistan's Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar, who held a media conference alongside DGISPR Lt. General Ahmed Sharif Chaudhry, rejected India's claims.

"Today, there was a political statement that yesterday night, Pakistan tried to attack Indian installations. It is not true," said Dar. Addressing the media, DGISPR revealed that three missiles were fired by India towards Pakistan, claiming that two missiles were deliberately targeted in India's Punjab, while one was intercepted over Dinga, stating that its debris was picked up from Dinga area near Gujranwala.

ED takes up probe into AP liquor scam under YSRCP regime

New Delhi (Agency): The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has initiated an inquiry into the liquor scam in Andhra Pradesh during the YSRCP regime under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA). The decision of the ED to look into the scam, allegedly worth Rs 3,600 crore, came after Kesineni Sivanath, the TDP MLA from Vijayawada, wrote to the CBI demanding an independent inquiry, citing interstate financial irregularities.

The ED has formally written to the Special Investigation Team (SIT) chief and Vijayawada police commissioner for a certified copy of the FIR, details of bank accounts, and properties identified, details of the accused arrested in the case and a copy of the chargesheet if filed. The SIT probe has so far found the involvement of several senior officials as well as influential politicians like YSRCP MP P Mithun Reddy and former MP V Vijayasai Reddy.

Restraint shouldn't be mistaken for weakness, quality action will follow: Rajnath Singh

New Delhi (Agency): Calling Operation Sindoor a successfully executed strike, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has stated that it killed a good number of terrorists. "It was successfully executed because our formidable and professionally-trained Armed Forces were equipped with high-quality equipment," said Singh. The defence minister was addressing the National Quality Conclave 2025 held here on Thursday. He commended the precision with which the Armed Forces executed the operation without harming any innocent person and with minimum collateral damage, terming it as unimaginable and a matter of great pride for the nation.

"In Operation Sindoor, nine terror camps were destroyed in Pakistan & PoK, and a good number of terrorists were killed. It shows the crucial role 'quality' plays in securing national

interests," said the defence minister.

Speaking about the "quality action" taken by India to avenge the killings of 26 tourists at the hands of Pakistan sponsored

of this restraint, they will face 'quality action'. He assured the nation that no limit will become an obstacle for the government in protecting India's sovereignty. We are fully prepared for



terrorists, the union minister said that India has always played the role of a responsible nation exercising great restraint and it believes in resolving issues through dialogue. "However, if anyone tries to take advantage

such responsible responses in the future as well," he said.

The theme of the conclave was 'Fast-tracking of Quality Assurance through Integrated Approach and Technology Enabled Processes. Singh said that

fast-tracking quality assessment is the need of the hour in view of the disruptive changes and new transformations being witnessed in the defence sector across the globe. "Defence Sovereignty means that until a country is capable and self-reliant in its defence needs, its independence cannot be considered complete. If we buy weapons and other defence equipment from abroad, we are outsourcing our security and leaving it at the mercy of someone else. Our government thought over it seriously and took a decisive step to achieve self-reliance. The expanding defence industrial ecosystem is providing an unprecedented strength to India," he said while adding that equal emphasis is being laid on quality and quantity in defence production with many revolutionary steps being taken in that direction, including corporatisation of Ordnance Factory Board (OFB).

All political parties across affiliations hail armed forces for Operation Sindoor

New Delhi (Agency): Political parties cutting across party lines on Thursday hailed the armed forces for conducting 'Operation Sindoor' against terror hideouts in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir to avenge the April 22 Pahalgam terror attacks. The gesture of unity was displayed across all political parties at the All Party meeting held today in the wake of 'Operation Sindoor.'

"All parties supported the military action... The meeting was positive. All parties hailed armed forces," Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijju told newsmen after the meeting.

The Centre has called an all-party to brief political leaders on the military strikes carried out by the Indian armed forces targeting the terror camps in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, who chaired the meeting, briefed party leaders that at least 100 terrorists were killed in In-

dian strikes under Operation Sindoor.

"In Operation Sindoor, precise strikes were carried out on 9 terrorist hideouts. Around 100



terrorists were killed," a leader who attended the meeting said quoting Rajnath Singh.

"We do not wish to escalate the situation. But if Pakistan acts, we will not back down either," the Defence Minister had reportedly said while briefing the All Party meeting.

Coming out from the meeting Congress President

Mallikarjun Kharge said: "At this hour of crisis we are with the government. We don't want to create any controversy at this hour."



However, at the meeting Mr Kharge had raised questions about the absence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The Prime Minister, he pointed out, had also skipped the previous all-party meeting held after the Pahalgam terror attack.

Praising the Indian Army for Operation Sindoor, Leader of the Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul

Gandhi said: "We are proud of our armed forces." He further said: "We have extended our full support to the government."

All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen chief Asaduddin Owaisi complimented the government and the armed forces for carrying out Operation Sindoor.

During the meeting Mr Owaisi urged the government to lobby with the US to get The Resistance Front designated as a terrorist organisation.

"I have complimented our armed forces and the government for Operation Sindoor.....I also suggested that the government should request the USA to designate it as a terrorist organisation. We should also make efforts to grey-list Pakistan in FATF," Mr Owaisi said after the meeting.

Pakistan was delisted from the Financial Action Task Force's document after four years in 2022. FATF is a global watchdog that monitors terror financing.

India snubs Pakistan for seeking joint probe into Pahalgam attack

New Delhi (Agency): India on Thursday scoffed at Pakistan's call for an impartial international probe or a joint investigation into the Pahalgam terror attack in which 26 tourists were killed on April 22. "You know the history and the track record well, and it is not a bright one as far as Pakistan is concerned. In pursuit of justice for victims of multiple terrorist attacks, in particular with regard to the 26/11 and Pathankot attacks, India had offered to cooperate and provided all sorts of evidence to Pakistan. Cases were registered but did not progress despite the formation of judicial teams. There was no movement on anything whatsoever," Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri said at a media briefing. He said India's experience on this count with Pakistan has not been positive. "It does not give us confidence at face value. Pakistan uses the evidence provided by us as a cover-up for defending the terrorists and obstructing the path of our investigation," he added.

CJI forwards in-house inquiry report against Justice Varma to President, PM

New Delhi (Agency): The Chief Justice of India, Justice Sanjiv Khanna, has forwarded the report of the in-house committee that probed allegations of cash recovery at Justice Yashwant Varma's residence to President Droupadi Murmu and Prime Minister Narendra Modi, along with Justice Varma's response to the findings. In an official statement released on Thursday, the Supreme Court said, "Chief Justice of India, in terms of the In-House Procedure, has written to Hon'ble the President of India and Hon'ble Prime Minister of India enclosing therewith copy of the 3-Member Committee report dated 03.05.2025 along with the letter/response dated 06.05.2025 received from Mr Justice Yashwant Varma."

The development comes days after reports emerged that the three-member in-house committee, comprising Chief Justice of the Punjab & Haryana High

Court, Justice Sheel Nagu, Chief Justice of Himachal Pradesh High Court, Justice GS Sandhawalia and Justice Anu Sivaraman of Karnataka High Court, had indicted Justice Varma in its report submitted to the Chief Justice Khanna. The forwarding of the



report and Justice Varma's response to the constitutional authorities now clears the way for possible impeachment proceedings, if necessary, in accordance with the procedure laid down under Article 124(4) of the Constitution. The in-house panel, constituted by CJI Khanna on March 22, 2025, commenced its probe on March 25 and submit-

ted its report on May 4, 2025.

The controversy dates back to March 14, 2025, when a fire at Justice Varma's official residence in Delhi allegedly led to the discovery of large amounts of unaccounted cash by fire-fighters. Justice Varma and his wife were reportedly travelling in Madhya Pradesh at the time, while only his daughter and aged mother were present at home.

Following the incident, a video showing bundles of burnt cash surfaced and was shared by the Delhi Police Commissioner with the Chief Justice of the Delhi High Court. Subsequently, the Supreme Court took the unprecedented step of making public the preliminary report of the Delhi High Court Chief Justice along with Justice Varma's initial response. In the aftermath of the allegations, Justice Varma was transferred back to his parent High Court, the Allahabad High Court, where he was recently administered the oath of office.

BRIEFS

People of Sanda village are struggling with waterlogging, the road leading to school is submerged



Staff Reporter Baberu. People are badly troubled by the problem of water drainage in Gram Panchayat Sanda of Baberu Tehsil. The main road leading to the primary school of the village gets completely submerged due to waterlogging, due to which school children, teachers and local residents are facing great difficulties. Local people say that the drain made for water drainage has not been cleaned since last year's rain, due to which water is accumulating. Villagers told that many times complaints were made to Manoj Verma, husband of Gram Pradhan Manju Devi, but every time only assurances were received and no concrete action was taken. Villagers told that whatever development work is done in the village, it is just a formality and the Pradhan and Secretary together distribute the government money. Villagers have demanded from the administration that the drain should be cleaned as soon as possible and proper arrangement should be made for water drainage from the road, so that children's studies are not interrupted and normal life can be normal.

Waterlogging on the road in the first rain



Staff Reporter Baberu. Due to heavy rain in Baberu Tehsil premises last night, waterlogging has occurred on the roads of the tehsil. Due to which people are facing difficulty in commuting, the advocates said that the road has already been flooded due to rain. Due to which the complainants are facing difficulty in commuting. And the advocates are also facing difficulty in moving out, the advocates said that due to the lack of proper drainage system, the road gets filled with water. And even if there is a slight rain, the road gets filled with water in front of our bag. We want that this road should be elevated, and pipes should be connected to the drains for drainage of water, so that the rainwater flows out through the drains. The advocates also said that many times Tehsil Diwas, SDM and higher officials have been informed through memorandum. But even today the system remains the same.

Advocates told about the problem of difficulty in getting out

National Lok Adalat on 10th

Staff Reporter Banda. National Lok Adalat is to be organized on Saturday 10th May. It will be inaugurated by the newly appointed District Judge Devendra Singh at 8 am. In this context, in order to make the National Lok Adalat to be held on the said date a success and to settle as many cases as possible, a preliminary discussion meeting was organized in his rest room from Thursday under the chairmanship of Devendra Singh, District Judge. In this meeting, maximum settlement of cases related to revenue, electricity act cases, Motor Vehicles Act cases, cheque bounce, consolidation, labour disputes and challan etc. was considered. So that the general public or litigants can get the full benefit of the National Lok Adalat. In the National Lok Adalat, arbitration cases, bank recovery cases, tenancy cases, mobile phone and cable network related cases, income tax, bank and other financial institutions related cases, civil cases, succession cases, family cases, motor accident compensation cases, cheque bounce cases, cases related to public utility services and commercial tax, revenue/consolidation/labour cases, challan cases and petty criminal cases of compoundable nature etc. will be settled on the basis of mutual compromise. Also, traffic related challans and e-challans will be settled through Lok Adalat.

Teenage girl got electric shock while installing fan, admitted in CHC

Staff Reporter Baberu. A teenage girl got an electric shock while installing a fan in Jalalpur village of Baberu tehsil area. Due to which her hand got severely burnt and she was admitted to CHC Baberu by her family members. The incident is of Jalalpur village under Baberu tehsil area. The teenage girl Roshni Devi, daughter of Pintu Tiwari, aged about 15 years, was installing a fan at her home when Roshni Devi got an electric shock in her hand due to power line being cut. Due to which her hand got severely burnt. And she fell unconscious and was admitted to Community Health Center Baberu by her family members at night where she was treated by the doctor.

Organizing a seminar on climate change

The event was organized at the city's HL Inter College

Staff Reporter Banda. Jeevan Sudha Shiksha, Jal Sanrakshan and Vriksharopan Foundation, an organization dedicated to solving the problem of climate change and protecting nature and environment, organized a seminar in H.L. Inter College located in Indira Nagar of the city. The Principal of the school, Ramswaroop Sahu, inspired the children to not misuse water, plant trees in their homes, come to school on time and do their work with full dedication. The founder and chief guide of the organization, Shriram Singh Lodhi, threw light on the most important topic of the world, climate change. He inspired everyone to plant as many trees as possible to solve this problem. He told that in the



entire universe, there is water only on the planet Earth, so life exists only on Earth. This means that life exists only because of water. Therefore, the proper use of water and water conservation has become the biggest need of today. Water conservation can solve the problem of climate change through tree plantation and tree plantation. Despite all this, we are not aware of water conservation. He described various measures for saving water and its proper use. He told that ground water is an important factor for the life of human beings as well as animal and plant world, therefore ground water conservation, its proper use and ground water enrichment is very important. For ground water enrichment, he motivated people to install rain water harvesting system in their houses, renovate ponds, wells, fence the fields and adopt farm pond scheme. On this occasion, teachers Ajay Sharma (impromptu poet), Akhilesh Yadav, Shiv Gopal Singh, Ranvijay Pal, Mayank Singh, Vijay Sahu and K.P. Sir along with all the staff of the school were present.

Three students caught cheating in college

Staff Reporter Naraini. Three students were caught cheating in the college and were restricted. As per the information, in the morning shift, senior centre head Dr. DC Gupta, nodal incharge Dr. Rama Kant Dwivedi along with assistant professor Arvind Shukla, Ramesh Tiwari, who were part of the flying squad formed by the college for the even semester examinations of Bundelkhand University in Sitaram Samarpan Mahavidyalaya, found the OMR sheets of two students together due to which both the students were restricted by the principal in the first shift. In the third shift of the same examination, a mobile phone was caught among three MA students. All the three students were restricted collectively by the principal. All the three were found ticking the question paper.

Training of Rashtriya Sevika Samiti completed

Staff Reporter Maudaha. The seven-day preliminary class of Rashtriya Sevika Samiti Kanpur province was organized from 1st May to 7th May in Gandhi Inter College, which concluded after a procession and convocation in the city. 119 sisters from all districts of Kanpur province received training in the class. In the closing session, the trainee sisters expressed their feelings of patriotism and how to live a harmonious life, the feeling of being in a big family, through their experiences. The class teacher Nalini Didi presented the class report. The main speaker, Kshetra Pracharika



Shashi Didi, while addressing the volunteers said that in this training class, the volunteer sisters learn every role of teacher, student, administrator, officer. This is the training of that role, in which the volunteer sisters are taught to work fearlessly. The work of the organization is not a separate work, it is the basic thought and idea of our India,

the protection and promotion of Indian life values is our responsibility. Being the children of Mother India, we all will keep increasing the glory of Mother India by doing good deeds in our personal lives. In the end, he gave the same message through the song 'Swayam ab jakar humko jagaana desh hai apna'. On this occasion, class management head Jyotsna Singh, class in-charge Sadhna Tripathi, class head teacher Arya Didi, management staff Annapurna Dwivedi, Aradhana Rajput, Manju Pathak, Neetu Bhatnagar, Bharti Mahawat and other sisters were present.

Obscenity is being spread by releasing videos of open misconduct

Naraini police arrested the accused and sent him to jail

Staff Reporter Naraini. By releasing the video of open misconduct in the town, vulgarity and characterlessness was spread, which brought shame to the entire human society. But the matter does not end here. This disgusting act was being done in a medical shop located near Bamba pond in Naraini town of the district for the last two years. The son of a teacher resident of Baruva Seodha was openly raping the girl with her consent, making video clips and continuously broadcasting them. The obscene video is completely shameful and has shaken the entire society. In this case, Naraini Kotwali Police took immediate action and arrested the accused and sent him to jail. However, this incident did not end here. A video related to this misconduct is becoming increasingly viral on social media, in which the scenes shown are not only intolerable for the civilized society, but it also raises deep

questions on the morality and sensitivity of the society. This video presents a grim picture of the collapse of law and order and social values in Naraini area. Details of the incident and police action Taking cognizance of the matter, Naraini Kotwali police took immediate action and arrested the accused of misconduct and sent him to jail. This quick action of the police is being appreciated, but the viral video has made the matter more complicated. The scenes shown in the video are so inhuman and disgusting that it has become a stigma on the forehead of civilized society. The police has not yet made public the information about the authenticity of this video and any concrete steps taken to identify those who made and made it viral. Viral video: A deep conspiracy of crime or social degradation? This viral video not only shows the cruelty of the incident, but also raises the question as to

who made it and why. It is clear that the video was made under a well-planned conspiracy and the purpose of making it viral may be to create fear and instability in the society. There is also a possibility that there may be an organized gang behind this video, which exploits poor and uneducated girls by luring them, promising marriage or by other means. Such gangs have been active in the district before as well, and this video may be part of their deep conspiracy. The mentality of those who made and made this video viral is completely different and criminal from the thinking of a civilized society. This not only hurts the dignity of the victim, but also highlights the increasing crimes against women in the society. It is necessary that the Superintendent of Police go to the depth of this matter and find out who made the video, who made it viral in the first place, and whether a big

criminal network is working behind it. The district is already grappling with many controversial incidents. The recent revelations made by the Chingari organization had exposed the deep roots of exploitation and crimes against women in the district. After this, the crimes committed by some spoiled rich kids also brought the district in the headlines. These criminals are in jail after their bail was rejected by the district judge, but this latest incident of Naraini once again shows the deep moral and social degradation in the society. Social and administrative responsibility: Where is the lack? This incident has raised many serious questions. After all, what can be done to stop such incidents? Is it only the responsibility of the administration, or does the civilized society also have to play its role? Lack of awareness in the society, lack of education, and wrong

mentality towards women is promoting such incidents. Also, the administration also needs to take strict action against such organized criminal gangs, which target innocent girls. The Superintendent of Police should form a Special Investigation Team (SIT) to investigate this viral video, which will find out what was the motive of those who made and made the video viral. Also, it should also be ensured that the victim gets justice and her dignity is restored. Further path: Responsibility of society and administration Society and administration will have to work together to stop such incidents. Society has to change its thinking towards women and give them equal status. Moral education and awareness programs have to be promoted in schools and colleges. Also, the administration should adopt a zero tolerance policy towards such incidents and give harsh

punishment to the criminals. Apart from this, strict rules should be made to control such videos going viral on social media. Cyber Crime Cell should take immediate action in such cases so that the victims do not have to suffer further humiliation. Need for an aware society The Naraini rape case and the viral video related to it is a warning for the society. It forces us to think in which direction our society is going. It is time that we all unite against such incidents and create a society where every person, especially women, feel safe and respected. Both the administration and the society have to understand their responsibility, because without collective efforts it is difficult to stop such incidents. We cannot show the viral video related to this incident here because this viral video is not only against the standards of journalism but is also not worth showing to a civilized society.

The two-day Urs will conclude today with Kul Ki Fatah



Staff Reporter Maudaha. The two day annual Urs of Hazrat Sheikh Baba (RA) near the Church Compound of the town will be concluded with great pomp today, while on Thursday a flood of devotees gathered in the Urs. The two day annual Urs of Hazrat Sheikh Baba (RA) located near Kanshiram Colony Miratalab and Church Compound of the town is being celebrated with great pomp and devotion. In connection with the Urs, Quran Khwani was held at the shrine after Fajr prayers on Thursday morning. Langar was served after noon and Chadar Poshhi was offered after Asar prayers. And the Chadar was taken from Mohalla Upraos and reached the shrine with Naatiya Kalams, while on Friday morning the two day Urs will conclude with Kul Ki Fatah. The Urs was organized by the organizing committee including Arshad Muqem, Shadab Hussain Bittu, Haleem alias Sabir, Islam, Chota Babu, Wahid.

The pilgrimage to Khatu Shyamji started with pomp and show

Procession held with great fanfare on Ekadashi of every month

People participated in large numbers even in the scorching heat

Staff Reporter Banda. Every month, Ekadashi foot march is taken out by Baba Khatu Shyam Seva Mandal in the city on Thursday. This time, a huge procession was taken out on Ekadashi. A large number of Khatu Shyam devotees were present in the procession. The procession was given a grand welcome at various places and refreshments were arranged by the devotees. In the procession, the president of Khatu Shyam Seva Mandal, Montu Gupta, said that this is the 16th consecutive procession. An appeal was made to unite the Hindu society. He further said that the devotees of Khatu Shyam Seva Mandal fulfil their wishes by offering

offerings till now, died in a car accident while offering flag, whose tribute was paid



Montu Gupta said that this time, Kalyug's Meera Kumari, whose name is Aarti Talk, who has been offering flag to Baba Shyam daily for the past five years, 13551

offerings till now, died in a car accident while offering flag, whose tribute was paid

journey. Officers of Khatu Shyam present in the journey were president Montu Gupta, general secretary Virendra Gupta, treasurer Jitu Gupta, vice president Amit Gupta, senior vice president Rakesh Gupta and Rambhori Pappu Bhैया, Pappu Gupta Guddu, Vishnu Chaurasia, Harishchandra, Vinod, Manoj Shivhare, Sudhir Tiwari, KK Gupta, Mohit Chaurasia, Rambahori Pappu Shivhare, Sohan Kushwaha, Santosh Yadav, Dheeraj Sahu, women president Vimala Yadav, general secretary Shail Gupta, Ruby Gupta, Sangeeta Shivhare, Nandini Yadav vice president, Suman Yadav and other devotees were present.

Trade deal stalled over UK carbon tax, India proposes plan for 'rebalancing'



New Delhi (Agency): Western labour and environmental standards continue to pose challenges for Indian trade negotiators, with the UK's carbon tax — it is expected to disrupt India's exports of iron, steel, aluminium, ceramics and cement — emerging as a key sticking point in talks aimed to finalise a trade deal during the latest round of negotiations in London. As the UK remains unwilling to grant any concession under its Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM), which seeks to impose duties on carbon-intensive imports, India has proposed a "rebalancing mechanism" which would require the UK to compensate Indian industry for losses incurred due to the regulation. "The 'rebalancing mechanism' article has been inserted into the 'general exceptions' chapter of the negotiating text between the two countries. This would enable India to claim compensation for its losses and ensure the UK does not raise a dispute against India at the World Trade Organisation (WTO)," a government official, speaking on the condition of anonymity. The general exceptions chapter in international trade agreements such as the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) allows countries to implement measures that might "otherwise violate trade rules", provided they are justified on grounds such as public health or environmental protection, according to the WTO. Among India's earlier demands were concessions for Indian MSMEs and country-specific exemptions. The two sides also discussed harmonising carbon emission standards to allow Indian carbon taxes to remain within the country, but differences in measurement techniques remain unresolved. The draft UK CBAM legislation states that the levy will apply to imported goods from January 1, 2027 and defines CBAM goods as aluminium, cement, fertilisers, hydrogen, iron and steel — sectors associated with high carbon emissions.

Bhushan Power saga: Why did Supreme Court reject JSW Steel takeover bid and order liquidation?

Mumbai, New Delhi (Agency): The Supreme Court on Friday rejected steel major JSW Steel Ltd's Rs 19,350 crore bid to acquire Bhushan Power and Steel Ltd (BPSP) through the Corporate Insolvency Resolution Process (CIRP) route, and ordered the liquidation of the company. While ordering the liquidation, the biggest in the corporate history, a bench of Justice Bela Trivedi and Justice Satish Chandra Sharma lambasted the delay on the part of JSW Steel to implement the resolution plan and said the Committee of Creditors (CoC) failed to exercise its commercial wisdom while approving the Resolution Plan. JSW Steel, controlled by Sajjan Jindal, and lenders are likely to go for appeal against the SC order as both the parties will suffer a setback if liquidation of BPSP is implemented. The

liquidation of BPSP is set to be the biggest in the history of the corporate sector in terms of the size of the debt. Supreme Court of India earlier ordered the liquidation of Jet Airways, a once prominent Indian airline, due to the failure of a resolution plan and the inability of the Jalan-Kalrock Consortium (JKC) to fulfil its financial obligations. While Jet Airways was estimated to have owed its financial creditor around Rs 7,800 crore, a total of around Rs 15,723 crore was admitted as claims by the National Company Law Tribunal when the airline was first grounded in 2019. The number of cases ending in liquidation in FY24 was 2,476 involving total claims of Rs 11 lakh crore, according to Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI). However, the liquidation value is just Rs 69,634 crore,

RBI adds 57.49 tonnes of gold to forex kitty in FY25, brings 38.64 tonnes back to India

Mumbai (Agency): The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) added 57.49 tonnes of gold to its foreign exchange kitty during the fiscal ended March 2025 with the value of the gold holding rising by 48.41 per cent amid the rise in the prices of the yellow metal. The country's central bank also brought 38.64 tonnes of its gold holding back to India from Bank of England and the Bank for International Settlements (BIS) in FY 2025. With this, the RBI has brought back 88.60 tonnes of gold to India in the last two years. The RBI held 879.59 metric tonnes of gold as of March 2025, of

which 511.99 metric tonnes were held domestically. While 348.62 metric tonnes

deposits, the RBI said in its half-yearly report on forex management. In March



of gold were kept in safe custody with the Bank of England and the Bank for International Settlements (BIS), 18.98 metric tonnes were held in the form of gold

2024, the central bank held 822.10 metric tonnes of gold, of which 408.31 metric tonnes were held domestically. While 387.26 metric tonnes of gold were

kept in safe custody abroad and 26.53 metric tonnes were held in the form of gold deposits. The value of gold held by the RBI rose by \$ 25.50 billion to \$ 78.17 billion as of March 2025 as against \$ 52.67 billion a year ago. In value terms (USD), the share of gold in the total foreign exchange reserves increased from 9.32 per cent as at end-September 2024 to about 11.70 per cent as at end-March 2025, the RBI said. According to the World Gold Council (WGC), central banks' insatiable appetite for gold reached a significant milestone in 2024. Having added 712

tonnes in the first three quarters of the year, central banks bought a further 333 tonnes in Q4 to bring the net annual total to 1,045 tonnes. "As a result, they have extended their buying streak to 15 consecutive years, and, remarkably, 2024 is the third consecutive year in which demand surpassed 1,000 tonnes — far exceeding the 473 tonnes annual average between 2010-2021, and contributing to gold's annual performance," WGC said. Among major gold holders, Germany leads with 3,351 tonnes of gold, followed by Italy 2,451 tonnes, France 2,437 tonnes and China

2,292 tonnes, WGC said, WGC said the RBI was once again a major purchaser in 2024, having bought gold every month before leaving reserves unchanged in December. Its annual purchases totalled 73 tonnes more than four times the level of its gold buying in 2023 (16 tonnes). "The RBI was one of two banks — the other was the Central Bank of Nigeria — to disclose that it repatriated gold from overseas in 2024. Such activity represents a change only in location — not ownership — of gold, and therefore has no impact on our demand estimates.

Subramanian's exit: IMF says member countries decide appointment and termination

New Delhi (Agency): In the backdrop of the Indian government terminating the services of Krishnamurthy V Subramanian as Executive Director of the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the Fund has said that "appointment and termination of any member of the Executive Board is a decision for member countries to make". "The appointment and termination of any member of the Executive Board is a decision for member countries to make. The termination of ED Subramanian is a decision by the Government of India. We wish him well in his future endeavors and look forward to working with his

successor," The Appointments Committee of

as IMF's Executive Director (India), "with immediate

Director. The reasons for his exit have not been officially announced. The government is looking for his replacement to be nominated to the IMF Board.

Sources earlier said that concerns were flagged over an "alleged impropriety" relating to the promotion of Subramanian's latest book India @ 100. Additionally, sources said, there were reports of alleged violation of some "internal IMF protocols." Subramanian, who was earlier Chief Economic Adviser, was nominated as IMF's ED by the government in August 2022 for a three-year term beginning November 1, 2022. He was not available for comment.



the Cabinet, in an order dated April 30, had approved the "termination" of his services

effect." Subramanian had six months left in his three-year term as the IMF's Executive

Banks still wary of lending to NBFCs despite restoration of risk weights



Mumbai (Agency): Despite a restoration of risk weights on their loans to non-banking finance companies (NBFCs), banks are still wary of lending to non-bank players that are focusing on unsecured personal loans and the microfinance segment.

Among the NBFCs, small and mid-sized players having lower credit ratings and with unsecured loan books are the ones facing major challenges in raising funds from banks. In February this year, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) had slashed the risk weights of bank loans to NBFCs by 25 percentage points depending on the ratings. In November 2023, the regulator had increased the risk weights on such exposures of banks by 25 percentage points in cases where the risk weight as per external rating of NBFCs was below 100 per cent.

Risk weight refers to the capital banks must keep aside as provisioning to cover any loan defaults.

"Banks are still reluctant to lend to NBFCs which are engaged in micro finance, consumer loans or personal loans," said Shachindra Nath, founder and managing director, UGRO Capital Ltd, an NBFC specialising in MSME and small business financing.

He said UGRO continues to get funding from banks. The NBFC did not face any issues even when the risk weights were increased.

"You may not see a sharp uptick in the loan disbursement to NBFC because of the lowering of risk weights. Irrespective of risk weights, banks are continuously wary of NBFCs, especially mid and small-sized," said Prakash Agarwal, Partner, Gefion Capital Advisors, a capital and strategy advisory firm.

Most of the small-sized NBFCs have a good percentage of their loan portfolio in unsecured and semi-secured segments. These NBFCs have slowed down their lending, resulting in a decrease in demand for loans.

"Besides, banks are also cautious of lending to NBFCs with lower ratings," Agarwal said.

It could be noted that banks lending to the NBFC sector grew by 5.7 per cent as of March 21, 2025, from a growth of 15.3 per cent as of March 22, 2024.

Analysts also said that since the revised risk weights on bank loans to NBFCs came into effect from April 1, 2025, it is too early to assess lenders' interest in extending loans to the sector.

Operation Sindoor: Various Indian airports closed for commercial operations; international carriers divert away from Pakistani airspace as India strikes

As per data compiled by flight tracking service Flightradar24, as of 4 PM India time on Wednesday, 430 flights in India had been cancelled, accounting for 3 per cent of the scheduled flights for the day.

New Delhi: With the Indian armed forces striking nine sites in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir, commercial flight operations at various Indian airports, particularly those close to the India-Pakistan border or housed at key Indian Air Force bases, have been suspended due to airport closures and airspace restrictions in view of the developing security situation.

Around 25 Indian airports — largely in the northern part of the country — have been closed for civil flight operations following India's

strikes against Pakistan's terror infrastructure early on Wednesday. In most cases, the airports are expected to be closed for commercial operations till around 05:30 AM Saturday (May 10), and the Indian carriers have announced cancellation of all flights to such airports at least till then. They are, however, expected to be fully operational for defence flights.

The affected airports include Srinagar, Jammu, Leh, Amritsar, Chandigarh, Jodhpur, Bikaner, Gwalior, Rajkot, Bhuj, Jamnagar, Dharamshala, Bathinda, Shimla, Hindon, Kishangarh, and Kandla. A majority of these airports are located at defence airfields, with some seeing only a handful commercial flights a day.

As per data compiled by flight tracking service Flightradar24, as of 4 PM India time on Wednesday, 430 flights in India had been cancelled, accounting for 3

per cent of the scheduled flights for the day. The Indian carriers also cautioned flyers that these disruptions are expected to have a network-wide impact, affecting flight schedules in other parts of the country as well. Carriers are also offering free rescheduling and full refund on cancellation to flyers whose flights are impacted.

"Due to government notification on airspace restrictions, over 165 IndiGo flights from multiple airports (Amritsar, Bikaner, Chandigarh, Dharamshala, Gwalior, Jammu, Jodhpur, Kishangarh, Leh, Rajkot, and Srinagar) are cancelled until 0529 hrs. IST of 10 May, 2025. Customers are encouraged to check their flight status on our website or mobile app before heading to the airport," India's largest airline IndiGo said in a statement. In an advisory to passengers posted on social media platform X (formerly Twitter), Tata group airline



Air India said: "Air India flights to and from the following stations — Jammu,

Srinagar, Leh, Jodhpur, Amritsar, Bhuj, Jamnagar, Chandigarh and Rajkot — are

being cancelled till 0529 hrs IST on 10 May following a notification from aviation authorities on closure of these airports. Customers holding valid tickets for travel during this period will be offered a one-time waiver on rescheduling charges or a full refund for cancellations".

Air India's no-frills airline arm Air India Express said that all its flights to and from Amritsar, Gwalior, Jammu, Srinagar, and Hindon are cancelled till 5:30 AM on May 10. Another budget carrier SpiceJet said that all its flights to and from Leh, Srinagar, Jammu, Dharamshala, Kandla, and Amritsar stand cancelled. Government-owned regional airline Alliance Air also announced cancellation of flights to and from Amritsar, Bhuj, Bathinda, Chandigarh, Dharamshala, and Shimla.

On Wednesday, flight tracking data also showed hardly any civilian aircraft

activity north of Delhi and in much of Rajasthan and Gujarat, where some of the sensitive airports close to the India-Pakistan border and key Indian Air Force stations are located.

India's strikes also led to most international flights overflying Pakistan around that time diverting away and steering clear of the Pakistani airspace. According to a few international reports, Pakistan has imposed some restrictions on its airspace for two days, and various global airlines are working to reroute their long-haul flights to completely avoid the Pakistani airspace. In Pakistan, 147 flights, or 17 per cent of the country's scheduled flights, stood cancelled as of 4 PM India time, per Flightradar24 data. With India launching the strikes, the Pakistani airspace quickly emptied out as overseas carriers diverted away from it, showed flight tracking data. With tensions rising between India and

Pakistan in the wake of the recent terrorist attack in Pahalgam in which 26 people were killed by terrorists, some international airlines were already avoiding the Pakistani airspace, while a few others continued to overfly the country.

"Most flights are diverting out of Pakistani airspace... Non-Pakistani aircraft—both to Pakistan airports and overflights—appear to be diverting, while Pakistani airlines are continuing to their destinations at this time," flight tracking service Flightradar24 posted on social media platform X shortly after India launched 'Operation Sindoor', hitting terrorist infrastructure in Pakistan and PoK.

The airlines whose flights were diverted away from Pakistani airspace in view of India's strikes included Emirates, Qatar Airways, Turkish Airlines, Finnair, Saudia, Air Arabia, and Mahan Air.

EDITORIAL

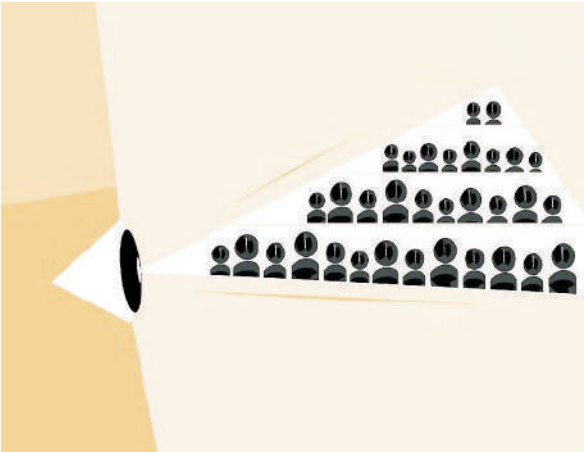
No to Trumpism

The Australian electorate has spoken decisively. In what can only be described as a stunning political outcome, Prime Minister Anthony Albanese's Labour government has secured a commanding second term, expanding its majority in Parliament and defying the global trend of incumbent fatigue. While economic pressures and policy debates dominated the campaign trail, the most consequential undercurrent was something less tangible yet deeply resonant: the global shadow of President Donald Trump's leadership, now reinstated in the United States. Peter Dutton, leader of the conservative Coalition, was widely perceived as aligning himself with the rhetoric, posture, and tactics of Trumpian politics. From his stances on immigration and climate policy to his tone on national identity and government intervention, Mr Dutton's campaign bore the marks of a combative, polarising approach that Australians found increasingly off-putting. His attempt to cast himself as a strongman alternative to Mr Albanese may have resonated with a narrow base, but it proved toxic to the broader public, especially in moderate and urban electorates where nuanced governance and stability are still valued. In effect, the Australian election became a referendum not just on local governance but on the global conservative movement's direction. With Mr Trump back in the White House, his ideological blueprint has gained renewed legitimacy in some quarters. But Australians seem to have drawn a line. They rejected a model of leadership that may see as divisive, anti-institutional, and indifferent to societal cohesion. The message is clear: what may be gaining traction elsewhere is not necessarily welcome on Australian shores. Labour's strategy of disciplined messaging and a modest, centrist policy platform allowed voters to make a contrast, not merely a choice.

Mr Albanese didn't win by dazzling the electorate with sweeping reforms but by presenting a calm, empathetic alternative to the noise and uncertainty that Mr Dutton's campaign came to represent. The promise of affordable healthcare, fairer housing access, and action on climate change struck a chord ~ but equally, it was the tone of leadership that mattered. This outcome should also prompt soul-searching among conservative parties worldwide. Emulating Mr Trump may energize core loyalists, but it risks alienating centrists and independents who still value pragmatism and inclusive governance. Australia's verdict is a warning: political mimicry without cultural resonance can backfire. Populism transplanted wholesale rarely thrives unless it reflects the unique pulse of a nation's political fabric. Australia's rejection of Trumpism is not just a political statement ~ it is a cultural one. It signals a preference for substance over spectacle, for policy over personality, and for a vision of the future that embraces inclusion rather than fear. That Mr Dutton even lost his own seat is symbolic of how deeply the rejection ran. In an interconnected world, national elections are increasingly shaped by global influences. This result reminds us that while some democracies may lean into disruption and defiance, others still choose stability, decency, and the quiet power of democratic resilience.

Best of Both Sides: On caste census, BJP has done what Congress couldn't

Ramvilas Sharma



“
Opposition's
invocations of
social justice
are marred by
hypocrisy.
Centre's move
is part of BJP's
approach of
inclusive
Hindutva

On April 30, the NDA government announced its decision to collect caste data in the upcoming national Census. The move has surprised people in political circles and analysts alike. In a country where caste runs deep, through both daily life and the political calculus, this step marks not just a policy shift but a defining moment in modern Indian governance. The Narendra Modi government's decision is timely, bold and forward-looking. It has received bipartisan support, especially in my home state of Bihar. Babasaheb Ambedkar once said that India had yet to attain social democracy. The government's move is a tribute to Ambedkar's vision and mission. It is a move that will enable and ensure social justice and cohesion. Including caste data in the Census isn't just a bureaucratic decision. It is a long-pending transformation. The last time India conducted a detailed caste census was in 1931.

That was under British rule. Since then, we have relied on outdated estimates, political guesswork and patchy surveys. The 2011 Socio-Economic and Caste Census (SECC), started under the UPA government, could have filled the gap — but it was bogged down by inconsistencies, underreported data, and, in the end, was never officially released. It was a missed opportunity, and perhaps a reflection of political hesitation to confront uncomfortable truths. Neither Indira Gandhi, Rajiv Gandhi, nor Manmohan Singh could make such a move. When PM Modi came to power in 2014, he asserted in his speeches that the deprived sections of society were at the centre of this government. The announcement of the caste census reaffirms that stand. It is important to recall and acknowledge that PM Modi comes from an OBC community in Gujarat and, with tireless hard work, he rose to be the CM and was subsequently elected PM of the country. For nearly a

century, caste enumeration has been absent from the Census. The blame falls squarely on the Congress party's lackadaisical attitude towards social justice. Congress has historically been against such important policy decisions because it is not genuinely committed to mending social fissures. Congress and its allies are only interested in serving their personal and familial interests. Their invocations of social justice are marred by lies and hypocrisy. It is also important to remember that Congress's SECC had its fair share of glaring flaws. The Modi government's intervention will now ensure a systematic approach to the caste census, which is in accordance with Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya's vision of empowering the last citizen in the village. Moving beyond state-level divides on the issue, the central government will ensure transparency in bringing out a Census that facilitates human-centric development and helps society come together. It will reaffirm that we are one. Congress must be reminded of the way it has paid short shrift to tall Dalit leaders like B R Ambedkar and Babu Jagjivan Ram when party leaders try to push their false propaganda of championing Dalit empowerment and assertion. Adding caste data to the next Census isn't just a bureaucratic move. It's a political and moral milestone. It challenges the Opposition's claim that the BJP is out of step with caste-based inequities.

After Operation Sindoor, past assumptions in Pakistan of an Indian response no longer hold true

One of the pithiest expositions of India's approach to Pakistan was given by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in an interview in April 2024. On being asked about his views on Pakistan, he remarked that Pakistan had got the homeland it wanted in 1947. As far as India is concerned, he said, we want to live in peace with them and would be happy if they spent their time and energy focusing on their livelihood and earning their daily bread. In its history with Pakistan, India has tried every option to establish a normal relationship, as was the promise after the creation of that state, and as behoves two neighbours. The unfortunate reality is that none of these have worked. This is for many reasons but a lack of effort on India's part is surely not one of them. This is not opinion, but fact. All we have to do is to look at the record of successive Indian prime ministers and governments. The answer, unfortunately, seems to lie in the nature of the Pakistani state and the make-up of those who have governed it since its inception. India would like a Pakistan that is at peace with itself, and comfortable in its skin. It seems, however, that this is asking for too much. The question then arises about the kind of policies India must craft to deal with a state that exhibits the strategic equivalent of an obsessive-compulsive disorder. Again, for many reasons, Pakistan enjoyed decades of global indulgence, especially from the West, and particularly from the Anglo-Saxon world. In fact, it's more than indulgence. The West is culpable for using Pakistan and building its terror industry. The Islamic world is actually ahead of the West in recognising the dangers posed by Pakistan not just to itself but to them. China, too, despite its master-client relationship with Pakistan as part of its India policy, has shown signs of uneasiness with the trajectory of the Pakistani state. Calls for equivalence between India and Pakistan and the urge to preach rather than partner, as recently articulated by the External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar, have prevented the creation of a unified international deterrent against Pakistani-origin terrorism. The problem is not Kashmir. Nor is it the solution, just as 1947 has not been the solution. India does not desire any kind of escalation. Its actions reflect the two principles of the right to self-defence and the right to bring the masterminds and planners of terror attacks on its soil to justice.

Intellectual swadeshi

Ramvilas Sharma

Stark divide

Romania stands at a critical juncture. The outcome of the first round of its presidential re-run has exposed a stark political divide, not only within the country but also mirroring wider currents across Europe. George Simion, the 38-year-old hard-right nationalist, surged ahead with 40.6 per cent of the vote, while centrist Bucharest mayor Nicu or Dan trailed significantly with 21 per cent. Their runoff on May 18 may decide not just the presidency, but the future direction of Romania's democracy and international posture. This election follows the annulment of the November 2024 vote, a rare and contentious move prompted by unproven allegations of Russian interference. That vote had been won by far-right candidate C lin Georgescu, whose disqualification from the current race has only fuelled political polarisation. Mr Simion, who had garnered just 14 per cent in November, now appears to have capitalised on Mr Georgescu's support base and broader public frustration with the political establishment. At the heart of this political shift is a rising wave of nationalism. Many voters, especially younger and disenfranchised Romanians, see in Mr Simion a promise of national sovereignty, cultural identity, and a clean break from elite-driven politics. His alignment with MAGA-style populism and open criticism of EU institutions resonates with those sceptical of Brussels and resentful of perceived foreign overreach. Yet this turn raises critical questions. For the past two decades, Romania has been a committed member of both the European Union and NATO, serving as a crucial partner on the alliance's eastern flank. It has supported Ukraine in its war against Russia by providing military training, air defence systems, and a vital grain export corridor. A Simion presidency could weaken this role, introduce strategic uncertainty, and isolate Romania diplomatically at a time when transatlantic unity is most needed. What's also at stake is Romania's democratic resilience. The annulled November vote revealed institutional vulnerabilities and a deep erosion of trust in electoral integrity. Safeguarding transparency, judicial independence, and media freedom is now more essential than ever ~ not only for this election, but for the long-term health of Romanian democracy. The runoff will also test Romania's political maturity. In a fragmented landscape where ideological lines often blur, building consensus around democratic norms ~ regardless of party ~ is essential to prevent deeper polarisation and institutional decay, which are risks in any emerging populist wave. Mr Dan, the 55-yearold technocrat running as an independent, represents continuity with Romania's Western trajectory. His anticorruption credentials and moderate platform appeal to urban voters and the diaspora, but his path is complicated by political fragmentation and residual distrust from past governance failures. Ultimately, Romanians face a defining choice. One path embraces nationalism and a pivot toward unilateralism; the other reaffirms cooperation, institutional reform, and global alignment. Neither course is without its challenges. But as voters prepare to return to the polls, they are not merely electing a leader ~ they are shaping Romania's identity, role, and relevance in a rapidly shifting world.

In our globalized age when higher education is on a dangerously slippery slope with government highhandedness creating distress among teachers and students alike, when academic and creative freedom is up against walls of indifference and hate, it is heartening to hear Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore delivering his first lecture in English in Madras on 9 February 1919. In 'The Centre of Indian Culture' lecture, he raised the question "what should be the ideal of education in India. Instead of holding my listeners' minds in suspense till the very end, let me briefly give the answer in the beginning..." On each race is the duty laid to keep alight its own lamp of mind as its part in the illumination of the world. To break the lamp of any people is to deprive it of its rightful place in the world festival. He who has no light is unfortunate enough, but utterly miserable is he who, having it, has been deprived of it, or has forgotten all about it. "India has proved that it has its own mind, which has deeply thought and felt and tried to solve according to its light the problems of existence. The education of India is to enable this mind of India to find out truth, to make this truth its own wherever found and to give expression to it in such a manner as only it can do. In order to carry this out, first of all the mind of India has to be concentrated and made conscious of itself and then only can it accept education from its teachers in a right spirit, judge it by its own standard and make use of it by its own creative power..." The next point is that, in education, the most important factor must be the inspiring atmosphere of creative activity. And therefore, the primary function of our University should be the constructive work of knowledge...Education can only become natural and wholesome when it is the direct fruit

of a living and growing knowledge." On 27 March 1919 Gurudev also delivered this lecture at the Empire Theatre, Calcutta. 'The Centre of Indian Culture' may be read as one of the finest expositions of Swadeshi intellectual thought, in fact, historians and scholars have underrlined the 'internationalism' and the stupendous growth of projects where 'knowledge for nationalist ends' were evident. Moreover, the Swadeshi movement was spread in time across three decades, quite clearly from 1903 to the early 1920s and even beyond; seeking to assert indigenous autonomy, social constructivism and cultural productivity at one level, directly challenging the British Empire. At another level, there were knowledge affiliations which went beyond the confines of geography, and this trajectory of intellectual thought gives the Swadeshi movement a place on the global map of international movements which have continued to impact generations of Indians not merely those living in Bengal. When Kris Manjappa, now Stearns Trustee professor of history and global studies at Northeastern University, USA, was contributing an article to the Economic and Political Weekly (20 October 2012), he titled it as 'Knowledgeable Internationalism and the Swadeshi Movement, 1903-1921'. The Harvard-educated professor, working at the intersection of global history and critical study of race and colonialism, looked at the Swadeshi movement as one where "productive nationalism emerged with the partition of Bengal, mooted in 1903 and executed in 1905." He explained that while the Swadeshi movement can be portrayed in terms of economic nationalism ~ with the boycott of British goods and new politics of local consumption setting the stage for the future ~ there has been greater thrust of cul-

tural historians and anthropologists who studied the expressions of Swadeshi activism in terms of material culture ~ manual industries, styles of dress, and nationalist symbols of everyday comportment. Said Prof Manjappa, "a study of the dynamics of intellectual life in the swadeshi era complements these approaches." "An examination of Swadeshi era thought suggests



a movement aimed not only at producing material objects, but also new knowledge. The swadeshi production of knowledge was internationalist in scope and in execution. As swadeshi activists were shutting down to British goods, they were commencing an unparalleled degree of intellectual commerce with the world ~ led outside the British world empire," Prof Manjappa highlighted, bringing knowledge and intellectual thought to the forefront of our understanding of the Swadeshi movement. In Tagore's 1919 lecture, where he articulated objectives for the university, he spoke about cultural autonomy and international cooperation in the intellectual realm in the same breath. Prof Manjappa hailed Gurudev's clarion call: "A truly national Indian university, should teach at the highest level using the Indian languages, and

not English alone. It should foster Asian cultural and aesthetic standards. But it should also 'perfect irrigation of learning' based on international 'co-operation', since a river belonging to a country is not fed by its own waters alone". Gurudev's intellectual internationalism was seen as 'constructive Swadeshi' by historians like Prof Sumit Sarkar whose pioneering work 'Swadeshi Movement 1903-1908' remains a benchmark study. An interesting side-story is developing here, as Prof Manjappa shared: PC Mahalanobis in the 1950s got the idea for his nationalist project of 'brain irrigation' from Tagore. He had served as Tagore's personal secretary in the 1920s, and worked as the first general secretary of the Viswa Bharati University senate. Quite clearly there is a 'Tagorean spirit of swadeshi internationalism' seen sweeping its way into the arts, humanities and the sciences. "The swadeshi impulse propelled dramatist Shahid Suhra wady to Bolshevik Moscow in 1917, singer Dilip Roy and dancer Uday Shankar to Paris, and painter Nandalal Bose to Tokyo on foreign study tours and scholarly sojourns from the 1910s to the 1930s. And knowledgeable internationalism made itself known in perhaps its most visually gripping way through

cinema. The 1930s films of the Bombay Talkies, a production house that developed out of Bengali and German collaboration, portrayed modern social dramas within village settings. Bombay Talkies became an institutional irrigator for the fledgling Bollywood film industry as the film house trained a set of important actors, set designers and technicians who went on to consolidate the genres of Bombay cinema in the 1950s. The producer and artistic director behind the production house was Himanshu Rai. Rai was trained at Tagore's Viswa Bharati and spent decades abroad on world travel," is the breathless account in Prof Manjappa's article. Intellectual swadeshi is also the domain where Satyajit Ray and his generation of filmmakers of the 1950s can be mapped. "Ray's Pather Panchali (1955) roused adulation and controversy at home, while also winning prizes at Cannes, Venice, London, Berlin, San Francisco, Tokyo, and elsewhere. Ray, along with artists like Ramkinkar Baij and Benod Bihari Mukherji also came out of the Santiniketan school of Indian knowledgeable internationalism. The productiveness of intellectual swadeshi lay in the insistence that Indians were not only recipients of foreign knowledge, but also creators and authors of knowledge and art forms that carried global significance," is the critical point made by Prof Manjappa. There is the model of scientific institutionalisation set by Asutosh Mukherjee, vice chancellor of Calcutta University during 1906-23 which played an equally significant role. Mukherjee insisted that Indians had to be producers of original scientific and humanistic knowledge both for national uplift and for heightened status within international communities of knowledge. His internationalism was not just about getting

know-how and technology from overseas, "but about creating the conditions at home that would allow Indians to make fundamental contributions to the world fund of knowledge." It is no accident that the Asutoshian era of Calcutta University produced one Nobel Prize winner, CV Raman, for his work in spectroscopy, and two more internationally celebrated scientific researchers, Meghnad Saha with his ionisation equation and S N Bose with his quantum statistics. Not only did Mukherjee institutionalise a new kind of nationalist university from within the existing structure of Calcutta University, but he insisted that a nationalist university had to be primarily a research university ~ it had to cultivate original knowledge of international standing, and it had to enhance and channel the intellectual creativity of the Indian people." Gurudev Tagore's 1919 lecture looks squarely at challenges of "bringing about of an intellectual unity in India...I am told, difficult to the verge of impossibility owing to the fact that India has so many different languages. But every people in the world, in order to attain its greatness, must solve some great problem for itself, or accept defeat and degradation. All true civilizations have been built upon the bedrock of difficulties. Those who have rivers for their water supply are to be envied, but those who have not must dig wells and find water from the difficult depth of their own soil...We must bravely accept the inconvenient fact of the diversity of our languages... India is not like any one of the great countries of Europe, which has its one language, but like Europe herself branching out into different peoples having different languages." Gurudev and these streams of intellectual Swadeshi are our heritage which can neither be ignored, belittled nor erased.

The ancient well is fighting to save its existence, the youth submitted a memorandum

Staff Reporter Maudha. Most of the wells in the town are fighting to save their existence after coming under the grip of illegal encroachment, while more than a dozen wells have been destroyed by encroachment. To save one such well, some youths have submitted a memorandum to the sub-district magistrate. In the memorandum submitted to the sub-district magistrate, the youth residing in Mohalla Hussainia of the town said that since the time of their ancestors, well worship and other religious rituals have been taking place in the ancient well located in the locality, but some people of the locality are not only filling the well by throwing garbage in it, but also damaging the well at night. This is a ploy to disturb the peace and harmony of the town, hence there is a need to investigate the matter with immediate effect and take strict action against them. During this, Jitendra Yadav, Awadhesh Kumar, Ramesh, Aman, Sumitra and others were present.

Titan World celebrates Mother’s Day with a bespoke perfume-making



Staff Reporter Varanasi: Scent has a powerful way of evoking memory, and for many, the fragrance of a mother remains one of the most comforting and enduring. This Mother’s Day, Titan World invites you to honour that cherished bond with a gift she’ll always remember, a perfume as timeless as her love. Celebrate that enduring bond through a thoughtfully curated in-store experience. On the 10th and 11th of May, over 163 Titan World stores across India will host a bespoke perfume-making activity, designed to help customers create memorable moments with the most cherished women in their lives - their mothers. Speaking on the activation, Mr. Rahul Shukla, Vice President and Chief Sales and Marketing Officer, Watches and Wearables, Titan Company Ltd. said, “At Titan, we’ve always believed in celebrating relationships that matter the most. With this unique perfume-making experience, we aim

Chairman Shyamsunder Keshari inaugurated construction works, ensuring public convenience



Municipal chairman Shyamsunder Keshari inaugurating the construction work done by the municipality

Staff Reporter Mirzapur, Chairman Shyamsunder Keshari inaugurated the construction works in Shivpur, Kantit and South Sabri ward of the city by law. Work of retaining wall and CC road in Kantit ward and CC work has been done in the drain cover and partial part in Harijan Basti of southern and Sabri ward. On this occasion, the Chairman has got the privilege of participating in this holy work of public service by inaugurating the developmental projects of

the city. This is the real form of our resolutions, this is another strong step towards the convenience of the public, smooth life and the rich future. Councilors Manju Devi, Ram Singh Yadav, Rajkumar on this occasion Dubey, Krishna Kumar Singh, Vikas Gupta, Suman Bind, Shiv Kumar Sharma, Nanhe Nishad, Vikas Dubey, Abhishek Kesarwani, Shivam, Govardhan Nishad, Bhola Maurya, Pancham Yadav, Hemant Srivastava and others were present.

Bike rider seriously injured after colliding with Nilgai

Staff Reporter

Maudaha. Three people riding a bike from the town to the village fell down and were seriously injured when a Nilgai came in front of them while the bike was badly

damaged. Lallu (20) son of Shivkumar, Pritam (17) son of Shivkumar and Pranshu (18) son of Ramdas, residents of Sisoler town, were going from Maudaha to Sisoler by bike, when suddenly a

Nilgai came in front of the bike a little ahead of Padhori, because of which the three youths fell down along with the bike and were seriously injured. All the three injured were brought

to the government hospital of the town for treatment with the help of an ambulance where all three are being treated. At present, all three are said to have sustained serious injuries.

DM inspected road widening work from Ganga Bridge to Chunar fountain, directs acceleration of work

➤ In view of construction of land on ghats of Chunar Ganga river

Staff Reporter Mirzapur, District Magistrate Priyanka Niranjana today inspected the road widening work from the Ganges bridge to the Tirahe under the Chunar Fort during the Chunar area visit. During the inspection, the disposal of the problems faced by the Executive Engineer Public Works Department, the Deputy District Magistrate Chunar and Executive Engineer, while directing the Public Works Department, said that the land should be acquired as required for road widening by breaking the boundary of government houses near Chunar Fort ground and if a personal house/land is also coming under the width, then the concerned should also Notice should be given to break etc. The District Magistrate said that the work should be done by starting the wandering work immediately so that there can be facilities in traffic. Directing the Executive Engineer Public Works Department, he said that the construction work should be started immediately on the vacant land towards the Ganga bridge and efforts should be made to take maximum and more right to the government land widening. To make a track and drain along with the roadInstructions were given. Thereafter, the

District Magistrate also inspected the land for the construction of the ghat by the Tourism and Culture Development Council at



During the visit of Chunar Tehsil, DM Priyanka Niranjana inspects the construction works after inspecting the construction works

Balughat on the Chunar Ganga River at a cost of about 12 crores and the site of the ghat to be constructed by Municipal Council Chunar was also inspected under the Municipal Development Scheme. District Magistrate gave terrestrial inspection of land for construction of both the above projectsWhile dropping the lace and measurement of the land was made. The District Magistrate, while applying to Deputy District Magistrate Chunar and Executive Officer Municipality Chunar, said that 120 meters of Green Field land should be identified for the construction of ghats sanctioned by the tourism department from Santoshi

Mata Temple and providing land for the ghat under the Chief Minister's Global Municipal Scheme. District Magistrate Priyanka

informed that along with a large number of plantation, the banks of the Ganges will also be developed. The District Magistrate said that in view of various possibilities of tourism on the instructions of the Chief MinisterThe MoU is signed. The group is being processed by handover. For which assets are being identified. So that the process of developing this major tourist destination after the handover as soon as possible can start. After which opportunities for employment generation will be created here and local culture and various characteristics will be promoted. The District Magistrate thereafter, near Chunar Cousin Mor, the old hotel of the tourism department (Rahi Laj) Also inspected. Directing the Assistant Tourism Officer, he said that a proposal for its beautification and upgradation should be made available immediately so that development can be made by approved by the government. Municipal magistrate Vineet Upadhyay, Deputy District Magistrate Chunar Rajesh Kumar Verma, Group's Pritam Singh, District Information Officer Om Prakash Upadhyay, Assistant Tourism Officer Divya Tiwari were present in the meeting.

Wheat procurement: Commr expressed ire over slow pace, directs officials to encourage farmers

• Directs issuing show cause notice, if purchase does not increase, strict action will be taken
• If there is no expected progress in wheat procurement, action will be taken against all concerned: Divisional Commissioner

Staff Reporter Mirzapur, Vindhyachal Mandal Mirzapur Commissioner Bal Krishna review meeting of wheat

procurement was convened in the Commissioner's Office Auditorium under the chairmanship of Tripathi. In the meeting, detailed information about wheat procurement was taken by the Mandalayukta. Divisional Food Controller R. B. Prasad told that 27448 farmers have registered, out of which more than 6571 farmers have sold their wheat at purchasing centers, currently the scheduled executive target to the division is 88000 metrics.A 30218 metric tonnes were purchased relative to the ton, which is 34.34 percent of the target. In

the meeting, when the progress of Sonbhadra and



Divisional Commissioner Balakrishna Tripathi reviewing wheat purchasing centers after holding a divisional meeting

Bhadohi districts is not satisfactory, the Commissioner expressed

strong displeasure and directed that if the purchase is

not increased by Tuesday, strict action will be taken against the divisional officials

of the purchasing agency. The Divisional Commissioner told all the officials that as many farmers have done the registration portal,Call them and contact them and encourage them to sell wheat by going to purchasing centers. He said that in any case, the purchase at the center should not be zero and on Sunday, Monday, all the Regional Manager Purchase Agency DFMO Assistant Registrar should inspect at least 10-10 purchasing center mobile center and share the photo with Longetud.The Divisional Commissioner directed the

district manager of PCF, UPS, PCU to issue a show cause notice to the lowest purchasing agency. He said that if there is no progress in wheat procurement, action will be taken against all. He said that all the centers in charge should set the purchase target by contacting farmers in charge. He should take the support of Lekhpal and the village head to all the Deputy District Magistrates. In the drawing roomAll the deputy RMOs, PCF, PCU, UPSS Assistant Registrar and other concerned officers of the division should be present.

BRIEFS

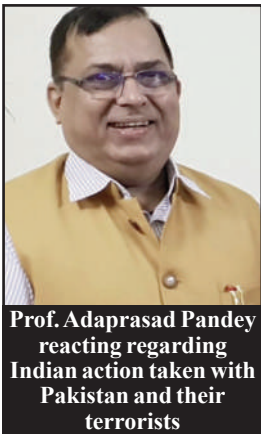
Remain cautious, do not provoke Hindustan, otherwise this will happen: Prof. Adya Prasad Pandey

Staff Reporter

Mirzapur, The kind of reply by the Indian Army to Pakistan, which has a nefarious intention, is favorable to the time. This was the fate of those who have less visible to the diplomats of our country. Today, the people of India are proud of their army and Prime Minister, Home

Minister and Defense Minister. The above things the Indian Economic Association National President Prof. Adya Prasad Pandey, while talking on the telephone, said that the whole nation is proud of the success of "Operation Sindoor". Expressing happiness, he congratulated all the countrymen including the Indian Army and the Prime Minister, Defense Minister, Home

Minister and said that the step taken by the nation proves that whenever there is a crisis on the countrymen and the nation, we will give proper answers.Are capable. He is and will remain indecent under the leadership of a worthy Prime Minister of India. Prof. Pandey called for demolishing the nefarious plans of Pakistan.



Prof. Adya Prasad Pandey reacting regarding Indian action taken with Pakistan and their terrorists

Rosetta Hospitality reaches new heights, unwind in luxury



New Delhi (Agency): Q1. Can you share insights into Rosetta Hospitality's upcoming projects and your strategies for market expansion in the luxury hospitality sector? At Rosetta Hospitality, we aim at three key growth parameters. Firstly, we are focused on expanding in prime leisure destinations across South India. Secondly, each location is carefully selected to be within driving distance from major cities, making our resorts easily accessible. Finally, and most importantly, we are committed to bringing Rosetta's signature lifestyle experiences—such as our arrival, sleeping, and F&B experiences—to all our resorts, ensuring consistency and luxury across every property.

Our upcoming projects reflect this vision. We recently launched Elements by Rosetta - Varca, Goa, and are already working on Phase II of this property, which will add around 70 luxurious suites to the existing facility. In the near future, we are excited to introduce resorts in key locations such as Kalyapura (near Bengaluru), Kochi, Mahabalipuram, Munnar, and Udaipur, with each project offering a unique blend of luxury experiences tailored to their specific region. Our market expansion strategy also emphasizes an asset-light model, enabling us to lease properties rather than own them outright. For every owned property, we plan to add four leased properties, allowing us to scale faster and explore more destinations. The surge in luxury domestic tourism in India further fuels our optimism and expansion efforts.

In addition, we continue to invest in premium F&B experiences, with Ouzo by Fire in Indiranagar, Bangalore, serving as a prime example of how we integrate regional cuisine into our offerings. By offering Goan dishes, we are catering to the growing demand for regional, authentic dining experiences that align with our hospitality vision.

Q2. How does Rosetta Hospitality implement its "Farm to Fork" approach, and what other sustainable practices are you adopting to minimize your environmental impact? Thank you for pointing that out. Here's a revised version incorporating insights from both the document and the link you shared:

At Rosetta Hospitality, our "Farm to Fork" approach means we focus on sourcing fresh, local ingredients. We practice organic farming on our estates and work with local farmers to grow vegetables, fruits, and spices. For example, in Sakleshpur, we grow native produce like Brahmi chillies and jackfruit, and in Goa, we celebrate the local flavors of the region. This ensures every dish is responsibly sourced and connected to the local community.

In addition to "Farm to Fork," we are committed to other sustainable practices, such as water conservation, renewable energy usage, and waste management at all our resorts. We use solar panels for energy, rainwater harvesting systems, and even recycle wastewater for landscaping. These initiatives help us reduce our environmental impact and support our vision for sustainability.

Q3. What are your predictions for the hospitality industry over the next five years, and what growth opportunities do you see for Rosetta Hospitality?

Over the next few years, the hospitality industry in India is expected to experience robust growth. With the sector recovering from the pandemic, domestic tourism has become a significant driver of this expansion. The luxury hotel market is expected to grow at a CAGR of 10.06%, reaching USD 4.39 billion by 2029. The total Indian travel and tourism industry is projected to grow to USD 512 billion by 2028. For Rosetta Hospitality, this presents several exciting opportunities. The rising demand for luxury and unique experiences, particularly in the domestic leisure market, aligns perfectly with our plans to expand across key destinations. As domestic travelers increasingly seek luxury accommodations for holidays and extended stays, we are positioned to tap into this growing segment by leveraging our premium offerings.

Q4. What emerging trends are you observing in luxury hospitality, and how is Rosetta positioning itself to stay ahead of these trends

At Rosetta Hospitality, we are mindful of the latest trends in luxury hospitality, such as sustainability, personalized experiences, and wellness. However, we believe that maintaining a strong focus on the basics of hospitality is essential. We pay careful attention to details like our F&B offerings, soft services, and tangible luxuries.

AICWA calls for Fawad Khan, Mahira Khan boycott after Operation Sindoor: ‘Filmmakers must choose between standing with the nation or supporting those who oppose it’



Hours after India conducted Operation Sindoor in retaliation to the Pahalgam terror attack, the All Indian Cine Workers Association (AICWA) issued a strongly worded press release, condemning recent statements made by Pakistani actors Fawad Khan and Mahira Khan. The association called for an industry-wide boycott of Pakistani talent and criticized Indian filmmakers and music labels for continuing to collaborate with them.

“Some individuals in our industry continue to show sympathy and support for Pakistani artistes, ignoring the sentiments of our nation,” AICWA stated, referring to ongoing professional relationships between Indian producers and Pakistani actors.

The release specifically targeted Abhi Gulal, an upcoming film featuring Fawad Khan and Vaani Kapoor, calling it a “shameful example” of misplaced priorities. “Casting Pakistani actor Fawad Khan despite the Pulwama attack, where several Indian soldiers were martyred—what message do such filmmakers want to convey?” the statement read. “They even came to India to release this film, showing complete disregard for the nation’s sentiments. This is a disgrace to the sacrifices made by our brave soldiers.” AICWA also took aim at Indian music companies and performers for giving a platform to Pakistani singers. “It is unfortunate that several Indian music companies continue to promote Pakistani artists, giving them frequent work and exposure. Many Indian singers also share stages with these artists globally, ignoring the sentiments of the nation,” it said.

The association urged all Indian artists and filmmakers to take a stand. “This is not just about art, it is about standing with your country during critical moments. Our nation must come first... Indian artists and filmmakers must decide whether they will stand with their nation or continue to engage with those who openly oppose it.”

Diljit Dosanjh’s royal look at the Met Gala was created by 50 craftsmen, hand-embroidery done with gold threads

Diljit Dosanjh had a major moment at the global stage at the recently held Met Gala in New York where he walked the carpet in an exotic outfit that honoured his Punjabi heritage. Diljit’s outfit, inspired by the Maharaja of Patiala, was created by designer Prabal Gurung and a new video by Vogue India, the making of the outfit is

showed in great detail. The video suggests that 50 craftsmen worked over four days to create the cape. The back of Diljit’s cape had the map of Punjab with Gurumukhi (script of Punjabi language) alphabets embroidered through it. The video shared that the alphabets and the map were hand-embroidered with gold threads. About the silk cape, it



was shared, “Peacocks and roses were stitched along with French knot detailing on the silk cape.” One of the stylists of the team, Sohail Mughal, shared a long note where he discussed Diljit’s look. “There was simply no margin for error—we needed to bring nothing less than our absolute best. This collaboration was for India’s supremely talented

singer, actor, and global icon, @diljitdosanjh, marking his debut at the Met Gala 2025—a moment of immense pride for us and for Indian heritage,” he wrote and added, “Recognizing the enormity of the responsibility, we quickly brought in @pitambarabymanisha, a close friend and remarkable designer.

Aryan Khan’s show is ‘really fun’, says Netflix’s co-CEO; Saif Ali Khan calls the Shah Rukh Khan production ‘fantastic’

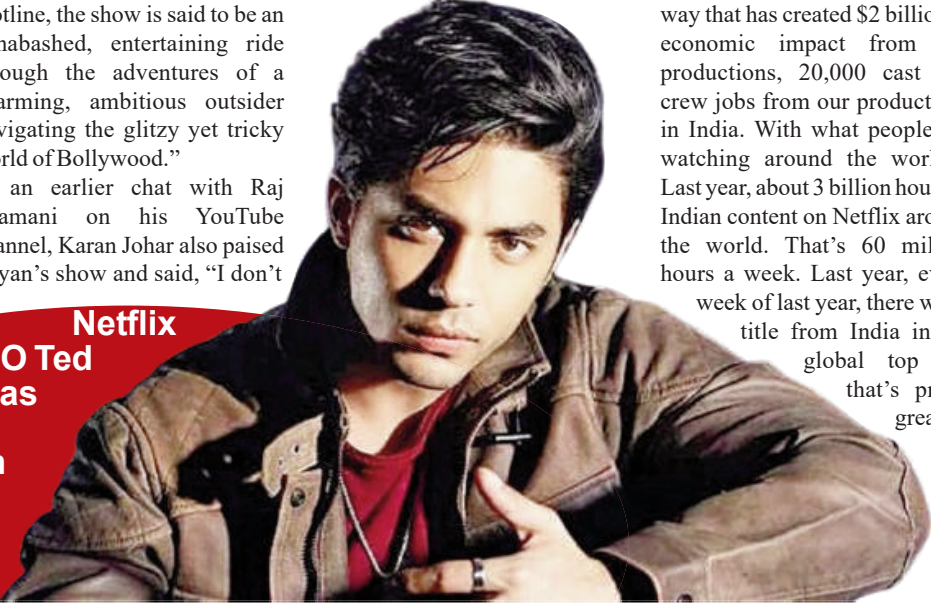
Shah Rukh Khan’s son, Aryan Khan, is all set to make his directorial debut with a Netflix series titled The Ba***ds of Bollywood and at the recently concluded Waves Summit 2025, Netflix Co-CEO Ted Sarandos endorsed the show by calling it “really fun.” Ted was in conversation with actor Saif Ali Khan, who shared that he, too, has watched some parts of the show as his “kids have done a little appearance in it.” When Ted was asked about the upcoming titles on Netflix, he shared, “We have a show called The Ba***ds of Bollywood coming up that is really fun, and I am going to leave the audience to try to figure out the title completely, but it is so fun. I am four episodes in.” Saif added, “I have to say I saw a little bit of that show as well, the one you j u s t

mentioned and it looked fantastic. My kids have done a little appearance in it.” Saif’s daughter Sara Ali Khan and son Ibrahim Ali Khan are both film actors. The full title of the show has not been revealed yet but at an earlier event hosted by Netflix India, Shah Rukh Khan said, “There is a story behind this name and Aryan and his team will present it later before you.” As per the official plotline, the show is said to be an “unabashed, entertaining ride through the adventures of a charming, ambitious outsider navigating the glitzy yet tricky world of Bollywood.” In an earlier chat with Raj Shamani on his YouTube channel, Karan Johar also paised Aryan’s show and said, “I don’t

know if I’m even supposed to say this, but I have huge belief in Aryan Khan’s directorial talent. I don’t want to say anything about his Netflix show, because he’ll get very angry, but all I’ll say is this: watch out. If there is a King, there will be a Prince. I can say this with confidence, because I’ve seen the show. He has an individualistic voice as a director. He’s not anything like y o u ’ d

expect Shah Rukh Khan’s son to be. He’s his own person. He works quietly, he doesn’t carry the baggage of his father, he doesn’t carry the weight of his legacy. He works hard; he works 20 hours a day. He is a rare personality type.” In the same chat at the Waves Summit 2025, Ted shared, “Since 2021 through 2024, after Covid when things went back to normal, we have invested in India in a way that has created \$2 billion of economic impact from our productions, 20,000 cast and crew jobs from our productions in India. With what people are watching around the world... Last year, about 3 billion hours of Indian content on Netflix around the world. That’s 60 million hours a week. Last year, every week of last year, there was a title from India in the global top 10, that’s pretty great.”

Netflix co-CEO Ted Sarandos has watched four episodes of Aryan Khan's upcoming show and said it was 'really fun'.



Anushka Sharma refuses to hold Virat Kohli’s hand at their first outing after cricketer clarified about mistakenly liking Avneet Kaur’s photo

Fans joked that Anushka Sharma might be mad at Virat Kohli after he accidentally liked Avneet Kaur's pictures on Instagram. Virat earlier issued a clarification about liking the influencer's photo.

Cricketer Virat Kohli and actor Anushka Sharma made their first public appearance after the cricketer ‘mistakenly’ liked actor-influencer Avneet Kaur’s pictures on Instagram, and later issued a clarification. The cricketer was seen out on a dinner date with his wife at a restaurant in Bengaluru’s MG Road. A video of the same has surfaced online. This time, however, fans noticed something uncommon in their chemistry. In the video, Anushka Sharma — dressed in a beige jumpsuit — can be seen getting down from the car when Virat Kohli offers his hand to assist her. The actress, however, chooses to hold the car door, ignoring Virat’s gesture. Later, she quickly walks inside the restaurant ahead of Virat, who closes the car door and follows her.

Anushka’s gesture has caught the attention of their fans who joked that the actress might be mad at the cricketer for liking Avneet’s post.

A user commented, “What am I seeing? She didn’t hold Virat’s hands.” Another user joked, “Bhabhi gucha”. Other comments read, “Avneet Kaur wale kaand ke baad bhabhi gussa hai.” Meanwhile, their other fans requested the account to delete the video as it was creating unnecessary speculation around the couple.

A day after Anushka Sharma’s birthday, Virat Kohli was all over the news for liking an Instagram post featuring bold pictures of actress Avneet Kaur. Screenshots of the like went viral on social media with many sharing their opinions online. The incident forced Virat Kohli to issue a clarification.

Taking to his Instagram Stories, Virat Kohli wrote, “I’d like to clarify that while clearing my feed, it appears the algorithm may have mistakenly registered an interaction. There was absolutely no intent behind it. I request that no unnecessary assumptions be made. Thank you for your understanding.” Avneet Kaur, however, is yet to react to the incident. As per a Buzzcraft report, Avneet gained over a million new followers, taking her following to 31.8 million.



Madhuri Dixit’s sons were weirded out after watching her get high on drugs in a movie, Dr Nene confessed she isn’t ‘comfortable’ letting family watch her films

Actor Madhuri Dixit left her fans shocked when she backed away from the film industry at the peak of her career, after marrying Los Angeles-based cardiovascular surgeon Dr Sriram Nene in 1999. Madhuri would eventually return to Mumbai to restart her acting career, and Dr Nene would follow in 2011. Over the years, they’ve spoken about moving base, and the difficulties moves as massive as this presented. They also have two sons, Arin and Ryan, who are both in college now. In an old interview with NDTV, Madhuri admitted that she felt completely out of place when she first moved to the US. She said, “Indians are everywhere. Some of them did recognise me, when I would go grocery shopping. Sometimes, you meet another Indian



when you’re picking up tamatar and gobi. They were so courteous and so nice, they’d just tell me that they love my movies. They’d respect the fact that it was my private moment and that I should be left alone. But sometimes, it would get scary for me, because I’d just started driving there. I would struggle to find addresses, because I’d never done that in India. Here, a driver would just take me where I wanted to go, but there, I had to find my own way. Those were the times when I’d hope someone recognises me and tells me that I’m going the wrong way.”

In the same interview, Dr Nene said that although he knew his way around celebrities before getting married, he wasn’t familiar with Madhuri’s work. And because she’s uncomfortable watching her films with the family, he didn’t get much of an opportunity to catch up later either. Madhuri recounted a story of when one of her sons watched the song “Bhang Ke Nashe Mein,” in which she gets ‘high’ on drugs. She said, “My kids get a little skittish when they’re watching my movies. They were watching Koyla on TV, and I left. When I returned, I saw a note on the computer. It said, “Dear mom, why are you acting so weird in this movie?” Dr Nene said that they have a rule where they don’t ‘talk shop’ at home, which means that Madhuri wouldn’t bring her stardom home. “All of her awards and stuff were kept at the office. She doesn’t want the kids, or us, to be affected.

Prateik Babbar reflects on the dark phase before his second marriage, says, ‘I became vengeful, followed thousands of women on Instagram’

Actor Prateik Smita Patil, who recently tied the knot with longtime girlfriend Priya Banerjee on February 14, 2025, has opened up about the emotional upheaval following the end of his first marriage. Speaking to Bollywood Bubble, Prateik revealed that the dissolution of his relationship with producer Sanya Sagar left him disillusioned with the idea of

love and marriage. “It was a huge mental block,” he said. “After what I went through, I had made up my mind that love and marriage were never an option. I gave it my all in my previous marriage. I stepped up to my role, no matter what life or that relationship threw at me. I wanted to be the best partner. But unfortunately, it didn’t work out. So I was extremely bitter about love and



marriage.” But just when he thought he had shut that chapter forever, love unexpectedly returned. Prateik

described meeting Priya as nothing short of “divine timing.” “I wasn’t looking for it, neither was Priya. We weren’t looking for it, but we were meant to meet at this particular time in our lives. I don’t think it would have worked out if we had met earlier. It had to be at this divine timing.” Calling theirs a classic case of “lockdown ka pyaar,” Prateik shared, “She had broken her previous

engagement and I was going through a divorce. That’s when we happened to meet in the lockdown. Kafi logon ke liye lockdown negative raha... kafi logon ki shaadiyaan toot gayi... par humne pyaar dhoond liya aur humari shaadi pakki ho gayi (For many people, the lockdown was a negative experience... a lot of marriages broke... but we found love, and our marriage got fixed).”



Bukayo Saka misses a sitter against PSG and Arsenal misses out again

New Delhi (Agency): Bukayo Saka missed from a near-unmissable position and Arsenal missed out again. A 2-1 loss to Paris Saint-Germain on Wednesday ended Arsenal's hopes of winning the Champions League and halting a barren trophy run that now stretches five years. PSG won the two-legged semifinal 3-1 on aggregate and will play Inter Milan in the final in Munich on May 31. Arsenal will wonder how another season of promise has ended up empty-handed. "We have to learn from this. We did a lot of good things, but it's not enough," captain Martin

Odegaard said after the match in Paris. It might have been different had Saka not fired over the bar with an open net



to aim at in the 79th — but Arsenal had already given itself a mountain to climb at that point, having gone 2-0

down. Saka reduced the deficit and could have leveled the score on the night if not for his wayward finish. "Inside

the boxes, over the two games, we weren't good enough," Odegaard said. A top class center forward is

likely top of Mikel Arteta's wanted list when the transfer window opens — and his failure to strengthen his forward line in January has undermined Arsenal's campaign. A challenge for the Premier League title fizzled out and it is only Arsenal's form in Europe that has disguised its failings since the turn of the year. Arteta's team has won only three of its last 10 league games and just one of the last five. Blowing the lead against Bournemouth last weekend was the fourth time in five league games that it has dropped points from a winning position.

Amid Indian strikes, PCB in huddle to decide whether PSL should continue



KARACHI (Agency): Rattled by multiple Indian military strikes in Pakistan, the country's Cricket Board has called an emergency meeting to discuss whether the ongoing Pakistan Super League, which features a number of foreign players, should be halted. The T20 league, which features six franchises and is in its final stages, is currently being staged in Rawalpindi. It is scheduled to wind up on May 18 in Lahore. A reliable source in the Board said the PCB would follow the advice from the government on continuing the league and it would be holding discussions later on Thursday. "The meeting will review the situation because of the number of drone attacks by India since Wednesday especially in the Punjab province," the source said. PSL CEO Salman Naseer also met with the overseas players in Rawalpindi and assured them that they had nothing to worry about as the PCB is closely monitoring the situation. Some of the big international names who have signed up for the league are David Warner (Karachi Kings), Jason Holder (Islamabad United), and Rassie van der Dussen (Islamabad United) among others.

Red-hot RCB aim to seal play-off spot against under-pressure LSG

LUCKNOW (Agency): Royal Challengers Bengaluru would look to secure play-off qualification while the struggling Lucknow Super Giants will aim to stay alive in the tournament when the two sides clash in the Indian Premier League here on Friday. Pressure is mounting on LSG skipper Rishabh Pant with every passing game, with his lack of runs coinciding with the team's slide in the business end of the tournament. LSG have lost four of their last five games and can only reach 16 points if they win their remaining three games. 18 is a much safer number in the play-offs race and RCB would back themselves to get there after winning five of

their last six games. Pant, who became the highest-paid player at the IPL auction, has had a season to forget thus far. He has tried



batting at different positions but consistency has eluded him. His strike rate of 99.92 sums up his struggles this season. LSG have relied heavily on their top three, including Mitchell Marsh, Aiden Markram and Nicholas Pooran, but that

will have to change if they are to go deep in the tournament. "The dream is still alive. If we are going to win the next three matches,

we definitely can turn it around. It makes sense when your top order is batting really well. Every match you can't hope they will come off nicely," said Pant following the loss to Punjab Kings in Dharamsala. On the bowling front as well,

they can improve a lot. Injury-prone pace sensation Mayank Yadav has proved expensive since his comeback. The fielding and catching of the team has also left a lot to be desired. Chasing an elusive title, RCB, on the other hand, have enjoyed one of their most professional campaigns in IPL history. Virat Kohli continues to pile on the runs with ridiculous consistency, having collected seven fifties in 11 innings. He provides the platform and the likes of Rajat Patidar and more recently Romario Shepherd flex their muscle in the death overs. Mayank Agarwal has joined the squad as a replacement for injured Devdutt Padikkal, who had reinvented himself this season.

‘Net master’ Ayush Shetty trumps OG ace of dribble game, Kidambi Srikanth, in dogfight to enter Taipei Open quarterfinals

New Delhi (Agency): Bangalore's badminton coach Krishna Kumar recalls a tall Ayush Shetty — when he trained at I Sport Academy for five years — setting himself a unique challenge even as he was skimming 6 feet. "Daily for 30-40 minutes, even back then, his mind was set on perfecting the net," he recalls about what in itself isn't particularly strange. "He would declare that out of 10 attempts, at least 7 times he would get himself a point on the net chord! And he would make it. That much precision he trained for," the former coach says, revealing the cheeky skill to nick the tape and ensure it tipples over to the other side. Ayush now trains at the bigger Prakash Padukone academy with Sagar Chopra and Vimal Kumar, having helped him add variations from the back court to his game. But Krishna Kumar, a coach known for his technical finesse, insists this 'dribble game vs self' is something that can be traced back to Mangalore, where he started. On Thursday at the Taipei Open, playing another net-master, Kidambi Srikanth, Ayush won 21-16, 15-21, 21-17. Ayush had messaged Krishna Kumar a day earlier to say, 'This time I will beat him easily.' However, Srikanth, not quite back to his old levels but definitely playing sharper than he had in recent times, was no easy opponent. In what turned into a dogfight at the net between two absolute connoisseurs of that delicate dribble, Ayush, merely 19, prevailed against the pro at 30. To Ayush's credit, though, he barely scored any from net chords; it was the net game where he proved to be better on the day. It was a rare and

pleasantly surprising solid attacking performance from Srikanth, i.e. very few smashes sprayed out of bounds. But at the net, his stomping zone from where he reached World No. 1 and won more titles than any other Indian male in singles, Srikanth, was forced to blink. Still, his attack promises some spark in the coming months. On Thursday, however, Ayush prevailed in 61 minutes. It was particularly notable because Srikanth brought the game to the net, focusing on his variations and short length attack. Both Indians were smashing with a whip — Ayush, of course, with a harder hit from his 6'4" range. But at the eyeball confrontation, Ayush managed the tumbles on the front court that forced Srikanth to lift. The Ayush big smash took care of the rest. "Ayush would request me to train for half an hour before everyone else. Just to perfect the control of the forecourt. Practising net chords is rare, but the emphasis on net was because he realised if he could create good openings at the net, then the attack could get going," Krishna Kumar recalls. The men's singles game has moved on from silken strokes and style, and perhaps the Ayush-Srikanth match was a pointer into just how one-dimensional the game gets with a slam-bang attack, though both have some delectable deception. When Srikanth wasn't killing on his follow-up stomp strides with the backhand, he got drawn into the dribble trouble. With his reach and racquet skill, Ayush can play from a little further behind while still asserting control.



IPL 2025:

MI-PBKS clash shifted to Ahmedabad after closure of Dharamsala airport



NEW DELHI (Agency): The IPL match between Punjab Kings and Mumbai Indians, scheduled for May 11 in Dharamsala, has been shifted to Ahmedabad owing to the closure of the hill town's airport in the wake of military action against terror infrastructure in Pakistan. Gujarat Cricket Association (GCA) secretary Anil Patel confirmed the development to PTI. The game will be played in the afternoon. "BCCI requested us and we accepted. Mumbai Indians are arriving later today and travel plans of Punjab Kings will be known later," said Patel. Punjab Kings play Delhi Capitals in Dharamsala on Thursday. The Dharamsala airport has been closed for commercial flights at least until May 10 in the wake of India's military strikes on terrorist infrastructure inside

Pakistan and Pakistan Occupied Jammu and Kashmir in retaliation to the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack. It remains to be seen how both Punjab Kings and Delhi Capitals are ferried out of Dharamsala with the flight operations shut in the picturesque town. With Chandigarh airport also closed, teams need to find a way to get to Delhi. Like Punjab Kings, Delhi Capitals are also scheduled to play on May 11 when they face Gujarat Titans at home. A Punjab Kings official said the BCCI is yet to inform the franchise on the venue change. "We have not heard from the BCCI yet. We can only figure out the travel plans once we have full clarity." Punjab Kings are on course to make their first IPL play-offs since 2014.

‘A master, a leader & a gem’ India head coach Gautam Gambhir praises Rohit Sharma after his Test retirement



Gambhir on Rohit-Kohli

Earlier, on May 6, Gambhir had said any decision regarding Rohit's future in the team would be taken by the selectors. "First things first, a coach's job isn't selecting the team. It is the job of the selectors to select. The coach only selects the 11 who will play a match. Neither those who coached before me were selectors nor am I a selector," Gambhir said at ABP News 'India At 2047' Summit.

New Delhi (Agency): India head coach and former cricketer Gautam Gambhir applauded Rohit Sharma after his Test retirement on Wednesday. Taking to social media, Gambhir posted on X: "A master, a leader & a gem." Under the leadership of Rohit and coach Gambhir, Team India has seen polar opposite lows and highs. Where India were whitewashed 3-0 by New Zealand at home, they also lost Border Border-Gavaskar Trophy 3-1 after leading the series 1-0. However, the

same India went on to win ICC Champions Trophy held in Pakistan and Dubai earlier this year. Rohit, 38, announced his retirement from Test cricket with immediate effect on Wednesday, which came a day after the national selectors met and decided to remove him as skipper and go with a new leader for the tour of England that starts next month. Rohit had already retired from T20 Internationals after leading India to the World Cup title last year. He will,

however, continue to play ODIs. "Hello, everyone. I would just like to share that I am retiring from Test cricket. It's been an absolute honour to represent my country in whites," Rohit posted on social media. "Thank you for all the love and support over the years. I will continue to represent India in the ODI format." In the list of India's highest run-getters in Tests, Rohit occupies the 16th spot — with 4,301 runs in 110 outings, an average of 40.57 and 12 hundreds.

‘You’ve been an absolute inspiration to me’ Shubman Gill shares heartfelt note after Rohit Sharma’s retirement



NEW DELHI (Agency): Shubman Gill, Rohit Sharma's ODI deputy, posted a heartfelt note after the latter called time on his Test career on Wednesday. "India is grateful for what you have done in tests as a player and a captain. You've been an absolute inspiration to me and everyone that has played with or against you. There are things that I've learnt from you that I am going to remember forever," Gill wrote in an Instagram story. "Happy retirement to

@rohitsharma45 one of the best captains that I've played under. Thank you Cap!," he added. Gill is the front-runner to captain the men's Test team after incumbent Rohit's retirement. On a day The Indian Express reported that the selectors had decided to remove Rohit Sharma as captain because of his poor form in Test cricket, Sharma took to Instagram to announce that he was stepping away from Test cricket.

‘I am a girl, people hate me for wearing make-up but I don’t care’: Juventus footballer Alisha Lehmann blasts trolls



New Delhi (Agency): Alisha Lehmann, the Swiss international for Juventus with 16 million followers on Instagram, has hit out against trolls who criticise her for wearing make-up during games. "I'm a girl, I'm feminine, and I like nails. I'm not a full-back, I don't have to take throw-ins. People talk too much about these things; they don't influence my performance on the pitch in any way. They always criticize me for these things, but I don't care," Alisha told the Sun. A few days ago she had talked about how the trolling amuses her. "People always hate that I wear makeup when I play, but I don't understand what the big deal is. Sometimes I think it's funny when people get upset. Because now I feel like I put on more lipstick the more they complain. I'm not hurting anyone. It's my life, and it always will be," she said on the YouTube channel 'Small Talk'. However she was upset when a teammate criticised her for same reasons. "She said I spend too much time on social media, with my sponsors and things like that, and that's why my football has worsened. Things like that hurt me," Alisha said. Alisha revealed that she sent a voicemail directly to that teammate: "I thought we were friends. I would never say anything negative about another woman. And the thing is, if people have an opinion about my football—if I don't play much or whatever—that doesn't matter to me. That's their opinion, that's part of the game. But if it's about my life, it hurts a little, especially when it comes from people I care about." The forward says that when she started playing as a six-year old, she was "faster than the boys" and that she "always knew I wanted to play football." She identified the turning point in her life: "the moment everything changed was when I joined Young Boys in Switzerland when I was 11 or 12," but she added that "I never believed I could become a real footballer. I never thought I would achieve it."

‘Want to join Army, confront Pak terrorists’

BALASORE: Nine-year-old Tanuj Kumar Satpathy, who lost his father in the Pahalgam attack, on Thursday said that he wants to join the Indian Army and confront Pakistani terrorists.

Tanuj's father, Prashant Satpathy, was among the 26 people killed in the terror attack in Pahalgam in Jammu and Kashmir on April 22.

Speaking to reporters at his house in Odisha's Balasore district, Tanuj said if he gets the opportunity to meet PM Narendra Modi, he would tell him to ensure that no child like him becomes fatherless.

"I have decided to join the Army as it has avenged my father's death," he said as his mother, Priya Darshini Achariya, stood by his side.

"We have been watching the news since Wednesday morning, and it gives my mother and me immense satisfaction. We are proud of our Army," he said, referring to Operation Sindoor.

Tanuj said the Army have been with him and his mother since the beginning.

"Finally, they took revenge. Therefore, I will certainly join the Army. I will study with dedication so that I can get a place in the force, and will confront Pakistan and its terrorists," he said.

Tanuj's mother, Priya Darshini, said she would do anything to fulfil her son's wish.

AGENCIES

Orange and yellow alert for many districts in MP; There will be heavy rain, wind will blow at a speed of 40-50 kmph

Bhopal (Agency):For the last few days, the weather has been pleasant in Madhya Pradesh and relief from the heat is being felt. During the last 24 hours, light to moderate rain and thunderstorms were recorded in many areas of the state. Due to which the weather remained pleasant in most parts of the state. Yesterday, the highest temperature of 39.6 degree Celsius was recorded in Narsinghpur in the state, and the lowest minimum temperature of 18.6 degree Celsius was recorded in Pachmarhi (Narmadapuram). The Meteorological Department has issued an orange and yellow alert for rain for many districts of the state including Narmadapuram, Betul, Harda, Burhanpur, Khandwa and Khargone today. During this time, there is a possibility of rain along with strong winds in these districts. According to the Meteorological Center, the capital Bhopal will remain cloudy on Thursday and there is a possibility of light rain. During this period, winds are expected to blow at a speed of 18 to 20 kilometres per hour. During the last 24 hours till 8:30 am, rain was recorded in

many areas of the state. During this period, 40 mm rain was recorded in Manasa, 14 mm in Javra, 13 mm in Hatpipliy, 10 mm in Kannaud and Neemuch, 8 mm in Tal, 7 cm in Kayampur, 6.4 mm in Depalpur, 6 mm in Bhavgarh, Shivpuri and Alot, 5 mm in Sanwer, 4.8 mm in Gautampura, 4 mm in Chanderi and Khandwa, 3 mm in Ranapur and Bairad, 2.2 mm in Sardarpur and Jhabua, 2.0 mm in Bagli, Satwas, Gandhwani and Chitrangi, 1.6 mm in Ajaygarh and Devsar, 1.4 mm in Betul, 1.4 mm in Mandsaur and Shujalpur, 0.4 in Nalcha and 0.2 mm in Guna. Due to the changed weather, strong winds and storms also occurred in many areas. Meanwhile, winds blew at a speed of 67 kmph in Ujjain, 58 kmph in Singrauli, 41 kmph in Shahdol, 34 kmph in Ashoknagar and Chhindwara, 32 kmph in Shajapur and 28 kmph in Guna/Betul. While there are reports of lightning and thunderstorms from Mandsaur, Neemuch, Jhabua, Ratlam, Dhar, Ujjain, Shivpuri, Betul, Sheopurkalan, Panna, Shahdol, Singrauli and Sidhi districts.



Orange alert for rain issued for these areas

The Meteorological Department has issued an orange alert for Narmadapuram, Betul, Harda, Burhanpur, Khandwa and Khargone districts and has predicted lightning, thunderstorms and gusty winds at a speed of 40 to 50 kmph.

Yellow alert for rain issued for these areas

The Meteorological Department has issued a yellow alert for Bhopal, Vidisha, Raisen, Sehore, Rajgarh, Barwani, Alirajpur, Jhabua, Dhar, Singrauli, Sidhi, Rewa, Mauganj, Satna, Anuppur, Shahdol, Umaria, Dindori, Katni, Jabalpur, Narsinghpur, Chhindwara, Seoni, Mandla, Balaghat, Panna, Damoh, Sagar, Chhatarpur, Tikamgarh, Niwari, Maihar and Pandhurna districts and has forecast lightning, thunderstorms and gusty winds at a speed of 40 to 50 kilometers per hour in these areas.

5 cities with lowest temperature

Pachmarhi (Narmadapuram) - 18.6 degrees
Dhar/Khandwa - 19.4 degrees
Rajgarh - 20 degrees
Ratlam - 20.2 degrees
Betul - 20.4 degrees

5 cities with highest temperature

Narsinghpur - 39.6 degrees
Khajuraho (Chhatarpur) - 39.4 degrees
Rewa - 38.5 degrees
Sidhi/Mandla - 38.4 degrees
Deora (Singrauli)/Umaria - 38.1 degrees

Synoptic meteorological conditions

A cyclonic circulation lies over southwest Madhya Pradesh and adjoining areas at 1.5 and 7.5 km above mean sea level. A cyclonic circulation lies over northwest Madhya Pradesh and adjoining areas at 0.9 km above mean sea level. An east-west trough lies over northwest Madhya Pradesh and adjoining areas across eastern Madhya Pradesh to northern Chhattisgarh at 0.9 km above mean sea level.

JeM centres: Breeding ground for Fidayeen, stockpiled NATO arms and links to Hamas

Located in Pakistan's Punjab province, India struck these centres during 'Op Sindoor'

NEW DELHI: The banned Jaish-e-Mohammed's terror group's two 'Markaz' (centres) – its Bahawalpur headquarters and Narowal in Pakistan's Punjab – functioned as a breeding ground for suicide attackers, had links with Palestine's Hamas and served as a facility for hoarding smuggled NATO arms from Afghanistan, officials said here on Thursday.

Both these centres located on the opposite ends of Pakistan's Punjab province were among the nine targets hit by missiles launched by the Indian Air Force (IAF) in the early hours of Wednesday, in a strong retaliation to the Pahalgam terror attack on April 22, in which 25 tourists and a local guide were gunned down by terrorists.

According to the officials, the Bahawalpur centre of JeM, spread over 15 acres, is run by de-facto chief Abdul Rauf Asgar and the area has residential houses of JeM founder Masood Azhar and other family members.

Masood Azhar acknowl-



A map showing the terrorist camps struck as part of 'Operation Sindoor' in Pakistan and PoK

edged after the IAF strikes codenamed 'Operation Sindoor' that 10 members of his family and four close associates were killed in India's missile attack on the outfit's headquarters in Bahawalpur.

A statement attributed to Azhar said those killed in the attack on Jamia Masjid Subhan Allah in Bahawalpur included the JeM chief's elder sister and her husband, a nephew and his wife, another niece, and five children from his extended family.

The Bahawalpur centre is

notorious for hoarding arms and ammunition left behind by the NATO forces in Afghanistan, the officials said.

They said Bahawalpur is often frequented by JeM commanders who were fighting in Afghanistan, and that Asgar purchases as well as smugles consignments of weaponry, including M4 series rifles, through a network of criminals based in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, which was earlier known as North West Frontier Province (NWFP).

Key points

- » The Bahawalpur centre of JeM, spread over 15 acres, is run by de-facto chief Abdul Rauf Asgar and the area has residential houses of JeM founder Masood Azhar and other family members
- » About the centre in Narowal, officials said the Markaz has been used for learning tactics from the Palestine Hamas group

Besides the M4 series, the arms and ammunition included sniper rifles, armour-piercing bullets, Night Vision Devices (NVD), and rifles fitted with NVD.

About the centre in Narowal, the officials said the Markaz has been used for learning tactics from the Palestine Hamas group. The involvement of Hamas started in 2014 when one of the Jaish terrorists, Mohammed Adnan Ali, codenamed 'Doctor', had imparted paraglider training to operatives of another group, Khalistan Tiger Force Ramandeep Singh alias Goldy, in Thailand.

The training was given by

Jagtar Singh Tara who was deported to India and his associates Jaswinder Singh Jassa and Mohammad Umar Gondal.

The tactics for use of tunnels for infiltration and paragliding seem to be inspired by the modus operandi used by Hamas in the Middle East, the officials said, adding further that there are multiple inputs about regular interactions of JeM terrorists of JeM with Hamas leaders. Then, in February this year, senior Hamas functionaries addressed a rally on 'Kashmir Solidarity Day' in Rawalakot, PoK, that had top Lashkar-e-Taiba and Jaish-e-Mohammad cadres in attendance.

AGENCIES

Friend's throat slit with knife in Rewa



Rewa (Agency): A painful incident has come to light in Rewa, Madhya Pradesh. Here a young man killed his friend by slitting his throat after a party. While slitting his friend's throat, the monster also got his other friend to record the video. After recording the video, it was made viral on social media. When the police got information about the case, there was a stir. The police immediately started the investigation and while searching, a police team reached the spot and the investigation has been started.

What is the whole matter

The case is of Rewa, Madhya Pradesh. Three friends went to the forest to have a liquor party in Pipra village under Lalgaoon outpost area here. Here a youth named Rajneesh Mishra killed his friend Abhishek Tripathi by slitting his throat with a knife. Rajneesh's friend has also made a video of this horrific scene. Rajneesh himself asked the youth to make the video. Later the video of the murder went viral on social media. After

the video reached the police, there was a stir and they started searching for the two youths involved in the murder. The video that went viral on social media is painful. The accused is seen brutally slitting the throat of his friend. After getting information about this case, the family of the deceased Abhishek Tripathi reached the police. The police immediately swung into action and started investigating the case. At present, the police have not yet been able to find the concrete reason behind the incident.

It took one and a half hours to find the crime scene

After getting information about the incident, the police started searching for the accused. Along with this, the police also started identifying the crime scene. During this, it took about one and a half hours for the police to find the crime scene. After the incident, the police have started raiding Pipra and nearby villages. However, the accused have not been caught yet.

Red cross marks made on the roofs of hospitals in Gwalior amid tension with Pakistan

Gwalior (Agency): A red cross mark has been made on the roofs of hospitals in Gwalior, MP. The ongoing tension with Pakistan is being cited as the reason behind this. It is being told that the red cross mark is made on the roofs of hospitals to protect them from enemy attacks. Meanwhile, CM Mohan Yadav said that black out and mock drill activities were successfully organized in Jabalpur, Indore, Gwalior and Katni including Bhopal in the state. <On the making of red cross mark on the roofs of hospitals in Gwalior, Dean of Gajra Raja Medical

College Dr. RKS Dhakad said - Whenever guidelines are issued regarding national security, this is done. In view of the increasing tension with Pakistan, all hospitals are marked differently with a red cross on a white circle, as per the Geneva Convention international treaty. Dean of Gajra Raja Medical College, Dr. RKS Dhakad, while revealing the reason for making the red cross symbol on the roofs of hospitals, said that this is done so that hospitals can be saved during attacks. Under this, we have also made a red cross symbol on the roofs of our hospitals.

IOS SAGAR returns home after month-long deployment in south-west IOR

The initiative marks a 'new chapter' in maritime cooperation

NEW DELHI: After nearly a month-long deployment in the south-west Indian Ocean Region, IOS SAGAR on Thursday returned home, with the Navy saying it marks a "new chapter" in maritime cooperation and underscores India's commitment to safeguarding collective maritime interests.

The Indian Ocean Ship (IOS) SAGAR had set sail from the shores of the key naval base in Karnataka's Karwar on April 5, carrying crew members from India and nine other countries. It was flagged off by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh.

It was deployed under an initiative towards continued cooperation with Indian Ocean Region (IOR) nations in pursuance of India's vision of Mutual and Holistic Advancement for Security Across the Regions or 'MAHASAGAR'.

INS Sunayna, the Indian Navy Offshore Patrol Vessel, had assumed the mantle of IOS SAGAR (Security and Growth for All in the Region) under this mission that seeks to reaffirm India's commitment to "build-



FILE PIC

ing stronger ties with its maritime neighbours and working towards a safer, more inclusive and secure maritime environment in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR)".

The Indian Navy's maiden initiative of IOS SAGAR, jointly crewed by personnel from nine IOR navies, concluded its month-long deployment in south-west IOR and returned to Kochi on May 8, a spokesperson of the Indian Navy said.

Vice Admiral V Srinivas, Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Southern Naval Command, congratulated the crew of India and the friendly foreign countries during the grand reception ceremony held at the Naval Base, Kochi.

"The successful completion of the deployment marks a new

chapter in maritime cooperation and underscores India's commitment to safeguarding collective maritime interests, capacity building and enduring partnership with the IOR nations," the spokesperson said.

During the deployment, the ship undertook port calls at Dares-Salaam, Nacala, Port Louis, Port Victoria and Male.

The key highlights of the mission included joint naval exercises, professional and cultural exchanges and joint EEZ (exclusive economic zone) surveillance of Tanzania, Mozambique, Mauritius and Seychelles, he said.

Strengthening regional maritime cooperation between India and African nations, the ship participated in Africa India Key Maritime Exercise (AIKEYME) 2025 alongside INS Chennai and INS Kesari, which was jointly hosted by India and Tanzania from April 13-18. The exercise provided an opportunity for the crew of IOS Sagar to participate in the joint harbour phase and interact with the participating navies.

AGENCIES

CHANDIGARH/JAIPUR:

Amid escalating tensions between India and Pakistan, many states have announced the closure of schools, blackouts in border districts, and cancellation of leave of police personnel and administration officials.

The stringent measures were taken by Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan, Gujarat and West Bengal after India struck terror infrastructure in Pakistan and Pakistan Occupied Kashmir in retaliation to the April 22 Pahalgam massacre that killed 26 people.

Punjab shares a 532-km border with Pakistan, Rajasthan about 1,070 km and Gujarat around 506 km. West Bengal shares a 2,217-km border with Bangladesh.

In Punjab, the leave of all police personnel has been cancelled while the state government has shut schools in six border districts, officials said on Thursday.

All schools in six border districts of Punjab -- Ferozepur,



A security personnel speaks to passengers in a vehicle amid high alert at Jodhpur airport, Rajasthan, Wednesday

Pathankot, Fazilka, Amritsar, Gurdaspur and Tarn Taran -- have been shut until further orders.

In neighbouring Haryana, the leave of state police personnel and those working in the health department has been cancelled till further orders. According to a communication to the civil surgeons of all the districts across Haryana, it has been mentioned that all officials will have to remain present at their current places of posting and shall not leave the district headquarters.

The Delhi government also cancelled leave of all its employ-

ees till further orders due to the escalating hostilities.

In Himachal Pradesh, which also shares a border with Punjab, security has been beefed up in bordering districts, including Hamirpur, Una and Bilaspur.

With famous temples like Baba Balak Nath, Maa Chintpurni and Maa Naina Devi located in Hamirpur, Una, and Bilaspur districts, police have intensified security checks there, an official said.

The Rajasthan government too has cancelled leave of administrative and police personnel deployed near the International

Highlights

- » Punjab shares a 532-km border with Pakistan, Rajasthan about 1,070 km and Gujarat around 506 km. West Bengal shares a 2,217-km border with Bangladesh
- » All schools in six border districts of Punjab -- Ferozepur, Pathankot, Fazilka, Amritsar, Gurdaspur and Tarn Taran -- have been shut until further orders
- » In neighbouring Haryana, the leave of state police personnel and those working in the health department has been cancelled till further orders

Border and closed schools in five bordering districts. Government and private schools have been closed in Sri Ganganagar, Bikaner, Jodhpur, Jaisalmer and Barmer districts as a precautionary measure, officials said on Thursday.

All Jodhpur colleges were also ordered to remain closed. Moreover, flight operations at Bikaner, Kishangarh in Ajmer, and Jodhpur airports have been suspended till May 10 as a precautionary measure.

Security has been stepped up along the Gujarat coast, and authorities have cancelled the

leaves of police personnel "due to unforeseen situation", asking them to return to duty immediately.

Gujarat shares land and sea borders with Pakistan.

Ashok Kumar Yadav, Inspector General of Rajkot Range, said police along the coast have been put on "alert" mode. Of the five districts under the Rajkot Range, Jamnagar, Morbi, and Devbhumi Dwarka have a coastline, said Yadav.

The West Bengal government has also cancelled the leave of all state government employees until further notice.