

P5

Dutch-led Suriname team digitises 100,000 documents to preserve Jewish history in the...

P3

Key IMF meet today: Surviving on bailouts, Pakistan's overstretched economy cannot afford...

P6

Preity Zinta says she's back home after Dharamsala stadium evacuation, apologises to fans for...

Did India lose Rafale fighter jet in Operation Sindoor action? Indian military says this

BrahMos not only a weapon, but also statement of India's military power: Rajnath Singh

New Delhi (Agency): Indian military officers on Sunday held a press conference and provided key details on Operation Sindoor, its impact and results, saying that the “objective has been achieved”. The press briefing on Operation Sindoor was held by Air Marshal AK Bharti, DGMO Lt Gen Rajiv Ghai, Responding to reports that Rafale fighter jets were

downed during Operation Sindoor, Air Marshal AK Bharti did not confirm or deny the claims, stating instead that “losses are a part of any combat scenario.” Indian military said on Sunday, “We are in a combat scenario and losses are a part of it. Question is have we achieved our objective? Answer is a thumping yes. As for details, at this time I would not like to comment on

that as we are still in combat and give advantage to adversary. All our pilots are back home. The officers informed that Pakistan Army has reported to have lost approximately 35 to 40 personnel in artillery and small arms firing on the Line of Control between May 7 and May 10. What the other side had probably also not reckoned with was the speedy and precise

turnaround and hit back, the Indian military said. The officers informed that five casualties Indian military suffered in the operations against Pakistan. “I pay my solemn homage to my five colleagues and brothers from the armed forces, and civilians who have tragically lost their lives in operations in world. Our hearts go out to the bereaved families... and we express

our solidarity to them in this lifetime and beyond. At this grave juncture in their lives, their sacrifices shall always be remembered and spoken of in glowing terms by a grateful nation,” one of the officers said. After over three days of intense exchange of fire, India and Pakistan on Saturday reached an ‘understanding’ to immediately stop all firing and military action on land, air and sea. The ceasefire, which was first announced by US President Donald Trump on Saturday, was violated by Pakistan hours later with drones being intercepted over parts of Jammu, Srinagar, Punjab and Rajasthan. The military confrontation erupted after Islamabad launched drones and missiles towards the Indian territory, responding to the Operation Sindoor military strikes carried out by New Delhi on nine terror infrastructures in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir on May 7. Operation Sindoor was launched in retaliation to the April 22 terror attack in Jammu and Kashmir's Pahalgam in which terrorists found to have links with Pakistan killed 26 civilians.

India's commitment to self-sufficient defense production

Lucknow (Agency): BrahMos is more than just a weapon; it is a statement of strength from India's armed forces, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said on Sunday at the opening of the largest integration and testing facility for the supersonic cruise missile system. India is presently one of the most powerful countries in the world. We are continually building our strength, and I think that the facility center that is being launched today will contribute to further boosting India's might, he stated while virtually addressing the ceremony from Delhi. “BrahMos is one of the world's fastest supersonic cruise missiles. BrahMos is more than simply a weapon; it is a statement in itself. A statement on the might of our armed forces. A message of deterrent towards the enemy,” Singh stated and added that this statement demonstrates our commitment to protecting our borders. The country's largest BrahMos integration and testing facility in Lucknow

would help India achieve self-reliance in the military industry, according to Rajnath, who spoke at the opening ceremony for the Uttar Pradesh Defence Industrial Corridor in his Lok Sabha seat. The good news is that both the public and commercial sectors are making significant contributions to this defensive corridor, he added. In the private sector, he mentioned that PTC Industries Limited is establishing titanium and superalloy material factories. Aside from that, the groundwork for seven more key projects is being established. This would undoubtedly boost India's self-reliance in the military industry, according to the defence minister. He stated that significant expenditures had been made in aircraft manufacture, unmanned aerial vehicles, drones, ammunition, composite and essential materials, small

guns, fabrics, and parachutes. When our administration pursued the concept of a defense corridor in Uttar Pradesh, one of our goals was to reestablish Uttar Pradesh as the country's manufacturing hub. The UP Defence Corridor extends via Lucknow, Kanpur, Jhansi, Chitrakoot, Agra, and Aligarh, and Singh predicts that all of these nodes will emerge as new centers of growth in the future. He expressed satisfaction that the project was finished in under 40 months. Given the current conditions, it is critical that we continue to achieve our objectives in such a timely way, Singh stated, congratulating DRDO, engineers, and the individuals and institutes involved in this initiative. Singh emphasized the significance of the BrahMos facility's opening, which occurred on National Technology Day.

Crucial READ

2 held for lynching man on sexual harassment suspicion in Jharkhand

Ranchi (Agency): Two persons have been arrested for allegedly lynching a man to death on suspicion that he sexually harassed a woman in Paik Narayanpur in Jharkhand's Bokaro district on Thursday, the police said. The deceased has been identified as Abdul Kalam (24), a construction worker employed at a site about four km from Paik Narayanpur, who was attacked by around 15 to 20 people. Kalam's cousin Mohammed Iqbal said he was the sole breadwinner for his disabled mother.

2075 kg explosives found in pickup truck on Jaipur-Bharatpur highway

Jaipur (Agency): In a major operation, Rajasthan Police recovered 2,075 kg of explosives from a pickup parked on the Jaipur-Bharatpur National Highway. The abandoned vehicle was found near Mohanpura Pulia on Agra Road, in the direction from Dausa to Jaipur. The explosives were packed in cartons and plastic sacks. Police have seized the vehicle and initiated a probe, while efforts are on to trace the driver and owner. The Bassi police station has informed the Petroleum and Explosives Safety Organization (PESO) about the seizure. Officials said the PESO team will soon reach the spot to take samples of the seized material. Only after that will further action be determined. According to ASI Jaswant Singh, he was on patrol on Friday night when he received a call from Head Constable Shyam Lal at around 2:30 AM. Shyam Lal reported a suspicious pickup parked by the roadside near Mohanpura Pulia. The vehicle had several cartons loaded in it, and the driver was missing. Upon inspection, cartons labeled “OPTISTAR EXPLOSIVE” were found, while some white sacks had “Ammonium Nitrate” written on them.

Trump after India-Pakistan ceasefire

‘Will work with both to see if solution can be arrived at concerning Kashmir’

New Delhi (Agency): A day after claiming credit for the “US-brokered ceasefire agreement”, US President Donald Trump said on Sunday that he will work with India and Pakistan to see if, after a “thousand years”, a solution can be arrived at concerning Kashmir. In this manner, he has entered the mediation debate once again. In July 2019, he had said that he was willing to mediate, but later walked back. On Sunday morning, President Trump posted on Truth Social, “Additionally, I will work with you both to see if, after a “thousand years”, a solution can be arrived at concerning Kashmir.” “I am very proud

of the strong and unwaveringly powerful leadership of India and Pakistan for having the

strength, wisdom, and fortitude to fully know and understand that it was time to stop the current aggression that could have lead to the death and destruction of so many, and so much,” Trump

said. “Millions of good and innocent people could have died! Your legacy is greatly enhanced by your brave

these great Nations. Additionally, I will work with you both to see if, after a “thousand years,” a solution can be arrived at concerning Kashmir. God Bless the leadership of India and Pakistan on a job well done!!!” Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri announced that the directors general of military operations (DGMOs) of India and Pakistan have agreed to stop all firings and military action on land, air and sea with effect from 5 pm on Saturday. The brief announcement by the foreign secretary came shortly after US President Trump said India and Pakistan have agreed to a “full and immediate ceasefire”.

Two arrested after Jharkhand man lynched for ‘sexually harassing’ woman

Ranchi (Agency): A 24-year-old man was allegedly lynched by a mob on suspicion of sexually harassing a woman in Paik Narayanpur village of Bokaro district Thursday. The police have confirmed two arrests so far. Abdul Kalam, a daily-wage construction worker employed at a site about 4 km from Paik Narayanpur, was allegedly attacked by a group of around 15-20 people following allegations that he had harassed a woman. Both the man and the woman are from the same area, according to sources. Kalam's cousin, Mohammed Iqbal, said he was the sole caregiver for his mother, a woman with physical disabilities.

Justice Gavai refuses to enter politics

New Delhi (Agency): Supreme Court Justice B.R. Gavai refused to enter politics after retirement. He said- A person should not take any responsibility after holding the post of CJI. He said this while talking to the media on Sunday. Justice Gavai, citing the decision given in the Kesavananda Bharati case, also talked about his Buddhism, the importance of asset declaration for High Court judges and the supremacy of the Constitution. He said- It is a matter of great fortune for me to take oath as the CJI of the country on the auspicious occasion of Buddha Purnima on May 14.

India's big message to Pakistan

'Operation Sindoor on, if they fire, we fire'

New Delhi (Agency): Even after the ceasefire understanding between India and Pakistan, government sources have revealed that Operation Sindoor is not yet over. According to the sources, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had directed the armed forces to give a befitting response to any Pakistani misadventure. "Operation Sindoor is not concluded, there is a new normal in India's response to cross-border terrorism," people familiar with the matter said. PM Modi told the military that bullets must be responded to by artillery (Wahan se goli chalegi, toh

yahan se gola chalega). The sources also said that India's position after May 7 strikes on terror infrastructure in territories controlled by Pakistan was that if Pakistan fires, India will fire more forcefully; if Pakistan stops, India will stop. New Delhi will only talk to Islamabad through the channel of the director general of military operations, with the sources saying that there is no other issue to discuss. “The Indus Waters Treaty is linked to cross-border terrorism. The treaty will be in abeyance as long as terrorism sponsored by Pakistan against India

continues,” people familiar with the matter said. The sources also said that

India would increase the cost of cross-border terrorism. “Pakistan can't expect to continue with terrorism while expecting cooperation in areas of its choosing,” they

said. Prime Minister Narendra Modi told US Vice President JD Vance clearly

strongly. Strikes were launched on their bases, India and Pakistan reached a ceasefire understanding on Saturday, agreeing to cease hostilities after days in the aftermath of New Delhi's Operation Sindoor, targeting terror infrastructure in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir and the Punjab province. Foreign secretary Vikram Misri said that the ceasefire understanding was effective from Saturday, 5 PM IST. But Pakistan went on to violate the understanding by shelling along the LoC and drone activities from Jammu and Kashmir to Gujarat, the entirety of the International land border between both countries.

Police Commissioner Tarun Gaba transferred, Joginder Singh becomes new Police Commissioner

Prayagraj (Agency): Prayagraj Police Commissioner Tarun Gaba has been transferred. In his place, Kanpur IG Joginder Singh has been made the new Police Commissioner. Joginder Singh is a 2007 batch IPS. Tarun Gaba has now been made the Inspector General of Police of Lucknow. He was the second commissioner of the commissionerate. After the formation of Prayagraj Commissionerate, Ramit Sharma was made the first Police Commissioner. He

was transferred on 24 June 2024. Tarun Gaba was given the responsibility in his place. Gaba played an important role in the successful organization of the Maha Kumbh.

Seminar on India's Foreign Trade Policy: Issues and Challenges at Vidyapeeth Gangapur Campus



Staff Reporter
Banaras: A one-day national seminar on India's Foreign Trade Policy: Issues and Challenges was organized on 10 May 2025 under the aegis of the Department of Commerce, Mahatma Gandhi Kashi Vidyapeeth Dr. Vibhuti Narayan Singh Campus, Gangapur Varanasi. Professor H.K. Singh, Chairman, Faculty of Commerce, Banaras Hindu University, the chief guest of the inaugural session of the national seminar, discussed in detail the changing scenario of world trade and its impact on Indian exports and the Indian economy after the United States imposed unexpected customs duty on exports to India and other countries of the world. He said that the terms of trade with America have been in India's favor. In the coming times, India will have to restructure the structure of its foreign trade in such a way that the policy of import contraction and export promotion can be fruitful. In his address, campus in-charge Dr Manish Kumar Singh said that compared to

other countries of the world including China, the United States has imposed very low duty on exports from India. He said that India will have to reduce its dependence on petrol and diesel and qualitative research will have to be done to find new sources of energy as an alternative and apart from the government, big companies of India will have to come forward. While chairing the inaugural session, Dean of Mahatma Gandhi Kashi Vidyapeeth Professor K.K. Singh said that Indian exports are an important engine of India's economic development and in the coming times, Indian exporters will have to find new markets for exports. After the inaugural session, 4 technical sessions were conducted in which about 80 researchers read their research papers through PPT presentation. Selected research papers read in the seminar will be published. The stage was conducted by Dr. Ramesh Mishra. Dr. Vandana, Dr. Reeta, Dr. P.C. Joshi, Dr. Mahesh Kumar and other teachers and staff were present on the occasion.

Assistance given by Mandi Parishad to wife of deceased farmer

Staff Reporter
Mirzapur, Financial assistance is given in the Chief Minister's farmer accident. In this sequence, on Sunday, after reaching Birpur village of Kotwali Dehat police station area of Sadar tehsil, Majhwan MLA Suchismita Maurya has provided a check of three lakh rupees as assistance to the wife of the deceased farmer. Giving information in this regard, secretary of the mandi Sammittee Dhirendra Kumar Gupta said that after the death of Krishak Late Raj Narayan



Majhwan MLA Suchismita Maurya giving a check of assistance to the wife of the deceased farmer

under the Chief Minister Krishak Accident Assistance Scheme, under the Chief

Minister's Krishak Accident Assistance Scheme, he was given a assistance of three

lakh rupees to his wife Sangeeta Devi under the Chief Minister's Krishak Accident Assistance Scheme, under the Chief Minister's Krishak Accident Assistance Scheme, MLA Majhwan Suchismita Maurya was awarded in Veerapur Kotwali Dehat Tehsil Sadar, the residence of Sangeeta Devi, wife of the deceased farmer. On this occasion Along with the MLA including the villagers and the secretary of the mandi Sammittee Dhirendra Kumar Gupta should be Majd.

Brand KISNA Diamond & Gold Jewellery Now Available in Pratapgarh

Staff Reporter
Pratapgarh: India's leading and most trusted diamond and gold jewellery brand, KISNA is now available to customers in Pratapgarh. Marking yet another remarkable chapter in its retail journey, KISNA's Brand Corner inauguration took place at Pragyan Jewellery Palace. This newly launched Brand Corner offers customers an attractive range of diamond, gold, and silver jewellery, with modern designs and highly competitive prices. Mr. Ghanshyam Dholakia, Managing Director of KISNA, stated: "Our vision is 'Har Ghar KISNA' – and this new beginning in Pratapgarh brings us closer to making that vision a reality. We are committed to providing trustworthy, beautiful, and affordable jewellery to customers here. Expanding KISNA's presence across every corner of India is our mission, so



that every family can access premium-quality jewellery products – right in their own city." Mr. Parag Shah, Director of KISNA, shared his thoughts on the occasion: "KISNA has always prioritized innovation and quality to enhance customer experience. Our presence in an emerging and culturally rich city like Pratapgarh is not just a business expansion – it is part of our larger vision to make trustworthy and elegant jewellery accessible in every town and city across India. Our aim is not merely to sell jewellery, but to celebrate relationships and

bring the sparkle of trust into every heart." The partners of Pragyan Jewellery Palace – Mr. Akash Agarwal, Mr. Vinod Agarwal, and Mr. Rajesh Khandelwal – said: "KISNA's presence in the Pratapgarh market marks a significant milestone in the brand's expansion journey. We are proud to partner with KISNA and are committed to offering exceptional designs, top-notch quality, and reliable service to our local customers. We believe this collaboration will establish a new identity in Pratapgarh's jewellery retail landscape."

In protest against privatization, Chairman Power Corporation on May 12, demands withdrawal

Staff Reporter
Mirzapur, The much-awaited talks between the Electricity Employees Joint Conflict Committee and the Chairman of Power Corporation will be held on 12 May against the privatization of Purvanchal Electricity Distribution Corporation and Dakshinchal Vidyut Vitran Nigam. First struggle of talksThe committee has said that the Power Corporation management should withdraw all the harassment caused by the ongoing movement against

privatization to create a proper environment of talks. Officials of the Sangharsh Samiti said that the power workers, contract workers and engineers in protest against the unilateral decision of privatization of 42 districts coming under Purvanchal Electricity Distribution Corporation and Dakshinchal Vidyut Vitran NigamThere have been agitations for more than 05 months. Power Corporation management has done many oppressive proceedings during this period of democratically agitating

power workers. He said that large-scale contract workers have been removed from their jobs. After



privatization, about 45 percent of contract workers have been trimmed to help

private houses. Similarly, contract workers of 55 years of ageWhile most of these contract workers have been

contract workers to help private houses in this way is absolutely inhuman and extreme harassment. He informed that the salary of about 2000 power workers has been stopped in the name of facial attendance. Photography of power workers coming to the meeting of Sangharsh Samiti and identified themTaking proceedings like transfer etc. are being done. The Sangharsh Samiti said that according to the announcement made by the Energy Minister on 19 March 2023, it was made during the

March 2023 movement. All the oppressive proceedings were to be refunded which has not been returned to date. Due to the movement of March 2023, discipline proceedings are going on on electricity workers, state vigilance is being investigated and various typesHarassment continues. Even after the announcement of the Energy Minister, the atmosphere of mistrust has been created by not withdrawing the proceedings of harassment, which should be immediately withdrawn to eliminate all the harassment.

Intensive checking conducted by Electricity Dept in city area, recovery of Rs 3L dues

Avoid harassment proceedings by paying timely payment of large defaulted electric dues: Superintending Engineer Ramdas



Engineers and employees doing electricity checking in the city area in the presence of Superintending Engineer Electricity

Staff Reporter
Mirzapur, Superintendent Engineer Engineer Ramdas of Electricity Distribution Division Mirzapur, along with the team, conducted intensive campaign in the area and reaching the houses of big owners of electricity and dissecting connections About three lakh rupees have been recovered. In this regard, Superintending Engineer Engineer Ramdas told that this action has been implemented due to non-payment of Bidyut Villo by big defaulters. He said that smart meters of many

consumers were installed on the spot. Engineer Mr. Das said that the big defaulters have been warned to avoid action by paying the outstanding power dues without delay.The Superintending Engineer said that such a campaign will continue. Told that from 10:00 am on Sunday, the team formed by Superintending Engineer Mirzapur Engineer Ramdas conducted an electrical checking campaign in Tarkapur under the Electrical Sub-center Civil Line. In which the line of 40

defaulters was deducted and a recovery of about Rs 300000 was made and a case was filed against 07 people in power theft. Executive in this teamEngineer Engineer Rajendra Kumar Yadav, Executive Engineer Electricity Distribution Block Fatha Engineer Manish Kumar Srivastava, Subdivision Officer First Engineer Deepak Patel, Subdivision Officer Vindhayachal Ramesh Kumar Vaishya and Under Engineer Pramod Kumar, Engineer Pankaj Kumar and other line staff were present.

B'wood Diva Devyani Meshram's inspiring transition from modelling to acting

Staff Reporter
Prayagraj: When confidence, talent, and hard work come together, success is inevitable. Such is the story of Devyani Meshram—a 19-year-old young model who has already made a mark in the fashion world and is now ready to step into the world of acting. **Early Start, Big Dreams:** Devyani began her modeling journey at the young age of 14. Coming from a modest background, she proved herself despite limited resources. Her dedication and hard work bore fruit in 2023 when she earned the title of "Miss Icon Madhya Pradesh – First Runner-Up."



Step-by-Step Success in the World of Glamour: Today, Devyani has worked with renowned makeup artists and fashion designers, including: Makeup Artists: Trisha Thawne, Neha Chute Veera Sali (International Makeup Artist), Designers: Sadiq Raza (International Designer), Amanpreet, Manish Lohia, Rai Kishori

(Celebrity Fashion Designer), Leena Dwivedi, Reena Beniwal. While modeling for them, Devyani has consistently impressed audiences with her confidence, sense of style, and strong stage presence. Aspirations to Become an Actress: Now, Devyani is preparing to enter the world of acting. She dreams of shining just as brightly on the big screen as she has on the ramp. She is formally learning the art of acting and auditioning for various projects. An Inspiration for the Youth: Devyani Meshram is not just a model; she is an inspiration for countless young girls who come from small towns and dare to dream big. She has shown that with strong determination, no stage is too small. Proud achievements, lofty dreams, and the courage to pursue them—Devyani Meshram has emerged as a role model for today's youth. Her journey is bound to reach greater heights, and perhaps next time, we will see her acting on the big screen.

Students of Indian Public School worshiped their mother on Mother's Day



Staff Reporter
Mirzapur, Mother's Day was organized on Sunday in Indian Public School situated in Parwa Rajdhar of City Development Block, in which first of all the teachers of the school were welcomed by putting badges on them. After this, the children of the students whose mothers had come washed their feet and worshipped them. The co-principal of the school Mamta Devi said that whatever we are is the gift of my mother, I bow down to such a mother who gave birth to us. Kashik Pathak expressed his views on Mother's Day in English. The mothers participating in the program gave love and affection to their children in groups by tying a blindfold on their eyes while caressing their children. On this occasion Kalpana Ojha, Bulbul Rahi, Shreya Singh, Aanchal Patel, Nancy Vishwakarma, Roshni Dubey also expressed their views by congratulating them on Mother's Day.

Mothers shield for children till their last breath

Roti Bank provided clothes and books to the needy

Staff Reporter
Banda. Like every Sunday, this Sunday, under the patronage of Banda Roti Bank Society's patron Sheikh Sadi Jama and co-patron Chandra Mauli Bhardwaj, Manu Bansal, under the chairmanship of secretary Mohammad Idrish, under the leadership of member Mahendra Pal, in the presence of Pradhan Bandhapurva Rajesh Yadav, with the help of social worker Sitaram Yadav, clothes, books, shoes, slippers, purses etc. given by the people of the city were distributed to the needy villagers and the villagers were also made aware about child marriage, de-addiction, water conservation and their legal rights by the team's women president Tabassum Fatima and women general secretary Riya Khan. In the program, mainly President Rizwan Ali, Vice President Mohammad Salim, Organization Minister Sunil Saxena, Media Incharge Abdul Mujeeb, Mohammad Shamim Office Incharge, Irfan Khan Chand Branch Chief Khaipar, Mohammad Hamid Branch Chief Gular Naka, Member Rabia Khan etc. officials, members and social workers made their important contribution and helped in making the program successful.

The event was held in village Bandha Purva

A function was organized in village Satnyanv

Staff Reporter
Banda. Last night, a great gathering of Siratunnabi Sallallahu Alaihi Wa Aalihi Wasallam was organized in Satnyanv village. In which Maulana Syed Rashid Rabbani sahab, while talking about the greatness of Rasool, said that after Allah, the most great personality in the whole universe is that of the Prophet of Allah. Whoever has pleased the Rasool has pleased Allah. Hazrat Maulana Syed Wajid Rabbani sahab said that Muslims should not only eat the food of Gauso Khwaja's langar but also follow his Seerat. Syed Adil Masoodi presented beautiful Naats and Manqabats in his special style. All the people who came to the program liked the gathering very much. People from Shoba-e-Tabligh and Ittehad Committee decorated the gathering. After the gathering, bedsheets were distributed to the needy by Amir Shoba-e-Tabligh Maulana Syed Abid Rabbani. Hafiz Ghulam Hussain, Abdur Rahman, Shamim Ali, Salim, Chhuttan etc. were specially present in the gathering! About 80 people attended the gathering. The people of the village and the committee thanked all the people who came to the gathering.

Pollution is being spread by municipal workers by burning garbage



Staff Reporter
Maudha. The government is concerned about environmental pollution and is working to make people aware by running awareness campaigns for environmental protection, but on the other hand, the cleaning staff of the municipality is burning garbage in the morning and instead of giving clean air to the people, they are playing with their lives. Every day, thousands of people of the town go out for morning walk to stay healthy so that they can get clean morning air which will have a positive effect on their health, but the opposite is happening in the town. Instead of picking up the garbage spread by the people every morning on Tehsil Road, the cleaning staff of the municipality is collecting it and burning it there itself, due to which the people who go out to get clean air are getting polluted air which is putting their lives at risk, but the municipal officials are maintaining silence.

India to retaliate if UK introduces carbon tax, says official



New Delhi (Agency): India reserves the right to retaliate against the UK if it introduces a carbon tax as United Kingdom may have not agreed to India's request for a country-specific concession or a carve-out for Indian micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) under the trade deal announced earlier this week as government officials stated on Thursday.

Discussions of potential retaliation, despite the trade agreement, arise amid concerns that the tariff concessions agreed upon could be nullified in certain product categories should the UK implement its version of Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM). This mechanism aims to impose duties on carbon-intensive imports starting from January 1, 2027.

"Both countries have agreed that if the UK introduces CBAM, India reserves the right to retaliate. If India taxes these products domestically, then the industry will not have to pay the tax in the UK. That tax could be utilised to finance India's sustainability initiatives," the official said.

UK remained unwilling to grant any concession under CBAM, with the carbon tax being a significant sticking point between the two nations. India initially proposed a carve-out for MSMEs and later suggested a 'rebalancing mechanism' requiring the UK to compensate Indian industries for losses incurred due to the regulation.

This paper reported that a 'rebalancing mechanism' article had been inserted into the 'general exceptions' chapter of the negotiating text between the two countries. This provision would enable India to claim compensation for its losses and ensure the UK does not raise a dispute against India at the World Trade Organization (WTO).

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.

Starlink receives govt clearance to offer satellite internet services in India

New Delhi (Agency): Billionaire Elon Musk-owned Starlink, which provides satellite internet services, has received regulatory approval from the government—nearly three years after first applying for an operator licence—paving the way for the company to start offering the service in the country.

"After thoroughly going through their application, vetting them from a national security perspective, the government has approved Starlink's proposal," a senior government official said on condition of anonymity. A letter of intent has been issued to the company, it is understood. Starlink did not respond to an immediate request for comment.

Receiving a letter of intent from the government paves the way for Starlink to

receive a Global Mobile Personal Communication by Satellite (GMPCS) licence. This possibly marks the end of a fiercely fought battle for India's space waves, where Starlink came up against the country's telecom giants Reliance Jio and Bharti Airtel, and differed with the former over how frequency for such airwaves should be assigned to satcom operators.

While Starlink lobbied for administrative allocation, Jio made a pitch for the auction route. The government had opted for the administrative route, given that spectrum used for satellite communication is shared spectrum and is technically difficult to auction.

Last month, Prime Minister Narendra Modi spoke to Musk and discussed the "immense potential" for collaboration in technology

Rupee posts biggest single-day loss in over 2 years

Mumbai (Agency): The rupee witnessed its worst session in over two years on Thursday, coming under intense pressure due to escalating geopolitical tensions between India and Pakistan under the ongoing 'Operation Sindoor'. The domestic currency took a sharp hit, closing 89 paise lower at 85.72 against the US dollar. This significant depreciation of over 1 per cent marks the rupee's worst day since February 6, 2023. The rupee had closed at 84.83 against the greenback on Wednesday. The heightened tensions have led to a surge in

risk aversion, impacting the currency markets and resulting in the rupee's sharp decline. Analysts said the rupee's decline was attributed to heightened geopolitical risks following India's military strikes in Pakistan, which raised worries about potential escalation in the region. The currency market came under pressure after Pakistan attempted to target several Indian military sites using drones and missiles, a move thwarted by India's defence systems. Apart from the geopolitical stress, a stronger US dollar and rising crude oil prices further

weighed on the sentiment. Jateen Trivedi, research analyst, LKP Securities, said



reports of drone attacks and retaliatory strikes over the past 24 hours have heightened geopolitical uncertainty, triggering a risk-off

sentiment. "If the situation worsens, the rupee may face further pressure, with lower

levels of 86.00-86.50 potentially coming into play," he said. Dilip Parmar, research analyst, HDFC Securities, said uncertainties surrounding

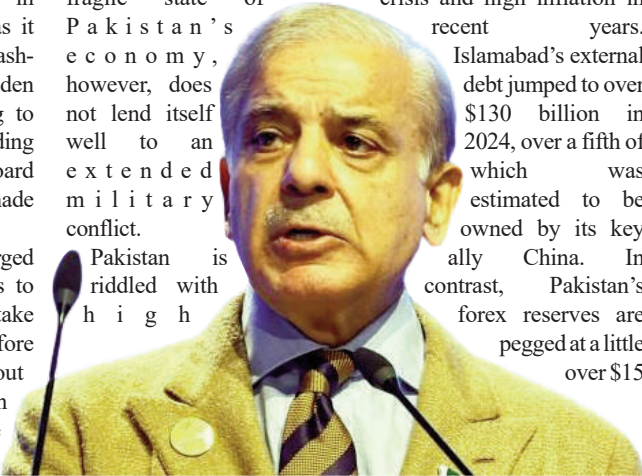
Key IMF meet today: Surviving on bailouts, Pakistan's overstretched economy cannot afford protracted military conflict with India

New Delhi (Agency): Pakistan will face a critical review of its financing facilities at a crucial board meeting of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) in Washington on Friday, as it plans to seek funds for its cash-strapped and debt-ridden economy. India is going to oppose the additional funding to Pakistan at the Board meeting, having already made its stance clear.

New Delhi on Thursday urged the IMF board members to look "deep within" and take facts into account before generously bailing out Pakistan. Tensions between India and Pakistan have soared, raising concerns

globally about the possibility of the nuclear-armed neighbours getting entangled in a prolonged conventional military conflagration. The fragile state of Pakistan's economy, however, does not lend itself well to an extended military conflict.

Pakistan is riddled with high



foreign debt coupled with perilously low foreign exchange reserves, and has been grappling with an almost perennial balance of payment crisis and high inflation in recent years.

Islamabad's external debt jumped to over \$130 billion in 2024, over a fifth of which was estimated to be owned by its key ally China. In contrast, Pakistan's forex reserves are pegged at a little over \$15

billion, capable of paying for just about three months of imports. Reserves remain low relative to funding needs, with over \$22 billion of public external debt maturing in FY25, including nearly \$13 billion in bilateral deposits, as per a Fitch report in February.

In April, Fitch had then noted a pickup in Pakistan's reserves accumulation. With elevated debt levels and low reserve buffers, Islamabad had earlier managed to get a bailout package from the IMF in September 2024 with the approval of a \$7-billion loan, following which its economy has shown some early signs of a recovery from the brink of a collapse.

Audit firm hints at insider trading by former IndusInd Bank officials



Mumbai (Agency): Two former officials of IndusInd Bank were allegedly involved in insider trading during a period when the bank faced accounting lapses in its derivative portfolio, says an audit report by Grant Thornton. On April 29, weeks after IndusInd Bank disclosed accounting lapses and losses of nearly Rs 2,000 crore in its derivatives portfolio that triggered a rout in its shares, the bank's Managing Director & CEO Sumant Kathpalia resigned with immediate effect. IndusInd Bank had earlier announced the resignation of deputy CEO Arun Khurana. "Grant Thornton, which the bank hired to conduct an independent forensic investigation, found as a result of its review of internal accounts and communications that there were indications Kathpalia and Khurana traded in shares of IndusInd "during a period of seeming non-disclosure," wire agency Reuters reported on Thursday, quoting a summary of the findings.

"Considering that employees had knowledge of incorrect accounting and/or its impact but traded in shares of IBL during the period may also require a determination from an insider trading perspective," it said.

Kathpalia and Khurana sold shares worth Rs 157 crore in 2023 and 2024, according to data from the Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE). The data reveals that Kathpalia sold approximately 950,000 shares, valued at Rs 134 crore, between May 24, 2023, and June 25, 2024. During the same period, he purchased 396,000 shares worth Rs 34 crore. Similarly, Khurana sold 550,000 shares for Rs 82 crore over 2023-24, while acquiring 238,000 shares worth Rs 25 crore. Earlier, there were reports in a section of the media that market regulator Sebi did not find insider trading by the two officials, saying all disclosures were in place and there was no wrongdoing. When contacted, Sebi officials did not comment on the issue. "I undertake moral responsibility, given the various acts of commission/omission that have been brought to my notice. I would request that my resignation be taken on record at close of working hours today," Kathpalia said in his resignation letter to the bank's board. While the bank initially sought to shift the blame to the Reserve Bank of India's change in rules relating to the derivative portfolio and the loss from the derivative book remained unresolved for a long time, leading to the accumulation of losses, subsequent inspection by the central bank and external auditing firms found that the top brass did not act on time to limit the losses and clean up the mess.

IMF Board should look 'deep within' before bailing out Pakistan: Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri ahead of key Fund meet

New Delhi (Agency): A day before the International Monetary Fund (IMF) is set to review the financing facilities extended to Pakistan, India's Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri on Thursday said the Fund's Board should look "deep within" and take into account the facts before generously bailing out the country. He questioned the efficacy of several bailout packages extended to Pakistan over the last three decades and raised questions on its utilisation by the country. Misri said India's Executive Director will put forward its position at the IMF Board meeting on May 9. "We have an executive director at the IMF. Tomorrow there is a meeting of the board of the IMF, and I am sure that our Executive Director will put forward India's position. The decisions of the Board are a different matter, you know, the process through which they are made. But, I think the case with regard to Pakistan should be self-

evident to those people who generously open their pockets to bail out this country....," he said. Misri pointed out that there have been several IMF bailout programmes sanctioned in the space of the last three decades. "...I think you would also have an idea on how many of those programmes have reached successful conclusions. Probably, not many. So, I think this is a decision that (IMF) Board members have to take by looking deep within themselves and looking at the facts," he said.

As per the IMF website, there have been 25 arrangements for Pakistan since it became a member of the IMF in 1950. As of March 31, 2025, the outstanding purchases and loans to Pakistan from the IMF stood at 6.23 billion Special Drawing Rights. The IMF is financing a \$7-billion aid package to Islamabad that was approved in September 2024. The ongoing 37-month long Extended Fund Facility

programme of the IMF consists of six reviews over the span of the bailout, and the release of the next tranche of approximately \$1 billion will be contingent



upon the success of the performance review. Parameswaran Iyer, Executive Director at the World Bank, who has been temporarily entrusted with the responsibility of being India's nominee director on the IMF Board will be part of the crucial May 9 Board meeting. Iyer's nomination was made after the termination of services of Krishnamurthy V Subramanian as the Executive Director at the

IMF, six months before the end of his three-year tenure. India intends to speak with all multilateral development banks (MDBs) to push back against providing funds and loans to Pakistan amid rising tensions between the two countries, a senior government official had said last week. The move to directly approach MDBs, including the World Bank, the IMF, and the Asian Development Bank, is part of the government's broader efforts to curb financial flows that aid Pakistan's funding of terror activities. The government is also working towards bringing Pakistan back into the 'grey list' of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF), the global money laundering and terror financing watchdog. India is stepping up its ante against Pakistan following the attack on April 22 that killed 26 people in Pahalgam, and is looking at several measures aimed at tightening financial flows to the neighbouring country.

India-UK trade deal text expected in 3 months; No MIP on UK Whisky: Official

New Delhi (Agency): The official text of the India-UK free trade agreement is expected to be released in three months, as the legal scrubbing is currently underway, a government official stated on Thursday, adding that the agreement will be implemented following approval by the UK Parliament, which could take about an year. The official clarified that India has not included a Minimum Import Price (MIP) provision for British alcoholic beverages in the free trade agreement, despite requests from domestic liquor manufacturers. This is significant as India plans to reduce import duties on UK whisky and gin from 150 per cent to 75 per cent, and further to 40 per cent by the tenth year of the deal.

On automobiles, the official clarified that India has incorporated adequate safeguards in the agreement to protect sensitive sectors. Import duties on vehicles will be reduced over a period of 10 to 15 years, with concessions on petrol and diesel engine vehicles

limited to a predefined quota, the official said. The quota for imports of British electric vehicles (EVs) at a concessional customs duty rate is



restricted to a few thousand units. To protect the domestic industry, the import restrictions on diesel and petrol vehicles are linked to engine capacity, and in the case of EVs, to prices, an official clarified. "For cars, duty will be reduced over a

period of 10 to 15 years, and the volume of imports will be very small. We have not allowed futuristic cars (EVs) or low-cost cars. We have implemented several protection measures," the official said, adding that India's car industry is projected to reach a record 5 million units, and by the time the duty is reduced, it may reach 10 million units per year. "There is no out-of-quota duty reduction for EVs. The sensitivity related to EVs has been addressed. The out-of-quota duty on internal combustion engine vehicles will be reduced gradually over a longer period, thereby helping our industries absorb the incremental increase of imports from the UK," the official added.

Meanwhile, the Indian alcoholic beverage industry has expressed dissatisfaction with the deal, having advocated for a level playing field through the inclusion of an MIP to curb dumping and under-invoicing by foreign companies.

EDITORIAL

Power and Posture

The recent meeting between President Donald Trump and Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney was more than a polite diplomatic encounter ~ it was a vivid display of two clashing worldviews in an increasingly volatile North American partnership. While much of the media spotlight has lingered on Mr Trump’s offhand suggestion about annexing Canada, the more consequential moments unfolded in the subtleties of trade, sovereignty, and strategic posture. Mr Trump’s rhetoric, though often theatrical, reveals a deeper posture of American transactionalism. His insistence on tariffs ~ 25 per cent across sectors, and specifically targeting key Canadian exports like steel, aluminium, and automobiles ~ signals a worldview that frames allies as economic competitors first, strategic partners second. This isn’t just tough talk. It is a policy driven by a zero-sum mindset: if America is to win, someone else must lose.

Unfortunately for Canada, this mindset seems to treat long-standing partnerships as leverage, not legacy. Mr Carney, for his part, handled the moment with composure and clarity. Rather than rise to provocation, he anchored the conversation in the language of sovereignty and mutual respect. His focus was not on emotional rebuke or political theatre, but on ensuring Canada remains economically self-determined in the face of growing pressure from its largest trading partner.

His tone was deliberate: warm when necessary, firm when it mattered. Canada’s challenge now is to navigate this new terrain without capitulating to pressure or provoking escalation. It must balance resilience with diplomacy, ensuring that national interests are protected while leaving room for constructive engagement with a historically vital if increasingly unpredictably. One of the more revealing aspects of their exchange was Me Trump’s assertion that trade deals are not an American priority ~ “They have to sign deals with us. We don’t need their market.” That line encapsulates a shift in US global posture under Mr Trump’s continued influence: a retreat from multilateralism in favour of dominance-based negotiation. While this may play well to a domestic audience, it leaves neighbouring nations navigating a minefield of uncertainty. Canada, with over \$760 billion in annual bilateral trade at stake, cannot afford to misread this moment. Mr Carney’s response ~ that negotiations will continue, with “zigs and zags” expected ~ reflects recognition that standing still is not an option. What’s being tested is not just economic resilience, but national identity in a rapidly shifting geopolitical landscape. This isn’t merely about trade policy or political optics. It’s about two competing visions of North America. One seeks to consolidate power through economic coercion and rhetorical overreach. The other asserts that cooperation and sovereignty can ~ and must ~ coexist. In the coming months, the tone and outcomes of US-Canada talks will matter not just for tariffs and exports, but for the broader message they send to the world: Can democracies maintain mutual respect while facing populist pressures? Can smaller powers hold their own with dignity and purpose? For now, Canada has drawn a quiet but resolute line. The test will be whether that line can hold.

Guarding the Republic

The spate of Pakistani aerial intrusions and attacks targeting Jammu and other key Indian installations by loitering munitions and drones is more than a military event ~ it is a direct challenge to India’s sovereignty and resolve. These were not random provocations; they were calculated acts designed to test our defences, undermine public confidence, and signal a new phase in asymmetric warfare. Yet, even as blasts echoed across Jammu and Indian air defence systems were activated from Srinagar to Bhuj, the republic stood firm. India responded with clarity and precision, intercepting hostile drones, neutralising threats mid-air, and ensuring that civilian lives remained protected. This is not just a demonstration of technological capability ~it is a testament to the preparedness and professionalism of the armed forces executing Operation Sindoor, and the indomitable spirit of a nation. India’s doctrine of peace is not born of weakness, but of strength. We are a nation that believes in dialogue, diplomacy, and coexistence. But when provoked, we have never hesitated to defend every inch of our land, every life under our flag. The events unfolding along the western frontier remind us that while the nature of warfare has evolved ~ with drones, AI, and loitering munitions entering the fray ~ the core challenge remains the same: protecting the idea of India from those who seek to destabilise it.

These attacks mark a shift toward grey-zone warfare ~ tactics that aim to stay below the threshold of conventional war while inflicting strategic harm. They are meant to create fear, confusion, and uncertainty. But they will fail, because India is not a soft target. Her defences are increasingly integrated, technologies are rapidly modernising, and the people are resolute. More than ever, this is the time for national unity and strategic foresight. We must support our security forces, demand international accountability from rogue states, and invest in indigenous defence innovation. Patriotism today means vigilance ~ not only on the battlefield but also in public discourse. We must not allow disinformation or divisive rhetoric to dilute our collective resolve. This is not just about border defence; it is about civilisational integrity. From the snowbound posts of Ladakh to the airfields of Punjab, India’s defenders are writing a new chapter of courage under fire. It is our duty as citizens to match their valour with civic strength, strategic clarity, and unwavering national pride. India must also respond on the diplomatic front with equal intensity. While our military safeguards the skies, our foreign policy must isolate and expose aggressors on the global stage. Strategic partnerships, international forums, and intelligence-sharing alliances must be activated to send an unmistakable message: India will not tolerate state-sponsored aggression in any form. Global silence in the face of such provocations only emboldens those who traffic in instability and terror. In the face of provocation, India does not flinch. We rise, we respond, and we remember that this land is ours ~ not just by inheritance, but by unyielding will.

Attempts to make America great again seem to centre around destroying the institutions that made American science great. It is a bad idea

Ramvilas Sharma



“As India seeks to enhance its innovation ecosystem, it is worthwhile to pay attention to opportunities and lessons from the self-inflicted wounds on American science

What do lasers, the internet, Google’s search algorithm, the gene-editing tool CRISPR-9, Wireless MIMO (multiple-input multiple-output) technology, and Covid vaccines have in common? Key innovations underlying each originated in an American university, where government grants funded initial research and were later adapted for industrial research and development. Many great American multinational companies have emerged from these foundational research breakthroughs. However, if President Donald Trump has his way, America’s golden age of creativity would soon be a distant memory. While the world is focused on the economic disruption caused by Trump’s tariffs, his short-sightedness in killing the golden goose that made the American economy soar will have longer-lasting effects. Nevertheless, there are lessons for other countries, particularly India, as the American innovation system begins to unravel.

Assaults on universities and the feeding of anti-migrant hysteria undermine the fundamental framework on which America’s technology-driven economy rests. The American innovation-industrial complex relies on three pillars: Stable support for research infrastructure within universities and non-profit institutions funded by

the government, while allowing them to operate independently; an open and competitive ideas marketplace; and tapping into global talent. All three are currently under threat. The Trump administration views universities as free riders exploiting government largesse by collecting 30 cents in overhead for each dollar going directly to support research. This is contrary to the post-war grand bargain created under the leadership of Vannevar Bush, the first presidential scientific adviser, whereby universities were supposed to nurture scientific talent through stable provision of jobs, laboratory space, research infrastructure, including libraries, and provide seed funding for new projects. The government would support this through overhead payments on grants. Curtailing overheads to 15 per cent jeopardises this equation. The second pillar of this troika balanced creative freedom with accountability through professional oversight. An elaborate infrastructure was put in place in institutions like the National Institutes of Health to ensure that lack of fame or connections did not hold back young researchers, and peer review by other scientists was the only criterion that grant proposals needed to satisfy. The Center for Scientific Research at NIH was always conscious of the tendency of scientific orthodoxy to dominate and

suffocate innovation. It looked for ways to ensure an even playing field. The latest balloon from the administration to downplay the role of scientific review and withholding funds from research powerhouses Harvard and Johns Hopkins to ensure political compliance risks destabilising this hard-won independence. If America forgets that, when ideology or cronyism trumps fair competition, it stifles a vibrant scientific culture. It only has to look at Russia. Russian scientists did not receive a single Nobel Prize for science between 2011 and 2022, during which 61 Americans became Nobel Laureates in scientific disciplines. Beginning with a flight of Jewish scientists from Germany, American science has benefited tremendously from the influx of international scholars.

Of the 314 laureates who won their Nobel Prize while working in the USA, 102 (or 30 per cent) were foreign-born. Compare that to Japan, which counts no foreign-born individuals among its nine Nobel laureates. We would be hard-pressed to find any scientific discipline whose leadership does not include people born outside of the United States. The anti-immigrant sentiment fuelled by the current administration will make America a less attractive place for international students and researchers. The administration claims not to be against international students, but they are welcome only if they hold no political views. This is reminiscent of Great Britain, which until 1829 was more than willing to extend democratic privileges to Irishmen as long as they did not profess Catholic beliefs.

Pakistani leaders and army officers transfer billions of rupees abroad

During the war between India and Pakistan, Pakistani leaders and army officers have started sending their money to Dubai. In the last three-four days, top military officers have transferred crores of rupees to Dubai banks. When the State Bank of Pakistan checked the foreign transactions, it was found that a large number of Pakistani leaders and army officers have transferred billions of rupees to many countries. The State Bank of Pakistan has sought information from all government and private banks regarding sending money abroad. In the last four days, billions of rupees have been transferred from Pakistan to Dubai, America, Canada and Britain. A large amount of this money has been invested in real estate. Pakistan’s economy is weakening rapidly. The deep economic and political crisis that Pakistan is going through at the moment is not the result of financial mismanagement alone. Pakistan’s economy has reached a bad state due to f u n d a m e n t a l i s m , corruption and military dominance for decades. According to a recent report, Pakistan’s debt has crossed Rs 80 thousand billion. Inflation rate has reached above 30 percent. Foreign exchange reserves are at the lowest level. The common people of Pakistan are struggling for essential commodities like bread and milk. The most worrying thing is that Pakistan is still not seen changing its policies. On the contrary, it is ready to fight India. Pakistan’s current economy is an indication of this. Pakistan will also have to face internal challenges due to war. The relief given to Pakistan by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) is also proving to be meaningless. Pakistan is forced to take

new loans to repay the loan installments. India has two major concerns in the scenario of war with India. First, Pakistan’s economic instability can promote terrorism and infiltration in the border areas. The second concern is about China. China is attacking India from behind. Pakistan’s falling credibility on the global stage strengthens India’s strategic position. India is the world’s leading economic power. Pakistan will have to understand that it cannot move forward with the help of terrorism and by keeping the army above democracy. No nation can develop with the help of fundamentalism. Pakistan will have to make extensive changes in its economic and political structure. Otherwise, Pakistan will have to be ready to face serious consequences. The way the leaders and army officers of Pakistan are transferring their money abroad, it is clear from that that they are aware of Pakistan’s weakness in the ongoing war between India and Pakistan. The leaders and army officers sitting in power can be punished at any time. Due to which they are preparing to flee by transferring money abroad. It is clear that the leaders and army officers of Pakistan have been leaving Pakistan from time to time and taking refuge abroad to escape corruption. In the last 5 decades, hundreds of leaders and army officers have saved themselves from punishment by fleeing abroad after being accused of corruption and being ousted from power. The way the leaders and army officers are currently transferring the money deposited in Pakistan abroad, it is clear from that that Pakistan’s boat is going to sink. Due to which the leaders and army officers are preparing to flee.

In Abeyance~II

Ramvilas Sharma

Regardless of the controversy justifying the suspension of the Indus Waters Treaty, India’s obligation under international law remains. International law obligates under VCLT (Art 72) and the law on state responsibility under the ILC Articles on Responsibility of States for Internationally Wrongful Acts (ARSIWA) ((Art 49(3)) that measures taken in the duration of the suspension or countermeasure are reversible and allow for the resumption of the performance of the relevant obligation.

From another angle, it has been suggested that Pakistan can involve the International Court of Justice (ICJ). There seems to be a systemic misconception of the applicability of international law. Both India and Pakistan, though ipso facto admitting ICJ’s jurisdiction have made several reservations under Article 36 of the ICJ statute. The last all-encompassing declaration was made in 2019 by India, replacing its earlier declaration of 1974, which excludes from the ICJ’s purview, inter alia, disputes relating to ‘situations or collective actions.... taken for the protection of national security and ensuring national defence’.

A similar declaration was made by Pakistan in 2017. Thus, given the wide ambit of the reservations made it is highly unlikely Pakistan will be able to invoke ICJ’s jurisdiction against India and vice-versa. The only way to challenge the unilateral suspension is via Article IX of the IWT. Yet another misconceived position was advocated

elsewhere by calling for a referral of the matter to the International Criminal Court (‘ICC’). This also suffers the same fate as above, even more bluntly for the simple reason that neither India nor Pakistan is a member of the ICC.

Both States have not ratified the Rome Statute and have not

accepted ICC’s jurisdiction. For the matter to be referred to the ICC, India will have to conditionally accept the jurisdiction of the ICC under Art 12 (3) of the Rome Statute and Article 12 has to be read with Rule 44 of the Rules of Procedure and Evidence. A combined reading suggests that ICC’s jurisdiction tends to be broad and a selective declaration limited to a particular incident may not be allowed. The Pahalgam incident, arguably will fall under Crime against Humanity of Murder.

By its very definition, crimes against humanity have to be widespread or systematic. All

this makes it difficult to keep a declaration very limited. Furthermore, the ICC Trial Chamber has provided a detailed clarification on this issue in Prosecutor v. Laurent Kou dou Gbagbo, No. ICC-02/11-01/11-212 (PreTrial Chamber I, 15 August 2012, para. 5), wherein the Court has held that Article 12 (3) read with Rule

44 limits States discretion in framing the situation that may be investigated by the Court and the Court cannot be used ‘opportunistically’. Even if, hypothetically, India succeeds in limiting its declaration, doing this will be a nightmare ~ legal, political and diplomatic.

This will expose India to possible counter-cases from other ICC members. The other way is for the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) to refer the matter under Article 13 of the Rome Statute. This too poses veritable problems. A suggestion of referring the matter to the UNSC, where Pakistan has a

seat currently (and China has a veto), will thus be an imprudent one. Just a plain reading of UNSC Press Statements issued on the terrorist attack on Jaffar Express, and the terrorist attack on Pahal gam are enough to clarify the council’s stance currently. Thus, in the current political habitat, a UNSC resolution

referring to the Pahalgam attack on the ICC is also a non-starter. The alternative workaround argument isn’t incomprehensible. Although not formally bound by the VCLT, India has implicitly endorsed the principle of pacta sunt servanda which coexists with well-accepted doctrinal principles such as countermeasures, necessity, and state sovereignty. These principles may, in exceptional cases, justify a temporary departure from treaty obligations. This is where the ILC Articles on Responsibility of States for Internationally Wrongful Acts (ARSIWA) come into play. Given that the ILC Articles on Re-

sponsibility of States for Internationally Wrongful Acts have arguably achieved the status of customary international law, the doctrines of necessity (Article 25), self-defence (Article 21) and countermeasures (Article 22) further support India’s stance. This approach provides India with flexibility in such matters of suspension or termination, as in the recent IWT fiasco. Yet, it must be remembered these defences will be invoked as and when arbitration commences to justify the deviation from the Treaty.

Under the treaty, there are ~ mains not a morsel of doubt ~ such unilateral suspension is not permitted. One can argue that it is not expressly barred. At the same time, it is not expressly allowable either. Even though one can rely upon the VCLT to justify the suspension, albeit unilateral, the issues of VCLT are hard to miss. Yet the counterargument isn’t incomprehensible. As one can argue, on the first issue, if VCLT arguably represents principles of customary international law (CIL), it has been acknowledged by the Indian court in AWAS Ireland v. Directorate General of Civil Aviation and has been invoked by India in the Bay of Bengal Maritime Boundary Arbitration (Bangladesh v. India) arbitration. This dilutes the nonsignatory argument. On the second issue, while Article 4 VCLT enumerates the non-retroactivity to prior concluded treaties; if, however, the VCLT provisions reflect established customary law, these rules apply to

treaties concluded by States Parties before the entry into force of the VCLT (See Botswana v. Namibia [1999] ICJ Rep 1045, para 18; and Democratic Republic of the Congo v. Rwanda (Jurisdiction and Admissibility) [2006] ICJ Rep 6, para 125) Despite this, the question still lingers on an ‘if’ ~ that is the million-dollar question. ‘If’ VCLT does reflect customary international law, then the workaround is that treaties such as IWT (which are pre-1969) can be within the ambit of VCLT. The first stage hurdle is to make VCLT applicable to India, and that is based on the ‘If’ ~ ness of VCLT reflecting CIL.

While the Indian Prime Minister once remarked that ‘blood and water cannot flow together’, India’s so-called ‘in abeyance’ aka suspension raises far more nuanced questions under international law. It is more than the IWT not providing an exit clause. It is deeper. It strikes at the very root of the interpretation of treaties and the surrounding geopolitical environment with India skating on thin ice. It can be argued that the decision to place IWT in ‘abeyance’ is not a violation but a legal decision under the aegis of customary international law. Yet, on the other hand, the deployment of the diplomatic strategy of keeping IWT in ‘abeyance’ seems to play in a grey area of the Treaty. Though seemingly innocuous, it brews a recipe for disaster in its wake with potentially serious consequences for both sides.



copy of every edition of Teroenga.

Key to De Jong's preservation project has been 78-year-old Lilly Duijm, who was responsible for the archive's folders of documents for more than two decades.

Born in Suriname, when she was 14 she moved to the Netherlands where she eventually became a nurse. But she returned to her homeland in 1973, just before the colony got its independence, and her four children grew up in Paramaribo.

More than anyone, she knows how precious the archive was. "I told the congregation, as long as the archive is still here, I will not die. Even if I live to be 200 years old," she tearfully told AP. "This is keeping the history of my people."

what it says is a pressure tactic aimed at forcing Hamas to release hostages. Israel resumed its offensive in March, shattering a ceasefire that had facilitated the release of more than 30 hostages. Aid groups say food supplies are running low and hunger is widespread. U.S. President Donald Trump, whose administration has voiced full support for Israel's actions, is set to visit Saudi Arabia, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates this week in a regional tour that will not include Israel. The war began when Hamas-led militants attacked southern Israel on Oct. 7, 2023, killing some 1,200 people, most civilians, and taking 240 hostages. Fifty-nine hostages are still inside Gaza, around a third of them believed to be alive, after most of the remainder were released in ceasefire agreements or other deals. Israel's offensive has killed over 52,000 Palestinians, mostly women and children, according to Gaza's Health Ministry, which does not say how many of the dead were combatants or civilians.

Spring of Youth first impression: A K-drama that badly needs Netflixification to rescue its fresh faces, old-school charm, and Byeon Woo Seok vibe



The rise of Netflix K-content has been both a blessing and a curse for the K-drama industry, which now finds itself struggling to make shows work on domestic platforms. The latest to take the hit is the Han You Joon, Park Ji Hu, and Lee Seung Hyub-starrer Spring of Youth, a romantic comedy clinging to the old-school formula: idol-fan fantasy, cookie-cutter storyline, obligatory aegyo moments, and a facecard that never declines. The show ended up receiving a poor rating, two episodes in. May is usually the golden month for K-dramas, we’ve seen legends like Youth of May, the kind of show that leaves you with K-trauma and guilt-binging for years. But, this year’s lineup Resident Playbook, Spring of Youth, all noise, no punch. If you’re into the slow-burn campus fluff with an episode 12 hand-hold and a maybekiss in episode 13, this one is for you. But if you’re more Squid Game and The Glory type, SKIP. Trying to recreate the magic of Byeon Woo Seok’s Lovely Runner, which kicked off with the same setup as Spring of Youth, the new SBS show is a boy band-themed swing-and-miss. The popularity of the Byeon Woo Seok-starrer spiraled so fast, even Netflix, which initially passed on it, ended up doing a full 90-degree turn just to get it on their platform. It’s still pulling numbers and even bagged a Baeksang. The latest Kim Sung Yong (The Veil, Band Powerhouse) directorial Spring of Youth follows Sa Gye, a K-pop idol from the group The Crown — rich, famous, a stage heartthrob whose songs rules the global charts. But by episode one, we’re already watching his dramatic fall from grace after a video leaks of him punching his label’s CEO. Jo Han Chul returns in yet another shady business role, and honestly, his presence alone almost convinces you not to bail halfway through. Spring of Youth went as far as to give the show a real-life touch, onboarding actual K-pop idols Ha Yoo Joon, vocalist of the band AxMxP, and Lee Seung Hyub of N.Flying.

Sunita Ahuja says she was against Govinda joining politics, admits it affected their kids childhood: ‘People started asking why we lived separately’

Rumours of a separation between Govinda and his wife Sunita Ahuja started doing the rounds after she commented that they live separately. However, in a recent interaction, Sunita clarified her statement and also explained why she was against Govinda entering politics.

Speaking to Zoom, Sunita said, “I wasn’t happy when he joined politics just because his brother told him to. I always tell Govinda to focus on his own work, and politics isn’t his job. I’ve seen many actors, but not all can handle everything. If he doesn’t go to parliament, people will talk. That’s what happened.” Sunita Ahuja



shared that since Govinda joined politics, she and her children lost their freedom and had to be surrounded by security. She claimed that this affected their son Yash’s childhood. “My son faced problems in school, and we had to arrange security. He told me also to keep tight security around, but I said I don’t need

to be told; I can take care of my own security. This affects the children a lot when they can’t do things freely. Yash’s childhood went by like this, which isn’t good.” Sunita admitted that after Govinda entered politics, they started seeing a lot of guests at home for political meetings, which disrupted the children’s

privacy as they all used to live in a flat. “It was during that time that we decided to live separately so the children could have some freedom. When he became an MP, we all lived in a flat, and I asked him to buy a house next door for his political meetings and people started asking why we lived separately,” she said.

Preity Zinta says she’s back home after Dharamsala stadium evacuation, apologises to fans for refusing pictures: ‘Need of the hour was...’

Kings XI Punjab co-owner Preity Zinta was one of the many who had to evacuate the Dharamsala stadium on Friday after the Indian Premier League (IPL) match with Delhi Capitals was called off midway amid the escalating cross-border tension between India and Pakistan. The actor revealed on Sunday afternoon that she’s finally made it home after the incident. “Finally back home after a crazy last few days. A heartfelt thank you (folded hands) to Indian Railways & our Railway minister Mr. Ashwini Vaishnaw for helping both IPL teams and all officials & families leave Dharamsala in a safe, swift & comfortable way,” wrote Preity on X. Punjab Kings and Delhi Capitals contingents were escorted to the Jalandhar

railway station in batches through Hoshiarpur amid tight security on Friday. These included players, coaching staff, and broadcast personnel, moved in around 40 to 50 small vehicles from Dharamsala to Hoshiarpur, located at the Punjab border. The convoy was escorted by the Kangra Police and the Punjab Police took over the security arrangements once the vehicles reached Hoshiarpur. From there, they were moved to Jalandhar to board

a specially arranged train. They were then transported to Delhi via a special train. Preity Zinta also thanked International Cricket Council (ICC) Chairman Jay Shah, IPL Chairman Arun Dhumal, the Board of Cricket Control of India (BCCI), Kings XI Punjab CEO Satish Menon, and the

operations team for “helping co-ordinate the evacuation of our stadium in Dharamshala safely & in an orderly manner.” She also thanked the audience at the stadium “for not panicking & for any stampedes.” “You guys are absolute rock stars. I’m sorry I was a bit curt & said no to pictures with everyone but the need of the hour was the safety of everyone and it was my duty & responsibility to make sure everyone stayed safe (red heart emoji),” Preity added. On Saturday, the IPL was suspended because of the military confrontation, which was triggered by the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack in which 26 people were gunned down. The BCCI stated that national interest trumps other considerations at a time when the country is responding to a terror attack and unwarranted aggression from across the border.

Suits LA cancelled: Why NBC pulled the plug on latest spinoff after just one season



NBC has axed the upcoming seasons of Suits LA, the spinoff of the popular legal drama Suits that made Meghan Markle a household name. Suits premiered on a local American network in 2011 and, a decade later, found crazy popularity again on Netflix last year, racking up 57 billion minutes of streaming time. This success led the makers to jump on the opportunity to double the cash, but unfortunately, they just couldn’t recreate that same magic with the spinoff. The show ended up receiving negative reviews, despite some of the original Suits cast members reprising their roles. Here’s what went wrong. The television series created by Aaron Korsh premiered in February 2025. Gabriel Macht, Rick Hoffman, and David Costabile, the original cast members of Suits, returned for a few episodes as fan-favourite characters Harvey Specter, Louis Litt, and Daniel Hardman, alongside new cast members Stephen Amell, Lex Scott Davis, Josh McDermitt, and Bryan Greenberg.

Ace trailer: Vijay Sethupathi plays a man with a plan in this crime comedy

The 181-second promo also promises a gripping ride, packed with all the ingredients of a complete entertainer.

How did Kannan (Vijay Sethupathi) get the nickname “Bold”? He has a backstory for it; actually, several. The story keeps changing depending on whom he’s telling it to and what his motive for connecting with them is. To a woman (Divya Pillai) he has just met in Malaysia, he claims he earned the sobriquet because of his boldness in speaking out against injustice. To Yogi Babu’s character, he insists the nickname is actually “Bolt” and explains it comes from his habit of stealing bolts from vehicles. Meanwhile, to Rukmini Vasanth’s character, whom he’s romantically interested in, he describes himself as the electric bolt that strikes between thunder and lightning. Soon, it is revealed that he has arrived in Malaysia with a particular motive and that he is a ‘man with a plan’. The remainder of the trailer of director Arumugakumar’s Ace offers more glimpses into the vast world Kannan has entered, and it’s ruled by powerful crime syndicates that are ready to do anything for their gain. The 181-second promo also

promises a gripping ride, packed with all the ingredients of a complete entertainer. Also starring Babloo Prithveeraj, BS Avinash, Muthu Kumar, Raj Kumar, Denes Kumar, Alvin Martin, Priscilla Nair, Jasper Supayah, Kaarthick Jay, Nagulan and Zahranis, the movie is bankrolled and penned by director Arumugakumar himself. Ace boasts cinematography by Karan B Rawat, music by Justin Prabhakaran, an original background score by Sam CS, editing by Fenny Oliver and art direction by AK Muthu. The movie will hit the screens on May 23. Following an impressive 2024 – during which he appeared in critically acclaimed movies such as Merry Christmas and Viduthalai Part 2, and the commercial blockbuster Maharaja – Ace marks Vijay Sethupathi’s first movie of 2025. He also has Mysskin’s Train awaiting release. Known for her performances in Sapta Saagaradaache Ello – Side A and Sapta Saagaradaache Ello – Side B, Ace is Kannada actor Rukmini Vasanth’s first Tamil movie. Last seen in the Telugu movie Appudo Ippudo Eppudo, Rukmini also has AR Murugadoss’ Madharasi in the pipeline, wherein she has shared the screen with Sivakarthikeyan.



Neil Nitin Mukesh reveals that the film industry can get very ‘toxic’: ‘Everyone is certainly frustrated’

Actor Neil Nitin Mukesh is currently gearing up for the release of his debut web series, Hai Junoon. While the show marks his entry into the digital space, Neil has been part of several noteworthy films. However, he has also experienced a side of the industry that many hesitate to talk about. In an exclusive interview with SCREEN, Neil opened up about his journey in cinema, navigating career setbacks, and shed light on the often-overlooked beauty standards that men face in showbiz. Revisiting the time people said ‘he is over’, Neil



shared, “At the beginning of my career, someone had told me to never wish to take a break, because then a time will come where you will keep hunting for work. I got so scared with that statement. My first film, Johnny Gaddar, got stuck. Sometimes you don’t realize that your break is self-doubt, which you have not put in yourself; others have put it in you. People say things like you won’t be able to do this. It is the one thing you will constantly keep hearing, and I have heard it so many times. Any time there is a lull, people will say he is over. But who are they to decide? I am still here, still working, trying to feed my family.” Pointing out the double standards of the industry, Neil Nitin Mukesh recalled the time when a film critic made a mean comment about him, and the industry backed him. He said, “Once very long ago on Twitter, one of my films was coming, and a very reputed critic then wrote in his opening sentence that he wondered how someone was paying Neil Nitin Mukesh even now for a job. I responded to him that I didn’t need his validation to work hard, prove myself, and provide for my family. My entire industry stood by me back then. But that day I lost it with those self-proclaimed critics and understood that the voice everyone has gotten with social media has changed.” Stating what has kept him going all these years, the actor added, “Here we celebrate when a film doesn’t work on a Friday. You are happier for someone’s failure than for someone’s success. When you are around that atmosphere, the only way forward is to have that passion and self-belief. I believe we should keep trying, even if it doesn’t work out. Then there won’t be any regrets.” While Neil Nitin Mukesh has faced his share of criticism in Bollywood, he admits that the journey has, at times, become toxic. He shared that it still continues, and said: “It does happen, and it happens to a point where it gets toxic. I have seen that a lot, and I still see that a lot. I don’t like that conversation.

White Lotus star Walton Goggins flaunts his newfound sex symbol status on SNL, jokes about his receding hairline

After praising a skit, mocking his White Lotus co-star Aimee Lou Wood, Walton Goggins made his own debut on Saturday Night Live on May 10 and didn’t shy away from flaunting his new sex symbol status that he gained after White Lotus Season 3. The 53-year-old danced his way to the stage, joined by his mother for a special tribute to Mother’s Day weekend, and surprised the

audience with an unexpected tap dance move. Later in the show, Goggins’ co-star from the HBO series, Sam Rockwell, also joined him for a pre-recorded hilarious sketch talking about tiny feet. Surprisingly, he didn’t mention Aimee once.. Walton Goggins played the role of Rick Hatchett in The White Lotus alongside Aimee Lou Wood’s Chelsea. During his SNL monologue, Goggins



joked about the unexpected attention he’s been getting from fans and the media, especially after his character’s brooding

persona in the show. “I die in The White Lotus, but I guess my character is so brooding that the internet found it... attractive,” he said with a laugh. “Some of my friends even ask me, ‘Walton, what’s it like becoming a sex symbol at 53?’ Honestly, it feels fantastic!” However, seconds after flaunting his appeal, he cracked another joke, this one on himself, bringing up some of the headlines that had been

written about him. One from Cosmopolitan read, “Are We All Horny for Walton Goggins’s Receding Hairline?” To this, Goggins jokingly replied, “I’ve had the same hairline since I was seven. It’s not receding, it’s holding its ground.” He read another headline, “Hollywood’s Newest Heartthrob Is a Greasy, Depressing Little Man Whom No One Saw Coming.”

Barcelona and Real Madrid set for high-stakes El Clásico showdown

New Delhi (Agency): FC Barcelona will face arch-rivals Real Madrid in the fourth El Clásico of the season in a pivotal La Liga clash at the Lluís Companys Olympic Stadium in Barcelona on Sunday evening. The match is scheduled to kick off at 7:45 PM IST. Following a heart-wrenching 6-7 loss to Inter Milan in the UEFA Champions League semi-finals, Barcelona, under coach Hansi Flick, will be eager to rebound and strengthen their grip on the La Liga title. Currently, Barcelona top the points table



with 75 points from 34 matches, while Real Madrid sits second with 71 points from the same number of

victory for Carlo Ancelotti's side would narrow the gap to a single point, keeping the title race incredibly tight.

Reports from Madrid suggest that this will be Carlo Ancelotti's final El Clásico as Real Madrid manager. The

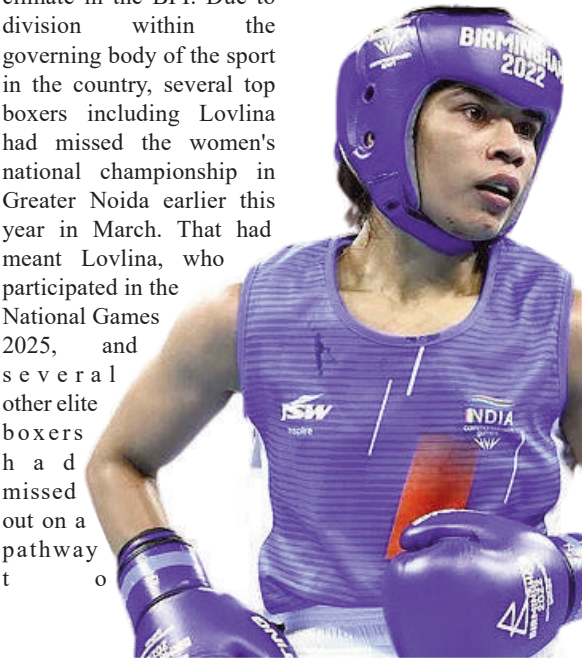
La Liga giants are set to replace him with Bayer Leverkusen manager Xabi Alonso, while Ancelotti is expected to take over as the manager of the Brazil national football team. This season, Barcelona has already gotten the better of Real Madrid in two major finals, clinching both the Copa del Rey and the Spanish Super Cup. In their most recent La Liga encounter, Barcelona delivered a resounding 4-0 victory over their rivals, further adding to the intensity and anticipation surrounding this latest El Clásico.

Nikhat may headline key meet in Hyderabad next month

CHENNAI (Agency): Though there have been a few noteworthy events — domestic and international — here and there, the sport of boxing in the country has largely been subdued so far this season. With some key competitions including the World Championships on the horizon, that could change. Even star boxer Nikhat Zareen could possibly return to competitive action soon. The World Boxing-led Interim Committee is looking to organise the Elite Women Boxing Tournament in Hyderabad next month. The committee has requested the Telangana Boxing Federation (TBF) to conduct the tournament. If things go as per committee's proposal, the event could witness some elite boxers fighting for a spot in the national camp. "The tournament will feature participation from the Top 12 ranked State/Board teams of 8th Elite Women Nationals, 1 SAINCOE Combined Team, and the Host team, making it a highly competitive and significant tournament in the national boxing calendar. This tournament serves as a separate pathway to provide opportunities for boxers to enter in national coaching camp," the Interim Committee, in a letter addressed to TBF, said. However, the event comes with an asterisk. Given the ongoing cloud surrounding the sport due to delay in

conduct of elections and subsequent recognition issue with the sports ministry, it remains to be seen if the event will go smoothly as per plan. The TBF has to respond within mid-June. As per the letter, the event is scheduled to be conducted from June 23 to June 27. If things fall in place, this upcoming event is quite significant ahead of some key international events, including the World Championships that is scheduled to be held in England in September. Going by the selection policy in place, even Lovlina Borgohain could take part in the Telangana meet. However, that is far from certain due to the current climate in the BFI. Due to division within the governing body of the sport in the country, several top boxers including Lovlina had missed the women's national championship in Greater Noida earlier this year in March. That had meant Lovlina, who participated in the National Games 2025, and several other elite boxers had missed out on a pathway to

representing India in international events. The boxers, who finished in the top-four at Greater Noida, are currently part of the national camp in Patiala. According to the BFI Selection Policy 2025-26, the national championship is the main pathway for the boxers aspiring to be part of the national camp. Having missed that boat, now it's a chance for Lovlina and other boxers to earn that spot as the gold and the silver medallist from the Telangana meet will be given the right to join the already-selected bunch in the national camp. Preeti Pawar, who was part of the Paris Games, is another name that could feature.



AFI approval must for competing or training abroad

CHENNAI (Agency): The Athletics Federation of India (AFI) has come out with an interesting circular for all its athletes, days after an Indian athlete was caught with a banned substance in Kenya. The AFI has restricted all athletes' participation in international competitions and even training. The AFI has said that athletes must seek written permission before going abroad for training and competition. The circular, signed by secretary general Sandeep Mehta, outlined AFI's objective saying: "The purpose of this policy is to establish a structured and transparent process for Indian athletes intending to compete in standard international events," it said. "It seeks to ensure that athletes' representation is appropriate and aligns with India's athletics calendar, events meet quality and safety standards, no scheduling conflicts with national commitments or trials. It also aims to encourage participation in AFI competitions." This order comes into effect immediately. According to the Anti-Doping Agency of Kenya, in a joint operation with Directorate of Criminal Investigation, they nabbed an Indian national who had with him "an illegal consignment of assorted performance enhancing substances" at a high altitude training centre in Iten, Elgeyo Marakwet County.

Bayern Munich celebrates Bundesliga title with last home win for Thomas Müller

BERLIN (Agency): Thomas Müller led Bayern Munich's title celebrations in style on Saturday as the German champions secured a 2-0 win over Borussia Mönchengladbach in what was his last home game for the club. After the final whistle, Bayern captain Manuel Neuer handed the Bundesliga trophy to Müller, who lifted it amid cheers and confetti at the Allianz Arena. There were emotional scenes as Harry Kane, celebrating his first career trophy, held onto the trophy while beer showers began, initiated by Neuer dousing Müller. Kane was soon soaked as well, joining in the jubilation after a long wait for silverware. Bayern clinched their record-extending 34th German championship title last weekend. Michael Olise scored once and assisted

Kane's league-leading 25th goal of the season to secure the win and kick off the celebrations. Elsewhere in the league, relegation battles came to a head with Bochum and Holstein Kiel both

crucial 3-0 win at Union Berlin. Heidenheim, now on 29 points, secured at least a relegation playoff spot with one matchday left in the season. The defeat marked Bochum's seventh relegation



confirmed to drop from the Bundesliga. Bochum lost 4-1 at home to Mainz, while Kiel suffered a 2-1 defeat against Freiburg. These losses left Bochum bottom of the table with 22 points and Kiel in 17th place with 25 points, both now unable to overtake Heidenheim, who claimed a

from the top tier. Promoted in 2021 after an 11-year absence, the club managed just one win in their last 11 games, including a surprise 3-2 victory over Bayern in March. Club captain Maximilian Witte described the emotional toll, saying, "I've been relegated before, it's anything but nice.

BCCI holds meeting on May 11 to discuss IPL resumption after India-Pakistan ceasefire



NEW DELHI (Agency): India cricket board officials were reported to be meeting Sunday to discuss a quick resumption of the IPL, following India and Pakistan agreeing a ceasefire in their deadly border conflict. The Board was forced to suspend the Indian Premier League (IPL) on Friday, with 16 matches remaining, as the India-Pakistan border

complete the tournament," It was being speculated that the League could be moved to Southern Indian cities Chennai, Bengaluru and Hyderabad but Shukla said such an option was perhaps relevant in the scenario of a continued military conflict. "That was an option when war was going on. There are many options which have been discussed. The ceasefire has just been announced, give some time to us, we will discuss and then only a decision will be taken," Shukla said. A total of 12 League stage matches and four play-off stage matches are yet to be played in the tournament. Most of the foreign recruits, who compete in the League for different teams, have already left the country. Thursday's match between Punjab Kings and Delhi Capitals in Dharamsala was abandoned midway due to the conflict. With the Dharamsala airport shut, players and support staff of both teams travelled by bus to Jalandhar and then boarded a train to Delhi.

Redemption for archer Madhura as she wins three medals in a day



CHENNAI (Agency): Things didn't go Madhura Dhamangaonkar's way in recent Archery World Cups. The unsatisfactory outings pushed her to the verge of quitting the sport. Cut to May 2025, the compound archer has a gold medal around her neck after winning the final of the Women's compound event against Carson Krahe of the United States at the Archery World Cup Stage 2 in Shanghai on Friday. The final was a nail-biting affair. From starting with a 30 with two Xs in the first end to trailing 81-85 at the third end, Madhura bounced back, scoring two Xs and a nine. Kruhe faltered by one point as the final scoreboard read 139-138 with Madhura securing her moment of glory. That she almost called it quits after forgettable performances in the last two World Cups only makes this victory special. On the same day, she won bronze in the compound mixed event with Abhishek Verma and silver in the compound women's team with Jyothi Surekha Vennam and Chikitha Taniparthi. Her coach Pravin Sawant felt that it was her 'gold wala mind' that propelled her to victory. "Since she's been with me, she's always had it in her mind; to win gold for the nation," he told this daily. Madhura is someone who can grasp quickly from her tutors. "That is her biggest strength. She does what she thinks of. She does what she sets her mind on," he added. Sawant credited the turnaround to the change in compound equipment. "She has the body structure that belongs to this category. She was already an Indian player and we only helped her with pacing and her equipment. I put her with the 'PSE company' (American archery supply company) That was my decision, which was important. She trusted me with it," he explained. In addition, Sawant felt that invoking the state's icons like Chatrapathi Shivaji had motivated the 24-year-old. "People in Maharashtra look up to him and his spirit. I used to use that to motivate her," he recounted.

Bob Cowper, first to score triple century on Australian soil, Passes Away at 84

MELBOURNE (Agency): Bob Cowper, who scored test cricket's first triple century on Australian soil, has died at the age of 84 due to an undisclosed illness, Cricket Australia said Sunday. Cowper played 27 test matches for Australia between 1964 and 1968, with a record of 2,061 runs at an average of 46.84, including five centuries, while also taking 36 wickets with his part-time off-spin. The left-hander was renowned for both his stroke-play and steadiness, particularly during his most famous innings, a 12-hour, 589-ball 307 against England at the Melbourne Cricket Ground in February 1966. The innings was the only test triple century made in Australia in the 20th century, and just the 10th ever scored at that time. It came after he was recalled on his home ground, having been the 12th man in the previous test in Adelaide. Cowper was a force on home soil, and his batting average of 75.78 runs in Australia remains the second-highest of all time behind only Donald Bradman. He retired in 1968 and became a stockbroker and later became an ICC match referee. In 2023, he was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia in recognition for his service to cricket. "We are deeply saddened to hear of the passing of Bob Cowper, who was a hugely respected figure in Australian cricket. Bob was a wonderful batter who will always be remembered for his famous triple century at the MCG, as well as his strong influence in the Australian and Victorian (state) teams of the 1960s," Cricket Australia chairman Mike Baird said. Cricket Australia said Cowper was survived by his wife Dale and daughters Olivia and Sera.



‘If I was India..’: Michael Vaughan bats for Virat Kohli to be IND Test captain for England series



New Delhi (Agency): Former England player Michael Vaughan on Sunday advocated for Virat Kohli to be the captain for India for the upcoming Test series against England. He also added that Shubman Gill could be the vice captain for this tour. With Rohit Sharma retiring from Tests earlier in the week, India need a new skipper for the upcoming tour. "If I was India I would give the captaincy to Virat for the Test series in England.. Shubman Gill can be his VC for the tour," Vaughan posted on X. Virat Kohli has told the Indian cricket board (BCCI) that he wishes to retire from Test cricket, but top officials have asked him to reconsider the decision. "He has made up his mind and has informed the board that he is moving on from

Test cricket. The BCCI has urged him to rethink as the crucial England tour is coming up. He is yet to revert on the request," sources told this newspaper. Kohli's decision comes on the back of Rohit Sharma's Test retirement a couple of days ago. India's selectors are set to meet in a few days to pick the team for the five-Test series in England next month. It was learnt that Kohli has been contemplating his Test future since the Border Gavaskar Trophy in Australia earlier this year when he went through a lean run after scoring a century in the first Test. Also, this newspaper reported on May 7 that Gill is the front-runner to captain the men's Test team after incumbent Rohit announced his retirement.

IPL restart: Final to be pushed back, players asked to reassemble

Mumbai (Agency): The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) is planning to extend its IPL till May 30 when the tournament resumes after the suspension. The BCCI is contemplating to host the remaining matches in the three venues — Chennai, Bengaluru and Hyderabad from May 16. The new schedule will be released to the IPL franchise by Sunday night even as few of them have expressed their concern about the availability of their overseas players who have all flown back home. "As the IPL was suspended for a week, there is a possibility of the IPL final now being played on May 30 instead of May 25 with limited venues. The schedule will be sent to all IPL teams by tonight," source in the BCCI informed. The BCCI has already asked all the teams, except Punjab Kings, to report to their respective venues by Tuesday so that it can resume the IPL by Friday. The BCCI also has informed the franchises to inform their foreign players about their travel plans. Most of the overseas players and support staff left for their home on Friday after the BCCI officially suspended the IPL. Now, the franchises are making arrangements to fly them back. With 12 matches remaining, the BCCI at least needs two weeks to



complete the remaining matches as the play-offs and the final at least need 6 days. And given they now have only two weeks to complete the tournament, more double headers are being planned. "All franchises have been told to inform its team to report to their respective destination by Tuesday," a source in the Indian board confirmed. IPL chairman Arun Dhimal had told this paper that they are looking at the possibility of starting the suspended IPL 'immediately' after India and Pakistan announced a ceasefire on Saturday. "Ceasefire has just been announced. We now explore the possibility of resuming and concluding the IPL. If it is possible to conduct it immediately... We need to work out the venue dates and everything, and we would now be speaking to all the stakeholders, including team owners, broadcasters, and everyone involved and find a way as to how to move forward.

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Congress sends notice to Digvijay Singh's brother, matter is related to Rahul-Robert during Pahalgam attack

Bhopal (Agency): Congress has issued a show cause notice to former MP and younger brother of senior party leader and former Madhya Pradesh CM Digvijay Singh, Laxman Singh. The matter is related to controversial and derogatory remarks against senior Congress leaders during the Pahalgam attack. This includes many people including Rahul Gandhi and Robert Vadra.

The party has said that former MP Laxman Singh is accused of making "derogatory remarks" targeting senior party leaders including Rahul Gandhi. The party has termed this remark as unacceptable. According to the party, the MP has crossed all limits. His remarks have caused "serious damage" to the "image and dignity" of the party. On April 25, Laxman Singh had

attacked the party leadership after the Pahalgam terror attack. During a condolence meeting organized to pay tribute to the Pahalgam victims, he had said, Rahul Gandhi and Robert Vadra are naive. The country is suffering the consequences of his immaturity. The party's Disciplinary Action Committee (DAC) member secretary Tariq Anwar had



issued a notice to Singh on May 9. It said that a complaint has been received from Madhya Pradesh Congress chief Jitu Patwari and All India Congress Committee (AICC) general secretary and Madhya Pradesh in-charge Harish Chaudhary regarding your repeated public statements. This has caused serious damage to the image and dignity of the Congress.

The notice said that a reply has been ordered within 10 days from the date of receipt of the notice. Former Lok Sabha member and former MLA Singh is currently in the Congress. He has previously been in the BJP. On April 25, he also targeted Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, saying that he may be "in cahoots with terrorists".

BRIEF NEWS

SC flags violations in Delhi's first private housing project on fragile Ridge land

Delhi (Agency): The Supreme Court has issued show cause notices to senior Delhi government officials, the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) commissioner, and a private developer, seeking explanations for alleged violations of its 1996 directive under the MC Mehta vs Union of India case and going ahead with construction of a housing society in the "morphological ridge" area, an ecologically sensitive zone, in Vasant Kunj.

The 1996 directive has held that ridge land must be safeguarded against encroachment and non-forest use without prior court approval.

A bench comprising Justice Surya Kant and Justice Nongmeikam Kotiswar Singh, in an order dated May 7, directed that notices be issued to Delhi Principal Secretary (Environment and Forests) Anil Kumar Singh, Deputy Conservator of Forests (West) Amit Gemawat and MCD Commissioner Ashwani Kumar.

Notices were also issued to Rakesh Sharma and Sunita Sharma, partners in RR Texknit LLP, which is building the housing project at Vasant Kunj's morphological ridge area. The action stems from a contempt petition filed by environmental activist Bhavreen Kandhari, who had challenged the permissions granted to the housing project being developed by RR Texknit LLP.

The development had sparked protests from environmentalists and local residents, who argued that it violated longstanding SC orders mandating preservation of the ridge in its "pristine glory".

The case pertains to the protection of Delhi's ridge, an important green area that acts as the city's lung and a key part of the Aravalli Range.

Though not entirely notified under the Indian Forest Act, 1927, the SC, in multiple orders, including the landmark 1996 directive, had held that ridge land must be safeguarded against encroachment and non-forest use without prior court approval. In 2016, the SC had held that even land outside the notified ridge area but with similar morphological features requires clearance from the Ridge Management Board and prior permission from the court for non-forest use.

The contempt petition alleged that the authorities were not only aware of these restrictions but actively facilitated the project. It cited failure to act on illegal tree felling, and contradictory status reports filed on part of the Forest Department. "Counter affidavit shall be filed by the respondents within a period of two weeks...", read Wednesday's order. In the order, however, the SC had deferred serving show cause notice to Mandeep Mittal and Vipul Pandey, both former deputy conservators of forests (West), and Gyanesh Bharti, former MCD commissioner, noting that they had since been transferred.

However, leaving open the possibility of issuing notices to them at a later stage, the SC said, "If need be, notice will be issued to them at an appropriate stage."

7 detained in Sambhal for murdering two men and disguising their deaths as accidents to get insurance money

Sambhal: Police in Sambhal detained seven people on Sunday for allegedly murdering two men and arranging deaths as accidents in order to collect insurance money, according to police. The group reportedly arranged the killings of Salim and Aman and framed them as road accidents to fraudulently claim their large insurance premiums. The arrested were named as Vedprakash, Kamal Singh, Nirदेश Kumar, Udaybhan Singh, Premshankar, Sunil Kumar, and Omprakash. ASP Anukriti Sharma stated that Salim was murdered on July 29, 2022, and Aman was slain on November 15, 2023. Both incidents were identified as deaths caused by traffic accidents, prompting authorities to immediately shut files. Later, investigators discovered that, previous to their deaths, Salim had obtained insurance policies totaling Rs 88 lakh, while Aman was insured for a stunning Rs 2.70 crore, according to an officer.

The group painstakingly planned and executed two killings, presenting them as accidents. In February, a guy called Shahrukh was arrested, which marked a breakthrough. A cell phone conversation involving Kamal Singh prompted a further investigation, which implicated him in Aman's unexplained death in November 2023. Sharma stated that a case of unexplained fatality as a result of an accident had been recorded at the time.

The investigation found that Aman's maternal uncle, Vedprakash, and his accomplices reportedly murdered him after obtaining insurance policies worth Rs 2.70 crore from various policies in the deceased's name, according to the officer. Vedprakash was the complainant in the accident case, and the ASP stated that about Rs 20 lakh had already been put into an account from the insurance reimbursement.

Even across the border: Rajnath's no-holds-barred warning to Pak, saying Indian Army's valour echoed in Rawalpindi

Lucknow: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh praised Operation Sindoor as he virtually inaugurated the BrahMos supersonic cruise missile manufacturing facility in Lucknow's Uttar Pradesh Defence Industrial Corridor. A day after India and Pakistan established a truce; the Defence Minister stated that the Indian Army has brought to justice the anti-India and terrorist groups that assaulted the forehead of Mother India, wiping off the sindoor of countless families, via 'Operation Sindoor.' The entire nation is praising the Indian armed forces today for this, according to Rajnath Singh, who said that Operation Sindoor is more than just a military action; it is also a symbol of India's political, social, and strategic commitment.

This action displays India's steadfast will to combat terrorism, as well as the competence and resolve of its military forces. We have demonstrated that anytime India takes action against terrorism, neither the terrorists nor their masters can find refuge over the border.

This 300 crore plant would generate 80 to 100 BrahMos

3 youth held for raping minor & murdering another woman by pushing her out of moving car in UP

Bulandshahar: A 19-year-old woman died after being shoved out of a moving automobile, and her juvenile acquaintance was gang-raped inside the vehicle, authorities said Sunday. Three persons have been arrested in this case. Police received a complaint from a 17-year-old rape survivor who stated that the event occurred on Tuesday evening when she and her buddy were out for a drive with their pals Sandeep and Amit. Another guy, Gaurav (Amit's friend), had joined them on the journey. They were traveling from Noida to Lucknow. The survivor informed authorities that they were inebriated after purchasing alcohol in the Surajpur neighborhood on their way. An altercation broke out inside the car, and the three guys forced her buddy out near Meerut. Police stated the offenders gang-raped a youngster inside a moving automobile. Dr. Tejveer Singh, Additional Superintendent of Police (Rural), revealed that a lady who was shoved by the accused in Meerut died as a result of her injuries. When they arrived in Bulandshahr on Wednesday morning, the little victim was able to leave the car and report the incident to Khurja police. Based on the complaint, the police filed a FIR and began an investigation. Police apprehended three suspects on Saturday night after an encounter. Sandeep and Gaurav were injured during the police encounter. The officer stated that we have recovered illegal guns, ammo, and the vehicle utilized in the crime. Senior Superintendent of Police (SP) Dinesh Kumar Singh stated on Sunday that the inquiry will be completed and that all efforts will be made to ensure that the culprits receive the worst penalty possible in court.

Dockets overflowing, unable to decide appeals in time, functioning at 60% of sanctioned strength: Delhi HC

THE PENDING LIST				
Category of cases	Pendency As On 01.03.25	Pendency as on 31.03.2025	Cases instituted in the month	Cases disposed during the month
Civil writ petitions	33,323	33,648	1,512	1,187*
Civil cases, other than tax (appellate side)	30,131	30,109	935	957**
Tax appeals & references	2,410	2,379	47	78**
Original side cases	17,449	17,512	732	669*
Criminal side cases	33,166	33,577	1,760	1,349*
Company side cases	781	775	2	8**
TOTAL	1,17,260	1,18,000	4,988	4,248*
Overall pendency *Increased during the month; more cases instituted than could be disposed of **Decreased				

Delhi (Agency): As the Delhi High Court functions at 60% of its sanctioned strength, the court in an order on April 25, flagged "overflowing dockets" and admitted that it is "unable to decide" appeals "within reasonable period of time". "On account of acute shortage of judges as compared to the general population and the litigation quantum, for a long time, the list of regular matters does not reach till the end of the day of hearing. Rather, many a time even beyond 5 pm when the courts rise for the day, some of the matters remain unheard, which is extremely painful for the judge," Justice Girish Kathpalia recorded in the order. According to the India Justice Report 2025 by Tata Trusts, which analyses the criminal justice system, Delhi has less than one HC judge for each 10 lakh of people. Notably, the report said that Delhi performed the best in the judge-to-people population with 36 subordinate court judges per 10 lakh population and less than one (0.6) HC judge per 10 lakh population. The HC in Delhi currently has 36 sitting judges against a sanctioned strength of 60 judges. As per HC's monthly reports – the latest came out in March – new cases instituted in March exceeded the cases disposed of during the month, the maximum increase being seen in criminal cases followed by civil writ petitions. On the criminal side, several judges

have nearly 80-100 matters listed each day as fresh cases and in advance. Justice Kathpalia was dealing with a petition filed by Mukesh Gupta alias Mukesh Kumar Gupta, an accused in a CBI case, who was seeking permission to travel abroad from May 1 to 11 to attend a club assembly of Rotary Club at Almaty in Kazakhstan and Georgia, to maintain social ties and help his business grow. The CBI had, however, opposed the plea, telling the court that if allowed to leave the country, Gupta "would not return to face sentence, which has been suspended by the predecessor bench while admitting this appeal". It was highlighted that Gupta had earlier been denied permission to travel for leisure trips although the court had granted permission to travel for business. The court, while recording that "right to even leisure trips to certain extent ought not be declined," recorded that "on account of overflowing dockets, this court is unable to decide the appeals within reasonable period of time". It noted that Gupta's appeal, filed in 2019, was to be heard as a regular matter. Regular matters for the day are old matters, usually taken up by most courts at Delhi HC after dealing with the fresh matters first, as well as the advance list, which includes matters that have earlier been taken up when it was filed afresh and was thereafter listed on the 'advance list'. Most judges at Delhi HC follow the practice of aiming to complete the new cases listed as well as the advance list first. Additionally, the 36 sitting judges have special benches scheduled in a week to hear time-fixed matters, which may be of some urgency. Some judges, like Justice Amit Mahajan, have made it a practice since January 27 that matters listed in "regulars" category "will be taken up at the end of the

Gross negligence, dog tore away the flesh of a dead person in a government hospital, commotion



Bhopal (Agency): A news that shames humanity has come to light in a government hospital in Narmadapuram, Madhya Pradesh. Due to the negligence of the hospital administration, a dog tore away the body of a patient. Not only this, the dog also escaped after tearing off a piece of the person's body. As soon as the incident was reported, the officials have ordered an investigation. The person had arrived in a dead state and his body was kept in the government hospital of Narmadapuram. Giving information, the officer said that this incident took place in the district hospital on Friday night. Hospital Civil Surgeon Sudhir Vijayvargiya said that the body of Nikhil Chaurasia (21), who died in an accident near Palanpur, was kept for post-mortem. He said that an investigation will be conducted in this matter, a show cause notice will be issued to the security guard and assured that steps will be taken to improve the security system in the hospital. The deceased's cousin, Ankit Gohil, said that he had gone out to drink water and when he returned, he saw a dog running away with a piece of flesh from the body. He accused the hospital management of negligence and said that a complaint has been lodged in this matter.