

# PEOPLE'S MAIL



**Cong leaders paid tribute to martyred soldiers and innocent citizens in terrorist attack in...**



**Ample petrol, diesel, LPG stocks available across the county, avoid panic buying of fuel, say India's oil...**

**Mani Ratnam was not born wise, says Kamal Haasan: 'He is young just like me but the...**

## We have not hit Pakistan nuclear facility at Kirana Hills: Air Marshal AK Bharti

New Delhi (Agency): Amid speculation that Pakistan's nuclear facility at Kirana Hills, northwest of Islamabad, was damaged during the skirmish with India, a senior Indian Air Force officer said today, "We have not hit it." Director-General Air Operations of the Indian Air Force, Air Marshal AK Bharti, addressing a press conference on Monday, clarified, "We have not hit Kirana Hills and whatever is there."

The IAF officer, leading the air operations against Pakistan,

also said, "We are not aware of any nuclear facility at that location." At the media briefing, the IAF officer was accompanied by Director General of Military Operations (DGMO) Lt Gen Rajiv Ghai and Director General Naval Operations Vice Admiral AN Pramod.

The Air Marshal described Operation Sindoor and the ongoing pause in hostilities between India and Pakistan, saying that despite some minor damage incurred, "all our military bases and systems continue

to remain fully operational and ready to undertake any further missions, should the need arise."

The IAF officer explained, "We carried out operations to destroy terrorist infrastructure in PoK as well as in Pakistan itself on May 7.

Our fight was with terrorists and their support infrastructure. However, it is a pity that the Pakistan military chose to intervene and support the terrorists, which compelled us to respond in kind."

## Without fear there's no love: Air Marshal quotes Ramcharitmanas on Operation Sindoor

New Delhi (Agency): At a serious military briefing, one doesn't expect high literature and text from epics to be quoted by a battle-hardened air warrior to drive home a point. Director General of Air Operations, IAF, Air Marshal AK Bharti, though stunned and captivated a large gathering of generally cynical journalists by quoting a couplet from Ramcharitmanas to expound on Lord Ram's patience and anger at the Sea God.

Without reading from any paper, the Air Marshal fluently recited the couplet— "Vinay Na Manat Jaldhi Jad, Bhaye Teen Din Beet, Bole Ram Sakop Tab, Bhai Bin Hoi Na Preet".

Translated in English, the couplet reads, "The ocean remained unmoved by humble requests, three days passed. Then Lord Rama, with rising anger, declared without fear, there can be no love."

This couplet refers to the time when Lord Rama waiting for the Sea God to grant him the passage to Lanka loses patience after three days and becomes angry. He declares that love does not exist without fear and lifts his bow. Only then does the

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Sea God appear and helps Lord Ram.

"What message is being given... So, a hint is enough for an intelligent person," Bharti said, as the room broke into applause. The display of literary prowess was triggered by a reporter's question whether there was any symbolism or messaging in using the Sanskrit hymn dedicated to Lord Shiva in the briefing on Sunday and a famed poetry of 'Rashtrakavi' Ramdhari Singh Dinkar on epic Mahabharata on Monday.

Before the briefing started, the military played on a big screen, a key verse from 'Krishna ki Chetavani', part of Dinkar's timeless classic 'Rashmirathi' in a rock music style rendition, juxtaposed with the images of the Indian military assets — missiles, naval platforms, weapon system, air defence system — with subtitles. "Jab nash manuj pe chhata

hai, pehle vivek mar jata hai....Hit-vachan tune nahin maana, maitri ka mulya nahin pehchana,.... Antim sankalp sunaata hun. Yachana nahin ab rann hoga,



jeevan jai ya ki maran hoga," the lyrics played out with subtitles carrying words — 'Prepared', 'Each move detected', 'Every step watched', 'Tracked', 'Monitored'.

In English, it roughly translates as — "When doom hovers over a man, the first thing that vanishes is wisdom...you did not heed wise words, did not

recognise value of friendship...announcing last resolve. There will be war and not pleading, glory to life or death it will be."

Before the briefing by the military on Sunday, Shiva Tandava Stotram was played on the big screen, setting the tone for the press conference.

A montage of images showing damage inflicted by the Indian military under Operation Sindoor played with subtitles such as — 'heed our advice', 'terrorism will have a cost for Pakistan', 'heavy', 'inevitable', 'unaffordable'.

During Monday's briefing, sounds of a powerful rendition of 'Krishna ki Chetavani' poem echoed through the hall — a metaphor-laden message delivered to Pakistan by the Indian military with a poetic precision.

A collage of images of wreckage of Pakistani drones destroyed by the Indian armed forces under Operation Sindoor and a montage of videos showcasing India's military's prowess in all three domains — land, air and sea — played on a large

screen along with music.

The message was loud and clear — India's zero-tolerance for terrorism and its resolute stand to protect the nation's sovereignty and integrity and ensure safety of its citizens.

Director General Military Operations (DGMO), Lt Gen Rajiv Ghai, and Director General of Naval Operations, Vice Admiral AN Pramod, also briefed the media on Operation Sindoor that was launched early May 7 to destroy nine terror infrastructures in Pakistan and Pakistan Occupied Kashmir (PoK) in retaliation to the Pahalgam terror attack. The top IAF officer pointed to footage of wreckage of Turkish drones and other aerial assets destroyed by the Indian armed forces and the robust air defence posture maintained by the forces.

"Our counter-UAS, our trained air defence operators are fully capable and our indigenous capabilities have demonstrated that whichever technology may come, we are prepared to counter. And I don't need to say much, you have seen with your very eyes, what eventually they have met with," he said.

## DGMO-level talks: India, Pakistan agree to continue commitment to 'not firing a single shot'

New Delhi (Agency): The Director Generals of Military Operations (DGMO) of India and Pakistan held a discussion today on maintaining the ceasefire commitment, focusing on 'not firing a single shot' and refraining from aggressive actions. According to the Indian Army, Lt Gen Rajiv Ghai and Maj Gen Kashif Abdullah spoke via hotline at 5 pm today. During the discussion, both sides agreed to consider immediate measures to reduce troop presence along the borders and forward areas. This development comes after a four-



day skirmish between the two nuclear-armed nations from May 7 to 10, triggered by India's strike on terror camps in Pakistan in retaliation to the killing of 26 innocent people in Pahalgam.

This meeting marks the second discussion between the DGMOs within 48 hours. Previously, the Pakistani DGMO had contacted the Indian DGMO via hotline at 3.35 pm on May 10, proposing a ceasefire. Although the two DGMOs were initially scheduled to speak at 12 noon, the meeting was rescheduled to a later time.

## India rebuffs Trump's claim of trade leverage in nuclear war prevention

New Delhi (Agency): India and the US are currently entangled in a diplomatic knot that may take some time to untangle. US President Donald Trump claimed to have stopped a po-



tential nuclear war between India and Pakistan by leveraging trade. However, India has rebutted this claim, with sources stating that none of the discussions between the US and Indian administrations mentioned trade.

After Operation Sindoor commenced, there were four calls from the US to the Indian administration. Vice President JD Vance spoke to Prime Minister Narendra Modi on May 9, while US Secretary of State Marco Rubio spoke to the External Affairs Minister twice, on May 8 and May 10. Rubio, who is also the National Security Advisor, called his counterpart Ajit Doval on May 10. According to sources, trade was not referenced in any of these discussions.

In a press briefing at the White House, Trump claimed to have told India and Pakistan, "Let's stop it. If you stop it, we're doing trade. If you don't stop it, we're not going to do any trade."

## Drones spotted in Samba, Jalandhar, Kapurthala shortly after PM's address; blackout in Punjab's 2 border districts

Chandigarh (Agency): Tensions along the India-Pakistan border have escalated with reports of drones spotted in Samba, Jammu, near the border, and in Jalandhar. As per information, the air defence system has successfully shot down these drones. "A small numbers of suspected drones observed near Samba in Jammu and Kashmir. Being engaged. There is no need to be alarmed," said the Army. One drone was reportedly neutralised by the Army near Punjab's Kapurthala New Cantt, officials said.

Meanwhile, as a precautionary measure, the district administration of Punjab's Hoshiarpur and Amritsar has issued an alert to residents and declared a blackout. Electricity has also been switched off in some areas

of Jalandhar, officials said. "As a precautionary measure, lights have been switched off in some areas around Suranassi as there



have been reports of drone sightings. We are verifying them. There is no (total) blackout as of now. There is nothing to worry, as confirmed by armed forces officers. They are on regular vigil as always,"

Amritsar, which lies along the border. "We are alert. We are enforcing a blackout," Amritsar Deputy Commissioner Sakshi Sawhney said in a message and urged people to stay away from windows.

The Amritsar administration has urged citizens to remain calm. "We will notify you when the electricity supply is ready to be restored. Do not panic." In Hoshiarpur district, blackout measures were enforced in Dasuya and Mukerian. A semblance of normalcy was observed in the border areas of Punjab on Monday, with markets teeming with people even though schools in some districts remained shut as a precautionary measure following the suspension of hostilities between India and Pakistan. New Delhi and Islamabad reached an understanding on May 10 to halt military actions after four days of intense cross-border drone and missile strikes. This comes following the PM Modi's address on Operation Sindoor.

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

Mumbai (Agency): Maharashtra Cyber has identified seven Advanced Persistent Threat (APT) groups responsible for launching over 15 lakh cyber attacks targeting critical infrastructure websites across India following the Pahalgam terror strike. Of these, only 150 attacks were successful, officials said on Monday.

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

Addressing reporters, a senior official of Maharashtra Cyber debunked claims of hackers stealing data from the

Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport in Mumbai, hacking aviation and municipal systems, and targeting the Election Commission website.

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

In a report titled 'Road of Sindoor', prepared under the military operation launched by the Indian armed forces under the same name against terrorists, the state's nodal cyber agency has detailed the cyber warfare launched by Pakistan-allied hacking groups.

# Operation Sindoor: Talks with Pakistan can only happen on terror and return of PoK, says PM Modi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday said India has avenged the barbaric faith-based killings in Pahalgam and every terrorist trained by Pakistan now knows the consequences of wiping off sindoor from the foreheads of our mothers and sisters.

Speaking for the first time since the launch of 'Operation Sindoor' in the aftermath of the killing of 26 tourists in the April 22 Pahalgam terrorist attack, the Prime Minister made it clear that the only agendas remaining to be discussed with Pakistan are the return of PoK and the end of terrorism.

In a televised address to the nation, the Prime Minister said while Pakistan was attempting to attack the Indian borders, India attacked "its heart."

Modi saluted the Indian Armed Forces, BSF and paramilitary and delivered a strong message to the world saying, "Our stated position has been that if a dialogue will happen with Pakistan it will only happen on terrorism and PoK."

Describing the Pahalgam attack as dastardly and barbaric, the Prime Minister said Operation Sindoor was now India's

new normal in dealing with terrorism.

"Operation Sindoor has drawn a new line in the national response to terror, and framed a new normal. The first is if a terror attack is perpetrated on India, we will give a befitting answer in our own way on our own conditions. We will strike at the roots of terrorism wherever these are. Two, no form of nuclear blackmail will be tolerated. We will attack terror hubs patronised in the name of nuclear arms. Three, we will not differentiate between a government that patronises terror and organisations that perpetrate and train terrorists," said Prime Minister Modi. He said during Operation Sindoor, the world has seen the sordid truth of Pakistan when top Pakistan Army officers attended the funeral of dreaded terrorists.

"This is massive evidence of state-sponsored terrorism. We will constantly keep taking decisive actions to safeguard our people. We have always defeated Pakistan in the battleground and this time Operation Sindoor has added a new dimension," the Prime Minister said, lauding the dominance of Indian

defences.

The Prime Minister also said that across deserts and mountains Indian Forces displayed their capacity and proved their superiority in new age warfare.

"Our made-in-India weapons efficacy was proved in this. The world is watching that in the 21st-century warfare, time has come for made-in-India war equipment to be used," said Modi.

He underlined that national unity was India's biggest strength in the face of terrorism and repeated his famous phrase—"This era is not the era of war."

Modi, however, added, "This era is also not an era of terrorism. Zero tolerance towards terrorism is a guarantee for a better world." In a message to Pakistan, he said Pakistan would have to dismantle terror infrastructure within for its own survival. "There is no other path to peace," Modi said, reiterating the broad framework for the Indian position on talks with Pakistan.

"The Indian position is absolutely clear—terror and talks cannot go together; terror and trade cannot go together; blood and water cannot flow to-



gether," Modi said, choosing to speak to the country on Buddha Purnima and noting that the path to peace goes through the path of strength.

"For Indians to live in peace and to realise the Viksit Bharat goal we have to be strong and we have to demonstrate that strength. That is what we have just done," he noted, adding that Indian soldiers have displayed exceptional bravery to achieve the objectives of Operation Sindoor.

The Prime Minister dedicated the courage of soldiers to mothers and sisters and said, "On April 22, the barbaric terror-

ists displayed in Pahalgam shocked India and the world. Innocent defenceless people on holidays were mercilessly killed in front of their families, their children on the basis of their faith. This was the most horrendous face of terrorism. It was also a horrible attempt to disturb communal harmony."

Modi said the trauma was too big for him personally and Operation Sindoor was his eternal pledge for justice.

Hailing the unity of the country, every segment, all political parties displayed in seeking this justice Modi said full operational freedom was given to Indian mili-

tary to raze terrorists to the ground and today every terrorist, every terrorist organisation has realised the consequences of wiping off sindoor from the foreheads of sisters and mothers. "Operation Sindoor is not just a name. It is an expression of collective national sentiments. Operation Sindoor is the immortal pledge of justice," the Prime Minister said.

On the events of Operation Sindoor, Modi said between May 6 and 7, the whole world watched this pledge transform into outcomes. "The Indian military carried out precision strikes on terror hubs, training centres. Terrorists had never in dreams imagined India could take such a big decision but when the nation unites valourous decisions are taken, results are delivered," he said.

The Prime Minister said when Indian missiles, drones attacked terror organisations in Pakistan, not just terror infra but the morale of terrorists was also shaken. "Terror hubs like Bahawalpur and Muridke have in a way been universities of global terrorism. The threads of all major terror attacks worldwide—the 9/11, London Tube bombing

and terror attacks in India—have somewhere been found linked to these hubs," he said, adding that terrorists wiped out sindoor of India's sisters and mothers which is why India razed terror hubs and HQs to the ground.

The Prime Minister said over 100 dreaded terrorists had been killed in precision strikes by the Indian military. "Many patrons of terror for the past two-and-a-half decades were openly roaming in Pakistan and conspiring against India. They have been all annihilated in one go," said the Prime Minister.

On the sequence of events leading to the pause of hostilities the Prime Minister said Pakistan was deeply frustrated with Indian strikes, and was rattled.

"It thus crossed another line. Instead of backing India in the strikes against terror infra, Pakistan began attacking us. Pakistan attacked our schools, colleges, gurdwaras, temples, civilian houses. Pakistan targeted our military bases but it was exposed in its designs. The world witnessed how Pakistani drones, missiles fell in the face of a strong Indian air defence system. The system destroyed them in the skies," the Prime

Minister said.

He said Indian drones, missiles conducted precision strikes and Pakistan Air Force bases were destroyed.

"India heaped unimaginable destruction on Pakistan in the first three days of Operation Sindoor. After India's offensive posture Pakistan started looking for escape routes. It was appealing to the world for tensions to ease. And on May 10 afternoon, the Pakistani Army contacted our DGMO. Till then we had destroyed terror infra on a large scale and annihilated terrorists," the Prime Minister said.

He said the Indian Armed Forces had converted terror hubs located in the heart of Pakistan into ruins.

"When Pakistan pleaded, when it said there will be no terror activity and military misadventures, India considered their offer. I, however, reiterate that our national response to Pakistan assaults has only been paused. In the coming times we will hold Pakistan accountable to its word, on what it does," the Prime Minister said, adding that after surgical and airstrikes, Operation Sindoor is the new Indian policy on terror.




BRIEFS

Even after one and a half years, Seodha Panchayat Secretary did not give information about cutting 140 houses

Staff Reporter

**Banda.** In village Panchayat Seondha of development block Mahua, the Panchayat Secretary Lavkush Kumar, at the behest of Village Head Badrunisha, did not register 140 eligible beneficiaries registered in the eligibility list of Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana due to political rivalry and 140 families became victims of political rivalry. Not only this, even after the names of 140 eligible beneficiaries were rejected from the housing eligibility list and the housing eligibility list was closed, till date the Panchayat Secretary has not got the wall painting of the names of the beneficiaries registered in the housing scheme list done on any public or government building in Panchayat Seondha. RTI activist Isteyak Ahmed said that information about non-registration of 140 eligible beneficiaries registered in the housing eligibility list of the Panchayat and deletion of all the above names was sought under the Right to Information by applying to the Public Information Officer Lavkush Kumar Panchayat Secretary on 25 December 2023, but even after the first appeal and second appeal, till date Secretary Lavkush Kumar has not given any information about the deletion of housing, the matter is pending in the State Information Commission where despite the Commission issuing notice to the Secretary several times and ordering to give information, he has not given any information and answer. Isteyak Ahmed said that the selection and verification of the list of Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana was done during the tenure of the former village head in the previous five-year period, due to which the current village head Badrunisha wife of Ayub Khan got the names of hundreds of poor people deleted from the housing list due to enmity with the village head and political grudge, the RTI activist said that he also personally requested Lavkush Kumar to give information related to the deletion of housing but did not get the information. Such puppet officers of the Gram Pradhan who deprive the poor people of government schemes in the village on the behest of the Gram Pradhan have no fear of the law. Officers like Lavkush Kumar have made a joke of the Public Information Act. Lavkush Kumar's indifferent attitude towards the Right to Information Act 2005 is a violation of the fundamental rights of the people. Will the District Magistrate take any action by forming an inquiry committee against such officers who cut 140 houses in the village on the behest of the Gram Pradhan and did not provide the information sought under the Right to Information even after years or will officers like Lavkush Kumar who consider rules and laws a joke continue to exploit the common people and flout the law on the behest of the Gram Pradhan, this remains to be seen. When I wanted to get information about the whole matter from Secretary Lavkush Kumar, he did not even pick up his phone.

**Grand program organized on Buddha Purnima**



Staff Reporter

**Jaspura.** On the auspicious occasion of Buddha Purnima, a grand program was organized at the Buddha Vihar located in Sundar Nagar Gadaria in Gadaria village of Jaspura block area on Monday. The program started with offering flowers to the statue of Lord Buddha. After this, all the visitors also paid homage to the statue of Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar. The program was conducted under the supervision of Bhante Harhat Putra, founder of Buddha Vihar. On this occasion, retired teacher of Sumerpur Devi Prasad Verma appealed to follow the life, birth and the path of Dhamma shown by Lord Buddha. Retired teacher of Sumerpur Sitaram Verma gave detailed information about the philosophy of Buddha's life. Senior advocate of Hamirpur Maniram Verma threw light on the three mantras of Lord Buddha - Krishnashila, Samadhi and Prajnakri as well as the 22 vows taken by Baba Saheb Dr. Ambedkar. He inspired the people present to follow the path of Buddhist Dhamma by making them read these vows. He said that “App Deepo Bhava” i.e. “Be your own lamp” is the last sermon of Lord Buddha, which is equally relevant even today. On this occasion, many speakers including Shivbali Nishad, Top Singh, Bhante Buddha Sen and Bhante Bacchu Lal expressed their views and highlighted the ideals of Buddhist religion. Ram Gopal Verma played the role of the moderator in the program. A large number of people including Munna Prasad Verma, K P Painter, Samser Bahadur Tena, Raj Kishore Prajapati, Rajkumar Verma, Ram Kishore, Raja Ram Verma, Santosh, Kapil Balmiki, Rahul Prasad were present in the program. Women also participated significantly. Sub-inspector Suraj Kumar Pandey and his team took charge of the security arrangements. The program was completed peacefully and with devotion.

**Flowers offered to Lord Buddha and Dr. Ambedkar**

# People are troubled by the poor condition of the pontoon bridge

Long jam on Bara-Galauli pontoon bridge, anger among villagers

Staff Reporter

**Jaspura.** The Bara/Galauli pontoon bridge built on the Yamuna river in the Galauli Ghat and Bara Ghat area of Jaspura block has once again become a victim of mismanagement and the contractor's arbitrariness. After light rain on Saturday, long queues of vehicles were formed on both sides of the bridge, due to which traffic was affected for hours. Local people allege that taking advantage of the jam, the contractor's men illegally collected ₹500 from four-wheelers and ₹200 from two-wheeler drivers. The villagers said that the contractor has completely failed in fulfilling the responsibility of maintaining the bridge, while the departmental officials are also turning a blind eye. The same story is repeated every year. Local farmer leader Pushpendra Singh Chunale said that this is not the first time that the pontoon bridge has been in such a condition. "Every year during the rainy season, it becomes a problem for the public to cross this bridge. The villagers are troubled by the

contractor's high-handedness and the silence of the government and administration," he said. The demand for a permanent bridge was suppressed.



Pushpendra Singh informed that for the past several years, a concrete bridge has been demanded in the area so that the public can get a permanent solution. Most of the villagers of Jaspura block go to Fatehpur, Bindki, Jafarganj, Jehanabad and Kanpur for business and

needs. Currently, due to the dilapidated bridge, they have to travel a long distance, which wastes both time and money. He alleged that whenever the demand for a permanent bridge was raised, the BJP representatives suppressed the movement by pressurizing the administration and many times cases were also registered against the protesters. The public representatives repeatedly lie to the public that the bridge has been approved, but no work has started till date. Why is the contract given to the same contractor every year? The villagers also raised the question that why is the contract of the pontoon bridge given to the same contractor every year? Is there any collusion between the contractor and the public representatives? The people of the area are demanding answers in this matter. The villagers have also raised questions on the role of the tehsil administration, especially the SDM. They say that despite knowing about illegal recovery, jam and the poor condition of the bridge, no concrete action is being taken.

## Maudha's Sijwahi incident drowned Sisoler SHO, possibility of action against Maudha police

Staff Reporter

**Maudaha.** On 09th May, in the procession of Maharana Pratap in Sijwahi village of Kotwali area, in the incident of dispute and stone pelting and lathi charge between two parties, while the Sisoler SHO has been suspended, there is a strong possibility of some action against Maudha police soon. However, in this entire episode, Maudha police had registered a case of assault, riot and Dalit harassment against nine named people who were taking out the rally and many unknown people involved in it. At the same time, they had expressed dissatisfaction over the Kotwali police registering a case against the youth of a particular caste. Let us tell you that on Friday, the followers of Maharana Pratap took out a procession in the area. This procession started from Chandi Kala village of Sisoler police station area. When this procession started from Chandi Kala and reached Sijwahi village via Gusiyari, Kapsa, Tikri villages of Maudha Kotwali area, suddenly anarchy spread here and there was a lot of ruckus with stone pelting and fighting between some anarchists of both the sides over some issue. In which about a dozen people from both the sides were

involved. More people were injured. During this time, some anti-social element broke the finger of the Ambedkar statue installed here. In this case, on the complaint of Matadin son Mangi, resident of Sijwahi, the Kotwali police had registered a case against the coordinator of the procession, Sarthak Singh alias Shani Singh, and Saurabh Singh son Rang Bahadur, Ramu son Harisharan Singh, Ramji son unknown, Rahul Singh son unknown, Ravi son Dheer Singh, Vikas son Gyan Singh, Bhura son Ram Singh, Kunnu son Phool Singh and half a dozen other unknown people of the same caste under serious sections including assault, riot, Dalit oppression. It is said that Sisoler and Maudha police were not aware of the procession going around the villages of the area for several hours and the ruckus in this procession which went out without any police protection, somewhere puts the police of both the police station areas in the dock. In such a situation, the Superintendent of Police has put Sisoler SHO Kalpana Singh on line duty on Sunday evening, while it is also being feared that major action can be taken against Maudha police soon.

## Rampur Gram Panchayat is crying over its own plight

■ Passersby are yearning for every drop of water, lakhs of rupees were withdrawn in the name of water coolers  
■ Secretary has not reached Gram Panchayat for one month

Staff Reporter

**Banda.** The Uttar Pradesh government spends crores of rupees for development work, but the Pradhan and Secretary, who are immersed in corruption, are only interested in filling their pockets. These days corruption is rampant in Rampur Gram Panchayat of Jaspura development block, whether it is a cowshed or a water cooler or MNREGA, they are only interested in corruption. The villagers told that it has been more than a month that Secretary Arun Kumar has not even come to the Gram Panchayat. The Panchayat Bhawan built in the Gram Panchayat is always locked. Whenever someone has to get a copy of the family register, death certificate etc. made, he has to go to the



block and the Secretary sahab is on leave for almost a month, who is neither available in the block nor in the Gram Panchayat. The water cooler in Jabar Yadav Chauraha has been lying broken for more than a month in the Gram Panchayat, for which lakhs of rupees were withdrawn but it is lying broken, people are yearning for every drop of water. The second water cooler installed near Anil Sahu Chauraha is also lying broken, it can be clearly seen that the Secretary and

## The tantrik has been accused of luring the girl and taking her away

Staff Reporter

**Sumerpur.** In a village of the area, a Tantrik, with the help of his father and a neighbour woman, lured a young girl and took her away. Her mother has filed a report. While filing the report, a woman from the village said that Prakash Babu, a resident of the village, has eloped with her 20-year-old

daughter by doing black magic with the help of his father Ramsajivan and a neighbour woman. It was alleged that before this he had eloped with another young girl from the village. She said that the daughter has also taken cash and gold and silver jewellery with her. The police have registered a report against all three.

## Youth arrested with illegal pistol and cartridges

Staff Reporter

**Maudaha.** The Binwar police has arrested a youth with an illegal pistol and cartridges. The Binwar police was in the area for investigation of cases and arresting criminals, when the informer reported that a youth carrying an illegal pistol was planning to commit a crime on the culvert near

police took the matter seriously and arrested the accused and upon questioning, the accused told his name as Sameem Khan, son of Mubeen Khan, resident of Mutni. The police recovered one illegal pistol and one live cartridge from the possession of the accused. A case has been registered against the arrested accused under the Arms Act and the accused has been sent to jail.

## The bride refused to marry, the wedding procession returned

Staff Reporter

**Naraini.** The people of the groom's side reached the bride's side with great pomp and show but the groom's side had to return empty handed without seeing off the bride. On Sunday evening, a retired inspector took his son's wedding procession to a marriage hall located on the Atarra road of the town. All the wedding party members who reached the bride's door were welcomed and honoured. After this, the ritual of Dwarchar was performed. After the Dwarchar ceremony, when the groom reached to get the garland put on his hand, the bride did not come out with the garland for a long time. There was a murmur among the wedding party members. The people of the boy's side talked to the girl to understand the situation, but she did not give any reason and kept rejecting all the things said by the groom's side. The girl refused to get married. Both the parties got into a tight spot when the bride suddenly refused to get married. The round of Panch Panchayat continued in the guest house the whole night. Everyone tried to convince the bride but the bride clearly kept refusing to get married.

Priya, daughter of Ramjiyawan Karvariya, resident of Kharanch village under Kotwali area, was getting married to Nitesh Tripathi, son of Ramesh Chandra Tripathi, a retired sub-inspector of Uttar Pradesh police, resident of Kalinjar road of the town. On Sunday evening, people from the groom's side and the bride's side gathered in the Kanha marriage hall of the town. Everything was going on smoothly and according to the customs, when suddenly the wedding became a topic of discussion due to the girl not putting the garland on the boy and refusing to marry. Even then the boy's side started convincing the girl. When both the parties were talked to in this regard, they did not tell the reason. But at four in the morning, the groom and other baraatis went to their home. The groom's father Ramesh Chandra Tripathi said that the baraat returned due to the girl's mental condition not being good.

# Javed's oppression: The flow of Ken is shrinking

➤ Illegal mining being carried out with the support of minerals

Staff Reporter

**Banda.** The story of atrocities by Javed, the notorious mining mafia of two states, is not coming to an end. The black game of illegal mining in UP's Kedi on MP's lease continues with the connivance of the responsible people. Because even after the news being continuously broadcast in the media, the responsible people are not paying any heed to it. If this continues, then the Rampur mine of Madhya Pradesh, which is being run by the Jugalband of Javed and Meena, and its overloaded vehicles will collapse the bridge on the Ken river in Girwan. If it is said that the mineral officials are completely involved in this unethical work, then it will not be an exaggeration. Because first of all, the sand of Ken river located in Uttar Pradesh, which is in Nihalpur village, is pulled illegally with heavy lifters and taken to Madhya Pradesh with the help of the officials of the mineral department. After this, this sand is illegally made legal and is

sent from Rampur mine in bordering Madhya Pradesh in overloaded vehicles through the bridge on Ken river in Girwan connecting two states and Mataundh in the dark of night based on the location of the trucks. Whereas the bridge on Ken river in Girwan is in a dilapidated condition due to the rush of overloaded vehicles. If the responsible people do not pay attention to this, a big accident can happen at any time. But the notorious mining businessman of two states is managing the officials and getting illegal mining done by heavy machines from Ken river in bordering Uttar Pradesh under the cover of mining lease of Madhya Pradesh. If sources are to be believed, this mining businessman has full support of the officials of the Mineral Department. The story does not end here, but four steps ahead, overloaded trucks of Rampur mine fearlessly cross the dilapidated bridge situated on the Ken river in Girwan in the darkness of the night under the patronage of

the responsible of the alleged syndicate. Along with the dilapidated bridge, the condition of the roads of Uttar Pradesh is also deteriorating due to overloaded sand filled trucks from Madhya Pradesh. Since the whole game is managed by the system, the responsible do not pay any attention to this. The villagers say that if the responsible do not pay attention to this, the bridge can get damaged anytime. Due to which a big accident can happen. At the same time, the bridge connecting two states situated on the Ken river in Girwan can collapse anytime due to the chaos of the notorious mining businessman of two states. The reason is clear that the overloaded trucks filled with sand from Madhya Pradesh are taken out in the darkness of the night, bypassing the orders of former District Magistrate Durga Shakti Nagpal. The condition of the roads of Uttar Pradesh has deteriorated due to overloaded vehicles of

➤ Lifters from MP are pulling sand to UP

Madhya Pradesh. This is the reason why people lose their lives in accidents on these routes every day. Let us tell you that this bridge connecting Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh was built by Naseemuddin Siddiqui, a powerful minister of the BSP government. But the game of taking sand from the Ken river in Nikalpur, UP to Madhya Pradesh by pulling it with the help of lifter machines by the notorious businessman Meena and his alleged associate Javed, who are notorious for looting the red gold of UP and MP, is going on openly. As if this was not enough, ever since the entry of the mining businessman named Javed in this syndicate, the theft of sand has increased manifold. A huge amount is being earned by stealing the sand from UP, loading it in overloaded trucks and then passing it through UP in the darkness of the night. In this alleged game, the water level of the Ken river in Nihalpur, UP is falling day by day. Even after this, the game of illegal mining continues

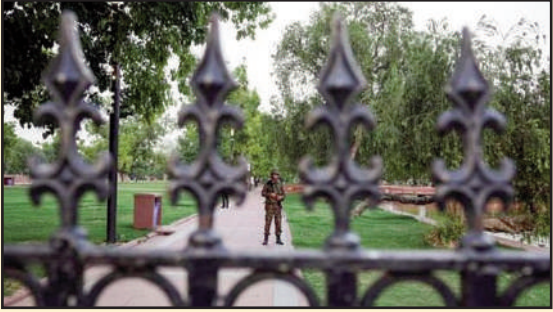
➤ Cane pits are becoming deadly

Due to the activities of the operators of Rampur mine in Madhya Pradesh, both the direction and condition of Ken river located in Nihalpur, UP has been affected. Because sand is pulled arbitrarily by machines of MP and taken to other states of Madhya Pradesh. Due to which the level of water stream is shrinking. Apart from this, due to illegal mining, big pits have also been formed at that place. In which any accident can happen. Villagers say that the administration should pay attention to this. If illegal mining is not stopped in time, then any untoward incident can happen.

unabated under the patronage of Meena and Javed without any fear. According to sources, every day hundreds of overloaded trucks filled with sand from Rampur mine of Madhya Pradesh are passed through the marked places under Seodha and Mataundh area under Girwan area.



### India-Pak tensions: Banks told to ensure sufficient cash in ATMs, strengthen systems to tackle cyber threats



**Mumbai (Agency):** Amid escalating tensions between India and Pakistan, the Department of Financial Services (DFS) has asked banks to strengthen their internal systems to deal with any cybersecurity threats and ensure uninterrupted banking services. Banks have been asked to ensure sufficient availability of cash in their branches and ATMs, especially in the areas that are closer to the border. On Wednesday, the Indian armed forces launched “Operation Sindoor” to strike various terror sites in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir, to avenge the Pahalgam terror attack. On Thursday evening, India’s air defence systems intercepted missiles and projectiles fired by Pakistan toward key border areas. “A week back, we reviewed our position, as advised by the Department of Financial Services (DFS). We have strengthened our system. A quick response team (QRT), consisting of all the general managers of IT and operations and deputy general managers, has been established. One of the executive directors and I are also part of the team,” Canara Bank Managing Director and CEO, K Satyanarayana Raju, He said the QRT is working 24×7 in shifts, with a top-level executive available throughout the day. They are regularly ensuring that bank’s branches are functioning properly and all ATMs have sufficient cash. “We are very much alert. A meeting is happening every day to review the situation. The QRT is keeping a close watch on any cybersecurity threat or any unwanted activities in our system,” he said. Another state-run lender Union Bank of India said it has formed a proactive multi-layered defence strategy and it is continuously monitoring all the strategies. “Digital is a very important portfolio for us, and we are taking all measures. In view of the things that are happening around us, we are taking all precautions with regard to the digital initiatives and cyber security areas,” said Union Bank of India’s Managing Director and CEO A Manimekhalai.

### India-Pakistan tensions: Nirmala Sitharaman to chair meeting with banks, financial institutions on cyber readiness

**New Delhi (Agency):** Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman will chair a review meeting on cybersecurity preparedness of banks and financial institutions on Friday evening, amid heightened concerns that the country’s critical infrastructure could be hit by cyber attacks amid the ongoing tensions between India and Pakistan. Representatives from various public and private banks, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), NSE, BSE, and the Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (Cert-In), among others are expected to attend the meeting. Cert-In has been coordinating with various critical sector entities to ensure their cybersecurity preparedness. The development comes as the Pakistan Armed Forces launched multiple attacks using drones and other munitions along the entire Western Border of India on Thursday night while also resorting to numerous ceasefire fire violations (CFVs) along the Line of Control in Jammu and Kashmir. The Indian Army said that the “drone attacks were effectively repulsed and befitting reply was given to the CFVs”. The Pakistani escalation came a day after




Kashmir. The Indian Army said that the “drone attacks were effectively repulsed and befitting reply was given to the CFVs”. The Pakistani escalation came a day after

India carried out targeted strikes on nine sites in Pakistan and PoK. ‘Operation Sindoor,’

agencies and organisations which are in charge of India’s critical infrastructure, such as the Power Ministry, financial institutions including banks, and telecom operators were asked to be on “high alert” after having faced a number of cyber attacks following the Pahalgam terror attack last month. “There have been some DDoS attacks on some infrastructure, but we have contained them. Now we are on high alert because such attempts will certainly be made,” a senior government official had said earlier. A DDoS (Distributed Denial of Service) attack is a cyberattack where an attacker overwhelms a website, server, or network with malicious traffic from multiple sources, making it slow or inaccessible to legitimate users. Wednesday that soon after news about Operation Sindoor broke, social media platforms such as X were flooded with misinformation related to India’s strikes on nine sites in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK).

### After early losses, rupee bounces back

**Mumbai (Agency):** After posting early losses, the Indian rupee closed stronger against the dollar on Friday amid continuing hostilities on the border between India and Pakistan. The domestic currency closed 33 paise higher at 85.38 against the dollar even as the stock markets declined by over one per cent. The rupee had ended at 84.72 against the greenback on Thursday but the currency snapped three straight days of losses on Friday on FPI inflows and expectations that the RBI will intervene in the currency market to stabilise the rupee. However, it posted two consecutive months of depreciation. Rahul Kalantri, VP Commodities, Mehta Equities Ltd, said, “even as the rupee recovered a bit after two days of fall, the currency could witness volatility amid escalating tensions with Pakistan.” While a strong rebound in the US dollar index supported by US-UK trade agreement and jump in crude oil prices are likely to maintain pressure on the rupee, continuing FPI flows into the domestic equity markets and better than expected corporate earnings are supporting the local currency. “We expect the rupee to trade in the range of 84.74-86.05 next week,” Kalantri said. The dollar declined on profit-taking after jumping to a one-month high



uncertainty. Dilip Parmar, Senior Research Analyst, HDFC Securities, said the currency found renewed strength over the fog end of the week. This rebound was fuelled by consistent inflows from foreign institutional investors into Indian stock markets. Furthermore, it seems traders adjusted their holdings to navigate potential uncertainties over the weekend, he said.

Operation Sindoor

## Ample petrol, diesel, LPG stocks available across the county, avoid panic buying of fuel, say India’s oil companies

**New Delhi (Agency):** Amid soaring tensions between New Delhi and Islamabad, major public sector fuel retailers on Friday assured citizens that ample fuel stocks are available across the country, and urged them to desist from panic buying and hoarding of fuels like petrol, diesel, and cooking gas. “#IndianOil has ample fuel stocks across the country and our supply lines are operating smoothly. There is no need for panic buying—fuel and LPG is readily available at all our outlets. Help us serve you better by staying calm and avoiding unnecessary rush. This will keep our supply lines running seamlessly and ensure uninterrupted fuel access for all,” the country’s largest fuel retailer Indian Oil Corporation posted on social media platform X (formerly Twitter).

“BPCL assures all citizens that sufficient stock of Petrol, Diesel, CNG, and LPG are available across our nationwide network. All our Fuel Stations and LPG Distributorships are operating smoothly and are fully equipped to meet the energy needs of consumers. There is no cause for concern or panic buying. We urge all customers to remain calm, as our supply chain operations remain robust and efficient, ensuring uninterrupted supplies,” India’s second-largest public sector refiner and fuel retailer Bharat Petroleum Corporation posted on X. The advisories followed a few incidents of people resorting to panic buying of essential items and fuels over the past three days, primarily due to anxiety spread by

some viral social media messages, which have been dismissed as fake by the government. According to sources in India’s fuel retail sector, fuel supplies are



normal and incidents of panic buying have been isolated. Nevertheless, it is important to reassure people that enough fuel is available to prevent panic buying and hoarding, officials said. Panic buying, fuelled by rumours, can by itself lead to regional disruptions in fuel


supply, and therefore, countering any misinformation on the fuel availability situation is important, they said. India has over 96,000 fuel

retail outlets that sell automobile fuels petrol and diesel spread across the length and breadth of the country. Of these, Indian Oil alone has over 40,000 outlets, followed by the other two public sector fuel retailers—Bharat Petroleum and Hindustan Petroleum

Corporation—each of which has nearly 24,000 fuel retail stations. Private sector players like Reliance industries, Nayara Energy, and Shell cumulatively have close to 9,000 fuel stations. As for LPG, or cooking gas, there are over 25,000 distributors dotted across India, with Indian Oil accounting for nearly 13,000, and Bharat Petroleum and Hindustan petroleum accounting for the rest. Tensions between India and Pakistan have soared after New Delhi struck nine locations in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir on Wednesday. The strikes — codenamed ‘Operation Sindoor’ — targeted terror bases in Pakistan and were in retaliation for the deadly terrorist attack on tourists in Pahalgam, Kashmir on April 22 that left 26 people dead.

Following India’s precision strikes at Pakistan’s terror infrastructure, the conflict between the two nuclear-armed neighbours has flared up considerably over the past couple of days with regular exchange of fire and drone assaults. With the escalation in tensions, instances of panic buying of food, fuel, and other essential items have been reported from some parts of the country, mainly areas in states along the border with Pakistan. A number of areas in these states experienced full blackouts on Thursday night as Pakistan, in a major escalation of the conflict, launched multiple attacks directed at the Indian territory using drones and other munitions, but all of these attacks were thwarted by Indian air defence systems and armed forces.

### ‘If conflict broadens, residential sales could dip by 5-10%,’ says Anarock; Nifty Realty index closes 2.4% lower



**New Delhi (Agency):** Residential real estate sales in Delhi-NCR and other parts of northern India could drop by 5-10 per cent in the short-term if the ongoing conflict between India and Pakistan broadens, according to Prashant Thakur, head of research at real estate consultancy Anarock. Additionally, cement and steel prices are likely to be elevated over the medium-term due to high demand from the defence sector, unless the government makes an intervention, Thakur said. On Friday, the Nifty Realty index comprising India’s top 10 residential developers closed 2.38 per cent lower at 823.8, led by Raymond Ltd (-4.9 per cent), Macrotech Developers Ltd (-3.7 per cent), DLF Ltd (-2.7 per cent), and Prestige Estates Projects Ltd (-1.8 per cent). The broader Nifty 50 index fell by 1.1 per cent, following concerns of escalation after Pakistan launched drones and other munitions along India’s western border late Thursday. “Wars also stall construction and dampen end-user and investor confidence. Aspiring homebuyers put decisions on hold. Retailers put a brake on their expansion plans, and tourists postpone their travel plans. Real estate markets adapt, pause, and then bounce back,” Prashant Thakur said in a note. A potential reduction in residential absorption by 5-10 per cent in case of further escalation is likely to hit the luxury market first. “Luxury housing buyers tend to delay purchases in periods of uncertainty. Demand for mid-income housing will be the first to recover once normalcy is restored,” according to Thakur. With respect to housing capital values, Thakur does not foresee any significant drop, “unless hostilities stretch longer than one fiscal year”. “Today’s market is dominated by large, listed and financially robust developers who do not carry excessive leverage. This gives them prolonged ‘holding power’, and the major banks also are well-capitalised. There may be a pause on price hikes, followed by a sharp hike in prices on account of higher construction costs next year,” he said. The hospitality real estate sector and tourism more generally will also be affected over the short-term, with hotel occupancies in north India falling anywhere between 10-15 per cent, Thakur said.

# Sumitomo of Japan buys 20% stake in YES Bank for around Rs 13,483 crore

**Mumbai (Agency):** In what could be the largest cross-border investment in the banking sector, Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation (SMBC) of Japan has entered into an agreement to acquire 20 per cent stake in YES Bank through a secondary stake purchase valued at around Rs 13,483 crore. SMBC has agreed to purchase 13.19 per cent stake from SBI at a cost of Rs 8,889 crore and 6.81 per cent from other bank shareholders including Axis Bank, Bandhan Bank, Federal Bank, HDFC Bank, ICICI Bank, IDFC First Bank and Kotak Mahindra Bank. While SMBC paid a price of Rs 21.50 per share, Yes Bank shares zoomed by 9.77 per cent to Rs 20 on the exchanges on Friday. SBI and the seven investor banks had invested in Yes Bank as part of a Reconstruction Scheme approved by the Reserve Bank of India in March 2020. “This transaction is the largest cross-

border investment in the Indian banking sector,” the bank said. SBI will continue to hold more than 10 per cent stake in Yes Bank after the deal. The RBI had on March 5, 2020, put a moratorium on Yes Bank, which faced a financial crisis, restricting withdrawals to Rs 50,000 per depositor. It superseded the board of the troubled private sector lender and appointed Prashant Kumar as administrator. SMBC is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Sumitomo Mitsui Financial Group, Inc. (SMFG), which is the second largest banking group in Japan with total assets of US \$ 2 trillion as of December 2024 with strong global presence. SMFG is listed on the Tokyo Stock Exchange Premier Market of the Nagoya Stock Exchange and SMFG’s American Depositary Receipts (ADRs) are also listed on the New York Stock Exchange. SMBC is among the leading foreign banks in



India and SMFG’s wholly owned subsidiary, SMFG India Credit Company Limited, is among the largest diversified NBFCs in India. The transaction is a significant milestone to drive YES Bank’s next phase of growth, profitability and value creation and we expect to leverage SMBC’s global expertise in this phase. Yes Bank reported a net profit of Rs 612 crore during the quarter ended December 2024. It has a deposit base of Rs 2.84 lakh crore. “We thank SBI for its stewardship since becoming YES Bank’s largest shareholder in 2020 and expect to work closely with both SMBC and SBI in this next phase of growth. We also thank the government, the RBI and other investor banks for their guidance and support during and post the Reconstruction of the Bank,” Yes Bank said. Prashant Kumar, Managing

Director & Chief Executive Officer, YES Bank said, “we expect to benefit from their global expertise and high governance standards. This investment is a powerful endorsement of our transformation journey and future potential. Over the past few years, our growth has been shaped by the strong partnership and unwavering support of SBI and they will continue to remain a valued stakeholder.” “India represents a key market for us, and we see immense long-term potential in its dynamic and fast-growing economy. This investment aligns with our commitment to building lasting, value driven relationships in the region. We look forward to working closely with the team as a major shareholder in their next phase of growth,” Toru Nakashima, President & Group CEO, SMFG and Akihiro Fukutome, President & CEO, SMBC said.


### RBI superseded Yes Bank in 2020

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) superseded the board of Yes Bank on March 5, 2020, due to a serious deterioration in its financial position. The RBI action was accompanied by a moratorium on the bank, restricting withdrawals to Rs 50,000 per account. The RBI also appointed Prashant Kumar, former CFO of State Bank of India, as the administrator, and approved a Reconstruction Plan involving SBI and seven other banks. Kumar later became the MD of the bank. The RBI cited the bank’s inability to raise capital and address potential loan losses, which led to downgrades and deposit withdrawals. Moreover, governance issues also played a role. The bank was originally promoted by Rana Kapoor and Ashok Kapur. Between 2004, when it was launched, and 2015, Yes Bank was one of the buzziest banks. In 2015, UBS, a global financial services company, raised the first red flag about its asset quality. The UBS report stated that Yes Bank had loaned more than its net worth to companies that were unlikely to pay back.



EDITORIAL

Measured Retaliation



India's cross-border strikes under Operation Sindoor mark a pivotal moment in the evolving security dynamics of South Asia. Triggered by the brutal militant attack in Pahalgam that claimed 26 lives, including that of a Nepali national, India's response reflects not just military retribution but a broader assertion of sovereign nity and zero tolerance for cross-border terrorism. While Pakistan has dismissed any link to the April 22 killings, India's strikes were clearly aimed at signalling that the days of strategic patience in the face of proxy attacks are over. The decision to hit nine identified locations ~ said to harbour terror infrastructure ~ without targeting Pakistani military assets indicates a calibrated strategy: to punish, not provoke. This balance, though delicate, is crucial for a region long plagued by volatility. Operation Sindoor is part of a discernible shift in India's defence posture post Uri and Pulwama. What was once a predominantly diplomatic or covert response to terror emanating from across the border has now evolved into overt, publicised military action. The message is unmistakable: India will no longer be reactive, but resolute and decisive when it comes to defending its citizens. Critics may argue about the risks of escalation, especially when dealing with a nuclear-armed neighbour. Yet, history shows that well-timed and proportionate responses often prevent larger conflicts by establishing deterrence. Inaction or ambiguity, on the other hand, invites further aggression. India's strike, therefore, is not merely about retaliation ~ it is about restoring deterrence in a rapidly shifting regional matrix.

Yet, amid the surge of nationalistic fervour, it is important to recognise the human cost of any military operation. Even precision strikes can leave civilians displaced or traumatised. Responsible statecraft must pair hard power with humanitarian sensitivity, ensuring that India's moral high ground remains intact in the eyes of the world. That said, the situation is far from defused. Pakistan has responded with predictable rhetoric, denying involvement in Pahalgam, while simultaneously claiming civilian casualties and claiming the downing of Indian aircraft. Whether or not these claims hold water, the reality is that civilian lives on both sides remain at risk. Escalation serves neither country, nor the millions living along the Line of Control. The larger tragedy lies in the fact that Kashmir remains a deeply contentious issue. Militancy has ebbed and surged over the decades, but the core issues remain unaddressed. Meanwhile, lives continue to be lost, and trust remains elusive. Effective steps within the territory, however difficult, must eventually follow these military actions ~ lest we allow short-term tactical gains to blind us to the need for long-term solutions. India has made its position clear through action, not just words. The international community, while urging restraint, must also acknowledge the right of a sovereign nation to defend its people. Peace, ultimately, will require accountability, dialogue, and a shared commitment to ending the machinery of cross-border terror. Until then, India's message stands: there will be a cost to spilling innocent blood.

Trade Pact



The recently concluded trade agreement between India and the United Kingdom marks not just a bilateral economic milestone, but also a reflection of India's rising status in the global order. After three years of complex negotiations, the two countries have arrived at a deal that promises tangible benefits for businesses, workers, and consumers on both sides ~ though not without political and policy-level friction, especially in the UK. At the heart of this deal is the clear recognition of India as a future economic powerhouse. With forecasts placing India as the world's third-largest economy in the coming years, the UK has moved decisively to strengthen its commercial foothold in South Asia. For India, this is an affirmation of the export-led growth strategy that has become a central part of its economic vision. The ability to strike such a significant deal with a G7 nation underscores both diplomatic maturity and economic appeal. For Indian exporters, the reduction of tariffs on key sectors like textiles, footwear, seafood, and gems comes as a welcome relief. These are labour-intensive industries that provide employment to millions and are critical for the health of India's small and medium enterprises. Lower duties will improve competitiveness in UK markets and could help revive sluggish export growth, especially in traditional sectors that have been facing pricing pressure and global uncertainty. On the flip side, the phased lowering of tariffs on UK goods such as whisky, cars, and luxury food items may raise concerns about the impact on domestic producers. However, the deal appears to have been negotiated with an awareness of these sensitivities, with safeguards like quotas on high-end car imports and staged tariff reductions in place. This indicates a careful balancing act ~ encouraging consumer choice and foreign investment without undermining domestic capacity.

The inclusion of social security exemptions for temporary workers transferred between the two countries is another forward-looking aspect. In a globalised economy where talent mobility is crucial, such provisions ease the cost burden on businesses and employees, fostering smoother operations for Indian IT, consulting, and service firms with UK clients or subsidiaries. Yet, while the economic prospects are promising, India must remain vigilant. Trade liberalisation should not lead to lopsided dependence or erode the foundation of domestic industry. Policymakers need to ensure that gains are equitably distributed and that structural support reaches sectors poised to benefit. This deal also sets a precedent for future negotiations with other developed economies, showing that India can engage confidently, protect its interests, and still emerge with forward-looking trade frameworks. Ultimately, this trade pact is a signal that India's time at the negotiating table is no longer symbolic ~ it is strategic. It is a quiet but firm assertion of the country's global relevance, not just as a market, but as a maker of terms. The next step is to ensure that this diplomatic success translates into enduring economic opportunity at home.

# A silent solar energy revolution in J&K



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With a cumulative installed capacity of around 75 MW of rooftop solar power plants, the Union Territory has already exceeded its renewable power obligation

Pradeep Kumar, 49, is a resident of a mountain hamlet called Kundgware in Jammu and Kashmir's Kishtwar district — a region that, after being ravaged by terrorism in the 1990s, is now seeing peace. The first educated person in a family that has for generations subsisted on agriculture, Pradeep works as a teacher and was one of the first in his district to install a rooftop solar photovoltaic (PV) system. When I asked him why he chose to spend a part of his modest income on this, the wisdom of his reply left me awestruck. “Sir ji, I think of this money as investing in my children's financial future, I don't want to burden them, for the rest of their lives, with a monthly power bill which rises every year,” he said. As the nation wakes up to the re-envisioned reality of solar energy today, we in the north, are better placed. In fact, J&K already has a cumulative installed capacity of around 75 MW of rooftop solar power plants. The process saw a major resurgence in recent months, all thanks to the PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana scheme. A whopping 8,000 domestic consumers across J&K have already come on board. A power-deficit region like ours, which sources a major chunk of its supply from hydroelectric power plants, has already exceeded its Renewable Power Obligation (RPO) targets. Yet, actively pushing for greater decentralised solar installations is important for us as it reduces stress on the grid. Moreover, developing mega-sized solar projects is still tough for the Union Territory — as it is for most parts of the country — given the difficulty of identifying feasible land banks (500 acres for a 100 MW solar park) in the hilly topography. J&K's power sector, with a legacy of some of the highest aggregate technical and commercial (ATC) losses (over 50 per cent) in the country, has had one of the most interesting “unbundling” or corporatisation journeys in India — a process intensified by the removal of Article 370. Our nascent discoms, plagued by a growing base of non-paying consumers at one point, have come a long way in the last few years in terms of loss reduction while implementing some major reforms like smart metering and prepaid billing. Surya Ghar might be one of the highest per-individual subsidies offered by the government of India. Typically, running such a huge process with such heavy financial disbursements is tricky and leakage-prone, but the design of the scheme implementation process via the Surya Ghar 2.0 portal has become a major game-changer. It has helped cut through red tape and eradicated physical inspection steps such as approving minimal load feasibility by default. Most importantly, the heavy CFA subsidy is automatically credited to the beneficiary's bank account within a month, with no need for follow-ups. Going beyond the dependence on consumer choice, a low-hanging fruit where governmental investment directly counts is

solarisation of government buildings. We have embarked on an ambitious plan to solarise around 22,500 government buildings, out of which around 30 per cent have been solarised already, resulting in a capacity addition of 60 MW. Another aspect is the PM KUSUM scheme for solarisation of irrigation pumps, under which around 23,000 sites across J&K, ranging from the basmati belts of Jammu to the saffron fields of Pampore, are being targeted for solarisation. A major spin-off benefit of Surya Ghar is the employment boost it has given to the local economy. Apart from panel suppliers and retailers, the Surya Ghar vendors are actively engaging a large number of youth to handle installation, maintenance and servicing of panels. Energy independence is key to the goal of atma nirbharta as outlined by the Prime Minister. The step taken to redefine MSMEs was a major boost to private participation in solar PV manufacturing. However, in the global race to install more solar capacity, neighbouring China's burgeoning PV panel manufacturing output needs to be outscored. This can happen with local demand pushing domestic production, which has to be qualitatively strong and financially competitive enough to ensure edge against cheaper imports.

So far, the narrative around renewable energy has implied that sustainability requires compromise — financial or material. This, however, changes with Surya Ghar: Sustainability is now, in terms of investment, the economically wiser choice, and a more fashionable alternative. As I dwell upon Pradeep's rationale behind his Suryaghar investment, I realised that we need to explore successful investment options more actively in order to ensure energy security and the atma nirbharta of our future generations. The full answer may elude us right now, but we do know that the sun will indeed shine for all eternity.

# In Abeyance ~ I

Ramvilas Sharma

Agar fir dast bar roo-e zameen ast, Hameen ast-o hameen ast-o hameen ast. “If there is a paradise on earth, it is this, it is this, it is this” ~ Amir Khusrau. Few have described Kashmir more beautifully than Indo-Persian Sufi poet Khusrau ~ a place which was converted into a graveyard on 22 April 2025. This backdrop has led to the suspension of the Indus Water Treaty (IWT) as India retaliates ~ albeit diplomatically. Apart from its water consequences on Pakistan, it raises a far more important question: Whether India could have done this, in the first place. Accordingly, I argue that India walks a fine line ~ where arguments galore both for and against exist ~ while clarifying certain misconceptions that have crept in. The IWT needs no separate introduction. For 64 years the treaty has been at the forefront of Indo-Pak diplomacy and tug of war. Previously, Pakistan has invoked IWT's dispute settlement provision (Article IX) birthing two arbitrations. The first resulted in an award by the PCA in 2013. The latter is still pending (Pakistan v. India, PCA Case No. 2023-01) and has uniquely resulted in a 'parallel' proceeding in which both the PCA and the neutral expert have asserted

competence and jurisdiction. The Pahalgam attacks have now compelled India to annouce the immediate 'abeyance' of IWT followed by the official notification. This raises a fundamental question, can India do so? It is interesting to note that India in its official announcement uses the phrase 'abeyance' with immediate effect instead of 'suspension' or 'termination'. The word 'abeyance' means suspension or temporary inactivity (Blacks Law Dictionary; See also P. Aiyar, Concise Law Dictionary). The IWT text no ~ where uses the word suspension or abeyance nor does it provide for an exit clause. In case of 'termination' or 'modification', under Article XII, it can only be done by a mutually ratified treaty. Thus, 'abeyance' taken at face value can only mean suspension ~ in this case a unilateral suspension or at best a 'modification'. Wordplay cannot obfuscate the content, essence and effect of the word. Given this, 'abeyance', prima-facie, could only have been effected under Article XII. Pertinently, the unilateral suspension (which is not envisaged in the treaty) can be seen as a violation of the treaty. This could trigger the dispute settlement provision under Article IX of the IWT. Whether the dispute settle-

ment provision can at all be applied to such unilateral suspension is a different matter altogether. However, the prima facie reading of IX(1) can cover such unilateral suspension as it does seem to be a dispute 'concerning the interpretation...' of the treaty. By keeping the treaty in

ity (Article 61), and fundamental change (Article 62). Moreover, the VCLT does not provide for any unilateral suspension or modification owing to conflicts, political tensions and aggression of one party. The VLCT does not provide for a treaty to be unilaterally

erative spirit' of 'goodwill and friendship'. Arguably, Article 62 (a) provides enough wriggle room to consider the recent acts as a 'fundamental change in circumstances' of the 'cooperative spirit' of 'goodwill and friendship' that constituted an 'essential basis of the consent of the

face an uphill task to rely on Article 62. If not Article 62, India can also turn towards Article 60. This allows suspension/termination based on a 'material breach' of the treaty. Since India believes that Pakistan's act seriously jeopardizes accomplishing the object of the treaty which is, as indicated in the preamble, 'cooperative spirit' of 'goodwill and friendship'. Moreover, the whole question of defensibility based on the VCLT looms large for two reasons. Firstly, India is not a signatory to the VCLT. Thus, the applicability of Article 62 or any provision of the VCLT will be called into question; Secondly, IWT is pre-1969 ~ how and to what extent VCLT can be applied will be a huge question by itself.



'abeyance' a.k.a suspension, India has indeed exposed the vulnerable veins of Article IX. Given IWT's history, it will not be surprising if Pakistan, once again, invokes Article IX to take India before the PCA. Under the Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties, 1969 (VCLT), a treaty may only be suspended or terminated based on specific grounds, such as material breach (Article 60), impossi-

placed on hold (or in abeyance) without activating any of the grounds mentioned under Articles 60-62. In the present case, Article 62 sits in the eye of the storm, encapsulating the doctrinal principle of rebus sic stantibus allowing for "suspending the operation of the treaty" in the case of "fundamental change in circumstances". The preamble of IWT makes it clear that the treaty is borne out of a 'coop-

parties' to IWT. Despite the apparent wriggle room, the bar of Article 62 is considerably high. The International Court of Justice (ICJ) in the case of Gabčíkovo-Nagymaros Project (Hungary/Slovakia) [ICJ reports 1997, p 7] has held that even political and economic shifts may not be closely connected to the object and purpose of the treaty to justify termination. Considering this, India will







## Cannes, the global Colosseum of film, readies for 78th edition with new challenges on the horizon



Nowhere is the border-crossing nature of cinema more evident than the Cannes Film Festival, which kicks off on Tuesday in the wake of US President Donald Trump’s vow to enact tariffs on international films. Cannes, where filmmakers, sales agents and journalists gather from around the world, is the Olympics of the big screen, with its own golden prize, the Palme d’Or, to give out at the end. Filmmakers come from nearly every corner of the globe to showcase their films while dealmakers work through the night to sell finished films or packaged productions to various territories.

“You release a film into that Colosseum-like situation,” says Brazilian director Kleber Mendonça Filho, who’s returning to Cannes with “The Secret Agent,” a thriller set during Brazil’s dictatorship. “You’ve got to really prepare for the whole experience because it’s quite intense — not very far from the feeling of approaching a roller coaster as you go up the steps at the Palais.” Perhaps as much as ever, all eyes in the movie world will be on the 78th Cannes Film Festival when it gets underway this week.

That’s not just because of the long list of anticipated films set to premiere at the Cote d’Azur festival (including films from Spike Lee, Wes Anderson, Lynne Ramsay, Richard Linklater and Ari Aster) and the extensive coterie of stars set to walk the fabled red carpet (Jennifer Lawrence, Denzel Washington, Robert Pattinson and Kristen Stewart among them). As the movies, and the Oscar race, have grown more international, the global launchpad of Cannes has become only more central to the larger film ecosystem — even with the ongoing absence of Netflix. Recent editions of Cannes have produced a string of Academy Awards contenders, including this year’s best-picture winner, “Anora.” At the same time, geopolitics course through Cannes unlike any other festival. The Cannes red carpet can be as much a platform for political protest as it is for glamour. This year’s festival will include a dissident Iranian filmmaker (Jafar Panahi), a Ukrainian filmmaker (Sergei Loznitsa) and the first Nigerian production in the official selection (Akinola Davies Jr.’s “My Father’s Shadow”).

## ‘My dad is happier with Kareena Kapoor’: Ibrahim Ali Khan says never saw parents Saif Ali Khan-Amrita Singh ‘lose their cool at each other

Sibling actors Ibrahim Ali Khan and Sara Ali Khan have been raised primarily by their mother, actor Amrita Singh, after she got divorced with actor Saif Ali Khan in 2004. While the Race actor still shares a tight bond with his children, he got remarried to actor Kareena Kapoor Khan in 2012. During a recent conversation with Rajeev Masand, Ibrahim opened up about how his parents’ break up

affected him and Sara. He also revealed the best advices he received after his acting debut in Nadaaniyan, with Khushi Kapoor. When asked about the impact of Amrita and Saif’s divorce, he humbly replied that the former couple was very careful about handling the situation in front of their kids. “I was four or five years old, so I don’t remember much. It was probably different for Sara as she was older. But my



mom and dad have done a great job of ensuring I didn’t feel the pain that comes with a broken home. I never saw them lose their cool at each other. Some things are just not meant to be,” he shared. In addition, the actor now sees his father happier than ever before. “Now my dad is much happier with Bebo (Kareena Kapoor) and I’ve got two very handsome and naughty brothers. And my mom is the best mother ever.

She takes great care of me, and I live with her. It’s all good,” Ibrahim Ali Khan added. While his performance in Nadaaniyan received negative reception after it released on Netflix, he remains positive with the two best advices — from dad Saif Ali Khan and actor Priyanka Chopra. “From two people. My dad said this is not the year 2000 when a star can just walk around in a movie and it can be a blockbuster.

## Mani Ratnam was not born wise, says Kamal Haasan: ‘He is young just like me but the inspiration...’

Mani Ratnam and Kamal Haasan are gearing up for the release of their second collaboration, Thug Life, 38 years after their first film Nayakan (1987). With the movie scheduled to release on June 5, the cast and crew have been actively promoting it at different events and cities. Recently, Kamal Haasan, Silambarasan TR, and Trisha sat down for a discussion, during which STR praised Ratnam for his passion and love for cinema. Simbu said, “Usually directors correct actors from the monitor. They just shout from there but when it comes to Mani sir, he makes sure to walk to the actor to tell them what he wants.

Maybe this is one of the reasons why we respect him so much. The way he explains, we automatically do things right.” Haasan, who shares a strong bond with the filmmaker, chimed in, “Mani Ratnam was not born wise. He is

**Kamal Haasan and Mani Ratnam have collaborated after 38 years for the film Thug Life. The movie, also starring STR and Trisha, is set to release on June 5.**



young just like me but the inspiration he has... his choice of the leaders he got inspired from.” Kamal Haasan added Silambarasan’s words also hold true for filmmaker Balu Mahendran. The veteran actor shared, “Mani Ratnam and I, we have both worked with Balu Mahendra. Only he could train a dog to act. He would walk upto it to teach him action. There was a dog named — Subramani which acted in a film. He loved the dog’s acting so much that he took it home after the shoot. It grew up in his place. I used to be jealous of the dog.” Besides Haasan, Trisha and STR, Thug Life also stars Sanya Malhotra, Abhirami, Ashok Selvan, Aishwarya Lekshmi, Joju George, Nassar, Ali Fazal, Pankaj Tripathi, Rohit Saraf and Vaiyapuri.

### Tamil actor Vishal collapses on stage during an event, rushed to hospital



Tamil actor Vishal faced a health scare in Monday, May 11, as he suddenly collapsed on the stage during a public event in Villupuram, Tamil Nadu. He was immediately rushed to a nearby hospital for emergency treatment and is stable now. The unexpected turn of events worries fans present at the event and many attendees even expressed their concern on social media.

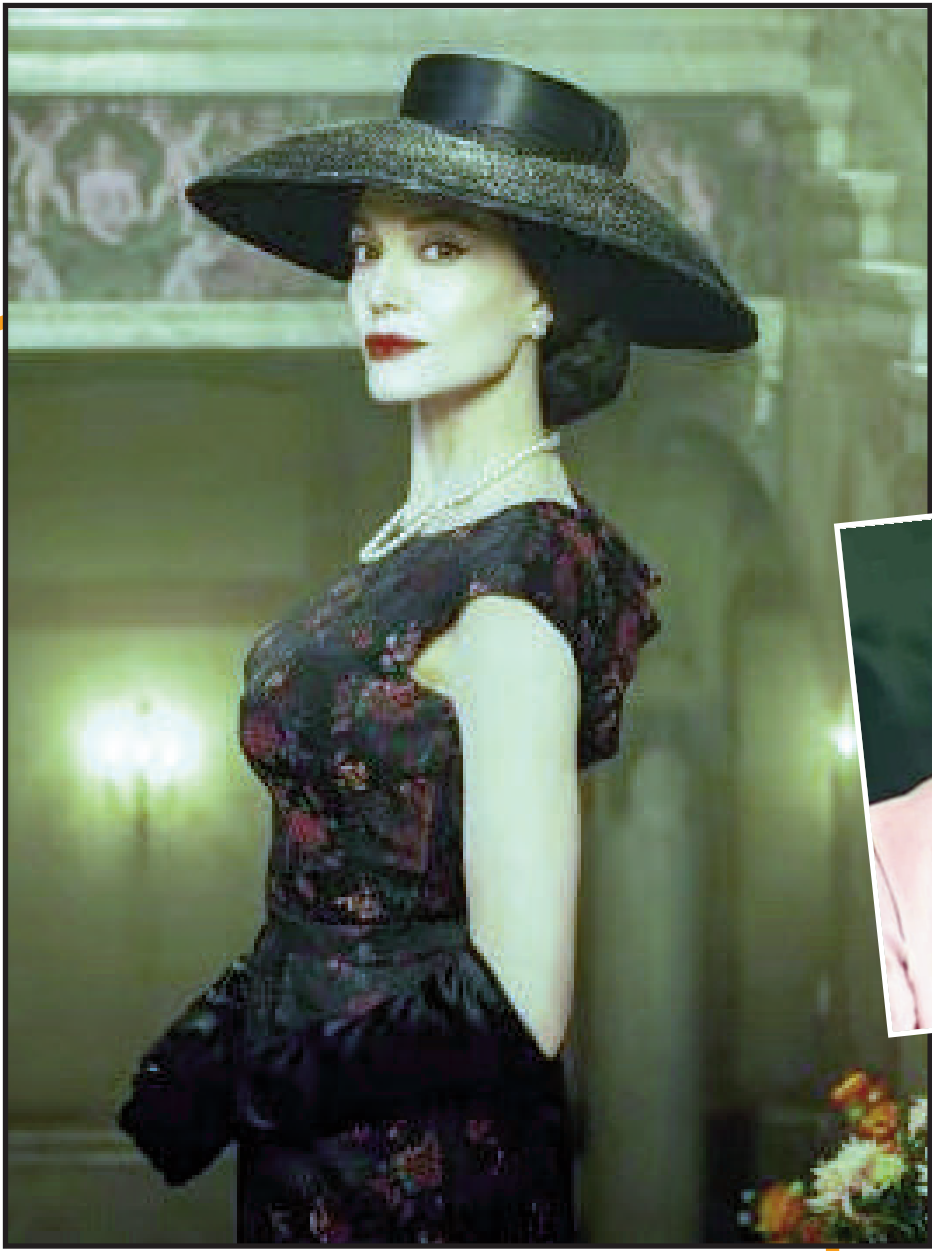
Vishal was present as the chief guest at a cultural in Koovagam village. As a part of the Tamil month festival, a beauty pageant called Miss Koovagam 2025 was organised on Sunday night for the transgender community. While the celebrations were going on, Vishal unexpectedly lost consciousness and fell on the stage. The event organisers and fans provided instant first aid and he regained consciousness. Former minister K. Ponmudi, who was also attending the event, assured Vishal’s transfer to the hospital for medical treatment. This incident has left everyone stressed about the actor’s health as it followed another health scare, after his recovery from dengue in January, this year.

## Maria movie review: Angelina Jolie strikes the right note, but the biographical drama lacks depth

Pablo Larraín's cinematic portrait of celebrated opera soprano Maria Callas, starring a superlative Angelina Jolie, relies more on atmosphere than drama.

“There is no life away from the stage. Stage is in my mind,” says Maria Callas, the protagonist of Pablo Larraín-directed Maria, when asked about staying away from the stage for some years. Angelina Jolie’s riveting performance as Maria Callas, considered to be one of the most influential opera singers of the 20th century, powers her story of achieving immense fame as an artiste, her life away from the stage and her struggle to make a comeback. Set in the late 70s, Maria’s narrative unfolds more like a psychological drama — exploring the effects of childhood trauma, fame and the pressure of sustaining artistic legacy — than a typical biopic. The film that opens with the death of Callas, within minutes rewinds to what transpired a week earlier. Living in a beautiful Parisian apartment, with big windows and chandeliers, the soprano is drifting through life under the influence of Mandrax — she takes the pills more often than what’s prescribed for her — that triggers hallucinations. She might be

losing the grip over what’s real, but the memories of past events in her life became clearer. She recounts them during a lengthy television interview with a young interviewer (Kodi Smit-McPhee) whom she refers to as ‘Mandrax’. Though it is evident to the viewers that these conversations are imagined by her, they become an effective tool for writer Steven Knight and Larraín to delve into her mind, memories, trauma and regrets. She also reveals her idea of art and the pressure that great artistes have to deal with during these exchanges. The movie also focuses on her love affair with Greek business magnate Aristotle Onassis. Ironically, even though she left her husband Giovanni Battista Meneghini to be with Onassis, he didn’t appreciate her art. While she was forced to be a singer by her mother, Onassis forbade her from performing. Later on, Onassis married Jackie Kennedy, the former first lady of America. “He wanted someone who he could control,” was Callas’s response to that. Even though Jolie earned a Golden Globe nomination for this performance, she missed out on being nominated for the Oscar. Notwithstanding that, this should be counted as one of Jolie’s most captivating performances.



### Javed Akhtar recalls Yash Chopra, ‘messiah of the poor’ Mahesh Bhatt opposing Copyright Act aimed at ending exploitation of creatives; says producers boycotted him

Javed Akhtar is known as one of India’s most prolific screenwriters, lyricists, and poets. While he is celebrated for his many creative roles, not many know that he also played a pivotal part in the passing of the Copyright (Amendment) Act in 2012. The Act, which was passed in both the Rajya Sabha and Lok Sabha, safeguarded the rights of writers, lyricists, music composers, actors, authors, and other creative professionals. In a recent interaction with Mid-Day, Javed Akhtar recalled how he got involved in the battle for copyright reform.

During the conversation, Javed recalled that it all began when the Indian Performing Right Society (IPRS) approached him to become the head of the non-profit organisation. He admitted that before this, he didn’t know about publishing rights. “I had



know idea publishing ka matlab kya hai. When I would sign contracts, they would take all the rights; I was not aware of that,” he said.

“Music directors came to my house and said, ‘We are being badly exploited. They give us unfair contracts, and we want you to become IPRS chairman,’” Javed recalled. After taking on the role, Javed Akhtar began to understand the depth of exploitation faced by creative professionals. He realised that the only way to bring about real change was to amend the country’s law. “I realised that no music director or writer dared to stand up against the music companies and producers alone because they would ban them. The only solution was to change the law of the country,” he said. “With this idea, I went to Delhi and looked at my good luck. During this time, they nominated me to the Rajya Sabha, so my access was unbelievable,” he said. Akhtar also recalled meeting political leaders from both the then-ruling Congress party — PM Manmohan Singh and Sonia Gandhi — and the Opposition BJP — Arun Jaitley and Sushma Swaraj — to get the bill passed in both houses of the Parliament. He ultimately managed to gain the support of both sides. He recalled, “Mrs Gandhi reacted so strongly. Her face was red when she read the contract that the music companies were making music composers and singers sign. She told me to meet Prime Minister Manmohan Singh.” Javed shared that all the political leaders whom he met agreed to help him, irrespective of the party they belonged to.

## Kantara Chapter 1 actor Rakesh Poojary dies of heart attack at 33, collapsed during a mehendi ceremony: report

Kannada and Tulu actor Rakesh Poojary, popularly known as the winner of Comedy Khiladigalu 3, passed away on Monday midnight after suffering a heart attack. The 33-year-old actor’s tragic demise happened during a mehendi ceremony in the Udupi district. As per a report in India Today, Rakesh collapsed late last night.

The TV actor had shared a story on his Instagram from the mehendi ceremony; he also posted a birthday wish for his sister. Both of these last stories on Instagram have gone viral. According to a report in Deccan Herald, Rakesh was at his friend’s place in Miyar, where he collapsed while talking to his friends. He was rushed to a hospital soon after he collapsed,



however, he was declared dead. The cause of death is suspected to be a cardiac arrest. Reportedly, a case of

unnatural death has been registered at the Karkala Town Police Station. Reacting to the news of his demise, a judge from Comedy Khiladigalu, Rakshitha wrote on social media, “The ever-smiling Rakesha...my fav Rakesha...the sweetest kindest loving person...Namma Rakesha...will miss you mänge.” Rakesh, who was set to star in

Kantara: Chapter 1, had also shot for the film on May 11 before he headed to the mehendi function. His portion in the film has been completely shot, and as per reports, Rakesh was playing an important role in the film. Before collapsing, the actor complained of fatigue. Rakesh had become a household name in Karnataka after he won the show in 2020.



# Deepika, Salunkhe win bronze as India finish with 7 medals at Archery World Cup Stage 2

SHANGHAI: India's most decorated archer, Deepika Kumari, salvaged her pride with a hard-earned bronze medal after a semifinal heartbreak, while Parth Salunkhe also finished on the podium for the first time as India wrapped up their campaign at the Archery World Cup Stage 2 with seven medals, here Sunday.

A day after compound archers put up a dominating show with five medals, Deepika and Salunkhe added two more from the recurve section to end India's campaign on a high.

Exactly a year after the 21-year-old reigning Olympic champion Lim Sihyeon had knocked Deepika out at the same stage of the Yecheon World Cup, the Indian was undone again by the Korean

## Closer Look

- » Deepika and Salunkhe added two more from the recurve section to end India's campaign on a high
- » Deepika's win took India's overall medal tally to six at the event
- » In the bronze medal playoff, Deepika showed greater composure and tactical clarity than her defeat to Lim in the semis

in the semifinal, losing 1-7 in a largely one-sided women's recurve individual contest.

The 30-year-old four-time Olympian, though, bounced back strongly to defeat another Korean, Kang Chae Young, 7-3 in the bronze medal playoff and return with a consolation podium finish.

Deepika's win took India's

overall medal tally to six at the event, with five coming from the compound section on Saturday that included a remarkable triple-medal haul by comeback archer Madhura Dhamangankar.

In the bronze medal playoff, Deepika showed greater composure and tactical clarity than her defeat to Lim in the semis.

The opening set ended in

a 27-all tie, but Deepika edged ahead with a solid 28 in the second to take a 3-1 lead.

Kang, a former world champion who had beaten Deepika in the Berlin World Cup quarterfinals back in 2017, fought back in the third, scoring a flawless 30 to Deepika's 27 to make it three-all.

The Indian responded with her best shooting under pressure, firing three perfect arrows for 30 in the fourth set to again take a 5-3 lead.

Needing just a draw in the final set to secure victory, Deepika delivered once more, shooting 29 to Kang's 28, to bag the bronze.

Earlier, Deepika began nervously in the semifinal, losing the first set 26-27 despite hitting two 9s.

AGENCIES

## MAN UNITED AND TOTTENHAM LOSE YET AGAIN

# Newcastle take advantage in Champions League race by beating Chelsea 2-0

LONDON: Advantage Newcastle in the race for the Champions League.

A 2-0 win against top-five rival Chelsea in the Premier League on Sunday moved Newcastle closer to a return to European club soccer's top competition next term.

With just two rounds of the season to go, Eddie Howe's team leapfrogged Manchester City and is up to third in the standings.

Meanwhile, Nottingham Forest's chances of a top-five finish were hit by a 2-2 draw against relegated Leicester.

The top five will qualify for the Champions League after England's top flight was handed a bonus spot for its teams' performances in Europe this season.

Newcastle has second place in its sights after victory against 10-man Chelsea at St James' Park.



Sandro Tonali fired the home team ahead from close range in the second minute and Nicolas Jackson was sent off

for Chelsea in the 35th, following a VAR review, for a foul on Sven Botman. Chelsea pushed for an equalizer after the break, but Bruno Guimaraes' dipping shot from distance in the 90th killed off the visitors' hopes of a comeback.

Newcastle moved a point above City which was held 0-0 by last-placed Southampton on Saturday. It plays second-place Arsenal next week.

"We still have two games to

go and lots of twists and turns that could be around the corner," said Howe. "We have to drive forward, reflect on our next game and make sure we're ready for Arsenal because that is a very, very tough match. We know how tight it is with the teams around us, so we're not taking anything for granted."

As well as the top five, England will be represented by a sixth team in the Champions League next season after Man-

chester United and Tottenham advanced to an all-English Europa League final, with the winner also qualifying.

Based on domestic form, neither United nor Spurs look like Champions League material, with both losing again on Sunday.

With a club-record extending 17th loss in the Premier League, United was beaten by West Ham 2-0 at home and sits in 16th place.

AGENCIES

## Arsenal and Newcastle to meet in Premier League showdown as Champions League race intensifies



NEW DELHI (Agency): Arsenal and Newcastle set up a Premier League showdown next weekend as the race for the remaining Champions League spots intensified Sunday.

After a weekend of upsets and comebacks in the Premier League, the six-way battle to qualify for European club soccer's top competition looks set to go down to the wire. vWith the top five qualifying for the Champions League next season, just six points separate second-placed Arsenal and seventh-placed Nottingham Forest with two rounds to go. And only two points separate Arsenal and Newcastle in third ahead of their penultimate league game at the Emirates Stadium next Sunday.

Arsenal rallied from two goals down against champion Liverpool to draw 2-2 at Anfield on Sunday, and Newcastle beat Chelsea 2-0.

Manchester City is a point further back in fourth after being held 0-0 by last-placed Southampton on Saturday. Forest's chances were hit by a 2-2 draw against relegated Leicester on Sunday that led to owner Evangelos Marinakis appearing to remonstrate with manager Nuno Espirito Santo on the field after the match.

Europa League finalists Manchester United and

Tottenham maintained their woeful domestic form — both losing 2-0 at home. United was beaten by West Ham and Spurs lost to FA Cup finalist Crystal Palace.

Dumped out of the Champions League semifinals by Paris Saint-Germain earlier in the week, Arsenal's main focus now is ensuring a return. But trailing 2-0 after just 21 minutes against Liverpool, it looked like another sobering day for Mikel Arteta's team, which was already on a run of just one win from its last five league games. Now it's one in six, but Arsenal successfully avoided defeat after a second-half fightback through goals from Gabriel Martinelli and Mikel Merino, who was later sent off.

The Gunners paid the price for a lackluster start as they conceded twice in quick succession, with goals from Cody Gakpo and Luis Diaz.

NEW DELHI (Agency): Hours after Indian cricket star Virat Kohli announced his retirement from Test cricket, his wife and actor Anushka Sharma on Monday said it was a privilege to watch him evolve after every season in the format and come back a "little wiser and humbler".

Kohli, 36, on Monday announced his retirement from Test cricket ending the speculation about his future in the longest format of the sport.

He turned up in 123 Tests for India, scoring 9,230 runs with 30 hundreds at an average of 46.85.

Sharma, 37, shared a heartfelt post on Instagram praising her husband.

"They'll talk about the records and the milestones - but I'll remember the tears you never showed, the battles no one saw, and the unwavering love you gave this format of the game. I know how much all this took from you. After every Test series, you came back a little wiser, a little humbler and watching you evolve through it all has been a privilege," she captioned her picture with Kohli.

Kohli will only play in ODIs now, having already retired



from T20 Internationals last year.

"Somehow, I always imagined you'd retire from international cricket in whites. But you've always followed your heart, and so I just want to say my love, you've earned every bit of this goodbye," the actor added in the post.

Kohli and Sharma tied the knot in 2017 and share two children - daughter Vamika (four) and 15-month-old son Akaay.

Celebrities and cricketers from across the world poured in their tributes, celebrating Virat Kohli's legendary Test career and reflecting on his impact on the game.

"Congrats to my biscotti. @imVkohli on an epic Test career! Your determination & skill have always inspired me. True legend," Kohli's

former IPL teammate, AB de Villiers posted on X.

Former Indian cricketer Irfan Pathan congratulated Kohli on his "phenomenal" Test Career.

"As captain, you didn't just win matches—you changed mindsets. You made fitness, aggression, and pride in whites the new standard. A true torchbearer of modern Indian Test cricket," Pathan wrote on X.

"Virat Kohli's retirement from Test cricket concludes a remarkable chapter in Indian sports. His passion, discipline, and leadership have inspired millions and brought great pride to the nation. My best wishes to @imVkohli for the next phase of his journey," Andhra Pradesh CM N Chandrababu Naidu wrote on X.



# Manchester United coach Ruben Amorim is embarrassed and has raised doubts about his future

MANCHESTER (Agency): Ruben Amorim said he was "embarrassed" after Manchester United lost yet again in the Premier League on Sunday.

United fell to a club record-extending 17th loss in the modern era after a 2-0 home defeat to West Ham and is languishing at 16th in the 20-team division.

Amorim has already stated this could be the worst team in the club's

history. The United head coach went further on Sunday, saying he felt "embarrassed" and it was "hard to accept" the team's woeful domestic campaign. "It's my fault, I'm responsible. If we cannot change that really fast, we should give our place to different people," he said, raising questions about his own future. United has suffered more defeats this season than in any campaign since the Premier League was launched in 1992. The joint-record 20-time English champion is also certain to record its worst-ever points total in that period, as well as its lowest finish.

## Our pacers keep getting injured, need to work on that: Harmanpreet

COLOMBO: India women's team captain Harmanpreet Kaur on Sunday expressed her concerns about her pacers' frequent tryst with injuries and said the support staff is looking to address it before the ODI World Cup comes calling.

Harmanpreet was speaking after India's title triumph in the Tri-Nation ODI series.

"Proud of the entire team, especially the batters, we wanted to play good cricket, were looking to bat first if we win the toss and pretty happy with how we played," Harmanpreet said at the presentation ceremony.

India put up an impos-

ing 342/7 batting first and then bowled out Sri Lanka for 245.

Vice-captain Smriti Mandhana was the biggest star of the day as she struck a magnificent hundred to power India's charge before the likes of Jemimah Rodrigues, Sneha Rana, Amanjot Kaur and Harmanpreet herself joined party.

"We can never stop improving, lots of areas where we can keep doing better, be it batting, bowling or fielding. Our pacers keep getting injured, that's something we need to keep care of, the coaches are working on it."

AGENCIES

## Jahnvi, Om Shine in Round 2 at All India Chess Masters

MUMBAI: Jahnvi Soneji and Om Gada delivered impressive performances in Round 2 of the All India Chess Masters FIDE Rating Championship here on Sunday.

Jahnvi, playing with black pieces, secured a convincing victory over Hemant Ishan, while Om outplayed Avaneesh Shetty in a well-fought encounter.

Among other notable results on the top 10 boards, Ajay Agarwal defeated Anirudh Iyer, and Milind Aabha held A. Kumar to a draw in a balanced contest.

AGENCIES

## Neeraj-led four Indians to compete in Diamond League on May 16

DOHA: Star Indian javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra will have the company of three other compatriots in the Doha leg of the prestigious Diamond League Meeting on May 16 as the country will have maximum representation ever in a DL event.

Chopra, who won the title here in 2023 (88.67m) and finished second in 2024 (88.36m), will be joined by Kishore Jena in the men's javelin throw. Jena took part in 2024 also and had finished ninth with a throw of 76.31m.

The star-studded field in the men's javelin throw will have the likes of two-time world champion and Paris Olympics bronze winner Anderson Peters of Grenada, 2024 winner Jakub Vadlejch of the Czech Republic, Julian Weber and Max Dhehning of Germany, Julius Yego of Kenya and Roderick Genki Dean of Japan.

The other two Indians in the fray are national record holder Gulveer Singh, who is making his Diamond League debut, in men's 5000m and Parul Chaudhary in the women's 3000m steeplechase.

AGENCIES

## KIYG: Aisangfa creates weightlifting record; Maha sweep yogasana medals

PATNA: Assam's Aisangfa Gogoi scripted a new national youth record for total lifts on her way to gold in girls 55kg class weightlifting competition, even as Maharashtra, Karnataka and Rajasthan led the standings in the Khelo India Youth Games here on Sunday.

She raised the national youth record to 183kg, breaking the mark set by Mina Santa in Fiji last year.

By winning Assam's sixth gold medal, Aisangfa helped the state break into the top 10 in the medals table, with two silver and two bronze medals as well.

## Only the top three teams have claimed 10 gold medals or more. Madhya Pradesh stayed in fourth spot

tion to 24 silver and 25 bronze medals so far. Karnataka remained in the second place ahead of Rajasthan, though the latter gained a gold through Prakriti Sharma in the girls Saber final at the Fencing arena in Rajgir.

She beat giant-killer S Tanvi (Karnataka) who shocked the top ranked Pangambam Ambika Devi (Manipur) in the semifinals.

Only the top three teams have claimed 10 gold medals or more. Madhya Pradesh stayed in fourth spot.

Haryana's Sachin showcased his skills with the Foil to win a crucial gold for his state

and help it rise above Tamil Nadu to the sixth spot on the table with seven gold, six silver and 16 bronze.

However, Punjab kept its nose ahead of its neighbour, thanks to Sunil Singh's gold in the boys 61kg weightlifting competition in Rajgir. Punjab has won seven gold and 10 silver and bronze each.

Hosts Bihar, which has enjoyed a good run in the Games, added a seventh sport in which its athletes have won medals.

Bihar's yogasana artists ensured that the home state would gain at least one medal on Sunday. They joined their team-mates from rugby, sepak takraw, cycling, gatra, judo and shooting in contributing to the growing tally.

Saransh Kumar and Abhishek Kumar were unable to match the top two Maharashtra pairs but topped the race for the yogasana boys rhythmic pair bronze medal.

AGENCIES

## Sinner wins in return from doping ban before home crowd

Many of Sinner's fans in crowd were dressed in orange

ROME: After a wait of more than 100 days, Jannik Sinner still knows how to win a tennis match.

The top-ranked player made a solid return from his three-month doping ban by beating 99th-ranked Mariano Navone 6-3, 6-4 before an adoring home crowd at the Italian Open on Saturday.

It was Sinner's first match since he won his third Grand Slam title at the Australian Open in January. He said it took him all of three games to get his competitive focus back.

"Amazing feeling. I have waited quite long for this moment," Sinner said. "I am very happy to be back."

There weren't too many signs of rust and it didn't take long for Sinner to start crushing his groundstrokes on or near the lines. When the Italian broke for 3-1 in the first set, the crowd inside Campo Centrale sang "Ole, ole, ole, Sin-ner, Sin-ner."

But Sinner acknowledged that he had doubts over whether he would regain the form that he had before his ban.

"It's normal to have doubts. Would be strange to don't have any doubts. Would sound very arrogant, no?" Sinner said. "I had doubts before going on court today. I have doubts now



Jannik Sinner

## Italian Open

what's going to happen in the next match. But we have to live with doubts because it means that you really care, that you want to improve, that you want to show yourself, that you want to do something special."

Many fans in the soldout crowd of 10,500 were dressed in orange, Sinner's theme color. And there were plenty of signs that said "Bentornato Jannik" ("Welcome back Jannik").

The victory extended Sinner's winning streak to 22 matches, dating to October.

"It went very well at times," he said. "Could be better, yes, but in any case it doesn't matter about the result today. It has been a remarkable day for me."

In February, Sinner agreed to the three-month ban in a

settlement with the World Anti-Doping Agency that raised some questions, since it conveniently allowed him not to miss any Grand Slams and come back at his home tournament.

The settlement was made after WADA appealed a decision last year by the International Tennis Integrity Agency to fully exonerate Sinner for what it deemed to be an accidental contamination by a banned anabolic steroid in March 2024.

Many fellow pros feel Sinner was treated too lightly.

But the crowd at the Foro Italico night session was fully behind Sinner, who has remained Italy's most popular athlete despite his suspension.

AGENCIES



BRIEF NEWS

Defense sector company announces to buy land in MP, shares soar

**Bhopal (Agency):** Shares of major defense company BEML rose by 4.5% on Monday. This jump came after the company announced to buy 148 acres of land for rail and metro projects in Madhya Pradesh. BEML works in three main sectors defense, rail-metro and mining. Investors feel that after the Indo-Pak tension, the defense budget will increase and companies like BEML will benefit. Also, the government's focus on railway and metro projects is also supporting the shares.

2 reasons for BEML shares to jump

**Land purchase announcement:** BEML told BSE and NSE on May 11, 2025 that the Madhya Pradesh government has allotted it 60.063 hectares (about 148 acres) of land in Umaria in Raisen district near Bhopal. This land will be used for a factory to manufacture coaches for rail and metro projects.

**2. Demand expected to increase in defense sector:** After the India-Pakistan tension, the army is expected to increase the demand for BEML's products (such as bridge layer vehicle, artillery tractor, fire tender). Due to this, investors expect growth in the company's profits.

**Share price situation:** BEML's share opened at ₹ 3,178.95 on BSE on Monday, which was 3.9% above the previous day's closing price (₹ 3,058.65). During the day, the stock reached an intraday high of ₹ 3,195, i.e. it gained 4.5%.

Why is this expansion important?

This new project of BEML will strengthen its presence in the rail and metro sector. The company already supplies various special vehicles to the Indian defense forces. Now with the increase in the capacity to manufacture rail coaches, its revenue is likely to increase.

(Disclaimer: Experts' recommendations, suggestions, views and opinions are their own, not of Live Hindustan. Here only stock performance information is given, it is not an investment advice. Investment in the stock market is subject to risks and consult your advisor before investing.)

School bus's rampage in Bhopal, ran over vehicles standing at red signal, 1 dead

**Bhopal (Agency):** Under traffic rules, instructions are always given regarding speed on the road. Boards like 'Better late than accident' always warn us before any big mishap, but still people do not listen, due to which accidents also happen. In Madhya Pradesh's capital Bhopal, a school bus hit five vehicles due to uncontrolled speed. One person died in this incident, while 4 people are reported to be injured. The video of the incident is also going viral on social media.

According to the information, a school bus hit five vehicles standing at 'red signal' from behind at Banganga intersection located in TT Nagar police station area of Madhya Pradesh's capital Bhopal this afternoon. One woman died in the accident, while four others are injured. The 10-second video is also viral on social media. It is clearly visible in the video that how the bus driver, without caring about the vehicles standing at the red signal, hit 5 vehicles and went ahead at high speed. Two-wheelers were also hit by the bus. The injured have been admitted to the hospital for treatment. The cause of the accident is said to be failure of the brakes of the school bus. The bus driver fled from the spot after the accident. Police have registered a case and are investigating the matter. After the incident, the frightened driver left the bus and fled. According to police sources, a school bus coming down from Roshanpura crossing hit the Banganga crossing during the red signal.



Surrender, or be ready to die; Chief Minister Mohan Yadav's direct warning to Naxalites

**Bhopal (Agency):** Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Mohan Yadav has given a strict warning to the Naxalites, saying that either they surrender or they will be wiped out. He said this on Monday during a program organized for policemen at Rani Avantibai Stadium in Lanji tehsil of Balaghat district, the only Naxal-affected district of Madhya Pradesh, in which 64 policemen were given out-of-turn promotion. These policemen were part of the operation in which four female Naxalites were killed in Balaghat on February 19. During the ceremony, the Chief Minister also inaugurated and performed Bhoomi Pujan of 93 development works worth Rs 169 crore. This also includes an Ayurveda college and hospital to be built at a cost of Rs 69.80 crore.

Addressing the program, CM Yadav said, 'Naxals surrender, or you will be wiped out. Those who commit injustice, shed the

blood of innocents and chant 'Lal Salaam' have no right to live. You will not be allowed to live on this earth. The Chief Minister said, 'You spread false and wrong information among our innocent people. You work in a cowardly manner. The government is fully capable of dealing with such elements.' He said that Balaghat in eastern Madhya Pradesh was once one of the 12 most Naxal-affected districts in the country, but now it is not so. The Chief Minister said that due to the intention of the government and the hard work of the police, now the central government has removed Balaghat from the category of serious Naxal problem and placed it in the other category. He said, the decline in Naxal activities in Balaghat is commendable. During this, he congratulated the promoted police officers and employees by putting badges on them. Yadav said, 'The government is proud of the indomitable courage

shown by our policemen. Salute to the officers serving the society.' The 64

police and one from the 36th battalion of the MP Police Force. During this, MP



policemen who were promoted during the program include 62 from the special anti-Naxal Hawk Force, one from the district

Director General of Police Kailash Makwana put stars on the uniforms of the policemen. The Chief Minister also announced that

8,500 personnel will be recruited in the police force in the coming days. Addressing the policemen and the people, CM Mohan Yadav said that under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah, a resolution has been taken to eliminate Naxalism from the country by the year 2026. To fulfill this, the Madhya Pradesh government is also working shoulder to shoulder with the central government. The Chief Minister said that 'Anti-Naxal campaign is being conducted across the country under the leadership of Home Minister Amit Shah. To strengthen this campaign, Madhya Pradesh Police is being equipped with modern weapons and technology. The state government is fully capable of dealing with Naxalites. This decoration ceremony on the soil of Balaghat is a direct message to the Naxalites that they should surrender or else they will be killed.' Sharing some

pictures of this event on social media, CM Yadav wrote, 'Respect for dutiful service, salute to dedication... In the pre-promotion decoration ceremony of police personnel held in Lanji area of Balaghat, honored and congratulated the brave soldiers. In the ceremony, inaugurated and performed Bhoomi Pujan of development works worth more than Rs 169 crore. Realizing the "coordination of tradition with modernity", combining the ancient knowledge tradition of Ayurveda with modern facilities, performed Bhoomi Pujan of Ayurveda College and Hospital in Balaghat, which will cost Rs 69.80 crore. The Madhya Pradesh Police personnel, imbued with the spirit of dedication, discipline and devotion to duty, are the strong wall of the state's security, due to which the state is moving unhindered on the path of development. Infinite best wishes for a bright future for all of you.'

Australia welcomes India-Pakistan understanding; calls for de-escalation, counter-terrorism efforts for regional peace

**New Delhi (Agency):** Australian Foreign Minister Penny on Monday welcomed the understanding between India and Pakistan, emphasising the importance of de-escalation and counter-terrorism efforts for regional peace and security. Wong spoke with Indian External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and Pakistani Finance Minister Ishaq Dar to encourage respect for the ceasefire terms. "I know many Australians are concerned by recent hostilities between India and Pakistan. I've spoken with @DrSJaisankar and @MishaqDar50 to welcome the ceasefire and urge respect for its terms. De-escalation and counter-terrorism efforts are critical to regional peace & security," Wong wrote on X. Operation Sindoor marked a significant escalation in India-Pakistan relations, with both countries engaging in a series of military actions and counter-actions.

India launched a joint military operation targeting

terrorist infrastructure in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir on May 7, 2025. The operation was a response to the Pahalgam terror attack on April 22, 2025, which killed 26 people. India targeted nine locations, including terrorist



training camps and logistical hubs associated with militant groups like Lashkar-e-Taiba and Jaish-e-Mohammed. Pakistan responded with false propaganda, claiming to have shot down Indian fighter jets and attacked Indian bases. However, these claims were later debunked.

Earlier in the day, Jaishankar shared a post on

X, congratulating Wong on her reappointment as as Australia's Foreign Minister. During their conversation, they discussed recent developments and emphasized the importance of zero tolerance against terrorism amid India, Pakistan tensions. Further, Jaishankar expressed enthusiasm for further strengthening the multifaceted 'India-Australia Dosti.'

In a post on X, Jaishankar wrote, "Good to talk to @SenatorWong of Australia. Extended warm congratulations on her reappointment. Discussed recent developments and the importance of zero tolerance against terrorism. Look forward to further strengthening the multifaceted India-Australia Dosti." Wong's reappointment as Australia's Foreign Minister comes after Australian Prime Minister Anthony

Albanese secured victory in the elections. Albanese has unveiled his ministers for the second term and named former communications minister Michelle Rowland as attorney-general after Mark Dreyfus was removed from the front bench due to factional negotiations, ABC News reported.

West Australian and Muslim MP Anne Aly will be promoted to cabinet, after fellow Muslim MP Ed Husic was sidelined along with Dreyfus last week, ABC News reported. Senior ministers, including Defence Minister Richard Marles, Finance Minister Katy Gallagher, Treasurer Jim Chalmers, Foreign Minister Penny Wong, Home Affairs Minister Tony Burke and Education Minister Jason Clare, will continue to hold their portfolios. Albanese is the first Prime Minister in Australia in more than two decades to secure back-to-back election victories, the first since John Howard, Al Jazeera reported.

At Mother's Day event, Delhi CM Rekha Gupta urges women to prioritise their health, well-being

**Delhi (Agency):** At the inaugural function of the National Obesity Conference, held on the occasion of Mother's Day on Sunday, Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta urged women to prioritise their health and well-being. The event also saw 400 women doctors being felicitated for their contributions to healthcare. Addressing the gathering, Gupta emphasised the critical role of women in shaping the future of India and called for greater awareness around the health challenges they face — particularly obesity.

"The mother in our household takes care of the whole family — of the husband, his parents, the children — but does not take care of herself. This is the root cause of obesity," she said. "She will cook whatever the family wants to eat, but when it comes to herself, if there isn't enough food, she skips the meal. If there's too much food, she thinks, 'Why



waste it?" and finishes it herself. We consider ourselves to be the least important and treat ourselves like a dustbin," Gupta remarked, adding: "There is no time for self-care in a woman's life — they are constantly busy." Stressing the urgency of addressing this growing concern, Gupta stated, "Obesity must end. Women often focus on caring for everyone else, but during Covid-19, I realised that we must take care of ourselves first and this is what I used to tell women during events — the family cannot stay healthy if you aren't focusing on your own health."

Doomscrolling, fear and dread: Away from frontlines, India-Pak tensions take toll on mental health

**New Delhi (Agency):** Pakistan was nothing but a name for seven-year-old Hazel till earlier this week. Now she grows suspicious with every knock on the door and breaks down at the thought of impending doom.

"It all started when her school had an awareness session and then she heard things from her friends in the class. Now she wants me to be careful before opening the door. She says 'Pakistan will attack us' and everyone will die," said Annu Mathew, who is having a difficult time explaining to her daughter that she is in no direct danger in Kerala's Trivandrum.

Young Hazel is not the only one.

Hundreds of miles away in Delhi, 36-year-old Mahendra Awasthi said he can't sleep. If the child is troubled by conversations around her, the young man finds himself doomscrolling endlessly through social media, unsure of what to believe and what to not.

This continues even after Pakistan and India

agreed to step off the escalatory ladder of war on Saturday evening and US President Donald Trump said the two countries had reached a ceasefire. The relief quickly gave way to renewed anxiety when reports came in of Pakistan violating that understanding with sounds of explosions and blackouts in many border areas.

Everybody was on edge.

It began on the intervening night of May 6-7 when India carried out Operation Sindoor against terrorist infrastructure in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir in retaliation for the attack in Pahalgam. In the following days, the two countries engaged in armed operations in major cities along the border.

All this has a long-term impact on mental health.

The escalating military tension between the two nations, a deluge of information, and the inability to sift through fake and real news can significantly affect the psychological well-



being of individuals, say mental health experts.

According to clinical psychologist Shweta Sharma, the constant chatter of potential war can trigger a "vicarious trauma" response in people, even for those far from conflict zones.

"Relentless 24/7 media coverage, social media exposure, and emotionally charged content that can overwhelm the brain's stress regulation mechanisms. War-related fears often stem from unpredictability — how far

will this go, who will be affected, and what will be the long-term consequences?" Sharma said.

It's nerve wracking for people like Awasthi.

Drowning in the multitude of voices on social media and news channels, in an indistinguishable mix of news and misinformation, Awasthi said he is filled with a constant sense of dread to an extent he can hear his heart beat faster at times.

"I don't want to scroll social media but I keep feeling I will miss out on some

essential news. What if Delhi is next on target, what should I do to keep my family safe, will we wake up tomorrow?" he said, without trying to hide the panic in his voice. For people watching from safer regions, seeing the suffering of civilians or soldiers can lead to guilt and helplessness.

"Young minds are highly impressionable. War talk can instill fear, reinforce stereotypes, and disrupt their sense of security," explained Sharma.

It is important to stay aware at such times, but it

is also imperative to choose credible sources and take breaks from continuous coverage.

And when it comes to children, Sharma said, it is advisable to explain the situation in age-appropriate ways.

"Reassure them of safety and encourage open conversations rather than letting them absorb misinformation online," she said.

Mathew has come up with a plan to reassure her daughter. She takes Hazel to the balcony and points at the clear skyline and asks her if she can spot any of the explosions or shootings that she is afraid of.

"When she sees that none of the fears in her imagination are real, she calms down," Mathew said.

The trauma can take on different shades.

Worried almost sick at the thought of impending war, Jaipur-based Aniket Singh (name changed) started preparing for an emergency after the April 22 attack in Pahalgam, which left 26 dead and led to the government launching Op-

eration Sindoor. He stocked up rations for three months, a bunch of fully-charged power banks, flashlights, ample cash, and essential medicines. And is still feeling "extremely anxious" and "at a loss".

"I feel something big is coming and I am not at all prepared to take care of myself and my family. I feel what I am doing may not be enough when it comes down to it. I can't really help feeling this way," he said.

While it is one thing to be anxious about the unknown as the threat of war looms overhead, being prepared for any untoward outcome can also cause anxiety.

Senior family therapist Maitri Chand said paying heed to sirens, blackout drills, and stocking up essentials might give a sense of preparedness for people and also induce anxiety at the same time.

"It's a tightrope to walk on where we have to find our own balance. It is difficult to stay calm and collected, especially when most people around you are

coming from a frenzied space that is induced by anxiety and fear," Chand said.

In such circumstances, people must anchor themselves with "reaffirming positive thoughts" that they will come out of it and be able to take care of their loved ones when the time comes.

Chand advised people to engage in meditation, even for a few minutes through the day, believe in a belief system, not necessarily a religious one, and help others with their fears and anxieties.

"The thing about fear and anxiety is that other people around us can catch it from us very quickly. So meditation becomes very vital for you to sit in quiet silence, where you are able to reassure yourself."

"Focussing on some kind of belief system also helps. Belief in something bigger, greater than yourself. And if you can help somebody feel better, if you can help someone lower their anxiety or fear that will be very helpful," she said.