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DECISION ON CEASEFIRE WAS
TAKEN AT BILATERAL LEVEL:
VIKRAM MISRI



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TRUMP HOPES FOR CEASEFIRE IN
RUSSIA-UKRAINE WAR WITH MONDAY
CALLS TO PUTIN, ZELENSKY



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HOCKEY INDIA OPENS
PLAYER REGISTRATION
FOR LEAGUE

GOVT TO ALLOW PVT PLAYERS INTO NUCLEAR POWER SECTOR

Centre considering to bring changes in Atomic Energy Act, nuclear liability law to limit liability on suppliers to build atomic energy plants

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI

Government is considering amendments to the laws governing the nuclear power domain, including the sectoral regulator, to allow participation of private sector as India eyes to produce 100 GW atomic energy by 2047.

Government sources said amendments were being considered to the Atomic Energy Act to allow private sector participation and the Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage Act to limit the liability on suppliers of equipment to build atomic energy plants.

The government is also considering regulatory reforms and is evaluating the model of Indian National

REGULATORY REFORMS IN OFFING

■ Centre likely to change Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage Act to limit the liability on suppliers of equipment to build atomic energy plants

■ Govt looking at regulatory reforms and evaluating model of Indian National Space Promotion and Authorization Centre (INS-PACe), which acts as the promoter



and regulator for the space sector that was opened up for private participation in 2020.

■ Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman

Space Promotion and Authorization Centre (INS-PACe) which acts as the promoter and regulator for the space sector that was opened up for private par-

ticipation in 2020.

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced opening up of the nuclear power sector which has been restricted to public

sector companies. The Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited operates atomic power plants across the country that contribute 8.7 GWe to the country's en-

ergy mix.

Sitharaman also announced a Nuclear Energy Mission for research and development of Small Modular Reactors (SMR) with an outlay of Rs 20,000 crore and to operationalise five indigenously developed SMRs by 2033.

The Department of Atomic Energy officials have recently said that the Nuclear Energy Mission aims to leverage private sector participation, streamline regulatory frameworks, and scale up nuclear power production to meet India's increasing energy demands.

Foreign nuclear power firms had evinced interest in setting up atomic power plants in India after it secured a waiver from the Nuclear Suppliers Group to en-

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His silence 'damning': Rahul attacks EAM

'Language of Pak': BJP retorts over LoP questioning the 'loss of aircraft' in combat with Pak

ANAND SINGH
NEW DELHI

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Monday again trained his guns at the External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar as he questioned his silence and said his silence is damning.

Rahul Gandhi, who is also the Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha, asked that how many Indian jets were downed during the conflict.

In a post on X, the Lok Sabha MP from Uttar Pradesh's Rae Bareilly said, "EAM Jaishankar's silence isn't just telling — it's damning. So I'll ask again: How many Indian aircraft did we lose because Pakistan knew?"

"This wasn't a lapse. It was a crime. And the nation de-



serves the truth," the Congress leader said.

The BJP hit back, accusing Gandhi of speaking the "language of Pakistan" and asking whether the Congress party was truly serious about supporting the nation.

Rahul Gandhi's response came two days after he had fired his salvo at the government and said that informing Pakistan at the start of our attack was a crime.

On a post on X, on Saturday, he had said, "EAM has publicly admitted that GOI did it. 1. Who authorised it? 2. How many aircraft did our airforce lose as a result?"

Meanwhile, Congress media and publicity de-

partment chairman Pawan Khera also addressed a press conference and slammed Jaishankar's silence on why Pakistan was informed before the conflict.

Khera said, "Wars are not fought only on borders, but are also fought by political strategists. While our armed forces bravely perform their duties on the borders, the strategists sitting in the capital also play an important role in the war. The role of all these people is very important which can either boost the might of the army or harm the might of the army."

The Congress leader said that their leader Rahul Gandhi has asked some questions on the statement of the External Affairs Minister. "This becomes very important because in the last one week, US President Donald Trump has been repeating in different countries that he mediated to stop the war and was one behind the ceasefire. "Trump also said a very hor-

■ P3

'Crass': SC raps MP Min for remarks on Col Sofiya, forms SIT

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday came down heavily on Madhya Pradesh BJP minister Kunwar Vijay Shah for his remarks against Colonel Sofiya Qureshi, who had briefed the media about Operation Sindoor against Pakistan.

The court ordered the constitution of a Special Investigation Team (SIT) comprising three IPS officers to probe the matter.

A bench of Justices Surya Kant and N Kotiswar Singh directed that the SIT must consist of three senior IPS officers from the Madhya Pradesh cadre, who are currently serving in the state but do not originally belong to it. The court also specified that one of the officers must be a woman.

The apex court instructed the Director General of Police to constitute the SIT by May 20.



The apex court instructed the Director General of Police to constitute the SIT by May 20.

Terming the minister's remarks as "filthy, crass and shameful", the court rejected Shah's public apology, calling it insincere. "The nation is ashamed of you (Shah). Redemption is yours to seek," said Justice Surya Kant.

While the court stayed

■ P3

BCCI dismisses reports of pulling out of ACC events

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

BCCI Secretary Devajit Saikia dismissed media reports suggesting that the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) has decided not to participate in this year's Asia Cup and the Women's Emerging Teams Asia Cup due to cross-border tensions between India and Pakistan.

Recent reports claimed that the BCCI had informed the Asian Cricket Council (ACC) of its decision to withdraw from both events -- the Women's Emerging Teams Asia Cup, scheduled to be held in Sri Lanka next month, and the Men's Asia Cup, slated for September.

Saikia categorically denied the reports.



Devajit Saikia, Secretary BCCI

EAM holds talks in Netherlands, stresses on deepening India-EU ties

TDG NETWORK
THE HAGUE

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Monday met his Dutch counterpart Caspar Veldkamp and held wide-ranging discussions on deepening bilateral partnership and engagement with the European Union.

Jaishankar, who is here on the first leg of his three-nation trip that will also take him to Denmark and Germany, appreciated the Netherlands' strong condemnation of the Pahalgam



External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar meets Netherlands Foreign Affairs Minister, Caspar Veldkamp, in Hague on Monday. ANI

attack and support for zero tolerance against terrorism. It is Jaishankar's first for-

eign visit after the four-day-long military confronta-

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Ex-US President Biden diagnosed with prostate cancer

AGENCIES
WASHINGTON

Former US President Joe Biden has been diagnosed with an "aggressive form" of prostate cancer that has spread to his bones, as per a statement from his office released on Sunday.

According to the statement, the diagnosis followed the discovery of a prostate nodule after he reported worsening urinary symptoms.

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"Deeply concerned to hear about @JoeBiden's health. Extend our best wishes to him for a quick and full recovery. Our thoughts are with Dr. Jill Biden and the family."

- Narendra Modi, Prime Minister

HC junks Masjid Committee plea against Sambhal mosque survey

TDG NETWORK
PRAYAGRAJ/SAMBHAL

The Allahabad High Court on Monday dismissed a plea of the Masjid committee against the survey ordered by a Sambhal court in the Shahi Jama Masjid and Harihar Temple dispute.

The court said the order to appoint a court commissioner and the suit were maintainable.

Justice Rohit Ranjan Agar-

wal had previously reserved its order on the matter after hearing counsel for the Masjid committee and plaintiff Hari Shanker Jain aside from the counsel for the Archeological Survey of India (ASI). "This is not a case where any conversion of place of worship is taking place or any religious character of place of worship is being changed. Plaintiffs have only sought right to access

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TMC pulls out of all-party global outreach, says BJP can't pick names

SUPROTIM MUKHERJEE
KOLKATA

The Trinamool Congress has decided not to be a part of the multi-party delegations which are to be sent to different countries to put across the Indian standpoint and rally global support for India's war against terror originating from Pakistan.

The party has conveyed to the Centre that it will not send Yusuf Pathan or any other party MP as a part



of multi-party delegations. Sources said the Trinamool Congress is also of the view that the Modi Government has embarked on this exer-

cise as a diversionary tactic. Mamata Banerjee said the Centre did not consult the Trinamool Congress "mother party" to seek the name of its representative in the multi-party delegations, adding: "If they request me to send someone's name, we will decide it and tell them"

The Central Government has named cricketer-turned-politician Yusuf Pathan, who is a Trinamool Congress MP from the Ba-

■ P3



Chief of the Army Staff (COAS) General Upendra Dwivedi in a group picture with Army and BSF personnel during his visit to border town Longewala of Rajasthan, in Jaisalmer on Monday. ANI

Pakistan's Pahalgam dossier is a rambling mix of propaganda, poor proof and patchy English

ABHINANDAN MISHRA
NEW DELHI

In what was presumably meant to be a hard-hitting diplomatic counter to India's response after the 22 April Pahalgam massacre, a 'dossier' made by Pakistan intelligence agency, the ISI in collaboration with military commanders, has instead emerged as a jumbled, poorly edited document that under-

mines its own credibility.

Meant to rally international sympathy and support, the 18-page file fails to present a coherent, persuasive narrative—and suffers not just from weak arguments, but also from glaring spelling mistakes, broken grammar, and propaganda-level tone.

The dossier, accessed by the Daily Guardian, alleges that India orchestrated the Pahalgam attack as a "false flag"



to justify military strikes on Pakistani territory. It accuses India of targeting religious sites, killing civilians, and

fabricating its narrative to cover up internal security failures.

But for all its sweeping

claims, the dossier contains no visual evidence, no primary documents, no satellite imagery, and no verifiable third-party sources. Repeated mentions of "international media" are made, yet not a single article is quoted, footnoted, or hyperlinked.

The writing, at several points, is shockingly poor for a document presumably meant for diplomatic audi-

■ P3

HWC CHIEF SLAMS PROFESSOR'S REMARKS ON OPERATION SINDOOR

Professor Ali Khan Mahmudabad was arrested on Sunday from Delhi for his post about Operation Sindoor and was served a notice by the Haryana Women's Commission.

TDG NETWORK
CHANDIGARH

Haryana State Commission for Women Chairperson Renu Bhatia on Monday condemned the social media post made by Ashoka University professor Ali Khan Mahmudabad regarding Operation Sindoor emphasizing that his comments were insulting towards women and the nation, and that such behaviour cannot be accepted under the name of free speech.

Professor Ali Khan Mahmudabad was arrested on Sunday from Delhi for his post about Operation Sindoor. Earlier, he had also been served a notice by the Haryana Women's Commission. Bhatia said the Commission took 'suo motu' action after receiving a complaint from the sarpanch of Jatheri village, who also alleged that the professor tried

SUO MOTU

- Haryana Women's Commission took suo motu action after complaint.
- Chairperson Renu Bhatia: post insulted women and the nation.
- Bhatia: free speech under Article 19 doesn't allow offensive remarks.
- Professor accused of threatening Jatheri village sarpanch.
- Bhatia: "Our daughters fight at borders, deserve respect."
- Notice sent on May 12; professor didn't appear on May 14.
- Post allegedly invoked caste, religion to divide people.
- Questions raised about items installed at university by professor.
- Bhatia: "Court will take action, no one spared."
- Commission vows strict action against those insulting women's honour.



Haryana State Commission for Women Chairperson Renu Bhatia

to threaten him.

Renu Bhatia told reporters, "His mindset reflects insult towards women. Freedom of speech is our right under Article 19, but that does

not give anyone the right to speak anything wrongly or use offensive language. This person has always spoken against the country and the Prime Minister." She added,

"Our daughters are the pride of the nation. They fight on the borders to protect us. While Operation Sindoor was going on, this person was posting against the

country on social media."

Bhatia said a notice was sent to Mahmudabad on May 12 and he was expected to appear before the commission on May 14, but he did not show up or respond. "He brought in caste and religion in his post and tried to divide people. That is wrong," she said.

She also raised questions about certain items installed in the university by Mahmudabad, saying they raise concerns about moral values. Reacting to a comment made by a political leader from Madhya Pradesh in support of the professor, Bhatia said, "The court will take action. No one will be spared." She added that the Women's Commission will continue to take strict action against those who insult the honour of women, especially when women are defending the country at the border.

Kharge condemns arrest of Ashoka University professor

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge on Monday condemned the arrest of Ashoka University professor Ali Khan Mahmudabad and said that it showed how "fearful the BJP is of any opinion."

"The Indian National Congress stands with our Armed Forces, bureaucrats, academicians, intellectuals and their families. I condemn any character assassination, vilification, trolling, harassment, unlawful arrest of any individual and vandalism of any business entity, either through fringe elements or through official state machinery. The arrest of Ashoka University professor, Ali Khan Mahmudabad shows how fearful the BJP is of any opinion, disliked by them," Kharge posted on X.

The Congress leader further referred to the recent remarks made by Madhya Pradesh



Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge (Left) and Ashoka University professor Ali Khan Mahmudabad. File Photo

Minister Vijay Shah against Colonel Sofiya Qureshi and said that BJP-RSS is "hell bent on casting a narrative."

"This follows a chain reaction which began from targeting the grieving widow of our martyred Naval officer, our Foreign Secretary and his daughter, and the deplorable disparaging comments made by a BJP Minister for a serving Colonel in the Indian Army.

Instead of sacking their own Madhya Pradesh's Deputy CM & Minister, who made

disgusting statements against our valiant Armed Forces, BJP-RSS is hellbent in casting a narrative that anybody who represents Pluralism, questions the government or simply performs his professional duty in the service of the nation, is a threat to its existence," he said.

The Congress chief said that supporting the Armed Forces and the government, when National Interest reigns supreme, "does not mean that we cannot question the Government."

Verifying facts on Hisar woman's link with YouTuber in spying case: CID

TDG NETWORK
BHUBANESWAR

Following the arrest of YouTuber Jyoti Malhotra for allegedly sharing sensitive information and being in continuous contact with a Pakistani citizen, Odisha police are investigating her links with YouTuber Priyanka Senapati who is from the State.

Inspector General of Police (IGP) CID Crime Branch, Sarthak Sarangi, said that facts are being verified.

"We have just received information that YouTuber Jyoti Malhotra visited Puri's Jagannath temple and posted a video regarding it on Instagram. She also visited Chilika and Konark. She was in touch with a YouTuber from Odisha. We are verifying all the facts. We are in touch with our



IGP CID Crime Branch Sarthak Sarangi

Jyoti Malhotra, a resident of Hisar, Haryana, was arrested for allegedly sharing sensitive information and being in continuous contact with a Pakistani citizen. Puri Superintendent of Police, Vinit Agrawal, said that they are in touch with the Haryana police over the matter.

SP Agrawal said, "Puri Police is investigating. We are in touch with Haryana and several state and cen-

tral agencies."

According to Shashank Kumar Sawan, Superintendent of Police (SP) Hisar, Malhotra was being developed as an asset and had maintained ties with other YouTube influencers and Pakistani nationals.

Sawan stated, "She was in touch with other YouTube influencers, and they were also in contact with the Pakistan Information Officers (PIOs). She used to go to Pakistan, like on sponsored trips. She was in Pakistan before the Pahalgam attack, and the investigation is ongoing to establish any possible linkages."

Jyoti Malhotra was interrogated for allegedly passing information to Pakistan. She allegedly met a Pakistani officer, Ahsan-ur-Rahim, in Delhi, travelled to Pakistan twice, and shared sensitive information.

NIA arrests assailant in 2024 Manipur Reserve Battalion post attack case

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) has arrested one of the miscreants involved in the 2024 attack on an India Reserve Battalion (IRB) post in Moreh area of Manipur's Tengnoupal district that killed one policeman and injured two others, the agency said on Monday.

Thangminlar Mate alias



Lenin Mate, a resident of Tegen, was nabbed in Assam's Silchar on Sunday.

"Mate's affiliation to any

militant group is not clear yet," said the NIA in a statement. The attack was carried out by miscreants on 17th January last year, resulting in the death of one Manipur Police personnel. Two other policemen were also seriously injured in the attack.

The Silchar court has given NIA the transit remand custody of the accused, the first person to be arrested in the

case (RC-05/2024/NIA/IMP) for production before the agency's special court in Guwahati.

'No vacancy for post of Bihar CM': Chirag Paswan

TDG NETWORK
DARBHANGA

Union Minister and Lok Janshakti Party (Ram Vilas) chief Chirag Paswan on Monday asserted that there is "no vacancy" currently in Bihar for the post of Chief Minister and CM Nitish Kumar will lead a strong NDA government after the Assembly polls.

"There is no vacancy currently in Bihar for the post of CM. After the election results, under the leadership and vision of PM Modi, CM Nitish Kumar will lead a strong NDA government. After the Bihar elections results, NDA government will be formed,"



Union Minister Chirag Paswan

Chirag Paswan told reporters in Darbhanga.

On Sunday, Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader Syed Shah Nawaz Hussain said that the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) remains strong in Bihar under the leadership of Chief Minister Nitish Kumar

and is poised to win over 200 seats in the upcoming elections.

In a significant political development in Bihar ahead of the Assembly polls scheduled to be held later this year, former Union Minister Ram Chandra Prasad Singh has merged his political outfit, Aap Sabki Awaz (ASA), with the Jan Suraj Party, led by Prashant Kishor.

Singh left JD(U) in 2023 to join Bharatiya Janata Party and in 2024 announced the formation of his own Party, 'Aap Sabki Awaz', announcing his contention for the 2025 Bihar election.

The merger brings together

two prominent political figures with a shared vision for Bihar's future. Prashant Kishor, who is best known for his work in political campaigns, welcomed Singh into the fold, describing him as "an elder brother" and a leader with deep insights into Bihar's political and social dynamics. On April 16 this year, the Election Commission of India (ECI) began preparations for the upcoming Bihar assembly elections, with over 200 booth-level agents participating in a national-level training programme at the India International Institute of Democracy and Election Management in Delhi.

'Our delegation will leave on May 21...': BJD leader Sasmit Patra

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

Biju Janata Dal (BJD) Rajya Sabha MP Sasmit Patra on Monday said that the delegation led by Shiv Sena MP Shrikant Eknath Shinde will leave on May 21 and will expose Pakistan's sponsored terrorism across the world.

"Our delegation is led by Shrikant Shinde...we will leave on 21st May night, we will be back by 3rd or 4th June...the way Pakistan has become a terror hub and has exported terrorism to



BJD Rajya Sabha MP Sasmit Patra

India and the issues we have faced because of terrorism. We will present these issues on the global platform...we will also present the reason because of which we had to conduct Operation Sindoor,"

the BJD leader told ANI. Sasmit Patra is part of the Shrikant Eknath Shinde-led delegation. The multi-party delegations, consisting of seven groups led by one MP each, have been initiated to counter global misinformation and highlight India's zero-tolerance policy on terrorism. The delegation, led by Shiv Sena MP Shrikant Eknath Shinde, will be visiting the United Arab Emirates, Liberia, Congo, and Sierra Leone. BJP's Bansuri Swaraj, Atul Garg, Manan Kumar Mishra, along with

Opposition members including Indian Union Muslim League MP Mohammed Basheer, BJD's Sasmit Patra, and Sujan Chino. Operation Sindoor was launched on May 7, targeting terror bases in Pakistan in retaliation for the deadly Pahalgam terror attack on April 22. The operation targeted terror infrastructure deep inside Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir, eliminating over 100 terrorists linked to Jaish-e-Mohammed, Lashkar-e-Taiba, and Hizbul Mujahideen.

Trinamool councillor arrested after bomb goes off in illegally occupied flat

SUPROTIM MUKHERJEE
KOLKATA

A Trinamool Congress councillor from Titagarh town municipality in West Bengal's North 24 Parganas district was arrested on Monday, hours after a bomb went off in his flat in a multi-storied building, causing substantial damage to the property, police said.

Md Riyazuddin, the ruling party's councillor from Ward No 4 in Titagarh town, was arrested in the afternoon along with two of

his associates.

A case was registered after the bomb blew off the outer wall of the fifth-floor flat in the morning. The debris landed on a nearby shanty damaging its tin roof. Cracks developed on the walls of the adjacent flats, but the residents did not suffer any injury, police said.

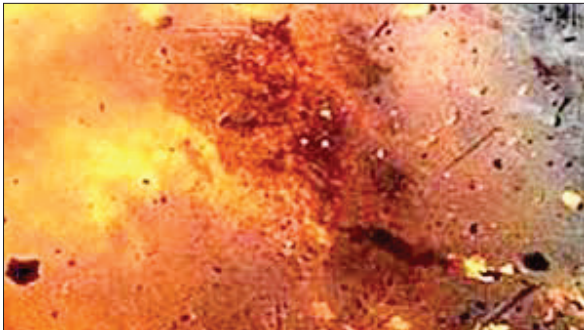
"The explosion was quite powerful according to local people. Experts will visit the spot and check what sort of explosive was kept there," Indra Badan Jha, Deputy

Commissioner of Police (Central), Barrackpore, told the media.

Anil Gupta, the real estate promoter who built the building a few years ago, alleged that the Trinamool Congress councillor occupied the flat by force and never paid the price.

"I kept asking for the money and the councillor always dodged the issue. His men used to frequent the flat," Jha told the media. Police did not comment on this dispute.

Md Riyazuddin denied the



The debris landed on a nearby shanty damaging its tin roof, and cracks developed on the walls of the adjacent flats. (Representational image)

allegations before he was arrested. "This is a conspiracy. Police have to find out who the bomb was meant for.

I never lived in that flat. Many people frequented it. The door was never locked," he said.

"And why is this question of ownership being raised now? It is just a corridor, not a proper flat," Riyazuddin said.

State Trinamool Congress leaders did not comment on the arrest till 7 pm. Arjun Singh, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)'s former Lok Sabha member from Barrackpore, alleged that the explosion once again exposed the law-and-order situation in Titagarh and its surrounding industrial region, which is densely populated. Singh said: "Who

can vouch that Riyazuddin is not working for Jamaat-ul-Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB)? The Army intelligence unit should interrogate him. It is an open secret that terror outfits based in Bangladesh are active in Bengal."

The incident brought under focus similar explosions in the region in recent years. In December 2022, an 11-year-old schoolboy was critically injured in Titagarh town when a crude bomb went off near a bonfire that some slum children had lit

by the roadside to beat the cold. The probe revealed that local criminals kept the bomb behind a trash bin near which the bonfire was lit by the children. The heat triggered the explosion, investigators found.

This happened less than a month after a six-year-old boy died in a similar explosion at a slum in the adjacent Kankinara area.

On September 17, 2022, there was widespread panic when a crude bomb went off on the roof of Titagarh Free India High School.

ONE MORE MAN HELD FOR SPYING FOR PAK FROM HARYANA, TOTAL 5 HELD SO FAR

NEERAJ MOHAN
CHANDIGARH

The Haryana Police on Monday arrested another man from Nuh district on charges of spying for Pakistan. This is the second arrest in the district and fifth from the state within days and part of a larger crackdown following Operation Sindoor.

The latest accused has been identified as Mohammad Tarif, son of Hanif, from Kangarka village in Taoru tehsil of Nuh district. He was arrested by Nuh police with the help of central agencies after they found his links to a suspected espionage network passing sensitive information to Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI).

As per the police FIR, the police have registered a case against the accused Tarif and two employees of the Pakistani High Commission in Tauru Sadar police station. The police officials claim that the accused used to provide mobile phone sim-cards to the officials in the Pakistan embassy and was also part of a network to provide Pakistan visa by charging hefty amounts from them. He told the police that he helped 10 people to get a Pakistan Visa and charged Rs 8000 to Rs 10000 as bribe from them.

He had been in touch with the Pakistan officials since 2018 when he went for an interview for a Pakistan Visa. He had also visited Pakistan thrice between 2018 to 19. He said that the officials had asked him to provide



YouTuber Jyoti Malhotra held for spying

photos of the Indian army base but he claimed that he did not follow their instructions further.

A case has been registered against Mohammad Tarif and two Pakistani citizens Asif Baloch and Zafar posted at Pakistan High Commission in Delhi under Section 152 of the BNS and sections 3, 4 and 5 of the Official Secrets Act at the Sadar Tauru

police station.

Just two days earlier, police had arrested another 26-year-old Arman from Rajaka village. He was allegedly sharing information about the Indian Army and military activities with a staff member of the Pakistan High Commission in Delhi. His phone reportedly contained WhatsApp chats, photos and videos shared

with Pakistani numbers. He is currently in police custody.

In all, five people have been arrested so far in this case, including Jyoti Malhotra, a YouTube content creator from Hisar. Police believe she was being groomed by Pakistani handlers. She had even travelled to Pakistan in November last year, and authorities suspect she shared images of the Patiala military cantonment with ISI agents.

The police have also filed cases against two employees of the Pakistan High Commission in Delhi. Investigators say the arrests are part of a wider operation to dismantle a spy network operating across several Indian states including Haryana, Punjab, Uttar Pradesh, and Gujarat.

This surge in arrests comes at a time of high tension between India and Pakistan. Last month 26 people, mostly civilians, were killed in Pahalgam in Jammu and Kashmir in an attack allegedly carried out by terrorists linked to Pakistan-based Lashkar-e-Taiba.

In response, India launched Operation Sindoor, a precision military strike against terror camps across the border. Pakistan retaliated with its own attempted strikes, which were largely neutralised by Indian forces.

Police officials say the ongoing investigation has exposed serious threats to national security, with some of those arrested also suspected of providing logistical support to terrorists inside India.

Strict action will be taken: CM Saini

CHANDIGARH: Reacting to the recent arrests of several people from Haryana on charges of spying for Pakistan, Chief Minister Nayab Saini said the state government will not tolerate any activity that puts national security at risk. "The police are taking action against persons involved in such activities," Saini said on Monday. "What matters is the action taken against people committing such crimes. If there are any other people found involved in similar activities, there will be action against them too." His statement comes after multiple arrests were made from Haryana's Nuh and Kaithal districts. Those arrested have been accused of sharing sensitive information with Pakistan's intelligence agency. The accused include a YouTuber, a youth from Nuh's Rajaka village, and a man from Taoru tehsil.

The Haryana Police and central agencies have launched a full-scale investigation into what they believe is a larger spy network operating in the region. Cases have also been registered against two employees of the Pakistan High Commission in Delhi in connection with the case.

Decision on ceasefire was taken at bilateral level: Vikram Misri to Parliamentary panel

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI

Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri told a parliamentary committee on Monday that the conflict between India and Pakistan was always in the conventional domain, and there was no nuclear signalling by the neighbouring country, sources said.

The sources said Misri reiterated the government's stand that the decision to stop military actions was taken at a bilateral level, as some opposition members questioned US President Donald Trump's repeated assertions about his administration's role in stopping the conflict.

The Ministry of External



Affairs, in a presentation to the Standing Committee on External Affairs which is headed by Congress MP Shashi Tharoor, asserted that the initial probe into the Pahalgam terror attack revealed "communication nodes" of terrorists with their "masterminds in Pakistan".

The ministry said Paki-

stan's track record as terror sanctuary is well established, rooted in solid facts and evidence, and said it blames India for the killings of some individuals on its soil despite its allegations being devoid of any facts or any evidence.

It is meant to draw a false equivalence between the two countries, the ministry said, adding that UN-designated terrorists roam freely in Pakistan and continue to incite violence against India.

When some opposition members of the committee prodded him on the US leader's repeated attempts to take centre stage, India's top diplomat quipped that Trump did not seek his consent for doing so.

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ences.

Take this sentence from the Executive Summary:

"Based on fabricated facts and using the Pahalgam false flag as justification, India targeted various locations in Pakistan, including Muridke, Bahawalpur and Muzaffarabad and also sent 100 plus Drones in Pakistan territory." Besides its clunky phrasing, "100 plus Drones" is both grammatically awkward and informally phrased. "Drones into Pakistani territory" would have been correct, and "100-plus drones" would be the proper form.

Another gem appears in the section on Indian media, where the dossier reads, "Indian media war hysteria and fake news factory even expose by credible international media with facts."

This is not just grammatically wrong—it's incoherent. "Even exposed" is the correct form, and the phrase "with facts" is tacked on like a slogan. The overall sentence reads like it skipped both

proofreading and translation quality control.

In multiple places, the term "innocents' civilians" appears—an incorrect possessive construction. The intended phrase is likely "innocent civilians," but the document uses the grammatically impossible version at least twice. It also refers to an FIR being "lunched" against Pakistan—clearly a misspelling of "launched," but never corrected and served to international bodies.

The document also frequently breaks from English syntax norms "Just after the 10 minutes of incident, FIR was lunched against Pakistan without any evidence."

Again, grammatically incorrect. It should read: "Just ten minutes after the incident, an FIR was launched against Pakistan." The repetition of such errors gives the document the feel of a rushed, machine-translated draft—not the official position of a sovereign nation.

Beyond grammar, the rhetorical tone of the dossier oscillates between victimhood and bombast, often slipping

into unfiltered aggression.

India is accused of "naked aggression," "murdering innocents," "weaponizing violence," and committing "unprovoked acts." These phrases are repeated throughout with little variation, weakening their impact. It reads less like a diplomatic dossier and more like a tabloid op-ed.

The list of supposed military victories claimed by Pakistan further stretches credibility. The dossier says that Pakistan military destroyed S-400 systems, BrahMos storage units, multiple Indian brigades, and shot down Rafale jets. It claims: "Pakistan precisely targeted only the military installations and platforms that launched attacks on its territory, strictly avoiding civilian areas."

But there is no evidence—no photos, no independent confirmation, no satellite data. The sheer scale of these claimed victories, without a single corroborating source, makes the entire account sound fabricated or greatly exaggerated, as a director

level official with an international body and a non-Indian who also read the dossier, told the Daily Guardian.

Strategically, the document also defeats itself. It calls for a third-party investigation, but insists throughout that India is guilty—undermining its own supposed openness. It criticizes India for reaching conclusions too quickly after the attack, yet immediately brands the attack as a staged "false flag" in its opening paragraphs. That contradiction is not subtle; it's central to the case and breaks whatever logical structure the narrative tries to build.

On the presentation side, even the Table of Contents is riddled with issues. One section is titled, "Indian Own Media and Intellectuals Raising Question about the Pahalgam Incident."

This is grammatically incorrect. It should be "Indian Media and Intellectuals Raising Questions." The phrase "Indian Own Media" is clunky and non-native in tone, suggesting poor editorial oversight.

Even the name of Pakistan's own military operation—Operation Bunyanum Marsoos—is introduced with no background, no explanation, and no translation. For an international audience, unfamiliar with Urdu or military jargon, this comes across as both alienating and confusing. In terms of diplomatic function, the dossier is non-strategic. It offers no roadmap, no proposals, no references to regional dialogue mechanisms, no appeal to the UN beyond the shallow invocation of Article 51. It offers no vision for peace, only accusation after accusation. There is no balancing act, no of mutual responsibility, or even of complex regional dynamics.

The official who read the dossier told the Daily Guardian that Pakistan's dossier falls far below the standard of a serious diplomatic document. It's not just weak—it's self-defeating. Its errors in language, logic, tone, and evidence are so extensive that it not only fails to make a case—it damages the very credibility it seeks to defend.

His silence 'damning': Rahul

CONTINUED FROM P1

rifying thing that he stopped the war by threatening India to stop trade. That is, the sindoor deal continued, the Prime Minister remained silent. Not a single word came out of the mouth of the Foreign Minister," he said taking a pot shot at the government.

He said that "we do not know what secrets US and China have about Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Foreign Minister and BJP leaders, because they never open their mouth in front of America and China".

Taking a swipe at the Prime Minister, he said, "Whenever he (Modi) opens

his mouth, it is to directly give a clean chit to China."

Khera further said that we don't care about the secrets they might have of yours, but why is it harming the country".

"Why will justice not be served for the Pahalgam attack, because you are afraid of China and America. The entire country and the world knows what China's role was in this war and US itself is boasting about its role in stopping this war, but Jaishankar does not open his mouth," he claimed.

Targeting the External Affairs Minister, he said, "Jaishankar himself told the media agencies that we had

informed Pakistan before launching the attack. Now what does this informing mean?" Firing salvos at Jaishankar, he said, "Does the Foreign Minister have so much trust in Pakistan that the terrorists will sit quietly at his command? What is the relationship of the External Affairs Minister and why did he inform Pakistan before the attack?"

"In fact, this is not diplomacy but spying. Everyone heard what the foreign minister said - yet it is being covered up. Was it because of this information that Masood Azhar survived and Hafiz Saeed escaped alive?" Khera alleged.

'Crass': SC raps MP Min for remarks

CONTINUED FROM P1

Shah's arrest, it directed him to join and fully cooperate with the investigation.

Although the bench said it would not monitor the investigation directly, it made it clear that it would keep a close watch on the case.

The SIT has been asked to submit a status report on the probe, and the matter has been posted for hearing on May 28.

"Having gone through the

statements by the petitioner (Shah) and the FIR, we are of the opinion that the subject FIR shall be probed by a SIT with three senior IPS officers who do not belong to the MP cadre but are in MP. Let the SIT be constituted by tomorrow. Let one member be a woman officer. Both members shall be above the rank of superintendent of police. The head member shall not be below the rank of IG or DGP," the bench stated in its order.

"Though we are not inclined to monitor the probe, in the peculiar facts and circumstances of the case, we direct the SIT to submit the outcome of its probe through a status report before this court," the court further said. The Supreme Court was hearing a plea filed by Shah challenging the Madhya Pradesh High Court's suo motu order to register an FIR against him over his remarks against Colonel Qureshi.

TMC pulls out of all-party global outreach, says BJP can't pick names

CONTINUED FROM P1

hampur Lok Sabha seat in Murshidabad, as a member of one of the seven multi-party delegations, which are going to visit several countries in the coming days to convey India's message in the wake of the Pahalgam terror attack and Operation Sindoor. Pathan is the lone Trinamool Congress member included in such a delegation.

Speaking to reporters on Monday, Chief Minister and Trinamool Congress

chairperson Mamata Banerjee said: "They (Centre) cannot decide the name (of the AITC representative) on their own. If they request the mother party, the party will decide the name.

"This is customary and is the system. We are totally with the Centre regarding the foreign policy," adding that "If they request me to send someone's name, we will decide it and tell them".

Mamata said: "Nowadays, they (Centre) don't inform the mother party, but only the parliamentary party.

However, the parliamentary party only works for the Parliament session, it cannot take policy decisions. No requests came to us. If the request comes to us, of course, we can consider it. We are totally in favour of the country's best interests." She also said, "It is wrong to say that we are boycotting or not going. They need to inform the party. The parliamentary party discusses the Bills in Parliament. It takes decisions regarding Parliament, and that too, after consulting with the

party. I am the chairperson of the Trinamool Parliamentary Party in Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha. However, we were never informed."

Earlier in the day, Trinamool national general secretary and MP Abhishek Banerjee, while speaking to the media at Kolkata airport, said: "How can the Union Government decide on the representative of Trinamool? They should have held discussions with the Opposition to decide which representative a party will send."

Abhishek said, "How can

the BJP decide which representative Trinamool will send? Trinamool is not boycotting the (all-party) meeting. Trinamool is the only party which has not politicised the matter of national security."

He said, "Whatever decision the Union Government takes, which is aimed at combating and curbing terrorism, safeguarding the sovereignty of the nation, and protecting the national interest, we as a party will stand with the Centre shoulder-to-shoulder."

tion between Indian and Pakistani armed forces.

"Thank FM Caspar Veldkamp @ministerBZ of the Netherlands for hosting me today in The Hague. Appreciate Netherlands' strong condemnation of the Pahalgam attack. And support for zero tolerance against terrorism. Had wide-ranging discussions on deepening our bilateral partnership and engagement with the EU. Exchanged views on the global situation in an era of multi-polarity," Jaishankar said in a post on X.

The minister also met Defence

Minister Ruben Brekelmans and exchanged views on respective security perspectives and challenges.

"Pleased to meet Defence Minister Ruben Brekelmans in The Hague today. Exchanged views on our respective security perspectives and challenges. Also spoke about the benefits of forging a bilateral defence partnership," Jaishankar said.

Earlier in the morning, Jaishankar said a "good exchange" of views with strategic experts during which they also discussed why India and the Netherlands/EU should engage more deeply in an era of multi-polarity and strategic autonomy.

In a post on X, the Indian Embassy in the Hague said the minister's visit will further boost India-Netherlands ties.

During his visit, Jaishankar will meet the leadership of the three countries and hold discussions with his counterparts on the entire gamut of bilateral relations and regional and global matters of mutual interest.

It is expected that Jaishankar will apprise his counterparts in the three nations about India's decision to launch Operation Sindoor following the Pahalgam terror attack.

India carried out precision strikes

under 'Operation Sindoor' on terror infrastructure in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir early on May 7 in response to the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack that killed 26 people.

Following the Indian action, Pakistan attempted to attack Indian military bases on May 8, 9 and 10. The Indian forces launched a fierce counter-attack on several Pakistani military installations.

India and Pakistan reached an understanding on May 10 to end the conflict after four days of intense cross-border drone and missile strikes.

HC junks Masjid Committee plea

CONTINUED FROM P1

to a protected monument declared in the year 1920 under Section 18 of the Act of 1958," the court said.

The court was referring to The Ancient Monuments and Archeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958.

The Committee of Management, Shahi Jama Masjid, had moved the high court challenging the suit and the Sambhal court order which directed the survey through an advocate commissioner.

The court refused to accept the argument of the

mosque committee which said the dispute stood settled in 1877 and then a decree was confirmed by the high court as the 1877 verdict was in relation to an old building whereas the "Juma Masjid" was declared as a protected monument under the Act of 1904 in 1921.

"If the title suit was decided in favour of revisionist in the year 1877, then, question arises as to why the revisionist had entered into an agreement in the year 1927 subjecting the structure in dispute to the Act of 1904?"

it asked.

"The entire case set up by revisionist is on the basis of the alleged agreement entered between then collector, Moradabad and the revisionist in the year 1927. Once revisionist himself admitted to the execution of the alleged agreement which was in pursuance of the Act of 1904, prior to the enforcement of the Act of 1991 and cut-off date mentioned therein, he cannot say at this stage that suit is barred by provisions of the Act of 1991," the court added.

STALIN WRITES TO CMS OF NON-BJP RULED STATES ON QUESTIONS RAISED BY PREZ BEFORE SC


ANAND SINGH
CHENNAI

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin wrote to the chief Ministers of various non-BJP states regarding the questions raised by the President of India before the Supreme Court and committed to preserving our federal structure and state autonomy, to unite in the upcoming legal battle.

In his letter to the non-BJP ruled State chief Ministers, Stalin said, "As you are aware, the President of India, under the advice of the Union Government, has invoked the advisory jurisdiction of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India under Article 143 of the Constitution of India on 13th May, 2025 and raised 14 questions before the Court. Though the reference does not specifically refer to any State or judgement, its intent is to

THE CONCERNS

- Stalin raised concern over President seeking SC opinion under Article 143.
- 14 questions referred to SC challenge TN vs Governor verdict indirectly.
- Stalin calls the SC verdict a victory for federalism, not just Tamil Nadu.
- Verdict limits Governor's power to delay, block, or withhold assent to Bills.
- SC set timelines for President/Governor actions under Articles 200 & 201.
- Stalin alleges BJP misuses Governors to stall opposition-ruled states.
- Accuses BJP of trying to unsettle the SC judgment via Article 143 reference. Advisory jurisdiction can't override an existing SC ruling, Stalin argues.



question the findings on law and interpretation of the Constitution given by the Supreme Court in the case of State of Tamil Nadu versus Governor of Tamil Nadu."

The DMK leader said that this historic judgement obtained by his government is not only for Tamil Nadu but for all states since it upholds the federal structure

and distribution of powers between the States and the Union, thus effectively preventing the obstruction of legislations enacted by democratically elected State Legislatures by an appointee of the Union and an unelected figurehead the Governor.

The Chief Minister said, "All of us have been witness to the way in which

the BJP led union government have used Governors to obstruct and impede functioning of opposition ruled States." He further said that they inordinately delay assent to Bills, withhold assent without valid constitutional or legal reasons, sit over routine files and government orders sent for signature, interfere in appointments to

important posts and have abused their position as Chancellor of Universities to politicise educational institutions.

"They have been able to do so by taking advantage of the fact that the Constitution is silent on certain issues, because the framers of the Constitution trusted that those holding high constitutional office would act in accordance with constitutional morality," the DMK chief said.

He said that it is in this context that the Supreme Court has passed the landmark judgement in the TN Governor's case, holding that -- first, the Governor is bound by the aid and advice of the State Cabinet while dealing with Bills, second, the Governor cannot exercise pocket veto to delay assent to Bills inordinately, third, the Governor cannot kill Bills by withholding assent and not returning Bills to the House.

Pawar slams Raut, urges unity on Operation Sindoor delegation

TDG NETWORK
BARAMATI



Pawar emphasized that such decisions should not be made based on party affiliations and stressed the importance of maintaining a unified national approach in international matters.

India's position on recent

events involving Pakistan post the Pahalgam terror attack.

Pawar said, "Today, the government has made a delegation to represent the country. What happened with Pakistan after Pahalgam terror attack, this delegation has been sent to communicate that position. I cannot react on his individual opinions, nor I can speak for Sanjay Raut. His opinion is his own, and he has the right to hold it. However, I do see that a Member of Parliament from his party is also part of this delegation. Our (NCP SP) stance is that local politics should not be brought into this matter", he added. Earlier, Sanjay Raut had accused the central government of politicizing the matter instead of convening a special parliamentary session. He expressed disappointment that his party, which has nine Members of Parliament, was not consulted before forming the delegation.

KTR demands Rs 25 lakh each for Hyderabad fire tragedy victims' kin

TDG NETWORK
HYDERABAD



Bharat Rashtra Samithi working president KT Rama Rao

Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) working president KT Rama Rao (KTR) has said the Hyderabad fire mishap which claimed the lives of 17 people was an act of "criminal negligence" and demanded that the Revanth Reddy government announce at least Rs 25 lakh for each family that had lost their loved ones.

He cited concerns of family members of the deceased, saying that the fire brigade and emergency personnel involved in rescue operations must be provided with proper training, given that it was absent.

"This is criminal negligence...This is the largest fire incident to have happened in Hyderabad's history. 17 people have lost their lives. Family

members are saying that the proper training needs to be given to the fire brigade and emergency personnel involved in rescue operations, but were not there," KTR told reporters here.

He said that the fire brigade that came to douse the flames had no water, and the ambulances had no oxygen masks. If these things were

available, it could have saved at least one life, KTR said. Owing to property loss, he appealed to the government to announce at least Rs 25 lakh for each family. "When the fire brigade came, there was no water in it. In the ambulance, there was no oxygen mask. The families are saying that one or two lives could have been saved if these things were there. I want to tell the government that the ex-gratia announced is not enough and announce at least Rs 25 lakhs to each family. The CM and Home Minister should come and visit this place themselves and make sure such incidents won't happen again," KTR said.

Maksud Ahamed, Charminar Electricity Assistant Divisional Engineer, told reporters, "We suspect that the cause of the fire is the AC compressor burst and not a short circuit."

Education row: BJP's Soundararajan slams TN govt

TDG NETWORK
CHENNAI



BJP leader Tamilsai Soundararajan

BJP leader Tamilsai Soundararajan has hit out at the Tamil Nadu government led by Chief Minister M.K. Stalin, accusing it of misleading the public on the National Education Policy (NEP) and promoting discrimination in education.

She strongly rejected the claim that the NEP aimed at "safronising" education and instead called it a policy full of "good things" for students across the country.

Speaking to ANI, Soundararajan said, "I appeal to the Tamil Nadu CM that

so many good things are in the NEP, but they are saying that we are safronising it. On what basis are they telling it?"

She further alleged that the state's Education Minister was not speaking the truth about the committee that drafted the NEP.

"The Education Minister

of Tamil Nadu is lying, saying that there were people who followed the 'Right' ideology in the committee," she said, adding that there was clear discrimination in how education was being delivered in the state.

Soundararajan criticised the ruling DMK leadership for denying language learning opportunities to poor students while privileged children, including those of ministers, studied in CBSE schools. "There is discrimination in education; rich people and the Tamil Nadu minister's children are studying three languages, which they are studying in the CBSE schools.

Man held for impersonating as Air Force personnel

TDG NETWORK
PUNE

A person was apprehended for masquerading as an Air Force personnel in a joint operation by a Pune-based Southern Command Military Intelligence team and officials from the Kharadi Police Station. According to a statement from Pune Police on Sunday, the accused, identified as Gaurav Kumar, was intercepted after intelligence inputs suggested his alleged suspicious activities.

A combined team from Southern Command Military Intelligence and Kharadi Police Station detained Kumar.

Rain chaos in Bengaluru, BJP lambasts Congress govt

TDG NETWORK
BENGALURU

Bengaluru experienced severe waterlogging on Sunday due to intense rainfall, prompting Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar to express his deep concern over the situation.

"Deeply concerned by the havoc caused by relentless rains in Bengaluru. I've been in continuous touch with the concerned officers and I'm closely monitoring the situation. As always, I remain committed to Bengaluru - working round the clock to address challenges and ensure relief. I will be visiting the BBMP War Room and flood-affected areas personally to take stock on ground. Let us be clear: the issues we face today are not new. They have been ignored for years, across governments and

The cities woes prompted the BJP to turn up the heat on the Congress government in the state accusing it of not being able to manage the state.

administrations. The only difference now is - we are working to solve them. Not with temporary fixes, but with long-term, sustainable solutions. To my fellow Bengalureans - I am one among you.

I understand your concerns, I share your frustration, and I assure you of my commitment to resolve them," he said in a post on X. The city's infrastructure

struggles to cope with the heavy rainfall. Visuals from the Silk Board Metro Station show severe waterlogging, with several parts of the city witnessing flooding. The Silk Board area, a major traffic hub, is severely affected, causing inconvenience to commuters.

The cities woes prompted the BJP to turn up the heat on the Congress government in the state accusing it of not being able to manage the state.

"Bengaluru has been turned into Venice after just one spell of rain. The Congress's apathy has ruined Silicon City. Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar have no vision for this global city other than using it as an ATM to fill their coffers," said BJP leader Amit Malviya in a post on X.

Fire in scanning machine at Maharashtra Assembly brought under control

TDG NETWORK
MUMBAI

A fire broke out in the security scanning machine at the Maharashtra Assembly on Monday evening.

However, Maharashtra Assembly Speaker Rahul Narwekar informed that it was subsequently brought under control. The cause fire was short circuit in the scanning machine.

Sharing details of the incident, the Speaker of Maharashtra Legislative Assembly, in a social media post on X, said, "A fire broke out due to a short circuit in the scanning machine in the reception area of Vidhan Bhavan. But now the fire has been brought under control."

Meanwhile, in a different incident, at least eight peo-

ple died in Maharashtra's Solapur after a fire broke out at a factory in the MIDC area in the early hours of Sunday.

Three fire officials including Chief Fire Officer were injured while trying to control the fire that broke out in a factory in Maharashtra's Solapur, officials said on Monday.

Speaking to ANI, Chief Fire officer Rakesh Salunkhe said that the fire-fighting operation went on for 15-17 hours. He further confirmed that the cooling operations are still underway. "We received a call yesterday at 4 am that a house on Akalkot road in the MIDC area has caught fire... After reaching the spot, it was found that a factory was on fire.

MP LoP Umang Singhar welcomes SC's direction on Vijay Shah

TDG NETWORK
BHOPAL



Leader of Opposition of Madhya Pradesh assembly and Congress leader Umang Singhar on Monday welcomed the Supreme Court direction on state cabinet minister Kunwar Vijay Shah's matter regarding his objection remarks against Indian Army officer Colonel Sofiya Qureshi, who had briefed the media about Operation Sindoor against Pakistan.

On Monday, the Supreme Court slammed MP Minister Shah for his remarks against Army officer Colonel Qureshi, saying that the Court was not ready to accept the minister's apology.

The Supreme Court has constituted an SIT comprising three senior IPS of-

ficers to investigate Shah's remarks, including a woman officer from outside Madhya Pradesh, to probe Minister Shah's comments regarding the Army officer.

Addressing the media persons in Bhopal, Singhar said, "I welcome the decision of the Supreme Court. I can say that it is a move of the Apex Court in the army's honour. But the Bharatiya Janata Party government, be it the central government or the state government, did not wake

up; the Court did, but they didn't. The Supreme Court said that the minister's remark is not worthy of apology, but the BJP feels that it is worthy of apology, and that is why the state government hasn't asked for the resignation of the minister yet." Shah's arrest is conditional, pending investigation cooperation, with the SIT set to submit its report by May 28.

He further highlighted, "If the BJP considers the Top Court's order or comment serious, then Minister Vijay Shah should be immediately sacked and action taken against him."

The BJP government's response to the incident has been questioned, with Singhar alleging that the party seems to support Shah's actions.

Monsoon: Stalin instructs officials to make relevant arrangements

TDG NETWORK
CHENNAI

As the Regional Meteorological Centre (RMC) in Chennai predicted an increase in rainfall across the state, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin has instructed all district collectors to ensure the functioning of the emergency control room at all times.

He has also instructed the district administrations to ensure the readiness of rescue vehicles and equipment

to handle the southwest monsoon, which usually occurs from June to September, bringing in rainfall over parts of south India.

The Tamil Nadu Chief Minister has also directed the officials to make arrangements for the rescue camps, which must be hygienic with facilities for essential things, including water, electricity, and food.

"We are to face the Southwest Monsoon. IMD have predicted normal rain-



fall during this monsoon. However, the Southwest monsoon helps with under-

ground water. (But) Heavy rainfall, flash floods in the Western Ghats, Nilgiris, af-

fect the region, and we need to face this. Coastal Districts also should be ready to face the Southwest Monsoon," Stalin said.

"All district collectors should ensure the Emergency control room functions 24x7 and should also ensure the readiness of rescue vehicles and equipment to handle the southwest monsoon well. Rescue camps should be hygienic with water, electricity and food facilities," he added.

Rajkot Police demolishes 60 illegal constructions

TDG NETWORK
RAJKOT

Rajkot Police on Monday demolished 60 illegal constructions belonging to habitual offenders linked to 38 individuals, with multiple offenses, including murder, attempted murder, and loot.

The action was taken following directions from the Gujarat Home Minister and DGP to identify and take action against such offenders.

Gujarat Home Minister Harsh Sanghavi stated that the state government and police are committed to taking strict action against individuals who occupy government land and engage in criminal activities.

"Under CM Bhupendra Patel's guidance, state government and police have a clear resolution that if anyone commits a crime and occupies the state's government land, we will not let it happen... All the places in Rajkot that have been a hub

for illegal activities will be demolished... Strictest action will be taken against all these people.

The state government stands with all the people who work peacefully and hard...,," said Sanghavi.

Zone 2 Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP), Jagdish, said that the police had prepared a list of 30 habitual offenders and were asked to identify any illegal constructions or unauthorised electricity connections linked to them.

GOVT ROLLS OUT MEGA DRAINAGE PLAN TO END WATERLOGGING

Govt plans to fix at key areas like Minto Road, Ring Road, and Zakhira.

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

The Delhi government has prepared a plan to tackle waterlogging at seven hotspots across the city, with Chief Minister Rekha Gupta approving some long- and short-term actions, officials said on Monday.

The seven waterlogging-prone spots are the Minto Road underpass, Pul Prahladpur underpass, Ring Road opposite the WHO building, under the Zakhira flyover, Loni Road roundabout, Jahangirpuri Metro Station Road, and Karala Kanjhawala Road.

“Seven critical waterlogging points are under special attention of the engineer-in-chief to ensure no oversight or negligence; these are being monitored carefully,” a government official said.

At the Minto Bridge underpass, as a long-term measure, the public works department (PWD) is constructing an alternate drain along Minto



CM Rekha Gupta being felicitated during 'Rashtriya Samrasta Sammelan' organised on the centenary year of Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), at the party office, in New Delhi. ANI

Road to divert discharge towards JLN Marg.

As a short-term measure, drains are being desilted.

The department is also carrying out the work of increasing the height of installed pumps.

On the Ring Road opposite the WHO building near ITO, the PWD plans to temporarily install four tractor-mounted pumps.

As a long-term solution, it is constructing two new

drains of 350 metres and 280 metres in length and an underground sump.

The officials said raising the main carriageway by 100 millimetres was also being planned to prevent rainwater collection at the spot.

“Some modifications were done in 2023 but waterlogging was observed in 2024. Interconnection of drains at Azad Bhawan and School of Planning and Architecture is planned,” according to

WATERPROOFING

- CM Rekha Gupta has approved a mix of short-term steps (desilting, pump upgrades) and long-term infrastructure projects (new drains, sumps, road elevation).
- Alternate drain under construction to divert water; pumps being upgraded and desilting underway.
- Temporary pumps to be deployed; new drains and a sump planned; carriageway elevation proposed.
- Garbage cleanup and drain desilting ongoing; concrete drain at Zakhira and drain remodeling at Loni Road in progress.

the action plan. At Zakhira flyover, desilting of storm-water drains and cleaning of garbage from nearby railway tracks has started.

PWD officials believe garbage blocks the flow of water to stormwater drains.

“As a long-term solution, the PWD is constructing a concrete drain under the main carriageway after shifting various underground services connecting to the Najafgarh drain near Ashoka Park. This work will be completed by December,” according to the plan. At the Loni

Road roundabout in east Delhi, another waterlogging hotspot, additional pumps have been deployed to drain stagnated water.

As a long-term solution, remodeling of the drain from nearby 25 Futa Road to the roundabout at Road No 63 is underway.

At south Delhi's Pul Prahladpur underpass, measures such as automation of the pump house and construction of an underground sump with a capacity of 7.5 lakh litres have been completed.

SC backs pension for all retired HC judges

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday directed uniform pension benefits for all retired high court judges, irrespective of their mode of appointment or tenure, saying “one rank one pension has to be the norm in respect of a constitutional office”.

A bench comprising Chief Justice B R Gavai and Justices Augustine George Masih and K Vinod Chandran held that any classification in pension benefits based on whether judges came from the bar or district judiciary, or whether they were permanent or additional judges, was discriminatory and violative of Article 14 of the Constitution.

“One rank one pension has to be the norm in respect of a constitutional office,” the CJ, writing a 63-page judgement, said.

Dealing with six issues over the disparity in pensionary and other retirement benefits to high court judges, the top court ruled that they



When a high court judge is in office, the bench said, irrespective of their source of entry, they are entitled to the same salary and perquisites. “When all the judges of the high courts, when in office, are entitled to the same salary, perks and benefits, any discrimination amongst them on the ground of their source of entry, in our view, would be patently discriminatory and violative of Article 14 of the Constitution of India,” it said. The services of a judicial officer who becomes a high court judge from the judicial services so also the experience of a Member of the Bar who becomes a high court judge from the Bar is required to be taken into consideration, it said.

must be granted pensions calculated at a basic annual amount of Rs 13.50 lakh whereas the retired chief justices would be entitled to Rs 15 lakh per annum. “The principle of one rank one pension requires all retired judges of the high court to be paid a uniform pension. We find that once

a judge assumes the office of the high court judge and enters into a constitutional class, i.e., the class of a high court judge, no differential treatment would be permissible merely on the ground of date of appointment,” it added.

When a high court judge is in office, the bench said, irrespective of their source of entry, they are entitled to the same salary and perquisites. “When all the judges of the high courts, when in office, are entitled to the same salary, perks and benefits, any discrimination amongst them on the ground of their source of entry, in our view, would be patently discriminatory and violative of Article 14 of the Constitution of India,” it said. The services of a judicial officer who becomes a high court judge from the judicial services so also the experience of a Member of the Bar who becomes a high court judge from the Bar is required to be taken into consideration, it said.

Cop kills self, family says he had depression

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

An assistant sub-inspector of Delhi Police died after he allegedly shot himself with his government-issued pistol in east Delhi on Monday morning, with authorities suspecting that he was suffering from depression for the last two to three years.

ASI Lalit Sirohi, posted at Usmanpur police station, was taken to Lal Bahadur Shastri (LBS) Hospital where he was declared dead by doctors, an official said.

Sirohi is survived by his wife and two children—a 23-year-old son and a 15-year-old daughter, he added. A senior police officer

said that the ASI was living on rent at Flat number 21 of GD Colony with his wife and two children.

His wife had gone to drop off the children at school in the morning and upon returning, she found him injured, lying in a pool of blood with a pistol nearby, the officer said.

The room where the incident took place was found locked and it has not been examined yet, he added.

“The weapon, believed to be a government-issued pistol, is yet to be verified,” the officer said.

Preliminary inquiry suggests that Sirohi was suffering from depression for the last two to three years,

Ministers hold weekly meets at BJP office to address workers’ issues

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

Ministers of the Rekha Gupta government have started holding weekly meetings with BJP workers and leaders at the party's Delhi unit office to ensure better coordination and resolution of issues, party leaders said on Monday.

According to a senior party functionary, the ministers have been instructed by the BJP leadership to sit at its Delhi office every Saturday to get feedback from party workers and leaders related to issues facing the people of the national capital.

So far, PWD Minister Parvesh Verma and Health

Minister Pankaj Singh have attended these weekly two-hour meetings at the Delhi BJP office on the Pant Marg.

“The ministers listen to all kinds of grievances and other issues related to their own and other departments. Later, these issues are redressed at the government level,” the functionary said.

The meetings are moderated by the ‘Sahyog’ cell of the Delhi BJP.

It communicates the feedback and local issues raised by the party members to the government and ministers, said another party leader. The ministers for these meetings are chosen

as per their availability, he said.

“This move is aimed at enhancing coordination between the party and the government. It will also ensure that public representatives such as councillors and MLAs as well as local-level leaders and workers are able to provide feedback to the ministers and get the problems resolved,” he said.

Earlier, Union Minister of State and East Delhi MP Harsh Malhotra used to hold these meetings at the Delhi BJP office. With a BJP government in place in Delhi, its ministers are now holding these meetings, the leader added.

Govt to organise 36 programmes under Viksit Krishi campaign

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

The Delhi government will organise 36 programmes covering 87 villages in the national capital under the ‘Viksit Krishi Sankalp Abhiyan’ to boost Kharif crop production and ensure fair prices to the farmers. Development Minister Kapil Mishra said on Monday. The nationwide ‘Viksit Krishi Sankalp Abhiyan’ will be conducted between May 29 and June 12 across the country, said a statement from the minister's office.

A virtual meeting, held under the chairmanship of Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan,



was attended by Mishra and agriculture ministers of other states.

The primary objective of the meeting was to review preparations and ensure coordination for the upcoming ‘Viksit Krishi Sankalp Abhiyan’, the statement said.

The campaign will be conducted with the goal of delivering modern techniques, scientific knowl-

edge, and welfare schemes of the Central and state governments to farmers.

In Delhi, the campaign will cover 87 villages and include 36 programmes, Mishra said.

“Special emphasis will be placed on the implementation of schemes to enhance the production and productivity of Kharif crops in Delhi, ensuring farmers receive fair prices for their produce. Through these programmes, natural farming will also be promoted under the National Mission on Natural Farming Scheme, with a particular focus on improving soil fertility and health,” the minister added.



People take part in the 'Sindoor Yatra' in solidarity with the Indian Armed Forces following 'Operation Sindoor', at Connaught Place in New Delhi. ANI

City's power demand hits summer high at 7,265 MW

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

The peak power demand of Delhi at 7265 MW on Monday was the highest for May 1-19 period in the past four years, discom officials said. State Load Dispatch Centre Delhi realtime data recorded Delhi's power demand at 7265 MW at 3.29 pm.

The peak power demand of Delhi for May 1-19 period was 7174 MW in 2024, 5953 MW in 2023 and 7070 MW in 2022, officials said.

The BSES discoms BRPL and BYPL met the peak power demand of 3227 MW and 1596 MW, respectively, in their areas.

HC reserves order in DPS Dwarka students’ expulsion case

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Monday reserved the order on a plea filed by the parents of 32 students, challenging their removal from Delhi Public School, Dwarka, over an ongoing fee dispute.

The school administrators reportedly rusticated the students due to non-payment of revised fees.

The school's legal counsel argued that parents had been repeatedly informed



about outstanding dues, emphasising that the institution was struggling financially. School also justified the deployment of security personnel, citing concerns about harassment stemming from on-

going protests and alleged threats, including potential student abductions.

Representatives for the parents countered these claims, insisting that the students' rights must be safeguarded. They argued

that despite directives from the Directorate of Education, the school had refused to reinstate the affected students. Additionally, they accused DPS Dwarka of withholding crucial documents and failing to disclose all relevant information.

Justice Sachin Datta acknowledged that a related petition is pending before another bench.

The parents have recently accused the school of arbitrarily removing the students without prior notice, violating the court's direc-

tive and fundamental principles of justice.

Plea stated that many of the expelled students are in Class X and had already begun preparations for their board examinations, making their mid-year removal particularly damaging to their education and emotional well-being.

Further allegations include claims that the students were mistreated, threatened by security personnel, and confined in a bus for two hours before being sent home.

Delhi man run over by roadways bus, dies; driver nabbed

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

A man died after being run over by a Rajasthan roadways bus near Mahipalpur flyover in Delhi. A head constable patrolling the area nabbed the driver following a chase, police said on Monday. On May 14, Nain Singh, a resident of Rangpuri area, was boarding the bus when the driver accelerated. As the man fell to the ground, the rear wheel of the bus ran over him, a senior police officer said.

“Despite this, the driver did not stop the vehicle. However, a head constable who was patrolling the area on his motorcycle,

witnessed the incident and immediately started chasing the bus,” the officer said.

He intercepted the bus a short distance away from the crime scene and apprehended the driver, the officer said, adding that Singh was rushed to a nearby hospital, where doctors declared him brought dead.

A case under relevant sections has been registered at Vasant Kunj South police station. The driver, identified as Rajasthan resident Mahendra Singh (36) has been arrested, the police said.

“The prompt action of the head constable led to the apprehension of the accused. The body has been sent for postmortem and the victim's family was informed.

EX-BJP MP UDAY SINGH NAMED AS FIRST NATIONAL PRESIDENT OF JAN SURAAJ PARTY

Uday unanimously chosen by committee set up to choose national president: Kishor

TDG NETWORK
PATNA

Jan SuraaJ Party founder Prashant Kishor on Monday announced that former BJP MP Uday Singh has been unanimously chosen as its first national president.

Addressing a press conference here, Kishor said he will now concentrate on public outreach, delegating the responsibility of running the organisation to the likes of Uday Singh, and RCP Singh, who had joined the party on Sunday.

“I can now resume my ‘padayatra’ in Bihar from tomorrow,” he said.

Kishor also asserted that Uday Singh, known to be providing logistical support to the party, was “chosen, not by a mere majority, but unanimously” by a commit-



Jan SuraaJ Party founder Prashant Kishor welcomes former Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) MP Uday Singh on being appointed the party's first National President, in Patna on Monday. ANI

tee set up for the purpose.

Floated on October 2 last year, Jan SuraaJ Party had since been functioning without a full fledged president. While Kishor has made it clear that he would not keep any post with himself, former IPS officer

Manoj Bharti was named the “working president” soon after inception.

Uday Singh, who had won the Purnea Lok Sabha seat for the BJP in 2004 and 2009, is the younger brother of N K Singh, a retired bureaucrat who is also

a former Rajya Sabha MP and had headed the 15th Finance Commission.

The newly named national president of Jan SuraaJ Party had been in political wilderness since 2014 when he lost his seat. In the two subsequent Lok Sabha polls,

the seat went to Chief Minister Nitish Kumar’s JD(U) as part of arrangements within the NDA.

Kishor noted with pride, “the likes of Uday Singh, RCP Singh and Manoj Bharti are proof that our party has a talent pool that is unmatched”.

RCP Singh, a former principal secretary to Nitish Kumar, had resigned from the Indian Administrative Services to join politics, and enjoyed two successive Rajya Sabha terms and also headed the JD(U) for a while.

He also got a berth in the Union cabinet, which had displeased Kumar, following which he quit the JD(U) and joined the BJP. Last year, he floated ‘Aap Sabki Aawaz’, which was merged with Jan SuraaJ Party on Sunday.

Delhi court acquits 11 accused in 2020 Northeast Delhi riots case

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

Delhi’s Karkardooma Court recently acquitted 11 accused in a case related to rioting, arson, etc. in North-east Delhi in 2020.

The court acquitted the accused persons after finding no credible evidence against them. It discarded the testimony of two police officials who identified the accused persons in a video.

The court also noted that the accused persons were identified at a belated stage after their arrest and the filing of a charge sheet.

An FIR was filed at the Gokul Puri Police Station.

Additional Sessions Judge (ASJ) Pulastya Pramachala acquitted all accused persons after considering the evidence and testimonies of the Prosecution witnesses.

"In view of my foregoing discussions, observations and findings, I find that charges levelled against the accused persons in this case are not proved beyond all reasonable doubts and accused are entitled for benefit of doubt. Hence, all accused Ankit Chaudhary alias Fauzi, Sumit alias Badshah, Pappu, Vijay, Ashish

Kumar, Sourabh Kaushik, Bhupender, Shakti Singh, Sachin Kumar alias Rancho, Rahul and Yogesh, are acquitted of the charges levelled against them," ASJ Pramachala held on May 14.

The court noted that the accused persons were identified by the two police officials who claimed to know them prior to the incident.

The court noted, "However, both these officials were posted in the same police station, despite that their statement regarding identifying the accused persons, was recorded at much belated time."

"Moreover, if these accused persons were already known to these two police officials, then there could not have been any need to identify them in any video or photographs," the court further noted.

The court observed in the judgement, "It is worth to note here that by the time Investigation Officer (IO) recorded statement of these two police officials, all accused were already arrested and chargesheeted in this case. Therefore, their identification of accused persons, at such belated time, is not beyond controversy and

doubt."

The accused were chargesheeted by the police for offences punishable under Section 147, 148, 149, 380, 427, 436 IPC.

On March 3, 2020, an FIR was registered at PS Gokalpuri pursuant to receipt of a written complaint filed by one Mohammad Imran Sheikh.

He had alleged about loot and arson committed in his medical shop in the name and style of "Crown Medicos." His shop was situated in Gokalpuri.

He further alleged that the First and second floors of his shop were full of medicines. He further alleged that one Aslam, who was working in a salon situated in front of his medical shop, had telephonically informed him at around 1:30 AM that some persons had looted his shop and were setting it ablaze. Immediately thereafter, complainant Mohammad Imran Sheikh called the police at the 100 number about this incident.

Another complaint was filed by Akram Ali, who was running a barber shop in the same area alongwith his brother Aslam Ali.

SC to hear plea of university professor held for remarks on Operation Sindoor

Mahmudabad was charged with endangering India’s sovereignty, unity and integrity for his comments on Operation Sindoor.

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday agreed to hear plea of Ali Khan Mahmudabad, associate professor and head of the Political Science department at Ashoka University in Haryana, against his arrest over a social media post on Operation Sindoor.

A bench of Chief Justice of India BR Gavai and Justice Augustine George Masih said it would list the matter for hearing on May 20 or 21.

The bench agreed to give urgent hearing of the plea after senior advocate Kapil Sibal mentioned it seeking

urgent hearing.

“He has been arrested for a patriotic statement. Please list it,” Sibal said.

On Sunday, Mahmudabad was remanded to two-day police custody after the Haryana police arrested him from Delhi, following the registration of two separate cases.

Arrest on Sunday from his residence in Delhi, Mahmudabad was charged with, among other things, endangering India’s sovereignty, unity and integrity for his comments on Operation Sindoor.

The State Women’s Commission had earlier termed



Five killed, two injured as car plunges onto dry riverbed in Ratnagiri district

TDG NETWORK
MUMBAI/THANE

Five persons, including three women and two men, were killed and two sustained injuries after their speeding car fell 100 ft off a bridge onto a dry riverbed in Maharashtra’s Ratnagiri district in the early hours of Monday, police said.

The accident occurred near Khed around 5.45 am, when the vehicle first hit the divider and fell onto the dry river bed of the Jagbudi River, an official said.

He said the car was heading towards Devrukh town from Nallasopara in Palghar district.

The official said the deceased were identified as Mitali Vivek More (43), Megha Paradkar (22), Sourabh Paradkar (22), Nihar



More (19) and Shreyas Sawant (23).

According to the police, the victims, originally from Sangmeshwar, were on their way to attend a funeral.

Police suspect that the driver may have nodded off at the wheel and did not recognise the turn on the bridge, falling from a height of 100 ft.

He said officials from the Khed police station rushed to the spot, and a rescue operation was conducted.

As the river was dry, the

vehicle crashed into boulders, killing some of the occupants on the spot, he said, adding that the injured were undergoing treatment at a hospital in Ratnagiri.

One of the deceased, Mit- ali More was travelling to attend her father’s funeral in Devrukh when the tragedy struck, officials said. Her father Mohan Chalke died of a severe heart attack on Sunday.

She was travelling with her son Nihar (19) along with the Paradkar family from Nallasopara.

‘Pahadi’ honoured with Pt Dhuliya Puraskar

TDG NETWORK
KOTDWAR (UTTARAKHAND)

Veteran journalist and social activist Ramesh Garola ‘Pahadi’ has been honoured with the 3rd Pandit Bhairav Dutt Dhuliya Patrakar Puraskar 2025 for his lifelong contribution to journalism and public service in Uttarakhand. Instituted by the Karmbhoomi Foundation, the award recognises individuals who have made significant efforts in promoting ethical journalism and championing social causes. The award ceremony was held at Kotdwar, Pauri Garhwal, where Uttarakhand Vidhan Sabha Speaker Ritu Khanduri Bhushan presented the award. It carries a cash prize of Rs 1 lakh, a citation, and a shawl of honour. The event took place at Raj Bhawan, Uttarakhand, celebrating Pahadi’s enduring impact

on journalism and social activism in the state.

Ramesh Pahadi began his journalism journey in 1968 and went on to become the founding editor of the respected newspaper Aniket, which he edited from 1977 to 2017. Known for his fearless reporting and deep commitment to public issues, Pahadi has played a key role in bringing ecological and socio-economic concerns to the forefront. He was also a prominent figure in the historic Chipko Movement, where he was instrumental in mobilising women and youth in the Chamoli district.

The selection committee, in its meeting held on 4 May, unanimously chose Pahadi for the honour. The jury included Sumitra Dhulia (Chairperson, Dhuliya Foundation), Prof. Subhash Dhulia, DP Gairola, and Prof. Harsh V Dobhal.



worth Rs 3.16 crore was recovered and a drug peddler has been arrested.

In a post on X, CM wrote, “Based on secret information, @GuwahatiPol intercepted a vehicle en route from Silchar to Guwahati and recovered 395.67 grams of heroin worth Rs 3.16 crore and 1 drug peddler arrested. Assam remains relentless in its crackdown on drug networks.

Bengal policeman conquers Mount Everest

TDG NETWORK
KOLKATA

West Bengal Police Constable Lakshmikanta Mandal on Monday conquered Mount Everest, along with another Indian woman and a visually impaired woman of Nepal, the force said.

Mandal, a constable of the 3rd battalion of the state armed police, is currently posted as a personal security guard to Calcutta Police Commissioner Manoj Varma.

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee congratulated the policeman for the achievement.

In a test of sheer doggedness and strength, visually impaired Chhonzin Angmo of Nepal summited Mount Everest around 8.30 this morning, carving her name in the history of mountaineering.

Ex-chairman of UCO Bank arrested in money laundering case

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has arrested Subodh Kumar Goel, former Chairman and Managing Director of UCO Bank, from his residence in New Delhi in connection with an ongoing investigation against Concast Steel and Power Ltd (CSPL) and others in a bank fraud case, the agency said on Monday.

ED’s Kolkata Zonal office arrested Subodh on May 16 under the provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002. He was produced before a special PMLA court in Kolkata on May 17 and the court has granted the ED custody of Subodh till May 21.

ED initiated investigation on the basis of the First Informatics Report (FIR) registered by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) relating to the sanction of credit facilities to CSPL and subsequent large-scale



diversion and siphoning of loan funds amounting to Rs 6210.72 crore (principal amount without interest).

ED investigation revealed that during the tenure of Subodh as CMD of UCO Bank, large credit facilities were sanctioned to CSPL by UCO Bank, which were subsequently diverted and siphoned off by the borrower group.

In turn, ED said, Subodh received substantial illegal gratifications from CSPL. “The illegal gratification was layered and channelled through various entities to give a facade of legitimacy. Investigation revealed that Goel received cash, immovable properties, luxury

goods, hotel booking etc routed through a web of shell companies, dummy persons and through family members to conceal the criminal origin of the money.”

“Several properties acquired through shell companies have been identified. These shell entities are beneficially owned or controlled by Subodh Kumar Goel and his family members. Source of fund of these entities is linked to CSPL. Evidence gathered so far also shows use of accommodation entries and structured layering through front companies for systematic settlement of kickbacks,” said the ED.

Searches were conducted on April 22 at the residential premises of Subodh and other related persons.

ED claims that various incriminating materials were seized which contain details of various illegal gratifications received by Subodh.

GOVT CONVERTED RS 39,000 CR OF VI DUES TO EQUITY; RS 1.19 LAKH CR STILL UNPAID

SC rejects AGR relief; Vodafone shares plunge

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI


The Supreme Court on Monday dismissed writ petitions by Vodafone Idea and Airtel for exemption of interest on Adjusted Gross Revenue (AGR) dues. A bench of Justices JB Pardiwala and R Mahadevan dismissed the pleas calling the petitions “misconceived”.

Vodafone Idea had approached the Supreme Court earlier this month, seeking relief of over Rs 45,000 crore in relation to its AGR dues. The apex court has earlier as well refused to give any relief to the telecom company.

The company also noted that the government had

KEY POINTS

- SC dismisses Vodafone, Airtel AGR pleas as “misconceived”
- Vodafone sought Rs 45,000 cr relief; Airtel Rs 34,745 cr
- Govt converted Rs 39,000 cr of Vi dues to equity; Rs 1.19 lakh cr still unpaid
- Vi shares drop over 9% to Rs 6.70 after verdict
- Court had earlier rejected similar petitions



converted a portion of its dues, about Rs 39,000 crore into equity, it still owed nearly Rs 1.19 lakh crore in spectrum and AGE-related dues.

Bharti Airtel and Bharti Hexacom, too moved the supreme court for waiver of interest and penalties on AGR dues amounting to Rs 34,745 crore on equity basis.

Earlier the Department of Telecom has also refused

to give any further relief on AGR dues, citing apex court's 2020 judgement and government support to Vodafone Idea through equity conversion.

The dispute over the definition and calculation of AGR ends with the ruling of the Supreme court in 2019. In 2020, the apex court has set a timeline of 10-year for telcos to clear AGR dues to

the government in tranches. On requests from telcos, the DoT had earlier urged the court to extend the repayment window to 20-years which was refused by the top court. Telecom companies also challenged the method of calculation of AGR, citing arithmetic errors but the apex court dismissed those claims as well. The curative petition

Bharti Airtel and Bharti Hexacom, too moved the supreme court for waiver of interest and penalties on AGR dues amounting to Rs 34,745 crore on equity basis.

of Vodafone on the issue was also rejected by the top court in September 2024. In its latest move Vodafone Idea again moved with a petition before the apex court in April to waive off the interest on AGR dues, which was rejected on Monday by the court, calling the petition ‘shocking’ and deems it ‘misconceived’. At the time of filing this report Vodafone Idea share were down over 9 per cent, trading at Rs 6.70.

Stock indices extend losses over profit booking, Sensex-Nifty down 0.3% each

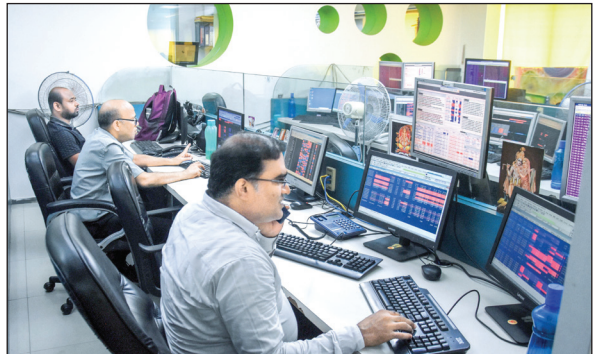
TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

Indian stock indices kicked off the new week negatively, with benchmark Sensex and Nifty settling 0.3 per cent lower from their previous closing. On Friday, too, the indices traded in the red.

The declines are possibly due to the profit-booking following the latest rally. Sensex is now some 4,000 points below its all-time high of 85,978 points.

NSE data showed that among the sectoral indices, Nifty IT and Nifty Media were the top losers, while Nifty PSU Bank, Nifty Realty, and Nifty Pharma were the top gainers.

Prashanth Tapse, Senior Vice President (Research) at Mehta Equities Ltd, said, “Markets languished in negative territory for major part of the trading session as weak Asian and European indices resulted in investors resorting to profit-taking in IT, capital goods and oil & gas



shares. Also Moody's downgrading US credit rating by a notch over the weekend created some sort of uncertainty amongst investors.”

Indian stock indices soared early last week, supported by the news that the conflict between India and Pakistan had de-escalated after the two Armed forces reached an understanding to stop the military actions.

Another shot in the arm came from the easing of trade wars between the US and China. They had agreed to withdraw their previously announced reciprocal tariffs and counter tariffs for an initial period of 90 days.

For Indian stock markets, key monitor cables going ahead are Q4 GDP numbers and global cues. The official GDP data for Q4 2024-25 is scheduled to be released on May 30 by the National Statistics Office, along with the annual GDP for 2024-25.

During the April-June, July-September, and October-December 2024 quarters, the country's economy, in real terms, observed a growth rate of 6.7 per cent, 5.6 per cent, and 6.2 per cent, respectively. As per the second advance estimates of NSO, the country's economy is projected to grow at 6.5 per cent in 2024-25.

Rebel 500 hits India, priced at Rs 5.12 lakh

TDG NETWORK
GURUGRAM

Honda Motorcycle & Scooter India (HMSI) launched the Rebel 500 in the Indian market on Monday.

The company stated that the Honda Rebel 500 has been priced at Rs. 5.12 lakh, ex-showroom Gurugram (Haryana). The bookings for this new motorcycle are now open at select BigWing Topline dealerships. It will be available exclusively in Gurugram, Mumbai, and Bengaluru, with deliveries starting from June 2025 onwards.

The company stated the Rebel 500 blends timeless design with modern engineering, offering a unique ride experience for Indian motorcycling enthusiasts.

The company added that the Rebel 500 has an engine of 471cc liquid-cooled, 4-stroke, 8-valve, liquid-cooled parallel twin-cylinder that produces 34kW of maximum power at 8,500 RPM and 43.3 Nm of peak torque



at 6000 RPM. This refined powertrain is paired with a 6-speed gearbox, delivering a smooth ride across city roads and highways.

Tsutsumu Otani, Managing Director, President & CEO, Honda Motorcycle & Scooter India, said, “We are delighted to introduce the globally acclaimed Rebel 500 in India. This much-anticipated cruiser motorcycle has received tremendous response across international markets, and we are confident it will appeal to Indian riders as well”.

As per Honda, Rebel 500 features a retro cruiser aesthetic with contemporary design elements. The bike has been designed to be a slim motorcycle with a low seat height of just 690mm making it easy to ride, and intimidating to manage at low speeds.

Traffic fines exceed GDP of small nations: Report

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

A recent survey report by CARS24 has revealed that traffic violation fines imposed in India have surpassed the GDP of many small nations.

According to its 2024 report, approximately 8 crore traffic challans were issued, with total fines of around Rs 12,000 crore. This means almost every second vehicle on the road has been fined at least once. However, a significant portion (Rs 9,000 crore) remains unpaid.

Out of the 140 crore people living in India, only 11 crore own a vehicle. This shows that a relatively small section of the population is responsible for a large number of violations, raising concerns about traffic discipline and accountability.

Many drivers follow traffic rules only when law enforcement is present, indicating that fear rather than habit drives compliance. When asked who adjusts their driving based on law enforcement, only 43.9 per cent of the respondents claimed they follow traffic rules regardless of whether police are present.

On the other hand, 31.2 per cent said they occasion-



ally check for police before adjusting their driving, while 17.6 per cent admitted to actively monitoring their surroundings to avoid being fined.

This highlighted that many drivers consider traffic rules to be optional unless law enforcement is visibly present.

The survey also looked into how people react upon spotting a traffic police officer. As many as 51.3 per cent said they immediately check their speed and ensure they follow the rules.

Another 34.6 per cent said they slow down instinctively, even if they are not breaking any rules. Meanwhile,

12.9 per cent said they either change their driving behaviour or take a detour to avoid getting caught. When it comes to the impact of surveillance on road behaviour, 47 per cent of the respondents claimed they drive the same way regardless of CCTV cameras.

Around 36.8 per cent admitted to slowing down only when they spot a camera, and 15.3 per cent said they adjust their driving only for speed cameras, ignoring other types.

Surveillance technology alone is not enough to bring about behavioural change unless penalties are strict enough to instil fear.

Q4 GDP to grow 6.9%, lower than NSO's estimates of 7.6%: ICRA

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

Indian economy is expected to grow at 6.9 per cent in the January-March quarter 2025, the official data for which is scheduled to be released on May 30 by the National Statistics Office, according to rating agency ICRA.

ICRA has projected the year-on-year expansion of the GDP to rise to 6.9 per cent in Q4 2024-25 from 6.2 per cent in Q3 2024-25, while significantly under-shooting the National Statistical Office's (NSO) implicit estimate of 7.6 per cent for the quarter.

During the April-June, July-September, October-December 2024 quarters, the country's economy,

in real terms, observed a growth rate of 6.7 per cent, 5.6 per cent, and 6.2 per cent, respectively.

On May 30, the provisional estimates of annual GDP for the entire 2024-25 fiscal will also be released.

As per the second advance estimates of NSO, the country's economy is projected to grow at 6.5 per cent in 2024-25.

The Reserve Bank of India had also projected 6.5 per cent GDP growth for the fiscal 2024-25.

Aditi Nayar, Chief Economist, Head-Research and Outreach, ICRA, “Both private consumption and trends for investment activity were uneven in Q4 FY2025, with the latter partly owing to tariff-related

uncertainty.”

Unless there are material revisions in the data for Q1-Q3 2024-25, ICRA projects a sharp step down in the full-year GDP expansion to 6.3 per cent in 2024-25 from 9.2 per cent in 2023-24.

India's GDP grew by an impressive 9.2 per cent during the financial year 2023-24, continuing to be the fastest-growing major economy. The economy grew by 7.2 per cent in 2022-23 and 8.7 per cent in 2021-22, according to official data.

The Indian economy is estimated to achieve a growth of 6.5 per cent in FY25 despite considerable external headwinds, the Department of Economic Affairs (DEA), Ministry of Finance said in a report in March.

GeM hits Rs 13.4 L cr, empowers small biz: Piyush Goyal

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

Union Minister of Commerce and Industry Piyush Goyal stated that the GeM portal of the government has eliminated the entry barriers, weeded out corruption, empowered and uplifted marginalised sections, especially in small towns, and enabled massive savings of taxpayers' money.

In a social media post on X, the minister said, “India has become a key engine of PM @NarendraModiji's vision of Viksit Bharat 2047... the GeM portal has eliminated entry barriers, weeded out corruption, empowered and uplifted marginalised sections, especially in small towns, and enabled massive savings of tax-



payers' money.”

The minister said the Government e-Marketplace (GeM) has rapidly emerged as a world leader in providing a transparent, inclusive and efficient platform for public procurement.

Since its inception in 2016, orders worth more than Rs 13.4 lakh crore have been transacted on the GeM por-

tal. Public procurement via the platform rose to a record Rs 5.43 lakh crore in 2024-25. GeM aims to raise its annual business to Rs 7 lakh crore in the current fiscal.

He said GeM has given greater opportunities to honest businesses, created jobs, and supported India's economic growth. In this context, GeM's significance goes far beyond its phenomenal growth in financial terms. It also serves as a critical engine of equitable growth in line with Prime Minister Modi's mission of Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas. GeM provides startups, small businesses and women-led enterprises an easy path to showcase their products and services to government buyers with-

out any intermediaries.

By eliminating barriers to entry, the platform empowers small, home-grown businesses to participate in e-tenders and expand their businesses.

The minister also shared that the Government e-Marketplace (GeM) has rapidly emerged as a world leader in providing a transparent, inclusive and efficient platform for public procurement.

It connects more than 1.6 lakh government buyers with 23 lakh sellers and service providers, becoming a key engine of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of Viksit Bharat 2047.

In nine years since PM Modi launched the transformative digital initiative, GeM has revolutionised the way

government buys goods and services by weeding out corruption and giving business opportunities to startups, MSMEs, women and businesses in small towns.

The user-friendly platform is a true gem that has replaced the notorious Directorate General of Supplies and Disposals, which had opaque and uncompetitive systems that gave an unfair advantage to a privileged few.

Befittingly, the commerce and industry ministry's new office, Vanijiya Bhawan, has been built on land once occupied by this obsolete body.

The minister added that the GeM has undoubtedly emerged as a technological behemoth in the public procurement landscape.

Women-owned MSME businesses see highest shortfall: Report

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

The MSME (Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises) sector is facing an addressable credit gap of around Rs 30 lakh crore, which is about 24 per cent of the total credit demand, according to a recent report by SIDBI (Small Industries Development Bank of India).

The report highlighted that

even though credit supply to MSMEs has increased, the gap remains significant, especially in certain segments.

It said, “While an increased credit supply to MSMEs is in evidence, the study broadly estimates that the sector still has an addressable credit gap of about 24 per cent or approx. Rs 30 lakh crore”.

The services sector has a higher credit gap of around 27 per cent, while the gap

for women-owned MSMEs is even higher at 35 per cent.

It also noted that in comparison, male-owned MSMEs face a credit gap of around 20 per cent. Many women entrepreneurs still rely on informal sources of credit to meet their business needs.

Among different types of enterprises, medium-sized businesses face the highest gap at 29 per cent as they



require more capital to scale up operations. Micro and

small enterprises also face challenges in accessing suf-

ficient funds.

At the business activity level, the report added that the MSMEs involved in trading face the largest credit gap at around 33 per cent.

This is mainly because trading businesses often lack the collateral needed to get formal loans.

Despite these challenges, the SIDBI says that the MSME sector is well positioned to become one of

the key drivers of the Indian economy as it moves towards the goal of ‘Viksit Bharat’.

The sector is seeing strong growth in women entrepreneurship and sustainability-focused businesses.

The report mentioned that the increasing formalisation of MSMEs and a growing shift towards digital lending are expected to help bridge the credit gap over time.

However, it stressed the need for specific policy initiatives to address gaps in segments like services and women-led enterprises.

To further support the sector, MSMEs need help in improving market access and productivity. Government support in areas such as digital adoption, skill development, labour availability, and infrastructure will be essential for their growth.

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION: A NEW AND POWERFUL STANDOFF WEAPON

OPINION

MAJ GEN JAGATBIR SINGH,
VSM (RETD)



INTRODUCTION

After four days of clinical, calibrated strikes, the Indian Armed Forces achieved the objectives that had been given to them in a calibrated, controlled and decisive manner. While Operation ‘Sindoor’ represented an evolution in our war fighting doctrine showcasing the capability and ability of our Armed Forces. It is also the first war fought in a highly informationalised battlefield hence it extended beyond traditional military engagements.

Throughout the history of warfare, armies have sought advantage through actions intended to affect the perception and behaviour of adversaries. Information is a powerful tool, and can be termed an element of national power and therefore synchronising information programmes, plans, mes-

sages, and products is imperative as part of a whole of government effort.

If Operation Vijay was the first televised war in the Indian context, Operation Sindoor can be termed as the first war fought in the digital era. The continuous streaming of visuals, debates and print were constantly available literally in the palm of one’s hand making one of the most powerful tools in shaping perceptions.

SHEDDING THE BALAKOT EXPERIENCE

The Armed Forces learning from their experience after the Balakot strikes were now absolutely clear about the requirement of providing clear images of the targets engaged and destruction caused and this was provided leaving no doubt for ambiguity.

There was also a marked difference in the manner in which the briefings were conducted post the operation. Briefings by Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri and Armed Forces spokespersons, including Col. Sofiya Qureshi and Wg Cdr Vyomika Singh, clearly painting the government’s intent post-operations. Compared to Balakot, the

DGs of Military Operations addressed media and took on questions which they answered with a great deal of granularity and clarity while maintaining the confidentiality of sensitive information.

India’s astute messaging established clearly that Pakistan is the aggressor in the ongoing conflict and that India’s response has been well-planned and controlled, in contrast to Islamabad’s reckless offensive targeting civilian areas. It also communicated India’s position that while it will not initiate aggression, any attack will get a tough response.

However, The expansion of information technology, the widespread availability of wireless communications, social media, and today’s information environment poses new and complex challenges for military operations. In the military Context, it involves tools like propaganda, misinformation, cyber operations, psychological operations and control over media narratives to influence perceptions.

THE TRIAD OF DISRUPTION

Social media, propaganda/ fake news and digital social engineering can be termed as the “triad of disruption.” This ongoing threat uses the wide reach of social platforms and skilled information warriors to spread false news and influence public opinion through art of digital social engineering.

Unlike traditional weapon technologies, development of information-based techniques do not require sizable financial resources or state sponsorship. Though Pakistan has been using the ISPR Information systems expertise and access to important networks may be the only prerequisites. Because the cost and technical skills required for executing an online disinformation campaign are remarkably low, the number of actors and the amount of malicious

In this age of AI advancement, manipulation of images to build psychological pressure on adversary and satisfy domestic audiences during active combat is par for the course.

content has increased.

In this age of AI advancement, manipulation of images to build psychological pressure on adversary and satisfy domestic audiences during active combat is par for the course.

Unlike the physical battlefield, the narrative is harder to assess. Based on who you ask, what they have just seen or read on their phones and their particular engagement with their own memory, desires, and critical faculties at that moment, they can tell you very different things about something seemingly very obvious.

DANGEROUS DISTORTIONS

There were significant efforts to shape the information environment. Most

were absurd though some had a hint of sophistication. Speaking to AI Jazeezra Pakistan’s Defence Minister, Khwaja Asif said the Pahal-gam attack was ‘orchestrated’ and his government suspects it was a ‘false flag operation’ which remains a ridiculous claim. In fact, even the UNSC rejected this narrative in their 15 May meeting.

The theatre of absurdities included the removal of the Northern Army Commander which was

Pakistan’s increasingly aggressive information efforts create new and significant risks for miscalculation in future crises.

False narratives and exaggerated claims of Indian military losses and fabricated stories of communal violence were viral on social media platforms aiming to erode public trust.

Here, Pakistan was building a narrative shield that portrays it as a victim both with its domestic audience and its global friends in mind.

THE NUCLEAR LEAK

In afterbath of the strikes the social and print media were full of claims regarding the damage caused to Pakistan underground nuclear weapon storage complex in Kirna Hills near Nur Khan Air field. The report was soon followed up with satellite imagery, claims of US aircraft visiting the site as well as transportation of huge quantity of Boran from Egypt to control the radiation leak. All were false and finally on 15 May the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) confirmed that no radiation leak or release has occurred from any nuclear facility in Pakistan. Earlier Air Marshal A K Bharti had also denied that India had targeted any nuclear installation in Pakistan. This was a bid at discrediting the Indian achievements as well as portraying it as an irresponsible nuclear power. Our narrative had been marked by clarity from the beginning, India was targeting the per-

trators and planners of terror. The destruction of a nuclear storage facility was cleverly designed to counter this narrative.

It is stated that India is a responsible nuclear power and its actions were deliberate, proportionate, and did not target nuclear infrastructure. The Ministry of External Affairs Spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal has clearly stated that “Our actions were calibrated and entirely within the scope of conventional military operations. Speculative narratives about nuclear escalation are baseless and irresponsible”.

The Indian Armed Forces are highly professional and responsible and will never resort to irresponsible actions. Indian actions remained strictly within conventional military boundaries and that nuclear rhetoric would not be allowed to dictate India’s security response.

CONCLUSION

As Clauzewitz wrote; moral forces on the battlefield have a big impact on its outcome. He also stated that military events could only be planned to a small degree because of the incalculable influence of ‘friction’. Strategic Communication is now contributing to this friction in the modern battlefield milieu. The Web 3.0 is re-making our very notion of reality. The information space consists of domestic, adversarial and international audiences. The requirements of these need to be harmonised, however,

our tools have been shaped and sharpened for domestic audiences whereas we need to focus on the external audience in a similar manner as well. There is, therefore, a need to enhance media awareness, and develop robust counter-disinformation strategies to safeguard national interests in this digital age.

There will be varying narratives, all churned out by social media cells, by vested interests including disgruntled elements. The responsibility now lies with the individuals themselves to cross check and verify the source and credibility of the information before blindly disseminating it in the digital space. Adding to the social media the main stream media with its continuous tirade of ‘breaking news’ also needs to be less exuberant. In fact, the Economist in a recent article has been critical regarding the Indian news channels which ‘achieved the astonishing feat of making social media appear sane’

Information is power and today a much larger part of the world’s population has access to that power in their hands. The fact is that information has become a new dimension of conflict and has moved from the periphery to a prime slot. It is a new standoff weapon and can be manipulated and accessed from anywhere, on the basis of your smartphone though non-kinetic it remains powerful. The strategy to win the narrative may be through candour and credibility.

Mandatory ESG disclosures under SEBI and menace of greenwashing in India

OPINION

PANKAJ CHHUTTANI



As India strides toward a more sustainable and responsible financial ecosystem, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has assumed a pivotal role in integrating environmental, social, and governance (ESG) considerations into corporate reporting. With the implementation of mandatory ESG disclosures under the Business Responsibility and Sustainability Reporting (BRSR) framework, SEBI aims to foster transparency, accountability, and long-term value creation in corporate India. However, these noble intentions are shadowed by the specter of greenwashing, a growing concern that threatens to undermine the credibility of the ESG movement.

This article critically examines the evolution, scope, and implications of SEBI’s ESG disclosure norms while

scrutinizing the risks of greenwashing that have started to plague India’s sustainability narrative. It explores whether the current regulatory approach is robust enough to curb deceptive practices or if India is merely painting its economy green with insufficient checks on corporate conduct.

GENESIS OF ESG DISCLOSURES IN INDIA: FROM VOLUNTARY TO MANDATORY

India’s journey with ESG disclosures began on a modest note in 2012 when SEBI introduced the Business Responsibility Report (BRR) for the top 100 listed entities based on market capitalization. Over the years, the scope was gradually widened, culminating in the rollout of the **Business Responsibility and Sustainability Report (BRSR)** framework in May 2021. The BRSR framework marks a significant departure from its predecessors by integrating sustainability indicators with standardized metrics and requiring more granular disclosures across environmental, social, and governance pillars.

Effective from FY 2023-24, ESG reporting under BRSR

Core has been made **mandatory** for the top 1,000 listed companies by market capitalization. This move is designed to ensure comparability, standardization, and consistency in ESG disclosures while enhancing stakeholder confidence. SEBI also introduced the concept of **assurance**, requiring external validation for BRSR Core metrics to further strengthen data reliability.

AMBITIOUS OBJECTIVES AND REGULATORY EVOLUTION

SEBI’s motivations for enforcing mandatory ESG disclosures are commendable. They include:

Enabling investors to make informed decisions based on non-financial performance.

Aligning India with global ESG standards such as GRI (Global Reporting Initiative), SASB (Sustainability Accounting Standards Board), and TCFD (Task Force on Climate-related Financial Disclosures).

Encouraging responsible business conduct that supports India’s climate goals, including net-zero emissions by 2070.

In theory, these disclosures should help create a virtuous cycle where transparent companies attract ESG-focused capital, thereby incentivizing sustainable practices. However, in practice, the effectiveness of this regulation hinges not only on corporate compliance but also on the authenticity of the disclosed information—a domain increasingly mud-

died by **greenwashing**.

UNDERSTANDING GREENWASHING: THE NEW CORPORATE CAMOUFLAGE

Greenwashing refers to the act of misleading stakeholders by presenting an overly positive view of a company’s environmental or social performance, often through selective disclosure, vague language, or outright misinformation. In a country like India, where ESG literacy is still nascent among both investors and regulators, greenwashing poses a particularly insidious threat.

In recent years, several Indian corporations have been accused—either directly or implicitly—of overstating their sustainability credentials. For instance:

Companies have touted carbon neutrality goals while continuing to expand fossil-fuel-based operations.

ESG reports often cite token CSR activities or low-impact initiatives as major environmental achievements.

Some firms engage ESG rating agencies to embellish their scores without substantial improvements on the ground.

With India witnessing a surge in ESG-themed mutual funds and investor interest, greenwashing is becoming not just a risk but a **systemic vulnerability**.

CRITICAL GAPS IN SEBI’S ESG FRAMEWORK

While SEBI’s BRSR framework is a step forward, it is not without its **limitations**, which may inadvertently

enable greenwashing:

1. Reliance on Self-Reported Data

Despite the assurance requirement for BRSR Core metrics, much of the data in the broader BRSR report remains unaudited and self-reported. This leaves ample room for manipulation or selective omission of adverse data.

2. Ambiguity in Materiality Determination

Companies are allowed significant discretion in determining what is “material” for disclosure. Without clear guidance, this can result in cherry-picking metrics that paint a favorable picture while ignoring more pertinent or damaging issues.

3. Lack of Enforcement Mechanisms

There are currently no **stringent penalties** for misreporting or omitting ESG information. Unlike financial disclosures governed by tight accounting standards and auditing norms, sustainability disclosures lack the same rigor or consequences.

4. Limited Coverage of Supply Chain Practices

Many ESG risks, especially environmental and labor-related, reside deep within supply chains. The current framework offers only limited oversight or incentive for companies to report on their suppliers’ ESG performance.

5. ESG Ratings Arbitrage

The unregulated ESG rating ecosystem allows companies to engage with multiple rating providers, selectively highlighting favorable ratings while ig-

noring unfavorable ones. This practice, akin to credit rating arbitrage seen during the 2008 financial crisis, erodes investor trust.

INVESTOR IMPLICATIONS: MISPRICING RISKS AND CREDIBILITY EROSION

For investors, greenwashing leads to **misallocation of capital**. ESG funds may end up investing in companies with poor real-world impact, undermining both ethical and financial returns. The illusion of sustainability also poses reputational risks, particularly for global investors who operate under stricter ESG mandates.

Furthermore, unchecked greenwashing can lead to a **credibility crisis**. If stakeholders begin to view ESG claims with skepticism, it may reduce the pressure on companies to genuinely improve their sustainability performance, thereby defeating the entire purpose of ESG integration.

GLOBAL COMPARISONS: LESSONS FOR INDIA

Countries like the European Union have introduced more robust legislation to combat greenwashing. The EU’s Sustainable Finance Disclosure Regulation (SFDR) and Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive (CSRD) mandate comprehensive ESG disclosures with **third-party audits**, materiality mapping, and clear taxonomies of sustainable activities.

India, by contrast, still

lacks a taxonomy akin to the EU Green Taxonomy, which categorizes economic activities based on their environmental sustainability. Without such standardized definitions, companies in India can freely label projects as “green” or “sustainable” without objective justification.

RECOMMENDATIONS: STRENGTHENING THE ESG LANDSCAPE

To truly realize the promise of ESG disclosures and guard against greenwashing, India must pursue a **multi-pronged regulatory overhaul**:

1. Stronger Auditing Norms

Mandate third-party auditing for all major ESG disclosures—not just BRSR Core—using accredited sustainability auditors. These audits must follow globally recognized standards to ensure consistency and reliability.

2. Centralized ESG Database

Create a publicly accessible ESG disclosure repository regulated by SEBI or MCA. This can allow analysts and watchdogs to independently assess data, increasing transparency and comparability.

3. Green Taxonomy and Labeling Standards

Develop an Indian Green Taxonomy that clearly defines what qualifies as an environmentally sustainable activity. This will help eliminate ambiguity and provide a benchmark for ESG labeling.

4. Penalties for Mislead-

ing Claims

Introduce financial and legal penalties for companies found guilty of intentional misrepresentation in ESG disclosures. This will create deterrence and foster accountability.

5. Stakeholder and Civil Society Engagement

Encourage NGOs, academic institutions, and citizen groups to participate in ESG monitoring, much like the role of proxy advisory firms in corporate governance.

CONCLUSION: WALKING THE TALK ON ESG

SEBI’s mandatory ESG disclosure framework is a **landmark reform** in India’s corporate regulatory landscape, aligning with global trends and investor demands. However, without stringent oversight and mechanisms to curb greenwashing, the framework risks becoming a **box-ticking exercise** rather than a transformative tool.

As India positions itself as a climate leader on the global stage, it must ensure that its ESG ambitions are matched by **integrity, enforcement, and impact**. Transparency cannot be performative. Accountability cannot be optional. And sustainability cannot be superficial.

In the final analysis, the success of ESG integration in India will depend not on how many companies disclose, but on how many are willing to **change**.

Pankaj Chhuttani, Assistant Professor, School of Law, GD Goenka University, Gurugram



INS Surat, INS Nilgiri, and INS Vaghsheer officially commissioned. X

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

In May 2025, South Asia witnessed a significant escalation in India-Pakistan tensions, culminating in a bilateral ceasefire agreement on May 10. Preceding this, India conducted Operation Abhyaas, its largest-ever civil defence drill, across 244 districts. This article examines these events, drawing parallels to Cold War-era strategies, and analyzes their implications for regional stability and civil preparedness.

The India-Pakistan relationship has been characterized by periodic escalations and attempts at diplomacy. The events of May 2025, marked by military confrontations and large-scale civil defence exercises, underscore the persistent volatility in the region. This study delves into the causes, developments, and ramifications of these events, situating them within a broader historical and strategic context.

On April 22, 2025, a terrorist attack in Pahalgam, Jammu and Kashmir, resulted in the deaths of 26 civilians. India attributed the attack to Pakistan-based militant groups, leading to heightened tensions and a series of retaliatory measures.

OPERATION ABHYAAS: CIVIL DEFENCE MOBILIZATION

In response to the escalating threat, India launched Operation Abhyaas on May 7, 2025. This nationwide civil defence drill, coordinated by the Ministry of Home Affairs, spanned 244 districts. Activities included air raid siren tests, blackout simulations, evacuation drills, and public training sessions. Notably:

- **Delhi:** Activated 60 air raid sirens across 55 locations, conducting coordinated evacuation rehearsals involving over 1,000



ARFF teams rescue a man during 'Operation Abhyaas' at Delhi's IGI Airport on May 7. X

personnel.

- **Pune:** Simulated bombing scenarios at six sites to assess emergency response capabilities.

- **Bengaluru:** Demonstrated coordinated rescue and medical aid procedures at the Fire and Emergency Services campus.

- **Assam:** Conducted mock drills at 18 locations across 14 districts, testing rescue capabilities and operational readiness.

On May 7, 2025, India executed Operation Abhyaas, a nationwide civil defence drill spanning 244 districts. Organized by the Ministry of Home Affairs and coordinated by the National Disaster Management Authority, the exercise aimed to bolster civilian readiness against potential hostile threats, particularly in response to escalating tensions with Pakistan following the Pa-

halgam attack on April 22, 2025, which resulted in the deaths of 26 civilians.

The drill involved activities such as air-raid siren tests, blackout simulations, evacuation drills, and public training sessions. Major cities including Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai, Kolkata, and Hyderabad participated. In Delhi, 60 air raid sirens were activated across 55 locations, prompting coordinated evacuation rehearsals involving over 1,000 personnel. In Pune, simulated bombing scenarios at six sites tested emergency response capabilities. Bengaluru's drill included rescue operations in the event of fire, removing people from beneath debris, evacuating people from high-rises, and providing medical emergency services.

Operation Abhyaas served as a significant ex-

ample of strategic signaling. By simulating air raids, blackouts, and evacuation drills, India demonstrated its preparedness for potential escalations, reminiscent of Cold War-era civil defence measures. This

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operation not only aimed to bolster civilian readiness but also served as a message to adversaries about India's capability to mobilize and protect its populace in times of crisis.

OPERATION SINDOOR

Between May 6 and 7, 2025, India initiated Operation Sindoor, launching missile strikes on alleged terrorist infrastructure in Pakistan.

Utilizing Rafale jets armed with SCALP missiles and Hammer bombs, targets included sites in Punjab and Azad Jammu & Kashmir. India claimed the elimination of over 100 militants, while Pakistan reported 31

civilian casualties.

Pakistan responded with Operation Bunyan-un-Marsoos, targeting Indian military bases. However, India's air defence systems effectively neutralized these threats, including an attempted strike on Amritsar's Golden Temple.

On May 10, 2025, India and Pakistan agreed to a ceasefire, halting military actions across land, air,

and sea. The agreement followed a call between the Directors General of Military Operations of both countries.

However, within hours, reports emerged of Pakistani drone incursions and artillery shelling in Indian regions, including Srinagar and Punjab. India accused Pakistan of violating the ceasefire, while Pakistan denied these claims.

INTERNATIONAL MEDIATION

The United States played a pivotal role in brokering the ceasefire. U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio and Vice President JD Vance engaged in diplomatic efforts to de-escalate tensions. Former U.S. President Donald Trump claimed involvement in facilitating the agreement, a statement refuted by India's Ministry of External Affairs, emphasizing the bilateral nature of the ceasefire.

The United Kingdom also expressed commitment to ensuring an enduring ceasefire and facilitating dialogue between India and Pakistan.

In regions like Punjab, the ceasefire was widely welcomed. Political and religious leaders emphasized the importance of peace and condemned violence. For instance, Shiromani Akali Dal president Sukhbir Singh Badal praised Prime Minister Modi's acceptance of Pakistan's ceasefire proposal, highlighting the move as a step towards safeguarding Punjab.

Conversely, in border villages, the resumption of Pakistani drone activity post-ceasefire reignited fears among residents. The Border Security Force reported increased drone intrusions, recovering contraband including heroin and weapons.

The role of international actors, particularly the United States, in medi-

ating the ceasefire has been a point of contention. Former U.S. President Donald Trump claimed involvement in facilitating the agreement, a statement refuted by India's Ministry of External Affairs, emphasizing the bilateral nature of the ceasefire.

Trump announced the ceasefire on his social media platform, stating that after U.S.-led talks, India and Pakistan agreed to an immediate cessation of hostilities. However, India's government clarified that the ceasefire was a result of direct communication between the two nations' military operations directors, without third-party mediation.

This discrepancy underscores the complexities of diplomatic engagements and the sensitivities surrounding third-party involvement in regional conflicts. While Pakistan acknowledged and appreciated the U.S. role, India's firm stance on bilateral resolution reflects its longstanding policy of handling issues with Pakistan without external interference.

HISTORICAL PARALLELS

The recent car bomb explosion in Balochistan, Pakistan, which resulted in multiple casualties, highlights the persistent threat of insurgency and the challenges to regional stability. The Balochistan Liberation Army (BLA), suspected in the attack, has previously sought support from India, further complicating the geopolitical landscape.

Balochistan has long been a region plagued by violence mounted by separatist groups. The province, bordering Afghanistan, is a hotspot for insurgent activities, with groups like the BLA targeting security forces and civilians. The BLA's recent appeal for Indian support and its prom-

ise to establish a military front against Pakistan near the Afghan border amid rising tensions between nuclear-armed Pakistan and India add another layer of complexity to the regional security dynamics.

The events of May 2025 underscore the persistent volatility in India-Pakistan relations. Operation Abhyaas reflects a renewed emphasis on civil defence, reminiscent of Cold War-era practices. The swift escalation and subsequent de-escalation highlight the fragile nature of peace in the region and the critical role of international diplomacy.

Such incidents underscore the multifaceted nature of security threats in the region and the importance of addressing underlying issues to achieve lasting peace. The interplay between internal insurgencies and external diplomatic tensions necessitates a comprehensive approach to regional stability, involving both robust security measures and proactive diplomatic engagements.

A BARRIER TO LASTING PEACE

The differing narratives from India and Pakistan regarding the ceasefire's origins and implications pose challenges to sustained peace. India maintains that its military actions were a direct response to terrorist attacks and that the ceasefire resulted from Pakistan's request. In contrast, Pakistan credits international mediation for the agreement and continues to deny involvement in the initial provocations.

These conflicting accounts hinder mutual trust and complicate diplomatic engagements. Without a shared understanding of the conflict's causes and resolutions, efforts to build confidence and establish long-term stability remain fraught with difficulty.



An Indian soldier stands guard in Srinagar after a quiet night on the India-Pakistan border, May 12. X

WARNING SIGNS IGNORED: HOW DIET IS DRIVING ABDOMINAL CANCERS

TDG NETWORK
JAIPUR

Dr. Shashikant Saini has observed that in recent years, there has been a noticeable surge in abdominal cancer cases across India, especially in Rajasthan. This alarming trend is largely attributed to modern dietary habits that heavily rely on processed, fried, and overly spiced foods. Urban populations, in particular, have embraced unhealthy eating patterns, contributing significantly to this health crisis.

According to the National Cancer Registry Program (NCRP), India reports over two lakh new cases of abdominal cancer annually. These include cancers of the colon, rectum, stomach (gastric), liver, pancreas, bladder, and kidneys. Among these, colon and gastric cancers are particularly prevalent. Rajasthan is witnessing a sharp increase, with abdominal cancer cases rising by 20–25% each year. This rise is most evident in urban regions, where fast-paced lifestyles, junk food consumption, tobacco use, and chronic stress have become common.

UNDERSTANDING ABDOMINAL CANCER

Abdominal cancer is a term used to describe cancers that develop in the organs located within the abdominal cavity. These include several vital organs, and cancer in any of them can significantly affect overall health. Common types of

abdominal cancer include colon cancer (affecting the large intestine), rectal cancer (in the rectum), gastric cancer (in the stomach), liver cancer, pancreatic cancer, bladder cancer, and kidney cancer. Each of these cancers has its own causes, risk factors, and symptoms, but many share a link with lifestyle habits, particularly diet and tobacco use. Early detection and timely treatment are essential to improve outcomes and quality of life for affected individuals.

While each type has its own specific causes and symptoms, the overarching link between them is lifestyle—particularly dietary habits and overall digestive health.

THE DIET-CANCER CONNECTION

Processed and packaged foods, excessive consumption of oil and spices, along with high intake of red meat and low fiber diets, are some of the key dietary contributors to abdominal cancers. These foods lack essential nutrients and are high in carcinogens, which can lead to inflammation, impaired digestion, and cellular mutations in abdominal organs. Moreover, a sedentary lifestyle and tobacco or alcohol use further aggravate the risk.

IMPORTANCE OF EARLY DETECTION

A major challenge in abdominal cancer treatment is delayed diagnosis. Many patients ignore early signs, which can be subtle yet critical. Dr. Shashikant Saini



emphasizes the need for public awareness and regular checkups, especially for high-risk individuals. Common symptoms that should not be ignored include:

Persistent abdominal pain or a feeling of heaviness, chronic constipation or diarrhea, blood in the stool, loss of appetite, or sudden and unexplained weight loss can all be early warning signs of abdominal cancer. Other concerning symptoms include



A major challenge in abdominal cancer treatment is delayed diagnosis. Many patients ignore early signs, which can be subtle yet critical.

chemotherapy, radiation therapy, immunotherapy, or targeted therapy.

STOMA CARE: A CRUCIAL SUPPORT SYSTEM

An often-overlooked aspect of abdominal cancer treatment is post-operative care, especially for patients who undergo surgeries requiring a stoma—a surgically created opening for the removal of bodily waste.

BMCHRC (Bhagwan Mahaveer Cancer Hospital and Research Centre) in Rajasthan stands out as the only facility in the state offering a dedicated stoma clinic. This clinic provides not only medical assistance but also emotional and psychological support to stoma patients. The facility offers:

- Training on stoma care: Cleaning, dressing, and bag changing
- Expert counseling: Helping patients adapt to their new lifestyle
- Support groups: Connect-

ing patients with others facing similar challenges

- Such holistic care ensures that patients lead dignified and independent lives after surgery.

The rise in abdominal cancer cases is a wake-up call for both the public and healthcare systems. Prevention is the first line of defense—adopting a balanced diet rich in fiber, fruits, and vegetables, reducing intake of processed foods, staying physically active, and avoiding tobacco and alcohol can dramatically lower cancer risk. Awareness, early detection, and a comprehensive treatment approach are key to combating this disease.

With better medical infrastructure like minimally invasive surgeries and dedicated facilities like the stoma clinic at BMCHRC, patients now have a stronger chance of recovery and a better quality of life post-treatment.

Heat stroke in India: Understanding causes, symptoms, and prevention

TDG NETWORK
JAIPUR

Heat stroke is a severe and potentially life-threatening condition that occurs when the body's temperature regulation system fails due to prolonged exposure to high temperatures. In India, where summer temperatures often soar above 40°C, heat stroke poses a significant health risk, especially during heatwaves. This article delves into the causes, symptoms, and preventive measures to combat heat stroke in the Indian context.

What Is Heat Stroke?

Heat stroke is the most severe form of heat-related illness. It occurs when the body's core temperature rises above 40°C (104°F), overwhelming the body's ability to cool itself. This leads to the failure of the thermoregulatory system, causing damage to vital organs such as the brain, heart, kidneys, and muscles.

CAUSES OF HEAT STROKE

Several factors contribute to the onset of heat stroke:

- High Environmental Temperatures: Prolonged exposure to hot and humid conditions, especially during peak summer months, increases the risk.
- Physical Exertion: Engaging in strenuous activities during the hottest parts of the day can lead to heat stroke.
- Dehydration: Inadequate fluid intake reduces the body's ability to sweat and maintain a normal body temperature.
- Inappropriate Clothing:

Wearing dark-colored, tight, or non-breathable clothing can trap heat and hinder the body's cooling mechanisms.

Health Conditions: Individuals with chronic illnesses, such as heart disease, obesity, or respiratory disorders, are more susceptible.

Medications: Certain drugs, like diuretics and antihistamines, can impair the body's ability to regulate temperature.

Age: The elderly and young children have a reduced capacity to adapt to extreme heat.

Symptoms of Heat Stroke

Recognizing the symptoms of heat stroke is crucial for prompt treatment:

- High Body Temperature: Core body temperature rises above 40°C (104°F).
- Altered Mental State: Confusion, agitation, slurred speech, irritability, delirium, or unconsciousness.
- Hot, Dry Skin: Skin may appear flushed and feel hot to the touch.
- Rapid Heart Rate: The heart rate may increase significantly.
- Headache, Dizziness, and Nausea: Common early signs.
- Absence of Sweating: Despite the heat, sweating may stop, indicating a severe condition.
- Seizures: In extreme cases, seizures may occur.

PREVENTING HEAT STROKE IN INDIA

Given the high temperatures and humidity levels prevalent in many parts of India, preventive measures are essential:



HYDRATION

Drink Plenty of Fluids: Consume water, oral rehydration solutions (ORS), coconut water, and fresh fruit juices to stay hydrated. Avoid alcohol and caffeinated beverages, as they can lead to dehydration.

Monitor Urine Color: Dark-colored urine may indicate dehydration.

Appropriate Clothing: Wear Light-Colored, Loose-Fitting Clothes: Opt for cotton garments that allow the skin to breathe.

Use Protective Gear: Wear wide-brimmed hats and sunglasses to shield from direct sunlight.

Avoid Peak Heat Hours: Limit Outdoor Activities: Refrain from strenuous activities between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m., when temperatures are at their highest.

Take Frequent Breaks: Rest in shaded or air-conditioned areas to cool down.

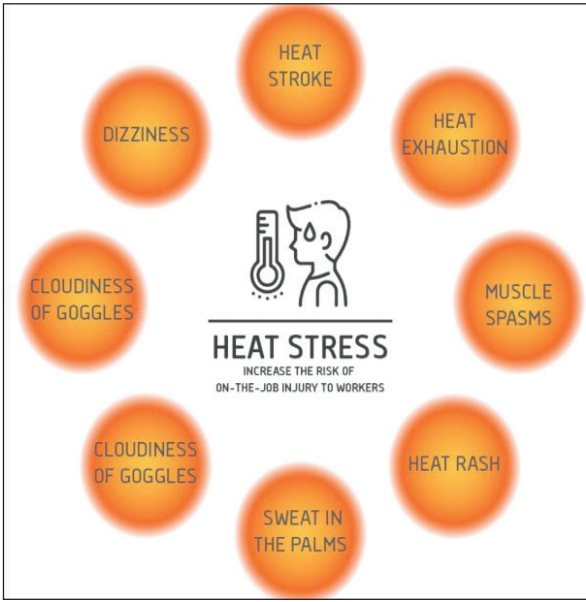
Acclimatization: Gradual Exposure: If you're not accustomed to hot climates, gradually in-



crease your exposure to heat to allow your body to adapt.

MONITOR VULNERABLE POPULATIONS

Check on the Elderly and Children: They are more susceptible to heat-related illnesses.



Implement Safety Protocols: In workplaces and schools, establish guidelines to protect individuals from heat-related illnesses.

Treatment of Heat Stroke: Immediate medical attention is vital: Call for Emergency Help:

Dial emergency services for immediate assistance.

Move to a Cooler Area: Relocate the individual to an air-conditioned or shaded environment.

Cool the Body: Apply cool (not cold) water to the skin, use fans, or place ice packs under the armpits

and groin area.

Hydrate: If the person is conscious and able to swallow, provide fluids like water or ORS.

Monitor Vital Signs: Keep track of body temperature, heart rate, and breathing until medical help arrives.

GOVERNMENT INITIATIVES IN INDIA

Recognizing the severity of heat-related illnesses, various state governments have implemented measures to mitigate risks:

Heat Action Plans: Cities like Ahmedabad have developed heat action plans that include early warning systems, public awareness campaigns, and cooling centers. Workplace Guidelines: The government has issued directives to ensure worker safety during extreme heat conditions, including mandatory rest breaks and provision of hydration.

Public Awareness Campaigns: Initiatives to educate the public about the dangers of heat stroke and preventive measures.

Heat stroke is a preventable yet potentially fatal condition that requires immediate attention.

By understanding its causes, recognizing the symptoms, and implementing preventive measures, individuals can protect themselves and others from the dangers of extreme heat. It is imperative for both the public and authorities to collaborate in creating a safer environment, especially during the scorching summer months in India.

THE INDUS WATERS TREATY: STALEMATE BY STRATEGY

A treaty flows, but tensions run deep.

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

The Indus Waters Treaty (IWT), at one point considered a model of cooperation between enemies, now hangs in a calculated state of limbo. Legal nuances, shifting geopolitics, and the constant threat of cross-border terrorism have all been factors in its current stalemate. For India, the moment is both a strategic chance to reassess the accord and also a dilemma over how hard to lean.

WHY INDIA HASN'T WALKED AWAY YET

According to top government sources, India's current position, stalling but not walking away from the treaty is a deliberate, tactical move. It's aimed at keeping diplomatic pressure on while steering clear of the consequences of a total abrogation.

Legally, the framework of the treaty does not enable unilateral suspension. Article XII(4) of the agreement provides that the treaty is operative "until terminated by a duly ratified treaty concluded for that purpose." Accordingly, since India hasn't formally rescinded the agreement, Pakistan can't hold it guilty of default.

As one Indian senior official put it, "It's a treaty without an exit ramp. That's by



A view of the Baglihar Hydroelectric Power Project built on the Chenab River as India suspends the Indus Waters Treaty with Pakistan in the wake of the Pahalgam Terrorist Attack, in Ramban on 24 Apr, 2025. ANI



Map illustrating the Indus River system with its major rivers highlighted in blue, showing their geographical locations across the India-Pakistan region. HYDR0sheds. NATURAL EARTH

TDG EXPLAINER

design but it doesn't reflect the current reality of state-sponsored terrorism."

INDIA'S LEGAL SAFEGUARDS

India has made efforts to immunize itself against international legal repercussions. India, in 2019, filed a declaration with the International Court of Justice (ICJ) excluding disputes over Commonwealth-related matters and over matters of national security. The move

has the practical effect of precluding Pakistan from pursuing legal remedies at the ICJ.

India also considers its current stance a legal countermeasure under the Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties in reference to continued support for terrorism by Pakistan as a basis. Though identifying responsibility for specific terror attacks is complicated, the larger pattern of state-sponsored

First, by not applying the treaty, India exercises strategic flexibility without provoking international opprobrium. Unilateral withdrawal might expose India to international law or human rights criticism over access to water.

extremism provides the foundation for India's diplomatic and moral case.

We are not ripping up the treaty, but we are sending a message that terrorism does not pay—neither in war nor in water-sharing," another senior official said.

PAKISTAN'S VULNERABILITIES AND THE WORLD BANK'S ROLE

Geography is the weakness of Pakistan. Being a lower riparian country, it is at the mercy of Indian-held rivers—the

Chenab and Jhelum, running through Jammu & Kashmir. Despite making threats in the past, such as declaring water diversion an 'act of war' in 2008, Pakistan has resorted to diplomacy rather than action. This restraint is a sign of both its strategic

limitations and the deterrent strength of India.

The World Bank, a designated facilitator of the treaty, also has limited influence. It may nominate neutral experts or arbitrators, but their decisions are not enforceable. The protracted battles over Kishanganga and Ratle dam projects bear out this toothlessness.

INDIA'S CALCULATED RESTRAINT

India's calculated restraint in not canceling the treaty altogether has several purposes.

First, by not applying the treaty, India exercises strategic flexibility without provoking international opprobrium. Unilateral withdrawal might expose India to international law or human rights criticism over access to water.

Second, this policy continues diplomatic pressure against Pakistan without driving escalation. India's stronger economy and in-

creasing world power allow it to stand firm while showing restraint. Finally, through the exercise of restraint in not making dramatic gestures, India promotes its international reputation as a responsible and stable power—vital when it is aiming for leadership positions within organizations such as the G20, BRICS, and UN.

WHAT THE FUTURE HOLDS

The IWT break symbolizes a larger trend in India's foreign policy where patient pressure is being exercised in combination. Water, previously considered untouchable even in times of war, is now being used to convey a message: sustained patronage of terrorism has its price. While the rivers keep flowing, the diplomatic tide has firmly shifted. India has kept the door ajar for redrawing the rules if provocations continue or diplomatic lines snap completely.

Indonesia and Thailand forge strategic partnership amidst regional challenges

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

In a landmark move, Indonesia and Thailand have elevated their bilateral relations to a strategic partnership, marking a significant shift in Southeast Asian diplomacy. This development comes as both nations celebrate 75 years of diplomatic ties and seek to address shared regional challenges.

The decision was formalized during the 10th Joint Commission for Bilateral Cooperation (JCM) meeting held in Bangkok on May 2, 2025. Indonesian Foreign Minister Sugiono and Thai Foreign Minister Maris Sangiampongsa co-chaired the meeting, emphasizing the need for a more robust and strategic collaboration between the two countries.



Indonesia and Thailand on Monday upgraded their ties to a strategic partnership during the first Indonesian presidential visit in 20 years, pledging to boost trade and investment.

is also a mutual interest in exploring new sectors such as green energy and halal industry standardization.

pertinent given the ongoing challenges in the region, including the crisis in Myanmar.

est in collaborating with Indonesian educational institutions, especially in Yogyakarta, a popular destination for Thai students.

ECONOMIC INTEGRATION

Both nations agreed to expand market access for Indonesian-made products, particularly in agriculture, fisheries, and micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs). There

DEFENCE AND SECURITY

The partnership includes enhanced cooperation in defense and security, focusing on maritime security, counterterrorism, and cybersecurity initiatives. This is particularly

EDUCATION AND PEOPLE-TO-PEOPLE EXCHANGES

Recognizing the importance of cultural and educational ties, both countries are looking to boost cooperation in the education sector. Thailand has expressed inter-

REGIONAL AND GLOBAL COOPERATION

Indonesia and Thailand have committed to strengthening collaboration in international forums such as ASEAN, the United Nations, and BRICS. They aim to work together to address regional issues, including the situation in Myanmar and developments in Palestine.

This strategic partnership signals a commitment to tackling regional challenges through collective action. By aligning their foreign policies and pooling resources, Indonesia and Thailand aim to enhance stability and prosperity in Southeast Asia.

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Trump's Gulf tour redefines Middle East diplomacy



US President says UAE will invest \$1.4 trillion in the US's Artificial Intelligence sector over the next decade.

TDG NETWORK

U.S. President Donald Trump's recent tour of the Gulf region has marked a significant shift in Middle East diplomacy, with potential long-term implications for regional alliances and U.S. foreign policy.

Between May 14 and May 16, 2025, President Trump visited Saudi Arabia, Qatar, and the United Arab Emirates. During these visits, he engaged with Sunni leaders, signed substantial arms and investment deals, and signaled a move away from traditional unconditional support for Israel.

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

Engagement with Gulf

States Trump's meetings with Gulf leaders resulted in significant agreements, including a \$142 billion arms deal with Saudi Arabia. He also strengthened ties with Qatar, despite its links to Hamas, and praised the UAE's infrastructure and political strength.

SHIFT IN U.S.-ISRAEL RELATIONS

Trump's approach has raised concerns in Israel, particularly with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who has resisted U.S. calls for a Gaza ceasefire. Trump's handshake with Syria's Islamist leader Ahmed al-Sharaa and pursuit of diplomacy with Iran

have further strained U.S.-Israel relations.

QATAR'S RISING INFLUENCE

Once condemned by Trump for allegedly funding terrorism, Qatar has now repositioned itself as a key regional mediator. Its strategic charm offensive, including a \$400 million donation of a luxury plane for use as Air Force One, has enhanced its geopolitical standing.

SYRIA'S POTENTIAL NORMALIZATION

In a historic meeting, Trump urged Syrian President Ahmed al-Sharaa to recognize Israel by joining the Abraham Accords. Al-Sharaa, a former Al Qaeda leader, is now

seeking global legitimacy, and Trump's proposal includes lifting all U.S. sanctions on Syria to facilitate reconstruction.

IMPLICATIONS

Trump's transactional and results-driven policy reflects a significant departure from previous U.S. administrations' approaches to the Middle East. By aligning U.S. interests more closely with Gulf Arab states and pursuing diplomacy with traditional adversaries, Trump is reshaping the region's diplomatic landscape. However, this shift has also led to concerns about the marginalization of Israel and the potential for increased instability.

TRUMP HOPES FOR CEASEFIRE IN RUSSIA-UKRAINE WAR WITH MONDAY CALLS TO PUTIN, ZELENSKY

Trump is open to abandoning the effort if no results are achieved.

AGENCIES
WASHINGTON

President Donald Trump has grown “frustrated” with Russian leader Vladimir Putin and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, the White House said Monday ahead of separate calls Trump is holding in hopes of making progress toward a ceasefire in the war in Ukraine.

Vice President JD Vance said Trump is “more than open” to walking away from trying to end the war.

Trump expressed his hopes for a “productive day” Monday — and a ceasefire — in a social media post over the weekend. His effort will also include calls to NATO leaders.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov confirmed to the media Monday that Putin and Trump will speak at 5 p.m. Moscow time (1400 GMT), about 10 a.m. Eastern, and called the conversation “important, given the talks that took place in Istanbul” last week between



Russian and Ukrainian officials, the first such negotiations since March 2022.

Trump has struggled to end a war that began with Russia’s invasion in February 2022, and that makes these conversations a serious test of his reputation as a deal maker after having claimed he would quickly settle the conflict once he was back in the White House, if not even before he took office.

“He’s grown weary and frustrated with both sides of the conflict,” White House press secretary Karoline Leavitt told reporters Monday ahead of the call. “He has made it clear to both sides that he wants to see a peaceful resolution and ceasefire as soon as possible.”



The Republican president is banking on the idea that his force of personality and personal history with Putin will be enough to break any impasse over a pause in the fighting.

“I’d say we’re more than open to walking away,” Vance told reporters before leaving Rome after meeting with Pope Leo XIV. Vance said Trump has been clear that the U.S. “is not going to spin its wheels here. We want to see outcomes.”

Trump’s “sensibilities are that he’s got to get on the phone with President Putin, and that is going to clear up some of the logjam and get us to the place that we need to get to,” said Trump’s envoy, Steve Witkoff.

Denmark in ‘frank’ talks with China over backing Russia

COPENHAGEN: Denmark’s foreign minister said Monday he had a “frank talk” with his Chinese counterpart about Beijing’s “deeply problematic” support for Russia and its war in Ukraine.

“I had a frank talk with my Chinese colleague about, among other things, stopping the deeply problematic Chinese support for Russia’s war of aggression in Ukraine,” Lars Lokke Rasmussen said in a statement published as he visited Beijing.

The foreign minister added that he had called for Beijing “instead using its influence in Moscow to stop the war,” noting that China as a permanent member of the UN Security Council had a “particular responsibility”.

Lokke’s meeting with Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi also included discussions about Greenland, the Danish autonomous territory coveted by US President Donald Trump. The US president has insisted Washington needs control of Greenland for security reasons, refusing to rule out the use of force to secure it, sparking tensions between Denmark and the United States.

“China fully respects Denmark’s sovereignty and territorial integrity on the Greenland issue,” Wang Yi told his Danish counterpart, according to a readout of their discussion published by Beijing’s foreign ministry.

The Danish foreign ministry also said Lokke had “appealed to the Chinese government to show restraint in the Taiwan Strait and emphasised the importance of avoiding unilateral changes to the status quo.”

Lokke visited China to celebrate the 75th anniversary of diplomatic relations between the two countries.

UK, EU hail new chapter as they ink new deals, 5 years after Brexit

AGENCIES
LONDON

Britain and the European Union hailed a new chapter in their relationship Monday after they sealed new agreements on defense co-operation and easing trade flows at their first formal summit since Brexit.

Prime Minister Keir Starmer, who met European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen and other senior EU officials in London for talks, said the deals will slash red tape, grow the British economy and reset relations with the 27-nation trade bloc since the U.K. left the EU in 2020.

“Britain is back on the world stage,” Starmer said. “This deal is a win-win.”

Von der Leyen called the talks a “historic moment” that benefits both sides. More broadly, she said it sends a message at a time of global upheaval that the U.K. and EU are “natural partners standing side-by-side on the global stage.”

Britain’s opposition parties slammed the deals as backtracking on Brexit. “We’re becoming a rule-taker from Brussels once



Britain’s Prime Minister Keir Starmer greets European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen as she arrives Monday with European Council President Antonio Costa to attend a United Kingdom and European Union summit in London.

AGENCIES

again,” Conservative Party leader Kemi Badenoch said. Under the deals, a new U.K.-EU defense and security partnership will allow the U.K. to access a EU defense loan program worth 150 billion euros (\$170 billion.)

Other agreements include removing some checks on animal and plant products to ease food trade across borders, and a 12-year extension of an agreement allowing EU fishing vessels in U.K. waters.

While the EU is the U.K.’s largest trading partner, the U.K. has been hit with a 21% drop in exports since Brexit because of more onerous border checks, laborious paperwork and

other non-tariff barriers.

Post-Brexit visa restrictions have also hobbled the cross-border activities of professionals such as bankers or lawyers, as well as cultural exchanges, including touring bands and school trips.

Since becoming prime minister in July, Starmer has sought to reset relations with the EU, following years of tensions in the wake of the U.K.’s 2016 Brexit referendum.

Post-Brexit relations have been governed by a trade agreement negotiated by then-Prime Minister Boris Johnson. Starmer thinks that can be improved in a way that boosts trade and bolsters security.

Pro-EU centrist wins Romania’s tense presidential race over hard-right nationalist

AGENCIES
BUCHAREST, ROMANIA

Pro-European Union candidate Nicusor Dan on Sunday won Romania’s closely watched presidential runoff against a hard-right nationalist who modeled his campaign after U.S. President Donald Trump. The victory marked a major turnaround in a tense election that many viewed as a geopolitical choice for the former Eastern Bloc country between East or West.

The race pitted front-runner George Simion, the 38-year-old leader of the hard-right Alliance for the Unity of Romanians, or AUR, against Dan, the incumbent mayor of Bucharest. It was held months after the cancellation of the previous election plunged Romania into its worst political crisis in decades.

With more than 99% of polling stations reporting, Dan was ahead with 53.9%, while Simion trailed at 46.1%, according to official data.

In the first-round vote on May 4, Simion won almost twice as many votes as Dan, and many local surveys predicted he would secure the presidency.

But in a swing that appeared to be a repudiation of Simion’s skeptical approach to the EU, which Ro-

Dan’s headquarters near Bucharest City Hall to await the final results, chanting “Nicusor!” Each time his lead widened as more results came in, the crowd, many waving the flags of Europe, would erupt in cheers.

Once it was clear he had



Residential candidate Nicusor Dan speaks to media after polls closed for the second round of the country’s presidential election redo in Bucharest, Romania.

AGENCIES

mania joined in 2007. Dan picked up almost 900,000 more votes to solidly defeat his opponent in the final round.

On Sunday evening, thousands gathered outside

secured a victory, Dan gave an emotional speech from an outdoor stage where he thanked his supporters, and reached out to Simion’s backers with a message of national unity.

AGENCIES
BUCHAREST

France’s foreign intelligence service on Monday rejected claims from Telegram founder Pavel Durov that its chief had requested the tech mogul to ban pro-conservative Romanian accounts from the platform ahead of weekend elections.

Durov was sensationally detained in Paris in 2024 and is under formal investigation by French authorities over illegal content on his popular service.

“The DGSE strongly refutes allegations that requests to ban accounts linked to any electoral process were made on these occasions,” the Directorate General for External Security (DSGE) service said in a statement.

The Russian-born co-founder of Telegram alleged in a post on X on Sunday night that DGSE chief Nicolas Lerner had asked him

this spring “to ban conservative voices in Romania ahead of elections”.

“I refused. We didn’t block protesters in Russia, Belarus, or Iran. We won’t start doing it in Europe,” Durov, 40, said.

The centrist mayor of Bucharest, Nicusor Dan, won a tense rerun of Romania’s presidential election on Sunday, beating nationalist George Simion in a vote seen as crucial for the direction of the EU and NATO member bordering war-torn Ukraine.

In an earlier post on Sunday, Durov alleged interference by France in the Romanian election.

“A Western European government (guess which) approached Telegram, asking us to silence conservative voices in Romania ahead of today’s presidential elections,” Durov said on his channel.

The post did not name France but used an icon of a French baguette.

Netanyahu says Israel to take over all Gaza, start aid flows

AGENCIES
JERUSALEM

Israel will take over the entire Gaza Strip, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said on Monday, as the military announced it would carry out an “unprecedented attack” on Hamas.

Netanyahu said that, alongside the increased attacks, Israel would start allowing aid into Gaza again after stopping it in early March in a bid to make Hamas release hostages and surrender.

International pressure has mounted on Israel to restart aid. The United Nations says malnutrition is worsening and last week

Israel’s military orders evacuation of Gaza’s second-largest city

TEL AVIV: Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said Monday that his decision to resume limited aid to the Gaza Strip after a two-and-a-half month blockade came after pressure from allies who said they couldn’t support Israel’s renewed offensive if there are “images of hunger” coming out of the Palestinian territory. The announcement raised hope among Palestinians that

desperately needed food, medicine and other supplies would enter — but none had by Monday afternoon. Israel has meanwhile launched a new wave of air and ground operations across the territory, and the army ordered the evacuation of Gaza’s second-largest city, Khan Younis, where Israel carried out a massive operation earlier in the war that left much of the area in ruins.

France’s President Emmanuel Macron accused Netanyahu of “shameful” behavior in blocking aid.

Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich, head of the Religious Zionism party, who had in the past opposed restarting the aid, said on Monday there was no choice, “otherwise, the world will force us to stop the war.” He also said that the military is now operating with much greater intensity. “This time, the operational method is completely different: not raids, but rather occupation, cleansing and holding the territory until Hamas is destroyed,” Smotrich said. “Along the way, we are de-

stroying everything that is left of the Gaza Strip, because everything there is one big city of terror.”

According to the Integrated Food Security Classification, whose assessments are used for planning by the UN and international aid organizations, around 1.6 million of Gaza’s 2 million people are now facing an emergency regarding the availability of food.

Israel denies there are significant shortages of food. But Netanyahu said he needed to allow in aid to stop the onset of hunger, adding that US senators who support Israel had urged him to do so.



Biden diagnosed with aggressive prostate cancer

AGENCIES
WASHINGTON

Former President Joe Biden has been diagnosed with prostate cancer, his office said Sunday.

The finding came after the 82-year-old reported urinary symptoms, which led doctors to discover a nodule on his prostate. He was diagnosed with prostate cancer on Friday, with the cancer cells having spread to the bone.

“While this represents a more aggressive form of the disease, the cancer appears to be hormone-sensitive which allows for effective management,” his office said. “The President and his family are reviewing treatment options with his physicians.”

In a post on X on Monday morning, Biden posted a photo of himself and his wife, Jill Biden, and wrote: “Cancer touches us all. Like so many of you, Jill and I have learned that we are strongest in the broken places. Thank you for lifting us up with love and support.”

Prostate cancers are graded for aggressiveness using what’s known as a Gleason score. The scores range from 6 to 10, with 8, 9 and 10 prostate cancers behaving more aggressively. Biden’s office said his score



was 9, suggesting his cancer is among the most aggressive.

When prostate cancer spreads to other parts of the body, it often spreads to the bones. Metastasized cancer is much harder to treat than localized cancer because it can be hard for drugs to reach all the tumors and completely root out the disease.

However, when prostate cancers need hormones to grow, as in Biden’s case, they can be susceptible to treatment that deprives the tumors of hormones.

Outcomes have improved in recent decades and patients can expect to live with metastatic prostate cancer for four or five years, said Dr. Matthew Smith of Massachusetts General Brigham Cancer Center.

ANANYA, ISHAAN PART OF FORBES 30 UNDER 30 ASIA LIST 2025

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

Actors Ananya Pandey and Ishaan Khatter have been named in Forbes 30 Under 30 Asia list for 2025 in the entertainment and sports category. The list celebrates 30 talented young people from the Asia-Pacific region.

Ananya Pandey, 26, has acted in 11 films, starting with Student of the Year 2 in 2019. One of her latest films is CTRL, released in



2024. This year, she also became the first Indian brand ambassador for Chanel, a big step for the global

fashion brand in South Asia. Ananya is also known for her strong online presence, with 26 million followers on Instagram. Ishaan Khatter, 29, first gained attention for his role in Beyond the Clouds. He won several debut awards, including at the Filmfare and IIFA. He later acted in A Suitable Boy on Netflix and starred alongside Nicole Kidman in The Perfect Couple. Forbes said he is close to becoming an A-list star in both Bollywood and Hollywood.

Janhvi sets off for Cannes Film Festival

TDG NETWORK
MUMBAI

Bollywood actress Janhvi Kapoor is gearing up for her highly anticipated debut at the Cannes Film Festival 2025.

The actress will be attending the prestigious event with her team for the film 'Homebound', which will be featured in the coveted Un Certain Regard section on May 21, 2025.

As excitement builds ahead of the premiere, Kapoor was spotted at Mumbai Airport early Monday, exuding style and sophistication in a chic ensemble.

The actress looked effortlessly elegant in a black high-neck top, paired with fitted black pants and formal shoes.

She completed her airport look with a burgundy jacket, sleek black sunglasses, and a stylish handbag that added a



touch of flair to her outfit. Fans and paparazzi caught a glimpse of Kapoor as she prepared for her journey to the French Riviera. This year, Kapoor's debut at Cannes holds special significance, as it marks the premiere of 'Homebound', a film directed by Neeraj Ghaywan. The film's unique nar-

rative and stellar performances are set to captivate audiences. 'Homebound' also stars Ishaan Khatter and Vishal Jethwa, alongside Kapoor. Ahead of the Cannes debut, filmmaker Karan Johar, who is producing 'Homebound', took to Instagram to share the first poster of the film. The poster features Khatter and Jethwa in key

roles, with Johar providing fans a glimpse of what to expect. The caption on his post read: "Some bonds carry us through. Presenting the first poster for HOMEBOUND, directed by Neeraj Ghaywan and starring Ishaan Khatter, Vishal Jethwa, and Janhvi Kapoor. Premieres at the Cannes Film Festival on 21st May 2025."

Martin Scorsese, the legendary Hollywood director, has come on board as the executive producer of 'Homebound'.

Director Neeraj Ghaywan is also making his return to Cannes, where his previous film, 'Masaan' (2015), had garnered global attention. 'Masaan', which starred Vicky Kaushal, had been showcased in the Un Certain Regard section and won accolades, making it one of the most memorable films of that year's festival.



Tamannaah Bhatia poses for her social media. (Instagram)

Sharmila, daughter Saba reach Cannes ahead of 'Aranyer Din Ratri' screening

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

Veteran actor Sharmila Tagore on Monday arrived in Cannes with her daughter and jewellery designer Saba Pataudi for the screening of Satyajit Ray's 1970 film "Aranyer Din Ratri".

A 4K restored version of the Bengali-language movie, titled "Days and Nights in the Forest" in English, will be showcased at the 2025 Cannes Film Festival under the Classics section today.

Pataudi shared a series of pictures with her mother on Instagram.

"Cannes 2025! Ma n Me... moments to cherish (sic)" she



wrote in the caption. "Aranyer Din Ratri" is presented and restored by The Film Foundation's World Cinema Project at L'Imagine Ritrovata in collaboration with the Film Heritage Foundation (FHF), Janus Films, and the Criterion Collection. The funding was provided by the Golden Globe Founda-

tion. Tagore, who was part of the ensemble cast of "Aranyer Din Ratri", will attend the screening at the prestigious gala along with co-star Simi Garewal, producer Purnima Dutta, Margaret Bodde, executive director of The Film Foundation, and FHF founder Shivendra Singh Dungarpur.

BRAIN PICKING



Work is important, no doubt, but one can end up neglecting family and friends in the bargain.
— DISHA PATANI
(Indian Actress)

Shilpa Shirodkar tests positive for COVID-19

TDG NETWORK
MUMBAI

Actor Shilpa Shirodkar on Monday took to her Instagram and shared that she has tested positive for COVID-19.

"Hello people! I've been tested positive for COVID. Stay safe and wear your masks!," Shilpa wrote, urging people to take precautionary measures as a new wave of COVID-19 has emerged in several countries.

Recently, Australian cricketer and Sunrisers Hyderabad (SRH) Travis Head also contracted COVID-19. SRH head coach Daniel Vettori confirmed that Head did not travel with the team, but assured that he could

return for their remaining games.

Speaking during the pre-match presser, Vettori on Sunday said, "He actually had COVID, so he could not travel. So he will get in tomorrow (Monday) and we will assess how he is af-



ter that." Meanwhile, the US Food and Drug Administration

approved Novavax's Covid-19 vaccine, according to a letter from the agency, but only for people 65 and older and those 12 and up who have at least one underlying condition that puts them at higher risk of severe illness. "Market research and US C.D.C. statistics indicate that older individuals and those with underlying conditions are the populations most likely to seek out COVID-19 vaccination seasonally," Novavax President and CEO John Jacobs said in a statement Saturday, as per CNN. "This significant milestone demonstrates our commitment to these populations and is a significant step towards availability of our protein-based vaccine option."

Tom Cruise teases potential sequels for 'Top Gun' and 'Days of Thunder'

AGENCIES
WASHINGTON

Tom Cruise is revisiting two of his beloved roles, hinting at potential sequels for 'Top Gun: Maverick' and 'Days of Thunder'.

According to Deadline, in a recent interview, Cruise shared that he is "working on" ideas for both projects.

"Yeah, we are thinking and talking about many different stories and what could we do and what is possible," he said.

Cruise reflected on the development process for 'Top Gun: Maverick', which took 35 years to come to fruition.

"It took me 35 years to figure out Top Gun: Maverick, so all of these things we're working on, we're discussing Days of Thunder and Top Gun: Maverick," he explained, as quoted by Deadline.

The sequel to the original 1986

The sequel to the original 1986 film surpassed USD 1.4 billion worldwide and earned an Oscar nomination for Best Picture.

film surpassed USD 1.4 billion worldwide and earned an Oscar nomination for Best Picture.

Cruise emphasised his busy schedule, with multiple films in various stages of production.

"There is numerous other films that we are actively working on right now. I'm always shooting a film, prepping a film, posting a film," he said.

One of his recent projects is a film with Alejandro Inarritu, best known for directing 'The Revenant.'



URVASHI RAUTELA
Dressed in a black silk taffeta gown from Naja Saade Couture

JACQUELINE FERNANDEZ
Radiates Elegance In A Serene Blue Dress

NITANISHI GOEL
'Laapataa Ladies' actress makes Cannes debut at the age of 17



Cannes Film Festival 2025

WINNING WITHOUT INJURY: EXPERT ADVICE ON SPORTS SAFETY



DR. ABHISHEK VAISH

Sports injuries are increasingly common across all age groups and levels of athletic performance. Whether you're a weekend jogger or a professional athlete, injuries can significantly impact performance and lifestyle. Dr. Abhishek Vaish, a leading orthopedic and sports injury specialist from Indraprastha Apollo Hospital and Healing Touch Clinic New Delhi breaks down the factors behind these injuries, and how best to treat and prevent them.

Causes of Sports Injuries

Dr. Vaish emphasizes that most sports injuries result from a combination of physical strain, technique errors, and poor preparation. Here are the key contributors:

1. Overuse and Repetitive Stress
Continuous use of the same muscle groups without adequate rest. Common in sports like running, swimming, and tennis. The body needs recovery time. Overuse without rest is like driving a car on a worn-out tire.

2. Improper Technique
Incorrect posture or form during activity. For example, poor landing technique in basketball can lead to ACL injuries. Even small technical errors can create big problems over time," he notes.

3. Inadequate Warm-Up and Cool-Down
Skipping warm-up increases muscle stiffness and injury risk. A proper

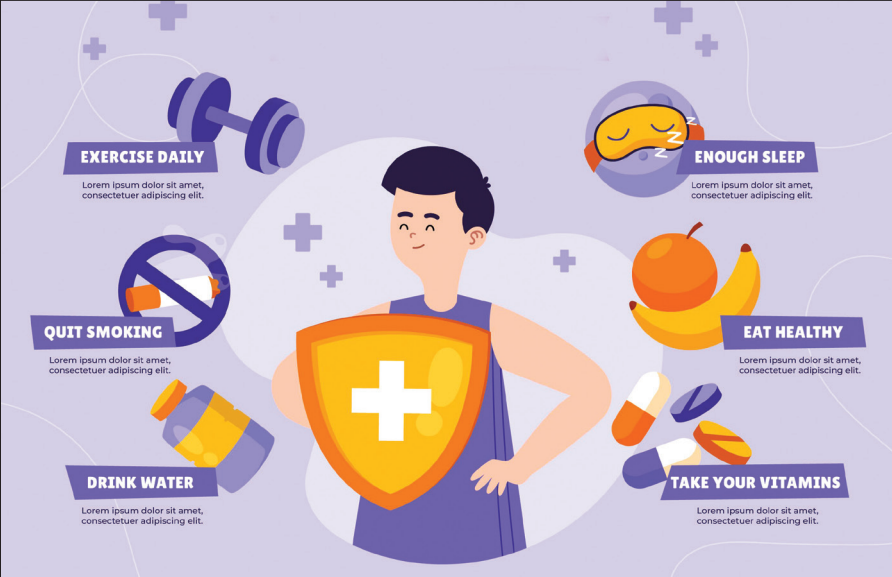
warm-up prepares muscles for impact; skipping it is like sprinting on cold rubber," says Dr. Vaish.

4. Lack of Strength and Flexibility
Muscle imbalances and tightness increase injury susceptibility. Neglecting strength training or stretching weakens support structures around joints.

5. Poor Equipment or Playing Conditions
Worn-out footwear or faulty gear increases stress on joints. Hard, uneven surfaces also contribute to sprains and stress injuries.

Treatment of Sports Injuries
Dr. Abhishek Vaish believes that early diagnosis and targeted treatment significantly improve outcomes. Key treatment strategies include:

1. Initial Care (R.I.C.E Protocol)
Rest, Ice, Compression, Elevation for first 48-72 hours. It reduces swelling and controls pain.



2. Medication

Anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) to reduce pain and inflammation but only under medical supervision to avoid side effects.

3. Imaging and Diagnosis
MRI, ultrasound, or X-rays help pinpoint the extent of damage. Accurate diagnosis is half the treatment.

4. Physical Therapy

Customized exercises to restore movement, strength, and balance. Helps prevent recurrence and speeds up recovery.

5. Advanced Interventions
Arthroscopy for ligament and cartilage repair. PRP (Platelet-Rich Plasma) or Stem Cell Therapy for faster healing.

"Modern techniques now

allow athletes to return to sports faster and stronger," says Dr. Vaish.

6. Surgical Treatment (if needed)
For severe tears, fractures, or non-healing injuries. Dr. Vaish emphasizes minimally invasive techniques for quicker recovery.

Prevention of Sports Injuries
Prevention is the corner-

stone of long-term athletic success. Dr. Vaish recommends the following steps:

1. Proper Warm-Up and Stretching
Light aerobic activity and dynamic stretches before play. Static stretching and cool-down afterward to maintain flexibility.

2. Technique Training
Work with a coach or physiotherapist to ensure correct form. Especially important for jumping, landing, and lifting activities.

3. Strength and Conditioning Programs
Strengthen the core, hips, and stabilizing muscles. Balance training and functional exercises to prevent falls and missteps.

4. Rest and Recovery
Scheduled rest days to prevent overtraining. Adequate sleep and recovery tools like foam rolling or massage.

5. Right Gear and Environment
Proper shoes, helmets, guards, and surface-appropriate equipment. Regular-

ly inspect sports surfaces for hazards.

6. Nutrition and Hydration
Balanced diet rich in protein, vitamins, and minerals. Stay hydrated before, during, and after sports.

7. Listen to Your Body
Don't ignore early signs like soreness or discomfort. "Pain is your body's warning system—never silence it, investigate it," warns Dr. Vaish.

"Sports injuries may be common, but they are not unavoidable. With the right precautions, training, and expert care, athletes can enjoy longer, healthier sporting careers. Prevention begins with awareness. An athlete who understands their body well can avoid most injuries before they happen" concluded Dr Abhishek Vaish.

The author is Orthopedic Surgeon and Sports Injury Specialist from Indraprastha Apollo Hospital and Healing Touch Clinic New Delhi

FOOD AND NUTRACEUTICALS FOR A HEALTHY PREGNANCY: BUILDING BLOCKS FOR MOM AND BABY



FOOD IS MEDICINE
DR ANISH DESAI

Pregnancy is one of the most nutritionally demanding phases in a woman's life. A mother's diet not only supports her health but also lays the foundation for her baby's growth, development, and long-term well-being. Alongside a balanced intake of wholesome foods, nutraceuticals bioactive compounds derived from food with potential health benefits play a vital role. Together, they help meet the increased nutritional demands of pregnancy, support placental function, and contribute to healthier outcomes for both mother and child.

The Power of a Balanced Diet
A well-balanced diet rich in whole grains, fruits, vegetables, lean proteins, dairy, and healthy fats provides the essential nutrients needed for pregnancy. These include folate, iron, calcium, omega-3 fatty acids, and fiber vital for fetal development, placental function, and maternal health.

- Leafy greens, lentils, and citrus fruits are excellent sources of folate.
- Dairy products, almonds, and sesame seeds help meet increased cal-

cium needs.

- Fatty fish provides DHA, a type of omega-3 fatty acid essential for brain and vision development.

However, diet alone may not always meet these elevated requirements, especially in cases of nausea, aversions, or dietary restrictions.

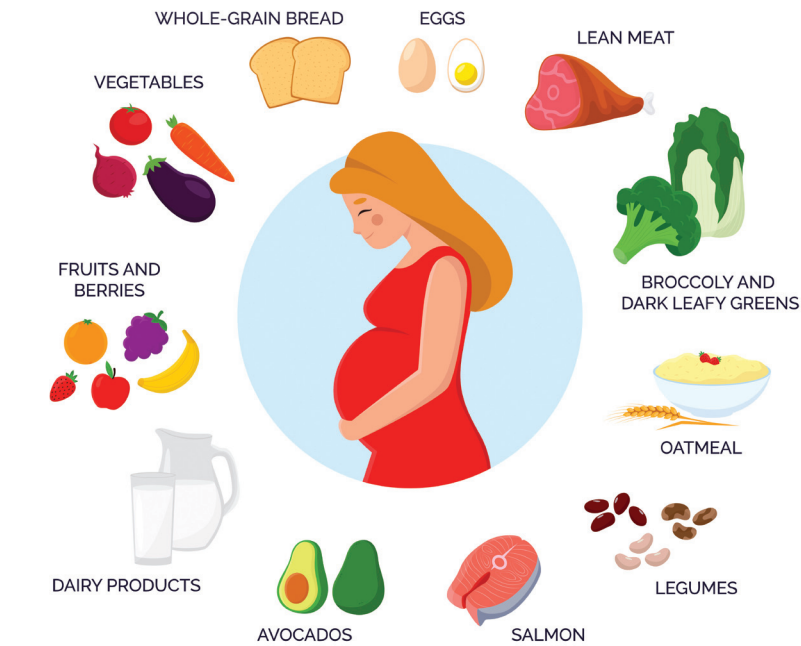
As the fetus and placenta rapidly develop, the demand for nutrients increases. The placenta, which regulates nutrient exchange and hormone production, is sensitive to maternal nutrition. Poor placental development can lead to complications such as pre-eclampsia, fetal growth restriction, and preterm birth. Certain nutraceuticals have shown the ability to influence placental health by

modulating inflammation, oxidative stress, and even gene expression.

- Folic acid is one of the most established nutraceuticals in pregnancy. It prevents neural tube defects and supports DNA synthesis.
- Omega-3 fatty acids (especially DHA) help reduce inflammation and lower the risk of gestational hypertension and preterm labor.
- Vitamin D supports immune function and vascular health in the placenta.
- Calcium, often combined with vitamin D, supports bone development and helps manage maternal blood pressure.

While nutraceuticals offer benefits, not all are safe or necessary for every pregnant woman. Some may interfere with medications or hormonal function. Pregnancy nutrition isn't about eating for two it's about eating smart. A diet based on whole foods, combined with medically recommended nutraceuticals, can promote a healthier pregnancy and give your baby the best start in life. Always consult your doctor or dietitian before starting any supplements.

A well-balanced diet rich in whole grains, fruits, vegetables, lean proteins, dairy, and healthy fats provides the essential nutrients needed for pregnancy.



Better sleep, better you: How rest fuels focus and emotional balance

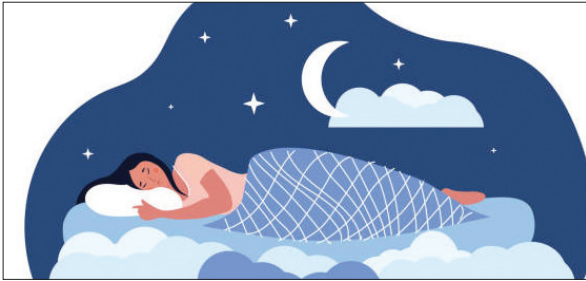


AMAN PURI

Sleep is an integral part of our daily routines but it's often neglected due to our fast-paced, hectic lifestyles. Quality sleep enables the body to enter a resting phase, enabling relaxation, repair, and rejuvenation. During sleep, the body restores and manages memory and cognition by flush-

ing out the toxic buildup of metabolites and fluid known as lymphatic flow. This reduces the risk of developing neurodegenerative disorders, such as Alzheimer's and Parkinson's, and promotes better physical and mental performance. Waking up refreshed after 7-8 hours of proper sleep allows the body to recharge, energising you, reducing stress levels and improving cognitive function. This improves focus and restores memories and information.

Sound sleep essentially helps the brain to improve and adapt to inputs, enabling you to think more clearly and stay focused. Rest, along with proper sleep, enhances mental clar-



ity, resulting in effective and improved decision-making and better productivity. On the other hand, sleep deprivation impairs the ability to think critically, analyse, and judge, affecting cognition, focus, and emotional balance. Improper sleep patterns may cause fatigue, lethargy, impaired learning, and poor mental alertness and concentration, leading

to low productivity and performance at work.

Sleep significantly impacts emotional health. A lack of sleep can increase irritability, mood swings, depression and anxiety, leading to negative emotional responses, such as anger and frustration. Insomnia is also linked to emotional exhaustion, as the mind struggles to balance emotions, making you

feel mentally and emotionally drained. This may also affect professional relationships, commitments, and deadlines. Proper sleep improves the emotional quotient, making individuals interact socially and maintain healthy relationships and feel the utmost positivity and happiness.

To perform at your best, both physical and mental health are crucial, for which proper rest and sleep need to be prioritised. They give the body time to rejuvenate. For a clear state of mind, quality sleep and rest, a proper diet and physical activity are all essential.

The author is Founder, Steadfast Nutrition, a leading sports and wellness nutrition brand

1 IN 2 HEALTHY INDIANS SHOW EARLY HEART DISEASE – APOLLO HOSPITALS URGES NATION TO RETHINK

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

On the occasion of World Hypertension Day, Apollo Hospitals is drawing attention to the rising prevalence of hypertension in India. With nearly 30% of India's adult population living with high blood pressure, hypertension has become one of the leading risk factors for heart disease, stroke, kidney failure, and premature death. Despite its significant impact on public health, a large number of hypertensive people remain undiagnosed, underlining the urgency for a national shift in healthcare priorities.

The Growing Burden of Hypertension in India

Recent studies indicate that hypertension is affecting approximately 300 million people. Notably, nearly half of those with high blood pressure remain unaware of their condition. The prevalence is notably high among younger populations, with 26% of those aged under 45 diagnosed with high blood pressure in 2024.

Dr. Prathap C Reddy, Founder and Chairman of Apollo Hospitals said, "India has overcome many public health crises, and each success was driven by awareness and collective effort. At Apollo Hospitals,



we believe prevention is the first prescription. Through initiatives like Apollo ProHealth, we are transforming over 25 million screenings into powerful action—enhancing digital hypertension monitoring, strengthening policy advocacy, and making routine screenings a national priority. We want to see healthier, longer lives for every Indian."

There is escalating pressure on India's healthcare system, particularly in major cities, with Hyderabad (68%), Delhi (65%), and Chennai (63%) reporting highest prevalence. This reflects poorly on 'Urban lifestyles', characterized by chronic stress and sedentary routines accelerating cardiac risk.

Dr. Preetha Reddy, Executive Vice Chairperson of Apollo Hospitals, said, "Hypertension is no longer a

condition confined to age or genetics—it is increasingly becoming a silent epidemic among young urban populations. The real challenge lies not just in measuring blood pressure, but in understanding the broader cardiovascular risk profile of an individual. We must move beyond isolated metrics and embrace a more holistic understanding of biomarkers, as even mild imbalances can be early indicators of more serious underlying conditions. Moreover, with rapid urbanisation, we are witnessing a sharp rise in sedentary lifestyles, poor dietary habits, and unrelenting stress, all of which are fuelling this public health crisis. Prevention and early intervention are not just options, they are imperatives. Alarmingly, nearly 30% of India's urban population under the age of 40 is already affected

by hypertension or pre-hypertension. This calls for immediate and collective action across healthcare, policy, and community awareness to protect the health of our fellow citizens."

THE PATH TO PREVENTION: PERSONALIZED AND TECH-ENABLED

Evidence shows that 80% of heart attacks and strokes caused by hypertension could be prevented through simple lifestyle changes such as reducing salt intake, increasing physical activity, and stress management. While the medical management of hypertension is crucial, Apollo Hospitals is advocating for a shift towards preventive healthcare. The key to reversing the growing burden of hypertension lies in empowering individuals to take control of their health

through regular screenings, healthier lifestyle choices, and managing risk factors before they evolve into serious complications.

Apollo Hospitals is advocating for integrating technology into the country's healthcare systems to enhance the detection and management of hypertension. Advances in artificial intelligence (AI), predictive analytics, and telemedicine are transforming how healthcare is delivered, allowing for more accurate risk assessments, early detection, and continuous management of hypertension.

A National Call to Action: A Collective Responsibility

Apollo is calling for a national rethink of cardiovascular prevention, urging Indians to start screenings early, particularly after the age of 30 or for those with a family history of heart disease. Incorporating advanced imaging techniques like Coronary Calcium Scoring can help reveal hidden risks, while adopting preventive treatment strategies for those showing early markers, even if asymptomatic, can significantly reduce future complications. Studies indicate a 45-50% reduction in cardiovascular events when individuals with early atherosclerosis receive guideline-based interventions.

QUEST OF GOD



JAIPRAKASH AGRAWAL

Quest of God is related to spiritual meaning of purpose of life. It is an individual journey in search of some divine power which regulates life and this entire universe. The "quest of God," or the exploration of divine existence and understanding, has roots that stretch back to prehistoric times, with evidence of religious practices and beliefs dating back to the middle Palaeolithic era, in various forms, from the earliest depictions of deities to philosophical inquiries and religious texts.

Philosophical exploration of God's nature and existence has been a recurring theme in various cultures and throughout history, including in ancient Greek philosophy. Major world religions, such as Christianity, Islam, and Hinduism, each offer unique perspectives on God and the divine, with their respective histories tracing the quest for understanding and connection with the supernatural.

Spirituality is different from religion. Spirituality is a personal journey in search of meaning and purpose of life, often focussed on inner experiences of self, a separate entity from body that is soul or spirit. Religion on the other hand is a structured system of beliefs and practices shared within a community. These religions were established by holy men called founders or prophets who introduced rituals, scriptures, traditions, and ethical guidelines to address fundamental questions of life, death, and cosmos. They offered explanations for natural phenomena by attributing them to supernatural forces or deities and provided moral codes and conducts which can promote cooperation, reduce conflict, and foster social harmony within a community.

The relevance of God is a complex matter and it is a question of belief and faith rather than a logical interpretation. Spirituality is about an unseen divine power, an inner and universal consciousness pervading the cosmos. Science, based on experiments and factual conclusion cannot prove or disapprove the existence of God. It is beyond their scope. Existence of God is a spiritual and philosophical concept and this belief and faith have maintained moral and order in the society.

Spirituality can exist independently of religion, or it can be intertwined with religious practices. So far as existence of God is concerned, both spirituality and religion believe in existence of a spiritual force beyond the material world but may not believe in specific rituals or patterns of worshipping a deity. Many spiritual individuals may believe in a higher power or spiritual force without adhering to a specific religious framework or deity. On the other hand, many religions such as Buddhism, Jainism and some strands of Hinduism do not believe in God. Religions such as Hinduism, Islam, Christianity, Sikhism believe in Supreme God and follow rituals, scriptures, and worshiping patterns to approach God.

The spiritual as well as some nontheistic religions such as Buddhism and Jainism follow path of spiritual liberation and enlightenment through practices like meditation, ethical living, and mindfulness rather than relying on a supreme being or deities. They emphasize karma, reincarnation, and the importance of living a moral life to attain enlightenment or liberation from the cycle of rebirth. Monotheistic religions like Christianity, Islam, and Sikhism share a core belief in a divine, spiritual realm and a supreme being. They



Many religions such as Buddhism, Jainism and some strands of Hinduism do not believe in God. Religions such as Hinduism, Islam, Christianity, Sikhism believe in Supreme God and follow rituals, scriptures, and worshipping patterns to approach God.

all engage with spiritual concepts like prayer, meditation, and seeking divine guidance. Brahma Kumaris believes in existence of formless God, a point light and advises knowledge and meditation to approach God.

The concept of spirituality or religion has established the fact that both believe in the existence of Divine Su-

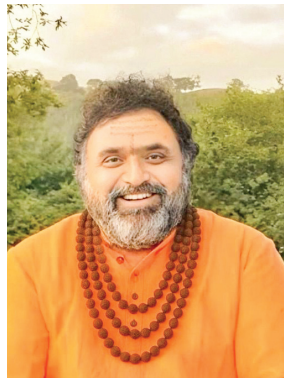
preme Power, often synonymous with "God", that is the ultimate source of creation, authority, and spiritual understanding. Whether an individual believes in a source of light, often as formless, or beyond material form or in the reincarnation of God and form of a deity is an individual choice of believe and faith.

Science of Yagya in the Aravallis with Ashwini Guru Ji, Dhyan Ashram

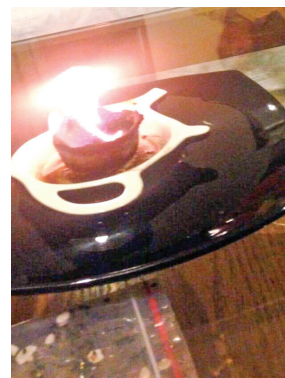
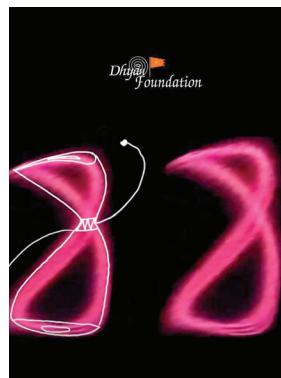
TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

Dhyan Foundation, under the guidance of Ashwini Guru Ji, is organizing a one-of-a-kind 6 night residential retreat on Science of Yagyas and Divya Chikitsa Mantras in Jaipur from May 21st to May 27th, 2025. The retreat is designed to transform the energy, mindset and body of the participants using the power of sound and purifying abilities of fire, as detailed in vedic shastras.

"Yagya is a means to interact with the Divine. It is not a ritual, it is a science which uses the purifying and transformative abilities of fire to manifest energies which run the Creation and channelize them for the desired purpose," explains Ashwini Guru Ji of Dhyan Ashram, who is adept in ancient sciences of yoga, ayurveda, mantras, yagyas, vedic martial arts and spiritual healing. He corroborates this through the unedited images of Divine Manifestations as captured in yagya-fire at yagyas performed by his students.



"When a yagya is performed in the correct manner, there is no smoke in the fire, air becomes fragrant, there is a complete change in the environment and divine manifestations are apparent," adds Guru Ji. Minister of State for New & Renewable Energy, Shri Shripad Naik attended a yagya at Dhyan Ashram and mesmerized by the effects it created, commented, "I have never heard such a mantra uchharan before".



THE MODERN DAY MONK
DEEPAK CHATTERJEE

"Binu bhay hohi na preeti." Without strength, there is no respect.

This line from Ramcharitmanas, quoted recently by Air Marshal Bharati during an Operation Sindoor briefing, says a lot about where we stand today.

There's a war going on. You just don't hear bombs dropping. You don't see tanks rolling down highways. You don't get daily casualty updates. But make no mistake, we are at war—on many fronts.

Now imagine this for a moment. Twenty-five days. No power. No internet. No UPI. No fuel. No ATMs. You're stuck at home with your family. Your phone's dead. Food is running out. There's panic in the air. Air raid sirens are going off. And you're wondering: Is this the day something falls on our street? This is war. And the fact that most of us have never lived it is a blessing we sometimes take for granted.

But that doesn't mean we never fight. Or that we won't. We're not a country that turns the other cheek. Hindu deities carry weapons for a reason. They don't glorify violence, but they don't ask us to silently endure injustice either. We're taught to walk the path of dharma—and sometimes, that path leads through fire.

But war isn't always about armies. Sometimes it's about patience. Sometimes it's about strategy. Sometimes,

it's about refusing to play the enemy's game—and quietly playing your own. Right now, India is doing just that.

We've tightened our grip on trade. We're relooking at the Indus Waters Treaty. We're calling out propaganda. We've distanced ourselves from so-called "friends" of our enemies. And while they shout, we build. We build relationships. We build infrastructure. We build our economy, our influence, and our story.

Look at our sports, our culture, our tech, our diplomacy. We're winning—just not on the battlefield. We're winning in places that truly shape the future.

Yes, we must punish those who harm us. And we will. But we don't need to burn down our own house to prove a point. There's power in picking your moment.

There's strength in stillness, too. And when we do strike—if and when we do—it is not out of impulse. It is out of purpose. With precision. With clarity.

But maybe, the real question isn't whether we should engage in a war that will inevitably bleed us too.

We need to realise that we are already fighting in ways we don't even notice. And we are doing it well enough.

Deepam Chatterjee is an author and meditation teacher. He can be reached at deepamchatterjee@yahoo.co.in and at [deepam.chatterjee on Instagram](https://www.instagram.com/deepam.chatterjee)

Surrender and serenity: The hidden joy of letting go



ATMAN IN RAVI

In a world that constantly urges us to strive, achieve and control every aspect of our lives, the idea of surrender may feel counterintuitive and even frightening. We are taught to hold on tightly to our goals, relationships, identities and even our pain and suffering. But there is a quiet, transformative power in surrender that leads one not to defeat but to serenity. Letting go, when done consciously and spiritually, is not a loss—it is a liberation.

Most of us spend our lives trying to manage outcomes, people and even the future. We think that life is unpredictable. We experience change, loss and challenges that are beyond our understanding. When we resist these moments, we suffer. Resistance creates tension, anxiety and disconnection. In the path of Spirituality, we will realize the truth that we are not this body, mind and ego. We are the Soul, the Spark Of Unique Life, the Atman or the life power that makes the physical body function. We all realize the profound truth that our lives are controlled by Karma, our very own actions and all the situations that are occurring in our lives are due to past Karma. When we realize that everything is happening as per the Law of Karma and the Divine Will, we will realize that our constant effort to control life is exhausting and often futile. Thus, when we choose surrendering to the Divine Will, we align with life rather than fight it. We accept every situation with gratitude to the Divine and this leads to calmness, peace,

tranquility and serenity.

Much of what we cling to is rooted in ego - the part of us that seeks validation, success and control. But the ego thrives on fear and separation. Surrender is the act of loosening the ego's grip and returning to our true nature, our Soul, which is already whole, peaceful and a part of the Divine, the Supreme Immortal Power, SIP. So, when we let go of the need to prove ourselves or to be right, we rediscover a quiet joy that exists beneath all striving. In Spirituality, surrender is often the key to transformation. It is the gateway to deeper prayer, meditation and communion with the Divine. When we release our agendas, we open ourselves to Divine timing, unexpected blessings and to the flow of grace and guidance from the Supreme Power.

There is a hidden joy in letting go, not because we know what will happen next but because we no longer need to know because

Having TRUST, Total Reliance and Unconditional Surrender To the Almighty or the Divine, is one of the most freeing experiences that a Soul can have. It is where faith becomes real. FAITH means Full Assurance In The Heart.

we have trusted in the Divine Will. Having TRUST, Total Reliance and Unconditional Surrender To the Almighty or the Divine, is one of the most freeing experiences that a Soul can have. It is where faith becomes real. FAITH means Full Assurance In The Heart. We realize that we are held and taken care of by a Supreme Power even when we do not understand it. We feel supported and protected, even in the midst of uncertainty and adversity. This joy is subtle, yet powerful. It is the joy of resting in something greater than ourselves, of knowing that we do not

walk alone. It is the joy that comes from no longer needing to figure everything out. In surrender, we find serenity. And in serenity, we discover that life is not something to be conquered, but something to be embraced and realized. The purpose of this life is to realize ourselves and consequently, realize the Divine.

Spiritual surrender is not passive. It is an active choice to trust - a trust in something greater than ourselves, the Supreme Immortal Power, SIP, that we call God. Surrender, in Spirituality, is shifting from fear to faith, from grasping

to openness that leads to serenity in life. Serenity is not about escaping pain or bypassing emotions, rather, is about being fully present with whatever arises, without judgment.

Concluding the discussion, surrender is not a one-time event. It is a daily, moment-to-moment practice. It is the willingness to soften, release and choosing to trust, even when it's hard to trust and have faith. It may look like a deep breath in the middle of a storm, a whispered prayer of acceptance or a quiet decision to stop forcing and start allowing. On the spiritual path, surrender becomes less about letting go of the world and more about Self-Realization and God-Realization, realizing the profound truth of life, death, Karma and everything. It means coming home, our real home, to the Divine. And in that sacred return, we find a serenity that the world can neither give nor take away.



MARSH, MARKRAM TAKE LSG TO 205/7

AGENCIES
LUCKNOW

Mitchell Marsh and Aiden Markram struck high quality fifties before Sunrisers Hyderabad stemmed the flow of runs to limit hosts Lucknow Super Giants to 205/7 in the Indian Premier League here on Monday. Marsh (65 off 39) and Markram (61 off 38) were simply sublime in the powerplay, taking LSG to 69 for no loss.

Marsh began with a crisp pull for a six off his Australian captain Pat Cummins while Markram targeted the straight boundary against debutant left-arm spinner Harsh Dubey in second over of the innings.

Dubey, a record wicket-taker in the latest Ranji Trophy season, was introduced rather early and the LSG openers made a conscious effort to target the rookie.



Lucknow Super Giants' Mitchell Marsh plays a shot during the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2025 match against Sunrisers Hyderabad, at Bharat Ratna Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee Ekana Cricket Stadium in Lucknow on Monday. (ANI Photo)

Marsh cleared his left leg to dispatch Dubey for a six over long-on in the second ball of his opening over before Markram collected his first

maximum of the match with another straight off the left-arm spinner in his following over.

Markram was dropped

in the ninth over, making life tougher for the visiting team. But SRH finally got the breakthrough in the 11th over when Dubey returned

to have Marsh caught at short third man, giving the 22-year-old his maiden IPL wicket.

That brought Rishabh Pant (7 off 6) to the crease with the under-fire skipper deciding to come ahead of Nicholas Pooran at number three.

Pant, who has changed batting positions through the season with little success, once again struggled before offering a catch to pacer Eshan Malinga.

In overs 11-15, LSG could only managed 38 runs for the loss of two wickets, impacting their momentum adversely.

Pooran (45 off 26), who could not find the sixes with the ease he normally does, ensured his team crossed the 200-run mark.

Nitish Reddy, bowling for the first time this season, was given the 20th over in which he conceded 20 runs.

Hockey India opens player registration for League

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI

Hockey India announced on Tuesday the opening of registrations for the Hockey India League 2026.

A statement from Hockey India said, "Hockey India today announced that player registrations for the eagerly awaited Hero Hockey India League (Hero HIL) 2026 will open at 1700 hrs on 19 May 19, 2025 and close at 1700 hrs on August 20, 2025."

Building on the resounding success of the 2024-25 revival season, which featured eight men's and four women's franchises, the upcoming edition promises to be even bigger. Registrations are open to all eligible Indian and international players, with invitations extended to athletes from the world's leading hockey nations.

Eligible Nations Men: India, Netherlands, Belgium, United Kingdom, Germany, France, Australia, Spain, Argentina, Ireland, South Africa, New Zealand, Malaysia, South Korea

Women: India, Netherlands, Argentina, Belgium, China, Australia, Germany, Spain,



United Kingdom, New Zealand, Ireland, Chile, Japan, USA, Scotland

HIL 2026 Player Registration Details: Registration Link (for both Indian and international players): <https://forms.gle/3rVoZdRXooz9SHS6>

Last season, more than 1,000 players signed up, underscoring the league's global appeal and its role as a launchpad for emerging talent. The Odisha Warriors captured the inaugural Women's HIL crown, while Shrachi Rarh Bengal Tigers lifted the Men's title - achievements that epitomise the league's renewed energy and professionalism. Commenting on the development, Hockey India President and Chairperson of the Hockey India League Governing Committee Dr Dilip Tirkey said, "The Hockey India League

has been a game changer for Indian hockey, and we are thrilled to continue its resurgence with the 2026 season. Last season's response from players and fans was phenomenal, and we are confident that the upcoming edition will further elevate the standard of hockey in India while strengthening our international collaborations." Hockey India Secretary General and Hero Hockey India League Governing Committee Member Bhola Nath Singh added, "With the success of both the men's and women's leagues last season, we are seeing a renewed interest and enthusiasm in the sport. We invite all aspiring and professional players, both from India and abroad, to seize this opportunity and register for what promises to be another landmark season."

Indo-British Rai is 19th, as Scheffler wins the PGA by five shots

AGENCIES
CHARLOTTE

Indo-British Aaron Rai closed the second Major of the year with a 69 to finish tied 19th, the best among the three players with an

Top-10. At the Masters he was T-27 and was T-19 at the PGA. At the top, Scottie Scheffler won the PGA by five shots for this third Major. Scheffler started the final round with a three-shot lead and was then caught



Indian connection, at the PGA Championship here. Rai totalled two-under 282 with rounds of 67-72-74-69. Akshay Bhatia missed the cut, while Sahithi Theegala withdrew with a neck strain.

It has been a decent season for Indo-British player, Rai, who has made 11 cuts in 13 starts. Seven of his finishes have been inside Top-25 but only one has been inside

up by Jon Rahm as the two shared the lead coming into the back at the PGA Championship.

With others including Rahm falling apart, Scheffler won by five despite a closing bogey. Scheffler, two-time Masters champion, simply pulled away on the back nine. After being 2-over for the front nine, he birdied the 10th, 14th and the 15th.

Carlos Alcaraz beats Jannik Sinner to win Italian Open

AGENCIES
ROME

Carlos Alcaraz won the Italian Open on Sunday after beating rival Jannik Sinner 7-6 (7/5), 6-1 in the final and firing a warning shot for Roland Garros. Alcaraz, who will climb to world number two behind Sinner on Monday, won his third title of the season ahead of the French Open which starts next weekend.

The Spaniard claimed victory in his fourth final of the

season and sent a message to the rest of the men's tour for Roland Garros where he will defend the title. Sinner tops the world rankings but his 26-match winning streak was ended by Alcaraz, also the man who had last beat him in last year's China Open final. Alcaraz is the only man to beat Sinner in a tour final since the start of 2024, when his Italian rival began his rise to the top of men's tennis and three Grand Slam titles. — carlosalcaraz@



carlosalcaraz) The 22-year-old has had a hugely impressive clay court swing this season even with the thigh injury which cost him the chance to

compete at the Madrid Open. Alcaraz won in Rome a second Masters 1000 title of the year to go alongside his victory at Monte Carlo last month.

He also reached the final in Barcelona. — atptour (@atptour) Finishing runner-up is still a hugely positive result for Sinner in his first tournament since his three-month ban for testing positive twice in March last year for traces of clostebol, a contamination doping authorities

accepted was accidental. His progress in Rome also sets up the possibility of another final clash with Alcaraz at Roland Garros, with the two young stars of men's tennis set to be the two top seeds in Paris. — atptour (@atptour) Sinner was gunning to become the first Italian man to win at the Foro Italico since Adriano Panatta back in 1976, but he failed to make it a hat-trick of triumphs for home players in the Italian capital.

India crowned SAFF U19 champions

AGENCIES
YUPIA

It was a final that had everything, early drama, missed chances, a fierce fightback, and a heart-stopping finish. Eventually, the India U19s showed nerves of steel to outlast Bangladesh 4-3 on penalties, after it ended 1-1 post regulation time. The Indian team successfully defended their SAFF U19 Championship crown at the Golden Jubilee Stadium on Sunday, according to the official website of AIFF.

The match had ended 1-1 after regulation time, forcing a nervy penalty shootout. Buoyed by a raucous crowd, India had taken the lead in the second minute through



captain Singamayum Shami before Bangladesh equalised in the 61st minute through Md Joy Ahamed. The shootout was not for the faint-hearted. Rohen Singh's limp second penalty gave Bangladesh the upper hand as keeper Md Ismail Hossain Mahin saved the spot-kick; the stadium fell silent. Bibiano Fernandes' boys refused to buckle. When

Bangladesh skipper Nazmul Huda Faysal blazed his effort over the cross-bar, the game swung back India's way. With renewed belief, India converted their remaining kicks, and goalkeeper Suraj Singh Aheibam delivered when it mattered the most. He dived low to his left to deny Salahuddin Sahed. Captain Singamayum Shami, who

had started the evening with a stunning goal, stepped up for the final kick. Calm, composed, and full of conviction, he slotted it in to crown India champions once again. A fitting end to a tense and fiercely fought contest.

Md Mithu Chowdhury, Md Mursed Ali, and Md Joy Ahamed scored their penalties for Bangladesh, while Md Arbash, Rishi Singh, Jodric Abranches, and Shami scored their spot-kicks for India.

India had come flying out of the blocks. Within two minutes, they were ahead. Awarded a free-kick from over 30 yards out, Shami spotted the Bangladesh keeper slightly out of position and went for goal.

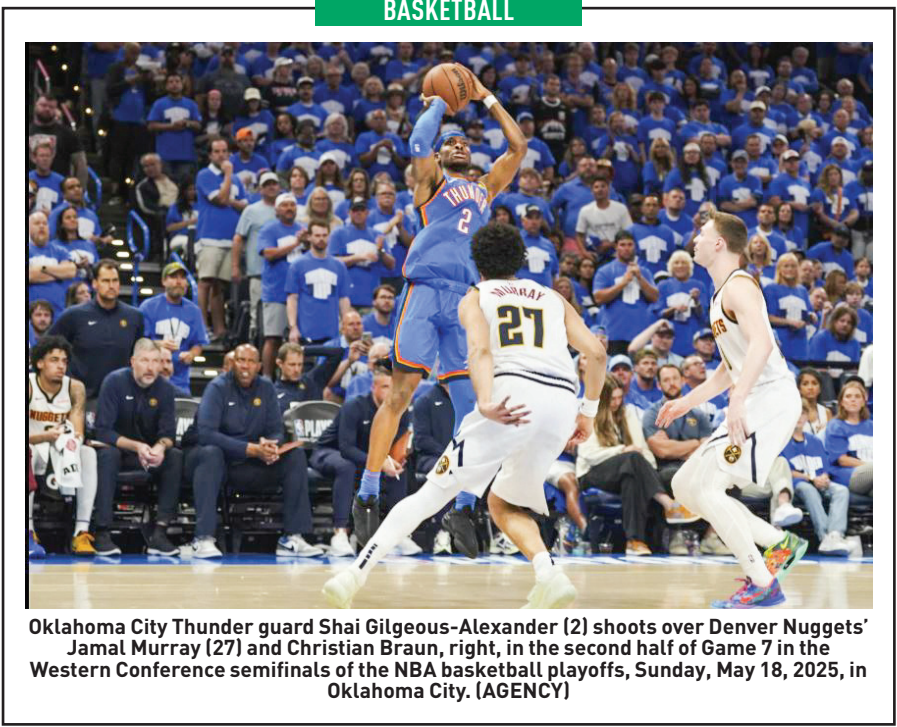
Khelo India: Big wins for Goa, Gujarat, Kerala

AGENCIES
DIU (DAMAN AND DIU)

The inaugural Khelo India Beach Games 2025 (KIBG) at the Ghoghla beach in Diu got rolling on Monday with beach soccer taking centre stage on day one of the event, according to SAI Media Release.

Amid the breaking waves of a dazzling Arabian Sea in the background, Goa and Rajasthan featured in the boys' opening match of the day. There couldn't have been more contrasting teams, and the match, 13-9 in favour of the Goans, validated that point.

Goa is a full of beaches while Rajasthan has none. Which means, the Goans



Oklahoma City Thunder guard Shai Gilgeous-Alexander (2) shoots over Denver Nuggets' Jamal Murray (27) and Christian Braun, right, in the second half of Game 7 in the Western Conference semifinals of the NBA basketball playoffs, Sunday, May 18, 2025, in Oklahoma City. (AGENCY)

Faizan beats Ghana's Kpakpo in main event

AGENCIES
BENGALURU

India's undefeated pro-boxer Faizan Anwar secured a dominant victory over Ghana's Kpakpo Allotey in the 10-round Welterweight international professional boxing clash in the main event of the Super Fighter Series 3 at the Sunburn Union here.

The Dubai-based star Anwar, originally from Kolkata, sent the crowd into applause after every round as Bengaluru witnessed a world-class fight card featuring ten intense matchups hosted by Grassroot Boxing and Crown Boxing. Fighters from across India and different countries, including Ghana, Ukraine, and Belarus, lit up the ring, according to a press release from WBA.

The co-main event for the WBA Asia Middle-East Super Lightweight title saw Danylo Honcharul of



Ukraine defeat Ruslan Kamilov of Dagestan. After his opponent retired in Round 3, Danylo took the victory and the title, and a Technical Knockout was awarded to him.

In other supporting contests, F. Zoramchhana of Mizoram beat Bengaluru-based Harsh Saroha through a Unanimous Decision. At the same time, another Bangalore-based pro-boxer, Kamla Roka, took a unanimous decision win over Mehakpreet of Punjab.

Three others who made Bangalore their home to advance their pro-boxing

careers, Rohit Choudhary of Punjab, Aman Bahadur of West Bengal and Ritesh Singh Bisht of Uttarakhand, also won their bouts.

In the fan-favourite women's fight, Rani Devi of Haryana defeated Aleksandra Sitnikova of Belarus by unanimous decision.

"My vision is clear -- to build a world-class platform for Indian professional boxing and its fans. It's time we hosted global-level fights on home soil, rather than always looking abroad," Mujtaba Kamal, Founder of Grassroot Boxing, said as quoted from a press release by WBA.

52-year-old mountaineer scales Mount Everest

AGENCIES
JAMSHEDPUR

Fifty-two-year-old Mohan Rawat, a senior instructor with Tata Steel Adventure Foundation (TSAF), has successfully scaled the World's highest peak, Mount Everest, a Tata Steel release said on Monday. Rawat summited Mount Everest early on May 18 and spent around 15 minutes at the top before beginning his descent, the release said. He reached Everest Base Camp (17,500 ft) on May 3, trekking through the Khumbu region. As part of his acclimatisation, he climbed Mt Lobuche East (20,075 ft) on May 2, it said.

The nal summit push began on May 14. After crossing the Khumbu Icefall, he



reached Camp 2 that morning, then Camp 3 on May 16, and Camp 4 (South Col, 26,400 ft) on May 17. He summited Mount Everest early on May 18, the release said.

D B Sundara Ramam, chairman, Tata Steel Adventure Foundation, and vice president (Corporate Services), Tata Steel, said: "Mohan Rawat's successful Everest summit is a moment of immense pride for TSAF. His journey from a small

village in Uttarkashi to the world's highest peak reects the grit, discipline, and spirit of adventure we aim to foster. "It's a powerful reminder of what can be achieved with perseverance and purpose.

Rawat's achievement reinforces our commitment to nurturing grassroots talent and pushing the boundaries of human potential through adventure and eploration." Rawat has been with TSAF for over 20 years and has undertaken extensive training in mountaineering, skiing, and rafting.

His previous climbs included peaks like Chamser and Lungser Kangri, Jogin I and III, Kang Yatse I & II, Bhagirathi II, Mt Lobuche East, Stok Kangri, Thelu, Dzo Jongu, Mt Rudugaira and Mt. Kanamo.



were kind of at home and the Rajasthanis were at sea. Which leads to the question: are the non-coastal regions going to find it tough at KIBG 2025? Not necessarily since last year in the Diu Beach Games it was actually Madhya Pradesh, a non-coastal state, that ran away with

most medals but of course, there will be challenges.

Rajasthan team manager Hari Om listed the set of challenges his team faced in the lead-up to the KIBG.

"It's not that easy for us, a non-coastal state. I mean we practice on an artificial field of play back in Rajast-

han. What we do is get tons of sands on trucks from southern Rajasthan but do what we will, this sand is so different from the one which we use for our practice," he said, as quoted from SAI Media Release. "We started very well against Goa but then we got tired and they pounced on us. Going forward we need to focus on this aspect, stamina. We also need to focus on proper hydration. One of the players today fell sick. So, these are the challenges a non-coastal team like us faces," he added.

Uttar Pradesh girls coach Mukesh Kumar Sabberwal echoed the sentiments even though they got their campaign off to a good start.