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MANN ALLEGES CENTRE, BBMB 'MISUSING' PUNJAB'S WATER



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ONE PHONE CALL: US ROLE IN INDIA-PAK CONFLICT DE-ESCALATION



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DEEPIKA, SALUNKHE WIN BRONZE AT ARCHERY WORLD CUP STAGE 2

# 'INDIA INFLICTED CRIPPLING DAMAGE TO PAK'

■ DGMO Lt Gen Ghai says Pak will pay heavy price if it resorts to any misadventure

ABHINANDAN MISHRA  
NEW DELHI

On Sunday, India announced the extensive damage, destruction, and crippling of Pakistan's military infrastructure under Operation Sindoor. Significantly, the government of India, for the first time revealed that the Indian navy, including its submarines played a crucial role in forcing Pakistan to assume a defensive posture.

In a press conference that was addressed Air Marshal AK Bharti, Lt Gen Rajiv Ghai (Director General of Military Operations), Vice Admiral AN Pramod, and Maj Gen SS Sharda shared the reasons that led to Pakistan initiating the call for cease fire.

India again for the first time, also confirmed that it had downed Pakistani aircrafts while abstaining, for now, from revealing any

other details, including the make and the number. Speculations suggest it could be either the Chinese JF-17 or the US F-16.

Launched in response to the Pahalgam terror attack that killed 26 Indian civilians, the operation, starting 7 May, combined precise military strikes with severe non-military measures to dismantle terrorist networks, punish state-sponsored terrorism, and deter future aggression from Pakistan.

As per the briefings by the four officers, the Indian Armed Forces conducted coordinated strikes on nine terrorist facilities—four within Pakistan, including Bahawalpur and Muridke, and five in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir, such as Muzaffarabad and Kotli. These sites, operated by groups like Lashkar-e-Taiba and Jaish-e-Mohammed, responsible for the 2008 Mumbai and 2019 Pulwama



'100 TERRORISTS WIPED OUT'

- Over 100 terrorists killed in Pak terror hubs
- Around 40 Pakistani military personnel killed
- Indian Armed Forces conducted coordinated strikes on nine terrorist facilities
- Four terror hubs targeted were in Pakistan, 5 in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir
- Indian forces air-launched missiles to strike 11 Pakistani air bases
- The strikes incapacitated 20 percent of Pakistan's air force infrastructure
- India has lost five soldiers in the ongoing combat



(L-R) Air Marshal AK Bharti, DGMO Lieutenant General Rajiv Ghai, Vice Admiral AN Pramod and Major General SS Sharda during the press conference on Operation Sindoor, in New Delhi on Sunday. ANI

attacks, served as command and training centres. Key operatives, including Muddassar Khadian Khas, Mohammad Yusuf Azhar, and Khalid, were eliminated.

In response to Pakistan's missile and drone strikes on Indian cities and military posts between 7 May and 9, India escalated its offensive. On the night of 9-10 May within a three-hour window, Indian forces deployed kamikaze drones and air-launched missiles to strike 11 Pakistani air bases: Nur Khan, Rafiqui, Murid, Sukkur, Sialkot, Pasrur, Chunnian, Sargodha, Skardu, Bholari, and Jacobabad.

The operation marked India as the first nation to significantly damage the air force infrastructure of a nuclear-armed adversary without triggering nuclear conflict. At Bholari air base, over 50 personnel, including squadron leader Usman Yousuf, were killed. Satellite imagery confirmed the complete destruction of hangars and aircraft shelters at Jacobabad's Shahbaz base.

The strikes incapacitated approximately 20 percent of Pakistan's air force infrastructure and exposed critical weaknesses in its Chinese-supplied HQ-9/P air defense systems, which

failed to intercept Indian missiles.

In contrast, India's air defense systems effectively neutralized incoming Pakistani threats, preventing significant damage or casualties.

It was also revealed that the Indian Navy's Carrier battle group, surface forces, submarines and aviation assets were immediately deployed at sea with full combat readiness. The officials said that the Indian navy tested and refined tactics and procedures at sea during multiple weapon firings in the Arabian Sea within 96 hours of the terrorist attack.

The Naval forces remained forward deployed in the Northern Arabian Sea in a decisive and deterrent posture with full readiness and capacity to strike select targets at sea and on land, including Karachi, at a time of the Indian Navy's choosing. The forward deployment of

■ P3

## BrahMos not just a weapon, a message of strength: Rajnath

Defence Minister inaugurates Rs300-crore integration and testing facility of BrahMos in Lucknow

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh today said BrahMos is not just a weapon but a "message of strength" of India's armed forces while inaugurating one of the largest integration and testing facility of the supersonic cruise missile system in Lucknow.

"India is now one of the most powerful nations in the world. We are constantly increasing our strength,



Defence Minister Rajnath Singh virtually addresses the inaugural ceremony of the BrahMos Aerospace Integration and Testing Facility in Lucknow, from his residence in New Delhi on Sunday. ANI

and I believe that the facility centre that is being inaugurated today will help in further strengthening India's power," he said while virtually addressing the event from Delhi.

"BrahMos is one of the world's fastest, supersonic cruise missiles. BrahMos is not just a weapon, but it is a message in itself. A mes-

## India will respond harder to any action by Pak: PM to Vance

TDG NETWORK  
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi conveyed a clear message to US that India will respond to any action taken by Pakistan, without feeling obligated to offer an off-ramp or de-escalation option, according to the sources.

US Vice President JD Vance recently reached out to PM Modi amid escalating tensions between India and Pakistan post the Pahalgam terror attack. The conversation centered around Pakistan's desire for an acceptable offer, but notably, nuclear

options weren't discussed. PM Modi listened to the US proposal without providing a specific response.

PM Modi has emphasised India's commitment to national security, stating that the country's armed forces will give a befitting reply to attempts to ruin India's peace.

"When US Vice President JD Vance called up PM Modi, there was no mention of the word nuclear with regard to Pakistan. The message they had was that Pakistan wanted an offer which was acceptable to them. PM Modi heard out the US pitch but



did not answer specifically. The message given by the Prime Minister to Vice President JD Vance was that if Pakistan does any action, there will be a response, and I don't need to give an offer of an off-ramp," according to



the sources.

This stance comes as India continues Operation Sindoor, a military operation targeting terrorist infrastructure in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir.

The Indian Army has successfully neutralized large-scale drone and missile attacks by Pakistan, showcasing its preparedness and response capabilities.

The situation escalated when Pakistan responded aggressively. According to sources, Pakistan launched drone attacks targeting sites in India. In retaliation, India carried out precision airstrikes on Pakistani airbases, striking critical military installations. The Indian response was swift and targeted, with strikes hitting airbases and military

■ P3

## Calm prevails in Punjab, Haryana, Chandigarh after ceasefire

NEERAJ MOHAN  
CHANDIGARH

Normalcy prevailed in northern states, especially in the border areas of the Punjab on Sunday following a ceasefire between India and Pakistan to stop all firings and military actions. After a week of intense hostilities, the locals resume their daily routine on Sunday morning with the authorities urge calm and thanked



armed forces for ensuring safety during tense days. Punjab—which shares a 553-

km border with Pakistan, witnessed a normal morning on Sunday with people across border districts—like Amritsar, Pathankot, Hoshiarpur, and Ferozepur—resuming their daily activities.

Besides Chandigarh—the joint capital of Haryana and Punjab—several districts of Haryana including Panchkula, Ambala, Sirsa, Hisar—which remained tense for the past couple of days as the

■ P3

## Centre steps up security at scientific installations along western border

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI

In the wake of an armed conflict with Pakistan, the government has decided to step up security at scientific installations across the country, particularly along the western border. Science and Technology Minister Jitendra Singh said. Singh reviewed the securi-

ty preparedness at scientific and technical installations across the country on Saturday and issued directions for an upgrade, particularly in the border areas of Jammu and Kashmir, Punjab, Rajasthan and Gujarat.

The sites of the India Meteorological Department (IMD) in Srinagar and Leh and the Indian Institute of

■ P3



PM Modi chairs a meeting with EAM S Jaishankar, Def Min Rajnath Singh, NSA Ajit Doval, Chief of Defence Staff General Anil Chauhan, chiefs of tri-services, at his residence in New Delhi on Sunday. ANI

## India strikes Bahawalpur where USA hesitated, shows world it needs no permission to defend

ABHINANDAN MISHRA  
NEW DELHI

India's Operation Sindoor, at a macro and global level, has redefined India's fight against terrorism by decisively rejecting the distinction between terrorists and their sponsors (Pakistan establishment and its military).

Launched to avenge the brutal killing of civilians, the operation not just neutralized launchpads of Lashkar-e-Taiba, Jaish-e-

Mohammed, and Hizbul Mujahideen, identified as key training and operational centres for attacks against India but also took out significant Pakistani military assets and men.

Officials also told this newspaper that contrary to claims made by Pakistan ministers, no talks have occurred at the National Security Advisor level, with dialogue strictly confined to the Directors General of Military Operations.



These sources emphasized that India will entertain no third-party mediation (in context of the tweets put out by US President Donald Trump), and talks will only proceed if Pakistan returns

PoJK and surrenders all terrorists operating against India, something which this newspaper has also written earlier.

This position underscores India's policy shift, signal-

ling that terrorism will not be negotiated through conventional diplomacy unless Pakistan takes concrete steps to dismantle its terror infrastructure, marking a pivotal change in bilateral dynamics.

According to officials, the operation saw Indian forces conduct deep strikes hundreds of kilometers into Pakistan's mainland, targeting not just PoJK but also Punjab province, a strategic stronghold of Pakistan's

■ P3



# PUNJAB POLICE NABS TWO FOR LEAKING ARMY SECRETS TO PAKISTANI HANDLER

Both the accused were in frequent contact with the handler

AGENCIES  
MALERKOTLA

In a significant breakthrough, the Malerkotla Police apprehended two individuals for alleged involvement in espionage activities linked to a Pakistani official posted at the High Commission in New Delhi, said Punjab Director General of Police (DGP) on Sunday.

Acting on the credible intelligence, one of the suspects was arrested for leaking sensitive information regarding the movements of the Indian Army to a Pakistani handler.

The second conduit was identified and taken into custody.

Preliminary investigation revealed that the accused had been receiving payments through online transactions in exchange

## ESPIONAGE CHARGES

- Suspects were accused of leaking sensitive Indian Army movement information to a Pakistani handler.
- Investigation revealed suspects received payments via online transactions for classified details.
- Accused were also involved in channeling funds to local operatives on the handler's instructions.
- Recovered Items: Two mobile phones were seized during the operation.
- FIR Registered against the suspects; further investigation will trace financial trails and operatives.



for classified information, the DGP further stated.

Both the accused were in frequent contact with the handler and were involved in channelling funds to other local operatives as per his instructions.

Two mobile phones have

been recovered, and an FIR has been registered.

This operation marks a significant step in dismantling cross-border espionage networks and reinforces our commitment to national security. Further investigation will be undertaken as per

established protocol, with a focus on tracing the financial trail and identifying additional operatives and linkages within the network.

Earlier on April 27, amid the ongoing 'war against drugs' in Punjab, the DGP instructed police officials to

# CAQM for 'Parali Protection Force' to curb stubble burning in Punjab, Haryana, UP

NEERAJ MOHAN  
CHANDIGARH

With a focus to achieve Zero Farm Fires to reduce air pollution in Delhi and nearby areas the coming Kharif Season, the Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) has asked the leading paddy sowing states of Punjab, Haryana, and Uttar Pradesh to create a special task force at district and block levels.

In the latest orders -the CAQM- which formulates air pollution control strategies for Delhi-National Capital Region and the adjoining areas has asked state authorities to map all farms in villages to determine the most suitable methods for managing paddy stubble.

As per the officials this "Parali Protection Force" will include police officers, agricultural officials, and other local staff. They will keep a close watch on farmlands and stop farmers from burning

crop residue, especially during late evening hours when such burning often goes unnoticed.

"Constitution of a dedicated 'Parali Protection Force' at the district and block level comprising of police officers, officials from the state agriculture department, administrative officers and nodal officers and officials from the other stakeholder departments to closely oversee and guard against any incident of open stubble burning", reads the order. Since there were reports that the farmers prefer to burn the crop waste late evening, the CAQM also directed the states to intensify patrolling by enforcement agencies -especially during late evening hours considering the tendency of some farmers to resort to burning late evening hours to evade the satellite recording of farm fires. Besides, planning for an adequate storage facility for paddy straw

bales for ex-situ utilization, the commission asked the Punjab and Haryana for a common determined rate for procurement of paddy straw on the lines of Haryana. Also the state governments told to ensure rent-free availability of machines to all farmers for management of crop waste.

The state authorities have been directed to facilitate citizens to report their complaints on social media platforms regarding incidents of stubble burning besides ensuring Red Entries in farm records and imposition and realization of appropriate EC charges in respect of all such farmers, who still resort to stubble burning.

The Commission also directed the state governments of Punjab, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh to effectively implement their respective revised Action Plans in letter and spirit to ensure complete elimination of paddy stubble burning during 2025.

# J&K: Last respects paid to ADDC Raj Kumar Thapa

AGENCIES  
SRINAGAR

Last respects were paid to Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Raj Kumar Thapa, who died after a Pakistani shell hit his residence due to cross-border shelling in Rajouri earlier this week.

Jammu & Kashmir Deputy CM Surinder Choudhary, Assembly LoP Sunil Sharma; and others paid their last respect to Additional District Development Commissioner Raj Kumar Thapa.

Visuals show that the tribute ceremony, held in Jammu, was attended by several administrative and political leaders, along with security personnel.

Meanwhile, on Saturday, Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah met Thapa's family and expressed his condolences.

J&K Chief Minister's Office posted on X and said, "Paid my heartfelt condolences to the family of Dr. Raj Kumar Thapa, JKAS,



Policemen pay their respects during the funeral of Raj Kumar Thapa, a senior government official who was killed in a cross-border shelling between India and Pakistan, in Roop Nagar in Jammu on Sunday. ANI

ADDC Rajouri, who lost his life in the line of duty today due to shelling by Pakistan. His service and sacrifice will never be forgotten. The Government stands firmly with his family in this hour of grief."

People's Democratic Party (PDP) chief Mehbooba Mufti also expressed her deep sorrow over Thapa's demise. She extended her condolences to Thapa's bereaved family, praying for his soul to rest in peace.

Civilian areas in Jammu's Rajouri district suffered damage due to shelling by Pakistan. A series of

# Mann alleges Centre, BBMB 'misusing' Punjab's water

TARUNI GANDHI  
CHANDIGARH

Amid Indo-Pak tensions, Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann has escalated his criticism of the central government and the Bhakra Beas Management Board (BBMB), charging both with systematically denying the state its due share of water and resources. Mann said that a forensic audit will be carried out into money given to BBMB, charging that the board is misusing Punjab's water resources for other states. Local people joined in the protest against the BBMB at Nangal situated Dam.

In a stern voice, the Chief Minister challenged the financial aid given to the board, asserting, "When BBMB is stealing our water, why should we give money to them?"

Mann also criticized the Centre for stopping Punjab's Rural Development Fund (RDF), saying it has devastat-



Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann

ed rural infrastructure and harmed farmers throughout the state. He called the action a "conspiracy against Punjab" and a bid to destabilize the state's agrarian economy.

The Bhakra Beas Management Board, which was formed after the reorganisation of Punjab in 1966, oversees major projects such as the Bhakra Nangal Dam, Pong Dam, and the Beas-Sutlej Link. It distributes water and electricity to Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan, and Himachal Pradesh.

The Punjab government

has historically argued that the Beas and Sutlej rivers arise and pass through its state, entitling it to natural possession of their waters. Yet Mann's administration accuses BBMB of continuing to divert an excessive amount of this water to neighboring states. Conflicts between Punjab and BBMB heightened even more in 2022 when the board nominated non-Punjab officers for important technical and administrative posts without considering Punjab's nominees.

The Mann government maintains that the state is also not being fairly paid its share of energy and that the Centre failed to act. "Punjab will not compromise on water-based sovereignty," Mann asserted and said that if BBMB's operations are not made transparent and fair, then the state would order a complete forensic audit of the board's finances and operation.

## Legacy of Thapa

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI

Jammu and Kashmir Administrative Service (JKAS) officer Raj Kumar Thapa, who lost his life in Pakistani shelling early Saturday, was known for his unwavering professional devotion and people-friendly approach, leaving many in the union territory mourning.

Mr Thapa, 54, was widely respected for his unwavering professional devotion and approachable nature, a quality that deeply resonated with the people he served. An MBBS graduate, he joined JKAS in 2001. Mr Thapa lost his life when a Pakistani artillery shell struck his residential quarters in the bordering district of Rajouri. He is survived by his wife, a doctor, and their two children.

The officer was posted as the Additional District De-

*He is survived by his wife, a doctor, and their two children.*

velopment Commissioner, Rajouri, in March last year and played a key role in handling the situation at Badhaal village where 17 members of three families, including 13 children, died under mysterious circumstances after falling sick between December 7 and January 19.

Before his tenure in Rajouri, Mr Thapa served as an officer on special duty (OSD) to former deputy chief minister Tara Chand from 2009 to 2014, besides holding significant roles, including mission director of the J-K Skill Development Mission and special secretary in the Labour and Employment Department.

# Wheat buys on MSP in Punjab, Haryana fall short of target

NEERAJ MOHAN  
CHANDIGARH

With the wheat procurement in the leading agrarian states of Punjab and Haryana is in its final phase, both the states considered the grain bowl of India — are unlikely to meet their procurement targets for the 2024-25 Rabi marketing season thanks to the interest shown by the private traders due to higher market rates.

According to official data, Punjab has procured nearly 117 lakh MTs of wheat so far, falling short of its 124 lakh-tonne target, while Haryana's procurement stands at around 70.50 lakh MTs, against the set target of 75 lakh tonnes. However, the ground reports from both the states reflect that wheat arrival in most of the mandis has come to an end and chances of any of the states achieving the target are meagre.



The figures revealed that private traders in Punjab have procured around 11 lakh MT wheat from the Mandis while in Haryana the private traders have purchased around 2.50 lakh MT from the mandis of the state. But the traders are of the view that there was no exact figures of the purchase of the wheat by private traders as most of the traders prefer to buy directly from the farmers outside the mandis to avoid

market committee fee and other expenses as the government.

According to the traders that retail market prices of wheat touched Rs 3,000 per quintal, well above the government's Minimum Support Price (MSP) of Rs 2,425, many farmers have opted to sell their produce to private buyers instead of bringing it to government-run mandis.

Adding to the problem, unseasonal rainfall delayed the wheat harvest in many regions, disrupting the timely arrival of produce in mandis. Furthermore, strict quality norms led to the rejection of significant quantities of grain, further shrinking the volume eligible for procurement.

## IMPACT ON NATIONAL STOCKS DESPITE BUMPER HARVEST

This procurement shortfall comes despite predictions of a record

wheat production year. Scientists at the Indian Institute of Wheat and Barley Research (IIWBR), Karnal predicting the highest ever wheat yield in Punjab and Haryana, were optimistic that the country could surpass its all-time high wheat production of 115.43 million tonnes this year against last year's 113.29 million tonnes of the last year. Even as the reports suggest higher wheat yields in the entire wheat growing belt of the country including Punjab, Haryana, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, and Rajasthan.

But a shortfall in procurement from key states like Punjab and Haryana could affect the Centre's foodgrain buffer stock as both the states together account for nearly 74% of the national wheat procurement, which currently stands at around 263 lakh MT against the target of 310 lakh MT.

# Punjab schools in five border districts, Sangrur to remain shut today

TDG NETWORK  
CHANDIGARH

Schools in five Punjab districts bordering Pakistan, as well as in Sangrur, will remain closed on Monday, officials said.

However, academic institutions in the rest of the state will reopen, they said.

The authorities in Pathankot, Amritsar, Ferozepur, Gurdaspur and Tarn Taran districts that lie on the border with Pakistan have ordered schools to re-

main shut.

Punjab shares a 553-kilometre border with Pakistan, spanning these five districts as well Fazilka.

Education Minister Harjot Bains said if any university already revised its examination schedule, those exams would follow the revised schedule.

Deputy commissioners of border districts have also been authorised to take a call on opening or closing schools, based on local cir-



Representative Image

cumstances. Bains also directed the academic institutions to strictly adhere to the gov-

ernment's safety protocols and guidelines.

Meanwhile, the authorities in Ferozepur, Gurdaspur,

Pathankot and Moga issued advisories, urging people to voluntarily switch off lights at home and avoid venturing outside unless necessary on Sunday evening.

On Sunday, calm prevailed in Punjab, especially in its border areas, following an understanding between India and Pakistan to stop all military actions on land, air and sea.

In Amritsar, schoolteachers can take classes online, according to a message

shared by the district administration. Colleges and universities in the district will also remain closed.

In Pathankot and Gurdaspur, colleges and universities will remain shut on Monday.

University and college teachers, however, can take online classes, according to an order issued by the Gurdaspur authorities.

The authorities in Sangrur have also ordered all academic institutions to re-

main shut.

Earlier, Bains had said all academic institutions -- schools, colleges and universities -- across Punjab would reopen on Monday. "Regular classes and examinations will proceed as per academic schedule. We are immensely proud of our brave armed forces," he had said in a post on X.

The state government on May 8 ordered the closure of academic institutions for three days as a military

standoff between India and Pakistan soared.

Meanwhile, the Ferozepur district administration on Sunday issued an advisory, asking people to voluntarily switch off lights at 8 pm.

"Avoid moving outside unless necessary. Stay calm and stay alert to the messages from the district administration," the district authorities said in a message.

The Gurdaspur district administration said the situation was peaceful.



# CONG URGE PM FOR SPECIAL SESSION ON PAHALGAM ATTACK, OP SINDOOR

**TDG NETWORK**  
NEW DELHI

Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge and Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi on Sunday wrote letters to Prime Minister Narendra Modi to convene a special session of the Parliament.

Congress MP Jairam Ramesh posted on X and

said, “LoP Lok Sabha and LoP Rajya Sabha have just written to the PM requesting for a special session of Parliament to be convened immediately.”

In his letter, Rajya Sabha LoP Kharge urged PM Modi to convene a special session overs several issues including Pahalgam attack and Operation Sindoor.

“In view of latest developments Leader of Opposi-

tion in Lok Sabha has already written to you again conveying the unanimous request of all Opposition parties for a special session of Parliament to discuss the Pahalgam terror, Operation Sindoor and the ceasefire announcements first from Washington DC and later by the Governments of India and Pakistan. As Leader of Opposition in the Rajya Sabha, I am writing

in support of this request,” Mallikarjun Kharge said.

Lok Sabha LoP Rahul Gandhi reiterated the “unanimous request” of the Opposition to convene a special session of Parliament “immediately.”

“It is crucial for the people and their representatives to discuss the Pahalgam terror attack, Operation Sindoor and today’s ceasefire, first announced by U.S. Presi-

dent Trump. This will also be an opportunity to demonstrate our collective resolve to meet the challenges ahead. I trust that you will consider this demand seriously and swiftly,” Rahul Gandhi said.

The meeting comes after days of heightened tension with Pakistan along the western border, following Operation Sindoor carried out by the Indian armed

forces on May 7. The operation targeted nine terror infrastructures in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) in retaliation for the April 22 Pahalgam attack, which claimed the lives of 26 tourists.

Meanwhile, India and Pakistan have worked out an understanding on the stoppage of firing and military action. External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar

said on Saturday and noted that India will continue its firm and uncompromising stance against terrorism.

“India and Pakistan have today worked out an understanding on the stoppage of firing and military action. India has consistently maintained a firm and uncompromising stance against terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. It will continue to do so,” he said

in a post on X.

The minister’s remarks came after DGMOs of India and Pakistan agreed that both sides would stop all firing and military action.

Earlier on Saturday, India also played down the role of the US in achieving an agreement on cessation of hostilities, saying that the understanding had been reached between DGMOs of the two countries.

## India emerging as global leader in different aspects of technology: PM Modi

**AGENCIES**  
NEW DELHI

On National Technology Day, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday remembered the 1998 Pokhran nuclear tests and said India is emerging as a global leader in different aspects of technology.

National Technology Day commemorates the momentous events of May 11, 1998, when India conducted successful nuclear tests



under Operation Shakti and saw the maiden flight of the indigenously-developed Hansa-3 aircraft.

In recognition of these

achievements, then prime minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee had declared May 11 as National Technology Day.

“Best wishes on National Technology Day! This is a day to express pride and gratitude to our scientists and remember the 1998 Pokhran tests. They were a landmark event in our nation’s growth trajectory, especially in our quest towards self-reliance,” Modi said in a post on X.

“Powered by our people, India is emerging as a global leader in different aspects of technology, be it space, AI, digital innovation, green technology and more,” he said.

Modi reaffirmed the commitment to empowering future generations through science and research.

“May technology uplift humanity, secure our nation and drive futuristic growth,” the prime minister said.

## Ammunition and suspicious items discovered at some places: Jaisalmer SP

**TDG NETWORK**  
JAISALMER

The Jaisalmer Superintendent of Police (SP) Sudhir Choudhary on Sunday informed that while the overall situation in the district is mostly normal, there has been the discovery of ammunition and suspicious items in some areas.

The police official said that the public is advised to inform the police and not go closer to such suspicious items.

“The situation is more or less normal, but we are finding some ammunition and suspected objects at places; I appeal to the people not to get closer to them, inform the police, not to up-

load pictures of any suspicious object on social media, and follow the police directions,” Choudhary said.

The police have arrested four suspects so far, and investigations are ongoing. SP Choudhary also revealed that “anyone who is making calls across the border” is on the radar. “We have caught 12 such people...,” he

## Calm prevails in Punjab...

CONTINUED FROM P1

authorities ordered a complete blackout, witnessed a normalcy. The residents of these districts witnessed a peaceful Sunday morning after India and Pakistan agreed to stop all military actions on land, air, and sea.

Soon after the authorities confirmed the ceasefire the district administrations advised residents to return to their daily routines.

“As all restrictions were withdrawn yesterday, therefore things are normal now.

Shops and other commercial establishments may remain open as per normal days. Citizens are requested refrain from spreading any false information/misinformation”, reads an advisory issued by Chandigarh deputy commissioner Nishant Yadav.

Also the district administrations in Punjab’s border districts too assured the public that there was no reason to worry.

In a post on the X, Amritsar Deputy Commissioner thanked the people for their cooperation during the

blackout but advised that do not panic and stay indoors if there is a blackout. “Blackouts are done for the safety of people. If there is any sign of danger, a blackout will occur. However, it is advised to keep lighting to a minimum at night. If there is a blackout, people are urged to cooperate by turning off the lights, just like in previous days”, reads the post adding that all government, aided and private schools in Amritsar district will remain completely closed on Monday.

## Centre steps up security

CONTINUED FROM P1

Integrative Medicine in Jammu will also get a security upgrade, the minister said in a post on X.

Singh specifically reviewed the preparedness and security mechanisms at the CSIR-Indian Institute of Integrative Medicine (IIIM), Jammu; CSIR-Central Scientific Instruments Organisation (CSIO), Chandigarh; CSIR-Central Leather Research Institute (CLRI), Jalandhar; CSIR-Institute of Microbial Technology (IMTECH), Chandigarh; DBT-Biotech Research Innovation Council (BRIC), National Agri-Food and Bio-manufacturing Institute (NABI), Mohali.

All scientific institutions have been di-

rected to review and enhance their current security protocols in light of the prevailing situation, an official statement said.

Singh also asked the institutions to immediately inform the respective district administrations to ensure seamless coordination and protection. The minister asked each institution to develop and circulate standard operating procedures (SOPs) for an emergency response to ensure that both the staff and local authorities are well-prepared.

To avoid putting students and researchers, who may have returned to their home states, at disadvantage, Singh said all upcoming examinations and research proposal calls are to be postponed until further notice.

## India will respond harder

CONTINUED FROM P1

infrastructure in Pakistan.

Following India’s airstrikes, US Secretary of State Marco Rubio contacted Indian External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar, informing him that Pakistan’s Chief of Army Staff General Asim Munir had expressed readiness to talk. However, India maintained that any discussions must occur between the Directors General of Military Operations (DGMOs) of the two countries and not involve any third-party assurances, sources claimed.

“India was and is not ready to accept any kind of assur-

ance from a third party. We maintained that DGMO has to come online and speak and say this, not the Americans, not their NSA, no back channel,” sources emphasised. It was only after this insistence that the DGMOs of India and Pakistan decided to discuss a cessation of hostilities.

The escalation was triggered by Indian airstrikes against Pakistani military targets on May 9 and 10. The strikes were described by sources as a “hell fire” operation, targeting critical sites in Rafiqui, Murid, Chaklala, Rahim Yar Khan, Sukkur, and Chunian, as well

as radar sites at Pasrur and Sialkot. These attacks were part of Operation Sindoor, India’s decisive response to terror activities originating from Pakistan. India’s stance on Kashmir remains unchanged. “We have a very clear position on Kashmir. There is only one matter left - the return of Pakistan-Occupied Kashmir (PoK). There is nothing else to talk. If they talk about handing over terrorists, we can talk. We don’t have any intention of any other topic. We don’t want anyone to mediate. We don’t need anyone to mediate,” sources reiterated.

CONTINUED FROM P1

the Indian Navy compelled Pakistani naval and air units to be in a defensive posture, mostly inside harbours or very close to the coast, which we monitored continuously.

The briefing also confirmed that naval movement reportedly prompted panic in Pakistan, with a ceasefire request issued via DGMO hotline.

The Indian side reports approximately 100 terrorists killed and around 40 Pakistani military personnel lost. India has lost five soldiers in the ongoing combat.

## India strikes Bahawalpur

CONTINUED FROM P1

military, and sensitive terror hubs like Bahawalpur, which even the USA had not dared to target with drones.

By doing this, India has made it clear that neither the Line of Control nor Pakistan’s internal geography is off-limits if terror emanates from its soil, proving every inch of Pakistan is within reach.

Operation Sindoor asserted a doctrinal shift toward calibrated deterrence, as per sources, drawing a red line that terrorism as a state policy will trigger targeted, visible consequences.

For the first time, India undermined the assumption that rogue elements within Pakistan could orchestrate terrorism with impunity, targeting both terrorists and their backers.

The strikes, executed within a 23-minute window, bypassed or jammed Pakistan’s air defence grid, exposing its fragility. Indian Rafale jets, equipped with SCALP missiles and HAMMER bombs, conducted the

The officials added that all Indian pilots involved are safe but did not share a clear response to the question if any Indian Aircraft had been lost.

Crucially, the Indian Navy, officials said, remains deployed at sea in a credible deterrent posture to respond decisively to any inimical action by Pakistan

After Pakistani forces shelled civilian areas in Rajouri and Poonch sectors with artillery and mortar fire, Indian forces responded with precise counterfire, destroying terror launch pads and Pakistani army positions used to target civilians. A half-burnt portrait of

former Pakistani President Asif Ali Zardari, recovered from debris at Rahimyar Khan Air Base, symbolized Pakistan’s defeat, the official

*Crucially, the Indian Navy, officials said, remains deployed at sea in a credible deterrent posture to respond decisively to any inimical action by Pakistan*

said.

India complemented its military actions with severe non-military measures. In a historic decision, India suspended the Indus Waters Treaty, threatening Pakistan’s agriculture and industry, which depend on the In-

dus basin for 80 percent of its farmland irrigation. With limited storage at Tarbela and Mangla dams, Pakistan faces potential food insecur-

ity, water rationing, and industrial disruptions.

India also closed the Attari-Wagah border, halting all bilateral trade, including exports of onions and imports of Pakistani cement and textiles, further straining Pakistan’s economy. All

## BrahMos not just a weapon

CONTINUED FROM P1

reliance in the defence sector, the Defence Minister said, addressing the inaugural ceremony at the Uttar Pradesh Defence Industrial Corridor in his Lok Sabha constituency.

“A good thing is that in this defence corridor, we are seeing very important participation of both public and private sectors,” he said.

On the private sector, he noted that PTC Industries Limited is starting Titanium and super-alloy material plants. “Apart from this, the foundation of seven additional critical projects is also being laid. This will certainly accelerate the pace of India’s self-reliance in the defence sector,” the defence minister said.

Major investments have been made in aircraft manufacturing, UAVs, drones, ammunition, composite and critical materials, small arms, textiles and parachutes, he said.

“When our government moved forward with the vision of a defence corridor in Uttar Pradesh... one of

our objectives was that we should once again develop Uttar Pradesh as the production centre of the country.

“The UP Defence corridor passes through Lucknow, Kanpur, Jhansi, Chitrakoot, Agra and Aligarh, and all these nodes will emerge as new centres of development in the coming times,” Singh said.

He expressed happiness that the project was completed in just 40 months.

“Looking at the circumstances around us today, it becomes very important that we continue to fulfil our goals in such a timely manner,” Singh said and congratulated the DRDO, engineers and people and institutes associated with this project.

Singh said the inauguration of the BrahMos facility assumes importance as it took place on National Technology Day.

“On this day in 1998, under the leadership of respected Atal Bihari Vajpayee ji, our scientists showed India’s strength to

peace.”

According to CNN, the proposal came just hours after the leaders of Germany, France, the United Kingdom and Poland stood alongside Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky in Kyiv and urged Putin to agree to a 30-day ceasefire starting on Monday or face possible “massive sanctions,” according to French President Emmanuel Macron.

CNN reported that Ukraine and Russia have not held direct talks since the conflict began in 2022. Putin said Sunday he would speak with Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan about holding talks with Kyiv.

visas for Pakistani nationals were revoked, and existing residents were expelled. Additionally, India banned Pakistani entertainment and cultural content, including on streaming platforms and performance venues, severing cultural ties.

Operation Sindoor, officials said, has demonstrated India’s ability to deliver devastating military and economic blows to a nuclear-armed state while maintaining strategic restraint. The operation signals a shift in India’s doctrine, emphasizing overwhelming, multi-domain retaliation against cross-border terrorism.

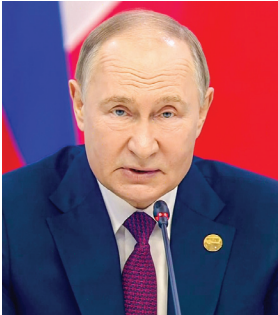
the world by conducting nuclear tests in Pokhran.

“That test was the result of the tireless efforts of our scientists, engineers, defence personnel and many other stakeholders. This is the day to recognise our scientists and engineers and acknowledge their contribution,” he said.

National Technology Day commemorates the momentous events of May 11, 1998, when India successfully conducted nuclear tests under Operation Shakti, and saw the maiden flight of the indigenously developed Hansa-3 aircraft.

In recognition of these achievements, the then Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee declared May 11 as National Technology Day.

“Today is an important day for me personally. Because I had a dream for my city, Lucknow, that my city would make a big contribution in strengthening India’s Defence sector, that dream is now being fulfilled,” Rajnath Singh, who is the Lok Sabha MP from Lucknow, said.





# ‘WE ONLY TARGETED TERRORISTS AND TERROR OUTFITS’: SHIV SENA'S SHAINA NC

She said India’s actions have been focused only on terrorists and terror camps, not civilians.

TDG NETWORK  
MUMBAI

Shiv Sena leader Shaina NC on Sunday said that India has always maintained a strong and clear position against terrorism.

Shaina said, “India has been consistently firm and maintained an uncompromising stand when it comes to terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. Yesterday itself, we specified that any future act of terror will be viewed as an act of war against India.”

She also added that India's actions have been focused only on terrorists and terror camps, not civilians.

“We only targeted terrorists and terror outfits, and that has been the only agenda of India. On the other hand, Pakistan targeted civilians, and this breach

## TERROR RESOLUTE

- Shaina NC: India targets only terrorists, not civilians. India's Stand: Zero tolerance for terrorism; any terror act seen as war.
- Pakistan: Accused of targeting civilians, violating ceasefire.
- Priyanka Chaturvedi: India needs no foreign help on Kashmir.
- Trump: Praised India-Pakistan ceasefire, warned of potential mass deaths.
- US Claim: Trump said the US helped broker peace, offered Kashmir mediation.
- Future Talks: Trump hinted at boosting trade and long-term Kashmir resolution.



Shiv Sena leader Shaina NC.

of the ceasefire only shows you what they will have to bear as the brunt in the days to come,” Shaina remarked.

Meanwhile, earlier today, Shiv Sena (UBT) MP Priyanka Chaturvedi said that India does not need an intervention of any coun-

try to find a solution to the Kashmir after US President Donald Trump offered mediation on the issue.

In a post on X, Priyanka asserted that India must rise up to the challenge without any country's intervention.

“We don't need a US intervention or of that of any other country to find a solution on Kashmir. Destiny has given us that responsibility and India must rise up to that challenge,” the Shiv Sena (UBT) leader said. This came after Presi-

## Shiv Sena’s Raut calls for all-party meeting, criticises inaction on national security

TDG NETWORK  
MUMBAI

Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Sanjay Raut has demanded an urgent all-party meeting on national security, criticising the government's inaction against terrorism. He expressed concerns over terrorists operating along the borders, urging decisive steps to secure the country.

Raut's call highlights growing frustration with the government's failure to take bold measures in protecting India's sovereignty and its citizens, especially after the India-Pakistan understanding.

Speaking at a press conference in Mumbai, Raut demanded an all-party meeting in the Prime Minister's presence to address national security concerns.

During a press conference in Mumbai, Raut emphasised the weakness of



Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Sanjay Raut.

the current government.

“Why did the President stop the war on Israel and Gaza?” Raut asked, alleging that “President Trump stopped the war by putting pressure on India.” He claimed that this reflects the Modi government's weakness. “Ours is a country in which no third party can interfere. This is the weakness of Modi's government.”

“They have destroyed the Sindoor of our 26 mothers and sisters, that is why

we conducted Operation Sindoor, you must have seen, they have insulted Sindoor, they have insulted our Hindu culture, tell me what revenge did you take?” he questioned during the press conference.

Raut also claimed that “six terrorists are still hiding on the land of this country” and that no action had been taken. “I said in the all-party meeting that Operation Sindoor will not be complete until some terrorists are killed in front of India Gate,” he stated. “You should call that meeting right now, and Modi ji should be present there.”

Raising concerns about international support, Raut asked, “Which country stood with us in the hour of crisis?” He added, “Our neighbouring countries did not support India in such a time of crisis. Everyone is standing with Pakistan and China.

## Andhra Governor holds interfaith meet to condemn Pahalgam attack

TDG NETWORK  
AMRAVATI

Governor of Andhra Pradesh S Abdul Nazeer has convened an interfaith meeting with different religious heads and civil society leaders at Durbar Hall in Raj Bhavan here on Saturday.

Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu, Deputy CM K. Pawan Kalyan, Minister of Home V Anitha, and senior officers of the government have participated in the meeting.

Addressing the participants, Governor Abdul Nazeer has said that the incident that took place on April 22, in Pahalgam in Jammu & Kashmir, in which 26 innocent tourists were killed by the terrorists, was a barbaric act of terror which was condemned by the entire world. He said that in response, the Indian Armed Forces launched ‘Operation Sindoor’, a focused military operation designed to dismantle terrorist



Governor of Andhra Pradesh S Abdul Nazeer.

infrastructure on May 7, by conducting precision strikes on nine terrorist locations, with exemplary courage, surgical precision, and strategic restraint, as stated in press release.

Accordinf to the release, the Governor said that the measured response demonstrated India's strength and responsibility, acting decisively while avoiding unnecessary escalation and public representatives, leaders of all religious communities, and members of civil society, jointly affirm our wholehearted support for

the Indian Armed Forces and the Union Government in their mission to protect our nation from terrorism and aggression and the people of the State honour the courage and sacrifice of our brave soldiers and their devotion to safeguarding our nation.

Earlier, Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu spoke on the occasion and said that the nation comes first for all of us, and we stand united in this present situation. He said terrorism is a threat to world peace, and the terrorists aim to create instability and economic disorder. He further said that the barbaric act of killing 26 innocent tourists in Pahalgam on April 22 was condemned by all people in one voice.

The Chief Minister welcomed the decision of ceasefire announced between both countries and said it was a good sign to ensure that a peaceful situation prevails on the borders.

## Six lakh women register under Gujarat CM's NAMO Shri scheme

TDG NETWORK  
GANDHINAGAR

On the occasion of International Mother's Day, over six lakh women registered under the NAMO Shri Scheme aiming at women empowerment and improving maternal health launched by the Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel, as per a release.

Under the scheme, nearly 4 lakh women have received financial assistance of Rs 222 crore.

This scheme was specifically launched to provide financial assistance to pregnant women and mothers for their health and nutrition. The support provided to nearly 4 lakh mothers is not only helping them undergo timely health check-ups but is also ensuring access to balanced nutrition for them.

International Mother's

dent Trump on Sunday welcomed the cessation of hostilities between India and Pakistan saying that millions of people could have died if the peace had not been worked out. The US President was making a reference to a potential nuclear fallout between the two nations.

In a post on Truth Social, the US President said, “I am very proud of the strong and unwaveringly powerful leadership of India and Pakistan for having the strength, wisdom, and fortitude to fully know and understand that it was time to stop the current aggression that could have led to the death and destruction of so many, and so much. Millions of good and innocent people could have died! Your legacy is greatly enhanced by your brave actions.”

## ‘We have worked extensively on water bodies’: MP CM Mohan Yadav

TDG NETWORK  
INDORE

Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Mohan Yadav said on Sunday that significant initiatives have been undertaken in the area of water conservation since the formation of his government.

Speaking on the Jal Ganga Samvardhan Abhiyan, CM Yadav said, “Since our government was formed, we have worked extensively on water bodies.”

He further stated that the efforts made by the state have received national-level recognition.

“Our Jal Shakti Minister, CR Paatil, tells the whole world that Madhya

## Odisha governor calls religious meeting to discuss situation after Operation Sindoor

TDG NETWORK  
BHUBANESWAR

Odisha Governor Hari Babu Kambhampati has appealed to people of the State to stand by the armed forces in their fight to protect the motherland. He was speaking after convening a meeting of the representatives belonging to different faiths to discuss the situation after the Operation Sindoor launched by the Indian armed forces targeting terror sites in Pakistan.

“A meeting of the representatives belonging to different faiths was convened to discuss the situation after Operation Sindoor. All the representatives unequivocally supported and expressed solidarity with the armed forces,” Kambhampati told reporters on Saturday.

“I also appeal to all the people belonging to Odisha to stand by the armed forces in their fight to protect the motherland. It is our re-



Odisha Governor Hari Babu Kambhampati

sponsibility in this hour to express solidarity with the people who are fighting to protect the borders. I pay homage to those souls who departed from us, who lost their lives in the terror attack, and I also pay homage to the martyrs who lost their lives in protecting the motherland,” he added.

India said on Saturday that Pakistan has violated the understanding reached between DGMOs of the two countries earlier in the day on stoppage of firing and military action and that the Indian Army is retaliating

and dealing with the border intrusions.

At a special briefing, Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri said this is a breach of the understanding arrived at earlier today and India takes “very serious note of these violations”. India called upon Pakistan to take appropriate steps to address these violations and deal with the situation with seriousness and responsibility.

Misri said India's Armed Forces have been given instructions to deal strongly with any instances of repetition of the violations of the border along the International Border as well as the Line of Control

“For the last few hours, there have been repeated violations of the understanding arrived at earlier this evening between the Directors General of Military Operations of India and Pakistan. This is a breach of the understanding arrived at earlier today.



Madhya Pradesh CM Mohan Yadav.

Pradesh's work in the field of water conservation and drinking water is unique and unprecedented,” he added.

Meanwhile, on Saturday, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between the governments of Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra for the implementation of the ‘Tapti Basin Mega

Recharge Project’

The MoU was signed and exchanged in the presence of Chief Ministers of both the states, MP CM Mohan Yadav and Maharashtra CM Devendra Fadnavis in the state capital Bhopal.

Addressing the occasion, CM Yadav said, “Today a new chapter will begin with the state of Maharashtra. I would like to thank him (Maharashtra CM)... The Prime Minister has adopted a new approach for the schemes under which two states have been connected through river projects and it has a role in the national interest. Ninety percent of the amount for this scheme will be paid by the government of India. I

thank PM Modi for this.”

According to an official release, the Tapti Basin Mega Recharge Project will provide permanent irrigation facilities to 1,23,082 hectares in Madhya Pradesh and 2,34,706 hectares in Maharashtra. In Madhya Pradesh, the project will benefit four tehsils--Burhanpur, Napanagar, Khaknar, and Khalwa--across the Burhanpur and Khandwa districts.

Initially, a traditional reservoir project of 66 TMC capacity was proposed, which would have affected over 17,000 hectares of land, including forest areas and tiger reserves, and displaced around 14,000 people across 73 villages.

## Uttarakhand govt transfers 25 IAS, 12 PCS officers

TDG NETWORK  
DEHRADUN

In a major bureaucratic reshuffle, the Uttarakhand government transferred 25 Indian Administrative Service (IAS) and 12 Provincial Civil Service (PCS) officers. The decision was taken on Saturday by the Uttarakhand government.

Meanwhile, the Char Dham Yatra began in Uttarakhand, and over four lakh devotees visited the state during the first nine days of the yatra.

Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami acknowledged and welcomed the large number of devotees visiting the four Dhams on Saturday and reassured the public of the safety measures ensured by the government.

“Every year, a large number of devotees visit Devbhoomi, Uttarakhand for the Char Dham Yatra,” the chief minister said, adding, “Our government is continuously working to make the journey smooth, safe and well organ-



Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami.

ised.”

The Char Dham Yatra 2025 officially began on April 30 with the opening of the Gangotri and Yamunotri Dham on Akshaya Tritiya amid Vedic chants and rituals. The doors of Kedarnath Dham were opened on May 2, and those of Badrinath on May 4.

Earlier on Tuesday, a 24-hour ban was enforced on the usage of horses and mules in the Kedarnath Yatra, an official said on Monday.The administration took the following reported deaths of some horses and mules here.

Yesterday, eight horses and

mules died, while today, six of them died. We wanted to ascertain the reason behind it. Tomorrow, a team from the Centre will also come to check the reason for deaths...” said BVRC Purushottam, Secretary, Animal Husbandry (Uttarakhand).

Additionally, CM Dhami, on May 3, asserted that the safe travel of the devotees at the Kedarnath Temple is the state government's top priority. The government has provided quick health facilities to the devotees, specialist doctors have been deployed along with the expansion of health services.

Rudraprayag district is very sensitive from the disaster point of view, so a separate mobile network has been established in the district.

The devotees arriving for the darshan of Baba Kedarnath in Kedarpuri will now have free Wi-Fi. The devotees have expressed happiness over this and expressed gratitude to the government and the district administration.

## Telangana: 3 arrested in Hyderabad for possessing and distributing illegal deer meat

TDG NETWORK  
HYDERABAD

Three men were arrested in Hyderabad for possessing and distributing deer meat, which was allegedly procured illegally from Maharashtra, police said on Saturday.

The accused have been identified as Hassan Bakran, a resident of Towlichowki, Hamid Bin Haqani of Nizamabad and Shaik Abdul Rahman Ba-

dahayya Al Amoddi of Mehdiapatnam.

During the enquiry, police came to know that Hassan Bakran was in illegal possession of deer meat. He had procured the meat from Haqani and shared some quantity of the meat with his friend Shaik Amoddi.

“On further enquiry, Hamid Bin Haqani stated that the meat was purchased from one person by name Rizwan,



a resident of Maharashtra,” police said.

The seized meat was handed over to the forest department

*The accused have been identified as Hassan Bakran, a resident of Towlichowki, Hamid Bin Haqani of Nizamabad and Shaik Abdul Rahman Badabayya Al Amoddi of Mehdiapatnam.*

officials by the police. Police seized five phones from the accused and are analysing how the accused has been able to buy and sell deer meat.

vent illegal exploitation. Deer, along with other wildlife species, are protected under Schedule I of the Act, which includes species that are most endangered or at risk. The Act prohibits the hunting of deer or any wild animal, unless authorized by a permit for specific reasons, such as scientific research or management.

The sale, purchase, or possession of deer meat is illegal unless it is authorized by the

Chief Wildlife Warden or an authorized officer. Offenders involved in the illegal trade or possession of deer meat can face severe penalties. Under Section 51 of the Act, violators can be sentenced to imprisonment ranging from three to seven years and can be fined up to Rs 25,000. In cases of repeat offenses or violations involving endangered species, the penalties may be more severe.



# ELECTRICITY BILLS OF POWER CONSUMERS TO BE HIKED BY 7-10% IN MAY-JUNE PERIOD

The residents of Delhi criticised the hike, calling it 'arbitrary' and legally flawed, claiming inadequate stakeholder consultation.

TDG NETWORK  
NEW DELHI

The electricity bills of power consumers in Delhi will be hiked by 7-10 per cent in the May-June period due to revision of PPAC charged by the discoms, officials said on Sunday. The power purchase adjustment cost (PPAC) refers to rise in fuel (coal, gas) costs incurred by the generation companies which is recovered by discoms from the consumers. It is calculated as percentage of fixed charge and energy charge (units consumed) components of the electricity bill. The Delhi Electricity Regulatory Commission (DERC) in its separate orders earlier this month allowed the three discoms to recover the PPAC of third quarter of 2024-25 in the May-June 2024 period. The PPAC allowed are 7.25 per cent for BRPL, 8.11 per cent for BYPL and 10.47



*“The process under which PPAC charges have been imposed on the people of Delhi by DERC is legally wrong,” said a statement from URD general secretary Saurabh Gandhi.* percent for TPDDL. No reaction was available from the discoms on the increase in PPAC allowed by the DERC. The United Residents of Delhi (URD), an umbrella body of residents welfare associations in the city, slammed the move as “arbitrary”. “The process under which PPAC charges have been imposed on the people of Delhi by DERC is legally wrong,” said a statement from URD general secretary Saurabh Gandhi. No reaction was immediately available from the

DERC over the allegation. “For the last several years, the Commission has been benefiting the power companies from other items. Now we had great hope from the Commission that has been formed that it will complete the work of tariff determination by following the prescribed procedure, but this Commission conducted a virtual public hearing where not enough time was given to the stakeholders to state their case,” Gandhi claimed. It is also a fact that the PPAC claimed by various discoms and the PPAC awarded by DERC is different. For BRPL it is 7.25 per cent, for BYPL it is 8.11 per cent and for TPDDL it is 10.47 percent, he said. “Since the cost of fuel surcharge under u/s 64(4) is almost the same for all discoms, the percentage differential tariff should have been the same,” Gandhi added.

Discom sources defended the PPAC and said that it was in line with the DERC's regulations orders issued in different time periods for different discoms. “The PPAC is recovered to ensure timely pass through of power purchase cost, which is dependent upon the coal and gas prices, to the consumer. It is a statutory mandate and the process is very transparent and validated by the regulator,” they said. Without PPAC, discoms will have liquidity stress and they will have no money to pay the power generation companies, sources added. It is also a fact that the PPAC claimed by various discoms and the PPAC awarded by DERC is different. For BRPL it is 7.25 per cent, for BYPL it is 8.11 per cent and for TPDDL it is 10.47 percent, he said. “Since the cost of fuel surcharge under u/s 64(4) is

# CM lauds contribution of nurses on Mothers’ Day

TDG NETWORK  
NEW DELHI

Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta on Sunday lauded the contribution of mothers and doctors on the occasion of Mothers’ Day calling them the two pillars of life. Addressing 400 women at an event, the chief minister said, “One battle is fought at the border, carried on our soldiers’ shoulders. But the other lies within society, against bad habits, unhealthy practices and negative thinking. That too, we must fight.” She underlined the need to view each citizen as a national asset. “If every one of our 140 crore people works with dedication, some for their families, and some for the country, India will certainly move forward,” she said. Gupta also spoke about the growing concern of obesity, especially among women, and emphasised the importance of prioritising one’s health and diet. “Obesity must end. Women often focus on caring for everyone else, but during COVID-19, I realised that we must take care of ourselves first,” she said. “After God,



Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta performs a ritual during the 36th Rathayatra Festival of Shri Digambar Jain Temple, at Pitampura in New Delhi. ANI

*Gupta also spoke about the growing concern of obesity, especially among women, and emphasised the importance of prioritising one’s health and diet.* if there’s anyone we place our trust in, it’s our mothers and our doctors -- one gives us life, and the other saves it,” Gupta said. Encouraging women to take charge of their well-being, she praised the government’s efforts to make fitness accessible, highlighting the installation of open gyms in parks across the city. “If there’s a need, we will set up more such gyms. Our vision is a healthy India, and the foundation starts with healthy families,” she said. Meanwhile, CM Gupta attended the 36th Rath Yatra at Shree Mahaveer Digambar Jain Mandir in Pitampura on Sunday. Earlier, the CM met the Health Minister Pankaj Kumar Singh and other health superintendents at the secretariat to review preparedness for any “emergency”. The meeting was held on Friday. Speaking to the media after the meeting, CM Gupta emphasised that the Government hospitals in the national capital are prepared.

# Delhi airport operating normally amid 100 flight cancellations, issues advisory for passengers

TDG NETWORK  
NEW DELHI

Around 100 flights to and from the Delhi airport were cancelled on Sunday, according to a source. Security measures were enhanced, and at least 32 airports in the northern and western parts of the country were temporarily shut in view of the conflict between India and Pakistan. On Saturday, India and Pakistan reached an understanding to stop all firings and military actions on land, air, and sea with immediate effect. As many as 52 domestic departures and 44 arrivals, and one international departure were

cancelled. These cancellations happened between 5.00 am and 4.30 pm, the source said. “Delhi Airport is operating normally. However, due to changes in airspace dynamics and increased security measures, some flight schedules and security checkpoint processing times may be affected,” DIAL said in a post on X. Delhi International Airport Ltd (DIAL) operates the national capital’s Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGIA), which is the busiest airport in the country. Meanwhile, amid escalating tensions between India and Pakistan, the Delhi Airport issued an advisory

for passengers to follow updates from airlines and other guidelines. Other guidelines for passengers included adhering to baggage-handling and check-in luggage regulations, allowing extra time for security checks and co-operating with airlines and security personnel for the smooth facilitation. The airport authorities also encouraged passengers to refer to only official channels for accurate updates. Passengers were also thanked for their patience and cooperation. Earlier, the Airports Authority of India (AAI) and relevant aviation authorities issued a series of No-

tices to Airmen (NOTAMs) announcing the temporary closure of 32 airports across Northern and Western India for all civil flight operations. The NOTAM is effective from May 9, 2025, to May 14, 2025 (which corresponds to 0529 IST on 15th May 2025), due to operational reasons. The list of 32 airports include Adampur, Ambala, Amritsar, Avantipur, Bathinda, Bhuj, Bikaner, Chandigarh, Halwara, Hindon, Jaisalmer, Jammu, Jannagar, Jodhpur, Kandla, Kangra (Gaggal), Keshod, Kishangarh, Kullu Manali (Bhuntar), Leh, Ludhiana, Mundra, Naliya, Pathankot, Patiala, Porbandar, Rajkot

(Hirasar), Sarsawa, Shimla, Srinagar, Thoise and Utarlai. Amid escalating tensions with Pakistan, drones were spotted at 26 locations ranging from Baramulla in the north to Bhuj in the west, along both the International Border and the Line of Control (LoC), as per defence sources. The drones are suspected to be armed and pose potential threats to both civilian and military targets. The locations where drones were spotted include Baramulla, Srinagar, Avantipur, Nagrota, Jammu, Ferozpur, Pathankot, Fazilka, Lalgarh Jatta, Jaisalmer, Barmer, Bhuj, Kuarbet, and Lakhi Nala.

# Man killed after ‘recklessly’ driven tempo hits bicycle

TDG NETWORK  
NEW DELHI

A 36-year-old man was killed after his bicycle was allegedly hit by a recklessly driven tempo near the Azadpur Mandi area in Outer North Delhi, police said on Sunday. The incident took place early Saturday morning, when the victim was headed to work with one of his neighbours, they said. The victim was identified as Dilip Shah (36), a police officer said. “We received a PCR call regarding an accident at 5:30 am (on Saturday). Police teams were rushed to the spot immediately,” the officer said. The victim’s

## Man crushed to death between 2 trucks in SGT Nagar

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI

A 46-year-old man was allegedly crushed to death between two trucks at a parking lot in Outer North Delhi’s SGT Nagar area, police said on Sunday. The victim, Deepak, worked as a conductor and was fatally injured when

a container truck, while reversing, pinned him between itself and a stationary truck, they said. The incident occurred around 2:30 pm on Saturday, when Deepak was opening the door of the stationary truck that belonged to his employer, Firoz Khan, police said.

neighbour told police that they had left their houses at 5 am on bicycles to go to the Azadpur Mandi and as they went past the Libaspur bus stand at around 5:30 am, a tempo hit Shah’s bicycle from

behind. “Dilip fell on the road and sustained a serious chest injury. He was rushed to a nearby hospital, where doctors declared him brought dead,” the neighbour said.

# PM lauds cancer-awareness initiative in rural Delhi

TDG NETWORK  
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi recently paid tributes to former Palam 360 Khap chief Chaudhary Ramkaran Solanki on his fourth death anniversary and lauded the “Cancer Free Delhi Rural” campaign that was launched in his memory. The campaign that is being spearheaded by his son and the current head of the khap, Chaudhary Surendra Solanki, in collaboration with the Amerix Cancer Hospital aims to raise cancer awareness and provide free screenings across Delhi’s rural regions. “I pay my tribute to respected Chaudhary Ram-



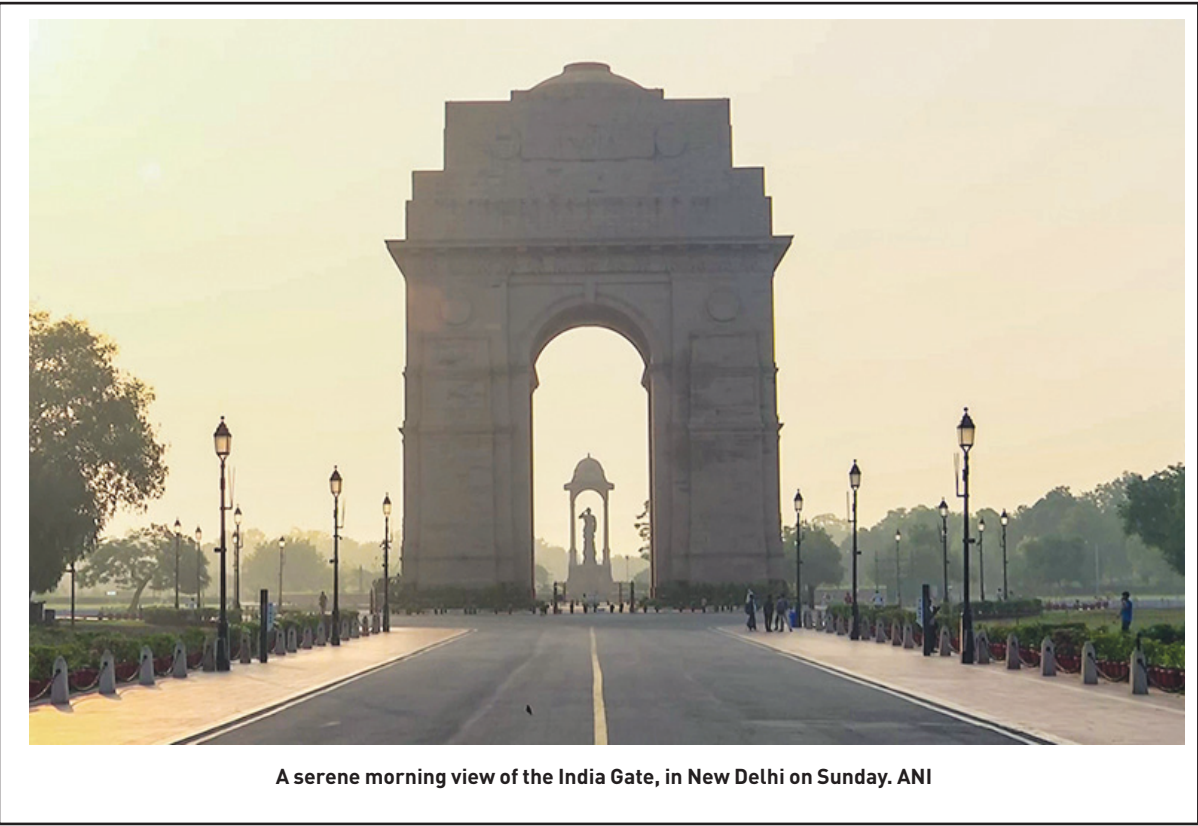
karan Solanki ji on his fourth death anniversary. On this occasion, I was happy to know about the Cancer Free Delhi Rural programme organised by Chaudhary Surendra Solanki ji in his memory in Dwarka, Delhi. The work done by Chaudhary Ramkaran Solanki ji for the society and this effort to carry

forward his ideals and values is commendable,” a letter written by Modi on May 9 read. The prime minister acknowledged Solanki’s unwavering commitment to the welfare of farmers, labourers and marginalised communities, and highlighted the campaign’s alignment with national health initiatives like Ayushman Bharat and Ayushman Arogya Mandirs, emphasising the importance of accessible cancer detection and treatment facilities in rural areas. “His work related to rural issues and social service will always be remembered,” Modi’s letter read.

# Police nabs two criminals after shootout

TDG NETWORK  
NEW DELHI

Delhi Police arrested two persons after an intense shootout on Rao Tula Ram Marg (RTR Marg) in RK Puram in the national capital. The accused are history-sheeters with a combined record of over 50 criminal cases, including murder, armed robbery, snatching, and multiple shootouts with police across Delhi, said the police. The accused have been identified as Suresh alias Subhash (33) and Manish alias Mogli (33). According to the police, on the intervening night of May 8-9, at around 1:10 AM, a police patrolling team spotted two individuals near RTR Marg.



A serene morning view of the India Gate, in New Delhi on Sunday. ANI

# Southern students from Kashmir sheltered at Delhi bhawans left in limbo about return

TDG NETWORK  
NEW DELHI

Students from south India who left their universities in Kashmir during the India-Pakistan military conflict are in limbo about returning to complete their courses as they take shelter at various state bhawans in Delhi. The students were evacuated from the valley after tensions between the two countries escalated when India on May 7 carried out Operation Sindoor, strik-

ing nine terror infrastructures in Pakistan and PoK to avenge the April 22 Pahalgam attack that left 26 people dead. Pakistani troops resorted to heavy shelling along the Line of Control (LoC) in Jammu and Kashmir after the strikes. “Messages used to come whenever there were blackouts, and we had to rush to the ground floor. During the blackout, we didn’t know what to do,” said a student from Andhra Pradesh studying at NIT

Srinagar. The student alleged that the university administration didn’t help them. “We arranged our travel on our own, and now we’re being looked after at our state bhawan in Delhi.” As they take shelter in the national capital, the students are uncertain about their return to the valley to complete their studies. “We all had to fight with our parents to study in Kashmir, now we have to convince them again to return and finish our stud-



ies,” said Anandi, a student from Tamil Nadu, reflecting the dilemma faced by several southern students evacuated from Jammu and Kashmir. Anandi, who is pursuing

MSc from Sher-e-Kashmir Agriculture University, recalled the fear that crept in slowly. “We were asked to stay on campus after the Pahalgam attack. Then we

started hearing sirens, missile sounds, drone sounds. We weren’t sure what it was.” “We had mock drills while observing complete blackouts. The university did nothing. We had to pressure them through the Tamil Nadu government,” she said. “We had to convince our parents to take admission in Kashmir and now again, we have to convince our parents to send us back,” she added. Maheshwari, another student from Tamil Nadu, said

their campus was largely safe, but overflights of drones and missiles made the situation alarming. Ganesh from Bengaluru said, “We left campus on Saturday afternoon. We weren’t feeling safe until we crossed Jammu. After reaching Delhi, we finally felt secure.” “Our parents told us to leave even if there was a one percent risk, especially since air and road routes were blocked. We may return only after things settle down in a few months,” she

said. Another student noted that while universities arranged buses up to Jammu, the government took care of the rest of their journey. India and Pakistan on Saturday reached an understanding to stop all firings and military actions on land, air and sea, with immediate effect after four days of intense cross-border drone and missile strikes. However, hours later New Delhi accused Islamabad of breaching it.



# BJP HAILS PM, QUESTIONS CONG FOR SIGNING SIMLA TREATY WITHOUT SECURING ‘STRATEGIC ADVANTAGE’

BJP claims India under Modi has rewritten engagement rules with Pakistan, asserting dominance.

TDG NETWORK  
NEW DELHI

The BJP on Sunday asserted that India had rewritten the rules of its engagement with Pakistan under Prime Minister Narendra Modi, as the ruling party hit out at the Congress and alleged the Indira Gandhi-led government released more than 90,000 prisoners of war without securing any strategic advantage after the 1971 war. The remarks came after India and Pakistan on Saturday reached an agreement to stop all firings and military actions on land, air and sea after four days of intense cross-border drone and missile strikes.

The Congress on Sunday demanded answers from the government on if it had accepted third-party mediation on Kashmir after the US made announcements on behalf of India and Paki-



Pakistani President Zulfikar Ali Bhutto and Indian Prime Minister Mrs. Indira Gandhi signing the Simla Agreement. Source: X

stan, pressing for convening an immediate session of Parliament to discuss the Pahalgam terror attack, Operation Sindoor and the latest developments on the cross-border firing.

Asserting that it was time to remember Indira Gandhi's leadership, the Congress also cited her actions in 1971 that led to the formation of Bangladesh when she remained

undeterred by the US action of sending a nuclear-powered naval task force in the Bay of Bengal. In a post on X, BJP national spokesperson Pradeep Bhandari said Pakistan "pleaded for an understanding" after suffering "catastrophic losses".

"In just 72 hours, under the decisive leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, India has rewritten

## BJP CRITICIZES CONG

- India and Pakistan agreed to halt military actions after intense cross-border clashes.
- BJP highlights India's successful strikes on Pakistani military zones, crippling its economy.
- Congress seeks answers on third-party mediation and calls for a Parliament session on recent events.
- BJP praises Operation Sindoor for destroying terror camps and weakening Pakistan's terror infrastructure.

the rules of engagement with Pakistan," he added. Bhandari said India called out Pakistan's "nuclear bluff" with strategic resolve, struck deep inside Pakistani military zones from Lahore to Rawalpindi, and destroyed the terror headquarters of Jaish-e-Mohammed and Lashkar-e-Taiba in Muridke and Bahawalpur.

"Sent a clear message: no inch of Pakistani territory is beyond India's reach, crip-

pled Pakistan economically by pausing the Indus Waters Treaty," he said.

India isolated Pakistan diplomatically, exposing its terror ecosystem globally, he added. "In an era where conventional wars — from Russia-Ukraine to US-Taliban — have failed to achieve strategic ends, India under Prime Minister Modi has adopted 'Chanakya Neeti' — smart, swift, and sovereign," the BJP spokesperson said.

# Govt orders property damage assessment in shelling-hit Poonch

TDG NETWORK  
POONCH/JAMMU

Authorities in Jammu and Kashmir on Sunday called for a detailed assessment of the property damaged in Poonch, the border district worst hit by the Pakistani shelling between May 7 and 10, an official said. Twenty persons, including some security personnel, lost their lives and over 50 others were injured in cross-border shelling in the district with a large number of houses, religious places and commercial buildings damaged along with dozens of private vehicles.

Deputy Commissioner Poonch, Vikas Kundal, on Sunday visited several areas of the town affected by the recent cross-border shelling and directed the authorities concerned to conduct a detailed assessment of property damage and submit comprehensive reports promptly.

During the visit, Kundal



A property damaged after heavy firing and shelling by Pakistan military across the Line of Control, in Rajouri district on Wednesday. ANI

inspected Qazi Mohra, Dungus, Sarain, district police lines, district court complex, Jamia Zia Ul Uloom, Geeta Bhawan, Kamsar, radio station, Gurudwara Singh Sabha and Kama Khan -- all of which suffered damage due to the shelling, an official spokesman said.

He said the deputy commissioner interacted with local residents and took stock of the ground situation, assuring the affected residents and institutions of all necessary support.

Officials were also instructed to ensure timely relief and rehabilitation in coordination with local agencies, the spokesman said, adding that Kundal is expected to visit the remaining areas affected by the shelling shortly to assess the situation firsthand.

Meanwhile, National Conference leader and MP Mian Altaf along with independent MLA Choudhary Mohd Akram visited the Poonch town to assess the damage to public and private properties.

# New 91-foot Shivaji statue unveiled in Rajkot Fort after collapse

TDG NETWORK  
MALVAN

Nearly nine months after the statue of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj collapsed at the Rajkot Fort in Maharashtra's coastal Sindhudurg district, a new 91 feet tall statue of the warrior king was unveiled at the same site on Sunday.

The previous 35-foot statue had collapsed in August last year, less than eight months after its installation, leading to a widespread outrage against the government. That statue had been unveiled by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on December 4 in 2023 during the

Navy Day celebrations. The collapse led to the arrest of its sculptor-contractor Jaydeep Apte.

Speaking at the unveiling of the new grander statue at the fort in Malvan, Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis said adequate care has been taken so that the new statue lasts at least 100 years in any environment. The maintenance of the statue has been given to those who built it.

"The statue is 91 feet tall and has a 10 feet pedestal," he said.

The contract to build the statue was given to renowned sculptor Ram Sutar

and Anil Sutar's firm Ram Sutar Art Creations Pvt Ltd that built the 'Statue of Unity' in Gujarat.

Fadnavis said it can withstand storms higher in intensity than what was witnessed in the past.

This is perhaps the biggest statue of Chhatrapati Shivaji in the country, he said.

"After the unfortunate incident (of the statue collapse), we had decided that under any circumstances, we will build another grand statue of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj," Fadnavis said.

He said the land adjoining the fort will be acquired for better amenities.

He said the statue has been built by noted sculptor Ram Sutar, who also built the Statue of Unity in Gujarat, along with IIT engineers and the head of the JJ School of Arts.

Deputy Chief Minister Eknath Shinde said after the statue collapsed in August 2024, the state government had resolved to build a similar statue and instructions were given accordingly.

The new statue depicts Shivaji Maharaj wielding a sword that is 29 feet long.

Shinde said it was PM Modi who had unveiled the statue in December 2023.

"Today, he (PM) is not here but he is standing firmly behind the soldiers protecting the nation. He is also doing some kind of Shiv karya," Shinde said.

# 476 people from AP, Telangana evacuated from border areas

TDG NETWORK  
NEW DELHI

As many as 476 students and residents from Andhra Pradesh and Telangana have been evacuated from Jammu and Kashmir and other states sharing a border with Pakistan, the state governments said on Sunday. According to a statement, 350 students from Andhra Pradesh have reached the national capital, including 100 who arrived today from J&K and adjoining states.

"90 students have already departed for their respective hometowns across Andhra Pradesh while 260 remain under our care," a statement from Andhra Pradesh Bhavan stated.



An official added that the AP Bhavan has set up a 24x7 control room in Delhi to assist people from the state who are in border areas.

Separately, the Telangana government said 126 people have reached Telangana Bhawan so far, with 91 arriving since last midnight.

The evacuees include 50 students from NIT Srinagar, faculty and students from Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences, employees working in J&K and students from Lovely Professional University in Punjab, it said.

"57 persons have already left for their hometowns after receiving assistance, while the remaining are being accommodated at Telangana Bhawan," the official stated.

Both state bhavans are providing free food, lodging, medical aid and transportation facilities to the evacuees from bordering states of Pakistan, while coordinating with district administrations and central authorities, the statements added.

# NIA arrests key Khalistani terrorist from Bihar

TDG NETWORK  
NEW DELHI

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Sunday arrested a key Khalistani operative, associated with foreign-based Babbar Khalsa terrorist Harwinder Singh Sandhu alias Rinda, and one of the hardened criminals who had escaped during Punjab's Nabha jail break in 2016, an official statement said.

The breakthrough came when the NIA nabbed Kashmir Singh Galwaddi of Punjab's Ludhiana from Motihari, Bihar in coordination with local police in connection with a Khalistani terror conspiracy case, the statement said.

Since breaking out of Nabha jail, Kashmir Singh had been actively associated with designated Khalistani terrorists, including Rinda, it said.

An important node of the Babbar Khalsa International (BKI) and Rinda's terror gang in Nepal, Kashmir was a proclaimed offender in the NIA case for his role relating to involvement in conspiracy, providing shelter, logistics support and terror funds to aides of the Khalistani terrorists, said the statement issued by the



probe agency.

These aides had escaped to Nepal after carrying out various terror activities in India, including the RPG (rocket-propelled grenade) attack at the Punjab Police Intelligence Headquarters, the NIA said.

The NIA had registered the terror conspiracy case suo moto in August 2022 to probe the terrorist activities of chiefs/members of proscribed terrorist organisations such as BKI, Khalistan Liberation Force (KLF) and International Sikh Youth Federation (ISYF), among others, it said.

The investigations had exposed a terror-criminal nexus, suggesting that these terror groups along with organised criminal gangs were engaged in smuggling terrorist hardware such as arms, ammunition explosive, IEDs etc. from across the border to carry out terror activities in vari-

ous parts of the country, the NIA said.

NIA Special Court in Delhi had declared Kashmir Singh a proclaimed offender in the 2022 terror conspiracy case and had also issued non-bailable arrest warrants against him over the past couple of years, it said.

A cash reward of Rs 10 lakh was also announced by the NIA for information leading to his arrest.

The NIA had in July 2023 chargesheeted nine accused, including Sandhu and another Khalistani terrorist Lakhbir Singh alias Landa, in the terror case followed by two supplementary chargesheets against six others.

In August 2024, the anti-terror agency had successfully secured the extradition of Landa's brother Tarsem Singh from UAE and filed a third supplementary chargesheet against him in December.

# Odisha CM appeals to youths to join civil defence units as volunteers

TDG NETWORK  
BHUBANESWAR

Odisha Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi appealed to youths on Sunday to join civil defence organisations as volunteers to serve the country.

The youths represent hope, strength, and trust of the nation, he said, and urged them to come forward to join the civil defence organisations with the spirit of nationalism.

In a video message, Majhi said, "The security of the lives and property of the common people of the country is the responsibility of all of us. Security and service are our top responsibilities. Therefore, I appeal to all people, especially youths,

to join civil defence organisations as volunteers.

The interested youths can apply to the district collectors to join the civil defence organisations, he said, adding that the collectors are the controllers of civil defence at the district level.

At present, civil defence units are functioning at 12 places in the state.

"I have instructed officials to establish new such units as per requirement," the chief minister said.

Majhi also expressed hopes that many young people will come forward to join the civil defence organisations with a spirit of service and nationalism.

In a related development, the chief minister has congratulated Defence Min-



ister Rajnath Singh on the inauguration of the BrahMos missile manufacturing facility in Lucknow.

"This milestone will give a major boost to Bharat's defence capabilities and strengthen our journey towards self-reliance in defence production. Hon'ble PM Shri @narendramodiji's

Training will be provided to the volunteers, and if needed, they will be mobilised to serve the public with the spirit of nationalism.

— Odisha Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi

visionary leadership continues to propel India towards #AtmanirbharBharat in defence and beyond," Mjahi wrote on X.

Deputy Chief Minister Pravatipara too congratulated

the Defence Minister for the inauguration of the BrahMos Missile manufacturing facility in Lucknow, terming it a significant step towards Atmanirbhar Bharat in defence.

"Congratulations to @DefenceMinIndia on the inauguration of the #BrahMosMissile manufacturing facility in Lucknow, marking a significant step towards #atmanirbharBharat in Defence," she posted on X.

"PM Shri @narendramodiji's vision and Union Defence Minister Shri @rajnathsinghji's efforts are driving India towards self-sufficiency in Defence Production," she wrote. The deputy CM also said that 'Operation Sindoor' is a symbol of India's political, social and military will-power.

# Sikkim to get new railway line, Centre nod to site survey

TDG NETWORK  
GUWAHATI

The final location survey for a new line in Sikkim, from Melli to Dentam via Jorethang and Legship, has been approved by the Railway Ministry, an official statement said.

The survey, to be executed by Northeast Frontier Railway, has been approved at a cost of Rs 2.25 crore, it said.

This move marks a major step forward in expanding rail connectivity to the southern and western regions of Sikkim, it added.

The proposed route aims to bridge a vital infrastructure gap, linking remote towns like Dentam, located near the India-Nepal border at Chiwabhanjyang, with the national railway network.

The new line, estimated to have an approximate length of 75 km during the initial



feasibility survey, is envisioned as a strategic extension of the under-construction Sivok-Rangpo railway line, which is expected to be operational by 2027.

Melli, a key entry point to southern and western Sikkim, is likely to serve as a junction for the proposed extension, thereby ensuring seamless integration of the region into the national transportation system.

The final location survey will provide detailed technical and feasibility insights necessary to guide the final

alignment, engineering design and cost estimation for the project.

This new connectivity project is expected to act as a catalyst for economic growth in the region, especially in Gyalshing and surrounding areas, by enhancing access, promoting tourism, boosting trade and creating employment opportunities, the statement issued on Saturday said.

The work tenders related to the execution of the survey are expected to be floated shortly, it said.



# EASEMYTRIP FLAGS CHINESE DATA THREAT

## CEO Rikant Pitti in the post highlighted EaseMyTrip was the only online travel agency to boycott the Maldives.

TDG NETWORK  
NEW DELHI

Nishant Pitti, Founder and Chairman of EaseMyTrip, cautioned travelers about the potential national security risks posed by certain travel platforms, highlighting that companies with significant Chinese ownership may be accessing Indian passport data.

Pitti, in a post on social media platform X, cautioned that popular travel apps with Chinese ownership may be accessing Indian passport data, adding that it is a matter of national security.

In the X post, Nishant Pitti, Founder and Chairman of EaseMyTrip said, "Before booking your travel, ask - is the platform truly aligned with Bharat, or majority-

KEY POINTS

- EaseMyTrip warns of Chinese apps accessing Indian passport data, calls it a national security threat.
- Nishant Pitti urges users to avoid platforms linked to hostile foreign regimes.
- Company backs past boycotts of Maldives, Turkey, and Azerbaijan over anti-India stances.
- Reiterates core principle: "Nation First, Business Later."



owned by foreign regimes hostile to us? @PMOIndia @MEAIndia @HMOIndia @GoI\_MeitY Some popular travel apps, with significant Chinese ownership, may be accessing Indian passport data. This isn't just about business - it's a national security issue.

He supported an X post of Rikant Pitti, CEO and Co-Founder of EaseMyTrip

and said he supports Rikant and the company's stand on the possibility of misuse of the data.

Earlier, Rikant Pitti in the post highlighted EaseMyTrip was the only online travel agency to boycott the Maldives, keeping bookings closed for over a year, not for attention, but out of respect for the nation until relations between the two

countries began to normalise.

"After the Pahalgam terror attack, while many stayed silent, we were once again the first to issue a travel advisory against Turkey and Azerbaijan for their open support to Pakistan, urging Indian travellers to avoid non-essential visits," Rikant Pitti, CEO and Co-Founder of EaseMyTrip added.

## Geopolitical tensions, data to drive markets: Experts

TDG NETWORK  
MUMBAI

Indian stock markets, in the upcoming week starting from Monday, will be Geopolitical developments, particularly the ongoing tensions with Pakistan, macro-economic data and the corporate earnings of the companies.

The market experts say that the week of May 13 to 16, 2025, brings a slate of crucial economic data releases across India, the United States, and China, which will guide investor sentiment and central bank expectations.

"The upcoming week will be pivotal, marked by several key domestic triggers. Geopolitical developments, particularly the ongoing tensions with Pakistan, will continue to remain in focus," said Ajit Mishra - SVP, Research, Religare Broking Ltd.

As per Mishra, on the macroeconomic front, investors will closely monitor the release of key data points including the Consumer Price Index (CPI), Wholesale Price Index (WPI), and trade figures for exports and imports.



Additionally, he added that the corporate earnings season will gather pace, with several major companies--such as PVR INOX, Tata Steel, Bharti Airtel, Cipla, GAIL, Hero MotoCorp, Tata Motors, Lupin, Godrej Industries, and BHEL--scheduled to announce their quarterly results.

"In India, inflation will be in focus with the release of CPI YoY data on May 13, providing clarity on consumer price trends and their implications for the Reserve Bank of India's monetary policy. Additionally, Exports YoY data on May 15 will shed light on the health of India's external trade amid global uncertainties,"

the team of Bajaj Broking Research added in a note.

Following a period of consolidation, Indian equity benchmarks experienced a sharp correction amid escalating geopolitical tensions between India and Pakistan, which fueled market volatility and triggered a shift toward risk-off sentiment.

The Nifty 50 closed the week at 24,008.00, marking a decline of 1.39 per cent, while the BSE Sensex ended at 79,454.47, down 1.30 per cent.

The key equity indices registered notable losses this week, primarily driven by escalating geopolitical tensions between India and Pakistan following reports of drone and missile attacks.

The sell-off intensified on the final trading day of the week, after the Indian Army reported multiple overnight drone and munition attacks by Pakistani forces, heightening fears of further escalation.

Meanwhile, U.S. markets also traded mostly in the red, as the Federal Reserve kept interest rates unchanged--which was widely expected move--but flagged growing uncertainty around the economic outlook, adding to global investor caution.

He further added that as a proud Indian company, the safety and sentiments of Indian travellers have always guided our actions.

"We are heartened to see that many other travel platforms and companies are now taking similar stands. It's a positive sign of collective responsibility in moments that matter most. For us, it's not a slogan. It's our principle. Nation First. Business Later. Once again, thank you for supporting responsible travel decisions that put India first," Rikant Pitti added.

In the wake of the tension between India and Pakistan, the travel booking company has advised Indian travelers to exercise utmost caution while traveling to Turkey and Azerbaijan, as both countries have supported Pakistan.

## Adani Power to supply 1,500 MW to UP

TDG NETWORK  
AHMEDABAD

Adani Power said on Saturday that it won a tightly contested bid to supply 1500 MW (net) of thermal power to Uttar Pradesh.

As part of the contract, the Adani Group company will supply power at a highly competitive tariff of Rs 5.383 per unit from a greenfield 2x800 MW (1500 MW net) Ultra-supercritical power plant to be set up in the state under the Design, Build, Finance, Own, and Operate (DBFOO) model.

This is further to the Uttar Pradesh cabinet, which approved the project earlier this month.

The Company will now sign a long-term Power Supply Agreement (PSA) with Uttar Pradesh Power

## Kerala monsoon ahead of time, positive for economy

TDG NETWORK  
NEW DELHI

The Southwest Monsoon is likely to set over Kerala ahead of its normal onset date in 2025.

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) said in an update this week that this year, the southwest monsoon is likely to set over Kerala on May 27, with a model error of 4 days on both sides.

The normal onset date for the southwest monsoon is June 1.

Monsoons are a key indicator that helps analysts gauge the economic outlook of the country's manufacturing and agricultural sectors.

During the past five years, the monsoon has onset early on two occasions--2022 and 2024. In 2022 and 2024, the monsoon onset was May 29 and May 30, as per IMD data.



In 2024, the southwest monsoon rains in India hit a four-year high, experiencing about 108 per cent of the long-period average at 934.8 mm, data made available by the state-run weather bureau showed. The long-period average in India is 868.6 mm.

In its pre-monsoon forecast in 2024, IMD predicted rainfall across the country to be above normal, at 106 per cent of the long-period average.

In 2025, IMD said the

southwest monsoon seasonal (June to September) rainfall over the country as a whole during 2025 is most likely to be above normal (greater than 104 per cent of the Long Period Average).

The advance of the southwest monsoon over the Indian mainland is marked by monsoon onset over Kerala. It is an important indicator characterising the transition from the hot and dry season to the rainy season.

## Centre initiates 'Niveshak Shivir' to assist, educate investors

TDG NETWORK  
NEW DELHI

Market regulator Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) and the Investor Education and Protection Fund Authority (IEPFA), under the Ministry of Corporate Affairs, convene a strategic preparatory meeting in Mumbai for Niveshak Shivir initiative.

Niveshak Shivir - a nationwide investor assistance initiative aimed at enabling investors to reclaim unclaimed dividends and shares with greater ease, improving financial literacy and reducing reliance on intermediaries.

The initiative will feature dedicated helpdesks, allowing investors to interact directly with company representatives and Registrars and Transfer Agents (RTAs)



for end-to-end assistance.

The "Niveshak Shivir" initiative will commence later this month in Mumbai and Ahmedabad, with plans to expand to other cities with high volumes of unclaimed investor assets.

The meeting was attended by Anita Shah Akella, CEO of IEPFA and Joint Secretary in the Ministry of Corporate Affairs, along with IEPFA officials; Ananth Narayan G., Whole-Time Member, SEBI; Shashi Kumar Valsakumar and Jeevan

Sonparote, Executive Directors, SEBI; and other SEBI officials.

Representatives from key financial market infrastructure institutions were also present, including the National Stock Exchange (NSE), Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE), National Securities Depository Limited (NSDL), Central Depository Services Limited (CDSL), and Registrars and Transfer Agents (RTAs) such as Link Intime and KFin Technologies.

## 'India poised to double garments market in UK'

TDG NETWORK  
NEW DELHI

India is expected to double its market share from 6 per cent in 2024 to 12 per cent in the UK's readymade garments (RMG) imports, translating into an incremental annual export opportunity of around USD 1.1-1.2 billion in the near to medium term, according to CareEdge Ratings.

On May 6, India and the UK successfully concluded an ambitious and mutually beneficial Free Trade Agreement (FTA) that will open up massive export opportunities for many labour-intensive sectors in India. The Commerce Ministry said that 99 per cent of Indian exports will benefit from zero duty.

The ready-made garment

(RMG) sector accounted for around USD 525 billion in the global textile and RMG trade in 2024. Major markets include the European Union (EU), the United States of America (USA), the UK, Japan, Canada, and South Korea, which accounted for nearly 44 per cent of global imports.

The UK is among the top five RMG markets, with imports of around USD 20 billion in 2024.

Careedge said India currently exports nearly USD 1.2 billion of RMG to the UK out of its total exports of USD 15-16 billion.

The rating agency said countries such as Bangladesh, Turkey, Cambodia, and Italy enjoy duty-free access to the UK market, while Vietnam and Pakistan benefit from lower to zero tariffs.

## 'More than 50% financial planners cautious on depending on AI use'

TDG NETWORK  
NEW DELHI

Despite the benefits, financial planners expressed reservations regarding the use of artificial intelligence (AI), with 47 per cent citing data privacy and cybersecurity concerns, according to a report by FPSB India, the Indian subsidiary of the Financial Planning Standards Board.

The report titled "How AI is Reshaping the Financial Planning Profession" further highlighted that about 42 per cent of financial companies' top executives are still concerned about the accuracy and reliability of AI outputs.

On the positive side, the report highlights that over three-quarters of financial planners (78 per cent) believe AI will help them

Among the two-thirds of firms that currently use or plan to implement AI within the next year, adoption is most prevalent among small and very large companies.

better serve clients, while 60 per cent believe it will enhance the quality of financial advice.

Among the two-thirds of firms that currently use or plan to implement AI within the next year, adoption is most prevalent among small and very large companies.

Meanwhile, half of the financial planners view AI positively, with only 8 per cent holding a negative opinion.

"We are witnessing a pivotal moment in the financial planning profession as financial planners embrace AI to work smarter, allow-

ing more time to engage in deeper human connection with clients such as navigating difficult conversations that impact financial decision-making and providing clarity and support to stay on track to achieve their life goals," added FPSB CEO Dante De Gori, CFP.

The report further added that about 59 percent of financial planners see AI as a tool to help reduce the cost of financial planning services and 60 per cent believe it will increase access to financial planning for underserved populations.

# National Technology Day honours Indian ingenuity

TDG NETWORK  
NEW DELHI

National Technology Day, celebrated on May 11 every year, commemorates the momentous events of this day back in 1998, when India conducted successful nuclear tests under Operation Shakti, and saw the maiden flight of the indigenously developed Hansa-3 aircraft.

In recognition of these achievements, the then Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee declared May 11 as

National Technology Day.

Over the years, National Technology Day has evolved into a flagship occasion for honouring scientific excellence, showcasing industrial innovations, and reinforcing the partnership between science, society, and industry.

Scientific temperament in India has increased over the years - from space to telecom, semiconductors to AI, biotechnology to fintechs.

Here are some of the perspectives from people in technology domain on In-

dia's growing prowess:

According to Ganesh Gopalan, Co-Founder and CEO, at AI services provider Gnani.ai, India's relentless pursuit of innovation, and a reminder of how technology can be a force multiplier for inclusive growth.

"Today, breakthroughs in Voice AI, multilingual large language models (LLMs), and agentic AI are empowering enterprises to build smarter, more human-centric solutions. From revolutionizing customer support and financial services to



enabling real-time healthcare assistance in regional languages, AI is reshaping how industries operate and interact. As India's digital ecosystem accelerates, it is crucial that innovation remains responsible, ethical,

and tailored to local as well as global needs," Gopalan noted.

India ranks 39th in the Global Innovation Index (GII), which presents vast opportunities for developing advanced, innovative

and sustainable technologies which will help drive the country's digital vision forward.

Anku Jain, Managing Director, MediaTek India, said, "India's technology sector continues to be a strong pillar showcasing prominent and immense growth, powered by innovation in semiconductors, connectivity, and digital infrastructure. At MediaTek, we believe that fostering local R&D, strengthening the semiconductor ecosystem, and investing in skill devel-

opment will be key to supporting India's ambitions as a global innovation hub."

The official theme for National Technology Day 2025 -- "YANTRA - Yugantar for Advancing New Technology, Research & Acceleration."

"National Technology Day is a celebration of India's spirit of innovation, a force that continues to shape a more sustainable and resilient future," said Sriram Kannan, Founder and CEO, Routematic. "As we pio-

neer AI and data-driven, eco-conscious mobility solutions, we witness every day how technology can reimagine urban transport, making it cleaner, smarter, and more efficient."

According to Rupesh Kumar, Co-Founder and CTO, Suhora Technologies, technology today is no longer confined to research labs; it permeates every aspect of our lives, from defence and national security to smart farming and sustainable cities to precision healthcare and digital finance.



# OPERATION SINDOOR AND CEASEFIRE: PROS AND CONS AND FUTURE PROSPECTS

## OPINION

MAJ. GEN. J.K.S. PARIHAR



The unprecedented terrorist attack in Baisaran Valley, Pahalgam, by the Pakistan-sponsored terrorists and the subsequent diplomatic strategic response by India as Operation Sindoor has reshaped and carved India's strategy against any act of terrorism as an act of war and to be dealt with zero tolerance, clubbed with immediate punitive diplomatic and military action to any depth and dimension even beyond the international border within the Pakistan without any fear of nuclear escalation by Pakistan.

India has rightly exercised its right of military action under Article 51 of the United Nations charter, which accepts the right to act for self-defence in the face of armed attack. India is now

in the same leap as countries like the USA and Israel that have acted in the same manner against terrorism.

The operations Sindoor have established India's ability to launch swift, quick, decisive, lethal military operations with precision and accuracy. It has demonstrated the agility and synergy among all stakeholders, including leadership, parliament, judiciary, civil establishment, security and intelligence agencies, and the best is the perfect coordination and integration in launching tri-service operations with utmost perfection. The operation has further proved the superiority and great ability of the Indian Air Force to destroy the air defence system of Pakistan, piercing deep into their territory and successfully neutralizing the given targets like terrorist hideouts, headquarters, command and training centres, as well as a sensitive airspace.

India's counter-air defence mechanism including intelligence surveillance, radar, navigation, and counter-attack UAV and missiles proved their effectivity and precision.

The army and Navy have

successfully managed the ground and marine time defence as well as extended constant necessary input and ensured full proof counter-defence mechanisms against any problem military threat by Pakistan. On the other side, Pakistan has suffered major setbacks in protecting its aerial boundaries. Pak air defence system, ground surveillance, and counter-attack mechanism demonstrated the most devastating and effective measures.

There is no doubt that war is not the ultimate solution for any international dispute or conflict. Undoubtedly, the military action is a highly essential and effective tool to facilitate the road map of peace by getting the rivals to the negotiating table to establish the ultimate mechanism to resolve any crisis. Any such negotiation is invariably based on the principle of mutual concern, gains and losses, bargaining power, and ultimate prospects. No negotiation will be possible without the intervention and support of other countries.

Under this optics the recent ceasefire between India and Pakistan has to be visualized and re-assessed in terms of its timing, essentiality, gains and losses, extent and ultimate sustainability in the future.

It is highly prudent to always keep in mind the past performance and commitment of Pakistan in terms of implementing and adhering to the mechanism and terms and conditions laid down in



the previous peace accord and ceasefire since 1948 onwards. Pakistan has always violated such peace accords at 5 previous occasions notably 1948 after UN intervention as a fallout of Kashmir conflict due to the invasion by Pakistan, Tashkent pact after 1965 Indo Pakistan war, Shimla pact after 1971 war, Lahore pact of 1999, post Kargil War agreement of 2003 and lastly the mutual cease fire declared in February 2021. Despite humiliating defeat in the 1971 war and the 1999 Kargil conflict, Pakistan continued to remain engaged in a proxy war against India by operating through infiltration and state-sponsored terrorism.

As such, the operation Sindoor itself is a testimony to retaliate against Pakistan's irresponsible, repetitive, derogatory modus operandi error module of proxy war. In addition to the military actions carried out by India, the pre-operation Sindoor, diplomatic, and trade actions initiated by India are noteworthy because they

established India's ability to act against Pakistan in a very decisive manner across all the fronts.

The Indus Water Treaty of 1960 is posing a heavy shift in favour of Pakistan in terms of utilization of water resources and future development of infrastructure and water management. Despite this equilibrium, India continued to adhere to the Treaty even during the time of 1965, 1971, and 1999 Indo-Pak conflicts and wars. The first time India acted against the Indus Water Treaty by putting the treaty held in abeyance, thereby opening up the future avenues and options for India to hold its right to judiciously plan and execute water management and development of infrastructure in the basin of the Indus River system. This strategy will put substantial pressure on Pakistan to curb its ante Indian activities.

On the other hand, abrogation of the provisions of the Shimla Pact of 1972 by Pakistan carries hardly any adverse implications for

India's interests. As such, the Shimla pact became irrelevant after the return of 93000 Prisoners of War of Pakistan by India. Subsequently, Pakistan has violated several times the principles of the Shimla Pact. Once the Shimla pact is not in action, the definition of content military actions beyond the defined LOC is out of practice. This gives India a smoke leverage to address, act, and reshape its strategies to realign POK with India.

Hence, while negotiating terms and conditions of ceasefire with Pakistan, India must keep the avenues of the Indus Water Treaty and the Shimla Pact away from the domain of the proposed Ceasefire. A very hard and firm stand against Pakistan-sponsored and state terrorism against India as an act of war and to be dealt with in the future with the strongest punitive response is the order of the day.

India has the sustainability to face conflict, being the fastest growing economy, a

reservoir of fuel and other resources, and strong diplomatic positions of India all over the world. Over and above, despite having full operational control and absolute capability to conclude actions against the remaining terror outfits, notably the top leadership of terror outfits like Hafiz Saeed of Lashkar-e-Taiba, Mohammad Masud Azhar of Jaish-e-Mohammed, and the master mind of the Mumbai blast, Dawood Ibrahim, the reasons and timings under which India has entered into the ceasefire at this particular juncture are a bit surprise.

On the contrary, Pakistan was highly desperate to immediately cease fire. The thrust and impact of Operation Sindoor have proved that Air defence and counter-attack system of Pakistan is highly inferior, fragile, and porous. The internal rift between the Military and Political leadership, as well as internal turmoil in Baluchistan and unrest in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, and a crumbling economy of the country compounded the situation.

Undoubtedly, this was the most appropriate time and historic opportunity for India to kneel Pakistan on the issue of POK forever. The outcome of Operation Sindoor will definitely push Pakistan to upgrade its defence infrastructure, attacking capacity Hence, India has to be alert and continue to upgrade its military and diplomatic capabilities.

Though India continuous-

ly and successfully managed to draw world attention towards ill terror support by Pakistan worldwide, Pakistan was able to secure a huge amount of 1.3 billion USD from the IMF, even at the peak of Operation Sindoor.

The outcome and backdoor diplomacy to conclude the negotiation of cease ceasefire between India and Pakistan has set a new paradigm shift in the world order. The new key player to dominate diplomacy and the peace process in Central and South East Asia, Central Europe, is now led by the US President and actively supported by Saudi Arabia, UAE, and Qatar. China and Turkey are silent players against India, whereas Russia itself is struggling to get out of the Ukraine issue. Undoubtedly, the strong leadership of India is capable of dealing with the group of current and key stakeholders to ensure that it safeguards its strategies, diplomatic and financial interests, as well as ensures the outcome of these endeavours on the Indo-Pak Scenario.

Given the past track record of Pakistan and its unwritten anti-India doctrine, it is highly unlikely that Pakistan will ever deviate from its strategies of Proxy war against India.

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## Right to privacy and data protection issues in India

## OPINION

DR.S.KRISHNAN AND MS. DIVYANSHI JANGU



The progress of technology and the dynamism of the legal universe in this latest age provide a perspective on privacy and data protection problems. Privacy is something that does not interfere with other people's interests. Due to technological development, privacy has become a priority of every person and it also places a narrow emphasis on information security. Data protection emphasizes the freedom of people and the freedom of these people is threatened by the stranger's interference. It is necessary to stop the interaction of the stranger to the operation of the individual by any means. Any fresh phenomenon can be validated through the constitution as a fundamental

legal necessity. Although privacy is not expressly given in accordance with the Constitution, it implies the right to privacy as guaranteed personal freedom under Article 21. There is an intrinsic dispute between data protection and the right to privacy. Data protection and privacy were dealt with in an exhaustive way but not in the Information Technology (Amendment) Act, 2008. In data protection, the IT Act is not adequate and a distinct legislation is therefore needed in this respect.

### INTRODUCTION

The concept of privacy is not old in India. The ancient Indian knowledge theory, based on all literature from Upanishad, prescribes meditation, which must be done without any external disruption. The estates and the 'Arthashastra' show sufficient concern and regard for the privacy of the individual. The use of curtains is defined in the Ramayana and other classical literatures are developed in a certain manner. Private life is the thing that everybody needs to limit to him and

other feel crazy in earthing the same.

The law of privacy is the recognition of individual's right to be let alone and to have his personal space inviolate. The term 'privacy' denotes the rightful claim of the individual to determine the extent to which he wishes to share himself with others and his control over the time, place and circumstances to communicate with others. It means his right to withdraw or to participate as he thinks fit. It also means an individual's right to control dissemination of information about himself as it is his own personal possession.

### RIGHT TO PRIVACY IN INDIAN CONSTITUTION

The Constitution of India in general does not have any express provision regarding the Fundamental Right to Privacy but still by the means of judicial decisions the right is said to be under Part III of the Constitution. *Article 21: Right to Life and Personal Liberty*-Article 21 of India's constitution gives citizens and non-citizens the right to privacy. This is not obviously stated in it, but as a statutory justification, the Supreme Court indicated the same. Article 21 of the Constitution states as follows: "No individual shall be denied of his lives or personal freedom except as provided by the procedure established by law." Article 21 is the heart of Indian people's freedom.

### RIGHTS RELATED TO PRIVACY IN DATA PROTECTION LAWS

Information Technology Act, 2000 is the sole existing legislation in the country that keeps the privacy of an individual protected in the matters of Data and Information transactions. The Act has been amended in the year 2008 by the Indian legislature and added several provisions to the existing Act of 2000 to make them more effective in the field of protection. The Information Technology Act and the Amendment Act 2008 have the following provisions that ensure the privacy in the Data related issues such as

Section 66 of the Information Technology Act, 2000 also protects sensitive private information residing in a computer resource as it makes, among others, a punishable decrease in the value of information resid-

ing within a computer resource with imprisonment for up to three years. Thus, if an attacker is hacking into the computer system and copying and transferring sensitive personal information to a rival that may be of very high utility or of very private nature or business importance to the proprietor, the said act results in a decrease in the amount of data located within a computer resource and thus infringement of privacy.

Section 72 of the Information Technology Act, 2000 says about violation of confidentiality and privacy, i.e. a government officer can be fined if he transfers in his formal ability any digital information or data which he has obtained about a person. There is only a limited implementation of this section. It is confined to the actions and omissions of those individuals who have been given authority under this

Act, rules or laws produced under it, i.e. police, certification authorities and officials approved by particular notice.

Further in accordance with the order of the Supreme Court in the case of Justice K.S. Puttaswamy, the Govt. of India has set up a committee of five members headed by former Supreme Court judge, Justice (Retd.) B.N. Srikrishna for drafting a Data Protection Bill. The Srikrishna Committee published its final study and draft data protection law in July 2018, called the Personal Data Protection Bill, 2018. The Personal Data Protection Bill offers for the creation of a Data Protection Authority to supervise information handling operations. It also acknowledges the need to safeguard private information in the context of the fundamental right to privacy, as well as the need to develop a mu-

tual culture that promotes a safe and honest digital economy, respects citizen's information privacy and ensures freedom, advancement and creativity.

### SUGGESTIONS

A protected change is required whereby privacy rights can be explicitly guaranteed by adding another agreement. Such a change is important to offer side recognition for protection. Individual freedom as guaranteed by Article can be increasingly essential at precisely that stage. Developing National Policy: India requires a comprehensive strategy to ensuring that individuals have the privilege of controlling their own information collection and transmission. An imperative aspect of this strategy is the enactment that fuses the vital precepts of sensible information rehearses.

In this way, the enactment would place constraints on the collection and use of individual information by individual data customers. Individual data clients would be required to educate people unequivocally when collecting individual data and how to use it. Implementation would require individual data clients to provide an opportunity for individuals to prevent further spread of their own data. As needed, the online production and accumulation of individual information would be adequately confined. Educational privacy interests and self-governance interests

and information assurance intrigues should be shielded by appropriate legal systems to ensure the privacy of information and the trading of sensitive data on the Internet, whether categorized or individual.

Although such a comprehensive confidentiality arrangement is important to ensure the right of the person to control the accumulation and transmission of individual data, there is a requirement for those concerned to exercise this control. In any case, online customers will have to take responsibility for their electronic interchanges. They should be aware of the substance of these interchanges and use appropriate security attempts to safeguard their privacy, for instance, encryption. People will also have to choose how close it is to uncovering home data while enrolling in internet locations and taking an interest in business exchanges. By predicting the dangers of online use and using the recently illustrated legitimate insurance schemes, people will most likely exploit the numerous informative, social and business openings available through the internet now and later.

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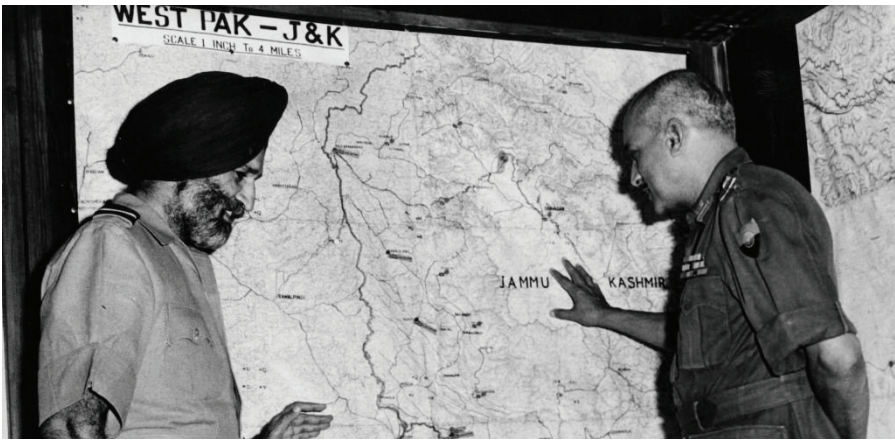


*India's shift from Nehruvian restraint to retaliatory strikes marks a historic pivot: Terror attacks are now treated as acts of war.*

# LINE OF CONTROL, LINE IN THE SAND: INDIA'S NEW SECURITY DOCTRINE

Since Partition, India's approach to its western neighbor has swung from cautious diplomacy to robust retaliation. In the Nehruvian era, India fought Pakistan's first Kashmir war (1947–48) with the aim of reclaiming territory illegally seized by tribesmen and Pakistani forces. That conflict ended with a UN-brokered ceasefire on January 1, 1949, and successive Indian governments largely maintained a “cautious attitude toward using military power”. Prime Minister Nehru, reflecting this restraint, repeatedly sought international adjudication on Kashmir even as Indian troops advanced to secure key areas. India's 1965 war with Pakistan, which began with Pakistani incursions into Punjab and Kashmir, similarly ended in a ceasefire and a return to pre-war lines. In both wars, India avoided full-scale offensives deep into Pakistan – a pattern critics later termed “strategic restraint,” inherited from Nehru's emphasis on diplomacy over conquest.

After India's decisive 1971 victory over Pakistan in East Pakistan (now Bangladesh), both countries signed the Shimla Agreement (July 1972). The Shimla Accord enshrined a doctrine of bilateralism: “The two countries are resolved to settle their differences by peaceful means through bilateral negotiations”. The treaty also bound both sides to refrain from unilateral changes (for example, territorial claims) and to “prevent the organization, assistance or encouragement of any acts detrimental to the maintenance of peace”. In practice, New Delhi interpreted this framework as a ban on large-scale invasions, even in response to cross-border terrorism – a policy rooted in the Nehruvian aversion to open conflict. As one retired Indian Air Force chief later observed, the Shimla Pact “remained a diplomatic touchstone for decades,” emphasizing dialogue and



Sept 23, 1965: Gen. J.N. Chaudhuri and Air Marshal Arjan Singh after India-Pak ceasefire. (Getty Images)

ceasefire accords.

## NUCLEARISATION AND THE KARGIL STANDOFF (1998–1999)

The nuclear tests of 1998 dramatically changed the security calculus. India's declared doctrine of “No First Use” meant it would not employ nuclear weapons unless first attacked with them, but it also threatened “massive retaliation” against major aggression. Pakistan's own nuclear tests days later created a mutual deterrent, raising the stakes of any conventional war. Yet within months, Pakistan tried a limited intervention: in 1999 it infiltrated regular troops and militants into the Kargil heights on India's side of the Line of Control. India's successful Kargil offensive drove the intruders back, but New Delhi took care not to cross the LoC – mindful of both the Shimla commitment and the new nuclear reality. The crisis underscored India's need for faster mobilization and new options short of all-out war.

After the 2001 Parliament attack – in which Pakistani-backed militants struck the very seat of India's democracy – public outcry in India demanded immediate retaliation. However, India delayed action while it assembled the military. As one analysis noted, India “chose to wait for the armed forces to mobilize fully” before striking, and international pressure grew to prevent

escalation. When the dust settled, the Indian Army recognized a gap: it needed a doctrine to punish Pakistan quickly but without triggering nuclear holocaust. Thus, in the early 2000s India quietly formulated what came to be known as the **Cold Start** doctrine. This concept envisaged immediately launching limited, coordinated offensives – “shallow thrusts” by divisional-sized *Integrated Battle Groups* – into Pakistan if warranted by a major attack. Crucially, Cold Start was “carefully designed to avoid crossing Pakistan's nuclear red lines,” using only moderate forces and returning territory as leverage. As one expert explained, it would limit operations to the plains and avoid deep incursions, thereby “avoiding the risk” of rapid nuclear escalation.

Indian analysts argue the Cold Start was as much a psychological deterrent as a war plan. By signaling that India could strike back at Pakistani terror bases with conventional forces, the theory goes, “Pakistan can no longer be sure whether or not India will resort to lightning strikes across the border” in response to major attacks. In other words, the prospect of sudden retaliation means “the impunity with which Pakistan was exporting terror to India is in grave danger”. Indeed, some Indian strategists believe the very suspicion this doctrine sowed in Islamabad has so far helped

deter even bigger strikes since 2008. (Critics caution that Pakistan's development of tactical nukes – the Nasr missile – was meant to spoil exactly this limited-war scenario.)

## TERROR ATTACKS AND PUNITIVE STRIKES (2001–2019)

In practice, India's military actions for the first decades of the 21st century fell well within Shimla-era restraint: attacks in Indian Kashmir were met with counter-insurgency operations inside India, not cross-border invasions. After 26/11 (the Mumbai terror attacks of 2008), Prime Minister Manmohan Singh famously said India would not be “provoked” into war. Instead, India relied on international pressure and border shelling to protest. But attitudes gradually hardened. In September 2016, after a devastating suicide attack on an Army camp at Uri (19 Indian soldiers killed), the Indian government broke precedent by publicly acknowledging a **surgical strike** inside Pakistan-administered Kashmir. Prime Minister Modi, addressing a rally soon after, vowed he “will never forgive, nor forget Uri” and approved strikes on the militant launch-pads across the LoC. India later revealed that special forces had destroyed multiple Pakistani-terrorist camps in retaliation.

A still bolder shift came in February 2019. Following the Pulwama suicide bombing (which killed 40 paramilitary soldiers) and Pakistan's denials, Indian Mirage jets crossed the de facto border and bombed the Jaish-e-Mohammad training camp at Balakot

– yet for decades New Delhi had responded only with diplomatic notes and appeals to international conscience. “That era is now over,” he wrote, as India turned to swift military reprisal. In other words, Modi's government has deliberately redefined terms of engagement. Special operations and air raids on enemy territory – once unthinkable under Nehruvian restraint – are now tools to impose



1947: Brig. Rajinder Singh, “Saviour of Kashmir,” defended Uri for 3 days. (Daily Excelsior)

inside Pakistan. India's Foreign Secretary VK Gokhale bluntly justified the air raid by saying it was carried out “after Pakistan failed to take any concrete action against terrorists.” This was a marked departure: India was now using significant air power across the border, justified explicitly as self-defense.

Through all these episodes, the narrative tension was clear. As one commentator noted, attacks like the 1993 Bombay bombings, the 2001 Parliament strike, 26/11, and the Uri and Pulwama attacks “were deliberate, planned acts of



Zero Line: Pakistan Rangers near India-Pakistan border flags. (Wikipedia)

war” – yet for decades New Delhi had responded only with diplomatic notes and appeals to international conscience. “That era is now over,” he wrote, as India turned to swift military reprisal. In other words, Modi's government has deliberately redefined terms of engagement. Special operations and air raids on enemy territory – once unthinkable under Nehruvian restraint – are now tools to impose



1947–48: Indian troops during the First Kashmir War. (Bharat-Rakshak)



2019, Balakot: Satellite image of madrasa allegedly targeted in Indian airstrike. (Reuters)

tangible costs on Pakistan for cross-border terrorism.

## THE NEW DOCTRINE: TERRORISM AS WAR (2020S)

By the 2020s this transformation was official doctrine. India's foreign-policy articulation at the UN and elsewhere has repeatedly framed cross-border

As an analysis put it, India has made “unequivocally clear that any act of terrorism emanating from across the border...will now be regarded not as a criminal or insurgent act, but as an act of war”. This is “not just a rhetorical escalation,” the commentator wrote, but “a tectonic realignment” in India's strategic outlook.

militants killed. Even Pakistan's civil-military leadership acknowledged that India's strikes had hit targets well beyond Kashmir. In response, national-security experts in India noted that a now-suspended Shimla “remains a diplomatic touchstone,” but had lost practical relevance. As retired Air Marshal Anil



1971, Longewala: 120 Indian troops led by Maj. Chandpuri repelled large Pak attack. (Rajasthan Tourism)



April 22, 2025: Indian forces patrol after deadly terrorist attack in Pahalgam. (File Photo)



Operation Sindoor, 2025: Pakistan troops at missile-hit building in Muzaffarabad. (AP Photo)

Khosla wrote, Simla's “suspension in 2025 reflects its diminished practical relevance. The repercussions... open the door to heightened tensions and strategic recalibrations, particularly for India”.

This evolution – from restraint to retaliation – is intentional. India's current doctrine effectively classifies sustained proxy-war terrorism as a war-like aggression, warranting proportionate force. Indian officials now routinely remind Pakistan that repeated terror attacks will invite military responses, and the armed forces have demonstrated resolve by acting on that promise. In short, India has signaled that cross-border terror will be met with all levers of statecraft: not just sanctions and protests, but punitive strikes and conventional deterrence on a scale once deemed unthinkable.



# Buddha Purnima: Celebrating the Birth, Enlightenment, and Nirvana of Lord Buddha

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Buddha Purnima, one of the most important festivals for millions of Buddhists around the world, marks the birth, enlightenment, and death (parinirvana) of Siddhartha Gautama, the founder of Buddhism. The festival, observed on the full moon day in the month of Vaisakha (April-May), is a time for reflection, meditation, and reverence for the profound teachings of Lord Buddha.

## THE LIFE OF SIDDHARTHA GAUTAMA

Siddhartha Gautama, who would later become known as the Buddha, was born into a royal family around the 6th century BCE in Lumbini, which is now in Nepal. His father, King Suddhodana, ruled over the Shakya clan, and his mother, Queen Maya, was a princess. Siddhartha's early life was one of privilege and luxury, shielded from the harsh realities of the world. King Suddhodana, eager to protect his son from the sufferings of life, kept him within the confines of the palace, surrounding him with beauty, pleasures, and distractions.

Despite his father's best efforts to shield him, Siddhartha was curious about the world outside the palace. At the age of 29, he ventured beyond the palace walls, where he encountered what are known as the "Four Sights": an old man, a sick person, a dead body, and a wandering ascetic. These sights deeply affected Siddhartha, as they revealed to him the inevitability of

aging, illness, and death. This realization sparked a profound crisis in him, and he began to question the nature of life and the meaning of suffering.

## THE PATH TO ENLIGHTENMENT

Determined to find answers to the suffering that seemed inherent to life, Siddhartha left his royal life, wife, and young son, renouncing his privileged existence. He embarked on a journey of spiritual quest, seeking wisdom and enlightenment. He studied under several renowned teachers of his time, practicing intense meditation and austerities. However, after several years of extreme self-denial, Siddhartha realized that the path of self-mortification was not leading him to the truth. He then adopted the "Middle Way," a path of moderation between indulgence and self-denial.

Siddhartha's breakthrough came while meditating under a Bodhi tree in Bodh Gaya, India. He vowed not to rise until he had attained enlightenment. After a period of deep meditation, he achieved a profound realization and became the Buddha, "The Awakened One." In that moment of enlightenment, he understood the Four Noble Truths, which would later form the foundation of his teachings.

## THE FOUR NOBLE TRUTHS AND THE EIGHTFOLD PATH

The Four Noble Truths are the essence of Buddha's teachings. They are:

The Truth of Suffering (Dukkha): Life involves suffering, be it physical, emotional, or existential.



Birth, aging, sickness, and death are unavoidable parts of existence.

The Truth of the Cause of Suffering (Samudaya): Suffering is caused by desire, attachment, and ignorance. These cravings lead to cycles of birth and death (samsara), trapping individuals in suffering.

The Truth of the End of Suffering (Nirodha): It is possible to end suffering by eliminating desires and attachments. Achieving Nirvana – the cessation of suffering – is the ultimate goal.

The Truth of the Path Leading to the End of Suffering (Magga): The path to liberation is through the Eightfold Path, a set of ethical and mental practices that lead to enlightenment.

## THE EIGHTFOLD PATH CONSISTS OF:

Right Understanding (Samma Ditthi): Understanding the Four Noble Truths and seeing the world as it truly is.

Right Intent (Samma Sankappa): Cultivating the right intentions, free from desires and hatred.

Right Speech (Samma Vaca): Speaking truthfully and kindly, avoiding harmful or divisive speech.

Right Action (Samma Kammanta): Acting ethically, avoiding harm to others, and following moral conduct.

Right Livelihood (Samma Ajiva): Earning a living through ethical means that do not harm others.

Right Effort (Samma Vayama): Making an effort to cultivate positive qualities and remove negative ones.

Right Mindfulness (Samma Sati): Developing awareness and presence in each moment, cultivating mindfulness in daily activities.

Right Concentration (Samma Samadhi): Practicing meditation to achieve mental focus and clarity.

Through these teachings, Buddha offered a practical guide for overcoming suffering and attaining peace and happiness in one's life. The path is one of personal discipline, wisdom, and ethical conduct, leading to

ultimate liberation from the cycle of rebirth.

## THE SIGNIFICANCE OF BUDDHA PURNIMA

Buddha Purnima holds immense spiritual significance for Buddhists. The day commemorates not only the birth of Siddhartha Gautama but also his attainment of enlightenment and his passing into Nirvana. The full moon of the Vaisakha month symbolizes clarity, peace, and insight. Buddha Purnima serves as a reminder to follow the teachings of the Buddha and seek enlightenment through mindfulness, compassion, and wisdom.

## CELEBRATIONS OF BUDDHA PURNIMA

Buddha Purnima is celebrated across the world in Buddhist communities, especially in countries like India, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Myanmar, Cambodia, and Tibet. The day is marked by prayers, meditation, rituals, and processions at Buddhist temples, monasteries, and stupas.

## BUDDHIST TEMPLES AND MONASTERIES

On Buddha Purnima, Bud-

dhist gather at temples and monasteries to pay homage to Lord Buddha. Many temples are decorated with flowers, incense, and candles, and devotees participate in chanting sessions and prayers. Special ceremonies are held to honor Buddha's teachings, and monks often give sermons, reminding followers of the importance of following the Buddha's path. It is also common for followers to make offerings of flowers, fruits, and incense as symbols of respect.

## PILGRIMAGE SITES

For many Buddhists, Buddha Purnima is a time for pilgrimage. Some of the most important pilgrimage sites related to Buddha's life include:

Lumbini (Nepal): The birthplace of Lord Buddha. Pilgrims from across the world visit this sacred site to pay their respects.

Bodh Gaya (India): The site of Buddha's enlightenment under the Bodhi tree.

Samath (India): The place where Buddha delivered his first sermon after attaining enlightenment.

Kushinagar (India): The place where Buddha passed away and attained parinirvana.

During Buddha Purnima, these pilgrimage sites see a large influx of devotees who engage in prayers, meditation, and rituals, reflecting on Buddha's life and teachings.

## CHARITY AND ACTS OF KINDNESS

In keeping with the spirit of Buddha's teachings on compassion, many Buddhists engage in acts of charity on Buddha Purnima. This can include donating food,

clothes, and necessities to the poor and needy. In some Buddhist communities, it is also customary to release captive animals, symbolizing the Buddha's compassion for all sentient beings.

## MEDITATION AND REFLECTION

A key aspect of Buddha Purnima celebrations is the emphasis on meditation. Buddhists often observe silence, meditate, and reflect on the Buddha's teachings during this time. Meditation centers hold special sessions for practitioners to deepen their mindfulness and understanding. The goal is to experience the peace and clarity that Buddha attained under the Bodhi tree.

## BUDDHA PURNIMA IN INDIA

In India, Buddha Purnima is celebrated with great enthusiasm in various parts of the country. Although Buddhism is not the majority religion in India, the country holds great historical and spiritual significance in the life of the Buddha. The states of Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, and Maharashtra, among others, witness large-scale celebrations, with processions, prayers, and public gatherings.

In the capital, New Delhi, the Buddha Jayanti Smriti Park and the Buddha Vihar Temple see large crowds of devotees offering prayers and performing rituals. In Bihar, the state where Buddha attained enlightenment, Bodh Gaya becomes a major pilgrimage destination during this time.

## THE TEACHINGS OF BUDDHA: A TIMELESS LEGACY

Buddha Purnima is not just

a day of remembrance; it is a day to reflect on and apply the Buddha's teachings in daily life. The central messages of Buddhism—compassion, non-violence, mindfulness, and the pursuit of wisdom—are as relevant today as they were over two millennia ago. Buddha's teachings continue to inspire millions of people around the world, offering a path to inner peace and liberation.

The concept of mindfulness, which has become increasingly popular in modern times, is deeply rooted in Buddhist philosophy. By practicing mindfulness, individuals can gain greater control over their thoughts, emotions, and actions, leading to a life of greater awareness and serenity.

Buddha's teachings on compassion and non-violence (ahimsa) have also had a profound impact on global movements for peace, including the civil rights movement led by Mahatma Gandhi and the non-violent resistance movements in the 20th century. The message of loving-kindness, tolerance, and respect for all beings is a universal call for harmony in an often-divided world.

Buddha Purnima is a day of reverence, reflection, and renewal for Buddhists around the world. It is a time to honor Lord Buddha's life, teachings, and ultimate realization. The festival not only commemorates Buddha's birth, enlightenment, and death but also serves as a reminder of the transformative

# The power of spiritual teachings: Path to peace and enlightenment

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Spiritual teachings have been an integral part of human civilization for thousands of years. Across various cultures and traditions, individuals have sought guidance from spiritual leaders, scriptures, and practices to find meaning, purpose, and inner peace. Spiritual teachings offer wisdom that transcends the material world, guiding individuals toward emotional well-being, mental clarity, and spiritual fulfillment. These teachings, when understood and practiced, help individuals overcome life's challenges, cultivate compassion, and foster a deep connection with the universe. This article explores the significance of spiritual teachings and how they contribute to the holistic development of an individual.

## SPIRITUALITY AND ITS ROLE IN PERSONAL GROWTH

Spirituality is often misunderstood as merely a religious practice or ritual. However, at its core, spirituality is the pursuit of understanding and aligning oneself with the deeper truths of existence. It encompasses the search for answers to life's fundamental questions: Who am I? What is my purpose? What happens after death? These questions drive individuals to seek spiritual teachings that guide them toward self-discovery and enlightenment.

Spiritual teachings encourage individuals to look inward rather than outward, to seek answers from within their own

hearts and minds. This inward journey promotes self-awareness, helping individuals recognize their strengths and weaknesses, desires, fears, and values. By reflecting on these aspects, people are able to make more informed choices in their lives and cultivate positive traits such as patience, gratitude, humility, and kindness.

Furthermore, spiritual teachings often emphasize the importance of self-discipline and mindfulness. Through practices such as meditation, prayer, and contemplation, individuals develop the ability to quiet their minds, reduce stress, and increase mental clarity. This enhanced self-awareness and inner calm contribute to personal growth and well-being.

## FINDING INNER PEACE THROUGH SPIRITUAL WISDOM

One of the most profound benefits of spiritual teachings is the cultivation of inner peace. In today's fast-paced and often chaotic world, many people struggle with stress, anxiety, and emotional turmoil. Spiritual practices offer a refuge from this turmoil, providing a space for individuals to connect with their higher selves and the divine.

Many spiritual traditions teach that true peace comes from within. For example, in Buddhism, the concept of Nirvana refers to the cessation of suffering and the attainment of inner peace. Similarly, in Hinduism, the goal of spiritual practice is to reach Moksha, liberation from the cycle of birth and



death, and a state of eternal bliss. In Christianity, peace is often associated with a deep, personal relationship with God, where trust in divine will leads to a sense of calm and serenity.

Spiritual teachings also encourage individuals to release negative emotions such as anger, resentment, and fear. These emotions, if left unchecked, can lead to stress and disharmony. By practicing forgiveness, letting go of attachments, and embracing love and compassion, individuals are able to create a sense of peace both within themselves and in their relationships with others.

## SPIRITUAL TEACHINGS AND THE SEARCH FOR PURPOSE

In a world that often emphasizes material success and external validation, many individuals find themselves grappling with a lack of purpose or direction. Spiritual teachings provide a framework for understanding the deeper meaning of life and help individuals discover their true calling.

For example, in the Bhagavad Gita, Lord Krishna guides Arjuna, a warrior facing a moral dilemma, toward understanding his purpose in life. Krishna teaches Arjuna that one's duty (dharma) is to fulfill their responsibilities in alignment with divine will. In this way, spiritual teachings offer individuals a sense of direction and purpose, showing them that their actions, when performed with integrity and compassion, can contribute to the greater good of humanity.

Spiritual teachings also emphasize the interconnectedness of all beings. By understanding that we are part of a larger whole, individuals can find meaning in their lives beyond personal achievements. Many spiritual traditions encourage service to others, fostering a sense of altruism and compassion. This selfless service not only benefits others but also enriches the individual, bringing a sense of fulfillment and satisfaction that cannot be found in material pursuits.

## THE HEALING POWER OF SPIRITUAL

## TEACHINGS

Spiritual teachings are often a source of healing for individuals who are struggling with physical, emotional, or psychological pain. Many people turn to spirituality in times of suffering, seeking comfort, hope, and guidance. The wisdom offered by spiritual traditions can help individuals navigate through difficult times, offering solace and perspective.

For instance, in times of grief or loss, spiritual teachings offer comfort by reminding individuals of the impermanence of life and the eternal nature of the soul. In Hinduism, the concept of reincarnation teaches that death is not the end, but rather a transition to another state of being. Similarly, in Christianity, the belief in eternal life provides hope that death is not the final chapter, but rather the beginning of a new journey with God.

In addition to offering comfort, spiritual teachings also promote healing by encouraging individuals to forgive themselves and others. Forgiveness

is a central tenet in many spiritual traditions, as it is believed to release individuals from the burdens of anger and resentment. By letting go of these negative emotions, individuals can heal emotionally and move forward in their lives.

Moreover, spiritual practices such as meditation, prayer, and yoga have been shown to have positive effects on mental and physical health. Studies have demonstrated that these practices can reduce stress, lower blood pressure, improve mood, and promote overall well-being. Spirituality, therefore, plays a key role in holistic healing, addressing not only the body but also the mind and spirit.

## THE CONNECTION BETWEEN SPIRITUALITY AND ETHICS

Spiritual teachings provide a moral framework for living a virtuous life. Many spiritual traditions emphasize the importance of ethics and the cultivation of virtuous qualities such as honesty, kindness, humility, and compassion. By adhering to these ethical principles, individuals can live in harmony with themselves, others, and the environment.

For example, in Buddhism, the Five Precepts serve as ethical guidelines for lay practitioners. These precepts include refraining from killing, stealing, lying, engaging in sexual misconduct, and consuming intoxicants. Similarly, in Christianity, the Ten Commandments outline moral principles that guide individuals toward righteous

living. These teachings encourage individuals to act with integrity, respect, and kindness toward others, fostering social harmony and peace.

Spiritual teachings also encourage individuals to live in alignment with the greater good. In many traditions, selflessness and service to others are considered the highest virtues. By focusing on the welfare of others and acting with compassion, individuals can create a positive impact on the world around them.

## THE ROLE OF SPIRITUALITY IN SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS

Spiritual teachings often emphasize the interconnectedness of all living beings and the environment. Many spiritual traditions advocate for respect and stewardship of the Earth, recognizing that human beings are not separate from nature but part of a larger ecological system. In Hinduism, for example, the concept of Ahimsa (non-violence) extends to all living beings, encouraging the protection of animals and the environment.

Similarly, in Buddhism, the principle of interdependence teaches that all phenomena are interconnected, and our actions have far-reaching consequences. This understanding encourages individuals to act with mindfulness and care, not only toward other people but also toward the planet.

Spiritual teachings thus have a significant role in promoting environmental

consciousness and social responsibility. By recognizing the sacredness of life and nature, individuals are motivated to live in a way that is harmonious with the Earth, practicing sustainability and promoting peace and justice in society.

The importance of spiritual teachings in human life cannot be overstated. These teachings provide a framework for personal growth, inner peace, and the search for meaning and purpose. They offer guidance on how to live a virtuous life, heal emotional wounds, and foster compassion and understanding toward others. Spirituality encourages individuals to look inward, cultivate mindfulness, and develop a deeper connection with the world around them.

In a world that often prioritizes material success and external validation, spiritual teachings offer a refuge, reminding individuals of their true nature and the deeper truths of existence. Whether through meditation, prayer, or ethical living, spiritual teachings provide a path toward inner peace, fulfillment, and enlightenment.

By embracing these teachings and integrating them into daily life, individuals can experience profound transformation, creating a life filled with wisdom, compassion, and purpose. Ultimately, the pursuit of spiritual wisdom is a lifelong journey—one that leads to the realization of our highest potential and a deeper connection with the divine and the universe.





An Indian soldier patrols near the Clock Tower in Srinagar a day after the ceasefire, May 11, 2025. (AP Photo)



Republican presidential nominee, former President Donald Trump holds a campaign rally at the PPG Paints Arena on November 04, 2024 in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. (Getty)



Twelve Mirage 2000 jets dropped 1000-kg laser-guided bombs on terror camps across LoC; Jaguars recorded the strikes. (ANI)

# ONE PHONE CALL: US ROLE IN INDIA-PAK CONFLICT DE-ESCALATION

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif posted on X: “We thank President Trump for his leadership and proactive role for peace in the region.”

After four days of intense military tension between India and Pakistan, both nuclear-armed neighbours agreed to halt hostilities, ending a crisis that had kept the world on edge. The breakthrough came at 3:35 PM on Saturday through a phone call between Paki-

stan's Director General of Military Operations, Major General Kashif Abdullah, and his Indian counterpart, Lieutenant General Rajiv Ghai. Pakistan proposed a ceasefire, and India responded positively, according to people familiar with the matter. However, Indian Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri later confirmed that Pakistan breached this agreement later the same evening. The de-escalation came after India launched a series of targeted military strikes under Operation Sindoor, in response to the April 22 terror attack in Pahalgam. On May 7, India struck nine terror hubs in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK). These were followed by more military actions targeting Pakistani air bases, radar installations, and command centres. India maintained that its actions were defensive and proportionate. Officials said New Delhi responded

to Islamabad's missile and drone attacks on Indian military sites. They emphasized that the objective of Operation Sindoor was to combat terrorism and send a strong message to Pakistan: any future terror attack would be treated as an act of war. A key factor in achieving the ceasefire was the intervention of the United States. Sources said that pressure from Washington, particularly the prospect of a conditional International Monetary Fund (IMF) bailout for Pakistan, played a critical role. US Secretary of State Marco Rubio called Pakistan Army Chief General Asim Munir on Saturday, urging him to de-escalate and offering support for peaceful talks. Rubio later posted on X: “Over the past 48 hours, VP Vance and I have engaged with senior Indian and Pakistani officials, including Prime Ministers Narendra Modi and Shehbaz Sharif, External



Pakistani Kashmiris inspect debris after Indian shelling in Neelum Valley; cross-border clashes killed and injured dozens. (Getty)

## TDG EXPLAINER

Affairs Minister Subrahmanyam Jaishankar, Chief of Army Staff Asim Munir, and National Security Advisors Ajit Doval and Asim Malik.” According to CNN, Vice President Vance, who was

in India during the Pahalgam attack—spoke with Prime Minister Modi as the White House assessed a high risk of rapid escalation. However, CNN clarified that the Trump administration was not involved

in drafting the ceasefire deal. Interestingly, the negotiations bypassed the usual diplomatic channels. There was no interaction between the foreign ministers or national security advisors of India and Pakistan. Instead, the military-to-military channel facilitated the ceasefire. During a press briefing before the ceasefire was confirmed, Indian Army

Colonel Sofiya Qureshi and Air Force Wing Commander Vyomika Singh said India was willing to de-escalate if Pakistan did the same. Singh mentioned Pakistan's troop movements to forward areas, warning of their offensive intentions, but reiterated India's commitment to peace. Meanwhile, in Pakistan, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif informed major political party leaders that the country had “avenged the blood of innocents”, a message many analysts interpreted as a sign of moving toward de-escalation. Earlier in the day, Pakistan's military claimed that a meeting of the National Command Authority, which controls the nuclear arsenal, was called. However, Defence Minister Khawaja Asif later denied this, saying no such meeting was held or scheduled. Pakistan's Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar also hinted at stepping back, stating in a

media interview, “If India stopped its military actions, then Pakistan will consider stopping here.” Sharif later posted on X: “We thank President Trump for his leadership and proactive role for peace in the region. Pakistan appreciates the United States for facilitating this outcome, which we have accepted in the interest of regional peace and stability.” Despite the ceasefire, Indian authorities made it clear that there would be no political dialogue or meetings. Measures such as putting the Indus Water Treaty in abeyance will remain in place. Officials said that India had made its position clear: state-sponsored terror from Pakistan would not go unanswered. Indian defence officials also said that Operation Sindoor had demonstrated India's capability to hit key military targets in Pakistan, including strategic locations like Rawalpindi. ● TDG NETWORK

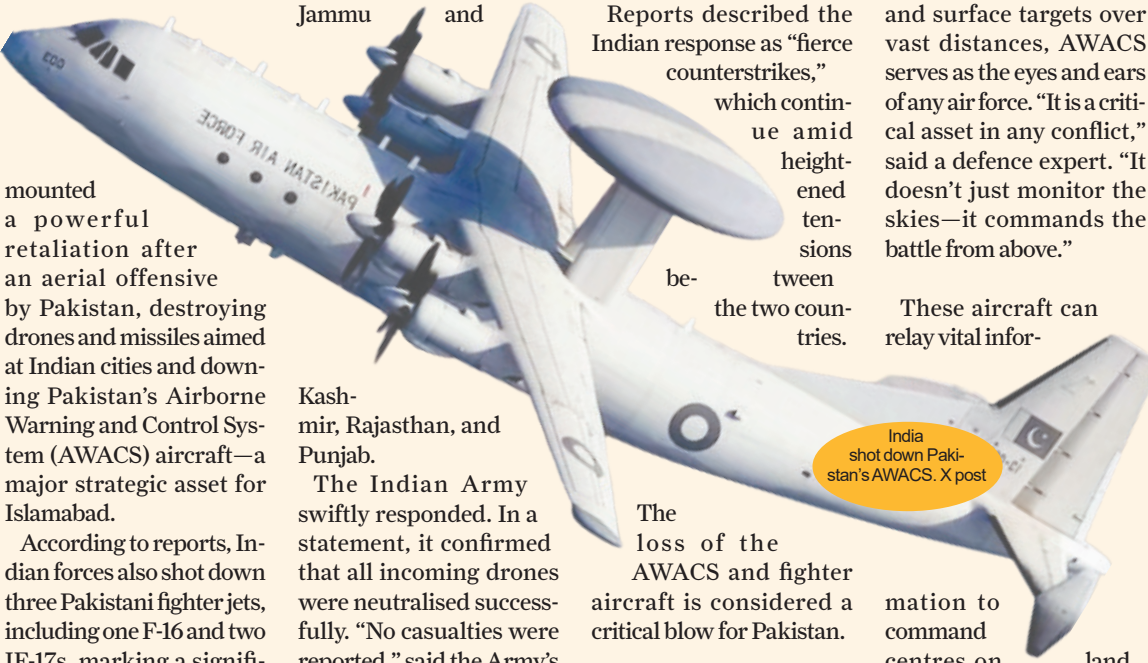
## A glimpse of AWACS: Pakistan's surveillance aircraft

India downs Pakistan's AWACS, 3 jets in retaliation after drone missile attacks on J&K, Punjab, Rajasthan; no Indian casualties reported. India on Thursday

The attack began late Thursday evening when Pakistan launched drones and missiles toward several Indian states bordering the Line of Control and international border. Targets included civilian and military areas across Jammu and

strikes, India brought down Pakistan's AWACS aircraft within Pakistani territory, specifically in Punjab province. The move is seen as a major setback for Pakistan's air surveillance and operational planning capabilities. Reports described the Indian response as “fierce counterstrikes,” which continue amid heightened tensions between the two countries.

These aircraft can relay vital information to command centres on land, at sea, or in the air, enabling seamless coordination between fighter jets, surface-to-air missile systems, and ground-based radar units. Fitted with a distinctive radar dome, these aircraft are built for long-range radar surveillance and real-time command and control of air defence missions. Designed to detect, track, and identify both aerial and surface targets over vast distances, AWACS serves as the eyes and ears of any air force. “It is a critical asset in any conflict,” said a defence expert. “It doesn't just monitor the skies—it commands the battle from above.”



mounted a powerful retaliation after an aerial offensive by Pakistan, destroying drones and missiles aimed at Indian cities and downing Pakistan's Airborne Warning and Control System (AWACS) aircraft—a major strategic asset for Islamabad. According to reports, Indian forces also shot down three Pakistani fighter jets, including one F-16 and two JF-17s, marking a significant blow to Pakistan's air capabilities.

Kashmir, Rajasthan, and Punjab. The Indian Army swiftly responded. In a statement, it confirmed that all incoming drones were neutralised successfully. “No casualties were reported,” said the Army's official release.

The loss of the AWACS and fighter aircraft is considered a critical blow for Pakistan.

**WHAT IS AN AWACS AIRCRAFT?** The Airborne Warning and Control System, or AWACS, plays a vital role in modern military op-

**AWACS DOWNED INSIDE PAKISTAN'S PUNJAB PROVINCE** Amid the retaliatory



Local residents and members of the media examine a building damaged by a suspected Indian missile attack near Muzaffarabad, the capital of Pakistan-occupied Kashmir, on May 7. Asia Nikkei

## A journalist who changed how public sees terrorism today

Daniel Pearl was a respected American journalist and the South Asia Bureau Chief for The Wall Street Journal. Known for his thoughtful reporting and deep curiosity, Pearl was pursuing a story in Pakistan in early 2002, investigating links between extremist groups and terrorist networks following the 9/11 attacks. His assignment took him to Karachi, where he was tracing the shadowy connections between militant groups and the failed shoe bomber, Richard Reid.



Daniel Pearl, a Wall Street Journal reporter, appears in this image sent by his kidnappers after he was abducted in Karachi on January 23, 2002. (Getty Images)

arrested and convicted for the crime was Ahmed Omar Saeed Sheikh, a British-born Pakistani militant with a history of involvement in extremist activities. In 2002, Sheikh was sentenced to death by a Pakistani court.

dicial accountability in Pakistan and the state's failure to protect journalists.

### LEGACY

Daniel Pearl's death became a grim symbol of the dangers journalists face in conflict re-

### CONTROVERSIAL LEGAL TURN-AROUND

In April 2020, the Sindh High Court in Pakistan overturned Sheikh's murder conviction, reducing it to a lesser charge of kidnapping and ordering his release. The decision was condemned by Pearl's family, the U.S. government, and human rights organizations across the world. It sparked fears about ju-

His assignment took him to Karachi, where he was tracing the shadowy connections between militant groups and the failed shoe bomber, Richard Reid.

gions. In his memory, the Daniel Pearl Foundation was established by his family to promote cross-cultural understanding and press freedom. His story continues to resonate in the global media community as a reminder of the costs of truth-telling in times of terror. ● TDG ETWORK



Mariane Pearl, widow of journalist Daniel Pearl, holds their son Adam in a December 2002 portrait taken in New York. (Getty Images)





Faithful crowd St. Peter's Square at the Vatican, where newly elected Pope Leo XIV will deliver his first Sunday blessing from the central balcony of St. Peter's Basilica following the traditional Regina Caeli prayer at noon on Sunday.

AGENCIES

## Turkey ready to host Russia-Ukraine peace talks

AGENCIES  
ANKARA



Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan. (FILE PHOTO)

Turkey is ready to host peace talks between Russia and Ukraine in Istanbul again, President Tayyip Erdogan told his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin in a phone call on Sunday, Erdogan's office said.

Putin earlier on Sunday proposed direct talks with Ukraine in Istanbul aimed at ending the war. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said Kyiv was willing to talk but Moscow must first agree to a ceasefire.

Putin made the offer in a televised statement from the Kremlin that began after 1:30 a.m. local time on Sunday (2230 GMT Saturday).

In their later phone call,

### Iran to send Russia launchers for short-range missiles

WASHINGTON: Iran is preparing to deliver in the near future launchers for short-range ballistic missiles that the U.S. said Tehran sent to Russia last year for use against Ukraine, according to two Western security officials and a regional official.

Iran denied it had such plans and dismissed the idea as "utterly absurd".

The delivery of the Fath-360 launchers – if it occurs – would help support Russia's grinding assault on its neighbor and reaffirm the deepening security ties between Moscow and Tehran.

With a 75-mile (120-km) range, the Fath-360 would give Moscow's forces a new weapon to fire at Ukrainian frontline troops, nearby military targets, and population centers close to the border with Russia, analysts said.

The U.S. last September said that Iran delivered the missiles to Russia on nine Russian-flagged ships – which it sanctioned – and three sources told Reuters at that time that the launchers were not included.

The Western security officials and the regional official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the delivery of the Fath-360 launchers was imminent.

They declined to provide further details of the pending transfer, including why they thought the launchers were not delivered with the missiles.

Erdogan welcomed Putin's

statement and said Turkey was ready to host negotiations that would lead to a permanent solution, according to a readout from Erdogan's office.

Erdogan also told Putin that a comprehensive ceasefire would create the neces-

sary environment for peace talks, the readout said.

Putin's proposal for direct talks with Ukraine came hours after major European powers including France demanded in Kyiv that Russia agree to an unconditional 30-day ceasefire or face "massive" new sanctions.

## KYIV WELCOMES MOSCOW'S OFFER, BUT SAYS CEASEFIRE MUST COME BEFORE PEACE TALKS

Putin rejected the ceasefire, suggested talks in Istanbul, with a potential ceasefire discussed during negotiations.

AGENCIES

KYIV

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy on Sunday welcomed Russia's offer for direct peace talks, but insisted there must be a full, temporary ceasefire in place before negotiations can start.

Zelenskyy, writing on X, said it was a "positive sign that the Russians have finally begun to consider ending the war" and said that "the entire world has been waiting for this for a very long time."

He added, however, that "There is no point in truly ending any war is a ceasefire," in a reference to his

### CEASEFIRE PROPOSAL

- Zelenskyy proposed a 30-day unconditional ceasefire starting May 12.
- EU leaders and Trump backed Zelenskyy's call for a ceasefire.
- Macron supported talks but stressed a ceasefire must come first.
- Russia resumed drone attacks on Ukraine after a three-day pause, despite diplomatic efforts.



proposal to start a 30-day unconditional truce on Monday.

"There is no point in continuing the killing even for a single day. We expect

Russia to confirm a ceasefire – full, lasting, and reliable – starting tomorrow, May 12th, and Ukraine is ready to meet," Zelenskyy

said.

Russian President Vladimir Putin in remarks to the media overnight effectively rejected that ceasefire offer and proposed restarting direct talks with Ukraine in Istanbul on Thursday instead "without preconditions." He said a ceasefire might be agreed on during the negotiations.

Putin's counter-offer came after leaders from four major European countries threatened to ratchet up pressure on Moscow if it does not accept an unconditional 30-day ceasefire in Ukraine.

French President Emmanuel Macron, British Prime Minister Keir Starmer, German Chan-

cellor Friedrich Merz and Polish Prime Minister Donald Tusk met with Zelenskyy in Kyiv on Saturday and issued a coordinated call for the truce starting Monday. The plan has received backing from both the European Union and U.S. President Donald Trump. In a social media post several hours after Putin's overnight remarks about peace talks, Trump said it was "a potentially great day for Russia and Ukraine!"

"I will continue to work with both sides to make sure that it happens. The USA wants to focus, instead, on Rebuilding and Trade. A BIG week upcoming!" he added.

## Trump praises 'strong, unwaveringly powerful' leadership of India, Pakistan

AGENCIES

WASHINGTON

US President Donald Trump on Sunday praised the "strong and unwaveringly powerful" leadership of India and Pakistan for reaching a "ceasefire" and offered to work with them for a "solution" on the Kashmir issue.

India has always maintained that the Kashmir issue is a bilateral matter and there is no space for any third party. India asserts that the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir and the Union Territory of Ladakh are and always will be integral and inalienable parts of it.

"I will work with you both to see if, after a 'thousand years,' a solution can be arrived at concerning Kashmir. God Bless the leadership of India and Pakistan on a job well done!!!" Trump said in a post on Truth Social.

His comments came hours after India and Pakistan on Saturday reached an understanding to stop all firings and military actions on



land, air and sea, with immediate effect.

"I am very proud of the strong and unwaveringly powerful leadership of India and Pakistan for having the strength, wisdom, and fortitude to fully know and understand that it was time to stop the current aggression that could have lead (led) to the death and destruction of so many, and so much," Trump said.

"Millions of good and innocent people could have died! Your legacy is greatly enhanced by your brave actions. I am proud that the USA was able to help you arrive at

this historic and heroic decision," Trump said.

He went on to say that even though this has not been discussed, he is going to "increase trade substantially with both of these great Nations." In Islamabad, Pakistan's Foreign Office Sunday said it appreciates President Trump's "willingness to support efforts aimed at the resolution of the Jammu and Kashmir dispute".

Trump on Saturday announced that India and Pakistan have agreed to a "full and immediate ceasefire" after a "long night" of talks.

Soon after Trump's announcement, Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri said that the directors general of military operations (DGMOs) of India and Pakistan have agreed to stop all firings and military action on land, air and sea with effect from 5 pm (IST) on Saturday.

Tensions between India and Pakistan soared after the Indian Armed Forces hit terror launchpads in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) last week in response to

the Pahalgam terror attack.

US Secretary of State Marco Rubio on Saturday said that over the past 48 hours, Vice President J D Vance and he engaged with senior Indian and Pakistani officials, "including Prime Ministers Narendra Modi and Shehbaz Sharif, External Affairs Minister Subrahmanyam Jaishankar, Chief of Army Staff Asim Munir, and National Security Advisors Ajit Doval and Asim Malik." "I am pleased to announce the Governments of India and Pakistan have agreed to an immediate ceasefire and to start talks on a broad set of issues at a neutral site," Rubio said.

Vance had also expressed gratitude to the leaders of India and Pakistan for their "hard work and willingness to engage in this ceasefire." "Great work from the President's team, especially Secretary Rubio. And my gratitude to the leaders of India and Pakistan for their hard work and willingness to engage in this ceasefire," Vance said in a post on X.

## Iran, US conclude 4th round of negotiations over Tehran's nuclear programme

AGENCIES  
DUBAI

Iran and the United States held a fourth round of negotiations Sunday over Tehran's rapidly advancing nuclear program, just ahead of a visit by President Donald Trump to the Middle East this week.

The talks ran for some three hours in Muscat, the capital of Oman, which has been mediating the negotiations, said a U.S. official. Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesperson Esmail Baghaei also said the talks took place that long and that a decision on the next round of talks is under discussion.

Baghaei called the talks "difficult but useful." The U.S. official, speaking on condition of anonymity to discuss the closed-door negotiations, offered a little bit more, describing them as being both



indirect and direct.

"Agreement was reached to move forward with the talks to continue working through technical elements," the U.S. official said. "We are encouraged by today's outcome and look forward to our next meeting, which will happen in the near future."

Iran insisted they only took place indirectly – possibly over internal political pressures within the Islamic Republic.

The talks seek to limit Iran's nuclear program in exchange for the lifting of some of the crushing economic sanctions the U.S. has imposed on the Is-

lamic Republic, closing in on half a century of enmity.

Trump has repeatedly threatened to unleash airstrikes targeting Iran's program if a deal isn't reached. Iranian officials increasingly warn that they could pursue a nuclear weapon with their stockpile of uranium enriched to near weapons-grade levels. Meanwhile, Israel has threatened to strike Iran's nuclear facilities on their own if it feels threatened, further complicating tensions in the Mideast already spiked by the Israel-Hamas war in the Gaza Strip.

Iranian state television announced the talks had begun. There was no immediate comment from the U.S. side.

The fourth round comes ahead of Trump's trip The talks again saw Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi and U.S. Mideast envoy Steve Witkoff lead the negotiations.

## Israeli strikes on Gaza kill 11 people, mostly women and children

AGENCIES

DEIR AL-BALAH, GAZA STRIP

Israeli strikes overnight and into Sunday killed 13 people in the Gaza Strip, mostly women and children, according to local health officials.

Two of the strikes hit tents in the southern city of Khan Younis, each killing two children and their parents, according to Nasser Hospital, which received the bodies. Another five people were killed in strikes elsewhere, according to hospitals.

The Israeli military says it only targets militants and tries to avoid harming civilians. It blames Hamas for civilian deaths in the 19-month-old war because the militants are embedded in densely populated areas. There was no immediate Israeli comment on the latest strikes.

Israel has sealed Gaza off from all imports, including food, medicine and emergency shelter, for over 10 weeks in what it says is a pressure tactic aimed at forcing Hamas to release hostages. Israel resumed its offensive in March, shattering a ceasefire that had facilitated the release of more than 30 hostages.

The U.N. and aid groups say food and other supplies are running low and hunger



Palestinians mourn their relatives who were killed in an overnight Israeli airstrike, at Nasser Hospital in Khan Younis, Gaza Strip.

AGENCIES

### Israeli foreign minister says country fully endorses US aid plan for Gaza

JERUSALEM: Israel's Foreign Minister Gideon Saar said Sunday that the country has fully endorsed US President Donald Trump's aid plan for Gaza, laid out by the American envoy to Israel.

Israel has blocked aid from entering the Palestinian territory since early March, a move aid groups say has led to severe shortages of food, clean water, fuel and medicine.

Despite fears of looming famine, Israel has denied a humanitarian crisis is unfolding in Gaza and said the blockade would place pressure on militant group Hamas, who sparked the war in Gaza with its October 7, 2023 attack on southern Israel.

"Israel fully endorses the Trump Administration's plan presented on Friday by US Ambassador to Israel, Mr. Mike Huckabee," Saar said at a press conference in Jerusalem with his German counterpart, Johann Wadephul. Saar commended the plan, saying that it would allow aid to reach civilians while directly bypassing Hamas, which he accused of stealing aid and using "it to feed its war machine".

is widespread.

Children carrying empty bottles raced after a water tanker in a devastated area of northern Gaza on Sunday. Residents of the built-up Shati refugee camp said the water was brought by a charity from elsewhere in Gaza. Without it, they rely on wells that are salty and often polluted.

"I am forced to drink salty water, I have no choice," said Mahmoud Radwan. "This causes intestinal disease, and there's no medicine to treat it."

COGAT, the Israeli military body in charge of Palestinian civilian affairs, says enough aid entered during a two-month ceasefire this year and that two of the three main water lines from Israel are still functioning. Aid groups say the humanitarian crisis is worse than at any time in the 19-month war.

U.S. President Donald Trump, whose administration has voiced full support for Israel's actions, is set to visit Saudi Arabia, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates this week in a regional tour that will not include Israel.

The war began when Hamas-led militants attacked southern Israel on Oct. 7, 2023, killing some 1,200 people, mostly civilians, and taking 251 hostage.

## US-China talks to defuse trade row resume in Geneva

AGENCIES  
GENEVA

Senior U.S. and Chinese officials met again on Sunday in Geneva, two sources familiar with the situation told Reuters, to resume weekend talks aimed at cooling the trade war that threatens to seriously damage the global economy.

Chinese Vice Premier He Lifeng met for about eight hours on Saturday with U.S. Treasury Secretary Scott

Bessent and U.S. Trade Representative Jamieson Greer in their first face-to-face meeting since the world's two largest economies imposed tariffs well above 100% on each other's goods.

Neither side commented on Saturday about the substance of the discussions nor signalled any specific progress towards reducing steep trade barriers as meetings at the residence of Switzerland's ambassador to the U.N. concluded.

But later, U.S. President Donald Trump gave a positive reading of the talks, saying the two sides had negotiated "a total reset ... in a friendly, but constructive, manner."

"A very good meeting today with China, in Switzerland. Many things discussed, much agreed to," Trump posted on his Truth Social platform.

Trump added: "We want to see, for the good of both China and the U.S., an open-

ing up of China to American business. GREAT PROGRESS MADE!!!" He did not elaborate on the progress.

The negotiating teams are meeting at the gated U.N. ambassador's villa, which has its own private park overlooking Lake Geneva in the leafy suburb of Coligny.

Switzerland was chosen as the location following approaches by Swiss politicians on recent visits to China and the United States.





The post included several warm moments of the couple, featuring Meghan and Harry cuddling and even sharing a kiss on the cheek.

The couple, who tied the knot in 2018, rarely share public displays of affection. However, the post offered fans a candid look at their chemistry and happiness.

One image showed Meghan dancing while wearing Harry's cowboy-style hat, a playful tribute to the concert's Western theme.



# WHISPERS OF THE HILLS: AN ENCHANTING ESCAPE AT NAUKUCHIA HOUSE

**SANJANA CHAWLA**  
NEW DELHI

Stepping into Naukuchia House felt less like arriving at a hotel and more like being embraced by the serene Kumaon hills themselves. From the moment I was greeted with the soulful resonance of the rose petals shower, a tradition beautifully revived, I knew this staycation was going to be something special. The two artisanal welcome brews, the Jamun & Betel Leaf Cold Brew and the Himalayan Malta & Sea Buckthorn Warm Brew, served on that elegant bronze tray with leaf-wrapped glasses, were a delightful and thoughtful introduction to the region's unique flavours.

My Premium Lake View Room was an absolute sanctuary. The tasteful décor, a harmonious blend of contemporary style and subtle nods to local craftsmanship, created an atmosphere of understated luxury. Waking up to the breathtaking vista of Naukuchiatal Lake shimmering through the large windows was a daily dose of pure tranquility. The attention to detail was evident everywhere, from the plush bedding to the well-appointed bathroom.

Dining at Ija, the all-day restaurant, was a culinary journey through the heart of Kumaon. Each dish felt like a story lovingly prepared, just as the press note described. The Kumaoni Thali was an explosion of authentic regional tastes, each component distinct and delicious. The Aloo Gutka and Gahat Ki Dal was a revelation – the slow-cooked curry exuded a comforting, home-cooked warmth. And the Vadi Ki Sabzi and Lahsooni Palak, so fresh and simply seasoned, allowed the natural flavour to shine. The promise of maternal, regional love infused in every dish truly resonated. The handcrafted cocktails at Ija, inspired by local botanicals, were just as inventive and refreshing. Besides the Kumaoni Thali, we also savoured their breakfast buffets, Chinese, Pan-Asian, and Mughlai cuisine – all of which resonated with the property's promise of luxury and comfort!

Beyond the exquisite food and comfortable rooms, it was the genuine warmth of the hospitality that truly stood out. Every member of the staff seemed genuinely invested in ensuring a memorable stay. From the seamless check-in to the helpful recommendations for local



excursions, their attentiveness was both professional and heartfelt. The tempera-

ture-controlled outdoor pool offered a refreshing escape with stunning views, and



the exclusive lake access truly sets Naukuchia House apart. And oh, how can I for-

get the Spa? I indulged into an authentic 45 minutes oil champi (head massage) and



I slept through it and how! All my tension just vanished with the first swipe of my masseuse and that was clearly one of the best spa experiences of my life.

Naukuchia House also offered a plethora of experiences designed to immerse guests in the natural beauty and cultural richness of the region. The Naukuchia Forest Bathing was a surprisingly profound experience, a tranquil walk amongst the towering trees that left me feeling utterly rejuvenated. The in-house experiences were equally engaging. Evenings were enchanting, with interesting stargazing sessions and the soothing

melodies of live flute music and DJ across all meals!

What makes Naukuchia House truly special is its ability to offer a luxurious escape without feeling detached from its surroundings. It's a place where you can savour authentic cuisine, immerse yourself in nature through thoughtfully curated experiences, and be enveloped in genuine hospitality. My staycation here was not just a break; it was a soulful journey into the heart of the Kumaon, leaving me refreshed, rejuvenated, and longing to return!

Do I recommend this haven for your next trip to Naukuchiatal? A total yes!

## A JOURNEY TO NIVRITI SUMMIT VIEW: TRANQUILLITY AT A BOUTIQUE HOMESTAY IN UTTARAKHAND

**AYUSHI ANAND**

It was the kind of morning that felt like a promise. The mist hung low in the valleys and the air, fresh and crisp, whispered of adventure. My destination was the Nivriti Summit View, but my journey didn't start with a grueling trek. It began at a humble homestay tucked away in the serene hills of Uttarakhand, a place where time slowed down and nature unfolded its quiet wonders.

Before booking the place, in a brief conversation with the owner, Randhir Brar, I asked him why the place called Nivriti Summit View? He said, "Nivriti means 'bliss' and that's what this place is about. Snow-capped mountains, peaceful and quiet surroundings, greenery, a slow-flowing river, amazing sunsets, relaxing around the clouds – makes it a perfect place to unwind, detox and enjoy a stress-free stay."

The homestay was perched at 5400 feet in the Almora district, surrounded by trees and snowcapped mountain views of the Himalayan Range. The scent of pine trees filled the air and the sound of birdsong was the only thing that accompanied the soft rustling of leaves. After a six-hour journey from New Delhi, we reached the homestay in the evening.

The chef and the caretaker of the property greeted everyone with the warmth of someone who had long ago embraced the simplicity of mountain life. Their families had lived here for generations and the homestay was more than just a place to stay; it was a window into the authentic life of the Kumaoni people.

After a warm meal of farhar dal, roti and aloo ki sabzi along with a locally made chutney that had just the



right amount of tang, we called it a night.

After gorging on burgers and relishing the piping hot tea, the chauffer shared the plan for the day. We decided to visit the Bhona Devi Temple – a temple which is 250 years old. The temple houses a Shivling, a pillar of Kaal Bhairavnath and the sacred hearth of Harju Devta.

As evening approached, the sky slowly turned shades of pink and orange, casting a golden hue over the mountains. I sat on the balcony, sipping a cup of chai and watched the sun sink behind

the peaks. In that moment, the world felt distant – distant from the noise, the rush, the chaos. Here, in the quiet hills, there was peace.

The next morning, after a hearty breakfast of 'Aloo Ke Paranthe' and a few sips of freshly brewed tea, we got ready to visit a hidden waterfall which was 25 km from the homestay. The path to reach the falls was steep but worth the effort to take a dip in the crystal-clear water of the pool.

According to the plan, our next stop was to have a picnic near the Ramganga River. The staff had quickly set up a table and chairs for us. Opening the tiffin box, the fragrance of pulao, paratha and sandwiches along with sodas and juices made us hungrier than we were. The rustling of leaves and flowing water were the only music we could hear for hours without a single soul around us.

By the time we reached the homestay, it became dark and the chauffeur had started to share the stories of leopard sightings in the area.

As we were gearing up to leave the place, I couldn't stop smiling thinking about my experience at the homestay. The views at Nivriti Summit View were breathtaking, yes, but it was the peaceful nights in the homestay, the quiet conversations with the family and the simple, unhurried pace of life that made this journey unforgettable.

### HOW TO REACH

By air: Pantnagar is the nearest airport, 140 km away.

By train: Kathgodam railway station is the closest, 100 km away.

Address: Nivriti Summit View, Jihar, Near – Basot, Bhikiyasen Distt Almora, Uttarakhand, Pin 263860 India



**NAMRATA KOHLI**

Heard of restored palaces? If you are a fan of heritage havelis and vintage vibes, then Rambha Palace in Odisha is just meant for you

Many of us born in the late 70s, early 80s were fed on narratives of history (books) which showcased our past as a series of defeats – one where we were constantly plundered, conquered and overpowered – sometimes by the Mughals, at other times by the British. The stories were more of conquest than valour, of plundering rather than pride, of regret than revival.

But today there are quite a few efforts being made to instill pride in our heritage, in our roots and culture. Going to Rambha Palace, a meticulously restored 18th-century heritage property, on the banks of Chilika Lake in Odisha was an exercise in diving deep into Oriya culture. The architectural nuances, lotus-petal motifs, terracotta installations, ikat weaves, Dhokra tribal metalwork – and even the authentic local Oriya thali with as many options in non-vegetarian (esp seafood) as vegetarian (saag sabzi, fermented curd rice, katha aachar) – all this offered an insight into the rich Odisha heritage.



The restoration of a 200-year-old palace property into a lakefront hotel was the dream of Himangini Singh, Co-founder of Hunch Ventures, New Delhi based venture capital fund. Hunch Ventures took over this property in 2018 after and then followed a six-year restoration project, led by Sri Lankan architect Channa Daswatte, a protégé of Geoffrey Bawa. It was inaugurated as a boutique hotel on Utkal Divas (Odisha Foundation Day held on April 1, 2024) by former chief minister Naveen Patnaik. Says Himangini Singh who spent her childhood in Odisha: "As a child, I would often come to Chilika Lake with my parents. It was pure nostalgia. In a beautiful way, it felt like life had come full circle. Through this ambitious revival project we are trying to breathe new life into a palace that once hosted the Utkal Conference, a landmark moment in Odisha's journey toward statehood. Rambha Palace is not just a luxury destination, it is a cultural beacon, a place for guests to immerse themselves in the rich heritage and vibrant traditions of Odisha."

The highlight of this property is an art installation which captures the 5,000-year history of the state on canvas with its myriad references to Kalinga war, Mahabharata. Painted by young emerging artist Guruvinayak Singh Budhwar, this installation took over 7,000 hours to create, spread across one



and half years including research and planning and daily studio work extended to nearly 13 hours. Explains Chandigarh based Budhwar: "The piece starts at the lower bottom corner, where history, myths, and folklore combine, with a representation of Prince Kalinga, son of Bali, blended with the reference of Srutayudha as per the Mahabharata. Behind him is a chair with mandala-like characteristics, rendered in the modern Jagannath art style and format." There are depictions of Hathigumpha Caves, Ashoka Stambh, Tribhuvana Mahadevi of the Bhaumakara Dynasty, one of the earliest female monarchs of antiquity, Lingaraja Temple, Narasingha Deva I, chariot of the Konark Temple, Dharani Penu etc.

A key aspect of any restoration project is retaining the old while bringing in the new – here too they have retained several things such as the original mandap, or the wall hand wrapping technique. Local artisans from the Sundarbans were instrumental in reviving



the palace's grandeur using authentic materials and age-old craftsmanship. "The walls at Rambha Palace are hand-rubbed with choona – a lime mortar mixed with spices like cinnamon and clove," says Mallika Ahluwalia, Chief Marketing Officer (CMO) Hunch Ventures. "We traced artisans all the way to a remote Sundarbans village to revive this traditional method. Initially hesitant, the tribal artisans agreed to come only after being assured of their safety. Their secret choona recipe, passed down through generations, remains closely guarded – even architects weren't allowed in on it."

The property is spread across five acres, and features a presidential villa and 14 restored suites with 18th-century furniture, Venetian chandeliers, Persian carpets, and original terrazzo floors. Guests can unwind with Ayurvedic therapies at the Mantnam Spa, bespoke yoga, and curated dining – from Odia to vegan and allergen-free menus – served in intimate indoor and scenic

outdoor spaces. Room tariffs range from Rs 25,000 to Rs 55,000 per night, including meals and personalized experiences like birdwatching, blackbuck and dolphin sightings. "It's a slow hotel," says Mallika Ahluwalia. "You come here to truly relax."

On the downside, Rambha Palace's remote location – a two-hour drive from Bhubaneswar airport – can feel isolating. Nestled in a small village with no nearby eateries, guests are left with no choice but to dine exclusively on the property. While the seclusion is marketed as a virtue, some may find the lack of flexibility limiting. The suites, though elegant, come without modern locking systems, relying on old-fashioned door bolts – an unsettling detail for urban travellers. Moreover, the 'silent service' approach, where staff enter your rooms without your permission and when you are exploring the property, may sometimes become awkward or intrusive especially for guests who value privacy over caring hospitality. Also, the tariffs are a bit too steep.

However, the one thing that truly sets Rambha Palace apart is its stunning lakefront location, perched on the banks of Asia's largest brackish water lagoon – Chilika Lake. The ever-changing moods of the lake, from misty mornings to flamingo-filled evenings, offer a rare, immersive connection with nature.



# CELEBRATING THE SUPREME VOICE OF WOMANHOOD: ATORIUM FOUNDATION PRESENTS CHITRANGADA – STREE KI SARVOCH DHAWANI

TDG NETWORK  
NEW DELHI

The Atorium Foundation is set to captivate audiences with its latest dance drama production, *Chitrangada – Stree Ki Sarvoch Dhawani*, a stirring retelling of Rabindranath Tagore's timeless work. Slated to be a landmark cultural event, the production brings to life the powerful journey of Chitrangada, the warrior princess of Manipur, through an evocative blend of movement, music, and storytelling.

Directed by Rahul Ray and choreographed by Nisha Ray, this original production is rooted in the epic *Mahabharata*, but its message feels strikingly contemporary. The performance features an ensemble of three classical, semi-classical and Indian creative dance forms—



*Kathak, Mayurbhanj Chhau, and the Uday Shankar dance style*—each interwoven to depict the emotional and spiritual evolution of Chitrangada. At its core, *Chitrangada* is a bold assertion of feminine strength, leadership, and identity—a resonant tribute to every woman who dares to defy societal expectations.

“Tagore's *Chitrangada* is a visionary celebration of a woman's right to self-determination and power,” said Rahul Ray, the director of



the production. “Through this rendition, we aim to honour her spirit—not just as a mythological figure,



but as a symbol of the enduring journey towards equality and freedom.” The Atorium Foundation, known for its commitment to using the arts as a catalyst for social change, views *Chitrangada* as more than a performance—it is a movement. By reinterpreting Tagore's masterpiece for today's audience, the Foundation hopes to ignite important conversations around gender empowerment and identity. The evening promises a

rich cultural experience: beginning with a ceremonial lighting of the lamp, welcoming of the Guest of Honour, and a special announcement introducing the dance production. Following the performance, artists will be felicitated with certificates of appreciation, honouring their contribution to this transformative artistic endeavour.

*Chitrangada – Stree Ki Sarvoch Dhawani* is not just a production; it is a celebration of the supreme voice of womanhood. Audiences are invited to witness a riveting tale that transcends time, inspiring a collective commitment towards a more just and compassionate society.

Stay tuned for an unforgettable evening where mythology meets modernity, and where art speaks the language of empowerment.

## Art for Oceans: French Institute in India launches ‘We Are The Ocean’ festival in Delhi

TDG NETWORK  
NEW DELHI

The French Institute in India has launched its month-long ocean-themed Festival of Ideas titled “We Are the Ocean” at Alliance Française de Delhi, running until May 25, 2025. Designed to raise awareness about ocean conservation, the festival offers a rich mix of interactive art, film screenings, panel discussions, VR experiences, and creative workshops.

The festival's centerpiece is an immersive exhibition that transforms the Roman Rolland Gallery into a deep-sea voyage. From Tidal Echoes and Floating Citiesto Plankton Ballet and The Mermaid Tears, artworks evoke the ocean's depth, beauty, and fragility. Visitors are also invited to interact with installations like “My Letter to UNOC” and an ocean drum experience in the outdoor patio.



A series of nine panel discussions, curated by Dakshin Foundation, explore ocean conservation through ecological, social, and political lenses across cities like Delhi, Chennai, Pondicherry, and Goa. Highlight events include a screening of “Against the Tide” followed by a panel on sustainable seafood and youth-led discussions calling for climate action.

Workshops such as Ocean Collage, Rime of the Ocean poetry writing, and SilaiWali upcycling add hands-on engagement for all ages.



Meanwhile, curated reading corners and poetry open mics enrich the cultural experience.

The festival supports the UN Decade of Ocean Science and paves the way to the Third United Nations Ocean Conference (UNOC3). It brings together artists, scientists, activists, and citizens in a collaborative call to action for our oceans.

As Damien Syed from the French Embassy states, “This is about reimagining how we relate to our oceans—through science, art, and collective action.”

## Mangalotsav - A musical tribute to Padma Vibhushan Dr. Vidushi Girija Devi

GIRIJA-DARSHAN TRUST  
NEW DELHI

Girija-Darshan Trust proudly presented Mangalotsav, a commemorative concert on 8th May 2025 at Stein Auditorium, India Habitat Centre, New Delhi, celebrating the 96th birth anniversary of Padma Vibhushan Dr. Vidushi Girija Devi. This special evening brought together some of India's finest classical musicians in a heartfelt tribute to one of the most revered figures in Hindustani Classical Music.

The concert honoured Girija Devi Ji's extraordinary legacy and raised awareness about her unmatched contributions to Indian classical music. Known as ‘Appa Ji’ to her disciples and admirers, she was a custodian of the Banaras gharana and a pioneer in elevating thumri, dadra, and other semi-classical forms to global recognition. The evening's performances were curated to reflect the depth and spirit of her music, especially for those who never had the chance to witness her live or learn from her directly.

The lineup featured a Jugalbandi (Vocal & Flute) by Vidushi Sunanda Sharma and Pt. Rupak Kulkarni and Hindustani Vocal by Padma Bhushan Pt. Sajan Misra and Shri Swaransh Misra. Accompanying artists included Pt. Mithilesh Kumar Jha (Tabla), Pt. Sumit Mishra (Harmonium), Pt. Vinod Lele (Tabla), and Pt.

Vinay Mishra (Harmonium).

Vidushi Sunanda Sharma, a foremost disciple of Girija Devi Ji and torchbearer of her musical tradition shared, “Appa Ji was not just my guru, she was my guiding force - musically and spiritually. Mangalotsav is more than a concert; it is my personal homage and a promise to carry forward her legacy with integrity and love.”

Pt. Sajan Misra, doyenne of the Banaras gharana added, “Girija Devi Ji was the soul of Banaras music. She brought the beauty of semi-classical forms to the forefront and inspired generations. This concert is our way of saluting that brilliance.”

Acclaimed flautist, Pt. Rupak Kulkarni said, “It is a rare honour to be part of a tribute to a legend like Girija Devi Ji. Her music had an emotional resonance that transcended technique. I hope the flute can echo even a fraction of that magic in this offering.”

Shri Swaransh Misra, a rising vocalist and son of Pt. Sajan Misra, noted, “Even though I never met Appa Ji, her music shaped my understanding of emotion in performance. Through this tribute, we hope to pass on her essence to the next generation.”

Mangalotsav is a collective expression of love, gratitude, and remembrance—an effort to keep alive the timeless voice and spirit of Girija Devi

Ji in the hearts of rasikas and students alike.

### ABOUT VIDUSHI SUNANDA SHARMA:

A leading vocalist of the Benaras Gharana, Vidushi Sunanda Sharma is the foremost disciple and torchbearer of Padma Vibhushan Dr. Vidushi Girija Devi's legacy. Trained in the Guru-Shishya Parampara for nine years under Girija Devi ji, Sunanda blends technical brilliance with emotional depth in her renditions of Khayal, Thumri, Dadra, Tappa, and Chaiti. With performances at prestigious festivals in India and across the world—including Paris, London, Norway, and South Africa—she is also a dedicated guru, having taught at SOAS and the Royal Academy of Music, London. Praised by her guru as the voice of her legacy, Sunanda continues to uphold and share the timeless beauty of Hindustani classical music.

### ABOUT PANDIT SAJAN MISRA

Pandit Sajan Misra, one half of the iconic duo Pandit Rajan-Sajan Misra, is a torchbearer of the great Maestros of Banaras lineage. Trained under Pandit Bade Ramdasji and the doyens of his family, Pandit Hanuman Prasad Misra and Pandit Gopal Misra, he embodies the rich spiritual and cultural heritage of the Banaras Gharana.

### ABOUT PANDIT RUPAK KULKARNI

Pandit Rupak Kulkarni, a distinguished flautist and disciple of Padma Vibhushan Pt. Hariprasad Chaurasia, is a leading exponent of the Maihar Gharana.

### ABOUT SWARANSH MISHRA

Swaransh Mishra represents the sixth generation of the 350-year-old Banaras Gharana. Trained by his father and uncle, Padmabhushan Pandit Rajan-Sajan Misra, he carries forward a deep-rooted classical music tradition. A multifaceted artist, he is also a songwriter, composer, and captivating orator.

## A celebration of legacy and grace: Guru Pranam Utsav 2025 organised by Vaishali Kala Kendra

TDG NETWORK  
NEW DELHI

Vaishali Kala Kendra recently celebrated the 37th edition of its annual Guru Pranam Utsav at the prestigious Triveni Kala Sangam, Mandi House, on the occasion of World Dance Day. The evening was a heartfelt tribute to the timeless beauty of Indian classical dance and the sacred Guru-shishya tradition.

The event was profoundly honoured by the presence of Padma Shri Guru Durga Charan Ranbir, whose blessings enriched the spiritual and artistic ambience of the celebration. His disciple, Guru Dr Jyoti Shrivastava, Founder and Director of Vaishali Kala Kendra, led the evening with deep reverence, reflecting her dedication to the Odissi tradition and the legacy of her Gurus.



The Utsav featured captivating Odissi performances by disciples of the Kendra, including Khyati Rawat, Kaori Naka, Sanvi Rastogi, Shruti Mishra, among others. The artistes presented both traditional and signature choreographies of the Deba Prasad Das Gharana, originally choreographed by Late Guru Shrinath Raut and Padma Shri Guru Durga Charan Ranbir. Highlights included timeless pieces like Oriya Geet Tolagi, Krishna Stuti Manglacharan, Saberi Pallavi,

Arabhi Pallavi, and Long Shayee. A special revival of the legendary composition “Suryastak”, crafted over two decades ago, mesmerized the audience and received high praise from Guruji himself.

Adding further depth to the celebration, Guru Kavita Thakur presented a soulful Kathak recital, while Sushri Gayatri Ranbir performed a moving Odissi solo, showcasing the diversity and richness of Indian classical dance. The evening was graced

by Uma Shankar Garg as Chief Guest, and Guru Vijay Shanker as Guest of Honour. Eminent personalities such as Padma Shri Ranjana Gauhar, Guru Sharon Lowen, and other stalwarts from the arts community added to the prestige of the gathering, creating a vibrant confluence of tradition, talent, and tribute.

The event concluded with a warm felicitation of Guruji and Guruma, marked by a symbolic showering of flowers by the performers—a gesture of reverence and celebration. In her Vote of Thanks, Guru Dr Jyoti Shrivastava emphasized the vital importance of preserving and promoting India's classical dance heritage and reaffirmed the enduring role of the Guru Parampara in shaping future generations of artists.

## Inward Bound: The art of Hemraj

TDG NETWORK  
NEW DELHI

In the expansive terrain of Indian contemporary art, where noise often drowns nuance, Hemraj emerges as a rare voice of restraint. Over three decades, his abstract canvases—vast, atmospheric, and deeply intuitive—have quietly carved out a territory where silence is not absence, but presence; not void, but vibration.

Born in Delhi in 1968, Hemraj grew up amid the churn of a rapidly changing India. His formative years at the College of Art, New Delhi, were steeped in a rigorous yet expansive education under some of India's finest artists. There, he absorbed the tenets of modernism while learning to resist its superficial dazzle. He completed his Master of Fine Arts in 1993, a year that also marked the beginning of national recognition with a Junior Fellowship from the Ministry of Human Resource Development and the Pandit Ravi Shankar Award.

But awards, for Hemraj, have always been markers, not milestones. From the outset, his journey has been less about ascent and more about inward excavation—an unfolding rather than a



is a form of prayer,” he has said. “It's where I confront myself, without distraction, without escape.”

Unlike narrative or representational art, Hemraj's visual vocabulary is non-verbal, even pre-verbal. It is a language constructed from quiet contrasts—between opacity and translucence, movement and stillness, weight and lightness. These are not pictures of the world, but experiences of being in it. His paintings do not explain. They reveal—gradually, subtly, like dusk folding into night.

What sets Hemraj apart is his refusal to decode his work for the viewer. He does not guide or instruct. Instead, he invites—gently—into a world where meaning is not imposed but intuited.

In a time when the art world often seems more concerned with spectacle than substance, Hemraj remains grounded. His 23 solo exhibitions, spread across India and abroad, have built a quiet but loyal audience—collectors, curators, and fellow artists who value depth over drama.

His works have entered prestigious platforms such as Bonhams in New York and Astaguru in India, and yet commercial success has never diverted him from his

path. Rather than adapting his vision to fit a market, Hemraj has made the market adapt to his vision—a rare and courageous stance in today's hyper-visible art economy.

Younger artists look to Hemraj not just for inspiration, but for assurance. In him, they see an artist who has not only survived but thrived by staying true to his internal compass. His story is not just about artistic excellence; it is about spiritual conviction—about choosing depth over dazzle, meaning over metrics.

Hemraj's contribution to Indian art is not one that shouts from rooftops—it lingers, like the aftertaste of something profound. His paintings remain open fields—undecided, untethered, alive. They do not end when the viewer steps away; they echo, like a bell rung deep in a temple.

In a world increasingly fragmented by speed and spectacle, Hemraj reminds us of the enduring value of slowness, solitude, and the courage to listen. He has not just painted pictures—he has created sanctuaries. And in doing so, he has become more than an artist; he has become a guide toward stillness in an age of constant motion.





DEEPIKA, SALUNKHE WIN BRONZE AT ARCHERY WORLD CUP STAGE 2

TDG NETWORK

NEW DELHI

Archer Deepika Kumari and Parth Salunkhe secured bronze medals, completing India's seven-medal haul at the Archery World Cup Stage 2 on Sunday. Deepika triumphed in the bronze medal contest against Korea's Kang Chaeyoung, an Olympic team gold medalist, with a 7-3 score. This achievement represented India's initial medal for the year in women's recurve and Deepika's 12th individual World Cup medal. She concluded with excellent final sets of 30 and 29 points to claim victory. As the sole non-Korean competitor in the women's recurve semifinals, Deepika prevented a Korean clean sweep by se-



curing bronze following her 1-7 defeat to Paris Olympic champion Lim Sihyeon in the semifinal.

U21 world champion Parth Salunkhe earned his

debut World Cup medal in men's recurve. He overcame Paris Olympic medallist Baptiste Addis from France 6-4 in a close bronze medal match. Earlier, in his semi-

final against South Korea's Kim Woo Jin, Parth recovered from a two-set deficit to equalise, but scored a 7 in the final shot, resulting in a 4-6 loss. During the

*U21 world champion Parth Salunkhe earned his debut World Cup medal in men's recurve.*

bronze contest, Parth entered the final set at 4-4 and demonstrated composure by scoring consecutive 10s to achieve victory. His success gave India consecutive medals in men's recurve, following Dhiraj's bronze at the Florida World Cup. These recurve bronze medals contributed to India's overall Shanghai World Cup performance of seven medals: 2 gold, 1 silver and 4 bronze.

India defeat Sri Lanka by 97 runs to win Women's Tri-Nation ODI Series

TDG NETWORK

COLOMBO

Vice-captain Smriti Mandhana scored a sublime 11th ODI century, while pacer Amanjot Kaur and spinner Sneh Rana shared seven wickets among them as India defeated Sri Lanka by 97 runs to clinch the Women's Tri-Nation ODI Series title on Sunday.



Mandhana's majestic 116 off 101 balls, laced with 15 fours and two sixes, and vital contributions from India's top and middle-order batters, especially Harleen Deol (47), Harmanpreet Kaur (41) and Jemimah Rodrigues (44), helped India post an imposing 342/7 in 50 overs.

In reply, Sri Lanka were dismissed for 245 runs in 48.2 overs with Amanjot returning figures of 3 for 54, while Rana took four wickets for 38 runs.

For Sri Lanka, captain Chamari Athapaththu (51) and Nilakshika Silva (48) were the highest run-getters. Both were dismissed by Rana. Brief Scores: India 342/7 in 50 overs (Smriti Mandhana 116, Harleen Deol 47, Jemimah Rodrigues 44, Harmanpreet Kaur 41; Sugandika Kumari 2/59, Dewmi Vihanga 2/69, Malki Madara 2/74).

'No decision has been taken yet': Rajeev Shukla

TDG NETWORK

ROME

Rajeev Shukla, Vice President of the Board of Control of Cricket in India (BCCI), said no final decision has been made yet regarding the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2025 restart.

Shukla stated that BCCI officials are actively working on the situation and assured that the tournament would be restarted soon.

"No decision has been taken yet. The BCCI officials are working on the situation. The tournament was suspended for a week, and yesterday there was a ceasefire....The tournament will be restarted soon," Shukla told reporters on Sunday.



On Friday afternoon, the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) announced its decision to suspend the remainder of the ongoing IPL 2025, with immediate effect, for one week due to escalating tensions between India and Pakistan.

The match between Punjab Kings and Delhi Capitals at the Himachal Pradesh Cricket Association (HPCA) Stadium in Dharamshala was called off midway through the first innings on Thursday. Spectators were informed of the cancellation and asked to

vacate the premises, while both teams were escorted back to their hotel.

In an official statement, BCCI secretary Devajit Saikia said, "The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) has decided to suspend the remainder of the ongoing IPL 2025 with immediate effect for one week. Further updates regarding the new schedule and venues of the tournament will be announced in due course after a comprehensive assessment of the situation in consultation with relevant authorities and stakeholders."

"The decision was taken by the IPL Governing Council after due consultation with all key stakeholders.

Kynan, Sabeera win Trap Mixed Team bronze

AGENCIES

NICOSIA

Olympian Kynan Chenai and Sabeera Haris won India a bronze in the Trap Mixed Team Olympic event, as the year's third International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) World Cup Shotgun stage reached its conclusion. Kynan and Sabeera defeated the Turkish pair of Tolga Tuncer and Pelin Kaya 34-33 in the bronze-medal match at the Cyprus Olympic Shooting range in Nicosia. China won gold while Polan won silver. The Indian pair finished



a commendable fourth among 34 teams in qualification, with a tally of 142 after 75 shots fired by each team member. Sabeera tallied 72 (23,25,24) while Kynan shot 70 (23,25,22).

The second Indian pair, that of Shardul Vihan and Kirti Gupta, shot 137 to finish 17th.

Kynan brought all his international experience to the bronze match however,

shooting down 23 out of his 25-targets, with the next best being Tolga's 17 for Turkey as the Indians got the result by one in the end to give the squad a first World Cup medal for the year.

China overturned their second-place finish in the qualifications to defeat Poland 42-39 in the gold medal match. The Neutral Athletes took the top spot in the standings with two out of the five golds on offer while China, Spain and Italy took the other three. 12 National Olympic Committees (NOCs) won medals out of the 54 participating.

Nirupama Devi finishes 4th in Asian Weightlifting C'ships

AGENCIES

JIANGSHAN

Two failed clean and jerk attempts cost Indian weightlifter Nirupama Devi a bronze medal as she finished fourth in the women's 64kg category at the Asian Championships here on Sunday.

The 24-year-old, an Asian Youth Weightlifting Championships medallist, managed 115kg in clean and jerk as she faltered in her attempts to heave 120kg and 125kg, adding to her 91kg snatch for a total of 206kg in the non-Olympic category.

A successful 125kg lift would have taken the Manipur lifter past South Korea's Mun Min-hee, the 2018 Asian Games medallist, who claimed bronze with a



*The 24-year-old, an Asian Youth Weightlifting Championships medallist, managed 115kg in clean and jerk as she faltered in her attempts to heave 120kg and 125kg, adding to her 91kg snatch for a total of 206kg in the non-Olympic category.*

total of 214kg (94kg+120kg) China's Li Shuang won the gold with an effort of 239kg (105kg+134kg) while Filipina lifter

Elreen Ann Ando clinched the silver for her 232kg (102kg+130kg) effort.

India has sent a two-member team to the Asian Championships, which most of the elite weightlifters are giving a miss Dilbag Singh will be competing in the men's 96kg event on Tuesday.

Saptak Talwar slips to T-48 on Hotel Planner Tour

TDG NETWORK

GIRONA

Saptak Talwar had a none-too-good 2-over 73 and slipped down the leaderboard in the third round of the Challenge de Espana at Fontanals Golf Club. Lying T-11 after the second round with 69-66, he shot 73 and at 5-under, he was T-48th with one round to go.

Talwar, playing his first full season on the Hotel-Planner Tour, had three bogeys and one birdie after starting on the 10th. Clement Charmasson will take a one-stroke lead into the final day of the Challenge de Espana at Fontanals Golf Club, as he closes in on securing a maiden Hotel Planner Tour title.

Indian men's and mixed 4x400m teams fail to qualify for World Athletics Relays

AGENCIES

GUANGZHOU

The Indian men's team as well as the mixed 4x400m team failed to qualify for the finals in their respective events at the ongoing World Athletics Relays 2025 in Guangzhou, China on Saturday, according to Olympics.com.

Both teams finished fifth in their respective heats, missing out on a chance to secure early qualification for the World Athletics Championships 2025, set to be held in Tokyo this September.

On the opening day, quotas were on offer to the top two teams in each



heat in every relay event (except the 4x100m). The two teams also made the finals and will race for World Championships lane seeding and medals on Sunday.

The Indian mixed team of Jay Kumar, Sneha Koleri, Dharmveer Choudhary and Rupal clocked 3:16.85 in Heat 3. Great Britain & Northern Ire-

land (3:13.28) and South Africa (3:13.79) were the top two in the group.

Overall, the Indian mixed team placed 15th among 21 teams. The United States posted a world-leading time of 3:11.37 in Heat 2 to clock the best time across heats.

India's national record in the mixed 4x400m team event is 3:12.87s set

at the National Inter-State Athletics Championships 2024 in Panchkula.

The men's team of Santhosh Kumar Tamilarasan, Manu Thekkinalil Saji, Vishal Thennarasu Kayalvizhi and Mohit Kumar, meanwhile, recorded a time of 3:03.92 in Heat 4.

France (3:00.30) and Kenya (3:00.88) secured qualification from the heat, while India finished 15th overall among all heats.

South Africa topped the overall standings with a time of 3:00.00. India's national record in the men's 4x400m is 2:59.05, clocked at the World Athletics Championships 2023 in Budapest.

Anahat Singh storms into second round of World Squash Championships

AGENCIES

CHICAGO

India's Anahat Singh advanced into the second round of the ongoing World Squash Championships 2024-2025 as she upsetted USA's world No. 28 Marina Stefanoni 3-2 (10-12, 11-9, 6-11, 11-6, 11-6) on Friday.

Making her debut in the singles World Squash Championships, Anahat, the current India No. 1, was trailing Stefanoni 2-1 before turning the tables in spectacular fashion to take the win after a 51-minute-long battle.

"We had really long rallies, and she's a great player. I've seen her play in the last few tournaments, she's been



playing really well and she's broken into the top 30 so I knew today it was going to be a battle. It was really tiring and I'm exhausted and I'm really happy I was able to get through it," Anahat said as quoted by Olympics.com.

The Indian squash prod-

igy will be in for a tougher challenge against world No. 15 Fayrouz Aboelkheir of Egypt in the second round.

A win in the contest could pit her against the world No. 1 and reigning champion Nouran Gohar, another Egyptian, in the pre-quarterfinals.

World number one Sinner makes return to competition with win over Navone

TDG NETWORK

ROME

The world number one tennis star Jannik Sinner made his return to the tennis court after serving his suspension, kickstarting his Italian Open campaign with a win over Mariano Navone.

On Saturday night, he beat Navone in two sets by 6-3, 6-4. Sinner lost some momentum in the second set, but recovered quickly, sealing the match in 38 minutes at the ATP Masters 1000 event in Rome.

This continues Sinner's win streak, as he extended it to 22 matches. He has not

lost his match since his win over Carlos Alcaraz in the China Open last year, as per Olympics.com.

The three-time Grand Slam winner completed his three-month suspension, after having a settlement with World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) over his two positive doping tests in 2024.

"It's an amazing feeling," said Sinner as quoted by ATP's official website.

"I waited quite long for this moment. I am very happy to be back. It is very difficult to have the right feedback when you do not have any matches, and that is exactly what I need.

