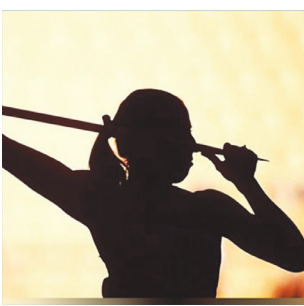




2
URI: RESIDENTS ALONG BORDER CAN RETURN POST UNEXPLODED SHELLS' DISPOSAL



11
CEASEFIRE FALLOUT: WHEN DIPLOMACY MEETS DIGITAL HATE



16
KARISHMA SANIL WINS JAVELIN THROW TITLE AT UAE ATHLETICS WOMEN'S GALA

PM MODI LAYS DOWN NEW DOCTRINE ON COUNTER TERROR

Warning Pakistan fight is far from over, PM Modi said every inch of land where terror is bred remains within India's reach

ABHINANDAN MISHRA
NEW DELHI

In a firm and emotionally charged address to the nation on Monday night, Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid out India's renewed and uncompromising doctrine on terrorism, declaring the sweeping success of Operation Sindoor. The mission, he said, was not just a military victory but a tribute to the country's enduring strength—especially the strength of its women.

“For too long, Pakistan has exported terrorism while wearing the mask of victimhood. Today, that mask has been ripped apart,” the Prime Minister said.

Speaking after a pause in military operations, Modi made it clear that India's ac-

PM SPELLS OUT NEW DOCTRINE

- First, if there is a terrorist attack on India, a fitting reply will be given.
- A befitting response will be given on India's terms only. India will take strict action at every place from where the roots of terrorism emerge.
- Era of nuclear blackmail is over. India's resolve is stronger than any threat
- Modi also said we will not differentiate



between the government sponsoring terrorism and the masterminds of terrorism.

■ Today the world is

witnessing that in 21st century warfare the time has come for Made in India defence equipment and technology.

not just about eliminating terror—it is about honouring the pain of those mothers,

sisters, and daughters who watched their loved ones butchered in cold blood.”

He did not mince words. “Pakistan tried to wipe the sindoor from the foreheads of Indian women. We have uprooted the very foundations of their terror factories.” Taking that thought further, he declared, “Today, every terrorist and every terror organization has realized the consequences of trying to wipe the Sindoor from the foreheads of our sisters and daughters.”

Referring to the campaign as a moral commitment, Modi said, “Operation Sindoor is an unbreakable pledge to justice.” He added, “The terrorists tried to destroy the sindoor of our women... so India destroyed the headquarters of their terror.”

Modi didn't just talk of the

■ P3

Our fight was against terrorists, Pakistan widened conflict: India

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI

India on Monday said all its military bases and systems continue to remain fully operational and ready to undertake any mission if the need arises.

At a press briefing here, Director General of Air Operations, IAF, Air Marshal AK Bharti said

India's robust air defence system effectively thwarted Pakistani attempts to target Indian installations.

Another highlight was stellar performance of indigenous air defence weapons like Akash system, he said. The Integrated Air Command and Control system thwarted Pakistan's military offensives.

“Our fight was against terror infrastructure and terrorists but the Pakistan military chose to support terrorists and widened the conflict,” the top IAF officer



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

said.

The Indian Army said earlier this morning, “The night remained largely peaceful across Jammu and Kashmir and other areas along the International Border”.

“No incidents have been reported, marking the first calm night in recent days,” it said in a statement.

India launched Operation Sindoor on early May 7 to destroy nine terror infra-

structures in Pakistan and Pakistan-Occupied-Kashmir in retaliation to the Pahalgam terror attack.

All subsequent retaliations to Pakistani offensives were carried out under 'Operation Sindoor'.

India and Pakistan on Saturday last announced reaching an understanding to stop all firings and military actions on land, air and sea, with effect from 5 pm that day.

Blackout again in Amritsar, IndiGo flight sent back to Delhi midway

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

Even as ceasefire understanding was reached between India and Pakistan, an IndiGo flight from Delhi to Amritsar was diverted back to the national capital midway after a blackout was enforced in the city.

Precautionary blackout measures were enforced in Punjab's Amritsar and Hoshiarpur districts on Monday. Electricity has also been switched off in some areas of Jalandhar, officials said.

The sources said the flight had to return as the Amritsar airport was closed due to the precautionary blackout.

“As a precautionary measure, lights have been switched off in some areas around Suranassi as there have been reports of drone sightings. We are verifying them. There is no (total)

■ P3

India, Pak DGMOs hold crucial talks

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI

The Director Generals of Military Operations (DGMOs) of India and Pakistan on Monday deliberated on various aspects of the May 10 understanding reached between the two sides on cessation of hostilities.

The talks over the hotline were previously scheduled at 12 noon. However, they started at around 5 PM.

India and Pakistan have agreed that both sides will



Army personnel sanitise the emergency runway on the Srinagar-Jammu National Highway in Anantnag district. ANI

not engage in any aggressive action and no shots will be fired, said the Indian Army after the military operations chiefs of the two countries spoke on a hotline for the first time since the ceasefire.

The understanding on cessation of hostilities was announced following talks between the two DGMOs on Saturday.

Though there were cases of violation of the understanding by the Pakistani

■ P3

Maintaining regular surveillance to neutralise threats: Vice Admiral

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

With the air defence systems deployed by India standing the test of time in the face of aggression launched by Pakistan, Director General Naval Operations, Vice Admiral AN Pramod, said on Monday that the Indian Navy is maintaining continuous surveillance to degrade or neutralise threats as they emerge.



The presence of the carrier battle group ensured that the adversary did not get any chance to come close.

Addressing a joint press conference on Operation Sindoor, Vice Admiral Pramod said that India has an effective, layered fleet air defence mechanism that caters to all threats.

“Effectively using multiple sensors and inputs, we are maintaining continuous surveillance to degrade or neutralise threats as they emerge or manifest to ensure targeting at extended ranges. All

■ P3

After Congress, CPM urges to convene special session

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

CPI(M) general secretary MA Baby on Monday urged Prime Minister Narendra Modi to call a special session of Parliament in light of recent developments, and requested his “personal participation” in clarifying the government's position.

The CPI(M) joins a raft of opposition parties, including the Congress, in calling

for a special session of Parliament in the wake of recent developments.

In a letter addressed to the prime minister, Baby said he was writing in light of recent developments concerning the “de-escalation of tensions and the announcement of a ceasefire” between India and Pakistan.

He said, “This announcement has brought a sense of relief to all sections of our

■ P3

Tariff truce for 90 days: US cuts by 30%, China to tax 10%

TDG NETWORK
WASHINGTON

The US and China have arrived at an agreement that they will withdraw their previously announced reciprocal tariffs and counter tariffs for an initial period of 90 days.

In the meantime, China will impose 10 per cent tariffs on US goods, and the US will tax Chinese goods at about 30 per cent.

The understanding was arrived at recognising the importance of their bilateral economic and trade re-

lationship to both countries and the global economy, as per a joint statement on Monday.

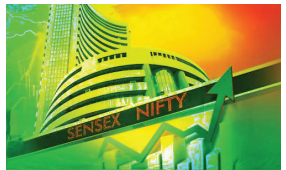
Both countries recognised the importance of a sustainable, long-term, and mutually beneficial economic and trade relationship.

Both countries reflected on their recent discussions and believed that continued discussions have the potential to address each side's concerns in their economic and trade relationship.

Going ahead, the two countries will establish a

■ P3

Sensex soars 3,000 points



NEW DELHI: Indian stock indices soared through the roof on Monday, supported by the news that the conflict between India and Pakistan has de-escalated after the two Armed forces reached an understanding.

DETAILS ■ P7

Missile debris, bomb found as border search continues

TARUNI GANDHI
CHANDIGARH

Following the ceasefire agreement between India and Pakistan, security forces have intensified search operations in the border regions. During one such operation, fragments of a missile were discovered near Chuharwali on Adampur Road in Jalandhar, inside the office of Markfed. Additionally, a shell was recovered and safely destroyed by the security personnel.

In another development, a school clerk in Khanna has



Indian Army Bomb Squad personnel at the site to destroy an active mortar shell of Pakistan that was found after the recent ceasefire violation, in Rajouri on Monday. ANI

been arrested for sharing an anti-army video. The video, originating from a Pakistani channel, contained content

defaming the Indian Army. The arrested individual, Satwant Singh, who works

■ P3

Virat bids adieu to Tests, leaves behind incredible legacy

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

India's star batsman Virat Kohli announced his retirement from Test cricket on Monday, marking an end to an illustrious 14-year-old career which saw him dominate a variety of conditions, regions, and opponents in whites, both as a batter and captain.

Kohli took to his Instagram handle and announced his decision to re-

tire from the longest format of the game.

“It's been 14 years since I first wore the baggy blue in Test cricket. Honestly, I never imagined the journey this format would take me on. It's tested me, shaped me, and taught me lessons I'll carry for life. There's something deeply personal about playing in whites. The quiet grind, the long days, the small moments that no one sees but that stay with you forever,” Kohli wrote on



Instagram.

“As I step away from this format, it's not easy -- but it feels right. I've given it everything I had, and it's given me back so much more than I could've hoped for. I'm walking away with a heart full of gratitude -- for the game, for the people I shared the field with, and for every single person who made me feel seen along the way. I'll always look back at my Test career with a smile.

DETAILS ■ P16

URI: RESIDENTS OF BORDER CAN RETURN POST UNEXPLODED SHELLS' DISPOSAL

AJAY JANDYAL
SRINAGAR

Authorities have cleared the way for residents of six border villages in the Uri sector of Baramulla district to return to their homes following the successful disposal of unexploded ordnances (UXOs) after recent cross-border shelling.

Police confirmed that at least 20 unexploded shells had been reported across 17 locations in the district. Seven of these UXOs were safely located and disposed of in the villages of Kamalkote, Madhan, Gowhalan, Salamabad (Bijhama), Gangerhill, and Gawalta, all situated in the Uri sector.

Following the clearance operation, the district administration allowed evacuees from these six villages to return to their homes. However, authorities cautioned that there may still be other unexploded ord-

KEY POINTS

- 20 unexploded shells were reported across 17 locations in Baramulla district.
- Seven UXOs safely disposed of in Kamalkote, Madhan, and other villages.
- Evacuated residents from six villages allowed to return after clearance.
- Authorities warned of undetected UXOs still posing risks.
- Precautions urged: avoid touching suspicious objects and report to authorities.
- Public advisory issued to avoid areas with suspected UXOs.
- Police caution against unauthorized access to risky zones.



nances in the area that have not yet been detected.

"These UXOs pose a critical risk to life and property. For the safety and wellbeing of all citizens, all are hereby advised to observe the mandatory precautions," police stated. Residents were urged not to touch or tamper with any

suspicious objects and to report them immediately to local authorities or security forces.

In addition, the police issued a strong advisory urging the public to avoid areas where UXOs are suspected and warned against unauthorized access to such zones, as mis-

handling of these unstable devices could result in fatal consequences.

On Sunday, as the ceasefire between India and Pakistan took effect, the Jammu and Kashmir Police had advised people not to return to the border villages due to the danger posed by the unexploded shells.

Those who left their homes can return now: J&K CM

AGENCIES
POONCH/JAMMU

Asserting that the recent Pakistani shelling in Jammu and Kashmir created a "war-like situation", with Poonch district bearing the brunt of the attack, con Monday said those who had left their homes can return as a military understanding between the two countries is in place now.

Abdullah also dismissed the Pakistani military's ongoing propaganda, saying the neighbouring country will continue to push it, but the reality is known to the world.

"They (border residents) should now try to return to their homes. Eighty to 90 per cent of Poonch town is vacant. They had left their homes when shelling was taking place. Now that the shelling has stopped, they can return to their homes,"



Abdullah told reporters here.

Accompanied by his cabinet colleague Javed Rana, Advisor Nasir Aslam Wani and MLA Aijaz Jan, the chief minister on Monday reached out to those affected by the Pakistani shelling in the Poonch and Surankote areas, and emphasised the need for setting up bunkers in the region.

Abdullah, who was also accompanied by his sons Zamir and Zahir, described the recent escalation along the Line of Control (LoC) as a "war-like" situation, with

Poonch district suffering the heaviest shelling.

"For the last three-four days, there was a kind of war-like atmosphere in Jammu and Kashmir. Among all the areas that faced the brunt of the cross-border shelling, Poonch was the worst affected," he said. The National Conference (NC) leader said this is the first time that shells have fallen right in the middle of towns and heavy bombardment has taken place. "We have lost 13 precious lives. My purpose for coming here today is, at the very least, to reach those homes where this tragedy occurred," he said.

Abdullah met with members of the local civil society and commended the people of Poonch for maintaining communal harmony in the face of adversity. "Despite the difficult circumstances, they upheld the legacy of

unity among Hindus, Muslims and Sikhs," he said.

Replying to a question on the indiscriminate nature of the shelling, the chief minister clarified that religious places were not specifically targeted, but areas near madrassas, temples, dargahs and gurdwaras were hit. "Their firing was random and reckless," he said. Abdullah emphasised the need for preparedness to prevent future casualties. "If such a situation arises again, we must ensure that such loss of lives does not happen. We have received several constructive suggestions from the civil society and we will begin working on their implementation," the chief minister said.

Replying to a question on Pakistan's motives, he said, "I do not have a magic wand to read their intentions.

NCW condemns online abuse against FS Vikram Misri, his family

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

The National Commission for Women (NCW) on Monday strongly condemned the online abuse directed at Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri and his family, particularly his daughter, following the recent announcement of India-Pakistan understanding of the cessation of hostilities.

In a statement issued, NCW Chairperson Vijaya Rahatkar described the sharing of the Foreign Secretary's daughter's personal contact details as "deeply irresponsible" and a "serious breach of privacy" that endangers their safety.

"The National Commission for Women strongly condemns the reprehensible online abuse directed against the family of Shri Vikram Misri, Foreign Secretary of India, particularly his daughter. Sharing personal contact details of the Foreign Secretary's daughter is deeply irresponsible.



NCW Chairperson described the sharing of the Foreign Secretary's daughter's personal contact details as "deeply irresponsible" and a "serious breach of privacy" that endangers their safety.

It is a serious breach of privacy, which puts her safety at risk," the statement read.

She further emphasised that such personal attacks on the family of India's "senior-most civil servant" are "not only unacceptable but also morally indefensible."

The NCW's statement comes in the wake of India and Pakistan reaching an understanding on May

10 to halt all military actions, following a period of heightened tensions after India's 'Operation Sindoor' on May 7, which targeted terror camps in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK). Misri, who has been at the forefront of diplomatic efforts and government announcements on the updates related to the operation, has been facing

online trolling, due to which he has also locked his X account from public view.

Rahatkar urged the public to maintain decency, civility, and restraint and called for a collective effort to rise above such behaviour

"Such personal attacks on family members of the senior-most civil servant of the country, like Shri Misri, are not only unacceptable but also morally indefensible. We urge all to maintain decency, civility and restrained behaviour. Let us rise above this," the statement added.

Earlier on Sunday, Congress MP Gaurav Gogoi also said expressed support for Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri, stating that the diplomat has "only conveyed the message that the political leadership of India has taken." "Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri has done his duty impeccably. There is absolutely no reason for anyone to feel malice towards him.

'We have not hit Kirana Hills': IAF

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

The Indian Air Force (IAF) on Monday categorically denied rumors circulating on social media that it had targeted Pakistan's Kirana Hills, a location often speculated to host a nuclear facility. Addressing the media during a briefing on Operation Sindoor, Director General of Air Operations, Air Marshal AK Bharti, dismissed the claims, stating, "We have not hit Kirana Hills, whatever is there." He clarified that the rumors lacked any factual basis and were not reflective of the actual targets chosen in the recent counter-offensive operations. The speculation emerged after reports surfaced suggesting that India's recent airstrikes had struck an airbase in Sargodha, Pakistan. Some unverified sources linked this airbase to the Kirana Hills region, believed by some analysts to house an underground nuclear storage site.

Body of BSF officer killed in Pak firing arrives in Patna

AGENCIES
PATNA

Imran Raza stood quietly at Patna airport on Monday as he received the mortal remains of his father, BSF sub-inspector Mohammed Imtiaz, who was killed in Pakistani firing along the international border in Jammu and Kashmir's RS Pura sector.

"I am proud of my father and salute all those who sacrificed their lives for the country," Imran told reporters at the airport.

"My father was a very strong person. I last spoke to him at 5:30 am on May 10 (Saturday). He had suffered an injury to his right leg," he said. Sub-inspector Imtiaz succumbed to his injuries later that evening.

After a guard of honour by security personnel and a wreath-laying ceremony at the airport, the body was taken to his village Narayanpur in Saran district.

His final rites will be performed with full state hon-



"I am proud of my father and salute all those who sacrificed their lives for the country," Imran told reporters at the airport.

ours later in the day.

Several political leaders and officials were present at the airport to pay their respects, including Leader of Opposition in the Bihar Assembly Tejashwi Yadav, state BJP president Dilip Jaiswal, ministers and senior administrative officers.

Imran demanded that Pakistan be taught a proper lesson for the terror attacks in India.

"Pakistan must be taught a proper lesson. Our government should give such a befitting reply that no son has to lose his father again,"

he said.

Interacting with reporters at the airport, Yadav said, "Sub-inspector Imtiaz was killed while giving a befitting reply to Pakistan at the international border in Jammu and Kashmir's RS Pura sector. We are safe today because of brave people like him. The country will always remember their sacrifice".

State Rural Development Minister Shravan Kumar said, "Mohammed Imtiaz's sacrifice did not go in vain... Our brave soldiers have avenged his sacrifice".

PIB debunks Pakistan's claims of damaging Indian airbases, calls it 'misleading'

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

The Press Information Bureau's (PIB) fact-check unit on Monday debunked claims that Pakistan destroyed Indian air bases, stating that such reports as "misleading and false."

In a recent media briefing, Pakistan's Director General of Inter-Services Public Relations (DG ISPR) cited an Indian news channel, alleging damage to an Indian airbase. However, the PIB revealed that the video had been deliberately edited to mislead viewers.

"Pakistani military in its briefing has shown a video clip aired on @IndiaTV News Channel, implying that Indian channels have admitted to destruction of Indian airbases. This is an attempt by #Pakistan to mislead its own people by editing and cleverly stitching multiple chunks of a larger video. The actual story



in the full video says that the attacks were all intercepted, and it shows footage of a Pakistani missile that was shot down," PIB stated in a post on X.

Additionally, PIB's fact-check unit has also dismissed rumours of an artillery exchange along the Line of Control (LoC), calling them baseless.

"These claims are false. Rumours are being spread to create panic!" PIB clarified in another X post.

In a recent media briefing, Pakistan's Director General of Inter-Services Public Relations (DG ISPR) cited an Indian news channel, alleging damage to an Indian airbase.

Meanwhile, Operation Sindoor was launched by the Indian Armed Forces in the early hours of May 7, targeting nine terror sites in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir (PoK).

This operation was a retaliatory response to the April 22 terror attack in Pahalgam, Jammu and Kashmir, in which 26 civilians, including one Nepali national, were killed.



Union Minister of Minority Affairs Kiren Rijju and Union Minister of Culture Gajendra Singh Shekhawat pose for a picture with monks during an event on the occasion of Buddha Purnima, at the National Museum in New Delhi on Monday. (ANI Photo)

Bodhisattva from 2nd Century CE, the standing Buddha from the 5th Cen-

tury CE from Sarnath and the Buddha in meditation pose from the 3rd Century

CE from Kushan Dyanasty.

Later, Kiren Rijju, while speaking to the media, mentioned that India, as the birthplace of the Buddha's teachings, takes immense pride in sharing his message of peace, compassion, and harmony with the world. As nations unite in celebration, this occasion is of the universal significance of Buddhist philosophy, guiding humanity toward truth and inner peace. At this

critical juncture of various socio-political conflicts, the teachings of the Buddha are more relevant than ever, offering solutions to global challenges through principles of non-violence, understanding, and mindfulness, he added.

Union Minister Rijju reiterated the words of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who, in his address at the United Nations, emphasised that the path to truth and lasting peace lies in

following the teachings of the Buddha. The essence of Buddha Dhamma continues to be embraced and shared, ensuring that its wisdom reaches every corner of the world, fostering a future grounded in compassion, unity, and peace. With this thought, he extended his heartfelt wishes to all. Buddha Purnima marks the birth of Gautam Buddha, the founder of Buddhism. It is also known as Vesak.

SC ORDERS PROBE INTO ALLEGED MINING-LINKED EMBANKMENT ON YAMUNA

NEERAJ MOHAN
CHANDIGARH

The Supreme Court has directed the Central Empowered Committee (CEC) to investigate the allegations that an embankment has been constructed on the Yamuna River near the Kalesar Wildlife Sanctuary in Haryana's Yamunanagar district to facilitate rampant and potentially illegal mining operations. The court's directive follows a plea raising environmental concerns over the alleged diversion of the river's natural flow from Haryana to Uttar Pradesh.

Hearing the matter the double judge bench comprising Justice B R Gavai and Justice Augustine George Masih stated that the issue merited a detailed and independent inquiry by the CEC. The order was issued in response to a petition filed by environmental advocate Gaurav Kumar Bansal. According to the petitioner the embankment near Kalesar had altered the Yamuna's natural course, resulting in a significant diversion of the river's flow away from Haryana. He argued that this change was orchestrated to enable unregulated mining in the

area, potentially threatening the ecological balance of the region and the protected sanctuary. Therefore, it would be appropriate that the Central Empowered Committee (CEC) examines the issues and submit its report, the bench observed in its order. The apex court has instructed the petitioner to provide copies of the plea to the legal representatives of both Haryana and Uttar Pradesh, allowing the two state governments to submit their responses to the allegations. The case has been listed for further hearing in the last week of May. The Kalesar Wildlife Sanc-

tuary, located in the eastern part of Haryana's Yamunanagar district at the foothills of the Shivalik range, is a biodiversity-rich area home to numerous species of flora and fauna. It is ecologically sensitive, and any disruption to the Yamuna River's flow in this region could have severe environmental implications. The CEC, constituted by the Supreme Court in May 2002, is tasked with overseeing the enforcement of the court's environmental directives, including those related to forest conservation, afforestation, encroachment removal, and wildlife protection.

Haryana CM vows to make Yamuna pollution-free

CHANDIGARH: Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini has issued special directions to officials to ensure that no untreated or contaminated water is discharged into the river. Chairing a high-level review meeting with senior officials, the Chief Minister emphasized the urgent need to curb industrial pollution and promote sustainable water management practices across the state. During the meeting the chief minister directed

that in areas where industrial waste is currently being released into the river, the establishment of Common Effluent Treatment Plants (CETPs) should be expedited without delay. He instructed departments to prepare comprehensive project proposals for the installation of CETPs in all relevant urban centers. Further promoting eco-friendly water reuse, the Chief Minister called for a dedicated mechanism to use the treated water from

CETPs for irrigation purposes. "This will not only prevent pollution but also support agriculture by providing an additional water source," he said. In preparation for the monsoon season, Saini also instructed officials to clean and strengthen all water harvesting and groundwater recharge structures to maximize rainwater storage and improve groundwater levels. He stressed that proper upkeep of these structures was crucial for long-

term water security. During the meeting, officials informed the Chief Minister that the Haryana State Drought Relief and Flood Control Board had approved 209 short-term projects worth Rs 282 crore of these, work is already underway on 103 projects, while the remaining are in different phases of approval. It was also reported that the cleaning of all drains across the state will be completed by June 30.

32 airports to resume ops, Air India flights in routes affected

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

Airports Authority of India (AAI) on Monday announced that civilian flight operations will resume at 32 airports that were temporarily shut last week in view of the military stand-off between India and Pakistan. Air India on Monday announced that it is working towards commencing flights to and from Jammu, Srinagar, Leh, Jodhpur, Amritsar, Bhuj, Jamnagar, Chandigarh and Rajkot. We appreciate your understanding at this time as our teams work on bringing operations at these airports back to normal. Please stay tuned for further updates," Air India said. In a statement on Monday, state-owned AAI said the 32 airports that were closed for civilian aircraft operations till 0529 hours of May 15 are now available for operations with immediate effect.

back to normal. "Following a notification from aviation authorities on the reopening of airports, Air India is working towards progressively commencing flights to and from Jammu, Srinagar, Leh, Jodhpur, Amritsar, Bhuj, Jamnagar, Chandigarh and Rajkot. We appreciate your understanding at this time as our teams work on bringing operations at these airports back to normal. Please stay tuned for further updates," Air India said. In a statement on Monday, state-owned AAI said the 32 airports that were closed for civilian aircraft operations till 0529 hours of May 15 are now available for operations with immediate effect.



A monk covers a statue of Lord Buddha with an umbrella amid rains, on Buddha Purnima, in Agartala. ANI

Tariff truce for 90 days: US cuts by 30%,...

CONTINUED FROM P1

mechanism to continue discussions about economic and trade relations. The representative from the Chinese side for these discussions will be He Lifeng, Vice Premier of the State Council, and the representatives from the US side will be Scott Bessent, Secretary of the Treasury, and Jamieson Greer, United States Trade Representative. "These discussions may be conducted alternately in China and the United States, or a third country upon agreement of the Parties. As required, the two sides may conduct working-level consultations on relevant economic and trade issues," the joint statement added. US President Donald

Trump had imposed reciprocal tariffs on dozens of countries with which the US has a trade deficit. Later, President Trump decided to pause the tariffs for 90 days after many countries initiated talks with the US administration for a trade deal. In these 90 days starting April 9, President Trump imposes a 10 per cent baseline tariff on all countries. For China, Trump had indicated that the tariffs may go up to as high as 245 per cent. For the US, Chinese tariffs were at 125 per cent. Since assuming office for his second term, President Trump has reiterated his stance on tariff reciprocity, emphasising that the United States will match tariffs imposed by other countries, including India, to ensure fair trade.

India Pak DGMOs hold talks

CONTINUED FROM P1

military on Saturday night, there were no such incidents on Sunday night. "The night remained largely peaceful across Jammu & Kashmir and other areas along the international border," the Army said in a brief statement. "No incidents have been reported, marking the first calm night in recent days," it said. Hours ahead of the DGMO talks, senior officials of the Indian military

addressed a media briefing, highlighting various aspects of the Operation Sindoor. "We have iterated that our fight was with terrorists and their support infrastructure (in Pakistan)," Director General of Air Operations Air Marshal AK Bharti said. "However, it is a pity that the Pakistan military chose to intervene and bat for the terrorists, which compelled us to respond in kind," he said. Under Operation Sindoor,

India carried out precision strikes on terror infrastructure early on May 7 in response to the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack. Following the Indian action, Pakistan attempted to attack Indian military bases on May 8, 9 and 10. The Pakistani attempts were strongly responded to by the Indian side by inflicting heavy damage to a number of key Pakistani military installations including air bases, air defence systems, command and control centres and radar sites.

Op Sindoor uprooted Pak's terror foundation: PM

CONTINUED FROM P1

past—he signalled a new future. "Operation Sindoor has drawn a new line in the fight against terrorism... it has established a new benchmark, a new normal," he said. Addressing the Pakistani military establishment directly, he said, "Pakistan had prepared to strike at the border... but India struck at the heart of Pakistan." The scale of India's action was underlined when he revealed: "Over a hundred terrorist targets have been neutralized with surgical precision. This is the language Pakistan understands—the language of decisive action."

Asserting the hollowness of Pakistan's defence, Modi added, "The so-called defenders of Pakistan folded under pressure. Their hollowness stands exposed before the world." He warned that the fight is far from over. "Every inch of land where terror is bred, harboured, or supported—no matter across which border—remains within the reach of our Armed Forces." And in a moment of strategic revelation, Modi disclosed that Pakistan's military leadership had reached out: "When their knees buckled, it was Pakistan's Director General of Military Operations who reached out to

ours, begging for peace. This was not diplomacy—it was surrender." To those raising the nuclear threat, his message was firm: "The era of nuclear blackmail is over. India's resolve is stronger than any threat." Modi reinforced India's position on talks and terrorism. "Terror and talk cannot go together... terror and trade cannot go together. And... water and blood cannot flow together." On Pakistan's future, he warned, "The Pakistani Army... the way they are nurturing terrorism... it will one day destroy Pakistan itself."

He laid out clear terms for any future engagement: "If there is any talk with Pakistan, it will be on terrorism... if there is any talk with Pakistan, it will be on PoK." During his address to the nation, Prime Minister Narendra Modi says, "When Indian missiles and drones attacked those sites in Pakistan, it was not just the buildings of the terrorist organisations but their courage also shook. Terrorist sites like Bhawalpur and Muridke were the universities of global terrorism. All big terrorist attacks in the world, including 9/11 or big terrorist attacks in India, are somehow or the other

connected to these terrorist sites." Modi also emphasized a broader global principle: "Certainly, this is not an era of war... but this is not an era of terrorism either." He added, "Zero tolerance against terrorism is the guarantee of a better world." Bringing the focus back to India's firm position, he declared, "There is no difference between a terrorist and the one who shelters or supports them. They are all enemies of humanity, and they will all meet the same fate." He promised that India's response will remain "swift, decisive, and uncompromising."

13 women, 4 children killed

CONTINUED FROM P1

After getting information about the accident, a police team was sent to the spot, and the injured were taken to Dr Bhimrao Ambedkar Hospital, Raipur. District collector Gaurav Singh said district administration officials also reached the spot.

Police have registered a case, and the matter is being investigated, the collector said. Chief Minister Sai expressed grief over the incident and announced a compensation of Rs 5 lakh each to the families of the deceased and Rs 50,000 each to the injured persons. Sai has instructed officials to ensure proper treatment for the injured persons.

Missile debris, bomb found as border search

CONTINUED FROM P1

as a clerk at A.S. Senior Secondary School in Khanna, Punjab, had shared the misleading and provocative video on social media. The content caused outrage among locals in his village, Hariyon Kalan, who condemned the act as anti-national and demanded strict action. The matter reached the attention of SSP Khanna, the Deputy Commissioner of Ludhiana, and officials at the Dholewal Military Complex. Police, under DSP Amritpal Singh Bhatti, have confiscated Satwant Singh's mobile phone and arrested him. The Cyber Crime Cell is now investigating the source of the video and checking all platforms where it may have been circulated. Authorities

are also probing whether the clerk was part of a larger conspiracy. Meanwhile, normalcy is returning in the region, with airports in Punjab, Chandigarh, and Himachal Pradesh reopening after being shut down for five days. In Punjab, airports at Amritsar, Adampur (Jalandhar), and Sahnewal (Ludhiana) have resumed operations, alongside Chandigarh airport. IndiGo Airlines has released its flight schedule for Amritsar airport, with the first flight from Delhi to Amritsar scheduled to depart at 8 PM. In Himachal Pradesh, airports at Shimla, Dharamshala (Kangra), and Kullu also reopened from 10:30 AM onward.

Blackout again in Amritsar

CONTINUED FROM P1

blackout as of now. There is nothing to worry, as confirmed by armed forces officers. They are on regular vigil as always," Jalandhar Deputy Commissioner Himanshu Aggarwal said in a message at 9:15 pm. Punjab shares a 553-kilometre border with Pakistan. We are alert. We are enforcing a blackout," Amritsar Deputy Commissioner Sakshi Sawhney said in a message and urged people to stay away from windows. There was no comment from IndiGo. Amritsar was among the 32 airports that were reopened for civilian flights on Monday after being temporarily shut in the wake of the military conflict between India and Pakistan.

CPM urges to convene special session

CONTINUED FROM P1

nation, as well as to the peace-loving international community. However, several pressing concerns remain unaddressed -- particularly regarding the terrorist attack in Pahalgam." The "heinous attack" in Pahalgam has "deeply shaken the conscience of the nation". Yet, the overwhelming unity displayed by citizens across the country in its aftermath is a powerful and invaluable force, he added. Baby said this solidarity must be harnessed to isolate terrorists and their supporters -- both domestic and foreign. "Regrettably, this moment of national unity is being undermined by virulent campaigns of hatred and jingoism, as well as the spread of misinformation by certain media outlets and elements on social media. These actions have caused significant confusion and unrest among the public," he said.

The CPI(M) general secretary said US President Donald Trump's announcement "regarding the ceasefire -- made prior to any official statement from our representatives -- has raised serious concerns". India and Pakistan reached an agreement to stop all firings and military actions on land, air and sea on May 10 after four days of cross-border strikes that triggered fears of a wider conflict. In a short announcement, Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri had said the directors general of military operations of the two countries agreed on the understanding during a call. Baby said in his letter to the prime minister, "It is an avowedly accepted policy of our country that we settle our disputes bilaterally, without allowing any third-party intervention. Therefore, this situation requires clear and authoritative clarification from the highest levels of our government."

Maintaining regular surveillance

CONTINUED FROM P1

these are conducted under the umbrella of a comprehensive and effective layered fleet air defence mechanism that caters for all threats, be it drones, high-speed missiles or aircraft, both fighters as well as surveillance aircraft," he said. The joint briefing was also addressed by the Indian Army's DGMO Lt Gen Rajiv Ghai and Air Marshal AK Bharti. Vice Admiral Pramod said that the Indian Navy was at an advantage during Operation Sindoor and the presence of the carrier battle group ensured that the adversary did not get any chance to come close. He said the Indian Navy operates as a composite naval force that can address air, surface, and subsurface threats. Vice Admiral Pramod said Indian Navy's presence compelled the Pakistani air operations to remain bottled up "denying any opportunity to be a threat in the maritime space". "The Indian Navy maintains credible capability to detect, identify and neu-

tralize any aerial platforms that threaten our units at sea..To sum up, the Indian Navy's dominance ensured that, should we choose to, we can strike at will," he said. In his remarks, Director General Air Operations Air Marshal AK Bharti detailed the success of the Indian Armed Forces' Operation Sindoor, launched on May 7, targeting nine terrorist infrastructure sites in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir (PoK). The operation, a response to the April 22, Pahalgam, terror attack, was executed with precision to minimize damage to civilian and military infrastructure despite intervention by the Pakistani military. Air Marshal Bharti emphasised that the Indian Armed Forces' fight was solely against terrorists and their support networks, not the Pakistani military. The Armed forces also displayed a video that showed the destruction to Pakistani ordinance in the strikes. He noted that the Pakistan military chose to intervene, and thus any loss from their

side was their sole responsibility. "We had a detailed brief on the successful joint operation to destroy the terror operation in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir and Pakistan itself... We reiterated that our fight was with terrorists and their support infrastructure and not with the Pakistani military. However, it is a pity that the Pakistani military chose to intervene and back the terrorists, which compelled us to respond, and whatever loss they suffered, it was their own responsibility," he stated. The Air Marshal highlighted the effectiveness of India's layered and intricate air defence (AD) system, which played a pivotal role in thwarting multiple waves of Pakistani drones and unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs). The robust AD environment, comprising assets from the Indian Army, Navy, and Air Force, included multilayered sensors and weapon systems, indigenously developed soft and hard-kill counter-UAV systems, and highly trained personnel.

MAHARASHTRA GOVT HOLDS MEETING WITH DEFENCE FORCES

The meeting discussed the exchange of intelligence information, more use of technology and what precautions to take.

TDG NETWORK
MUMBAI

Amidst the India-Pakistan tension, an important meeting was held between the defence forces and the Maharashtra state government at CM's residence under the chairmanship of Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis. Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis said that the state government will work in greater coordination with the defence forces.

Deputy Chief Minister Eknath Shinde, Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar were also present at this meeting on security and preparedness in the state. From the Indian Army, Lt. General Pawan Chadha, Colonel Sandeep Seal,



Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis

from the Indian Navy, Rear Admiral Anil Jaggi, Naval Commander Nitesh Garg, from the Indian Air Force, Air Vice Marshal Rajat Mohan were present at the meeting. Representatives from Reserve Bank, JNPT, BPT, Mumbai Stock Exchange, National Stock Exchange, ATS, Home Guard were present.

The meeting discussed

the exchange of intelligence information, more use of technology and what precautions to take. The cooperation expected from the state government with the defence forces and the establishment of a faster coordination mechanism were discussed.

Speaking on this occasion, Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis said that

the strength and precision with which the Indian Army carried out Operation Sindoor is unprecedented.

"I salute the defence forces. A city like Mumbai is very important. It is the financial capital of India. When Mumbai was attacked earlier, the enemy tried to show that we attacked the financial capital of India. In the coming period, we will have to work with full force. In this situation, the exchange of intelligence information is very important. Everyone will have to be more careful about cybersecurity. Let the senior officers of the state government and the defence forces officers work together with more coordination." CM Fadnavis said.

State Chief Secretary Sujata Saunik, Secretary in the Chief Minister's Secretariat, Additional Chief Secretary, Home Department Iqbal Singh Chahal, Director General of Police Rashmi Shukla, Mumbai Police Commissioner Deven Bharti, Mumbai Municipal Corporation Additional Commissioner Vipin Sharma, Additional Director General of Police, Civil Security Prabhakar Kumar, Additional Inspector General of Police, Intelligence Department Shirish Jain, Additional Chief Secretary, Disaster Management, State Sonia Sethi, as well as Mumbai District and Mumbai Suburban District Collectors and officers of other departments were also present.

'Mumbai is always targeted': Maharashtra Deputy CM



Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Eknath Shinde.

ting reply...Thanks to PM Modi for giving freehand to all three services. Earlier, no one ever dared to give freehand to the armed forces, no matter how bad the situation was," he added.

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'An all-party meeting should have been called': Karnataka CM

TDG NETWORK
BENGALURU

Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Monday stressed that the Centre should convene an all-party meeting after the announcement of cessation of hostilities between India and Pakistan.

Speaking to the media, Siddaramaiah said, "Ceasefire has been declared. Both countries have agreed. DGMOS are meeting. Let's see what decision is made there. An all-party meeting should have been called before the Ceasefire. Parliament should have also been held along with it. It's a very serious matter."

Earlier on Sunday, in a joint press conference held at the National Media Centre, the senior-most operational commanders from all three wings of the Indian Armed Forces revealed the significant outcomes of



India's Operation Sindoor.

During the briefing, the Indian Armed Forces issued a clear warning to Pakistan, stating, "This time, if Pakistan dare take any action, Pakistan knows what we are going to do"

In addition to eliminating over 100 terrorists, the strikes targeted 11 Air bases inside Pakistan and inflicted

significant damage on their military capabilities. The air, land and sea operations were carried out with calibrated restraint, emphasising minimising civilian casualties, as stated in a press conference.

Regarding the issue of sending back Pakistani nationals, the Chief Minister clarified, "There are only three children in Mysore. The rest have been sent. Except for three children under the age of six, all Pakistani nationals have been sent back to their entire state. What is happening there is that there is a Pakistani husband, a wife from here, and three children. They went to the border, but no one came to take them there, so they came back again."

Siddaramaiah further asserted that his government's performance is delivered in a way that was promised. "Our government has done as it promised," he said.

Andhra govt evacuates 441 students from border states

TDG NETWORK
AMARAVATI

Amid the ongoing tensions between India and Pakistan, the Andhra Pradesh government, led by Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu, has taken proactive measures to ensure the safety of its students and ensure that no Andhra Pradesh student studying in border states feels abandoned or alone.

The state is working with concern and urgency around the clock to bring its students back safely from regions like Punjab, Jammu & Kashmir, Rajasthan, and Gujarat. It is providing them with shelter,



food, and support as they travel back to their homes.

As per a release, 441 students have reached Andhra Pradesh Bhavan in Delhi, of whom 158 have already returned to their hometowns in Andhra Pradesh. 283 students are currently staying at the Bhavan. These include 130 students from NIT

Srinagar, 120 from LPU University, 16 from Sher-e-Kashmir University, and 10 from Lamrin Tech Skills University in Punjab. An additional 20 students from NIT Srinagar are expected to arrive by Monday evening.

To facilitate their travel, the government has issued 40 Emergency Quota (EQ)

letters for train tickets, and food is being arranged for 300 students currently at AP Bhavan. The state is making all necessary arrangements to ensure these students return home safely and with dignity.

Meanwhile, Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu paid tribute to army jawan Murali Naik, who was killed in the line of duty during cross-border firing by the Pakistani forces along the Line of Control (LoC). According to an official release from the TDP, CM Naidu condoled the demise of the young soldier from Ananthapuram district.

Indian Youth Congress arranges for return of Kerala students stranded in J&K

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

The Indian Youth Congress (IYC) on Monday arranged for the return of Kerala students stranded in Jammu and Kashmir to their hometowns.

IYC national president Uday Bhanu Chib claimed that they were contacted by students of the Sher-e-Kashmir Agricultural University in Srinagar, through the #SOSIYC initiative after being stuck there due to the lack of public transport. A bus was arranged to bring them to Delhi, and they were then sent to Kerala with essential items for the journey, said a statement.

He also said the organisation is committed to helping people in times of crisis and is keeping politics aside. Whenever the country faced a crisis, the Congress and the Indian Youth Con-



Indian Youth Congress national president Uday Bhanu Chib.

gress prioritised the country's interest," he said.

"In this hour of crisis, our workers are leaving all political programmes and standing firmly with people with compassion, dedication and courage. We remain active on the ground in the conflict-hit areas like Poonch, running relief camps, providing food, shelter and medical help to displaced families," he added.

Chib also said that Con-

IYC national president Uday Bhanu Chib claimed that they were contacted by students of the Sher-e-Kashmir Agricultural University in Srinagar, through the #SOSIYC initiative after being stuck there due to the lack of public transport.

gress leaders, including Mallikarjun Kharge, Rahul Gandhi, KC Venugopal and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, had directed the IYC to assist those affected with the help of the #SOSIYC initiative.

Fire breaks out at Chennai's Shoba Textiles

TDG NETWORK
CHENNAI

A fire broke out on Monday at Shoba Textiles, located on Renganathan Street in Chennai's T Nagar area, creating panic, fire officials said.

Fire and rescue personnel instructed nearby shops to shut down and asked staff and customers to evacuate as a precautionary measure. This is one of the busiest shopping areas in the city. Short circuit is suspected to be reason for the fire. However, "No casualties have been reported," said an official.

An investigation into the incident is underway, and further details are awaited.

In response to frequent factory fires in India, several precautions are being taken to minimize risks and ensure safety. One of the primary measures is the strict enforcement of fire safety norms, which include the installation of fire



Representative Pic.

extinguishers, sprinklers, and fire alarms throughout industrial premises. Factories are required to regularly conduct fire drills and train employees in emergency evacuation procedures. Additionally, the use of non-flammable materials and fire-resistant building structures is mandated in high-risk areas to prevent the spread of flames.

Safety audits are regularly conducted by government bodies and insurance companies to ensure that factories adhere to fire safety regulations.

'Op Sindoor reflects strength, maturity of new India's security doctrine'

TDG NETWORK
JANAGAR

The ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in Arunachal Pradesh on Monday praised Operation Sindoor as a landmark event that exemplifies the strength and maturity of India's evolving security doctrine. The state BJP president, Kaling Moyong, emphasized that the operation symbolized a pivotal moment in India's battle against terrorism, particularly in the context of strategic defense and foreign policy initiatives undertaken by the country under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership.

Moyong referred to Operation Sindoor as an illustration of a "proactive and uncompromising new India," a country that no longer shies away from confronting security threats head-on. He highlighted that the operation was not merely a reactive or punitive mea-



Arunachal Pradesh BJP president Kaling Moyong

sure, but a carefully crafted strategic response aimed at addressing terrorism at its roots while demonstrating restraint and precision in military action. The BJP leader specifically lauded the Indian Armed Forces for their ability to carry out the operation with remarkable surgical precision, ensuring that the key objectives were met while minimizing civilian casualties. This careful approach was critical in maintaining the ethical high ground and avoiding an escalation into full-scale

military conflict with neighboring Pakistan.

The primary objective of Operation Sindoor, according to the BJP, was to target terrorist groups operating in the border regions without provoking an all-out war. Moyong emphasized that the operation reflected a major shift in India's defense posture—one that moves beyond mere retaliation to proactive defense and preemptive actions against threats. He noted that India's response to terrorism and cross-border aggression has undergone a significant transformation, evolving from a traditionally defensive stance to one that seeks to neutralize threats before they can materialize into larger crises.

One of the most significant aspects of the operation, according to Moyong, was the ability to carry out the mission with such precision that civilian harm was avoided.

BJP furious over peace rally in Kolkata against Indo-Pak war, labels protesters as 'traitors'

TDG NETWORK
KOLAKATA

An anti-war rally in Kolkata, which called for peace and de-escalation between India and Pakistan, was allegedly disrupted by BJP supporters on Monday. The rally, organized by Left-leaning student groups, intellectuals, and civil society members, aimed to address the escalating military

tensions between the two neighboring countries. The demonstration took place in the backdrop of growing concerns over the impact of armed conflict on civilians, with the situation between India and Pakistan reaching a boiling point.

The protesters had assembled at Moulali, located in central Kolkata, with plans to march toward Esplanade to voice their opposition

to war and promote peace. However, their efforts were met with strong opposition from a group of BJP leaders and supporters, who arrived at the scene waving national flags. The BJP supporters, led by party leader Sajal Ghosh, accused the anti-war protesters of being "traitors" and allegedly hurled black ink at them, intensifying an already charged atmosphere. Speaking to the media,



Police arrested protesters, who organised a mass rally under the banner of Yuddha Unmadona Birodhi Gana Michil, in Kolkata on Monday. Agency

Ghosh expressed his determination to halt the march, claiming, "We won't let this march happen. These people love Pakistan and oppose India's interests." The BJP leader's statement reflected the party's consistent stance on national security and its opposition to any activities that could be perceived as undermining India's strategic and military interests. Ghosh further accused the

protesters of siding with Pakistan, drawing a sharp line between those who advocate for peace and those who are seen as sympathetic to the enemy.

On the other hand, the anti-war demonstrators responded by accusing the BJP of hypocrisy, highlighting a stark contradiction with the central government's recent decision to agree to a ceasefire along the India-Pakistan

border. The ceasefire agreement was viewed by many as a step toward de-escalation and a potential avenue for peace talks between the two nations. The protesters also voiced concerns that the BJP, along with its ideological ally, the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), was working on behalf of international arms dealers who profit from the continuation of war.

GOVT AIMS TO FINISH BARAPULLAH PHASE-3 FLYOVER BY DECEMBER

About 89% of the construction is finished, final phase delayed due to pending tree relocation approvals.

TIKAM SHARMA
NEW DELHI

The Delhi government has set a deadline of December 2025 to complete the long-pending Barapullah Phase-3 flyover project. Public Works Department (PWD) Minister Parvesh Sahib Singh visited the construction site on Monday and stated that the work is progressing swiftly, with the remaining tasks expected to be finished within the set timeline.

This was the Minister's second visit to the site within two months of taking office, highlighting the current administration's strong commitment to the project. During his earlier visit, the Minister had assessed the situation, following which substantial efforts were made to speed



Delhi PWD Minister Parvesh Verma with PWD workers during the inspection of the Barapulla Phase 3 Project, in New Delhi. ANI

up construction. "Our goal is to make this flyover operational by December 2025," said Minister Parvesh Sahib Singh. "It is a vital infrastructure development for Delhi that has faced prolonged delays due to years of inaction. Since assuming office, we've prioritized this project and ensured progress on multiple fronts."

The Barapullah Phase-3 flyover is designed to link

Mayur Vihar Phase-I in East Delhi with AIIMS in South Delhi. It will connect with the existing Barapullah corridor near Sarai Kale Khan, significantly enhancing east-west connectivity and reducing travel time for commuters. The project is expected to ease traffic congestion and benefit thousands of daily travelers.

According to officials, approximately 89% of

NEW PUSH

- PWD Minister Parvesh Sahib Singh, in his second site visit since taking office, emphasized the govt's renewed push to complete the project.
- The current administration has resolved technical issues, improved inter-departmental coordination, and is conducting regular inspections.

the construction has been completed. However, work has stalled due to pending approvals from the forest department for relocating about 250 trees.

Minister Singh pointed out that delays were primarily due to the inaction of the previous government. "The former administration failed to release payments to contractors and did not initiate the tree relocation process, resulting in years of delay and

increased costs. We are actively working to resolve these issues," he explained.

He also noted that under the leadership of Chief Minister Rekha Gupta, the government is coordinating closely with the forest department to secure the necessary approvals. "We are optimistic that we'll soon receive clearance for tree relocation, which will allow the final phase of work to move forward," the Minister added.

AAP slams govt alleging power cuts, likely tariff hike in city

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

AAP MLA Kuldeep Kumar on Monday accused the BJP government of Delhi of failing to deliver on its poll promise of continuing free electricity, alleging that residents are now facing frequent power cuts and a looming hike in electricity tariffs. There was no immediate response from the Delhi government or the BJP over the allegations.

Addressing a press conference, Kumar, who represents the Kondli assembly constituency, said, "The AAP government provided 24x7 electricity for the past 10 years. Not only did we ensure uninterrupted supply, but we also gave free electricity up to 200 units and subsidised rates up to 400 units. We offered the cheapest electricity in the country."

He alleged that, contrary to its promise of free electricity up to 300 units made in the run-up to the recent elections, the BJP govern-



He alleged that, contrary to its promise of free electricity up to 300 units made in the run-up to the recent elections, the BJP government has only delivered "power cuts".

ment has only delivered "power cuts".

Kumar claimed that the BJP dispensation is planning to increase electricity tariffs by up to seven per cent during the summer months of May, June, and July. "Today, the people of Delhi are faced with two models of governance -- one where AAP ensured round-the-clock free and

affordable electricity and the other where the BJP is preparing to hike rates while failing to ensure a reliable supply," he said.

The BJP stormed to power in Delhi earlier this year, ending over a decade-long AAP rule by securing 48 of the 70 assembly seats in the February elections. The AAP managed to retain 22 seats.

BJP to organise 'Tiranga Yatra' following success of Operation Sindoor

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

The BJP will spearhead a 11-day long "Tiranga Yatra" across the country beginning Tuesday following the success of Operation Sindoor, as part of its outreach to people around the Modi government's determined leadership and the valour of armed forces.

A BJP leader said the party is looking to rally people, including prominent members of the society, around India's successful campaign against terror sites in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied-Kashmir in a campaign from May 13 to 23. Party sources said the campaign's tone will not be overtly political and they are looking to galvanize people over an issue, which has

Senior BJP leaders, including Union ministers and organisational functionaries, will be joining the campaign.

drawn support from all sections of the society.

Senior BJP leaders, including Union ministers and organisational functionaries, will be joining the campaign.

Top party leaders, including Union ministers Amit Shah, Rajnath Singh and J P Nadda, who is also the BJP's national president, had held deliberations on the issue on Sunday.

Delhi Assembly to be fully solar powered

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

Lieutenant Governor V K Saxena laid the foundation stone of a 500-kW solar power plant at the Delhi Assembly on Monday, along with Chief Minister Rekha Gupta and Speaker Vijender Gupta.

Power Minister Ashish Sood, Public Works Department Minister Parvesh Verma, several MLAs and senior officers were also present on the occasion.

The 500-kW installation, scheduled for completion within 45 days, will significantly expand the House's existing solar infrastructure, the Assembly Secretariat said in a statement.

The old 200-kW rooftop solar system is being dismantled to make way for the new 500-kW installation, which will enable the Assembly to run entirely on



Delhi PWD Minister Parvesh Verma with PWD workers during the inspection of the Barapullah Phase-3 Project, in New Delhi. ANI

solar energy, it said.

The move is expected to result in zero electricity bills, generating estimated savings of approximately Rs 15 lakh per month, while reducing the carbon footprint of the Assembly premises, it added. The Delhi Assembly will soon become India's first legislative body to run entirely on solar energy, the statement said. The speaker said the project will be com-

pleted within 45 days and help the Assembly save Rs 1.75 crore annually through zero electricity bills.

The entire cost of the 500-kW solar plant will be recovered within a year, he said.

"I hope this message of green energy will be adopted by Delhi people and they will install solar panels on their rooftops," the speaker said. Saxena said the laying of the solar plant's

foundation stone marked a historic occasion. He also announced that the Delhi Development Authority (DDA) will support another ambitious project of the Assembly, to transform it into a heritage site. The chief minister said her government is working to set up a solar-energy network in the city, with every government and private building having solar panels.

Security heightened at Tihar Jail, terror accused on watch

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

Security arrangements have been heightened at Tihar Prison Complex in the wake of the prevailing security situation, jail sources said on Monday. Special focus is being placed on high-risk wards, particularly those housing gangsters and terror accused, they said.

According to the sources, multi-layered security checks, additional CCTV coverage, and stricter monitoring protocols have been implemented as part of the enhanced measures.

"The recent developments have prompted complete



security checks. All vulnerable spots are being reinforced, and round-the-clock surveillance of inmates with serious criminal backgrounds is heightened," a source said.

High-profile gangsters and terror accused like Tahawwur Rana, Chhota Rajan and Neeraj Bawana are lodged in Tihar Jail -- one of India's largest prison complexes. Mobile signal jammers are being tested

and upgraded to prevent unauthorised communication from inside the prison.

"Surprise checks have also been intensified. We are conducting at least three random checks daily in sensitive barracks to ensure compliance with jail norms," the source said.

Jail staff deployment has been increased during night hours, and movement of inmates within the premises is being closely monitored.

According to officials, the intelligence network within the jail has been activated and informers have been tasked with reporting any suspicious activity immediately.

Bihar girl rescued; trafficker held

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

A 15-year-old girl, allegedly lured from Bihar and brought to Delhi to be sold for Rs 2 lakh, was rescued by the police near the railway station, an official said on Monday. The accused, identified as Shashi Kumar, 23, lured the minor girl during a train journey and brought her to Delhi under false pretences, police said. "A suspicious man was spotted with a young girl at the station. He was apprehended on the spot, and the girl was taken away for preliminary questioning," a senior officer said.

'Assembly session cancelled to avoid tough questions'

TIKAM SHARMA
NEW DELHI

Delhi Congress president Devender Yadav launched a sharp critique of the newly formed Delhi government, alleging that the so-called "Triple Engine" BJP administration—holding power at the Centre, in Delhi, and in the Municipal Corporation—had failed to live up to its grand promises. He claimed that instead of confronting the pressing issues facing the city, the government was attempting to

evade accountability, as reflected in its decision to cancel the two-day Assembly session originally scheduled for May 13 and 14. According to Yadav, the real reason for the cancellation was evident: the Rekha Gupta-led government lacks any coherent or definitive strategy to address the growing air pollution and worsening water shortage amid the rising summer heat. Furthermore, he argued, there appear to be no concrete plans in place to combat water-logging and related urban infrastructure



problems that are likely to surface with the onset of the monsoon season.

Yadav stated that citizens would have rightfully questioned the BJP-led government on why it had failed to

deliver on its commitments, leaving key issues unaddressed—issues that had already been neglected for over a decade by the corrupt Kejriwal regime. He asserted that the BJP government has not moved forward with any of the reforms or development agendas it had promised, and instead is now trying to deflect public scrutiny.

He further highlighted the events of May 2, 2025, when heavy rainfall exposed the severe mismanagement of the city's drainage systems. According to Yadav, the

drains and sewers were choked with silt, and this lack of maintenance contributed directly to widespread water-logging and even led to the tragic collapse of a building that killed four people.

Though some de-silting efforts were made after the incident, Yadav claimed that the removed sludge was not properly disposed of and ended up flowing back into the drains when it rained again just two days ago, proving the government's negligence and inefficiency.

2 die after family of 4 inhales toxic fumes; suicide suspected

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

In a suspected case of suicide, a family of four allegedly inhaled toxic fumes in Delhi's Sangam Park area, resulting in the death of two minor children. The parents are under medical observation but in critical condition, police said on Monday.

The incident took place in the morning at a bike horn manufacturing unit at DSIDC Shed number 63 in the Sangam Park area, Deputy Commissioner of Police (North-west) Bhisham Singh said.

The deceased have been identified as Jagdish Singh, 16, and Hargul Kaur, 15. They

were the children of Hardeep Singh, owner of the unit, and his wife, Harpreet Kaur (38).

According to police, the whole family reached the shed in the morning and inhaled a poisonous substance inside the premises.

The family had suffered heavy financial losses in their business, they added.

Upon receiving the information, Hardeep Singh and his children were rushed to Hindu Rao Hospital, while Harpreet Kaur was taken to Deep Chand Bandhu Hospital. Jagdish and Hargul died during treatment. Hardeep and his wife are still under observation, with their state reported to be critical.

FORMER DIPLOMAT, POLITICIANS COME OUT IN SUPPORT OF FS MISRI AFTER HE FACES ONLINE TROLLING

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri, who faced trolling on social media in the wake of India and Pakistan reaching an understanding on May 10 to halt all military actions, received support from veteran diplomat Nirupama Menon Rao and politicians Asaduddin Owaisi and Akhilesh Yadav.

Samajwadi Party chief Yadav wrote a long post on X in Hindi and said, such statements break the morale of honest officers who work day and night dedicated to the country.

“It is the government’s

MISRI TROLLED

- Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri faced on-line abuse for announcing the ceasefire.
- Nirupama Rao, Akhilesh Yadav, and Asaduddin Owaisi defended Misri.
- Called the trolling “shameful” and urged respect for diplomats.
- Criticized the government’s silence and failure to act against abusers.
- US President Trump claimed the ceasefire was brokered by the US.



responsibility to make decisions - not individual officers. Some anti-social criminal elements are openly crossing all limits of abusive language against the officer and his family, but neither the BJP government nor any

of its ministers are coming forward to protect his honour and respect or discussing possible action against those who make such unwanted posts,” wrote Yadav.

India and Pakistan on Saturday reached an un-

derstanding 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 that brought the two countries teetering on the edge of a

full-scale war.

Making the announcement on Saturday evening, Foreign Secretary Misri said the director generals of military operations of India and Pakistan agreed on the understanding during a call on Saturday afternoon, and the next talks are scheduled at 12 noon on May 12.

The announcement came shortly after US President Donald Trump in a surprise social media post claimed that the talks between the two sides were “mediated” by the US.

Former foreign secretary Nirupama Menon called the trolling of the senior diplomat “utterly shameful” and

said it “crosses every line of decency”

“It’s utterly shameful to troll Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri and his family over the India-Pakistan ceasefire announcement. A dedicated diplomat, Misri has served India with professionalism and resolve, and there is no ground whatsoever for his vilification.

“Doxxing his daughter and abusing his loved ones crosses every line of decency. This toxic hate must stop—stand united behind our diplomats, not tear them down. #StopTrollingMisri #SupportDiplomats #VikramMisri #IndianDiplomacy #NoToDoxxing,” she posted on X.

Kharge demands special Parliament session on Operation Sindoor, ceasefire

TDG NETWORK
KALABURAGI (KARNATAKA)



Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge on Monday reiterated his demand for the central government to convene a special session of Parliament to discuss the Pahalgam terror attack, Operation Sindoor, and the latest developments in cross-border firing, including the recently announced “ceasefire”.

The Leader of Opposition in the Rajya Sabha said that while everyone wishes for peace, the country must be defended when necessary, and the Indian armed forces have fought with full strength to do so.

“Both Rahul Gandhi and I have written to the Prime Minister, seeking a special Parliament session. We want the session to be convened to discuss what is happening in our country, in Pakistan, and other developments, along with what measures we can take to safeguard our people,” Kharge said.

“We want the discussion to take place. Let’s see what steps the government takes,” he added while speaking to media.

Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi, and Kharge have written to Prime Minister

Narendra Modi reiterating their demand for a special session of both Houses of Parliament.

In his letter on Sunday, Kharge conveyed the unanimous request of all opposition parties for a special session to discuss the Pahalgam attack, Operation Sindoor, and the ceasefire announcements—first from Washington DC, and later by the governments of India and Pakistan.

India and Pakistan on Saturday reached an understanding to immediately halt all firing and military actions on land, air, and sea, following four days of intense cross-border drone and missile strikes.

Noting the ceasefire, the AICC chief said, “India keeps its promises, but Pakistan repeatedly breaks them and troubles people. They don’t fight directly—they use terrorists to wage war. If they fight, we will be forced to fight. If they remain quiet, we too will maintain peace.”

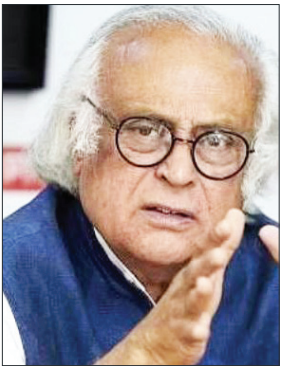
‘BrahMos proof of continuity in governance which cannot be denied’

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

With focus on India’s defence arsenal, Congress leader Jairam Ramesh on Monday said the BrahMos missile is a remarkable proof of continuity in governance which simply cannot be denied or erased, “despite it being the regular habit of today’s ruling establishment”.

Ramesh said the BrahMos missile was inducted into the Indian Navy in 2005 and Indian Army in 2007, while the air-launched variant of BrahMos appeared in 2012, all during Manmohan Singh’s tenure.

“It was his leadership that led to the historic Indo-US nuclear agreement of 2005, paving the way for India finally joining the Missile Technology Control Regime eleven years later. It was also during his tenure



that the BrahMos Integration Complex in Hyderabad and the Brahmos Aerospace Thiruvananthapuram Limited were established,” the Congress general secretary said on X.

“BrahMos is very much in the news these days. It is named after the Brahmaputra and the Moskva rivers and is an outstanding example of Indo-Russian collaboration. It is also yet another remarkable proof of continuity in governance which simply cannot be

denied or erased - despite it being the regular habit of today’s ruling establishment in New Delhi,” he said, taking a swipe at the Modi government.

Noting that India’s Integrated Missile Development Programme began in 1983, Ramesh said it has had great successes.

Sometime in the mid-90s, Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam and his colleagues like Dr. Sivathanu Pillai felt the need for collaboration with the Russians for super-sonic cruise missiles, he said.

“An inter-governmental agreement was signed on February 12, 1998 when IK Gujral was PM. Incidentally he was India’s Ambassador to the USSR 1976-80. Thereafter the first contract was signed on July 9, 1999, when Atal Bihari Vajpayee was PM. The first successful launch took place on June 12, 2001,” he said.

162 people from Telangana reach Delhi from border states

TDG NETWORK
HYDERABAD

As many as 162 people from Telangana living in Border States have reached Telangana Bhavan in Delhi, the state government said on Monday.

This includes 56 individuals from various institutions in Jammu and Kashmir and 106 from Punjab, an official release said here.

A total of 130 people have already departed for their respective hometowns after receiving necessary assistance, it said, adding the remaining individuals are being accommodated at Telangana Bhavan and will leave in due course.

Under the leadership of Chief Minister A

Revanth Reddy, the state government continues to provide comprehensive relief and support to citizens returning from border areas through the Telangana Bhavan, which serves as the nodal coordination centre for all relief efforts, it said.

The Resident Commissioner Gaurav Upal on Monday personally reviewed the arrangements and interacted with the students. During the interaction, many students conveyed that their institutions were asking them to return to campus as the situation in border areas was showing signs of improvement. However, a majority of them expressed the desire to visit their homes first and return to their institutions once the situation fully stabilises, the release said.

IMD forecasts heatwave in south Bengal, heavy rain in north

TDG NETWORK
KOLKATA

The IMD on Monday forecast heatwave conditions in several districts in the southern part of West Bengal, while heavy rain is likely in the sub-Himalayan

region of the state for the next few days.

There will not be any major change in day temperature over the districts of West Bengal during the next four to five days, and thereafter it will gradually fall by two to three degrees

during the subsequent two to three days, the Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) said.

Heatwave conditions are likely in one or two places in Paschim Bardhaman, Bankura, Jhargram, Paschim Medinipur and

Birbhum districts in south Bengal till May 15.

Owing to moisture availability and trough from central Bihar to south Jharkhand, heavy rain is likely in the sub-Himalayan districts of Darjeeling, Kalimpong, Jalpaiguri, Cooch

Behar and Alipurduar in the northern part of West Bengal till May 15, the IMD said.

The north Bengal district of Malda, however, is likely to experience heatwave conditions at one or two places during the period, it said.

NDA has potential to win 104 of 126 assembly seats in Assam: Himanta

TDG NETWORK
GUWAHATI

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Monday termed the BJP’s performance in the panchayat polls as “historic” and said the ruling alliance has the potential to win 104 assembly seats out of 126 in next year’s election.

The ruling BJP on Monday is leading in all panchayat bodies across Assam with counting of votes continuing for the second day in a row.

“The BJP is marching ahead to capture more than 300 seats in Zilla Parishad and it is historic. However, it is still being counted,” Sarma told reporters here.

Asked about the expectation in next year’s assembly elections, he said that it will

be better than the panchayat results.

“Panchayats are usually in the rural areas. In the Assembly, both rural and urban areas will go to the polls. Traditionally, the BJP performs well in urban locations.

“Presently, the BJP-led alliance’s potential in Assam is 104 seats. However, there is a difference between potential and reality. We hope that we will win 95 seats. But everything depends on the public mood,” the CM said.

Presently, the ruling BJP’s strength in the 126-member Assam Assembly is 64, while its allies AGP has nine MLAs and UPPL has seven.

In the opposition camp, the Congress’ strength is 26, AIUDF has 15 members, BPF has three and CPI(M)



has one MLA. There is one Independent legislator also.

When asked about the Bodoland Territorial Region’s election, which is due later this year, Sarma said, “We will fight alone in BTR, but we will not fight in all seats. We will contest only in those seats where we have our strength. Our alliance with UPPL will continue.”

According to Assam

State Election Commission (ASEC) data, the BJP has won 242 members of Anchalik Panchayat constituencies, while its ally Asom Gana Parishad (AGP) has bagged 30 seats so far.

Opposition Congress has cornered 34 seats, one constituency each won by Rajor Dal and AIUDF and 14 by Independents.

In Zilla Parishad, the BJP has won 26 seats while its ally AGP emerged victorious in three. No other party has opened its account yet in ZP constituencies, the ASEC data showed.

Along with these, results for thousands of seats for Gram Panchayat (GP) have also been declared, but these are all Independents as candidates were not allowed to contest on party tickets.

Declare Pakistan a terrorist state, tell America it can’t trade with them: Kapil Sibal to PM Modi

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

Rajya Sabha MP Kapil Sibal on Monday expressed his support to Prime Minister Narendra Modi against terrorism following Operation Sindoor, calling for bolder actions, including formally declaring Pakistan a terrorist state.

“We want terrorism to end, but you must muster courage, declare Pakistan a terrorist state and then tell America that it cannot trade with Pakistan. Then we will accept that a new dimension has been established,” Sibal said.

“Today, I assure you that the opposition will be with you. I cannot speak on behalf of the opposition. But I know that in this fight, the opposition is with you. I am with you; the people of India are with you,” he said.

Asserting that India cannot be compared with Pakistan, the Rajya Sabha MP said, “We should not be compared with Pakistan, and US



President Trump cannot compare us with Pakistan.”

US President Donald Trump has asserted that his administration played a crucial role in brokering an immediate cessation of hostilities between India and Pakistan, following escalating tensions between the two nuclear-armed neighbours.

He said, “We stopped a nuclear conflict. I think it could have been a

bad nuclear war. Millions of people could have been killed. I also want to thank VP JD Vance and Secretary of State, Marco Rubio, for their work...”

Speaking to the media in a press briefing at the White House, Trump emphasised the significant impact of US diplomatic efforts in facilitating the truce, stating, “On Saturday, my administration helped broker an immediate cessation of hostilities. I think a permanent one between India and Pakistan - the countries having a lot of nuclear weapons.”

Meanwhile, in a bold and unequivocal message to the nation following Operation Sindoor, Prime Minister Narendra Modi declared that India will no longer tolerate nuclear blackmail and will respond to any terrorist attack with strict and decisive action.

“Operation Sindoor is now India’s established policy in the fight against terrorism, marking a decisive shift in India’s strategic approach”, he declared, stating that the operation has set a new standard, a new normal in counter-terrorism measures.

Blending science and tradition: Precision oncology meets Ayurveda in cancer care

TIKAM SHARMA
NEW DELHI

The Art of Healing Cancer is revolutionizing cancer care by addressing the limitations of conventional treatments through a fusion of DNA-guided therapies and integrative practices such as Ayurveda. These innovative approaches have shown promising outcomes, even among patients diagnosed with stage-four cancer.

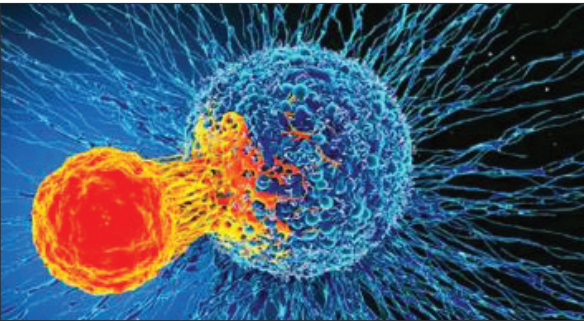
Recently, esteemed oncologist and AIIMS alumnus Dr. Mandeep Singh Malhotra led a significant discussion on the future

of oncology. Advocating for a holistic and multi-disciplinary treatment philosophy, Dr. Malhotra emphasized that blending advanced precision medicine with time-tested traditional therapies can enhance patient outcomes.

In alignment with its mission, Art of Healing Cancer hosted an exclusive Media Meet and Greet to foster conversation around cutting-edge cancer therapies. The event spotlighted emerging strategies that integrate genomic-based treatment plans with Ayurvedic and naturopathic principles—offering

renewed hope for patients facing advanced-stage cancers.

“The best way to treat cancer is through deep understanding,” noted Dr. Mandeep Singh, Chief Oncologist at Art of Healing Cancer. “By applying precision oncology to uncover the genetic mutations driving the disease, we can tailor therapies—including chemotherapy, immunotherapy, and Ayurvedic interventions—while executing surgery and radiation with exacting precision. Diet and lifestyle adjustments also play a crucial role in reducing treatment-



related side effects and preventing recurrence.”

DNA-guided cancer therapies, also known as precision or personalized oncology, represent a transformative shift in cancer treatment. These therapies customize interven-

tions based on the unique genetic makeup of both the patient and their tumor, moving away from a one-size-fits-all approach. This targeted method enhances treatment efficacy and reduces adverse effects.

In India, precision oncol-

ogy is gaining momentum due to advances in genomic technologies, declining sequencing costs, and increased public awareness. However, challenges remain—particularly in rural access, high testing costs, and a shortage of trained experts. Despite these obstacles, ongoing efforts to expand accessibility are positioning DNA-guided therapies as a cornerstone of future cancer care.

India’s healthcare system is uniquely suited for an integrative approach that combines precision medicine with traditional practices such as Ayurve-

da and naturopathy. While modern therapies target specific genetic mutations, traditional methods focus on holistic healing, immunity, and overall wellness. This combined model offers a more personalized, patient-centric approach.

Ayurvedic treatments and naturopathic practices—such as herbal remedies, detox therapies, yoga, and lifestyle changes—can complement conventional treatments and enhance quality of life.

For broader adoption, scientific validation, standardized protocols, and interdisciplinary collabo-

ration are essential. This integration has the potential to redefine cancer care in India and inspire global healthcare models.

Art of Healing Cancer stands as a pioneer in this evolving landscape, being among the first institutions in India focused exclusively on treating advanced cancers through a truly integrative framework. The organization uniquely combines cutting-edge scientific innovation with ancient healing traditions—delivering care that is both deeply personalized and grounded in evidence-based medicine.

MODI INVITES PUTIN FOR BILATERAL TALKS

India, Russia deepen defence, anti-terror cooperation.

TDG NETWORK
MOSCOW


Russian President Vladimir Putin and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi held telephone talks. This was reported by the official website of the Russian President. The two leaders spoke by phone to discuss the strategic strength of Russia-India relations, which TV Brics described as a uniquely privileged partnership.

President Putin reiterated his condolences over the recent terrorist attack in Pahalagam, and as cited by TV Brics, both sides stressed the urgent need for continued cooperation in combating terrorism.

During the exchange, Prime Minister Modi congratulated President Putin and the people of Russia on the upcoming 80th anniversary of the Victory in the Great Patriotic War, which he described, as reported by TV Brics, as a shared com-

SUMMARY

- Modi and Putin held a phone call, reaffirming strategic ties and vowing stronger anti-terror cooperation; Putin accepted Modi's invite for a bilateral summit in India.
- Modi congratulated Putin on the upcoming 80th Victory Day, calling it a shared legacy for India and Russia.
- MoS Defence Sanjay Seth attended Victory Day events in Moscow, laying a wreath and representing India at the parade.
- Seth met Putin and Russia's Deputy Defence Minister, with both sides agreeing to deepen defence and technical cooperation.



Putin calls PM Modi and strongly condemned the terror attack in Pahalagam, India, on Monday. PM Modi conveyed greetings to President Putin on the celebration of the 80th anniversary of Victory Day and invited him for the Annual Summit to be held in India later in the year. (ANI Photo)

memoration for both nations.

PM Modi also extended an invitation to President Putin to visit India for the traditional annual bilateral summit, a gesture that, as per TV Brics, was warmly received and accepted by the Russian side.

Minister of State for Defence Sanjay Seth participated in Victory Day celebrations during his visit to Russia from May 08 to 09. The celebrations were organised on May 09, in Moscow to commemorate 80th anniversary of the victory of Soviet People in the Second

World War (1941-45).

According to a release, Minister Sanjay Seth laid a wreath on the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier and witnessed the Victory Day Parade, along with the distinguished delegates from other countries.

The participation of Rak-

sha Rajya Mantri in the Victory Day Parade is the symbol of longstanding special and privileged strategic partnership between India and Russia.

During the visit, the MoS Defence called on Russian President Mr Vladimir Putin and extended congratulations for the 80th Victory Day. MoS also held a bilateral meeting with the Russian Deputy Defence Minister Colonel General Alexander Fomin and thanked the Government & people of Russia for their support in India's fight against the menace of state-sponsored cross-border terrorism.

The two Ministers also discussed multifaceted military & military - technical cooperation and agreed to further deepen ties within the framework of existent institutional mechanisms. The two sides will continue to hold regular consultations and enhance cooperation in the evolving situation.

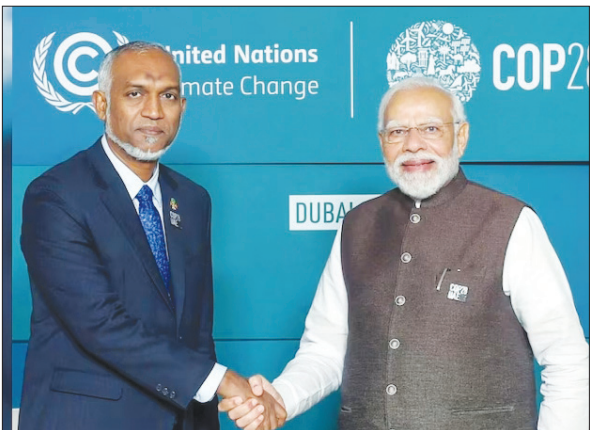
India rolls over \$50M aid to Maldives, reaffirms 'Neighbourhood First'

TDG NETWORK
MALE

The Government of India has extended support to India's maritime neighbour, Maldives by rolling over the USD 50 Million treasury bill, the High Commission of India to Maldives said in a statement on Monday. Foreign Minister of Maldives, Abdulla Khaleel expressed gratitude to the Indian government and hailed the timely assistance which "reflects the close bonds of friendship" between the two countries.

In the statement shared on X, the High Commission of India to Maldives said, "India extends financial support to the Maldives through the rollover of the USD 50 million Treasury Bill.

According to the statement, after the request by the Government of Maldives, the State Bank of India (SBI) has subscribed,



for one more year, a USD 50 million Government Treasury Bill issued by the Ministry of Finance of Maldives.

It was noted that since March 2019, India has been facilitating subscription of several such Treasury Bills by the SBI and rolling them over, annually, interest-free to the Government of Maldives.

This is a part of the unique government to government arrangement between the two countries that serves

as an emergency financial assistance to the maritime neighbour.

The statement also mentioned that India has assisted Maldives in times of need and the subscription of this Treasury Bill, along with, the Government of India's decision earlier this year to extend the special quota for export of essential commodities for Maldives, which reflects India's continued support to the Government and the people of the Maldives.

Stocks skyrocket, Sensex soars 3,000 points

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

Indian stock indices soared through the roof on Monday, supported by the news that the conflict between India and Pakistan has de-escalated after the two Armed forces reached an understanding.

Another shot in the arm came from the easing of trade wars between the US and China. They have arrived at an agreement that they will withdraw their previously announced reciprocal tariffs and counter tariffs for an initial period of 90 days, and in meantime -- China will impose 10 percent tariffs on US goods, and the US will tax Chinese goods at about 30 per cent.

Sensex today closed at 82,429.90 points, up 2,975.43 points or 3.74 per cent, while Nifty closed at 24,924.70 points, up 916.70 points or 3.82 per cent, respectively.

VK Vijayakumar, Chief Investment

In these 90 days starting April 9, President Trump imposes a 10 per cent baseline tariff on all countries. For China, Trump indicated that tariffs may increase to as high as 245 per cent.

Strategist, Geojit Investments Limited, said, "The ceasefire between India and Pakistan has paved the way for a sharp rally in the market."

"Domestic macros like expectations of high GDP growth and revival of earnings growth in FY26 and declining inflation and interest rates augur well for the resumption of a rally in the market," Vijayakumar added.

A sustained buying by the foreign

institutional investors is also a prime mover of today's rally, he added.

Amidst the jump in the broader indices, companies operating in the pharma space have, however, taken a relative hit. The pharma stocks took cues from the news that US President Donald Trump will sign an executive order later in the day, intending to bring down the cost of prescription medicines by 30-80 per cent.

Nifty pharma index closed at 0.15 per cent higher while other sectoral indices jumped 2-4 per cent.

Pharma sector stocks in the Indian stock market showed strong resilience despite initial pressure due to the anticipated executive order by Trump aimed at cutting prescription drug prices in the US.

"Pharma stocks may come under near-term pressure from President Trump's latest announcement regarding reducing prices of drugs in the US," Vijayakumar noted.

Nifty Pharma rebounds 1,300 pts, shows resilience to Trump's announcement

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

Pharma sector stocks in the Indian stock market showed strong resilience on Monday despite initial pressure due to the anticipated executive order by U.S. President Donald Trump aimed at cutting prescription drug prices in the United States.

The Nifty Pharma index opened the day at 20,949.70 but soon dropped sharply by more than 1,300 points, touching a low of 20,600. The early decline was in line with market expectations that Indian pharmaceutical companies could come under pressure due to the U.S. move. However, as investor con-



fidence improved following signs of mutual understanding between India and Pakistan on conflict issues, the market mood shifted.

This positive sentiment helped the Nifty Pharma index rebound more than 2.5 per cent or 1300 points from its intraday low and was last seen trading flat at 21,047.

Experts had predicted a

challenging session for pharma stocks as President Trump was scheduled to sign a new executive order at 9 AM ET on Monday (6:30 pm Monday, Indian Standard Time). The order is aimed at reducing the prices of prescription drugs and pharmaceutical products in the U.S. by an estimated 30 to 80 per cent.

Ajay Bagga, Banking and

Market Expert told ANI "The US is expected to make a formal announcement on Monday morning US time. Pharma shares will face some pressure as President Trump is expected to sign an executive order that will reduce US prices of prescription drugs and pharmaceuticals by an expected 30 to 80 per cent at 9 AM ET on Monday".

Under the new "Most Favored Nation" (MFN) pricing rule, the U.S. will align its drug prices with the lowest prices available in other countries. This measure is expected to bring immediate cost relief for American patients but could have global implications for the pharmaceutical sector.

FMCG sector: 'Consumer durables show long-term strength'

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

The fast-moving consumer goods (FMCG) sector is expected to see a rebound in demand in the first half of financial year 2025-26, supported by a revival in rural markets, easing inflation, and favorable pricing strategies, according to a recent report by ShriRam Mutual Fund.

The report stated that while this anticipated recovery comes after a period of mixed performance, especially as companies look forward to improved consumption trends across both urban and rural areas.

It said, "FMCG is poised for a demand rebound in HIFY26, aided by rural recovery, softening inflation, and supportive pricing".

On the other hand, the consumer durable sector also maintains a positive outlook but with challenges, particularly for categories like electrical consumer du-



rables (ECD) and room air conditioners (RACs).

The demand for premium products and the effect of rising temperatures are expected to boost sales, especially for brands with a strong presence in fans and cooling appliances.

However, the report warned of some challenges. High raw material costs and limited ability to pass on those costs to consumers may impact profit margins, particularly in the RAC segment.

The report said, "High raw material costs and limited pricing power may pressure

RAC margins."

Additionally, a delayed summer season affected sales in the southern region, though demand in northern parts of the country has seen a pickup.

On the equity market front, the report highlighted increasing volatility in domestic markets, driven largely by global concerns. The fear of a potential global trade war, following tariff impositions by the United States, has led to uncertainty.

This has caused jitters in global financial markets and is contributing to short-term market fluctuations.

Half of office spaces are fit for retrofitting: CBRE report

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

Nearly 50 per cent of India's office inventory in the top seven cities, including integrated technology parks and stand-alone properties, is over ten years old, indicating significant potential for retrofitting and value enhancement, according to a study by CBRE.

The release by CBRE further mentions that specifically, around 27 per cent of the total office stock is over 15 years old, and 23 per cent is between 10 to 15 years old, while only 28 per cent is less than 5 years old.

It also highlights the problem that a major portion of the total office stock of approximately 882 million sq. ft faces the risk of declining occupancy, stagnant rents, and functional obsolescence as occupiers increasingly prioritise modern, high-performance spaces.

The report further reveals that Bengaluru and Delhi-NCR hold nearly 45 per cent of the India's decade-old office stock, while Mumbai and Chennai together account for another 32 per cent. These stats reaffirm the need for strategic upgrades and retrofitting to align with evolving workplace expectations and sustain asset competitiveness.

The office buildings covering approximately 434 million sq. ft. are suitable candidates for upgrades, representing an investment potential of roughly INR 304 to 520 billion.

"Retrofitting assets can meet occupier expectations around sustainability, wellness, and tech-readiness - while offering potential rental premiums of up to 20 per cent (and even potentially surpassing 30-40 per cent in some instances), depending on market conditions," the CBRE said.

Humanoid will arrive sooner than expected: Morgan Stanley

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

Humanoid will arrive sooner than expected, says Morgan Stanley. Humanoid will arrive sooner than expected, says Morgan Stanley.

A humanoid is a non-human entity that resembles humans in appearance or characteristics, often used in science fiction or robotics. The investment banking

firm projects that "the team set forth their proprietary humanoid TAM model that projects the global market for humanoid robots will grow to become materially larger than the global auto industry." This accelerated timeline suggests a potentially disruptive force with broad economic and sector-wide implications.

With the arrival of humanoids, the MS research

estimates this potential impact by estimating that the market for humanoids could reach approximately USD 4.7 trillion by the year 2050. This provides the long-term investment opportunities and the transformative nature of humanoid technology for the investors.

Within this AI-driven landscape, the development of humanoids, considered



a subset of "Embodied AI," is identified as a key area of focus. However, 2025 will be the year of Agentic AI, where companies can use Agentic AI tools to improve their businesses.

Morgan Stanley says, "we believe the magnitude of benefits from AI adoption is vastly underestimated."

"AI spend is set to rise dramatically, but we see a USD 1.1 trillion revenue opportu-

nity as early as 2028, with contribution margins of 34 per cent in 2025, rising to 67 per cent by 2028," Morgan Stanley said.

On the nuclear power front, Morgan Stanley believes that "nuclear renaissance will be worth USD 1.5 trillion through 2050 in the form of capital investment in new global nuclear capacity, which is based on the assumption

that there will be 383.5GW of new nuclear capacity to be added globally, which is roughly equal to the current global nuclear capacity of 390GW."

Both AI and humanoids are seen as pivotal forces shaping investment strategies and offering significant opportunities for alpha generation within the evolving technological landscape.

OP SINDOOR: MODI’S CHECKMATE – SLAYING TERROR, SECURING INDIA’S ECO INTERESTS

OPINION

DR.S.SUKANYA IYER



Let’s begin with an introduction to Operation Sindoor, a pivotal military operation launched by India on May 7, 2025, under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, as a decisive response to escalating terrorist threats. This operation, detailed in sources in many Publications targeted nine terrorist bases in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir, neutralizing key figures like Abdul Rauf Asghar—a notorious Jaish-e-Mohammad operative behind major attacks like the IC-814 hijacking and the 2001 Parliament attack (as noted in the X post). The operation not only reflects India’s strategic resolve but also sets the stage for profound geopolitical and economic consequences, which we’ll explore in depth.

To frame this analysis, let’s draw on thoughtful quotes that resonate with the themes of justice, retribution, and geopolitical strategy, as provided in the web search results:

On Justice and Retribution: bell hooks once said, “Justice demands integrity. It’s to have a moral universe — not only know what is right or wrong but to put things in perspective,

tive, weigh things. Justice is different from violence and retribution; it requires complex accounting

Operation Sindoor emerges as a bold yet complex manoeuvre, balancing national security imperatives with the potential for regional destabilization. Let’s now delve into its geopolitical ramifications and economic implications for India, as requested.

Let’s dive into the ramifications of Operation Sindoor, a bold military operation executed by India on May 7, 2025, under Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s leadership, as referenced in the India Today and Al Jazeera articles. This operation involved coordinated strikes on nine terrorist targets in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir, targeting groups like Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM), Lashkar-e-Taiba, and Hizbul Mujahideen, in retaliation for the April 2025 Pahalgam attack that killed 26 tourists. The operation has significant geopolitical and economic implications for India, which I’ll break down systematically with references.

GEOPOLITICAL RAMIFICATIONS OF OPERATION SINDOOR Escalation of India-Pakistan Tensions

Immediate Impact: The operation has led to the “worst fighting in more than two decades” between India and Pakistan, according to Al Jazeera. Pakistan reported 26 deaths and 46 injuries,

while India claimed eight were killed in retaliatory strikes. This tit-for-tat violence, involving strikes near Muzaffarabad and shelling, raises the spectre of a broader conflict between two nuclear-armed neighbours.

Nuclear Risk: Al Jazeera quotes U.S. President Donald Trump saying, “The world cannot afford a military confrontation between India and Pakistan, highlighting global fears of escalation. The operation’s timing, following the Pahalgam attack blamed on Pakistan (which Islamabad denied), underscores the fragile state of India-Pakistan relations...which will not happen...!”

Long-Term Consequence: India’s assertive posture could also embolden its “surgical strike” doctrine, signalling zero tolerance for cross-border terrorism, but at the cost of sustained border tensions....Entire Global support stands beside India’s zero tolerance for Terror Supporting Nation-- Pakistan

Counterterrorism Alliances: The operation may strengthen India’s ties with nations like the U.S., France, and Israel, who share intelligence and military cooperation on counterterrorism.

Economic Implications for India Pertaining to Operation Sindoor Operation Sindoor, while a military and political statement, has direct and indirect effects on the Indian economy.

Temporary Economic Effects:

Border Trade and Connectivity: India-Pakistan border trade, already minimal due to years of strained relations, may halt entirely. Cross-border skirmishes disrupt connectivity projects like the Kartarpur Corridor, impacting local economies in Punjab and Kashmir.

Tourism Sector: The Pa-

halgam attack targeted tourists, and the subsequent operation and retaliatory strikes may deter international visitors to Kashmir and other parts of India. Tourism, a significant revenue source for Jammu and Kashmir (contributing ~7-8% to its GDP pre-COVID, per government data), could face a sharp decline, exacerbating economic distress in the region. Now the locals who supported these terrorists will now get to understand what it means to them especially the Source of Revenue...only Temporary disruptions according to my view

Stock Market Volatility: Historically, India-Pakistan tensions lead to short-term dips in the Indian stock market. The Sensex and Nifty may experience volatility as investors react to fears of escalation. Defence stocks (e.g., Bharat Dynamics, Hindustan Aeronautics) might see gains, but sectors like hospitality, aviation, and consumer goods could face ...a low but believe me it will be revived soon...remember we did very well during Covid-19 times. So Our Government will act with PRECISION Not by PROVOCATION

Defence Spending and Fiscal Pressure

Increased Military Expenditure: Operation Sindoor, involving precision strikes and likely drone or missile technology, signals India’s investment in advanced military capabilities. India’s defense budget, already ~2.5% of GDP (as per SIPRI 2024 data), may rise to sustain such operations and bolster border defences. No Fiscal Pressures for our Economy as such.

DEFENCE SPENDING AND FISCAL PRESSURE

Increased Military Expenditure: Operation Sindoor, involving precision strikes and likely drone or missile

technology, signals India’s investment in advanced military capabilities. India’s defense budget, already ~2.5% of GDP (as per SIPRI 2024 data), may rise to sustain such operations and bolster border defences, will not face any headwinds for sure as of now. There will be no Geopolitical instability particularly in sectors like manufacturing and tech, where India is pushing for self-reliance under the “Make in India” initiative. It’s not going to be under provocation.

Under Modi’s leadership, India has positioned itself as a staunch counterterrorism advocate, a stance that has garnered significant global support. The claim here is that this leadership and international backing will minimize economic disruptions stemming from the operation. Let’s break this down.

PROACTIVE ECONOMIC POLICIES

This proactive stance suggests that Modi’s government is likely to implement measures to counteract any economic disruptions from Operation Sindoor, such as incentivizing domestic production or reassuring investors of stability.

Nationalist Sentiment as an Economic Driver: India Today notes that Operation Sindoor satisfies the collective outcry of the nation for justice and retribution. Modi’s ability to rally national support can translate into economic resilience. For instance, heightened patriotic sentiment might boost sectors like defense manufacturing (e.g., Bharat Dynamics, Hindustan Aeronautics) and media, where content glorifying India’s military achievements sees increased consumption

GLOBAL SUPPORT FOR INDIA’S COUNTERTERRORISM MOVES

Operation Sindoor has been

widely framed as a counterterrorism effort, a narrative that resonates with many global powers.

Western Backing: U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio closely monitoring the situation, signalling diplomatic engagement. The U.S., a major trade partner (India-U.S. trade was \$120 billion in 2023, per USTR), is unlikely to impose economic penalties, ensuring that FDI flows—\$85 billion in FY 2023-24 (DPIIT)—remain largely intact.

SUPPORT FROM OTHER NATIONS:

India’s global position, as allies like Israel, France, and the UK—key partners in counterterrorism—likely endorse the operation. Such support can translate into sustained economic cooperation, minimizing disruptions in trade and investment.

CONCLUSION WITH PERSPECTIVES

India’s decisive leadership under Narendra Modi, coupled with global support for Operation Sindoor, positions the country to minimize economic disruptions. Modi’s strategic acumen, evidenced by his high approval ratings and economic initiatives like “Make in India,” ensures proactive measures to stabilize markets and sectors like tourism. International backing from the U.S., Israel, and others. Sustains FDI and trade, while India’s improved Middle Eastern ties secure energy supplies. Though risks like escalation with Pakistan and potential Chinese pushback exist, the economic impact is likely to be very limited, with disruptions confined to short-term volatility rather than structural damage.

Operation Sindoor, while a bold military move, underscores India’s ability to balance security and economic resilience on the global stage.

PERSPECTIVE DELUSIONAL PAKISTAN

COMMUNICATION IN THE TIME OF CONFLICT

Communication plays a major role in modern warfare, where the right message needs to go out not only to the domestic public but also to the international community. It is in this department that India seems to have been failing in its Operation Sindoor, while winning the actual battle convincingly. But this was until the time the DGMO press conferences started, where the senior-most officers of the Indian armed forces put up a fool-proof case to show how India has pummeled Pakistan. Compared to this, the Pakistani DG ISPR’s press conferences resemble a clown show, with what is jokingly referred to as “trust me bro”, replacing actual proof. But then the problem is that in the international media at least, Pakistani claims have got amplified, including the ridiculous one about Pakistani drones hovering over New Delhi. It is surprising that these international news agencies would highlight Pakistani claims in such a manner, while often giving a passing mention to whatever Indians have been saying. This can be seen as an extension of the bias that exists in mainstream western media towards India, and is not a new phenomenon. This has been aggravated in the last decade because of the legacy media’s hatred for India’s right-of-centre government. So the fiction about India suffering badly in Operation Sindoor have been floated around the world, ably aided by Pakistan’s misinformation campaign. But then Indians too have to be blamed for not communicating their position



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

clearly. There was a clear lack of preparedness on reaching out to the world media, of taking the facts to them, and it showed in the coverage. This is an area where India needs to clear up its act.

Having said that, what India has achieved is nothing short of spectacular.

Hitting 11 key air bases inside Pakistan—including bases like Sargodha and Jacobabad that house their F-16 and J-17 fleets—and 26 terrorist targets is not a matter of joke, apart from showing to the world what a sitting duck Pakistan is; as well as how overrated the Turkish drones and Chinese missiles and air defences are. Nothing functioned for Pakistan. This was an hour of glory for our indigenous manufacturing, with our layered air defence grid mostly populated by Indian systems. In fact this gives a whole new dimension to India’s power projection in the region and comes with a message to China, whose reputation as a defence manufacturer and military power has cratered because of the failure of its air defence systems and missiles to protect Pakistan.

Amid this, Pakistan is still spreading misinformation about whose DGMO approached whom, when Indians have made it clear that it was the Pakistanis who raised the white flag. There is also some confusion about why and when US Vice President J.D. Vance intervened, and if there was a fear of nuclear escalation by the Pakistani side. But then this might stay unanswered for a long time, because it is a matter of utmost secrecy. Meanwhile, US President Donald Trump has added his bit to the melee by trying to score brownie points by implying it was his intervention that made India and Pakistan cease fire, even though the Indian side has made it clear that there was no US involvement whatsoever in the talks. Also, Trump has offered to mediate on the Kashmir issue. He and his advisors need to be told that the issue at hand is not Kashmir, but Pakistan sponsored terrorism. But then they will learn it the hard way that it won’t be easy to bring India to the table on Kashmir.

The bottom line is, whatever be the misinformation and disinformation, the truth will come out, which it has started, gradually. As for Pakistan, there is no treatment for its delusions. A country that actually believes that its hackers were able to disrupt India’s power grids and render 70% of the country powerless, does not have a cure. But then there are several Pakistanis who still believe that 1971 was a draw, in spite of losing half the country to India’s military intervention, which gave birth to Bangladesh. Pakistan has fallen victim to its own web of misinformation and disinformation, believing that it can actually take on a behemoth like India. Much of its policy towards India stems from this delusion. The result is there for all to see.

JOYEETA BASU

Buddha Purnima: Dharma, harmony, quest for social justice

OPINION

GOPAL GOSWAMI



The gentle spring air of Vaishakh carries a profound resonance, culminating in the sacred observance of Buddha Purnima. Across the globe, millions commemorate the birth, enlightenment, and *Parinirvana* (final liberation) of Siddhartha Gautama, the historical Buddha. In India, the land of his birth and awakening, this day holds a particularly significant place, intertwined with the rich tapestry of Sanatan Dharma and its ongoing

pursuit of social harmony and justice.

Gautam Buddha’s life, born into a royal Kshatriya-Shakya clan, was one of profound transformation. Witnessing the inherent suffering of human existence – sickness, old age, and death – ignited within him a relentless quest for liberation. His renunciation of worldly comforts and his arduous spiritual journey under the Bodhi tree in Bodhi Gaya culminated in his enlightenment, making him the Buddha, the “Awakened One.”

The core of Buddha’s teachings, encapsulated in the Four Noble Truths, offers a pragmatic path to understanding and overcoming suffering. The truth of suffering (*dukkha*), the truth of the origin of suffering (*Samudaya*), the truth of the cessation of suffering (*Nirodha*), and the truth of

the path to the cessation of suffering (*Magga*) form the bedrock of Buddhist philosophy. The Eightfold Path – right understanding, right thought, right speech, right action, right livelihood, right effort, right mindfulness, and right concentration – provides a practical framework for ethical conduct, mental discipline, and wisdom.

While Buddhism is often perceived as a distinct religious tradition, its roots are deeply embedded in the philosophical and spiritual landscape of ancient India and Sanatan Dharma. Many scholars and practitioners recognize Buddhism as a Dharmic tradition that emerged from within the broader Hindu milieu, sharing a common heritage of concepts like Karma, Dharma, and Reincarnation. The Buddha himself drew upon existing spiritual practices and philosophical inquiries, offering his unique insights and a distinct path to liberation. It’s important to note that the philosophy of Buddha is to help one in attaining Nirvana, the basic objective of Sanatan Vaidik Hindu Dhrama not a new sect.

The emphasis on *Abimsa*

(non-violence), *Karuna* (compassion), and *Maitri* (loving-kindness) in Buddhist teachings resonates deeply with the core tenets of Sanatan Dharma, which also champions ethical living and the interconnectedness of all beings. The Buddha’s rejection of ritualistic practices and his emphasis on inner transformation and ethical conduct can be seen as a reformist movement within the existing spiritual framework, seeking to address the social and spiritual challenges of his time.

Buddha’s teaching was to liberate people from misery, poverty and death, as he sees these things responsible as suffering for humans. He welcomed individuals from all walks of life into his monastic order, irrespective of their social standing. This revolutionary approach brought all to parity and offered a path of spiritual liberation accessible to all. His emphasis on individual effort and ethical conduct as the determinants of spiritual progress without rituals, through prayers revolutionary change in spiritualism. The principles of *Metta* and *Karuna* urge us to cultivate

empathy and actively work towards alleviating the suffering of others, particularly those marginalized.

In modern times, the lessons from the Buddha’s life and teachings can inspire us to actively dismantle the structures of inequality and prejudice that persist in our society. His emphasis on right understanding encourages us to critically examine our own biases and assumptions, while right action calls us to engage in concrete efforts to promote social justice and inclusivity. The focus on mindfulness and compassion can foster a more empathetic and understanding society, where the suffering of others is acknowledged and addressed.

As we observe Buddha Purnima, it is crucial to remember the spirit of inclusivity and social reform that permeated the Buddha’s teachings. We must support individuals and organizations working tirelessly to build a casteless society, where every citizen enjoys equal rights and opportunities. However, it is equally important to be discerning and distance ourselves from those who exploit the discourse of social justice

to sow seeds of hatred and division within the Hindu community. The true essence of the Buddha’s message lies in fostering harmony, understanding, and mutual respect.

Buddha Purnima is not merely a commemoration of a historical figure; it is a call to action. It reminds us of the enduring human quest for liberation, both spiritual and social. By embracing the core principles of the Buddha’s teachings – compassion, wisdom, and ethical conduct – and by recognizing the deep connections between Buddhism and Sanatan Dharma, we can collectively strive towards a more just, equitable, and harmonious society, where the light of Dharma illuminates the path towards true social parity and the eradication of untouchability. Let the spirit of the Awakened One inspire us to awaken our own hearts and minds to the suffering of others and to actively participate in the ongoing journey towards a truly inclusive and compassionate world.

Gopal Goswami, Ph.D, is a Columnist, Researcher & Social Worker.

HOW THE U.S. MFN POLICY COULD RESHAPE GLOBAL DRUG PRICES

Trump’s “Most Favored Nation” order causes a global pharma shock, with ripple effects from Wall Street to Indian generic drugmakers, and threatens to reshape international pricing and patent battles.

The U.S. President in 2025, who announced a sweeping “Most Favored Nation” (MFN) pricing order on prescription drugs. On May 12, 2025, President Donald Trump used his executive powers to order U.S. drug prices slashed by “30% to 80%,” tying U.S. prices to the lowest levels paid by other developed countries. In a Truth Social post, he vowed that under the new MFN policy “the United States will pay the same price as the Nation that pays the lowest price anywhere in the World”. The announcement set off a global shock: pharmaceutical stocks fell sharply in Europe, Asia and the U.S. as investors braced for profit hits. Analysts warned that while American patients would see near-term relief, companies would “intensify pressure on low-cost markets like India to raise their prices,” since U.S. prices would be benchmarked to the cheapest international price.

DECADES OF U.S. DRUG PRICING REFORMS

Pressure to rein in U.S. drug costs has a long history. The 2003 Medicare Modernization Act created Part D drug coverage but **explicitly barred** the federal government from negotiating prices on behalf of seniors. Subsequent efforts failed: the 2010 Affordable Care Act (ObamaCare) included no new price controls on branded drugs, and in exchange Big Pharma helped finance coverage expansions. Even on the campaign trail both Donald Trump and Hillary Clinton (2016) pledged to allow Medicare to negotiate, but Congress repeatedly **nixed** such measures. In the 2018-22 period, Democrats finally enacted negotiation via the Inflation Reduction Act – Medicare must begin price negotiations for a handful

of high-cost drugs in 2026. During his first term, President Trump issued a drug-pricing blueprint and several executive actions. He ordered Medicare to explore linking prices to foreign rates, authorized importation of lower-cost drugs from abroad, and in 2020 signed an MFN-style executive order – which was quickly challenged and blocked in court. That earlier Trump MFN rule, projected to save \$85 billion over seven years, never took effect. After Democratic victories, most of those rules were reversed or stalled. Notably, the new 2025 order comes on top of Biden’s Inflation Reduction Act framework, which “already negotiated prices for some of the most expensive medicines used in Medicare”. Still, Trump’s second-term move represents his most aggressive pricing action, promising “almost immediately” 30–80% cuts in U.S. prices.

MARKET SHOCK AND REBOUND IN PHARMA STOCKS

The MFN announcement triggered a global sell-off in drug stocks. In Europe, AstraZeneca and GSK shares fell around 3–5%, while Denmark’s Novo Nordisk (maker of Wegovy/Ozempic) dropped 7.5%. In Asia, Japan’s pharma index slid 4%; in Hong Kong, major biotech BeiGene plunged 9%. Indian shares dipped as well – the broad Nifty Pharma index in Mumbai opened 1.7% lower, with giants like Sun Pharma and Lupin under pressure. U.S. trade groups warned that “government price-setting in any form is bad for American patients,” reflecting fears that such a policy could undermine R&D investment. Even European industry voices urged governments to allow higher drug prices and new incentives; without them they



Trump Revives Drug Price Plan: Trump on Truth Social: Medicaid should pay the world’s lowest drug prices. (Getty)



Source: Deloitte

warned, “Europe would fall further behind the US” in medicine development.

Within a day, however, sentiment among some investors began to improve. In India, the Nifty Pharma index plunged by over 1,300 points (down about 6.5%) on the morning of May 12, but by afternoon it had **rebounded** nearly 2.5% from its intraday low. Analysts noted that relief on unrelated geopolitical news (a tentative India-Pakistan ceasefire understanding) helped restore confidence. By late trading, the index was back near its pre-announcement level around 21,000. Observers credited a belief that India’s pharma exporters — long accus-

tomed to policy shifts — could weather global price changes. Nonetheless, in the immediate aftermath profit margins for generic makers were widely seen to be threatened by cratering U.S. prices.

IMPACT ON INDIA’S PHARMACEUTICAL SECTOR

An Indian generic drug packaging (Subagra-100, a generic version of sildenafil). India’s pharma industry is a global leader in low-cost generics, but a U.S. MFN policy could pressure India’s prices and patents. India’s pharmaceuticals are famously the “pharmacy of the world.” Indian firms produce roughly 20% of the world’s generic drug ex-



India Sends APIs to Cuba. 90 tonnes of Indian APIs shipped to Cuba, boosting essential drug production and bilateral ties.



Generics May Face U.S. Policy Heat. Exports like Suhagra-100 may be hit by new U.S. pricing rules.

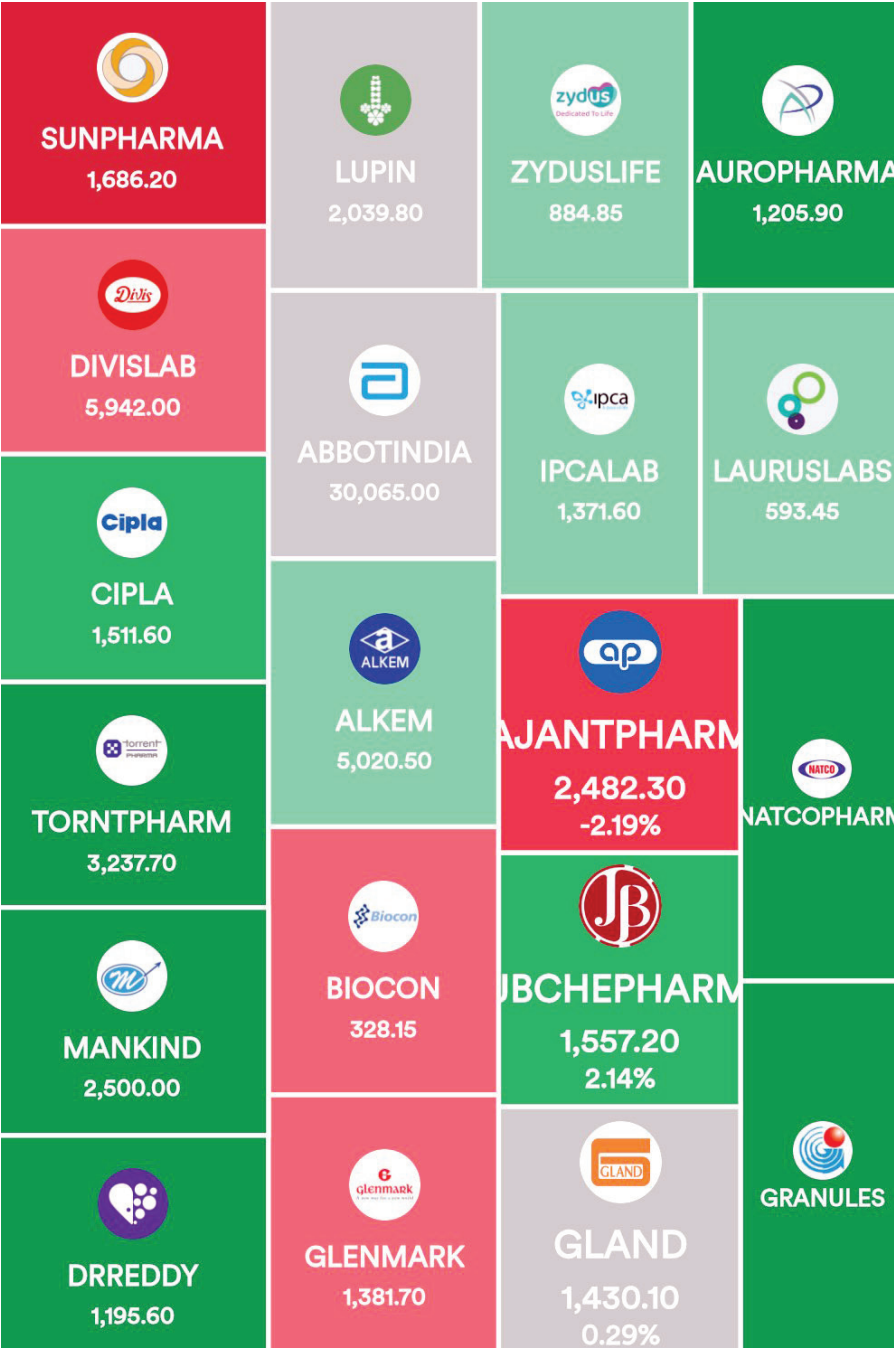
ports (and meet about 40% of U.S. generic demand). In 2024, Indian exports to the U.S. hit about \$10 billion. The 2025 MFN order therefore sent shockwaves through India’s generics-heavy sector. On May 12, Indian generic drugmakers such as Sun Pharma, Biocon, Lupin and Cipla initially tumbled in Mumbai trading. (Sun Pharma and others were among stocks that slid in early trade.) The Nifty Pharma index briefly hit lows of ~20,600 before rebounding back to ~21,047.

Industry analysts pointed out that if U.S. prices must fall to the lowest global level, companies exporting to the U.S. could lose profits. As Ajay Bagga of Prime Securities warned, “Pharma shares will face some pressure as President Trump is expected to sign an executive order that will reduce US prices of prescription drugs...by 30 to 80 per cent”. Yet by late May 12, most Indian drug stocks had recovered, reflecting optimism that U.S. policy details might be negotiated and that Indian firms could shift focus to other markets. The stock rebound was also attributed to India’s strong generics pipeline and bargaining power: Indian pharma has repeatedly argued that its reliance on affordable generics, supported by India’s patent laws, fuels global health.

INDIA’S POLICY RESPONSE AND TRIPS-PLUS CONCERNS

India’s government and think-tanks responded with caution. Trade analysts warned that global drug companies would lobby for stricter Indian patent rules to recoup lost revenues. Indeed, even before the order, India’s patent regime had drawn U.S. scrutiny: in 2024 India was placed on a U.S. “Priority Watch List” for allegedly weak intellectual property protection. The GTRI think tank argued that India “must hold the line on its patent regime” as developed-country firms push “TRIPS-plus” demands via trade deals. Such TRIPS-plus provisions (stronger data exclusivity, patent extensions or linkage rules) would delay generics and raise drug prices domestically.

In New Delhi, officials have been non-committal publicly. Experts say India may emphasize at the WTO that the TRIPS Agreement already allows compul-



Markets Soar on Geopolitical Easing. Nifty jumped 900 pts, Nifty Bank 1,700 pts as India-Pak ties eased and US-China trade talks progressed; pharma cautious ahead of Trump’s order.

sory licensing in health emergencies and that MFN indexing was a separate issue. Behind the scenes, Indian trade negotiators could face renewed pressure in free-trade talks. But India’s response, backed by generics lobby groups, stressed protecting affordable medicine access. As the GTRI’s Ajay Srivastava put it, the “battleground is no longer just legal – it has moved to trade negotiations,” and India must resist any “mo-

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India: Pharmacy of the World. India supplies 20% of global generics, 40% of U.S. demand.

PM NARENDRA MODI, 22 AUG 2024- India’s pharmaceutical exports extend to both developed and developing countries and with enhanced research and development efforts, the industry is poised to usher in a new era of drug manufacturing and testing. Collaboration between public and private research institutions and increased funding and government support are essential for driving further growth and innovation. Further, initiatives such as the Production Linked Incentive Schemes and the Bulk Drug Park, in alignment with the “Make in India” campaign, foster an environment conducive to investment, innovation, and business development in the pharmaceutical sector.

nopolistic extensions” that erode its patent flexibilities.

GLOBAL RIPPLE EFFECTS ON PRICING AND IP REGIMES

Trump’s MFN order is a striking new episode in the globalization of drug pricing. By openly tying U.S. prices to those abroad, it underscores that low-price countries effectively subsidize high prices elsewhere. Global analysts expect ripple effects: for example, European and Asian markets might see pushback from pharma industry groups or even political responses. In Europe, drugmakers have

massive generics industry, it brings both challenge and attention: companies that supply one-fifth of the world’s generics must now navigate potential price recalibrations and defend India’s patent laws. Globally, the episode has reignited debates over whether international pricing arrangements can curb costs without stifling innovation. History will judge how effective the order is for Americans – and how other nations, from India to Europe to developing countries, respond in policy and diplomacy.

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Compiled by Ruchira Talapatra

INDO-NEPAL INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE BOOSTS MEDICAL COOPERATION BETWEEN INDIA AND NEPAL

TDG NETWORK
JAIPUR

The Indo-Nepal International Conference (IndoNepalCon) 2025, aimed at fostering medical and healthcare cooperation between India and Nepal, was held recently in Kathmandu. This conference, a collaborative effort of the Indian Medical Association (IMA) Rajasthan and IMA MSM Hospital, brought together senior doctors, nursing officers, police representatives, and common citizens from both nations, marking a significant step forward in strengthening medical ties.

The conference's chief conveners, Roop Singh Kumawat and Manoj Kandoi, highlighted that the primary

objective of the event was to exchange the latest advancements in medical knowledge and to enhance the rapid response mechanisms in disaster and emergency situations. Various dialogues and training sessions were organized, covering vital topics like Basic Life Support (BLS), Trauma Care, Disaster Management, and Community Health.

Keynote speakers at the conference shared valuable insights on improving healthcare delivery in both countries. Dr. Rajesh Sharma, one of the prominent speakers, discussed the importance of Automated External Defibrillators (AED) in treating cardiac arrest, stressing their life-saving capabilities. Dr. Loken-dra Sharma focused on the



critical issue of antibiotic resistance, emphasizing the prudent use of antibiotics in clinical practice.

A hands-on CPR training workshop was also conducted, where Bijendra and

Radhe Lal Sharma from SMS Medical College Trauma Center provided training on Basic Life Support techniques. Dr. JP Agarwal addressed modern challenges in lifestyle medicine, provid-

ing a comprehensive look at how lifestyle factors contribute to health issues in today's world. Dr. OP Sharma informed the participants about various government health schemes currently

available in the state.

Adding a unique dimension to the conference, Dr. Meghendra Sharma of Vigyan Bharti presented valuable insights into the relevance of ancient Indian

medical science in the modern world. The event also saw MD and PhD students from Rajasthan Health Sciences University actively participating, as they presented research papers and



posters through online platforms, contributing to academic exchanges between the two nations.

IndoNepalCon-2025 not only strengthened medical cooperation between India and Nepal but also served as a foundation for future bilateral initiatives in the health sector.

The conference has set a precedent for future collaborations and is considered a historic step in enhancing medical ties between the two countries.

The event was appreciated by both the organizers and participants as a successful initiative, strengthening mutual understanding, knowledge sharing, and a stronger bond in healthcare cooperation between India and Nepal.

Honouring nurses: Pillars of strength in global healthcare and healing

TDG NETWORK
JAIPUR

Every year on May 12, the world celebrates International Nurses Day, commemorating the birth anniversary of Florence Nightingale, the founder of modern nursing. This day not only honors the selfless service of nurses across the globe but also highlights their integral role in the healthcare system. The theme for International Nurses Day 2025 is 'Our Nurses. Our Future. Caring for nurses strengthens economies.' This theme focuses on nurses' health and well-being and highlights the critical role of a healthy nursing workforce in supporting the overall healthcare system.

THE CRITICAL ROLE OF NURSES IN HEALTHCARE

Nurses are often the first and most consistent point of contact for patients within any healthcare setting. Their role spans across primary, secondary, and tertiary care and includes promoting health, preventing illness, and caring for the ill, disabled, and dying. From the emergency room to the ICU, from rural clinics to urban hospitals, nurses serve tirelessly, ensuring every patient receives safe and effective care.

Nurses are trained to assess patients, administer medication, manage treatment plans, educate families, and provide emotional support. In recent decades, the scope of nursing has expanded even further, with advanced practice nurses (APNs) and nurse practitioners (NPs) taking on more autonomous roles in diagnosis and treatment.

CONTRIBUTIONS IN DIFFERENT SPHERES OF HEALTHCARE

1. CLINICAL EXCELLENCE AND PATIENT CARE

Nurses spend more time with patients than any other healthcare professional, making them central to patient outcomes. Their close observation allows for early detection of complications, timely interventions, and individualized patient care. Clinical nurses ensure hygiene standards, monitor vital signs, manage chronic diseases, and often serve as advocates for their patients.

2. PUBLIC HEALTH AND COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Beyond hospitals, nurses

play a significant role in public health. Community health nurses educate the public about health promotion, nutrition, sanitation, immunization, and disease prevention. During epidemics and pandemics like COVID-19, nurses were on the frontlines, often risking their lives to deliver care, manage vaccinations, and conduct contact tracing.

3. LEADERSHIP AND POLICY ADVOCACY

Nurses also contribute to healthcare policy and reform. As professionals who understand patient needs and systemic gaps firsthand, nurse leaders are crucial in shaping policies for better access, equity, and quality in

improving patient care standards. They study infection control, patient safety, pain management, mental health interventions, and more. Nurses also contribute to healthcare innovations, including the design of patient care models and the development of health technologies.

CHALLENGES FACED BY NURSES

Despite their indispensable role, nurses often face numerous challenges. Long working hours, inadequate staffing, low wages in many regions, and emotional burnout are common issues. During health emergencies, these challenges intensify, affecting their physical and

job satisfaction. It also leads to more sustainable healthcare systems, especially in low- and middle-income countries where medical resources are limited.

Nurses are not just caregivers—they are critical thinkers, advocates, educators, and innovators. By recognizing their economic impact, countries can better allocate resources to strengthen their health systems from the ground up.

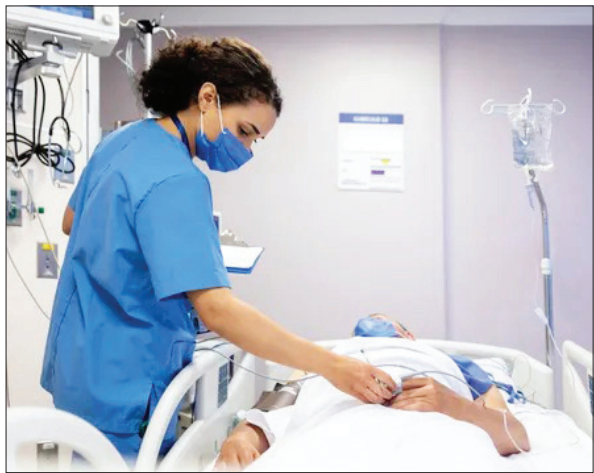
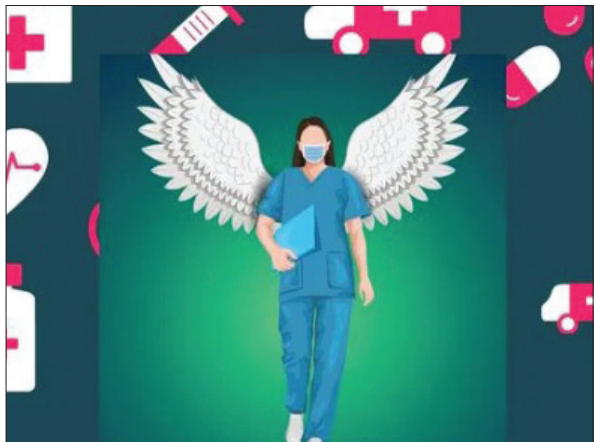
International Recognition and the Way Forward

Organizations such as the World Health Organization (WHO) and ICN have been advocating for the empowerment and recognition of nurses on global platforms. The State of the World's Nursing Report (2020) by WHO emphasized the need for strategic investments in nursing education, jobs, and leadership.

To ensure that the nursing profession continues to evolve and thrive, several critical steps must be prioritized. Expanding education and training opportunities is essential to equip nurses with advanced skills and up-to-date clinical knowledge. Strengthening nursing leadership and ensuring greater representation in health policy decisions will empower nurses to influence systems that directly impact patient care. Fair remuneration and professional recognition are vital to acknowledge the value nurses bring to healthcare, helping to retain skilled professionals. Additionally, providing robust mental health support and ensuring safe, supportive working environments are necessary to protect the well-being of nurses and enable them to perform their duties effectively.

NURSES ARE THE HEART OF HEALTHCARE.

Their compassion, resilience, and expertise form the backbone of medical services in every country. On International Nurses Day 2024, the world not only celebrates their contributions but also calls upon leaders, institutions, and citizens to support and invest in nursing as a cornerstone of global health. The future of healthcare depends on nurses. Let us empower them, support them, and recognize the immense value they bring—not just in saving lives but in shaping a healthier, more equitable world.



healthcare delivery. Nursing organizations worldwide work with governments to ensure adequate staffing, safe working conditions, and fair compensation.

4. EDUCATION AND MENTORSHIP

Nurse educators play a pivotal role in preparing future generations of healthcare professionals. They ensure that nursing practices evolve with evidence-based research and medical advancements. Senior nurses also mentor junior staff, helping them navigate clinical responsibilities and ethical dilemmas.

5. RESEARCH AND INNOVATION

Many nurses today are engaged in research aimed at

mental well-being. There's also a global nursing shortage, which puts immense pressure on existing staff and compromises patient care. Gender disparity is another concern. Although nursing is a female-dominated profession, leadership roles in healthcare are often male-dominated. Empowering nurses through education, leadership training, and equitable policies is crucial for the growth of the profession.

THE ECONOMIC VALUE OF NURSING

This year's theme is "Caring for nurses strengthens economies." Investing in nursing education, fair wages, and workplace safety improves retention and

Boost your immunity: Essential steps for better health

TDG NETWORK
JAIPUR

A strong immune system is essential for protecting the body against infections, illnesses, and diseases. The immune system acts as a defense mechanism, identifying and eliminating harmful pathogens like viruses, bacteria, and toxins that could otherwise cause harm. However, factors such as stress, poor diet, lack of sleep, and sedentary lifestyles can weaken immunity. This makes it crucial to adopt a healthy lifestyle and incorporate habits that enhance immune function. Here's how you can improve your immunity naturally.

1. BALANCED DIET FOR A STRONGER IMMUNE SYSTEM

The food we eat plays a significant role in boosting immunity. A well-balanced diet rich in fruits, vegetables, whole grains, lean proteins, and healthy fats provides essential nutrients that support immune function. Vitamins such as vitamin C, vitamin D, and minerals like zinc are especially important for the immune system.

Vitamin C: Found in citrus fruits, strawberries, bell peppers, and broccoli, vitamin C is known to enhance the production of white blood cells, which fight infections.

Vitamin D: This vitamin helps activate immune cells and is found in fatty fish, fortified dairy, and eggs. Spending time in the sun also helps the body produce vitamin D.

Zinc: This mineral is crucial for maintaining immune cell function and can be found in foods like nuts, seeds, legumes, and lean meats.

2. REGULAR EXERCISE

Exercise is not only good for overall health but also boosts the immune system. Regular physical activity improves blood circulation, allowing immune cells to move more freely throughout the body. It also helps regulate inflammation and promotes a healthy body weight.

Moderate exercise, such as brisk walking, swimming, or cycling, for at least 30 minutes most days of the week, is beneficial. However, excessive exercise without proper rest can actually suppress immune function, so it's essential to maintain a balance.

3. ADEQUATE SLEEP

Sleep is vital for maintaining a healthy immune system.

When we sleep, the body undergoes repair and regeneration, and immune function is optimized. Lack of sleep can impair the production of immune cells, making the body more susceptible to infections.

Adults should aim for 7-9 hours of quality sleep each night. To improve sleep quality, establish a regular sleep schedule, create a relaxing bedtime routine, and make the sleep environment conducive to rest, such as by keeping the room cool and dark.

4. MANAGING STRESS

Chronic stress has been shown to suppress the immune system, making the

body more vulnerable to illness. When stressed, the body produces cortisol, a hormone that, in excess, can impair immune function. Therefore, managing stress is crucial for improving immunity.

5. HYDRATION

Staying hydrated is essential for overall health, including the proper functioning of the immune system. Water helps flush out toxins from the body, supports nutrient absorption, and maintains the health of mucosal membranes, which act as barriers to pathogens.

Aim to drink at least 8 glasses (2 liters) of water a day, but more may be necessary if you are physically



essential for proper immune function, and probiotics—beneficial bacteria found in fermented foods—help maintain a balanced gut microbiome.

Include foods like yogurt, kefir, sauerkraut, kimchi, and kombucha in your diet to boost gut health and, consequently, immune health. If necessary, you can also take probiotic supplements after consulting a healthcare professional.

7. AVOID SMOKING AND EXCESSIVE ALCOHOL

Smoking and excessive alcohol consumption can damage the immune system and make it harder for the body to fight infections. Smoking weakens the respiratory system, while alcohol impairs the production and function of immune cells.

Quitting smoking and limiting alcohol intake can significantly improve immune function and overall health. If you're struggling to quit, seek support from healthcare professionals or support groups.

8. REGULAR HANDWASHING AND HYGIENE PRACTICES

In addition to strengthening the immune system from within, practicing good hygiene is crucial for preventing infections. Regular handwashing with soap and water, especially before eating or after being in public places, can help reduce the risk of infection.

Avoid touching your face, especially the eyes, nose, and mouth, as these are the entry points for viruses and bacteria. Keeping your living environment clean and practicing proper food hygiene are also essential steps in preventing the spread of infections.

Improving immunity requires a holistic approach that includes proper nutrition, regular exercise, adequate sleep, stress management, and good hygiene. By adopting these healthy habits, you can strengthen your immune system, increase your body's resilience to illness, and enjoy better overall health. Remember, a healthy immune system is not only about avoiding sickness but also about ensuring your body can repair and protect itself effectively. With consistent efforts, you can give your immune system the support it needs to keep you healthy and thriving.

CEASEFIRE FALLOUT: WHEN DIPLOMACY MEETS DIGITAL HATE



Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri addresses the media during a special briefing on Operation Sindoor. (Photo: PTI)



Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri seen with his family in a rare public moment. (X post)



In the aftermath of the India-Pakistan ceasefire, one striking image continues to resonate: Colonel Sofiya Qureshi representing the Army at the joint MEA-MoD press conference. (File photo)



Wing Commander Vyomika Singh fronted the Indian government's media briefing on Operation Sindoor. (File photo)

As Vikram Misri's trolling mounted, a number of politicians, diplomats, and associations came out in defence of Misri.

Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri, India's most distinguished diplomat, has been targeted by despicable online abuse after his contribution to the announcement of a ceasefire deal with Pakistan. Misri, Colonel Sofiya Qureshi, and Wing Commander Vyomika Singh have been updating the media on Operation Sindoor, a key

response operation after the Pahalgam terror attack.

But when the ceasefire deal became public, social media users started going after Misri with personal abuses. To everybody's surprise, the abuse escalated to his daughter, Didon Misri, leading the Foreign Secretary to lock his X (previously Twitter) account.

WHY THE TROLLING BEGAN AGAINST VIKRAM MISRI

On May 10, India and Pakistan mutually agreed to suspend all military activity on land, sea, and air. The move, following four intense days of drone and missile bombardments, was announced by Foreign Secretary Misri in a press conference.

He said that the Directors General of Military Operations of both nations had sat down and would continue to meet. This ceasefire, regarded as a diplomatic breakthrough by most, infuriated some right-wing

sections on the net who had insisted on a resounding retaliatory attack on Pakistan. Misri, being the face of the announcement, felt the brunt of their wrath.

The trolling grew more aggressive when users started attacking his daughter, Didon Misri, who lives in London and works for international law firm Herbert Smith Freehills. Allegations that she had offered legal assistance to Rohingya refugees prompted a torrent of hate, including doxxing and abuse.

CRITICISM FROM ACROSS THE POLITICAL DIVIDE

As the trolling mounted, a number of politicians, diplomats, and associations came out in defence of Misri.

The IAS Association stated, "The IAS Association stands in solidarity with Shri Vikram Misri, Foreign Secretary, & his family. Unwarranted personal attacks on civil servants serving their nation with integrity are regrettable."

While many bailed the ceasefire as a diplomatic breakthrough, it enraged certain right-wing voices online who had demanded a forceful retaliation against Pakistan. As the public face of the announcement, Misri bore the brunt of their outrage.

AIMIM leader Asaduddin Owaisi twitter, "Mr Vikram Misri is a good and an honest hard-working diplomat working day and night for our Nation. Our civil servants work under the Executive... they shouldn't be held responsible for the decisions made by...any Political leadership operat-

one to uphold respect and decorum, considering his devoted service and immense contributions towards the nation."

DIPLOMATS AND BUREAUCRATS COME OUT IN SUPPORT OF VIKRAM MISRI

Former Foreign Sec-



ing Watan E Aziz."

The IRTS Association also denounced the trolling: "We request every-

retary Nirupama Menon Rao did not mince words. "It's shameful to troll Foreign Secre-

Signals from the Gulf: What Israel is watching

U.S. President Donald Trump's upcoming visit to the Gulf, which notably bypasses Israel, has triggered fresh anxieties amongst several Israelis about their standing in Washington's strategic priorities, Reuters reported on Monday. Here's a breakdown of what's happening and why it matters.

WHAT'S CAUSING THE CURRENT CONCERN IN ISRAEL?

Trump's decision to skip Israel during his Middle East tour — which includes Saudi Arabia, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates — has raised eyebrows in Jerusalem, the report said, adding that the move follows a string of developments that have unsettled Israeli officials:

U.S. talks with Hamas led to the pending release of U.S.-Israeli hostage Edan Alexander, but they excluded Israel from the negotiation process. The announcement came just after Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu announced an expanded military operation in Gaza.

Trump suddenly halted U.S. airstrikes on Iranian-backed Houthi rebels in Yemen, days after a Houthi missile struck near Israel's main international airport.

According to the Reuters report, these decisions have been interpreted by many in Israel as signs that U.S. priorities may be shifting away from traditional support for Israel.

HOW HAVE ISRAELI OFFICIALS REACTED?



President Donald Trump received a warm welcome from King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud in Riyadh on Saturday. (Getty Images)

Reports of unease growing behind the scenes within the Israeli government have emerged. One unnamed senior official in Netanyahu's inner circle told Reuters there was "chaos" in the Trump administration, adding that "everything depended on what the president decided at any given moment." Sometimes that helped Israel, the official reportedly said, "and sometimes it did not."

Another official reportedly described the Houthi decision as "kind of an embarrassment."

Meanwhile, Foreign Minister Gideon Saar said on Sunday, "We coordinate. It doesn't mean you must fully agree 100% on every issue... The U.S. is a sovereign state. Israel is a sovereign state. But I believe we have a very, very big common ground of positions with this administration, more than in the past," as reported by Reuters.

WHAT'S AT STAKE FOR ISRAEL?

Trump's moves, analysts say, have seemingly widened the gap between Israeli and U.S. priorities

One Israeli official summed it up, reportedly saying, "But we don't have a choice."

HOW IS THE ISRAELI PUBLIC RESPONDING?

Reports suggest that there is growing public frustration in Israel over the perception that the U.S. is now making major policy decisions that affect Israel without consulting



Gideon Saar addresses the audience during a handover ceremony with his predecessor at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Jerusalem on November 10, 2024. (AFP)

on key regional issues. Beyond the immediate concerns about Gaza and Houthi missiles, several long-term strategic goals also appear in limbo:

Saudi-Israel normalisation: A key Israeli objective — bringing Saudi Arabia into the Abraham Accords — appears to have been shelved, for now. According to Reuters, the U.S. is no longer insisting on normalisation as a prerequisite for nuclear talks with Riyadh.

Iran nuclear negotiations: Quiet U.S. discussions with Tehran on its nuclear program continue to rattle Israel, especially if they undercut the threat of Israeli military action against Iran.

or even notifying it.

Tel Aviv pensioner Jack Gottlieb told Reuters, "There's just no leadership now... Right now, it's every man for himself."

WHAT DOES THE U.S. SAY?

The U.S. has pushed back on suggestions that it's distancing itself from Israel. "The president has been consistent in his support and his partnership and I have no reason to believe that that won't continue," Reuters quoted U.S. Ambassador Mike Huckabee said.

"That word ['ironclad'] is still operative," he reportedly said, referring to the oft-used descriptor of U.S.-Israel ties.

Understanding the release of U.S.-Israeli hostage Edan Alexander

U.S. President Donald Trump confirmed late Sunday that Edan Alexander, a dual U.S.-Israeli citizen and the last known living American held by Hamas in Gaza, will be released. Alexander has been in captivity since the militant group's October 7, 2023, attack on Israel.

TRUMP ANNOUNCES RELEASE

"I am happy to announce that Edan Alexander, an American citizen who has been held hostage since October 2023, is coming home to his family," Trump said in a post on his Truth Social platform.

Expressing gratitude to those who played a role in the development, Trump added, "I am grateful to all those involved in making this monumental news happen. This was a step taken in good faith towards the United States and the efforts of the mediators — Qatar and Egypt — to put an end to this very brutal war and return all living hostages and remains to their loved ones. Hopefully this is the first of those final steps necessary to end this brutal conflict. I look very much forward to that day of celebration!"

EDAN ALEXANDER: CONFIRMATION FROM HAMAS AND ISRAELI GOVERNMENT

Hamas later confirmed the release of Alexander, stating that it is "part of the efforts to reach a ceasefire."

The Israeli Prime Minis-



ter's Office also acknowledged the development, releasing a statement: "The U.S. has informed Israel of Hamas's intention to release soldier Edan Alexander as a gesture to the Americans, without conditions or anything in exchange."

Earlier on Sunday, Alexander's family was notified by the U.S. Middle East Envoy Steve Witkoff that Hamas had agreed to release him.

The family had also received a video clip showing Edan alive, in which he pleaded to be freed. With his release now imminent, Yael is heading back to Israel to reunite with her son.

WHO IS EDAN ALEXANDER?

Edan Alexander, the son of Yael and Adi Alexander, grew up in Tenafly, New Jersey. The eldest of three siblings, he was a competitive swimmer and enjoyed extreme sports. After high school, he made aliyah—immigrating to Israel—



Hamas had said earlier that it would release Alexander. Credit: X/RWhiteHouse

Expressing gratitude to those who played a role in the development, Trump added, "I am grateful to all those involved in making this monumental news happen."

and moved in with his grandparents in Tel Aviv.

He joined the Israel Defense Forces and served in the elite Golani Brigade.

On October 7, 2023, while his mother was visiting from the U.S., Edan chose

litical environments, so no one can question his integrity.

THE BIGGER QUESTION

Notwithstanding the publicized backing for Misri, the Ministry of External Affairs has thus far failed to come out with an official denunciation of the maltreatment. Such silence is worrying in regards to the exposure of public servants and their families in the age of digital media.

Social media, while a tool of democracy, has increasingly become a breeding ground for hate and disinformation. The doxxing of Misri's daughter and the lack of official action signal a troubling normalization of online abuse against civil servants.

Public servants operate under the direction of elected governments. Blaming them for national policy decisions reflects a dangerous misunderstanding of how democratic governance works.

TRUMP'S TARIFFS IGNITE GLOBAL TRADE WARS: THE TIMELINE

The ongoing and unpredictable tariff policies are expected to raise prices.

AGENCIES
NEW YORK

Long-threatened tariffs from U.S. President Donald Trump have plunged the country into trade wars abroad — all while on-again, off-again new levies continue to escalate uncertainty.

Trump launched a trade war during his first term as well, taking particular aim at China by putting taxes on most of its goods. Beijing responded with its own retaliatory tariffs on a range of U.S. products. Trump used the threat of more tariffs to force Canada and Mexico to renegotiate a North American trade pact, called the U.S.-Mexico-Canada Agreement, in 2020.

When President Joe Biden took office, he preserved most of the tariffs Trump had enacted against China, in addition to imposing some new restrictions. But his administration claimed to take a more targeted approach.



US President Donald Trump delivers remarks on tariffs in the Rose Garden at the White House in Washington.

AGENCIES

Fast-forward to today, and economists stress there could be greater consequences on businesses and economies worldwide under Trump's more sweeping tariffs this time around — and that higher prices will likely leave consumers footing the bill. There's also been a sense of whiplash from Trump's back-and-forth tariff threats and responding retaliation seen over the last few months.

Here's a timeline of how we got here:

January 20 Trump is sworn into office. In his inaugural address, he again

promises to "tariff and tax foreign countries to enrich our citizens." And he reiterates plans to create an agency called the External Revenue Service, which has yet to be established.

On his first day in office, Trump also says he expects to put 25% tariffs on Canada and Mexico starting on Feb. 1, while declining to immediately flesh out plans for taxing Chinese imports.

January 26 Trump threatens 25% tariffs on all Colombia imports and other retaliatory measures after President Gustavo Petro's rejects two U.S. military

aircraft carrying migrants to the country, accusing Trump of not treating immigrants with dignity during deportation.

In response, Petro also announces a retaliatory 25% increase in Colombian tariffs on U.S. goods. But Colombia later reversed its decision and accepted the flights carrying migrants. The two countries soon signaled a halt in the trade dispute.

February 1 Trump signs an executive order to impose tariffs on imports from Mexico, Canada and China — 10% on all imports from China and 25% on imports from Mexico and Canada starting Feb. 4. Trump invoked this power by declaring a national emergency — ostensibly over undocumented immigration and drug trafficking.

The action prompts swift outrage from all three countries, with promises of retaliatory measures.

February 3 Trump agrees to a 30-day pause

on his tariff threats against Mexico and Canada, as both trading partners take steps to appease Trump's concerns about border security and drug trafficking.

February 4 Trump's new 10% tariffs on all Chinese imports to the U.S. still go into effect. China retaliates the same day by announcing a flurry of countermeasures, including new duties on a variety of American goods and an anti-monopoly investigation into Google.

China's 15% tariffs on coal and liquefied natural gas products, and a 10% levy on crude oil, agricultural machinery and large-engine cars imported from the U.S., take effect Feb. 10.

February 10 Trump announces plans to hike steel and aluminum tariffs starting March 12. He removes the exemptions from his 2018 tariffs on steel, meaning that all steel imports will be taxed at a minimum of 25%, and also raises his 2018 aluminum tariffs from 10% to 25%.

Zelenskyy hopes for ceasefire with Russia, challenges Putin to meet him 'personally'

AGENCIES
KYIV

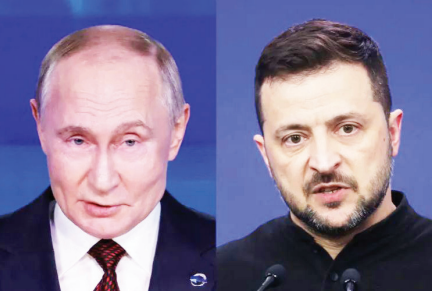
Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy on Sunday challenged Russia's President Vladimir Putin to meet him personally in Turkey on Thursday, the latest move in a weekend-long exchange of proposals from both sides on the next steps in the U.S.-led peace effort.

Zelenskyy said that he still hopes for a ceasefire with Russia starting Monday, and that he will "be waiting for Putin" in Turkey "personally" after U.S. President Donald Trump insisted Ukraine accept Russia's latest offer — to hold direct talks in Turkey on Thursday. Ukraine, along with European allies, had demanded Russia accept an unconditional 30-day ceasefire starting Monday before holding talks, but Moscow effectively rejected the proposal and called for direct negotiations instead.

It was not clear if Zelenskyy was conditioning his presence in Turkey on the Monday ceasefire holding, and there was no immediate comment from the Kremlin on whether Putin would go. In 2022, the war's early months, Zelenskyy repeatedly called for a personal meeting with the Russian president but was rebuffed, and eventually enacted a decree declaring that holding negotiations with Putin had become impossible.

"We await a full and lasting ceasefire, starting from tomorrow, to provide the

necessary basis for diplomacy. There is no point in prolonging the killings. And I will be waiting for Putin (in Turkey) on Thursday. Personally. I hope that this time the Russians will not look for excuses," Zelenskyy wrote on X on Sunday.



Trump said in a social media post earlier Sunday that Ukraine should agree to Putin's peace talks proposal "IMMEDIATELY."

"At least they will be able to determine whether or not a deal is possible, and if it is not, European leaders, and the U.S., will know where everything stands, and can proceed accordingly!" Trump wrote, adding: "HAVE THE MEETING, NOW!!!"

Ukraine, allies insist on a ceasefire. French President Emmanuel Macron, British Prime Minister Keir Starmer, German Chancellor Friedrich Merz and Polish Prime Minister Donald Tusk met with Zelenskyy in Kyiv on Saturday and issued a coordinated call for a 30-day truce starting Monday. The plan has received backing from both the European Union and Trump.



Policy' magazine, Novak writes that by 2050, the industry will be made up of high-tech, modern enterprises operating under strict environmental standards.

"Installed coal-power generation capacity in Siberia and the Far East is expected to reach about 38 GW. We also plan to introduce 'clean coal' technologies and innovative coal mining approaches to develop a wide range of products for coal and coal-waste processing, as well as to boost the development of coal chemistry industries, he said and un-

veiled the plans for the development of coal industry in Russia.

According to Russia's energy strategy which runs through 2050, the country's target for coal production in 2030 is 530.1 million tonnes, with a goal of 662 million tonnes by 2050. In 2024, coal output stood at 443.5 million tonnes.

"Russia has a vast resource base and every opportunity to efficiently extract and use these reserves to reliably meet domestic demand and expand export supplies," Novak said.

FOREST DASH



Deer cross a road in a forest of the Taunus region near Frankfurt, Germany.

First group of South Africans leaves for US under Trump refugee plan

AGENCIES
CAPE TOWN, SOUTH AFRICA

A group of 49 white South Africans departed their homeland Sunday for the United States on a private charter plane having been offered refugee status by the Trump administration under a new program announced in February.

The group, which included families and small children, was due to arrive at Dulles International Airport outside Washington on Monday morning local time,

according to Collen Msibi, a spokesperson for South Africa's transport ministry.

They are the first Afrikaners — a white minority group in South Africa — to be relocated after U.S. President Donald Trump issued an executive order on Feb. 7 accusing South Africa's Black-led government of racial discrimination against them and announcing a program to offer them relocation to America.

The South African government said it is "completely false" that Afrikaners are

being persecuted.

The Trump administration has fast-tracked their applications while pausing other refugee programs, halting arrivals from Afghanistan, Iraq, most of sub-Saharan Africa and other countries in a move being challenged in court.

Refugee groups have questioned why the white South Africans are being prioritized ahead of people from countries wracked by war and natural disasters. Vetting for refugee status in the U.S. often takes years.

Russian drones attack Ukraine after Kremlin turns down ceasefire proposal

AGENCIES
KYIV

Russia launched more than 100 Shahed and decoy drones at Ukraine in nighttime attacks, the Ukrainian air force said Monday, after the Kremlin effectively rejected an unconditional 30-day ceasefire in the more than three-year war, but reiterated that it would take part in possible peace talks later this week without preconditions. There was no direct response from the Kremlin, meanwhile, to Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy's challenge for Russian leader Vladimir Putin to meet him for face-to-face peace

talks in Turkey on Thursday. Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov on Monday refused to say who might travel to Istanbul from the Russian side. "Overall, we're determined to seriously look for ways to achieve a long-term peaceful settlement. That is all," Peskov said. The United States and European governments are making a concerted push to stop the fighting, which has killed tens of thousands of soldiers on both sides, as well as more than 10,000 Ukrainian civilians.

Russia's invading forces have taken around one-fifth of Ukraine in Europe's biggest conflict since World War II.



China denies reports of sending cargo plane, military supplies to Pakistan

AGENCIES
BEIJING

The Chinese military on Monday denied reports that its largest military cargo plane has carried arms supplies to Pakistan and warned legal action against those spreading such rumours.

The People's Liberation Army Air Force (PLAAF) has denied that its Xi'an Y-20 military transport aircraft has taken supplies to Pakistan.

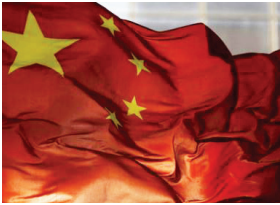
After seeing a large amount of information on the internet about a "Y-20 transporting relief supplies to Pakistan", the Air Force said in a statement that such claims were untrue, a report on the official website of the Chinese Defence Ministry said on Monday.

In an official statement published on the Chinese Defence Ministry's website, the People's Liberation Army Air Force (PLAAF) denied that its Xi'an Y-20 transport aircraft had delivered any supplies—military

or otherwise—to Pakistan.

The PLAAF clarified that recent online claims suggesting the Y-20 was used to carry relief materials to the neighboring country were baseless.

The PLAAF posted multiple screenshots of photos and reports that shared this



false information, each picture carried a stamp with "rumour" written in red.

"The internet is not beyond the law! Those who produce and spread military-related rumours will be held legally responsible!" the report added.

The denial holds significance as the PLA shares close ties with Pakistan. The Chinese state media has also been actively covering the India-Pakistan situation with reportedly

echoing some of Pakistan's claims including reports about Indian aircraft being shot down.

China was the largest supplier of weapons to Pakistan between 2020 and 2024, providing 81 per cent of the country's arms imports, according to a recent report by the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) cited in the PTI report.

The report stated that the supplies included advanced military equipment such as fighter jets, radars, naval vessels, submarines, and missile systems.

China and Pakistan also co-produce the JF-17 fighter aircraft, which serves as a key component of the Pakistan Air Force.

SIPRI noted the strategic depth of the China-Pakistan defense partnership, which has drawn attention during recent tensions between India and Pakistan.

The fact-check comes two days after a ceasefire between India and Pakistan to stop military action on land, sea and in the air.

Hamas says it released Israeli-US hostage Edan Alexander

AGENCIES
JERUSALEM

the way for a possible return to ceasefire talks for the war-torn enclave.

There was no immediate confirmation from Israel, the United States or the International Committee of the Red Cross that Edan Alexander had been released. Alexander was expected to be received in Tel Aviv at Ichilov hospital for an assessment and treatment after 19 months in captivity.

The May 12 announcement came as Israel's prime minister said there would be no ceasefire and plans for an intensified military campaign would continue.

Fighting was paused to allow for Alexander's safe passage, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said earlier. Three Palestinians in Gaza told Reuters early afternoon that there had been calm since midday, with no sound of drones or warplanes. Netanyahu's office said it had been informed by the United States of an agreement to release Alexander on May 11, after talks between Washington and Hamas that did not include Israel. Alexander's release was presented to Israel as a goodwill gesture from Hamas to President Donald Trump and came as a global hunger monitor said Gaza's entire population is at critical risk of famine. "Edan Alexander, American hostage thought dead, to be released by Hamas. Great news!" Trump wrote in capital letters on his social media platform on May 12.

Hamas said it has released Israeli-American hostage Edan Alexander from Gaza, paving

Russia's coal reserves could last 500 years, eyes partnership with India

AGENCIES
MOSCOW

Russia's coal reserves are enough to meet demand for more than five centuries and the country sees vast potential for cooperation with India, Russian Energy Ministry Officials here have said. The new environment-friendly and safe coal mining hubs will provide up to 250 million tonnes of additional production capacity by 2025, Russian Energy Minister Alexander Novak said in an article.

Russia is one of the leading coal suppliers to India by volume, Novak, who holds the rank of Deputy Prime Minister in the Russian cabinet, said.

Russian coal production totalled 443.5 million tonnes in 2024, with 196.2 tonnes exported.

In the article published in the latest issue of 'Energy

Taiwan conducts first live-fire HIMARS test in signal to China

AGENCIES
TAIWAN

Taiwan on Monday conducted its first live-firing of the High-Mobility Artillery Rocket Systems (Himars) it purchased from the United States, as the self-ruled island upgrades its capabilities to repel a poten-

tial Chinese attack. China claims Taiwan as part of its territory and has threatened to use force to bring the island under its control. Taiwan would be massively outgunned in any war with China, and for decades has been buying US military weapons and equipment as

a deterrence against Beijing.

The first batch of 11 Himars were delivered to Taiwan in November. The truck-mounted units can launch multiple precision-guided rockets at the same time, and has been used by Ukraine against Russia in their ongoing war.

Bangladesh officially bans Hasina-led Awami League

AGENCIES
DHAKA

Bangladesh on Monday issued a gazette notification, officially banning all activities of deposed premier Sheikh Hasina's Awami League party under an overnight revised anti-terrorism law.

"The Home Ministry today issued the gazette notification banning all activities



of the Awami League, its all front, associate and broth-

erly organisations," Home Adviser Lt Gen (retd.) Jahangir Alam told a media briefing here.

According to the notification, Awami League and its affiliated organisations were banned under the Anti-Terrorism Act 2025 until Bangladesh's International Crimes Tribunal (ICT-BD) completed the trial of its leaders and activists, said a Home Ministry official.

'RRR' GETS GRAND SCREENING AT LONDON'S ROYAL ALBERT HALL

AGENCIES
LONDON

'RRR', which starred actors NTR Jr. and Ram Charan, had a special screening at the Royal Albert Hall in London on Sunday, May 11.

The event also featured a live orchestra performance by the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra.

The special screening was also attended by Jr. NTR, Ram Charan, and ace director SS Rajamouli.

Taking to its official X handle on Sunday, the team shared a picture of the packed hall along with a caption that read, "HistoRRRY!! #Togeth-eRRRAgain @RoyalAlbertHall."



Earlier, the team had announced the event on social media. Their post said, "LONDON... here we come! Relive the soul of *RRRMovie like never before with a scintillating live orchestral performance by the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra. Join our Trio: @ssrajamouli @tarak9999 @AlwaysRamCharan at @RoyalAlbertHall, London, on Sunday, May 11th, for a musical celebration of India's epic action drama."

'RRR' made history as the first Indian film to win an Oscar for Best Original

Song with 'Naatu Naatu'. The film also received praise on many global platforms, including the Golden Globe Awards.

The song was also released in Hindi as 'Naacho Naacho', in Tamil as 'Naatu Koothu', in Kannada as 'Halli Naatu', and in Malayalam as 'Karinthol'. Its Hindi version was sung by Rahul Sipligunj and Vishal Mishra.

RRR is a fictional story based on the lives of two Telugu freedom fighters, Alluri Seetharama Raju and Komaram Bheem. Ram Charan and Jr. NTR played the lead roles, respectively. Alia Bhatt, Ajay Devgn, and Shriya Saran also starred in the film.

Anushka's emotional tribute to Virat Kohli

TDG NETWORK
MUMBAI

Actor Anushka Sharma shared a heartwarming post for her husband and star batter Virat Kohli, who announced his retirement from Test cricket on Monday morning.

In her post, Anushka recounted Kohli's "tears and battles" that no one saw.

Hailing her husband's unwavering dedication towards the game of cricket, she wrote, "They'll talk about the records and the milestones -- but I'll remember the tears you never showed, the battles no one saw, and the unwavering love you gave this format of the game. I



know how much all this took from you. After every Test series, you came back a little wiser, a little humbler -- and watching you evolve through it all has been a privilege."

Anushka also said that she anticipated Virat's

retirement from international cricket in whites, like many of his innumerable fans across the globe.

"Somehow, I always imagined you'd retire international cricket in whites -- But you've always followed your heart, and so

I just want to say my love, you've earned every bit of this goodbye."

Anushka also shared a priceless picture from Virat's tour to Australia in 2018, where he led India to a 2-1 series win, India's first Test series win in Australia.

In his Test career, the 36-year-old made 123 appearances in white clothing, scoring 9,230 runs at an average of 46.85, with 30 centuries and 31 fifties in 210 innings and the best score of 254*.

He is India's fourth-highest run-getter in the format, behind Sachin Tendulkar (15,921 runs), Rahul Dravid (13,265 runs) and Sunil Gavaskar (10,122 runs).



Sara Ali Khan poses for her social media. (ANI)

Anupam Kher unveils Nasser's character poster from 'Tanvi The Great'

TDG NETWORK
MUMBAI

Ever since Anupam Kher's directorial Tanvi The Great was announced, the actor has left no stone unturned in keeping fans hooked.

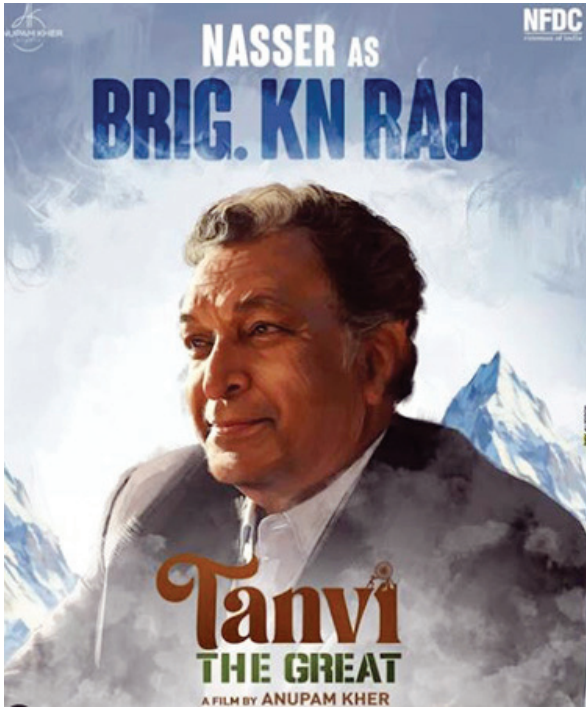
Kher, who has been revealing the star cast for the film one after another, has now shared another poster introducing Nasser's character, Brigadier Rao.

Along with the poster, the actor added a caption that read: "ACTORS OF TANVI THE GREAT: Even though #NasserSir is younger than me, it is because of his legendary film career that the 'SIR' comes out automatically when I refer to him. His acting graph and his list of films are an actor's dream," a part of his post read.

Take a look

The film also stars 'Khaki: The Bihar Chapter' actor Karan Tacker, who is set to make his debut on the big screen after years of working in television and on streaming platforms. The film also features debutant Shubhangi Dutt.

Apart from the two, the film also includes Boman



Kher, who has been revealing the star cast for the film one after another, has now shared another poster introducing Nasser's character, Brigadier Rao.

Irani, Jackie Shroff, and Arvind Swami in crucial roles. Game of Thrones actor Iain Glen is also part of the film.

Tanvi The Great features sound design by Resul Poo-

kutty, the Academy Award-winning sound designer known for Slumdog Millionaire. It is produced by Anupam Kher Studios in collaboration with NFDC.

BRAIN PICKING



For me, love is magic, it's about trust and understanding.

— ADITI RAO HYDARI
(Indian Actress)

Salman Khan's deleted 'ceasefire' tweet goes viral, netizens react

TDG NETWORK
MUMBAI

The cessation of hostilities between India and Pakistan, announced on May 10, has sparked a wave of reactions from across the country, with several Bollywood celebrities also expressing their thoughts on the news.

Among the many celebrities was Salman Khan, who took to his X account on Saturday, minutes after the understanding was announced. However, shortly after, the actor deleted his post.

In his now-deleted tweet, Salman wrote, "Thank God for the ceasefire...."

The post drew a range of reactions. While some ap-



preciated the actor's support for peace, others criticised the timing, given the recent loss of civilian lives in the Pahalgam terror attack.

One user wrote, "Salman Khan. He was silent for 2-3 days, then tweeted right after the ceasefire agreement. Remember him. Never

watch his films again if you're a true Indian."

Another user defended the actor, saying, "We know Salman bhai as a person who always wants peace and love, not just with Pakistan but with all neighbouring countries. Civilians from India will die.

Oscar-winner Michelle Yeoh to headline action film 'The Surgeon'

AGENCIES
LOS ANGELES

Oscar-winning actress Michelle Yeoh will be seen headlining the stylised action film 'The Surgeon'.

As per Variety, the feature -- hoped to be the first in a franchise -- introduced to buyers in Cannes by Patrick Wachsberger's 193. "The Surgeon" comes from



writer/director Rohsan Sethi, who also happens to be a physician, and extends a history of successful action collaborations for Wachsberger and producer Basil Iwanyk, who previously combined on 'John Wick', which Iwanyk produced and Wachsberger distributed as chair of the Lionsgate Motion Picture Group.

In the film, Yeoh will be seen essaying the role of a retired surgeon who is abducted and forced to operate on a mystery patient. Though greatly outnumbered, her captors have overlooked her greatest weapon: 35 years of surgical experience, leading to what the synopsis describes as an "explosive and brutal confrontation"

during which she outwits and cuts down her enemies "in a visual style that defies anything you have seen before."

On having Michelle in the project, director Rohsan Sethi said, "I'm so excited to bring something brand new and innovative to the action genre based heavily on my medical background.

Jackie Chan says CGI stunts 'missing a sense of reality'

AGENCIES
LOS ANGELES

Veteran star Jackie Chan shared his views on the use of Computer-generated imagery (CGI) for filming action scenes.

As per Variety, in a candid interview with Haute Living, Jackie Chan said CGI-based stunts are safer for actors but miss a "sense of reality."

"In the old days, the only [choice we had] was to be there and jump; that's it," Chan said.

"Today, with computers, actors can do anything, but



there's always a sense of reality that you feel is missing. It's a double-edged sword. On one hand, actors become

more and more capable of doing impossible stunts with the help of technology, and yet, on the other hand, the

Chan, a master stuntman, has seen his fair share of big-screen action in movies "Drunken Master," "Police Story" and "Rush Hour." And, even at 71 years old, he has no plans to slow down.

concept of danger and limit gets blurred and the audience is numb [to it]. But I'm not encouraging anybody to risk their lives to do the stunts like I did; it truly is too dangerous," he added.

Chan, a master stuntman, has seen his fair share of big-screen action in movies "Drunken Master," "Police Story" and "Rush Hour." And, even at 71 years old, he has no plans to slow down.

Amber Heard welcomes twins, shares news

AGENCIES
LOS ANGELES

Hollywood actress Amber Heard shared good news on Mother's Day as she revealed she welcomed twins -- a daughter named Agnes and a son named Ocean.

On Sunday, she took to Instagram and penned a heartfelt post accompanied by a picture of the little ones' feet.

"Mother's Day 2025 will be one I'll never forget," she captioned the snap.

"This year I am elated beyond words to celebrate the completion of the family I've



strived to build for years. Today I officially share the news that I welcomed twins into the Heard gang. My daughter Agnes and my son Ocean are keeping my hands (and my

heart) full," Amber added.

The actor said she had chosen motherhood "responsibly and thoughtfully" and "couldn't burst with more joy."

GRAND INAUGURATION OF ‘MUMMA’S BLESSING IVF AND BIRTHING PARADISE’ IN VRINDAVAN

A unique fusion of Vedic Traditions and Modern Medicine

TDB NETWORK
VRINDAVAN

A new ray of hope has begun in the religious and spiritual city of Vrindavan. A state-of-the-art hospital, named ‘Mumma’s Blessing IVF and Birthing Paradise,’ which is fully integrated with Vedic values, was ceremoniously inaugurated with great fanfare on Sunarkh Road. This institution is dedicated to couples who desire to have healthy, cultured, and prosperous children.

The special ceremony was graced by highly respected and spiritual figures from the Radha Vallabh Sampraday. Acharya Shrihit Radhesh Lal Ji Goswami, Tiketh Adhikari of Radha Vallabh Temple, officially inaugurated Mumma’s Blessing IVF and Birthing Paradise. The event was also attended by Shri Mohit Maral Ji, Tiketh

Adhikari of Radha Vallabh Temple, Shrihit Shobhit Lal Ji Goswami, Shri Anand Lal Ji Goswami, Shri Govind Lal Ji Goswami, Shri Sukrit Lal Ji Goswami, Shri Vishal Lal Ji Goswami, Shri Gaurav Lal Ji Goswami, Shri Udit Lal Ji Goswami, Shri Kanhaiya Lal Ji, Shri Umesh Baba Ji, Bhajan Samrat Shri Babbu Bhaiya, and the esteemed presence of Mayor Mukesh Saraswat Ji.

‘Mumma’s Blessing’ is the world’s first medical center that combines Vedic Garbh Sanskar (womb rituals), mantra chanting, and cultural energy with modern medical facilities such as IVF, surrogacy, normal delivery, C-sections, and neonatal care—all under one roof.

Another major feature of this center is that it will be the first in India to install the Robotic ICSI (Intra-



Dr. Shobha Gupta, the Medical Director of Mumma’s Blessing IVF and Birthing Paradise and a renowned IVF specialist, explained that the reason for establishing this center in the holy land of Vrindavan is deeply spiritual.

cytoplasmic Sperm Injection) system, which will make the embryo creation process technically more secure, advanced, and successful. Vedic mantras will resonate throughout the center at all times, creating positive energy and providing the unborn child with a pure, sacred, and peaceful environment from the very beginning.

Dr. Shobha Gupta, the Medical Director of Mumma’s Blessing IVF and Birthing Paradise and a renowned IVF specialist,

explained that the reason for establishing this center in the holy land of Vrindavan is deeply spiritual. She believes that the energy of Vrindavan, the blessings of saints, and the spiritual atmosphere here positively influence the physical and mental development of the unborn child. This is why the center not only focuses on medical care but also emphasizes spiritual healing and the imparting of values.

The institution aims not only to help childless couples conceive but also

to give birth to children who are physically healthy, mentally strong, and rich in values. The goal is to bring joy to parents’ lives and, in the future, contribute to the progress of society and the nation.

Dr. Shobha Gupta mentioned that the service is available to residents of Vrindavan and surrounding areas, as well as people from other parts of India and abroad. Couples who wish to conceive using Vedic methods, with the pure sound of mantras and energy, now have an ideal option in this institution.

It is noteworthy that the booking process for the center has already begun, and several interested couples have already made inquiries. In the future, this center will become a symbol of new thinking and direction in the field of child conception.

NUTRA-ERGONOMICS: RESTORING MIND-BODY HARMONY THROUGH FOOD



FOOD IS MEDICINE
DR ANISH DESAI

In today’s fast-paced and digitally driven world, workplace wellness has taken centre stage. While ergonomics traditionally focuses on the physical setup, posture, and equipment, a new dimension nutra-ergonomics is gaining attention. This concept integrates nutrition, physical activity, and the work environment, emphasizing how food can serve as a powerful medicine to enhance worker health, productivity, and mental well-being.

Amid rising cases of physical discomfort, emotional fatigue, and chronic illness, it’s worth asking: are we truly valuing our health? This imbalance disrupts our Mind-Body Harmony, leading to major health issues rooted in poor nutrition and physical inactivity.

MAJOR WORKPLACE HEALTH ISSUES

1. Musculoskeletal Disorders: Conditions like lower back pain, neck strain, and postural syndromes are worsened by sedentary work and poor dietary habits.
2. Medical Conditions: Stress-linked illnesses such as hypertension, type 2 diabetes, and PCOS are on the rise, often aggravated by nutrient-poor diets and sleep disturbances.

Smart nutrition habits include proper meal timing, portion control using visualization, and avoiding mindless eating. Together, these support digestion, regulate metabolism, and improve sleep directly enhancing workplace focus and output.

3. Nutritional Deficiencies: Common issues include deficiencies in vitamin D, iron, vitamin B12, and calcium each affecting energy, mood, and immunity.

Many of these issues are preventable with conscious dietary choices. Unfortunately, misinformation, irregular meal timings, and portion imbalances are sabotaging our health silently.

FOOD AS A TOOL FOR RECOVERY AND PERFORMANCE

A balanced diet forms the foundation of workplace vitality:

- Carbohydrates for sustained energy.
- Proteins (e.g., lentils, eggs, chicken, fish): To support repair and stamina.
- Healthy fats (e.g., groundnut oil, flax-seeds): Aid in cardiovascular health.
- Micronutrients like vitamin C, zinc, iron, and

vitamin A boost immunity, oxygen transport, and vision.

Smart nutrition habits include proper meal timing, portion control using visualization, and avoiding mindless eating. Together, these support digestion, regulate metabolism, and improve sleep directly enhancing workplace focus and output.

RESTORING MIND-BODY HARMONY

True workplace performance stems from inner balance. Nutra-ergonomics teaches us that food is more than sustenance, it’s medicine, capable of calming the mind, energising the body, and building resilience. Employers and individuals alike must recognize the value of nutrition education, active breaks, and healthier food environments. In doing so, we move from mere survival at work to thriving with vitality and purpose.



The health of medicine

TDG NETWORK

Maharishi Charaka, the ancient Indian physician and scholar who has made significant contributions to the field of Ayurveda, pronounced with clarity the ethics of medical profession. It is famously known as the Charaka Shapath, wherein he puts forth as follows:

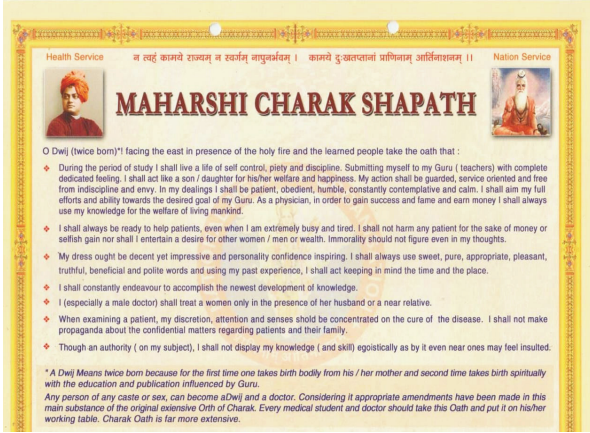
- As a physician:
- I shall always use my knowledge for the welfare of mankind
 - I shall always be ready to serve patients, even if I am extremely busy and tired
 - I shall not harm any patient for the sake of monetary or selfish gains
 - I shall not entertain a desire for pleasure, greed or wealth
 - Immorality shall not emerge even in my thoughts
 - I shall not divulge the confidentiality that is required to be kept

His ideology is the ideal of healthcare in ancient India. The key words from the above Shapath could be – 1welfare of all, 2service above self, 3selfishness will not supersede service, 4monetary gains will take a backseat, 5no place for greed and pleasure, and

6immoral thoughts have no space.

In fact, Maharishi Charaka began the Shapath with ethics for medical students, even before he elucidated the ethics for the medical professionals, when he said:

- During the period of my study:
- I shall live a disciplined life with my teachers and peers



- My action shall be guarded, service oriented, and free from envy and indiscipline
- I shall be patient, obedient, humble, constantly contemplative and calm
- I shall focus my efforts and abilities towards the desired goal of my profession

This is indeed ideal, for

it is so important to focus on the ethics of medical students during their training years itself, so that they come out as capable, virtuous, and committed healthcare professionals.

The Hippocratic Oath which was adopted by the World Medical Association based in Geneva in 1948 states the same ethics and values for physicians:

- I will benefit my patients

The idea is amply clear, irrespective of who wrote the oath, the circumstances in which it was written, and the culture that inspired the oath.

The word ‘medicine’ originates from its Latin roots ‘*medicina*’ or ‘*mederi*’, which means ‘healing.’ Therefore, if we pause to understand medicine in its true sense, it is not just about treating, performing



a procedure, and at times conducting a commercial exercise wherein the canons of care and justice are forgotten.

Medicine is essentially

about healing the whole person in body, mind and spirit. While the skills and knowledge of a doctor does the diagnoses and treatment, the heart of a doctor should exude compassion to heal the patient completely from inside out – this is the art of true medicine. Compassion should reign over care, and then everything else about medical ethics would fall in place.

The simple question that every medical professional should ask themselves is ‘what would I do if this patient was my own family member and a close associate?’ The answer that comes from within, will itself guide a medical professional to do the right thing.

The Indian way is to consider a doctor as God – *vaidyo narayano barish*. The reverse would also hold true which is to treat every patient as God and hence give them the best care, while also striving to erase commerce from care.

May the World Health Day be a reason to restore the ethics of true medicine in the heart and soul of every person who is walking the corridors of medicine in multiple capacities.

Senior Psychiatrist Dr. Jyoti Kapoor felicitated at Annual Accolades Ceremony honouring 400 women doctors

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

Senior psychiatrist and integrative health expert Dr. Jyoti Kapoor was honored at the Annual Accolades Ceremony recognizing 400 women doctors for her exceptional contributions to the healthcare sector. The prestigious event took place at the India International Centre and was graced by the presence of Hon’ble Delhi Chief Minister Ms. Rekha Gupta and Hon’ble Delhi Health Minister Shri Pankaj Kumar Singh.

Dr. Kapoor, Founder-Director of Manasthali -- Mental Health and Wellness platform, has spent over a decade pioneering an integrative healthcare system that addresses physical and mental health. Her innovative approach to holistic



Dr. Kapoor, Founder-Director of Manasthali -- Mental Health and Wellness platform, has spent over a decade pioneering an integrative healthcare system that addresses physical and mental health.

wellness and mental health has earned her acclaim within the medical community and beyond.

Her dedication to mental health extends beyond clinical practice. Dr. Kapoor has launched initiatives like the “Chalo Baat Karein” mental health support helpline during the COVID-19 pandemic and the Manasthali YouTube channel to raise awareness about mental health issues. She has been

a vital asset to the nation’s healthcare landscape. Her efforts in integrating mental wellness into mainstream healthcare have positioned her as a thought leader and changemaker in the field.

The felicitation is a testament to Dr. Kapoor’s unwavering commitment to advancing mental health awareness, breaking societal stigmas, and building inclusive wellness ecosystems for all.

SPIRITUAL HAPPINESS VS. WORLDLY HAPPINESS: GUIDING THE DISCERNMENT



ATMAN IN RAVI

Spiritual happiness, or true happiness is rooted not just in fleeting emotions or temporary pleasures. It is not ephemeral like material happiness which is temporary. It is a transformative journey that includes Pleasure, Peace and Purpose. That is why I spell happiness with 3 Ps. The three Ps represent true happiness and the evolution from material pleasure to spiritual happiness. Spiritual happiness is attained when we realize the purpose of life. When we are enlightened with the truth about our true self. Pleasure refers to the joy we derive from material success and worldly comforts. Yet, as we evolve, we begin to seek something more enduring—Peace, which is the foundation of lasting happiness. Finally, we arrive at Purpose, the pinnacle of spiritual

bliss. Spiritual happiness isn't about chasing endless goals or being the best in a race of achievement. Instead, it's about stepping away from that race, not getting caught in a maze of achievements. It is about living with grace, finding balance in contentment and scaling the peak of Enlightenment, the ultimate goal of human life. Enlightenment is not confined to any religion or belief in a deity. It is about uncovering the truth of who we are. It is the realization that we are not the body, mind or ego that experiences suffering and pain. We realize that while we possess a body, we are not the body. We become observers — no longer are we victims of pain. The awakened one can transcend suffering, understanding that pain may exist, but it does not control us. We are the Soul. The Soul experiences neither pain nor suffering. The mind is a source of misery. It breeds fear, worry, anxiety, stress, guilt, regret and shame —seven miseries that rob us of our inner joy. Once we are in a state of spiritual happiness, the mind is stilled and silenced, freeing us from its tyranny. Material

happiness can collapse under the weight of negative thoughts of the mind, leaving us empty despite external success. Moreover, spiritual happiness completely dissolves the ego—the 'I' that clings to pride, envy, anger, greed and selfishness. In spiritual awakening, we realize that we are the Soul, a Spark Of Unique Life. Material success may provide temporary highs, but it often fuels anxiety, fear, stress and discontent. We are misled to believe that success equals happiness. In truth, happiness is real success, and it begins with spiritual wealth not material gain. To be truly happy, we must satisfy our needs without succumbing to greed. We must still the mind, seek peace and pursue our purpose: to discover who we are and why we exist. This spiritual path brings eternal contentment, unlike worldly desires that never quench our thirst but only make us burst. Enlightenment—the realization that we are the Soul, the Atman, the Spirit, we are all manifestations of a single Divine Energy, the Supreme Immortal Power we call God — leads to a state of Satchitananda,



The mind is a source of misery. It breeds fear, worry, anxiety, stress, guilt, regret and shame — seven miseries that rob us of our inner joy. Once we are in a state of spiritual happiness, the mind is stilled and silenced, freeing us from its tyranny. Material happiness can collapse under the weight of negative thoughts of the mind, leaving us empty despite external success.

bliss in truth consciousness. We realize that everything we experience is part of a cosmic illusion. The only truth is God. Prabhu Satya. Jagat Mithya. Recognizing this brings liberation and eternal joy. Spiritual happiness is the true way of life. It is the path of eternal peace, Divine love, and everlasting bliss. If you want to live with joy that never fades, choose the path of the 3 Ps. Otherwise, happiness with just two Ps will always remain incomplete—brief and shallow. Material happiness comes and goes but spiritual happiness forever flows.

The war you watch is watching you



THE MODERN DAY MONK
DEEPAM CHATTERJEE

When battles broke out in ancient kingdoms, there was no breaking news. The town crier did not repeat the body count every hour. People knew a war had begun. And then, they waited—for silence. Today, the war begins not only on the border, but in your living room. Live updates. Drones in the sky. Heated debates from newsrooms that resemble battle-grounds. A panel of angry voices. A banner that bleeds red. “BREAKING.” “NOW.” “LIVE.” And you watch. At first, it feels like concern. You want to stay informed. But soon, something else takes over.

The heart races. The throat tightens. You refresh the screen again and again—not for clarity, but for a hit of the next development. You are no longer a witness. You are a consumer. The Bhagavad Gita begins on a battlefield, but before the first arrow is shot, Krishna reminds Arjuna that he should get a hold on his emotions and not be swayed by external circumstances. In the Dhammapada, the Buddha teaches: “All that we are is the result of what we have thought. The mind is everything. What we think, we become.” The ancients reflected upon



the truth that our external world is shaped by the internal state of our minds. When we allow fear, anxiety, and turmoil to take root within, we find ourselves surrounded by the same in the world around us. The chaos outside is only a mirror of the unrest inside. Fear is fed not by missiles or borders, but by the craving mind—hungry for certainty in a world that offers none. Modern media knows this. It doesn't sell information. It sells agitation. A study last year found that news addiction correlates with increased stress, poor sleep, and helplessness. People who consume war coverage obsessively are less likely to act meaningfully. Not because they don't care—but because they are paralysed. And yet, every evening, the ritual continues. Dinner with

destruction. Headlines with heartbreak. Then a sleepless night spent scrolling. The wise have always known that attention is energy. And wherever it flows, it grows. To be informed is not to be inflamed. The Gita never glorifies war. It teaches detachment, duty, and discernment. So the question is not, “What is happening over there?” It is, “What is happening to me, as I watch?” When conflict becomes entertainment, empathy dies. And when fear becomes a habit, peace is no longer possible. In such times, turning off the screen is not withdrawal. It is courage. It is the quiet warrior's way. Deepam Chatterjee is an author and meditation teacher. He can be reached at deepamchatterjee@yahoo.co.in and at [deepam.chatterjee on Instagram](https://www.instagram.com/deepam.chatterjee)

From mantras to machines: How tech is transforming spiritual practices



PRIYANKA OM ANAND

What if the very sound that once bound us to the universe is now the medicine we have to use to reconnect with ourselves? Thousands of years back, the Rishis, the sages and seers of ancient India, sat quietly and uncovered a truth so deep, it resonated through the ages: that sound is not vibration, but deity itself. They left us mantras, not religious mottos, but

living instruments for inner change, for reaching out to deity. This was the essence of Mantra Sadhana, a systematic practice to attune mind, breath, and being to the universe. These mantras were not just symbols of faith, but instruments of transformation, shabda brahman, sound as the final reality. These sages inserted them into every aspect of life. Our forefathers didn't distinguish between worldly life and spiritual life. From lamp lighting at sunrise to pouring water over the rising sun, from cooking sacred chants to unwinding with sunset sandhya, rituals were done on a daily basis, not as duty, but as acts of tuning in. Mantras were infused in their breath, interwoven in their habits, sung into the earth as oblations. It



was a civilisation that lived attuned to the sacred heart-beat of life. Now, we lead a new life, one that is machine-dominated. The typical individual spends more than 7 hours a day on screen (DataReportal, 2024). Dopamine loops, scrolling fatigue, and emotional numbness are the new norm. The mind, which was once able to engage in profound contemplation, now flickers like a screen, always on, hardly ever present. But amidst this pandemonium, Mantra Sadhana comes into its own once again. Not out of sentimentality, but out of urgency. It was the finding of a 2022 study in Frontiers in Human Neuroscience that mantra meditation lessened stress, added gray matter, and improved emotional control.

These results affirm what the ancient people understood all along: holy sound re-stabilizes, both inside and outside. It's the key to inner tranquility! And so, how do we take back this in our super-digital lives? Through the use of technology as a bridge, not a barrier, the user is able to access ancient practice on digital devices. The smartphone is a tool of stillness, not distraction. The headphone is a temple bell. The mantra is a lifeline. Let the machine be the servant of the mantra, not vice versa because when we come back to the sound of our soul, we don't merely survive the contemporary world. We recall who we are. The author is CEO Of Vedic Sadhana Foundation

FULL CIRCLE OF VIRAT KOHLI’S TEST JOURNEY

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI

Speculation around Virat Kohli’s red-ball future had been building for months and now, it has finally come to an end. The 36-year-old Indian cricketing icon has officially announced his retirement from Test cricket, marking the end of an era that saw one of the modern greats dominate the longest format of the game with unmatched passion and intensity.

Kohli’s final chapter in Test whites played out far from home, during a disastrous Border-Gavaskar Trophy in Australia. Once a land of his triumphs and transformation, Australia became the backdrop to a painful farewell. His last innings was the same way of dismissal, edging behind after chasing another delivery outside off-stump from Scott Boland. Virat has witnessed it all in Australia, from coming of age to dominance to utter less-fort-

help-
ness against
es of age,
muscle memory,
and time.

It was in Australia where Kohli had first announced himself in the red-ball arena a young maverick scoring centuries, confronting sledges, and leading India to a historic series win but the very venue of

his rise would also script his fall.

While Kohli has dazzled in the ongoing Indian Premier League and was instrumental in India’s recent ICC Champions Trophy win, guiding the team to its second white-ball trophy in less than a year.

Here is a timeline of Virat’s Australia tours:

2011-12: A 23-year-old walked to the Australian shores for the first time ever with immense scrutiny on him. After managing just 202 runs in four games against the West Indies with two promising fifties at home after a disastrous Test debut in the Caribbean, an Australia tour was a make-or-break opportunity for a young Virat, surrounded by legends like Sachin Tendulkar, VVS Laxman, Rahul Dravid, and Virender Sehwag in their last legs of career, but none-

theless,
proven match-
winners in Australia.

After managing just 32 runs in four innings of the first two matches, Virat’s luck took a turn for the better at Perth, where he managed scores of 44 and 75. Finally, at Adelaide, came his maiden Test ton against the likes of Ben Hilfenhaus, Ryan Harris, Peter Siddle, Nathan Lyon, among others. While other seniors could not even touch the 300-run mark in a shameful clean sweep by 4-0, Virat’s batting in the later half was a huge positive as he touched the 300-run mark, proving his capability for tough Australian conditions where pace, bounce, movement, and trademark Aussie aggression came in plenty.

2014-15: This tour to Australia came when India was in a transitional phase, with MS Dhoni calling it quits on this tour from the format after poor overseas results. After a pathetic show at England with just 134 runs in 10 innings, where he was toyed with by



swing and seam of James Anderson and Stuart Broad, not a lot of people expected Virat to deliver a good campaign in Australia, let alone double his numbers from the past tour.

During the first Adelaide Test, where he led in the absence of an injured Dhoni, a bumper from Mitchell Johnson during the first Adelaide Test rang loudly in Virat’s head, awakening a rockstar who would go on to routinely dominate bowlers for the next five-six years. Right from his twin ton master class at Adelaide, which almost won India the match to the New Year’s Test classic at Sydney where he took over as full-time Test captain, Virat pulled, cut, sliced, drove bowlers with fearlessness, class, and relentlessness that earned him the respect of cricket purists worldwide. With 692 runs in four games at an average of 86.50, four centuries and a fifty, he not only top-scored in the series, but also established the record of most runs scored by an Indian during a series in South Africa, England, New Zealand, and South Africa (SENA) regions, successes where are considered a measuring stick for an Asian player.

2018: After two successful tours to England and South Africa with the bat that added some more fantastic knocks to his catalogue, Virat, itching for his first series win in SENa countries as a captain, came to Australia with an aim to win and bully Australia into submission. That is what a powerful, all-round Indian line-

up did, defeating Australia 2-1. Virat scored 282 runs in four matches and seven innings at an average of 40.29, with a century and a half-century each. His knock at 123 at Perth against a world-class line-up of Pat Cummins, Mitchell Starc, Josh Hazlewood, and Nathan Lyon on a green wicket is considered as one of the finest knocks in Australia by an Indian.

2020-21: During this time, Virat came to the shores as the best all-format batter, ready to deal with new challenges coming with parenthood. His only match during the tour was the first Adelaide Test. While he played a patient knock of 74 on a testing wicket, his side being bundled out for 36 in the second innings is considered one of the most humiliating moments in Indian cricket. Virat headed back home to care for his wife and actress Anushka Sharma after a humiliating loss, with 78 runs under his belt in two innings. From then on, Rahane took over his role and led India to an inspiring victory, overcoming inexperience, injuries, racism, and a full-strength Australian side.

2024-25: This series saw Virat at his most vulnerable and weakest. After a fine century at Perth, fans got their hopes up for a comeback series Down Under against his favourite opponent. But between the prospect of an all-timer and a poor series, stood pacer Scott Boland, who decided to make a meal out of the senior batter, dismissing him four times and taking full advantage of his weakness against outside

‘Legacy will continue forever’: BCCI

New Delhi: The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) and the International Cricket Council (ICC) expressed their thoughts on star India batter Virat Kohli’s retirement from Test cricket. Kohli announced his retirement from Test cricket on Monday, marking an end to an illustrious 14-year-old career which saw him dominate a variety of conditions, regions, and opponents in whites, both as a batter and captain. Taking to their official social media handle, X, the BCCI wrote, “Thank You, Virat Kohli! An era ends in Test cricket, but the legacy will continue forever! @imVkohli, the former Team India Captain, retires from Test cricket. His contributions to #TeamIndia will forever be cherished!”

‘We should respect...’: Rajeev Shukla

New Delhi: After Virat Kohli’s retirement from Test cricket, the Board of Control for Cricket (BCCI) vice-president Rajeev Shukla hailed the star batter for his contribution in the longest format, saying that while they do not feel good about him leaving, the board respects his personal decision. In a massive development ahead of the England tour of five matches, which will kickstart India’s ICC World Test Championship 2025-27 campaign, Virat Kohli announced his retirement from Tests after 14 years, marking an end to a brilliant career spanning 14 years and 123 Tests. Speaking to ANI, Shukla said, “The contribution of Virat Kohli for Test Cricket and India has been great. Any amount of praise is less. We are not feeling good that he has retired from Test Cricket. But it is his individual decision, and BCCI never puts pressure on a player for retirement. We should respect his decision.

off-stump line. Despite his ton, he could score only 190 runs in nine innings at an average of 23.75. His last image in Australia was him cussing at himself, slapping his bat aggressively on the ground as he took a long walk back to the pavilion.

‘All IPL franchises to call their foreign players’

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI

The Board of Control for Cricket in India has informed the ten Indian Premier League (IPL) franchises to call all their foreign players to return to India, as a decision on the resumption of the 18th edition of the cash-rich league is coming soon, according to BCCI sources.

Last week, the BCCI announced that the remainder of the tournament was suspended for a week, citing the cross-border tensions between India and Pakistan. After the cessation of hostilities on Saturday, reports suggested IPL is on the verge of resumption.

BCCI sources on Monday revealed that the tournament is close to returning to cricket fans’ routine lives and said, “BCCI have informed all IPL franchises to call all their foreign players to return as a decision on the

resumption of IPL is coming soon.”

After tensions escalated between the two neighbouring nations, 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 last Thursday. Spectators were informed of the cancellation and asked to vacate the premises, while both teams were escorted back to their hotel.

According to recent developments, Bengaluru, Chennai, and Hyderabad have been picked as the venues for the remaining 16 fixtures for



the 18th season. Recently, a BCCI source revealed a possibility of a change in the venue for the final.

Originally, the final was set to take place on May 25 at the iconic Eden Gardens in Kolkata. However, due to the rain prediction, a decision can be made to change the venue for the trophy-deciding fixture.

“The final venue could be changed as rain can affect the matches in Kolkata later, so this call will be taken accordingly,” a BCCI official told ANI.

Overall, 57 matches were completed in IPL 2025, and the 58th fixture between Punjab Kings and Delhi Capitals was called off after 10.1 overs.

Ishpreet Chadha wins NSCI Baulkline Snooker title

TDS NETWORK
MUMBAI

In a marathon final which went on for nine hours, Ishpreet Chadha emerged a 10-7 winner over Pankaj Advani to clinch the NSCI Baulkline Snooker tournament here.

In a best-of-19 frames final, Chadha won 62-45, 4-77, 59-35, 7-65, 68-12, 57-66, 19-60, 90 (90)-0, 33-70, 0-97 (97), 99 (94)-16, 75 (67)-35, 75-27, 68-31, 83 (68)-10, 6-122 (122), 73-72.

Advani enjoyed a superior potting as he led 4-3 at one stage, but Chadha intensified his efforts and showed consistency to edge past his opponent 238-238 in terms of balls-potted score.

The only century break in the final was a 122 in the 16th frame by Advani, after which Chadha closed out the final in the 17th.

The win also marks an end to Chadha’s wait for success against Advani, having lost 8-10 in the last year’s final and also 6-8 in the CCI Snooker Classic in March.

Karishma Sanil wins javelin throw title at UAE Athletics Women’s Gala

AGENCIES
DUBAI

India’s Karishma Sanil won the javelin throw title at the UAE Athletics Women’s Gala 2025 in Dubai while Ancy Sojan and Shaili Singh finished second and third, respectively, in the long jump event on Sunday, as per Olympics.com

Competing at the Dubai Police Club Stadium on Mother’s Day, the 24-year-old Karishma Sanil topped the three-woman field with an effort of 53.33m. UAE’s Aliazya Tarek (31.04m) and India’s Harshita Seharawat (16.77m) claimed the next two places.

Karishma Sanil’s personal best is 55.55m. India’s national record of 63.82m belongs to Asian Games champion Annu Rani.

The women’s long jump saw Indian athlete Ancy



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Sojan, an Asian Games silver medalist, came second with a season’s best effort of 6.54m.

India’s Asian Championships silver medal winner Shaili Singh came third

with a leap of 6.48m. Arab Games champion Esraa Owis won the event with a distance of 6.66m.

Ancy’s personal best is 6.71m while Shaili’s best is 6.76m. India’s women’s

long jump national record of 6.83m belongs to Anju Bobby George.

Ancy Sojan and Shaili Singh also competed at the UAE Grand Prix 2025 athletics meet at the same venue on Friday. Then, Shaili Singh hit the 6.44 m mark for second place while Ancy Sojan came third with a 6.33m effort.

In other events on Sunday, India’s Moumita Mondal (24.61s) claimed second spot in the 200m race behind Tamzin Thomas (24.15s) of South Africa.

India’s Niharika Vashisht, with a new personal best effort of 13.58m, finished third in women’s triple jump. Savant Poorva came fourth with a leap of 12.98m. Zinzi Xulu (13.75m) and Romania’s Andreea Talos (13.64m) claimed the top two places.

Semi-final spot booked, India face Nepal in SAFF U19 C’ship

AGENCIES
YUPIA

Having already booked their place in the SAFF U19 Championship semi-finals, India will aim to secure top spot in Group B when they face Nepal on Tuesday, May 13, 2025, at the Golden Jubilee Stadium at 19:30 IST. The match will be streamed live on the Sportzworkz YouTube channel. The tickets can be purchased on slotallot.in.

India kicked off the tournament with an 8-0 rout of Sri Lanka last Friday in head coach Bibiano Fernandes’ first match after his return to the national youth team setup. On Sunday, Nepal also thrashed Sri Lanka — winning 5-0 to knock them out



of the tournament, while guaranteeing semi-final qualification for both India and themselves.

“Both teams won their first games by big margins. But we don’t read too much into the scorelines. Every match is different, and Nepal have shown that they are a strong and competitive side. They were solid against Sri Lanka

and created several chances. “We’ve analysed their game and know they are well organised. For us, it’s about sticking to our strengths, staying focused, and giving our best on the day. Like I always say, at this level, every team is tough, and it comes down to who wants it more,” said Fernandes.

The 48-year-old was left

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satisfied with the performance in the opening match, especially with the dominance on the ball and the number of chances created by the Blue Colts. It was India’s joint-highest margin of victory in a SAFF men’s age-group tournament. The U20s had beaten Nepal (2022) and the U17s had defeated Maldives (2023) by the same scoreline of 8-0.

Fernandes also emphasised the importance of not getting carried away and allowing

complacency to creep in after a big victory.

“It’s always important to stay grounded, especially after a win like that. These are young boys, and part of their development is to know the importance of humility and discipline. The real test is to keep the same intensity and hunger against stronger teams. The message is clear — one match at a time, no complacency, and always respect the opponent. That’s how we grow as a team.”

GOLD MEDAL



Prince Goswami on clinching 2 Gold medals in C-1 1000m & C-1 500m respectively at the Asia - Pacific Sprint Cup in Japan.(X)